

Milford-Orange Times

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Stalled Maintenance Aid May Be Coming

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange, like every other town, is still waiting on the state to release funding that was originally due in July to fund things like snow removal and basic road maintenance. Now those funds might finally be coming.

Among those funds is \$114,632 slated to go to Orange as part of the Local Capital Improvement Program, or LoCIP. Another source of delayed funding is the Town Aid Road grant, which in fiscal year 2018-2019 provided \$275,412.58.

Municipal aid to towns and cities is normally given out routinely by the state

government. But some of those funds were withheld by Gov. Ned Lamont as part of his effort to cajole lawmakers into approving his transportation plan that would have included trucks-only tolling.

Lamont abruptly ended his campaign for tolls Feb. 19 after failing to garner the needed support from his fellow Democrats, who hold wide majorities in the state House and Senate. Republicans have been almost uniformly opposed to tolls.

On Feb. 21, Lamont took the first step in releasing some of the stalled aid by directing

Continued on page 13

Officials Come To Milford To Discuss Coronavirus

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford Hospital became the backdrop on Feb. 28 for a wide-ranging discussion between medical professionals and state and local elected officials as Connecticut seeks to prepare for a potential outbreak of the coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China and has since found its way into communities around the globe.

The roundtable discussion at the hospital included U.S. Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, state Sens. James Maroney (D-Milford) and Saud Anwar (D-South Windsor), Gov. Ned Lamont, Milford Mayor Ben Blake and local and state medical experts.

There have as of press time been no cases of the coronavirus in Connecticut. However, the disease has infected tens of thousands and spread to several countries, including a limited number of cases in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised communities across the country to prepare for the possibility of a more widespread outbreak.

On the same day as the meeting in Milford, Lamont announced that the Connecticut Department of Public Health's laboratory in Rocky Hill is now fully capable of conducting diagnostic testing for the disease, called COVID-19, after receiving approval from the CDC.

"This new capability will save critical time in diagnosing any future patients with COVID-19," the governor's office said in a release.

Murphy and Blumenthal have both been pushing for about \$8 billion in emergency funding to prepare the nation for the disease. The Trump Administration had proposed \$1.2 billion, but lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have said that's too low.



Orange Health Department Director Dr. Amir Mohammad, left, met with U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy during a roundtable discussion at Milford Hospital Feb. 28 about Connecticut's preparation for the global coronavirus outbreak. Photo courtesy of Edward Patterson.

"The president is dramatically and dangerously lowballing the amount of money it's going to take to fight this pandemic. \$1.2 billion just doesn't cut it," Murphy said.

Health officials nationwide have pointed out shortages in items like face masks to protect healthcare workers from becoming ill while treating infected patients.

Connecticut is not immune to such shortages. Earlier in February, Connecticut Emergency Management Association President Michael A. Spera voiced concerns over equipment and facilities and asked Lamont in a letter to conduct an audit of resources and acquire masks, gowns, Tyvek

Continued on page 18

Orange Photographer Wins State Award



Lexi Crocco receiving her award. Contributed photo.

The Connecticut Professional Photographers Association has awarded Alexandra Crocco of Orange the 2019-2020 Photographer of the



Photo by Lexi Crocco

Year for Fine Art Photography.

Alexandra Joy Photography was started in
Continued on page 18

Orange May Repeal Dance Hall Ordinance

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A century-old ordinance in Orange that requires establishments that allow dancing to acquire a special permit may be on the chopping block.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously agreed at its Feb. 12 meeting to schedule a public hearing at its March 11 meeting on the repeal of Section 204 of the Orange Town Code.

The Section, titled "Dance Halls and
Continued on page 13

Milford Organizations Create Entrepreneur Course

Milford's Economic Development Department, The Milford Bank, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and a host of local businesses are collaborating on a course to assist entrepreneurs in launching their ideas and working through the "next steps" in progressing the initial stages of their respective businesses.

The course, dubbed StartUp Milford, will be offered over a 10-week period, with each week dedicated to a different educational component ranging from developing business plans, legally setting up corporate entities to securing financing and marketing. The course will wrap up with an opportunity to pitch your idea or product to a panel of "investors" acting as judges.

The public pitch will be held at Tribus Beer Co. on June 3 with local brewery entrepreneur

Sean O'Neill acting as an investor and judge. Other judges include Thomas Bach, president of OEM Sources, LLC; Jim Betzig, CEO at TrinityPoint Wealth; Carol McInnis, founder of McInnis Companies; Elena Fusco, owner of Bin100; and Tina DeNapoles, cofounder of Tranquility Mind & Body Wellness Spa.

"We have an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in Milford," said Community and Economic Development Director Julie Nash. "This program is a unique opportunity for folks to perfect their ideas and take advantage of the tutelage from our talented community."

At the end of the course, each participant will be eligible for a small business, low-interest loan of up to \$5,000 from The Milford Bank to support the new business, subject to bank guidelines.

Continued on page 18

Check Out Our New Columnists This Issue!



DR. ANNA CUTAIA



MAKAYLA SILVA

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News & Events

A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles



The Tyler City Railroad Station. Photo courtesy of the Orange Historical Society.

Tyler City, named after the New Haven and Derby Railroad president Morris Tyler, was the dream of two New Haven entrepreneurs, Samuel Halliwell and Philander Ferry. The men were convinced that the railroad was going to generate commercial activity in New Haven by providing transportation for workers living in the new suburban city they were going to create. In 1871 they purchased the Lewis Bradley farm and adjacent parcels and had 2,000 building lots surveyed.

To get the train to stop at Tyler City, in 1872 the two had the train station constructed (located near the intersection of New Haven Avenue and

Spring Street) and presented it to the railroad on the condition that trains would always stop there. It was no more than a flag stop at the city that never made it off paper. Passenger service continued until 1925. The Tyler City Railroad Station, vacant for years, was completely destroyed by fire on July 5, 1936.

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.

Orange Garden Club Gets High Marks At State Flower Show



Patricia Dray's "Fly Fishing" design received an award at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.



Larry Huzi's "Kent Falls" design received an award at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.

Two members of the Garden Club of Orange participated in the Federated Garden of Connecticut's Advanced Standard Flower Show at the 39th Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show this February in Hartford.

Larry Huzi and Patricia Dray (a columnist for the *Milford-Orange Times*), both had winning designs. Huzi's interpretation of "Kent Falls" received second place 90-plus

and the People's Choice third place. His second design, "Fly Fishing," received a third place 90-plus. Dray's "Fly Fishing" creative design received second place 90-plus.

Nine members of the Garden Club of Orange spent part of their day on Feb. 20 hosting at the flower show.

For membership information contact Joanne Eisenman at 203-878-9597.

We Regret The Error

A story on page 1 of the Jan. 9, 2020 issue regarding a settlement between the Milford and the estate of Maren Sanchez incorrectly described the alleged role the nurses at Jonathan Law High School played in the case. The correct information is that the lawsuit alleged that the school nurse had not been contacted by the guidance counselors according to protocol.

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News & Events

Boys & Girls Village Fundraiser Approaching



The Boys & Girls Village, which has a location in Milford will hold its annual fundraiser on June 11 at the Black Rock Yacht Club in Bridgeport. From left: Matt Thurston, Taylor Kinsler, Dr. Stephen Kant, Bridget Oei and Joe Enright. Photo courtesy of the Boys & Girls Village.

The Boys & Girls Village, which has a location in Milford, will hold its annual fundraiser “Compass To Success: A Nautical Night of Seaside Support” on Thursday, June 11 at the Black Rock Yacht Club in Bridgeport.

The event, which will be hosted by Taylor Kinsler, host of CT Live! on NBC Connecticut, celebrates client success and the growth of the organization. A leader in providing mental health treatment, permanency planning, and educational

services to Connecticut’s most vulnerable youth and their families, BGV serves clients from 50 communities across the state.

“At this event, we honor the life-changing work that Boys & Girls Village provides to at-risk children and their families,” said Kimberly Shaunesey, Boys & Girls Village president and CEO. “Our only fundraiser of the year, Compass to Success supports vital programming for those who need it most.”

Tickets cost \$150 and go on sale April 6. Visit bgvillage.org/fundraiser/ to learn more.

UK Retailer To Open America’s Largest Kitchen Showroom In Milford

Wren Kitchens, a UK kitchen retailer and manufacturer, is opening its first US location in Milford this summer.

The company said in a release that the Milford location will be the largest kitchen showroom in America, with over 100 kitchens on display. It will open in the former Babies “R” Us site at 1522-24 Boston Post Rd., a building with 31,465 square feet of space.

Founded in 2009, Wren Kitchens has 90 showrooms across the UK. Several more showroom openings are planned throughout the year in the Northeast US.

The showroom will feature 3D virtual reality, industry-leading kitchen design tools and as a plethora of remodel options to create a tailored kitchen. Showrooms will display

hundreds of countertops, handles, storage solutions, appliances, faucets and sinks.

“We’re excited to bring our vertically integrated model to the United States, the largest home improvement market in the world,” said a spokesperson for Wren. “It’s imperative to offer our customers a first-class experience, and that starts in our showrooms. We invest heavily in them to offer the latest styles and a truly experiential visit where they can see their kitchen in virtual reality. And also in training our retail staff to offer the customer a fantastic service.”

Wren is in the process of siting a headquarters in northeast Pennsylvania; it will open its first US manufacturing facility in Hanover Township in the state this spring.

Milford-Orange Times

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 Senator’s Seat: Sen. James Maroney

Columnists:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Christine Angeli, Milford Library | Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary | Carol Smullen, Orange Chamber |
| Cathy Bradley, Running | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate | Raymond Spaziani, Wine |
| Joanne Byrne, Retirement | Annamarie Amore, Flooring | Pam Staneski, Milford Chamber |
| Cynthia V. Catapano, Local Wildlife | John Moffitt, Life Online | Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate |
| David Crow, Conversations | Amir Mohammad, MD, MPH, Health | Eric Tashlein, Finances |
| Anna Cutaia, Education | Trish Pearson, Insurance | Fern Tausig, Hypnosis |
| Pat Dray, Gardening | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel | Roger Tausig, Rotary Club |
| Steven P. Floman, Legal | Tedra Schneider, Interior Design | Michele Tenney, Health |
| Peter Hechtman, Books | Priscilla Searles, Town Historian | Trish O’Leary Treat, Profiles |
| | Makayla Silva, Kids World | |

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Opinion & Editorial

Republicans Have Plans For Session



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

The 2020 legislative session is a short session, but my Republican colleagues and I are looking to pass a wide range of bills that will benefit our state and make it a more affordable place.

As I have mentioned in earlier columns, I am looking to make government more open and transparent. We can do this by requiring a public hearing on the final budget bill and by letting Republican committee leaders call for public hearings to review reports from the Auditors of Public Accounts.

Last year Democratic lawmakers passed a \$90 million grocery tax increase. Democratic lawmakers and the Department of Revenue Services say the tax will not be implemented for now, but it is still on the books. That is why we need to pass a bill to eliminate the grocery tax.

Transportation funding has also been a hot topic over the past year. Gov. Ned Lamont and Democratic lawmakers have proposed plans ranging from placing 82 tolls throughout the state to placing 12 tolls throughout the state. The last Democratic plan for tolls was filled with loopholes that would allow for cars to be tolled within two years. As of now, the governor and Democratic lawmakers have decided to table the tolls debate. But I believe they will bring this topic back up.

I think we need to prioritize transportation funding, and that starts by reducing the rate of subsidization for CT FastTrack and by reducing non-peak times. We should also require transportation audits of the Special Transportation Fund, UPASS discount transportation program for students and engineering and maintenance divisions within the Department of Transportation.

We have a lot we can accomplish this session and I hope my Democratic colleagues work with us to pass these common-sense solutions.

To stay updated this session follow me on Facebook at @RepFerraro and sign up for my email updates by visiting RepFerraro.com.

MOT
Milford-Orange Times

Letters To The Editor:

To the Editor:

Mary Welander, who lost her bid for state representative against Themis Klarides in 2018, just announced that she is running for the office again.

In her announcement, she claims, "For too long we have been waiting for someone to put our needs and priorities first, and it hasn't happened." Is Welander talking about Democratic leaders who have controlled the legislature for more than forty years and our past and current Democratic governors in her statement? Or is Welander trying to misrepresent the record of our current state representative Themis Klarides?

State Rep. Themis Klarides has fought tirelessly for our district, our children, working families, and seniors. Rep. Klarides has built a name for herself because of her hard work and her dedication to the residents she represents.

Civics Lesson At The Capitol



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

The Capitol has been an unusually busy place for so early in the legislative session.

During a span of just a few days in late February thousands of Connecticut residents on two separate occasions stormed the Capitol complex to let their feelings be known about legislation requiring all school children to be vaccinated.

Regardless of how you view this proposal – one version of the legislation would have removed nearly 8,000 students from school for not being vaccinated – it was an impressive show of strength initiated at the most basic grassroots level. Who knows how this controversy will play out over the coming months, but it was also a stark civics lesson.

The lesson is: if you want to have your voice heard on this or any other issue you deem important, speak up and let your elected officials know.

In between the two shows of public strength something else occurred. While the record-setting 22-hour public hearing on the vaccination issue was taking place, Gov. Ned Lamont had a hastily called press conference to announce that after months of public debate and controversy, the toll plan for Connecticut was dead for this legislative session. It was a stunning and remarkable turn of events in what has been a torturous adventure for proponents of tolls.

The governor concluded that despite large numerical Democratic advantages in both the House and Senate, Republican and public opposition to tolls carried the day. While the Democrats tried to sell the public and legislative opponents on tolling only trucks for now, a lack of trust of public officials who shape the agenda in Hartford was critical to their defeat.

For months Republicans conducted public events and forums on the matter all over Connecticut in opposition, not for political purposes but because we believed there were alternatives to tolls that could fix and maintain our roads and bridges. By making government smaller and more efficient and therefore less costly we believed Connecticut can address our overall transportation issues without foisting another tax on taxpayers.

We still firmly believe that.

It is clear in Welander's announcement that the only way she thinks she can win is by misrepresenting Rep. Klarides' record. Welander's last campaign presented no solutions to the many problems facing our state, and in her release, she continues to present no clear solutions.

In addition, while Rep. Klarides has been leading the fight against forced school regionalization, tolls, and tax increases proposed by Democratic lawmakers, Welander has remained silent and failed to speak out against her party.

This election, Welander should present solutions and should have to answer questions on where she stands on policies. We need leaders who will fight for us and who have solutions to fix our state.

Daniel Brigham

Toll Facts



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Now that the governor has apparently pulled the plug on his plan to put tolls (which I view as a tax) on state highways, we can look to start a long-term transportation plan with project priorities.

For me, tolls are the most regressive and the most inefficient way of collecting taxes. The truck-only bridge toll plan was slated to bring in approximately \$150 million in a \$19 billion transportation plan, with the rest of that money being low-interest loans from the federal government. So let's roll up our legislative sleeves and find another way to finance this small percentage of the plan.

We hear a lot about a lack of trust in our state's government, and rightly so, because our state does not have a good track record with new revenue streams going where they are intended. In this case, building the extensive infrastructure leads me to believe expansion to all vehicles would not be far behind – particularly because many toll proponents want tolls on all vehicles and are not happy with just trucks.

I did want to dispel some myths about tolls:

FICTION: We hear the argument that "All other states have tolls, why don't we?"

FACT: No state would have had the density of highways tolled that Connecticut was proposing. In addition, we have vehicle-related taxes that other states do not. The petroleum products gross earnings tax is a good example. It represents about 20 percent of the revenue that goes to our state's Special Transportation Fund and is about equal with what Massachusetts collects in tolls.

FICTION: Tractor-trailer trucks pay no money; they just drive through our state.

FACT: Tractor-trailer trucks pay about \$30 million a year to our state based on mileage driven through our state.

FICTION: Tractor-trailer trucks cause the most damage to our roads.

FACT: There are other vehicle types that are equal or heavier to the weight of tractor-trailers (dump trucks, cement trucks, city transit buses, and more), but they were excluded from the governor's proposal.

I believe it is appropriate to borrow and bond for our state roads and bridges and other transportation infrastructure. Much like we choose to borrow for our homes (a mortgage) but pay for our groceries (hopefully) with cash, not credit. Under Gov. Dannel Malloy, our borrowing included not just "the mortgage" but "groceries," "utilities" and "discretionary spending."

Connecticut is rated at the bottom of business-friendly states. We have not regained all of the jobs since the 2008 Great Recession and are struggling to keep businesses (and residents) in our state. The proposed truck tolls would have impacting Connecticut businesses, from groceries to school lunches to construction materials. Even Amazon – which is starting to move distribution centers in state – would now be penalized with truck tolls.

I hope this helps clarify my opposition to any toll bill. As always, please contact me should you have any questions about these topics or concerns on any other issues relating to state government at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 800-842-1423.

Connecticut Is Open For Business



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

It has been well-documented in social media posts and op-eds that Connecticut may not be held in the highest regard by those who live and work here. It's normal to want the best for your home state and at times be critical when one believes state legislators are missing the mark. However, it is just as important to highlight the things our great state gets right.

Business is one of them.

On Feb. 19, the *Connecticut Mirror* ran a story discussing all the ways Connecticut bolsters businesses' prospects. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, an independent non-profit, non-governmental organization, our state ranked in the top concerning business-friendly efforts like grants, low-interest loans and incentives. Additionally, the article points out Connecticut's exceptional ranking is "due largely to new legislation adopted just two years ago."

The Pew chart was divided into three categories: Trailing, Making Progress, and Leading. Connecticut joined only 16 other states in the "Leading," category. This growth is happening all around us.

During the 2019 legislative session, I introduced a bill to maximize our state's Opportunity Zones. OZs are a recently established federal designation created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that incentivizes long-term investment, typically in lower-income areas, through certain advantages such as payment deferral.

OZs are defined as "challenged but promising" areas. Connecticut has 72 OZs located in 27 municipalities. Last fall, 400 investors, developers and municipal leaders held a conference in Connecticut to learn more about OZ legislation and the newly created website, ctopportunityzones.com.

My legislation layers state incentives on federal incentives, making investing in our state's OZs more attractive and providing Connecticut the potential to unlock an estimated \$6 trillion in unrealized capital gains.

As business leaders familiarize themselves with this job-creating opportunity, growth continues to happen across our state. In New Haven, real estate development company Winstanley recently announced plans to build lab space downtown. According to an article in the *New Haven Register* announcing this development, it will be a \$800 million neuroscience center on the St. Raphael's campus of Yale New Haven Hospital. The same can be said in Stamford, where the city currently has "more than \$6 billion worth of commercial and residential development underway," according to Westfair Communications.

Although much has been accomplished, I am not ready to take a victory lap. Throughout the 2020 legislative session, I am eager to discuss and examine ways Connecticut can do even more to lead the way in economic development and job creation. It is encouraging to see growth in areas in need of development and in industries like neuroscience and

Continued On Page 9

Opinion & Editorial

Editorial: Legislature Should Tackle Unfinished Business

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

With the “short,” budget-adjustment session of Connecticut’s General Assembly in full swing, state legislators need to finally tackle a few items that have been lingering since last year (and some for longer):

Transportation: Gov. Ned Lamont’s bid to toll trucks at strategic points on state highways to leverage federal money for transportation improvements may be dead for the moment, but the chronic underfunding of infrastructure isn’t going away any time soon. The Special Transportation Fund is headed over the long term for insolvency, and in the short run it isn’t bringing in enough to make the kinds of upgrades the state desperately needs.

Lawmakers need to work together to find a suitable solution. Tolls may have become politically toxic, but the Republican counterproposal to draw down about half of the state’s Rainy Day Fund is fiscally dangerous. It would leave the state with too small a cushion should the bottom drop out of the economy – something that appears increasingly likely as the spread of coronavirus wreaks havoc on global markets and supply chains.

Marijuana: Though several bills failed to make it to a vote last session, there seems to be support consolidating around a package of proposals that would create a market for recreational pot in the state. Lamont has been working with nearby states to coordinate a regulatory framework and has thrown his weight behind passage this year.

The needle is still going to be difficult to thread. Any law will need to address some

key points, including how to deal with the criminal records of those convicted for minor marijuana-related offenses, how to bring in minority entrepreneurs who have been hardest hit by the War on Drugs, and how to build a robust enforcement strategy against driving while intoxicated.

Sports betting: This should have been an easy new source of revenue for the state. Instead Connecticut is caught in a catch-22 because of its unique relationship with the tribal nations and their casinos as sports betting has gotten tangled up in the arguments swirling over possible casino expansion off tribal lands.

Although we find the concept of gambling as a cash cow for the state ethically dubious, that pony left the stable many years ago. At this point, no matter what lawmakers decide, someone is going to take the state to court. Legislators should accept that as a given, settle on a plan, and finally start taking in some of the money they’ve been leaving on the table.

Healthcare: Last year Democrats released a series of bold proposals that at one point included a public option for state residents. There doesn’t seem to be as much appetite this year for making such drastic changes to healthcare in the state. Smaller healthcare measures could and should still advance, though, such as a bill that would cap the price of insulin (life-saving and necessary for those with diabetes) at \$50 a month, with insulin-related supplies capped at \$100 a month.

Residents still face too many costs and barriers to adequate care, so lawmakers will be facing these issues for the foreseeable future.

Commentary:

Some Items In Amity Budget Have Merit

At first blush the 3.95 percent increase in the budget proposed by Amity Regional District Superintendent Jennifer Byers would be a dead-on-arrival proposal, especially after voters just approved over \$6 million in bonding in December. But we must as always look under the covers on this a bit.



THOMAS P. HURLEY

One of the increases is of paramount interest to parents and me personally. Adding school resource officers to the middle schools has been requested by various members (including me) of the regional school board since at least 2005. It has taken the district 15 years to come to the conclusion that SROs are needed at the middle schools and actually try to fund them.

Full-time SROs are the first line of defense to protect our children. While I commend the current board’s efforts to improve security in the schools with recent upgrades, the SROs should have been the first consideration, not the last in the security upgrade program.

As a former chair of the board and 13-year board member, our children’s safety to learn in an environment where they could feel and be secure was a concern that would leave me uneasy. I always dreaded the possibility of getting a call over an armed intruder in the schools – especially the middle schools. This item alone in the superintendent’s request should get an affirmative response from board members, parents and the community. SROs should not be cut from this budget.

Another request for the technology budget (and one I’ve long supported) is the

One for One Program giving our students access to the programs and skill sets needed for their futures – as well as saving students’ backs with lighter bookbags. Even the Curriculum Committee/board book approval process has considered the availability of DVD/CD/online access of our textbooks when being purchased.

Amity has had a good history of planning for technology upgrades with five-year plans being updated

every year based on the changing needs of the district. The district always runs into issues when the plan has not been funded properly, creating a bow wave effect in future budgets as we play catch up. Upgrades need to be funded at the right level every year to prevent this problem. I strongly support the technology budget as presented, including the additional computer technician.

Special education costs are always an issue and Amity does an exemplary job in integrating these students in the normal curriculum. However, it is not always possible to do. State law mandates that appropriate services be given, and the district is required to provide these services. This is an inexact process, but given Amity’s status as a regional school district, plans and budgets for these services must be planned for conservatively. Otherwise the district would have to call for another referendum if the budget is short.

If the board and towns are looking for cuts to the Amity budget, it should not be in these areas or in funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust.



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SOLD IN ONE DAY FOR OVER LIST PRICE \$340,500!
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ON DEPOSIT IN 24 HOURS W/MULTIPLE OFFERS!
LISTED AT \$364,900
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Call me about my new Listing Concierge Service!
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NEW LISTING! \$379,900
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WAYNE HUGENDUBEL ~ 203.605.2946



ORANGE 139 WILDROSE ROAD
NEW LISTING! \$674,500
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BARBARA LEHRER ~ 203.640.6407



SHELTON 10 WHISPERING PINES LANE
NEW LISTING! \$729,900
This BETTER THAN NEW stunning 4 Bedroom, 3.1 Bath, 3630 sf Craftsman Colonial set on a CUL-DE-SAC in a BRAND NEW SMALL SUBDIVISION is magazine worthy! City Water/Sewers!
KAREN KLINE ~ 203.535.5706



ORANGE 103 TYLER CITY ROAD
NEW LISTING! \$669,000
This gracious 4 Bedroom, 3 full Bath, 3512 sf home is more than a modern farmhouse revival on corner lot w/ stone wall borders on 1.39 ac. Gorgeous wood floors. Chef’s Kitchen. Master Bedroom Suite.
BARBARA LEHRER ~ 203.640.6407



WOODBIDGE 12 CARRIAGE HILL ROAD
NEW LISTING! \$699,000
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FRAN MORROW ~ 203.605.7733



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Lifestyle

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

How Many Contracts In A Home Transaction?

When buying or selling a property it is important to organize and review the contracts you will be signing, as well as those that are already in place. I suggest doing this so that there are no surprises as you commit to a specific deal. You can go over blank forms with your realtor or with your real estate attorney. The State of Connecticut and the Board of Realtors have overseen the development of the major contracts so they are easy to read.

The listing contract, for instance, explicitly states that you are totally in contract with the agent and their company. Any leads you may bring to the agent are then the leads of the company, and commission is always paid during the length of the contract. You

Room 911

give permission to the agency to advertise wherever they feel it is appropriate. Clarity on disclosures, warranties, even your ability to pay commissions are all in the contracts.

The purchase and sales agreement also is a good one to read. It will remind you that funds are required upfront in order to secure the sale temporarily as you get your home inspection and your mortgage contingencies satisfied. The timeframes are important, as are any other contingencies you may need.

Although the listing and sales agreements



BARBARA
LEHRER

are the main contracts you think of in real estate, there are many others. Perhaps the home inspection contract you sign will suggest what they will and will not inspect, for example. The mortgage application results in another contract. Sometimes this one is a little more complicated; your attorney should review it.

You may have contracts on hand that will be taken over by the new buyers of your home.

Warrantees for roofs, windows, furnaces or appliances could fall into this category. Perhaps you have an alarm system company. They often have a complicated process

for changing hands. Termite treatment contracts, well company commitments or oil delivery services are all questions your realtor will have when listing your home. And if you have added solar panels to your home, this contract has many levels of cost and management.

If you keep good records, then the contracts will be where they should be and the transactions will be smoother. Your realtor's job starts with outlining what is to come. This paperwork part is good to get out of the way so you can concentrate on the fun stuff like purchasing a new home.

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

Color Me Winter

To date, winter has been very quiet in these parts of Connecticut. Yet the interior design issue of magazines still plays up creating a winter landscape in your home. Doing so could bring a fresh look to your living or family room but one must remember that you can't repaint every quarter according to the season.

Some winter looks can continue into the other seasons that we enjoy in New England. We must remember that like fashion, new styles of furniture and new colors on walls are dictated by decorating gurus whose sole job is to think up innovative ideas on the subject.

According to *Décor* magazine, a winter look is all the rage. Icy blue painted walls even extend to the ceiling, balanced by snowy whites, creams and (as an accent

color) iron red. The wall color is Benjamin Moore Harbor Fog.

Earth tones have been around for a long time. Shades of blue can be refreshing, including on upholstered furniture. So can a white area rug or draperies and lots of accents of iron red in painting frames or table ornaments. But how will this look translate in spring and summer? It could.

What if you wanted to create a room that was still "winter" but could easily slide into other seasons? Then think purple – a smoky purple that has lots of undertones of gray. Mix this with neutral



TEDRA
SCHNEIDER

colored upholstered chairs, pieces of furniture that could be made out of steel, or grayish toned woods and accents of gray, green and just a hint of a brighter color such as mustard yellow or coral used sparingly. The brighter color could be a flowerpot, an object on the coffee table or some books in the bookcase.

In an article last year I wrote about "hygge," the Danish concept of making and creating a sense of warmth in the depths of the winter season. These are things like blankets, a fireplace, hot soups, family gatherings in a den, board games or storytelling. This concept for the

winter months is called "gegellig" in Dutch. Here the color of the furniture and the contrast of light woods creates a light-filled contemporary look that has warmth and coziness. The woods are blonde with accents of chocolate, various shades of browns, tans and cinnamon. It's almost a monochromatic room, but the different textures make it welcoming in winter.

The groundhog has predicted an early spring this year. Maybe it's too late to paint a winter landscape, but some of the above concepts can bring a bounce to your room any time of year.

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

Here's To Your Health

Patience And Perseverance

As I begin to write this, I can still hear my mother saying, "Nothing good comes easy and without hard work."

While I do believe this to be true, it makes me feel like whatever "the good" is, it is not going to be fun getting there. I like to look at challenges or change with excitement, not with apprehension or trepidation. Perception is everything when making lifelong lifestyle changes.

Patience and perseverance are the keys to your success. Small healthy choices and small healthy changes done every day, one bit at a time, will eventually become habits that will in time become ways of living.

English playwright John Heywood was famously attributed as saying, "Rome wasn't built in a day, but they were laying bricks every hour." I love this because it is simple truth. One thing won't necessarily work for

everyone: this diet, that diet, don't eat that, eat this, shake this, blend this...the madness continues. No one has the answer to the Holy Grail when it comes to what healthy eating looks like, because it is as individual as your thumbprint. It is why God gave us our own DNA – to be an original, unique and beautiful piece of mosaic art.

There is a word that I swear and live by and it's the word "balance." Therein lies the problem with most of us. We simply don't know what it looks like or how to get there and because we are unique, we shouldn't grab for the latest and greatest thing on the market for a quick fix.



MICHELE
TENNEY

I'm excited for the month of March. First, it's my birthday month. Second, every March 4 I set up a mindset of "March Forth." Marching forward with patience and perseverance not only will tip me into staying motivated to achieve my goals for 2020 but also to be intentional about some of the more unpleasant challenges I've faced in this new year. Grief, loss, change and goodbyes are not easy.

Yet we need to be as intentional about communicating them and loving ourselves back to life by time well spent with family, friends, those who lift you up and make you feel loved and appreciated. Remember that you are a spirit which has a soul that lives in a body and all three of those spokes in your wheel of life need to be whole

and healthy in order to fully be well. Have patience with yourself: choose to persevere.

As spring is soon to roll around the corner, watch the birth of new life spring forth from the ground, in the trees and in the sky. Let what doesn't serve you stay behind in the winter solstice. You're worth every bit of effort you put into yourself.

March forth. You got this. I believe in you, but it's more important for you to believe in yourself. Here's to your health.

Michele Tenney is a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist & Wellness Coach. She is the Chair of the Healthy Lifestyles Committee for the Orange Elementary School System and is a member of the Orange Board of Health. She can be reached at 203 668 2969 or email of Hmgbrd3@gmail.com.

Travel Matters

Ideas For Travel In 2020

With the 24-hour news cycle, it's easy to get caught up in the question: where can I go in 2020?

People are still traveling, and there are many great options right here in the USA and the Caribbean. One great option is any of the US national parks. Whether you are a nature lover or just always wanted to see some of our home-grown wonders, there are plenty of possibilities here in the 50 states. Many tour operators offer packages including transportation, hotels, touring and even some meals included. This is a great option for families, couples or groups.

In the Connecticut area, we have access to five cruise ports within easy driving distance. Departing weekly to Bermuda, Bahamas and Florida, Canada, England and the Caribbean (depending on the time of year) you can cruise from New York City,

Bayonne, New Jersey, Brooklyn, Boston or Baltimore. In addition to convenience, there are three main benefits of living near a cruise port:

– Save time. Cruisers often arrive a day early to make sure that bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances don't delay their vacation. Cruisers can often drive to the cruise terminal in the same day, eliminating the need to take extra vacation days from work.

– Save money. Cruises often offer discounted resident rates for those who live near the cruise terminal; plus, driving there the day of the cruise eliminates added expenses for airfare, hotels and more.

– Save stress. When cruising from a nearby cruise port, one doesn't have to worry about



KAREN
QUINN-PANZER

flight delays or cancellations, lost luggage or baggage fees.

Another relatively nearby vacation option is to explore the last frontier on an Alaskan cruise. Did you know about 50 percent of cruisers on Alaska cruises are first-time cruisers? The Inside Passage offers very calm waters since for most of the way you have land nearby.

There are three main vacation options for experiencing the beauty of Alaska.

– Inside Passage cruise. Seven-night roundtrip cruises from Seattle or Vancouver provide a taste of Alaska with stops in Juneau, Skagway or Ketchikan. My personal favorite is Glacier Bay – not all cruise ships go there and for me, it is the highlight of any

trip to Alaska.

– Northbound or southbound cruise. Cruisers who want to experience more of Alaska will often add a pre- or post-land tour to this cruise to visit Denali National Park, Fairbanks and Anchorage. They are one-way cruises that either start or end in Seward or Whittier.

– Organized land tours. If not traveling by cruise ship, a land tour makes it easy to experience the great outdoors of Alaska by traveling on the famous Alaska Railroad, allowing stops at national parks and other attractions not possible from a cruise. Land tours can be added to a cruise or completed on their own.

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

On Your Mind

Controlling Anxiety From News And Politics

Everyone knows that the old adage, “May you live in interesting times,” is truly a curse and that we are currently living that curse every day. Whether you pay attention to the news or not, its impossible to escape the stress of the state of our country.



FERN TAUSIG

I have recently treated several clients who are experiencing high levels of anxiety and depression that they attribute completely to the state of affairs in our country.

Some feel completely helpless to protect our natural resources and the future of our country, while others are frightened about climate change and the direction our country is going.

Anxiety is a feeling of fear that one experiences when adrenaline pumps through the body. That adrenaline is the body’s and mind’s attempt to protect you from danger,

real or imagined. The unconscious mind doesn’t know the difference between reality and fantasy, so if you believe there’s danger, you feel anxious.

One client I worked with this week was a 20-year-old woman, who is totally depressed and anxious because she believes no one else cares about the environment or the poor. She goes to an upscale private university and can’t find anyone who cares the way she does. She feels totally helpless and powerless over the forces in our society that seem to only care about their own bottom line. She has successfully worked with me before and didn’t know where else to turn.

In general my approach is to help clients focus on the things they can control and not on those they can’t. Although you cannot control the people around you, you can

control the way you respond or the way you allow them to affect you. It’s natural to feel powerless when you feel surrounded by people who cannot share your perspective or understand your fears. Although I was able to help this woman feel less anxious and to take control of her thoughts, I could feel her pain. I encouraged her to channel her passion into action on the cause she cares most about.

I have several clients who are suffering the same anxieties. Many are sad about broken relationships from being on opposite sides of political issues. The tension from the news every day is overwhelming for many. Others feel they must stay informed even though they feel anxious.

There are things you can do to reduce the anxiety. One of the best ways to deal with it is to take long, slow, deep breaths. Breathe in for the count of five, hold it for five and release it slowly to the count of 10. It immediately stops the adrenaline from

pumping and brings you a feeling of calm. Another way to eliminate anxious feelings is to find the spot at the crown of your head and gently tap on it for 30-45 seconds while thinking, “Release it and let it go.”

A third anxiety reducing technique is to create an image or movie in your mind of something that makes you feel calm and relaxed. It can be a past vacation or fantasy of a place. Close your eyes and find that image while taking slow breaths and you will notice your feelings changing.

It doesn’t change anything around you, just how you feel. That’s all you can control. You can focus on what you can’t control or focus on what you can. One makes you feel out of control and the other is empowering. The choice is yours.

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

The Garden Spot

Ready, Set, Plant

Early March is when many of us get serious about planting a garden – be it for vegetables, flowers or both. Much of the time we look at a swath of turf and make decisions about how to make areas more interesting through the creation of some new beds, either as borders to create privacy or to hide and distract from an undesirable feature.



PAT DRAY

The first step to successful gardening is to take a survey of your property. Is it hilly or flat? How many hours of sun does the area you want to use get? What is the soil like? What is the drainage like? What’s been growing in the area already? Based on these questions, you can determine what you can plant and any changes you need to

make before planting. Plants are very competitive for their key resources—nutrients, water and sunlight.

One of the most important things you can do as part of your planning is to have a soil test performed. The soil test will give you important information regarding the health of your soil and what amendments, if any, need to be made. One important part of

the soil test is the soil pH. Different plants do better with a certain pH range, because pH impacts the availability of plant nutrition.

What nutrients (generally nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) are lacking? What is the quality of the soil (sandy, clay, or mix of loam)? How compacted is it?

Please don’t waste your money and time by adding chemical products if you have not had a soil test in the past three years. The soil test will specify what and how much of anything should be added.

The second key resource for plants is the availability of water. Plants generally need about one inch of water a week to thrive. If there is no rainfall, how will you manage watering? If your garden is far from a water source, are you planning to move hoses and sprinklers from one area to another? If you do need to water, remember that plants drink from the roots, so overhead sprinklers are water wasters since most of the water is deflected by the plant leaves. Use of soaker hoses that can be connected to the regular garden hose are the most efficient. Also consider planting drought resistant plants.

The third critical resource is sunlight. Remember, just because an area is full sun now, it won’t be once the tree canopy fills in this spring. Most vegetable crops will not produce in less than eight hours of full sun. If you’re planning a shrub and or perennial garden you have a wide variety of specimens to choose from, from sun lovers to shade lovers. What has thrived in the area already? Be aware that the root zones of trees are far larger than their overhead spread when you consider your planting areas. There are even trees, such as the Black Walnut, that exude chemicals from their roots that will kill other plants!

For more information on soil testing, visit soiltest.uconn.edu/sampling.php.

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

Rotary Aids Kenya School With Clean Water



By Roger Tausig

For those who read this column regularly, you are aware that Rotary is a service organization that carries out service projects that benefit a vast number of people who are in need locally, regionally and internationally. Among the projects we have completed locally are food collection for the Orange Food Pantry and preparing and serving Thanksgiving dinner to about 50 veterans.

But the reach of our Rotary Club extends far beyond the local community to countries where many people do not enjoy the conveniences that we Americans are accustomed to and take for granted.

The Nambale Magnet School in Kenya is one of the projects that we undertook with several other Rotary clubs in Connecticut. It is the result of a vision that education makes a profound difference in the future of children. The school has grown over the past 20 years from a population of 35 female students and staff to over 450 today.

The money raised through local fundraisers like the Annual Lobsterfest, the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K Road Race and the shred days that we run as well as private donations were used to expand the facilities, purchase equipment and increase staff.

However, the one critical need that has not been met in 20 years is the creation of a sound, reliable source of clean water for drinking and sanitation for the school’s children and staff. Until now, they used rainwater collectors and if that proved inadequate (which was often the case) they would have to purchase water at great expense. The school desperately needed a borehole well system to provide a consistent source of clean, potable water.

In 2017, DG Trish Pearson chose this as her governor’s project and, thanks to the generosity of the members of Rotary District 7980, we were able to raise the initial funds and apply for a global grant that matched our funds to build a water and reclamation system. About two months ago, after completing the rigorous grant application process, the drilling began. Within three days, water came spurting out of the ground. Testing indicated that the water that was produced was indeed safe for consumption, thus marking the beginning of a new era in the lives of the school’s children, staff and local townspeople.

This will make a world of difference to not only the school but the residents who live in

the town of Nambale who will also benefit from this stable water supply. This is just one example of how the Rotary makes use of the money we raise and puts it to work, extending our reach to save and change lives.

It is projects such as these that make me extremely proud to say that I am a Rotarian and that my fellow Rotarians and I are making an immeasurable difference in the lives of so many people locally and globally.

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The Book Club:

Spain's Favorite Author

Javier Marias, The Infatuations (2013) Thus Bad Begins (2016), Penguin

All conversations that are not completely banal begin with one party sharing some words, body language and facial gestures and the other party responding in kind.

This is the literary space Javier Marias has chosen to occupy. In his books we get to see the process of asking: Can I trust what I am hearing? What are the different responses I could make? What are the consequences of these responses? Does this situation sound like something I have encountered before? Marias' characters are better known by their brains than their spleens.

This is not to say that Marias' novels have no plot. The plots tend to be simple but ingenious stories in which deductive reasoning is rewarded by the solving of mysteries. But Marias' novels are more about the thinking than the doing.

The two novels under consideration

are Infatuations and Thus Bad Begins. In the earlier book the narrator is a young woman, Maria, who enjoys her morning ritual of gazing adoringly at a handsome and affectionate couple who breakfast at the same cafe. She learns, to her horror, that the husband is brutally murdered by a deranged street person. The husband's best friend shows up to console the grieving widow.

Maria manages to fall in love with this best friend, Javier, who leaves no doubt that she is a very temporary fling for him until the time is ripe for him to declare his love for the widow. Plots have a way of thickening and she discovers that Javier himself may have set up the murder. Things are never what they seem. I have left a few layers of this onion unpeeled.

In Thus Bad Begins the narrator is Juan, a personal assistant to Muriel, a filmmaker



PETER HECHTMAN

whose artistic aspirations appear forever out of sync with his cash requirements. Juan is given a mystery to unravel. Muriel has written out of his life an old friend, a doctor, based on vague intimations that he had committed "acts of treachery" in an earlier time. Muriel now wishes to know if these stories are true or malicious lies. What this investigation turns up is that, in post-Franco Spain, the shadow of the civil war simply does not go away. But Juan finds a more interesting mystery to investigate. Muriel's wife, Beatriz, suffers under the cruel neglect and vicious verbal abuse of her husband. Until this mystery is resolved, the reader will align his/her sympathy toward the wife. The nature of the wife's betrayal changes all that. It is a story that no one will see coming.

I will leave the last word to the author

Colm Tóibín, who wrote, "As a novelist, he has a way of posing as a philosopher...all the more to fool the reader and cause great shock when the novel turns out to have a plot after all."



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

Town of Orange Legal Notice

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 7-394, there is on file for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk, the Auditors report covering the Town of Orange for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Dated at Orange, Connecticut, this the 3rd day of February 2020.

Patrick B. O'Sullivan Orange Town Clerk

Legal Notice Town of Orange

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 7-394, there is on file for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk, the Auditors report for the Amity Regional School District #5 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Dated at Orange, Connecticut, this the 3rd day of February 2020.

Patrick B. O'Sullivan Orange Town Clerk

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Milford Performance Center. Upcoming Events: Saturday March 14th - The Ultimate Woodstock Concert. March 28th - 'Motley 2', April 3rd - 'Lords of 52nd Street', May 15th - 'B Street Band', May 30th - 'No Quarter', September 11th - 'Dirty Deeds', September 12th - 'Destination Mowtown', September 26th - 'The Jersey Tenors'.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce

Customers Prefer Chamber Members

Membership in the Orange Chamber of Commerce is one of the most valuable marketing investments you can make – an investment that delivers a huge return on investment. Join and let the chamber work for you.

Consumers are 80 percent more likely to do business with a chamber member. A national survey of 2000 adults reveals that being active in a local chamber of commerce is an effective business strategy because



CAROL SMULLEN

– Consumers show a 73 percent increase in awareness of a small business if it is a member of a chamber of commerce.

– Companies enjoy a 68 percent increase in their reputation when consumers know they are a member of the chamber of commerce.

Small businesses are the largest segment of the Orange Chamber’s membership. The study indicates that chamber membership has consistent and powerful benefits

for small business members – if consumers are aware that the small business is a chamber member.

One of the best things that you can do once you have joined our chamber is to attend a “Morning Jolt” Coffee & Conversation. If you are a long-standing member, this monthly opportunity serves as a refresher on all that our chamber offers to help ensure you are taking full advantage of your investment.

Check out all the opportunities at orangetchamber.com.



two-thirds of consumers believe that such companies use good business practices, are reputable, care about their customers and are involved in the community.

It is no surprise that the Orange Chamber’s mission aligns with these attributes – to build a positive business environment while enhancing our community’s quality of life.

The study conducted by the Shapiro Group, an Atlanta-based strategic consulting firm, found consumer perceptions of chamber members to be positive in many ways:

– When consumers know that a small business is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 80 percent more likely to purchase goods or services from the company in the future.

The Milford Chamber of Commerce

Grow Your Business With The Chamber

With the start of the year providing the perfect excuse to try something new, why not join the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and grow your business?

The first question we all ask when we hear about something new is “What do I get out of it?” Luckily, we’ve summed it up for you with a look at what a membership in the chamber provides. By taking advantage of networking, professional advice and marketing



PAM STANESKI

opportunities, our members expand their business connections in the community, make informed business decisions and gain exposure.

Are you looking at how to get yourself noticed? We’re able to help our members promote themselves in a variety of ways. Last year our events attracted thousands of people for you to connect with, and we regularly shared member news through our Weekly Waves, our monthly e-newsletter, and our strong social media following.

We promote to our membership offers and discounts that you may provide and give you the opportunity to take advantage of other members’ offerings.

Chamber members are given the opportunity to attend Lunch ‘n Learns that

cover a myriad of relevant topics, and we collaborate with business advisors and program partners all ready to provide needed resources to our members. From starting up and innovating to growing and expanding, we’ve got you covered.

As the voice of business, we advocate on our members’ behalf in support of business-friendly policies. If you want your voice to be heard by elected officials, we can help to tackle the issues that might be holding you back.

So there you have it: a few of the ways that joining the Chamber could help your business prosper. I invite you to join us at our next Business After Hours and see what we’re all about. It is on March 12 at 5 p.m. at Orange Ale House. We also welcome you to stop by the chamber at 5 Broad St. in Milford or call 203-878-0681. Business is our business.



Maroney Continued From Page 4

our state’s future high school and college graduates looking for quality careers right here in Connecticut. There is always room for improvement; statements critical of how things may be going are expected and welcome. However, it must be noted that Connecticut is getting business right. It must be noted that Connecticut is open for business.

Through this growth, we are assisting those here, attracting business from across the country and providing opportunities for

increase terms from two to four years for all elected positions in the town of Orange. The revision committee following a public hearing the Board of Selectmen meeting. According to John Carangelo, who heads the charter revision committee, they are making recommendations to Charter cont. on page 18

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Milford's St. Mary School Inducts Honor Society Members



Students from St. Mary School in Milford were inducted Jan. 27 into the National Junior Honor Society. Photo courtesy of St. Mary School.

New students at St. Mary School Milford Chapter in St. Mary Church of Precious Blood Parish were inducted on Jan. 27 into the National Junior Honor Society. These students exemplify excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.

Newly inducted members are: Lily Baird, Ava Bottino, Faith Doyle, Jackson Doyle, Bella Eyller, Gauge Forget, Suixian Gonzalez, Gabriella Grande, Charlotte LaVecchia, Jackson LaVecchia, Jack McInnis, Aubrie Nichols, Tyler Nickolenko, Mackenzie Pelosi, Caden Piselli, Kaleigh Richards, Mackenzie Richards, Tatum Santos, Megan

Vella, Bridget Vitti, Audrey Voges, Maddie Wolfe, Bohdan Zazulak-Collins and Alyssa Zinker.

They join current members Andrew Benjamin, Chase Bryant, Molly Ciuci, Danielle D'Avignon, Aida Ehlers, Griffin Fisher, John Gerrity, Fayrose Hussain, Daniel Kron, Taylor LaFountain, Max Lula, Alexi Paranal, Maya Pinto, Derek Rainey, Michael Roney, Gabriela Santiago, Matthew Savo, Abigail Savoie, Peter Swanson, Timothy Swanson, William Swanson, Atiana Tandon, Andrew Tkacs, Margaret Wetmore, Leni Wisniewski, Amanda Zurulo, Christopher Harry and Christopher DeProffio.

American Legion Post 127 News

The America Legion Post 127 Oratorical Contest representative, Issabella Fannenbecker, a student at Amity High School, received a certificate of distinction for her performance at the Legion District 2 level competition held on Feb. 1.

Boys State applications and Laurel Girls State leadership program applications are now being taken. See your school counselor for application information or go online at ctboysstate.tripod.com/ or alags.org/ for details. This is a no cost activity for selected participants. Donations allow the American Legion Post to send more participants and

may be made to the Post. For more details, visit alpost127orange.com/index.htm

The Connecticut State Police youth week will be held Aug. 2 to 8. Applications must be received by May 1. However, due to the limited number of slots, you should not delay in getting your application in. The cost for the activity is \$125. For more information contact your guidance counselor, school resource officer, the American Legion Post 127 website, or contact the American Legion Department Treasurer at 864 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06114 or 860-296-0719.

Job Network In Orange To Cover Job Search Strategy

The Housatonic River Job Network will be hosting Liz Dederer, founder and CEO of Selling With Service as its guest speaker on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Case Memorial Library in Orange.

Dederer will present her "10 Best Tips to Improve the Quality and Value of Your Job Search." Targeting boomers and "elder millennials" as she calls them, Dederer will be "giving the un-sugar-coated strategies to land the job you deserve."

Selling With Service focuses on teaching entrepreneurs, small business owners and up-and-coming sales professionals on how to close clients quickly. She draws a comparison between the sales process and the job search process, often saying, "In sales, your objective is to close clients all the time. The beauty of a job search is you only need to close one."

Dederer collaborated with private equity

backed retail companies to develop strategies and assemble C-suite leadership teams. She also successfully completed numerous executive searches, most for confidential clients. She developed, oversaw and executed successful business development initiatives and processes. She previously served as a consultant to SCORE, as well as the Women's Business Development Council.

Dederer will present an interactive workshop for job seekers. The goal is to ensure attendees get out of any ruts or bad habits that may be slowing down their progress.

The Housatonic River Job Network is an open group dedicated to those underemployed or in transition to meet, share leads, hear guest speakers and obtain information for their job search. Case Memorial Library is located at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange. For more information, contact Alex Yaworowski at alex56@hotmail.com.

Recycling Tip

The following letter appeared in the Letters to the Editor section of the *Wall Street Journal* recently. It was written by Scott Breen of the Can Manufacturers Institute in Washington. It is good to know that the cans we buy are composed of good recycling material.

"Aluminum and steel, used to make cans for beverages and food, have an authentic recycling story. Unlike the materials mentioned 'World Faces Trash Glut After China Ban' (Page One, Dec. 20), cans are

accepted everywhere, they are relatively easy to sort and the whole container is recyclable.

"A circular system exists in the US for cans. There's a 50 percent recycling rate for aluminum beverage cans and a 71 percent recycling rate for steel food cans. The can industry buys the materials and recycles them into new cans. That's why the average beverage can has 73 percent recycled content and the average steel can more than 80 percent."

For more on what can be recycled, visit orangerecycles.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

MILFORD REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

FAMILY HOUSING PRE-APPLICATION FOR TWO AND THREE BEDROOM UNITS ONLY

Important Instructions regarding the completion of this pre-application. Please read carefully!

- Only substantially completed pre-applications will be processed. Be sure to provide ALL information. Any information left blank on the pre-application will result in the pre-application being rejected. There will be no exception. If it doesn't pertain to you put N/A (Not-Applicable).
- Pre-applications **must be postmarked no later than 12 midnight**, by Friday, April 3, 2020.
- Only pre-applications mailed to: MRHP, P.O. Box 512, Milford, CT 06460 will be processed.
- Faxed or hand delivered pre-applications will not be accepted.
- Applicants who submit more than one pre-application or envelopes containing more than one pre-application will be disqualified.
- To avoid duplication be sure that another individual is not submitting a pre-application on your behalf.
- Persons with disabilities who need assistance in completing pre-applications may call or come to the MRHP office, 75 DeMaio Drive, Milford, CT 06460, (203) 877-3223 ext. 11 or 12. Hearing impaired can call 711.
- Income Limits for 2 person family is \$60,400; 3 person family is \$67,950; 4 person family is \$75,500.
- A random drawing of pre-applications will take place on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 in accordance with the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) at the MRHP office at 75 DeMaio Drive, Milford, at 2:00 P.M in the community room.
- 150 pre-applications will be drawn, numbered sequentially and will comprise the waiting list which will be structured in accordance with the MRHP Admissions & Continued Occupancy Policy.
- Failure to follow these instructions as directed will result in the pre-application being rejected!
- **NOTICE:** MRHP facilities are smoke free. Smoking is prohibited in the apartments and common areas of all our properties. MRHP facilities are protected by a video surveillance system/CCTV for the safety and security of our residents.

Important Information Regarding the Family Public Housing Program. Please read carefully.

- To be qualified for admission to the Family Public Housing Program, an applicant must:
 1. Be a family as defined in the MRHP's Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy.
 2. Meet the HUD requirements on citizenship or immigration status.
 3. Have an annual income at the time of admission that does not exceed the income limits established by HUD which are posted at the MRHP office.
 4. Document Social Security Numbers for all family members.
 5. Meet or exceed the applicant selection criteria, including **financial (credit) and criminal background checks.**

FAMILY INFORMATION (Print Legibly)

Head of Household _____
 Current Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Current Phone Number _____

	First & Last Name of all Family Members	Date of Birth	M/F	Relationship to Head of Household	Social Security Number	Disabled?	Citizen or Eligible Alien?
H						Y N	Y N
2						Y N	Y N
3						Y N	Y N
4						Y N	Y N

FAMILY INCOME INFORMATION: List the source and amount of all income received by all members of the household, including yourself. Include earnings, unemployment benefits, AFDC/TANF, SS, SSI, SSDI, Veterans Benefits, Child Support, Workers Compensation, Alimony, etc.

SOURCE OF INCOME	MONTHLY AMOUNT (\$)

For Preference Purposes only:

- Is any member of the household employed in Milford? Yes No
- Does the family currently live in Milford? Yes No
- Is any adult family member enrolled in a job, vocational or skills training program, including one required under the CT Welfare to Work Program? Yes No
- Is any adult member enrolled in an educational program full time? Yes No

For Statistical Purposes only (optional):

Race of the Head of Household: Caucasian/White African American/Black
 American Indian/Alaskan Native Asian
 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Ethnicity of the Head of Household: Hispanic/Latino Non-Hispanic/Latino

I/We certify that the statements made in this pre-application are true to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and I/We understand that they will be verified. I/We understand that any false statements made on this pre-application will cause me/us to be disqualified for admission. Warning: 18U.S.C. 1001 provides that whoever knowingly or willfully makes or uses a document or writing containing false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry in any matter within the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years or both.

Signature of Head of Household _____ Date _____

Other Adult Signature (18+ years of age) _____ Date _____

For MRHP Use Only:

Postmark _____ Random Application # _____

The MRHP is an Equal Housing Provider and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, children/family status, disability, ancestry, marital status, age(except minors), sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status.



Education

Understanding Changes In Education

After leaving the Bronx at the age of 5, my family raised my brother and me in Mahopac, New York, a small suburb about 50 miles north of New York City. Growing up, my brother and I attempted to get involved in all things “American,” as our home was so culturally different than others.

Hence, at the age of 7, I registered with the Mahopac Sports Association to play softball. Playing softball allowed me to participate in a team sport while at the same time exposed me to many cultural pleasures of American life. Imagine how surprised I was when I received strange looks upon unwrapping my snack of espresso and cannoli that my Italian mother packed for me that day.

It was one of those moments that I realized there are different ways of doing things, not

good or bad – but different – and possibly better aligned with the here and now.

While many tenets of a foundational education remain the same today, it’s no secret -- education delivery across the country is drastically changing to be in better alignment with the here, now and future.

To understand how schools are changing to better meet current career demands, author Ted Dintersmith visited districts in all 50 states, 200 schools of all types, convened a hundred community forums, and attended 1000 meetings. His primary quest was to find out what works and what doesn’t in



DR. ANNA
CUTAIA

education – and why.

That’s precisely what I hope we ask ourselves in our communities. We know progress requires change – but what might that change be? What makes the most sense? And what impact will that change have on our schools and community?

We are inviting residents in Milford to consider what public education might look like in the near future and beyond. To begin the conversation, we have organized our first Community Book Talk event and invite everyone to read *What School Could Be* by Dintersmith. On April 2 we will gather at Jonathan Law High School

in its new Teaching and Learning Commons at 6 p.m. to begin this exciting dialogue. Attendees will convene collectively at the beginning of the event, with subsequent breakout discussions to follow, and we are so excited to report these will be facilitated by current Milford high school students.

The book talk will allow the greater Milford community to engage in a dialogue about what our hopes and dreams are for what school could be for our young people. Our world is different today and we should expect our schools to be different, too. What that looks like should serve a greater purpose as defined by the collective Milford community. For more information or questions, feel free to contact me at acutaia@milforded.org.

Kids World

Spring Is The Time To Head Outdoors

There’s just something about the springtime that makes us all giddy with excitement, likely because of the noticeable changes all around us: the longer days, the baby animals, and the clean smell of a good spring rain. Plus, we know it’s a steady march into summer.

Heading outside into your own backyard, taking a walk in the woods or perhaps getting your feet wet are wonderful ways to soak in the springtime splendor. There’s so much magic to experience with your families during the spring, so head outside and enjoy the show in some of these hidden gems throughout our community.

For an afternoon of seaside exploration, head to the Coastal Center at Milford Point, a hidden treasure at the westernmost tip of the city.

Buffered by an expanse of sea grass dunes stretching to the end of the point, the sandbar extends into a curved peninsula, offering a haven for shorebirds like piping plover and egrets to nest.

You can spend hours combing this

shoreline, dipping your toes in the water and marveling at all of the seashells glimmering like tiny beach tokens.

Inside the coastal center, visit the snakes, turtles and fish or try and spot some shorebirds. Be sure to climb the spiral staircase to the tower for spectacular views of the marsh and Long Island Sound.

Tucked down the hill just beyond the new splash pad and our beloved Bodie’s Place playground is an extensive network of trails making up Eisenhower Park.

Meandering alongside the Wepawaug River, wetlands, vernal pools, and forested areas, there are family-friendly flat trails to traverse intersecting nearly every portion of the 200-acre park. And the best part? You can dip your toes in the Wepawaug River that flows the entire length of Eisenhower Park.

Part of the river is diverted to a pond and forms a small island connected by bridges,



MAKAYLA
SILVA

where there are always frogs to catch, turtles to discover and streams to dip your toes in.

Silver Sands State Park offers miles of preserved natural beach connecting the Walnut Beach and Fort Trumbull Beach neighborhoods. The 47-acre park features the beach, a restored salt marsh and a three-mile boardwalk stretching from the end of East Broadway to Walnut Beach.

Only a half-mile walk from Silver Sands along the tidally submerged sandbar, only visible at low tide, Charles Island is a 12-acre wildlife sanctuary serving as a haven for shorebirds.

On a clear day, you will see groups of beachcombers making their way along the sandbar out to the island.

There are plenty of legends surrounding the island, but none more exciting than the tale of Captain William Kidd landing in Milford and burying his final treasure.

A hidden treasure in Orange, The Racebrook Tract encompasses 230 acres of trails to explore stretching all the way to the Maltby Lakes. This marvelous wildlife area is a perfect under-an-hour walk for kids. Pack a picnic and your binoculars to view the waterfowl and other wildlife during the spring bird migrations. Butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies can also be discovered just alongside the stream belts, forests, wetlands and meadows. Pack a fishing pole to cast a line from shore and keep an eye out for turtles and other amphibians.

Makayla is a thirty-something mother of two and a lifelong storyteller. As Editor & Publisher of Macaroni Kid Milford, Makayla spends her time in search of the best dinosaur trails and planetarium shows, corn mazes and sledding hills. She loves exploring the outdoors, discovering new destinations and heading out on next great adventure with her kiddos. You can reach her at makaylasilva@macaronikid.com

Amity Theater Production Features Orange Students

Amity Creative Theater’s spring musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, will feature 31 students from Orange, making up two-thirds of the 45-member cast list.

The *Drowsy Chaperone* is a parody of American musical comedies of the 1920s that revolves around a middle-aged, agoraphobic Broadway fanatic and a recording of his favorite musical. The Amity production runs from Friday, March 27 to Saturday, April 4. Tickets and showtimes are available at amitytheaterdepartment.com.

The twelve students from Orange who are among the principal cast members are: Man In Chair, Marty Gnidula; Underling, Dylan

Chizmadia; George, Evan D’Onofrio; Feldzieg, Garrett Singleton; Gangsters (Pastry Chefs), Nicholas Matalote and Kyle Magri; Aldolpho, Nolan Young; The Drowsy Chaperone, Sofia Halepas; Trix, Macie Cox; and The Superintendent, Jayson Hutchinson.

Ensemble cast members from Orange include, Alex Barnes, Molly Blair, Caitlin Carlson, Macie Cox, Annie Driscoll, Lily Forchetti, Gillian Fuchs, Max Hemstock, Audrey Jurzyk, Zola Kneeland, Jacob Lee, McKenna Maxwell, Skyelar Poulimas, Corey Richards, Harry Rosenay, Olivia Sceppa, Jake Slesinski, Zoe Smith, Sophia Soldra, Halle Syrop and Brynn Weirsmann.

Amity Middle School Releases Citizenship Recognitions

The following students at the Orange campus of Amity Regional Middle School were recognized for good citizenship during the second marking period.

Seventh grade: Dante Agnello, Manall Akbar, Michael Audie, Anthony Capacelatro, Anthony Casapulla, Rebecca Chen, Alicia Cheng, Riley Cohutt, Ella Corvino, Sydnee Cunningham, Matthew Curley, Alexander Cuzio, Rosewell Deangelis, Anthony Feng, Taylor Hawkins, Anna Laganovska, Bianca Lambiasi, Marea Li, Lance Mahon, Matthew Muravnik, Maya Patel, Maya Quaranta, Maya Remigio, Cody Rocchio, Thomas Sampson, Ian Stoltenberg, Jenny Tang,

Logan Turey, Ella Urban, Ellery Varholak, Aiden Wydra, Audrey Wydra, Jasir Zafar and Julie Zhang.

Eighth grade: Jillian Barnes, Grace Cavallaro, Lily Demaio, Thomas Denton, Agatha Freitas, Raegan French, David Ke, Meghan Kirck, Avani Kulkarni, Alex Lin, Bridget Lowder, Erica Manandhar, Gianna Manuele, Devin Maroney, Suhail Mohammed, James Morrin, Yana Patel, Dana Pletter, Sofia Silva Rodriguez, Anthony Stankye, Taylor Student, Caroline Tirolo, Jack Windsor, Ava Wooldrige and Riley Zielenski.

Milford Public Library Children’s Events

Storytime Junior, Thursdays, March 12, 19 and 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Join the library Thursdays for a mini-program of cozy stories and songs in the temporary children’s space as the new Children’s Department is being readied. For children 5 and under with a caregiver.

Chess Club, Tuesday, March 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For players in grades K-12 of all skill levels. Sets will be provided or you may bring your own. A presentation on the fundamentals of chess will be shown. The Chess Club at the library meets the second Tuesday of every month. Call the Children’s Department at 203-783-3312 to register.

Half Day Create-a-Thon, March 11, 12 and 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Join the library for a new craft/activity each day: tabletop LEGOs, origami bookmark bandits and paper-bag puppets.

Big Smiles Storytime, Tuesday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

Big Smiles Pediatric Dentistry in Milford will come for a special story-time event. Stories, songs and activities about keeping smiles bright.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Kick-Off, Saturday, March 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (or until all spots are filled)

In partnership with the Milford Elks Club and the Friends of Milford Library, Milford families with children under the age of 5 can register for the Imagination Library. Launched by country music star Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation, the Imagination Library fosters a love of reading among preschool children by providing them with a free hardcover book every month from birth to the age of five. Activities and snacks will be provided.

Milford Students Advance In Robotics Competition



Saint Mary School Milford recently participated in a robotics competition at Corpus Christi School in Weathersfield. Each team competed in four qualifying rounds in conjunction with different teams from 43 other schools. The team of Layla Alogna and William Bader, pictured here, placed first in the teamwork competition and are invited to the state competition in March. *Photo courtesy of Saint Mary School.*

Running

Stay Active As You Age

When you turn 40 or 50, it is easy to think you are old. There is something about each decade that feels like you are on the downhill side.

We need to maintain or enhance each year of life. Exercise and running are at the top of my list. Here is what is important to remain happily active.

Jumping out of bed and heading into exercise full steam may not be the best way to get started. It is important not to stress about how long or how fast we are moving. Embrace that you are moving at any rate that gets the blood streaming and heart pumping at a sustainable level.

Be kind to yourself and don't push through days that feel sluggish. Take some days



CATHY BRADLEY

easier by going less distance, at a slower pace or even off. (Don't take too many days off.)

As you start being active, you may have long term goals: a loop, a three-mile walk. It takes time to build to it. And as you get older it takes longer to achieve those goals.

Stop comparing yourself to your younger self. At some point you realize you can't run or walk as fast as you did in your 20s. It's inevitable, and it's just fine. Rather than being demoralized, live in the moment and be content and proud of the effort and experience.

Cathy Bradley can be reached at cathy@cb-enterprises.com.

Stalled Maintenance Aid May Be Coming (Continued From Page 1)

Office of Policy and Management Secretary Melissa McCaw to provide the details of the funding to state legislators so that they could craft a bill.

That movement is not enough for Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli.

"The Legislature must act," he said. "It doesn't matter what Lamont says."

Indeed, the legislature must craft and pass a bill releasing the funds, or nothing will happen.

Even after a bill passes, the State Bond Commission must meet and approve any bonds being issued. Lamont controls the agendas and timing of the commission, so would presumably be able to arrange such a vote quickly.

Under normal circumstances, another round of municipal grants would have been coming in January. They too are now in limbo.

Zeoli shared with the *Milford-Orange Times* a letter he received from OPM on Feb. 28 explaining that "since no bonding legislation has been adopted by the General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2020, no new Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) entitlements have been allocated as of March 1, 2020." It went on to say that the entitlement figures for the current year would be listed as \$0 until the legislature adopts new bonding.

The mild winter has been fortuitous, since towns often rely heavily on state aid to fund seasonal expenses like snow and ice removal. Zeoli estimated that Orange has spent about one third this year of what it would for a typical winter.

Milford, like Orange, is waiting for state grants. It had \$424,482 in LoCIP funds allocated last year, and \$596,184.37 in Town Aid Road.

Milford Looking For Next Poet Laureate

The City of Milford, Milford Public Library and the Milford Arts Council are now accepting applications to be the next City of Milford Poet Laureate.

The City of Milford Poet Laureate program was started in 2016 as a way to elevate poetry in the consciousness of Milford residents and to help celebrate the literary arts. The term of the current poet laureate, Mick Theebs, ends in June 2020 and the Selection Committee is now accepting applications for his successor.

Mayor Benjamin Blake, who initiated the program, said, "The Small City with a Big Heart is home to so many creative and talented stars in the literary arts arena. Milford's Poet Laureate is a good-will ambassador - helping to highlight and promote the many ways our community is the artistically inspiring center

of the universe."

During his or her term, the poet laureate will act as an advocate for poetry, literature and the arts, and contribute to Milford's poetry and literary legacy through public readings and participation in civic events. A panel of literary professionals, civic leaders and educators will review eligible nominations.

The Poet Laureate is an honorary, non-compensated position and serves a term of four years.

Details on the position, including application information, can be found on the library website, milfordlibrary.org. Applications will be accepted through April 30. Questions may be emailed to PoetLaureateCommittee@milfordct.gov.

Orange May Repeal Dance Hall Ordinance (Continued From Page 1)

Other Public Entertainment," requires owners of establishments to acquire a special permit for "a public dance hall, pool room, exhibition or amusement hall or restaurant in which dancing is permitted." It imposes a fine of \$100 for every offense for failure to obtain the permit.

Owners can't just mosey on down to Town Hall to pick up a permit, either. The Board of Selectmen is required to hold a public hearing on the application "to determine whether the applicant is a proper person, the purpose is a proper purpose and the location suitable for such purpose."

The ordinance allows exceptions for churches, charitable organization, Town Hall

itself and school auditoriums if the proper permissions have been given.

It's not exactly one of Connecticut's famous "blue laws," which generally sprang from the state's Puritan colonial past. It is almost 100 years old now, though. The town passed a law in 1933 allowing selectmen to prevent establishments that allowed dancing from coming to town without a permit. That became Section 204 in 1955 and was revisited last in 1981.

Selectwoman Judy Williams said she looks forward to the coming discussion. "It just is part of that little bit of history of Orange that just kind of shines through - dance halls," she said with a smile.

AMITY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

The DROWSY Chaperone

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MARCH 27, 28 APRIL 2, 3, 4

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Insuring Your Future

Taking Advantage Of Added Health Insurance Plan Benefits

You mean there is something I don't need to pay for with my health insurance? The answer is yes.

Many health insurance plans, whether group, individual or senior, offer benefits that are included at no additional cost. Too often we don't know or remember to utilize the savings that they provide.

All ACA compliant insurance plans provide complete coverage for an annual well health check including most of the bloodwork and other lab tests. They also include annual screenings such as mammograms, pap tests and a colonoscopy every five or 10 years if classified as a "screening" only. If a polyp is discovered as part of the procedure and is removed it then becomes an outpatient procedure and subject to the applicable copay, coinsurance or deductible.

Most added benefits fall into four areas: dental, eyewear, hearing aids and over-the-counter medications. While these benefits

often only apply to those on a Medicare Advantage plan, even group plans will cover certain dental needs, especially pediatric, and vision needs.

These benefits can be delivered as a discount, reimbursement or direct coverage. Some require that you use a provider that is in the plan's specific network. Others do not have network limitations.

The over-the-counter medication benefit will provide help with the purchase of such things as aspirin, eye or nose drops or first aid supplies. Some can be purchased at a retail store; others require online or phone ordering.

These benefits can amount to significant savings – in some cases totaling thousands of dollars.

Wellness programs are also covered by many insurance plans. Many employers



TRISH PEARSON

are including weight loss, smoking cessation or exercise programs in their benefit package. Seniors receive Silver Sneakers memberships with most Medicare Advantage and some supplement plans. This benefit is portable and can be used at many different facilities in the area. You can lift weights at one, swim at another and take a yoga class at a third – all for no charge.

If you're traveling and don't want to use the walk-in, try Teladoc. Some insurance companies are providing the insured and their dependents with access to US board-certified doctors and pediatricians by phone or online video any time of day or night, 365 days per year. While this does not replace a face-to-face visit, it is a convenient and affordable option for quality care. The physicians are

licensed in Connecticut and average 15 years of practice experience.

Some plans may offer benefits that you would rather not use, such as a home visit from a nurse or participation in a health survey. These programs are offered to help those who might have questions about medications, safety or social services. For some they are very helpful. However, some find the persistent phone calls annoying and invasive. If this is the case, simply contact the insurance carrier membership services and ask to be put on the "do not call" list.

Your agent or benefits coordinator should be able to assist with details on all benefits. If you don't know what you've got, consult the summary of benefits and ask for clarification.

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

Your Finances

Six Reasons To Get Your Taxes Done Early

April 15 rolls around awfully fast, doesn't it? It will be time to file your taxes again less than two months from now.

We all know the deadline to file is April 15, unless you file for an extension. But did you know the IRS sets a date before which you cannot file? The earliest day to file your 2019 tax return was Jan. 27.

Sure, you can put it off a little while longer, but you may benefit from filing early. Here are some reasons to consider getting the job done now.

Get your refund faster. Last year, more than 111 million filers received refunds, with the average amount at \$2,860. If you are expecting a substantial refund, the earlier you receive it the more time you have to put that money to work for you this year by paying down debt or adding to your investment income.

Be better prepared if you owe. On the

other hand, if you think you may end up owing the IRS more money than you paid in over the year, filing early gives you a clear picture of how much you'll owe come April 15, and more time to get your finances together to pay the tab. (You can file now and wait to pay until the deadline hits.)

Cut down on mistakes. From homework to the work world, we all know that rushing to meet a deadline at the last minute can cause you to make mistakes. Errors in filling out your tax forms can result in hassles, audits and financial penalties. Tackling the hard task early will allow you to take the time you need to avoid costly oversights.

Minimize your exposure to tax fraud. Fraudsters who use Social Security numbers to file fake tax returns often do so early in the



ERIC TASHLEIN

tax season, in order to get a refund issued before you get around to filing the real return. Filing early is your best protection, since it increases your chances of having your return processed first, meaning a fraudster's return will then be rejected.

Give yourself peace of mind. Procrastination creates stress. You know the deadline is looming and eventually you'll have to organize your paperwork and either do your taxes or hire someone else to do them. If things are complex, you may need to consult your advisors. Starting early gives you time to research your tax situation and decide on the best course of action. And that means less stress.

Get help more readily. Sometimes people think they will do their own taxes but then

realize it's too complex and turn to a tax preparer for help. However, in early April when many people are scrambling to get their taxes done, preparers get busy and it can be difficult to find help. Even if you plan to hire someone, turning everything over early will give your accountant more time to do a thorough job. If you're a successful executive or business owner, sitting down with your accountant, financial advisor and attorney well in advance can lead to better outcomes come tax day.

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.

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From The Bar

The SECURE Act And Inherited Retirement Accounts

The SECURE Act is an acronym for Strengthening Every Community Up For Retirement Enhancement. In December 2019 the SECURE Act was signed by President Donald Trump, becoming a law effective as of Jan. 1. This new law radically changes traditional planning for retirement accounts such as IRA accounts, 401(k) accounts, and 403(b) accounts.

Prior to the SECURE Act, estate planning strategies often included naming a child or grandchild as a primary or contingent beneficiary of a retirement account. Upon the death of the participant, the beneficiary could choose to spread the withdrawals out over his or her life expectancy (calculated in accordance with IRS tables), by taking nothing more than required minimum distributions over this period of time. This distribution structure allowed those younger generation beneficiaries to grow the value of

the account, income tax free, for an extended period of time.

The SECURE Act changes how this works. With a few exceptions, the beneficiary must withdraw the entire amount in the retirement account no later than Dec. 31 of the year that contains the tenth anniversary of the date of death of the retirement account participant.

As an example, if a dad died on Jan. 12, 2020 naming his 50-year-old son as the beneficiary of his IRA account, the son must withdraw from the account the entire amount that remains, no later than Dec. 31, 2030. Prior to the SECURE Act, the son could have spread withdrawals from the account over the course of 34.2 years. The new law significantly speeds up the time in which income taxes must be paid on the son's



STEVEN FLOMAN

inherited retirement account.

Beneficiaries are not required to withdraw the funds periodically over 10 years. It is allowable to wait until the end of the 10-year period before withdrawing the funds.

There are five exceptions to the new 10-year payout rule described above. These exceptions are for a designated beneficiary who is: (1) a spouse of the participant; (2) a minor child of the participant; (3) "disabled"; (4) "chronically ill"; or (5) not more than 10 years younger than the participant (a sibling, for example). "Disabled" and "chronically ill" are defined terms.

If a beneficiary fits into one of these exceptions, it is possible to continue to withdraw from the inherited retirement

account over that beneficiary's life expectancy. However, once the reason for the exception ends (for example, if a minor child reaches the age of majority), the entire amount must be withdrawn before the end of the 10-year period described above.

In light of these significant changes, it is advisable to review your estate planning documents and beneficiary designation statements with your professional advisors.

Steven P. Floman of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC is the author of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

Zeoli, Lehman To Address Orange Business Community

Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli and Connecticut Commissioner of Economic and Community Development David Lehman will headline a March 18 breakfast event centered around economic development in Orange.

The event, dubbed a State and Town Economic Outlook Breakfast, is cosponsored by the Orange Chamber of Commerce and the Orange Economic Development Corporation.

Zeoli will speak to the economic growth and development in town. He will be followed by Lehman, who oversees a wide range of

programs promoting business retention and recruitment, brownfield redevelopment, the arts, historic preservation and tourism.

Lehman's business development priorities include helping build the state's urban centers into engines of growth, further capitalizing on top-flight colleges and universities, strengthening the state's workforce pipelines, and marketing Connecticut as a place that is open for business.

The breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. at the Grassy Hill Country Club. For reservations call 203-891-1045 or email Mary@orangeedc.com.

Town Of Orange Notice Of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given to the residents and taxpayers of the Town of Orange, that in accordance with Section 3.4 of the charter of the Town of Orange, that the Orange Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the lower level of the Orange Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Rd. at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11 on the proposed set forth below:

To consider and act on the proposed

repeal to the Town of Orange, CT Code Chapter 204 Dance Halls and Other Public Entertainment.

At the hearing, the Board of Selectmen will take public comment. Orange residents and taxpayers are invited to attend and to express their views.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut this 28th day of February 2020. Town of Orange Board of Selectmen.

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Kennedy To Run For Second Term



Kathy Kennedy. Contributed photo.

Saying she has much more to do in Hartford, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy (R-119) has announced she plans to run for a second term this November. Kennedy's district covers parts of Milford and Orange.

Kennedy currently serves on the Public Health, Environment and Education

committees and is a member of the bipartisan Women's caucus, the Coastal caucus, the I/DD caucus for those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the EMS/Fire caucus.

Kennedy spent her first term fighting against Democratic plans, including the two-year budget that passed in 2019 and various iterations of Gov. Ned Lamont's plan to place tolls on highways.

Additionally, Kennedy spent many hours communicating with residents through email and phone conversation while also having regular office hours, making sure she was getting the true pulse of the district and what they wanted.

"Last year was a very eye-opening lesson into the legislative session. Many pieces of legislation came out of the State Capitol that quite frankly will harm the taxpayers and state businesses, which is why I voted against so many bills," Kennedy said. "I will continue to protect the interests of the people of Milford and Orange and will oppose legislation I see as hurting their family budgets."

Abe Lincoln said: Don't trust what you read on the internet.

Ferraro Hits Fundraising Goal Early

State Rep. Charles Ferraro announced Feb. 23 that he has hit his fundraising target to qualify for the state's Citizens' Election Program.

"I am excited to be done with the fundraising part of campaigning and I want to thank all the residents from West Haven, Milford and Orange who helped me achieve this goal," Ferraro said. "We need to keep this momentum going towards election day in November."

To qualify for CEP grants, candidates for state representative must receive at least \$5,300 from 150 or more residents of the legislative district. Individual contributions cannot exceed \$270 apiece.

Ferraro said this is the first time he has been done with fundraising this early in the campaign season.

"I am proud of the work I have done in Hartford on behalf of the residents of the 117th district," he said. "Residents always know that I will listen to their concerns and fight for them and their families to make our state more affordable."

Ferraro is currently serving his third term in the Connecticut General Assembly. He serves as the highest-ranking House Republican on the legislature's Energy and Technology Committee and also serves on the Public Safety & Security and Veterans' Affairs committees.

Orange's Welander Launches Campaign To Unseat Klarides



Mary Welander. Contributed photo.

Mary Welander of Orange officially launched her candidacy Feb. 22 for state Representative in the 114th House District, serving the towns of Derby, Orange and Woodbridge.

Welander, a Democrat, is seeking the seat held by Republican House Minority Leader Themis Klarides.

Welander enters the race with the goal of representing and fighting for comprehensive educational opportunities for children, advancement for families, and stronger support for seniors in the district.

"For too long we have been waiting for someone to put our needs and priorities first, and it hasn't happened," Welander said. "Opportunities have been missed, families are being left behind, and people aren't being helped. And that is what this is all about: helping people. It's not about building up a name for yourself; it's about building up our communities. The truth is that things aren't going to get better for the everyday families in our communities until we have more people from those families involved in making the decisions that affect our everyday lives. We feel the effects; we should be part of the conversation."

"Mary Welander is a dedicated community advocate who is committed to addressing the challenging issues in education, economic improvement, the environment, and a better quality of life for all our citizens," said Paul Davis, former state representative and Orange selectman, and current member of the Amity Board of Education. "Mary's focus is

on people, not politics."

"Mary understands what our community is facing and is ready to work so that our families have the best chance for success in their futures," said Beth Heller, first selectwoman of Woodbridge. "Her commitment to our towns and real-life problem solving is clear and we look forward to Mary truly representing Woodbridge in Hartford."

Welander is a member of the Orange Board of Education and currently serves as the vice chair of both the Finance and Personnel, Policy, and Transportation subcommittees. She is also co-president of the Race Brook School PTA. She is an Ambassador for Connecticut for Sandy Hook Promise and regularly promotes education-based, common sense solutions for gun violence prevention programs both within the state and through bipartisan outreach trips to Washington, DC. She has also recently joined the team of Pirie Associates, an architecture, landscape, and interior design firm in New Haven committed to sustainable and equitable built environments.

Marc Garofalo, former mayor of Derby, said, "Mary shows true commitment to bipartisan problem solving every day with her work on the Orange Board of Education. She has dedicated herself to making better futures for families in her town and I know she will do the same for the families of Derby."

Welander and her husband Matt live in Orange with their three children and their dog, Bauer. These days she is often found at High Plains Community Center and other various pools cheering on their daughter and the rest of the ARAC Swim Team, or attending meetings for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and other various organizations she and her family are part of.

"My dedication to the Orange Board of Education will not change; serving on the board and working in a bipartisan way to help our children is a huge honor for me," Welander said. "My commitment to all of our towns hasn't wavered – in fact it has grown. This district, my neighbors, our schools, and our state deserve someone who will do the work and fight for them. Problems aren't solved by pointing fingers and I am tired of hearing the same arguments while nothing changes and families continue to struggle. Orange, Derby and Woodbridge deserve more. I hope I can earn their trust and support."

Anderson Declares Candidacy 119th House District



Bryan Anderson. Contributed photo.

Former Milford alderman Bryan Anderson has announced that he will run as a candidate for the state House of Representatives in the 119th District.

Anderson, a Democrat, would face freshman incumbent Kathy Kennedy, who recently announced she will seek a second term.

Anderson represented Milford's Fifth District on the Board of Aldermen for eight years.

"Working with Mayor Ben Blake and aldermanic colleagues, we brought innovation and growth to Milford, all the

while growing the Grand List and providing fiscal responsibility. As alderman, I was one of the original architects of property tax cuts for Milford taxpayers, and I was a watchdog that made sure that city budgets permitted people to continue to afford their property taxes and stay in their homes. As a result, Milford is one of the true standouts among municipalities in our region and state," Anderson said in his announcement.

"It took hard work and dedication to achieve these results. It also required listening to what residents desired of their elected officials, and then acting upon our shared values. On that point, I have earned a reputation for tackling problems and knowing how to assist constituents directly or seek changes in policy that benefit the greater good," Anderson said.

Anderson said he is looking to tap into the vision and talents of residents while raising innovative and practical ideas that can help to make Connecticut the envy of other states.

He plans to campaign on issues of fiscal responsibility and government transparency, environmental sustainability and climate change, women's health and support for women, a comprehensive transportation program that focuses on local needs in Milford and Orange, and workplace equity, economic innovation and readiness and education.



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Getting To Know You

Starting Over With Myself

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DAVID CROW

Recently I started working out. I don't really have a good explanation for why I did it except that one day I decided I should start working out. Now every morning at 5:30 a.m. I put on my workout clothes, go to the basement, get on the treadmill, feel the ancient aches in my body and stare at a concrete wall while I sweat for 35 minutes. Honestly, I don't like it, but I keep at it as I figure if I stop now I'll never start again.

At one time in my life I was an athlete. Ask my wife if you don't believe me. She's got some pictures of me when I had a waistline and a hairline that weren't punch lines. I played baseball through high school, but discovered rugby in college and played that through my law school years.

By the time I was in my mid-twenties, rugby had taken quite a toll on my body. I always joke that I quit playing rugby when the pain from the last match lasted until the next match, but that is pretty much what happened. The ancient aches in my body are the keepsakes my love for rugby gave me. Then I launched into a new career and the kids came and I just didn't find the time to spend on that aspect of my life

Years went by. Every so often I would try to get motivated to work out and sometimes I even started up again, but then one day I wouldn't do it anymore. Not for any particular reason. I can't really tell you why I didn't stick with it. I just didn't do it anymore. Then recently I woke up and caught a glimpse of that 25-year-old loose forward in the mirror and I just couldn't let it go.

Maybe you understand what I'm talking about and maybe you don't. Maybe you're right there with me or maybe you're perfect in all phases of your life and nothing ever gets

away from you. All I can say to both groups of people is whatever it is makes perfect sense until you decide it doesn't make sense anymore and then it will change if you change it.

Everyone who hears I'm working out is supportive, and that's gratifying. A few have gotten inspired, and that's gratifying. I get a lot of cheers and friendly advice about what to do and how to do it. That is gratifying too, but I must tell you I don't listen to any of those things. I appreciate those things, but they're not why I'm working out. Neither is losing weight, feeling better, relieving stress, being an inspiration nor all the other "benefits" of exercise. This is simply about me and the 25-year-old loose forward I saw in the mirror starting over.

So I get up every morning at 5:30 a.m., put on my workout clothes, go to the basement, get on the treadmill, feel the ancient aches in my body and stare at a concrete wall while I sweat for 35 minutes. No music, no television, no book, no partners, no motivational words, no inspirational speeches, and nothing to distract me from being present with the thoughts, regrets, reproaches, aches, pains, doubts, disappointments, insecurities and little triumphs that always come up during that 35 minutes. Sometimes Odin the cat comes and watches me for a while, but every day I'm alone with me and that 25-year-old loose forward starting over.

Until next time, y'all come out!

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



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Maroney Lauds Job Fair In Wake Of Milford Subway Layoffs



State Sen. James Maroney praised a job fair held in his hometown of Milford Feb. 20 to support those affected by the layoffs at Subway headquarters. *Contributed photo.*

State Sen. James Maroney (D-Milford) is applauding the success of the career assistance program that was put together to support those displaced by recent layoffs at Subway headquarters in Milford.

“Switching jobs or careers is never easy, especially in such abrupt circumstances like the one these men and women are facing,” Maroney said. “I am here to help and assist these hard-working folks find work and extend my gratitude to Milford Mayor Ben Blake, the City of Milford, Department of Labor, and the Workforce boards for working tirelessly to ensure those impacted by the

Subway layoffs can get back to work.”

Yale, Amazon, the city’s police department, and several other companies were represented at the Feb. 20 program. For three hours, prospective employees had the opportunity to meet with company representatives who were present and drop off their resumes.

Subway is the largest food franchise in America, with about 24,000 stores in America and 42,000 stores worldwide. It is headquartered in Milford. However, the popular chain has been closing thousands of stores around the country over the past few years.

Orange Photographer Wins State Award (Continued from 1)



Photo by Lexi Crocco

2013, with a successful two-year run she was able to open her studio location in Orange. She has previously done photography work for the Milford-Orange Times, the Orange Democratic Town Committee, the Orange Arts and Culture Council, the Orange Lions Club, the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, Seymour Pink and the Orange Town Guide.

Crocco’s award is especially hard-won as she is legally blind with 20/600 vision in her good eye. Her studio photography specializes in family, children and animal photography.

Course For Entrepreneurs (Continued from 1)

“Almost 150 years ago, The Milford Bank was established to serve the financial needs of the communities we serve,” said Susan Shields, president and CEO of The Milford Bank. “That commitment has not changed. What better way to honor that commitment than co-launching a program designed to develop tomorrow’s business leaders? It is part of our mission to partner with local businesses to help them succeed. We’re proud that our local focus allows us to support local people and businesses realize their goals and that ultimately leads to a stronger community.”

StartUp Milford will accept up to 20 applicants. These participants will graduate from the program on “Pitch Night” and the winner will be announced that evening. The pitch winner will receive a \$500 reimbursable grant for business-related startup costs from The Milford Bank, a \$500 grant from TBNG Consulting, a \$500 grant from TrinityPoint Wealth, free consultation services from each class presenter for one year, and a free full membership to the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce for one year.

“The Chamber is excited to be a partner in StartUp Milford; studies consistently link entrepreneurship with job creation and GDP growth. StartUp Milford is a great program for those with an idea and a passion that they want to turn into a viable business,” said Pam Staneski, the chamber’s executive director.

Applications are available on the City of Milford website under the Economic and Community Development page. Follow the link on the right to StartUp Milford. The application is in Google Form and is due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Reach out to Julie Nash at jnash@milfordct.gov or Cassandra Schull at eschull@milfordct.gov or call 203-783-3230 with questions.

Classes will be held at the depot behind The Milford Bank at 33 Broad St. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays from April 1 to June 3. Applicants must commit to and attend all classes to be eligible.

Coronavirus (Continued From 1)

suits and Biocell ambulance protection systems from the federal government.

Still, the medical community has taken pains to emphasize to the public that the threat from COVID-19 remains extremely low for most Americans. Dr. Michael Ivy, of Yale-New Haven Health said during the roundtable, “There is a lot of fear out there right now. I don’t want people to be afraid of this virus, you need to respect it, you

need to take it seriously, that’s what we’re doing, but it’s not the right time to panic, and I want to reassure people.”

Indeed, people in Connecticut currently face a much greater risk from the seasonal flu. On the same day as the discussion in Milford was taking place, the state Department of Public Health released new figures showing the state has had 2,230 influenza-related hospitalizations this year

and 58 deaths.

Unlike the flu, there is no vaccine for COVID-19 yet. However, according to the CDC the same measures that prevent the spread of flu work for coronavirus: frequent hand-washing, avoiding large gatherings of people, staying home if you feel ill, and covering your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze.

Orange Senior Center Events

Living Treasure Awards Tickets go on sale April 1 for the annual Living Treasure Award Ceremony. The event takes place at the High Plains Community Center on Friday, May 15 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of this year’s Living Treasure Awards. Winners of a raffle will go home with prizes donated by individuals and local businesses. Tables of eight to 10 are available. Please let the Senior Center know if you would like to donate a prize for the raffle. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Classic Movie of the Month The Senior Center’s Classic Movie of the Month will be *Maleficent*, with a screening on April 3 at 1 p.m. The movie stars Angelina Jolie and Elle Fanning. A vengeful fairy is driven to curse an infant princess, only to discover that the child may be the one person who can restore peace to their troubled land. Popcorn and soda will be served. Call 203-891-4784 for a seat.

How to Help Your Children Join the Senior Center on April 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a panel discussion to walk through the steps of an illness or accident through the recovery process. Participants will include the Orange Visiting Nurse Association, Orange Health & Rehab, the CT In-Home Association and Floman DePaola. Call to reserve a seat. Coffee and a snack will be served.

Wellness with ShopRite ShopRite of Orange’s registered dietitian, Courtney Huggins, will create a healthy dish to sample on April 6 at noon in the Senior Lounge.

Beginner PC Josh will teach a four-week intermediate iPad/iPhone class from Wednesday, April 1 to Wednesday, April 22. The class fee is \$20. The class runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Chinese Lady Join the Senior Center on a trip to Long Wharf Theater to see *The Chinese Lady* with lunch at Brazi’s Italian Restaurant on April 8. Meet Afong Moy, a 14-year-old girl who traveled to the US, first with the Carne Brothers and then with P.T. Barnum. Her performance educated others about life in China. Cost: The price is \$75 if you drive yourself or \$80 if you take the senior van. There are limited spaces on the van. The price includes transportation, lunch, show and driver gratuities. Full payment is due at registration. There is some walking. For more information, call 203-891-4784.



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Obituaries

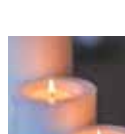
 **Stella Biedron**, 86, of Milford, passed away on February 16, 2020.


 **William John Day, Jr.**, 63, of Orange, passed away on February 18, 2020.


 **Robert W. McCarthy**, 92 of Orange, died Feb. 22, 2020.


 **Kathleen P. Rose**, of Milford, formerly of Stamford, passed away on February 18, 2020.


 **Raymond C. Bragano**, 89, of Milford, passed away on Friday, February 21, 2020.


 **Gail Ellen Demko**, 80, of Milford, passed away February 24, 2020.


 **Dean Joseph Moccia**, 61, of Milford, passed away on February 26, 2020.


 **Phyllis Rosell**, 66, of Orange, passed away on Friday, January 31, 2020.


 **Francis Xavier Buchwalder**, 77, passed away on February 24, 2020.


 **Severio Dominick Fodero**, known by all as "Bob", died peacefully on February 6, 2020.


 **Nicholas A. Mucherino**, 84, of Milford, passed away on February 3, 2020.


 **Helen "Anne" Sherrick**, 80, of Milford, passed away on Monday, February 24, 2020.


 **Lois M. Buynak**, 87, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Feb. 20, 2020.


 **Beverly Ann (Kelley) Gagliardi**, 79, of Milford, passed away on Friday February 7, 2020.


 **Nancy Nielsen** of Orange, passed away on February 1, 2020.


 **Stanley E. Swanson**, 77, of Milford passed away on Feb. 5, 2020.


 **Lisa A. Casapulla** of Cheshire, passed away on February 12, 2020.


 **Rita Frances Gavlik**, 81, of Milford, passed away on February 14, 2020.


 **Michael Novella** of Orange passed away February 21, 2020.


 **Richard F. Teller**, 78, passed away on February 13, 2020.

 **Jean Ann Christo**, 89, of Milford and Arizona, passed away on Saturday, February 22, 2020.

 **Irene Heckler**, 101, of Milford, passed away on February 2, 2020.


 **Dale J. Pavlik**, 55, of Orange, passed away on February 2, 2020.


 **Joan Marie Wajdowicz**, 76 of Ansonia, died on February 18, 2020.


 **Catherine "Kay" Veronica Cronin**, 86, of Milford, passed away on February 17, 2020.

 **Peter Joseph Marone, Jr.**, 84, of Milford, passed away on February 27, 2020.

 **Salvatore A. Puglia**, 84, of Orange, passed away on February 22, 2020.

 **Gayle L. Zamkov**, passed away in Florida with her husband & kids by her side.

 **Ronald Rocco Cunningham**, 61, of Milford, passed away on February 25, 2020.


 **William "Bill" Luciano**, of Orange and formerly of Milford, passed away on February 16, 2020.

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

Milford Church Offering Bereavement Support

The spring session of Milford-based Precious Blood Parish's bereavement support group is about to begin. The group meets every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the campus of St. Agnes Church, located at 400 Merwin Ave. in Milford. The 10-week spring session will

begin March 26 and run until May 28. Anyone coping with the loss of a loved one, recently or years ago, is welcome. To learn more or to register call Ellen at 203-283-1934. Visit preciousbloodparishmilford.org/spiritual-groups to learn more.



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