

Milford-Orange Times

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New Businesses Come To Milford



Dogtopia held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 12 sponsored by the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce at Quirk Road in Milford. It will be the second Connecticut location for the dog daycare and spa owned by Owen Botting and Michele McHugh. Photo courtesy of G. Geiger Studio 95.



CappuGino's Coffee & Shakes recently held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its grand opening at 20 Commerce Park in Milford. Milford Mayor Ben Blake, left, is pictured with owners Jerilyn Shannon, Julie Johnson and Dr. David Esposito. Photo courtesy of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce.



My Bar & Grille held a ribbon cutting Aug. 14 in celebration of its grand opening at 12 Broad St. in Milford. Owners Tommy and Karen Langrieger, along with family and staff came out for the festivities. Photo courtesy of G. Geiger Studio 95.

Milford, Orange To Get Drive-In Concert Series

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Live entertainment has been hard to come by since the COVID-19 pandemic began. But the Milford Performance Center has a solution: it has designed a drive-in a concert series that allows for a live concert stage with a backup FM transmission for audience members.

"As the largest year-round concert venue in the Milford, Orange and surrounding communities the center has been receiving calls and emails about renewing shows as people crave safe community events," said Steve Cooper, executive director of MPC.

Gov. Ned Lamont closed most of the state in March as coronavirus cases spiked in Connecticut. Since then, cases have dropped dramatically in the state and Lamont has slowly eased restrictions. Phase two of the reopening went into effect in June.

But phase three has been delayed as COVID cases rose in other parts of the country. As a result, most indoor

performances and larger gatherings are still banned.

Cooper had to reschedule every show booked since March through the end of 2020.

"Booking into 2021 has been like putting a jigsaw puzzle together while competing with other national venues for prime acts," Cooper said. "Since our patrons have been craving shows and everyone else around have rescheduled their events too, I decided to go 'back to the future' with the drive-in concept."

Performances will be held in large open areas around Milford and Orange, at the former Sears parking lot at the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford and the Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center in Orange.

Each car will have enough space to allow for up to four people to sit outside with a barrier of a vehicle between them and other audience members.

"As with all of our shows donations will be

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Orange TPZC Settles Firelite Plaza Dispute

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Town Plan & Zoning Commission has reached a legal settlement ultimately aimed at allowing for mixed housing at the long-struggling Firelite Plaza.

Attorney Marjorie F. Shansky filed a lawsuit in Milford Superior Court on behalf of the developer, 35 Old Tavern Road LLC, against the TPZC after that body in September denied a text change to the Orange zoning regulations that the developer had been seeking.

Shansky's client wanted to revitalize the plaza near Route 1. The property is located in one of two areas in town that fall under the local shopping center district zone. Firelite would have become a series of mixed-use

buildings with commercial spaces on the ground floor and apartments above.

The commission and Shansky had gone back and forth over the details of the amended regulations for several months in 2019, with each iteration moving closer to each party's interpretation of the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development's call for greater housing diversity in Orange.

TPZC members had expressed their desire, in general, to allow for housing opportunities of the type before them. But they were never wholly convinced that the particular facility envisioned by Shansky's client was right for the town, and ultimately voted the proposal

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Editorial: Orange Chamber Should Merge With Milford

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

It is time for the Orange Chamber of Commerce to unite with its larger neighbor in Milford through a merger that can benefit all parties.

Current Orange Chamber executive director Carol Smullen will be leaving her post effective Oct. 1. At the same time, chambers of commerce across the country, which are funded largely by events and member dues, have been hit hard by the wave of shutdowns that have characterized the first few months of the coronavirus pandemic.

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New Columnist



CAROLINA AMORE

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News & Events

Boy Scout Revitalizes Outdoor Classroom At Race Brook School

The aging and overgrown outdoor classroom at Race Brook Elementary School in Orange included decaying tree stump seats and dilapidated picnic benches. It was in dire need of renovation. Frankie Cavallaro, a Boy Scout with Troop 12 in Milford and an RBS alumnus, saw an opportunity to serve his community while working toward achieving his Eagle Scout rank.

“The outdoor classroom was in pretty bad shape, and it occurred to me that this was the perfect time to transform it into a more inviting and usable space to which staff and students might escape for some fresh air and social distancing during the school day,” Cavallaro said.

Cavallaro solicited area businesses for

material donations and set to work in his home garage constructing new bench seating, decorating it with school colors. He enlisted 10 other scouts from his troop to spend a Saturday cleaning out the area, weeding, edging, spreading new pea stone, assembling and painting picnic tables.

Mike Gray, director of Business and Operations for Orange Public Schools, said of Cavallaro, “His efforts have led to an inviting open-air space that will certainly be utilized by students and staff at Race Brook School. Frankie is a fine example of youth putting their leadership skills into action and giving back.”

Cavallaro thanked his fellow troop members. “I couldn’t have done it without them,” he said.



Boy Scout Frankie Cavallaro revitalized the outdoor classroom at Race Brook Elementary School in Orange. Photo courtesy of Cavallaro.

Orange Garden Club Commemorates 90 Years



Garden Club of Orange members Gail Nixon and Linda Bradford pose in front of plantings of Mountain Laurel donated to the town by the club to commemorate their upcoming 90-year celebration. Nixon is the chair of the 90th celebration; Bradford is the club’s president. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.

Milford Rotary Awards Scholarships To Local Students

Milford Rotary Club recently awarded college scholarships to several local students.

The students, selected by the organization’s Scholarship Committee, demonstrated academic achievement, good citizenship and leadership, among other qualities, and were presented with their awards earlier in July.

Awardees from Joseph A. Foran High School were: Kayla Jurzyk, Leslie Akuffo, Grace Lavalley, John Shannon, Andre Jin, Tyler Griffin, Amy Fidelman and Anthony

Capua. Recipients from Jonathan Law were: Tasbita Ahmed, Samantha Lambiase, Madeline Papcun and Morgan Taylor. Former recipient Abigail Huebner was also presented with a scholarship.

Jonathan Law graduate Rohin Manohar was selected to receive this year’s Alan Jepson Memorial Scholarship, which is presented each year to a deserving student in honor of the late former Milford mayor who was also a member of Milford Rotary.

Orange Rotary Lobster Take(Out)

Saturday, September 12th
 Pick-up between 3:00-7:00 p.m. (you choose the time)
 High Plains Community Center, Orange

Menu includes:

- Choice of Boiled Twin Lobsters or
- 16 oz Sirloin Steak (seasoned by us, cooked by you)
- Clam Chowder, Corn on the Cob, Cole Slaw, Roll

\$40. per person.

While we can’t gather together, you can still enjoy a delicious lobster or steak dinner with friends and support the projects of the Orange Rotary Club.



Orange Rotary



For tickets and info:

www.RotaryClubofOrange.org

Drive-In (Continued From 1)

made to nonprofits in the area” Cooper said. The two Orange shows will benefit the Orange Volunteer Fire Department to make up for some of the revenue that was lost from not being able to hold its annual Fireman’s Carnival, normally the organization’s largest source of funding.

Some of the proceeds from the six Milford shows will go to the Beth-El Center.

The show series opens on Aug. 28 with the The Lords of 52nd Street, a Billy Joel cover band. Upcoming shows include: Southern Charms, a seven-piece tribute on Sept. 12; Frontiers, a Journey cover band, on Sept. 26; a rock and jam festival on Sept. 27; a Woodstock tribute show on Oct. 3; No Quarter, a Led Zeppelin cover band, on Oct. 9; the B-Street Band, a Bruce Springsteen cover band, on Oct. 10; Destination Mowtown on Oct. 11; and The Grateful Mountain, a Grateful Dead cover band, on Oct. 17.

Tickets for all shows are based on a per-car basis with up to four people in a car. Food trucks will also be stationed at the events. Those holding tickets for indoor shows that were rescheduled can call 203-723-3672.

The full schedule and more information is available at MilfordPerformanceCenter.org.



Milford-Orange Times

Firelite (Continued From 1)

down by a 3-2 margin.

In her complaint to the court, filed in November, Shansky pointed out that the town had specifically identified the area in which Firelite is located as a target for housing diversification and that her client had continuously revised the text amendment to meet the commission’s interests. At one point, the commission brought in planning consultant Glenn Chalder, who made additional suggestions that the developer also incorporated.

“The decision of the Commission denying the Petition to Amend the Zoning Regulations and not following its own consultant’s revision suggestions belies any intention on the part of the commission to follow the recommendations and goals of the POCD and represents predetermination,” the court filing says.

Since then, however, the two sides have continued to talk, resulting in the agreement that was adopted at the TPZC’s Aug. 6 special meeting.

The document in part says, “the parties now desire to enter into a settlement agreement resolving and settling all outstanding and possible disputes between them.”

The agreement is scheduled to go into effect on Sept. 30, if the court approves it. If that happens, it will indeed amend Orange’s zoning regulations. The new amendments will reduce the permitted density in the local shopping center district from the 15 units per acre that the developer had earlier wanted to 12 units per acre.

The agreement allows the developer to count leasing/sales office, gyms, meeting room, lounges, and other spaces where people congregate toward a 25 percent calculation of

non-residential space required of mixed-use developments. Commissioners had earlier called counting such areas that aren’t traditional businesses “faking” the requirement.

Although all the TPZC members voted to adopt the agreement, it was clear that some opposition remained. Vice Chair Judy Smith, who had voted against the text change in September, restated her opinion that the

developer’s proposal is “not a town center,” adding that the settlement would not advance the goals described in the POCD.

Even once this dispute is resolved, the matter will be far from closed. Changing the regulations will only allow Shansky’s client to draw up and present specific building plans for the Firelite site. Those plans will also have to come before the commission.

Milford Official Elected To State Convention And Sports Bureau



Julie Nash.

Julie Nash, Milford’s director of Economic and Community Development has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Convention & Sports Bureau for its 2020-2021 fiscal year. The CTCSB is Connecticut’s only statewide sales and marketing organization for meetings, conventions and sports events.

“Julie Nash brings extensive public affairs experience in local and state government relations, as well as tourism outreach success,” said Thomas Madden, chair of the CTCSB and

himself director of Economic Development in Stamford. “She will be a great asset to our organization as we work with Connecticut’s hospitality industry and business members to sell our state to meeting planners and sports promoters across the US.”

In her Milford job, Nash is responsible for obtaining and managing over \$20 million in grant funds for various city projects, both programmatic and public infrastructure. Nash, who lives in Milford, also created and leads the city’s Tourism Task Force that includes hotels, business, the arts and marinas to increase tourism dollars in Milford through advertising campaigns, relationship building and strategic initiatives. She manages the Reopen Milford Advisory Group and the city’s Economic Development Commission, focusing on initiatives and programs to attract and retain business. In addition, Nash manages all city social media accounts to engage residents and visitors.

“We look forward to Julie’s insight and perspective as we market Connecticut to retain existing and attract new conventions, meetings and sports events to our state that will benefit our economy,” said CTCSB President Robert Murdock.

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Opinion & Editorial

Editorial (Continued From 1)

These changing circumstances call for bold thinking. Orange and Milford chamber activities could both be shored up by combining their efforts. They would save some money on duplicative administrative costs while gaining access to broader networking opportunities.

To be sure, merging the chambers could not be done overnight. It would require careful planning and some compromises from both sides.

Dues for Orange members, for instance, are currently lower than those for Milford members since Milford's chamber is larger. Some might see an immediate increase as unfair. One solution could be to delay dues increases for a year.

Many businesses, of course, already belong to both chambers. These members would see a reduction in their overall dues by only having to pay for one membership.

Orange is the smaller community with the smaller organization, so it makes sense that it should be absorbed into the larger Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. But as with any regionalization effort, Orange should retain something of an independent identity within the new grouping. Town members should be guaranteed seats on the Board of Directors. A part-time position should be created for an Orange executive director within the Milford Chamber.

Gary Johnson, president of the United Way of Milford and a board member in Milford, has said "it makes perfect sense" for the two chambers to combine forces.

"In this age of shrinking resources, and especially being in the middle of this pandemic, we can do more for local businesses in both of our communities by joining together in a more formal structure," he said.

Not everyone is on board. Paige Miglio, who chairs Milford's Board of Directors, suggested that the chambers wait until the present crisis abates. "It very well may be the natural progression for our collective futures; but right now, in the midst of global pandemic which has changed the very nature of how we live and do business, we need to assess and strengthen our core to support the businesses under our wings," she said.

The concept is not a new one. *Milford-Orange Times* Publisher Steve Hechtman had proposed such an arrangement six years ago when he was a board member, but the idea was rejected by enough of the other board members at the time to forestall discussion.

In recent months, discussions have begun taking place between the boards from Milford and Orange on how to move forward. Orange's Board of Directors planned to talk about it at their meeting on Aug. 25 (after this issue had gone to print).

We encourage both organizations to proceed with caution and respect – but to proceed.

Unemployment Crunch Coming



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

Power has been restored in Connecticut and our political primary, delayed for weeks because of the pandemic, is behind us. In the coming weeks, though, a series of utility hearings have been scheduled that will examine the utility rate hikes and how the companies responded to the tropical storm that wiped out power to hundreds of thousands of state residents.

On Aug. 24 the Public Utility Regulatory Authority conducted a hearing via Zoom. The questions were limited to PURA members only, but public testimony was allowed to be submitted prior to the hearing.

Another hearing will take place Sept. 4 starting at 10 a.m. via Zoom, when PURA will consider a rate hike request from United Illuminating, which services Orange and Milford. To follow the hearing go to [ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUdOGtpj4iGtKpOjM1UufjkAKi7jAxsvM](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/6481111111).

PURA is also starting to evaluate the response of both utilities to the storm and the aftermath of the cleanup. The authority will accept written testimony at pura.information@ct.gov.

The Energy and Technology Committee in the state legislature is also planning on having its own hearing on these matters. The agenda for the sessions will be available in the next week. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 800-842-1423 or 860-240-8700.

When it comes to the primary, local election officials were forced to continue counting ballots for two days after the polls closed to account for the late arriving crush of absentee ballots that were returned. Problems were encountered because the third-party vendor hired by the Secretary of the State's office failed to process 20,000 absentee ballots so town clerks had to step in and take over.

Police Reform Bill Does Harm



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

I voted against a major police reform measure last month because I believe at the end of the day the bill could do more harm than good. I am disappointed in the legislative process which led to a rushed public hearing without all stakeholders at the table and a final bill put on our desk for debate starting at 1:30 a.m. on a Friday morning.

Yes, I wanted to fully support a true reform bill that would address some of the racial injustices of our past and present reignited after the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in broad daylight and the subsequent protests across the country.

I support greater transparency and more accountability for our Connecticut law enforcement officers. Police officers who break the law must be prosecuted. Unfortunately, this legislation fuels the notion that all police are the problem, not a few bad actors, when we know that is not the case.

Some of the positives of the police accountability bill were:

- 1) The implementation of implicit bias training so law enforcement can better recognize how they unconsciously treat, judge and interact with members of certain backgrounds or races.
- 2) Greater transparency when it comes to collective bargaining and public records disclosure.
- 3) Looking to keep better data on minority recruitment of police officers.
- 4) Studying the feasibility of having licensed social workers assist on certain calls where appropriate.
- 5) Periodic mental health and drug screenings to make sure we are putting the best officers in the field.

The bill included many other sections which I viewed as harmful to the overall police community. I spoke with many police officers from both Orange and Milford and they told me this bill would leave our officers disheartened, possibly making it harder to do their already tough and dangerous job.

The gutting of qualified immunity for police officers would permit law enforcement to be sued for equitable relief and money damages for things they might do on the job. Right now, law enforcement officers are entitled to qualified immunity when their actions do not violate a clearly established statutory or constitutional right. Without having qualified immunity in the law, police officers and the cities that employ them have serious concerns that the additional liability will make officer recruitment and retention more difficult, and that it could potentially be costly to insure a city's police force. Even with qualified immunity, willful misconduct by a police officer is not protected.

Another section of the bill goes against the very concept of crime fighting and harms our ability to keep drugs and guns off our Milford and Orange streets by limiting consent searches. In taking away this valuable policing tool to ask consent of a person to search a motor vehicle or their person, we diminish the ability of our police to do their jobs in real time.

As always, please contact me should you have any questions about this important law enforcement issue or concerns on any other topics relating to state government at Kathy.Kennedy@housegov.ct.gov or at 800-842-1423.

The Future Of Energy



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

We require energy to heat and cool our homes, light office buildings, drive cars and manufacture products.

But how good is the energy we are provided on a day-to-day basis? How we choose our energy will determine the path we take towards our environment. Switching to renewable energy provides reliable power supplies, reduces the need for imported fuels and helps conserve the nation's natural resources.

Renewable energy, also known as clean energy, generally refers to electricity supplied from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, water, geothermal, bioenergy, nuclear and hydrogen fuel cells. These energy sources are considered renewable sources because they are continuously replenished on Earth and can continue to be replenished for thousands of years to come.

Wind energy is the newest type available. Wind energy is electricity produced using wind or air flows that occur naturally in the earth's atmosphere. Modern wind turbines are used to capture kinetic energy from the wind to generate electricity.

Fossil fuels, on the other hand, are finite, create harmful greenhouse gases and other emissions, and can require dependency on countries outside the United States. Renewable energy is important to lower our carbon footprint, lessen our dependency and create jobs within the US.

Connecticut has renewable energy development initiatives that offer different incentives and innovative low-cost energy options. The three initiatives and programs in the state are the Connecticut Green Bank, the Microgrid Grant and Loan Program and Siting Clean Energy on Connecticut Brownfields. Connecticut created the microgrid program to help local distributed energy generation for critical facilities. A microgrid generally operates in island mode on its own if there is a crisis such as a power outage or a major storm. Brownfields require large sites for installation that usually have existing infrastructure needed to support development. To read more on these initiatives, you can head to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's website, portal.ct.gov/DEEP.

Bridgeport has offered the state's latest offshore wind acquisition. The proposal, dubbed "Park City Wind," was selected and is being billed as the largest purchase of renewable energy in state history. The project aims to redevelop port facilities in Bridgeport harbor and is expected to more than double the amount of zero-carbon renewable energy procured by DEEP to date. DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes says it will provide enough energy to power about 400,000 homes, or about 14 percent of the state's electricity supply. Park City Wind could generate approximately \$890 million in direct economic benefits and create thousands of jobs across the life of the project. The project will also provide energy cost savings to Connecticut ratepayers while delivering a reliable source of fixed-price, low-cost renewable energy.

Not only is renewable energy good for our environment and our pockets, it will create jobs and bring money back into the economy.

Milford-Orange Times

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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

Columnists:

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Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Phil Smith, Rotary Club
Christine Angeli, Milford Library	John Moffitt, Life Online	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
Cathy Bradley, Running	Amir Mohammad, MD, MPH, Health	Pam Staneski, Milford Chamber
Joanne Byrne, Retirement	Trish Pearson, Insurance	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate
David Crow, Conversations	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel	Eric Tashlein, Finances
Anna Cutaia, Education	Priscilla Searles, Town Historian	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Pat Dray, Gardening	Makayla Silva, Kids World	Michele Tenney, Health
Steven P. Floman, Legal		Trish O'Leary Treat, Profiles

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Letters to the Editor:

SROs Work in Milford

To the Editor:

In recent days there have been discussions about a bill that was introduced by Sen. Chris Murphy in the US Senate that would allocate federal funds to school counselors and social workers and would not allow federal funds to be used to hire more in-school police officers, also known as school resource officers. The bill does not eliminate these officers from our local schools, as has been suggested by my opponent. In fact, the language makes it clear that local school districts should have the ability to decide for themselves whether having school resource officers in the schools is something the local community wants.

In Milford, after years of annual requests by Police Chief Keith Mello and the Milford Police Department to create school resource officers, agreement was reached in 2013 between the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Police Commission, Mayor Ben Blake and the Board of Aldermen to evenly divide the salaries and benefits of SROs between the Police Department and Milford Public Schools.

As an aldermanic leader on budget and education issues, I was tasked with offering the amendment at a Board of Alderman budget hearing that added four school resource officer positions to the city's budget under that agreement. After some discussion, the amendment passed in a bipartisan vote.

I regard my years as a public school educator and a graduate of the Milford Police Department's Citizen Police Academy program as offering a unique perspective to the discussion of adding school resource officers to our city's schools. The program has been an unparalleled success and has positioned Milford Public Schools as a model of how a school resource officer program can work well.

I will continue to be an advocate for this type of safety and security program in our schools when elected to be our state representative in the 119th House District representing Milford and Orange. Sending someone to Hartford who has taken the important votes on this issue locally is especially important as our schools begin the reopening process from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Bryan Anderson
Milford

Perplexed by Republicans

To the Editor:

I am so perplexed by recent letters from members of the Republican Party.

They criticize Democrats for marching in person in the streets but not wanting to vote in person and do not mention that both parties were present to racial equality or acknowledge that the coronavirus is a reality. They apparently are not interested in debating any of the issues as evidenced by their focus on only denigrating Democrats. They buy into the more than 10,000 lies that our president has told, but do not acknowledge the truth of over 5 million Americans having tested positive for the coronavirus. They listen to the taunts and insults hurled by President Trump but do not ask what his plans are for economic recovery or epidemic protection for our citizens. They blame the Democrats for everything but do not hold the Republican Senate responsible for no bills of importance being generated by them, nor wonder why Mitch McConnell has held up so many of the House-created bills from even reaching the Senate floor.

They make fun of Democrats for wanting to vote by mail but do not question the right of everyone to vote as they see fit, or show any outrage for the tampering with the people's Post Office as a means of voter suppression. Since they have poo-pooed the existence of the virus and only wear masks under duress, having no concern about spreading the virus or protecting their fellow community members, no wonder some people do not want to stand in line next to or even near to them. They seem to confuse democracy with being Democrats.

What are we to call Republicans? They used to believe in fiscal conservatism but ignore the huge national debt their party has ushered in. They used to believe in integrity but do not raise an eyebrow to Trump's abuse of power, influence peddling, election tampering and the list goes on. They used to believe in our country but allow Trump to continue to kowtow to Russia, even with the evidence of their bounty on our soldiers.

If this is what is happening to the Republican party, I am prouder than ever that I am a life-long Democrat believing in all forms of equality – social, judicial, income, access to health care and higher education and the protection of our fragile environment.

I encourage all Connecticut residents to vote – no matter by mail or in person. This election is probably the most important election I have ever voted in and I hope others feel the same.

Sandra Morgan
Milford

Commentary:

Schools Should Reopen

A lot of gnashing of teeth, excessive concern and worrying over the coming opening of schools given the current state of the COVID-19 epidemic is going on in the community.

How concerned are you about students not being vaccinated against measles, mumps, chicken pox and whooping cough in your school? Did you know that measles and smallpox were grave threats to the Roman Empire? The Antonine plague in the second century BCE was thought to be caused by measles and smallpox. Five million people died by the time the Roman scourge ran its course. Smallpox vaccines eradicated all transmission of that disease, with the last known case in 1977. There is a vaccine for measles, but that disease continues to circulate today.

In 1520, New World smallpox caused 25 to 55 million deaths, with some scholars estimating that greater than 85 percent of the indigenous population died from the disease.

The H1N1 Spanish Flu of 1918, named not

because it originated there but because neutral Spain's media were not constrained by World War I propaganda restrictions, caused over 50 million deaths. The H1N1 swine flu in 2009 had about 1.6 million cases and 18,448 deaths. Over 80 percent of people affected were under 65. We did not shut down the schools and we did not require testing or masks.



THOMAS P.
HURLEY

COVID-19 is a little different animal. Deaths are typically among patients over 65 having secondary health conditions.

So what is needed? Masks on children and teachers are not realistic nor needed. What is needed is common sense: if your student is sick from anything contagious do not send them to school. Parents should do a quick temperature check before allowing their children to go to school (99.5 degrees Fahrenheit and above measured orally is considered a fever for a child). Schools should limit visitors to the office and delivery areas. Good cleaning of the

The Mythology Of Our Symbols

By Bryan Anderson

In July we marked the 244th observance of American Independence. In words we have come to memorize in social studies classrooms all across our nation, the Declaration of Independence intoned, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration was to American patriots the ultimate act of resistance in defiance of laws and edicts that eroded the virtue of freedom. We know all too well that the Declaration was an aspirational document and that there were fault lines that favored white male landowners over those on lower economic rungs, women, Black people and indigenous people. One need only read Frederick Douglass's speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" from 1852 to begin to comprehend these fault lines.

With the unspeakable cruelty of George Floyd's death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer in May, the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and calls for removal of statues, flags and other symbols erected by past generations, there is currency in seeking to inform ourselves more fully about the adoption of these symbols. We need to find meaningful dialogue with those who may have differing views and attempt to find efficacy in the symbology and mythology associated within our time.

A case can be made for dialogue surrounding the continued viability of Stone Mountain Park, Georgia. Etched into the rock's side, a Confederate memorial depicts Civil War generals Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee, along with Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The idea for the park came from the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Gutzon Borglum, later of Mount Rushmore fame, who was commissioned to bring the project to life. At that time, "polite" society regarded Confederates as patriots and not traitors of a "lost cause."

The park recently hosted Black Lives Matter protests, yet for many years has been the site of a resurgent Ku Klux Klan, replete with cross burnings and raids on neighboring communities.

To remove an enormous etching 400 feet above ground would be formidable and costly. What if statuary of significant figures of the modern Civil Rights era were added? Likenesses of Rep. John Lewis, Dorothy Height, Fannie Lou Hamer, Julian Bond, Bayard Rustin, Claudette Colvin and others, including Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks could be placed throughout the park.

Every passing generation assigns importance to individuals or events of historic

note.

The American military often led the way in making lasting changes before civil society could catch up. From President Harry S. Truman's desegregating the Army after World War II, women serving in combat roles to recognition of marital vows by same-gender couples to transgender individuals serving in uniform, the Armed Forces have been bastions of equality and progress over time.

Given this history, it is unsurprising how swiftly Pentagon military brass responded recently to the removal of military base names of Confederate generals in the South. History reveals that these military bases all were named during World War I or World War II, before the Truman desegregation order. Forts Benning, Bragg, Lee and Camp Beauregard were so designated during World War I in 1917 or 1918 and Forts Hood, Rucker, Gordon, Pickett, Polk and A.P. Hill were named in 1941 or 1942 during the height of World War II. In a haste to expand conscription in Southern states as well as to earn loyalty among enlisted troops, Southern politicians who served on the Armed Services Committees in Congress offered these names to flex their political muscle and engender good feelings at home from their constituents.

Returning Black GIs, who experienced significant freedoms in Europe denied here at home, were determined to root out social injustices. Despite their heroism and success overseas in defeating tyranny, African American veterans were subjected to Jim Crow laws, barriers to voter registration, intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan, mob violence and lynching. The Confederate battle flag and statues of mythical Confederate figures from the Civil War are stark reminders of this tragic past.

After the heinous racial massacre of nine parishioners of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina by an acknowledged white supremacist in 2015, lawmakers and the governor worked in bipartisan fashion to remove the Stars and Bars from official use. More recently, NASCAR has banned the Confederate battle flag from its official events and Mississippi is working to redesign its official flag that formerly incorporated the Confederate symbol.

Perhaps the larger argument is as American professor of literature and cultural philosopher Joseph Campbell said: "Myth is much more important and true than history." As Campbell wisely observed, "Your sacred space is where you find yourself over and over again."

It can be argued, then, that symbols are more about the future and shaping a destiny that reflects the values to which society wishes to aspire. Let us work toward what we aspire for a just and inclusive future.

schools is important. Hand washing areas need a high degree of attention during the school day. Students and staff should wash their hands several times a day. Teachers and staff, including bus drivers, need to be temperature tested daily before contact with students. Masks should be used by other staff. Six-foot rules should be maintained between adults.

School buses must be cleaned before each use. Masks for bus drivers could cause other

safety issues including visibility problems, so it's a tradeoff if required. The usefulness of mask requirements is still under review by the scientific and medical community.

Middle schools and high schools present additional issues due to the outside activities of older students, but should be able to follow the above guidance. Infected students need a remote schooling option.

Let there be in-school schooling.

We Regret The Error

A story on page 7 of the July 16, 2020 issue regarding the lives of Josef And Anni Albers gave the incorrect year of Josef Albers's retirement from teaching at Yale University. The correct year was 1958. The same story also incorrectly said that Anni Albers was hired by the university for a faculty position. Yale did not hire Anni Albers because she was considered a faculty member's wife and was therefore excluded from being hired.

A photo caption on page 1 of the July 16, 2020 issue regarding the Community Champions Network insufficiently described the eligibility criteria for the program. Qualifying individuals include but are not limited to first responders, law enforcement, medical professionals, military (active, retired or reserves) and teachers.

Lifestyle

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

What Holds The Sale Back?

I always say each transaction is a story. Individual properties, finances, inspections...the list goes on. There are many reasons all deals are complicated.

My own perspective of how to work the contracts properly are simply preventative ideas. The buyers and sellers need to be aware of how to develop trust right away when an offer is presented.

The buyers present a complete package with their qualifying letter, the offer with definite dates and amounts and a positive attitude of excitement and goodwill. The buyer has been counseled through inspections on what is viewed as problematic and what is normal wear and tear. The seller then digests this information, also having already reviewed his guidelines for responding properly.

The first rule is to respond as quickly as

possible, showing good faith and appreciation for the offer, no matter the price. We all maintain business manners, although the decisions are emotional times in many cases. The seller has already set up an anticipated price, the time frame in which they can reasonably vacate with a place to go (hopefully). They can just concentrate on the steps ahead, such as whether the price is fair. The seller also needs to review the inspection to come and the dates in which the buyer will definitely be able to move forward with a commitment. It is imperative for everyone to have trust, especially in the real estate representative as he or she moves ahead with all rights recognized on both sides.



BARBARA
LEHRER

Holding back the sale can be the direct result of unclear inspection comments or the inability to get a second opinion within the time allotted. Everyone needs to be patient and honest. For example, if the residential property disclosure is not exactly truthful or accurate, it can result in the buyer wondering if other things are not disclosed. Most of the time, items that are a surprise to the buyer during inspection are also a surprise to the seller. Again, here is where emotions can keep buyer and seller from proceeding with a good transaction.

From the start of negotiations to moving day, each party will have a good experience if they take their time understanding the other person's perspective. Selling is a

project and buying is the most expensive purchase ever.

Keep the deal together by preparing yourself for all the ins and outs of what is to come before you jump into the market. A good realtor will tell you all this on the first meeting so that you will not be stressed with each section of the contract or each of the vendors' communications as you move ahead.

Real estate has never been better orchestrated than it is today. The state Department of Consumer Protection has established immense protections for both buyers and sellers. Each rule is on your agent's plate. Enjoy the experience.

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

Here's To Your Health

Think For Yourself

Friends, I have often said "you are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body." I've spoken to you about the importance of having all three of these pieces of ourselves in good working order.

These times are so uncertain and so stressful. Both TV and social media have taken us to another level of despair, as if the virus wasn't enough. Your emotional wellness is going to have to be a purposeful decision you make these days. When we feel discouraged, defeated, oppressed, judged and without a voice, a door opens for our wellness to decline. Depression, anxiety and so much more may overwhelm us.

I'm here to encourage you there is hope. I speak to you today from the deepest places of my heart simply because I love people and because I have been feeling the same challenge.

When I was growing up, I was taught to "think outside the box." I really enjoyed the challenge in that way of thinking because it encouraged me to take an adventure to

another side of the norm. I loved discovering another point of view I had not seen before. It was like a treasure hunt.

Today when I post things to inspire others to think outside the box, I am being thrown into a box, taped up and labeled. I'm either left or right or a conspiracy theorist. My question is: why? I am a "why" learner. I always have been. When I understand the "why," then I can understand what X or Y means. I am a truth bug, so in order for me to find truth I need to dig, try different soils and then nest in a place that feels right and comfortable to me.

Recently, I posted a couple of articles from a newspaper I subscribe to on my social media page. Some of those posts were censored, which is very disturbing to me. A dear friend I've known since grammar school replied to my post that he didn't read



MICHELE
TENNEY

the article I had posted and said if he were me he would put the newspaper in the recycle bin. He expressed strong accusations about the source and added to the end of his comment, "to each his own."

My response was: absolutely to each his own. However, I would be doing myself a great injustice to throw the newspaper into the recycle bin because there are always different points of view. I asked him how he can make such strong accusations without having

even read the article.

We cannot afford to be one-way thinking, to the left or to the right, up, down or anything in between. We should be seeking several different opinions before making one of our own. We need to look at the same thing from many different vantage points, take what we feel makes sense to us and respect others' decisions to do the same for themselves.

It's when we make a decision based only

on what we see or hear and leave it at that when division comes in.

These are beyond troubled times we are living in. We need to come together, not tear each other apart. This country was founded on several different opinions and lifestyles coming together in unity to make this one great nation. Our mental and emotional health is tied directly to our physical health. Let us help one another in love and in unity despite our opinions or beliefs.

Love is the most powerful of all things we have been given. Here's to your health in peace and with love.

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.

Retired and Rejuvenated

The Benefits Of Talking To Strangers

For many extroverts who relish casual contacts with people, the coronavirus has caused a deep interruption to these encounters. The people we come across casually in our daily lives while walking the dog, standing in line at the grocery store, working out at the gym, going to the post office and taking the garbage out in the morning have become a rarity. These ephemeral connections are often a source of useful information and provide needed emotional and physical support. They often leave a smile on our faces, even if hidden under a face mask.

Under stay-at-home orders due to the pandemic in recent months, many people have lost such daily encounters. Many of us have tried to maintain at least some social contacts while following all the safety precautions through Zoom meetings, sitting on our front porches (if you still have that outdated and reminiscent structure as part of your home), or in our driveways for chats with friends.

I recently read about a book that was published 11 years ago titled *Consequential Strangers: The Power of People Who Don't Seem to Matter...But Really Do*. This book was written by Melinda Belau, a science writer, and Karen L. Fingerman, a professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Austin who studies the nature and effects of so-called weak ties that people have with others in their lives. These weak ties might be

with the person who cuts our hair or does our nails, the employees in the small local market where we shop, the folks we see at the bus stop or on our morning walks.

The authors maintain that casual connections with people encountered in the course of daily life can give people a feeling that they belong to a community, which they describe as "a basic human need." Consequential strangers seem to be as vital



JOANNE
BYRNE

to our well-being, growth, and day-to-day existence as family and close friends. Consequential strangers anchor us in the world and give us a sense of being plugged in to something larger. They also enhance and enrich our lives and offer us opportunities for novel experiences and information beyond the purview of our inner circles. In short, consequential strangers make life more interesting.

The COVID-19 lockdowns have reminded so many of us of how important our relationships are to quality of life – not only relationships with the friends and family members we love and know well, but also with the more casual ones that help us maintain a positive outlook during distressing times. The virus has severely curtailed our ability to maintain weaker ties.

The authors research for writing the book

also showed that people who are more socially integrated are also more physically active. You have to get up and move in order to run into consequential strangers. These casual encounters can also help our brains because conversations can be more stimulating than with people you know well. It is clearly the case that we need more than the close ties we older adults have.

Where we live, work, volunteer, shop and mingle has everything to do with the weak ties we cultivate and therefore our quality of life. Casual acquaintances inspire us to venture out beyond our comfort zones. Until we do, we'll never know what we might gain from encounters with "people who don't seem to matter."

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

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Grave Matters

Helen Ewen: Strong Hands, Expansive Public Spirit

After World War II, Orange began evolving from a farming community into a suburban residential town. Still, you can find a few remaining family farms as you drive along Derby Avenue, Old Tavern Road, Grassy Hill and Old Grassy Hill roads or Lambert Road. The fields you see at the corner of Tyler City and Lambert roads were once part of a property bought in 1838 by Merwin Andrew for his son Dennis. The barn you see there today was first built around 1850. Known as the Andrew farm, the property remained in the family and became known as the Ewen farm when Helen Booth Andrew married James Ewen of Ansonia.

Born in her family homestead in 1901, Helen was a hard-working dairy farmer who dropped out of Skidmore after her freshman year to help run the family's dairy farm. When her father and brother died suddenly in 1928 within months of one another, her duties increased.

Helen's husband James, who was hired to work on her family's farm in 1925, for several years used to walk to and from the farm from Ansonia, a distance of more than seven miles, before he and Helen married in 1934.

According to Helen's son James, who generously provided most of the information for this column, for many years Helen's daily routine included feeding the cows twice a day, cataloguing the milk they produced and arranging for its shipment first to a local dairy and later to a farm co-op. The Andrew herd included mostly Holsteins, sometimes supplemented by Guernseys and Jerseys to raise the milk's butter fat content. After

the cows were fed and milked, they were let out to pasture, which meant driving them down Lambert and Tyler City to one or another of several lots where they would graze until it was time to drive them back in late afternoon for evening milking. When the cows returned to the barn, the younger ones sometimes forgot which stanchion was theirs and she would guide each to her proper place. The herd usually included about 32 milking cows and about 30 additional young stock.

Spring and summer also meant planting and harvesting hay and silage, and Helen would often help by driving the truck and loading hay bales. Cows would calve in late summer or fall, and knowing the dates for calving, Helen and her husband would walk through the summer pastures looking for the newborns that their mothers were adept at hiding.

James Ewen says the newborns were "wild as deer and difficult to catch since they had had no human interaction. Once caught, the mother and young would have to be loaded onto a truck – not an easy task – and transported to the farm for milking and vet care if required."

As you might expect, farm chores in winter also required hard physical labor. Helen's winter routine included feeding each cow from a mobile grain cart that held up to 400 pounds of grain. She would push it along in front of each cow and scoop out a portion for her. She would also bring hay to



TRISH O'LEARY TREAT

the mangers.

After she married James Ewen, Helen not only continued farm chores and gave birth to four children and raised a foster child; she also took an active role in many groups, from the Orange Republican Party (of which she was the first female member) to the Orange Historical Society (founded in 1960) to the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was an especially active member of the Connecticut Farm Bureau

and she and her husband hosted farmers from around the world who came to Orange to share successful farming practices with one another.

Beginning in the late 1940s and for more than 15 years, Helen also became progressively more involved in volunteering as a leader of 4-H youngsters – first her own sons and then hundreds of other young boys and girls from Orange and nearby towns. Appropriately enough, considering Helen's experience in guiding others, the 4-H motto is "learn by doing."

Helen's son James notes that his mother was "a true conservative" who "had about the right blend" of friendliness, business sense, negotiating skill and no-nonsense leadership. In 1968, when she was named CT Mother of the Year by the Farm Bureau's Women's Committee, an article in *The Hartford Courant* described her "tireless guidance" in hosting visits to the farm by 400 children from inner city schools as

well as moderating youth groups for the Milford Congregational Church (of which her ancestor Samuel Andrew had been the pastor for over 50 years) and welcoming summer visits by foreign students from the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

The late Liz Gesler (see obituary on page 19), who was involved in many community organizations with Helen over the years, said she was always a joy to work with and a great information resource. When she was growing up, Helen must have had a touch of mischief in her as well. Helen's cousin, the late Kay Treat, lived across from the town cemetery. According to her, around Halloween when they were teenagers Helen would toss pebbles at Kay's window signaling that she should sneak out and join Helen and her friends for a little adventure.

A descendent of Robert Treat, once governor of Connecticut, and Rev. Samuel Andrew, one of Yale's founders, Helen, widowed in 1979, died shortly before Christmas in 1987. She is a vital part of the town's history and helped make Orange a caring community.

Trish O'Leary Treat, a transplanted Midwesterner, began delving into Orange history when she married the late Howard B. Treat, whose Connecticut roots trace back to the 1600s. She enjoys sharing the fruits of her research with readers of The Milford Orange Times and welcomes suggestions for future columns on people in the Orange Town Cemetery.

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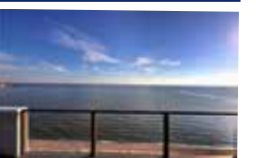
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A Look Back By Priscilla Searles



The old water tank located on the Russell Farm in Orange. Photo courtesy of Marge Menze.

This old water tank or tower, once located on the Russell Farm, was the perfect pretend fort for Marge Russell Menze's son John. The tank disappeared decades ago but the photo serves as a reminder that some of us in Orange lose water when the power goes out. The tradeoff for me is that I prefer the taste of my well water to city water, which I will try to remember the next time one of those nasty storms puts me in the dark.

Providing water to most Orange residents was no easy task. Frank Watson and Robert Woodruff organized the first Orange Water Company in 1895, supplying water to their customers from a reservoir on Grassy Hill. In time additional sources of water were

obtained, and in 1909 fire hydrants were installed in the center of town following the construction of Orange Center School. By the time the Orange Water Company was incorporated by a charter obtained from the General Assembly in 1911, the number of users had climbed to 75. In 1938 the Orange Water Company sold its interest to the New Haven Water Company.

If you have a vintage photo of Orange and are willing to loan it to Town Historian Priscilla Searles, contact her at publisher@theorangetimes.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.

Your Health

Orange Schools Prepared To Reopen Safely

Is it time to reopen our schools safely? I have been asked this question multiple times. As a public health official my response has been, "Yes, God willing. But only if we as a community work together by keeping the coronavirus infection rate as low as possible."

We are fortunate to have one of the best K-12 school systems that attracts a lot of professional and young families to settle in our town. For the past several weeks, I have had the pleasure of working closely with our elementary school superintendent and his team comprised of four principals, teachers, educators, parent representatives and community leaders to review the plans and safety protocols before reopening our schools. These activities entailed multiple meetings, phone calls, text messages, emails and discussions of various scenarios to be better prepared.

I have shared with them the evidence-based guidelines for reopening of K-12 schools from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Pediatric Association and the National Academy of Sciences. However, every parent needs to prepare their children and manage their back-to-school anxiety. Psychologists are recommending parents be role models, practice new habits/behaviors, and create backup plans.

The state is letting local school districts decide about reopening in consultation with their local health departments. However, to achieve persistently low community transmission rates, we must require social distancing in classrooms, encourage hand hygiene, use universal face coverings and rethink extracurricular activities.

While we were developing our protocols, the safety, health and welfare of the children, teachers and staff members were our top priorities. We followed what the CDC has defined as four "buckets" of strategies that the schools can implement to mitigate the

spread of COVID-19.

The first bucket consists of promoting behaviors to reduce viral spread, such as proper handwashing, personal hygiene and staying home when sick. We have developed a symptom checklist to help parents assess their children before sending them to school. They are encouraged to contact the school nurse or their pediatrician to get further guidance.

The second bucket includes strategies to maintain healthy environments, such as maintaining social distancing between students and staff, increasing cleanliness, staggering arrival and drop-off times to minimize contact between students, modifying classroom seating and discouraging visitors. Our schools are strictly following these steps.

The third bucket involves strategies to protect staff and students. Our schools have implemented a policy of universal mask/facial coverings and ensured that disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizers and other personal protective equipment is readily available.

The fourth bucket includes steps to take when staff or students get sick. I have provided specific guidance to our school nurses on steps to follow when they are assessing a sick child at school and helping us perform contact tracing. The local health department is responsible for performing tracing of positive COVID-19 cases in the community.

It takes a village to raise a child, and particularly in this environment it is dependent on our entire community displaying responsible behavior.

Our team members have worked diligently and tirelessly to plan the best course of action so our children – future generation – continue to thrive in a safe learning environment.



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

Dr. Amir Mohammad is the Director of Public Health for the town of Orange.

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The Milford Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Navigating The New Normal

The current focus in Connecticut has been on preventing a second wave of COVID-19 cases and further closures of our businesses that have worked hard to safely reopen. As of Aug. 15, there has yet to be an announcement about when Phase 3 will be implemented, allowing for more businesses to open. Our business community continues to do its part by promoting hand-washing, distanced gathering and wearing of masks, and we are hopeful that the decision to move ahead will be forthcoming.



PAM STANESKI

opportunities while engaging with the remaining members online. We have welcomed the opportunity to provide our business community with the most valuable and current information and virtual programming to help them navigate their businesses.

We have also had several grand openings as of late. I am happy to say that our area is thriving despite the many COVID-19 related setbacks. We are a strong region with strong people. As such, I extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the chamber who have taken a leap

of faith in our region and opened their doors. I also want to welcome Ken Sterba, general manager of the Connecticut Post Mall, as a director to the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce Board. He joins a group of business representatives who are committed to the mission of building and supporting our local economy.

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce is here to help, promote, and watch your business and our region succeed and prosper. Some resources that can help include [facebook.com/business/resource](https://www.facebook.com/business/resource), [business.ct.gov/recovery](https://www.business.ct.gov/recovery), portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus and [business.ct.gov/jobs-and-resources](https://www.business.ct.gov/jobs-and-resources). As your premier business advocates, we stand ready. Consider joining today. Call us at 203-878-0681.

Clearly, no one was prepared for a crisis of this magnitude. However, six months into the pandemic our business owners have shown a steadfast resiliency as they swiftly responded to meet the ever-changing regulations and rules. Their actions have made them more equipped to face whatever the future may bring. I am continually inspired by the strength of our businesses in the face of these challenges and their willingness to embrace change.

At the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, we too are embracing change in order to better serve the needs of our members and community. Our business referral groups are beginning to move from an "all virtual" meeting to a hybrid mix, offering socially distanced (rotating basis) in-person

The Rotary Club of Orange

Lobsters Still Here For The Taking

By Phil Smith



It's lobster time. Over the past 200 years, lobsters have progressed from being a much-abhorred food item to forming the core of a quintessentially elegant repast. Lobster boils. Lobster bakes.

These are celebrated summer events all over New England.

The Orange Rotary Club has been working diligently during the past few COVID-19-dominated weeks to modify their popular LobsterFest. Yes, it is still with us this year, not as a LobsterFest, not as a lobster bake, but as a lobster take(out).

This drive-in-and-pick-up-a-lobster-meal event is set for Saturday, Sept. 12 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Two boiled twin lobsters, clam chowder, corn on the cob, coleslaw and a roll is available for \$40 per person. (If you, like one of my neighbors, pronounce yourself "creeped out" by lobsters, we have something even for you: a 16-ounce flavored sirloin steak in a vacuum-sealed package. But you will need to grill it yourself.)

Orders must be submitted online – the sooner the better. You will need to specify a time to come in to pick up your order. The most popular pick-up times are expected to sell out quickly, so early reservations are encouraged. If you visit RotaryClubofOrange.org you will be directed to the lobster takeout pages. When you drive in for your food, bring your receipt from the website (or a copy on your cell phone): no actual tickets will be distributed.

We will have 400 lobster meals available and hope to sell out.

The lobster event, one of Orange Rotary's big fundraisers, not only allows you to help yourself to a fine dinner, but also supports Rotary's many charitable activities in our local community and throughout the world.

As one illustration of Rotary's activities in these trying times, we need look no further than the distribution of personal protective equipment to town offices and businesses once COVID-19 hit. In May, our club delivered 1,000 masks to the Orange Police Department, the Orange Fire Department, the Visiting Nurses Association, American Medical Response, the First Selectman's Office and Case Memorial Library. The 60-some Rotary clubs throughout Southern Connecticut distributed roughly 27,000 masks during the same period.

Once June rolled around we began delivering a wider range of PPE, such as KN95 masks, isolation gowns, flat surgical masks, and face shields to designated entities in Orange including dental and medical practices, nursing and rehabilitation facilities and other "essential businesses" in the community. Another 500 masks were distributed to 10 houses of worship in town. The PPE supported dental and medical professionals performing various procedures in clinical and semi-clinical environments. Office, business personnel and others used their masks as they interacted with patrons, parishioners and fellow employees.

Big thanks go to Rotarians Richard Dumbrill, Sharon Ewen and Dr. Amir Mohammad (Orange's Director of Health) for spearheading the distribution.

Phil Smith is the 2020-2021 president of the Rotary Club of Orange. He can be reached at JamesPhilipSmith@gmail.com.

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To Lose, To Love, To Live

There is no proper way to grieve. There is no timeline for when the torment will cease. There is only faith in a better tomorrow.

I know of only one requirement for the process of grief, and that is to experience every emotion, and above all else never deny yourself the privilege to feel. Permit yourself to grieve however you see fit.

To grieve does not mean to spend the rest of your days depressed or in pieces. It means you must make space in your already broken heart for all you've endured. You observe it, you understand it to the best of your ability, and just as naturally, you let it go.

After some time, the thunderstorm that's been weighing above your head and drenching your heart will begin to clear, and when it does, and the pain feels a bit further

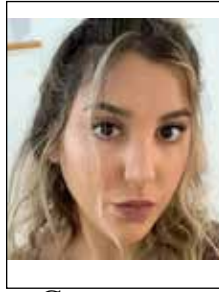
away, accept love.

To love and to be loved are the two experiences in this life that have an unspeakable power. Love brought me to that place of contentment hidden behind my fear, but it also left me there. I had healed enough to stand on my own two feet, firm and alone, with a heart so torn it would bleed through tears a bit too often. Someone I love had dissipated into the atmosphere yet left a small piece for me to carry on.

Although they had to leave this world, they never left my heart. I entered a place in my life where I had realized the only love I

ever truly needed was my own. Even though the hole in my heart where he once lived still exists, every day I choose to live honestly a little bit of love flows back into me, and that alone gives me the will to keep on living.

To lose someone is not merely to lose a life you knew or a person you loved, but to part ways with a future that was believed to be set in stone. All the moments you could have had have suddenly turned to dust. To grieve is to spend days, months or even years wondering what tomorrow would look like if that special someone were still with you. It's being terrified of what tomorrow looks like without them.



CAROLINA AMORE

I was told that time heals all wounds. I've found that to be untrue. When someone you love is taken from you too soon, it's not just a wound. An integral piece of you has left with them. You're left spending the rest of your life, not filling that void, but allowing love to replace the sorrow, and inevitably making peace with it.

The key is to never give up on who you want to be, even if the life you thought you'd have eluded you in the blink of an eye. Death is not the end; it is a closed door. It is not only your choice, but your destiny to open a new one.

Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.

The Garden Spot

Planting For Droughts

If you've thought that our area has had another hot and dry summer this year, you'd be right. According to drought.gov, the most serious drought we've had since 1985 was from June 2016 through July 2017 and we've continued to have abnormally dry weather since then. Since dry conditions seem to be a pattern, our best gardening strategy right now is to plant fewer plants that like moist conditions and more that are drought tolerant.



PAT DRAY

between 75-90 percent water and are for the most part water hogs. Choosing a drought tolerant grass can really have an impact on water usage. As you're reseeding or top seeding your lawn this fall, choose a tall fescue since as well as being drought tolerant, it's also wear-resistant.

As we look at our trees and shrubs, we can also seek out those that are most drought tolerant.

One of our most popular trees native to the Northeast is the oak (in the Quercus family). Oaks support biodiversity, are home to many different pollinators, are strong, upright growers and wonderful shade trees. Choose one such as the scarlet oak, which will require less water, rather than thirsty

varieties such as the pin oak or swamp white oak. For shrubs, consider those in the juniper family (Juniperus) rather than azalea (Rhododendron family). Junipers are some of the best natives to plant in areas of badly degraded, infertile dry areas with poor soil. Some varieties do well on rocky, dry slopes.

There are many flowering wildflowers that are also suitable for dry areas, including milkweed and butterfly weed (Asclepias family); these are pollinator friendly. Swap out the Joe-Pye weed (Eupatorium family) for these and you'll still have a butterfly garden.

Along with planting drought tolerant plants, do your best to conserve water. If you do water, make it either early in the morning or in the early evening. Water plants deeply so that they get about one inch of water a

week, rather than shallowly daily. That way the water reaches the root system. You can use drip irrigation to water specific plants or your entire vegetable garden. Since drip hoses put the water at the base of the plants, rather than in the air, there is much less lost to evaporation during the irrigation process.

Mulch is also your plant's friend. It helps to retain water while keeping away the weeds that compete for it. Just remember not to mulch too close to the plant; that would allow pests to hide and thrive.

Happy gardening, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

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



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Simon Lake, Milford's Master Of Submersibles

By Marilyn May

Submarine pioneer Simon Lake's laboratory was behind the former Smith Funeral Home in Milford. This building was demolished in July.

Simon Lake, who lived from 1866 to 1945, was a mechanical engineer and naval architect who lived in Milford and is credited with the development of basic modern submarine technologies.

In 1907 he bought the mansion at 135 North Broad St. that was built in 1850 for William Fowler and constructed his engineering office and experimental laboratory on the back of the property near the train tracks. Lake was born in New Jersey and lived in Milford until his death in 1945. He is buried in the King's Highway Cemetery.

When Lake was 12, he was inspired by Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, a novel of undersea travel. Many years later in 1898, Jules Verne sent Lake a cable from Amiens, France. It read: "While my book 'Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea' is entirely a work of imagination, my conviction is that all I said in it will come to pass." Verne mentioned a recent voyage by Lake's experimental submarine, the *Argonaut*, that was the first submarine to operate successfully in the open seas in 1898. Verne continued: "This conspicuous success of submarine navigation in the United States will push on under-water navigation all over the world. The next great war may be largely a contest between submarine boats."

During a lifetime of work, Lake acquired 200 patents, including ones for

periscopes, ballast tanks, divers' compartments. The most famous patent was for even-keeled hydroplanes. He is regarded as the father of the modern submarine.

Lake's earliest vision was to make submarines that could locate sunken ships and retrieve cargo. An 1897 article in the *Sun* newspaper reported what Lake really wanted: "What she [the *Argonaut*] is after is treasure, golden ducats and Spanish doubloons, buried between the ribs of long-forgotten ships wrecked upon stormy coasts, both on this side and the other side of the Atlantic."

He also dreamed of submarines carrying cargo and going underneath sea ice to ice-bound ports in such places as the Baltic Sea and the Great Lakes. He thought submarines could be used in cultivation of oysters and other shellfish, pearl and sponge fisheries, and to chart and improve waterways.

Lake had no success selling his ideas about subs as an instrument of peace. The Navy was looking for weapons of war, and Lake's rival, John Holland, was awarded the contracts to build submarines for war.

One of Lake's early inventions can still be seen in Milford Harbor at low tide. It's a barnacle-encrusted submersible, not a submarine, off Rogers Avenue and north of Port Milford marina. That relic is a chamber

that would have been lowered to the ocean floor by a boom on a ship to reach a sunken ship and salvage its cargo.

The submersible is near a site on Rogers Avenue where Lake ordered two identical houses built for his daughters, Miriam Catherine Lake and Margaret Vogel Lake. Today the houses are private residences. Lake also had a son, Thomas Alva Edison Lake, who lived in Stratford and worked on

inventing super-fast speedboats.

Lake's last submarine, the *Explorer*, built in 1936, is on display at Lisman Landing on Milford Harbor. It has a basket-like scoop on the front intended for retrieving things on the ocean floor. Lake built and lost a number of fortunes during his lifetime and died of a heart attack in 1945. A condo is planned for the site of his laboratory.

Marilyn May is a resident of Milford.



The Simon Laboratory. The building had what's called a "saw tooth" roof that had skylights to let fresh air and light into the rooms. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.

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Travel Matters

Travel Companies Develop New Protocols

Although cruise lines have not yet started sailing again, they are hard at work developing new safety and sanitation protocols for their guests when they do sail. They intend to operate at reduced capacity for a number of months, as they ramp up to the "new normal."

While all cruise lines are working on new protocols, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian have notably joined forces to develop a team of experts who can collectively make travelers feel more secure. The Healthy Sail Panel is a team of cross-disciplinary experts enlisted to guide the cruise industry's way forward in response to COVID-19. Comprised of 11 globally recognized specialists in medical practice and research, public health, infectious diseases, biosecurity, hospitality and maritime operations, the panel will advise on a science-backed plan for a healthy return to service that ensures the well-being of guests, crew

and the communities the cruise lines visit.

The panel is co-chaired by former Secretary of the US Department Health and Human Services and former Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt and Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration. This health and safety panel will use guidelines set forth by the European Union as some ships have started to sail there already (with local residents, in most instances).

The team will be divided into three areas: testing protocols; modifying ship improvements for health, safety and hygiene; and destination and route planning. Some of the ship improvements include adding more show times for entertainment, reducing the number of diners at each restaurant and new



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

embarkation and check-in procedures.

Airlines are now mandating masks be worn in airports and on the plane. Most airlines have announced that they will fly at full capacity, although some give customers the option to move their flight to a less crowded flight. Delta and Jet Blue are flying at 60 percent capacity until Sept. 30.

Hotels across the country and resorts in the Caribbean/Mexico have made sanitation and social distancing changes in line with their state and country guidelines. Hotel staff are required to wear masks at all times. After guests check in using contactless methods, they generally do not have to wear masks outside of the lobby area. Social distancing is enforced at the pool and restaurants. Rooms are sanitized after

every checkout and remain sealed for 24 to 48 hours.

Most hotels are currently only at 30 percent or 40 percent capacity, so the level of service by staff members are leaving guests feeling quite pampered. Private villas in the US and the Caribbean are another way that friends/family can travel within their own pod. Some beautiful three to 12-plus-bedroom villas, when shared with multiple couples or families, can be an affordable and secure alternative to hotels.

When you are ready to travel again – whether it's for the holidays or next year – know that the travel industry will be ready to welcome you and make you feel secure.

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

Running

A Perfect Time For A Walk

We have all been a bit sedentary during the coronavirus lockdown. Want want to get in shape? Even if have not been exercising regularly, let's get off the couch and start moving.

Walking and running are the least expensive and most convenient ways to get started and get fit. Walking helps you lose weight and reduce stress.

The weather is perfect! There is no doubt that movement at any pace is essential for well-being. Even if you are not quite walking the recommended 30

minutes, it is better than not doing anything at all.

It doesn't cost a thing, which is ideal with the financial strains many families are experiencing.

It is convenient for those working from home. You need no schedule, no tee time. Your neighborhood is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

Walking helps decrease blood pressure, which is a risk



CATHY BRADLEY

factor for stroke and heart-related illnesses. The stress and uncertainty of our COVID-19 environment is certainly more than enough.

Walking also improves the composition of your body by reducing body fat.

There has been an increase in depression among people who have lost jobs or become isolated. Getting outside, breathing the fresh air and

walking has been known to reduce depression.

Unlike many medications, walking has no side effects. There is nothing to lose and everything to gain. Let's get off the couch and get outside. A walk will do you a world of good– you will come back feeling renewed and refreshed.

Cathy Bradley can be reached at cathy@ccenterprises.com.



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Milford Schedules Fall Bulk Pickup

Milford Mayor Ben Blake announced Aug. 14 that Milford's Fall Bulk Waste Pickup Program is scheduled for September. Due to COVID-19, the planned pickup is subject to change and conditioned upon residents respecting new restrictions and rules intended to mitigate safety concerns and promote social distancing.

Residents should adhere to the following health-driven requirements:

- Bulk waste set-out for pick-up must be limited to items that can be physically lifted/handled by one Department of Public Works employee;

- DPW employees collecting bulk waste should not be approached;

- Small bulk waste items must be bagged or boxed;

- Bulk waste must be placed away from regular trash/recycling containers; and

- Bulk waste must be set out for collection no sooner than the Friday prior to and no later than the Sunday prior to the scheduled pickup.

The residential pickup service requires the homeowner to prepare and separate the bulky waste. Metal must be separated from burnable items. Yard waste should be placed in disposable paper bags. Brush and wood

must be cut to four-foot lengths and tied in bundles. No more than four passenger car tires may be included in the items set out for collection. Electronics and white goods are also collected. Similar items should be placed together in bags and containers. All acceptable items placed at the curb will be taken, including containers.

The following materials are prohibited from the Bulk Waste and Transfer Station programs: hazardous waste; any liquid waste, including oil-based paint; propane tanks; grass clippings, logs and stumps; and sheetrock, concrete/cement, bricks, porcelain tubs, sinks or toilets and other demolition material.

The schedule for bulk waste pickups will be as follows: If your garbage day is Monday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Sept. 14. If your garbage day is Tuesday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Sept. 21. If your garbage day is Thursday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Sept. 28. If your garbage day is Friday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Oct. 5.

Questions should be directed to the Public Works Office at 203-783-3265. The Milford Transfer Station is currently open and will maintain normal operating hours.

OVNA Hiring New Positions

The Orange Visiting Nurse Association is looking to hire some new positions:

- RN, on-call for weekends and some holidays for admissions and re-visits. Home care experience is required and knowledge of Netsmart is a plus.

- RN, per diem for weekdays, weekends and some holidays for admissions and revisits. Home care experience preferred.

- CNA, part time with potential transition to full time. Applicants must have a current Connecticut CNA license,

reliable transportation to and from patient homes and availability for morning and afternoon visits Monday through Friday. Long-term care and home care experience preferred.

- SLP, per diem, home care experience preferred.

- MSW, per diem, home care experience preferred.

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Getting To Know You

Staying In Touch In The Dark

2020 has been a rough year so far. And then the lights went out.

As my wife and I sat through the storm we were both hoping that the power wouldn't go out. But it did. The cruel part is it went out just about half an hour before the storm was over. It seems that was the experience of many people in the area.

At times like this it strikes me how much of my life is governed by routine. I get up at a certain time, I exercise at a certain time, I'm at work at a certain time, I eat lunch at a certain time. And on and on until I go back to bed. I've never checked, but I'm pretty sure I've worn a path through the world that tracks my daily routine. I don't really have to think about it. I simply follow the path and most of my day takes care of itself.

Then the power goes out for a few days



DAVID CROW

and the routine is interrupted. It highlights how much I depend on devices to keep my routine. A few days without power brought this home with startling clarity.

My trusty alarm clock doesn't work. I hate the sound of that buzzer in the morning because it means sleep time is over and the routine has to begin. Every morning a small part of me wants to smash that alarm clock. But give me a couple of days without it and

I miss that bedside buzz to start my day.

Then there is the radio I turn on as I prepare to venture out into my daily routine. Sometimes I listen to the news and traffic reports. Sometimes I just want to hear music. Usually these are the first human voices I hear in the morning as I'm tying my shoes and my tie.

I never did stop flicking the light switches

on and off as I entered and left rooms. My wife gets a good laugh out of this, but its so engrained in me to turn off the light when I leave an empty room that I just can't stop doing it no matter how hard I try.

I did adjust to those things, and my routine kept chugging along. The thing that embarrasses me was the realization that when the power went out my first worry wasn't how I was going to get up in the morning or missing my radio or even the lights going on or off. My first worry was how I was going to charge my phone and laptop.

Think about that. Our first worry is where we're going to charge our phones and computers so we can "stay in touch." Everyone else's power was out too, so they weren't sending any emails or texts either. Yet we were all running around looking for an outlet to plug in our phone so we could stay abreast of the happenings in the virtual world.

With all the disruptions that 2020 has

brought us, the power going out was just "one more thing." However, I hope the silver lining is a reminder of how our daily routines can be adjusted if we want to adjust them. How many of us would trade all the "likes" of our internet pictures for a hug from a friend we haven't seen since the social distancing started?

After all, the routines and the devices that enable them belong to us, not the other way around. Right?

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.

On Your Mind

What Do You See When You Look In The Mirror?

What labels do you use when you talk to yourself? Do you feel like a victim? Do you focus on your mistakes? Where did you get your ideas about yourself?

When you answer these questions, you will have an honest assessment of your self-esteem. Self-esteem should evolve and grow stronger as you grow and experience new things and meet new people. But sometimes it doesn't work that way. Your self-esteem, your beliefs about yourself, began to develop when you were very young with input from those around you. If you had a loving, supportive family, your self-esteem had a positive start. However, the minute you began interacting with others in school and play, things became more complicated. The input may



FERN TAUSIG

not have always been positive.

It's hard to pinpoint where all your opinions about yourself came from, but when you see yourself as a work in progress, you can have control over your self-esteem. You can feel hope and optimism about feeling better about yourself.

It's important to understand the value of understanding your self-esteem because of the way it affects your health, your choices, and your happiness. Those who

have poor self-esteem, filled with negative self-talk and negative labels, often suffer from depression, feelings of regret and failure, have a "victim" mentality, sleep poorly, overeat and may struggle with addiction. Unconsciously those with poor self-esteem feel unworthy of love, success and happiness.

The common denominator of most of the

issues I encounter with my clients is poor self-esteem. Whether it's the result of a hard childhood, bullying in school, an abusive relationship or problems at work, you don't have to allow the past to define you. When you can see your past failures as life lessons and learn from them, they can inspire growth instead of regret. When you can see criticism as 'feedback' instead of an attack on you personally, you can evaluate it and choose to accept or reject it. When you learn to like yourself, love yourself and respect yourself, your self-esteem improves.

If you are experiencing problems in your life that you aren't handling well or if your self-talk is always negative and self-deprecating, you're in need of a change.

How can you improve your self-esteem? Here are some simple first steps. First, make up your mind to reclaim your personal power. Second, replace negative self-talk with positive affirmations by identifying and

focusing on your strengths. Third, design a new self-image that reflects your core values and begin to visualize the way you will look and feel in that image. Fourth, establish small goals to improve those areas that have been making you feel stuck in negativity. Fifth, complete the past by learning from your mistakes and letting go of the regret. Sixth, realize the power of forgiveness, especially of yourself, and letting go of grudges. Seventh, use your vulnerability as a source of power and embrace it. Eighth, refuse to take things personally and never make assumptions. Ninth, be the change you want to see in your relationships. Finally, learn self-hypnosis.

These are just a few options. It may seem like a lot, but you're worth it. It's okay to ask for help if you need it.

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

Recycling Tip

By Loretta Smith

Good news for Orange residents: Remember those pink bags in which we put used clothing and other items and placed them on our curbs for pickup? Simple Recycling, which ran the program, is returning to Orange, this time with a large metal bin to be placed at the Transfer Station to replace the bin from Goodwill. SR is so interested in Orange that Vice President of Municipal Relations Sonny Wilkins flew in from Ohio to speak to the Board of Selectmen about SR's offer. Selectman Mitch Goldblatt presented the Orange Recycling Committee's request to bring Simple Recycling back. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

SR's large dumpster will be placed at the Transfer Station in six to eight weeks. SR will pay Orange \$115 per ton collected. The town received lots of good will from the Goodwill container, but never any money. As long as the Goodwill dumpster is still there, you can drop off your items in it. (Once it leaves, you can drop off Goodwill items at their store on the Boston Post Road.)

SR will accept the following items: men's clothing, women's clothing, children's clothing, coats and jackets, jewelry, shoes, purses, hats, toys, blankets, drapes or curtains, pillows, sleeping bags, tools, silverware, pots and pans, dishes and backpacks.

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



Attending the Orange Board of Selectman meeting at which Simple Recycling appeared from the Orange Recycling Committee are, from left, Ilene Moyher, Patrick Legault, Loretta Smith, Christopher Prokop, and Sonny Wilkins from Simple Recycling. Photo courtesy of Loretta Smith.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the Applicant and persons interested in the affairs of the Town of Orange that a Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 09, 2020 in the lower level meeting room of the Orange Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, Connecticut 06477, on the Certificate of Compliance of:

Stillwater Wellness
661 Orange Center Road Unit 2
Orange, CT 06477

under the Town of Orange Ordinance Concerning Massage Establishments: Sections 281-6; 281-7.A; 281-12 and 281-15.A+B of the Code of the Town of Orange. The Applicant has indicated an intention to conduct a Spa establishment. Copies of the Town Ordinance and of the Applicants' Applications are available for review in the First Selectman's Office in Town Hall.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut this 19th day of August, 2020

Town of Orange
Board of Selectmen

By James M. Zeoli, First Selectman

ATTEST:

Patrick O'Sullivan, Town Clerk

Business Features

Elevate Personal Training & Wellness Grows

Michele Tenney, Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist and owner of Elevate Personal Training & Wellness has a new location at 500 Boston Post Rd. in Orange next to Hawley Lane Shoes. She has been in the fitness industry for nearly 20 years and is considered an expert in her field.

While her new facility is smaller than a commercial gym, it is fully equipped with cardio equipment, weights and much more. Clients can maintain social distancing without losing the personal touch she offers. The new location not only offers Tenney's services, but a full-service spa and salon. Imagine a yoga

class or workout, a shower, facial, brows, lashes, manicure, pedicure and hairstyle, then head out the same door you came in.

"I am very excited about this location. It's easy to get to and time is a commodity, so to have all this service in one location is a dream come true," Tenney said.

Tenney has been very active in the Milford-Orange community and serves on the Orange Board of Health as well as the Healthy Lifestyle Committee for the Orange elementary school system.

Her website is elevatePTW.com

EnviroPRO Helps Meet Cleaning Needs In Time Of COVID



Hello neighbors. My name is Amanda DeLorme, I am the proud owner of EnviroPRO, a sustainable sterilization company. We take great pride in helping our local business and homeowners truly clean their establishments and prove it. We began within our field helping those with compromised immune systems, and as COVID-19 became a regular conversation we reached out to help as many businesses as possible. We offer a completely dry fog, safe enough to use in daycare centers, but proven to be hospital-grade clean. With a background in environmental science and business, I know how important it is to have a safe and cost-effective solution.

CappuGino's Born From Community

CappuGino's is a community centric coffee and shake cafe. It is family owned and operated, focusing on service to our community. The Esposito siblings grew up in Milford and still live here along with their parents and families. Dr. David Esposito is a physician at the Milford Vascular Institute. He is also the head wrestling coach at Joseph A. Foran High School. Jerilyn Shannon is the chief compliance officer for TrinityPoint Wealth. Julie Johnson is a retired captain at the New Haven Police Department. She is

also the volleyball and softball head coach at Foran.

We decided to start a business together to do more for the community and employ local individuals to help us. Believing in health, nutrition, coffee and service, CappuGino's was born. We also think that delivery and convenience is an important part of our business and hope to be different than other coffee shops in this respect. We are really focused on customer service, kindness and a positive mindset.

Milford Regional Chamber Of Commerce New Members



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Good Morning Cupcake
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203-969-5993
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Center Rehab & Sports Therapy, LLC
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203-882-9384
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 SOLD! Orange, 283 Silverbrook Rd #12	 SOLD! Orange, 397 Pine Tree Drive	 SOLD! Bethany, 33 Briar Road
 SOLD! Orange, 117 Cricket Lane*	 SOLD! Orange, 239 Deerfield Lane*	 SOLD! Orange, 850 Tall Timber Road
 SOLD! Orange, 160 Englewood Drive	 SOLD! Orange, 620 Harborview Road	 SOLD! Orange, 2 Pond Brook Court
 SOLD! Orange, 362 Racebrook Road	 SOLD! Derby, 2 Stelmack Road	 SOLD! Milford, 122 Pumpkin Delight* <small>*rep the buyer</small>

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AUTHOR OF "REAL TALK"

MILFORD - ORANGE TIMES

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Insuring Your Future

The Insurance Business Is Booming

Health insurance agents are very busy this summer due to the many changes in people's employment situations. Many furloughs have turned into layoffs, prompting people to seek alternative insurance coverage. Others are deciding it's time to retire. When an employee loses group coverage, they are eligible for a special election period for 60 days.

Network changes are happening in certain Medicare insurance plans. Clients are receiving letters from their insurance company or provider, informing them that they will no longer be accepting their plan. In some cases, the insured may be eligible for a special election period if they are receiving special help from the state, but for most people they cannot make a change until open enrollment in the fall. In some cases, the notices were sent in error, so be sure to check with the provider or your agent for

confirmation before taking action or going into panic mode.

What can we expect for 2021? Based on the sneak peaks we have seen, most plans will remain stable and any changes will be in additional added benefits at no additional cost – really. Clients will also be offered a choice on how to “meet” and review their plans and discuss any changes. In our office, we will offer three options: telephone, Zoom/FaceTime and in-person.

In addition, the seminars that companies generally offer at area community centers and libraries will largely be virtual this year. However, if you are not tech-savvy, we will keep you informed and connected. The US Post Office has again become our go-to for communicating with clients who don't have



TRISH PEARSON

the tech equipment to transmit documents. However, this does increase the turnaround time for processing applications. The period to make changes for Jan. 1 runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7.

Insurance companies have submitted their rate increase requests to the Connecticut Insurance Department for group plans and individual insurance. On the group front, increases are averaging 5 percent to 10 percent depending on the age of the employees. In some cases there are alternative options that could prove less expensive and worth considering. Rate increases on the exchange plans range from 5 percent to 15 percent. Stay tuned for the final determination in September.

Are you putting off buying life insurance

because of the medical exam requirements? Traditionally, the examiner meets in person. However, many insurers are arranging for remote interviews and blood work can be done at a local lab. If you have had a physical within the past few months, some companies will waive the medical exam completely.

We are on the move. Our offices have moved down the street to the Orange Town Center, 109 Boston Post Rd., on the second floor. We are excited about our new space, which will provide more parking as well as easy access through the front and rear of the building. We look forward to seeing you in the fall, whether in person or virtually.

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

Get An Early Start On Saving, Investing

If you are the parent of a teenager or young adult, you know how difficult it can be to convince them to set aside money for the future. It's understandable that young people tend to spend all their money – in their minds they have all the time in the world and can start saving later.

How can you get them to understand that “later” never comes? One way is to show them concrete examples of the power of compound interest combined with the wisdom of starting early on the road to financial security. The Investment Company Institute's Education Foundation recently published a series of examples that I am presenting here for you to share with the young people in your life.

Start with a simple one: If you invest \$100 and earn 5 percent interest, you will have \$105 at the end of a year. If you spend the \$5 of earnings on video games and then reinvest the \$100, and do the same thing for 20 years,

you will end up with your original \$100 – you spent the \$100 you earned.

However, if you invest \$100 at 5 percent interest and reinvest your \$5 earnings into the account, after a year you'll have \$105.25, an extra quarter. Over two decades, the power of compound interest will turn that quarter into \$65. You will also have the other \$100 you earned, since you never spent your \$5 bonus, so you'll have \$265 in cash rather than \$100. Multiply that by thousands of dollars.

Now let's look at the importance of starting early. Compare two investors who make a \$1,000 investment. Investor 1 leaves the investment to grow for 40 years. Investor 2 starts 20 years after Investor 1 and lets the money grow for 20 years (this example does not take into account taxes or inflation and



ERIC TASHLEIN

assumes a 7 percent annual rate of return).

At the retirement finish line, Investor 1 will have \$14,975 while Investor 2 will have just \$3,870, about one fourth of Investor 1's total.

These are simplistic examples that don't take into account the fact that most investors continue to contribute to their investment accounts, through payroll deductions or other automatic systems. So, let's look at what happens when you continue to fuel your investment portfolio.

Three people invest \$1,000 every year until they reach age 65. Investor A begins at age 25, Investor B begins at age 35, and Investor C begins at age 45. Over that time, Investor A puts in \$40,000, Investor B contributes \$30,000, and Investor C puts in \$20,000.

At the retirement finish line, Investor A will have more than \$200,000, double the roughly \$100,000 earned by Investor B and four times the nearly \$50,000 earned by Investor C.

If the person who starts late contributes more money, he or she can partly catch up, but will likely still lag behind the person who started earlier, because the more time you give compound interest to work, the better it is for your eventual nest egg.

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.

St. Mary Accepting Enrollments

St. Mary School in Milford is accepting enrollments for the fall, where students will be back in the classroom full time.

Adhering to state and CDC protocols and guidance, St. Mary has put together a

comprehensive plan to deliver instruction to its students. They are cleaning and spacing desks while planning to make the school a safe, welcoming and productive environment for everyone. There is also

an option for distance learning for those students who cannot return back to the classroom yet.

With a maximum class size of 16, the school is already full in a few grades, with

many others approaching capacity.

The office is open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It can be reached at 203-878-6539 or saintmaryschoolmilford.org.

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Milford Historical Society Displaying Coke Bottles

The Milford Historical Society has a small display of commemorative Coca-Cola bottles and drinking glasses at the Bryan-Downs House every Sunday until Aug. 30 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MHS headquarters, located at 34 High St.

All the bottles on display are limited editions and many feature sports themes: the Carolina Panthers, Buccaneers, UConn, Giants and, of course, Yankees and Red Sox. One bottle was made for one of the Final Four tournaments and another for a golf event.

There are plans to have a much larger Coke display in the future.

All visitors must wear masks and gloves: MHS will have gloves available. Social distancing will be expected. Temperatures will be taken with a non-contact forehead thermometer, and there will be a hand-sanitizing station. Groups will be limited to five people; tours will take about half an hour and start every half hour. Reservations are not required but are recommended.

For more information, visit milfordhistoricalsociety.org or call 203-874-2264.

Wine Talk

The Spaziani Wine Cake Tradition

Some 35 years ago my eldest brother Eugene was an associate professor in the Gateway Community College hospitality management program. He was a former president of the Connecticut Hotel Restaurant Association. He made remarkable home wines, a practice he garnered from our grandfather Gino, who was renowned for his winemaking activity on Terrace Avenue in West Haven. His partner and grape grower was neighbor Rocky Sadera.

My brother was a true pioneer when it came to teaching food people about wine. Wine is a food. Gene was one of the first "wine educators" in Connecticut. He also wrote the quintessential book on home wine, *The Home Winemaker's Companion*. This book divulged little secrets he learned from the great winemakers about how to make exceptional home wines. He is well known in the home winemaking community in Connecticut as one of the fathers of great homemade wines.

At the end of the term of his classes, Gene would have a little party for the wine students.

He discovered a recipe for a wine cake that was easy and that everyone loved. He would have my mother make wine cakes that he would bring to his students. She made these cakes for all of us using my brother's homemade white wines. Every birthday and every holiday mom made us some Spaziani wine cake. It became a wonderful family tradition.

When I started to make wine 20 years ago, my brother and I fought whose wine cake was better. When my mom passed in 1999, my wife made wine cake for us and my boys, and of course we thought hers was the best. During this pandemic, perhaps you could try to make some wine cake for you and your family. It is easy to make. It comes out moist and delicious. Here is the recipe:

White Wine Cake
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

2 teaspoons cinnamon
4 eggs
3/4 cup vegetable oil
3/4 cup dry white wine (I typically use sauvignon blanc or chardonnay)
1/2 cup water
1 box yellow cake mix
1 3.5 oz (four-serving) box instant vanilla pudding mix

Icing:
1/4 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup powdered sugar
Grease a standard-sized Bundt pan; set aside.

Combine brown sugar, sugar, cinnamon, eggs, vegetable oil, wine and water in a large bowl or stand mixer and beat until well combined. Mix in cake mix and pudding mix until smooth and creamy. Pour batter into greased Bundt pan and bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Just before cake is done, make the icing.

Combine wine and powdered sugar in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Boil icing for two minutes, then remove from heat (icing will be thin). When the cake is done, remove from oven and pour hot icing over hot cake, leaving cake in the pan. Cool cake completely in pan then invert onto a plate. Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

I hope it will become something your family looks forward to.

Ray Spaziani is chapter director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He has taught wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College, the Milford Board of Education, at Maltose wine and beer making suppliers and is a member of the International Tasting Panel of Amentel del Vino and Wine Maker magazine. He is an award-winning home wine maker. Email ray with your questions and wine events at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

From The Bar

Your Power Of Attorney Instrument Packs A Punch

A power of attorney instrument is a very important document to have. If you are alive but incapacitated (short term or long term), the POA allows the person you have designated (called an agent) to step into your shoes to make financial decisions for you. In most instances, if you do not have a POA it means that someone in your family will need to go to the probate court to be appointed as the conservator of your estate to make financial decisions for you. There are several reasons why we say the POA packs a punch.



STEVEN FLOMAN

The POA also often includes what are referred to as "hot powers." A "hot power" is one that is even more expansive and requires special thought and consideration on your part. Examples are making gifts of your assets, changing beneficiary designations on retirement accounts, annuities or life insurance policies, and creating, amending or terminating a revocable trust (also known as living trust).

Unless you expressly opt out, the POA is effective immediately upon its signing. The intent, of course, is that no one will use it unless the time comes that you need help with financial decision-making. Your agent (ideally a first choice and at least one successor) will be someone you trust to do the right thing, and almost always that is the way it works out. Nevertheless, you need to be cognizant of the fact that, unless you opt out, the POA is a "live document" when you sign it. Connecticut's Uniform Power of Attorney Act says that a copy of the POA has the same legal effect as the original.

That means if you give a copy of the POA to your agent, the copy also is a "live" document. If you are not comfortable with the POA being effective immediately, you can state that it becomes effective only on the occurrence of a specified event such as "incapacity" as defined in the POA or as defined by Connecticut statutory provisions.

Whether you should sign a POA that is effective immediately and that grants broad powers to your agent requires a family-specific analysis/evaluation. What works for one person may not work for another person. You should meet with a skilled professional who will

ask the right questions and help you reach a decision that makes sense for you and your family.

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.

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<p>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD AT 7PM BACK TO THE GARDEN SUMMER OF 69 WOODSTOCK SHOW CT POST MALL MILFORD, CT</p>	<p>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH AT 7PM NO QUARTER A LED ZEPPLIN SHOW FAIRGROUNDS IN ORANGE, CT</p>
<p>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH AT 7PM B-STREET BAND A TRIBUTE TO THE BOSS FAIRGROUNDS IN ORANGE, CT</p>	<p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH AT 7PM DESTINATION MOTOWN FEATURING THE SENSATIONAL SOUL CRUISERS FAIRGROUNDS IN ORANGE, CT</p>
<p>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AT 7PM GRATEFUL MOUNTAIN: CORKY LAING'S MOUNTAIN MATT HELM GRT DEAD EXPERIENCE CT POST MALL MILFORD, CT</p>	<p>Limited Spaces Available Purchase Tickets at: www.MilfordPerformanceCenter.org</p>

Limited spaces. Cars distanced to allow for socially distanced seating. Prices by Car not Person

Obituaries

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.



Elaine Scialla Capecelatro died at her home in Orange on August 5, 2020.



Dawn M. Chonko, age 56, passed away on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.



Thomas Edmund Conine Sr., passed away peacefully on March 14, 2020 at the age of 99.



Dr. Harry Agahigian of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully in his home on August 6, 2020.



Maria P. Anastasion of Orange, born Oct. 15, 1927 in Eresos, Greece was called to heaven on July 29.



Carla Nastri Appel, 59, of Orange, CT passed away August 2, 2020 after a short illness.



Jane Astram, age 88, of North Haven and formerly of Milford, died on Monday, August 3, 2020.



Lidia Baldelli, 93, passed away peacefully at her home July 25, 2020.



Alice Decker Beket, age 96, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on Friday, May 1, 2020.



Attorney John J. Bennett, of Milford, CT, entered eternal rest on August 6, 2020.



Marcia Ellyn Stewart Bouchard, 73, of Orange, passed away August 1, 2020.



Elizabeth J. Broadbrook, 91, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2020.



James R. Cooke, age 74 of Fairfield and formerly of Milford, passed away on August 1, 2020.



Linda Tiano Coppola, 68, of Orange, entered into rest on Thursday, August 20, 2020, under the loving care of her family.



Rita Kathleen Czako, age 83, of Orange, formerly of Norwalk, died on August 1, 2020 at home.



Carmen Rose D'Avignon, 86, of Milford, passed away peacefully August 16, 2020.



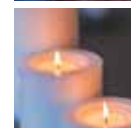
Michael (Mike) DiVincenzo, age 80, of Orange entered into eternal rest on August 6, 2020.



John Duffy Jr., age 60, passed away on July 31, 2020. John was born on June 15, 1960 in Milford.



Louis F. Fernous, Jr. age 81, of Fairfield, passed away peacefully Monday, August 17, 2020.



Winifred Carocari Flynn, born Jan. 29, 1923 in Stafford Springs, died July 14.

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Obituaries



Elizabeth Eaton Gesler, 79, of Orange, passed away on August 14, 2020.



Kimberly (Kimmie) Ann Hall, 49 years old of Orange, passed away on April 19, 2020.



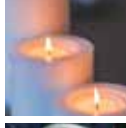
Louise E. Hamel, 84, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2020.



Clarence "Artie" Arthur Harriman, 51, of Milford, passed away suddenly on July 17, 2020.



Margaret "Peggy" M. Imperato, 82, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 22, 2020.



Kristy D. Janus, 64, of Milford, died unexpectedly Sunday, July 12, 2020.



Robert Kenneth Johnson (Bob), 82, of Milford, died on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.



Philip Joseph June, 65, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2020.



Joseph Francis Kali, 66, entered into eternal rest on July 21, 2020.



Thomas E. Kosciellecki, 74, formerly of Milford, passed away on June 24, 2020.



Judith M. Kreuter, age 81, of Milford passed away on August 9, 2020 at CT Hospice.



Edward "Eddy" LeMaire, passed unexpectedly on July 11, 2020 at the age of 53.



Louis "Chip" John Malafronte, of Orange, passed away on August 12, 2020.



Thomas A. Mallon, 65, of Milford, passed away on July 20, 2020 after a long illness.



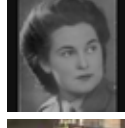
Connie L. Miller passed away on July 22nd at her home in Milford. She was 75 years old.



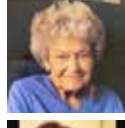
Elsie "Ellie" Mizzone, of Milford entered eternal rest peacefully on August 4, 2020.



Betty A. Morse, age 75, of Milford, entered into peaceful rest on Sunday, March 15, 2020.



Mary (Florence) Mullins, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2020 at the age of 99.



Sally W. Nichols, age 96, woke up in heaven on August 17, 2020.



Julie Carlson Onofreo, 41, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on August 15, 2020.



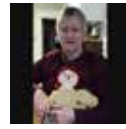
Thomas Patrick O'Dwyer Jr., 89, of Milford, died of natural causes on July 24, 2020.



Kathleen Rose Paolucci, formerly of Milford, passed away on July 8, 2020.



Antoinette G. Puma, age 93, of Milford, died on Monday, July 27, 2020.



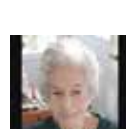
Patricia M. Pyle, age 80, of Milford, died on Friday, July 17, 2020.



Patricia Redmer, age 72, of Milford, died on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.



Irene Phelps Rispoli, 97, of Orange passed away on August 20, 2020, after a long illness.



Jeanette E. Saggio, 101, of Milford, died on July 22, 2020, at home.



John Serra, retired Captain of the West Haven Police Department, passed on July 16, 2020.



Charles Joseph Smyth, 72, of Orange, entered into eternal rest on July 19, 2020.



Kathy M. Stern, age 68, of Milford, entered eternal rest on July 11, 2020.



On August 1, 2020, **Martha Pittman Tavares** was welcomed home by our Heavenly Father.



Terry John Titus, age 68 of Milford, passed at Bridgeport Hospital July 24, 2020.



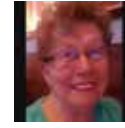
Martin Tucker, 92, formerly of Milford, died peacefully at home in Redding, CT on Aug. 3.



Ann Marie Uebelacker of Milford, CT, died August 14, 2020. She was 98.



Catherine Barden Vernon, age 84, longtime Milford resident, passed away on Aug. 16, 2020.



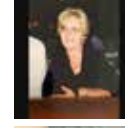
Joyce D. Viera, 83, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2020.



John Roni ("Ron") Wahlquist 70, of Milford, passed away Monday, August 17th at Bridgeport Hospital.



David B. Wheaton, age 83, formerly of Milford, died on July 23, 2020.



Martha M. Zamfino, 80, of Milford, died peacefully on August 6, 2020.



Karl J. Zeilik (Zeke), age 65, of New Haven, passed away suddenly on August 11, 2020.



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