



Milford-Orange Times

Vol.9 / Issue 11

www.TheOrangeTimes.com

December 17, 2020

A Holiday Without Festivities



Holiday tree lighting ceremonies are major town events in Milford and Orange most years. Not in 2020. Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, both towns canceled public festivities. Milford encouraged residents instead to shop at local businesses for the holidays. Photos by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

Orange Selectmen Compromise On Racism

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Board of Selectmen deadlocked on a proposal at its Nov. 18 meeting to draft an ordinance recognizing racism as a public health crisis, but members agreed to orally state that such a crisis exists and form a task force to explore solutions.

The compromise came after months

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Milford Bar Challenges Closure In Supreme Court

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A Milford bar owner has brought the first case challenging Gov. Ned Lamont's executive orders in response to the coronavirus pandemic to the state Supreme Court.

Kristine Casey is owner of Casey's Irish Pub on Bridgeport Avenue in Milford and Black Sheep Enterprise LLC. Since March, her pub – like all bars statewide – has been shut down by the governor in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Bars have been some of the hardest-hit businesses under the restrictions; Lamont has refused to allow them to open at all, arguing that they lead to so-called "super-spreader" events. Casey has said she is paying \$3,200 in rent every month along with ancillary expenses for a space that become unusable.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case on Dec. 11, during which her lawyer, Jonathan Klein, argued that the pandemic does not qualify as serious disaster under the terms of state statute and that the governor has overstepped the separation of powers through executive orders that circumvent the state legislature's lawmaking authority.

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Pet Valu Settles With State Over Closing Sales

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Retailer Pet Valu has reached a settlement with the state Department of Consumer Protection after an investigation initiated through an inquiry by the Milford-Orange Times revealed the chain was holding closing out sales without following state laws on such sales.

Pet Valu and the company SB360, which was hired to assist with the closing out sales in the state, agreed to pay the state \$3,000 as part of the settlement. Pet Valu has also filed for the necessary closing-out licenses.

State laws require stores that are closing out their inventory to acquire a license and follow certain practices meant to protect consumers.

The Pet Valu location in Milford, along with 28 other locations around Connecticut, began hosting closing out sales on Nov. 5,

according to the settlement.

The national chain announced it was shuttering in early November. Online sales have already ended, and the physical locations are expected to wind down in January.

State law requires a license be obtained prior to promoting or holding a closing out sale, for each location where the sale will be held.

In addition to obtaining a license, the store being closed cannot bring in new items. The store may only sell the items "within the four walls" of the establishment where the sale is to be conducted at the time of application. The applicant also must the DCP with a complete inventory of the goods, wares and merchandise on hand.

The commissioner of the DCP can impose

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New Columnists

See pages 5, 9 and 12



JENNIFER PARADIS



MARGARET NOVICKI



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY



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News & Events

A Look Back By Priscilla Searles



A mailman from the 1920s delivers mail in Orange in a Ford Model T. Photo courtesy of the Orange Historical Society.

It's probably the case that anyone in the delivery business these days is seriously stressed. The challenges of making purchases without leaving your house has led to some pretty creative shopping. I, for one, feel sorry for my mailman who has to stop his truck almost daily to run up to my front porch with, yep, another mail-order item.

In this 1920's photo, mail is being delivered to the Searles house on Chestnut Ridge Road. The car is an early 1920s Ford Model T. The mailman is noted as being "B. Clark." One can only imagine the trials Clark faced in delivering mail in all weather conditions in a Model T.

I can't help but wonder if the person in the picture might be one Albert Miles Clark, who, on July 1, 1903, became Orange's first rural postal carrier. He spent 38 years delivering mail to Orange residents.

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.

Priscilla Searles is the Orange Town Historian.

DMBA Offering Gift Bundles From Local Businesses

In an effort to assist holiday shoppers who may be worried about venturing out, the Downtown Milford Business Association has put together a series of bundles that group together hand-picked presents from Milford's boutiques and restaurants in one convenient package and can be purchased online.

"With the holiday season in full swing, it's more important than ever to keep our small Milford businesses top of mind when shopping or dining," said Jodee Caruso, DMBA secretary. "I love these gift bundles because they make shopping local super easy for everyone on our list. Every little bit counts to help our local economy, and the presents are perfectly curated."

Gift bundles can be bought online then picked up curbside so buyers can feel safe when making their purchases. Gift bundles

include themes like "Milford Pride," "Let's Get Cozy," "Coffee Lovers," "Relaxation," "For the Foodie," "Take Care of Yourself," "Just for Mom," "What About Dad," "Giving to Local Charities," "Heart of the Arts" and "Home for the Holidays." Each bundle includes a package of offerings and/or food.

"We are so pleased to be able to continue to support our member businesses with these bundles," said Tracy Bonosconi, DMBA president. "We have something for everyone – gifts for cozy nights in, for foodies, for family fun nights and more. And all the items are also available individually from our member businesses as well, so it's a great way to discover what's in store downtown."

The gift bundles can be purchased online at bit.ly/2VPNUNK.

Kennedy Earns Key Committee Posts

State Rep. Kathy Kennedy has been appointed lead member of the General Assembly's Executive Committee by House Republican Leader-elect Vincent Candelora (R-86). A ranking member serves as the leader of the minority party in committee meetings and works with the committee leadership to bring forward legislation.

"I am honored my leader, Rep. Candelora, has the faith in me to be the top House Republican on this committee. Every nominee by the governor needs a proper and thorough vetting to make sure they are well-equipped to handle the large agencies they will lead, especially during a pandemic which may require additional health

and safety protocols," Kennedy said.

Kennedy, recently elected to her second term as state representative of the 119th District, which includes parts of Milford and Orange, will once again serve on the Education and Public Health committees with the added responsibility of serving on the powerful Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for budget-writing.

The Education Committee works on state education policy for K-12 schools. The Public Health Committee has cognizance over state public health policy.

The next legislative session begins on Jan. 6.

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News & Events

Supreme Court (Continued From 1)

“By using executive orders to suspend or modify those laws at will as the governor has done 85 times in the last nine months, it’s the antithesis of executing the general assembly’s laws,” Klein told the justices.

Assistant Attorney General Philip Miller, who represented Lamont in the arguments, pointed out that the legislature had opportunities to rescind or limit the governor’s emergency powers, including when legislators convened for a special session in September. A special committee of legislative leaders at that time voted along party lines to extend Lamont’s emergency powers through February.

“That clearly demonstrates the legislature fully was on board with the actions the governor takes,” Miller said.

Several of the justices picked up on that line of reasoning in their questions to Klein.

“The legislature I believe since March has gone into special session at least twice, and they haven’t done anything about these orders,” Associate Justice Christine Keller pointed out. “Can we view that as their acquiescence in what the governor’s been doing?”

Klein responded that the lack of pushback from legislators was a dereliction of duty, not an agreement to go along with the emergency orders. He also argued that the civil preparedness law granting Lamont his emergency powers is unconstitutional – a position that has been rebuffed in the lower courts.

Associate Justice Steven D. Ecker did question Miller about the length of time Lamont’s powers should be able to last. “You could imagine a really problematic situation where there’s a disaster that’s declared and then the governor just doesn’t end it,” he hypothesized.

Miller responded that the situation certainly was extraordinary, but that Lamont’s power’s nevertheless did not extend beyond the length of the pandemic. If a governor tried to extend emergency powers past that, he said, “then that is certainly something the courts will be able to be involved in.”

The Supreme Court has not set a date for a decision in the case and is not likely to do so until sometime in 2021.

In the meantime, Casey’s bar remains closed. Klein had said in court filings back in June that his client is “hemorrhaging personal savings and borrowing from her father to try to stay afloat.”

Pet Valu (Continued From 1)

a \$500 civil penalty after an administrative hearing if a business fails to comply. Each day that goes by without compliance is considered a separate offence under Connecticut statutes, meaning that the cost can add up quickly. Failure to follow the rules runs afoul of Connecticut’s Unfair Trade Practices Act and can result in more penalties.

Pet Valu and SB360 did not admit to any wrongdoing or violation of the law as part of the settlement. SB360 and Pet Valu denied that they engaged in any conduct that would trigger the application of the CUTPA.

Racism (Continued From 1)

of wrangling over the issue. Democratic Town Committee Chair Jody Dietch tried to get the proposal on the agenda over the summer, and the Board of Selectmen held a public forum in October to garner input from residents on the matter.

Declarations of the type Dietch had proposed require municipalities to take measures to eliminate health disparities under guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Racial disparities in health are well-documented and span a wide array of issues, from differences in overall life expectancy to exposure to unsanitary living conditions. Rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths have been markedly higher among minority populations in the US.

Numerous municipalities in Connecticut have passed such declarations in recent months, including Simsbury, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Colchester, Easton, Glastonbury, Hamden, Hartford, Manchester, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, South Windsor, West Hartford, Windham and Windsor.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli opened the discussion by expressing his own reservations about the proposal, which he had been reluctant to embrace from the start.

“When you start talking about the dismantling of systems and injustices, if you do your homework and start to track that, that dismantling is an undertone for defunding,” Zeoli said. “And I am not in favor of defunding the police or any of our

social services, and that’s ultimately what that leads to.”

“You cannot separate out the issue of health from the larger structural racism that exists in society,” Selectwoman Margaet Novicki said, but vehemently objected to the notion that it had anything to do with defunding the police.

Selectman John Carangelo said that he had heard anecdotally from some town residents who were worried that adopting a resolution could have financial and other impacts on them down the road.

A motion from Selectman Mitch Goldblatt to have the town’s lawyer draft a resolution to declare racism as a public health crisis to be presented at the December meeting failed on a split vote of three in favor and three against. Zeoli voted against it, along with fellow Republicans Carangelo and Ralph Okenquist. Democrats Goldblatt and Novicki were joined by Republican Judy Williams in favor.

Carangelo then made a motion that the selectmen orally state that racism is a public health crisis and that “we would like to entertain forming a task force working with the local towns to do what is best for the residents of this town.”

Williams said she was interested in doing whatever led to actual results for the town. “If this is the better way for us to be more active, I would definitely encourage us to look into that.”

Goldblatt voiced his disappointment in the resolution failing but said he would support the creation of a task force because it would move things forward.

The motion passed unanimously. “It’s only a start,” Zeoli said after the vote. “But I think it’s a good start.”



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Opinion & Editorial

Editorial: No Right Answer To Pandemic

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

If there's one thing the coronavirus pandemic should have taught Gov. Ned Lamont by now, it's that there is no perfect balance that will please and protect everyone.

The first Connecticut Supreme Court case challenging his emergency powers, brought on behalf of a Milford bar owner, was heard Dec. 11 before the justices. Bars that do not also serve meals have been shut down since March, and Lamont has repeatedly signaled his reluctance to give them the green light again.

While the details of the case contain important questions (When can emergency powers be granted to the governor, and how expansive can they be?), the fact is that someone was going to be hurt and upset by any decisions made in this unprecedented situation.

Indeed, other cases have been brought before the courts in Connecticut. One challenged the requirement that children wear masks in school. Another challenged any requirement that anyone wear a mask. A case filed in September argued that the governor was reopening businesses too slowly under his own hospitalization rate criteria.

Lamont's decisions have seemed arbitrary at times. In November, as COVID-19 cases ticked back up in the state, he ordered restaurants to close at 9:30 p.m. – only to quickly change that to 10 p.m. after receiving complaints from restaurateurs.

What public health goal would the earlier half hour accomplish? It's hard to say.

But it's hard to say where the line should exist on any of these measures. The governor, like all of us, is learning about how this virus spreads and what can be done to stop it in real time as the pandemic unfolds.

State residents have largely approved of his flexible approach, giving him high approval ratings throughout the year over his handling of the pandemic.

It's sad that so many businesses have suffered. It's even sadder that so many people have died – over 5,000 in Connecticut.

Still, it would be a much greater tragedy to have done nothing and allow this deadly disease to run rampant.

There will never be a right balance, just more and less bad options. Let's hope we're picking the least bad ones.

Closing The Door On 2020



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Beginning in March 2020 our lives changed: so many personal sacrifices, opportunities lost, business and financial hardships, milestones missed as we were unable to celebrate birthdays, weddings and anniversaries.

Our seniors have been isolated from their families and friends. Our children are struggling as they cope with the emotions of virtual learning, not being able to spend time with their friends, being unable to play sports and numerous other after school activities. There are food insecurities as well as homelessness that comes with the potential for disease to spread. And there's the economic uncertainty. Many folks have had to dip into their savings, causing further financial strain.

We heard from the start that we are all in this together – we will get through this together. Today as the 2020 year nears the end we are still in the midst of a global pandemic. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel with a vaccine on the horizon.

There are still many short and long-term budget questions for our state and each one of us who live here. How will Connecticut recover economically? What can be done to make people whole who were financially devastated during the pandemic?

First, we must ask ourselves what we have learned, what we can do to help each other, our community, our neighbors and friends. We need to work together to become a stronger, financially stable Connecticut. We must work with our small businesses to provide them with the tools necessary to sustain their businesses. We must work with our restaurants, the arts and so on. This all can be accomplished, but we cannot do it on the backs of Connecticut residents with new taxes.

Yes, our world has changed, but together we can move toward a better Connecticut. We may not always agree, but we need to respect one another. The focus must be on the residents. We need to work together with open minds. Let us all be a little kinder, smile and support one another. I am honored to serve as your state representative.

I wish you a joyous holiday season filled with many blessings.

As always, please contact me at Kathy. Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 800-842-1423.

Looking Toward 2021



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

As we usher out 2020 it is worth remembering that we have never witnessed such disruption in our daily lives. While 2021 will certainly continue to challenge our collective resolve, there is promise ahead.

The pandemic will continue to force us to adjust how we do business in the Capitol. For instance, there will be little pomp and circumstance as all 187 members of the legislature may be sworn into office Jan. 6 outside on the Capitol grounds, socially distanced. Public hearings and committee meetings will likely be conducted virtually.

For now, the public and lobbyists will be banned from the Capitol as they have been since mid-March.

But I look forward to the new year and the work that needs to be done on your behalf as the ranking member on the Energy and Technology Committee. I will again assume my role on the Veterans Committee and will join my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. As you may know, the Veterans Committee holds a special place in my heart. I am honored by the privilege I am being granted to work with the distinguished veterans of Connecticut and to be their voice in Hartford. Advocating for veterans and education has become a passion of mine and I've had the opportunity to work with our local Veterans Memorial Museum and Learning Center. Much like the Energy and Technology and Veterans Committees, I plan to carry that fervor with me to the Appropriations Committee.

I'm also pleased to inform you that your utility rates will not increase for the foreseeable future. During the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority hearing it was determined that the rate increase request from power companies from earlier in the year will not be taking effect.

There are three public acts that take effect next year are particularly important: An Act Concerning the Insurance Department's Recommended Changes to the Insurance Statutes, Insurance Plans Procured by the Comptroller and Retirement Plans (SB906), An Act Concerning Diabetes and High Deductible Health Plans (HB6003) and An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies, the Regulation of Other Public Utilities and Nexus Provisions for Certain Disaster-Related or Emergency-Related Work Performed in the State (HB7006). You can find out more about these bills and other legislation on the General Assembly website at cga.ct.gov.

Midway through our holiday season, I send optimism, hope and unity for all of us to carry through into 2021. Whether you're celebrating Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Christmas or possibly something else, I wish you all a healthy, safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Please continue to reach out to me at Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov with your questions and concerns regarding state issues.

Putting A Stop To Suicide



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals ages 10 to 34 in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is the tenth leading cause of death. Every year, more people think about or attempt suicide than die by suicide. I am making it my job to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

Whether you have struggled yourself or lost someone you love to suicide, you are not alone. Times have been hard these past few months and there may be extra stress added onto your plate, but there are resources available. The impact of the pandemic on your mental health can lead to feelings of hopelessness which could then lead to suicidal thoughts; but identifying and understanding protective factors are equally as important as these risk factors.

I am planning to hold a suicide prevention policy summit with Alvin Tran, an assistant professor in the Department of Health at the University of New Haven. We want to follow up on the summit that was held last year with the goal of involving the leaders we have at our many great higher education institutions in policymaking. The other goal is to bring together various agencies that are working on suicide prevention to help coordinate our activities by continuing to figure out ways to prevent suicide.

There is hope and there is help. I am working alongside experts to find ways to publicize resources and strengthen cyberbullying consequences. Everybody needs to know there is help and they are not alone.

Connecticut has a plan to reduce suicide. The state's Suicide Prevention Task Force has compiled a list of warning signs that can help you identify if someone is at risk of taking their own life. Warning signs include: threatening to hurt or kill himself/herself, talking of wanting to hurt or kill himself/herself, looking for ways to kill himself/herself, talking or writing about death, increased substance use, no reason for living, anxiety, agitation, inability to sleep, withdrawal from friends, family and society, rage, acting reckless or engaging in risky activities or dramatic mood changes.

If you know someone who exhibits warning signs of suicide, do not leave that person alone and remove any objects that can be used in a suicide attempt. Take the person to an emergency room or seek help from a medical or mental health professional. For more information, you can visit portal.ct.gov/DCF/CTSuicideAdvisoryBoard/Home.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has done a wonderful job compiling resources to help veterans and their families. For more information on suicide prevention and awareness, you can visit mentalhealth.va.gov/index.as for resources. You can also get help via a free mobile app that allows veterans and residents to access assistance by phone. For more information about the app, visit portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/CTVeterans-Mobile-App.

If you are feeling any sense of hopelessness or suicidal, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255. You can also call the emergency line 2-1-1 if you or somebody you know is experiencing a crisis. Help is available 24/7.

Milford-Orange Times

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Columnists:

Annamarie Amore, Flooring	Steven P. Floman, Legal	Priscilla Searles, Orange History
Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences	Matt Gallagher, Finances	Loretta Smith, Recycling
Christine Angeli, Milford Library	Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary	Phil Smith, Rotary Club
Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
Cathy Bradley, Running	Marilyn May, Milford History	Pam Staneski, Milford Chamber
Joanne Byrne, Retirement	Amir Mohammad, MD, MPH, Health	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate
David Crow, Conversations	Margaret Novicki, Being Prepared	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
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Pat Dray, Gardening	Trish Pearson, Insurance	Trish O'Leary Treat, Profiles
	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel	

The Milford-Orange Times is published by The Orange Times LLC, P.O. Box 584, Orange, CT, 06477
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 Facebook: @milfordorangetimes Instagram: @theorangetimes Twitter: @OrangeTimesCT



Your Health

Staying Safe During The Holidays

It has been a few months since I last wrote my health column. The reason was our full focus on implementing and enforcing the executive orders throughout the town and keeping our schools open as safely as possible.

After conducting contact tracing, we noticed a spike in COVID-19 positive cases around mid-November that led to the closure of Amity High School. Positive cases have risen significantly in Orange since March. However, the most commonly infected demographic remains our youth and older population.

In anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday, we advised all the schools in town to remain virtual for a week after the holiday to curb any post-holiday spike. Although our schools in Orange are back in session, we continue to monitor them closely. If we notice a trend toward more infection among school going children, we will recommend other available learning options.

With the upcoming holidays, it's so important that Orange families remain hyper vigilant and avoid all possibilities of acquiring and spreading the coronavirus. This will in turn prevent COVID-19 illness among children and keep the schools open.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important to practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow) and to wear face coverings or masks when unable to keep a six-foot distance.

Most scientific studies have demonstrated that on average it takes five to six days for symptoms to appear after being exposed to someone confirmed positive with COVID-19. We have noticed that if one person becomes infected, they can easily transmit the infection to the entire household if they don't isolate themselves and follow strict isolation guidelines. Keep track of your daily symptoms and seek medical advice as necessary.

Recent announcements about COVID-19 vaccines and their efficacy are promising, but they won't be available right away. The first people to get the vaccine will likely be first responders, healthcare personnel and

residents of long-term care facilities. We must continue to remain vigilant and practice public health measures. Essential health and safety measures include mask-wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene, limiting non-essential travel and public and private gatherings. These measures will continue to be necessary for the foreseeable future, even when vaccination programs are underway, to protect vulnerable populations from acquiring COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control's guidelines for holiday celebrations say the following people should not attend in-person holiday gatherings: anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 who has not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others; anyone with symptoms; anyone awaiting a test result; anyone who may have been exposed to someone else with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; and anyone at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

If you are older or have underlying health conditions (hypertension, diabetes, kidney problems) then you should avoid in-person gatherings with people who do not live in your household.

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool in stopping the global pandemic. The vaccine itself will not protect you against contracting the virus, but just like other vaccines it will work with the immune system to help you fight the virus if you are exposed. You can stay informed about vaccine developments and recommendations through a number of reliable venues, such as the Connecticut Vaccine Advisory Group site and the CDC's vaccine website.

Speaking of vaccines, it is still not late to get a flu vaccine now. You certainly want to avoid a "twindemic" while awaiting to receive a COVID-19 vaccine next year.

We all must work together to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community. If you notice any risky behavior or a practice; don't hesitate to inform me via email at healthdirector@orange-ct.gov.



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

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

Being Prepared

The Best Gift Of All – Good Health

It's the holiday season again, the time of year when we think about celebrating with our friends and family. If you're like me, now's normally the time when you start stressing out about gifts for your loved ones. This year, I have the answer for a perfect gift for everyone in my family. The gift I want to give – and receive – is good health. It's a gift that costs nothing yet is the best possible present for everyone right now.

This is a holiday time like none we've experienced. We are in the midst of a global COVID-19 pandemic, and after a summer when it seemed new cases were low and remaining steady, the virus came roaring back with a vengeance in the late fall.

In Orange we had 115 cases in the month of November alone. That is roughly equivalent to the number of cases we had across the entire period of March to the first week of October.

Along with most other cities and towns in Connecticut, Orange has fallen into the "red zone" with a rate of greater than 15 cases per 100,000 population. Yes, our population is only about 14,000, but looking at the ratio of our cases to the size of our town, we are at 36.5 per 100,000. We all need to work together to bring this infection rate down by following public health guidelines and incorporating these safe behaviors into our daily lives.

The only really good news on the horizon is the prospect of getting a vaccine. Connecticut received its first 31,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 14 and will get 63,000 doses of the Moderna one on Dec. 21, both of which require two doses spread weeks apart.

Our Public Health Department and the Orange Visiting Nurse Association are already planning for vaccine distribution in town according to the state's timetable. The first vaccine priority group in mid-December to

mid-January are the state's 204,000 healthcare workers, 22,000 nursing home residents and 6,000 medical first responders. After that, tentatively from mid-January to late May, will come adults over 65 and high-risk people under 65. The groups to receive it last will be the remaining adults and those under 18.

As you can see, we have quite a number of months ahead of us before we can begin to see the backside of this deadly virus.

We all desperately want to be with our family and friends to celebrate the end of this dreadful year and our hopes for the new one. But this year, we must prioritize health and safety first.

If anything, we need to ramp up our social distancing as we head into the holidays, because our COVID-19 numbers are getting worse right now, not better. Wouldn't it be terrible if because of a holiday party at your house, some of your guests (maybe even you) had to be hospitalized or worse?

You have the power to ensure that doesn't happen, first by staying home with your immediate family and not hosting or attending holiday parties. You may think no one you know has COVID-19 and therefore it's okay to get together, but the fact is that many who are carrying the disease remain asymptomatic. They might not be sick, but they certainly can transmit the virus.

Second, always wear a face mask. This simple act is among the most effective means of preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

This year, give the best gift of all – good health – by staying home and staying masked. Let's all have a healthy and happy holiday season.



MARGARET NOVICKI

Margaret Novicki is a member of the Orange Board of Selectmen and the Emergency Management Subcommittee on COVID-19.

We Regret The Error

A column on page 15 in the Nov. 19, 2020 issue regarding getting ready for taxes in a COVID year indicated erroneous contact information. The author, Lisa Valerio, is a tax mitigation strategist with Valerio Tax Edge, and contact information for the tax practice can be found at valeriotaxedge.com.

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Lifestyle

Here's To Your Health

Finding Gratitude In A Horrible Year

In this holiday season of Hannukah and Christmas I'm reminded not only of the reason for the season but what a different season it's been altogether. Our Thanksgiving went from the usual 22 down to seven and our Christmas will be about the same. No holiday parties to schedule on the calendar, few if any shopping mall experiences and for some no real need to decorate.

If there's one thing I've committed to do since the beginning of this pandemic, it's to have an eye to see and an ear to hear what good can come out of a horrible year.

I appreciated that the brakes were put on my rush, rush, rush life, which allowed time for reflection on what needed to stay and what needed to go. Being homebound we realized how much money we were saving not going out to eat so often as we were

facing financial difficulties. To add to that I started doing my own manicures and pedicures like I used to when I was a single mother. The extra time on my hands has allowed me more time to write and finish my first book. In the midst of all the uncertainty and all the unknown, if you put on glasses to see the good, you'll be less anxious and/or depressed.

I don't have to tell you how important it is to exercise to kick in those endorphins but also to help relieve stress. Eating healthy most of the time will help you feel better and give you more energy. I'm not saying don't enjoy yourself. Just don't enjoy yourself too much.



MICHELE TENNEY

Let's not go backwards, because we've come too far. Please get the proper amount of sleep and drink your daily requirements of water. Add some lemon to your water to help detoxify your body. You can do this.

We spent some time with friends the other night who we really cherish. On the drive home, I was reminded of how truly blessed we are to have such people in our lives and my heart broke thinking of those (especially in this season) who are alone and may be sinking financially, emotionally and spiritually. In this particular season let's have an eye to see and an ear to hear for those around us who might be suffering. Most people put on a brave face so

it's important to really have a keen eye and an open heart.

Go out of your way to make someone's day. Pass out a gift card to a stranger who may need it. Get in touch with a childhood friend. Start a gratitude journal. When we are on the other side of this thing, you'll be able to look back and be happy that you did.

From my family to yours, happy Hanukkah, merry Christmas and here's to a very amazing New Year.

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.

On Your Mind

Managing Holiday Stress During A Pandemic

'Tis the season to be...incredibly stressed. Under normal conditions holiday stress can be overwhelming. Wouldn't you love to have that "old fashioned" stress back? Perspective is a wonderful thing. With a pandemic raging and the most stressful election in history behind us, it is time to begin focusing on those things we are grateful for, including the stress and excitement of the holiday season.

According to psychotherapist and Forbes contributor Amy Morin, gratitude is not only a nice idea, it has a profound effect on your physical, emotional and spiritual health. When you express gratitude to another person it creates a feeling of connection and you feel better. When you focus on what you have instead of what you do not have, you are more grateful and you feel more optimistic.

During this pandemic there have been many silver linings and focusing on being

grateful is one of them. Grateful for those who work at our grocery stores. Grateful for those who deliver our mail and packages. Expressing gratitude to everyone who makes your life a little better is a way to keep a positive attitude and gives you a sense of being in control. You cannot control what is happening around you, but you can control the way you respond to it and the way you allow it to affect you.

Although the holiday season has always been stressful, this year it is easier to focus on what is really important: health, family and friends. As you plan for gift giving, consider giving to those who are less fortunate and who are hungry.

Practice acts of kindness every day. Acts of kindness include being kind to yourself. Use the mind-body connection



FERN TAUSIG

to relieve your stress by using self-hypnosis techniques. Focusing on the positive things in your world instead of the negative is a good start. Being aware of the stressors in your life that you cannot control is the trigger to help you take those deep breaths, 5-5-10, to immediately bring relaxation to your body and mind.

Learning to relax your mind and body increases the quality of your sleep which offers more benefits that I can list here. Exercise – even a short walk or taking extra flight of stairs – is a gift you give to yourself. Take time each day to "zone out" by mentally going to a favorite place and enjoy the feelings of being there. Reject negative thoughts and fears that try to creep into your mind because

thoughts create feelings and feelings create behaviors. Take control of the only thing you can control...yourself.

All hypnosis is self-hypnosis. So begin now to use the powers of your own mind to make the life changes you want to make, to improve your quality of life. Practice gratitude for those things about yourself you feel proud about and always seek the silver linings.

Celebrate this holiday season by enjoying the spirit of giving to those who really need help. Manage your stress by staying positive and appreciate your new perspective that you are so grateful for everything you have and every way you can help someone else.

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

Wine Talk

Welcome The New Year With Sparkling Wine

A wonderful way to welcome the new year is with some delicious sparkling wines.

Effervescence has been noted in wines since the times of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The appearance of the bubbles was not understood. Dom Pérignon, a French monk, was originally charged with the task of getting rid of the bubbles because they caused many bottles of wine to explode.

When they were making sparkling wine deliberately in the 18th century, the workers in wine cellars had to wear protective garb and masks to protect them from exploding bottles. This was to protect them from a chain reaction of spontaneously bursting bottles. It was common for them to lose between 20 and 90 percent of the wine. They did not understand carbonic gas or the mystery of fermentation. Many critics called the sparkling creations "the devil's wine."

My grandfather, Geno Spaziani, was a well-known home winemaker 100 years ago on Terrace Avenue in West Haven, and he made his wines using the phases of the moon to prevent effervescence.

The British were the first to appreciate sparkling wine from Champagne. They attempted to understand why the wine sparkled. Wine was transported to England in wooden wine barrels. Then the wine would be bottled for sale. English glass production was superior to that of the French, who used wood-fired ovens. The English also rediscovered the use of cork wine stoppers. The Romans had used them, but they were forgotten for centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire. During the cold winter in the champagne region the temperatures would fall and the fermentation process would stop. This would leave some sugar and yeast that was dormant. When the wine was sent to England, the temperatures would rise again and with the superior English glass and cork stoppers the fermentation process could continue. When the wine was opened it would be bubbly. Thus British merchants were producing champagne before the French were intentionally making it.



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

Fully sparkling wines are sold at five to six atmospheres of pressure in the bottle. Any wine above three is considered a full sparkling wine. These wines include Italian Spumante, German Sekt, Spanish Espumoso, and the French Cremant or Mousseux wines. Wines between 1.5 and 2.5 atmospheres include Italian Frizzante, German Spritzig, and French Petillant wines. The amount of pressure depends

on the amount of sugar added during the secondary fermentation. More sugar increases the carbon dioxide bubbles, as well as the pressure of the wine.

All champagne is sparkling wine but not all sparkling wine is champagne. To be called champagne it must come from the Champagne region and be produced using the Champagne method, which is double fermentation in the bottle.

There are several types of sparkling wines. There is Cava from Spain. There is Prosecco from Italy and sparkling wine

from the US. Typical champagne and most of the US sparkling wines are made from chardonnay, pino noir, and pino meander. blanc du blancs is made from chardonnay. blanc de noirs is made from pino noir. Prosecco is made from the glera grape and has gained great popularity in the past few years. Look for DOCG on the label for the good stuff.

Pick out some sparkling wine to toast in the New Year. This past year has been difficult for all of us, and unfortunately deadly for some of us. Better times are coming. Stay safe and keep the vigil for just a few more months. We will get through this yet.

Ray Spaziani is the chapter director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is on the wine tasting panel of Amenti del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award-winning home wine maker and a certified wine educator. His fall classes were sold out but have been canceled due the coronavirus. He hopes to return to them in the spring. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

When he left Taiwan, he was considered on of the most promising young men in the country. to handle or even address the situation Taiwanese seemed to be having trouble with it as well. Mainland China had for years, under the communist People's Republic of China (PRC) insisted on the One China Principle

by Joseph Cole

In 1958, Lung-chu Chen was considered one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in General Chiang Kai-shek's exiled

begin transitioning from their New Haven location on February 20. Dr. Peter Branden said. He will be one of several doctors working out of the 10,000 square foot space. He estimates between the group's rotating list of doctors and part and full-time support staff that the location

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The Milford Chamber of Commerce

Holiday Greetings From The Milford Chamber

During this holiday season we send our very best wishes to you and your families. You are not alone if you are ready to wish this year good riddance with the hope that next year will offer us all a new beginning. One day we will share stories of these historic days with our grandchildren and marvel that through it all we stayed resilient in making our community one of the best to live and to work.



PAM STANESKI

We want to recognize that the spirit of hospitality is part of the fabric of our local businesses.

We all watched as many of our businesses expressed compassion through the unselfish acts they took – pivoting to make personal protective equipment for fellow business members and the community, offering expert information via web platforms to help others navigate loan/grant paperwork, adopting safe practices to deliver services in a manner that satisfied safety concerns of their patrons and delivering comfort food to first responders with much appreciation. Our

business leaders' commitment and dedication to community remains unstoppable.

This will certainly not be a traditional holiday. Fewer of us will travel to see our family; our holiday party invitation list will be much shorter (if held at all). Perhaps with a little less commotion, our time will be focused on our blessings and those we love and serve.

We are optimistic that the new year will bring a new season of healing along with the hope of a safe, effective vaccine.

Until then, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce thanks our member businesses for the part they play in making our community the best place to live and to work. Happiest of holiday seasons to you and yours.

Editor's Note: Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce Chairperson Board of Directors Paige Miglio also contributed to this column.

Orange Congregational Church Holding Virtual Christmas Eve Service

The Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will host a virtual worship on Christmas Eve. The church is an open and affirming congregation, meaning it welcomes all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless

of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation or family type. The service will be available on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC. It will premiere at noon on Dec. 24. For more information, visit orangecongregationalchurch.org.

The Rotary Club of Orange

Rotarians Bring Care To Dominican Republic

By Phil Smith



Although an individual Rotary Club's greatest impact is likely to be found within its local community (providing student scholarships, sponsoring speech-related contests for young people, donating free personal protective equipment for healthcare providers, sponsoring shredding days, providing food and clothing for those in need) each club is part of a much larger international organization, which, through its foundation, seeks to help communities in need across the globe.

I wrote in September about Rotary International's decades-long effort to eliminate polio throughout the world. Today I write about a typical small-scale project – one of a great many – that Rotary undertakes (often in partnership with other like-minded organizations) in far-flung communities to help address health-related needs.

Our own Lynda Hammond serves as president of this Rotary district's Gift of Life Foundation. During the past few years a Rotary Global Grant Vocational Training Team (Hammond among them) has completed six missions to a children's hospital in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. The team worked with local health providers and the Rotary Club of Santo Domingo to provide care for 136 children. Knowledge, expertise, and know-how were shared among the local and international team members, whose ranks included Rotarians

and pediatric medical professionals (over 95 in all) from nine countries in addition to the US.

No international endeavor of this scope is without challenging and unforeseen problems. Hammond's team had to deal with two hurricanes (Irma and Maria), the breakdown of the local hospital's primary sterilizer, a malfunctioning air conditioning system in the catheterization lab (destroying \$16,000 worth of batteries), a chicken pox outbreak among potential patients and an episode of food poisoning among team members, as well as additional equipment challenges.

Nonetheless, the results were heartwarming. The surgical benefits to the 136 young children treated by the team: 74 cases of open-heart surgery and 62 cases of interventional catheterizations. A number of children are alive today – and have a reasonable chance of living a normal life – thanks to the many Rotarians, students and medical professionals participating in the project.

The \$280,000 funding for the six missions came from local and national Rotary organizations, Gift of Life International, the Children's Heart Foundation and Fundacion Latiendo Por Ti. Other organizations (including AmeriCares) donated catheterization sets and stints, surgical supplies, pacing wires, drapes and medication. The average cost per patient: just over \$2,000.

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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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

A Hot Winter For The Housing Market

The market is still hot in our area. So hot that homes are flying off the shelf.

Consider the average 50-year-old home, selling for 10 percent more than it would have sold for last year at this time. We all know the greatest factor in this market is the interest rate, which gives more buying power to potential clients. Let's hope these rates will continue into the spring.

Meanwhile, if you are taking good care of your property and have intentions of finding that perfect spot, this is the time to chance the scenario of buying without selling. No seller loves to entertain a Hubbard contingency clause when the market is good. If you know your home is the type of home that will be jumped on, then get qualified to own two properties at once for a short period of time. Many lenders invite this option; they know that clients prefer to renovate before they

move in, or just have time to get out of the old home and then put their home on the market. Buyers love to see vacant homes these days. They know that then they can be assured of occupancy fast, when a specific date is required.

Never before has the old winter conversation been so true: only serious buyers come in the winter, and there are fewer homes to choose from. This year there are multiple offers bringing higher prices to those homes that are on the multiple listing and are in tiptop condition.

You have a few choices here. Work on your property over the next three months. Be prepared to go forward when you see a property you like, reviewing your finances well. Perhaps an equity line can help



BARBARA
LEHRER

you jump into a multiple offer situation. Most people need to sell to buy, but if you can buy without contingencies then you may be the best competition out there to grab that great deal on the perfect street.

I always say real estate is all about the timing. How is your timing? If you need help in orchestrating a magic strategy, then get a good realtor right away. It takes time to plan and pull resources together. We just do not know how long these high sales and multiple offer situations will come into play. I foresee no end in sight; however, real estate is a moment in time. Whatever the last sales are recorded as is what the next like property will be worth. Bank appraisers are very generous

these days; they are the ones who make that final decision.

The winter market should be interesting this year. Besides moving around Orange and Milford, buyers are coming from other areas. They are curious about more countryside and train advantages. We will always have a special area, popular for so many reasons, but one thing is for sure: buying before selling, or after, the price needs to be right. Capitalizing on hearsay prices is not the way to go. You need the professionalism of a good agent – always your number one asset by showing you the updated statistics. With condition, location, topography and square footage, setting up that fair asking price is key to a complete transaction.

Stay educated as you ponder the market. If you need more information on these issues, email Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com.

The Garden Spot

Winter Feeding For The Birds

I love to hear the birds singing – although not so much at 5:30 a.m. in the summer. Here in Connecticut, we have a number of species that over-winter, including cardinals, goldfinch and several species of woodpeckers. If you're observant, you may also see some of the more unusual species such as American tree sparrows and white-crowned sparrows, white throated sparrows and dark eyed juncos. The birds that you see at your backyard feeders will be dependent upon the food, water and shelter available to them.

Certain birds, such as sparrows and juncos, are ground feeders and prefer their food on a tray or platform that can be set on the ground or mounted on a pole, while others such as cardinals prefer hopper feeders that have a seed storage component that releases food

onto a tray when the bird lands on the release mechanism. Some ground feeders will rarely land on an elevated feeder but will readily eat the seed that's fallen onto the ground from a feeder. There are many shapes and sizes of feeders. They can be quite elaborate and expensive, so use your judgment on what fits your needs best.

Different bird species also prefer different seed types. The finches and woodpeckers (along with most others) will prefer sunflower seed. The black oil sunflower seed you'll see offered in stores is a small seed that is very high in energy with a thin shell that makes it a favorite. The finches also favor millet. Your choice of feeder and seed type will let



PAT DRAY

you attract the number and types of birds you want to see. It also means you won't attract unwanted birds such as pigeons and doves, which favor corn.

Birds will also be attracted to water. They seem to prefer baths that are at ground level, so don't feel you need to purchase a fancy, pedestal-mounted birdbath. A shallow pan works just as well. You can put a few pebbles or branches in the water so that the birds can stand on them and drink without getting wet.

Now on to the issues of maintenance and protection. Bird feeders require cleaning and maintenance, since dirty feeders can grow mold and bacteria that may sicken the birds. To clean a feeder, soak it in hot water with

mild soap, scrub it and then disinfect it by dunking it in a 10:1 solution of water and bleach. Rinse it thoroughly and let it dry.

For protection, it's important to have your feeder no more than 10 feet away from either shrubs or trees so that birds can escape predators. There have been some black bear sightings here in Connecticut, so it's best not to keep your feeders out from March through November if you're in an area where they're prevalent.

If you want a fun activity this winter, check out Cornell University's Project Feeder Watch, where you can count and track birds and enter your data. Visit feederwatch.org for more information.

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

Travel Matters

Return-To-Travel Well-Being

With three vaccines announced and first-responder distribution as early as late December, there seems to be a renewed interest in planning a trip. Maybe next summer – possibly even sooner. While a vaccine will never be 100 percent effective, it will go a long way to the resumption of travel. It gives confidence to governments to relax requirements for quarantines and gives confidence to us as travelers that there is a light at the end of the tunnel in terms of a safe return to travel.

When will it be safe? Many are looking at the second half of 2021 and full year 2022 to plan those trips, although some already feel confident traveling to Mexico and the Caribbean islands and have been doing so since this summer.

Many people are eager to get something "on the calendar" with all the travel cancellations in 2020. A lot of people are looking at those bucket list trips they put off

for so long. And some are saying that they waited so long to travel that they will take more time off when they plan their next trip and travel more often.

They will make sure to have travel protection insurance when they travel. As we return to travel, the typical packing list may need a little updating. Here's what to do pre-travel and what to do during travel - a well-being travel checklist:

Before you leave:

- Don't travel if you have a temperature or have had exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Bring extra facemasks with you; they are required just about everywhere and will be for a while.
- Bring hand sanitizer in travel-sized containers.



KAREN
QUINN-
PANZER

- Plan for longer checkpoint screening. TSA is currently allowing one (up to 12-ounce liquid) hand sanitizer per passenger in your carry-on; these will be screened separately.

- Bring food. Some airports will not have vendors open and airlines may vary on food service.

- Bring an additional 30-day supply of medications.

- Bring important contact numbers including doctors, pharmacists and travel advisors.

- Bring refillable bottled water container to fill after passing through airport security.

- Register for government travel advisories at travel.state.gov/.

- Check in 24 hours prior and look for any updates to the travel policies and check-in procedures.

During travel:

- Expect flight delays and changes. Be prepared to leave at any time during a 24-hour period as schedule changes are more frequent than in the past.

- Expect temperature checks and health surveys.

- Comply with social distancing measures and be prepared for your journey to be different from what you're used to.

- Your health is your responsibility, so do not feel shy about asking people to respect your boundaries and be sure to respect theirs.

- Wash your hands with soap and water often. Don't touch your face.

- Use sanitized hand wipes with alcohol to clean surfaces.

- Have fun!

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

Blake Announces \$2.4 Million In Taxpayer Savings

Milford Mayor Ben Blake announced today that the city has found \$2.8 million in savings for taxpayers.

In addition to \$1.4 million in refunding savings announced last month, the city will capture another \$1.4 million by refinancing decade-old loans the city has with the State of Connecticut under the Clean Water Fund program.

The CWF loans were made with Milford between 10 and 14 years ago to improve local sewer treatment facilities. The 2 percent loans had historically been a better

option than issuing bonds in the capital markets. With interest rates for municipal bonds at record low levels and Milford's high AAA bond rating, the city was able to lock in another \$1.44 million in debt service savings by refinancing.

Rating agency Fitch has recently reaffirmed Milford's AAA bond rating, the highest possible credit grade a city can receive.

This is the first time interest rates on bonds in the capital markets are significantly less than the state's program.

As a result, numerous issuers are looking to take advantage of the fiscal environment by refinancing state loans.

The city received a total of 11 bids with interest rates ranging from a winning bid of 0.33 percent to a high bid of 0.49 percent. The winner narrowly edged out the second-place bid by 0.01 percent.

"This is another win for Milford taxpayers," said Blake. "The savings will help keep our debt service costs as low as possible."

"I've been doing this for over 20 years,"

said Matthew Spoerndle, senior managing director of Phoenix Advisors and Milford's municipal advisor. "I can honestly say that I never thought that interest rates would go low enough to be able to refinance those CWF loans for this level of savings, and yet, here we are."

"I am very pleased with these results and how well the refundings were structured. This is great news for the city," said Peter Erodici, Milford's finance director.

Milford's Hospital Tradition Turns 100

By Marilyn May

When a person had an injury or disease at the time of the 1639 founding of Milford, the treatment mostly likely would have been a home remedy that sometimes worked...and other times did not work. You would have been on the "do it thyself" medical plan.

More than 280 years later Milford finally did have a hospital, and this January there will be a celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the "Temporary Milford Hospital" that opened in January 1920.

A look back at the early settlement shows that Jasper Gunn was the first – and only – doctor in Milford for many years. As Joseph B. Barnes mentions in his article for the Milford Hall of Fame, "What people do remember of Jasper Gunn...is his legendary services as Milford's first doctor. Of course, his legend exceeds his skills as the "medicine" of the time was very primitive."

It wasn't until the early 20th century that residents insisted that Milford have a hospital, so a Milford Hospital Society was formed to do just that.

However, it took a horrific, multi-car collision on the Boston Post Road to really get plans moving. The crash site was described in a local newspaper: "Bodies, living and dead, were sprawled from one side of the road to the other."

Ambulances had to take victims miles away to Bridgeport and New Haven hospitals, using time that added to the agonies of the injured. Some died on the way.

Thankfully, the Hospital Society had been busy its first three years. Members had talked with one of Milford's oldest citizens, Judge Charles W. Beardsley, 91, about the need for a hospital. He more than understood; he donated 3.5 acres of his land for the project. It happened that the historic Clark-Stockade House was on a corner of the property, facing Bridgeport Avenue. The earliest parts of that house had been built around 1660 by Deacon George Clark.

There was talk that the new building should be called "Beardsley Hospital," but the judge declined and said it should be named "The Milford Hospital." He thought that "The Milford Hospital is a town institution, for the benefit of the public,



The "Temporary Milford Hospital" in the Clark-Stockade House opened in January 1921 when the house was on Bridgeport Avenue in front of today's Milford Hospital. Photo courtesy of the Daniel E. Moger Photo Collection.

provided by the public and to be maintained by the public."

Further progress was made when Bridgeport architect J.W. Skinner volunteered to draw up plans.

Next was the hardest part – raising money. There were film showings at the Poli Estate, benefit concerts, a children's opera and the ever-popular whist parties and teas that in total raised \$24,000, not nearly enough to start construction.

Meanwhile, the Society made new plans to use the Clark-Stockade House already standing. They renovated the house (which had been remodeled many times since the 1600s) and turned it into Milford's first hospital.

During Jan. 15-16, 1921 an open house was organized by the Women's Auxiliary. The ladies suggested that each visitor bring a jar of food, and more than 500 visitors

filled the pantry with enough food for a year.

Then on Jan. 17 the first 11 patients were admitted into the 15-bed "Temporary Milford Hospital." Five more beds had to be added after the first week.

In the 1920s most babies were born at home, but nine babies were born at the hospital just a few weeks after it opened. Attitudes were changing and people began to see that hospitals were not just places where people went to die.

Despite having paying patients and more fund drives, it was two years before construction started. The building officially opened on March 27, 1924 with a 25-bed capacity.

From 1949 to 1953 the Society was pondering how to spend money raised. Hospital administrator Edith Oddy didn't ponder the question at all. She told the

Society that surgical operations were being canceled due to lack of space, and she added "It's standing room only." The next decades saw a constant expansion of space and services.

Milford Hospital was one of the last independents in the state. It became part of the Yale New Haven Health System and was merged with Bridgeport Hospital in 2019. It's now the Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus.

Ahead there will be improvements to the physical plant and more state-of-the-art medical equipment. Just imagine what the hospital – and all medical care – will be like after another 100 years.

Marilyn May is a lifelong resident of Milford and is on the board of the Milford Historical Society.

Ponder This

Social Security Could Be Fixed

A national commission can find ways to keep Social Security solvent. It would ensure that ideas, strategies and actions are directed at meeting the goal of sustainability. This reform approach is different from forming a commission to find ways to handle reductions in Social Security rather than replenishing the fund. The first directs members to find workable solutions while the latter leads to compromise that may hinder rather than help the program.

Why should we ponder this during post-election time? Now is an opportunity to solve complicated problems with bold solutions. Ours is a tender democracy in need of replenishment, sustenance and fresh ideas. Social Security is illustrative of an excellent program subject to political whims based on nuances of language.

Capitalism and a free-market economy can be synonymous with prosperity. Careful policy development can ensure that a broader swath of the public can be included. Capitalism can be and has been successful without impoverishing an entire class of people. However, our current challenge is to ensure that opportunity is not limited to the upper income brackets who already benefit from our economic

system.

The American government is up to this task. The American public wants and deserves such opportunity. And the economy can thrive with carefully thought-out policy changes.

The government has an obligation to help meet human needs, so tax revenue must be used wisely to create opportunities for the public. Focusing on deficit spending may sound helpful and garner votes, but accomplishes little in the long run to develop sound fiscal policy.

The Bowles-Simpson approach from the Obama administration has taught us many important ideas about approaching the economy. Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles were co-chairs of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, tasked with reducing the federal deficit. Among other things, the commission recommended cutting Social Security. Critical reviews from a wide array of constituents, historians and economists have expressed dismay at the apparent misunderstanding of the program by the



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

reformers.

Some call the commission the biggest mistake of the administration. We cannot afford to repeat these same mistakes without learning something important and helpful from the lack of success.

Benefits to seniors were significantly reduced in the plan, coupled with inevitable increases in out-of-pocket Medicare costs. The proposed payroll tax cut did nothing to aid the long-term sustainability of the program, giving the public a tax decrease at the cost of jeopardizing their own ability to benefit from Social Security in their future.

The narrative suggested that deficit reduction (by way of program cuts) must be pitted against tax increases. Neither of these options offered realistic corrections for the problems at hand, yet the language of binary choices still persists today.

Language continues to obstruct problem-solving. The term socialism or democratic socialism threatens to divide us into opposing groups. Socialism is stigmatized as "Venezuelan or Cuban." Such labels

believe important contributions from the last century that truly help Americans. Such programs include Social Security, Medicare, limited daily/weekly work schedules, adult labor laws and public education. Each of these policy-based programs have improved the lives and opportunities of American families and workers.

We are at the cusp of a new phase of governance, yet the old, divisive rhetoric still holds us back. What can and should be done by an engaged public? Let's continue the conversation of how we together can nourish the governing that we so want and need.

Dr. Ellen Russell Beatty served seven years as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University, and also served as interim Academic Vice president, Dean of Health & Human Services and Director of Faculty Development. In addition to the broad perspective and a multitude of skills required of high-level administrators, her areas of special expertise lie in strategic planning, accreditation, assessment and planning and budgetary allocation.



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Applications Open For Grants From Orange Lions

The Orange Lions Club will provide a limited number of mini grants to eligible community organizations and/or individuals in 2021. The program, now running for 17 years, is intended to provide funds to worthy causes and activities in Orange that might not otherwise be funded, according to Orange Lions Club President Mike Muttitt.

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

Nicholas Musante of Milford has been appointed to chair the community mini grants program this year. Blank applications for the program are now available at the High Plains Community Center in the Community Services Department, at the Peoples United Bank branch on Orange Center Road, at the Case Memorial Library and from any Orange Lion.

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

NSHO Cancels Concerts Through June

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors has announced that the orchestra will not be performing concerts as originally scheduled through June 2021. This decision comes as a response to the orchestra’s prioritization of musician and audience health and safety, a strict adherence to state and CDC guidelines, and a lack of access to its regular performance venues in schools and universities.

“Although this decision does not come as a surprise, it still pains us to set aside all of the brilliant programs and performances that we had originally slated for this season,” NHSO CEO Elaine C. Carroll said. “However, now that we can put that decision behind us, it makes room for our board, musicians, and music director to do what they do best – put forward musical performances that reflect

and respond to our community.”

“We are working hard behind the scenes to reimagine what an orchestra performance can be in our changed world, and are looking forward to sharing our new concert and education program lineup very soon” said NHSO Music Director Alasdair Neale.

Faced with concert cancellations due to the COVID surge since last March, the symphony has already been conducting virtual education programs and community concerts. In October the symphony performed outdoor concerts at the Canal Dock Boathouse, earning high praise for the musical performances and new levels of access offered by the unique venue. The NHSO’s award-winning programs continue to be presented by NHSO teaching artists to schools throughout the state.

Orange Accepting Names For Preschool Lottery

The Orange elementary school system is now accepting names for the blind lottery to enter its 2021-2022 preschool program.

The special education/general education integrated program is looking for both 3 and 4-year-olds to enroll as community peers.

The total cost of tuition for the community peers is \$3,250. The preschool program is held five days a week for three hours each day. No transportation is provided for general education community peers.

The program follows the district’s school year calendar: the morning class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the afternoon class is held from noon to 3 p.m. Each classroom is a blend of 3 and 4-year-old children. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students, which includes special education students. By law, students with special needs identified with an individualized education program are placed in the program by the Department of Special Services through the Planning and Placement Team process.

In order to participate in the lottery, a child must be 3 years old but not older than

4 by Dec. 31. All children must be toilet trained and Orange residents. If a child’s third birthday falls between September and December 2021, they will be able to start on their third birthday.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages. First, all names are randomly selected by age group for the limited number of available spaces, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list. Then a second drawing determines which children will be placed in the morning and afternoon classes to balance each classroom by age.

To enter a child in the blind lottery, call the Special Services Department for the Orange Board of Education at 203-891-8023 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Names will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29. Parents will be mailed a letter of the lottery results by Feb. 8.

A tuition deposit of \$325 will reserve a child’s space in the classroom. The deposit is the first month’s tuition for September 2021. Registration paperwork needs to be completed by March 31.

Pearce Closes Lease On Milford Space For Mattress Retailer

Pearce Real Estate commercial broker Carl G. Russell has closed on a lease for 6,000 square feet at 1770 Boston Post Rd. in Milford.

The retail space will be occupied by Mattress Plus LLC of Waterbury. The company will be selling mattresses, furniture, rugs and related products. The tenant was represented by Richard Schnider of True

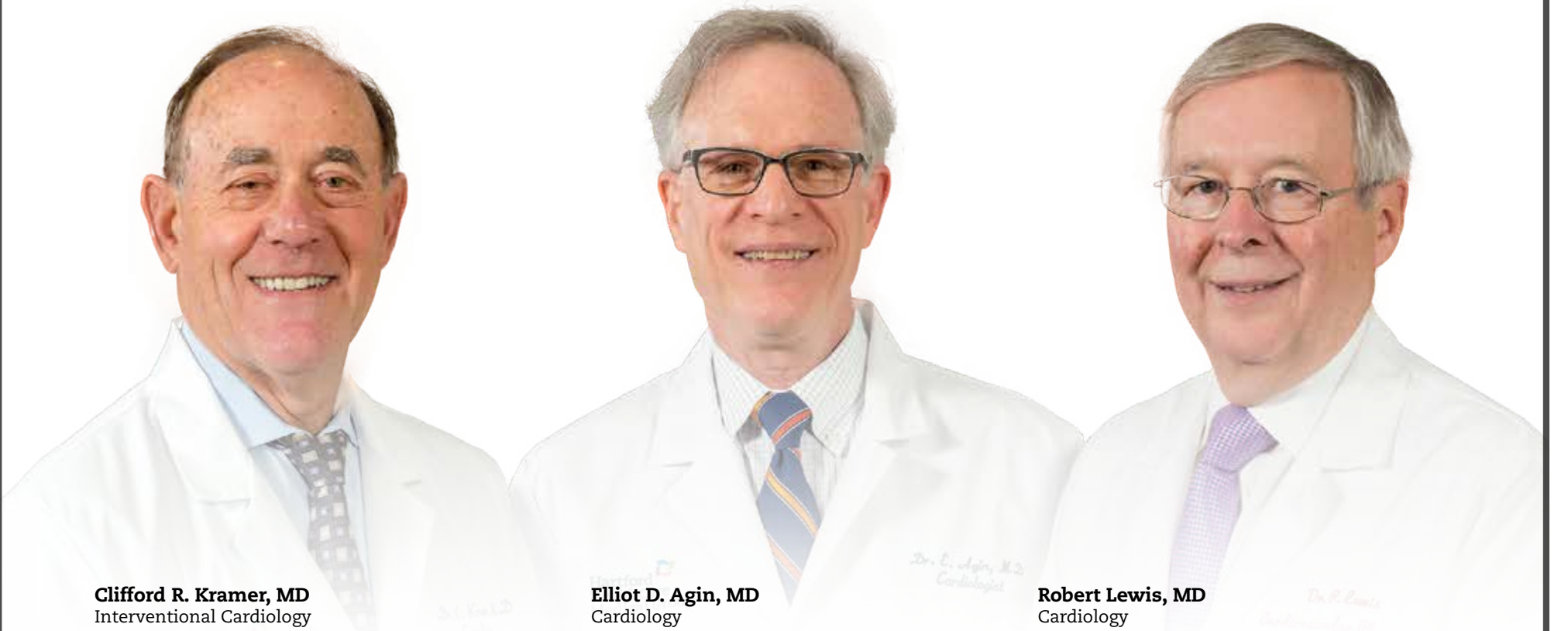
Commercial Real Estate in Westport, and the landlord was represented by Carl Russell of H. Pearce Commercial Real Estate.

The space has a long history of being occupied by furniture retailers, including Alexander’s Furniture, a leader in colonial furniture, owned by Alex Show. Trendsetters and CADO furniture also later used the space.

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Helping Others

Giving Voice To Those On The Ground

With distribution of effective vaccines on the horizon, we are closer to the COVID-19 crisis being a matter of collective memory. In time, the normalization of mask wearing and hand sanitizing will be habits formed by lessons learned and no longer our only layer of protection.

The urgency will leave us, only to be replaced by a more pervasive crisis. This crisis is potentially more destructive than what we have already overcome.

We have seen evidence of it already; long food lines at professional sports stadiums, more calls into the state Infoline (2-1-1) looking for housing assistance than ever before and a growing number of empty storefronts.

It feels like the bottom fell out with families who were cost burdened but surviving suddenly on the brink of homelessness, and others who have previously been protected from economic and health crises facing hard decisions after the loss of a job – or, more devastatingly, a

loved one.

We see ourselves in the faces of those on the news – the COVID survivors; those managing through collective trauma, grief and anxieties about what we will look like on the other side of this.

Although this period is difficult, it is important. Our eyes and ears are open. COVID-19 has brought perspective and taught us important lessons needed for the work ahead, both in theory and in practice. It has shown us what the pillars of a healthy person and a healthy community are. It has affirmed that housing is a basic human right, critical to the health and integrity of a society, that food access is one of the most fragile resources in our system and that we are truly all in this together, reliant on one another.

COVID-19 turned the lights on. It lit up the dark corners of our communities



JENNIFER
PARADIS

and gave food insecurity and housing instability a face. These problems already existed around us, growing annually. In 2019, an average of 10 percent of Milford and Orange households were food insecure, unsure where their next meal was going to come from. In 2018, 25 of every 10,000 people in Milford reported a history of homelessness. The at-risk population was even greater; one third of households were cost burdened, without the resources to meet the monthly competing needs of healthcare, education, transportation, housing and food.

What changed? Why has this become unacceptable now? It never was acceptable, but with these statistics expected to potentially double through 2021, we can no longer ignore it. We have work to do – for our neighbors, our friends, our favorite

restaurant, that couple we know from church, our child's playdate, ourselves. Our judgements have shifted from the assumption that food insecurity and homelessness are personal shortcomings to the recognition of system failures. And we know that we are part of the solution.

My hope is to give voice to those on the ground: those who are both working on and benefiting from the very solutions we commit ourselves to over the coming weeks, months and years. I hope you will come with me on this journey. Keep your masks on and let's get to work.

Jennifer Paradis has served as the executive director of the Beth-El Center, Inc. since June 2018. She previously served as the Director of Programs and Facilities at Beth-El Center, Inc. since 2015. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and as co-chair of the Greater New Haven Regional Alliance to End Homelessness.

Retired and Rejuvenated

We Need A Little Christmas

Just as the song from Jerry Herman's iconic musical "Mame" so rightly says, "We Need a Little Christmas." Perhaps now more than ever these words ring true.

With all that we have been though this past year, we are all ready to turn on the bright lights, don our festive best, cook great food, decorate our homes and celebrate. Celebrate, yes, but still with great caution, since the worst of the pandemic is not over. With numbers of those infected with COVID-19 still soaring, we need to continue to wear masks in public, keep our social distance, wash our hands and continue to protect ourselves and others. Just as in the musical, Herman's song represents persevering and rejoicing no matter what obstacles may stand in our way.

I read recently in a local newspaper about a syndrome that has affected us all this past year. It is called coronavirus rage and oppositional sourness, or CROSS. Although the column was a satire on this affliction, there is some element of truth to it. The condition is distinguished by impatience, irascibility, petulance and incivility, which appears to be the result

of an abnormally extenuated period of confinement and restriction. We have bored, restless masses yearning to be free.

The first sign of CROSS is typically irritable scowl syndrome, or ISS, easily identified by a perpetual look of crabbiness and agitation. It also includes an escalating peevishness over issues of relative unimportance, a sudden disintegration of all courtesies and tact and either a snarling snarky quality of speech or a defensive and plaintive whine.

While this satirical column was funny and made me smile, it also brought to mind an entirely different type of story from motivational speaker Dan Clark, published in the Chicken Soup for the Soul book series. It was about an older man recalling an event that happened to him while he was very young and the admiration he had gained for his father. The story went like this:

"Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets



JOANNE
BYRNE

for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. You could tell they didn't have a lot of money. Their clothes were not expensive, but they were clean. The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, elephants and other acts they would see that night. One could sense they had never been to the circus before. It promised to be a highlight of their young lives.

The ticket lady quoted the price.

The man didn't have enough money.

Seeing what was going on, my dad put his hand into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill and dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man knew what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking, embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied, "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. We didn't go to the circus that night, but we didn't go without."

It was a wonderful Christmas story and lightened my heart to hear of the unselfish generosity we see every day in the midst of this worldwide pandemic. Yes, we all do need a little Christmas. I hope each of you have a wonderful, peaceful, and safe holiday season.

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.

Insuring Your Future

Year-End Reminders And COVID Vaccine Update

COVID vaccine and insurance: Most insurance carriers are covering the cost for both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes those on Medicare as well as group and individual insurance. It will not be subject to any deductible or copay. The vaccine will be available at certain retail pharmacies in addition to physicians' offices. The vaccine will initially be made available to frontline workers. Once the vaccine is available to the public, people over age 65 will have first priority.

Does your insurance plan include reimbursement for dental or eyewear? Don't forget to submit receipts for reimbursement. Any benefits not claimed by Dec. 31 will be lost. This also applies to over-the-counter medications. While the credit each

quarter does roll forward, it resets at the end of the calendar year. Don't leave money on the table.

COBRA over age 65: Recently several questions have arisen regarding whether someone over age 65 can elect COBRA. While it is possible, it is not advisable because unlike group insurance, you will not qualify for a special election period, meaning you cannot elect Medicare Part B until the annual enrollment period (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7). More importantly, you may incur a penalty for not signing up for Medicare Part B within the timeframe required (60 days after losing health coverage). As a rule, the COBRA premium is more



TRISH
PEARSON

than the standard Medicare Part B premium of \$148 per month, and if combined with a \$0 premium Medicare Advantage plan the total monthly cost is far less.

Did you miss the deadline to change Medicare insurance plans? You will have another opportunity to make a change during the first quarter of 2021. This is the period known as the open enrollment period when you may change Medicare Advantage plans or switch to Medicare with a supplement and prescription drug plan. Contact your agent if you are considering making a change. This is especially important if something unexpected occurs that makes your

current plan not a poor fit.

2020 has been a challenging year for the insurance industry. However, the future looks bright and we are hopeful that health insurance will continue to be available to everyone at an affordable price. Our health and the health of our nation depend on people having access to consistent healthcare. My hope is that 2021 brings good health and prosperity in a post-COVID world.

Happy, healthy holidays to all.

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

Amity Student's Photo Chosen For Exhibition



Orange Amity student Riley Palazzo's photo was selected for inclusion in the Drexel University High School Photography Context Exhibition. Photo by Riley Pallazzo.

in the Drexel University High School Photography Contest Exhibition.

There were over 2,100 photographs received, with 771 individual students submitting photographs, 348 schools represented and work submitted by 39 states. This year the whole exhibition is online at drexelphotocontest.com.

Amity teacher Lisa Toto said, "I was beaming with pride when I realized Riley's accomplishment and the students in the Photo III Class cheered with excitement for their classmate. The kids

Amity student Riley Palazzo of Orange received was announced on Dec. 10 as the first Amity Regional High School student ever to be chosen to have her work shown

somehow always rise to the top and teach me more than I teach them. It's just an amazing thing to realize and I feel its importance often."

Contemporary Chaise for Sale



Contemporary chaise lounge for sale. Benchmade by Preview Furniture Company and purchased from Doma's Contemporary Interiors in 1996. Blanket-wrapped and stored since then. Top grain, smooth grey leather. 73 inches long, 28 inches deep, 26 inches high. Original price \$4,771; offered at \$1,995. Contact 2030.393.8097. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Milford Scouts Camp Safely During Pandemic



This year has become a major challenge for scouting. The COVID-19 pandemic has made meeting and scheduling events difficult, but Troop 12 in Milford has successfully stayed connected successfully so far. Scouts from Troop 12 camped at Camp Pomperaug in Union during the first weekend of November. The scouts followed all the pandemic guidelines set by the state and local council and were able to enjoy a tent camping weekend. The troop's Senior Patrol Leader, Ben Cap, along with other leaders, helped plan and organize the weekend's activities. The plan was to work with the newer Boy Scouts on outdoor, nature and fire-building skills. Boy Scout Troop 12, chartered by the VFW Post 7788, meets at the St. Agnes Church hall in Milford every Thursday. Scouts currently belonging to the troop are from Milford and Orange. Photos courtesy of Jeffery Cap.

Stillwater Wellness Opens In Orange



Stillwater Wellness held a ribbon-cutting for its new location in Orange recently. From left: Grace Mizzoni, Alex Mizzoni, Sara Socci, Suzi Smolinsky, Ian Smolinsky, Madeleine Mizzoni, Miles Mizzoni and Sam Mizzoni. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Stillwater Wellness celebrated opening its doors at 663 Orange Center Rd. at the Orange Shopping Center in downtown Orange with a recent ribbon-cutting.

The business offers massage, skincare, meditation, yoga and Thai bodywork. Proprietors Ian and Suzi Smolinsky hold multiple licenses and certifications to help bridge the gap between self-care and healthcare.

The pair has 35 years of experience and

knowledge of healthcare and emergency service between them. They say that they tailor sessions to the individual needs and goals of all their clients. Additionally, first responders, active duty and retired military receive 20 percent off services and body work.

To ensure the safety and health of all, sessions are currently by appointment only. Call or text 475-731-8279 to schedule an appointment or go online to stillwater-wellness.com.

Orange Releases Snow Policy



Driver Troy Lagase and Orange Highway Department Crew Chief Donald Foyer stand beside the town's newest snow truck. Photo courtesy of the Orange Highway Department.

Orange has released its snow plowing policy for the 2020-2021 winter season.

According to the policy, streets are plowed and sanded in order of priority. Main (collector) roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead-end streets. Side streets will remain unplowed if the main roads require repeat plowing due to heavy snowfall.

All snowplows angle the same way: to the driver's right. While plowing, the plow will push the snow in front of residential driveways. The homeowner is responsible for access to his/her driveway. The only way to avoid additional snow removal is to wait until Department of Public Works crews have completed their final cleanup of the road.

The town repairs or replaces only those mailboxes and/or posts that are directly struck by the plow blade. A paint mark or tire tracks usually provide evidence of a mailbox strike. The town does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of plowed snow. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal, including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside. The town discourages using plastic mailboxes and/or posts as they are more easily subject to damage. Public Works recommends the use of a 4-inch by 4-inch wooden post or 2-inch metal pipe with a metal mailbox.

Orange prohibits private plow contractors from pushing snow from private driveways or parking lots onto town streets. This

practice is dangerous and impedes the town's snow removal efforts. If there is no other alternative to pushing the snow into the street, the plow driver must plow off the windrow left across the street by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but certainly should be no worse than when the driver began work.

Orange's Snow Removal Ordinance takes effect on Nov. 1 of each year and continues to April 1 of the following year. During this time, there is no parking allowed on public roads during snowstorms. Should a vehicle be parked on the street causing an obstruction to snow removal vehicles, the Police Department may ticket or remove it. The owner is responsible for the cost of removal and any other subsequent fees.

The Orange Highway Department suggests Orange residents install "snow stakes" now before the ground freezes. It is difficult to distinguish between the pavement edge and the edge of a lawn in heavy snowfall. Installing stakes along property edges as close to pavement as possible without interfering with traffic will help homeowners avoid lawn damage, especially for properties with underground sprinklers or invisible fencing. Snow stakes should be 30-36 inches high and can be purchased at a local hardware store. The top three inches of wooden stakes can be painted red to increase visibility against snow.

The Department of Public Works can be reached at 203-891-4775.

Your Finances

Give Your 401k Plan A Checkup

Year-end financial planning can encompass a wide range of considerations such as maximizing your retirement plan or health savings account contributions, initiating or updating an estate plan, tax loss harvesting and planned charitable giving. One often overlooked topic is a careful review of your 401(k) plan. Whether you are an employer/plan sponsor offering a plan or an employee participating in one, there is a tendency to leave the plan on autopilot after the initial setup.

An employer offering a 401(k), also referred to as a plan sponsor, has specific responsibilities and liabilities as referenced in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the primary statute governing these plans. As a fiduciary, the plan sponsor has an ongoing legal obligation to oversee the plan and to act solely in the best interests of the participants. An annual review of the plan assists in confirming that the plan sponsor is meeting these responsibilities. A yearly checkup should include the following:

- A review of plan documents including the investment policy statement. Doing so will help ensure that you are offering an

up-to-date and optimum plan design. This is particularly timely, as the IRS recently announced a two-year window for all qualified plans to restate or update their plan documents to reflect recent legislative and regulatory changes.

- Benchmarking of plan fees to determine their reasonability. Plan sponsors have a fiduciary responsibility to review all fees associated with the plan, including investment expenses.

Excessive fees can substantially reduce participant savings and retirement income.

- Review of participation and savings rates. This is one way an employer can determine the effectiveness of their 401(k) plan.

- An evaluation of the plan investment performance in conjunction with an investment policy statement. This is important in demonstrating that the plan sponsor has instituted a prudent process for the selection, monitoring and replacement of the investment choices.



MATT GALLAGHER

An employee participating in a 401(k) should also undertake an annual plan checkup. The actions or inaction of plan participants will have a direct impact on their ability to save for retirement. A participant checkup should include:

- A review of plan provisions. In order to take full advantage of a plan, it is important for participants to be aware of the various provisions and benefits of their plan. For instance, some employers will match a certain percentage of participant contributions. Many plans also allow for both pre-tax and after-tax (Roth) deferrals. Determining whether to use pre-tax or Roth deferrals and the resulting tax consequences is an important long-term consideration.

- Consider an annual increase in the amount being contributed into the plan. While not everyone can maximize their deferral amount (\$19,500 for 2020, plus an additional \$6,500 if over age 50), even incremental increases can dramatically

increase an account balance by retirement.

- Use a gap analysis tool to gauge whether you are tracking toward an adequate level of retirement savings. Most plan providers provide this type of reporting, wherein a participant's income replacement is estimated based upon their age, current assets and contributions.

- Discuss your investment allocation with your financial professional. All plans offer a menu of different investments to choose from, but which option is best is not always clear. A financial professional can assist in ensuring your investments are aligned with your risk tolerance and retirement goals.

- If you are nearing completion of the saving stage, consider what potential options are available during the spending stage. A comprehensive financial plan that includes a review of other investment and distribution options can assist in preparing for retirement.

Matt Gallagher is a partner and head of business development at TrinityPoint Wealth. He can be reached at 203-693-8519 or by email mgallagher@trinitypointwealth.com.

St. Mary School Releases Honors List

St. Mary School in Milford has announced its academic honors list for the fall semester.

Grade 8 high honors: Lily Baird, Faith Doyle, Jackson Doyle, Isabella Eyler, Gabriella Grande, Jackson LaVecchia, Jack McInnis, Caden Piselli, Audrey Voges and Alyssa Zinker.

Grade 8 honors: Sara Andreesen, Ava Bottino, Anthony Dente, Evan Fletcher, Suixian Gonzalez, Charlotte LaVecchia, Aubrie Nichols, Tyler Nickolenko,

Mackenzie Pelosi, Kaleigh Richards, Mackenzie Richards, Tatum Santos, Megan Vella, Bridget Vitti, Madelyn Wolfe and Bohdan Zazulak-Collins.

Grade 7 high honors: Layla Alogna, Reese Caterbone, Kaitlyn Dzialo, George Ganim, Molly Gunning, Addison Harry, Clare Hayes and Hannah Newman.

Grade 7 honors: Ava Aspden, William Bader, Robert Baird, Nora Burrell, Katelyn Coleman, Erika Fabian, Bianca Maciel, Avery Moulton, Eli Ssenyange, Josh

Tandon, Grace Tonelli and Noah Tork.

Grade 6 high honors: Everett Alogna, Rica Mayugba, William Rosati, Tessa Santos, Nicholas Shields and Emily Vella.

Grade 6 honors: Cole Alogna, Everett Cweklinski, Peyton Durand, Colton Heslin, Baran Kiranlioglu, Alex Konlian, Elizabeth Kron, Vanessa Lawrie, Cara Mikoliczyk, Justin Nunez, Kaylee Pellino, Nicholas Preneta, Sophia Savoia, Vivian Sawyer, Pierce Scudder and Nicholas Stubbs.

Milford Transfer Station Extended Hours To End

The last full day for extended hours at the Milford Transfer Station will be Saturday, Jan. 2. The facility will be open that day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Transfer Station will resume regular Saturday hours, from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 9. Extended Saturday hours will resume in the spring.

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As we approach 2021, we all reflect on the way our lives and our world so radically have been altered in 2020. We wish comfort to those who endured struggle, courage to face the challenges still remaining, and confidence that with wisdom, trust, and mutual respect, we all will be able to get through this.

Steven P. Floman, Allison M. DePaola-Drozd, and Nicole M. Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors of this advertisement.

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www.flomandepaola.com

Creative Snowmen Take Over Milford Green



The Milford Prevention Council hosted its first annual Frosty Fest fundraiser, encouraging residents and businesses to buy a snowman or candy cane they could decorate for display on the town green. The event was so successful that the organization ran out of snowmen. *Photos by Brandon T. Bisceglia.*

Maroney Gets Committee Posts

State Sen. James Maroney (D-Milford) has been named chair of the General Law Committee, chair of the Regulation Review Committee, and vice chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly. Maroney was appointed these roles by Senate President Martin M. Looney (D-New Haven).

"I am thankful to Senator Looney for allowing me to lead three separate committees," said Maroney said. "There is a lot of work to be done with the continuation of helping veterans after they serve. I look forward to being able to review regulations proposed by state agencies to make sure it is fair for all involved and am thrilled I will be able to contribute to reviewing matters relating to general laws of fair trades, sale

practices, and consumer protection."

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs has cognizance of all matters relating to military and veterans' affairs, except veterans' pensions.

The General Law Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Consumer Protection, fair trade and sales practices, consumer protection, mobile homes and occupational licensing, except licensing by the Department of Public Health; and all matters relating to alcoholic beverages.

It is the responsibility of the Legislative Regulation Review Committee to review regulations proposed by state agencies and approve them before those regulations are implemented.

Surprised Pumpkin Wins Orange Contest



A surprised looking Jack-O-Lantern won the People's Choice Award at the first Orange Pumpkin Blaze, sponsored by the Orange Volunteer Fire Department and its Auxiliary. *Photo courtesy of the OVFD.*

A surprised, one-eyed pumpkin won the People's Choice Award at the Orange

Volunteer Fire Department's first pumpkin-carving contest.

Adria Boyle won the top prize. She carved the face into the surface of the pumpkin. And just to make it just a little more Halloween-scary, the missing eye – a chunk of stringy pumpkin – sits on the bench in front of the winning gourd.

Other winners included: Brynn Panapada, happiest pumpkin; Kate Panapada, cutest pumpkin; Chloe Clemens, prettiest pumpkin; Helene Flynn, best traditional pumpkin; Silas Hill, most hungry pumpkin; Kaury and Ian Kucera, most intricate pumpkin; Zoe Kucera, most adorable pumpkin; Melissa Parniawski, spookiest pumpkin; Orange Children's Dentistry, most unusual pumpkin; Mia Quoka, most athletic pumpkin; and Greyson Fatone, most team spirited pumpkin. Winners received a certificate.



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Recycling Tip

By Loretta Smith

December is coming to a close, so it's time to wrap up those gifts for the holidays. Did you know most wrapping paper is not recyclable? Here are some good "wrappers" for your gifts. These wraps can go in your blue recycling bins and you'll be doing a humongous favor to our earth (and your wallet) by using them:

- Newspaper: wrap it with pretty ribbon and sprigs of greens or berries. Watch this YouTube video at youtu.be/BQM8KKP-3Oo for beautiful ideas that avoid ribbon and tape.
- Paper grocery bags. A few crayons and twine will brighten them up. Get your kids involved.
- Paper takeout bags from restaurants. A little twine, evergreens and a gift tag will finish it off.
- Glass jars from jams or sauces. Fill them with homemade cookies, candy, cereal mixes or candles. Wrap them with a piece of twine and a homemade gift tag.
- Gift bags some big-order companies such as Amazon offer to wrap your gifts in. They're material and a little expensive but stunning. Order them once and reuse them forever.
- No wrapping. Purchase gifts that need no cover: gift certificates from Orange merchants, cooking classes, museum passes, trips or spa visits. Have lots of fun and be creative this year.

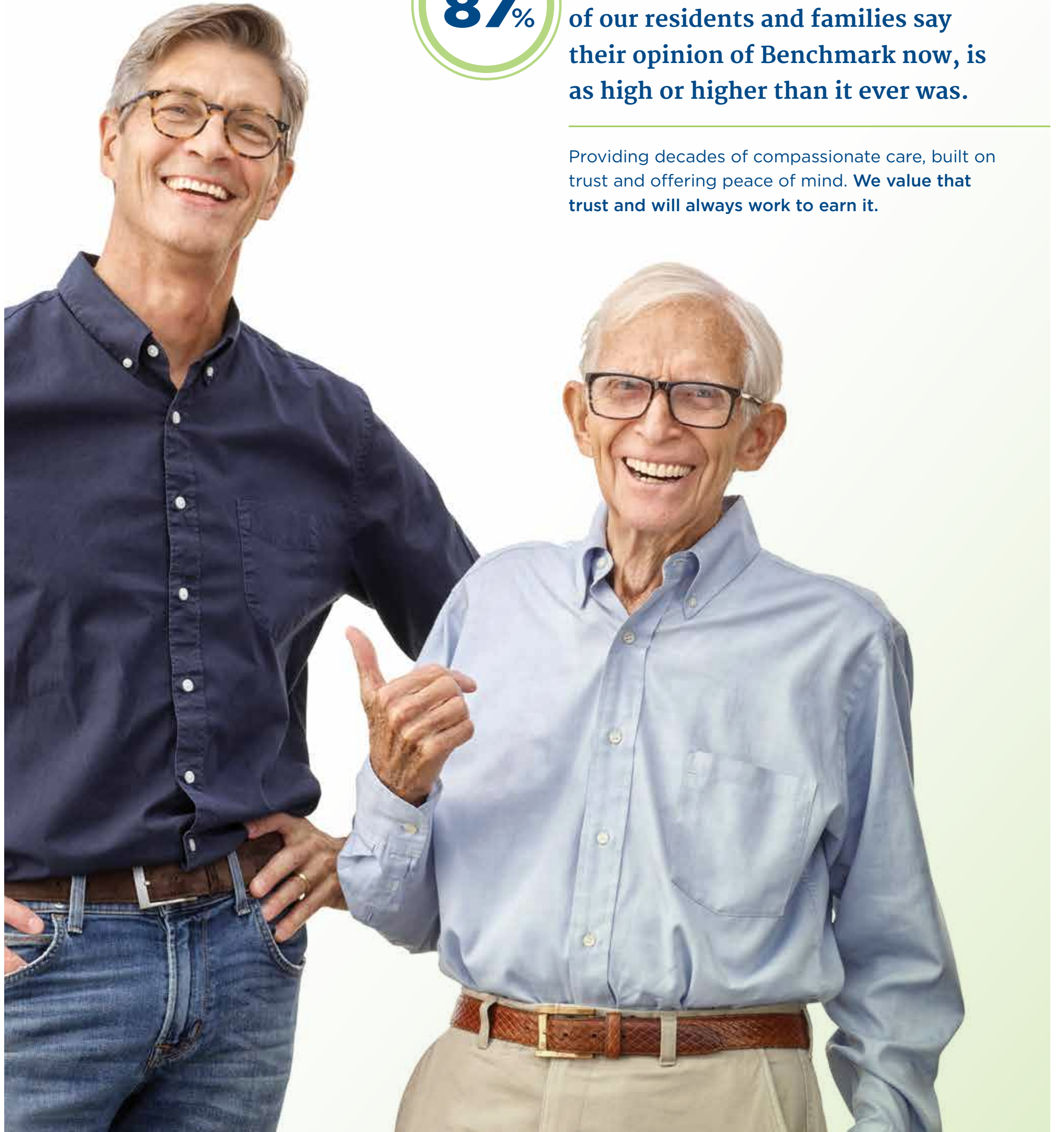
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Obituaries

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.



Paul Boehmke, age 73, died suddenly on December 3, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Susan Adele (Allen) D'Ambrosio passed away peacefully at home in Milford, CT on April 6, 2020.



Jean McNamara Flanagan was born Sept. 1, 1928 and died on Dec. 11, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Leslie Carl Abrams, 70, of Orange, passed away peacefully Nov. 23, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David H. Buchanan, age 77, of Milford, died peacefully on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Edna Sherman Dineson, passed away in her home on Saturday, November 21, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Linda Jane Fleming, 74, of Guilford, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Rodger Jon Addil, 72, of Beacon Falls (formerly of Orange), passed away on December 8, 2020 from complications of COVID-19.



Dorothy Olsen Charest, 92, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 27, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Philip Bodwell Dodge, Jr., age 88, of Milford, entered into peaceful rest on Dec. 5. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Marie (Del Maestro) Gatti of Milford was Born Feb. 28, 1922 and passed away Dec. 6, 2020. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Margaret Shamy Angelo, 81, of Orange and Delray Beach, Florida, on November 16, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



A. William Cornell, age 103, of Fairfield, died on Sunday, November 15, 2020 surrounded by his family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Sally D. Everett, age 91, of Milford, died on Monday, November 30, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Richard A. Gaudette, age 85, of Milford, beloved husband of Yolanda Molinelli Gaudette for 60 years, died on Saturday, November 14, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Robert Edward Avery, Sr., of Milford, passed away peacefully November 16, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David A. Csejka, 85, of Orange, passed away peacefully November 29, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Francis (Frank) Feurer, longtime resident of Orange, entered into a peaceful rest on Sunday, November 15, 2020. (Keenan Funeral Home)



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Obituaries



Brian William Glifort, age 63, of West Haven, died on Saturday, November 21, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Helen Louise Horton, age 96, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 10th, 2020, at the Milford Rehab Center in Milford. (Fred D. Knapp & Son Funeral Home)



Gary L. Kuchachik, 57, of Orange passed away peacefully on Dec. 6 with his family by his side after a long and courageous battle with multiple sclerosis. (North Haven Funeral Home)



Ruth M. (Lewis) Moss, age 91, of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on December 4, 2020, at home with family beside her. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Mary E. Hanacek, of Milford, age 97, passed away peacefully at home on November 24, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John "Jack" William Hughes, 91, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Hughes, passed away peacefully on December 3, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Eileen E. Lawton, age 91, longtime resident of Milford, entered into peaceful rest on November 21, 2020 at Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Louise Bedron Murphy, age 95 of Orange, wife of the late John G. Murphy, died peacefully on November 15, 2020. (Wakelee Funeral Home)



John Francis Halleran, age 89, of Milford, beloved husband of Pauline A. Ahearn, died on Saturday, November 14, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Jennifer Marie Hussey, 49, of Milford, passed away unexpectedly at home on December 6, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Judith M. Leeman, age 74, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Dec. 4, 2020 at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Lily Ruth O'Donnell, age 28, of Milford, died on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Veronica Connors Hendrick of Orange peacefully passed away, at the age of 88, after spending a joyful day surrounded by her loving family. (Sisk Brothers Funeral Home)



Mickey (Maude) Johnson, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Thanksgiving Day, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kathleen McElligott Long passed away peacefully on November 25, 2020 at the age of 85 years in Wallingford, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Salvatore Pesce of Milford, formerly of Norwalk, passed away on November 14, 2020 at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. (Raymond Funeral Home)



Salvatore John Mastropole, age 76, of Orange, beloved husband of 49 years to Barbara (Zarky) Mastropole, died on Dec. 7. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Joseph Piccolo, age 54, of Milford, beloved husband of Barbara Piccolo for 30 years, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)

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Obituaries



Betty Lou Randall, 81, of West Haven, beloved wife of the late Terry Randall, passed away on November 15, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Jeffrey Peter Salito, 54, of Milford, entered into Eternal Peace surrounded by his loving family and friends on Nov. 23, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Steve Sowka, 75, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 19, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Apolonia Rose Williams, 97, of Port Charlotte, FL, passed away peacefully Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Solaris Healthcare of Charlotte Harbor. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Alice Jean Ruane, age 79, beloved wife of the late James F. Ruane, died peacefully on Sunday, November 22, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Rosemary Cama Sasso 95, of Orange passed away on November 19, 2020 at her home. (Porto Funeral Home)



Camille A. "Ky" Theriault, 85, of Milford, Connecticut, devoted husband, father, and Grampy, passed away peacefully with his loving wife of 57 years by his side, on November 27, 2020.



Regina M. Wolf, beloved mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, friend and pillar of her community, ended her valiant struggle with cancer and COVID-19 on November 21, 2020. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



Salvatore T. Rapacciuolo, 79, of Milford entered into rest on December 1, 2020. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Richard A. Schuler, Sr., age 84, of Milford, died on Nov. 16 surrounded by his loving family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Linda Ann (LaLuna) Tschilke was born April 19, 1951 and died at age 69 on Dec. 11, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Peter Raymond Wright, age 54, of Milford, beloved husband of Marcie Lowy Wright for 23 years, died unexpectedly on Thursday, November 12, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Robert Anthony Sabia, Sr., age 66, beloved husband of Faith P. DelVecchio Sabia, entered eternal rest on November 30, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury with his beloved wife by his side. (Wakelee Funeral Home)



Euel Tannis Sims, Jr. 60, of Milford, passed away on November 13, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Marc E. Vincent of Orange, CT passed away on December 2, 2020 after a brief illness. (Iovanne Funeral Home)



Phyllis Ann Zander, 87, of Milford, Beloved wife of the late Fred Zander, passed away on November 29, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Edward A. Skonieczki was born Oct. 31, 1927 and died Dec. 11, 2020 at age 93. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



June L. Walton "Junebug", 90, of Orange, passed away peacefully on December 4, 2020. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

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-Doug Manning

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<p>SAVE \$3 Baileys Irish Cream 750 ml Reg. Price: \$32.99 Sale Price \$29.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$5 Tanqueray Gin 1.75 lt Reg. Price: \$34.99 Sale Price \$29.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$6 Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 1.75 lt Reg. Price: \$32.99 Sale Price \$26.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$6 Campari 750 ml Reg. Price: \$33.49 Sale Price \$27.49</p>	<p>SAVE \$5 Jefferson's Small Batch 750 ml Reg. Price: \$30.99 Sale Price \$25.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$5 Hendrick's Gin 750 ml Reg. Price: \$34.99 Sale Price \$29.99</p>
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<p>SAVE \$4 Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml Reg. Price: \$14.98 Sale Price \$10.98</p>	<p>SAVE \$3 Sterling Vintners Wines (Chard, Cab...) 750 ml Reg. Price: \$13.99 Sale Price \$10.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$2 Luna di Luna Wines 1.5 lt Reg. Price: \$15.99 Sale Price \$13.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$3 Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml Reg. Price: \$16.99 Sale Price \$13.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$2 Barefoot Wines All types 1.5 lt Reg. Price: \$12.99 Sale Price \$10.99</p>	<p>SAVE \$2 Sutter Home Wines All types 1.5 lt Reg. Price: \$12.99 Sale Price \$10.99</p>

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