

# Milford-Orange Times

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March 11, 2021

## Orange Residents Get Vaccinated



*By Brandon T. Bisceglia*

High Plains Community Center has become ground zero in Orange for vaccine administration.

Vaccinations have ramped up significantly in the past month as supplies have increased and more age groups have become eligible to receive the shots.

Getting vaccines into the arms of people has not been without challenges, and has required a coordinated effort among town officials, led by the Health Department and the Orange Visiting Nurse Association.

"The Orange Health Department has been actively working to fulfill the

mission of keeping our community safe and healthy during the time of pandemic," said Dr. Amir Mohammad, who heads that department. "Despite multiple challenges including lack of local public health funding and staff employees, the Orange Health Department has been able to offer these weekly COVID-19 vaccine clinics with the help and dedication of our volunteers."

"We have been receiving several positive responses from our Orange residents who found our clinic to be conveniently located and are greatly appreciative after

*Continued on page 3*

## Orange TPZC Denies New Turkey Hill Plan

*By Brandon T. Bisceglia*

The third denial by town officials for a developer who wants to build a controversial housing development off Turkey Hill Road in Orange took only one meeting.

The Town Plan & Zoning Commission on March 2 opened – and closed – discussion, then unanimously voted to reject a site plan application proposed by a team representing town resident

Richard Meisenheimer, who wants to build 10 multifamily residential buildings and a single community building on a compilation of parcels on the 22.5-acre property that he owns.

A different proposal for the same property was the subject of strong opposition in 2018 and was ultimately denied by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission. The current plan for the multifamily development also

*Continued on page 3*



Visitors to the Orange vaccination clinic at High Plains Community Center on March 4 receive their doses of vaccine against COVID-19. Photos by Steve Cooper.

## Orange Voters Approve Race Brook Sale

*By Brandon T. Bisceglia*

Voters in Orange agreed by overwhelming margins in a referendum on Feb. 16 to let the town purchase the Race Brook Country Club. The final tally was 1,692 in favor and 769 against.

Town officials will now move forward to buy the 287 acres on which the Race Brook

Country Club sits for \$8.5 million, then lease the land back to the club with rent starting in 2022 at \$250,000 per year. The lease will last 40 years with an escalation to the rent every five years.

The measure had enjoyed vocal bipartisan support from members of the Board of

*Continued on page 3*

## Milford Chamber President Leaving

Pam Staneski will be stepping down as president of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce in April 2021, according to the Board of Directors.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our businesses and community," Staneski said. "This is more than a job to me. I truly love the community and am so thankful for having had the opportunity to represent its businesses and the chamber organization for the past two years. I have met some wonderful people and truly consider them friends. I ask that you

*Continued on page 14*



Pam Staneski.

## Final "Grave Matters" New Columnist

See page 4



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# News & Events

## A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles



A 1929 shot of workers on the Orange stretch of the New Haven and Derby Railroad. Photo courtesy of the Orange Historical Society.

I am amazed by the pure volume of railroad track that crisscrossed Orange in the 1920s. This photo, although not the best quality, is one of my favorites. The two shadows on the overpass appear to be workers of the New Haven and Derby Railroad, later the New Haven Railroad. Taken in October of 1929, this shot is looking north towards what is now Derby Avenue from Derby-Milford Road.

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](mailto: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.*

## Milford Coastal Center Sponsoring Photo Contest

The Connecticut Audubon Society is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Center at Milford Point by partnering with Milford Photo in a photography contest highlighting the wildlife, environment and visitors of the Coastal Center.

The contest is open to all amateur photographers excluding staff and board members of Connecticut Audubon Society.

Photographs must be taken over the last 25 years at the Coastal Center. They can include the center's building and grounds, such as the marsh observation platform, Long Island Sound observation platform, outer platform and adjoining sandbar.

The contest has four categories: birds; the environment—landscapes/seascapes; people in nature; and youth photographers for ages 18 and younger. Each category will have first, second and third prizes. A grand prize will also be awarded to one of the first place winners.

Entry fees are \$25 per photograph submitted for adults over 18 and \$10 per photograph submitted for those 18 and younger. Each photographer is limited to a

maximum of five submissions.

Entries must be high-resolution jpeg files and use a standard naming format: Last Name\_category\_email\_address\_submission(number 1-5 for multiple submissions).

First place winners will receive a \$100 store gift certificate to Milford Photo; second place will get a \$50 store gift certificate, and third place will get a \$25 store gift certificate. The grand prize winner will receive a Tamron 100-400mm F/4.5-6.3 Di VC USD telephotos lens valued at \$799 compatible with Cannon and Nikon cameras (or a 70-300mm F/4.5-6.3 Di III RXD lens valued at \$499 for Sony cameras).

Winning photos will be highlighted on the Connecticut Audubon Society and Milford Photo websites. With the submitter's permission, winning photos will also be featured in a 2022 calendar that will be sold to support the Coastal Center.

For more information and to register, visit [ctaclub.org/2021/01/coastal-center-25th-anniversary-photo-contest/](http://ctaclub.org/2021/01/coastal-center-25th-anniversary-photo-contest/).

## Milford Registrars Of Voters Conducting Annual Canvass

The Milford registrars of voters began canvass mailings to Milford voters to verify their voter information on Feb. 5. The mailings, which are conducted per Connecticut state statute, will continue through May 1. Voters are asked to verify

the information and return the form within 30 days. If the addressee no longer resides at the address, do not open envelope. Instead write "Return to Sender" on the unopened envelope and return it to the postal carrier.



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# News & Events

## Turkey Hill (Continued From 1)

faced vociferous disapproval from neighbors, who have argued the proposal is too dense for the area. The plan was denied in January 2020 by the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission – a decision is currently being appealed.

The current proposal includes an affordable housing element, which under state law prevents zoning boards from denying applications for reasons other than health and safety.

A related petition to amend zoning regulations to allow for special use standards for an active adult community in a residential district was set aside because it had not yet been vetted by other town departments.

TPZC Chair Oscar Parente said that neither Meisenheimer nor his representatives intended to appear before the commission to defend their application. In a letter that Parente read aloud, he said that Meisenheimer's team believed that it already had an approval for their site plan because the commission had not acted on it in a timely manner.

The letter noted Connecticut state statutes require zoning boards to approve a site plan application within 65 days after receipt of the site plan. An additional 65 days can be granted with consent from the applicant.

The letter argues that Meisenheimer's site plan application was delivered to the commission on Oct. 6, 2020 and no extension was given. Emergency orders from Gov. Ned Lamont's administration during the coronavirus pandemic give boards a 90-day extension, but Meisenheimer's team said that could only be invoked if they had consented to the extra 65 days first.

Parente immediately shot down that argument after he finished reading the letter,

pointing out that the 90-day extension given under the emergency orders superseded any consent required from the applicant.

Town counsel Barbara Schellenberg echoed Parente's position.

"I think the plain language of the executive order makes clear that the 90-day extension is automatic and there does not have to be a 65-day extension granted by the applicant first."

Additionally, Zoning Administrator and Enforcement Officer Jack Demirjian had determined that the plan was inaccurately scaled, that the applicant did not receive the proper approvals from the fire marshal, the traffic commission or the police chief and that there was no traffic impact study or lighting plan submitted.

"In this case, the matter never got put on the agenda because the application was never complete," Parente said in explaining the delay.

"Let's consider the following," said Commissioner Kevin Cornell shortly before the vote to deny. "We have no input from the police department because the applicant refused to meet with them, so we don't know about any public safety issues. We don't have any input from the fire marshal about whether his equipment can service this development because the applicant refused to meet with him, so we have that public safety concern. We have anecdotal evidence from the adjoining property owners in the neighborhood that there's a traffic concern that could cause problems with school-aged children from the Turkey Hill School immediately adjoining it, and the bus stops, and people trying to enter and egress the site."

"We have significant health, safety and welfare questions" that can't be answered because the applicant refused to appear before the commission, Parente said.

## Vaccinations (Continued From 1)

receiving their vaccination appointment in a timely manner," Mohammad noted.

Some of those who attended were getting their shots on March 4 echoed that sentiment.

"Let's get rid of this pandemic," said Laura Coppola of Orange. "I'm happy to be here getting my vaccine from such nice people."

Angela Town, who came over from Guilford for her appointment, said the clinic was very well run.

"Everyone was helpful and friendly," she said.

Terri Waldron, a nurse with the OVNA who coordinates the vaccination clinics, said that the group has been calling seniors over 75 to set them up with appointments to get vaccinated.

"Many of the seniors don't have email or internet and are not able to check the town's vaccine portal to register so they can be notified as to the time and date of the next clinic," Waldron said.

Once a resident has made an appointment, they may still face difficulties in getting to the vaccination site. The Orange Senior Center has stepped in to help people make and keep their appointments by offering transportation to anyone who needs it.

"What we at Community Services have been able to help with is to offer transportation for those who need a ride to the Orange clinic or any other local vaccination site," said Dennis March, who runs the Orange Senior Center. "The Community Services staff can also help those who are unable to log on to the internet and the town website to register for an appointment. We will complete the

registration form with those who need help and deliver it to the Health Department."

Marsh stressed that the Senior Center's role is just a small part of the whole. "The real work is performed by Terry Waldron and the staff of the OVNA, Dr. Mohammad and the Orange Health Department, the Emergency Management Advisory Committee, CERT, among others," he said.

Mohammad also stressed that the clinics are a team effort. "I had a vision to offer this essential service to our town residents and my team made it a reality. I am personally very grateful to all my team members who have dedicated their time and effort to this community wide campaign," he said.

However, Mohammad added, his department still does not have enough funding to maintain the clinics as more people become eligible to get vaccinated in the coming months.

"In order to continue this important public health service, the Orange Health Department is in dire need to have increased funding to hire and train essential public health workforce to serve our community this year and in the future," he said.

## Race Brook (Continued From 1)

Selectmen, including First Selectman Jim Zeoli.

The club has a storied history in town, having been in operation since 1912. According to the club's website, its most famous member was President William Howard Taft, who joined in 1913 and played regularly until he left New Haven in 1921 to become chief justice of the US Supreme Court.



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## Grave Matters

# Final Resting Place

Today's column, a bird's-eye view of changes in American burial practices since the Civil War, is my last.

For the past two years I have written about Orange residents buried in the Orange Center Cemetery as well as about ancestors buried in Milford. I was prompted to do so because my late husband, Howard B. Treat Jr., had deep roots in this area, and I wanted to learn more about people who helped shape our town. In the interim, both my husband and my son have died. The time has come for me to write my own family stories privately.

Since the 1860s, there have been significant cultural changes in American burial customs. Around the time of the Civil War, the practice of embalming became more and more common as families sought to bring back home the bodies of their

relatives who had died during the fighting.

Once the war ended, embalmers would go to the home of the deceased to prepare the body for home viewing and burial. In 1884, the National Association of Funeral Directors was organized.

Meanwhile as photography became common, families in some communities arranged to have the dead body of their family member photographed as a remembrance. Sometimes they were shown with another family member; other times the open casket was set up vertically and photographed by itself.

By the 1920s, funeral homes had replaced the family home as the place where bodies



TRISH  
O'LEARY  
TREAT

..... were embalmed and viewed.

The impact of the death of individuals on the community in which they lived was memorably dramatized by Hamden native Thornton Wilder in his 1939 play, *Our Town*.

During World Wars I and II, some families worked to get the coffins of the bodies of their sons and husbands who had died abroad back home to be buried locally. Others were willing to leave their loved ones buried in a military cemetery overseas.

Today, for a variety of factors from shifting religious beliefs to the significant expense of funerals to the fear in the 1980s of AIDS contagion, cremation has become as common as the burial of (usually

embalmed) bodies in caskets. In the past year's pandemic, online memorial services have often come to replace visits to funeral homes and graveside ceremonies for large numbers of mourners.

No matter what the future brings, the Orange Center Cemetery will remain a resting place for the bodies and ashes of those who have died before us and laid the foundation for our own way of life.

*Trish O'Leary Treat, a transplanted Midwesterner, began delving into Orange history when she married the late Howard B. Treat, whose Connecticut roots trace back to the 1600s. She has enjoyed sharing the fruits of her research with readers of The Milford Orange Times.*

## Ponder This

# Binary Choices Seem Deceptively Simple

Red Socks versus Yankees: is baseball in the air?

The business model has earned enormous profits for news outlets, sports franchises and TV entertainment during the past few decades. I am a Yankees fan as part of my identity and cultural upbringing, so I root, I cheer and occasionally mourn. But I never rethink my loyalty to the folks in stripes who lead the way. Such blind loyalty is forever, no matter how poorly or magnificently the other the team performs. Never the twain shall meet.

This devotion is a complex relationship among fans, players and the organization that has proved to be a boon in organized sports.

Such a successful, award-winning strategy for sports and the economy generally is not, however, a good fit for politics. Diehard allegiance can interfere with the civility, consensus and unity so necessary when encountering more complex issues in governance. Easy, discrete choices hide the inherent nuances of most issues. Life rarely presents an opportunity for such clear decision making.

The term "binary" refers to a social construct derived from mathematics in which all elements fit into either one

compartment or the other. The either/or concept may create direction for decisions. The risk is the potential to halt the robust dialogue so needed to solve complex issues. These superficial choices may not require the sophistication we are capable of. A binary divide may not be useful in important areas in which unity and collaboration are required.

Humans are capable of examining evidence and raw data, but binary choices can prevail before we can call upon such reasoning. Are we more tribal than we acknowledge? Perhaps we like being part of a team even if it means suspending our judgment to go along and belong?

A recent example in Connecticut politics dates back to the last election cycle when people were presented with a binary choice of tolls versus no tolls. This marketing did little to highlight the critical need for enhanced infrastructure or the important connections of transportation investments to the broader economy and future of the state. People were asked to decide on two separate and distinct options that may have delayed the decision making necessary to



ELLEN RUSSELL  
BEATTY

..... develop solutions. There may have been less visible outcomes that required fuller examination of an important issue. The either/or choice during the campaign may have delayed the start of a critical analysis and progress toward creative solutions. The binary choice fails to look at ultimate outcomes which may be different from immediate choices. It seems easier, faster and perhaps more comforting. We live in a busy world with too little leisure time and too much information. Binary decision models can be attractive and time-saving. But they are built on an inherent fallacy that choices consist of just two options. That fallacy can delay and worsen long-term outcomes. The danger is that the immediate is advanced without awareness of more far-reaching consequences.

Binary decision making can be a manipulation tactic. Our emotions take over, our fears emerge and our desire to win moves to the foreground. Once we pick a side, we no longer have to process information or use valuable time to ponder. Instead of being asked to decide on

"which one," the true question should be "how much" of either.

Binary political discourse takes us down the road to two opposing positions even when one position isn't real. Such strategies lead us to ignore the interconnecting parts of choices.

The best way to weaken this binary, forced choice version of politics is not to participate. People need to ask the difficult questions that require examination, analysis and dialogue before actions can be taken. It is not enough to be against an idea or a policy. Possible solutions must be suggested, examined and debated. There are no easy answers.

*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.*

## On Our Land

# The Soils Make The Land

As spring approaches, my thoughts are drifting to getting outside to work in the yard and garden. It is part of the appeal of living in suburban or rural settings, and a welcome respite from being cooped up this year by pandemic lockdowns.

I am an amateur gardener and landscaper with more lawn and woodlot than I really need, but I enjoy both the outdoor work and the results that work yields. And I am only slightly embarrassed to admit that I among those who survey the outdoor lots of home improvement centers during the winter to note when new bags of soils and fertilizers and mulch begin to appear on pallets. Hope springs eternal that these amendments to nature will aid my lawn and other plants.

In my regular job as a college instructor teaching geology to environmental science and civil engineering students, I approach the land and landscape more technically. Native or natural-occurring soils are a major course topic, not only since they support all life on land, but also since they are the substrate for building foundations, roadways and underground utilities, septic systems and everything else we place below the surface – from cemeteries to underground storage tanks. They are also notably more

varied than the packaged soils sold as topsoil, garden soil, lawn soil and the like.

Soil is continually forming at the boundary between the solid Earth and the atmosphere. However, Connecticut soils are relatively thin. This is due to New England's recent geologic history, where ice sheets have advanced and retreated across the landscape, removing any vestiges of older soil formation. The last ice sheet began to melt back from Long Island less than 20,000 years ago, and soils have been forming slowly since then.

Despite that short time span (at least geologically), local soils have formed with remarkable variety over short distances. Their features depend in part on the parent material from which they are derived – occasionally shallow bedrock but more typically glacial sediments or younger river floodplain sediments – as well as other factors such as slope and drainage and native vegetation.

Soils are intensively studied due to their importance in agriculture, land use



DAN  
MAY

..... management and construction. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the US Department of Agriculture, is the federal agency responsible for soil mapping and analysis, along with soil conservation. Nearly every US county has an NRCS office – ours is in Hamden – and educational outreach is an essential part of its mission. At the national level, the NRCS maintains an interactive web site called the Web Soil Survey at [websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/) where it is possible to obtain detailed information about soil units for almost any area in the USA.

It is not an exaggeration to note that this website provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world, and all free of charge. Website data is not merely of soil descriptions and properties, but also comprehensive information about suitability and limitations of local soils for almost any human use.

Many of the natural features described in a town's or city's plan for conservation and development are based on information from these soil surveys, including

floodplain delineation, wetlands, areas with poor infiltration that are prone to flash flooding, septic drain field concerns and slope limitations. Land use planning and zoning boards are well acquainted with this information, but it is readily available in even more detail at the Web Soil Survey.

For example, the Town of Orange's planned acquisition of Race Brook Country Club sent me quickly to look at the Web Soil Survey to see what makes up the land itself. It is easy to zoom in on that locale as an area of interest and see all that the property naturally has to offer.

The club straddles the drainage divide between the Wepawaug River and Indian River watersheds, with soils near Racebrook Road atop the drainage boundary forming on a variety of glacial deposits, while those to the east and west include some rich floodplain soils. Long after people have forgotten the rules of golf, those underlying attributes and related features will help guide the best use of this land.

*Dan May is a geologist and professor of environmental science at the University of New Haven. He can be contacted at [dmay@newhaven.edu](mailto:dmay@newhaven.edu).*

The Milford Chamber of Commerce

# Parting Thoughts On A Strong Chamber

Even the best things come to an end. After enjoying two years of writing this column for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, this will be my last. The Milford-Orange Times is about people, community, culture, experience, politics, the environment and business. I want to thank the editor-in-chief for allowing me the honor of sharing my thoughts on chamber life, our events and our businesses. It is one of the ways we connect community to business and business to community.



PAM STANESKI

I am honored to have had the opportunity these past two years to have worked with a forward-thinking board of directors that understands the role that the chamber plays in the community's growth and economic development. They have been instrumental in ensuring this chamber is on the right path and I am confident they will continue the momentum that we have all built together, supporting businesses through connectivity, resources, education, and advocacy.

And while my tenure is ending, I assure you that the chamber is still open for business. Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald will gladly make you a cup of coffee (albeit strong coffee) as he answers all questions about the chamber and our members.

Thanks to each of you for your

partnership and friendship during my time with the Chamber of Commerce. Every initiative the chamber has undertaken has been supported not only by members and community, but also by the city officials. I am confident in the strength of this chamber and excited to transition our work to a great new leader who will hit the ground running and provide strong customer service to our members and the business community.

I was recently asked by a member what is the best piece of advice I could give to businesses. My response: the customer is always right and always treating that customer as if they are your family. Customer service is not just for retail; it is for all businesses. Make the customers happy and they will return with their friends. Let them down and the whole world will hear about it.

This goes for chambers as well. The vitality of our chamber lies in its members and the Milford Regional Chamber is home to the best group of members who contribute significantly to the vibrancy, health and cohesive spirit that our community enjoys.

I ask that you remember that and buy local, because these businesses are the ones giving back to our schools for prom, for baseball programs and supporting things that need funding, and they know you are family.

Goodbye and good luck to all.

The Rotary Club of Orange

# Orange Rotary Combating Throwaway Culture

By Phil Smith



Imagine opening the *Milford-Orange Times* one day and seeing an advertisement for a "pet feeding bowl" that "comes with a wrought-iron stand and six disposable, waterproof bowls to eliminate any washing up chore. Stand and six dishes \$9.76." Or a "disposable pan – eliminates scouring of pots after cooking. It consists of a steel frame and heavy foil pans to throw out. Frame with eight pans is \$29."

Would you buy such things?

These items were considered to be harbingers of the future of homemaking in 1955 when they were featured in an Aug. 1 *Life* magazine essay about the joys of a throwaway culture. (I have adjusted the costs cited above to account for inflation.)

A picture accompanying the *Life* article depicted a family tossing an incredible assortment of disposable items into the air. The reader was assured that "the objects flying through the air in this picture would take 40 hours to clean – except that no housewife need bother. They are all meant to be thrown away after use."

The depicted items even included disposable goose and duck decoys so sportsmen would understand that this new world included them as well.

Where are we 60 years later? The earth is filling up with discarded material of all types. Those "throwaway" plastic bottles take roughly 450 years to break down. Approximately 80 percent of the world's tap water is contaminated

with microplastics. Less than 10 percent of the 4 million tons of plastic bags produced in the U.S. each year are recycled even today. Most of us are familiar with the amount of pollution in our oceans.

Rotary clubs worldwide are beginning to work with environmental groups in ways big and small to combat the throwaway culture. The Rotary Club of Annapolis, Maryland, has for the past seven years run a large, zero-waste crab fest. Rotary clubs in Australia are focusing on diverting plastic from landfills. A large club in India no longer uses plastic disposables for its dinner events; a club in Malaysia employs pitchers and reusable cups instead of plastic water bottles for its events.

Here in Orange, our club has partnered with the town's Recycling Committee to move ahead with two projects. We have signed paperwork with The Home Depot to apply for a more substantial plastic bag recycling booth at the transfer station. (Perhaps you have noticed that the current flimsy booth split apart and eventually fell over during the recent winter storms.)

Second – save the date – on April 10 we will once again join the Recycling Committee to run an efficient, fast-moving paper shredding event. It will run from 9 a.m. to noon in the front parking lot of High Plains Community Center. The Mattress Recycling Council is also active that day in case you have mattresses or box springs to recycle. For further information, visit the Orange Recycling Committee website at [orangerecycles.com](http://orangerecycles.com).

*Phil Smith is the 2020-2021 president of the Rotary Club of Orange. He can be reached at [JamesPhilipSmith@gmail.com](mailto:JamesPhilipSmith@gmail.com).*

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## Colonial Properties...Your Hometown Realtors!

# Opinion & Editorial

## Sharing Legislative Work



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

This past week I voted to allow discussions for an entirely new tech-based industry to potentially come to Connecticut, and for additional payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, funding to come to Orange. Our economy needs action that is forward thinking, builds upon our history and supports our town and the state.

I can't list all of the legislation I have introduced or cosponsored, but here are some of the concepts I am working on:

- Providing greater access to mental and emotional health resources for our students.
- Legislation that works to recognize skills gained during military service and expands employment opportunities for veterans.
- Creating an outreach program that connects residents with local farms to expand agricultural literacy programs for better understanding of these important parts of our communities.
- Advocating for higher reimbursement rates for special education funding.
- Legislation that addresses food insecurity in children.
- Creating a grant program for historic building preservation.
- Support for small businesses/startups.

The next phase of eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine has started, allowing residents age 55-64 to make appointments, as well as educators from prekindergarten through grade 12 and licensed daycare providers. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has also been approved. It requires one dose and is able to remain at room temperature for longer. This will greatly assist with those who are homebound or cannot get to a standard vaccine clinic.

I know there have been frustrations regarding the shift in distribution plans, especially for those who have underlying conditions. Please note that while the age-based eligibility system does simplify some things, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is still a massive logistical operation and there may be delays due to supply shortages and weather. Your patience in this unprecedented effort is appreciated.

Orange is holding weekly vaccine clinics at High Plains Community Center; you can register and find more information on the town website at [orange-ct.gov](http://orange-ct.gov).

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contacted me. I know that we will not always agree, but I believe that an engaged citizenry is key to a healthy democracy. Please continue to reach out for more information and sign up for my weekly emails at [housedems.ct.gov/Welander](mailto:housedems.ct.gov/Welander). You can also email me at [mary.welander@cga.ct.gov](mailto:mary.welander@cga.ct.gov).

This feedback is also incredibly helpful when looking at initial legislation that is proposed. Every year there are bills that run the gamut of extremes on both ends; some of these proposals get a lot of attention, but have no chance of moving forward. Most concepts land somewhere in the middle, and as they evolve your input can help shape these ideas into something that will truly benefit our families, our communities and our state.

## Jump-Starting The Economy



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

Last week, I supported and voted for bipartisan legislation in the state House of Representatives that will encourage the development of data centers in Connecticut with the possibility of thousands of high-tech and construction jobs.

The proposal, HB-6514, An Act Concerning Incentives for Qualified Data Centers to Locate in the State, is intended to help boost development in economically distressed areas as well as leaving incentive decisions in the hands of local municipalities. The state Department of Economic and Community Development would then handle oversight of the centers to ensure that they made the minimum investments to qualify for the incentives.

A data center is a physical facility that enterprises use to house their business-critical applications and information. Data centers provide different functions depending on what the enterprise needs. They can provide: computing, the memory and processing power to run the applications (generally provided by high-end servers); storage, as important enterprise data is generally housed in a data center, on media ranging from tape to solid-state drives, with multiple backups; and networking through interconnections between data center components and to the outside world, including routers, switches and application-delivery controllers.

I was happy to support a proposal which will make Connecticut an attractive place for this kind of industry and brings its many jobs to the state and our communities.

Our House Republican caucus crafted together a common-sense policy framework to give Connecticut a fresh start after not only the pandemic but years of policy decisions that have made it unaffordable for too many residents and inhospitable to job creators. Our legislative proposals are guided by these principles:

- The cost of government should not be a burden on those it serves.
- New laws should resolve problems, not create them.
- Government's purpose is to protect and serve people, not special interests.
- Public access and oversight are vital to government accountability.
- Restoring trust in government requires government to trust people to make their own best choices for themselves and their families.

Several House Republican proposals will help restart our economy, such as using federal COVID relief funds to help replenish our state's unemployment compensation trust fund – the costs of which are borne by both employers and employees – and suspending the unemployment "experience rate" for pandemic-related layoffs.

We have also proposed "good government" measures such as requiring competitive bidding on all contracts with state agencies and quasi-public entities, requiring public hearings when state agency audit reports are issued and subjecting private entities that perform state government functions to a code of ethics and the Freedom of Information Act.

For a full list of our caucus proposals visit [cthousegop.com/restartct](http://cthousegop.com/restartct).

As always, please contact me should you have any questions or concerns on any topics relating to state government at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 800-842-1423.

## A Different Type Of Session



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

We're entering our third month of the virtual 2021 legislative session, and even though Connecticut has been shut down from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited to hosting committee meetings, public hearings and voting through online platforms, we're as busy as ever.

Over 2,500 proposed pieces of legislation have been filed. Having such a high volume of bills detracts from the real issue of getting Connecticut back on its feet.

We've had a number of public hearings halt public testimony, citing time constraints. However, doing so prevents the Connecticut voters from having their voices heard in Hartford. We are famously called the "peoples' legislature." How can we uphold that title if we prevent the people from taking part in the legislative process?

I continue to stand for our local businesses, workers and schools and look to support legislation that will aid employers and employees in recovering in the coming months. I have cosponsored legislation that will roll unused federal COVID-19 relief funds into the unemployment compensation trust fund to replenish what was used over the last year and to reduce the future tax burden on Connecticut's (already struggling) businesses.

I am also supporting legislation that will protect businesses and employers from unemployment insurance penalties. Many businesses were forced into layoffs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional monetary penalties through unemployment insurance can hinder these businesses from growing and rehiring again. The last thing Connecticut businesses need is another tax.

I'm looking to a brighter future and positive outlook in 2021. With that I would like to announce my "Monthly Mindful Message." Each month I look forward to bringing good news from the district to you. Together we can create a constructive and pleasant atmosphere.

This month, I would like to report that after a month-long socially distant undertaking, I, along with state Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, delivered hundreds of hand-made valentines to the West Haven Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Students from multiple schools, including our very own Live Oaks Elementary School in Milford, participated in creating the colorful and uplifting valentines. Veterans Affairs outreach volunteers Michael Lejeune and John Daniels were on hand to receive and distribute the valentines to the resident veterans. I have tremendous gratitude for the faculty and teachers. Without their dedicated assistance, as well as that of the students and their parents, this year's Valentines for Veterans would not have been possible. An enormous thank you to them.

Don't forget to follow along with the Connecticut General Assembly bill tracking tool, which can be found at [cga.ct.gov](http://cga.ct.gov) under the "Bill Information" heading at the top of the homepage. More information on following committees virtually or testifying can be found at [CTHouseGOP.com/virtual-guide](http://CTHouseGOP.com/virtual-guide). Please continue to reach me at my legislative office with your questions, concerns and input on legislation and state issues at [Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov).

## Protecting Your Personal Data



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

Have you ever stopped to think about how much personal data you share every day?

Think of your cell phone. If you are using a mapping application, your phone has data stored on where you are visiting, how fast you are traveling and how long you stay at certain points. What other personal information are you voluntarily sharing on social media? Have you ever paused to think how your personal data can be used and who may be sharing it?

According to the Internet Society and Consumers International, 69 percent of consumers are concerned about how personal data is collected in mobile apps, such as banking or health apps, while 62 percent of consumers are concerned about personal data collected through tablets and computers.

This session I am working on consumer privacy legislation that will foster consumer trust by clearly delineating consumers' rights regarding their personal data. It is said that data is the new gold, and in the era of big data many consumers are unaware how their own data are being collected and how others may be profiting from their data.

The legislation I am working on is Senate Bill 893, An Act Concerning Consumer Privacy, which essentially creates a consumer data bill of rights. If this bill is passed, covered companies must clearly list a privacy policy informing consumers what data is being collected and how it is being used. It gives consumers the right to know what information is being collected, the right to see and correct any data that has been collected, and the right to have any collected data be deleted. In addition, it prohibits companies from charging a different price or discriminating against a consumer who exercises these rights.

Furthermore, the bill requires companies to minimize the amount of data they cover and think about data security. It makes sure that companies take care of your data and only use it for the purposes they collected it for. This is critical, as we regularly hear of data breaches and identity theft, so it is critical that data is protected.

These new additions to data privacy allow a more trusted platform for consumers. The information policies companies would have to list allows for transparency and allows a consumer to know exactly what is happening with their personal information when they log in online. As the digital environment grows, it's time to grow a secure and trusted market for consumers in the online world.

# MOT

Milford-Orange Times

# Opinion & Editorial

## Editorial: State Budget Could Be Worse

By **Brandon T. Bisceglia**

Connecticut was in perpetual fiscal crisis before COVID-19. Yet one year into the pandemic, the state may be getting the gift of a budget plan that doesn't hurt – too much.

Gov. Ned Lamont's \$46 billion budget proposal for the 2022-2023 fiscal years won't garner much excitement from either progressives or conservatives. It mostly leaves taxes untouched. A proposed mileage fee on large trucks has raised some hackles in that industry. And a new gas tax to comply with regional climate initiative goals and prop up the ailing Special Transportation Fund may

irk Republicans.

But Lamont's plan goes nowhere near where some lawmakers to his left would like – such as the so-called "mansion tax" on homes over \$430,000 proposed by state Senate President Martin Looney.

The stars have in a sense aligned for this budget cycle. Market earnings account for a major chunk of Connecticut's tax revenues, and stock markets have prospered throughout the pandemic even as other parts of the economy have faltered.

The state also recently hit a milestone in its rainy day fund, going well over

the \$3 billion mark that triggers requirements for the state to spend some of that stashed cash.

Third, the state is getting a one-time infusion of money from the \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus bill. Lamont plans to use some of this money to fulfill promises made to municipalities and schools that have continually been short-changed.

These various pots of money may allow Lamont and legislators to avoid some very tough decisions this year.

No one should feel complacent, though. A quarter of the state budget goes toward paying off pension and

other debts incurred more than a generation ago. Those costs are only going to go up. And Connecticut still sorely needs funds for things such as transportation improvements and education. Projections point to multi-billion-dollar shortfalls in coming years.

Even the current budget, for all its leanness, relies on the assumption that the legislature will pass sports betting and recreational marijuana to make ends meet.

The governor's budget plan leaves much to be desired. But it could have been much worse.

### Commentary:

## State Property Tax Would Be Abused

Don't expect different results when you keep doing the same things. Here we are at state budget time again and the gimmicks proposed by the state Legislature and governor abound. If we are going to solve a problem, "let's find more money to throw at it" seems to be the common mantra. It hasn't worked since it was tried by former Gov. Lowell Weicker, who instituted the state income tax, and all the legislatures' gimmicks to raise more and more revenue since.

The problem is not that we aren't taxed enough, but that we can't seem to keep spending in check. We build extensive and expensive state government agencies that replace volunteers, nonprofits, churches and other religious and charitable groups that have proven over and over again that they can provide services to residents at a far lower cost than creating and using a state

agency to do so.

This aversion to use such services seems encoded even in our state constitution's "Blaine clauses" in education, for instance.

Let me be clear: very few assume that we should have no state governmental agencies or taxes. What I am addressing is a philosophical change that shrinks the number of state employees and size of state government. We have billions of dollars in underfunded pensions. Adding more employees just complicates matters.

The tax increase proposals this year are in the wrong direction again. On the table, for instance, is a property tax reform proposal to "reduce the economic disparity in Connecticut." What we should be doing



THOMAS P. HURLEY

is creating a better business and living climate that makes this zero-sum game obsolete.

State Sen. Martin Looney is proposing a statewide one mill state property tax on properties worth \$430,000 or more. Just how long will it be before we will all be assessed? It is easy to increase millage rates or change thresholds based on the next year's needs. The money raised would provide property tax relief to municipalities that have high tax rates. Really? And the lottery monies all go toward education, right?

This creeping redistribution of wealth will only drive more of the affluent, middle-income taxpayers, Nutmeggers and retirees on fixed incomes to other states. It makes Connecticut unattractive to businesses.

We need to encourage more of these economic risk takers and our retirees to stay here by lowering state tax rates, not subsidizing inefficient city governments with unsustainable proposals like this one.

This is what socialism looks like: gradually ceding your property rights through excessive taxation until you have virtually none at all. You working for the state versus the state working for you. One little redistributive chip at a time. With this proposal not only does your town or city have the right to take your land and property through property tax policy, but the state too.

This proposal should depress the entire housing market. Let's let everybody keep more of what they earn to take care of themselves and their families instead of having a redistributive nanny state.

### Letters to the Editor:

#### Rotary Wants To Fund Community Projects

To the Editor:

If you are a participant in a private initiative that helps those in need or a member of a non-profit agency whose charter is to serve the public Rotary wants to help you.

Every year the Rotary Club of Orange raises money to be given away. Thousands of dollars are distributed to many worthy causes such as food banks, disaster relief and health care. The Rotary Club of Orange is especially looking to fund those in need within Orange.

This past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted many Orange residents because of unemployment, underemployment, sickness or the restrictions of home care. The pandemic has also emphasized the need to help others.

If your charity-based effort or not-for-profit agency needs funding to help others in Orange, please contact Community Service co-chair Baxter Walsh at [bkw@staffage.com](mailto:bkw@staffage.com) or complete the funding request on the Rotary Club of Orange website, [rotarycluboforange.org/](http://rotarycluboforange.org/). The short application for funding can be completed by you on the website or I can send the form to you to complete and return.

You can be an agent of change in our community. Don't miss this opportunity.

**Baxter Walsh, Community Service Co-Chair**  
**Sharon Ewen, Community Service Co-Chair**  
**The Rotary Club of Orange**

#### Pet Daycare Up, But Boarding Down

To the Editor:

First, I want to thank you for the wonderful article. We are doing great during the pandemic for daycare. Numerous new clients because of the abundance of new dog owners due to the increase in people rescuing dogs since they can be home most of the time. They know the importance of socializing their dogs. When they do go back to work, this will avoid problems with separation anxiety.

I did want to stress none of the daycare/kennel businesses are doing great because of lack of boarding. I am in a national organization of daycare owners and we are all suffering due to no travel. Daycares are also boarding facilities. Because of the responsible people in our state that are following mask rules, we anticipate after we get through this we will be back to our normal busy selves.

Just to let people know, we are following strict COVID protocol and doing only curbside drop-off and pickup.

Again, thank you for the article. Especially mentioning our commitment to rescuing dogs, which was the sole reasoning for leaving my career in New York City to focus on saving dogs from the problem of irresponsible owners. There are over 1.5 million dogs and cats euthanized in shelters every year. Rescues nationwide have reduced this number from 2.4 million in 2011. Remember, you can find any breed in a shelter.

**Mary Beth Stark**  
**Owner, Bark Avenue Pethouse, LLC**  
**Milford**

#### Support Expanded Voting

To the Editor:

Did you vote by absentee ballot in November 2020? I did!

Did you like the ease and safety of voting by absentee ballot? I did!

Did you know that you can't do this again?

The national elections this past November 2020 could have been very challenging and difficult for us due to the pandemic.

However, since our state legislature temporarily removed restrictions for voting by absentee ballot it made voting much safer and accessible for all of us. Voting by no excuse absentee ballot should be available to any voter who chooses to use

it.

Connecticut has not approved no excuse absentee ballots for any future elections.

We must call or write to our state legislators and urge them to vote in favor of HJ58 to approve no excuse absentee ballots and in favor of HJ59 to expand early voting for all Connecticut voters.

There is no good reason why lawmakers should deny us the opportunity to take full advantage of our voting rights – the cornerstone of our constitutional democracy.

**Beverly Proppen**  
**Orange**

### Milford-Orange Times

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- |                                      |                                  |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Annamarie Amore, Flooring            | Patricia Houser, Environment     | Priscilla Searles, Orange History |
| Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences | Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary     | Makayla Silva, Kids World         |
| Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This    | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate      | Loretta Smith, Recycling          |
| Cathy Bradley, Running               | Dan May, Earth Science           | Phil Smith, Rotary Club           |
| Joanne Byrne, Retirement             | Marilyn May, Milford History     | Raymond Spaziani, Wine            |
| David Crow, Conversations            | Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health | Pam Staneski, Milford Chamber     |
| Pat Dray, Gardening                  | Margaret Novicki, Being Prepared | Fern Tausig, Hypnosis             |
| Steven P. Floman, Legal              | Jennifer Paradis, Helping Others | Michele Tenney, Health            |
| Matt Gallagher, Finances             | Trish Pearson, Insurance         | Trish O'Leary Treat, Profiles     |
|                                      | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel       |                                   |

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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

How To Handle Multiple Offers

What an exciting market we are in. The residential sales are through the roof.

What does that really mean for sellers and buyers trying to seal a transaction? If you are writing an offer, you should be working on a strategy to stand out. As you compete with others, be consistent with what is reasonable for your pocketbook. Many buyers keep upping their offer even when the home will not appraise at that value.

The goal is to get the deal, so how do you really compete? You should have the best scenario you can set up with your lender. Completely apply for a loan before you look for a home. Ask the mortgage company to put in writing that you have done everything but present a contract to them.

Having the right attitude will also help see you through this stressful period. Do not think that the agent representing the seller, or the sellers themselves, are insensitive or greedy. They are usually just as unsure about the process as you are. They need to trust that the complete transaction process you present on a contract is accurate and can be finished on time. It is important to be able to take off from work for your home inspection as soon as possible, lay down a large deposit as it is the earnest money and make tight contingency dates for each step.

If you design your deal as tight as possible, knowing you have done all your homework, then you will feel confident in your offer. Often with multiple offers there is a low down payment up front or a long time ahead



BARBARA LEHRER

for inspections and mortgage approval. Listing agents and their clients scrutinize these particulars; they are important.

As the seller examines each offer, there may be several in front of them, each with different strengths. Of course, the price and the down payment are the numbers, but sellers will look at the scenario of the buyers. Are they closing on another property? How far along is that transaction? Each lender on the preapproval letters will be contacted to assure that the credit history has been pulled and the names and amounts are verified. Sometimes there is not a phone number for the lender on the preapproval; that is not a great sign. How will we contact them if there is a problem down the line? Even the earnest money should be a conversation between the two realtors. When will it transfer? Are the

funds currently available?

These are not ordinary times. Inventory is so low that there are short time frames for dozens of realtors to get their buyers appointments on brand new listings. Agents are scrambling to get their clients a home at a reasonable price, or perhaps taking that brand new listing that hits the multiple listing, filtering dozens of showings and offers to help the seller chose the appropriate offer on the table amongst many.

Write a clean offer that is extremely efficient. Everyone then does their due diligence to ethically pick out the right contract for their specific needs. You can only pick one offer, and most buyers today are writing a half a dozen contracts until their own is chosen. We all must do our best.

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

Retired and Rejuvenated

Investing In Older Workers Is Good Business

COVID-19 slashed through the American economy, costing millions of people their jobs. But those layoffs didn't hit every age group equally. A growing body of statistical information shows that older workers lost their employment more often and were not rehired as frequently or quickly as younger workers.

Did employers use the pandemic to get rid of older workers? The evidence so far is mostly based on statistics. But it is persuasive. As the economy begins to recover, older workers will most likely be disproportionately affected, according to Bureau of Labor Statistic figures.

Aside from the legal reasons not to discriminate against hiring (or rehiring) older, more experienced employees, there are sound business reasons to add gray to the workforce, especially now. Boomers represent some of the community's finest resources. It is a shame that so much local

talent is underused.

A worker over 60 has much to offer. Companies seeking to build their businesses and thrive can achieve a win-win by seasoning their payroll with older workers.

Older employees provide more value for their pay. They have better communication skills, both oral and written, and can be excellent as trainers, consultants, mentors and coaches. Open to training, they know how to work with other employees. And they are loyal.

Mature workers bring expertise. Their more extensive work and life experiences give an edge in relationship-driven roles. Experienced employees can provide big cost savings through increased retention. With a great work ethic, older workers are apt to



JOANNE BYRNE

come in early and willing to stay late. Their wisdom enables them to look at the big picture. They are good at sharing information with others. Possessing integrity, they are good with clients and volunteers.

Because they typically have less hectic and demanding lives, they can more easily meet customers' needs. They may be more flexible in their schedules. They are apt to stay with an employer long-term. They are skilled in problem solving because they have tackled many issues and they are not put off by challenges. They have learned from their mistakes, and their need to "prove something" has been replaced with a high level of self-awareness and confidence.

Older workers are seasoned and experienced in life. This adds depth to

a company and is beneficial to problem solving. There are fewer absentee problems with the older generation. Secure in who they are, they have nothing to prove.

They know what to focus on and what to ignore. They work hard and smart. Exerting a cool, calm energy, they have a positive effect on the team. Maturity has a value when making the hard decisions. With less of an entitlement attitude, older workers are less self-centered and display more warmth and sincerity. Older workers also generally have a greater appreciation for the value of money and will be more budget conscious.

Gray is a new gold.

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.

Helping Others

Mutual Aid Lets Us Help Each Other

Mutual aid has seemingly become a social norm overnight, from providing support to local families who are facing difficult circumstances on platforms like GoFundMe or Venmo to sharing and exchanging resources and information on Facebook on personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies at the beginning of the pandemic to providing support to movements fighting for marginalized populations like Black Lives Matter.

I found this to be validated recently when my social media platforms were quickly flooded with ways to connect with local groups working to get food and supplies to stranded, hungry and cold Texans during terrible winter storms. Instead of donating to the Texas Food Bank or the American Red Cross, I chose to give to Funkytown Fridge and Austin Pets Alive, feeling my dollar would go further, faster.

In my pursuit of becoming more educated and involved in local mutual aid efforts, I had a recent opportunity to attend a statewide mutual aid call. Invited by local change-maker and food activist Sarah Bromley, I jumped at the chance to understand both the needs of other communities (particularly around housing and food) and to understand where

Milford stood in association.

What I witnessed during that meeting felt sacred, and I quickly realized that what I was experiencing was a conversation with roots as deep as the beginnings of our society. It led me to ask: what is mutual aid?

Different from its cousin, the nonprofit organization, mutual aid is built by community members for community members and is resolute in creating a non-hierarchical, non-bureaucratic system of sharing.

Bromley eloquently says, "Giving is rooted in power: I have something that you are qualified to receive and so I have decided to give it to you based on that qualification. Mutual aid is sharing; resources are available to transfer and exchange without preconditions."

Bromley underscores the importance of this symbiosis by highlighting that it is just as important and common for those who have received mutual aid resources like food or clothing during a natural disaster to then contribute back to the system. A household that received food through Milford mutual



JENNIFER PARADIS

aid efforts might have a talent in crocheting, and so they might make blankets for people experiencing homelessness. Thus the circle continues.

A challenge to the "survival of the fittest" mentality, mutual aid is rooted in collective impact. As the African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Nothing has shown us how interconnected we are and how far we can go together like the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are all in this together" is repeated across the local news, billboards and newspapers, and feels like a personal agreement between many of us.

Mark David Rego formed the Milford Mutual Aid Network following a New York Times article in March 2020, calling on folks to join local mutual aid if they were feeling powerless against the coronavirus. Realizing that we did not have a local chapter in our community, he took it upon himself to start one. Complete with Google documents to track needs and resources in the community, the group is structured to mirror the successful models of mutual aid throughout

history.

However, he said that the rollout of the Milford Mutual Aid Network has not been without issue. Today, the site is used primarily for posting resource distribution events, like food and diapers. The goal is to have much more activity on the page, and Rego is taking steps to make that more likely.

"I want those who are in need of items to know the site exists and be able to communicate that need without fear of judgement," Rego says.

The idea of mutual aid is as old as human civilization, but today's technology has allowed for new ways for us to connect, both locally and globally. For all those who both need and have, join the Milford Mutual Aid Network on Facebook and look out for future updates and growth.

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.

Advertisement for the Milford-Orange Times. Text: "Advertise In The Milford-Orange Times. Call us at: 799-7500". Includes a small photo of a man and some background text from an article.



# Milford Made Concrete Blocks, Not Bricks

By Marilyn May

If you are a person of a certain age (let's say 70), you may remember seeing a black and white film about Milford when you were in grammar school in the early 1950s. There is a scene in it about a brick factory. Over the years lots of people have said that it did not look like it was in Milford. And they were right. Just about everything said about a brick manufacturing site, supposedly in Milford, is wrong. No bricks were manufactured here.

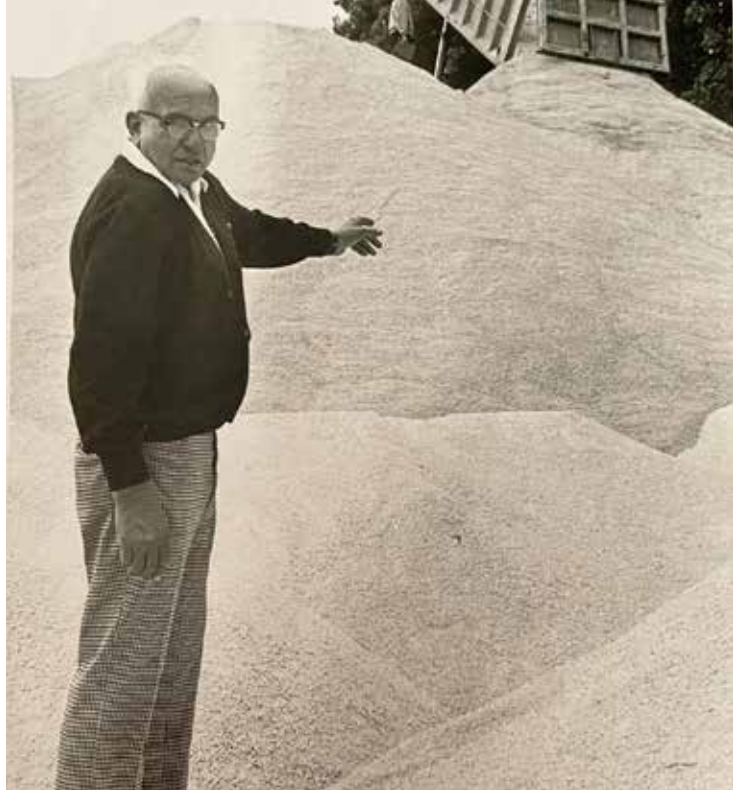
To see the film made in 1948, go to [avgeeks.com/u-s-community-and-its-](http://avgeeks.com/u-s-community-and-its-)

citizens-earth-and-its-people. The misleading part on Milford bricks is about 10 minutes 50 seconds into the 20-minute film.

There was, however, a Milford Concrete Products on Honek Street. The company never made bricks and never used clay. There was no clay pit near



A loaded truck pulls out of the Milford Concrete Products yard on Honek Street. Stacks of concrete blocks can be seen in the background. Photo courtesy of Irene Nolan.



Charles Honek with some of the 35 million pounds of pumice being delivered to his company, Milford Concrete Products. It came from a barren island in the Aegean. Blocks of this material were used to build the Coliseum, Pantheon and the Mosque of St. Sophia in Istanbul. Photo courtesy of Irene Nolan.

Jonathan Law High School, according to Jacquie Honek, whose father, Charles, and his brother, William, founded the concrete block manufacturing operation in the early 1940s. It was one of Milford's most successful industries and was sold in 1979.

In the 1973 Jonathan Law High School yearbook there is an ad for Milford Concrete Products listing their products: "LAVA-LITE, ROK-LITE and Concrete Building Block."

LAVA-LITE is a trade name for light-weight masonry material the company introduced in 1958. It was made from pumice imported from Greece and was resistant to moisture and fire.

"A freighter would come into Bridgeport harbor, my father would hire 50 independent truckers, and it took them three days to empty the ship," said Jacquie Honek. There were 35 million pounds of pumice that had to be moved.

Her family became friends with the captain and enjoyed meals of Greek food with him on board his ship, the Taka. "He would even bring my father gifts from Greece" she said, pointing to an exquisite plate and vase.

Pumice, the basic ingredient of LAVA-LITE, was granite turned molten and frothy by volcanic action in ancient times. When it cooled, small pellets encapsulating inert air were formed, making the material very

light. LAVA-LITE blocks were used in many buildings in Connecticut.

Another product was ROK-LITE, a medium-weight block made from an ash aggregate. The concrete blocks were the heaviest.

"Milford Concrete Products was very progressive and a leader in the building industry in its day," the younger Honek said. "Dad worked six-plus days a week, employed many and helped others to get started in business. He also believed in 'giving back' and donated to a lot of local non-profit service agencies."

So, what about the 1948 film? Where was that footage shot? Joe Honek, Jacquie's cousin, said that it was likely filmed in North Haven at Stiles Brickyard.

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

## Milford Chamber of Health and Wellness Committee Members



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## Orthodontist Opens New Office in Orange



State Sen. James Maroney, Dr. Shyam Desai and First Selectman Jim Zeoli cut the ribbon on March 2 at the grand opening of CT Braces in Orange. Photo courtesy of the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce welcomed CT Braces to Orange on March 2 with a grand opening and ribbon cutting. The new office, located at 109 Boston Post Rd., provides orthodontic care.

The Orange location is the sixth in the state for CT Braces.

“We are excited to bring high quality, affordable orthodontic care to Orange,” said Dr. Shyam Desai, founder of CT Braces. “Opening a new office during a pandemic is a challenge, we’re putting safety first.”

Desai’s team has implemented routine COVID testing for employees, enhanced protective equipment, patient screening and social distancing in the offices.

“We want our patients, and our team members, to know they are safe in coming to our offices” said lead orthodontist Dr. Rebecca Lee. The location is accepting new patients and offers free consultations.

CT Braces partnered with myOrthos, an orthodontic services organization, in February 2020.

“We are thrilled to be a part of CT Braces’ growth in Orange and surrounding communities,” said Elizabeth Campbell, founder and CEO of myOrthos. “We share the core values of putting our patients and our people first and we are proud to support them in living these values both in the office and in the community.”

## Treasurer Named Milford Employee Of The Month



Milford treasurer/payroll administrator Marianne Klinga was named employee of the month for February. From left: Milford Mayor Ben Blake, Human Resources Director Tania Barnes, Klinga and Finance Director Peter Erodicti. Photo courtesy of the City of Milford.

Milford treasurer/payroll administrator Marianne Klinga has been announced as the recipient of the Mayor Ben Blake’s Employee of the Month Program for February.

“After a review of all of the nominations, the Selection Committee unanimously chose her as the winner for her teamwork, strong leadership, dedicated service, outstanding work ethic and willingness to always go above and beyond expectation,” a release from the city said.

Klinga began her employment in April 2015 with the Health Department as an administrative assistant. She was promoted to the position of tax collector in February 2017 and received her Connecticut tax

collector’s certificate that spring. Klinga became acting treasurer in January 2019, and on Dec. 16, 2019, she was promoted to the position of treasurer/payroll administrator in the finance department.

Klinga’s responsibilities include maintaining the city’s banking accounts, investment accounts, bond projects, financial transactions and overseeing all aspects regarding the city payroll system in accordance with appropriate federal, state and local laws as well as appropriate union contracts.

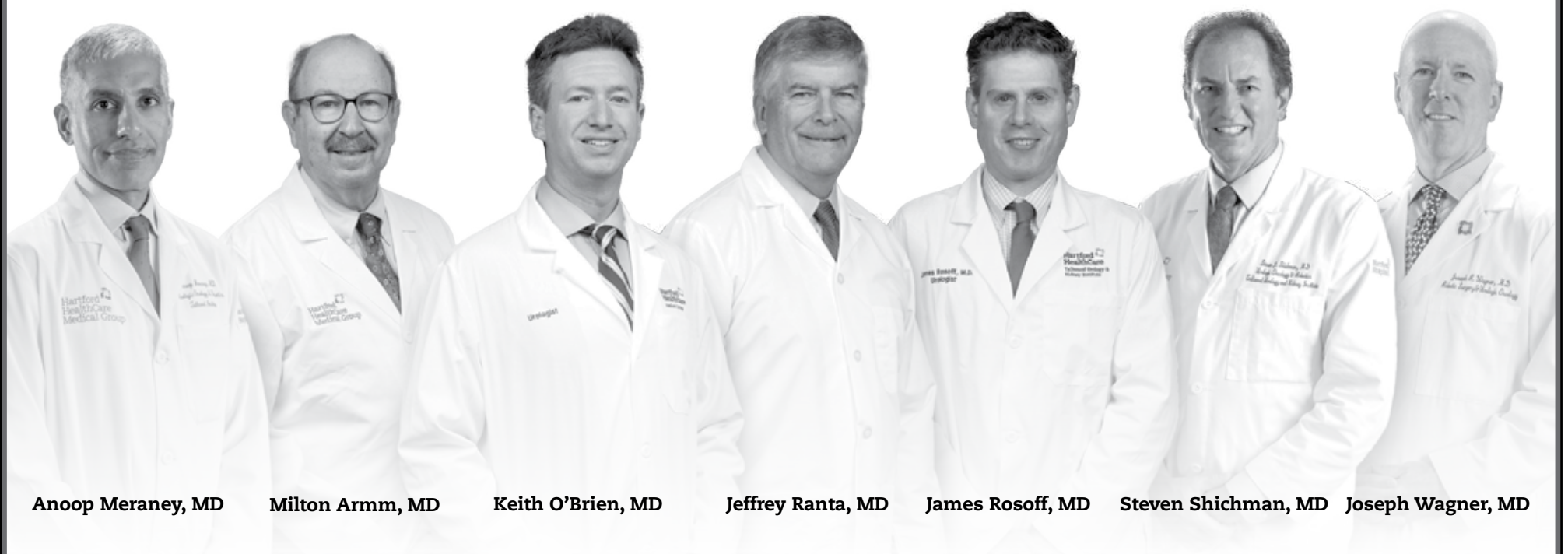
Klinga became acting treasurer while the city was in the process of integrating the Munis HRIS/payroll conversion.

## Or Shalom To Zoom Passover Seder

Congregation Or Shalom in Orange will hold its Passover seder second night virtually over Zoom on Sunday, March 28, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The seder will be led by Rabbi Wainhaus. To receive the link

to register in advance for the event, email the synagogue at [coshalom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coshalom@sbcglobal.net) by Friday, March 26, at 2 p.m. For more information, call 203-799-2341 or visit [orshalomct.org](http://orshalomct.org).

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## Colonial Properties Completes \$8 Million In Area Sales

The Orange-based real estate brokerage Colonial Properties has completed four sales – one in Milford – totaling over \$8 million in recent weeks.

Tony Vitti of Colonial represented seller Simhadri Properties, LLC in the sale of 551 Anderson Ave. in Milford for \$1.3 million. The 14,500 square foot light industrial building features three docks and one drive-in overhead door. The buyer, an owner/user, was represented by David Gorbach of Colonial Realty in Fairfield. The seller's attorney was Tom Lynch of Lynch, Trembicki, and Boynton in Milford; the attorney for the buyer was Max Rosenberg of Rosenberg, Whewell, and Hite, LLC in Stratford.

Colonial president Michael Richetelli represented seller Lunar and Bradley Associates in the sale of 100 Bradley Rd in Woodbridge for \$540,000. The approximately 7,600 square-foot, two-story office building on one acre was purchased by Best Choice Home Health Care, which was represented by Thomas Simjian of Keller Williams Realty. The seller's attorney was R. Eugene Torrenti of Torrenti Law in Hamden; the attorney for the buyer was Sandra Huggins, also in Hamden.

Senior vice president Fred A. Messoro

represented buyer Green Olive Properties Management, LLC in the purchase of 241 and 251 Castle Ave. in Fairfield from Castle Place, LLC, for \$2.675 million. The property consists of six residential condominium units. The seller was represented by Richard Edwards and Jeffrey Wright of Northeast Private Client Group. The buyer's attorney was Dimitri Tournas of Withers Bergman, LLP in New Haven; the attorney for the seller was William M. Petroccio of Russo & Rizio, LLC, in Fairfield.

Messoro also represented Green Olive Properties Management in the sale of 60 and 70 High St. in East Haven for \$3.425 million. This property consists of a 36-unit apartment complex. The property was purchased by investor Kisco Funding Group, LLC, who was represented by Sandy Strickland of Broder Commercial. The seller's attorney was Robert L. Rispoli of Withers Bergman; the attorney for the buyer was Steven W. Pearsall of Gaboriault & Pearsall, P.C., in Westport.

"We continue to see very vibrant activity in the commercial real estate market. These recent sales, two purchased as investment properties and two purchased as owner/user properties, demonstrate the strong demand for these two sectors," Richetelli said.

## Milford, Orange Real Estate Brokers Recognized For Sale In Orange

The senior commercial broker for H. Pearce Commercial Real Estate in Milford has earned the Office Deal of the Year award from the New Haven Middlesex Association of Realtors Commercial Investment Division.

Carl G. Russell received the recognition from his peers during the Feb. 4 annual meeting of the association, held virtually this year, for the sale of Springbrook Common at 240 Indian River Rd. in Orange. Russell's sale represented 70 percent of the office units comprising 35,000 square feet.

The building, constructed in 2008,

includes among its current tenants Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center, U.S. Renal Care, Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Centers, Constellation Health Services, Connecticut Kidney Center, Miracle Ear, and New Solutions Pain Management Clinic.

The sellers, Springbrook Common LLC and Lakehouse Properties LLC, were represented by Russell, and the buyer, Water Street Management, LLC, was represented by Nick Mastrangelo and Tom Cavaliere of Coldwell Banker Realty in Orange, who were also recognized for the Office Deal of the Year honor.

## Orange Scouts Visit Fire Station



The Tiger Den of Orange Scouts Pack 922 visited the Orange Fire Station Feb. 22 to learn about being a firefighter and to get a tour of the station. The Tigers saw a firefighter dressed up in full gear, rolled up hoses, jumped through a window and crawled on the floor following a fire hose. They learned what to expect if they are ever in a situation where they need to be rescued. The Tigers also learned all the duties that may be expected of a firefighter while at a call. *Photo courtesy of Pack 922.*

## Amity Art Students Receive State Recognition

Students from the Amity School District recently received recognition for their artwork from the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards, considered the premier state competition for visual arts students.

Among the awardees was Olivia Russo of Orange, who is in grade 12 and received a "gold key" in drawing and illustration, and Olivia Tashlein, also of Orange and in grade 12, who received a gold key in photography.

Tashlein's work was also named the Connecticut Arts Administrators Association Best in Photography. Her photograph was among 416 entries statewide.

In total, Amity students came away with three gold keys, one silver key, and two honorable mentions.

This year the awards ceremony on Feb. 26 was virtual due to the pandemic. The link to the event is available on the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards website at



Olivia Tashlein with her photograph, "Molly," which recently received top recognition from the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards. *Photo courtesy of the Amity School District.*

ctartawards.net/.

Gold key winners move on to the national competition. National winners will be announced on March 17.

## Orange Senior Center News

All senior center activities and classes are limited, and trips are canceled. Check the senior center website at orange-ct.gov/782/community-services for further information or call the senior center office at 203-891-4784.

Orange Community Services has installed a new software. Seniors may come by and receive a key tag to use at a new kiosk which will be in the front lobby of High Plains Community Center. The key card

will be used to sign in for classes, activities and volunteering.

In order to begin to reopen, the Senior Center must adhere to state guidelines. At this point in time, all visitors must wear facial coverages and practice six-foot social distancing.

All classes must be signed up for in advance in the Senior Center office. Some classes are coming back, and others are planned to be back.



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Medical Billing: One Of Life's Great Mysteries

Most of us are familiar with copays for "normal" medical care: doctor visits, regular blood work, prescriptions that we fill regularly. However, if something out of the ordinary should require a new medical test or procedure, figuring out the cost can be daunting and time consuming.

First, understand the terms and process. When you have a medical visit or procedure, the provider's office files a claim with your insurance company. The information on that claim describes the visit or procedure, which is defined by medical codes, and the cost associated with it.

Once the insurance company processes the claim, the patient receives an explanation of benefits. The EOB contains valuable

information: the type of visit or service and how much the provider or facility billed; how much the insurance company is going to allow the provider to charge (usually a much smaller number); how much of that amount the insurance company will pay to the provider; and, finally, what the patient might owe. The provider then bills the patient for the balance of what the insurance company allows.

Copays are usually collected at the time of the visit. For example, if the specialist visit copay is \$45, the provider's office will know and there should be no follow-up bill.

Know the difference between a copay and coinsurance. A copay is a specific dollar amount, whereas coinsurance is a percentage of the allowed charge (column two on the EOB). In the case of something other than an office visit, the provider cannot



TRISH PEARSON

predict the cost, so the patient is usually billed after the insurance company has processed the claim.

However, increasingly hospital and outpatient facilities are "estimating" the charge and requesting the payment up front based on the percentage of coinsurance. This is where it gets tricky. A patient can end up overpaying and then owed a refund.

Here are some ways to avoid incorrect billing and what to do if the bill is not clear:

- 1. Make sure that the provider or facility has your most up-to-date insurance information. If you have not visited a facility or provider within the past year and you changed insurance, they will bill based on the old information.
2. Look at the EOB and confirm that the procedure or visit description is correct.

This is particularly important in the case of "screening" versus "diagnostic" visits or procedures. If the description is wrong, call the provider and question it.

3. Some surgical facilities are now separating costs between "facility fees" and "professional services." Make sure you understand the coverage for each in your insurance plan. Some plans cover facility and doctor fees differently. If you are not clear on how your visit is covered, contact your agent or member services for an explanation. This is especially important if the insurance plan includes a deductible.

If you have a question about a bill or charge, do not just pay it. Use the resources available to get answers to your questions. It is your right.

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

From The Bar

New Numbers For 2021

2021 is the year to get estate planning done.

Everyone is happy to be rid of 2020 and hopeful that 2021 will be an easier and more joyful year. If you are doing estate or long-term care planning in 2021, it may be helpful to know about important numbers that have changed.

If your planning involves estate or gift tax considerations, here are the numbers you need to know:

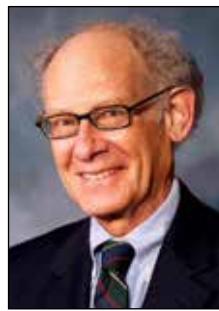
- The federal lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been increased to \$11.7 million.
- The Connecticut lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been increased to \$7.1 million.
- There still is an unlimited gift/estate deduction for property passing to a spouse; however, to qualify for the unlimited gift/estate tax deduction the spouse must be a US

citizen.

- The amount that can be gifted to any one person without needing to file a gift tax return remains the same at \$15,000 per recipient. Additional gifts can be made for qualified medical expenses and qualified education expenses without needing to file a gift tax return.

If you are married and your planning involves help from the state with long-term care in a skilled nursing facility or at home (under Medicaid/Title XIX), here are the numbers you need to know:

- If only one of you needs help your home and one motor vehicle remain excluded assets.
- The maximum amount of non-excluded



STEVEN FLOMAN

assets the healthy spouse ("community spouse") can keep has been increased to \$130,380 and the minimum amount has been increased to \$27,328.

- The minimum amount of monthly income the community spouse can keep has been increased to \$2,155, and the maximum amount it can be increased to, without an administrative hearing, has been increased to \$3,259.50.

- The maximum amount of equity in the family home that can be excluded by the community spouse has been increased to \$906,000.

- The amount of gross monthly income you can have (whether married or single) and still be eligible for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders has been increased to

\$2,382. Separate income of the community spouse is ignored.

- The amount of gross monthly income you can have (whether married or single) without triggering a copay has been increased to \$2,127.

- Use of a pooled trust for excess income to establish eligibility or to avoid copays remains a viable option.

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



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### Getting To Know You

## Suffering Smugly, As A New Englander Should

I'm not a huge fan of winter. That makes my life in Connecticut a little awkward because of the seemingly 10 full months of cold, gray days full of rain, sleet and snow we seem to have here. I know this winter's stormy weather was basically confined to February, but you know what I mean. Nothing will test a person's resolve to live like getting out of a warm bed before dawn and clearing snow from a driveway.

I clear my own driveway of wintery mess because I'm stubborn. I know there are several very reliable snow removal services that will come by my home and clear my driveway and sidewalks for me. However, that stubborn Connecticut Yankee inside of me grumbles whenever I contemplate happily abdicating that responsibility.

I have all kinds of good excuses for continuing to do this chore, but if I'm being honest I have to admit I'm just being stubborn. Sometimes when I'm out there throwing the

snow around, I could almost accuse myself of being secretly proud of the fact that I do my own snow removal.

Nothing makes a New Englander feel quite as pious as stubbornly and grudgingly suffering the winters.

I'm not alone in this sentiment. As I travel around on those snowy days, I always see several of my fellow New England neighbors engaged in the same activity of snow removal. When I make eye contact with them as I pass, we share a grim, knowing nod. That's about all you'll get out of a New Englander, although sometimes when we're standing in line for our coffee at Dunkin' Donuts we New Englanders will share a self-satisfied chuckle about how inept our neighbors to the south appear to be when dealing with anything approaching winter weather. I mean look at those softies busting out their heavy coats and



DAVID CROW

shutting down their states when the temperature dares to drop below 70 degrees. Nothing flavors a New Englander's coffee on a cold winter morning like a smidge of smug, self-righteous assurance.

If we're honest with ourselves we're pretty sure the rest of our neighbors in the United States would probably benefit from being more like us as well. What do they know about dealing with the weather or elections or politics or COVID-19 or anything else for that matter? We've seen the glimpses of them in videos riding in their pickup trucks or toting their guns or rioting in the streets of their cities or idling away their days on the beach, all of them seeming to revel in their ignorance about what we deem vitally important.

Nothing confirms what we already figured about them anyway like a few seconds of video

posted on Facebook or Instagram or TikTok or YouTube.

Seems strange, but in this age of instantaneous connection we still don't know too much about our neighbors out there in the United States. Kind of makes you wonder just what they might be thinking about us New Englanders. Maybe as things thaw out around here and we're not so busy shoveling snow and being sure of ourselves we could use the miracle of the internet to ask them personally like a good neighbor ought to do.

Just an early spring thought before the robins fly back north. Nothing to lose really.

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

### Shamrocks Come To Milford Green



The Irish Heritage Society and Literacy Volunteers of Southern CT is sponsoring Shamrocks on the Green, an event that allows people to purchase and decorate shamrocks for display on the Milford Green. Proceeds support Irish cultural and charitable activities and literacy needs in the community.. Photos by Steve Cooper.

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# Lifestyle

## Here's To Your Health

### Food For Thought

In my last column I spoke about food patterns. I'd like to expand upon that a bit and go a little deeper.

How many of us have continually fluctuated in weight? 30 pounds here, 25 pounds there. Keto, South Beach, Mediterranean; the list can go on forever. It seems like a never-ending story.

In my profession, I've seen it all with no one true answer for success. The International Journal of Exercise Science says that yo-yo dieting can increase your risk for disease and can be very harmful to your health.

I wonder why we continue to buy into this captivity. There is more than one way to be "bound" and held captive, and the remedy is to simply recognize the bondage. If you lived in a prison all your life and never knew there was an outside world with trees, grass and flowers, I wonder how you would feel once you made that discovery. Would you

stay inside the prison because it's where you feel safe and comfortable, or would you go on an adventure and make some discoveries?

There's another form of bondage when it comes to foods and diets. It is an obsession to measure, weigh and calculate everything that goes into your mouth and have it broken down into fat, sugar, sodium, protein and more. While I am not opposed to this as a means

of keeping yourself accountable – it has been proven to help bring awareness and mindfulness – I am opposed to allowing it to control your life. It's not only time consuming but somewhat restrictive and leaves little room to just enjoy your life.

Living a healthy life is a lifestyle, and it



MICHELE  
TENNEY

allows you to enjoy things you wouldn't (or at least shouldn't) eat every day. It doesn't look like prison. It looks more like the rolling hills of Vermont to me. You feel good, you breathe in fresh air, you're not bound but free to roam wherever your heart leads, taking in the sights and sounds around you.

For many of us learning how to live this lifestyle can be overwhelming. I understand that, because the media have played a huge part in telling you one day coffee is bad for you and the next it's fine. We can no longer afford to allow them to be our sources of information on "general" health, because each of us have our own DNA and our food is just as unique as we are.

What works for my body doesn't mean

it will work for yours or the next person. I would recommend an elimination program so you could see just how that works. I also encourage you to read from reputable resources about nutrition and exercise.

You are worth every bit of effort you put into living your best life, without disease or discomfort, living it free. Remember that you are a spirit which has a soul that lives in a body and all three of those things need to be in good condition for you to live your best life. You're important and loved. Here's to your health.

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

### On Your Mind

### What's Really Eating You?

Do you find yourself eating even though you're not hungry? Do you feel short tempered and find yourself snapping at people? Maybe a particular person is annoying you or sets you off in a way that you don't like. Do you have trouble sleeping or experience anxious feelings that make you feel out of control? Do you find yourself saying things that you later regret or feel bad about?

Sometimes we attribute these things to whatever is currently happening in our lives.

However, if any of these apply to you, it is an indication that there is something unconsciously bothering you. It could be an experience you had a long time ago that is completely unrelated to the reactions you're experiencing presently. Past experiences that made you feel angry or hurt and that you never dealt with can create feelings and behaviors that reflect those feelings.

I worked with a client who told me she

would continue eating even though she was no longer hungry. She knew she was full but felt compelled to keep eating. This is a perfect example of one of my favorite expressions: "Sometimes it's not about what you eat, but it's about what's eating you." The overeating was a manifestation how she felt: out of control.

She was angry at her fiancée, who had cheated on her. She told him she forgave him, but it wasn't true. The anger she held on to made her feel out of control of her thoughts and feelings.

It's easy to get to the bottom of unwanted thoughts and feelings using hypnosis. By helping her let go of the feelings and truly forgiving him, the overeating ended.

Past experiences have a powerful effect on our present thoughts, feelings and behaviors. If you were bullied in the past or made to



FERN  
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feel bad about yourself, those experiences leave an imprint on you that is triggered throughout your life. Although it could be triggered by a colleague or a family member, the reaction has nothing to do with them. They become the victims of your unresolved past feelings.

Sleep is also affected by past unresolved emotions and experiences. Sleep is very important to physical and mental wellness. When negative feelings are held on to, sleep is disrupted, dreams are troubling and you feel anxious about not being able to sleep.

Hypnosis is an excellent treatment for sleep problems. The common complaint is "I can't shut off my mind," or "I wake up and cannot get back to sleep because of racing thoughts."

Many who have sleep issues find the problem has roots in their past. One client would wake up in the middle of the night and go to the kitchen and eat sweets. This created a weight problem, and she was very frustrated. She unconsciously found comfort in food. The underlying issues were directly related to body shaming by her mother when she was a preteen; her mother called her chubby. Her mother tried to prevent her from eating snacks that were in the house for other family members.

I was glad to help her neutralize those feelings and stop the night eating.

If you find you have regret over reoccurring negative behaviors or feelings, it is probably unrelated to whatever you *think* is the cause.

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

### Personal Experiences

### Choose Yourself, Above All Else

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

Today our world is swarming with different products, trends and ideas that have attempted to change the way each of us lives.

Between the new idea of beauty, gender stereotypes and the way we are supposed to act and think, there is little room for authenticity. Not only are there simple means to widespread conformity, but some matters dig a bit deeper.

One of the leading contributors to making people feel trapped by how the world wants them to be is abuse and trauma. Be it from friends, loved ones or our culture at large, people who have suffered in this context retreat to compliancy to remain unseen and unheard.

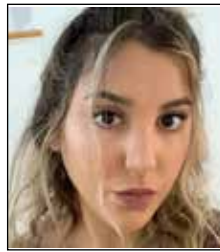
Psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott

theorized about the "false-sense" or "defensive-façade" developed at an early age directly accompanying trauma as a defense mechanism to protect those affected from re-experiencing trauma.

While this may be an extreme example of someone unable to have complete authenticity, things like this happen all too often – people who are hurt and abused rarely speak up for fear of being rejected.

These situations represent an affected person's opportunity to develop a false sense of themselves when all they needed was someone to believe them and help them get the treatment they needed.

The problem of restrictive gender roles is another large contributor to inauthenticity. Restricting gender roles relates to how our



CAROLINA  
AMORE

culture believes men and women should act, think and feel.

Women are expected to always be polite, accommodating and nurturing as well as dress femininely. Men are expected to be powerful, robust, competitive and rarely, if ever, display emotion.

These gender roles prevent people from being their authentic selves. In many societies straying from these roles is strongly discouraged and even oppressed with violence. Giving men and women, especially as children, the freedom to comfortably express themselves how they see fit is the only way to allow them to grow to be the most authentic version of themselves.

The media have been no friends to our minds. There are multitudes of new trends and fashions that are made to seem essential to be beautiful or have a purpose in this

world. The people with enough wealth to affect the average person typically do not use their power wisely.

There is new slang, new clothes, new ways to tweak yourself so you can feel good enough almost every day. The media show beautiful people with great things and send the message: "This is what being beautiful means" or "this is what being cool looks like."

There are innumerable forces acting against the authenticity of humankind. It is up to the individual to discover what makes them unique and never run from it. Who you are and who you choose to be can be wildly different people.

Choose to be you. Henry David Thoreau once said, "We are constantly invited to be who we are." Take his advice, and never let anyone tell you differently.

*Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.*

### Chamber President (Continued From 1)

continue to support your chamber – it has been the lifeline for the community for years and always will be. There are great things ahead for them in 2021."

Board Chair Paige Miglio said, "Pam has played a critical role in the development and success of our organization with her personal energy, extensive experience and involvement in the Milford community on so many levels. We wish her the best as she joins her husband in North Carolina where

they will be relocating. We thank her for her dedicated service to the chamber and specifically for her work alongside our board during our recent move and to better position our organization so that we may continue to meet the expectations and needs of our businesses and growing membership."

The Board of Directors will immediately assemble a search committee to call for applicants and begin looking for a new president. Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume (in pdf format) for consideration to apply@milfordct.com.

For Nature's Sake

The Natural Signs Of Spring

I reached out to several Connecticut wildlife experts this month to ask them about plants and animals we can look for in our backyards and neighborhoods as heralds of spring.

Miller looks forward in particular every spring for the possible overlapping presence of the osprey and harrier (from the hawk family).

"It doesn't happen every year, but when they do overlap that's an exciting time for me because they are two truly unique birds and absolutely fascinating," Miller said.

Picone's first thoughts when it came to animals to look for in spring went to a bird and a frog.

"For me the first sign of the return of spring is the red-winged blackbird - they'll show up in a marsh environment, a wetland. Everyone waits for the robins, but the robins actually

stick around; they're hanging out in the swampy areas and eating berries," he said. "Another one is, you'll begin to hear wood frogs start calling from the vernal pools; they kind of quack - some people mistake them for ducks."

Dickson emphasized the early spring sounds and appearance of amphibians and their key role in supporting other chains of life.

"In the case of some of our amphibians, whether it's a frog that quacks like a duck in the springtime or the peepers who say their names, they're important for a number of different reasons," she said. "They're an indicator of environmental health. They're also food for a lot of other wildlife species, so they are helping to make sure that a lot of other species survive through the spring and summer and fall months."

The other important thing about salamanders, frogs and turtles, said Dickson is that they eat a lot of invertebrates. "One of the things they consume in massive quantities are mosquito larvae, so it's good to have those amphibians around and their larvae around



PATRICIA HOUSER

to help keep a lot of the things we think of as nuisance pests under control."

More sounds of spring include the "bubbly song" of the bluebird and the coo of the mourning dove, an early nester. All three naturalists noted the important arrival of early-blooming plants like skunk cabbage (with its showy marigold blooms), marsh marigold, trout lilies and jack in the pulpit as well as redbud and red maple.

The plants support pollinators, which include small flies, ants and moths as well as bees and butterflies. They also provide timely, nutritious food for animals.

Bats are another important spring arrival and play a key role in insect control. Meanwhile, the piping plover, a sentimental favorite of our coastal region, will require treading lightly - giving them space on beaches and keeping pets on leashes - if we are to preserve their spring nesting sites.

All the experts spoke of the timely appearance of amphibians in our chain of natural wellbeing in Connecticut - including salamanders, frogs, toads and turtles - and the

importance of keeping a lookout while driving, especially at night or during wet weather, for spring crossings of these vital players in our local ecosystems.

I asked Dickson what she wished more people knew about wildlife, and she paused before saying, "Just that the wildlife we have is incredibly diverse and we are truly blessed in that respect compared to many other regions of the country. I think a lot of times we tend to take that for granted. That diversity not only provides economic benefits but helps us connect with nature and provides both the physical and mental health benefits that we all need, particularly when times are unsettled like they have been for the last year. I think it's easy to become disconnected from nature. We live in a very virtual world right now and sometimes we forget. It really is a matter, I think, of giving yourself the permission to be like a little kid again, and be curious, and get outdoors and explore."

Patricia Houser, PhD, AICP, shares her exploration of local and regional environmental issues in this column on behalf of the nonpartisan Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition.

Ferraro Delivers Valentines



State Reps. Charles Ferraro (R-117, left) and Nicole Klarides-Ditria (R-105, second from left) recently delivered valentines to the West Haven VA Hospital. VA Outreach Volunteers Michael Lejeune and John Daniels distributed the valentines to resident veterans. The valentines were handmade by students at Live Oaks Elementary School in Milford, Alma E. Pagels Elementary School in West Haven, Bungay Elementary School in Seymour and Laurel Ledge Elementary School in Beacon Falls. Contributed photo.

Holy Infant Accepting Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications from the Holy Infant Women's Guild are now available online at the Holy Infant Church's website at holyinfantorangect.com/ or at the guidance offices of Amity Hight School, Sacred Heart Academy, Lauralton Hall and St. Joseph Hight School. The scholarship is open to female seniors from the parish who will attend a four-year

college or university next year. There will be two \$1,000 scholarships awarded. The completed application must be returned to the Holy Infant Church Office no later than 1 p.m. on Friday, April 23. The church is located at 450 Racebrook Rd. in Orange. For additional information call scholarship chairperson Susan D'Orso at 203-874-1739.

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### The Garden Spot

## Starting Your Vegetable Garden

If you've followed my last two columns, you now have all your gardening tools ready to go. This month let's discuss getting your garden started.

The most important rule of gardening is very simple: the right plant in the right place. But like so much in life, it's much easier said than done. Your first decision is to settle on what to grow. If you're planning a vegetable garden, you need to have an open area that gets a minimum of six to eight hours of direct sun with ready access to water. Choosing an open, flat area allows for better air circulation, reducing plant diseases, while a flat area with ready access to water will make the onerous chore of watering much easier. If you don't have enough direct sun, you can still plant vegetables, but choose those that tolerate

less sun (typically leafy ones such as lettuce).

In any case, the best plan is to start small and expand your garden over the years as you see what does best. My personal experience is that the spring enthusiasm turns to exhaustion by August. It's best to be selective with your planting plan.

Once you've decided on the site for your garden, preparation is going to be key. If there is existing turf in the area you can take a can of spray paint, mark your boundaries, and start removing the turf with the spade that you sharpened and cleaned.

The next step is to turn the soil over, creating spaces in the soil for water and air



PAT DRAY

to flow through. Be aware if you decide to rototill that this will bring up years of seeds that are in the soil; do it sparingly.

Once the turf is removed and soil turned, take a sample of the soil and have a soil test performed. Let the lab know the specifics of what you plan to plant so that any soil addendums or nutrients can be recommended. Supplement the garden area as recommended by the soil test. Soil tests in the state are performed at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and by the University of Connecticut Extension Service.

Most areas that have had turf growing are going to have soil that is relatively compacted, making it difficult for your

plants to absorb nutrients and water. For this reason, it's a good idea to add some organic matter or compost as you turn the soil.

If you're adding compost in the spring, you'll need to add two to three inches of compost to the top, and then work it in no later than two months before planting. If you don't have two months, just use one inch worked in. The addition of compost will not only improve the soil structure but also encourage soil insects like earthworms that will ingest the organic matter and tunnel through the soil, improving the structure further through aeration and improved drainage.

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

### Just Floored

## Families And Flooring

Having children at home and doing remote learning can be tough on the surroundings of the home. The norm today is being home more than before. Our homes are taking a beating and families are upgrading their flooring and home environments.

A young child's day often seems like one opportunity to make a mess after another. Spilled grape juice, splattered finger paints, muddy shoes or an indoor skateboarding spree can wreak havoc on your floors. Many parents decide to wait until their children are older, more responsible and less clumsy to replace their flooring.

Sometimes, however, you simply have to replace a worn, damaged or unsightly floor.

While white carpet in the family room probably is not a good idea, there are plenty of options for families with active children. You need to determine the level of use for the spaces you are renovating as well as your family's lifestyle.

Casual families that enjoy a laid-back, easy going approach to mealtime, crafts and hobbies might find they need a more durable flooring choice such as luxury vinyl tile or



ANNAMARIE AMORE

laminare.

There are situations where a family needs to consider flooring with fewer volatile organic compounds, which have been linked to respiratory illness and can cause headaches and dizziness. Parents of young children should look closely at the levels of lead and or phthalates in various flooring types. All this information can be found on the website of each manufacturer.

Green flooring may be a better choice for

families with medical concerns. Products such as bamboo, cork and certain green luxury vinyl tile would be best. It may be helpful to make a list of your priorities for flooring options and search the internet to narrow your choices efficiently.

Once you've chosen your new flooring and it is installed, be sure to follow the manufacturer's care instructions to keep your floors looking new.

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

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**Travel Matters**

# Key West: Paradise Without A Passport

While taking the express ferry back from Key West on March 1 after a rejuvenating three-night getaway, it occurred to me that Key West is truly experiencing a tourism boom – the likes of which have probably not been seen since the 80s after the Seven-Mile Bridge was completed.

What’s more, no passport is needed and no mandatory COVID test (at least as of this date). Having closed for nearly five months during the pandemic, Key West is roaring back with a strong travel safety policy in place.

Only 93 miles from Cuba, you can feel the tropical vibes as soon as you arrive. With the exotic feel of a Caribbean island with roosters strutting through cafes while diners enjoy their morning coffee, it also offers that festive atmosphere of New Orleans if you want it. Duval Street is Key

West’s Bourbon Street.

We stayed on the beach, which is at the southernmost point of the continental US, so we could truly enjoy the beach lifestyle of a tropical island. The Southernmost Beach Resort is a sprawling resort with multiple buildings including two bed and breakfast properties, three pools, a beach restaurant and spa. We also explored a number of other hotels – stopping by for a cocktail or just checking out the facilities and the views. From hip boutique hotels to quaint bed and breakfasts to an historic grand hotel property from the 1920s, there is something for everyone.

The more exclusive resorts are very much in demand. One such resort is



**KAREN QUINN-PANZER**

basically sold out for a year. Their acclaimed restaurant has a six-week reservation window.

There is no lack of things to do in Key West. Rent a bike, a moped or an electric car. Take the historic Conch Tour Train. Or walk the 1.25 by two-mile island. One of Ernest Hemingway’s homes is open for tours there, and the Harry S. Truman Little White House provides an impressive slice of presidential history. Truman spent more than 100 days there in the 1940s. JFK used it during the Bay of Pigs negotiations as part of a military base.

Enjoy the world-famous sunset at Mallory Square or take a glass-bottom boat ride, catch a marlin and snorkel the third

largest living coral reef in North America.

Restaurants range from a high voltage caffeine fix at the Cuban Coffee Queen to great seafood at Conch Republic and fine dining (and views) at Louie’s Backyard – with an oceanside bar since 1971. There are two rum distilleries and a waterfront brewery in town, so you can enjoy all kinds of tastings. One of our favorite tastings was all the key lime pie that abounds – one better than the next, but none beating out Kermit’s.

To fully appreciate all that Key West offers, you really need to stay a few days or longer.

*Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at [kpanzer@dreamvacations.com](mailto:kpanzer@dreamvacations.com)*

## Milford Travel Adviser Completes Safety Program

Karen Quinn-Panzer, a Dream Vacations specialist and franchise owner in Milford, has completed an extensive training program to become a Travel Safety Verified travel advisor. Quinn-Panzer is also a columnist for the *Milford-Orange Times*.

The training covered health and safety best practices while traveling; travel protection health policies; safety protocols at resorts, airlines and cruises; and how to address customer concerns for various scenarios.

“This training was timely and invaluable

for my clients. This program includes an interactive component which keeps us up-to-date as destinations open and protocols change,” said Quinn-Panzer.

Quinn-Panzer walks clients step-by-step through the entire booking and planning process, from selecting destinations and excursions based on clients’ interests to providing enhanced packing lists and guidance on what to expect when traveling.

For more information or to book a dream vacation, call 203-647-3107 or email [kpanzer@dreamvacations.com](mailto:kpanzer@dreamvacations.com).

## Recycling Tip

*By Loretta Smith*

A couple of days ago I was shopping in one of those big-box food stores and I happened upon bamboo toilet paper. Have you heard of it? I had not, and it was \$7 off, so I bought a packet of 20 rolls. It’s pretty good and it’s from a very renewable source: bamboo, which grows like crazy. My sister and her husband bought a house in the 1970s in Maryland. Bamboo shoots formed the boundary with the house next door. They hacked it, dug a ditch in their yard, used herbicide (remember, 1970s) on it. No go. Another family in Maryland bought a house with bamboo in their back yard and discovered a Chinese chef coming over to cut it for cooking. Good solution.

There are also bamboo paper towels. Save trees; use very renewable bamboo.

Did you know that there are 100 percent compostable, eco-friendly phone cases? They’re attractive, colorful and don’t use plastic. Look online for phone covers. Add to saving our oceans when you buy one.

Our Shredding Day will be on April 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. We ask you to wear a mask, bring your documents in paper bags or boxes, stay in your car and pop your trunk when it’s your turn. Also bring clothing for the Simple Recycling bin at High Plains Community Center and old mattresses for recycling.

For more on what can be recycled, visit [orangerecycles.com](http://orangerecycles.com).



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Wine Talk

# Making And Pairing Parmigiano Reggiano

Parmigiano Reggiano is a cheese made from unpasteurized cow's milk.

This is mixed with naturally skimmed milk, which is made by having the cream naturally separate from the milking of the previous evening. This mixture is then pumped into copper-lined vats that heat very evenly. Cheesemakers claim the copper adds to the taste of the cheese. I think that is part of the tradition and mystique associated with the concoction.

A starter whey is added to the mixture. This is a type of lactic acid. The temperate is then increased to between 91 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Calf rennet is added to the mixture and it is left to curdle for about 10 minutes. This rennet is a group of enzymes found the stomach of calves that curdles milk. The temperature is then raised to 131 degrees and left for 45 to 60 minutes under the watchful eye of the cheesemaker.

The next step is to collect the compacted curd in a piece of muslin, divide the curd in half and place it into molds. Each vat produces two rounds of cheese. The remaining whey in the vat is fed to pigs that are to be made into prosciutto, Italian cured ham. This process is most famous in

Parma, so Prosciutto di Parma is widely known. It is amazing how wonderfully the prosciutto goes with the Parmigiano.

In the vats where the cheese is processed, there are about 290 gallons of milk used for production. The curd alone is about 100 pounds.

The cheese is then placed into a stainless-steel round with a spring-powered buckle. It is pulled tight, allowing the cheese to retain its wheel shape. After a few days, the round is released and a plastic belt imprinted with "Parmigiano-Reggiano" and numbers identifying the producer and the time and date of production is pressed to the cheese wheel. After another day or two the wheels are placed in a brine bath to absorb salt. Then the cheese wheels are placed into ageing rooms for 12 months. The cheese is cleaned every seven days and turned regularly.

The Consorzio (or "Consortium") inspect every wheel. The cheese is tested by a master who taps each wheel to identify undesirable cracks and voids in the wheel. The wheels



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

that pass the test are given the Consorzio's logo.

The only additive allowed is the salt that is absorbed while being submerged for 20-30 days in brine tanks saturated with Mediterranean sea salt. The good stuff has a sharp, complex fruity and nutty taste with a strong savory flavor and a slightly gritty texture. Inferior cheese can have a bitter taste.

What wines go best with this wonderful cheese? The most popular wine is Malvasia. This is a big Italian white from northern Italy. I enjoy reds with it, the best of which is Amarone della Valpolicella. This is a fantastic wine made from raisin grapes.

My first experience with this cheese, meat and wine configuration goes back to the summer of 1971. I was going to Switzerland with Sonny Costanzo's big band. We got together with a group and wanted to take a trip from the casino de Montreux to Milan by train. Five or six of us went; the train travel was spectacular. We passed Lago Maggiore and Lago Como, which were gorgeous.

We got to Milan and were starving. We went to street cafe in downtown Milan. They saw our piano player Mike (Nuckels) Ianucci and started yelling "Alimanica, Alimanica!" They thought we were Germans. They brought out a big veal steak. We had a great meal. I can recall Ralph Nuzzo, who became principal of the kindergarten at Mary L Tracy School in Orange years latter, identified the cheese right away. They served it quickly with prosciutto with some light white wine. With the veal they brought some heavier whites and then finally some reds. It was a great time. Lunch cost us \$5 with the tip. Those were the days.

*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.*

## Amity Students Excel At CT-STEM Fair

Amity Regional High School students from the Science Research Program took 21 out of 27 places awarded at the Connecticut Science, Technology, and Engineering Fair held annually in February.

Students from all over the state compete. This year over 260 projects were judged in five categories; Amity students won first place in all of them. They also swept the "Teams" category, winning all four places.

Each year CT-STEM fair sponsors five projects to move on to the CT Science and Engineering Fair. All five sponsorships were awarded to Amity students.

The Amity winners were:  
Behavioral Category: Shreya Hebbar, first place; Kevin Lu, second place; and Angela He, fourth place.

Environmental Category: Maggie Liu, first place; Mason Zhang, tied for second

place; Daniel Liu, tied for fourth place; and Anthony Sharonov, tied for fourth place.

Health and Medical Category: Ethan Lavi, first place; Cindy Chen, tied for second place; Aadya Wijesekera, tied for second place; and Wendy Zhang, tied for fourth place.

Physical Science Category: Iris Yan, first place; Bridget Lowder, third place;



Anushka Acharya, tied for fourth place; Scott Lowder, tied for fourth place; Haoyue Yang, tied for fourth place; and Annika Yun, tied for fourth place.



Teams Category: Allen Liu and Sheehan Munim, first place; Caroline Chen and Christian Chen, second place; Adarsh Kongani and Philip London, third place; and Keerthi Kongani and Margaret Luo, fourth place.

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**Foodie Foursome**

# A Light At The End Of Restaurants' Tunnel

There has been a flurry of news in Hartford between vaccines and relaxing of several restrictions, most importantly the 100 percent occupancy in restaurants that will be allowed starting March 19. It has been a trying time starting last March with mixed messages and regulations due to a pandemic that we have never encountered in our lifetimes.

Although most of the population has suffered in one way or another, the restaurant and entertainment industries have been decimated. Between mask wearing, social distancing and now vaccines, it looks like we are finally turning the page.

Dina Bajko is the co-owner of Chip's Family Restaurant, which has a location in Orange. She said she was "very excited" to see the capacity limits go back to normal.

"With spring a few weeks from now the optimism of our guests, our staff and our family is sky-high. We are making significant changes to Chip's and our goal is to have a permanent outdoor dining patio by summer," she said.

Frank Basile, owner of the Bridge House Restaurant in Milford was more circumspect.

"It's a step in the right direction," he said, adding that "ultimately the 100 percent capacity doesn't allow us to add additional seating due to the six feet of distance standard. Based on layouts we have in our locations the bar area cannot be fully enjoyed. However, we are seeing better traction as our guests are feeling safer and more comfortable knowing the restrictions are being relaxed. We are seeing regulars we haven't seen in a year. That's a tell-tale sign that we are on our way to normalcy."

"Our restaurants that have private function areas are now finally getting bookings for the first time in a year from community-driven gatherings from groups like the Rotary, Junior Women's League and Pop Warner football," he added. "It really takes you back a bit to realize how many functions and life memory events were missed over the last year. We are excited to welcome everyone back and serve community once again."

Elena Iannaccone Fusco of Bin 100 in Milford



STEVE COOPER

was similarly equivocal. "Since social distancing requirements are still in place, the removal of capacity limits for restaurants will not have a big impact on how many more guests that restaurants can seat as most restaurants do not have room to add more seating," she said. "With gathering sizes increasing on March 19, we are seeing a big uptick in the number of inquiries and bookings for events beginning in late April. We are hopeful that with vaccinations and the warmer weather, all restaurants and venues, will begin to see a significant increase in business."

Tim Tsopanides and his mother, Rena, are excited to be reopening Kimberly Restaurant in Milford after a several-month shutdown. They were able to create a pandemic positive by giving the restaurant a makeover while it was closed. It now has a different vibe along with a quaint outdoor patio, while maintaining the same hospitality their patrons have enjoyed for decades.

Joey Catalano, owner of the Cantina and Boathouse on the border of Stratford and Milford, said, "I am very excited that we are finally turning the corner. We needed some positive news after a long, hard winter."

The capacity changes will also ease things for entertainment venues like the Milford Arts Council and Milford Performance Center. The limited capacity with social distancing still makes it trying, economically, to produce meaningful shows indoors. April will be the second go-round for the MPC drive-in concert series, which keeps people in socially distant "pods." Many patrons will also have had their vaccines, making things even safer than last year. MPC concertgoers visit restaurants before shows or pick up "to go meals" to eat at the converted lot in the Connecticut Post Mall.

There finally seems to be a sense of positivity and light at the end of the tunnel. So get your vaccines, wear your masks and start to once again enjoy the many culinary and entertainment riches that Milford and Orange have to offer.

## DMBA Gives Out Annual Awards

The Downtown Milford Business Association announced the annual winners of the DMBA Awards, which honor small business owners and members of the Milford community to celebrate their unique milestones and exemplary service to the city. This year's winners include:

Buddy Prete of Ultimate Interiors, who received the DMBA Downtown Milford Champion Award for his outstanding commitment to his community. Prete has been a part of the DMBA for many years, during which he has offered guidance, shown

leadership, fostered beneficial relationships, given freely of his time to help in any way.

Amir and Michelle Lebel of The Corner Brunch, who received a DMBA award for 20 Years in Business. Over the years, The Corner Brunch has accumulated a list of accolades, including top 19 brunch in the country by Travel & Leisure and best brunch in Connecticut in People. The Lebel's have also donated many meals to frontline workers during the pandemic.

Barry and Rosemary Gordon from The Gilded Lily Gallery, who received a DMBA

award for 20 Years in Business. The gallery is renowned for its unique collection of local and international art and is a champion of supporting local artists. Rosemary Gordon is well known for her multimedia, and Barry Gordon is a photographer whose work also hangs in the gallery.

Gary Johnson of the Unity Way of Milford, who received a DMBA Community Service Award. Johnson has served the United Way of Milford for 43 years as president and CEO. He has worked to get help to those in need, providing a safety net to many members of the

Milford community.

Paige Miglio, executive director of the Milford Arts Council, who received a DMBA Community Service Award. Miglio has been the executive director of the MAC since 2013, during which time she paved the way for an artistic renaissance in the Milford community, supporting local artists and bringing culture and entertainment to the downtown landscape.

To see the awards being given out, go to [facebook.com/DowntownMilfordBusinessAssociation](https://facebook.com/DowntownMilfordBusinessAssociation).

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Your Finances

# Education Planning 101: How To Save For Their Future

The average earnings of college graduates exceed earnings of those who did not go to college in every US state. But higher education represents something much greater to many families – a future of unlimited potential.

If you have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, you've likely spent time imagining their future. Though a solid education may put them on a path toward their dreams, it can also leave them in debt. Luckily, families that create a funding plan will be better prepared. The most effective education funding plan is one that begins early by funding a 529 college savings plan.

An education plan is a roadmap that will guide how you fund future education expenses. It outlines your future goals, current and projected financial needs, and a range of savings and investment strategies to help you make consistent progress along the way.

Although every household's financial situation is different, there are some actions that everyone should take. As with any large financial decision, understanding your

budget and how much you can save toward education needs to be addressed first. You likely have other investments, like a retirement plan through your employer, and funding future education may require additional savings beyond the amount you've already set aside.

Flexibility will be necessary. The future is unknown, and the best plans are those that can adapt when put to the test. Your child's dream school may change, or you may need to reprioritize spending and saving for a time. Make room in your roadmap for the unexpected so you can continue to invest in an education plan if your circumstances change.

Creating an education funding plan that works for your family requires time and commitment. One of the best ways to make that commitment is to write down your funding goals and needs, which helps you track your progress and remain accountable.

Documenting your plan also helps to



MATT GALLAGHER

account for less obvious costs that still need to be taken into consideration. Will your child live on campus? Do they need transportation or a budget for meals? What about insurance coverage? And don't forget about books. These expenses can add up quickly, so it's important to project what they may be in order to properly fund them.

Here's how:

1. Understand your household budget and how much you can afford to save, compared to the tuition of your preferred university.

2. Take simple actions first. Pay off debt to free up more in savings or look for areas where you can cut back on spending.

3. Encourage your next generation to get involved by looking for scholarships when the time comes to apply to their dream school.

Self-funding your next generation's postsecondary education is a good goal, but it's not your only option. Even if you

started saving in an account when your child or grandchild was first born, inflation may mean that you won't have all the funding required once it's time for them to attend college.

For most families, paying for college requires a selection of strategies, like combining your savings earmarked for education with applicable scholarships. Many loans are awarded independently of financial need; the average undergraduate student in 2019-2020 received \$7,980 in scholarships or grant aid.

If you've been saving for college expenses but don't have confidence that you're going to reach the amount you want for your next generation, it may be time to talk to a professional who can help you prioritize your savings to ensure you get as close to your ideal number as possible.

*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.*

**Job Opening: President (Executive Director) Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce**

Full Time. Annual salary range: \$55,000 - \$65,000

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Full job description available at: <https://bit.ly/3aU4a8q>. Submit resume and cover letter to: [apply@milfordct.com](mailto:apply@milfordct.com).

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# Obituaries

## When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder,  
lions hunker down  
in tall grasses,  
and even elephants  
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall  
in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses  
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes  
light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly,  
see with  
a hurtful clarity.  
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,  
examines,  
gnaws on kind words  
unsaid,  
promised walks  
never taken.

Great souls die and  
our reality, bound to  
them, takes leave of us.  
Our souls,  
dependent upon their  
nurture,  
now shrink, wizened.  
Our minds, formed  
and informed by their  
radiance, fall away.

We are not so much maddened  
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of  
dark, cold  
caves.

And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly. Spaces fill  
with a kind of  
soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
better. For they existed.

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



**Gail Helen Bozio**, 73, of Milford, beloved wife of Frank Bozio, passed away on February 26, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Pamela Lea Annotto**, 75, of Milford, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Florence A. Bushinsky**, age 94, of Milford, beloved, died on Monday, February 15, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Thomas W. Astle** passed away peacefully at age 90 on January 30, 2021 at Branford Hospice. (Abbey Cremation Service)



**Gary William Ceslik**, age 75, of Milford, passed suddenly on February 27, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Thelma E. Barnett**, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2021 due to a sudden illness at the age of 93. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**John W. Ciesla Sr.**, 88, of Milford, formerly of New Haven, passed away on March 1, 2021. (Lupinski Funeral Home)



**Jane Beams**, 77, of Milford, passed away on February 28, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Fernando "Fred" D'Angelo** 76, of Orange beloved husband of Rose Conte D'Angelo passed away on February 10, 2021. (Porto Funeral Home)



**Kevin M. Botte**, age 45, passed away on February 11, 2021 at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)

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# Obituaries



**Sheila R. Dean**, 76, of Milford, passed away on February 14, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Rose Agnes Elliott**, 95, of Milford, passed away peacefully on February 23, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Lillian E. Greene**, age 91 of Milford, passed away February 11, 2021.



**Grace Kealey** passed away peacefully on the morning of February 15, 2021 at the golden age of 90. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Dorothy Josephine Demo**, 80, of Milford, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Delores Maria Reis George**, 86, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Joseph John Iannotti, Jr.**, 87, of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on February 17, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Helen Lola (Continello) La Belle**, age 94 of Newtown, died February 14, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



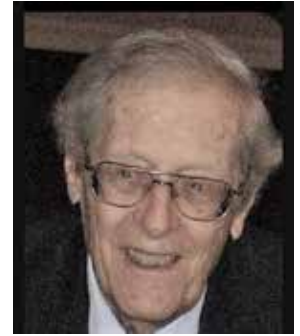
**James Vincent Demo**, 82, of Milford, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**George A. Giba**, age 88, of Milford, passed away on February 17, 2021 in Bridgeport Hospital. (Adzima Funeral Home)



**Georgia Karageorge**, age 74 of Milford, passed peacefully on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. (Commerce Hill Funeral Home)



**John E. Lewis**, age 89, of Orange passed away peacefully on February 12, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Robert Thomas Dinan**, Milford, a longtime resident of West Haven, died peacefully on February 27, 2021.



**William Paul Gorske**, 88, of Milford, passed away on February 18, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**George K. Karipidis** passed away on February 23, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Agnes R. Mallico**, age 93, of Milford, Sr. entered peaceful rest on Friday, February 26, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)

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# Obituaries



**Kate DeSaussure Orecchio**, 84, of Milford, died February 10, 2021. (Leo P. Gallagher Funeral Home)



**John M. Parker**, 92, of Orange, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Laurent Romeo Richard**, age 89, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on February 25, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Mark Thomas Thibault**, 36, of Milford, went to heaven on February 22, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Guy G. Ortoleva**, 100, of Milford died peacefully surrounded by family on February 12, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Kelley Ann Lenkner Patterson**, age 47, formerly of Milford, died suddenly on Feb. 7, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Millie (Milagros) Sarni**, age 75, of Orange, passed away peacefully at her home on February 21, 2021. (Abriola Parkview Funeral Home)



**Laura Gillogly Urban**, 62, entered into rest on March 4, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Beatrix Ann "Trixie" Ouellette**, 84, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Paul Ouellette, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Elvira Manzo Porco**, age 89, of Milford, passed away on Friday, March 5, 2021. (Abriola Parkview Funeral Home)



**Americo "Chuck" Spaziani**, 89, of Orange, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 21st. (Porto Funeral Home)



**Vincent F. Viera**, 87, of Milford, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Christabel T. Overland**, age 106, of Milford, died on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Michael "Skip" Reekie**, 54, passed away in the early hours of Thursday, February 25, 2021. (Adzima Funeral Home)



**James Christopher Testone** of Woodbridge entered into eternal rest on March 5, 2021. (Riverview Funeral Home)



**Shirley Pauline Whelan**, 89, of Milford, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family on February 26, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

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*-Doug Manning*

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