

# Milford-Orange Times

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## Vigil Held In Orange For Atlanta Victims



Orange leaders, residents and members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community attended a candlelight vigil at High Plains Community Center March 20 to remember the victims of the March 16 Atlanta shootings and speak out against discrimination toward Asian Americans. Eight people were killed in the shootings, including six Asian American women. Photos by Ben Jordan.

## Milford Budget Would Lower Tax Rate For Sixth Time

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford taxpayers will see their tax rate lowered for a sixth consecutive time – albeit by a tiny amount – if the Board of Aldermen approves the budget proposal put forward by Milford Mayor Ben Blake.

The recommended budget, which has already been approved by the Board of Finance, would bring the current mill rate of 27.68 down by 0.01 mills to 27.67.

The total price tag is \$221,899,961 is higher than last year's. But the city's grand list growth has been strong even during the pandemic – at approximately 1.396 percent, according to the Board of Finance.

The only area in which Blake's proposal differed significantly from a department's request was in public safety, which had asked for \$30,441,029. Blake lowered

*Continued on page 3*

## Milford Pharmacy Holds Ribbon-Cutting



Dr. Noura Jeblawi and Jimmy Azhari, along with their daughter Sophia Azhari, cut the ribbon on March 20 at a grand opening for their Milford Pharmacy and Home Care location at 78 Broad St. in Milford sponsored by the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Steve Cooper.

## Milford, Orange To Receive Millions In Federal Aid

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford and Orange are in line to receive millions of dollars in direct federal payments as part of the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act, the massive coronavirus stimulus bill passed by Congress in March.

Milford is slated to receive \$17,639,399.

Of that amount, \$4,790,000 is earmarked for aid to schools; the remaining \$12.85 million will go to the town.

Orange will receive \$1,677,954, of which \$303,000 will go to schools and \$1,374,954 will go to the town. Another \$528,000 will go to the Amity school

*Continued on page 3*

## Turkey Hill Development Rejected - Yet Again

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Only two weeks after voting down the site plan application for a controversial housing development off Turkey Hill Road in Orange, the Town Plan & Zoning Commission on March 16 voted down the zoning amendment request it would need to move forward.

The decision marked the fourth time since 2018 that a town board has issued a denial for a project on the parcel owned by local resident Richard Meisenheimer. This proposal was for nine or 10 multifamily residential buildings, with no more than 28 units total, and a single community building on a compilation of parcels on the

22.5-acre property.

The proposal has gone through numerous iterations. A different proposal for the same property was the subject of strong opposition in 2018 and was ultimately denied by the TPZC. Another version of the plan for the multifamily development that would have included an affordable housing component also faced vociferous disapproval from neighbors, who have argued the proposal is too dense for the area. A denial by the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission in January 2020 is currently being appealed. Under state law, developments which meet certain

*Continued on page 13*

## Milford Chamber Opens New Location



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting March 25 for its new office location the CT Post Mall in Milford. Photo by Steve Cooper.



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# News & Events

## Your Health

### Vaccine Optimism Can Reduce Vaccine Hesitancy

The Orange Health Department took the initiative of hosting COVID-19 vaccine clinics and has been vaccinating the Orange community since January. So far we have given more than 1,200 doses of vaccines. Despite all the challenges, we are still going strong. My plan is to continue to serve my community.

In various published reports, the vaccine hesitancy among various demographics has significantly improved. As more and more people get vaccinated, it will help in reducing vaccine hesitancy and anxiety as vaccinated people share their positive experiences.

Since my last column, the Centers for Disease Control has published various updated guidelines. Fully vaccinated people can now mingle with other fully vaccinated people without masks. Additionally, those individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 as long as they are

not experiencing any symptoms.

However, the CDC is urging fully vaccinated people to continue taking precautions when they are in public.

Several published studies indicate that all three available COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) are very safe and effective in preventing severe symptoms, hospitalization and mortality.

As per the CDC's latest guidelines on travel, "Fully vaccinated people don't need to get a COVID-19 test before or after domestic travel – and don't need to self-quarantine following travel."

Despite the CDC's determination that travel is a low-risk activity for people who have been vaccinated, officials still advise against nonessential travel as COVID-19



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

cases continue to rise in the US. There remains a high possibility that cases will rise after spring break as more people travel.

Based on local data, the town of Orange is doing well when it comes to its vaccination rate. As of last month, 36 percent of the total population in Orange had been vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines. The immunization rate is much higher among the 65 and 75 years and older groups. My goal is to achieve 50 percent or above overall vaccination by early summer.

As of April 1, all age groups 16 and above are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. However, due to limited resources and staffing, our health department is only able to offer one day per week of vaccine clinic at the High Plains Community Center. According to the state Department of

Public Health's recent announcement, more vaccination sites will open to provide faster access to vaccine clinics.

We have received great feedback from our residents. The credit belongs to all the dedicated volunteers, Community Emergency Response Team members, Orange Visiting Nurse Association staff and our town residents who have stepped up in offering this noble service.

Knowing the collective benefits and the CDC's updated guidelines on vaccinated individuals, I urge all of you to join me in this effort to improve the vaccination rate among our town residents. Let's continue our vaccine optimism by encouraging our families, friends, neighbors and all those who we interact with to be vaccinated as efficiently and quickly as possible.

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

### Milford Budget (Continued From 1)

that by nearly \$2 million, to \$28,685,085, which the BOF approved. The bulk of the decrease - \$1.3 million - came out of the police department, including by removing a request for two safety dispatch officers and \$296,000 for police cruisers.

In addition to approving the mayor's \$122.2 million municipal portion of the budget, the BOF also granted the Board of Education its full requested amount of about \$99.7 million - an increase of 2.255 percent over last year.

In his letter accompanying the budget recommendation, BOF chair Brian A. Lema wrote that his board felt that it would be best to approve the BOE's full funding request "to allow the BOE flexibility to address the current and future impacts to BOE operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

In perhaps another nod to the pandemic, the BOF also approved the addition of a deputy health director position with a salary of \$81,165. The position had been eliminated in the 2015-2016 budget. Also included was a \$2 million year-over-year increase in the contribution to the pension fund for fire, police and other municipal

workers.

Throughout April and the beginning of May the Board of Aldermen will review the budget proposal with various city departments. It will vote on the proposal, possibly with adjustments, in mid-May.

### Stimulus (Continued From 1)

district, which is shared by Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge.

The payments are part of a total \$2.6 billion in direct payment to Connecticut municipalities as part of the bill, which was

signed into law on March 11 by President Joe Biden. They are separate from another \$2.8 billion being sent to the state.

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill further had also divvied payments up for counties, but Connecticut does not have county governments.

Milford and Orange schools are additionally set to get part of a \$440 million relief package for Connecticut schools that was passed in December.

There are conditions on how these funds can be spent, on both the school and municipal side. For instance, cities and towns can't use the funds to pay down debt.

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# A Look Back By Priscilla Searles



Workmen in the 1920s prepare to load a woodshed in Orange with fresh cut logs. Photo courtesy of the Doris Russell collection.

Winter is finally behind us, along with the high heating bills. For those of us who were supplementing those bills by burning wood, rest the saw, rest the ax, park the plow and get the outdoor furniture ready for the season.

For most of us, burning wood is a choice; we can survive without it. But this 1920s photo reminds us that 100 years ago wood logs were mandatory for survival. These two workmen are preparing to load the woodshed with fresh cut logs. And when you remember that they had to do it without a chain saw, well, it gives you a whole new appreciation as to how lucky we are. Note also the outhouse located next to the woodshed.

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.*

## Running

# Time For A Change Of Routine

The seasons are changing. The world around us is changing, and though many times it seems not our comfortable routine, it can be good.

I do love running and could run every day. Actually, it's hard not to. I know in my mind I need to mix it up, but my heart is in running.

It really is better for my mind and my body to mix it up. Variety is the spice of life. Cross training and taking a break from too much routine has many benefits. Using your muscles in a different way can help your body to strengthen other joints and muscles. It improves your fitness and refreshes your mind.

There are dozens of ways to change it up, from walking to yoga to cycling to Zumba. Many of these you can find free online at various levels. Choose a goal. If you want to reduce impact as you may be sore or feel an injury, try an elliptical or cycling. To improve balance or strength, try yoga or Pilates. There are many reasonable classes at High Plains Community Center. Seniors can use the gym and pool at no cost. Many health plans also cover Silver Sneakers, which provides free access to the YMCA and some gyms.



CATHY BRADLEY

If you are looking to improve stamina, try rowing (on a machine, no need for a boat) and stair climbing. Swimming increases blood flow and water disperses the stress on the body. Running or walking in a pool is great exercise.

We have spent a lot of time indoors, so let's start to refresh for spring. Watch what you eat. Be aware of sugars in breakfast cereals. Try yogurt or steel cut oatmeal with berries (fresh or frozen). Snack on more raw veggies and fruit. Get creative. Spice up chicken or fish

with salsa. Scramble an egg with spinach and red bell peppers. Brighten up a sandwich with shredded carrots and arugula.

Replace sugary drinks and artificial sweeteners with green or herbal tea, coconut water or unsweetened iced tea. Water is a great option with a lemon or lime.

Let's focus on staying healthy by changing it up with what we do and what we eat. Think about creative ways to stay healthy and keep it interesting by changing your routine or spicing it up.

*Cathy Bradley can be reached at [cathy@ccenterprises.com](mailto:cathy@ccenterprises.com).*



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**The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce**

**The Rotary Club of Orange**

# Get Ready For Stimulus Spending

By Simon McDonald



Small business owners have made it through a very tough year. From complete lockdowns a year ago to half capacity and other restrictions, it has been a difficult

time for many businesses. Now with springtime blossoming and vaccines flowing, the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is approaching.

If you are a businessperson, now is the time to open up as much as you can. Restaurants, open the patio even if it is a bit too cold; people are getting out. Financial advisors, you may have a whole new group of savers to help. Real estate agents and mortgage brokers, rejoice. Even many theaters and event spaces will be open soon.

While many people may look at the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act as a boondoggle of debt for future generations to pay, most entrepreneurs understand that without some debt, growth is impossible. This debt will put money directly into the pockets of those who will most likely use it quickly.

The velocity of money moving onto the economy over the next few months will give small business owners an opportunity to get back on their feet if they are aware of what is coming. The customers who stuck with you will still be there. Now there is the possibility of new customers.

With an immediate stimulus of \$1,400 for most adults and an additional sum for every child, families that have been living paycheck to paycheck will likely be in the market for new wares. Appliances they thought they would have

to repair can be replaced. The car that is not fully run into the ground can be replaced with a nicer used or new car. The money that would have been used for diapers or medicine can be a nice night out for the entire family again. The savings for self-employed people using the Affordable Care Act insurance marketplace could be enough for mortgage payments for a year. More people with more money means a greater opportunity for businesses to thrive.

What this means for many small businesses is that the time for marketing as quickly as possible is here. Get your name out there by whatever means possible. Advertise in a small newspaper, buy sandwich board signs for the front of your business, boost a Facebook ad and try Instagram. (You never know what will work.) Remember, the only customer you can never get is the customer who is unaware you exist.

We are not out of the woods yet. I still will not shake your hand. I am still wearing my masks and keeping my distance, but I feel less fear now than I did. I see possibilities that were gone for a year are back again and many people are feeling the same. Springtime is here and we can all feel it in the air.

The American Rescue Plan Act is also providing funding for small businesses that may have missed out on the first round of stimulus. Please reach out to the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce for help understanding these programs or to discuss the various marketing company members who can help get the word out about your business.

*Simon McDonald is director of membership and marketing for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached at [smcdonald@milfordct.com](mailto:smcdonald@milfordct.com).*

# Work For All Seasons, At Home And Abroad

By Phil Smith



As I write this column it's a cold, rainy day, unpleasantly disguising the imminent arrival of spring. Although it still seems wintry, our Rotary Club is about to

start planning for its annual Mother's Day rose sale in May.

Last Mother's Day we underestimated the number of people willing to brave the newly arrived coronavirus to drive by the community center pavilion and pick up a beautiful arrangement of roses. We sold out early. Keep the onslaught coming; we'll be ready for you this May.

As the seasons change and days fly by, the club continues its support of local organizations in a variety of ways. Among the club's recent community grants are funding for the Orange Senior Center, the food pantry, a Food 4 Kids project, and the Orange Little League.

But Rotary, while community centered for sure, does not shun the larger picture globally. Its national and international areas of focus are peace and conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, economic/community development and water/sanitation.

As the current pandemic makes clear, no community is an island – what happens halfway around the world can have a local impact, for good or bad.

The environment as a whole is the newest focus of Rotary's worldwide funding initiatives. Local area clubs participate in a variety of ways to support this focus. Our own Lynda Hammond, an Orange Rotarian, has been instrumental in developing and seeing through to completion a significant water project in western Kenya.

The Nambale Magnet School, which began over a decade ago with support from the Orange Rotary Club and local churches, resides in a part of Africa that lacks reliable water sources for parts of the year. Thanks to a Rotary global grant and other funding sources, the Nambale School water project is nearly complete.

Overseeing the drilling of a bore hole in a remote part of Africa is no easy job. Cultural differences, awkward communication channels and the inevitable delays and problems attendant to any such project call for a certain good nature, patience and the occasional willingness to "knock heads." Linda can do all these things. The water has started flowing.

*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).*

## Another Vaccine Option Open In Orange

Orange has added another location for COVID-19 vaccine administration at V-Care Pharmacy, located at 250 Indian River Rd. The addition of V-Care is part of an increasing effort to spread vaccine distribution beyond public

health officials and into private pharmacies nationwide. Eligible individuals who wish to receive a vaccine from V-Care must register at [mycarepharmacy.com](http://mycarepharmacy.com). All Connecticut residents over 18 are eligible for the vaccine.



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# Opinion & Editorial

## Your Neighbor, Your Voice



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

“Your neighbor, your voice.” When I say this, I don’t think of it as just a toss-away line; for me, this is what I truly strive to be in my position as an advocate for our community. If there are any concerns that you feel someone should be paying more attention to, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [mary.welander@cga.ct.gov](mailto:mary.welander@cga.ct.gov).

On March 15, I was humbled by the recognition as “An Advocate for Change” by the Sandy Hook Promise organization for my work bringing community building and violence prevention programs to schools, organizations and houses of worship across the state, and for fighting successfully for their funding on a federal level. The need for this type of work was unfortunately reinforced by the mass shooting that occurred in Atlanta the next day, and then followed by the events at a Colorado grocery store.

On March 19 I had the honor of assisting Linda Li Zhang organize a candlelight vigil at High Plains Community Center to honor and remember the Atlanta victims, the majority of whom were Asian American women. In our country, over the past year alone, there has been a 150 percent increase in violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

When we hear that statistic, it is a natural reaction to think our community is somehow immune, but the truth is that it can happen anywhere, including here. I was comforted by the large crowd that joined us that night, including a bipartisan representation on both the state and town levels, showing that we will not tolerate that kind of discrimination.

I’ve also had the opportunity to advocate for our schools during my work on the Education Committee. There have been a lot of proposals put forward. Some I agree with, like providing more social workers and counselors for our schools. I have serious concerns about others. One piece of legislation did not have my support because it did not align with our interests here in the 114th District. As proposed, it did not allocate adequate funding for existing programs, like special education, but proposed guaranteed additional resources for charter schools which already receive public funds without the same levels of public oversight as our schools.

These are hard conversations, especially for a new legislator pushing against committee leadership, but they are needed to ensure that all our students are supported in the ways that they deserve.

Last, I was recently in Waterbury celebrating the proposed expansion of service and rail cars for the Waterbury Rail Line, which runs through Derby. Providing higher levels of service for this commuter line will help residents across the area get to work, reduce traffic on our roads and highways and will have a positive ripple effect on our entire district. This type of local expansion, along with the continued support of our schools and community, will work to keep Orange in high demand for families looking to set down roots. I look forward to working with all involved to continue these positive efforts.

## Curbing The Rise Of Car Thefts



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

Many Milford and Orange residents have shared their frustration with an escalation of motor vehicle break-ins that also includes the outright brazen thefts of cars committed by juveniles who seem to act without fear of significant legal repercussion.

This February, Milford Police Chief Keith Mello told the members of the city’s Board of Police Commissioners that car thefts and robberies are on the rise in Milford.

In recent months Milford police have also said, “From the Stratford to the West Haven to the Orange town line, there is no area of Milford that has not been victimized by vehicle thefts or thefts from vehicles. It’s happening in your neighborhood! Several arrests have been made but we need your help to prevent these types of crimes from happening in the future.”

Furthermore, a state police task force reported last summer that rather than using them for joyriding, car thieves were stealing cars in the suburbs and using them to commit other crimes, then abandoning them in cities like Hartford or New Haven.

The US Supreme Court decisions in *Miller v. Alabama* in 2012 and *Graham v. Florida* in 2010 led Connecticut to revise its juvenile justice laws in 2015, limiting when a juvenile offender could be transferred to adult court.

Many believe the effect of the 2015 law change today now limits accountability for vehicle thieves, who are largely between 16 and 24 years old.

The Hartford Police Department has said that it normally issues a juvenile summons to a suspect and their guardian to appear in court. They’ll be released and later arrested again for stealing more vehicles. Almost everyone arrested for vehicle thefts in Hartford is a repeat offender.

To that end, I, along with my House Republican colleagues, have submitted legislation to impose actual consequences for teenagers (15-18) who are repeatedly charged with stealing or attempting to steal a vehicle. Our proposal includes:

- Facing charges on the regular criminal docket;
- An expanded ability for judges to order detention or Global Positioning System monitoring;
- A categorization as “serious juvenile repeat offender” upon second theft conviction;
- Requiring the state Department of Children and Families intervention to provide services to the offender;
- And modifying state pursuit policy, allowing police to intercept thieves as the crime occurs.

Many residents believe we need to put some real teeth behind this law with real consequences. These offenders are able ransack neighborhood after neighborhood without regard for any actual punishment.

As always, please contact me should you have any questions about this important issue or concerns on any other topics relating to state government at [Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov) or at 800-842-1423.

## The Virtual Legislature



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

Although we have been legislating virtually for over a year, that hasn’t stopped your House of Representatives from being laser-focused on combatting the effects of COVID-19 or continuing to serve the residents of Connecticut.

We’ve tackled a wide range of issues, from providing much-needed relief to vulnerable residents to assisting businesses to prevent overbearing Hartford policies from crippling local voices. I will highlight a few pieces of legislation, an opening of a new business in our community and provide a vaccine update.

First and foremost there is House Bill 5742, which requires a portion of COVID-19 relief funds be used for domestic violence, mental health, suicide prevention and substance abuse as a result of suffering from the pandemic. HB 5742 will ensure people confronting these challenges and the agencies that help them have the resources they need.

On March 25, the House passed legislation to support restaurants by continuing outdoor dining options through next year. In addition to supporting restaurants, I cosponsored a bill that will use federal funds to replenish the unemployment compensation fund to prevent those costs from being passed to our businesses. These bills will save jobs and businesses as we continue to navigate Connecticut’s recovery.

I also cosponsored House Bill 6555, which would create a process of legislative oversight on the future allocation of COVID-19 relief funds. Over the past year, the governor’s office has spent millions of relief funds without the consultation of your representatives. This effort will create transparency, provide checks on the enormous power of the executive branch and reestablish the legislative branch as the coequal branch of government.

Rep. Kathy Kennedy and I had the pleasure of welcoming a new, locally-owned business to Orange. We attended Empire Tattoo’s ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 23 and plan to present them with an official state citation soon.

In the spirit of building a better tomorrow, I’m sponsoring an Earth Day cleanup event on April 24 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Oyster River in Orange. The event will be open to the public and will follow COVID protocols. You can email [Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov) to register for the event and get additional information.

Last, Connecticut continues to make strides in eradicating COVID-19. 1,828,260 doses have been administered as of March 29. Starting April 1 residents 16 and older will be eligible for the vaccine. Our state continues to rank among the top vaccinated states in the country.

You can continue to follow the actions of legislature right from home by watching committee meetings, public hearings and tracking legislation. These informational resources can be found at [CTHouseGOP.com/virtual-guide](http://CTHouseGOP.com/virtual-guide). Should you have any questions, concerns, or input on legislation and state issues, I can always be reached by email at [Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov).

## Looking Back And Moving Forward



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

It’s hard to believe that it has been over a year since our first COVID-19 shutdown. In that time we have lost over 7,800 of our friends, family and neighbors to the disease. We have lost time with family. Students have lost time in school. As a community, we were forced to take precautions to keep ourselves and others around us safe. Thousands of people are still in quarantine and many who lost their jobs don’t know if they will be able to afford their next meal. As a state, we had to come together quickly and figure out how to tackle a virus that was causing so much pain.

The virus exposed inequalities where minorities and others at the bottom of the economic ladder were hit the hardest. Low wage workers had higher pandemic job losses and Black Americans have mortality rates that are significantly higher than all other race and ethnic groups except for indigenous people.

The pandemic has forced many workers into remote and telework as offices have closed around the country. But not everyone has the same ability to work from home.

Fortunately, lessons have been learned. Several legislators, including myself, are working on legislation that would protect residents in Connecticut in the future should a pandemic ever strike again. Funds have been allocated to allow students to continue learning, businesses to repair and programs to carry on. Long-term care facilities and medical centers have adopted new initiatives to ensure the protection of patients.

Mental health is extremely important, and I fear that as we have all been living through collective trauma that a mental health crisis is looming. However, help is available 24/7. Counselors are available to talk. There is also a crisis text line; text CT to 741741. There are prevention and response resources available. Take the pledge to better your mental health. If you take care of yourself first, you can help be there for others.

While many of us remained physically distant, we rapidly adapted to new technologies allowing us to remain connected to loved ones. But that is no replacement for personal connection. We have come to a new appreciation for those who are essential. The doctors and nurses who cared for our loved ones when they were fighting a new sickness. Teachers who continued to teach our children during a time of uncertainty. First responders who showed up when they were needed. Grocery store workers who continued to come to work and put their health and safety at risk.

Perhaps the most important thing we learned was the importance of community. Over this year we have seen our neighbors come together. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. By taking the necessary precautions, we can work together to bring normalcy back to everyday life.

For those who have survived, we have much to both be thankful for and proud of in our state. Biotech companies from our state led the charge for developing the new vaccine, and we continue to be one of the leading states in vaccination rates. I am thankful for the sacrifices that everyone has made to help us weather this storm together.

# Opinion & Editorial

## Asian Americans Faced A Long History Of Discrimination

By Linda L. Zhang

As a human being, an American, an Asian America, and an Asian America woman, the Atlanta shooting on March 16 so disturbed me that I had tears in my eyes from the time of hearing about it to a candlelight vigil that was held successfully in Orange a few days after.

Asians have been called "invisible," a "model minority." In the 1800s the first groups of Chinese came to the US to build railroads in the West so trains could cross the country from coast to coast. The celebration of this achievement happened without any recognition to the Chinese workers. Additionally, the Chinese Exclusion Act is the only bill passed by Congress to restrict a specific race from entering the US. The act was repealed by Congress in 1943.

After the 1980s, more and more Asians from all over the world came to the US

to pursue their dreams of a better life. As immigrants they worked extremely hard no matter what they did, running a small business or being engineers or doctors or accountants.

Most of them fit squarely into that stereotype of "model minority," quietly doing exactly what was asked of them. In many cases – though not all – one of a model minority's characteristics is the experience of being taken advantage of. If you are an Asian American, you are treated as though you are supposed to do more work and speak less (or say nothing). This is a typical form of systematic discrimination. Nevertheless, Asians come to the US with higher skill level. They therefore sometimes make a decent family income.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian Americans have faced a double standard. When the virus started spreading in the

US, many Asians tapped relatives in other countries and, at their own cost, funneled all kinds of personal protective equipment into the US. They donated to places like hospitals, nursing homes and police departments.

At the same time, Asians were scapegoated for the failures of American leaders to keep the virus from coming to the country and spreading largely unchecked for months. Some people erroneously called the coronavirus the "China virus," which has seriously misled a small group of people who lack basic knowledge of the differences in far-eastern countries and their cultures.

Now the misplaced blame has allowed that small group of people to expose their systematic hatred toward all Asian Americans.

The Atlanta shooting killed six Asian

American women. I want to shout out: Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we are patriotic. Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we vote. Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we serve the community. Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we are not a virus. Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we are doctors, lawyers, engineers, business owners and government workers. Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we fight hard against COVID-19 and that other virus: racism. Asian Americans are Americans just as everyone else because we are human beings.

Stop Asian hate. Stop discrimination against anyone.

Linda Zhang is a resident of Orange.

### Commentary:

## Considerations For The Amity Budget

The Amity budget referendum is currently scheduled for May 5. The Amity budget is the largest town expenditure in Orange and the other towns that share the school district.

The number of voters approving the budget has historically been very low. Amity Regional District 5 leaders consider this positive recognition of the proper management of the district, as they have 13 years of budget approvals. But the Orange Board of Finance has consistently raised questions on why the district needs an increase of their budget every year.

One Orange Board of Finance member presents a case that the district is overfunded by about \$2 million a year, since the district either gives back money to the towns every year or puts it into the state-approved capital contingency fund (up to 1 percent of that year's budget).

In any given year, the budget split between

the towns is based on the prior Oct. 1 student enrollment survey, which shows the number of enrolled students from each town. This leaves a concern that funds held over based on a prior year's budget and spent on district needs in the current budget rather than returned to the towns results in overcharges to the towns with higher allocations than in the next budget year.

The Amity district has gotten its financial house in order since the troubles of 2002. It has put efficiencies in its self-insurance program, installed energy efficiency measures including a fuel cell that provides heat to the building, and natural gas conversion in the Orange Middle School. It is the only district with its own financial manual codifying district budgeting and spending processes. Amity



THOMAS P. HURLEY

prides itself on the efficiencies it continues to find.

There are good reasons that surpluses appear at the end of the budget year. Many are one-time savings or are incorporated into the next budget cycle. So why not use actual expenditures in determining the next year's budget as has been suggested?

One reason may be that the current year's actuals are not known at the time of budget preparation. The budget is approved in May, but final bill payment takes until August. Amity has had several years of zero adverse findings from the district auditors.

A second reason is special education. The district implemented an in-house program to meet identified special education students' needs. An outplacement can cost \$250,000

to \$1 million. Amity is doing a good job in handling the known needs of the district. However, this can change with special education students moving into the district.

A third reason not to use actual expenditures in determining the budget is new unfunded state mandates. Amity must accommodate these mandates and must budget these services with no previous known spending to base it on.

Finally, the district does not have reserves available like towns do. If the district runs out of money it must come back to the towns' voters via another referendum or district meeting to obtain more money. This means conservative, prudent budgeting must be employed to avoid having to ask for more money and staying within their approved budget. The taxpayers are not a recurring money machine for mismanagement or poor planning.

### Letters to the Editor:

#### Praise For Orange Vaccination Team

To the Editor:

Orange, Connecticut managed to be a nationwide example of how to combat a virus through the process of vaccinations. This is all thanks to the work of the judicious and professional vaccination team spearheaded by Dr. Mohammad and Terry Waldron. If there were any qualms or concerns from residents, they took the time to address every concern and were constantly up to date with any and all breaking information from the CDC and medical authorities.

I was privileged to be part of the team of dedicated volunteers administering the shots to each resident with consistent care and diligence to make sure the process was both equally painless and effective.

Dr. Mohammad and Terry Waldron made sure each volunteer was meticulously trained in the documentation procedures as well as administering the vaccine. As a longtime medical professional in Connecticut and resident of Orange I am so proud of our town, and the response from the state regarding our effort should be applauded. Residents of Orange should know we are always prepared and at the ready thanks to this team of Orange medical professionals.

Dr. Anjali Mehta  
Orange

#### Against the Equality Act

To the Editor:

There's a sign on the corner of Orange Center Road and Old Tavern Road inviting female Amity teens to join the girls lacrosse team. I'm wondering about the truth of that in light of the Equality Act that's been railroaded through Congress with not only the blessings of our representatives but a proud declaration by Rosa DeLauro that she is a cosponsor. Its title might seem noble - who's not for equality - but look further and among other inequities, this bill would ultimately lead to the erasure of women by dismantling sex specific facilities, sports and other female-only spaces. Sexual orientation and gender identity laws that open up sex-specific facilities like bathrooms, locker rooms etc. to members of the opposite sex enable sexual assault as well as assaulting the rights of girls/women to have their private spaces and gender specific sports. It's headed to the Senate and our two senators have let me know that they can hardly wait to vote yes. Read the fine print and let them know you object to this monstrosity wrapped in pretty paper.

Bonnie Pelaccia  
Orange

#### We Need to Be Better

To the Editor:

"This is America," to quote our

president. "We will not send these children back." This is not political, this is a compassionate concern as a human being and a mother. This is America. We need to be better than this. We are better than this. Putting our head in the sand, declaring no crisis will not make it go away. The first step toward any problem is to acknowledge it's a problem. We don't want to acknowledge or expose the magnitude of the conditions.

We need to create more accountability and ownership around the conditions and

events at the border for these children. The fix is not easy but who is in charge of a plan. Border patrol is overwhelmed, child services wants to help but has no access. Press is denied and day by day it becomes more over whelming.

These are children. This is America. Blame serves for nothing. We own the issues on our soil. We need leadership, accountability and we need a plan.

Cathy Bradley  
Orange

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- |                                      |                                  |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Annamarie Amore, Flooring            | Matt Gallagher, Finances         | Jennifer Paradis, Helping Others  |
| Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences | Patricia Houser, Environment     | Trish Pearson, Insurance          |
| Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This    | Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary     | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel        |
| Cathy Bradley, Running               | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate      | Priscilla Searles, Orange History |
| Joanne Byrne, Retirement             | Dan May, Earth Science           | Loretta Smith, Recycling          |
| Steve Cooper, Food                   | Marilyn May, Milford History     | Phil Smith, Rotary Club           |
| David Crow, Conversations            | Simon McDonald, Milford Chamber  | Raymond Spaziani, Wine            |
| Pat Dray, Gardening                  | Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health | Fern Tausig, Hypnosis             |
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# Opinion & Editorial

## Ponder This

### A Public Option Would Lower Costs

The report of the Lancet Commission on Public Policy and Health in the United States offers a clear, evidence-based and informative analysis of our health care crisis. As a nation, we are clearly aware of the shortcomings and failures of our system. An opportunity presents itself in the form of a public option mechanism within any health care reform.

A public option is a cost saver and a critical step toward progress and reform, but the term itself is problematic. Simply described, a public health insurance option means that the government provides a form of health insurance that Americans can purchase.

The first step is to understand that this is a financial model, not a delivery system. By poll, a majority of Americans favor universal health care but disagree about the details. We can be comforted by the strong history of attempts at reform despite the inability to reach the desired outcome of affordable, high quality, accessible health care. Many Americans remain fearful of a public option fueled by skepticism of government despite satisfaction with Medicare and Social Security. Opponents of a public option have offered and reinforced a narrative that capitalizes on this fear.

Much has been written about the obstacles to health care reform, but we now have a pressing need to pause the discussion about our differences, our history and engage in corrective action. The public option would

operate in the same manner. The detail in previous reform efforts like the Affordable Care Act that colored the narrative was the requirement that all Americans must carry some form of insurance. This is actually a tried-and-true mechanism. Think Social Security: all workers contribute (or purchase) retirement insurance. Younger workers participate fully to gain a benefit that will not be used until later in life.

The critique that younger workers don't want to participate since they are not using the benefit is a red herring. They certainly will benefit down the road as in all pension, retirement and insurance programs. By contributing to a public option, the costs are lowered for all and savings increase over time due to the volume served.

Politically motivated discussions have focused on a particular part of the public option design: the enrollment requirement. Advocates initially were seemingly well intended; some of the more strident dialogue came was meant as a helpful strategy to add volume, contain costs and keep premiums lower over time.

Much has been written about the obstacles. The public option itself is a step toward removing some of the obstacles. It is a start, since good health care is associated with better



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

opportunities for employment and school performance. The Congressional Budget Office indicates that the deficit will decrease significantly over 10 years due to savings accrued from the public option.

Social policy decisions about jobs, education and the economy affect individuals with lower educational attainment and fewer resources, making them more vulnerable to social policy decisions that affect access to health care and other services.

The advantages of a public option include the nonprofit status of the government; there is no tax liability. Although not in the forefront of the discussions, the tax liability issue is responsible for much of the opposition from the private insurance industry. In the for-profit system, the tax liability on earned profits is subsidized by the customer via higher premium costs. Ordinarily, higher premiums are a means to repay investors and absorb the tax liability from earned profits. In a more competitive system, the for-profit insurance industry would have to lower premiums to compete with the public option. The margin of profit would be diminished if competing with a public option system.

The administrative costs are significantly lower with all public payer systems, thus

providing another advantage to a public option.

Research has determined that Americans have a fundamental bend toward moderation combined with suspicion of government. These attitudes have compromised previous reform efforts, especially when elected official use attitudinal norms to prevent progress. We need to reframe the discussion so that we can properly address health care reform.

The public option is an investment in the public sector for the good of the community. The US must not remain an outlier in health care. Affordable quality health care is not just essential for individuals and families, but an integral component of the well-being for our communities.

*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.*

## Happy Birthday, Derek!

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# A 100-Year Celebration At Bay View

By Marilyn May

When anything reaches the 100-year mark, there's a lot to celebrate. The Bay View Improvement Association, founded in Milford in 1921, will host a big get-together on June 26 with some activities reminiscent of the Roaring Twenties.

Celebration planning was stalled for a while by COVID-19 concerns, but organizers are back at work and hoping to have events once popular in the 1920s, such as pie baking contests and flower arranging challenges. They also will have activities for children and a band at night. Stay tuned: there are a lot more events to be announced.

It's a little challenging to find much about Bay View in Milford history books; eavesdropping on current Facebook sites is the best way to find the personal stories.

Apparently, rafts in the swimming area were very popular. As one person put it, "Who among us, blessed to still be here and reminiscing back some fifty or sixty years ago can hardly forget a swim at Bayview without remembering it as a child as being a

shear feat just to reach either the left or right swim deck using only your first exhausting dog paddle. Needless to say, who could have guessed that this single leg event would evolve into the more infamous "three-raft-race."

Many summers there were beach sports and swimming events at Bay View Beach. The winners awarded ribbons and trophies fondly remember the fun. One woman wrote about her father who was born in 1929 and as a teenager won the "point to point" swim race. She still has the top of her father's trophy. "The trophy is beautiful, a man swimming in waves," she wrote.



Welch's Point Road heading to Bay View. The Bay View Variety Store is on the right. The house on the left was razed a few years ago. Photo courtesy of Irene Nolan.



An early photo of George Haskins' office on the beach. The signs show he is selling short lots and cottages. Photo courtesy of the Daniel E. Moger photo collection.

Another online post read, "I grew up in Bayview from 1965-1980s, the association always had something fun going on from 3 legged races to costume contests; all kinds of things to do, great place to grow up!"

The development of Bay View and other shoreline beaches began with realtor George Haskins, widely

known as the "Shore Lot Man." In the early 1900s he plotted out hundreds of small sites for cottages to be used in summers only. According to residents, many who summered in Milford were from Yonkers, Queens, the Bronx and no doubt from places in Connecticut. In later years furnaces and insulation were added to cottages, and families began living there year-round. The land records in the City Clerk's office list countless transactions by Haskins. Many people in Bay View today are the third generation of their families to live there.

Bay View (which at different times has been called Bay-View and Bayview) is a "quasi municipality that is chartered by the State of Connecticut and is a special taxing district," according to Doreen Stomsky, a planning committee member.

"All homeowners in the association have deeded rights to the beach," Stomsky said, adding this means those in the association's

340-plus homes share the beach and grassy land area directly across the street. The Bay View Beach shoreline is 600 feet of open space above the mean high tide water mark.

Bay View's western border starts at Westland Avenue. Going east it encompasses the land just before the Calf Pen Meadow Creek.

One more Facebook quote about the beach is likely to bring back memories for lots of people: "How good all the moms smelled with their Ban de Soleil tanning cream! Would love just one hour to be back there!"

In case you never noticed, every July 4 Bay View has one of the most spectacular fireworks displays in the area. Association board members are planning a great summer.

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

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# Investing In Your Home To Make It New And Fresh

Every season the “corps of realtors” designates time to coaxing their clients on what the little things are that make a home stand out in the market.

Many little things, such as colorful afghans and wreaths, can speak of new beginnings. Investing in new tile in the foyer and changing the light fixtures are all inexpensive ways to add dimension and interest to your marketing techniques.

I always go for the paint. Many times the fresh colors, lightened hallways and clean windowsills strike a certain respect for the seller. A buyer is turned off by homes that are handyman specials, tired or in need of updating, but show them some splash

of new towels and resurfaced bathtubs and their eyes will widen. Anything the potential buyer does not have to take on themselves will only make their interest grow.

The lawn is an essential aspect. We all know now is the time to get it going. The sun is a big help, but you need some raking and product to do it justice. I am a fan of anything new, such as outdoor lights, a new mailbox and lots of mulch. Don't just add some plants and walk



**BARBARA LEHRER**

As you know, homeownership carries from home to home. Buyers know what they expect in their current home and look for those same things in prospective purchases. Today's market is not easy; you have a very short period of time to decide if you want to submit an offer. So take a good look beyond the cosmetic aspects of the home. Although you see ticketed items that need

upgrading down the line, unless they are broken, they are just old and old is not going to get the current owner to give you monetary credit.

If you are not ready to sell just yet, it is in your best interest to continuously invest in your home benefiting you when the time comes: a new deck, some new appliances, roof and gutters. The list goes on.

Finding professional people for these jobs is something your realtor can assist you with. An active agent always has a list of the best of the best. You want to enjoy new things too. Some people replace items when they are ready to sell, and what fun is that? Happy spring.

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

**The Garden Spot**

# Starting Your Plants From Seed

Now that you've gotten all your tools ready for the new planting season, you've decided on a location for your garden and prepared the soil, it's time to start your plants.

Many of the most popular vegetables and flowers are easy to start from seed – and it will be a fun and educational experience.

Your first question is “What do I want to plant?” Most vegetable gardeners start out with tomatoes, peppers, lettuces, cucumbers – your basic salad components. If you want to start plants indoors from seeds they should generally be those that grow above ground. Vegetables like carrots, beets and radishes that grow underground should be sown directly into the garden.

Before starting plants indoors, you need to understand their growth patterns and when they can be transplanted into the garden. We

are in USDA plant hardiness zone 7a, which means that the last date for frost is April 15. The seed package will indicate when you can sow seeds indoors, generally four to eight weeks before the last frost date. Working backwards from April 15, if my tomato seeds say six to eight weeks before the last frost, I can start the seeds indoors in early March and transplant them in early May, when the soil has reached around 60 degrees.

You can start your seeds in small pots or containers as long as they are at least two inches deep. Even Solo cups with holes in the bottom work. I use small fiber pots and fill them with seed starting medium. These growing mediums are “fluffy” and allow for



**PAT DRAY**

excellent drainage, are formulated to encourage root growth and free of weed seeds and disease.

Avoid using topsoil, garden soil or potting soil since they are too dense for seed starting. I also avoid products that are advertised as “water holding” since they may encourage fungal diseases by keeping the roots too wet. Follow the seed package directions for planting depth. Keep them moist

but not wet, and keep them in a warm area to germinate, covered loosely with plastic wrap.

Once the seeds have germinated, the seedlings require strong light. If you don't have a south-facing window, you will need to use a grow light. Otherwise, your plants will stretch and lean to the light too much

and will have weak stems. Water them when the planting medium is nearly dry on top and keep it moist – not wet.

As your seedlings start to grow, you can “pinch back” after the seedling has at least two sets of leaves. Gently pinch or clip off a piece of the new growth at the end of a stem as close to the leaves as possible. This is actually a form of pruning and will increase the production of herbs, flowers and fruits. But not all plants benefit, as you are delaying the flowering process. With most herbs, you will get more herbs with more pinching, and you can have a full summer harvest.

Enjoy watching your seeds grow and we'll discuss transplanting in the next column.

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

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Personal Experiences

# A Career Centered On Helping Others

Take a look back at your experiences and think to yourself: “When was the last time I helped someone in need? How many of my days do I spend benefiting my community?”

Gary Johnson is an extraordinary man who spends each day helping those in need and bettering his community as president and CEO of the United Way in Milford.

Johnson had a typical upbringing with plenty of love and support from his family. He now has a wholesome life with three children, a loving wife and the job of his dreams. Growing up, he developed an early inclination to help people.

“It’s always been a passion and desire,” he said.

Johnson has always known he wanted to help those in need; he never gave much thought to a different career path. Before his United Way position, he graduated from

UConn with a bachelor’s degree in political science and volunteered for US Rep. Rosa DeLauro.

When he was spending time volunteering, he was offered a job in the House of Representatives post office, but he declined, knowing there was something greater out there.

Johnson spent a few years after graduating from UConn figuring out where his life was leading him. He had not figured out what gave his life a sense of fullness between government volunteer work and retail services until a position opened up at United Way of Milford.

United Way is a nonprofit organization with hundreds of locations around the world.



CAROLINA AMORE

There are 15 locations in Connecticut alone.

United Way’s focus is on creating community-based and community-led solutions that elevate education, financial stability, health and a better quality of life for each person they help.

Some agencies the United Way works closely with are the American Red Cross, the Rape Crisis Center, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Boy Scouts and Bridges Healthcare. Johnson connects with these organizations to help anyone in need.

“We run into a lot of difficult situations, families and individuals, and seeing the work that our agencies do is the best part of what I do,” he said.

Over 10,000 diapers were distributed

from United Way’s diaper bank to Milford residents in need last year. In the previous year, over 400 children in Milford went back to school with the supplies they needed to learn with help from the United Way.

Johnson is a part of a fantastic organization that helps hundreds of people. Although the results of the work done at United Way are a beautiful moment of helping someone in need, the initial shock of seeing people lost and without help can be a gut-wrenching experience.

The work done at United Way can be emotionally heavy to carry around, knowing so many people struggle.

“The best part of this job is seeing the results of people when they’re being helped,” Johnson said.

*Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.*

## Bridges Van Offers Extended Hours, Locations For Opioid Treatment

Bridges Healthcare’s Mobile Addiction Treatment Team service, known as MATT’s Van, has extended its hours and locations to offer individuals experiencing opioid use dependency fast access to treatment and a better chance for recovery.

MATT’s Van is now available by phone or in person Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The locations and hours are as follows:

– Mondays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Beth-El Center, 90 New Haven Ave. in Milford.

– Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon at La Quinta Inn, 400 Sargent Dr. in New Haven, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the West

Haven Green.

– Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Saving Rock Parkade, 228 Captain Thomas Blvd. in West Haven, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the West Haven Green.

Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the New Haven Green, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Fairbank Apartments, 355 Ferry St. in New Haven.

Peer phone support at 203-494-5811 is available all other times, Monday through Friday.

MATT’s Van is designed to reduce the number of opioid deaths in the Greater New Haven area by improving access to medication assisted treatment for opioid

dependency.

The mobile unit and team address several barriers to clinic-based care for individuals who are on the verge or ready to engage in treatment. Clients are seen immediately by a recovery coach and prescriber and prescriptions for Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) are written immediately on the van with same-day unobserved (at-home) Suboxone inductions. The van is parked in locations of high need and in many cases eliminates the need to schedule an appointment and travel to a clinic. Treatment is provided regardless of insurance.

According to Dr. Tara Kerner, Bridges

medical director who initiated the mobile unit and continues to provide services,

“A regimen of medication, primarily buprenorphine, combined with therapy, case management and mutual support groups has proven to be the most effective model in treating opioid use disorder,” she said.

According to Bridges, the van is the first of its kind in Connecticut and has been successful, achieving a 75 percent kept intake appointment rate and a 72 percent retention in treatment rate. Funding is provided by the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Connecticut Realtors Foundation.

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# Retired and Rejuvenated

## Calling In And Calling Out

The week of March 15 marked the one-year anniversary for most of us as the start of the “shutdown” because of COVID-19. Here we are, one year later after the most devastating year in US history, including over half a million COVID deaths, quarantine, a contested presidential election, storming of our Capitol, development of several new COVID-19 vaccinations (this is a good thing), children being educated at home, people unable to go to work and a huge dose of social isolation for many of us.

It has been a tough year, and we have learned much from it. I, for one, have decided not to go back to my hectic way of living pre-COVID. I like the increased quiet of my life.

Sadly, there have been several more devastating events that have rocked our nation in the midst of recovering from the pandemic. The nation was shocked by the shooting of eight people at massage parlors in Atlanta. This shooting was even more ominous than usual, because six of the female victims were of Asian descent, including four who were Korean. This horrendous attack came at a time when hate crimes and

attacks against Asian Americans have soared. The shootings also come as relations between the US and China are deteriorating, making it even more imperative that the US squash this wave of persecution.

In recent years, negative sentiment toward China has spiked to previously unimaginable levels. It is possible to see the latest deadly attack as one more manifestation of a wave of hatred that has afflicted Americans in the last few years. In 2020, hate crimes against Asian people in the US went up by 150 percent, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism.

I am particularly concerned because my husband and I have an adopted daughter of Asian descent. Asians have often been the object of harassment and aggression on the street, especially in supposedly tolerant California. Asian women have been perceived as easy targets and often treated as “perpetual foreigners.”



JOANNE BYRNE

Something changed in 2020, and it’s pretty obvious what it was: COVID-19. A worldwide wave of attacks on Asian people erupted in the early days of the pandemic.

Obviously, it is stupid to blame people for being of the same race or ethnicity as a country where a virus originated, but it happened nonetheless. Asian Americans must no longer be the invisible minority; our leaders must explicitly highlight their presence in a positive light and cement them as true core members of the American people.

Hate should have no safe harbor in America. We all need to stand up to bigotry when we see it. Our silence is complicity. Racism is real in America. We all need to practice empathy, understanding and compassion toward others who do not look like us, or follow a different culture.

I have been developing a greater social awareness lately, but still have a great distance to grow. A book discussion group

that I participate in just read the book Let’s Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo (I highly recommend it as a hard-hitting, user-friendly examination of race in America). Then I participated in a Zoom presentation by the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Albertus Magnus College titled, “Calling In and Calling Out.” I think that class is the motivation for me to write this column, calling out hatred against Asians. Silence is not an option.

We as seniors have witnessed so much through our history, including the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr., whose outspokenness and activity did so much for the African American population. We must continue to gain an enlightened understanding and acceptance of all people of color. It should be the American way.

*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.*

## Extended Transfer Station Hours Back In Milford

Milford Mayor Ben Blake on March 11 announced the return of extended hours at the Transfer Station, which began Saturday, April 3 and run through mid-December.

The extended hours will be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, with regular weekday also being 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“This program provides residents a

convenient way to dispose of their bulky trash items, while leaving less for city crews to pick up, offering a cost savings to the city,” Blake said.

The program is for Milford residents only. The extended hours do not apply to commercial haulers. Visitors to the Transfer Station will be asked to present their vehicle registration at the gate.

## Amity Students Win State Science Bowl

The Amity Science Bowl team qualified for nationals on March 13 by winning the statewide competition. The team was made up of five seniors: Peter Scully, co-captain; Arnav Paliwal co-captain; Eugene Chang; Andy Kim and Adarsh Kongani. The Science Bowl is a Jeopardy-style team competition run by the US Department of Energy since 1991. Questions test students’ knowledge of the STEM

fields (biology, physics, chemistry, earth science, astronomy and math) in a fast-paced format. Amity’s Science Bowl team is a relatively new club at Amity founded by Scully and Paliwal and at the end of their freshman year. Students interested in joining can email either paliwal21@amityschools.org or scullype21@amityschools.org. The Amity Science Bowl adviser and coach is science teacher Deborah Best.

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On Your Mind

Feeling Anxious Or Feeling Depressed?

I have seen many clients during these past few months who are experiencing both depression and anxiety. It certainly makes sense with the situation in the world causing an out-of-control feeling.

Anxiety is when you feel out of control. It doesn't mean you are out of control, yet you experience rapid heartbeat and tightening of the muscles, including the muscles in your neck and other areas of the body which can make your stomach feel upset.

This is the result of adrenaline pumping through you, preparing you for a "fight or flight" response. It's a feeling that is triggered by any number of things, but it is just a feeling.

A repetitive feeling of anxiousness can lead to feelings of being depressed. But depression and anxiety are very different.

Because I am not a mental health professional, I do not diagnose or treat depression as a medical professional would. I do not distinguish between the different types of depression, but

I have helped to reduce depressing feelings in my clients with hypnosis by neutralizing the anxious feelings.

There is a difference between feeling depressed and having depression. I suggest to my clients that they should be diagnosed by a mental health professional if they believe they have depression. Feeling depressed is often appropriate when something bad happens in your life. That kind of feeling should pass with time and self-help. Self-help is calling a friend, listening to music, going for a walk or focusing on something else.

Thoughts create feelings and what you choose to think about creates those feelings. I know it sounds simple, but it's not always easy. It could take a few hours, days or weeks, but the anxiety passes.

When it becomes too bad to be able to help yourself, calling a mental health professional is



FERN TAUSIG

important. Some people also use acupuncture to treat depression.

Anxiety is a subject I have written about before because it is the issue for which the majority of my clients seek treatment. I feel compelled to address it again since so many suffer from feeling anxious. Knowing the difference between anxiety and depression is helpful and learning how to help yourself is empowering.

There are many self-help books and I think they are almost all right. Any attempt to help yourself cope better with your issues can promote growth and increase the quality of your life.

Hypnosis, of course, is one very effective modality, but the best thing I do for my clients is to teach them to respond differently to those anxious feelings. I help them realize their power over their mind and teach them ways to cope with

unwanted feelings. Sometimes those feelings are triggered by past experiences that have nothing to do with the actual situation they're facing. Hypnosis is so effective because it can neutralize those old experiences, eliminating the anxious response to those triggers.

Anxiety also comes from negative self-talk or old, outdated beliefs about yourself that someone else put in your mind. Triggers come from any form of judgement, criticism or perceived negative response from anyone. Sometimes it's from work or relationships, but old feelings of not being good enough often create anxious feelings.

Whether you feel anxious or depressed, there is plenty of help available. Suffering is optional. When you will choose to stop suffering and start living?

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

Turkey Hill (Continued From 1)

criteria for affordable housing can prevent zoning boards from denying applications for reasons other than health and safety.

Neither Meisenheimer nor any of his representatives attended the March 2 meeting at which the site plan application was discussed. Members of the TPZC cited unanswered questions about health and safety among their reasons for denying it.

This second prong of the discussion focused on a set of standards the developers wanted to add to the town's zoning regulations to allow their development to

fall under a special use as an "active adult community" for people age 60 and older.

Attorney Kevin Curseaden, who is representing Meisenheimer, said at the hearing that the age restricted element was meant to replace the affordable element and that the units would be sold at market value. The construction in either case would be at a greater density than the standard for single-family homes in a residential zone.

When asked at one point in the meeting whether the developer had considered another plan for the site, such as a subdivision of single-family homes, Curseaden responded, "The economics of the site development don't work for a

lesser development. It wouldn't pan out."

As in previous public hearings on the project, multiple residents, especially from the Turkey Hill neighborhood, submitted written testimony and spoke at the meeting, largely in opposition. Several of them, as in the past, said that they would not be opposed to the development of homes that complied with current zoning rules.

The commissioners themselves ultimately cited some of the same incomplete information and health and safety concerns as they previously had for the site plan application.

"There's no benefit to the town to consider a boutique zoning regulation that only serves to enhance this applicant's

financial yield rather than advance the goals of the community at large," commissioner Kevin Cornell said, summing up the board's position.

Both TPZC chair Oscar Parente and vice chair Judy Smith pointed out that there are other locations in town where this type of project could be developed and that would be closer to things elderly people would want access to, such as public transportation and medical facilities.

"We do have areas in town where we allow for housing stock for our aging population, and we have done text amendments and zone changes to allow facilities or housing developments to serve this population," Smith said.

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On Our Land

# Tracing Our Freshwater Drainage

While watching a show recently on public television about the Dead Sea, I was captivated by the stark beauty of this desert region along the border of Israel and Jordan. This inland sea is not connected to any ocean, and at 1,400 feet below sea level in a desert which receives about two inches of rain per year, evaporation outpaces precipitation. The salinity of the Dead Sea is nearly 10 times greater than that of the ocean.

The scarcity of freshwater is one of many issues that bedevils relationships between the governments of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, but one that the parties are collaborating to address.

In contrast, Connecticut averages about four inches of rain or snow equivalent each month, and that water supports the comparatively lush seasonal forests that define New England. Much of that rainfall is returned to the atmosphere by plant transpiration or evaporation – particularly so in the warm growing season – but the remainder infiltrates into permeable groundwater systems or runs off quickly in storm events into streams and rivers.

Most groundwater eventually discharges

into streams, and streams and larger rivers here flow year-round even in the absence of storms because they are continually fed by that groundwater baseflow. As the growing season advances, plants intercept more of the rainfall, less infiltrates into groundwater, and both the groundwater table in wells and the base level of streams drop, reaching their lowest levels in the fall.

The water discharged into streams creates drainage systems that define much of the landscape in moist regions. Drainage systems have a hierarchical nomenclature from “trunk” river to branching and progressively smaller tributary rivers, streams, creeks or brooks. The mental image is like that of a tree, but instead of transporting water from roots to trunk to branches to leaves, drainage systems carry water from headwater brooks or creeks to transporting rivers, and discharge both their water and sediment into receiving lakes, seas or oceans.



DAN MAY

Much of the land area of Orange, Milford and Woodbridge is part of the drainage systems of the Wepawaug and Indian Rivers, with the former discharging into Milford Harbor just south of the town center, and the latter discharging into nearby Gulf Pond. The water quickly mixes into Long Island Sound, but the sediment carried by these rivers slowly fills the harbor and pond, necessitating regular dredging to maintain access for boats.

Fresh water is perhaps our most precious natural resource. The watershed areas drained by rivers are managed for multiple uses. Most of the many lakes and ponds on the Wepawaug and Indian Rivers are dammed impoundments, designed to retain water as a freshwater supply, support recreational use and wildlife and to moderate floods. The fresh water we consume in towns and cities is drawn mainly from larger reservoirs and is a mix of river-delivered baseflow and storm runoff. Rivers and reservoirs here possess about 1/300 of the

dissolved solids of the ocean, and the subtle flavor of local water reflects the chemistry of the rocks that temporarily store groundwater. Water treatment before consumption mainly consists of filtration to removed suspended solids followed by disinfection.

“Who owns the water” is not a common question in high-rainfall regions. So-called water wars only become an issue in eastern US watersheds after years of drought. Too much water is a more typical problem; the discharges of larger rivers have been monitored for many decades to help forecast future flood recurrence and size.

The nearest river gaging stations used to forecast floods are on the Naugatuck and Housatonic Rivers, and the US Geological Survey and National Weather Service collaborate to issue flood watches/warnings and delineate prospective impacted areas.

*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).*

## Orange To Host Artisan And Vendor Fair

Orange will host its first annual Artisan Fest & Vendor Fair on Thursday, June 17, the Orange Economic Development Corporation has announced.

The all-outdoor event, which is free and open to the public, replaces the Orange Business & Community Expo that ran for 17 years. The fair will run from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. T

“We are excited to present this new

community-oriented event, giving business owners and artisans a chance to mingle with visitors outside. People are looking forward to outdoor events and it will be a great start to the summer,” said Annemarie Sliby, executive director of the OEDC.

Over 60 vendors, including small business owners, artisans and farm market vendors will be participating. Visitors will be able to engage in product demonstrations, activities, shopping, raffles, food trucks and live music.

“Network with business vendors, visit Artisan Row and shop for that unique Father’s Day gift, grab a bite from our food trucks, and listen to the sounds of the The Sabb’s Brothers, who will be performing under the gazebo from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.,” Sliby said.

Exhibitor space is still available and registration is open. Vendor space is limited and is expected to sell out by May. Space includes a six-foot table, tablecloth and chair. All vendors will have their business

information listed in the business directory, their business marketing materials included in event welcome bags and their company name listed in the Artisan Fest ad in Orange Life magazine. Businesses unable to participate can still have marketing materials included in the welcome bags for \$75.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor can register online via the OEDC website at [OrangeEDC.com/events\\_activities](http://OrangeEDC.com/events_activities) or call the OEDC office at 203-891-1045.

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**Just Floored**

# Hardwood Floors Make A Statement

Homeowners are constantly searching for the newest and most glamorous home decorations. Today the new and next fashion statement is hardwood flooring. The choices are endless, and the options are fabulous. Consumers can choose from the “old school” sizing of 2 1/4 inch wide planks and the new sizing of 3 1/4, 4 1/4, and the amazing look of five and seven-inch-wide planks. Whatever hardwood style is chosen, the same results are obtained: durability, stability, value to the home and lifelong attractive

looks. Engineered floors are a big hit these days. The colors and wide planking have caught the attention of the market. There are many manufacturers who have enhanced the look of this wood. A few companies to look at are Provenza Hardwood Floors, Mohawk, Bruce, Lauzon and Mirage. The biggest dilemma is what species of wood to purchase.



ANNAMARIE AMORE

Red oak, walnut, birch, white oak, maple, hickory and exotics are a few of those available. All give a different look in color and texture. My suggestion is to pay attention to the knots and grain pattern in the wood; wood is a living species. When selecting styles, patterns, textures and colors, feel the wood, bring home samples and look at it in the daytime lighting

as well as the evening. Make sure it works in your home with your décor and furnishings. Take your time, be selective and speak to an educated salesperson to determine what works best in your home. Your end result will be enjoyed for a lifetime.

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

**Foodie Foursome**

## Fratelli's Aims To Please

It felt great to “dine in” with friends recently. Cindy and I were joined by friends Joe and Meg for a fun night out to a semi-forgotten gem, Fratelli's Restaurant in Milford.

Fratelli's means “brothers” in Italian. The three Kandic brothers, and partners, run the restaurant flawlessly: Elvis behind the bar, Adis as head waiter and Edin the executive chef. You are made to feel like family as you walk in the door. If you have not been there in a while you will notice the open spacing of tables in the dining area and plexiglass partitioned seating in the bar area.

One of the things that really stands out, besides the food, is the dining area. It's nicely designed with the formality of cloth-covered tables and cloth napkins. The utensils were cleared and fresh ones delivered after every course. The room carries a relaxed energy, without overpowering chatter even when all of the tables are filled.

The evening started with a variety of appetizers. The nice thing about being out with friends is the ability to share “family style” and try some of this and that without filling up before the entree. We instantly noticed the chef's attention to detail. The eggplant tower was one of my favorites: four layers of delicately fried eggplant, garden fresh tomato, fresh mozzarella and basil in a fig balsamic drizzle. The calamari, crab cakes, stuffed mushrooms and clams casino were prepared to perfection, as was the broccoli rabe and sausage.

The next course was a salad that comes with every entree. It was crisp, fresh and chilled just as you would expect. The house dressing was spot-on. All of Fratelli's dishes are prepared from scratch using the freshest, finest ingredients as they respect the various



STEVE COOPER

flavors from the different regions of Italy. Their eclectic menu offers a daily variety of specials that are derived from Edin. He starts by sourcing ingredients from local purveyors whenever possible.

Choosing an entree was difficult, as every time we thought we decided something else on the menu caught our eye. Joe had the shrimp and scallop alla vodka. The jumbo shrimp and scallops sauteed with asparagus and sun-dried tomatoes in a vodka sauce over penne was tender and tasty. Meg decided on the chicken francaise. Sometimes it is difficult to impress with a “standard,” but the delicate nature of these egg battered chicken breasts in their lemon white wine sauce and broccoli was exquisite.

Cindy's choice was the pappardelle scarpello, which comes with sauteed

sausage, chicken, peppers, onions and hot cherry peppers. They were nicely balanced by the subtle white wine sauce over pappardelle pasta. My choice was a signature dish: the steak Fratelli. The New York strip was cooked perfectly to order and cut like butter. It was topped with caramelized onions and mushrooms, roasted potatoes and drizzled with a balsamic glaze. From the first bite it was easy to see why this dish is so popular.

We finished the evening with espresso and cappuccino with a wonderful array of decadent desserts, all delicious, from the cheesecake, chocolate mousse cake and limoncello cake to the crisp cannoli shell stuffed with a fresh, homemade ricotta filling.

After going to Fratelli's with friends, family or for a special occasion you will find yourself looking forward to your next visit. They are located at 248 New Haven Ave. and are open at noon from Tuesday to Sunday. For reservations call 203-877-1170.



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**Insuring Your Future**

**Cyber Crime: Another Virus To Worry About**

We are spending more time online, whether for our jobs, email with friends and family, personal finance or (especially this year) shopping. As a result, we are at greater risk to have our computers contract a virus.

A virus is a type of malware that can duplicate itself and spread from computer to computer. This occurs when we unintentionally allow in some unwanted visitors. These interlopers can take on a variety of forms.

In order to effectively protect your information, you need to recognize the signs that your inbox is being “invaded.” Here are a few terms to be aware of in the world of cyber crime:

**Adware:** This is software that monitors the user’s online activity and is installed primarily for marketing purposes and to generate targeted advertising. How does this happen? You are shopping for patio furniture and visit a variety of sites. Shortly thereafter you notice that patio furniture keeps popping up on your screen when you are working on

the computer.

**Bots:** These are made of software that is capable of running automated tasks much faster than a person could perform those same tasks, such as searching websites to update search engine pages.

**Electronic data breach:** When data is hacked into or data is accessed by cyber criminals even though you still have control of the computer.

**Keylogger:** Some software programs can record keystrokes typed by the user and can be used remotely by cyber criminals to identify passwords and account numbers to steal information.

**Pharming:** Pharming involves creating a website that looks almost exactly like the real website to collect personal and financial information.

**Phishing:** This is the attempt to introduce malware to obtain personal information,



**TRISH PEARSON**

often through emails that look legitimate but contain a link or attachment that unleashes malware.

**Social engineering:** This occurs when someone impersonates another person online to manipulate someone else into disclosing information or doing something they would not normally do.

**Trojan horse:** A Trojan horse is a form of malware often downloaded by mistake that can infect a computer’s files or copy them.

What can you do to protect your information from being attacked? There are several steps you can take that cost nothing. First, if you receive an email that “pops up,” check out the specifics of the address and the sender. Often, the name may be slightly misspelled, or the address has a Gmail or Yahoo tag. Mastercard, Visa and other legitimate companies do not use Gmail or

Yahoo addresses. Second, never provide identifying or financial information such as Social Security numbers, bank accounts or credit card numbers unless you are totally confident of the requestor. If it is legitimate you should always have the option to call and confirm the site.

If you own a business, there is insurance available to help with loss of information or even ransomware attacks. Not unlike human kidnapping, perpetrators can hold information hostage and bring your business to a halt, demanding payment to release the encryption key. Sometimes it is better to pay the ransom, and if you have insurance it will not be cost prohibitive.

The best way to prevent contracting a computer virus is to pay attention to your inbox and always think before you click.

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

**Here’s To Your Health**

**When The Wind Blows**

Have you ever tried running or walking when the wind is blowing in your face?

Obviously running or walking would become a little more difficult. You may even need to bend yourself forward to press on through it.

Sometimes reaching goals may feel like the wind is in your face. I’m here to encourage you to never give up.

At the beginning of this year I committed myself to lower my body fat and work on gaining more lean muscle. I set this goal partly because I set a different goal every new year and partly because I have a birthday coming up.

I set a four-week progression program in motion and away I went. At the end of week three I pulled a muscle in my glute, which in turn gripped my lower back muscles. Oddly enough, the same thing happened to my husband who was doing tree work in our backyard. It became a tossup of who would put whose socks on in the morning.

Naturally, the immediate reaction is to feel disappointed when your goals have been thwarted. I will be completely transparent and tell you that not only was I disappointed, I was angry. Some people get so discouraged they throw in the towel altogether. I don’t want you to do that.

Once I got past feeling sorry for myself, I began to take steps toward recovery. I saw my chiropractor. I used ice and heat therapy. I made sure I was hydrated all day. I used



**MICHELE TENNEY**

my foam roller, stretched and ate intentionally: plant-based, low inflammatory meals. I walked and eased myself back into my workouts by being mindful and listening to my body.

When you set your mind on something, you need to also prepare yourself for the obstacles that may get thrown into the mix. Babe Ruth once wrote, “You just can’t beat the person who never gives up.” I love that and it’s so true.

We all have been through so much in one year. Please be encouraged. Spring brings new life. My perennial plants are already beginning to grow, the trees have buds on them and the grass is getting greener every day. If you’ve had a setback or an injury and you’re discouraged, please be intentional about your attitude toward your current situation because how we view it is a choice. Attitude is an important part of your journey.

Choose to be kind to yourself. Choose patience and perseverance to overcome and remember every day is a new day to begin again. You can do this. I believe in you.

*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 Hmgbdr3@gmail.com.*



*Cartoon by Aiza Amir, fifth grade, Turkey Hill School.*

**Recycling Tip**

*By Loretta Smith*

At our last Orange Recycling Committee meeting we learned that 1.2 tons of recycled items (picked up in curbside bins) were rejected recently by the company that empties those bins. We don’t know why, but it could have been for one of several reasons:

1) Some households are not cleaning their recyclable items before putting them in their bins. Please rinse out your containers and don’t put dirty papers in.

2) Some households continue to put soft plastic (grocery bags, newspaper bags, all plastic bags) into their bins. These must be taken to stores that accept them. Unfortunately, we have had numerous problems with our shed for plastic bags at the Transfer Station. I’m sure many times you’ve seen the shed broken and we’re sorry. We continue to ask for a sturdier one from a local merchant, but

COVID has interfered. We thank you for your patience. We’re working hard on it.

In the meantime, we appreciate your help in keeping this plastic out. An article in the government newsletter Route Fifty recently said, “Cities and counties have increasingly struggled to keep recycling programs running since China stopped accepting most foreign recyclables, including plastics and paper, in 2017 due to the high level of contamination by non-recyclable materials. The move by China has led to higher costs to recycle materials in the United States and some local governments have scaled back curbside recycling programs or stopped accepting glass or other materials.”

We thank those households that do recycle correctly and carefully. You’re terrific. We hope others may now understand the importance of these points.

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

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Travel Matters

# (Vaccinated) Cruising To Resume This Summer

Since the Centers for Disease Control has offered little to no progress in allowing cruising within the United States to begin, cruise lines are beginning to start from countries that will allow it – as early as June 2021 from Nassau, Bermuda and St. Maarten. To safely resume sailing, these cruises will all require both crew and passengers to be fully vaccinated.

At least for now. Crystal Cruises made the first announcement: Crystal Serenity will depart from Nassau and Bimini in the Bahamas starting July 3. The company is offering weeklong Bahama itineraries to small islands like Harbour Island, Long Island and San Salvador – usually visited only by personal yachts. The Crystal Serenity has a 900-passenger capacity but will sail at 50 percent capacity to start.

Two more cruises were announced at the end of March. Celebrity Cruises will send the

Celebrity Millennium on sailings out of St. Maarten beginning in June, while Royal Caribbean will start Adventure of the Seas out of Nassau, also starting in June, and Vision of the Seas in Bermuda as of late June.

Already cruises have started in Singapore and will begin in May in Israel for local residents. Both are countries where virus rates are low and vaccine rates are high. The UK recently announced that cruises for domestic passengers could resume in May. Viking Cruises announced “round Britain” cruises exclusively for UK residents, and their first scheduled sailings sold out in three days.

Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises have both announced summer restarts for two



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

of their ships in Europe: Jewel of the Seas in Cyprus from July and Celebrity Apex in Athens from June, offering itineraries around the Greek islands and Israel.

The news that Crystal, Celebrity and Royal Caribbean would be restarting in the Caribbean this summer was enthusiastically welcomed by cruise passengers. Many people like the idea that all passengers and crew members must be fully vaccinated and show proof of a negative PCR test. Since Americans are required to have a negative COVID test within 72 hours of returning to the US, all the ships will be providing covid tests onboard free of charge.

As long as cruising remains on hold within the US, cruise ports and American workers

will be hurt. Fort Lauderdale and Miami are the largest cruise ports in the world. In fact, travel and cruise trade associations have just petitioned the Biden administration to reconsider the CDC’s inactivity to allow sailing out of the US. The cruise lines are subject to extensive regulations from the CDC that do not apply to other businesses or forms of travel, including hotel, resort or airline industries.

Many of the protocols put in place by the cruise lines are not required for other forms of travel. In the meantime, people who love cruising and international travel – and don’t mind getting vaccinated – have the ability to return to their favorite type of vacation very soon.

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

## Paper Shredding And Mattress Recycling Day Returns To Orange

The Orange Recycling Committee has announced the next paper shredding and mattress recycling event, to be held Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the front parking lot of High Plains Community Center. The committee will be joined by the Mattress Recycling Council, who will collect used mattresses and box springs.

The secure, on-site paper shredding service is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orange and will be handled by Affordable Solutions, owned and operated by Orange resident Joe Johnston. Residents may bring bags (preferably paper, not plastic) or boxes filled with documents for shredding. Volunteers from the Orange Recycling Committee will deposit them into the shredding truck. Residents who want their boxes or containers

returned should tell a volunteer. Items that can be disposed of include tax papers, bills, receipts, statements and documents that contain personal, financial and/or medical information. There is no need to remove staples or elastic bands, but clips should be removed for reuse. Paper that is already shredded, newspapers, notebooks, plastic folders and other papers and mail that can go in the regular residential recycling bins should not be brought for shredding.

Residents are asked to put documents in their trunk, wait in line, and pop the trunk when it is their turn. To keep this event as contactless as possible, residents should stay in their vehicles. Wearing a mask is requested.

Residents may also bring mattresses and box springs for recycling. This free service is run through the Bye Bye Mattress program. Dry mattresses of all sizes and box springs will be accepted. However, some items cannot be accepted, including mattresses from futons/sofa beds or waterbeds; mattresses infested with bed bugs; wet, damaged or excessively soiled mattresses; and sleeping bags or mattress pads/toppers. For residents who need assistance, members of the Orange Lions Club will pick up mattresses and box springs from residences if they are put outside and dry or in a garage for easy access; volunteers will not enter individual homes. Anyone interested in this pickup service should contact Ken Lenz at 203-795-3906. The fee for pick-up

is \$10 per mattress or box spring. Payment is by cash or check made out to Orange Lions Charities, and all proceeds are considered a charitable donation.

Residents may also bring old clothing and shoes to deposit in the Simple Recycling bin near the back of the community center. This bin is available 24/7.

“We are very excited to once again partner with other town groups, the Rotary Club of Orange and the Orange Lions Club, to offer these important environmental services to residents,” said Orange Recycling Committee Chair Mitch Goldblatt. “This is a fun event that gives volunteers and residents an opportunity to work together for a cleaner and more sustainable planet, even during a pandemic.”

# Announcement!

## BUDDY DEGENNARO AFFILIATES WITH COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut is pleased to announce that Woodbridge native and resident Buddy DeGennaro has affiliated with the Woodbridge office. As an affiliated real estate agent, DeGennaro will provide residential real estate services in New Haven County as well as the surrounding communities. DeGennaro brings with him 30+ years of experience in the real estate industry.

*“We are thrilled that Buddy has joined our amazing Coldwell Banker family. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team” said Aileen DeFeo, Branch Vice President of the Woodbridge and Orange offices. “It’s our #1 market share, technology, senior leadership, and great agents that attracted Buddy to join us, and he is going to make a great team even better!”*

DeGennaro has earned many awards for his sales success. He constantly strives to build his professional skill set to provide exceptional service to clients. DeGennaro is a member of National Association of Realtors, the Connecticut Association of Realtors, as well as the New Haven Middlesex Board of Realtors and the SMARTMLS. He is active in his community as a former member of the Woodbridge Town Planning and Zoning Commission, a member and past president of the Woodbridge Rotary Club and a former member and coach of Bethwood Baseball. A parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, DeGennaro enjoys golf, skiing and fishing. DeGennaro and his wife Mary live in Woodbridge with their three children, Louis, Jackie and Claire.

“Nothing is more exciting to me,” says Buddy, “than the gratifying feeling I get from helping people meet their real estate needs. You can always count on me to do what is in my client’s best interest. I pride myself on being honest, trustworthy and knowledgeable in the current real estate trends. I know how important it is to find your dream home or get the most money for your property. It is my responsibility to help you achieve your goals. Let my experience work for you.”



**COLDWELL BANKER**

**Buddy DeGennaro can be reached at 203-710-2548 or at buddy.degennaro@cbrealty.com**

Your Finances

# Emergency Funds: A Guide To Landing On Your Feet

Have you ever considered how your lifestyle and long-term goals would be affected if you suddenly faced a personal financial emergency? Whether it be the unexpected loss of a job, a large unplanned expense or a medical crisis that leaves you without income, life can be full of surprises that affect your financial stability both today

and for years to come.

Luckily, with clear goals for your future, the right savings and investment strategies and a bit of discipline, you can build an emergency fund to ease the financial burden of uncertain times.

It's true that less than half of all American adults could cover their expenses for more than a few months in the wake of a loss of income. Though it's not something most want to think

about, the need to prepare for the unknown is an important component of financial health for people across all income brackets and stages of life.

Without a reserve fund, those facing an unexpected financial hardship may turn to credit cards or other high-interest lending options, or even borrow against retirement accounts in a move that, though it may help in the short term, can set a financial plan back years. Having an emergency fund also gives you peace of mind and allows you to focus on finding a solution to your hardship, rather than worrying about covering your expenses.

Developing a plan to create and fund an emergency account – and having the discipline to stick with it – is often easier said than done.

Balancing your current needs and wants with your ability to stay on track toward your long-term financial goals can be difficult in and of itself, let alone when you're also trying to accumulate a reserve for a rainy day. Not only does building an emergency fund take planning, it also requires patience. And what may work for one individual might not be the right formula for another. The key is to understand your specific needs and work toward a plan that allows you to comfortably and confidently grow your savings.

Because each individual's financial needs and goals are different, using a blanket formula like storing three to six months' worth of expenses may not always be the best approach. Factors such as your existing credit card debt, how difficult your income



MATT GALLAGHER

could be to replace and what lifestyle sacrifices you're willing to make all need to be accounted for when determining the total that's best for your needs.

In general, you can begin to see what your needs could be with a quick review of the following:

- Establish your long-term goals and short-term needs.
- Determine how much money you need per month to meet your lifestyle goals.
- Set a goal for how many months

of income you'd like to accumulate.

The best way to build your fund is to start working toward a series of smaller, more attainable milestones. For example, if your ultimate goal is to save \$25,000, break that number down into a contribution amount – daily, weekly, or monthly – that moves you toward a percentage of your total goal by certain dates.

For example, to save 5 percent of \$25,000 within three months you need to make a \$417 contribution per month.

Next make a regular contribution to a high-yield savings account, money market account, or other vehicle that will allow you to access the funds whenever needed until you reach your desired amount.

If you're still unsure how to get started, or would like a more experienced perspective on the strategies that will work best for your situation, working with a professional may be a good option.

Beyond the positive impact a professional can have on your bottom line, working with a financial advisor also gives you someone to hold you accountable for reaching your goals. Most importantly, an advisor can help make sure all your financial needs are accounted for, both in the short- and long-term, so you land on your feet financially, no matter what.

*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.*

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## Milford Church Hosts Easter Egg Hunt



Christ Presbyterian Church Milford held an Easter egg hunt on April 3 at Fowler Rotary Pavilion in Milford. The event included crafts, an egg hunt, an Easter story, door prizes and treat bags to go. Photo courtesy of Curran Bishop.

Getting To Know You

# Get Vaccinated So We Can Get Together

At times it seems like a long time ago. At other times it doesn't seem so long ago. Sometimes it seems that it is many miles away. Sometimes it seems it is so close we can almost touch it.

A long-dormant, tiny kind of warmth always returns with the spring here in New England. Every year as the perennials push their heads out of the ground and the robins fly north to trade places with the local baseball teams that fly south for spring training, we in New England start to feel that tiny kind of warmth.

Maybe it's those first few blessed moments when you climb into your car and notice that the sun has warmed the interior while you were shopping. Maybe it's the time you spend out front raking the yard when you notice you feel the sun reddening the back of your neck. Maybe it's the time you spend reading in your favorite chair after dinner and you realize that suddenly you've got to lower the shade a bit to protect against the glare of the sun.

This spring brings with it a second tiny warmth with the promise that perhaps another long and cold ordeal is almost over. Maybe

things won't ever be quite the same as they were before, but perhaps the fear that has sat tugging at our collective elbows will start to retreat. That puts me in the mind to recall a few things I'm looking forward to returning in the near future.

Call me lazy, but I look forward to taking the elevator again. Since March 2020 I've been taking the stairs, and while that's good for me there are a few buildings which have a few more flights of stairs than I'd care to hike up anymore. I'm also looking forward to using the handrails again without getting the insistent foreboding that I'd better go wash my hands immediately.

While we're on the subject of hand washing, I'm looking forward to that simple act not being a possibly life-or-death imperative. It can go back to being something I simply do before I eat because that's what my mother taught me.

I'm looking forward to dinning out again. I'm looking forward to a table full of friends and family sharing food with each other off



DAVID CROW

their plates. I'm looking forward to a beer and live music in front of a packed house. I'm looking forward to 2 a.m. pancakes with a side of banter to the next person at the lunch counter and chewing the rag with the other patrons in line at the deli for lunch.

I look forward to meetings not looking like the opening credits of the Brady Bunch. I look forward to not having to worry if the cats will jump up on the keyboard while I'm in a meeting. I'm looking forward to sharing some peanuts at a ball game or finally getting to see that Billy Joel concert I bought tickets for that was scheduled for March 2020. In fact, I just look forward to actually going to an actual meeting of any kind.

I'm looking forward to hand sanitizer not being put on everything in life like a condiment. I'm pretty tired of life with hand sanitizer on the side. I'm looking forward to unmuffled laughter and unhidden smiles. (I know you're smiling under that mask. I can see your cheeks

rise and the corner of your eyes crinkle, but I miss seeing your teeth as you break into your glorious grin.) I look forward to pats on the shoulder and slaps on the back. I look forward to those long overdue handshakes and hugs that haven't been shared since last March.

Yeah, I'm looking forward to a time when things seem a bit more like they were when we used to see each other every day and share moments of close community. I look forward to the end of this long, cold ordeal with the tiny kind of warmth that we all are starting to feel for the first time since March 2020.

I'm not the only one looking forward to seeing you as soon as possible. So please get vaccinated.

Y'all come out!

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

## Colonial Properties Completes Multiple Leases In Area

Colonial Properties, which is based in Orange, recently announced the completion of five lease agreements totaling 53,500 square feet of space.

Senior Vice President Fred A. Messoro represented tenant Empire Tattoo in the leasing of 1,250 square feet of retail space located at 521-547 Boston Post Rd. in Orange for a three-year term. The landlord, Elm Street Partners, LLC, was represented by Mark Glassman of Arnold Peck's Commercial World.

Messoro also represented the tenant, A to Z PetShop, LLC, in the leasing of 4,200 square

feet of retail space at 41 Monroe Tpke. in Trumbull for a five-year term. The landlord, 41 Monroe Turnpike, LLC, was represented by Jason Wuchiski of True Commercial Real Estate, LLC.

Tony Vitti represented landlord MNBD, LLC, in the leasing of a property with 1,500 square feet of office space, a 5,000 square-foot warehouse and a 7,500 square-foot fenced-in yard area located at 252 Depot Rd. in Milford for a two-year term. The tenant, SLM Services DBA Northeast Horticultural Services, was represented by Bruce Wettenstein of Vidal/Wettenstein. The attorney for the landlord

was Brian Lema of Berchem and Moses in Milford; the tenant's attorney was Benjamin Proto, Jr. in Stratford.

Vitti also represented landlord Scarcella Realty in the leasing of 5,700 square feet of retail space located at 392 Boston Post Rd. in Orange for a five-year term. The tenant, Fabric and Upholstery Depot, LLC, was represented by Michael Debiase of Higgins Group Real Estate. The landlord's attorney was Thomas Lynch of Lynch, Trembicki, & Boynton in Milford; the attorney for the tenant was Michael Burdo in New Haven.

Kosta Eliopoulos represented the landlord,

Ruotolo Realty, in the leasing of 1,600 square feet of newly remodeled warehouse/office space located at 199 Terminal Ln. in New Haven for a five-year term to Sebastian Uribe, who is operating a print shop and vinyl car wrapping business.

"The volume of commercial leasing transactions we are conducting is very encouraging, considering we are still emerging from the pandemic and state of Connecticut-ordered restrictions on businesses are still in place. The business climate is very vibrant, with only certain sectors lagging," said Colonial President Michael Richetelli.

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**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE**

April 2021

On behalf of the Honorable James M. Zeoli - First Selectman, and the Orange Board of Finance, I submit our recommended Town of Orange General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. This document is the result of many hours of careful consideration by the Board of Finance, Department Heads, Town Boards, Commissions, Management and Staff. The focus of the 2022 budget is to continue to offer the level of services to which our citizens have become accustomed, tempered by the ability of our taxpayers to pay for those services. As I sit here writing this budget message, our nation and the world seem to be slowly recovering from the Pandemic. Vaccines have been developed by world renowned pharmaceutical companies. Residents are making appointments to be vaccinated and with that, we hopefully can return to a life more like what we had. We also learned new things like social distancing, wearing mask, and outdoor dining at restaurants. The state and most of the country, including our schools are re-opening. Unemployment which skyrocketed at this time last year, is slowly decreasing including in Orange, where at one time we had over 1,000 residents collecting unemployment according to the state. The Board of Finance believes the economy will take a while to get back to normal and projects that revenue in the 2021- 2022 budget will probably decline due to the economy. The BOF made additional cuts to the budget after the realization that there would be long term lingering effects on the economy from the Pandemic.

Federal pass-through funds and State initiated funding have remained frozen. The Town & Board of Education expect to get some funding from The American Rescue Plan, but at this time the funding amount is undetermined. In the past, the State Legislature and Governor have proposed many pieces of tax legislation that if passed could have a very significant impact on the Town of Orange. The October 1, 2020 Grand List reflects an increase of 0.007%. However, in the past, increases in interest investment earnings, licenses, permits and fines and other revenue has helped to offset some of the state funding losses, which may not be there this year because of the Pandemic. We have carefully designed this financial plan to balance the growing request for municipal services, the needs of the Town's infrastructure, public safety, recreation and community health and welfare while maintaining our commitment to the education of our children: the leaders of tomorrow.

The Budget Process

The budget process begins in late September when each department prepares and then reviews with their Board or Commission, the department budget request for the new fiscal year. After Board or Commission approval, the department submits their budget to the Director of Finance. Each departmental request is reviewed and evaluated together with the First Selectman for submission of a recommended budget to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance then spends a day in town hall to conduct individual hearings and discussions with department management as required. This proposed budget has no funding for any new positions. This budget eliminates 1 positions thru attrition, those job responsibilities have been distributed among other employees. Contracts for two of the six town unions expire on June 30, 2021. Negotiations have yet to start, salary budget lines carry current year's salary for those union positions. The town has a settlement with the Police Union and negotiations continue with the Dispatchers Union. There are inevitably unanticipated costs that occur when projecting expenditures eighteen months into the future. Toward that end, it is incumbent on the administration of any municipality to maintain a sufficient undesignated fund balance to provide for such unforeseen events and circumstances.

Fund Balance

The Town's Fund Balance is a measure of its capacity to withstand financial emergencies or to provide for unforeseen emergent projects and expenditures. I am projecting the undesignated portion of the fund balance at July 1, 2021 to be approximately 12.7 million dollars, or 16.77% of the 2021-2022 operating budget, which may be used to offset any revenue loss from the Pandemic.

Revenue

The net taxable grand list for October 1, 2020 equaled \$2,133,286,440 which is compared to the October 1, 2019 net taxable grand list as below:

Category	2020 Net Grand List	2019 Net Grand List	\$ Change	% Change
Real Estate	\$1,837,357,330	1,825,178,220	12,179,110	0.70
Motor Vehicles	148,012,440	142,081,200	5,931,240	4.20
Business Personal Property	147,916,670	150,599,710	-2,683,040	-1.80
	\$2,133,286,440	\$2,117,859,130	15,427,310	0.70

Departmental Operating Expenditure:

The budget for general town operations has increased by 4.09% or \$995,514. Debt contribution increased by 17.91% or \$536,175 while our share of the Amity budget increased by \$232,203 or 0.93%. The Orange Board of Education costs increased by 2.78%, or \$594,831. The aggregate increase in the budget for the fiscal year ended 6/30/2022 is \$2,358,723 or 3.20%. If no adjustments are made to this budget the mill rate will rise from \$32.74 to \$33.25.

Capital Replacements and Expenditure:

Several years ago at the recommendation of the Town's auditors, the Board of Finance developed a Capital Fund Account to pay for future capital expenditures. The auditors recommended this fund for future capital purchases to avoid bonding and borrowing cost on some items. The funded items for the 2021-2022 fiscal year include \$203,780 for the Orange Board of Education for new computer hardware, software, security and network upgrades. The Town side includes \$325,000 funding for computer accounting software maintenance for the Town & Board of Education, money for Police record system upgrades and funds to start the Town reassessment as required by law. Total Capital outlay is \$528,780.

The annual budget development is an intensive task that requires a concerted and coordinated effort on the part of all. I want to express my personal gratitude for the support and cooperation from all of our professional department managers and their dedicated staff. I would also like to thank my staff in the Town's Finance Department, specifically Audrey Geer, Karin Lewis, and Arthur Williams. It takes a team effort to compile this budget. On behalf of First Selectman Zeoli, and the Board of Finance, I want to acknowledge the many committed professionals who selflessly serve on our Boards and Commissions without compensation. It is that kind of public spirit that makes Orange a unique and special community in which to live.

Respectfully Submitted,

*John M. Cifarelli*  
 John M. Cifarelli  
 Director of Finance and Administration

*Audrey Geer*  
 Audrey Geer  
 Assistant Finance Director

TOWN OF ORANGE  
 NOTICE OF HEARING  
 TOWN BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the statutes in such cases provided, the Orange Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the High Plains Community Center Gym, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477 relative to the expenditures and proposed budget of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. Citizens may present oral and/or written comments. The proposed budget will be available for examination in the Office of the Town Clerk in the Orange Town Hall on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Dated at Orange CT this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2021.

Orange Board of Finance

*Kevin Houlihan*  
 Kevin Houlihan  
 Chairman

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**TOWN OF ORANGE, CONNECTICUT  
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**

GENERAL FUND REVENUE					
Classification	FY 2019-20 Actual	FY 2020-21 Budget	FY 2021-22 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Property Taxes	66,618,008	68,255,918	69,841,446	1,585,528	2.32%
Property Taxes Prior Years	394,311	325,000	325,000	0	0.00%
Tax Interest & Liens	249,100	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
Intergovernmental Revenue	1,633,454	1,535,167	1,542,652	7,485	0.49%
Licenses, Permits & Fines	794,203	653,775	657,425	3,650	0.56%
Investment Interest	327,875	337,600	38,000	-299,600	-88.74%
General Government Revenue	1,418,323	1,210,140	1,227,200	17,060	1.41%
Fund Balance & Amity Revenue	1,102,925	600,000	1,550,000	950,000	158.33%
Other	652,747	637,706	732,306	94,600	14.83%
<b>Total General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>73,190,946</b>	<b>73,755,306</b>	<b>76,114,029</b>	<b>2,358,723</b>	<b>3.20%</b>

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2019-20 Actual	FY 2020-21 Budget	FY 2021-22 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
<b>General Government</b>					
21-100 Selectmen	201,331	180,100	176,766	-3,334	-1.85%
21-101 Assessor	234,789	242,675	250,111	7,436	3.06%
21-102 Board of Assessment Appeals	32	4,500	4,500	0	0.00%
21-103 Director of Finance & Accounting	354,767	359,370	370,400	11,030	3.07%
21-104 Board of Finance	2,302	2,950	3,000	50	1.69%
21-105 Building Inspection	146,762	161,772	170,474	8,702	5.38%
21-106 Conservation Commission	3,950	3,400	3,400	0	0.00%
21-107 Economic Development	71,677	72,950	82,950	10,000	13.71%
21-108 Director of Technology	390,121	398,850	423,990	25,140	6.30%
21-109 Legal	248,560	255,000	250,000	-5,000	-1.96%
21-110 Planning & Zoning	159,074	148,172	147,816	-356	-0.24%
21-112 Zoning Board of Appeals	1,055	3,050	3,050	0	0.00%
21-113 Pension	142	400	300	-100	-25.00%
21-114 Probate Court	5,768	5,768	5,957	189	3.28%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2019-20 Actual	FY 2020-21 Budget	FY 2021-22 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
21-115 Tax Collector	160,515	136,665	137,875	1,210	0.89%
21-116 Town Clerk	171,672	208,300	198,800	-9,500	-4.56%
21-117 Town Hall	142,148	181,400	179,900	-1,500	-0.83%
21-118 Treasurer	93,722	98,338	100,567	2,229	2.27%
21-119 Voter Registrars	89,975	110,440	116,950	6,510	5.89%
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>2,478,362</b>	<b>2,574,100</b>	<b>2,626,806</b>	<b>52,706</b>	<b>2.05%</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>					
21-200 Police: General Services	809,779	729,486	765,091	35,605	4.88%
21-201 Police: Uniformed Patrol	3,435,737	3,713,355	3,793,362	80,007	2.15%
21-202 Police: Investigative Services	516,054	546,750	559,660	12,910	2.36%
21-203 Police: Communication/Dispatch	298,903	350,387	350,387	0	0.00%
<b>Sub Total: Police Services</b>	<b>5,060,473</b>	<b>5,339,978</b>	<b>5,468,500</b>	<b>128,522</b>	<b>2.41%</b>
21-220 Fire Marshal	289,117	258,112	257,940	-172	-0.07%
21-221 Emergency Medical Service	274,327	286,504	290,300	3,796	1.32%
21-223 Physicals By Physician	13,970	14,000	14,000	0	0.00%
21-223 Volunteer Fire Department & Utilities	208,028	215,250	215,250	0	0.00%
21-230 Emergency Management (Civil Def.)	4,234	5,500	5,500	0	0.00%
21-235 Animal Control	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>5,925,149</b>	<b>6,194,344</b>	<b>6,326,490</b>	<b>132,146</b>	<b>2.13%</b>
<b>Public Works &amp; Public Buildings</b>					
21-250 Administration & Engineering	946,522	992,265	990,196	-2,069	-0.21%
21-255 Roadways	1,265,680	1,201,981	1,208,238	6,257	0.52%
21-257 Snow Removal	99,480	205,000	205,000	0	0.00%
21-258 Vehicle Maintenance	357,178	382,374	313,634	-68,740	-17.98%
-240 Refuse	1,048,608	1,059,027	1,100,201	41,174	3.89%
<b>Sub Total: Public Works</b>	<b>3,717,468</b>	<b>3,840,647</b>	<b>3,817,269</b>	<b>-23,378</b>	<b>-0.61%</b>
21-271 Community Center	383,460	400,200	404,200	4,000	1.00%
21-272 Clark Building	79,861	47,837	46,945	-892	-1.86%
21-273 Case Library Building	116,931	132,850	137,950	5,100	3.84%
<b>Sub Total: Public Buildings</b>	<b>580,252</b>	<b>580,887</b>	<b>589,095</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>1.41%</b>
<b>Total Public Works &amp; Public Buildings</b>	<b>4,297,720</b>	<b>4,421,534</b>	<b>4,406,364</b>	<b>-15,170</b>	<b>-0.34%</b>

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2019-20 Actual	FY 2020-21 Budget	FY 2021-22 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>					
21-280 Library	638,443	686,571	703,032	16,461	2.40%
21-300 Parks & Recreation - Admin	204,796	149,356	153,118	3,762	2.52%
21-301 Parks & Recreation - Maint	230,169	284,051	284,943	892	0.31%
21-302 Parks & Recreation - Pool	234,043	299,571	298,571	-1,000	-0.33%
21-303 Parks & Recreation - Programs	3,756	7,500	7,500	0	0.00%
21-320 Town Contributions	26,500	27,770	27,000	-770	-2.77%
<b>Total Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>1,337,707</b>	<b>1,454,819</b>	<b>1,474,164</b>	<b>19,345</b>	<b>1.33%</b>
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>					
21-330 Environmental Health	181,485	188,859	205,448	16,589	8.78%
21-333 Drug & Alcohol Action	19,770	21,366	0	-21,366	-100.00%
21-334 School Nursing	278,100	287,746	299,470	11,724	4.07%
21-335 Director of Health	26,044	22,855	30,265	7,410	32.42%
21-336 Board of Health	140	850	850	0	0.00%
<b>Sub Total: Health Services</b>	<b>505,539</b>	<b>521,676</b>	<b>536,033</b>	<b>14,357</b>	<b>2.75%</b>
<b>Community Services</b>					
21-341 Community Services-Administration	130,754	156,930	158,365	1,435	0.91%
21-346 Community Services-Counseling	96,556	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
21-342 Community Services-Disabilities	2,338	6,660	6,830	170	2.55%
21-345 Community Services-Elderly	141,595	146,568	149,115	2,547	1.74%
21-344 Community Services-Transportation	58,021	80,300	126,300	46,000	57.29%
21-343 Community Services-Youth	35,436	39,653	45,550	5,897	14.87%
<b>Sub Total: Community Services</b>	<b>464,700</b>	<b>530,111</b>	<b>586,160</b>	<b>56,049</b>	<b>10.57%</b>
<b>Total Health &amp; Welfare</b>	<b>970,239</b>	<b>1,051,787</b>	<b>1,122,193</b>	<b>70,406</b>	<b>6.69%</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>					
21-400 Employee Benefits	6,955,388	8,145,636	8,835,807	690,171	8.47%
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>6,955,388</b>	<b>8,145,636</b>	<b>8,835,807</b>	<b>690,171</b>	<b>8.47%</b>
<b>Town Services</b>					
21-420 Property Insurance	314,045	357,000	395,000	38,000	10.64%
21-425 Government Access TV	74,929	77,190	78,000	810	1.05%
21-430 Town Services and other	66,859	66,650	73,750	7,100	10.65%
<b>Total Town Services</b>	<b>455,833</b>	<b>500,840</b>	<b>546,750</b>	<b>45,910</b>	<b>9.17%</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL - TOWN BUDGET</b>	<b>22,420,398</b>	<b>24,343,060</b>	<b>25,338,574</b>	<b>995,514</b>	<b>4.09%</b>

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2019-20 Actual	FY 2020-21 Budget	FY 2021-22 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
<b>Capital Projects &amp; Debt Service</b>					
21-450 Capital Projects	235,000	0	0	0	0.00%
21-460 Debt Service	3,075,971	2,993,859	3,530,034	536,175	17.91%
<b>Total Capital Projects &amp; Debt Service</b>	<b>3,310,971</b>	<b>2,993,859</b>	<b>3,530,034</b>	<b>536,175</b>	<b>17.91%</b>
<b>Education</b>					
21-410 Orange Public Schools	20,902,548	21,414,585	22,009,416	594,831	2.78%
21-415 Amity Regional Schools	24,736,074	25,003,802	25,236,005	232,203	0.93%
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>45,638,622</b>	<b>46,418,387</b>	<b>47,245,421</b>	<b>827,034</b>	<b>1.78%</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>71,369,991</b>	<b>73,755,306</b>	<b>76,114,029</b>	<b>2,358,723</b>	<b>3.20%</b>
<b>control totals</b>	<b>71,369,991</b>	<b>73,755,306</b>	<b>76,114,029</b>		

### We're expanding in 2021!

We are excited to tell you that we have merged Floman DePaola, LLC (FD) with the law firm Wiley, Etter & Doyon (WED). The merger is effective January 1, 2021. The principals in WED are Matthew Wiley, Bryan Etter, and Trevor Doyon. We have known each other for many years, have brainstormed ideas about legal issues and business planning, and have learned that our cultures, processes, and commitments to our clients have much in common.

As you know, we intentionally have limited our practice areas to estate planning, long-term care planning, asset protection/Medicaid planning, and estate administration. WED's practice areas cover these same topics, but they also include business transactions and litigation. This will allow us to expand the scope of our services, and add skilled, talented and young members to our team.

You will continue to find us accessible, available, welcoming and warm. You also can continue to count on us for carefully drawn legal documents that protect what's important to you, plenty of plain language translations of what they say, and easy to understand explanations of complicated legal issues.

We will have two office locations. We will keep our office in Orange. Some of you know that Steve has been practicing in Orange since 1977 and Allison has been practicing in Orange since 2009. Staying in Orange is important to all of us. WED's office is located in North Haven. We hope you will feel comfortable meeting with us at either location, but if you prefer to meet with us in Orange, we will be here!

We have not decided on the final name of the merged law firm. For convenience, we will use Wiley, Etter & Doyon (we hope you'd agree that Wiley, Etter, Doyon, Floman, Depaola-Droz is a mouthful). We are working on developing a more generic firm name that describes the legal services we provide, instead of who we are; one that would be flexible as we plan to add more attorneys in the future.

We look forward to continuing to write to you and seeing many of you in 2021. Feel free to reach out to either Steve or Allison if you have questions about our merger.



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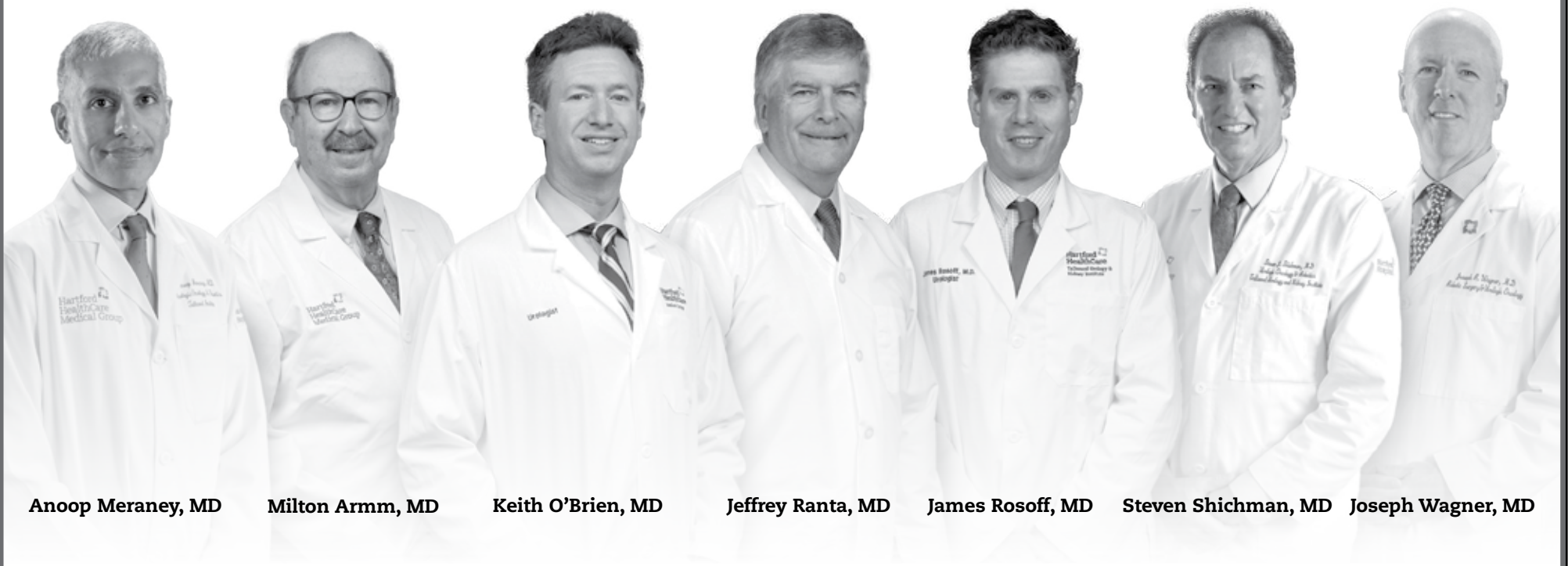
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**Wine Talk**

# Spring Wines To Whet Your Palate

Spring has sprung, and with vaccinations going well in Connecticut it appears our economy and our lives are starting to open up again. It is a great time to celebrate these developments with some spring wines.

One of my favorites is Gruner Veltliner. This is a unique white wine grape grown primarily in Austria, but also produced in Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. It is deep green and matures late in October. Along the Danube west of Vienna it grows with Riesling in terraces on slopes so steep they can barely retain soil. Some is made into sparkling wine. The rest is a pure mineral wine that gets better with age. It has stood up to world class chardonnays and beaten chards from Mondavi and Louis Latour.

Gruner Veltliner grows well in the northeast. Massachusetts, the north fork of Long Island and the Finger Lakes in New York state have success in growing the grape and making some good wines. Some has

been grown in Connecticut on and off. I think the limited knowledge of the varietal has hurt our local wine makers. Look for some local varieties when you visit our Connecticut wineries.

Our next spring wine selection is Passarola Vinho Branco. Portugal, the world's largest exporter of corks, is home to 250 grape varietals. Lots of Portugal's wines are low profile and fly under the radar. Passarola Vinho Branco is proof that Portuguese wines have great bang for the buck. The wine is named for a priest in Lisbon who invented a balloon ship flying device in 1709. Arinto and Fernao Pires are two native grapes that produce a wine that exudes fresh notes of white peach, grapefruit and lemon. It is a spectacularly-tasting wine that is refreshing. It pairs well with fish dishes. I love it with



**RAYMOND SPAZIANI**

fried clams from D'Amato's Seafood on Whalley Avenue in New Haven.

Nerello Mascalese is a red wine. The grapes are grown primarily in Sicily and Sardinia. A DNA study showed it has a close genetic relationship to Sangiovese and several other grape variations. The wine has a ruby red collar with a strong fruity scent or red berry fruits with a hint of spice with slight tones of vanilla, tobacco and a trace of licorice. I love it.

My final spring wine recommendation is Bonarda. This grape was brought to Argentina and to southern California by Italian immigrants. In Italy it was known as Charbono. In Argentina it is the second most widely planted grape next to Malbec. It is a spectacular red wine that has been called a

cult wine due to its scarcity and the devotion of its connoisseurs. It has also been called the Rodney Dangerfield of wine in that it is hard to find.

Give it some respect and order a bottle this spring. You'll enjoy something special. Have a great spring. Just remember we are not out of the woods yet. Hang in there. Use your masks and enjoy wine.

*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 to the coronavirus. He hopes to return to them in the spring. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.*

## Milford Land Conservation Trust Installs Osprey Platform To Mark 50 Years

The Milford Land Conservation Trust ushered in its 50th anniversary recently with the installation of an osprey nesting platform on Gulf Pond that it hopes will attract an osprey family beginning this month. The local nonprofit group was founded in 1971.

With an environmental funding grant from the Milford Environmental Protection Initiative, members of the MLCT gathered on a Sunday morning behind Joe's Carpet on New Haven Avenue to build a 20-foot-tall platform stand with supports.

The project took volunteers less than one-and-a-half hours to construct. It was the 102nd such installation the group has done since it was founded in 1971. The event was capped off by a surprise birthday cake for volunteer Ed Haesche to also celebrate his

100th installation.

"The nesting platform is a natural fit for the land trust given the diversity of our portfolio which includes open spaces, marshes, woodlands, ponds and river lands," said MLCT President Joseph DeSisto Alling. "We have an affinity for migratory and shore birds as well. We are delighted that one of our board members took the initiative and wrote the grant that made this project a reality. There are many bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts in Milford, and the osprey are extremely popular with the birding community."

Wendy Zimbardi, MLCT vice president, was instrumental in planning and working out the logistics, and was on hand to take pictures along with her husband, Steve, who recorded the event, and their son Jack. The video can

be seen on YouTube.

"This was a wonderful cooperative effort by volunteers to install a platform that will be in a safer location than the previous nest atop a catenary pole across the street," Zimbardi said. "We would like to thank Mrs. Jaser and her family of Joe's Carpet who have been so supportive of our efforts."

The MLCT will hold its 50th anniversary annual meeting on May 13 at 7 p.m. The meeting will include a featured speaker and election of officers. The public is invited to attend by sending an email indicating interest to [info@milfordctlandtrust.org](mailto:info@milfordctlandtrust.org). You will receive a secure Zoom link for the annual meeting. For further information about membership or to volunteer, visit [milfordctlandtrust.org](http://milfordctlandtrust.org).



The Milford Land Conservation Trust installed an osprey nest platform at Gulf Pond to mark its 50th anniversary. Photo courtesy of Wendy Zimbardi.

# MILFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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# Obituaries

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.



**Jean M. Bachman**, 78, of Milford, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Lisa Benjamin**, age 56, of Milford, entered into rest on Sunday, March 7, 2021. (Riverview Funeral Home)

## Farewell Anne Bronte

Farewell to thee! but not farewell  
To all my fondest thoughts of thee:  
Within my heart they still shall dwell;  
And they shall cheer and comfort me.

O, beautiful, and full of grace!  
If thou hadst never met mine eye,  
I had not dreamed a living face  
Could fancied charms so far outvie.

If I may ne'er behold again  
That form and face so dear to me,  
Nor hear thy voice, still would I fain  
Preserve, for aye, their memory.

That voice, the magic of whose tone  
Can wake an echo in my breast,  
Creating feelings that, alone,  
Can make my tranced spirit blest.

That laughing eye, whose sunny beam  
My memory would not cherish less;  
—  
And oh, that smile! whose joyous gleam  
Nor mortal language can express.

Adieu, but let me cherish, still,  
The hope with which I cannot part.  
Contempt may wound, and coldness chill,  
But still it lingers in my heart.

And who can tell but Heaven, at last,  
May answer all my thousand prayers,  
And bid the future pay the past  
With joy for anguish, smiles for tears?



**Margaret Abbazia**, of Milford, died peacefully at home on Saturday, March 27, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



The family of **Cintra Morgan Badenhansen** shares news of her passing on March 7, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Donald R. Bradford, Jr.**, 74, of Milford, passed away on March 13, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Nelly M. Aronson**, 92, longtime resident of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on April 4, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Nancy Lee Barbieri**, age 80, of Milford, died on Sunday, March 21, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Shirley Graham Brinley**, 95, of Orange, passed away on March 14, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Salvatore Frank Attard**, 88, formerly of Orange, passed away on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



**Susan P. Becker**, age 71, of Milford, died on Sunday, March 28, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Margaret J. "Peg" Donahue**, 96, of Milford, passed away on March 17, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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# Obituaries



**Elaine J. Douglas**, 73, of Milford, passed away at the Connecticut Hospice on March 9, 2021. (D'Angelo Funeral Home)



**Constance Alice Holler**, 88, of Milford, passed away on March 17, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Domenick R. Masciola, Sr.**, 74, of Milford passed away on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. (Abriola Parkview Funeral Home)



**Jeany Etter**, daughter of the late Frank and Hedy Etter, passed away after a short illness but full life at the age of 83. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**William C. (Bill) Hummel**, 92, of Orange, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on March 26. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Helen Delores McKernan Muller**, age 85, of Milford, died on March 16, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Barbara Morris Golub** passed away peacefully in the early hours of March 28th 2021 at Masonicare in Wallingford CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Victoria M. Kolcun**, age 95, of Milford, died on March 19, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Katherine Adele Novak** passed away peacefully in her home in Orange on February 6, 2021 at the age of 100. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Frederic M. Gordon**, 74, of Milford, passed away peacefully on March 26. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Michael Krotki**, age 36, of Milford, passed away unexpectedly on March 21, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Michael Patrick Oliver**, age 65, of formerly of Milford, died on Sunday, March 7, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)

## If I Should Die Emily Dickinson

If I should die,  
And you should live,  
And time should gurgle on,  
And morn should beam,  
And noon should burn,  
As it has usual done;  
If birds should build as early,  
And bees as bustling go,—  
One might depart at option  
From enterprise below!  
'T is sweet to know that stocks  
will stand  
When we with daisies lie,  
That commerce will continue,  
And trades as briskly fly.  
It makes the parting tranquil  
And keeps the soul serene,  
That gentlemen so sprightly  
Conduct the pleasing scene!

# Gregory F. Doyle

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# Obituaries



**Edward Anthony Pasenelli, Jr.** 93, of Milford, passed away peacefully at his home on March 11. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Carol Ann Tantimonaco Ross**, 82, of Milford, passed away at home on March 5, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Elaine Maulucci Van Wagner**, 95, of Milford, beloved husband of Albert Van Wagner, passed away on March 23, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Carl D. Pisacane**, 74, of Milford, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paul Andrew Santa**, 96, longtime resident of Milford, passed away on March 18, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Albert F. Van Wagner**, 94, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Elaine Van Wagner, passed away March 24, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**George W. Purington**, 84 of Milford, passed away March 19, 2021 at Milford Hospital.



**Carol M. Scranton** died peacefully on April 1, 2021, at Crosby Commons in Shelton, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert J. White, Sr.**, 81, of Milford, passed away on March 17, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Pauline Rita Rindos**, age 85, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on March 18, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Lawrence E. Soda**, 63, of Milford passed in peace on Friday March 5, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Peter J. Zavidniak** was born March 26 1953 and died March 13, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)

## Crossing the Bar

### Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning  
of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems  
asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from  
out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness  
of farewell,  
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of  
Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to  
face  
When I have crost the bar.

*The calling  
of the  
funeral  
director is  
To be there when  
someone is in need.  
To be there no matter the  
time, or the conditions.  
To be there with words of comfort  
and concern.  
To be there to give quiet  
guidance through the  
storm.  
To be there for the  
final tribute that honors  
a life.  
There is no higher  
privilege.*

-Doug Manning

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## Death Is Nothing At All

### Harry Scott-Holland

Death is nothing at all.  
It does not count.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.  
I am I, and you are you,  
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched,  
unchanged.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed  
together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow  
upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.

All is well.  
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!"



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