

# Milford-Orange Times

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June 3, 2021

## Orange Observes Memorial Day



Local and state officials came together in the gym of High Plains Community Center in Orange to honor those who served during the May 30 Memorial Day events. From left, Chief of Staff Kevin Hadlock, Honored Veteran Louis Eagle and Grand Marshal Dr. Norman J. Marieb. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

## Connor Deane To Run For Orange First Selectman

Orange native Connor Deane announced today that he will seek the nomination of the Orange Democrats for the town's first selectman.

"For nearly thirty years, Orange has been my home. This town has instilled in me the value of hard work, the power of community and the need to give back. That's why I'm running for first selectman," Deane said.

Deane moved to the town when he was 4 with his parents, Tim and Elizabeth Deane. He attended Turkey Hill School and the Amity schools along with his younger siblings, Murphy and Mac. His late grandparents on his mother's side, Eileen and Bill Ferguson, raised five children in town, and most notably started one of Connecticut's first hockey stores, All-Sports. Many of his family

members still reside in Orange.

After graduating from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Deane founded Broadway Method Academy, a nonprofit musical theater training program for young artists. He currently serves as the organization's executive director, which is partnered with the famed Westport Country Playhouse.

"As a small business owner, I bring perseverance, grit and leadership skills," Deane said.

"My first introduction to Connor Deane was also my first introduction to Amity theater, when I attended the Amity production of Les Misérables," said Jody

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## Milford Chamber Names Paine New President

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce has named Christine Matthews Paine as its new president, succeeding Pam Staneski, who announced her departure in February. Paine will officially begin on June 1.

"Finding a replacement for Pam was made easier knowing the person selected has deep roots and history in our community," said Board Chair Paige Miglio. "Christine's extended family has called Milford home for generations, and she brings excitement, passion, along with a vision for our future and benefit of our members. The Board



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Christine Matthews Paine

## Orange Church Lawsuit Continuing

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A federal civil lawsuit alleging that the town of Orange violated the free exercise of religion during the coronavirus pandemic will go forward despite the death of the plaintiff, the lawyer handling the case said.

Father Bernard Champagne of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, which is based in Orange, launched a lawsuit in May 2020 against the town in the US District Court of Connecticut, claiming Health Director

Amir Mohammad violated Champagne's First Amendment right to free exercise of religion by banning all religious gatherings in town.

Champagne died April 14, but his estate has agreed to continue the case in his stead, according to Christian Young, an attorney at Cohen and Wolf, who brought the case in 2020.

"Father Bernard was very adamant that

*Continued on page 14*

## Silver Sands Pizza Opens



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 27 for the opening of Silver Sands Pizza. Owners Osman and Eilly Tunali, along with their children Dennis and Daphne were joined by Milford Mayor Ben Blake and Simon McDonald for the event. Photo by Robert Creigh.

## Budgets Pass In Milford, Orange

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford and Orange both approved their budgets in May, with Milford's tax rate dropping slightly and Orange's rising slightly.

The Milford Board of Aldermen passed a budget that will reduce the mill rate for the city from 27.67 mills to 27.65 – even lower

than the reduction proposed in Mayor Ben Blake's proposed budget.

It will be the sixth consecutive tax cut for the city.

The total price tag is \$221,899,661 is higher than last year's. But the city's grand

*Continued on page 14*

## Orange Approves Firetruck

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Board of Selectmen unanimously approved an agreement at its May 12 meeting at High Plains Community Center for the purchase of a new pumper truck by the Orange Volunteer Fire Association.

The association wants to finance a 2022 Custom Spartan Class A Pumper through

Community Leasing Partners. The truck is expected to cost no more than \$478,799.

The fire association is technically not a town department – it is a separate entity that operates within the town. However, it is also the only fire department for the town as part of an agreement struck in the 1925.

Fire Chief Vaughn Dumas spoke during

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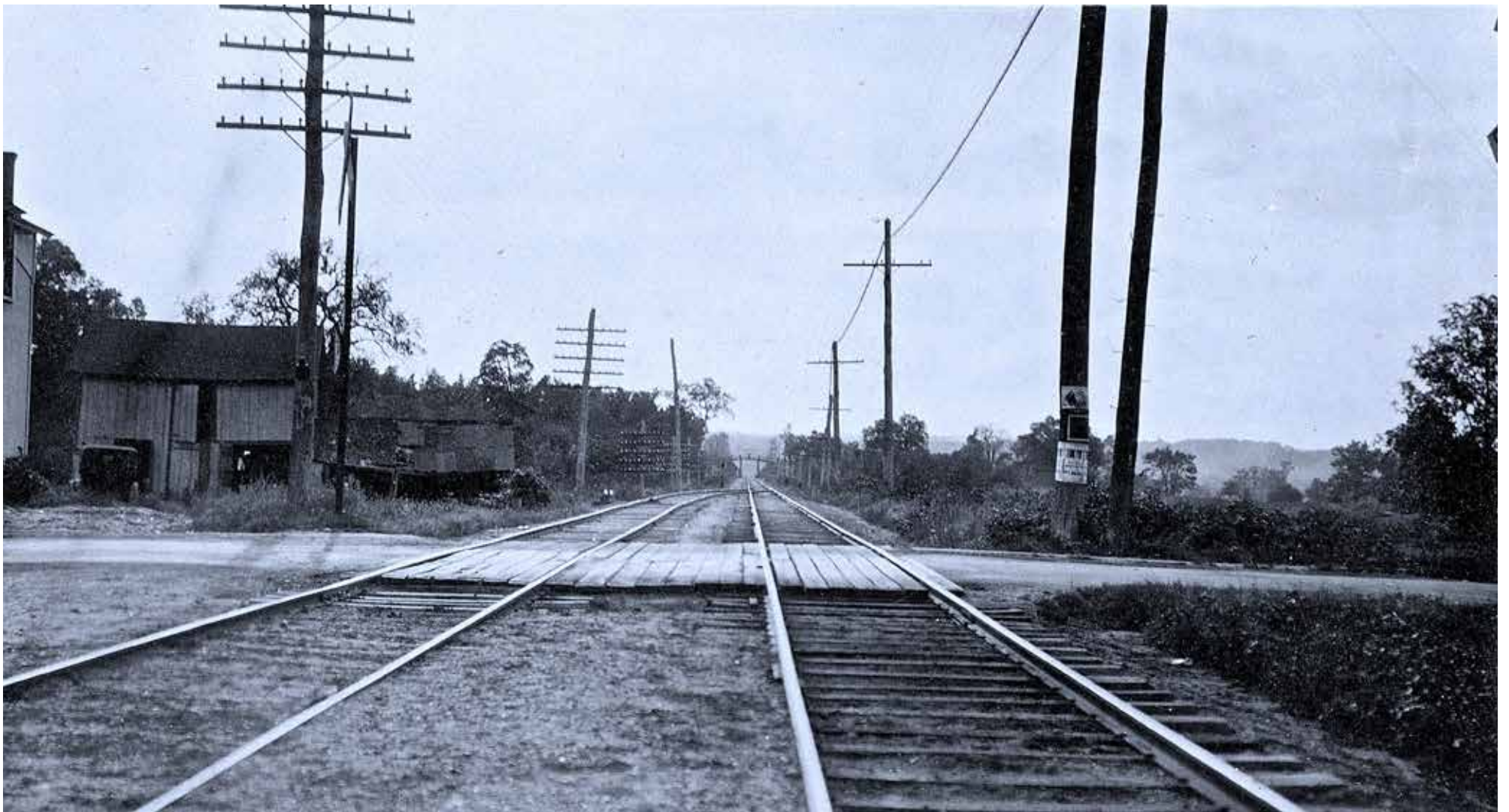
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# News & Events

## A Look Back By Priscilla Searles



Staring down the railroad tracks in 1924, looking west from the Orange train station that was once located on Orange Center Road. Photo courtesy of the Orange Historical Society.

I continue to be amazed by the miles of railroad track that once ran through Orange. Of course, Orange families didn't have multiple cars parked in the driveway, if they had any cars at all. This was definitely a farm

community in the 1920s. Horsepower was still a major form of transportation when this 1924 photo was taken. This shot is looking west from the Orange train station, once located on Orange Center Road.

If you have a vintage photo of Orange and are willing to loan it to Town Historian Priscilla Searles, contact her at publisher@theorangetimes.com. All photos on loan will be scanned, with the scan becoming the

property of the Orange Historical Society. Originals will be returned.

*Priscilla Searles is the Orange Town Historian.*

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**307 Great Oak Road, Orange**

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**6 Hazel Street, West Haven**

**Steps to the Beach!** 3BR/2.5BA Contemporary home in Seabluff Beach. Many interior & exterior updates! Features wrap around deck, in-ground pool & pool house. **\$533,500.** Tony Vitti 203-915-4450



**29 Campfield Circle, Milford**

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The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Rotary Club of Orange

# Is A Chamber Needed, And What Does It Do?

# What Do Rotarians Do When Not Helping Out?

This column is my first as president of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. I want to thank all the staff who came before me, especially my predecessor Pam Staneski and the MRCC board members. Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have kept MRCC strong.



**CHRISTINE MATTHEWS PAINE**

I have wanted to serve Milford in some capacity for a very long time. I hesitated before applying for the position of MRCC president. I asked myself if we still need the MRCC and what exactly they do. Is a chamber a dying breed?

First, what is a chamber of commerce? According to Merriam-Webster, a chamber of commerce is an association of businesspeople to promote commercial and industrial interests in the community.

After some research and speaking with other successful chambers, I found that the MRCC is still relevant, but only if we continue to evolve and provide an essential product to run and protect your business.

So what can the MRCC do for you?

Networking: We facilitate collaboration, partnerships and membership perks.

Streamlined marketing: We provide marketing outlets such as social media, sponsorships and business credibility (63 percent of the public is more likely to do business with a member of the chamber).

Resources for business: The MRCC has di-

rectories, member-to-member discounts, facilities (the MRCC has a beautiful new office at the Connecticut Post Mall that you can use) and can aid with financial access (such as streamlined loans).

Community involvement: The MRCC hosts an annual golf tournament where the proceeds go to local students for scholarships. This event has raised close to half a million dollars. This year's golf tournament is Monday, July 19 at Great River

Country Club in Milford. Go to milfordct.com and look under news and events. I hope to see you there.

Services for business: The MRCC helps with job listings (immediate access to job listings and employee referrals) and advocacy and representation.

Education and training: We host lunch and learns, business seminars and workshops and focus sessions.

The above is the MRCC's guide to serving our members. Your chamber will constantly be aiming to evolve to meet your needs. Still, we can only do that with the guidance and feedback from the chamber members and our community. That is the only way the MRCC will stay relevant.

I am looking forward to meeting and listening to each one of you. I officially start June 7 as your president. You can contact me then at 203-878-068.

By Phil Smith



As I near the end of my year as president of the Orange Rotary Club (and of my year of writing here) I thought it might be appropriate to respond to the only email I have received over the past 12 months about this column.

The writer says some nice things about Rotary supporting town or regional needs and then asks, "What do you Rotarians actually do when you are not raising funds or giving them out? Do you meet weekly? Monthly? Or do you just come together when needed?"

No standard Rotary meeting type exists. The Rotary Club of Orange, before the disruptions of COVID-19, would meet at Race Brook Country Club for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month. We would meet for breakfast at Chip's on the month's third Friday, and then meet for a social on the fourth Friday at 5:30 p.m. or so, maybe at a local restaurant or at someone's house.

For the past many months, we have met exclusively via Zoom, mostly at noon. During the last two weeks, however, we have returned to Race Brook Country Club – a welcome change to see our friends in person once again. We generally enjoy a good lunch and then welcome a speaker, whose remarks last for perhaps 20 minutes or so, leaving time for questions. We adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Who speaks? All kinds of people. About what? About all kinds of things. It is not possible to provide a full description in two or three paragraphs. Mitch Goldblatt brought us up to date about Orange Recycling Committee activities. Patrick

O'Sullivan, our Town Clerk, spoke about absentee ballot procedures during the recent federal election. O-Sullivan's brother David spoke about New Haven's Community Soup Kitchen. Fred O'Brian spoke about HomeHaven, a "community of active, engaged seniors with resources and activities to stay connected, live independently and age well in greater New Haven." Deb Smith, a lawyer in the investment banking division of Goldman Sachs, spoke about pro bono legal work in large law firms. Jerre Dumbrill's topic was "Are you what you wear?" and the psychology of fashion choices. Helen Bennett shared her insights as editor of the New Haven Register. Amid the worst of the COVID disaster, Orange's Director of Health Dr. Amir Mohammad spoke about launching a vaccination program for the town. Ellen Russell Beatty, noted Milford resident, informed us about legislation concerning the so-called "public option" in health insurance.

Some 40 speakers met with us over a year's time. No two were alike. One week we might learn about Scottish fire festivals; the next we might hear about the Armenian genocide and the attempts of that country's neighbors to rewrite its history. One speaker apparently underwent a religious epiphany one day while passing by Yale Bowl, and shared insights resulting from that experience.

And the Boy Scouts. We were proud to honor Scouts from Orange and Woodbridge who earned the Eagle Scout award during the preceding 12 months. Each spoke briefly about the Eagle Scout project they undertook on their way to earning the Eagle rank.

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

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# Amity Creative Theater Returns With ‘Anastasia’

By Pat Miller

Amity Creative Theater is returning to an outdoor stage with a production of the musical Anastasia running from June 16 to 19 and June 23 to 26 at Amity High School.

Coronavirus pandemic restrictions caused last year’s production, “The Drowsy Chaperone” to be canceled, disappointing cast, crew and community. The annual Amity musical has become a much-anticipated community event, attracting full houses of enthusiastic audiences.

Rob and Andrea Kennedy are the directors of this production, adding this show to the long list

of award-winning musicals they have presented at Amity High School. They include Les Misérables, Rent, In the Heights and The Addams Family.

The artistic excellence of these and other productions have given Amity the reputation of having one of the best drama programs in Connecticut. The program was developed by Rob Kennedy, with the backing and full support of former superintendent John Brady, for whom the new auditorium and black box theater are named.

The Kennedys have been involved in theater for many years. Andrea was a professional actress for 10 years, touring in Europe and the US.

The couple worked as performers on a cruise ship for a year. They directed shows at Shelton High School and for the Youth Connection in Shelton before Rob began teaching drama at Amity. They have run ACT Summer Theater Camp for 14 years and were involved in other theater camps and classes. Andrea has done recordings for Six Flags, Hershey Park and others; they both collaborated on recordings for Quassy Amusement Park.

Rob Kennedy still teaches drama at Amity. Andrea teaches voice, with a large roster of private students.

The couple said they faced challenges in mounting a production during the pandemic. The actors



The cast of Anastasia. Photo by Marie Pedenski.



The cast of Anastasia. Photo by Andrea Kennedy.

wore masks, only removing them when they spent their first hour rehearsing on the newly constructed outdoor stage behind the high school. This was the first time that the directors were able to see the faces of the cast. The students rehearsed without masks for the first time at a recent Saturday rehearsal. The Kennedys both emphasized how hard the actors were working and how much they appreciated the opportunity of performing together.

Students shared some of their feelings about participating in this show. Macie Cox and Brynn Weirsmann of Orange stressed that the Kennedys care for them. The sense of caring contributes to the sense of community that the students value, according to Grace Blanchard of Bethany.

Nolan Young of Orange said, “It feels special to be able to perform this play. The theaters in New York are closed, and here we are in Woodbridge, doing a play.”

The story of Anastasia has been the source of speculation since the Russian Revolution. Who was this young girl who claimed to be the only

surviving child of the Tsar’s family? The play takes us from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the high-spirited Paris of the 1920s. Anastasia sets out to explore the mystery of her past. However, those in power wish to silence her and she is pursued by a relentless Soviet officer. She meets up with a dashing con man and a lovable Russian aristocrat who help in her search for home, family and love.

The principal roles are played by Grace Blanchard, Ryan Kennedy, Nolan Young, Brynn Weirsmann, Olivia Sceppa, Macie Cox and Corey Richards.

All performances will be at 7:30 p.m., except for two matinees on June 19 and 25 at 2 p.m. Masks will be required for the audience. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at amitytheaterdepartment.com, by calling the box office at 203-392-2019 or emailing amityboxoffice@gmail.com.

Pat Miller is the Arts Editor emeritus for the Milford-Orange Times.

## Milford Chamber Hosts Business After Hours



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a business after hours get-together on May 26 at Bin 100 in Milford. Photos by Geiger

# Opinion & Editorial

## Entering The Homestretch



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

As I write this, we are entering the homestretch of this legislative session. All of the committee work, meetings with different agencies and advocates, and especially constituent feedback from the previous months are leading up to the last big push of legislation and final votes before we end at exactly midnight on June 9.

While new legislators are often told not to expect to see many – or any – of their proposals see the floor, I am incredibly proud to say that two of my concepts have already unanimously passed in the House.

The first is HB 6580, AAC Agriculture Education Programs. The purpose of this bill is to create a stronger bond between local agriculture and aquaculture farms and the surrounding communities by offering educational opportunities to children and adults, connecting residents to the process of how we get from farm to food to table through instruction not easily available to most residents across the state. We are fortunate here in Orange to already have good relationships with our local farms, but not every town is in this position. Not only will this provide learning opportunities, but it will give more exposure to those farms that participate and will assist in the economic support and growth of this vital part of our state.

The other proposal was part of HB 6510, and continues my focus on providing support for our children and families within our schools. This legislation would provide behavioral and mental health service information to families through board of education websites across the state. This will ensure that when this important information is needed, parents and educators can find it quickly.

One of the biggest votes we will take will be on the budget. As of now the budget is a working document that may see some changes but overall reflects the improved fiscal health of our state. We continue to pay down our debt and have built up our “rainy day” fund, meaning we are better prepared for an unexpected economic downturn or emergencies and, if needed, we can bond at lower interest rates.

I am relieved that we are not facing broad tax increases or cuts to services, but I am disappointed to see that there aren’t more proactive measures to relieve some of the burdens on middle class families within the budget and will continue to advocate for those changes. I am also greatly concerned that the bipartisan Educational Cost Sharing formula renegotiated in 2017 sees steady losses in education funding for Orange. While anticipated losses this year are covered by additional federal funding, I am looking very closely at the funding levels in the coming years. I know firsthand how hard our schools work to do more with less, and I will continue to fight for our schools and our residents as the budget evolves.

Thank you again to everyone who has reached out to share their thoughts and opinions with me. If you have any concerns you would like to share or discuss, please email me at [mary.welander@cga.ct.gov](mailto:mary.welander@cga.ct.gov).

## Controlling Local Zoning Decisions



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

Last week in the House of Representatives, we debated and voted on a proposal that would upend the way our 169 towns determine their planning and zoning.

The legislation, which was watered-down from previous iterations, was still the proverbial camel’s nose under the tent that would open the door to a state-mandated, top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to zoning.

I opposed HB 6107, An Act Concerning the Reorganization of the Zoning Enabling Act and the Promotion of Municipal Compliance, along with all the House Republicans and eight Democrats – including all the Milford and Orange state representatives. The bill ultimately passed 84-59 and now awaits action in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Under HB 6107, towns are required to allow accessory dwelling units on any single-home lot “as of right.” The bill would permit a municipality to override this requirement by a two-thirds vote of the town’s legislative body, which would follow an override vote by the town’s zoning commission.

Similarly, the bill restricts a town’s ability to require additional parking spaces as a condition for zoning approval for a new development, although the town would also have the ability to opt out of this using the same override mechanism explained above.

The language also replaces the preservation of “character” of the town with “physical site characteristics,” which would make it more difficult for communities to preserve the historic look of neighborhoods and surrounding areas via local zoning regulations.

I heard from many constituents on the issue of local control of zoning and cohosted a zoning forum on Zoom with the ranking members of the Planning and Development Committee. Most of the emails and phone calls opposed giving up Milford’s or Orange’s zoning to a Hartford bureaucracy. After listening to the debate and getting clarifying answers to questions from my colleagues on how this would impact the towns in my district, I felt the need to vote against the legislation. I have always believed that the residents of both Milford and Orange are the most capable to determine what is best for their towns.

At the conclusion of the debate in the House of Representatives, Democratic Majority Leader Jason Rojas vowed to raise this issue in future sessions, alluding to his preference for more overreaching state-mandated zoning reforms on Connecticut municipalities. Everyone needs to stay vigilant and watch for future legislation on the state takeover of zoning.

I am proud so many people took the time to get informed and to make their voices heard, and I thank them for their grassroots advocacy. I will always stand up for my constituents, the communities I represent and the citizens of this state.

The 2021 legislature sessions adjourns at midnight on Wednesday, June 9.

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@housegov.ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.Kennedy@housegov.ct.gov) or at 800-842-1423.

## Bills To Make Lives Better



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

With the legislative session coming to an end, the legislative Democratic majority will continue to keep the Capitol closed to the public, despite the statewide lifting of governor’s business restrictions and the governor ordering state government staff back to their offices. It’s unfortunate we must remain closed while we are discussing so many important issues that will affect every resident. It’s unlikely to change before the legislative session ends.

I’ll continue to forge ahead pushing bills to help our state. Three public safety bills I cosponsored passed with bipartisan support, and several other bills I supported passed as well.

House Bill 6492 requires anyone who holds a state board of education coaching permit to undergo a heat illness education program before the start of their coaching assignment. This bill will educate coaches on how to prevent heat related illnesses for our high school student athletes, which account for 78 percent of catastrophic injuries, according to the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research.

Another bill I cosponsored, House Bill 6637, passed the House on May 19. This bill creates a statewide mental health program specialized in aiding persons who are deaf and blind. HB 6637 also launches an advisory committee to address the best way to service the needs of these individuals and provide guidance to state agencies.

As a result of a tragic incident that resulted in a loss of life of a child, the House of Representatives unanimously passed Senate Bill 608, which requires ice cream truck operators and owners to increase the visibility of their vehicles. My heart and prayers go out to the family. Hopefully, families will not have to endure this loss in the future.

We also passed House Bill 6121, which will create a pipeline for a workforce development plan for people with disabilities. Even though people with disabilities make up 12 percent of Connecticut’s population, they make up 30 percent of those not in the workforce. HB 6121 seeks to provide opportunities for those who are often overlooked while expanding our workforce and thus generating additional revenue that benefits our state.

Although COVID presented us with numerous challenges, it gave us many opportunities to improve the lives of residents who call Connecticut home. For instance, telehealth was expanded through an executive order and later passed by the House of Representatives. House Bill 5596 commissions a study to expand the access to telehealth services for the state.

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 emailing [Charles.Ferraro@housegov.ct.gov](mailto:Charles.Ferraro@housegov.ct.gov).

## Protecting Your Online Data



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

What do you think of the small electronic device that you carry around in your pocket every single day that shares your personal data to companies around the world? What would you do if you could protect your personal data from being shared?

Large technology companies are constantly and infinitely tracking anywhere and everywhere you go. This is called surveillance capitalism. The way it works is that the more data a company collects and the more people that give the company their attention, the more successful the company will be.

Tech companies track, measure and record every single action someone takes, such as where you go, the images you look at and how long you look at each image. From this data, they can tell if people are lonely, depressed, whether they’re an introvert or extrovert, what they’re doing late at night and other aspects of their personality.

This legislative session, I have dedicated myself to working on and passing Senate Bill 893, An Act Concerning Consumer Privacy. This bill creates a consumer data bill of rights. Companies will be required to clearly cite a privacy policy telling consumers what data is being collected, how it is being used and why. This way, consumers are aware and have the right of knowing what information is being collected from them, the ability to see and fix any false data that is collected from them and the right to have any collected data deleted.

This bill prohibits companies from discriminating against those who choose to exercise these rights. It will also provide protection over user information, thus preventing companies from abusing their data. SB 893 requires companies to lessen the amount of data they collect and only use it for the purposes they are collecting it for, therefore reducing data breaches and identity theft.

As people become aware of how much of their personal information is being observed and recorded, more eyebrows have been raised. Numerous people aren’t aware that they’re being tracked.

Apple recently released a new operating system and found that only 2 to 4 percent of Americans are opting in for tracking. The International and Internet Society found that 69 percent of consumers are concerned about how personal data is collected in mobile apps, such as banking or health apps. It was also found that 62 percent of consumers are concerned about personal data collected through devices such as computers and tablets.

These concerns have prompted me to work on a consumer privacy bill with the goal of making consumers feel safe and feeling like their information isn’t being taken without their consent. My hope is that consumers feel more comfortable and have more trust in their mobile devices; that their data isn’t being collected without their knowledge. This legislation ensures transparency within companies and consumers, therefore guaranteeing that consumers know just how much of their information is being collected and are given the right to control what is done with that data.

# Opinion & Editorial

## Ponder This

### Potholes Are Bipartisan. Why Not Childcare Too?

Are we to waste precious energy arguing about the definition of infrastructure or the public good? The American Families Plan has been compared to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal by both proponents and critics alike. One need not look back that far in American history. The Republican party of yesteryear, under the capable leadership of President Dwight Eisenhower, undertook a massive infrastructure project to connect ocean to ocean in the US.

The ostensible goal was to create a secure transportation network, but the plan was also carefully designed by policymakers as a stimulus to create jobs and invigorate the economy. New hotels, restaurants and fuel stations were built across the land, creating small business opportunities for communities.

The Eisenhower initiative energized the economy as much as it created infrastructure. Eisenhower's infrastructure plan served a dual purpose, starting an economic boom that invigorated the gross domestic product and created a robust middle class. Let us not forget our successes; they can perfectly in-

form us as we tackle current challenges.

Corporate taxes partially paid for the successful master plan at a rate far above the current suggestions of a raise from 21 to 28 percent. Corporate taxes were approximately 50 percent in the 1950s, and then 35 percent until the Great Recession and latest tax cuts in 2017.

One debate is whether increasing to a 28 percent corporate rate is feasible and effective, or what other revenue streams can adequately fund both the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan. The concept of whether we need, want and can benefit from a systematic childcare plan need not be contested.

The systems of education, health, housing, health care and the economy are interconnected and worthy of deliberate policy development. For those who critique the recent stimulus package as too far-reaching a policy initiative, I ask the question: What is social policy, if not goal-directed problem solving?



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

All government actions – even taxes – become social policy if they influence societal problems such as poverty, unemployment, health care and education.

The wisest mantra is from theologian Jeffrey Cox: "Not to decide is to decide." An insidious legacy of unreached potential for our children can be the result of policy indecision. We can decide now and choose to use what research tells us: investments in childcare improve the physical

and psychological wellbeing of the child and the community. The choice is literally ours. The benefits clearly outweigh the costs. Childcare will go a long way to reduce disparities that influence health and prosperity. It would improve the condition of all Americans in the 21st century.

Childcare enhances the employability of millions of families of young children, improves wages and benefits for workers and the economy benefits from greater numbers of women in the workplace. The American

Families Plan can be a collaborative effort to address challenges facing our communities and stimulate economic recovery. The American Families Plan will build a childcare system that serves us all.

There is no time and no room for anyone to be implacable. Potholes are bipartisan. Why not childcare?

I do hope that our president and our elected officials together look us in the eye and say clearly that they have the backs of the women and families of America.

*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.*

## Commentary:

### Plans To Give More Will Take Away Freedom

In school do they not teach the adage, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him how to fish and you feed him for life?"

Oh wait, we must first translate it in the new left vernacular. "Give a person an environmentally non-protected and not overharvested aquatic species and you feed that person for a day, teach him how to read government authorized rules for environmentally friendly harvesting of aquatic species, aquatic species licensing regulations and permissible methods for obtaining aquatic species and...oh, what's the use? Isn't it just easier to ask for a government bureaucrat's help and let the government tell you how you can or cannot do everything, and if you're deserving you will get your daily aquatic species as long as you qualify.

Who pays for this largesse? You will. We all

will in one way or another, eventually. Even if it is at the price of our freedom.

The power to tax is the power to control and impoverish. There is not enough money at any tax rate one can apply to businesses and so-called rich people to pay for the ongoing programs we have now, much less new ones. We are the richest people in the world. We work for the federal government and Connecticut for 4.25 months of our salaries, and the spending rate at the federal level and the state's underfunding of its pension obligations will require more and more of what you earned. Forget promises from politicians; the programs seem



THOMAS P. HURLEY

to be forever once you addict free citizens to them. And once addicted you are not free.

I recently received an email from Rep. Rosa DeLauro. Here is what she said about what's going on in Washington.

"President Biden's American Families Plan recognizes that our country is hurting, and bold federal action is needed to get the United States back on its feet. Combined with the American Rescue Plan and the American Jobs Plan, this proposal has the potential to transform tens of millions of lives. It includes a five-year extension of the expanded and improved Child Tax Credit—a provision I have championed for nearly two

decades—in an important first step in the fight to quickly make this expansion permanent, extend a lifeline to poor, working and middle class families, and cut child poverty."

This is clearly a give a fish today and two tomorrow approach to solving our problems. Transforming tens of millions of lives permanently potentially enslaves those to the hand that feeds them. Programs such as unemployment compensation have always been a teach approach to help in the short run. But when they are rich enough to impede searching for readily available employment, they become an enslaving give approach. The promise is very enticing, the results not necessarily so. America was not founded on the give approach and the New Deal. Let's not try and out-Roosevelt Roosevelt.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Orange Only Diversifies Housing When Forced

To the Editor:

Probably one of the more intelligently written pieces published in Orange ("Orange Needs To Diversify Housing – With Care," Milford-Orange Times, May 6, 2021).

While expressing it must be done "With Care" you fail to note all planning has moved to reduce, not increase density through the last 50 years. Small lots near the junior high gave way to 30,000, then 40,000 and now 60,000 square foot minimum lots. All in the name of preserving open space. In actuality, that approach destroys open space opportunity by carving up more land into fewer lots. Thus Orange has had

to overpay for the Housatonic River overlook, Hubbell, Ewen and now Race Brook Country Club properties for preservation.

Only with litigation, or threats of such, has Orange made any movement to diversify housing. They are not unique in this. But to say they must move with care is disingenuous. I have personally attempted many proposals over 30-plus years. Only age-restricted luxury projects were ever embraced. Even a four-lot subdivision on seven acres on Narrow Lane was opposed by the public and town leadership. Slow walking is obstruction. Justice delayed is often justice denied. Especially in land use planning.

**Jeffrey N. Gordon**  
Codespoti & Associates, PC  
Orange

### Deane

#### (Continued From 1)

Dietch, Chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee. "Years later, our paths would cross again as Connor reached out to me about running for office. It was then that I learned his mom is Beth Ferguson, and his uncles and I all attended school together from Race Brook School through Amity."

Dietch, who has previously run unsuccessfully for first selectman, said she was proud to support Deane's

candidacy.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli, a Republican who plans to run for the position again in November, in a Facebook post congratulated Deane on his announcement, saying he looks forward "to a good campaign."

Deane said he's excited to bring his ideas to the table and get the chance to meet with Orange voters. "Orange has been an anchor in my life. I couldn't be more excited for the opportunity to give back."

Democrats will hold their caucus to choose a candidate in July.

**For more politics coverage,  
go to milford-orangetimes.com**

**We Regret The Error**

A column on page 10 in the May 6, 2021 issue regarding bicycle infrastructure carried an incorrect headline. The correct headline should have been "Protected Bike Lanes Good For Towns Economically, Environmentally."

**Milford-Orange Times**

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**Senator's Seat:** Sen. James Maroney

**Columnists:**

Annamarie Amore, Flooring	Pat Dray, Gardening	Christine Paine, Milford Chamber
Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences	Steven P. Floman, Legal	Trish Pearson, Insurance
Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This	Matt Gallagher, Finances	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel
Neil Benedict, Life Insurance	Patricia Houser, Environment	Priscilla Searles, Orange History
Cathy Bradley, Running	Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary	Loretta Smith, Recycling
Joanne Byrne, Retirement	Jennifer Ju, Bias	Phil Smith, Rotary Club
Steve Cooper, Food	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
David Crow, Conversations	Dan May, Earth Science	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Joe DiMartino, Exercise	Marilyn May, Milford History	Michele Tenney, Health
	Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health	

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### Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

## Interest Rates Are Still Low

The market remains stable with homes in Connecticut still closing over asking price. This combination of high demand and multiple bids on each home has resulted in increased home values.

As your neighbor's property becomes a closed statistic with a high number, your own home is now worth a new, higher value. Comparable properties, whether selling or not, all benefit from these market times. The number of days a home is on the market has also dramatically decreased, but a frenzy for those who sold to hurry and find their next move is also evident.

All in all, these are good signs. Our state has increased in value in general, and we are in a prime market and a prime season. September's school days are around the cor-

ner, and now that the pandemic has shifted we are all grateful to get back to the old routines. Our local market has always been strong, so let's enjoy the ride.

Some of the complications of selling high are that the buyers look for more credits after their home inspection. Words like "end of its life" are in the forefront from an inspector's point of view when it comes to older roofs and furnaces. For example, how long is the life of your furnace if you maintain it? If it is working property, or if your roof has no leaks, then the buyers should not be requesting money back for future problems.



BARBARA LEHRER

I maintain the theory that you should price your home right, but do not overprice it. The multiple offers you get will exceed your expectations coming in way over price, but possibly with buyer remorse the following week. Another problem with selling high can be the appraised value. The buyer hires a lender who sends an independent appraiser. This person's job is to make sure your home has the value of its sales price – not the loan amount, as many clients think.

If the appraisal comes in short, there is a decision to be made. There are three options: the seller discounts to the appraised amount, the buyer pays extra out of pocket or they ne-

gotiate to a happy medium though the buyer still pays extra out of pocket.

All issues can be worked out. Your real estate agent's job is to make sure that the deal gets completed properly by keeping everyone on board, happy to work together.

The energy in the market is definitely fed by these low rates, but how long will they last? As food and gas go up in price, so too these rates may eventually go back to 5 percent or more. Let us all make hay while the economy is substantially stable. If you have been waiting for the right moment to sell, now may be the time to make your move.

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

### Orange Garden Club Visits Historic House



Members of the Garden Club of Orange recently visited the Bellamy-Ferriday House and Garden in Bethlehem. The house was originally built by Joseph Bellamy in 1754 and in 1912 was bought by Henry and Eliza Ferriday. Their daughter Caroline was the inspiration for the book *The Lilac Girls*. Members said they enjoyed the house tour and especially the gardens, filled with lilacs, peonies and other blooms. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.

### Orange Rotary Holds Rose Sale



The Rotary Club of Orange held its annual Mother's Day Rose Sale May 7 and 8, selling 500 dozen roses. Photo by Steve Cooper.

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Here's To Your Health

The Aging Athlete

Those of you who follow my Facebook page will certainly know who I am referring to when I say "the apple of my eye." She's my 98-year-old client who I train three times a week. I have been doing so for over 12 years. I have such a tremendous love and respect for this woman, and I feel privileged and honored to also call her my friend.

Through the years of training, we have stayed the course working on a full head-to-toe workout, focusing on core and balance but also strength training. Due to certain aging ailments I've had to adjust her workouts. But her determination, her commitment to consistency of not missing her workouts and her relentless pursuit of living her best life possible has made her a remarkable example for us all.

Though I train people of all ages, from children to 98, the aging population is certainly one to marvel at and motivates me to **On Your Mind**

never stop moving myself. Your joints are like door hinges. If the door remains shut all the time, the hinges begin to rust. But a door that is open and shut often will not rust.

There are many older high-performance athletes out there who are quite impressive too. Sixty-five-year-old Karla Del Grande set a world record in the 400 meter, clocking a time of 68.08. Charles Allie, age 71, set world records by running 57.26 in the 400 meter and 27.75 in the 200 meter.

I realize these people are not considered "average"; however, they certainly are proof that it's possible. As far as I'm concerned, this needs to start as a child. Running, riding bikes, playing sports, cartwheels in the back-



MICHELE TENNEY

yard, climbing trees.

Loss of muscle and loss of strength begin to occur at the onset of aging. We need to be intentional about countering this loss and preserving muscle. In addition to preserving muscle, resistance training not only helps ward off osteoporosis and builds lean muscle mass, which is critical to overall good health. Lean muscle mass also combats obesity, can help you recover from illness and reduces your risk of fractures. There is a misconception is that you have to hit the gym with heavy weights to be successful in building lean muscle. Resistance bands, weight bearing exercises, cardio, eating whole foods, hydration, destressing and sleep are all involved in the building process.

Let's face it: living through a pandemic has been hard. Physically, emotionally and spiritually. If you're struggling in any one or all three of those areas, I'm here to encourage you to start living your best life now. It begins with one foot in front of the other, one day at a time. I have walked in your shoes and understand that sometimes just the thought about getting up and moving can be daunting.

Don't give up. You can do anything you put your mind to do.

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

Is Your Unconscious Mind Keeping You Stuck?

Have you set goals and failed to reach them? You know you need to make changes in your habits or attitudes or behaviors, but you don't follow through. You consciously want to exercise, but you don't. You want to finish those projects or chores, but you don't. You are clear on what you should do, but fail to do it.

What is getting in the way of your success?

Your conscious mind has great information and knowledge, but we are driven by feelings. Feelings are the product of our unconscious mind. Your unconscious mind is programmed by your past experiences. It has emotional responses to all your experiences programmed into those memories.

When you think of dieting, for example, you immediately begin to think of those things you have to give up. You experience that feeling of being deprived, and your unconscious mind chooses pleasure and comfort over sacrifice and deprivation.

A way to change your unconscious response to wanting to reduce your weight is to recall how you felt when you were trimmer and more active. Focus on what you're getting, not what you're giving up.

I had a client who came to me with a feeling of wanting to stop drinking alcohol. He was beginning to feel out of control around alcohol. He was going fishing with some buddies and knew it was going to include drinking. He was afraid to go and was afraid of not being able to drink. I told him he could drink all he wanted, just not alcohol. He brought a case of club soda and had a great time. He was able to focus on the fishing and fun with his friends instead of the alcohol part.

Weight loss isn't that different. Begin by eliminating the word "diet" from your life. It's not about dieting or giving up things. It's about what you are getting: a trim, more



FERN TAUSIG

attractive body. Focus on how you're going to look and feel in that body. Remind yourself that nothing tastes as good as trimmer feels. Create new feelings about food and your body and you will find it easier to make the necessary changes without dieting. All your associations with dieting are negative and result in failure.

Your unconscious mind is specifically charged with protecting and comforting you. It is unable to logically realize that some of your comfort beliefs or habits actually make you feel uncomfortable. For instance, weight gain causes an uncomfortable feeling that tight clothes and limited mobility brings with excess fat.

The unconscious mind is focused on protecting your safety, comfort and love based on previous experiences. These feelings are the main focus of the unconscious mind. As

you consciously, logically and intellectually create goals, your unconscious mind weighs in and creates an emotional response. If your emotional response is that it threatens your safety, comfort or love, you will then lack the passion and motivation to follow through. Willpower exists in the conscious mind but is ineffective against your emotions.

Learn how to get excited about the result of your goal. Regardless of what it is, by beginning to focus on how the successful completion of your goal will look and feel, you begin to change your emotional response. You can be successful. It's called self-hypnosis.

Learning how your mind works can empower you to make it work for you instead of against you.

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

Outdoor Gun Show Held At Orange VFW



The Stratford Gun Collectors Outdoor Gun Show was held May 7 and 8 at the VFW Post 127 in Orange's new tent space. Photos by Steve Cooper.

Foodie Foursome

Founders House A Gem On The Milford Green

Located on the historic Milford Green is Founders House. Milfordites may remember the building as Rainbow Gardens; however, it has been completely transformed.

Upon entering we were greeted by Blair, our hospitality specialist. She took the time to show us around to see where we would like to dine.

Depending on your mood you have a choice of the quaint bar, classic restaurant dining room, the upper open-air deck or lower stone patio with umbrellas. For our dining experience we chose the sunroom that has the feeling and intimacy of an almost private room with views of the patio, deck and green.

Cindy and I took this culinary journey with friends Roger and Fern. We started off with an "appetizer tasting" consisting of the thick cut candied bacon chop, no dip wings, crispy fried calamari and crispy avocado. The avocado app was visually similar to sashimi. The delicate fried avocado was served over tightly rolled rice with seaweed salad and a wicked cilantro jalapeno sauce. The no dip

wings were crispy and tender with a sauce that had a Hawaiian flair.

The candied bacon was truly innovative. The generous serving of fresh-cut apple wood smoked candied bacon was slow roasted, grilled and served with a charred three-pepper chimichurri that would have even been awesome by itself. The crispy calamari was delicately fried, tender and meaty. It was tossed with sweet and hot cherry peppers and gorgonzola cheese and served with San Marzano marinara. The creativity, attention to detail and well-sourced ingredients by owner and executive chef Frank Basille continued to manifest itself through the entrees and desserts.

As the tasting continued with the entrees, we discussed each of our choices. It was hard to nail down a favorite, as each could have shined on its own. The grilled swordfish was served with lemon-herb dill compound butter, roasted beets and roasted fingerling po-



STEVE COOPER

atoes. This may have been one of the finest swordfish steaks any of us had ever enjoyed. It was a light, flakey, thick, white swordfish steak that melted in your mouth. The colossal baked stuffed shrimp was stuffed with tasty crabmeat and served with garlic mashed potato and a vegetable medley.

The next dish was another example of the creative choices their menu has to offer. Their oven-roasted garlic and eggplant was eloquent and served over perfectly cooked bucatini pasta with a slow-simmered San Marzano marinara tossed with yellow roasted tomatoes. This was then topped with a fresh, creamy burrata ball and a nut-free pesto.

Our final entree literally turned heads as our server brought it to the table. The 30-ounce "bone in" tomahawk ribeye was grilled to order and seasoned to perfection. It was served with a garlic mashed potato and a shredded array of vegetables. It was impres-

sive to see and even better to enjoy. My pup will love the 16-inch bone. We completed the evening with some of the finest desserts available locally. Many are classics with a twist, such as the key lime pie, which was not overpowering, had a smooth texture and contained a thick-pressed graham cracker and butter crust. The royal chocolate cake with layers of fudge and mousse was perfect. The blueberry peach crisp was served with sautéed blueberries and peaches in a bourbon glaze under a brown sugar butter oat crust and topped with vanilla ice cream and caramel. The most decadent of all was the mudslide tower. The multiple layers of creamy ice cream, chocolate fudge hazelnut spread, toffee and almond candy bar, brownie and peanut butter was definitely one to share.

Founders House opened on May 20 and is the younger sibling establishment of Basille's other restaurants, Bonfire Grille and Bridge House. It is located at 117 Broad St. and open from 11:30 a.m. seven days a week. For reservations call 203-693-2912.

Milford Banquet Facility Bought For Redevelopment

Orange-based Colonial Properties recently represented the buyer in the purchase of a waterfront property in Milford for \$3.65 million.

Tony Vitti of Colonial brokered the purchase of 72 Broadway from Livio Faustini. The property, with 10,000 square feet on 1.72 acres, was formerly Costa Azzurra restaurant and banquet facility. The property will be redeveloped into a new banquet facility and the owners plan to break ground immediately.

Costa Azzurra had been a staple in the Milford community for decades and

had closed amidst COVID and family concerns. The buyer's attorney was Brian Lema of Berchem and Moses in Milford; the attorneys for the seller were Larry Langerman and Anthony Benedosso of Karp and Langerman in Milford.

"We are very pleased to be able to facilitate this transaction for a landmark piece of property. Costa Azzurra was a special place in the community for a long time, serving the residents of Milford and the region for many special occasions. This very unique parcel has considerable direct waterfront. The new development

will be a first-class banquet facility, featuring beautiful water views, providing memories for many for years to come," said Michael Ricchetti, president and designated broker of Colonial Properties.



Colonial Properties recently represented the buyer in the purchase of banquet facility Costa Azzurra in Milford for \$3.65 million. Image courtesy of Colonial Properties.

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## For Nature's Sake

# Small Yards, Fire Pits And Toxic Summer Skies

Connecticut laws allow recreational fire pits in even densely settled neighborhoods – with the caveat, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and town websites, that if it becomes a “nuisance” or health hazard to a neighbor, the offending fire should be stopped.

Try parsing out the particulars of that while your house and yard become so full of smoke from a neighbor’s fire that the smell clings to your hair and clothes, even after you leave for a walk or drive to a park for a breath of fresh air.

The law which prohibits someone from sending air pollution onto your property in our area is so awkward to implement, it is rarely invoked by beleaguered neighbors. And few people seem to realize the health implications of all that wood smoke hanging over our neighborhoods on warm summer evenings, with special risks for expectant mothers, babies and small children, any older adults and people with sinus, lung or heart conditions.

How do you approach an unwitting neighbor who you’ve never previously met to tell them, “Um, excuse me, you don’t know me and you seem very nice, but my household is in the downwind path of your fire?” What are you really asking them to do? What can you ask them to do?

Here’s the thing: that wood smoke is deadly dangerous for anyone downwind. And the frequency and duration of exposure in dense neighborhoods over the summer makes it a critical form of air pollution in Connecticut. Even one small backyard fire pit, providing a blazing centerpiece for someone’s evening contemplation, may affect an assortment of downwind neighbors of all ages who can smell the smoke in their yards and even within the walls of their homes – which is proof that they are also breathing in the kind of particulates and toxins that have been proven to damage health and shorten lives.

Burning wood generates an especially dangerous form of air pollution called PM<sub>2.5</sub>. “PM” stands for “particulate matter,” and 2.5 is the size of these particles in micrometers. (A human hair is around 80 micrometers in diameter, and a grain of sand can be 90 micrometers.)

Humans are always, evidently, inhaling a few particles from our surroundings; however, the extra small category of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, included in wood smoke, and the types of chemicals attached to these particles, can do extra damage because they not only reach our lungs



PATRICIA  
HOUSER

– they cross over into our bloodstream and can reach the heart and brain. A 2019 meta-analysis in the journal *Science* and the Total Environment found links between PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure and developmental disorders, stroke, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease. A May 17, 2021 story in the *New York Times* cited new research suggesting that short-term exposure to polluted air, even at levels generally considered “acceptable,” can impair mental ability in older adults.

A group of public health experts from Yale University and the Connecticut-based Environment & Human Health, Inc. sounded an alarm in 2018 about recreational fire pits in their report, “The Harmful Effects of Wood Smoke and the Growth of Recreational Wood Burning.” That report verifies the links between wood smoke and increased risk of heart arrhythmias, heart attacks, stroke, breast cancer, asthma, diabetes, COPD, lung cancer and a number of other cancers.

The carcinogens that waft up from your fire pit specifically include 1,3 butadiene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, formaldehyde and dioxin (dioxin is regarded by many scientists as the “most dangerous

man-made poison”).

While I have emphasized the risk to particular segments of the population, the 2018 report, which draws from the results of more than 100 studies, provides more than enough cautionary notes for the general population, including the assertion that, quite simply, “short- and long-term exposures to PM<sub>2.5</sub> decrease life expectancy.”

The Connecticut scientists and policy experts who wrote the 2018 report recommend stronger regulations of wood smoke at every level. In the meantime, where neighborhood groups wish to protect their own air quality, there is room for collaboration and a bit of a “win-win” solution. Those who enjoy the ambiance of an evening beside an outdoor fire can opt for several lower-smoke alternatives, including an attractive propane pit fire table for a cost of around \$200, or the smokeless (actually lower smoke) pit fire inserts and containers.

The reason to take that step, beyond neighborhood health, is that it would protect one’s own household better from wood smoke pollution and its consequences.

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

## Life Insurance

# Why Would I Buy Life Insurance On My Child?

I recently met with Maria and Jack, a young couple in their late twenties who had their first child, Sophia, last June. Maria is a teacher in the local school system and Jack is a real estate attorney with an established law firm in town. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss their near and long-term financial goals and how I might help them achieve them.

As our discussion evolved, Maria and Jack concluded that from a life insurance perspective, income protection was their most immediate need. They wanted to be sure that if something happened to either one of them, the proceeds from their insurance policies could generate sufficient income to replace their losses. Together we designed a strategy that provided the right amount of coverage over their entire time horizon. Because of their relatively young ages and good health, the strategy fit within their budget.

Before leaving, I wanted to introduce another idea that many young families don’t often think about: life insurance policies on young children. When I mentioned this to Maria and Jack, their reaction was as expected.

Maria looked puzzled. “Why in the world would I buy life insurance on my child?” she asked. Jack nodded in agreement.

I listened attentively to their concerns be-

fore responding. I knew from discussions with many other young family clients that Maria and Jack’s responses were normal. Initially, purchasing a life insurance policy on a one-year-old does sound odd. Children have no income to protect, most are healthy and their mortality rates are extremely low. But the fact that they are healthy and young makes whole life or cash value life insurance a sensible option.

I carefully explained some of the benefits of these policies, particularly for children. First, the policies guarantee (based on the claims paying ability of the issuer) a certain amount of cash value growth over time. Some policies offer the potential for additional cash value growth through non-guaranteed dividends. Second, given the health and young age of a child, premiums for these policies are far lower than adult policies with equivalent face values. Third, there are limited underwriting requirements for child policies. No lab work is required. Finally, a key benefit of child policies is that when designed properly, the child can obtain additional whole life policies as an adult without any additional underwriting until age 46.



NEIL  
BENEDICT

To illustrate my point, I showed Maria and Jack an example of a \$1 million custom whole policy on Sophia with annual premiums of \$6,600 paid over 20 years. Thereafter, the policy remained in force and continued to grow both cash value and death benefit for the rest of her life, but with no additional premiums due. I pointed out in my example that after 20 years when Sophia would be 21, the cash value in her policy would have grown to \$145,000. And when she reached 45, the cash value would have grown to \$585,000 while the total amount of premiums paid would have been only \$132,000 (\$6,600 per year times 20 years). I explained that the cash value in a whole life policy can be accessed tax-free by the policy owner as a loan to be used for any purpose, including education expenses or purchasing a home. (Loans against your policy accrue interest and decrease the death benefit and available cash surrender value by the amount of the outstanding loan and interest.)

Maria and Jack were impressed and began to consider the idea. They could see that a life insurance policy on a child could be a valu-

able part of their overall financial strategy, but it might not fit within their current budget. I told them this was understandable and that many of my client’s parents purchased whole life insurance policies on their grandchildren as part of their annual gifting strategies. Since the IRS permits taxpayers to exclude up to \$15,000 per year per person from gift taxes, an annual premium of \$6,600 fits well within that limit. And for the grandparents, it’s a rewarding way to provide a valuable long-term financial benefit to their grandchild.

Maria thought this over a minute. “Jack, I think our parents might be very interested in this. They’re always asking us what they can give Sophia. Neil, would you be available to talk to our parents if they want to learn more about this?”

“Absolutely,” I answered.

*Neil Benedict is a financial services professional at New York Life Insurance Company. Neither New York Life Insurance Company nor its agents provides tax, legal or accounting advice. Please consult your own tax, legal, or accounting professional before making any decisions. He can be reached at [nbenedict@ft.newyorklife.com](mailto:nbenedict@ft.newyorklife.com) or 203-940-3158.*

## Working Out

# Looking To Lose Weight?

Many of us want to lose weight. Unfortunately, not many succeed.

In this day of instant satisfaction, everyone wants to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Although that is possible, it is generally not realistic or healthy. Since approximately 60 percent of the human body is comprised of water, some fad diets can trick you into thinking that you are losing weight quickly when in reality you are just losing water weight.

Body composition will also play a role in the way you look and feel, as opposed to weight on a scale. Muscle weighs more than fat, so it is possible that you can look better even though the number on the scale is not going down. The goal should be to burn fat, not necessarily lose weight. This will be achieved by two simple things: decreasing caloric intake and increasing physical activity.

I hate to even use the word diet. Yes, in

some instances you will have to make sacrifices if you are looking to lose a significant amount of weight. However, what I recommend is making lifestyle changes; creating new habits that will stick long term.

First we’ll discuss food. While trying to develop new eating habits, you need to be realistic. If you try to completely cut out something you love, you will not be able to adhere to it long term. Instead, I suggest cutting down on portion sizes rather than eliminating certain foods or macronutrients (carbs, protein, fats). You can do this by either eating these foods less frequently or eating smaller portions when you do have them.

Knowing the difference between what is



JOE  
DIMARTINO

healthy and what is low-calorie is also important. For instance, you may think that choosing a salad at a restaurant is the healthy choice. However, it may be 1,500 calories. No one is going to debate that a hot dog is healthier than an avocado, but the hot dog contains half of the calories. Eat healthy but count calories as well.

Another good habit to get into is drinking more water. Many people are dehydrated and do not even realize it, which can negatively affect your body in many ways.

Now, how can you get more active? As I discussed in my first column, it is important to find ways to become less sedentary. If going to the gym five days a week is not realistic, try to go a couple days and fill in

activity in different areas. If you are watching TV at night, use every commercial break to get up and make some kind of movement (maybe exercises like pushups or sit-ups). If you work in a building that has an elevator, take the stairs. Walk into places instead of using the drive-through. The possibilities are endless. While these slight changes may seem meaningless over the course of one day, making them habits that you keep long term will make a difference.

*Joe DiMartino is a NASM certified personal trainer with a bachelor’s degree in sports management from the University of New Haven. He is the owner of In Shape at Home LLC, where he focuses on training clients in their homes. He can be reached at 203-751-3336 or [joedimartino2@gmail.com](mailto:joedimartino2@gmail.com).*

On Our Land

# The Forming Of Lake Connecticut

With summer here and travel restrictions easing, thoughts for many are turning to destination or beach vacations.

One option a Google search might yield is the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. This is New England's newest federal preserve, but unfortunately one that cannot be visited in person since it is located beneath the Atlantic Ocean about 150 miles southeast of Cape Cod.

The monument is nearly the size of Connecticut and includes a canyons unit with submarine canyons descending from Georges Bank to the deep ocean as well as a seamounts unit that includes submerged extinct volcanoes rising off the seafloor. The monument was established in 2016 to protect unique marine habitats, including organisms that are found nowhere else.

The canyons unit is sometimes called "coral canyons" and is known for its deep-water corals and sponges. Its landward edge is in water about 300 feet deep, and the canyons cut into the edge of the continental shelf while descending to the seafloor over 12,000 feet below. Three hundred feet is the current depth; during the peak of the last ice age about 20,000 years ago, sea level glob-

ally was about 400 feet lower, so part of the canyons unit includes the former Atlantic shore. Much of the continental shelf along the eastern US seaboard was then low-lying land traversed by rivers to a shoreline a hundred miles further east. Several of these rivers discharged into the Atlantic in close proximity to the canyons unit, carrying sediment to the deep ocean and scouring the canyons themselves.

The ice sheets that covered New England (and much of northern North America) rapidly melted from about 20,000 to 8,000 years ago, raising sea level to nearly where it is today and leaving behind New England's visible landforms and productive offshore fishing grounds. The ice sheets entrained large amounts of sediment as they moved across the land, and when the ice melted, the sediment released from the retreating ice margin formed deposits called end moraines. These moraines formed natural earthen dams catching water melting from the ice sheets, creating freshwater lakes.



DAN MAY

One of these was glacial Lake Connecticut. This lake was impounded by a high-standing moraine along the northern edge of Long Island and extending northeast to Plum Island, Fishers Island, and Rhode Island. Lake Connecticut occupied all the area currently known as Long Island Sound, but when formed it was filled with fresh meltwater to a height nearly 100 feet above the current level of the Sound. The rivers that today drain into the Sound would then have been estuaries partially filling with river and lake sediments, including locally the Wepawaug and Indian river valleys. The spillway across the moraine was an area called "the Race" between Plum and Fishers islands, and as meltwater cut its way through the moraine, the lake level dropped.

Eventually, as the Race cut ever deeper through the moraine and sea level rose, Atlantic seawater invaded the lowest lying areas of Lake Connecticut to form Long Island Sound.

Many of Connecticut's shoreline cities, including New Haven, Milford and Bridge-

port, were settled on the "lake bottom plains" of glacial Lake Connecticut. The flat topographic nature and the fine-grained sediments on this old lake bottom made them preferred locales for development.

The valleys adjacent to the Indian and Wepawaug Rivers upstream to about Route 34 are an extension of that setting as well. It is a regular diversion for me to go to one of the classrooms at the University of New Haven's Orange Campus, look east across the Wepawaug Valley and Route 15, and envision the now-drained Lake Connecticut with its old beach situated about where the campus buildings are located.

On especially bad traffic days, it can also be satisfying to think of the Wilbur Cross Parkway submerged about 30 feet below the surface of Lake Connecticut.

*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).*

## MAC Bringing Back Summer Pop-Ups

The Milford Arts Council is holding its Summer Pop Up series for a second year.

Music, dance, exhibits and more will be offered every second Saturday from May through September at 11 a.m. The community is encouraged to bring their own lawn chair or simply come by various locations in the city to see visual and performing art.

This program is free to the community, though the MAC will accept donations.

The series lineup is as follows:

May 15: Dewpoint with musicians Elana Zabari, Donna Travis and Wendy Terenzio at the MAC's Firehouse Gallery at 81 Naugatuck Ave.

June 12: A dance party with New York City dancer/choreographer Maria Cherniske and friends at the Walnut Beach Pier in Milford.

July 10: An outdoor art exhibit along the fence of Wasson Field on Constitution

Drive in Milford with music by Kayte Devlin.

August 14: Standard Banana steel pan music and more on the Milford Green on Broad Street in the center of downtown.

Sept. 11: Classical guitar by the MAC's New England Guitar Society at the Milford Historical Society, located at 34 High St.

"We started this program last year as a way to bring some community joy into

an otherwise dark pandemic summer," said MAC Executive Director Paige Miglio. "It was so successful and well-received that we decided to do it again. Part of our mission is to make the arts accessible to as many people as possible, so this is a great way for us to serve the community. We hope people will wake up on the weekend and start their day by soaking up the arts, nature, and the great outdoors."



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# Moses Wheeler: Ferry Captain Of The Housatonic

By Marilyn May

The mighty Housatonic River flows north to south for about 150 miles from western Massachusetts to Long Island Sound. But in the 17th century, like today, many travelers just wanted to across the river by going east or west. As long ago as the mid-1640s there was talk about running a ferry boat service in Stratford. It was in Milford's interest to have the service, because the route was always pretty much the same: Stratford to Milford and Milford to Stratford.

In 1648, Moses Wheeler, a ship's carpenter, was given a contract to do the work. He had to build a ferry and wharf, clear a causeway and agree to keep everything in good repair. More than 200 years later, when a bridge was needed on I-95 to connect Milford and Stratford, the span was named in his honor: it's the Moses Wheeler Bridge. It is one of the longest and most heavily traveled bridges in Connecticut.

When Wheeler started his ferry service around 1670, one crossing might have had three or four passengers and some horses. Today, the Moses Wheeler Bridge carries



A portrait of Moses Wheeler painted by Stuart Gilbert.

111,000 cars and trucks across the same span of water every day, according to state estimates.

He would be surprised to hear what is happening on "his" bridge.

He would be even more surprised to hear

that the Washington Bridge (sometimes called the Devon Bridge) that is part of Route 1 carries 23,000 cars a day, and the Sikorsky Memorial Bridge that's part of Route 15 is used by more than 79,000 cars.

That's more than 213,000 vehicles a day crossing the same river between the same two towns as Wheeler once serviced. And those figures don't take into account the number of people crossing each day by way of the railroad bridge.

President George Washington crossed the Housatonic by ferry several times, so when a bridge was built, it was named in his honor. The current Washington Bridge was dedicated 100 years ago in 1921.

The original ferry boat agreement Wheeler signed made it clear that no other private boats or canoes could take paying passengers across the river. Wheeler had a 21-year lease that was renewed, and as he got older, the lease was passed on to his sons. It remained in the family for three generations – almost 100 years.

When Wheeler and his family moved from New Haven to Stratford, he purchased a land

lot from the native people, and his was the first deed recorded in the Stratford land record book. Later he added vast tracts of land, becoming one of the area's largest landowners. As a result, Wheeler became an influential man in town.

He was described as being tall and strong, ably fit to ferry his passengers across almost half a mile of river known for gusting winds, strong currents, ice flows and floods.

Wheeler is believed to have been the first white European centenarian in New England. He lived from 1598 to 1698 and is buried in the Stratford Congregational Church cemetery. His gravestone reads:

Moses Wheeler  
Age 100  
Dyed Jan. 15th  
1698  
FERRY RELEASED

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

## Recycling Tip

By Loretta Smith

The new Simple Recycling program is



working well: in April, 12,941 pounds were collected at the Transfer Station, yielding \$744.11 to the town. Thirteen more pounds

were dropped off at the High Plains Community Center bin. Thanks to our thoughtful recyclers, the total has been 42,000 pounds for \$4,600 since the program started. We invite everyone to hop on board to make it even more successful. Remember: bring clothes, textiles (sheets, towels), shoes and purses. We cannot accept furniture, frames, dishes, broken items or

bicycles.

If you have a bike, drop it off at Bradley Street Bicycle Co-op at 138 Bradley St. in New Haven. They're open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., no appointment needed. They refurbish bikes and donate them to underprivileged children and adults, giving a new life for a not-too-old bike.

Matthew 25 Ministries collects and repurposes clean, labels-removed, prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles, which they use in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling.

"Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in devel-

oping countries and caring for our environment," their website says. Remember, small plastic pill bottles are too small for our recycling program; they stop the machinery. You can also take leftover prescription pills to the Orange Police Station for recycling.

The Sierra Club recommends buying your dog a canvas leash; it's recyclable (nylon ones are not). Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins. Buy a new houseplant; they are the best natural air purifiers.

You can also buy biodegradable toothbrushes made of bamboo for the whole family. Check for ones made in the US.

For more info, go to [orangerecycles.com](http://orangerecycles.com) or Facebook @ORCinCT.

## Italian Ice Store Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 28 for Micalizzi's Italian Ice, which opened a new location at the site of a former Subway at 1 River St. in Milford. Photo by Steve Cooper.

# DRIVE IN

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<p><b>Bobby T and the NAME DROPPERS</b></p> <p>June 11th</p>	<p><b>Milford Performance Center</b></p> <p>Drive-in Concert <b>The AMERICAN</b></p> <p><b>PINK FLOYD SHOW</b> w/ the Peter Gabriel Experience</p> <p>June 12th</p>

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## Insuring Your Future

# More Travel Means More Insurance Needs

While our lives have not completely returned to pre COVID “normal,” there are signs that we are moving rapidly in that direction. It certainly was evident to me as I drove on I-95 to Massachusetts in bumper-to-bumper traffic last week. People are taking car trips, making plane reservations and planning big excursions again.

What has that to do with insurance? Plenty.

First, travel insurance should be included in the checklist when planning a trip abroad. Whether you go to a country with a basic health system or sophisticated one, what they have is not the same as what we are used to in the US. The care may be comparable, but the payment systems are not. Having travel insurance can provide that extra layer of protection against a big expense because the health facility does not recognize your insurance. They often can't process the

claim.

Many people think of travel insurance as protecting against lost luggage or trip interruption. However, it is much more than that. It can provide coverage for emergency evacuation to a medical facility, air ambulance and reimbursement for medical expenses not covered by your health insurance. The cost is based primarily on the length and value of the trip. Most insurance or travel agents offer travel insurance plans.

Second, vaccination cards are as important as passports. Many countries are requiring proof of vaccination upon entry. Take a picture of the card and store in your phone. Keep the original where you store your other travel documents, such as TSA cards and



TRISH  
PEARSON

passport. A picture of the card will usually suffice as proof, but if you're travelling through multiple locations, it may be better to have the actual card with you.

Third, if you do need medical assistance that is not an emergency, a telehealth visit with your physician can be the best (and least expensive) solution. As a result of the past year, most physicians' offices are able to schedule a consultation with a provider over the phone, using FaceTime or Zoom. Many health insurance companies also offer Teledoc services. Check with member services to find out the process for scheduling such a visit with one of their providers.

Finally, Access Health CT has extended open enrollment through Aug. 15 for indi-

vidual health insurance. The scale for qualifying for an advanced premium tax credit has also been increased. Individuals who are currently receiving an APTC may qualify for a higher tax credit which in turn will reduce the premium. Those who were above the income maximum to qualify may now be eligible. Current customers also have options to change to a better plan. Access Health CT is in the process of reaching out to enrolled individual in both categories above. However, if you think you may qualify for additional credits, contact the agent who advised you in the past or call Access Health CT at 1-855-805-4325.

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

## Church (Continued From 1)

this case should go forward,” Young said, adding, “he thought the town never should have acted the way it did initially.”

The lawsuit claims that an order Mohammad to close houses of worship in Orange at the height of the pandemic went beyond the state requirements issued under executive orders by Gov. Ned Lamont, which capped religious gatherings at 50 people but did not entirely ban them.

The conflict between Champagne and Orange flared up when a neighbor to the church, which sits on a quiet residential street, called police out of a concern that gatherings were taking place that went against the lockdown orders.

An officer spoke to Champagne in late April 2020, telling him that continuing to operate in defiance of the protocols could result in criminal charges.

Local health departments have had broad authority to make decisions about what can stay open in their jurisdictions during the pandemic, though it was unclear in some instances how far that authority could extend. Most houses of worship voluntarily ended in-person services to protect their congregants, but conflicts between churches and officials arose in several spots around the country.

In November, the US Supreme Court struck down strict limitations on the number of people who could attend religious gatherings in certain areas deemed to be coronavirus “hot spots” in New York, saying that the order was too inflexible and stricter than rules that applied to businesses in those same zones.

A more recent Supreme Court ruling put on hold a California provision limiting in-home religious gatherings. Arguments in that case also centered around the point that different standards were being used for secular gatherings.

Young said that a number of court cases show the validity of his client's position.

“You can't disparately treat religious gatherings,” he said.

The town has defended Mohammad's lockdown orders. A press release from the office of First Selectman Jim Zeoli when the case was first opened said Mohammad made the decision in an effort to protect town residents.

“The Town of Orange acknowledges that citizens have a constitutional interest to assemble and worship, but the public has a greater interest in saving human lives. It is no exaggeration to recognize that the stakes for the residents of the town are life-or-

death,” the release said.

Town attorney Vincent Marino said that the town's position on the merits of the case has not changed.

An amicable resolution to the matter might have been possible. The case was scheduled for a settlement conference with a federal judge, but it had to be canceled when Champagne died.

With Champagne's death, the plaintiffs were given until July 13 to provide a legal representative for his estate. Young said that will happen, with lawyer Lyndi Urso acting as that representative.

Young said they were still open to a settlement with the town, but that the town would need to agree to doing several things, including assuring a legal review process for future emergency orders, conceding that it overreached in this instance, paying some part of the costs to bring the case and paying some kind of “punitive measures.”

“If we're able to mediate an agreement, wonderful,” Young said. “But if not, we are ready to move forward and obtain a court ruling.”

## Budgets (Continued From 1)

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 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.

The small changes made by the Board of Aldermen were based on a projection that the city's tax collection rate will be 97.85 percent and that it will receive \$1.4 million in state tax relief grants.

The Board of Aldermen vote was along party lines, with the eight Democrats outvoting the six Republicans who opposed the budget.

Minority Leader Anthony Giannattasio, argued that city was borrowing too much money, taking \$11 million from the fund balance. He pointed out that there were \$2 million worth of funded positions in the budget that were unfilled, and argued they should be removed.

But Blake countered that the fund balance was at a healthy \$37 million and that more money could be added to it from federal

pandemic relief funds the city is expected to receive.

In Orange the budget is approved through a town-wide referendum process, which occurred on May 20 and led to the passage of a \$76,114,029 budget, an increase from the previous year by about \$73.7 million.

Taxes in Orange will go up by 1.56 percent, with the mill rate of 32.74 rising to 33.25.

Orange's budget contains three separate portions. The first two are town services and the public elementary schools.

The third portion is the Amity district budget, which is shared between Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany and divided up by the percentage of students each town sends to the middle and high schools. All three towns voted on that part of the budget on May 5, with Orange voters approving the measure by 267-93.

The town side of the budget, at \$25,338,574, makes up about one third of the whole, with the rest covering education. Although all three portions of the budget are increasing, town departments are rising the most, by 4.09 percent. According to the BOF, the largest driver of this increase is police pension and insurance costs.

The public schools and Amity portions of the budget are rising 2.78 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

The new mill rate would not quite be highest the town has seen in recent years: it was set as high as 33.28 in the 2017-2018 budget.

According to an analysis by the BOF, the property tax bill for the average Orange home valued at \$355,500 and assessed at \$248,850 would rise by about \$127.

The budget includes a proposal to spend \$1,432,000 from the capital reserve fund for school and town projects, as well as \$220,000 for a property revaluation in the coming year, \$200,000 for continued improvements to High Plains Community Center and \$600,000 to pave town roads.

## Paine (Continued From 1)

of Directors looks forward to working alongside Christine and continuing to emphasize the exceptional and unique qualities that Milford provides to its residents and businesses.”

Paine has almost three decades of experience in corporate sales and nonprofit leadership, including proficiency in marketing, communications, public relations, donor partnerships, fundraising

and business relationships.

“Milford is my history, my home, and has my heart,” Paine said. “I am excited to serve as president to help our business community continue to grow. I look forward to a collaboration with all our members. I feel it is the chamber's responsibility to strengthen business relationships through networking and shared interactions. Now is the time to support our members in recovering and excelling through the impact caused by the pandemic.”

Paine has a Master's in Public Administration from the University of New Haven, a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Rhode Island and is a graduate of Lauralton Hall and St. Gabriel School in Milford. She is a member of the Devon Rotary, CHIEF, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She additionally has served on several local boards, including the Milford United Way.

Paine lives in Milford with her husband Frank and their six children. The majority of her extended family lives in the Milford region.

## Truck (Continued From 1)

the public hearing portion of the meeting on his department's need for a new pumper truck.

“A pumper truck goes out much more frequently than a ladder truck does,” he said.

He also pointed out that the new equipment will improve insurance rate calculations the department, which in turn has an effect on local homeowner's insurance rates for residents.

The fire department will make a \$58,779 down payment and finance the remaining \$420,000 over four years.

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## The Garden Spot

# Time To Start Your Garden Surveillance

Now that all your plants are in the ground (or in the large patio pots) it's time to begin your daily garden surveillance.

This sounds like another tiresome thing to add to your "to do" list, but basically it's just a walk around your garden to look for any pests or weeds that may become bothersome. Does anything look wilted or like it's beginning to turn yellow or brown? Do any of your plants have holes in their leaves? Are the weeds invading and creating competition for water and nutrients? These are all important things to notice early before they result in the loss of a plant.

Last summer, several of my rose bushes developed yellow leaves and extensive leaf drop almost overnight. Fortunately, because I check my garden daily, I was able to recognize that this was most likely a fungal disease. I pruned the shrubs back to below where the damage was and sprayed with an antifungal

agent. The plants revived over the early fall and looked fine this spring.

But last week I started to see yellow, dropping leaves again. I repeated the process. Why did this happen again? The embarrassing answer: poor hygiene last year. Fungal diseases, along with many insects, overwinter in the soil. I probably had a few leaves that I didn't clear away last year, or maybe I hadn't sterilized my pruning shears well enough in the fall, which led to a repeat of the cycle. Fingers crossed for this year.

Most plant diseases and insects are specific to certain plant families. This does make your surveillance and diagnostic process a bit easier, since once you know what the plant is, you can research what problems are most



PAT DRAY

common to that plant and treat it in a targeted manner, reducing chemical usage.

For example, the striped cucumber beetle affects the cucurbit family, which includes cucumbers, cantaloupes, squashes, pumpkins and watermelons. Most beetles overwinter in the soil and leaf litter as adults and emerge in early spring. This is the most dangerous time, since the adults will eat the emerging seedlings and leaves. You'll see the cucumber beetle eggs at the base of the plant where they'll eventually mature into adult beetles that will overwinter again. Other beetles lay their eggs on the undersides of plants where they'll enjoy the shade in the underside of the leaf. You can hand-pick any beetles you find, but it's better to plant resistant crops so you can avoid this. As a last resort, treat them

with the appropriate chemical from a garden center.

One insect that is very indiscriminate is the cutworm. It will attack almost any plants. They overwinter as caterpillars and are voracious spring feeders. Since they are crawlers in the spring, if you see them now, take quick action by "collaring" the plants with broken eggshells or diatomaceous earth to deter them.

I hope that these examples help you understand why the issue of garden surveillance and hygiene is so important. Have a plant problem? The UConn Master Gardeners have a plant clinic each Wednesday and the second Saturday of the month at the gazebo on the Milford Green from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring a large sample of the plant or multiple photos showing the entire plant and the damage.

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

## AMSO Student Honored With Sock Collection



The Amity Middle School Orange community was devastated by the loss of 8th grade student Raymond Heenie in March, but they quickly came together to turn their grief into something positive, kicking off the AMSO annual Spring Box of Sox fundraiser in Heenie's honor. Donation boxes were stationed throughout the Amity community as collection bins for socks for homeless shelters. Socks are one of the most needed items at shelters and are not always donated. The AMSO fundraiser collected over 900 pairs of socks in its first year. The socks will be distributed to multiple local shelters. *Photo courtesy of AMSO.*

## Milford Pirate's Day Returns In Person

The Downtown Milford Business Association is holding its 20th Annual Pirate's Day on Sunday, June 6, bringing the event back to in-person activities.

"We are so excited to bring the pirates back in person this year," said Tracy Bonosconi, DMBA president. "We know our local families have a long and challenging year and Pirate's Day signals not only a return to summer but a return to a touch of normalcy. It's even more meaningful that it happens to be our twentieth year."

Run by the DMBA and a team of volunteers, Pirate's Day begins with a character pancake breakfast (which requires tickets) and activities on the harbor, then the appearance of radio personality Brian Smith as Captain Kidd and his pirate crew by boat in Milford Harbor.

This year's event has expanded with live music from Rockin' Ron The Friendly Pirate and the Saab Brothers,

balloon twisting by Beach Party Balloons, pirate reenactments by Free Men of the Sea, storytelling and crafts at Milford Public Library, pirate tales and games at the Milford Historical Society, pirate-themed yoga from Just Be Yoga and the signature treasure hunt through downtown businesses.

"We love being able to continue a long-standing Milford tradition," said DMBA Event Director Makayla Silva. "A special thanks goes to all our sponsors, participating businesses, and volunteers for helping to make this year one of the best ever."

Pirate legend is a part of Milford culture. An unsubstantiated rumor has circulated for years that Captain Kidd has buried treasure on Charles Island.

Pirate's Day begins at 9 a.m. at Lisman Landing, located at 37 Helwig St. It runs to 3 p.m. Pancakes with Pirates happens twice, a 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and tickets are \$15 each. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [bit.ly/3vCwSTj](http://bit.ly/3vCwSTj).

## Welander Champions School-Based Mental Health

State Rep. Mary Welander (D-Orange), who serves as vice chair of the Children's Committee, has championed a bill to create more school-based mental health clinics. The state House of Representatives voted 143 to 4 in support of the legislation.

The bill, HB 6509, will assess where student access to mental health services isn't readily available across the state and will create a plan for school districts to follow if they choose to address any identified gaps in services by developing either a school-based mental health clinic or a full school-based health center.

The legislation will also identify potential state and federal funding options, and allows clinic staff to participate in

social-emotional learning professional development offered by school districts to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the school climate in the building where they work.

"Throughout the past few years, psychologists and physicians have noted a rise in anxiety and depression among youths, and the pandemic has only exacerbated this," Welander said. "It is critical to the success and overall health of children across the state that we remove as many barriers as possible that prevent access to these services. When students receive access to early intervention services we protect them from unnecessary trauma and create healthier school communities."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of children's mental health-related emergency department visits increased 24 percent for children ages 5-11 and 31 percent for children ages 12-17 from April 2020 through October 2020.

"Connecticut Children's Hospital continues to see similar increases of behavioral health patients in their emergency department. With this rise in childhood depression and anxiety, creating clear pathways to these services is vitally important for the children and families of Connecticut," Welander said.



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## Travel Matters

# Our May Visit To Cancun

We got back a week ago from a five-night trip to Cancun. It was our first international trip since the pandemic began.

It was a business trip, we thoroughly enjoyed it and felt safer in some ways than we do sometimes in the US. You know what to expect when you get there, and everyone complies because they want to enjoy their vacation.

Although you will no doubt hear about the Level 4 alert from the State Department, 80 percent of the world is on that alert and somehow the Bahamas are on the same level as India.

Everyone has to feel comfortable about where they are traveling. Your comfort level is key, and people should travel only when they feel comfortable doing so.

What we experienced was a very high level of sanitation, social distancing and masking by staff. Guests are required to mask

when moving through the resort property – including in the lobby, from the lobby to the pool and to the restaurants. Once you are situated at the pool, beach or restaurant, you are welcome to remove your mask. Contactless menus are available by QR code on your phone and rooms are sanitized after you leave, with no occupancy 24 hours between visitors. We experienced a plethora of health and safety measures, including temperature checks and sanitizing our luggage upon arrival.

All the restaurants were open, and the musical entertainment was amazing. The resort never seemed crowded, and pool chairs were spaced for social distancing. We easily got into any restaurant that we wanted to try.

Cancun has received the World Travel &



KAREN  
QUINN-  
PANZER

Tourism Council's "safe travels" stamp, which identifies destinations around the world that have successfully adopted its standardized global health and hygiene measures. Many of Cancun's leading hotel and resort brands have also received the stamp upon implementing enhanced cleaning protocols, social distancing signage and barriers, capacity limits and more.

The trip itself? Air travelers are required to submit a mobile health questionnaire before they arrive in Mexico, and once it is completed travelers receive a QR code to be scanned by officials at their arrival airport for entry. Another is required upon your departure. Negative COVID tests are not required upon arrival; however, they are required for reentry to

the US from any international destination. The hotels in Cancun make it quite simple by providing complimentary COVID testing within the 72 hours required before your departure. Our hotel and many others also offer insurance for a nominal cost (ours was \$10) that provides free all-inclusive accommodations if you should test positive and have to quarantine. The resorts are happy to offer this.

Recent data on guests testing positive from Cancun: out of 25,000 visitors, only 32 tested positive.

Viva Cancun. Live Aqua is the adults-only resort we were at, and I highly recommend it to relax and recharge.

*Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at [kpanzer@dreamvacations.com](mailto:kpanzer@dreamvacations.com) or 203-647-3107.*

## Orange Has Successful Bond Sale

Orange town officials said in a press release they had "excellent results" in the May 26 \$8.6 million taxable new money bond sale, along with a \$4.715 million tax-exempt refunding bond sale, both which yielded competitive interest rates on the strength of strong reviews from S&P Global Ratings, one of the three major Wall Street Rating Agency firms.

"It is great to see these results and the fact that our bonds were in such a high demand," said First Selectman Jim Zeoli. "With the rates as low as they are right now, this will help keep the debt burden on the taxpayers as low as possible."

The town received a total of four bids on the new money bonds, with Morgan Stanley & Co. submitting the winning bid.

Morgan Stanley beat out BOK Financial, Robert W. Baird and Roosevelt & Cross to get the award.

The interest rates bid on those 20-year bonds, referred to as the "Series A" bonds, ranged from a winning bid of 2.05 percent to a high bid of 2.46 percent. The winning bid beat out the second-place bid by eight basis points. The bonds will provide the financing for the purchase of Race Brook Country Club, which was approved in a town referendum earlier this year.

The town was also able to enter the market to refinance bonds that were originally issued at higher rates in 2012 and 2013 with Series B bonds. By refinancing those older bonds, the town said it was able to save over \$570,000 in interest costs on

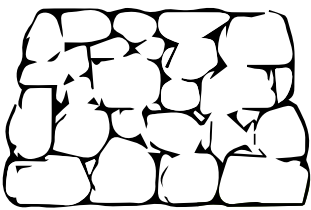
the remaining 13-year term of those bonds. Robert W. Baird & Co provided the lowest interest rate on this issue, coming in at 0.99 percent on the bonds. The rate is much lower than the Series A bonds since these bonds are tax-exempt, but also because they have a shorter term than the 20-year new money bonds.

"The great results were driven not only by the historically low municipal rate environment we are experiencing right now but also by the town's exceptional credit ratings and prudent long term financial management of the town," said Matthew Spoerndle, senior managing director of Phoenix Advisors and Orange's municipal advisor. "The rating agencies continues to recognize the work town officials have

done to keep Orange's fiscal health strong over the years."

In spite of clear macroeconomic challenges related to the pandemic, S&P affirmed Orange's AAA rating, which is the highest rating available. Within the report, S&P referenced the town's "very strong economy...which we consider broad and diverse," noting the town's grand list growth and continued commercial activity. Also noted was the "very strong liquidity and strong budgetary performance," along with a "very strong debt profile" and the town's stable financial operations and low unemployment rate.

The settlement date for the sale is June 11, after which the funds become available to the town.



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Facing Ourselves

Who Is The 'Real' American?

Close your eyes for a moment. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word American?

Being considered American can unfortunately depend on the eye of the beholder. Although this country was forged on the backs of many races, an image of the dominant, majority race may be what people initially think of when asked to picture an American.

Many years ago, when an opponent's rallying cry was "Vote American," I had confidently declared, "I am as American as every one of you. Go ahead and 'Vote American.' Vote for the best American."

In light of the increasing violence against minorities and the expansion of the us versus them mentality, I wonder if my response was misguided naivete. Is the definition of American as broad and encompassing as we are led to believe? Who really "belongs" here?

The answer to those questions is not as straightforward as one would hope. If minorities are viewed as "other" and their approval rating falls, they often find themselves shunned and unwelcome. Minorities who are American citizens may still be told, "Go back to your country." This kind of statement is baffling at best, demeaning and wounding at worst. Yet this kind of rhetoric is heard all too frequently.

On the other hand, when minorities are considered "acceptable," they may be met

with seemingly benign questions, such as "Where are you from? No, really, where are you from?"

My own parents, who have been citizens of this country for decades, were repeatedly asked this question by an elected official at a ribbon cutting ceremony a few years ago. When I was introduced to a public servant this past month, they wanted to know what my "real" name was and "where I was really from."

Questions like these, even when well-meaning, are examples of microaggressions. Yet when minorities speak up and seek to educate others, they are often admonished. "Relax," they are told. "You know people mean well. They don't mean any harm. They're just curious, that's all."

With these admonitions comes a silent shaming, as if the minorities are to blame for being too sensitive or for not being able to take a joke. These kinds of questions or comments may be harmless or even be indicative of a genuine desire to connect. But they are also rooted in the perception that minorities are foreigners.

Ask yourself when the last time was that anyone of European ancestry, who was born and raised in this country, was told, "Wow,



JENNIFER JU

I'm impressed, you speak English real good." The irony of the grammatical error in that statement, while amusing, does not lessen the blow to the minority to whom the statement is directed.

It is true what they say about the road paved with good intentions. Microaggressions escalate if unchallenged and can intensify with the shifting tides of majority public opinion. As a minority, innocent questions and assumptions can quickly change to unjust blame for a pandemic or resentment for allegedly taking jobs from "real" Americans, and can lead to vicious, unprovoked attacks.

It is no wonder that many minorities feel like they are constantly on edge, as if their acceptance can turn on a dime. They wonder on which side of the race approval coin they fall today.

This simmering uncertainty does not foster a sense of security. When one feels that safety and belonging are tenuous or threatened, the survival instinct, commonly known as "fight or flight," kicks in, which makes one more hypervigilant and does not encourage connection with others.

At other times minorities may decide to ingratiate themselves into the majority culture to be more acceptable. Be compliant.

Agreeable. Know their place. Temper their reaction to injustice. Edit their thoughts, carefully presenting them in an acceptable manner. Blend in, do not offend.

This type of dynamic is not sustainable, however. It breeds contempt and division, rage and grief.

What is the antidote to ignorance? Perhaps it begins with honest reflection. Let's ask ourselves: do we truly believe that we stand united? If we do, then are we standing shoulder to shoulder or on the backs of others? Are we all equal shareholders in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? With whom does the responsibility for equality and justice fall? Let's open our eyes and look into the mirror together, answering, "It starts with me." Let's truly be "We the people."

Jennifer Ju, MD is a physician who is a graduate of the Brown University family medicine residency program. She is also an actor and writer who has performed in various theatres across the state and whose plays have been produced locally. Ju has also presented numerous online and in-person workshops on mindfulness, health and wellness for parents and children, as well as for pre-K-12 educators in New Haven and Fairfield counties.

Kennedy Hails Passage Of College Sexual Assault Bill

State Rep. Kathy Kennedy on May 25 hailed passage by unanimous vote in the Connecticut House of Representatives of a bill to address sexual assault on college campuses.

The legislation, HB 6374, mandates each college conduct a survey about this issue every two years to help implement effective

policies, and it establishes an amnesty program for victims that allow an underage student who has been drinking or using drugs to report an assault without fear of being charged with a violation.

"This bill is an opportunity to provide a victim of sexual assault or a survivor of sexual violence with some measure of

understanding or solace," Kennedy said. "Violence prevention and the support for sexual assault survivors should not be a partisan issue."

Fifty percent of campus assaults occur in the first three months of the school year. In 2018 there were 436 reported assaults and stalking cases reported at Connecticut

colleges.

Kennedy thanked the student-led organization Every Voice Coalition CT for their advocacy on the legislation, which is supported by both the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The bill now heads to the state Senate.

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### Milford Holds Memorial Day Events



Heavy rain on May 30 led Milford officials to hold scaled-back Memorial Day events indoors. *Photos by Steve Cooper.*

### Orange Holds Memorial Day Events



Orange officials held Memorial Day ceremonies indoors at High Plains Community Center on May 30 due to inclement weather. *Photos by Lexi Crocco.*

Your Finances

# Consider Your Financial Options For Early Retirement

We recently passed the one-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The past year was a time of tragic loss and extreme social and economic disruption. We faced a variety of difficult challenges, including self-isolation or quarantine, loss of employment and economic instability, working remotely, distant learning and a general sense of uncertainty and anxiety.

We persevered through it all. For many, it presented a time to reflect on our lives and really think about what is most important to us.

One apparent consequence of our COVID-19-related ordeal is that for one reason or another more Americans are looking to retire. The Pew Research Center reports approximately 2 million baby boomers have been retiring each year since 2011, but that number has jumped to 3.2 million annually in the past eighteen months. This trend includes a significant number of individuals under 65 who are considering early retirement. The prevalence of early retirees was

recently cited by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell as a factor in companies reporting labor shortages.

While these prospective retirees have much in common, the rationales for their decision vary greatly. For some, this decision is based on unfortunate circumstances such as job loss, wage reduction or illness. For others, increased portfolio and home values or simply "COVID fatigue" are the deciding factors.

Regardless of the reason, anyone contemplating retirement, early or otherwise, should set realistic expectations and carefully contemplate a plan with a financial professional. Among the items to consider:

**Income and expenses:** Realistic goals relating to spending needs is the first step in planning for a meaningful retirement. There is much research that suggests retirees need to replace 70-80 percent of their pre-retire-



MATT GALLAGHER

ment income through savings, retirement benefits and Social Security. However, in our experience, we have found that while spending patterns may change during retirement, the level of spending generally does not decline by much, if at all. It is therefore important to really evaluate the costs of maintaining your desired lifestyle and how well your assets and income will be able to support it.

**Asset allocation:** After determining a reasonable spending plan, retirees should align their portfolio asset allocation accordingly. An effective allocation will include understanding one's time horizon, risk tolerance, expected returns and preservation of capital, while adapting investment strategies as circumstances change, both in life and as market and economic cycles shift.

**Social Security:** There are a number of considerations when determining the op-

timum time to claim one's Social Security benefits. Understanding the impact between taking early, normal or delayed benefits, spousal benefits and taxes on your benefits can clarify your decision.

**Health care costs/Medicare:** Health care continues to be one of the largest expenses in retirement. Planning for the care you will need and associated costs both now and as you grow older is paramount. Medicare becomes available at age 65. But if you retire before then, consideration must be given to how you will cover those gap years. And while Medicare covers many costs, supplemental plans and long-term care coverage may also be needed.

*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.*

## Bridges Healthcare Receives Recognition, Opens New Office In West Haven

Milford-based Bridges Healthcare, Inc. has received recognition as a certified community behavioral health clinic from the Federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration and has opened a new West Haven office.

The CCBHC recognition asserts that Bridges provides quality behavioral health care services, and expanded access to services through a number of new programs including 24/7 crisis response, assertive community treatment and behavioral health services for adults and

children.

The new office is located at 98 Elm St. in West Haven. Bridges will also offer a mobile primary health care clinic to provide health screenings and services to adults in neighborhoods throughout the community. The mobile unit is scheduled to begin service in later this year.

As a CCBHC, Bridges will continue to deliver and enhance its substance use treatment and mental health services for all ages. The certification demands that Bridges meet added rigorous quality

standards that include coordination of care, person and family centered treatment planning, licensed, certified professional staff with ongoing training and supervision and quality program outcome measures that are supported by data.

According to CCBHC project director Debra Gannon, "CCBHC brings major benefits to Bridges' clients, as well as to the communities we serve. Expanded access to services provides critical 24/7 crisis response, plus affordable, professionally coordinated, comprehensive and timely

treatment for individuals with a range of health and mental health disorders. Services are evidenced-based to offer better results and outcomes for clients."

"Bridges Healthcare is proud of achieving the CCBHC recognition and is excited to offer the expanded services for our clients," said president and CEO Jennifer Fiorillo. "We are pleased to offer these services at our new clinical offices in West Haven, and look forward to meeting and assisting many new clients in that community."

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Wine Talk

# Unique Wines For Spring

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 Grüner Veltliner. This is a unique white wine grape grown primarily in Austria but also produced in Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The deep green grape 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 stands up to world-class Chardonnays and has beaten Chards from Mondavi and Louis Latour.

Grüner Veltliner grows well in the Northeast. Massachusetts, the north fork of Long Island and the Finger Lakes in New York have success in growing the grape and mak-

ing 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 stuff when you visit our Connecticut wineries.

Our next spring wine selection is Passarola Vinho Branco. Portugal, one of Europe's oldest nations and 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 your buck. The wine is named for a priest in Lisbon who invented a balloon ship flying device in 1709. Arinto and Ferno Pires are two native grapes that produce a wine that exudes fresh notes of white peach, grape-



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

fruit and lemon. It is a spectacular-tasting wine that is refreshing. It pairs well with fish dishes. I love it with fried clams from D'Amato's Seafood on Whalley Avenue in New Haven.

Nerello Mascalese is a red wine in which 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 and tobacco and a trace of licorice. I love it.

Our final spring wine recommendation is Bonardo. 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 after 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.

Have a great spring. Just remember we are not out of the woods as 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 the coronavirus. He hopes to return to them in the spring. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.*

## Devon Rotary To Honor Nell Moll



Nell Moll. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Devon.

service at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and her involvement with other community-focused groups, such as the Irish Heritage Society of Milford, Lions International and the Milford Yacht Club," said Al May, 2020-21 Devon Rotary president.

As a sign of the respect and high esteem with which Moll is held in Milford, May added, she served as grand marshal for the Milford St. Patrick's Day parade in 2017. She was also recipient that year of the Mayor's Distinguished Citizen's Award, and Mayor Ben Blake proclaimed July 27 Nell Moll Day in the city.

"Nell, to this day, continues to promote everything Milford," May said, "since not doing so would be to deny a part of who she is."

The Evio Giovanelly Award is named after an early member of the club who was known for his dedication to the Rotary motto of "Service above self."

The award is given annually to a non-Rotarian who, in the estimation of the club, exemplifies that motto.

The dinner where she will be honored is open to the public and begins at 6 p.m. at the Race Brook Country Club, located at 246 Derby Ave. in Orange. Tickets are \$60 apiece. Reservations can be made by contacting Heather Carolan at heathca@gmail.com or 203-500-0533. The deadline for reservations is June 8.

The Rotary Club of Devon will be presenting one its highest honors – its Evio Giovanelly Award – to Nell Moll, in recognition of more than two decades of dedication and public service to the Milford community.

The award will be presented at the club's 2021-22 Officers' and Directors' Installation Dinner, on Thursday, June 24.

"When Nell was suggested for this honor, there was immediate and unanimous agreement that she was the perfect choice, given her 25 years of

## Orange Chamber Names New Executive Director

The Board of Directors for the Orange Chamber of Commerce recently announced that Kathy Converse Charbonneau will serve as the organization's new executive director.

"Kathy is excited to speak with Orange businesses, residents, and community groups about your ideas and input for helping the Chamber and our members continue to grow and thrive in these challenging business times," the chamber

said in a Facebook post.

Charbonneau grew up in Orange. Her father, Bill Converse, was a tax assessor for the town. Her professional background includes both business and community service, including stints as communications and promotions manager at Subway, community services director at the Woodbridge Town Library, and as the owner and consultant at Performance Marketing Communications.

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Al Melotto and Kevin Weirsman have completed the sale of 1 Tudor Road (aka 0 Old Point Rd.), Milford. The property, a 9+ acre parcel with a 24,000+/-SF building, was purchased by the City of Milford. Weirsman & Melotto represented the Archdiocese of Hartford in this transaction and the City was represented by Jon Berchem, City Attorney and Senior Partner at Berchem Moses, PC. The property, formerly the St. Gabriel School, will be utilized by the City for community and youth based opportunities.

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Kevin Weirsman

Al Melotto

## Williams Appointed Principal At The Academy In Milford



Dr. Danyelle Williams. Photo courtesy of Milford Public Schools.

The Milford Public School district on May 17 announced the appointment of Dr. Danyelle Williams as the new principal of The Academy in Milford.

Williams will replace Patricia Drew, who has been serving as the interim

administrator at the school for the past year, starting July 1.

Williams has had a 20-year career as a professional educator and administrator in the Norwalk public schools, specifically in the field of special education. She spent the first 13 years of her career as a special education teacher at both Ponus Ridge Middle School and Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. Her work with students focused on reading, comprehension and math. She also served on the district's assistive technology team and special education committee.

In addition to instruction, Williams served as a case manager for her students, ensuring appropriate services were delivered and student progress continued to build. She provided support to students as they moved from elementary to middle school, as well as those transitioning from middle to high school. She also monitored students who were recommended for out-placement programs, as well as those who were returning from an out-placement appointment.

In 2013 Williams was appointed as the

chair of the Special Education Department at Brien McMahon High School. There she led a team of 11 teachers and 10 paraprofessionals in case management and support for students with special needs.

Williams became an administrator position in 2016 in Norwalk's Specialized Learning and Student Services Department. The role required her to supervise and evaluate the special education programming used throughout the district as well as evaluate special education teachers across six schools. She was additionally responsible for overseeing the district's middle school behavioral program, working with students with emotional challenges. She also served as a liaison between the Norwalk Public Schools and Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, a private learning center located in Darien.

Williams received her PhD in educational leadership from Bernelli University in Alexandria, Virginia in 2006, followed by the completion of her 092 certificate in educational administration from Southern Connecticut State University in 2012.

"I believe the three most important characteristics that any administrator can have are strong communication skills, setting high expectations for all and having a strong level of compassion," Williams said of her appointment. "I am ready to share my skills in these areas with my new school family and can't wait to get started."

"Dr. Williams comes to us with a passionate heart for co-creating an environment where relationships are prioritized in service to ensuring all students are provided every opportunity to reach their goals," said Dr. Anna Cutaia, Milford's superintendent. "I look forward to welcoming Dr. Williams to our school community."

## Milford Resident Elected To Board Of State CPA Group

Milford resident Mark M. Wynn is among those elected to the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors for 2021-2022, the organization announced today.

Wynn, who was elected as the board's secretary, is the managing member of Weinschel, Wynn & Associates, LLC in Fairfield. He holds a BBA in accounting from the Western Connecticut State University Ansell School of Business Honors Program. He has served the CTCPA as chair of the Relations with Colleges and Universities Committee and Social and Recreation Committee, as past co-chair of the Federal Tax Forum and Accounting and Auditing Conference, as well as current or past member of numerous committees including the Fairfield County Chapter; Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Committee; State Taxation

Committee; Federal Taxation Committee; Economic Relief Packages (PPP and More) Group; Small Firm Roundtable; Compilation and Review Services Interest Group; and Legal Relations and Services Committee.



Mark M. Wynn. Photo courtesy of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants.

The CTCPA's mission is to advocate on behalf of the accounting profession, foster a professional community among CPAs and provide professional development opportunities for CPAs in Connecticut.

## Orange Public Schools Announces Student Awards

Orange Public Schools announced today the recipients of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' (CAPSS) Superintendent/Student Recognition Award: Kalina Duz, Shriya Garg and Enoch Liu from The Peck Place School; Ryan Leapley, Jason Chen and Gracie Bunnell from Race Brook School; and Ava Storz, Charlotte Wallace and Liisu Melville from Turkey Hill School.

Criteria for the CAPSS award are leadership, service to the school, academic prowess relative to ability and service to others in the community.

The school system also announced recipients of the South Central Area

Superintendents' Association Award: Mia Martire and Michael Baker from The Peck Place School; Charlotte Kean and Nikhet Vallabhajosyula from Race Brook School; and Teagan Rahn and McKenna Kirck from Turkey Hill School.

Criteria for the SCASA award are community service and service to others, academic achievements and leadership in the school community and active participation in the arts.

All recipients will receive their awards during their sixth grade promotion ceremonies on June 10 and be recognized at the Board of Education meeting on June 21.



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## Lawyer At Milford Firm Named President Of Elder Attorney Association

The Connecticut chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys announced today that Steven Rubin, a partner at Drazen Rubin Law – with offices in Milford and Farmington – will serve as its new president.

Rubin received his law degree from Widener University. He's a New Haven native and lifelong resident of Connecticut.

Rubin steps into the role previously filled by Ed Lang – a partner at the law firm Lang and Corona based in Middlefield.

"It's exciting to take on the president role in such a great group, which is surely on the upswing," said Rubin. "Our top priority is to protect seniors in Connecticut. Under Ed's wise, steady, and strong leadership, the organization experienced growth and progress, even amid a global pandemic. I hope to live up to the expectations set by Ed and look forward to working with the entire team to make progress on key policies that aim to safeguard seniors."

Rubin, whose mother was diagnosed with ALS while he was in law school, decided to study elder law to ensure others facing similar situations have a legal advocate who knows what it's like sitting on the other side of the desk. His mother lost her battle with ALS, but Rubin vowed never to give up the fight.

"Finding out that my mother had ALS was one of the toughest things I've ever had to face," said Rubin. "And, the challenges she faced thrust me into many roles that my clients often find themselves in, including caregiver, advocate, provider, and concerned loved one. That's why I'm an elder law attorney today: to ensure folks facing unfortunate situations like my mother had, and our family who took on various roles to ensure my mother was as comfortable as possible, have a passionate, empathetic, and tireless advocate; serving as their attorney."

## Mobile Rental Assistance Van Coming To Milford

Rental assistance program UniteCT will have a mobile van to assist local resident June 5 at the Beth-El Center parking lot in Milford.

UniteCT supports Connecticut residents who earn up to 80 percent of the HUD median income with missed gas and electric utility payments and missed or future rent payments. The rental and utilities relief program is available for both tenants and

landlords.

The van will be providing computer access and volunteer assistance for people to apply from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment is required. The Beth-El Center is located at 90 New Haven Ave.

For more information about UniteCT and for a list of documentation to bring, visit <http://www.bit.ly/UniteCT>.

## Milford Rotary To Hold Shredding Event

The Milford Rotary Club is holding a shredding and electronics disposal event on Sunday, June 6 that will raise funds to benefit the summer camp programs of The Boys' and Girls' Club of Milford and the Woodruff Family YMCA.

The COVID-safe event will be held at Spectrum Associates, located at 440 New Haven Ave. in Milford and will run from 9 a.m. to noon. No reservations are required.

Attendees can drive up and volunteers from the club will take the documents directly from the vehicle to be shredded there. The cost will be \$5 for a small bag and \$10 for a banker's box or garbage bag. The price for larger quantities will be determined on site. Shredding services will be provided by Affordable Solutions, Inc.

For more information visit [milfordrotary.org](http://milfordrotary.org).

## June Is Dog Licensing Month In Milford

June is dog licensing month in Milford. All dogs over the age of six months must be licensed. A late penalty of \$1 per month begins on July 1.

To obtain a license, dog owners must submit a completed application, proof of current rabies vaccination, proof of spay or neuter if appropriate and payment. The fees are \$8 for a spayed female or neutered male and \$19 for a non-spayed female or non-neutered male.

To get an application or submit the application online, go to the City Clerk's website at [ci.milford.ct.us/city-clerk/pages/dog-licenses](http://ci.milford.ct.us/city-clerk/pages/dog-licenses).

Residents can reach out to the City Clerk's Office at 203-783-3210 or email

City Clerk Karen Fortunati at [kfortunati@milfordct.gov](mailto:kfortunati@milfordct.gov) with any questions.

The following dog health care and service providers have dog license applications available: Animal Clinic of Milford, 100 Gulf St.; Baybrook Animal Hospital, 56 Quirk Rd.; Companion Animal Hospital of Milford, 100 Lansdale Ave.; The Groom Room, 801 Boston Post Rd.; Milford Animal Hospital, 256 Cherry St.; Milford Veterinary Clinic, 525 Boston Post Rd.; Pond Point Animal Hospital, 632 New Haven Ave.; Shoreline Pet Grooming, 365 New Haven Ave.; Silver Sands Veterinary Center, 17 Seeman's Ln.; Snowflake Pet Center, 1 Rowe Ave.; and Milford Canine Center, 664 East Broadway.

## Orange Lions To Host Wine-Tasting

The Orange Lions Club is hosting "Get Uncorked," a wine tasting fundraiser on Friday, June 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church social hall, located at 480 Racebrook Rd. in Orange.

Ye Olde Liquor Shoppe of West Haven is the facilitator of the tasting. Samplings of wines, beers and spirits will be available for tasting throughout the evening, along with light hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes and a silent auction. Among the prizes will be a personal script from NCIS star Mark Harmon signed by the cast, along with other NCIS memorabilia.

The wine tasting event is an

opportunity to help blindness aid and prevention and eye disease research, along with other community endeavors. Orange Lions is accepting business sponsorships at \$100, individual sponsors at \$50 and friends at \$25 per sponsor. To be a sponsor, send a check payable to Orange Lions Charities, P.O. Box 1162, Orange, CT 06477.

Tickets for the wine tasting are \$35 per person and are available from any Orange Lions Club member. They can also be purchased at the Ye Olde Liquor Shoppe, located at 174 Main St. in West Haven, or by calling Marianne at 203-795-3906 or Betty at 203-645-8209.



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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.



**Patricia M. Braccio**, 90, of Milford, entered eternal rest on January 2nd, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Genny L. Curbelo**, 66, of Milford, passed away suddenly on May 4, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**David John Guzowski**, 58, of Orange, passed away on May 9, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Maria J. Albano**, 77, of Orange passed away May 20, 2021 at her home. (Porto Funeral Home)



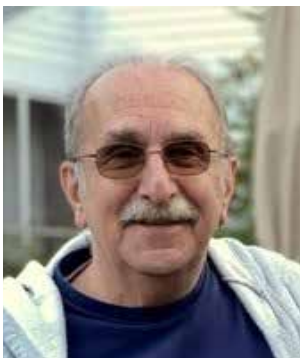
**Peter J. Carroll**, 88, of Milford, passed away on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Peter John Delaney, Jr.**, age 50, of Milford, passed away on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at his home. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Dr. Charles Haigh**, 81, of Milford, passed away peacefully at Connecticut Hospice on May 3, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Gerald Anthony Benedetto**, 69, of Milford, passed away on May 19, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Henry S. Catalano, Jr.**, age 78, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 6, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**William Charles Doria**, 92, of Milford, beloved husband of Irene Doria, passed away peacefully on May 25, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Edward Francis Helgans Jr.**, 93, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. (Sisk Brothers Funeral Home)



**Virginia F. Bombardier**, 87, of Milford, passed away peacefully on May 25, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Donald R. Cozzolino**, 72, of Cheshire and Milford, passed away suddenly on May 2. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Barbara Richards Filanowski**, 87, of Milford, passed away on May 23, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**William H. Hoagland, III**, 95, of Milford, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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# Obituaries



**Carol Eleanor Hubbell**, 85, of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on May 8, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Finley Rhia Maguire**, 23 months, of Milford, passed away on May 12, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Norman Moore**, age 92, of Milford, died on Friday, May 28, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Douglas Brainerd Pierson, Jr.** passed away on May 14, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Ann B. Lavoie**, 86, of Milford, passed away on May 4, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Angelica Elena McBride**, age 46, of Milford, passed away on Saturday, May 22, 2021. (Lesko & Polke Funeral Home)



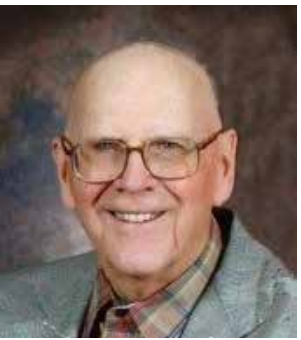
**Joyce Finch Neumon**, age 75, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**James F. Puvozel (Jimmy)**, 72, of Milford, passed away on May 5, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Susan E. Kohloff Limbacher**, 65, of Milford, died unexpectedly May 10, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Thomas McManus**, 95, of Orange and formerly of Glen Rock, NJ, passed away on May 27, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paul E Noble**, of Milford, was born March 30, 1934 and passed away on May 14, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**William J. Romanchick, Sr (Wild Bill)**, age 83, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Kenneth E. Lyke Jr.**, 68, of Orange passed away peacefully May 12, 2021 with his loving family by his side. (Celantano Funeral Home)



**Ruth C. Mohr**, 87, of Trumbull, CT, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Michael A. Paternoster**, 69, of Milford passed away May, 6, 2021.



**Susan Roots**, 72, of Milford, passed away May 19, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

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# Obituaries



**James Patrick Rutledge**, age 73, of Milford, died on Sunday, May 16, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Robert David Schwartz**, age 67, of Milford, died on Saturday, May 8, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Walter T. Sova, Jr.** 94, of Milford, passed away on May 28, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Michael R. Workiewicz**, age 70, of Milford, passed away on May 5, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Susan Harp Santamauro**, 67, of Milford, passed away on May 24, 2021 surrounded by family.



**Jane Ellen (Sullivan) Servadio**, 79, of Milford, died peacefully on Monday, February 15, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Catherine Springsteen**, age 98, of Milford, passed away on May 16, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**David F. Yerxa**, 80, of Milford, passed away on May 9, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Garry John Saxton**, 59, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, May 12th, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Evelyn S. Sidoti**, 104, of Orange, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**William Hyatt Tripp Jr.**, 76, died peacefully on May 26, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paul Donald Yukna**, 73, of Milford, passed away suddenly at home on May 13, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Rita G. Scheets**, 93, of Milford, passed away on May 20, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Sandra L. Snyder**, 73, of Milford, passed away on May 3, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Wayne J. Varjas**, age 65, of Milford, formerly of Fairfield, passed away on Friday, May 21, 2021. (Lesko & Polke Funeral Home)



**Scott Anthony Zito**, 66, of Milford, beloved husband of Debra for 33 years, and father of Jasmine. (Porto Funeral Home)

## 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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