

Milford-Orange Times

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Election 2021 Special Section: The Candidates Speak Pages 15-22



Milford mayor Ben Blake.



Milford mayoral candidate Peter Berube.



Orange first selectman candidate Connor Deane.



Orange first selectman Jim Zeoli.

Zeoli, Deane Face Off In Debates

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Incumbent Republican first selectman Jim Zeoli faced off against Democratic challenger Connor Deane in a series of debates throughout October in the leadup to determine who will lead Orange after the Nov. 2 election.

Throughout the campaign, and during debates sponsored by the Orange Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 7 and the Milford-Orange Times on Oct. 14, Zeoli argued that his long resume should give voters confidence, while they should think twice about electing Deane, a newcomer to politics.

"I think that we have a proven track record financially with this town, character-wise with this town, educational support with this town," Zeoli, who is seeking a ninth term, said at the Oct. 14 debate.

"People are asking

what boards or commissions or involvement with this town or another town my opponent has been on, and I politely tell them that I don't know," he said.

Deane, for his part, pointed out that his family has a long history of roots in Orange and that he, as a small business owner, has developed the skills to effectively manage the

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Incumbent first selectman Jim Zeoli, top, debated challenger Connor Deane, bottom in a debate Oct. 14 at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Milford Designates Pot Smoking Site

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

If you're looking to light up in Milford, officials have a spot just for you.

Mayor Ben Blake told the Board of Aldermen at their Oct. 4 meeting that he, along with the police department, had settled on a 2.5-acre strip of land at 0

Roses Mill Rd. as the designated location where residents could consume cannabis in public.

The state legislature passed a law earlier this year making recreational cannabis legal that was signed into law by Gov. Ned

Continued on page 5



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The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

Wine Talk

Chamber Launching New Programs

COVID-19 still poses challenges which we must address, but this moment also presents an opportunity to reinforce our societal structures to be more resilient, smarter and more equitable. In other words, we have the opportunity, as we are rebuilding our economy, to build a better and more sustainable future.



MICHAEL MOSES

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, businesses are confronting several issues and questions. What will the “new” economy look like? How will businesses interact with customers and clients? How will employers recruit and retain job seekers?

Rebuilding our economy will not be easy. It will take the collaborative efforts of all members who contribute to the diverse economy of the greater Milford region. Can we expect business to return to its pre-pandemic status? We know we will evolve to a new business model, but what will that mean to employers and their employees? Are there efficiencies, born from our response to the pandemic, that will continue?

We will renew our efforts to bring businesses and policymakers together, while also exploring new and exciting opportunities to shape the future of our new economy. The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce will help exercise our collective voice to ensure our region’s interests are represented with an emphasis on equity and opportunity.

To that end, I am pleased to announce two new programs designed to generate local revenue and drive community engagement, while focusing all the new revenues on local business and reinvesting your chamber’s revenue for programming, education and legislation.

The MRCC is launching the “I Love Local” gift card program that encourages consumer activity

across the Milford region. These gift cards ensure that we keep consumer spending local and supporting local businesses. Each year, thousands of dollars in gift cards will be sold for use at any of our participating businesses. In other markets like ours, that equates to nearly \$500,000 annually.

How does it work? Participating businesses will process the cards through our secure third-party website/app utilizing their own unique username and password. When a patron seeks to redeem a card for purchase, the business simply logs in to either the website or app, enters the username and password, and then enters the card number and amount to be charged.

Each month-end, the MRCC will use an automatic clearing house to transfer the participating businesses the associated gift card revenue spent with them the prior month. The only cost/fee charged to a business is a flat 5 percent fee to cover the chamber’s administrative costs. If the business has gift card sales of \$1,000, then the MRCC will send the business \$950. The fee goes back to supporting the printing of cards, credit card processing costs and – most importantly – promoting the participating businesses.

Businesses that opt in prior to Nov. 5 will be charged an administration fee of only 3 percent for the first six months of the program.

The MRCC is also launching a dynamic contesting and polling platform for programs like “best-of,” weekly polls and seasonal/holiday-related contests that can be sponsored by local businesses to drive engagement across web, social media and email.

Email Simon McDonald at smcdonald@milfordct.com or Maggie Borer at mborer@milfordct.com for more information on both programs.

A Stappa In The Right Direction

In 1952 my father, armed with my oldest brother’s military allotment check, purchased a building lot on Drummond Road in Orange. He and his brother Jack had a building and remodeling business, and he wanted to build a large home for his family. He built a wonderful colonial cape for us. He loved living in Orange. He was born just outside of Rome, and I think it has something to do with the fact that Orange was founded on seven hills, just like Rome.



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

One of the many things I wish I had an opportunity to share with him is that Orange has its own vineyard. Stappa Vineyard is located on a gorgeous property on 403 Derby Tpke. and surrounded by trees. The three sisters who own it – Alexa Charles, Rosamaria Ponte and Sara Landino Mahon, have planted over 5,000 vines.

The winery was purchased in 2020 by the three from their father Pietro to help make his dream come true. They are well on their way. They grew up working in the restaurant and hospitality industry, and the girls spent their summers in Italy where wine is not a beverage, it is a way of life. A meal without wine in Italy is called break-fast.

The family immigrated from south-central Italy, where their Pietro had been a shepherd and their mother, Antonietta, had farmed peaches and tobacco in the village of Santa Maria Capua Vetere. The village is located on the western shore about a quarter of the way up from Italy’s “boot.”

These people were no strangers to hard

work. They have truly restored the natural beauty of the land. The wines they have on offer include Cayu ga White, Chardonnay, Rosè, Marquette and Chambourcin.

The wine is being made in a large, restored building that may have been used as a barn. They have turned it into a wonderful, slightly rustic building that houses the fermentation tanks and the oak barrels. There is a wine bar set up in the building as well. There is seating in the building and all around it. There is even a charming old windmill on the property.

There is no hint of traffic noise in the winery area; it is private and a wonderful addition to Orange. You can bring in food, sit out and have a glass of wine and enjoy the surroundings with a touch of old world charm.

They are closed Monday and Tuesday. They are open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. It’s a great place to celebrate a lovely autumn afternoon.

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.



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LEADERSHIP FOR OUR FUTURE

Deane's Wish List	Jim Zeoli's Proven Results
Work to build an environment that promotes strong economic growth and attracts businesses.	 <p>Jim's team has built an environment resulting in dynamic economic growth, attracting numerous new businesses. In the past 4 years alone, over \$180 million has been invested here.</p>
Invest in green and open spaces.	 <p>Jim's policies have increased our protected open spaces by over 50% since 2005. The Race Brook Country Club purchase protects an additional 287 acres.</p>
Keep Orange residents up to date with real time information and clear communication.	 <p>Jim's team upgraded the Town's website to allow residents to receive notices and updates on all town business. Jim remains available, his door is always open.</p>
Spend down the Town's Fund Balance ("Rainy Day Fund").	 <p>We prudently use our Fund Balance ("Rainy Day Fund") for emergencies and capital projects. In 2021-2022 we allocated \$1.7 million for projects including paving town roads.</p> <p>We help secure our AAA Bond rating by protecting our fund balance. Our top rating lowers the cost of borrowing.</p>



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Jim Zeoli

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NOV 2**

For Nature's Sake

The People Who Serve Our Towns By Caring For Trees

Ann Jassil-Meenan was a 16-year-old practicing her driving skills around the Milford Green several decades ago when she heard her mother in the passenger seat gasp and then burst into tears.

Jassil-Meenan's first thought was, "Did I do something wrong?"

Through the sobbing, she discerned that her mother, Kate Orrechio, was distressed to see that a large, distinguished tree in the neighborhood had been cut down.

"I think it was an oak," Jassil-Meenan said as she recalled the story for a crowd, including civic leaders and state officials, who gathered at the Stonebridge Restaurant last month to honor the memory of Milford's preeminent tree advocate, Kate Orrechio.

Orrechio's record of service from Milford Trees Inc. and the city's Tree Commission, acknowledged in a state proclamation, speak to one woman's talents and passion. But they are also a reminder that trees need our care to flourish in the numbers we need. Importantly, such tributes can also serve as an excuse to lift the veil on the people behind the scenes who are carrying on with this largely volunteer work – the people who serve our towns by caring for trees.

We can't afford not to take care of trees. Trees help shape a town's character and boost tourism. Strategically placed, well-chosen species of trees in our towns also improve air and water quality, preserve groundwater flow, offer essential habitat for insects and animals, reduce flooding and erosion, cool an area and absorb carbon. Trees that are sick or weakened, on the other hand, can pose a

harm to humans and property and strain a town's budget in removal and trimming.

Connecticut requires each town or city to appoint a tree warden to manage risks and maintain a healthy population of trees on public land. In Milford, Steven Johnson's duties as tree warden are part of his job in the City's Department of Public Works.

Johnson, nearing completion in his studies to be an arborist, is something of an environmental polymath. He admits to being fascinated with everything environmental and will wind up doing extra research – "going down a rabbit hole" – simply out of a sense of wonder. That fascination has led him to shift careers in recent years so that he can dedicate himself to environmental protection and management.

A big concern in the tree warden's office in Milford is the hundreds of trees lost and damaged in recent years, mainly to storms and insect pests.

"The August 2020 storm, Isaias, caused damage to over 400 city trees," Johnson said. "The more frequent and intense storms have proven harmful to both older and younger trees."

The emerald ash borer has also taken a toll, Johnson explained.

"We estimate over 800 ash trees on the public right-of-way in our open spaces have been affected," he said.

In some municipalities like Milford and Orange, the work of tree wardens is sup-



PATRICIA HOUSER



plemented by a tree committee or commission which is comprised of citizen volunteers. Bryan Mancini, chair of the Milford Tree Commission, first volunteered for the non-profit Milford Tree Inc. as a way of giving back to his hometown after graduating in 2005 with a degree in landscape design and horticulture. He was soon drafted for the city's Tree Commission and has served there ever since. The links between trees and community service were a natural fit.

"This has been my passion since I was 13, and I feel that we need to have a voice and to keep this town feeling the way it was when I grew up here. We have a great city," Mancini said, "and the landscape is part of that."

Gail Nixon, from Orange, was a longtime member of the garden club and served on the Conservation Commission when she seized an opportunity to attend a training program for citizen volunteers called the Meskwaka Tree Project in the late 1990s. That experience led to a fascination with the role of trees and commitment to proper stewardship of trees in her town. With her influence, in 1999, Orange passed a tree ordinance requiring the appointment of a tree warden and creation of a Tree Committee.

An important role of the Tree Committee is educational outreach, and, according to Nixon, among other things, people need to know more about the impacts of where we plant trees on private property. If a homeowner plants a row of evergreen trees on the

south side of a road, for instance, that row of trees – especially as they get larger – will shade the road from sun in winter and prevent ice from melting.

Back in Milford, Jeremy Grant, the city's open space and sustainability manager, earned kudos this past April from dozens of community volunteers as the master organizer for a project where Milford gave away 500 trees to residents. Each household could reserve a seedling of one of five native species; they'd qualify for the free tree if they signed an agreement to observe proper planting and maintenance steps. The high success rate of the project offers some assurance that properties all over the city will begin to repopulate some of our lost tree cover.

Originally pitched as a way to celebrate a combination of Earth Day and Arbor Day, the tree giveaway event also became a tribute to Kate Orrechio, who had died in February at 84. That perhaps brings us back to the idea that environmental protection is a story of people as much as nature; these are usually people who are acutely aware that we are part of nature.

Whether any of us would call ourselves a "tree hugger" or not, we can learn from these people that there is more to appreciate about trees than even their autumnal decorations, and there is much to be thankful for in towns that have such trees and people.

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.

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Tong Wants State Custody For Dogs Seized In Orange

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

State Attorney General William Tong is asking for the state to take custody of seven dogs seized from a home in Orange on Oct. 5 as part of a multi-state investigation into illegal dogfighting rings, according to a statement from Tong's office.

The Connecticut State Police Statewide Organized Crime Investigative Task Force, State Animal Control, Milford Animal Control and Orange PD Patrol executed a search warrant at 968 Grassy Hill Rd. in Orange based on leads from a dog fighting investigation with the Suffolk County, New York Police Department, police said.

The dogs were found in outdoor kennel structures and "subject to unsanitary conditions and tethered within their cages in an unlawful manner," the release said. Criminal charges for animal cruelty are anticipated.

The dogs are in the custody of the state Department of Agriculture and will be housed at Milford Animal Control, police said.

Tong's office said the dogs, named Vera, Angie, Zebra, Sypher, Mugshot, Horris, and Lucy, were suffering from ear and eye infections and malnutrition, and have scars likely caused by bite wounds.

Police, Tong said, also found record books at the property that included a list of approximately 80 dogs potentially involved in dog fighting. Police also found dogfighting guides and magazines, breeder information, scales, collars and veterinary grade equipment and medicine believed to be associated with the illegal dogfighting ring.

The property where the dogs were seized is owned by Nathaniel Martinez and Eva Carolin Kennedy, according to public land records.

Milford Historical Society Selling Christmas Gifts

The Milford Historical Society will celebrate Christmas in an old-fashioned way every Sunday from Nov. 7 to Dec. 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bryan-Downs House, located at 34 High St. in Milford.

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, a much scaled-down Christmas event will be limited to shopping in the Country Store and at a gift table of crafts made by

MHS's Herbcrafters members.

MHS has a selection of local history books and reproductions of old maps for sale. For children there are old-fashioned toys, including pick-up sticks, dominoes, marbles, amethyst crystals and necklaces.

Masks must be worn, and social distancing is expected. For more information, go to milfordhistoricalsociety.org or call 203-874-2264.

Pot (Continued From 1)

Lamont. Under the law, municipalities with a population over 50,000 are required to set aside at least one location where public consumption would be allowed.

Blake told the board that a sign had been installed to identify the area. Alderman Ray Vitali asked Blake whether there were plans to add any accommodations to the site. Blake said there were no plans for the time being.

"We have identified that that area does have good lighting. There is a cobra-head light basically directly above where the signage is installed," he said, adding that the area where consumption will be allowed is within 15 feet of the sign.

The location is adjacent to the plaza where the Barnes and Noble sits and near the Boston Post Road. Officials had wanted to find a site with nearby access to public transportation that would also be relatively far from homes, schools and other sensitive buildings.

have not been disclosed.

Deane said that he personally opposed the purchase, but since it was approved months have passed with little information reaching the public about the negotiations.

"We still have zero details on this," Deane said. "I understand we're closer to a deal, but this is taxpayer dollars. Our taxes went up to purchase this property. There should be transparency."

Zeoli didn't offer further details on the lease agreement, but did point out that approval of the purchase referendum was unanimous and bipartisan within the Board of Selectman.

The two also butted heads over economic development. Zeoli detailed a list of projects that have come to fruition under his watch, including FedEx, Hilton Suites and the Veterans Administration medical center. But Deane countered that many properties sat fallow for far too long.

"FedEx is now here," he said. "I'm pretty sure it took 14 years to bring a business to one of the most desirable lots in the Northeast Corridor. Fourteen years that property sat vacant. I don't really think that's acceptable."

The two did find some tentative common ground on the idea of bringing a single recreational marijuana dispensary to Orange, which will soon be allowed under a law passed by the state legislature earlier this year.

"I'm for it," Deane said, calling it a "win-win" for the town. "We have an opportunity to make a little bit of money."

Zeoli was more circumspect about the benefits.

"The state has also put restrictions on the part of the use of the funds," he said. "So while we will get some money, a town like Orange might have trouble using some of it as proscribed by the restrictions of the bill."

Nevertheless, he said he had already been contacted by a developer interested in building a dispensary in town.

"Yes, I've even met with a potential cannabis dealer," he joked. "Imagine - years ago you would have called the police."

Debates

(Continued From 1)

town. He argued that it was not fair for Zeoli to dismiss his candidacy simply because he hadn't served on town boards.

"I don't believe that that is a prerequisite to be involved in democracy," he said. "I do not believe that you have to have had certain positions in order to have valid ideas and thoughts on how to better our town and our community."

Deane several times criticized Zeoli over what he claimed was a lack of communication regarding ongoing lease negotiations with Race Brook Country Club. The town voted in a February referendum to purchase the land where the country club sits and lease it back to the town, but full details of the agreement

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

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Opinion & Editorial

Children In Crisis



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

On Oct. 19, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Children's Hospital Association declared a national emergency in the area of children's mental health.

The article detailing the announcement cited the compounded effects of preexisting challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically noting the impact on children who experienced the loss of a loved one. Data show that more than 140,000 children in America have lost a primary or secondary caregiver in this pandemic.

The Hartford Courant published an article on Oct. 6 detailing the sharp spike in the number of children being seen for mental and behavioral health treatment and the long waits families are facing as they seek that care. Yale Children's Hospital is facing similar surges.

Children and families across the state and country are needing this type of health care at an unprecedented rate, with more instances of children admitted at higher crisis point levels as well.

Death by suicide was already the second leading cause of death in children, adolescents and young adults before the pandemic. The number of children seeking mental and behavioral services since then has grown significantly. The AAP states that "between March and October 2020, emergency department visits for mental health emergencies rose by 24 percent for children ages 5-11 years and 31 percent for children ages 12-17 years. In addition, emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts increased percent among girls ages 12-17 years in early 2021 compared to the same period in 2019."

Recognizing the urgent need for solutions and action, I have had conversations about this crisis with hospital administrators, multiple state agencies, many different children's advocates and others including my colleagues and constituents. Everyone is seeing the same rise in need and the same complex challenges to providing these life-saving services.

I will be participating in three separate days of collaboration with these experts and advocates over the next few weeks to discuss next steps. I will also continue to work on recruitment and retention plans for mental and behavioral health specialists and identifying areas currently lacking access to those providers. Additionally, I will continue my work with Sen. James Maroney on suicide prevention with another legislative summit to discuss suicide prevention, this time focused on veterans. We recently hosted a suicide prevention training open to the community in the Question, Persuade, Refer method; additional training sessions can be scheduled.

While the recent reporting clearly illustrates the need for more providers and emergency department beds for children in crisis, it is important to note that services are still available. If you or a loved one need help, support or more information, please reach out to one of the available resources, including the state's crisis hotline at 211; the crisis text line by texting "CT" or "Hello" to 741741; the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255); the ACTION line (DMHAS, for adults 18+) at 1-800-HOPE-135 (1-800-467-3135); the 911 emergency system; preventsuicide.org; or child-friendly information presented by Gizmo, a Connecticut-based K-9 first responder and therapy dog at gizmo4mentalhealth.org.

Helping Domestic Violence Victims



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence is a serious violent crime that includes both physical and emotional abuse. It is frequently hidden from public view. Many victims suffer in silence, afraid to seek help or not knowing where to turn.

The traumatic effects of domestic violence also extend beyond the abused person, impacting family members and communities. Children often witness the violence or become victims themselves. Stalking is a common and very dangerous tactic used by perpetrators of domestic violence and can pose challenges for victims seeking help.

In our part of Connecticut, we are lucky to have the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services, which uses a coordinated approach to offer services designed to break the cycle of violence, in a safe place, under one roof. The UCDVS 24/7 crisis hotline numbers are 203-736-9944 and 203-789-8104. You can also call toll-free at 1-888-774-2900.

There is a statewide network of domestic violence programs in Connecticut that can be reached by calling the statewide domestic violence hotline at 1-888-774-2900. The programs provide shelter for victims of domestic violence, as well as counseling and other supportive services.

This year, the General Assembly passed new legislation to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, An Act Concerning the Definition of Domestic Violence, Revising Statutes Concerning Domestic Violence, Child Custody, Family Relations Matter Filings and Bigotry or Bias Crimes and Creating a Program to Provide Legal Counsel to Indigent in Restraining Order Cases.

The new law, which I supported, expands the definition of domestic violence to include non-physical violence or "coercive control," which is a pattern of threatening, humiliating or intimidating acts that harm a person and deprive them of their freedom, autonomy and human rights. This new and expanded definition of domestic violence will now apply to all family court proceedings – restraining orders, divorce and custody cases.

The bill also establishes a new legal aid program to provide legal representation for victims of domestic violence who apply for restraining orders. And if a victim receives a restraining order and rents her home, she now has the right to change her locks to keep her home safe. The bill also allows someone to be charged for a hate crime if they assault a person "in substantial part" because of their race, religion, country of origin or sexuality.

No person should ever be subjected to the fear, shame and humiliation that an abusive relationship produces, and leaving these relationships is not easy. During this time of awareness, I hope everyone can take the time to learn how to best support a friend or family member looking to free themselves from abuse and help give a voice to those who suffer in silence.

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 or at 800-842-1423.

Be Car Smart



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

With our routines returning to some normalcy and tentative holiday travel expected, it's a great time to remind everyone that October is National Pedestrian Safety Month. We should all be encouraged to practice safe road habits all year long.

You may recall from a previous article that as of Oct. 1 the state has implemented a new pedestrian safety law. With this, some current laws have been expanded.

The updated law instructs drivers to be on alert for any indication of, and yield to, a pedestrian preparing to cross at marked and unmarked crosswalks that are not controlled by traffic signals or police officers. Prior law required a driver to yield only if the pedestrian had stepped off the curb or into crosswalk's entrance, but now we look for crossers within any portion of the crosswalk; those who step to the curb at a crosswalk's entrance and indicates intent to cross the road by raising his or her hand and arm toward oncoming traffic; or any indication of intent to cross the road by placing any body part, or extension thereof, at the entrance to the cross walk. By law, drivers who fail to yield at a crosswalk when required are subject to a \$500 fine.

We also saw an increase in fines for violating the state's distracted driving law, bringing the new fines to \$200 for the first violation, \$375 for the second violation and \$625 for a third or subsequent violation.

October also includes the mandatory use of rear seatbelts in motor vehicles while the vehicle is in motion. The act makes the failure to wear a seatbelt by any backseat passenger 16 or older a secondary offense, which accompanies existing law of a driver or front seat passenger who fails to wear a seatbelt commits a primary offense.

While updated pedestrian safety laws are intent on preventing terrible accidents, we should all do our part to be keen while walking and cycling. Think of wearing bright, reflective colors (especially in low light hours and inclement weather). Don't let pets put great distance between you and them on their lead. Walk on the sidewalks and cycle in bike lanes when available; whenever possible, cross streets at crosswalks and intersections.

When traveling alone, whether on a trip or just to local errands, try to preplan the walk back to your car. Look for a parking space in a well-lit area closest to the door. Avoid isolated areas and (if possible) mark your car's location with your mobile device. Keeping your keys in hand on the walk not only prevents for lost time searching pockets and bags but can easily trigger a car alarm in the event of an emergency.

While we get back on the roads for holiday travel – or even a trip to the store – we should all be prepared. Every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit in the trunk for varying purposes such as mechanical issues like flat tires, storms that may isolate a vehicle or medical emergencies.

I wish safe travels, whether via car, or bike or walk, in the upcoming months. As drivers, cyclists and joggers, we can all do our part to be car smart.

Please continue to reach me at my legislative office with your questions, concerns, and input on legislation and state issues at Charle.Ferraro@housegov.ct.gov or by phone at 800-842-1423.

Time For Change And Awareness



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

October is the beginning of the fall season. For many of us, that means pumpkin flavored everything, changing colors of the leaves, hot chocolate, tailgating and trick-or-treating. October is a transition month, as we move from the long days of summer toward the long cold winter nights. It is also a month that we use to bring awareness to some difficult issues. October is both Domestic Violence Awareness Month and National Depression and Health Screening Awareness Month.

October became Domestic Violence Awareness Month as part of a nationwide campaign that launched in October 1987 to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues while helping to raise awareness. Since then, progress has been made to support domestic violence victims and survivors. New laws have been enacted to hold abusers accountable.

A new domestic violence law went into effect in Connecticut on Oct. 1 that makes it easier for victims of emotional abuse to get a restraining order. The law expands the definition of family violence to include people who have been continuously controlled by a member of their family or household. Jennifer's Law, created in recognition of Jennifer Farber Dulos, helps those who may not be physically harmed by their partner but could be psychologically abused. Thirty-three percent of women who are killed by their partners were never injured by them in the past. This new law also incorporates the new definition of "coercive control" into the factors considered by the court when determining custody.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, there have been 499 gun-related domestic violence fatalities this year as of October. There are 20,000 calls placed a day to domestic violence hotlines and 10 million people physically abused by an intimate partner a year.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the state's leading voice for victims in our state. From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, over 37,000 victims were helped. Over 2,700 victims were housed, including in safe homes, emergency shelters, transitional living, supportive housing and domestic violence rapid rehousing services that are provided to adult and child victims.

The Center for Prevention offers tips on helping domestic violence victims. If someone you know is in an abusive relationship, always respect their choices but work on encouraging them to build a wide support system. Be patient and go at their pace. You can check out centerforpreventionofabuse.org for more dos and don'ts on helping a victim of domestic abuse.

Other great resources to help victims of domestic abuse include: the National Domestic Violence Hotline, at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), text "START" to 88788 or visit TheHotline.org; the National Center for Victims of Crime at 1-855-4-VICTIM (484-2846); the CT Safe Connect from the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 1-888-774-2900 or CTSafeConnect.org; and the Connecticut Office of Victim Services Advocate at 1-800-822-8428.

As you think of the month of October, think about those who may be struggling at home without a voice. It can be really worrying when someone you care about is being hurt or abused by their partner. Your help can make a great difference to someone who is abused.

Opinion & Editorial

Commentary:

Some Gee Whiz Numbers On Federal Spending

Here are some gee whiz numbers to consider when talking to your representatives. Please talk numbers with them and not all the tax gimmicks like the nonsense that only \$400,000 incomes or greater will see a tax increase.

\$3.5 trillion divided by 144.3 million taxpayers (the estimate for 2018) equals \$24,255 per taxpayer. \$1.5 trillion equals \$10,395 per taxpayer. The total for both is \$34,650.

When will you pay your fair share of this? Do not expect others to pay for your debt as this is your citizen's responsibility to pay off. The US Treasury does take voluntary payments any time you wish to make them.

The top 50.1 percent of taxpayers pay 97.1 percent of income taxes. This means about 72 million of the 144 million taxpayers provide the income for the federal tax bill. Assume that the two Congressional spending bills would drive the tax debt up an additional \$70,000 per

actual paying taxpayer in order to pay for it. This also doesn't cover the actual debt to run the current federal, state and local governments for the next fiscal year.

The national debt as of Sept. 30 was about \$28.8 trillion, with a debt per taxpayer of \$228,999 and a debt per citizen of \$86,622.

The federal debt likely to be carried by the 50.1% of actual contributing taxpayers is \$460,000 per person. The total debt for that group after the two infrastructure bills pass would be around \$530,000.

This debt roll up doesn't pay for itself. Don't get distracted in these types of discussions. Debt is debt and must be paid some time or the country defaults into bankruptcy, usually by printing more useless money that causes an



THOMAS P. HURLEY

inflationary spiral killing the will to take risks and work.

Venezuela is a good example of this. Tell me again that these taxpayers are not paying their fair share. They are paying almost the full share. They are overpaying. Socialism assumes that the government knows how to spend your money better than you do and that therefore they will decide how much you keep.

Let's look at possible impacts this could have on the economy. The \$3.5 trillion package means that one less car will be purchasable in the lifetime of those current taxpayers. One less credit card gets paid off for the \$1.5 trillion package (not counting interest charges). With the current debt, one less house gets purchased in the lifetime of the taxpayer.

And if these 50.1 percent of taxpayers don't pay for it, it gets passed on to our children, the golden goose gets killed and the economy eventually collapses.

Taxing businesses more makes everything worse, as production and jobs go overseas and local businesses close shop. Of course, we haven't seen any of that going on, have we? The US populace ends up paying for this profligate spending in higher prices passed on to the consumer.

We are spending about 125 percent more than the total income generated by our economic activity. Don't try this at home. It doesn't work out well when tried for extended periods.

Thomas P. Hurley is an Orange resident. He is the Republican candidate for tax collector in the 2021 municipal election.

Letters to the Editor:

Send us your letters to the editor with no more than 350 words to editor@theorangetimes.com. Include your name and full address; only your name and town will be published.

Thankful to Be in Orange

To the Editor:

My family and I moved to the town of Orange in 1983 and have felt blessed ever since. I consider our town an oasis that has nurtured our children, given them an incredible education, created a safe and wholesome environment and allowed us to continue as residents of this town.

A 2019 article in the New York Times has touted Orange as a wonderful place to raise a family, and I couldn't agree more. There is a spirit that I hold dear to my heart, with so many organizations and a desire by my fellow townspeople to give back to our community and beyond.

Our town is packed with so many activities to partake in, beginning with the High Plains Community Center pool, tennis courts and walking/running track that there is no reason to sit idle. How many other towns could also boast a fireman's carnival, country fair, concerts, movie night, Owl Prowl, tree lighting ceremony and tractor light show, strawberry festival, Thanksgiving dinner, lobster bake, recycling day, easter egg hunt, Thanksgiving Day road race and the upcoming 200 year anniversary celebration of the town, just to name a few?

With over 1,000 acres of open space and 18 miles of hiking trails, there is so much to explore or find solitude and quiet after a long and hectic workday.

I want to thank all of the leaders of our town, and my fellow Orange citizens for being the forward thinkers that have made our town the gem that it is.

Dr. Lawrence Messina
President, Orange Land Trust

De Young for Milford BOE

To the Editor:

The Milford municipal election will focus on candidates running for mayor, aldermen, planning and zoning, filling a judge of probate vacancy and Board of Education slots. I ask you to reward a particular Fifth District incumbent – Adam De Young – who serves us well on the Board of Education with another term.

De Young is a father of twin daughters with his wife, Jessica. The girls are enrolled at Orchard Hills School and the family devotes time to PTA activities, Girl Scouts and land conservation and environmental protection in

Milford.

There are many reasons to recommend De Young for a new two-year term. A primary reason is De Young does his homework. Prior to Board of Education meetings, he has researched agenda items, spoken with key individuals to obtain information and formulated questions to be asked on the record. His questions come from a natural curiosity, a need for nuanced clarification and a desire to have those answers recorded and shared on the public record with parents, staff and the general public.

In a time of COVID-19, an unprecedented number of decisions regarding Milford public schools require level-headedness, transparency, flexibility and cohesion. As a team, board members have worked to ensure that our schools are safe and welcoming academic centers of high quality instruction. De Young is a passionate and knowledgeable advocate for Milford students and schools. In the past 18 months, schools have transitioned from a heavy reliance on distance learning to in-school instruction with a full schedule. At the same time, while core subjects have been strengthened, world languages, humanities, STEM and the arts have been introduced or upgraded to benefit the whole student. Finally, the social and emotional needs of individual students are being addressed. The schools could not have accomplished all that they have to place Milford on an upward trajectory without BOE members like Adam De Young. He has my vote. He's earned yours as well.

Bryan Anderson
Former Alderman
Milford

Support for Beatty

To the Editor:

Over the past six years, if any of my neighbors had a problem or question about local issues, I confidently suggested, "Call your alderman, Ellen Beatty." Ellen is a problem solver and a dedicated, well-informed public servant. She has served three terms on the Board of Aldermen and has been an integral part of the team that has brought six consecutive tax cuts to the citizens of Milford as well as vast improvements to our city's infrastructure and economic development.

Ellen Beatty's service to our city extends beyond her aldermanic duties. She has spent a lifetime supporting families through her work in education and public health. She is a leader on issues affecting public policies for women, families, public health and the environment.

Currently, Ellen serves as the aldermanic liaison with the Board of Health and the Department of Human Services and is vice chair-

person of the Public Works Committee. Her impressive background credentials and experiences, as well as her hard work for constituents, give Milford endless rewards.

It is for these and countless other reasons that I support Ellen Beatty's candidacy for the 5th District's Board of Alderman seat. Vote row A.

Anne Greenstone Blake
Milford

Say No to CRT

To the Editor:

Teachers are not, nor should they ever be, surrogate parents to our children. Their job is to teach our kids how to read, write, do mathematics, understand science and teach them our nation's history in an unbiased manner. Throw in some art, music and a little exercise and that should do it.

Today's educational system has strayed way beyond this simple requirement. Teachers today believe they must teach our children morals and beliefs that they can only assume are not being taught at home by parents. They are indoctrinating our kids with untried, unproven social experiments with our kids as the guinea pigs in this progressive, woke laboratory they call school.

Parents need to exert their power over school boards and school administrators and tell them enough is enough. The indoctrination must stop and stop now. Speak up at BOE meetings if only to say you oppose the direction that your school system is heading. Question your child's teacher as to the curriculum they are subjecting your child to. And most importantly, vote on Nov. 2 as if your child's future depends on it. Because it does. In Milford, vote

row B and say no to critical race theory.

Walt Rollins
Milford

Blake Keeps City Great

To the Editor:

As residents of Milford for over 40 years, my husband and I would like to express our deep love for this community. Additionally, we are grateful to Mayor Ben Blake for his leadership in making Milford more attractive to young families, especially since our two adult children have decided to remain in their beloved "hometown."

Both our daughter and son could live virtually anywhere. Given all their options, we are grateful they chose Milford as their first choice to settle in and raise children. They join us in crediting Mayor Blake, who they grew up with, for enhancing the desirability of Milford.

There were obvious qualities our children were looking for in selecting their home community, including the following: good schools; check. Great locations with beaches and recreational facilities; check. Friendly neighborhoods and a congenial downtown; check. Reasonable home values and low, sustained taxes; check.

Our family credits much of the vast appeal of our "small city with a big heart" to Ben Blake. Throughout Connecticut, he's become the image of fiscal responsibility, economic growth and municipal good sense. Friends from nearby and far away towns are envious and impressed when we tell them that we've had a tax cut every year for the past six years. More importantly, as we watched our grand-

Continued on page 9

Milford-Orange Times

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Columnists:		
Annamarie Amore, Flooring	Matt Gallagher, Finances	Susan Oderwald, Senior Care
Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences	Patricia Houser, Environment	Trish Pearson, Insurance
Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This	Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel
Cathy Bradley, Running	Jennifer Ju, Bias	Priscilla Searles, Orange History
Steve Cooper, Food	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	PJ Shanley, Life Insurance
David Crow, Conversations	Dan May, Earth Science	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
Pat Dray, Gardening	Marilyn May, Milford History	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health	Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health	Roger Tausig, Rotary
Steven P. Floman, Legal	Michael Moses, Milford Chamber	Michele Tenney, Health
	Hene Moyher, Recycling	

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Mental Health

Understanding Seasonal Affective Disorder

As we anticipate colder and darker days ahead, many of us will experience what is commonly called the “winter blues” or, more formally, seasonal affective disorder.

Seasonal affective disorder is defined as a short period of time when someone might feel sad or down as there is a change in the season. It’s a common misconception that seasonal affective disorder only occurs in the fall and winter months when there is less sunlight. While most cases of seasonal affective disorder do occur during the fall and winter months, there are those who develop symptoms of SAD in the spring and summer, commonly called summer-pattern SAD.

Research suggests that the reduction in sunlight can throw off the body’s circadian rhythm (sleep-wake clock), which can lead to chemical changes in the brain. The sleep-related hormone melatonin has been linked to SAD because the body produces more of it when the environment is dark.

There is also evidence that a drop in the brain chemical serotonin can occur when there is a reduction in sunlight, triggering symptoms of depression.

According to the National Institutes of Health, millions of American adults are impacted by SAD, but it is more common in women than in men. Those living farther north, where the daily sunlight is shorter, are also more prone to developing the condition. Symptoms of SAD in the fall and winter months often include those associated with major depression such as losing interest in activities that were once enjoyable, changes in weight and/or appetite, low energy, difficulty concentrating and feelings of hopelessness. Summer-pattern SAD may involve different symptoms including anxiety, restlessness and agitation, insomnia and episodes of violent behavior.



JENNIFER FIORILLO

A person suffering with symptoms of depression or anxiety during a change of season should consult with a health care provider or mental health professional. There are specific criteria used to diagnose SAD which include having symptoms of major depression or those listed above, episodes that occur during that change of season in the winter or summer for the last two years, and more frequent depressive episodes

than others an individual may have experienced in the past.

Treatments commonly used for SAD can include all or a combination of light therapy, vitamin D, antidepressant medications and psychotherapy. Light therapy emits artificial light that works as effectively as natural light to provide needed exposure. The use of light

boxes up to 30 minutes per day can help to prevent and treat SAD.

It is believed that vitamin D promotes serotonin activity. Deficits in this vitamin can also contribute to symptoms associated with depression and SAD. More sunlight helps the body to absorb vitamin D, which is why light exposure is so important. A person who is very deficient in vitamin D may need to take supplements to help treat SAD.

Above all, it is important to see a physician or mental health professional first in order to come up with an appropriate diagnosis and treatment for SAD. It may be that a person really needs to talk to a therapist and/or take medication to help manage symptoms during this short period of time.

Jennifer Fiorillo, MBA, MPH is the president and CEO of Bridges Healthcare in Milford, and may be reached at Jfiorillo@bridgesmilford.org.

Interfaith Congregations Form Collaborative In Orange

A group of faith communities in Orange have come together to form a collaborative dedicated to improving the lives of people in Orange and the greater New Haven area.

Calling itself the Congregations of Orange Collaborative, the organization consists of congregations that represent a diversity of faith traditions. The current membership includes Church of the Good Shepard Episcopal Church; Congregation Or Shalom; Orange Congregational Church; St Barbara Greek Orthodox Church; Temple Emanuel; Zion

Evangelical Lutheran Church; and St Joseph of Arimathea American National Catholic Church.

The collaborative has reached out to other faith communities and welcomes all that wish to participate.

Nancy Kline of Congregation Or Shalom, one of the organizers of the group, said, “All faith communities have the desire to put their faith in action and do so through many wonderful initiatives. We thought it would be so much more effective to unite our communities and use that common desire to create a more

powerful group with more people, skills and resources that could do so much more for those in need than individual congregations could do on their own.”

The COC’s vision statement says that the interfaith group will encourage participating congregations to engage in social action projects that help people in need and strengthen relationships between the members.

The first activity of the COC is a food drive on Dec. 5 to benefit Orange FOOD 2 KIDS, a program operated by the Orange Parks and Recreation Department

that collects single-serve packaged foods that require no preparation or water-only preparation, and distributes nutritious snacks and simple meal choices to children living with food insecurity.

The event will be a contact-free “pop-the-trunk” collection at the High Plains Community Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. High Plains Community Center is located at 525 Orange Center Rd.

For further information about the COC and the food drive, contact Nancy Kline at nancykline@gmail.com or 203-915-7799.

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Letters

(Continued from 7)

children navigate the difficult year and half of school transitions, we saw them thrive as our mayor, health department and educators all worked tirelessly together to keep our kids safe and engaged in social and academic endeavors.

Milford is a vibrant community with the old-fashioned friendly manner of neighbors helping neighbors and a welcoming outreach to newcomers. We are thrilled that our family is all together in this thriving city, and we'd like to extend our gratitude to Ben Blake and hope that he continues his remarkable efforts to keep Milford great.

Donna Pinsicce
Milford

Stale Leadership

To the Editor:

How long is too long? I always hear about term limits. There should be term limits. Maybe so. I am not writing to debate this. The voter has the control. When someone has reached the top of their field and there is nowhere else to move up, how long before your ideas and leadership become stale?

How long before views become myopic? How long does it take for a sense of comfort to overtake a sense of service and dedication? How many years is a town leader in office become so comfortable that they don't give their constituents the respect and care they deserve?

I believe we are seeing this in Orange, right in front of our eyes. This town needs fresh eyes to look at how our town is run, find efficiencies and progress.

Where are our tax dollars really going? Does our current first selectman really care about the average resident's concerns, no matter how small? Or does he dismiss them?

Connor Deane has already shown he has the temperament to lead. The way he addressed residents at the Fred Wolfe playground meeting was a clear look into what the future of Orange should be.

Please vote for Connor Deane for first selectman and the entire Democratic team on Nov. 2.

Gail R. Chotiner
Orange

Moyher for Tax Collector

To the Editor:

I'm writing in support of my good friend Mark Moyher who is running for Orange tax collector. I have had the honor of knowing Mark for more than 15 years and I'd like to give Orange residents some insight into both his experience and the kind of person he is.

First, Mark has the background and expertise that will help modernize and simplify tax collection in Orange. His 35-plus years in the financial services industry have uniquely prepared him to take on this role.

On a personal note, Mark and his wife influenced my decision to move to Orange 10 years ago. He's the kind of friend who is always there and who you know you can count on. From attending my wedding to never missing my kids' birthdays to enthusiastically playing Santa for my family every Christmas, Mark shows us how much he cares.

Mark is fun to be around and I've enjoyed meeting up with him at Orange events where he has volunteered over the years. I am confident that Mark Moyher will show up for the residents of Orange just as he has done for me and my family. Please consider a vote for Mark this November.

Melissa Mazzarella-Johnston
Orange

Deane Will Communicate

To the Editor:

We have suffered with COVID-19 for a year and a half and it looks like we will be in this for at least two years. And in all this time, our first selectman has been silent. Where was our leader in time of uncertainty? His own page on the town website hasn't been updated in 10 months. Nearly a year with no communication from the first selectman during a pandemic! That is totally unacceptable.

When Hurricane Henri was forecasted to make landfall in Milford, once again there was no warning from our first selectman. Every town leader in our area put out statements or reverse 9-1-1 calls to their residents. Not in Orange. As a matter of fact, unless you are on Facebook and follow his personal Facebook page, you would have even less knowledge of what is going on in town.

Why wouldn't a first selectman communicate with his residents? I will leave you to think about that and decide why there is a lack of clear communication from our town hall.

Our first selectman should be regularly communicating with the residents they represent. I know Connor Deane will do that. He already has been. With the resources available to the first selectman, I know Connor Deane will not leave us in the dark but will provide us the open communication and transparent government we expect and deserve.

Jack Dempsey
Orange

Deane Reason for Hope

To the Editor:

My husband and I have lived in Orange for over 20 years. And, like many others, we moved to town for the school system, its community and family values, and its strong economic presence.

Over the years, I have observed the political environment in this town from the sidelines and voted for candidates on both sides of the so-called aisle, looking for a leader who would continue to lead our town in a way that would retain those aspects that were so important to us when we chose to live in Orange.

Looking at the candidates for this election year, it's given me reason for hope. I believe Connor Deane is the right person for first selectman. He brings new ideas and a youthful vision for our aging town. His energy is contagious and his business skills are impressive. I admire his ability to build a successful business from the ground up.

Connor comes from a family of strong values with longevity in town. Those values are evident in the way I see how Connor conducts himself.

It's time for a new perspective. Change is good, new ideas are better. Let's let the younger generation lead us, help us thrive, and bring younger families back to town.

For these reasons, I encourage everyone to vote for Connor Deane for first selectman. I am certain he will lead us in a way that will move Orange forward.

Amy Esposito
Orange

Deane Better on Fund Balance

To the Editor:

Fiscal responsibility is one of the most important roles a first selectman must fulfill in running a municipal government. Many would argue that our town, sporting an AAA bond rating, is currently in a favorable fiscal position. However, I would argue that the enviable rating comes at an unnecessary price for Orange taxpayers who have seen their tax

bills increase over the past decade.

To achieve an AAA bond rating, Moody's, one of the leading bond credit firms, looks for a municipal fund balance (known to most of us laypeople as a "rainy day fund") to range between 12 to 15 percent. Yet, in the opening comments of our town budget report issued before this past May's budget referendum, it was projected that Orange's undesignated fund balance would be 17 percent of the current \$76.114 million town budget. The first selectman said this week it now stands a shade over 18 percent. Others involved in tracking town budgetary matters estimate the fund balance could be nearly 20 percent.

What does that mean to us, the average Orange taxpayer? It means that we are being overtaxed and the revenues from what seems to be becoming almost annual tax increases are largely being used to stockpile a town fund balance that's beyond the required range.

It also means that many delayed small projects throughout the town that residents grouse about, such as a long-range plan for some neighborhoods for improvements such as speed bumps and sidewalks or just a new layer of gravel at the widely utilized but deteriorated High Plains Community Center track, go undone.

We need a first selectman who will take a collaborative planning approach with town residents to see that tax dollars are expended correctly and with an eye toward even a possible tax cut in the near future. I urge you to vote for Connor Deane for fresh leadership that builds to a brighter future for Orange.

Stephen J. Winters
Member, Orange Democratic Town Committee

Elect Deane First Selectman

To the Editor:

Thrilled to be running for re-election to the Orange Board of Finance on the Democratic ticket with so many young and dynamic Orange candidates, I am particularly excited that Connor Deane is seeking election as first selectman. I have been impressed with Connor's enthusiasm, his intelligence, and his dedication to the town. Of significant interest to me is Connor's commitment to economic growth and business development in Orange. To ease our town's residential tax burden and to enhance our fiscal health, we need a vigorous retail and business community. Connor has assured me that the town's vitality will be his key focus for the next few years. As an entrepreneur he is ideally suited to understand and communicate with business leaders and retailers.

And as an actor, he has the skills to ensure that the town government will be open, transparent, responsive and inclusive. For me, intelligent discussion of public health issues, especially considering the past year, is exceptionally important for any municipality. Our health begins here. Connor will work to see that Orange has both the resources and the up-to-date information to keep us healthy.

Connor also stresses the importance of sustainability and environmental health; he believes that the maintenance of open space and the investment in clean energy will keep Orange green.

It is time to begin the transition of Orange into the future. As a seasoned elected official, I welcome young citizens to join our government and keep us fresh. I hope the voters of Orange will elect Connor Deane to lead us into our new era.

Pat Sanders Romano
Orange

Zeoli Works Hard

To the Editor:

Jim Zeoli and concerned residents have worked hard to build the community, use

our land wisely and purchase property where open space is important to our overall sustainability. A recent example is the purchase Race Brook Country Club.

The purchase of the Race Brook Country Club will allow Orange to control this land and at least get some income from it. Control of the land and its pristine beauty for future generations is what's important.

Thanks to Jim and the Board of Selectmen for their vision in approving this purchase.

Jude Toohey
Orange

Zeoli Has Done a Good Job

To the Editor:

What would political season be without receiving a nasty hit piece, this time from the Democratic candidate for first selectman?

He talks about spending down our town's fund balance, but this money is our "rainy day" fund. This ensures there is money readily available for emergencies.

He complains that taxes are higher than they were 16 years ago, but isn't everything more expensive? Where would he cut? Town services? Education is our largest budget item, would he cut funding to our schools?

Jim Zeoli has done a good job managing Orange and has my vote.

Katerina Imperati
Orange

Shaw for Town Clerk

To the Editor:

It is with tremendous enthusiasm that we offer our support to Mary Shaw in her bid for the position of town clerk of Orange. We have known Mary for more than 30 years and recognize her as among our town's most caring and community-minded individuals. We can think of no one better to assume the role so long held by the highly regarded and bipartisan supported Pat O'Sullivan.

Whether you know Mary from her years of amazing service to Race Brook School and the PTA, her ongoing contributions to the Paugusset Club, her dedicated administrative service at the Orange Town Hall or the Orange Board of Education or as a giving neighbor or friend, you know that Mary is an outstanding human being. As town clerk, we have no doubt that she will proudly serve all Orange residents with the passion and commitment she brings to everything she does.

Though Mary may not have worked for the UN, she has always worked on behalf of so many of us right here in Orange. We hope that you will join us in supporting Mary Shaw, Jim Zeoli and the entire Republican Party this November.

Nick and Nancy Bencivengo
Orange

Novicki for Town Clerk

To the Editor:

I'm writing to enthusiastically endorse Margaret Novicki for Orange town clerk in the November 2 election. One would be hard pressed to find a more qualified candidate for this position. Not only does she have long and deep roots in our community, but she has extensive management and organizational skills and experience. After a 22-year career working with the United Nations in both New York and Africa, Margaret returned to Orange and decided to put her education, background, and expertise to use serving the town she loves. Having been elected to the Board of Selectmen, she served on the Emergency Management Advisory Council and its COVID subcommittee as well as the board's Personnel Committee and the Community Services Com-

Continued on page 10

On Your Mind

Do You Believe In Science?

It seems like a silly question to ask whether you believe in science because science is based on observation and repeatedly obtaining the same results from controlled experiments. Science begins with a hypothesis, then through research and observation either proves or disproves that hypothesis.

However, there seems to significant mistrust of science lately. Whether it is about climate issues or vaccination issues, misinformation is touted as science and it is hard to figure out which scientific facts to believe. Finding a source of accurate information isn't difficult, but it does require some research. It's important to question sources and verify information before making decisions. Knowledge is power and using your power can improve your life significantly.

Hypnosis is based on the science of the mind. We know so much about how the brain works that using hypnosis is widely respected throughout the scientific commu-

nity. I get many referrals from doctors who understand that they can only help a patient with the tools they have, and sometimes those aren't enough. Doctors refer patients to me for stress-related habits like smoking, insomnia and overeating.

Doctors are aware of the mind-body connection and realize that medicine may alleviate some physical discomfort, but the underlying causes of many physical ailments are negative emotions. Stress creates and aggravates so many systems of the body that hypnosis is often the best way to treat the problems. Digestive issues, chronic pain, anxiety and even medical conditions like fibromyalgia can be remedied using hypnosis.

Hypnosis is stress-reducing and empowering because my clients learn how to use the power of their mind to make the



FERN
TAUSIG

changes needed to feel better. Thoughts create feelings and feelings create behaviors. Once a person realizes they can have power over negative thoughts, they have the ability to change them.

So many of my clients come to me feeling powerless over their lives. They feel hopeless and out of control about things or people in their life that they can't change. Hypnosis and

self-hypnosis are great tools to help change the only thing a person can change: themselves.

I have had people tell me they don't "believe" in hypnosis. The good news is that it works whether or not you believe in it. It's hard to believe in something that seems too good to be true. It seems too easy, they say.

The part of my work I enjoy the most is

that look on someone's face when they "get it." They get the results they wanted and are still in a state of disbelief. One of my main objectives is to teach my clients about how the brain works so they understand it can be changed. Science has proven that the neuroplasticity of the brain allows it to continue to change and reorganize throughout our lives. Hypnosis uses that neuroplasticity to make changes in physical, mental and emotional health.

Hypnosis is based on hundreds of years of observation that changes are possible in the brain and the results are remarkable. Even if you don't believe it, what if you just suspended your disbelief long enough to give it a try?

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

Letters

(Continued from 9)

mission. Margaret is the right person at the right time to serve as town clerk.

William M. Sherman
Orange

Novicki Has Passion for Values

To the Editor:

I have gotten to know Margaret Novicki since she ran for first selectman four years ago. She is sincere and has the strongest passion for values that matter to the residents of Orange. She has the experience and skills to carry on the legacy of the Orange town clerk. Margaret's experience at the United Nations makes her the best candidate to preserve the integrity of our elections in Orange.

Please join me in supporting Margaret Novicki for town clerk.

Joy Iheanacho
Orange

Nobody Better than Novicki

To the Editor:

A vote for Margaret Novicki is a vote for fairness.

First, full disclosure. I am Margaret Novicki's first cousin. Our dads were brothers. So I have known Margaret all her life, from her childhood growing up in Orange, to today, running for public office in our town. The entire Novicki family has applauded Margaret's achievements over the years. My dad was so proud when he would visit her at the United Nations building during his and my mom's trips to New York City. From what she has done in her public service career – working for the betterment of the entire world at the UN – and now for the betterment of our town, I can't imagine anyone more qualified to be our next town clerk.

I know how important that job is. Overseeing the integrity of our elections is crucial to our democracy. Margaret is fair, honest, and an extremely dedicated worker. What's more, she is warm, compassionate and open, qualities that anyone serving as town clerk should have as they help Orange residents solve their day-to-day problems and issues. There is nobody better to step into Patrick O'Sullivan's shoes.

Sally Novicki Denny
Orange

Orange Democrats Strong

To the Editor:

Orange has a unique opportunity with the election, Nov. 2. Connor Deane is not just offering us an improvement of our quality of life in Orange with his understanding of business and budgeting but also having empathy for those you serve. Connor understands that an ear to listen and polite response letting constituents know they have been heard is a primary skill of an elected official.

Connor's team brings a wealth of experience too. He knows that running a town means collaboration with all town employees. Relationship building is a priority for Connor once elected.

Mark Moyher brings an impressive financial background as the candidate for tax collector. He is the perfect candidate who also has a strong knowledge of processes. Mark has already brought his expertise as a member of the Orange Recycling Committee.

Margaret Novicki, candidate for town clerk, has served Orange as a member of the Board of Selectmen and Community Services. She has been a voice for residents during COVID as the key member of the Emergency Management Advisory Council and its COVID subcommittee. Margaret understands the importance of preserving the integrity of our elections.

The Orange Democratic slate is made of strong, experienced candidates who will bring an open, transparent and bipartisan work ethic to our boards. Please join me in supporting Connor, Mark, Margaret and the entire Democratic slate.

Jody Dietch
Chair, Orange Democratic Town Committee

Support for Gettinger

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter in wholehearted support of Ben Gettinger's candidacy to be our Milford-Orange Judge of Probate.

Our community's probate court will be in good hands with Gettinger. He's honest, hard-working and smart; he's a man of integrity who has spent his lifetime committed to our community. Gettinger volunteers his time and talents, giving his all every day to groups like the Boys and Girls Club and Yale's Children's Hospital.

Gettinger's history of selfless service is well-established. His integrity on the Board of Finance, delivering prudent budgets; the Council on Aging, caring for our seniors; the Planning and Zoning Commission, chairing and championing proper development; the Regional Water Authority, protecting city ratepayers; the Connecticut Law Revision Commission, providing well-founded legal expertise, all

demonstrate the breadth of Gettinger's dedication and drive to energize the good in our community.

For me, I've known Ben Gettinger for almost four decades – I respect him and trust him. Twenty years ago, we attended law school together where he excelled academically and was ranked in the top few of his class. He then went on to be a distinguished lawyer and partner in one of Connecticut's most prestigious law firms. As an attorney, he handles family and probate law. But what is most impressive about Gettinger – the lawyer – is the genuine compassion and respect he has for the clients who he represents and the lawyers and individuals with whom he interacts. That's why he will be such an exceptional Judge of Probate.

Ben Blake
Milford Mayor

Thanks to the People

To the Editor:

I want to thank the people of Milford and Orange for such a wonderful experience on the campaign trail. I had the opportunity to meet thousands of residents at their homes, the

transfer station, neighborhood meet and greets and the debates. I did not once experience any of the political nastiness and divisiveness that dominates our national news. That is a strong testament to the character of our great communities.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. I look forward to seeing you at the polls.

Ben Gettinger
Candidate for Milford-Orange Probate Judge

Thanks for Debate

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank the Milford-Orange Times for hosting last week's town debate. Thank you to all the residents who came out or watched on tv. I would like to thank all of the residents of Orange for being so patient and gracious to the candidates while we campaigned over the last month at the transfer station. It was wonderful to meet so many neighbors. Remember to get out and vote on Nov. 2. God bless the troops.

Santo Galatioto Jr.
Orange

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Seventy-Five Cents For The Milford Fire Department

By Marilyn May

The Milford Fire Company dates from May 1838 when at its first gathering each man agreed to donate 75 cents toward the purchase of a fire engine. A few months later at a December meeting, it was decided to add a hose to the purchase.

Prior to this, Milford went almost 200 years without a fire department. Almost all structures were made of wood and neighborhood water bucket brigades just couldn't get the big fires out.

These men met in each other's homes to organize a firefighting unit to protect the public and save structures from conflagrations. Because of their dedication and vision, by 1840 the town gave them the use of a small building behind Town Hall that became Milford's first fire headquarters. A year later, the Milford Fire Company's name was changed to Wepawaug Fire Company No. 1. On the east side of City Hall there is a small rock with a plaque that commemorates the fire department's first the hundred years, from 1838 to 1938.

The first fire headquarters eventually became too small. A larger firehouse was constructed in 1855 on Railroad Avenue, just north of today's train tracks. Although their apparatus was called a fire "engine," it must be remembered that in the earliest days the equipment was pulled by the firefighters and later by horses. One story recounts how the men were delayed from getting to a fire because a team of horses could not be found. Meanwhile, many volunteers arrived at the fire by bicycle.

The company's name was changed in 1858 to the Artic Engine Fire Company No. 1 in honor of the Artic fire engine that was bought from the New Haven Fire Department.

For many years, the Artic Engine Company No. 1 was the only fire headquarters in Milford. Today there three other stations: the East Side Fire Station (Station 5) at 980 New Haven

Ave.; the North Side Fire Station (Station 7) at 55 Wheelers Farm Rd.; and the West Side Fire Station (Station 8) at 349 Naugatuck Ave.

In 1915, a third central fire house was built at 13 Factory Ln. It housed two fire trucks, and if you look at the building today you can see where two bay doors once were located. In later years that building was occupied by the Milford Laundromat, and now it is the Lee Lund Studio of Dance.

MFD faced new challenges as each decade passed. The railroad was built across the length of the town by 1848, adding another level of response required when there was a train crash or derailment. Later, firefighters had to respond to high-speed vehicle accidents on the Merritt Parkway (opened in 1938) and on I-95 (opened in 1958).

The Milford Fire Headquarters we see today on 72 New Haven Ave. was constructed in 1928. It is the fourth base of operations, and the planners should be praised for erecting so large a building that it has served Milford for 93 years.

The emergency call figure for 2021 is projected to be about 8,500, and that number is forecasted to reach 10,000 calls in the future, according to 30-year veteran firefighter Chris Zak, the chief of planning, safety and training within the Milford Fire Department.

There are 113 firefighters who operate a four-platoon system. Personnel work 24 hours on followed by three days off. There are 25 individuals on duty each day in addition to administrative support staff, Zak said.

Could the first firefighters in the 1800s ever imagine needing a jet ski?

"The MFD has three marine units. Marine 1 is a 27-foot fire boat, Marine 2 is a 19-foot fire boat and Marine 3 is a jet ski," Zak said. "We respond to more than 30 water rescues a year and many lives are saved using this tiered response for water rescues."



A 1928 photo of the fire headquarters on Factory Lane in Milford. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.

MFD personnel train constantly for all kinds of emergencies. There are 26 licensed paramedics, and Milford is unique in that it has three ambulances that transport patients to hospitals, according to Zak.

While the earliest firefighters mainly put out fires, today the department also works on preventing fires. Fire marshals (a division of the department) check for proper installations of heating units and set seating maximums for restaurants, meeting rooms and other public spaces. They investigate the causes of fires and monitor reports of fire code violations. The department operates under the oversight of a Board of Fire Commissioners.

"Firefighters must meet certain training requirements and train each day since our skills are perishable and technology is constantly changing," said Zak. "Training is also conducted by members who take classes at the Connecticut Fire Academy."

The MFD operates three engine companies, two ladder companies, one rescue squad company, three ambulances and one battalion vehicle every day, he said.

There are 13 certified divers and many skilled in handling emergency evacuations along Milford's 17-mile, sometimes flooded shoreline.

They also check the working order of more than 1,700 fire hydrants, a figure that is growing as new housing developments and condos are built.

"MFD is an all-hazards response department. You name it and we will respond," Zak explained.

Imagine: all this, and much more, started with 75 cent contributions.

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

KMW Leisure's Future Trips

Nov. 3rd Goodspeed Opera House: A Grand Night for Singing

Enjoy lunch at the Gelston House before this marvelous play. Celebrates over 30 hit songs from musical treasures like Oklahoma! South Pacific, The Sound of Music, Carousel, The King and I, Cinderella and more. You'll be tapping your toes and humming along in a joyful evening filled with fresh takes on the music you love. It's "Something Wonderful" for everyone including your "Honey Bun" or your "Wonderful Guy" and the perfect welcome home to Goodspeed!

Nov. 10th Ivoryton Playhouse: Say Goodnight, Gracie

This is the hot Broadway play those invites you to spend a hilarious, heart-warming evening in the uplifting company of the world's favorite and funniest centenarian. George Burns, who spanned 100 years of American entertainment history, is now miraculously alive and kicking in a stunning tour de force.

Nov. 20th The Palace Theatre: Beautiful Carole King

BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL tells the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation.

Nov. 21st The Bushnell - The Band's Visit

(100 min. with no intermission) The critically acclaimed smash-hit Broadway musical The Band's Visit is the winner of 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, making it one of the most Tony-winning musicals in history. In this joyously offbeat story, set in a town that's way off the beaten path, a band of musicians arrive lost, out of the blue. Under the spell of the desert sky, and with beautiful music perfuming the air, the band brings the town to life in unexpected and tantalizing ways. Even the briefest visit can stay with you forever.

Nov. 30th New York Botanical Gardens & Train Show

This beloved tradition returns for its 30th year with a miniature wonderland in the warmth of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Marvel at model trains zipping through an enchanting display of more than 175 famous New York landmarks. Lunch on Arthur Ave. with time to walk and shop!!!! Bring your coolers!!!

Dec. 8th AquaTurf Presents: The Edwards Twins

The world-famous Edwards Twins, the number one impersonation act in the world. Their vocals and looks will amaze you. You will think you are seeing and hearing the real superstars right before your eyes. From Barbra Streisand, Sonny & Cher, Andrea Bocelli, Bette Midler and more, all in one show. Plus, a family style menu: garden salad, pasta, chicken ala Kathryn, broiled scrod, veggies, potato, rolls, desert, beverage and coffee, donuts on arrival! Don't miss this incredible show and lunch!

Call Kathy at 203 891-9400 or email KMWLeisure@gmail.com for more information about our 2021 and future trips!



On Our Land

Jurassic Dinosaurs Left Their Mark On Connecticut

Most US states officially recognize state birds (Connecticut's is the American robin), flowers (mountain laurel) and even trees (white oak). However, only a few recognize dinosaurs.

In 2017 Connecticut formally designated Dilophosaurus as its state dinosaur. This animal is locally known from its tracks as seen at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, but figured prominently in the first Jurassic Park movie in 1993 based on Michael Crichton's 1990 book.

In the movie, the dinosaur was depicted as about four feet tall with a fictionalized ability to spit venom after expanding a multicolored neck frill, which terrorized one of the villains before the dinosaur stunned and presumably ate him. As a well-studied fossil, though, Dilophosaurus was a bipedal carnivore over 20 feet long and 10 feet high at the hip. It was one of the first carnivorous dinosaurs and ranged across North America, with the most complete fossils excavated in Arizona.

Dilophosaurus walked the Earth about 190 million years ago in a geologic epoch known as the Early Jurassic. Note that this was about 120 million years before its rapacious costars in the movie – the velociraptors and tyrannosaurus rex – were reigning as predators in

an epoch called the Late Cretaceous. Despite their link to the name Jurassic, dinosaurs were abundant in both the preceding time period called the Triassic and also in the subsequent Cretaceous.

Collectively the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous time periods are known as the Mesozoic Era, and the film franchise might have been more aptly named Mesozoic Park.

The Mesozoic spanned a period from one global mass extinction event about 245 million years ago to the extinction event that caused the demise of the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago. The absolute ages of specific dinosaurs are based on the radiometric age of volcanic rocks that are interlayered with the sedimentary rocks that contain the fossils themselves. In Connecticut, Dilophosaurus tracks are found in Jurassic sandstone and mudstone of ancient river floodplains, across which basaltic lavas like those erupting today in Iceland or the Canary Islands intermittently erupted.

Dilophosaurus likely roamed across all of New England, but early Jurassic rocks are



DAN MAY

only preserved in a narrow north-south band in central Connecticut. Beginning about 200 million years ago, the state was subject to a plate tectonic event that nearly split the state in two from north to south. This 'rifting' event slowly displaced bedrock in a rift-valley downward more than a mile relative to the older metamorphic rocks like those underlying Orange and Milford that had formed during earlier mountain building.

This rifted zone is about 10 miles wide near New Haven and extends northward along what is now the I-91 corridor beyond the Massachusetts border, where it is about 20 miles wide. As it was developing in the Jurassic, a rift valley formed and filled in with sediment eroded from the bordering highlands as well as volcanic rocks that were erupted during rifting. Nearly all the cliff-forming features seen along Route 15 and I-91 from West Rock State Park northward are erosion-resistant basaltic lavas erupted into and onto river floodplains in the rift valley.

As you drive north on the Wilbur Cross Parkway to enter the tunnel going through

West Rock in Hamden, you are passing through a 190 million year old basaltic intrusion called a diabase by geologists and trap rock locally. The red rocks that are exposed sporadically along the Parkway here are part of a formation called the New Haven Arkose. The sandstone, mudstone and coarser cemented gravels of this formation are best exposed in North Haven along the Route 40 bypass connecting the parkway to I-91. Preserved Jurassic sedimentary rocks in the rift valley further north contain Dilophosaurus tracks.

Rift valleys are good fossil locales as sediment accumulates rapidly and the often-accompanying volcanic eruptions provide good age controls. Perhaps the best-known rift valleys forming today are part of the East African Rift System. Instead of dinosaurs, the fossils here provide a partial record of hominid and human evolution over the past 10 million years. These are smaller animals than those of the Mesozoic, but equally voracious predators.

Dan May is a geologist and professor of environmental science at the University of New Haven. He can be contacted at dmay@newhaven.edu.

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Dogtopia Gets \$1,000 For Foundation



Michele McHugh of Hawk Ridge Winery in Watertown presented a \$1,000 check to Owen Botting, owner of Dogtopia of Milford, for the Dogtopia Foundation. The Dogtopia Foundation enables dogs to positively change the world by funding service dogs for local veterans, youth literacy programs and employment initiatives for adults with autism. Dogtopia of Milford, located at 40 Quirk Rd., provides dog daycare, spa and boarding services. *Photo courtesy of Dogtopia.*

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Insuring Your Future

Medicare: Trick Or Treat?

Navigating the Medicare system can be tricky. The TV runs ads over and over (say hello to Broadway Joe). Open your inbox and see how many ads pop up on your front page. The mailman has to spend longer at your mailbox and the phone calls are frequent.

I recently went on a trip and spent several hours in traffic. The ads on the radio promised “get the coverage you need,” “you may be missing out,” “you have free benefits coming to you – so call today!”

The advertisers want you to pick up the phone, click on their website or send in the reply card. However, beware that when you respond to these ads you are giving the sender permission to call. And they will – over and over and over. That’s the trick.

Now for the treat. Many insurance companies are offering more benefits at no cost and more plans with no premium. Medicare

Advantage plans are still a great option for many; the trick is finding the right fit. Many companies are offering in-person seminars again, which can be helpful but only cover that company’s plans. In order to learn all the options you must attend multiple events, which is both time consuming and can create more confusion.

A second option is to go online and compare plans using a “calculator.” But many of the sites that allow you to enter information on prescriptions, geographic information, medical providers and so forth are actually private agencies that lure you to provide your contact information. They will then pursue you relentlessly. This is all quite legal, as you gave them permission to call when you filled out information on their website.



TRISH PEARSON

The only purely informational site is medicare.gov. However, it can be tricky to navigate and not always totally up to date. The best way to find out what you need to know is to reach out to an independent agent who contracts with all the companies that offer Medicare Advantage plans. Not only do you save time (and gas), you also have a single contact should you need help during the year. That’s the treat.

What are the Medicare changes for 2022? By now everyone should have received the annual notice of change that highlights changes to their current plan. Things to look for are changes in copays, coinsurance, deductibles and premiums. In addition, look to see if they have made changes to the added benefits such as dental,

over-the-counter medications, eyewear and hearing aid allowances.

The Medicare B premium will go up: the estimate is that the standard premium will be \$158 per month. Those paying an income-adjusted amount will also see an increase. The annual deductible for Medicare Part B is also expected to rise to \$217. People who are on a Medicare supplement plan will be directly affected by this increase as they are responsible for the deductible.

The income limits for qualifying for special help (Medicare Savings Program) have changed slightly. Contact an insurance agent or the senior agent in your town for help with the application process.

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

Senior Life

Keys To Aging Well

Aging is inevitable, but all of us can make the most of every stage of our lives as we age.

As in all stages of life, studies show that people who age well work proactively to keep up their physical, mental, emotional and social health. There are several proven ways to keep on track with aging.

Stay active. Keep your muscles and joints strong and flexible by continuing to exercise and move your body. Sign up for classes at a local gym, work with a personal trainer or work out with a friend. This can help you to stay accountable and engaged because you are not exercising alone. It can also expose you to a wider variety of exercises and activities – and teach you how to safely execute different movements. If you’re not ready to go back in person yet, sign up for virtual classes or follow along with videos online.

Planning fun outings is also a great way to stay active. Go for a hike, walk around the outlets or mall, or take a walking tour of a historical site. Join up with friends and go to the zoo or a botanical garden. There will be plenty to look at and do as you get in your steps.

Eat a healthy diet. Studies show that about 75 percent of how we feel on any given day is dependent on what we put in our mouths. Slowing appetites and simple “food fatigue” are common problems as we age. Try to remain engaged with a great diet. Plant an herb garden – even if it is just a small pot. It is exciting to watch everything bloom and then eat what you have grown. Go online and explore new recipes



SUSAN ODERWALD

and try things you have never eaten before from your local farmers’ market.

It can also be fun to involve friends. Get everyone together to share your favorite recipes. Once you have cooked, everyone can split the leftovers so you are not eating the same thing all week. You will be able to socialize and have a variety of foods to change things up.

Be social. Mental health also plays an important role in healthy aging. Make it a point to schedule get-togethers with friends and family, join clubs, volunteer and stay connected. This helps to prevent loneliness and isolation, which can take a toll on your wellbeing.

Get recommended health screenings. Be

proactive when it comes to your health by getting recommended screenings. Not only can it catch potential issues early on, but it can also give you greater peace of mind. Knowing that you are taking care of your body can boost your mental health as well. Talk to your doctor about which screenings are right for you.

Stay positive. Focus on the good things in life. Find the silver linings and make the most of each day. When you change your thinking, it can change how you approach life and give every day greater purpose. Positive thinking can also help ward off depression.

Susan Oderwald is care director at the Always Best Care Senior Services Milford Office. She can be reached at Soderwald@abc-seniors.com or 203-877-1377.

Milford Chamber Holds Business After Hours At Grassy Hill



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a business after hours event in October at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. Photo by Gregory Geiger.



Justice of the Peace Karen Zaneski, Michelle Martin of Trinity Point Wealth, Matt Gallagher of Trinity Point Wealth and Diana Nytko of CT Property Appraisers. Photo by Gregory Geiger.



Diana Nytko of CT Property Appraisers speaks with Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce President Michael Moses. Photo by Gregory Geiger.

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Ponder This

My Bout With The Fear Of Missing Out

Much attention has been given lately to the enormous power of technology companies and their respective media platforms.

Facebook has been in the press due to congressional hearings about the significant control that algorithms play in our lives. The Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security hearings were revealing and alarming. Whistleblower testimony indicated that Instagram, owned by Facebook, failed to disclose potential harmful effects and continued policies without modification.

These concerns about social media influences on young people remained on my mind as I learned about the phenomenon called fear of missing out, or FOMO, referring to the perception that others on social media are enjoying life, having more fun and living better lives. Social media creates a platform for comparison; young users are particularly prone to feel insecure and anxious in response.

Did I get my comeuppance. It is not just young, insecure users who are affected. My recent experience with FOMO is a stunning and humbling example of the very seductive power that social media can have on our behavior.

I recently sent a snail-mail birthday card to a dear friend. In addition, I called on the

phone to sing happy birthday across the miles. We share a correspondence of cards for special occasions in addition to our engagement on social media. Later in the day, I viewed all the happy birthday wishes on her Facebook page and found myself posting additional thoughts just because of the FOMO. This is powerful stuff.

I use the term "found myself" as if I were not in charge. The forces made me do it. The kind interpretation of my behavior is that I wanted to join her friends and neighbors in another birthday greeting. The real and more humiliating truth is that I had FOMO. If I, as a seasoned adult, could be directed to engage in an action that I really didn't wish or need to do, what chance has a middle school, tween, teen or young adult have?

People are so eager to have and keep friends that FOMO is difficult to resist. Surely, my self-esteem should be more anchored by age and circumstance so as not to compel me to engage neighbors just so that they understood that I counted as a friend. My FOMO made me care that strangers should know of our close friendship. Otherwise I would not have circled back to post another



ELLEN RUSSELL
BEATTY

greeting.

Wow, social media competition is powerful.

Another tale of social media involves a friend from many years ago. Had we not moved to separate cities, busily rearing families and developing careers, we would probably still be active friends. Years ago, before social media, I would not have known of her children, travels and accomplishments. The joy of social media has enabled us to reconnect on Facebook with pleasant memories of our childhood and subsequent high school activities together.

The FOMO reemerged when I once again found myself liking photos on Instagram of my long-ago friend's grandchildren. I was exchanging commentary with her adult son, whom I had never met, about his lovely family. This was a pleasant, if not heartwarming, experience. But nevertheless it entailed a cost. Perhaps I missed an opportunity to spend real time, connecting in person, with a nearby family member since social media had taken so much of my time and attention.

How compelling and mindless my engagement was. Age and gender do not protect us; early research about social media

indicates that men, women and seniors may become beholden to FOMO as well. It can be a self-perpetuating cycle fueled by comparing everyday lives with special occasions of others. We, as human beings, have only a finite amount of time, energy and capacity, so we must choose our engagements well.

Advantages and benefits abound from the use of social media. But we must also be aware of risks. The literature is abundant with strategies to seek out personal connections and to help our young people do so. One exceptional suggestion is to switch from public approval to personal appreciation and gratitude for a satisfying life. As genuine people, who care about each other and the future, we can make certain to help each other to do so.

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.

Local Scouts Ramping Up Holiday Activities

Pack 922 will be out looking for those who would like a decorated wreath, poinsettia or Oronoque pies for the holidays starting the first week of November. Customers can contact Jessica. Zamachaj@gmail.com for the ordering link.

The pack will also be at High Plains Community Center selling decorated wreaths on Nov. 20 from 10 p.m. to 3 p.m.; presales can also be picked up at that time.

The scouts will also be going around neighborhoods in the coming weeks to collect food for the Orange Food Bank.

Milford Rec Hiring Lifeguards, Building Supervisors

The Milford Recreation Department is interviewing for its certified lifeguard talent pool for the 2022 season. This contract position runs from May to August.

Interested individuals can call Recreation Supervisor Rich Minnix at 203-783-3387 or email rminnix@milfordct.gov.

The organization is also interviewing for evening building supervisors at several locations throughout the city.

Interested individuals can call Pat Austin at 203-783-3390.

Information about the department's programs is available at milfordrecreation.com.



Scouts made custom paper airplanes and performed distance and accuracy stunts at a recent pack meeting. Photo courtesy of Pack 922.



Pack 922 scouts recently hiked at Southford Falls State Park in Southbury. Photo courtesy of Pack 922.

JAMIE HULLEY
ARTS FOUNDATION

AN
AFTERNOON
for the ARTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

presenting
carole's
KINGS

Featuring the music of BEAUTIFUL

1 pm raffle preview & reception | 2 pm performance
Brady Center for the Performing Arts, Amity High School, Woodbridge CT
Tickets: \$45 @ www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org or via QR:

For information contact the Foundation at 203-891-8869 or jamieart@snet.net
CDC guidelines for indoor events at the time of the gala will be in effect.
Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance to assist with the planning of safety protocols.

a 501(c)3 non-profit organization - 100% of the proceeds will be used for scholarships and educational programs

Special Section: Election 2021

The *Milford-Orange Times* is continuing its election-year tradition of asking the candidates to respond to questions about what they would do for the residents of Milford and Orange if voters elect them. This year we asked the mayoral and first selectman candidates the following question: *What is your vision for the future of Milford/Orange, and what specific steps will you take to make that vision a reality?* This special section features the responses from the candidates, as well as profiles provided by all the candidates for local offices.

Benjamin Blake (D) - Milford Mayor



Those who know me know that Milford has always held a very important place in my heart – it's part of me and who I am. Milford has everything anyone could ever want – a beautiful coastline, a vibrant downtown, terrific schools and more. I had the great priv-

ilege of growing up in this city and I want my kids (and all our community's children) to know the same Milford I knew growing up – the Milford I know today – the Milford I know we can realize tomorrow. Simply, this is my vision for Milford and with the continued support of the community, our future is bright.

As mayor, I've led our city with a steady hand and a firm belief that we can provide better city services, more efficiently, more cost effectively. We've sought out inefficiencies and streamlined processes and procedures to ensure we deliver better, faster and cheaper.

Milford taxpayers have now experienced back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back tax cuts – six consecutive decreases in the amount of local taxes due; no other town in the state can boast this experience – ever.

Over the past two years, business continues to skyrocket as we outpace all other Connecticut towns and cities. This past year alone, we've had 481 new businesses make Milford home. A tidal wave of economic de-

velopment has helped grow our tax base to over \$6.7 billion; we now have the largest grand list in New Haven County and one of the top in the state. All of this expansion has benefited Milford's bottom line, supporting the overall budget.

In addition to tax cuts, Milford has done much to improve our community. We have made great efforts to restructure operations that maximize the effectiveness of local government. Our cost-conscious philosophy has not only saved the city money but enhanced the services we provide our citizens. It is through these types of strategies that we are financially able to take on projects that make our community more attractive. From paving more miles of street than ever before to making Milford a more walk-able and bike-able town to building new world-class recreational facilities to creating more downtown parking, we have been able to do more and invest more in improvements that make Milford more livable.

Even in these pandemic times, Milford continues to thrive. Indeed, we are proud

of Milford's accomplishments: a tax rate that is fair with excellent services; pristine parks, beaches and open spaces that enhance the quality of life for all; and a progressive optimism that turns potential problems into possibilities while pushing us all to work for a better, stronger, more innovative community.

As we continue along this trajectory, we are also sure to safeguard the traditions, heritage, history and attributes that make Milford the Small City with a Big Heart.

During my time as mayor, we've been through much together. We've come together as a community to face challenges and celebrate successes. I'm proud of the way the people of this city stand together, encourage each other and support one another. To be a part of this very special Milford family is an honor. As I've said before, in both good times and bad, the position of Milford mayor is, without a doubt, the best job on Earth.

Peter Berube (R) - Milford Mayor



My vision for Milford is to create long-term plans, specifically a 10-, 15- or 20-year outlook and to prioritize Milford's finances by implementing sound fiscal policies.

It must be a priority to reduce deficits in a sustainable way in order to continue the necessary growth of the city. I would look at

every city department and assess where we can create savings and hold all department heads accountable to the residents of Milford for the services provided.

It is time to look at staffing and fill all needed positions to maintain a protective and secure environment. Recognizing employee(s) who may suggest a plan to reduce costs gives every employee a sense of ownership and a reason to work more productively.

Our police, fire and public works facilities as well as our equipment are rapidly aging. We must review all assets to determine the feasibility of repair or replace. This could be a long-term public safety investment plan.

The overdevelopment of parcels of land destroys nature and wildlife and changes the character of our unique neighborhoods. We must look at ways to slow this development down. I see the need to reach out to owners of vacant buildings and properties for incentives to remodel or rebuild to create small business growth and a sustainable tax base.

Budgeting: Justify every budget request through vigorous questioning to completely understand the need. We will put projects

outside of the purview of city employees out to bid. We must also create a plan to repay the city pension, which has been underfunded for the past six years.

Operations: Evaluate how Milford conducts business and review all business processes and operational efficiencies.

Negotiations: Review union contracts ensuring they do not expire (i.e., Public Works is currently three-and-a-half years without a contract). Meet with arbitrators to work out the contracts in the best interest of the city and union employees.

Analysis: Monthly review of revenue and expenditures by aldermen according to budget and, if necessary, adjust as needed.

Capital Improvement Plan: This should include a long-term plan for infrastructure; consider the facility needs for police, fire and public works and develop a plan for remodeling vs. new buildings. We should consider the growing population in our city and plan for the growth needed to adequately maintain public services.

Education: A balanced Board of Education should include representation of citi-

zens living in our city. The Board should be transparent in their review of practices, procedures and of utmost concern, instruction. Parents must be informed of recommended changes and the board should always encourage and welcome dialogue without censorship.

Economic Development: Strong economic development is imperative to maintain a stable tax base and provide a good quality of life for our citizens. We must begin to designate areas within the city appropriate for housing or business development and it should always be a priority to create a business-friendly environment.

Municipal Boards: It is evident that the public requests the ability to ask questions of board members at public meetings; therefore, public comment should be a required item on every meeting agenda.

Terms of Office/Board Composition: Mayor, four-year term; city clerk should not be an elected position; Board of Education and Planning & Zoning should have minority party representation.

Connor Deane (D) - Orange First Selectman



I am a proud son of Orange, with over 60 years of strong family roots. I attended the Orange and Amity schools, graduating from Amity High School. In 2010, I left Orange for a brief hiatus to attend the University of Cincinnati, where I earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts. Upon graduating in 2014, I founded my own company, Broadway Method Academy, which trains young people in musical theater.

As a small business owner, I understand the importance of the bottom line. I know the importance of delivering expected services to my customers. My customers have an expectation of the quality of product they receive. Like many other business owners, I spend a lot of my time balancing and forecasting, always conscious of each financial decision. As I've said before, it's vital to any organization that wishes to be successful.

As your first selectman, I will ensure that the town delivers up to the expectation of those paying the bill – namely you, the taxpayers. Accountability, fiscal responsibility, clear communication are pillars of success. I look forward to being able to bring that foundation to the town of Orange.

It's quite obvious that Orange, along with the rest of the world, is coming out of one of the worst health crises in modern history. The job of first selectman is not ceremonial or part time. You need to be hands-on and fully accountable. However, he or she is not a one-man show. I have stressed the importance of collaboration over the course of this campaign. It's something that I believe is truly needed for success.

I will utilize that approach and expect that the taxpayers will hold me to that higher

standard. I will collaborate with Dr. Amir Mohammed, our trusted public health director. I will consult Chief Robert Gagne, who runs one of the most respected police forces in our state. I will listen to residents, who deserve to be heard and included. I've said before and I'll say it again, my door will be open. Our team will work to create a professional, respectful and collaborative Orange.

Under a Deane administration, the town of Orange will seize the opportunity to move forward and catapult into the future: a future that is bright, where Orange is again an affordable and desirable place to raise children and retire. This November, we have an opportunity to raise the bar, to exceed expectations and move Orange forward. I ask for your vote as you head to the polls on Nov. 2 and thank you for your support.

Jim Zeoli (R) - Orange First Selectman



peals to many and why Orange is chosen as the spot on the map to call home. The Orange elementary schools prepare our students to move on to the Amity system that has been highly rated and offers students many directions with arts and science to athletics and mechanics. There are expanded college-level programs and accessibility to outplacement programs of special interest to some.

The success of our town is reflected in the comfort and success of our families. The cost of education for the town of Orange is 67 percent of the total town budget, so while we recognize education is not cheap, I think each of us understands the value our students are receiving.

I have worked diligently to maintain a reasonable quality of life in Orange while also working to maintain the character of the town we value. While some value the open spaces of the town more than others, the residents have proven time and time again through referendum votes that it is an important part of the fabric of our community. The amount of open space in town has doubled under my administration and will continue to advance when opportunity knocks.

The fiscal health that Orange maintains is the reason we are able to maintain and improve the infrastructure of the town, which has been and continues to be a number one priority. When Peck Place had frozen pipes, the town was able to step up immediately to solve the problem and fund the rebuild. The town is able to do \$1.7 million in road repairs this year without bonding money, and I plan on following the same process next year. This policy was taught to me by a great mentor, Anthony Nastro, who left my side far

too soon, but taught me much about municipal finance.

The town of Orange has always been a very diverse community with so many talented individuals offering help. Volunteers came up with the plan to create the Old Tavern recreation area and it has been pushed by other volunteers over the years. Fred P. Wolfe Park started as a vision that a committee of volunteers put forth and is continuing to expand as I pen this essay. The new playground will be a welcome addition to the park for families to enjoy, being brought to you by another group of volunteers. This has been in my vision for the future.

The newly built tennis/pickleball courts at High Plains was a vision that took three years but came out great! The town is offering so many programs to you, be it swimming for our littlest swimmers, book clubs, lunch or bocce and much more as the future becomes today.

There seem to be differences between myself and my opponent that can only be solved with time. I served on the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, contract school bus service to the Orange elementary and Amity school systems. I have volunteered since its start and been a co-chair of the Orange Country Fair. I was an elected member of the Board of Selectmen for six years prior to becoming first selectman.

I served on the State of Connecticut's Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Advisory Board for nine years, and seven as its chair. I served on the legislative panel to look at requirements of expanding police education and training requirements.

I am an active member of the South-Cen-

tral Council of Governments, which is 15 communities. I have filled several positions on the board, ultimately chairman and currently as secretary. This is a group that all listen to each other and work to solve common problems and listen to new innovations for our communities.

I have guided the town through several bond reviews both with Standard and Poor's and Moody's. The town was able to receive and maintain a AAA bond rating for more than 10 years now. This is based on the financial structure, operations and solvency of the town.

My opponent has no background in these areas and acknowledged that in debate two when questioned that he has no municipal experience.

I have been part of and participated in multiple boards and commissions in town before becoming first selectman.

My opponent has not.

I have worked and struggled with my own business in the town of Orange for almost 40 years.

My opponent hangs his hat on his grandfather and other family members who have run family businesses in town for 50 years. That's great, but those are not his business.

I ask you, if you moved to Orange recently, why? The team that I stand by has made Orange the place you have decided to call home. Those of you who have known me and my family for years or at least through my years as first selectman, I hope you hold confidence in me and wish the town of Orange to continue with the vision I have proven to have, and we all enjoy Orange together!

Vote row B and support the Z'21 Team!

Milford-Orange Probate Judge

Ben Gettinger (D)



Ben Gettinger is an experienced family law attorney and community leader running for Probate Judge in Milford and Orange. He has dedicated his legal career to helping families and children in need, and he wants to become Probate Judge to continue his work on a larger platform.

As an attorney, Ben has always been a fighter for children and families, and he has brought

that fight to Probate Courts across Connecticut. He has worked to successfully protect abused children and get them safely placed with family members, and has provided free legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence.

Beyond his deep legal experience, Ben has been actively involved in our community for years. He currently serves as a Member of Milford Council of Aging, Member of Milford Board of Finance, Trustee for the Boys and Girls Club of Milford, and on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.

As an attorney, Ben has found his work protecting children and families the most rewarding, which is why he believes he is the best candidate to serve as your next Probate Judge.

He will: Protect the interests of the children and families of Milford and Orange; run the court smoothly and efficiently to quickly and humanely resolve your cases; ensure the court is non-partisan, non-political, and a fair and simple process for everyone; always remember that it is your court, and the Probate Judge works for you.

Win Smith III (D)



Win Smith is and has always been devoted to the people of Milford and Orange. As Probate Judge, Win Smith will preserve the exceptional quality of work and care exhibited by Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas during her tenure as the Milford-Orange Probate Judge.

Win Smith will continue to protect and preserve the rights and interests of families, children, seniors and all others that have probate

matters in Milford and Orange, as he has done throughout his legal career.

Win will focus on transparency, fairness, and equality in every case that comes before the court.

With trusted experience and an emphasis on community values, Win will bring his leadership and experience to the Milford-Orange Probate Court to ensure that all the citizens of Milford and Orange have a Judge from their community that leads with honesty and integrity.

Over the years, Win has committed himself to the service of Milford, as a current member of the Board of Aldermen and a previous member of the Board of Assessment Appeals. Win has further been involved in many community organizations across Milford and Orange including Milford Rotary, Free Masons (Ansantawae Lodge No. 89), Boys and Girls Club, and many others. Win has served his community in a number of different capacities which truly exhibits his steadfast commitment to the communities of Milford and Orange.

Milford Democratic Candidates

MAYOR



Ben Blake

In November 2011, at age 33, Ben Blake was elected the 10th mayor of Milford. He previously served eight years as a member of the Board of Aldermen, including terms as Minority Leader and as Chairman.

Blake was born in Milford and his parents, grandparents, and even a generation before that made Milford their home. He grew up riding Bus "K" to Calf Pen Meadow Elementary and playing sports at Foran High School. He attended the University of Richmond in Virginia where he studied history and government. While in Virginia, Blake taught civics to high school juniors and seniors. He then returned to Connecticut, attended law school at Quinnipiac University, and from 2004 through 2011 practiced law on the beautiful downtown green.

As mayor, Blake has enacted a series of cost cutting initiatives and streamlined city operations to make Milford government more effective and efficient. He has implemented comprehensive conservation improvements within city buildings and infrastructure that have yielded significant energy savings for taxpayers. Most notably, Blake has led Milford through Storm Sandy and Blizzard Nemo, and has received widespread praise and appreciation for his management during two of the worst natural disasters in the city's history.

When not conducting Milford business, Blake and his wife, Sandy, delight in raising their three children, Carter, Caroline and Tucker behind the library – in walking distance to Milford's beaches, harbor, downtown, and the city's other fantastic amenities.

CITY CLERK



Karen Fortunati

In my first term as city clerk, I have created online processes that make our services more user-friendly, accessible and efficient. The City Clerk's Office is the hub of local government and I'm proud that it's a warm and welcoming place that provides the exceptional service that residents deserve.

I graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and have a master's degree in American Studies from Trinity College. I am a former prosecutor specializing in narcotics and juvenile offenders as well as an attorney specializing in litigation. I am also an author of an award-winning young adult novel, *The Weight of Zero*.

I love Milford and have served as co-chair of the Milford Suffrage Centennial Commission, chair of the Recycling Task Force, Bridges Board of Directors, interim president Downtown Milford Business Association and writer for the Friends of the Milford Library.

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 1ST DISTRICT (Northwestern part of Milford, bordering the Housatonic River and the town of Orange)

PLANNING & ZONING

Etan Hirsch

Etan Hirsch, running for Board of Planning & Zoning, is committed to the continued development of our small city with a big heart.



His knowledge and experience in the law will be an asset to furthering our community's economic viability.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Matt Arciuolo



Matt Arciuolo is a small business owner and lifelong resident of Milford. Matt's family has called Milford home since their immigration from Italy 100 years ago. He is the fourth-generation owner of Arciuolo's Shoes on the city green. Matt cares deeply about his hometown and is excited for the opportunity to give back to the community that has done so much for his family. He is a passionate advocate for equal opportunities and rights for Milford residents.

Michelle Parente



Michelle Parente, running for re-election to the Board of Aldermen, is a passionate advocate for youth and women's issues. She has held substantial positions as treasurer, finance director, board member, and commissioner for various groups in California, Colorado, and here in Connecticut, like the Get in Touch Foundation, devoted to empowering women of all ages. Michelle is the proud parent of a current Milford Public Schools student.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gary Peluchette



Gary Peluchette is a lifelong public education advocate. A public school teacher for more than three decades, he knows the importance of a Board of Education that understands the needs of all stakeholders. Recently retired, Gary is eager to continue giving back to our schools and share his extensive experience with the amazing community we all love.

Betsy Ratner



Betsy Ratner, a retired Milford Public School teacher, is running for re-election to the Board of Education to continue our schools' impressive record of high-quality instruction and their emphasis on social and emotional learning. Betsy holds four degrees in education, and has been nationally recognized in the field.

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 2ND DISTRICT (Just west of downtown, and on either side of the Wilber Cross in the north.)

PLANNING & ZONING

James Kader



James Kader is running for re-election to the Board of Planning & Zoning. James, an information technology professional, is a lifelong Milford resident, and a product of our excellent public school system. James is always working to keep Milford better than ever.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Robert Pacelli, Jr.



Robert Pacelli, Jr., is a small business owner, husband, and father who volunteers his time coaching Milford Little League and Milford Pop Warner. A member of Milford's Harbor Management Commission, Robert is proud of our beautiful city and will always be there to serve the community.

Ward Willis



Ward Willis is running to return to the Board of Aldermen. He has always fought against overdevelopment to protect the New England charm of Milford, and believes passionately in preserving and protecting our beautiful beaches.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meghan Doyle



Meghan Doyle is running for the seat she currently holds by appointment on the Milford Board of Education. A graduate of Milford Public Schools, Meghan is currently earning her JD from the Quinnipiac University School of Law. Meghan recognizes the superb education she received in the Milford school system and wants to ensure that our community continues to provide an excellent education for our students.

Susan Glennon



Susan Glennon, who serves as Chair of the Board of Education, is running for re-election and wants to continue Milford Public Schools' record of sustained excellence. A mom of three and a Board Member for nearly a decade, Susan is a small business owner and Licensed Early Childhood Professional of more than 25 years.

"I am very proud of Milford's school system and what my colleagues on the board and I have accomplished. I am also grateful for the support of the community. The past twenty months have been difficult for everyone, and we must now concentrate on the teaching and learning gaps caused by the pandemic. If re-elected I will continue to advocate for addressing the needs of the whole child. I want to help the district build on its strengths, make improvements where necessary and keep the focus on high quality instruction that meets the needs of every student."

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 3RD DISTRICT (Southwestern area of Milford, bordering on the Housatonic, including Devon and Walnut Beach)



PLANNING & ZONING

Jim Quish

Jim Quish has spent his career in the hazardous materials abatement space with roots in a broad-brush stroke of building/facilities related reconstruction. As a small business entrepreneur Jim bootstrapped two startups; Integrated Building Services and Integrated Building Solutions. The former has a focus on hazardous materials abatement and construction and the latter focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Jim is the current chair of the Milford Planning and Zoning Board and Chair of both the Regulation Subcommittee and the Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee. Jim is a former member of South-Central Regional Council of Governments Commission as well as a former member of the Milford Board of Education and the Milford Permanent School Facilities Committee. Jim has collaborated on numerous urban redevelopment proposals including New London Waterfront, Milford TOCD, Bridgeport Brownfields Redevelopment, Wall Street Theater Redevelopment, Shakespeare Theater Redevelopment and West Haven's Edgar Stiles School Redevelopment.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN



Marty Hardiman

Marty Hardiman is grateful to have had the privilege of serving Milford for the last 45 years. In his 18 years as an Alderman, he's been committed to keeping our city safe while keeping taxes down and maintaining our great quality of life.



Brett Broesder

Brett Broesder is running for Alder to ensure that economic development in Milford creates jobs while also protecting our vibrant neighborhoods and historical roots. A Milford-based small business owner, Brett knows that our city needs leaders who can get the job done by helping small businesses, keeping taxes low, and making sure our streets are safe and clean."

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Holly Mulrenan

Holly Mulrenan, running for Board of Education, has a passion for learning and a deep respect and sense of pride for Milford's school system. She wants to support the district's continuing record of achievement and ensure that board members, administrators, faculty, staff, and families continue to work in partnership in delivering a quality education to the children of Milford.



Una Petroske

Una Petroske has lived in Milford for most of her adult life and is passionate about Milford's education system and the critical role it plays in our community. Una, who holds a BS in Economics from Southern Connecticut State, first became a member of the Board of Education in September 2018, and has enthusiastically worked with school administrators toward continued improvement in our schools.

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 4TH DISTRICT (Southeastern part of Milford, bordering West Haven. Includes Woodmont, Morningside, Point Beach, and Hillside.)

PLANNING & ZONING



Brian Kaligian

Brian Kaligian is running for re-election to the Board of Planning & Zoning, on which he's served for the past four years. A graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Bridgeport School of Law, Brian has had a busy law practice in Milford for over 35 years, and is running to continue the Board's record of responsible growth.

Milford Democratic/Republican Candidates

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Phil Vetro



Phil Vetro is chairman of the Board of Aldermen and is seeking his ninth term on that Board. He is a Marine Corps Veteran who served two tours during the Vietnam War and for 44 years has called Milford home. For 30 years, he's given his time to the Point Beach Volunteer Fire Service and currently serves on the Executive Board of the United Way of Milford.

John Moffitt



John Moffitt is proud of Milford. As a business owner and community volunteer he wants to contribute his ideas and experiences to help make Milford an even better place to live. A veteran of the United States Air Force, John is deeply grateful to Milford for all the opportunities it's offered him, and is running to give back to the city he loves.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rita Hennessey



Rita Hennessey is a 20-year Milford resident who graduated from Smith College and earned Masters' degrees from CCSU and SCSU. She is a dedicated public school teacher with 24 years of experience who believes that every child can learn. She is taking a break from the classroom to earn a STEM Leadership certificate.

Rita originally ran for Board of Education in 2017 because she wants to ensure that Students' IDEA Act and Title IX Act rights remain protected. She wants to continue the work that Dr. Cutaita and the Board started including: the HQI (High Quality Instruction) and commitment to professional learning for staff; the Vision of the Learner - what do we want our youth to know, understand and be able to execute when they graduate; the 10-year, rolling school maintenance plan to help manage budget while keeping our schools safe and functioning; and the 10-year rolling curriculum schedule to keep information/materials relevant and allow better budgetary planning.

Cindy Wolfe Boynton



A college professor and community activist who believes that the success of our communities depends on the success of our children, Cindy Wolfe Boynton is proud to be running for re-election to the Milford Board of Education. Like her now-adult sons Teddy and Steven, Cindy grew up in Milford and graduated from Milford public schools. She is committed to seeing that Milford provides nothing but the highest-quality education, building on its strengths and successes, and ensuring that every child receives the opportunities needed to reach his or her fullest potential.

A past Orchard Hills PTA president and lifelong community volunteer, Cindy is committed to keeping Milford a forward-thinking school district where the needs of each child is met. "School is where children discover their talents, abilities, and who they want to be. For some that means going to college, for others pursuing a trade or entering the military. Every child deserves a limitless future and the chance to achieve it. I want to help make sure this is what Milford Public Schools provide."

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 5TH DISTRICT (Southcentral area of Milford, Includes downtown, Melba Beach, Gulf Beach, and most residences south of the Post Road.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Carl Moore



The current vice-chair of the Planning & Zoning Board, Carl Moore has been a resident of Milford since 2011. As a long-time resident, Carl is known for always seeking public input on issues before the Board. Carl has been a positive force on Planning & Zoning, and while serving has maintained his consistent commitment to volunteering in our community.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Ellen Russell Beatty



I have been blessed in life with a wonderful husband, three successful sons, four beautiful grandchildren and a career that has included myriad opportunities to serve and to learn.

I served as the first woman Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), I believe my proven track record in fiscal management, strategic planning and consensus building has served me well. I have used

these skills to help reduce costs and keep taxes low during three terms as an Alder in Milford.

My goal is to continue utilize my extensive professional background and experience to help Milford. I am an advocate in creating policies that help women and families to work safely, have access to quality healthcare and safe and effective schools, and to live in safe, environmentally healthy neighborhoods. As a tenured professor of nursing and a current Faculty Emerita of Public Health I have been an advocate for health care and education as critical investments for thriving communities.

I am action-oriented and like to solve problems to overcome community challenges. As an elected representative, I listen, learn, share and educate for the best interests of my constituents. I take the obligation to be just, benevolent, and honest very seriously. I look forward to continue working with the people of Milford to remain an excellent place to live, play, work and run a business.

Greg Harla



Business.

Greg Harla, running for re-election to the Board of Aldermen, has called Milford home for nearly 30 years. Greg is an entrepreneur and owner of an area construction equipment company. He is passionate about helping & mentoring our next generation to develop entrepreneur skills and serves as a member of the UNH Entrepreneurship Board & part-time professor for the School of

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adam De Young



Adam De Young is a proud member of the Milford Board of Education. During his four years on the Board he has worked to improve the transparency of the budgeting process, supported the implementation of the Chromebook 1:1 program to ensure access to technology for all of Milford's kids, fostered World Language programs in both elementary and middle schools, and been a strong

advocate for children and families. Adam is a small business owner and has been proud to call Milford home for 13 years with his wife and twin nine-year-old daughters. "I care deeply about the education of all our kids here in Milford. I believe that the direction that the current Board and administration have taken the district in is one that will pay dividends for all students in years to come."

Emily McDonough Souza



through her many community-based volunteer efforts.

A lifelong Milford resident and graduate of Milford Public Schools, Emily McDonough Souza is running for re-election to the Board of Education. She wants to continue advancing a high-quality instructional model for our students that not only meets their intellectual needs, but their social and emotional needs as well. Emily is a practicing attorney who loves giving back to her hometown

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

MAYOR

Peter Berube



Peter Berube is a facility specialist at Milford Bank and has lived in the city for almost a decade. His connection to Milford dates back to 2005, though, when he started as general manager at the Uno Pizzeria & Grill.

Today he is active in the city, serving on the executive board of The Boys & Girls Club, and as a member of the Milford Elks, VFW Post 7788, Disabled American Veterans and the Walnut Beach Association. He coordinates the Milford Moves for Veterans for Milford Bank, an annual 5K run/walk that raises money for local veteran groups.

Berube was born in Waterbury and grew up in Watertown as the youngest of seven children. He graduated Watertown High School in 1988 and entered the US Navy in 1990, where he served until the end of 1999. During that time he was stationed in Groton and served aboard the USS Albuquerque as a mess management specialist during the Gulf War.

In 1993 he was selected to serve at the White House as a Navy chef, cooking and serving for the president and his staff and traveling all over the world. He met five presidents while serving: Bill Clinton, George Bush, Sr., Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon.

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 1ST DISTRICT (Northwestern part of Milford, bordering the Housatonic River and the town of Orange)

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Tony Giannattasio



Tony, a local business owner, is a passionate and involved member of the community. He has two children who have graduated from the Milford Public School system. Tony has made essential contributions during his time serving on the Board of Alderman for past 14 years in Milford. He is eager to continue to serve the community in this capacity.

Jay Tranquilli



Are you an incumbent? (If yes, how many years in office): Yes - 4 years on BOA

Current job: Owner, Milford Home Renovations
Volunteering background, if any: Military Birthday Wishes; Trina and Friends Dog Rescue
Previous offices held: Board of Education

What are the major issues/changes you are focused on if elected? Keeping taxes low, bring more local businesses to Milford, and help to make sure our education system gets the funding it needs to improve and be the best it can be.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Andy Fowler



Andy has successfully served on the board of Education since 2019. He went through the milford school district and graduated from Jonathan Law as Valedictorian in 2011. The city has appreciated his input and it is clear is he an essential participant on board of Education.

Wally Hauck



Dr. Wally Hauck and his wife Lori have lived in Milford for 21 years. Their daughter attended Mathewson School. As a professional consultant he is an expert catalyst for positive change. For 26 years, Wally has helped over 200 organizations to improve their performance results.

Wally's leadership skills and passionate commitment to assure every child has an opportunity to reach their full potential makes him an excellent candidate for the Board of Education.

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 2ND DISTRICT (Just west of downtown, and on either side of the Wilber Cross in the north.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Bob Tschilske



Bob has lived in Milford for 34 years. He is looking forward to being able to serve the community, and help to preserve the character that he has enjoyed since moving here. His professional experience has provided him a level of critical thinking and analytical skills that would be effective in this position. His biggest concern is the overdevelopment that we are seeing in Milford. When elected, his intention is to vigorously scrutinize all requests for variances from the current regulations, to determine the impact that they may have on the character of the community.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Scott Marlow



Are you an incumbent? (If yes, how many years in office): Yes 1 year
Current job: Project manager/superintendent for A.P. construction
Previous offices held: Board of Education, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning Board

What promoted you to run for office? I have always felt it important to give back, Milford is a great city and I have lived here for over 40 years and feel that volunteering to serve as an elected official is one way to give back. I think that through many years of serving the city in various elected and appointed offices that I bring a varied background that helps me to serve as an aldermen. What are the major issues/changes you are focused on if elected? major focuses would be taxes/spending, making sure that Milford is in a stable position for the future, development is another item that I would like to focus on, working with other boards and departments to make sure that there is planned/ controlled development throughout the city.

Milford Republican Candidates

Chris Goulden



Incumbent: No
Current job: Attorney, Larracuente & Goulden, 311 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, CT
Volunteering Background: Volunteered as Chairman of the House Committee for the Milford Elks, Earning the Honor of Elk of the Year
Education: B.S Political Science, University of Rhode Island; A.A., Paralegal Studies, University of Bridgeport; Juris

Doctorate, Quinnipiac College.

Previous Offices held: None

What prompted me to run for office: I was prompted to run when I realized that as a voter I did not know who my Aldermen were, what they were voting on and the results of those votes. There is such a lack of transparency among the Boards that something has to be done to instill faith in government. The people need to have access to the Board members, have a say at meetings and be able to hear how their elected Board members voted and why.

What are the major issues/changes you are focused on if elected: I would be focused on full transparency so all the voters will have a voice in government and those voices will be heard. There will be no more closed door votes. I am focused on fiscal responsibility so that our children and grandchildren are not saddled with incredible debt from reckless spending. I want our police, fire and rescue to have what they need as they put their lives on the line for us every day. Lastly, I am focused on helping our small businesses thrive instead of the overdevelopment that is taking place.

If you put your trust in me and give me your vote, you will never be disappointed. I will always be accessible to my constituency. Thank you.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mark Macchio



DOT-Metro-north Railroad, CDL With Hazmat And Tanker Endorsement, Ffl Certified, Master Plumber

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 3RD DISTRICT (Southwestern area of Milford, bordering on the Housatonic, including Devon and Walnut Beach)

PLANNING & ZONING

Steve Visconti



Steve Visconti was born and raised in Milford, CT and is currently raising his three children with his wife Rachel in Milford. With ten years of business management experience, Steve has the skills and passion to serve the town of Milford and to invest in its future. His strong roots and vision for the future of Milford make him an ideal candidate for planning and zoning.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Erik Smith



Are you an incumbent? I have not held any previous elected office.
Current job: I am currently a local, top-producing, Real Estate Agent. Before becoming a real estate agent, I had 14 years of experience as a marketing manager in the corporate environment, often managing million-dollar budgets.
Volunteering background, if any: I regularly make monetary donations to various community organizations, such as

Little League and the B&G Village.

Education: I received a Master of Business Administration from Fairfield University and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Quinnipiac University. Growing up, I attended Mathewson Grammar School, Harborside Middle School, and Jonathan Law High School.

Previous offices held: I have not held any previous elected office.

What prompted you to run for office?

I care deeply for people and the city of Milford. As a Real Estate Agent, I have spent my career working closely and talking with local families. I often sit down with them inside their homes, discussing their needs; and more often than not, the conversation turns to the high cost of living, their children's education, and the overdevelopment in our town. I believe Milford can do better in each of these areas.

I will be an advocate for lowering taxes, creating high-performing schools, attracting businesses to Milford, and protecting our beaches and open spaces. There is much to love about Milford, we must improve and protect what makes Milford so special.

What are the major issues/changes you are focused on if elected?

I will be focused on reducing our property tax mill rate. As a real estate agent, I have seen firsthand the increase in property values with this latest real estate boom. Some residents may not be aware of this, but Milford is scheduled for an upcoming reassessment value of our homes. With this latest boom, we are more than likely going to see an increase in the amount of which we pay in property taxes with this new assessment. Now is the perfect time for a much greater reduction in the mill rate, instead of the minuscule reductions we have seen over the last few years.

Michael Casey



Are you an incumbent? (If yes, how many years in office): No
Current job: Attorney/staff counsel
Volunteering background, if any: Milford Kiwanis, Board of Directors of Boys and Girls Club of Milford
Education: University of Connecticut, JD, BA
Previous offices held: Zoning Board of Appeals 2018 – present, Board of Aldermen 2013-2017, Planning and Zoning

2011-2013

What promoted you to run for office?

I want to empower all the people of Milford to have the best quality of life possible.

What are the major issues/changes you are focused on if elected?

I have a three-year old son and I want him to have all the opportunities and more that I had growing up in Milford. I'm concerned about the quality of Milford's education. I will advocate for the fundamentals and nurturing critical thinking in our children and not indoctrination. This alone can assure all students can have a chance to be successful and empower themselves. I'm concerned about safety. It seems that crime is on the rise both locally and statewide. You are not empowered unless you feel safe. Further, I want the board of aldermen to be clear and honest to the people in the decisions and regulations they are enacting. The people of Milford are not empowered if our public officials are not honest.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Renée Casey



Dr. Casey has aspired to be a pediatrician for as long as she could remember. This dream was, in large part, due to inspiration from her own pediatrician when she was a child. Her second love of teaching allowed her to spend time as a substitute teacher in the East Hartford public school while she pursued her medical studies. Her natural understanding of medicine, compassionate demeanor and love of children made her well-suited to

pursue her career in pediatrics.

William Legere



Are you an incumbent? (If yes, how many years in office): No
Current job: Doctoral Candidate Liberty University
Volunteering background, if any: Education: M. A. Sacred Heart University Education Secondary Social Studies B.A. Bennington College Education/Biology/Psychology
Previous offices held: None

If elected, what will be your primary focus – budget, curriculum, another topic? I will focus on the safety and security of all students in Milford schools first.

What is your stance on the recent calls by some for more input in the curriculum? Do you feel the curriculum is proper, any issues or changes needed in your mind?

Parents need to have input on all elements of the curriculum. Whether or not the curriculum is proper and appropriate for Milford is yet to be determined as transparency seems to be a big issue. Before a curriculum is fully implemented it should be viewed by all interested parties; Parents, teachers and educational experts need to be consulted and rigorously questioned before changes should be made. Your thoughts on the school budget – how it stands now for what is needed in the schools? Milford spends more per student than other more affluent towns but yet our results do not seem to correlate with the amount of money spent. I would begin bringing some accountability for poorly performing schools and holding departments and individuals accountable to the taxpayers and more importantly the students whom they are underserving.

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 4TH DISTRICT (Southeastern part of Milford, bordering West Haven. Includes Woodmont, Morningside, Point Beach, and Hillside.)

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Dan German



Dan is passionate about preserving Milford's charm and beauty and old town character. He is concerned with the overdevelopment, all the vacant commercial space on the post road, as well as the lack of transparency in the current mayor's office and is especially concerned with what is being taught in school today, funded by our tax dollars.

He supports: A common sense, honest, and transparent city budget; Small business owners; Health & Wellness (without that, nothing else matters); Common sense environmental and green initiatives.

Tara Galbo



Attorney Tara Galbo is a partner at Dey, Smith, Steele, LLC in Milford, with 20+ years of litigation experience. She is a fighter who will always stand for children and safety first, balance in government, and the fair and respectful exchange of ideas.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Raquel Hernandez Bonessi

Raquel is an award-winning educator and active community member. Her extensive experience in the education world and her passion to support students of all languages makes her a qualified candidate for the Board of Education.



Dolores Rieth Hannon

Dolores spent her summers in Milford as a child and decided to move to Milford as a permanent resident 46 years ago. Her 2 children and her husband attended the Milford Public School System. After many years of teaching, she became an administrator. Her extensive experience in the Milford Public Schools makes her a qualified candidate for the Board of Education.

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 5TH DISTRICT (Southcentral area of Milford, includes downtown, Melba Beach, Gulf Beach, and most residences south of the Post Road.)



PLANNING & ZONING

Rick Vizziello

Rick moved to Milford over 5 years ago and immediately got involved in the Milford Republican Town Committee, and has been a Member ever since. Without checks and balances in Government, how can we know it is fair? Currently there is a 10-0 majority on the Planning and Zoning board in favor of the Democrats. There are no checks and balances. If they want the project to receive approval, it does. He is all for keeping the residents of Milford happy with the right development for Milford, but many residents do NOT want overdevelopment. He believes that we need projects that will enhance Milford, not 25 apartments in a 1 acre piece of land. His passion is to keep Milford the "Small City with a Big Heart."



BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Ray Vitale

Ray has lived in Milford since 1991 and has always been highly involved in the community. He was an experienced and talented school administrator. Many highly successful individuals have graduated from the Milford Public Schools under his supervision. He has made significant contributions serving on the Board of Alderman for 14 years and is eager to continue to serve the community in this capacity.



Suzanne DiBiase

Sue is a life-long resident of Milford. Most of her immediate family resides in Milford as well. She is an active community member who truly loves the city of Milford.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Terri Smith

Terri Smith has lived in Milford for over 15 years. She is a passionate parent of 2 children who have attended 5 schools within the district and are currently enrolled at East Shore and Foran. Her experience within the community and with facility and budget management makes her an excellent candidate for the Board of Education.



Bill Bevan

Bill Bevan and his wife Cindy are life-long residents of Milford. Their 2 foster sons attended Calf Pen Meadow and Foran High School. As a previously elected Alderman of the 4th and 5th districts, Bill has been a staunch advocate for the people of Milford; supporting them in solving various issues, working with budgets and understanding the overall picture of how the Board of Education and the City is run. Bill believes in the importance of teaching our children how to think, not what to think. His desire is to see our children learn skills for success in their future. He has been successful in his many leadership roles because he is ethical, practical, detail oriented and researches issues thoroughly. His understanding of the issues of the day and his ability to work with parents and administrators to solve current education problems makes him an excellent candidate for the Board of Education.

Orange Democratic Candidates

FIRST SELECTMAN



Connor Deane

For nearly 30 years, Orange has been my home. This town has been an anchor in my life, a constant that has kept me grounded in times of great challenge, like this past year, and in times of celebration and joy.

Orange has a rich history that we embrace and a vibrant future that we look forward to. It's time for bold, new leadership as the next generation of leaders take their seat at the table.

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 announcing today my candidacy for First Selectman of the Town of Orange.

Since 1959, the Ferguson family has called Orange home. My grandparents, Eileen and Bill, raised 5 children here. They opened one of the first hockey stores in the state of Connecticut on the Boston Post Road. I learned a thing or two from my grandparents and in 2014 I founded my own organization, Broadway Method Academy. As a small business owner, I bring perseverance, grit and leadership skills. As a millennial, I bring an open mindset and fresh new ideas. As an Orange native, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve our incredible community.

Communication. Economic Growth. Sustainability. These will be the three driving forces of our campaign.

TOWN CLERK

Margaret Novicki



Margaret Novicki has an extensive background in public service and communications over a 30-year career.

She has been active in Orange politics since her retirement from the United Nations. She was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Selectmen in 2019 and also ran for First Selectman in 2017. As Selectman, she serves on the Emergency Management Advisory Council and its COVID subcommittee, and the Personnel Committee. From 2018-19, she was a member of the Community Services Commission.

Her last position at the UN was Director of Strategic Communications, leading its global communications campaigns and crisis communications. She worked for the United Nations at Headquarters in New York and in four African countries.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mitch Goldblatt



Mitch Goldblatt has served as an elected official for over 40 years, including as Constable, Plan and Zoning Commission Member, Selectman, and First Selectman.

Seeking his 15th term as a member of the Board of Selectmen, Mitch chairs the Orange Recycling Committee and serves on the Pension Board. He is the Guilford Director of Human Resources and an adjunct professor at the University of New Haven.

Haven.

Mitch graduated from Muhlenberg College and holds an MBA from The University of New Haven. An Orange resident for 61 years, Mitch is married with two children.

Charles Flynn



Charles Flynn, IV is completing his first term on the Orange Board of Education where he serves as Chairman of the Buildings, Grounds, and Security Subcommittee. He also serves on the town Fred Wolfe Park Playground Committee. Charles is a Social Studies Department Liaison at Fairfield Warde High School. He is a broker with Charles Flynn Real Estate. He holds a CAS, Educational Leadership from SCSU, an MS in History from SCSU and a BA, Boston College. He is a board member with Ryan's Rebels, fighting neuroblastoma.

Charles is married with three children and proud to be an Amity and Orange Elementary School parent.

Rosanna Cappetta



Rosanna Cappetta is a Public Defender with the State of Connecticut and an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Haven. She has a JD from Quinnipiac University School of Law and a BA, International Studies from Fairfield University.

A lifelong Orange resident, Rosanna attended Turkey Hill School and is an Amity High School Graduate. Rosanna is married and the mother of two children.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mark Moyher



Mark Moyher brings 35+ years of experience in the financial industry to the role of Tax Collector. His knowledge of financial software systems and compliance requirements has helped him earn several industry licenses. Currently VP and Head Trader for Wright Investors' Service, Mark's experience includes implementing systems for trading, portfolio management, and back-office operations. He attended Fairfield University, studying Accounting and Finance.

Mark's an active member of the Orange Recycling Committee, serving as Secretary and Treasurer. He volunteers at community events including Paper Shredding & Mattress Recycling Days and the Orange Country Fair. A lifelong CT resident, Mark has lived in Orange since 1998 with his wife, Ilene. He is an avid golfer, and member of the Grassy Hill Men's Golf Association.

BOARD OF FINANCE

PJ Shanley



For PJ Shanley, serving on the Board of Finance for the past 8 years has been an honor and a privilege. He has a background in corporate finance and 20+ years of experience as a financial advisor. He is a fiscally conservative Democrat, who has worked hard to help implement budgets that make sense for the entire town.

The Town of Orange holds a special place in his heart. He grew up here, met his wife and most of his close friends in Orange. He and his wife are raising a family here. His mother and mother-in-law still reside in this town.

Pat Sanders Romano



Pat Sanders Romano has been a Board of Finance Member since 2015. A skilled executive in financial and personnel management, she provides Orange a fresh, practical, and community-focused perspective in fiscal control and budget development.

Pat relocated to Orange in 2011 from Rye Brook (NY) where she was an elected Village Trustee, Police Commissioner, Planning Board member. She has 40+ years of experience in Healthcare Administration. She oversaw an annual budget of \$50+ million, and staff of 650.

Pat is a Board Member and Past President of Orange Lions.

Pat, and husband Jim, live in Fieldstone where they are active homeowners.

Kevin McNabola



Kevin looks forward to bringing a unique skillset of 19 years corporate and over 10 years of municipal Finance experience to the Board of Finance. Kevin is currently the Chief Financial Officer in the City of Meriden. He also worked as a Senior Finance Executive for both Bayer Pharmaceutical and General Electric before becoming the Business Manager for the Orange School District in 2010.

Kevin received his B.S. in Economics from Southern Connecticut State University and MBA/MPA from the University of New Haven. He is also a member of the Orange Fire Department and former Orange Little League Manager.

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION

Dan Fitzmaurice



Dan was born and raised in Milford and, after a few years living on the west coast, relocated to Orange with his young family in 2014. He supports local artists and cultural organizations as Executive Director at the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, loves hiking at Racebrook Tract, and is always willing to meet over a good cup of coffee. As a member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, he will prioritize policies that welcome racially diverse residents, support agriculture and open spaces, and meaningfully engage everyone in planning processes to shape the future of our community.

Mike Muttitt



Mike Muttitt was raised in Orange. He serves as President of the Interservice Clubs Committee of New Haven (Camp Cedarcrest), is a member of the Orange Government Access Television (OGAT), and New Haven Kiwanis. Mike served as a student member on OGAT and camera person.

A graduate of Amity, Mike has a BS, Information Technology from RIT and is currently the Manager of Network Operations for Securitas Security Services USA. While a resident of Monroe, Mike served on the Inland Wetlands Commission, including as chair and on the Charter Communications Cable Advisory Council Area 19 and as its Vice Chair.

Mike is married with two children and is a parishioner at Holy Infant Church.

ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jared Millbrandt



Jared Millbrandt is a Criminal Defense Attorney and Public Defender, State of Connecticut. He earned a JD, Western New England University School of Law and a BA, History, Nazareth College.

Jared is a member of the Orange Soccer Association and the Orange Democratic Town Committee serving as its Nominating Committee chair.

Jared is married with two children. His oldest just began at Mary L. Tracy and

he looks forward to being able to serve the town as a Board of Education member.

Carmen Anna Rodriguez



Carmen Ana Rodriguez, has lived in Orange for more than 29 years and is the proud parent of two adult children both graduates from Amity High School. She is a veteran educator with more than 37 years of experience in New Haven Public Schools where she served the families and their children with passion and commitment until her retirement in June 2020. Mrs. Rodriguez's career includes her experiences as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and a Supervisor for the English Learners. She graduated from American International College with a BS Degree in Teaching and completed her graduate degree at Fairfield University and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Elizabeth Tremper



Liz Tremper is a teacher in Hamden Public Schools K-8, as well as the point person for Leadership and Community Engagement, and the Hamden Education Association Union Representative, Human Relations Club Advisor, Diversity and Inclusion Grant Recipient, Rainbow Library Founder, Volunteer Tutor, and a PTA Member.

Liz holds a 6th Year Diploma, Educational Leadership, SCSU; MA, English, CT Teaching Certificate, SCSU; BA, English, University of Connecticut and a Cross Endorsement Library Media.

Liz is married with three children and a proud Orange Elementary School Parent.

AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Carla Eichler



Carla is a lifelong Orange resident, Amity graduate, and been a member of the Amity Board of Education since 2017. Carla earned a Master of Art Education at SCSU and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UConn. On the Amity Board of Education, she served on the Policy, Facilities and Curriculum Committees. Carla now chairs the Personnel Committee.

During her first term, she is proud to be part of the completion of the all-weather field and stadium project, improved building security, including an increase of security personnel, and the addition of social work services at the middle schools.

Carla and her husband, Jim, have two daughters who attend Amity and Orange schools.

Craig Lennon



Craig Lennon and his wife have two sons in the Amity/Orange school system. He is the Dean of Students at the University of Bridgeport. Craig earned my BA at Stonehill College and MS at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has served on the Junior Achievement Bridgeport Community Board since 2018 and have served as a youth soccer coach for several years. With over 20 years of experience in working in educational settings,

Craig will work hard to support and grow the excellent school system in Amity.

Patricia Post



Patty Compagnone-Post is a retired Professor of Biology, Albertus Magnus College. She managed a \$650,000 National Science Foundation grant, was a finalist for the CT Technology Council's Women of Innovation Award, a mentor with the Amity High School Science Research Program, and for the Senior Service Learning Program.

Patty holds a PhD, Biochemistry from University of Pittsburgh an MS, Molecular Biology from University of Pennsylvania, and a BS, Chemistry from Emmanuel College. A resident of Orange for 20 years, Patty is a member of the Orange Historical Society Board of Directors. She is married and her two children are both graduates of Orange and Amity Schools.

Orange Democratic/Republican Candidates

CONSTABLES

Jay Carrier



Public service has been a lifelong duty for Jay and he is honored to run for the position of Town Constable. Jay is an Army veteran, having served 5 years as an Active Duty soldier, followed by 4 years with the Connecticut National Guard. After that, he was hired by the Connecticut State Police, and served our great state for 20 years as a Trooper and Sergeant.

Jay is presently a Police Officer in the Town of Prospect. He is married with 3 children and has called Orange home for the last 12 years.

Randy Thomas



Randy Thomas, longtime Constable, has B.S. in economics from SCSU and an M.B.A. in management with honors from the University of New Haven. Randy graduated Amity Regional High School in 1982 and has served as a constable since 2003.

Randy is a former member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is a residential loan officer with People's United Bank where he has worked for 34 years. He

is a member of the Connecticut Mortgage Bankers Association & New Haven Home Builders Association. Randy is also a Notary Public and a Certified firefighter. A life-long Orange resident, Randy is married with four children.

Santo Galatioto, Jr



Santo Galatioto has lived in Orange his entire life. He hopes to be re-elected as constable to continue to serve our town and community. A graduate of the Amity School system as well as Quinnipiac University, Santo is a Social Studies teacher and father to a 17-month-old girl. Santo is also a member of the Orange Scholarship committee and the Democratic Town committee.

ORANGE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

FIRST SELECTMAN

Jim Zeoli



Jim has served eight terms as First Selectman and has been an active member of the Orange Board of Selectmen since 1999. He has shown the necessary experience in municipal management to effectively continue to lead our Town as First Selectman.

Jim was educated in the Orange School System, Fairfield College Preparatory School and the University of Connecticut School of Agriculture.

In 2007, Jim was appointed to the Connecticut Farmland Preservation Advisory Board and also has served as a member of the District Animal Control, serving as its chairman for 2 1/2 years. Jim also served as a board member of the Orange Economic Development Corporation. Jim was elected First Selectman in 2005.

Jim is no stranger to hard work. His commitment to the people of Orange is undeniable. Jim has always given freely of his time for Orange, serving as a volunteer fireman for over 20 years, past Assistant Treasurer of the Volunteer Fire Association and Co-Chairman of the Orange Agricultural Fair.

Jim knows the people of Orange. He listens to them and identifies with them and their problems. He is always genuinely interested in offering his advice and help. Jim tackles issues head-on and goes out of his way to find win-win solutions. He is the type of leader that considers the feelings of all residents from the very young to our growing senior population.

Jim is ready to continue his leadership of Orange as our First Selectman. His honest straightforward leadership style is right for Orange. It is right for seniors. It is right for children. It is right for education. It is right for economic development. It is right for business. It is right for open space. It is right for all taxpayers. AND...Jim's straightforward, honest leadership style needs to continue!

We are proud of our record of dynamic economic development. Taxpayers like Amazon, United Illuminating (Avangrid) and FedEx, among others have enabled Orange to support safe excellent schools, strong community services, infrastructure improvements and the protection of our community's green open spaces.

During my time in office we have been able to increase our control of open space by over 50%. The pending purchase of the Race Brook Country Club is a prime example. Approved unanimously by the Board of Selectman and by Orange residents in referendum, the town will control the future development of that land. We have been able to achieve this without major tax increases. In fact, property tax increases over the past ten years have averaged only 1.18%, far below the rate of inflation.

Our bond rating remains AAA, the best rating possible for a municipality. S&P referenced Orange's grand list growth and continued commercial activity. S&P also noted that town management is, "strong, with good financial policies and practices."

TOWN CLERK

Mary Shaw



B.S. Industrial Technology, CCSU
M.S. Counseling in Higher Education, SCSU
Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, Town of Orange 2012-2019
Orange Board of Education - Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent 2019 - present
Mary's extensive experience working closely with all of Orange's municipal

offices makes her uniquely qualified to serve as your Town Clerk. "As a candidate for the position of Town Clerk, my role as the previous Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman for seven years provided valuable hands on experience.

Working closely with all municipal offices within the Town of Orange, I supported the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen while attending to the needs of our residents.

As the current Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, I have the unique opportunity to support the Orange Board of Education, the leadership team, teachers, staff and families of our outstanding school system.

Both positions have allowed me to exercise my strong interpersonal skills. My dedication and passion for our community is evident with my involvement on several boards, committees and town events throughout the years. Amity Middle School, Race Brook and Mary L. Tracy PTAs, ACS Relay for Life, Amity Girls Lacrosse Association, Town of Orange Holiday Festival and Veteran Day Ceremony to name a few. The Town Clerk position is all about providing knowledgeable customer service in a welcoming, approachable and transparent environment. If given the opportunity to serve as the keeper of accurate records while complying with local and state regulations, provide election oversight and maintain a general overall informational epicenter for the Town, I am committed to do my very best, with great pride, to meet and exceed the expectations our residents in every aspect that the position requires."

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Ralph Okenquist



B.S. Fairfield University
M.B.A. University of New Haven
Fred Wolfe Park Committee 1995-98
Park & Rec Commission 9 years, 5 years as Chairman
Capital Planning Committee Chair
Allied Signal - Manager
Advanced Business Program Planning
Chandler Evans - Senior Program Administrator

"As a selectman, I will continue utilizing my business, management, municipal, and capital planning expertise to cost effectively plan and implement continuing improvements in our School and Town facilities."

Judy Wright Williams



Board of Selectmen - 10 years
B.S. Southern Connecticut State University
M.S. Special Education
Southern Connecticut State University
Graduate of the Orange and Amity School Systems
Teacher 33 years, Orange School System
Human Service Commission
Historic District Commission
Orange Cemetery Association

"My special interests in serving on the Board of Selectmen are to promote educational excellence in our schools and to preserve the rural character and the historic core values of Orange. This includes open space preservation and effective cost management to improve the quality of life for both families with children and seniors who want to remain in Orange close to their children and grandchildren."

John Carangelo



Orange Board of Selectmen - 6 years
B.A. Syracuse University
J.D. Quinnipiac College School of Law
Former Judge of Probate for Orange
Practicing attorney with over 22 years of legal experience
John Carangelo has been a lifelong resident of Orange and resides with his wife Kathrine and his sons Michael and Joey.

"As a member of the Board of Selectmen I will continue my efforts to keep taxes under control for our residents, and continue to improve our town's infrastructure and schools."

TAX COLLECTOR

Tom Hurley



B.S. Michigan State University
M.S. Economics, Wayne State University
PMI—Project Management
APBM, Certified Business Manager
USAF Veteran (Captain)
Senior Vice-Commander American Legion

Tom Hurley has been dedicated to the people of Orange for over 20 years. As a member of the Amity Board of Education for over 13 years, Tom served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary.

Tom is a financial professional and is well prepared to serve as our Tax Collector.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Joseph Nuzzo



B.S. Business Administration/Management, Southern Connecticut State University
M.B.A. Degree in Finance, University of New Haven

Twenty Years in Commercial Banking
Business Owner Commercial Finance
Joe's community service includes Orange Soccer Association youth soccer coach, Orange Little League baseball coach, current Board Member of the Amity Club, a civic and philanthropic organization in New Haven, and Past President and Board Member of the Boys'/Girls' Club of New Haven.

"I ask the townspeople of Orange for your vote to allow me to continue to apply my extensive financial experience and expertise to our policy of fiscal responsibility and straightforward leadership."

Ajeet Jain



Associate Professor of Finance, Central Connecticut State University
Former Director of the MBA program, Alabama A&M University
Ph.D. in Finance, Florida International University
MBA from Alabama A&M University
B.S. University of Delhi

Drs. Ajeet and Preti Jain, and their daughter, Simran are proud residents of Orange.

"As an Associate Professor of Finance at Central Connecticut State University and the former Director of the MBA program at Alabama A&M University, I have gained extensive experience in the field of finance."

"I am committed to keeping taxes low while providing the highest support possible for community services, infrastructure improvements and excellent schools."

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION

Ozzie Parente



Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman
B.A. Villanova University
J. D. University of Bridgeport School of Law, (Now Quinnipiac College School of Law)

Ozzie is an attorney focusing in the areas of real estate law, corporate finance, commercial law and contracting. Ozzie is a member of the New Haven County, Connecticut and American Bar Associations.

He is past Vice-President and General Counsel of a large Connecticut manufacturer.

Ozzie has also served in a leadership capacity the Quinnipiac Club Board of Governors, The Hopkins School Alumni Board and Board of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Kevin Cornell



Planning and Zoning Commission member
B.E. Mechanical Engineering, Stevens Institute of Technology
J. D. University of Bridgeport School of Law, (Now Quinnipiac College School of Law)

Professional Certification: Professional Engineer, New York State

Kevin is a Real Estate Development professional with over 30 years of experience in all facets of commercial and residential real estate development and construction.

"As a resident of Orange for 32 years, I feel an obligation to give back to the community that helped raise and educate my children and allow my family to enjoy the wonderful quality of life that Orange offers. My work experience aligns precisely with the demands of the Planning and Zoning Commission."

ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeffery Cap



Vice-Chair, Board of Education
Chief Information Officer, Newman Architects
Former Technology Teacher
Boy Scout Leader & Trainer
Knights of Columbus Member (Third Degree)

Jeff has served as a community volunteer for many organizations in Orange including the Orange Country Fair, Holy Infant

Church, and Website Administrator for various non-profit groups.

"It is important for children to receive the highest quality of education from Orange Elementary Schools. Not only is education a top priority but having safe and secure school buildings is equally as important. Having modern technology access will set students, faculty, and staff up for continued success. Your vote will provide me the opportunity to remain committed to the goal of investing in our children's future."

Orange Republican Candidates

Ronnette Pompano James



B.S. in Elementary Education, SCSU
M.S. in Reading, SCSU
Certified Elementary School Teacher/
Reading Specialist
President of Peek Place School PTO
from 2016-2021
“My husband and I moved to Orange 16
years ago, attracted by its close knit com-
munity and top notch school system.
I wanted our children to receive the high-
est quality public education possible.”

“In my years as a volunteer in our schools, I have been impressed by
the outstanding education my sons have received.”
“When elected, I will continue the work of building on our tradi-
tion of excellence on behalf of every child we have the privilege to
educate.”

Tatiana Messina Mullen



B.A. Villanova University
J.D. New York Law School
Senior Assistant State’s Attorney
CT State Division of Criminal Justice -
15 years
Tatiana grew up in Orange and is a prod-
uct of the excellent Orange school sys-
tem. After continuing her education and
starting her own family, she moved back
to Orange, where she lives with her hus-
band and daughter.

“As both a candidate and the mother of a child who will be starting
her journey through the Orange Public Schools, it is important that
we all work together to make sure that all students obtain the best
possible educational experience that will benefit them throughout
the years.”
“By working collaboratively, we can foster a safe and welcoming
school environment so the children of our close knit community
feel comfortable.”

AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Christina Levere D’Addio



Assistant Director of Public Affairs,
SCSU
M.F.A. in Writing, Vermont College of
Fine Arts
B.S. in Journalism, Ithaca College
Co-Corresponding Secretary
Race Brook Elementary School PTA
“As the parent of three school-aged
children in both the Orange and Amity
school systems, I have a personal interest

in preserving and enhancing the quality of our top-rated schools.”
“I will bring 20 years of experience in higher education to the po-
sition, as well as a desire to introduce reasonable, appropriate solu-
tions to the ever-changing landscape that is unique to our commu-
nity.”
“I also will strive to maintain respectful, thoughtful dialogue as we
address how best to maintain the reputation of Amity’s school dis-
trict, one that is known for excellence and innovation.”

Sean Hartshorn



Graduate Amity High School
Porter and Chester Institute of Technolo-
gy, 2 year automotive repair program
City of West Haven Police Mechanic,
2013- Present
Sean is a lifetime Orange resident and
lives here with his wife Nickie and sons
Deacon and Hunter.

“As a member of the Amity Board of
Education I will support traditional ac-
ademic education which is vital. Training in the trades is also an
important alternative that I will support.”
“Programs that encourage a strong work ethic, teach the joy and
value of hard work and the ability to work with others is a key com-
ponent of our students’ future success.”
“I will also encourage our youth and their parents to become in-
volved in the community.”

CONSTABLES

Jody Daymon



Jody Daymon, 72, is a Republican seek-
ing re-election to her seventh term as a
constable. She is a Business Forms &
Printing distributor with a B.A. from En-
dicott College in Beverly, MA.

Michael Donadeo



**Michael Donadeo is a resident of Or-
ange running for constable.**



Glen Papelo
**Glen Papelo is a resident of Orange
running for constable.**



Dan Zapatka
**Dan Zapatka is a resident of Orange
running for constable.**

Sample Ballot Information For Milford And Orange

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Milford, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				Districts 1-1 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			6 CITY CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	8 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		13 PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD VOTE FOR ONE			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A			
	BEN GETTINGER	BENJAMIN BLAKE	MICHELLE PARENTE	MATT ARCIDIOLLO, II		KAREN FORTUNATI	SARAH S. FERRANTE	LINDA J. HARDIMAN	SHAWN LIESKIND	THEODORE D. BOYNTON	GARY PELUCCHETTE	BETSY RATNER	ETAN HIRSCH			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B	13B			
	WIN SMITH	PETER BERUBE	TONY GIANNATTASIO	JAY TRANDULLI		SHIRLEY SERRANO	FRANK MOSANTE	STEVEN T. VISCINTI	RAY KIRMAIER	WALLY HARCK	ANDY FOWLER					
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C			

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Milford, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				Districts 2-1 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			6 CITY CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	8 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		13 PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD VOTE FOR ONE			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A			
	BEN GETTINGER	BENJAMIN BLAKE	WARD WILLIS	ROBERT PACELLI, JR.		KAREN FORTUNATI	SARAH S. FERRANTE	LINDA J. HARDIMAN	SHAWN LIESKIND	THEODORE D. BOYNTON	SUSAN GLENNIN	MEGHAN BOYLE	JAMES KADER			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B	13B			
	WIN SMITH	PETER BERUBE	SCOTT MAYLOR	CHRIS GOLDEN		SHIRLEY SERRANO	FRANK MOSANTE	STEVEN T. VISCINTI	RAY KIRMAIER	MARK MACHUG			BOB TSCHIRSKIE			
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C			

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Milford, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				District 3-1 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			6 CITY CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	8 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		13 PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD VOTE FOR ONE			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A			
	BEN GETTINGER	BENJAMIN BLAKE	BRETT BRIESSER	MARTY B. HARDIMAN		KAREN FORTUNATI	SARAH S. FERRANTE	LINDA J. HARDIMAN	SHAWN LIESKIND	THEODORE D. BOYNTON	HOLY E. MULLEMAN	UNA PETROSKE	JIM QUISH			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B	13B			
	WIN SMITH	PETER BERUBE	ERIK SMITH	MICHAEL S. CASEY		SHIRLEY SERRANO	FRANK MOSANTE	STEVEN T. VISCINTI	RAY KIRMAIER	WILLIAM LEGIERE	RENÉE CASEY		STEVE VISCINTI			
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C			

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Milford, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				District 4 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			6 CITY CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	8 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		13 PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD VOTE FOR ONE			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A			
	BEN GETTINGER	BENJAMIN BLAKE	JOHN MOFFITT	PHIL VETRO		KAREN FORTUNATI	SARAH S. FERRANTE	LINDA J. HARDIMAN	SHAWN LIESKIND	THEODORE D. BOYNTON	RITA HENNESSEY	CINDY WILFE BOYNTON	BRIAN E. KAJUSIAN			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B	13B			
	WIN SMITH	PETER BERUBE	TARA GALLI	DAN GRIFFIN		SHIRLEY SERRANO	FRANK MOSANTE	STEVEN T. VISCINTI	RAY KIRMAIER	RAGUEL HERNANDEZ BONELLI	DOLORES RIETH BANNIN					
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C			

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Milford, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				District 5 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			6 CITY CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	8 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		13 PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD VOTE FOR ONE			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A			
	BEN GETTINGER	BENJAMIN BLAKE	GREG HARLA	ELEN BEATTY		KAREN FORTUNATI	SARAH S. FERRANTE	LINDA J. HARDIMAN	SHAWN LIESKIND	THEODORE D. BOYNTON	AARON DE YOUNG	EMILY MC DONOUGH SOLTA	CARL MOORE			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B	13B			
	WIN SMITH	PETER BERUBE	SUZANNE DIBASE	RAY VITALI		SHIRLEY SERRANO	FRANK MOSANTE	STEVEN T. VISCINTI	RAY KIRMAIER	BILL BEVAN	TERBI SMITH		RICK VIZZIELLO			
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C			

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Orange, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				District 1 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	3 BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			6 CITY CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	8 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		13 PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD VOTE FOR ONE			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A			
	BEN GETTINGER	CONNOR DIANE	MICHELLE R. GOLBLATT	ROSANNA CAPPETTA	CHARLES FLYNN	MARGARET NOVICKI	MARK MOYHER	KEVIN MCNABOLA	P.J. SHANLEY	PAT SANDERS ROMANO	CARMEN A. RODRIGUES	JARED MILBRANDT	DANIEL FITZMAURICE			
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B	13B			
	WIN SMITH	JAMES ZELLI	JUDY WRIGHT WILLIAMS	RALPH G. OLENIKIST	JOHN CARANGILO	MARY SHAW	THOMAS HURLEY	AJEET JAIN	JOSEPH NUZZO		JEFFERY CAP	TATIANA MULLIN MULLEN	RONNETTE JAMES			
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C			

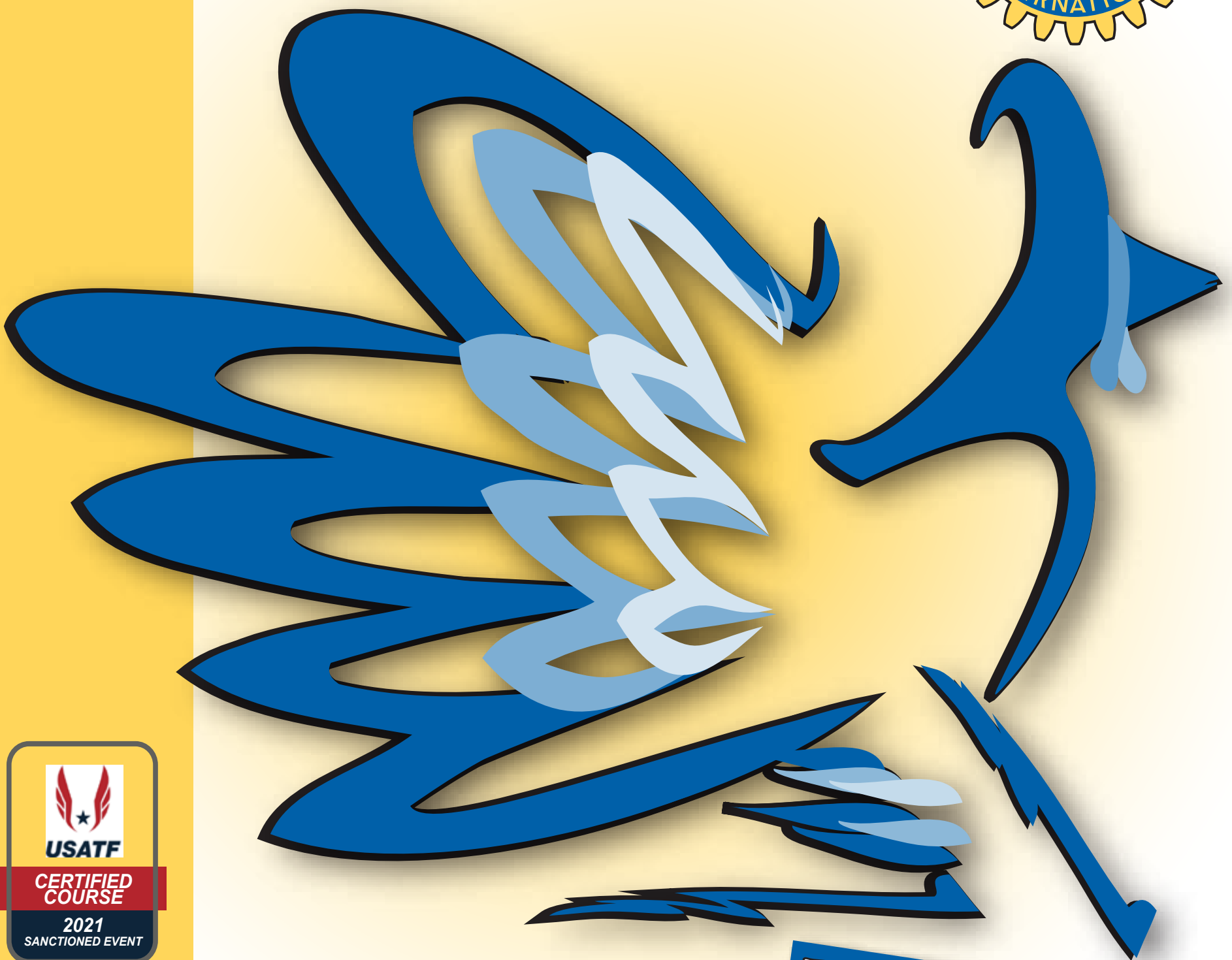
State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Orange, Connecticut					Special and Municipal Election				November 2, 2021				District 1 Sheet 1 of 1	
OFFICE		16 TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR TWO	17 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR			20 TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	21 TAX COLLECTOR VOTE FOR ONE	8 BOARD OF FINANCE VOTE FOR UP TO THREE			11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO TWO		14 TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION FULL TERM VOTE FOR UP TO TWO			
PARTY																
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	16A	17A	18A	19A	20A	21A	22A	23A	24A	25A	26A	27A	28A			
	SANTO GALATTO JR.	RANDY THOMAS	JAY CARRIER		PATRICIA C.-POST	CARLA EICKLER	CRAIG LENNON									
REPUBLICAN PARTY	16B	17B	18B	19B	20B	21B	22B	23B	24B	25B	26B	27B	28B			
	THOMAS TORRENTI	GLEN PAPPELO	JODY DAYMON	DAN ZAPATKA	MICHAEL DONADEO	SEAN HARTSHORN	CHRISTINA LEVERE D'ADDIO									
WRITE-IN VOTES	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C	23C	24C	25C	26C	27C	28C			

ROTARY CLUB of ORANGE

9

TH ANNUAL

THANKSGIVING DAY TURKEY TROT



**RACE DAY
REGISTRANTS
WELCOME**

**8:00 AM Start
November 25, 2021**

**High Plains Community Center, Orange, CT
www.rotarycluboforange.org**

The Garden Spot

Rake It Or Leave It?

I'm often asked whether one should rake the leaf litter or leave it on the lawn and garden beds. The answer is that it depends, mainly on how much leaf litter there is.

Most of the time, the leaves that fall on the lawn can be managed by mowing over them until they are very small pieces. The pieces decay and become compost, releasing nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, as well as improving the soil texture.

If you've waited too long for the mower to handle the amount of leaves, you can rake them into piles and then shred them, either with the mower or a weed whacker, then distribute them over the lawn. If you have a composting mower, you probably only need one pass over the leaves, but if not, just run over them until you see green grass among the pieces. If all you see is brown leaves, the

pieces are too large and you'll smother your lawn.

The more controversial issue is whether to leave the leaves and debris on your garden beds. As with the lawn, the shredded leaves will add nutrients, improve the soil's water holding capacity and provide an effective insulation for your plants. They also provide a winter home for salamanders, box turtles, toads and those moths and butterflies that overwinter in the leaf litter.

What I don't recommend is leaving deep layers of leaves on the beds. A general rule of thumb is that if you can't see the plant, it's too deeply covered with leaves. The end result will be fungal diseases, pests such as



PAT DRAY

moles and voles, and dieback of the plants due to lack of sunlight. Keep the leaf mulch a few inches away from the stems of plants and trunks of trees to discourage critters from eating the roots and tender trunks.

The one absolute "no" regarding leaving leaf litter or pruned stems on the beds is if the plant has had any type of disease or insect infestation. Many harmful insects, especially beetles, and fungi will overwinter in the soil and leaf debris and happily infect your new plants or emerging perennials. Instead, clean the area around infected plants and remove a layer of soil to reduce the chance of infestation. Do not to put this material in your compost pile.

Remember that those leaves are free compost and fertilizer. Don't bag clippings and bring them to the transfer station. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, decomposing "green waste" in landfills releases methane gas and acidic leachate. Methane is one of the most destructive greenhouse gases and is 23 times more effective than carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere.

Instead, make your own leaf compost by filling large garbage bags with leaves, adding a little moisture, closing it up, and leaving it for about six months. In spring, you'll have bags full of leaf mold or leaf compost to use on your beds.

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

Here's To Your Health

Why Stand Up And Be Counted

It would be fair to say that I am passionate about some things. Wellness is at the top of the list, of course. However, you may not know that I am also a truth seeker and I believe that looking at the same thing from different vantage points is important before I accept it as truth. We aren't all supposed to have the same opinion, but we are supposed to respect each other's opinions.

I have been physically active all my life and became a certified personal trainer and nutritionist over 15 years ago. I do and do not consider my profession "work." I love people and I love helping them live healthier lives because it brings me joy when I see people discover their value and worth.

I have worked in one facility for over 15 years training and advising clients. Several of my clients have been my clients for that many years. We don't just have

a business relationship; we have a deep-rooted friendship as well. Together we've gone through marriages, divorces, illness, deaths and so much more.

Recently, I was mandated to get vaccinated or lose my job. I gave both my religious and medical exemption forms to the board and they said they accepted them. However, they changed the terms of my contract to say that I would only be able to train my clients outdoors and would be required to wear a mask while doing so. So, with many tears (both mine and my clients) I said goodbye.

I am a woman of deep faith and one who chooses to stand up and be counted. If I am not given a choice to do what I believe



MICHELE TENNEY

to be right for my body, what am I really saying to my children? What message am I sending to those doing the bullying? More importantly, what am I saying to myself?

I was reminded of when my husband and I got the diagnosis of Pierre Robin sequence halfway through my pregnancy with our youngest son. The doctors were promoting aborting this child as the prognosis was death, congenital heart failure, intellectual disability, dwarfism – the list went on. I stood up to be counted and today he is a tall, very smart and athletic 14-year-old light of our lives.

To me there are things that people just can't steal from you. Faith, hope and joy. All three are a choice I make daily. Sure-

ly, I am no Rosa Parks. However, I admire her for standing to be counted because she sparked a movement that changed a nation.

It's not an easy road to walk, but I'd much prefer an opportunity for the light to burn a little brighter rather than having my flame snuffed out. It's in the face of adversity that we find our true character. I'm choosing life and life abundant according to what is right for me. We all have been through some things in our lives. I'm no exception to the rule, so I wanted to use this as an opportunity to encourage you to be strong if you are facing adversity of any kind. Stand up and be counted.

Michele Tenney is a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist & Wellness Coach. She is a member of the Orange Board of Health. She can be reached at 203-668-2969 or email at Hmgbrd3@gmail.com.

Running

The Boston Marathon Comes Back

This week I just completed my 14th Boston Marathon. Last year I ran virtually, which was a difficult 26.2 miles around Orange alone. It allowed me to appreciate how amazing it is to be out on the road with 20,000 other runners.

Yet it was bittersweet. I recall all the marathons pre-COVID. The expo was huge at the Hines Convention Center. It provided information on new shoes, clothing and other running apparel and equipment, the latest and the greatest that would help you run longer and faster. We all search for the magic answer. (It's really mostly hard work.) There were lectures throughout the three days prior to the marathon. This year they had just one exhibitor who was the major sponsor and no lectures or other informational booths.

Before the race you were required to make an appointment for either a COVID test or proof of vaccination before you could pick up your race packet and expo. Once completed everyone was required to wear a

mask at packet pickup and in the expo.

On the day of the run in the past we would gather on the green and stand in long lines to board the buses. This was a time when you chatted with other runners from all over the country and all over the world. We shared our excitement and our nerves. This year you were given an appointment to come to the green and board the bus. In other years, we would go to the athletes' village, where all runners gathered, and wait for our start time.

We were in large groups (by expected pace time in corals). Runners shared stories, talked about race strategy and made new friends, while anticipation built as we waited for our start time. I missed the camaraderie. The logistics of vaccine testing, proof of vaccination, requirement of masks provid-



CATHY BRADLEY

ed a different aura to the event. There were no corals. There were no large groups to share nervous energy with. When you were dropped at the start, you began your run. There was no meeting place, no athletes' village. There was no one waiting for you at the finish line. In the past, family and friends would be waiting with flowers and hugs. This year we had a meeting area blocks away.

Then I thought about the residual impacts of the bombing in 2013, which was when I wrote my first column for this paper. There were snipers on the roof and National Guard everywhere. I am thankful for the efforts to keep the runners safe and healthy. Yet it was a reminder that we are living in a different time.

As I ran along the 26.2 miles, the crowds were amazing and supportive. People wanted something to make them feel a bit more

normal. It was a bit like the old days. The marathon was back. We were running in October, not April, the traditional Marathon Patriots Day. But we were outside running with 20,000 other runners. For a few hours it was a marathon, with people cheering, handing out food, drinks and smiles.

I don't know that it will be different, but it was great to be there with people from all over the world who were as excited as I was to participate in Boston again.

As I step further away, I reflect on how lucky I am to have my health and to be able to share these events with other runners, the generous people of Boston and my family. How lucky I am to be able to appreciate this great country and this great town we live in. Take stock of the good. Take time to appreciate the simple joys. God bless this great country.

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

Recycling Tip

By Ilene Moyher

Commonly referred to as "the transfer station" or "the dump," Orange's trash facility has evolved to become the Transfer Station & Recycling Center. In addition to the hopper for disposal of general household waste, there are specified stations for recycling of metal, cardboard, paint, electronics, empty propane tanks and more.

To the right of the information booth are

electronics and paint recycling trailers. Residents may put the following into the electronics trailer: computers/laptops, monitors, TVs, cell/smart phones, MP3s, iPads/tablets, hard drives, wiring and cables. The paint can trailer is for leftover cans of paint, primers, stains, sealers and clear coatings such as shellac and varnish. You can find more details at paintcare.org/products (Orange is a PaintCare partner). Empty cans go in the hopper or your regular trash bin.

The mixed recyclables bin is the first station on the left on the way up the hill to the hopper. This large bin/dumpster is for cans, bottles, plastic containers and paper. Do not put plastic bags in this bin. The recycling sorting machinery cannot handle plastic bags; loads containing them may get rejected for recycling and cost Orange for disposal. If your recyclables are in a plastic bag, simply dump the contents into the bin and put the bag in the "Plastic Bags and Wraps" shed, conveniently located next to

the bin. This shed is for all plastic wraps, bags, bubble wraps and related material. You can also bring this kind of plastic to local stores. Most grocery, home improvement and general merchandise stores have designated bins.

For more information on what materials can be disposed of or recycled at the Orange Transfer Station & Recycling Center, visit orangerecycles.com/transfer-station or follow the Orange Recycling Committee at facebook.com/ORCinCT.

Travel Matters

Dream Vacation In Croatia

I just returned from a luxury yacht cruise in Croatia. And no, I didn't recently win the lottery.

With over 1,000 islands and over 2,700 hours of sunlight a year, Croatia is the perfect place to cruise on a small ship. As a trending tourism market, Croatia pricing is still quite reasonable depending on the ship and time of year you want to travel.

Most of these luxury mini-cruisers, including ours, hold only 36 guests. But you can also charter catamarans and yachts that hold anywhere from six to 12 or more. The food was marvelous and the rooms quite spacious for a ship this size. Water sports platforms off the back of the ship offer jet skis, kayaks, snorkeling and stand-up paddleboards.

We arrived a day early at the new airport in Split that has panoramic views of the mountains and Adriatic sea. We soon discovered

the old city is a beautiful living monument built in 295 BCE by the Roman emperor Diocletian. It has now become one of the first urban complexes to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is amazing to see the boutiques, restaurants and charming hotels that are actually built into the palace site with beautiful stone paved streets.

Since this was an agent trip, we condensed what would usually take 12 days into seven, so we learned a lot. We toured the islands of Hvar, Korcula, Vis and Brač. We spent time in Dubrovnik, where we were treated to a cocktail party with classical musicians on top of the city wall. We dined on oysters, mussels and Pošip (the local white wine) in Mali Ston,



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

about an hour from Dubrovnik, where the world's second longest wall is located (the first being the Great Wall of China).

Hvar was my favorite of all the islands, with a five-star resort, Palace Elizabeth, that was started 150 years ago by Queen Elizabeth I as a winter wellness retreat. We drove over the mountain with stunning views of the Adriatic Sea to the other side of the island and visited a vineyard where we enjoyed a farm-to-table luncheon with local wines.

One of the things that surprised us the most on our trip was the diversity and quality of the food and wine – fresh seafood, produce and vegetables combined with some eastern European flavors and spices. Olive oil, truf-

files and figs are locally sourced.

The second surprise was the dramatic beauty of these islands and coastal cities. Croatia sometimes reminds me of Greece, Italy and the French Riviera. The water is that emerald hue that you find in Greece.

The third surprise was the great hospitality and fluent English of everyone we met in Croatia.

You can plan a trip for just the two of you, or charter a larger ship with family and friends. The best time to go is spring or fall when there are fewer tourists and lower rates.

Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at kpanzer@dreamvacations.com or 203-647-3107.

Orange Resident Named Top Realtor



Sharon Tudino, a real estate agent affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty's Orange office, has been recognized as a top 1,000 real estate agent nationally by Realego Brokerage Group for the second quarter of 2021. Realego Brokerage Group is the parent company of Coldwell Banker with more than 50,000 affiliated real estate salespeople in the US.

"Sharon's achievement demonstrates

her commitment to providing unparalleled service to both her buyers and sellers. She is a valuable asset to her clients," said Joe Valvano, president of Coldwell Banker in Connecticut and Westchester County. "I am very proud of Sharon and confident that she will continue to achieve great success in the coming months and years. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work."

Tudino has also received the Coldwell Banker Realty International President's Circle Award for 2020, the Quarterly Awards for the Greater New Haven Middlesex Board of Realtors this year and the CT Magazine Five Star Realtor Award for the past six years.

Trick Or Trot To Benefit Beth-El

Runners and walkers are invited to participate in the 10th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021 at Lisman Landing in downtown Milford.

Lisman Landing is located at 37 Helwig St. in Milford. The run/walk covers a 3.2-mile scenic route through Milford.

All proceeds go to the Beth-El Center in Milford to support its homeless shelter, food programs and outreach and engagement efforts to assist those experiencing homelessness and hunger in the area.

"We're so appreciated of all that our community does to make this great event happen in order to raise funds for the center's emergency shelter and soup kitchen. The financial support from this event helps us maintain our housing and food programs

which are critical during this unprecedented pandemic crisis," said Jenn Paradis, Beth-El Center's executive director.

Registration is \$29 for the first 150 people who sign up and \$32 thereafter. Registration is \$22 for participants 18 and younger. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the shotgun start is at 9 a.m.

Adults, children and pets are encouraged to wear costumes; prizes will be awarded. After the 5K, food to go will be provided by Subway, the Regional Water Authority and Chabaso Bakery. Water stations will be available, but participants are asked to bring their own water bottles.

To register, become a sponsor and for event COVID protocols, visit milfordtrickortrot.com.

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Facing Ourselves

Breaking Down Mistrust Over Critical Race Theory

The debate regarding critical race theory rages on. In addition to the ardent arguments about its merits and dangers, there appears to be a dispute about what the term itself really means.

Perhaps the way we view critical race theory in part stems from which definition of the word “critical” we use. “Critical” can be defined as “expressing adverse or disapproving comments or judgments.” However, the definition of “critical” also includes “expressing or involving an analysis of the merits and faults” of something. Criticism or disapproval is implied in the first definition, but the second definition embraces a more neutral or objective viewpoint.

So what is critical race theory? Is it a pointed criticism, a subversive movement designed to make “white people feel bad about themselves?” Is CRT a way to indoctrinate our children and teach them falsified, revisionist history? Or is CRT a way of analyzing the past as a means of rectifying ongoing injustice? Is CRT a way of expanding the lens of inquiry and understanding to include the viewpoints of those in the non-dominant culture?

Opponents of CRT note that even civil rights veteran Bob Woodson recently denounced it as “new racism, and it’s more lethal than the old racism,” and opined that CRT wants society to focus more on the color of our skin rather than “the content of our character.” Those who oppose CRT also cite concerns that it builds walls between races and

encourages a “dumbing down” of academic standards.

Others accuse CRT of being an assault on democracy and patriotism. Some fear that CRT will be detrimental to the self-image and self-esteem of non-minorities, particularly youth. Many worry that CRT feeds lies to our children, disguised as education.

Proponents of CRT point out that it is rooted in critical legal studies, which was first developed in the 1970s. CLS argues that that law is subject to bias and is not objective or neutral. CRT homed its focus on the investigation of the role of race and racism in the legal system, and how institutionalized racism, whether it be intentional or unconscious, has pervasively stacked the deck against minorities. This stacked deck is hardly a secret; it has manifested through zoning and housing laws, the criminal justice system, public policies, access to health care and opportunities for education and employment, just to name a few.

CRT acknowledges that racism continues to exist today and is not a thing of the past. Supporters also state that CRT exposes the ways in which racism has affected every minority group, and promotes the sharing of their stories and experiences as important lessons from which we can all learn.

The heated discussions regarding CRT reflect how passionate both its supporters and



JENNIFER JU

opponents are. The above viewpoints can appear so disparate that it may seem those from opposing camps will never be able to come to a consensus about what the problems and solutions are.

Although trust is paramount to progress, misinformation is frequently spread. It is hard to know what is truth versus “fake news.” Distrust is rampant, with some even accusing educators of lying about whether or not they are “sneaking” CRT into the curriculum. This strife is often magnified by the media on both sides, because fear sells. Despite our differences, as humans filled with fault and frailty, we all share the fear that deep down we are not enough, that others may find us deficient and reject us, and that we are not truly seen.

Every one of us is also motivated by the desire for safety and security. Discussions around topics like CRT are challenging because oftentimes we feel criticized or unheard, which registers as a threat to us. Whether or not the threat is real, it triggers the “fight or flight” response, with the tradeoff being that the physiological changes that occur to ensure our safety literally supersede our ability to use our brain’s frontal lobe as effectively or demonstrate coherent thinking.

However, connecting with others activates a different kind of reaction in our minds and bodies, inducing a recovery, repair and renew-

al response which is equally crucial for our long-term survival. We need to connect, rather than push each other away, when we have these difficult dialogues.

Like many of you, I am not an expert on CRT. However, when we step away from fear-based thinking, we can more clearly investigate the principles on which CRT states it is based and see if CRT helps raise those who have been and are currently systemically disadvantaged, or if it is being wielded as a weapon to tear down the non-minority. We can examine if CRT is being used as a tool for social justice and empowerment, or if it is being warped into something it was not meant to be: an instrument of division.

Rather than accuse, seek to understand. Be open. Discuss. Listen. Only then can we come closer to having an honest and effective discourse on what it means to truly have “liberty and justice for all.” Our survival, as individuals and as a community, depends on it.

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.

Milford Land Trust Honoring Past Presidents

The Milford Land Conservation Trust will hold a tree dedication in honor of past presidents the late John Dockendorff and Steven Rogers, and Allan Wilcox on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. at its flagship property, Nancy’s Meadow, First Avenue, in Laurel Beach.

The public is invited. Respectful COVID protocols will be observed. Light refreshments will be served.

The trust is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It was recently bequeathed property in Woodmont on Anchorage Drive, Carriage Drive and Old Oronoque Road.

“It is important for all Milford owners to be conscious of how their actions enhance or detract from preserving the natural habitat of plants and wildlife,” said Joseph DeSisto Alling, current Milford Land Conservation Trust president. “We’ve upped our game this year to be better

neighbors by planting trees, removing invasive species, cleaning and maintaining properties and we encourage residents and businesses to do likewise.”

For more information, visit the website milfordctlandtrust.org or email info@milfordctlandtrust.org.



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Personal Experiences

The Power Of No

Let's talk about productivity. I am sure, like most people, you have a difficult time juggling responsibilities and remaining generative. It can be gruesome to assume the required adult responsibilities and still feel calm and collected at the end of the day.

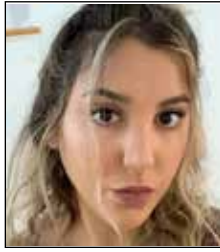
Recently I learned a hack that eliminates quite a bit of the unnecessary stress that impedes my productivity. I learned to say no.

Saying "no" when asked to do something by a friend, family or coworkers can make you feel as if you are being disrespectful or discourteous. But you are just putting yourself first, as you should. People agree to do many tasks or take on requests because of the fear of being seen as arrogant or unhelpful. Saying no doesn't have to be an uncomfortable

conversation; it can be just as compassionate as if you chose to say yes.

When a friend or coworker asks a favor, saying no can be tricky since these are people in our lives we enjoy being around and want to support. Socializing and collaborating with others is also an essential element in wellbeing. It is okay to say yes to things you want to do and help others in need, but saying no to activities or favors you have no interest in is a necessary part of life, even though it makes many people feel uncomfortable.

Saying yes to an undesirable request eliminates all other possible successes. As economist Tim Hartford put it, "Ev-



CAROLINA AMORE

ery time we say yes to a request, we are also saying no to anything else we might accomplish with the time."

Remember to put your own needs first. While people may see this as selfish, you should consider it self-care. Putting friends and family first is a noble thing to do and is necessary for specific situations. When it comes to everyday life and simple tasks or requests that are not crucial, free yourself enough to say no.

When faced with this kind of decision, try and be aware of your first internal reaction. If someone makes a request and your first thought is, "This sounds like fun," then maybe you should do it. If the request doesn't excite you, or you already

know it would make your responsibilities more challenging to accomplish, then it may be time to reconsider.

This life belongs to you. You are the reason for where you are today, and it is essential to take pride in that fact. Helping others and spending time with them is a critical part of life, but if you've grown worn out or do not have the time, allow yourself the courtesy of saying no when it suits you.

Always remember to put your wellbeing first and others next. Putting your wellbeing first is not selfish; it is how you stay healthy and happy.

Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.

From The Bar

Safekeeping Of Original Estate Planning Documents

After taking the important step of creating and signing your estate planning documents, it is crucial that you protect and preserve those documents in a secure place that is known to your trusted advisors. The appropriate storage of and access to your estate planning documents can be accessed and used appropriately in the future.

Many people are surprised to discover that when they sign a will or other estate planning document, a copy is not filed anywhere with the probate court or other central entity for safekeeping. It is up to you to ensure that your documents are preserved so that they can be used when they are needed. This means that it is also essential that the right, trusted people have access to your documents so that they know where they are and how to get them when they need to put your estate planning documents to use.

Why do you need original estate plan-

ning documents?

Often, the original estate planning document is needed, or even essential, to perform legal tasks. For example, the original will is extremely important as this original document needs to be submitted directly to the probate court upon your death. If your original will cannot be located, additional steps must be taken to obtain a copy of the will and "prove" that it is identical to the original will and that the original will has not been revoked, destroyed, amended and so forth. This obviously takes more time and may result in additional attorney's fees to help produce evidence that a copy is an original.

Your original power of attorney is essential for real estate transactions, as the original must be recorded on the land re-



ALLISON DEPAOLA DROZD

Additionally, many financial institutions will request to view an original power of attorney document so that they may make a copy of the original for their records. If you, or your agent appointed under your power of attorney, do give your original power of attorney to a third party it is crucial that you obtain possession of the original.

Where should you keep original estate planning documents?

It is recommended that your estate planning documents are stored in a heatproof, waterproof, fireproof place where they can only be accessed by one or more trusted advisors, or the named executor of your will, trustee of your trust, or agent under your power of attorney or health care proxy. If you work with a trusted law firm, the firm may provide these secure measures for storing your original

estate planning documents. If you do not work with a law firm that provides storage services, then other options may be a safe deposit box at your bank or a heatproof, waterproof, fireproof safe in your home.

Regardless of where you choose to store your estate planning documents, it is important to notify your executor, trustees or agents where the documents are located so that the documents can be accessed when it is time to put them to use.

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

Life Insurance

Protecting Against The Rising Costs Of Care

The cost to care for our elders is rising at an alarming rate, especially here in the Northeast. It is the elephant in the room. Most people know they need to do something, but they don't know what to do or where to begin. Maybe your neighbor did one thing, and your brother-in-law did something completely different. What should you do?

Let's start with the facts. According to a 2019 report issued by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, the cost of nursing home care in Connecticut averages \$432 a day for a semi-private room with some facilities costing more than \$500 a day or \$15,000 per month. Genworth's Cost of Care Survey found the average monthly cost for a Connecticut assisted living facility to be \$6,300.

Who pays? In most cases, you do. Medicare rarely covers nursing home and assisted living situations. If a patient is receiving "skilled services" in a nursing facility after a qualifying three-day hospital stay, Medicare will help pay for up to 100 days of care.

Individuals (and their families) who require long-term care must look to other sources of payment, such as their own resources, long-term care insurance or Medicaid.

Medicaid is the joint state/federal program that pays for, among other things, convalescent care for eligible individuals. In order to qualify in Connecticut, the total

non-exempt assets in a patient's name cannot exceed \$1,600. If the individual has a spouse at home, he or she may keep half the couple's assets, up to \$130,380. Some assets are exempt, such as the house (as long as the community spouse is living in it), the cash value of life insurance with a face amount under \$1,500, an irrevocable funeral contract and a car. Qualified plans and IRAs are not exempt in Connecticut, though they are in some states.

The average stay in a nursing home is about 32 months, according to National Center for Health Statistics data. At \$14,000 a month, 32 months costs \$448,000. Think about the financial impact of just an average stay and the adverse effects it could have on your retirement nest egg.

Okay, now that everybody is depressed, let's talk about what can be done. For people who have the chance to plan ahead, one solution may be long-term care insurance, which can have several variations. A state approved "partnership policy" allows a Medicaid applicant to exclude assets from Medicaid's spend down requirements equal to the amount that the policy has paid out for their care.

Here's how it works on a very high level if you become eligible for benefits under the policy. If you have a partnership poli-



PJ SHANLEY

cy approved in Connecticut that has a total lifetime benefit of \$262,800, that comes to \$150 per day over 4.8 years. The policy would pay the facility up to the policy's daily/weekly/monthly benefit amount until the total lifetime benefit is depleted. Then you would be responsible to pay for your care until your assets are depleted down to \$262,800, at which time, you would be eligible for Medicaid.

Another alternative to consider is a hybrid policy that functions as both life insurance and long-term care insurance, so that if you never needs long-term care, your heirs receive a valuable death benefit. Some annuities also come with a long-term care component that increases the amount of income if the annuitant needs long-term care.

People with a shorter time horizon or who are otherwise unable to purchase long-term care insurance will want to work with an attorney who specializes in Medicaid planning. Options to consider include gifting assets to your family, either outright or in trust. Just keep in mind that there is a five-year look-back period under Medicaid, so it presents some risk.

Legitimate caregiver contracts between family members may also allow the parent to transfer assets gradually to the children

in the form of compensation, not gifts. Or a parent can purchase a life estate in a child's house, meaning that the parent has purchased the right to occupy a share of the child's house for the rest of his or her life. As long as the parent lives with the child for at least a year before requiring care, this will not be considered a disqualifying transfer. This strategy might work well if a parent is no longer able to live alone and is thinking of selling his or her own home and moving in with a child. Further, parents can rent space from a child or contribute funds to build an in-law apartment in a child's house or make other improvements to the house to make it handicapped-accessible.

Obviously there are many options out there. The hardest part is usually getting started. The first thing you need to do is begin the process by sitting with your financial advisor and estate planning attorney to come up with the plan that will be best for you and for your family.

PJ Shanley is a financial advisor with Barnum Financial Group and is a member of the Orange Board of Finance. He can be reached at 203-513-6282 or pshanley@barnumfg.com. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through qualified registered representatives of MML Investors Services, LLC.

Your Finances

Should I Stay Or Should I Go?

The average American adult will change jobs 12 to 15 times over the course of their life. Looking for better benefits, better quality of life, even a geographic change has spurred Americans to find their best fit for career happiness.

That thought process doesn't just include careers. For most major decisions, we frequently examine and re-examine whether we have made the best decision.

We all price shop for deals. We look at interest rates for credit cards, auto and home loans. We look at multiple auto insurance companies and cell phone carriers. We even sign up for cashback websites. All this is done under the premise of "I need to save some money."

Which gets me to my main point: retire-

ment savings, specifically, an old 401(k) at a previous employer. According to the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, there are over 24 million forgotten or left behind 401(k) accounts holding \$1.35 trillion in assets. In all likelihood, some of you reading this article have a 401(k) at an old employer. Why do so many Americans leave their 401(k) account behind at an old job and never examine whether this is in their best interests?

The average 401(k) expense ratio is 1.37 percent of assets invested. Depending on the plan, you may also be paying mutual fund



MATT GALLAGHER

and provider fees, which could push your total fees close to 2 percent. While you were an employee you couldn't really do anything to lower the provider fees unless you chose low-cost funds in your plan. But if you are no longer an employee, why pay those fees?

Here is a hypothetical example of fees within a 401(k). Alex, Jennifer and David each have invested \$100,000 in a 401(k) by the age of 35. Each account earns an annualized return of 8 percent, but the funds within the 401(k) charge different annual fees of 1 percent, 2 percent and 3 percent. David paid 3 percent and has \$432,194 in assets at age 65. Jennifer paid 2 percent

and has \$574,349 for retirement. Alex paid 1 percent and is the big winner, with \$761,225 saved for retirement. For many, paying these fees is part of participating in a company's retirement plan. But if you leave your employer, you have options.

Rolling your old 401(k) into an IRA allows you the freedom of choice in your investments as well as the ability to control your fees. Find a wealth advisor and have this conversation. You only get one retirement, and it needs to count.

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.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Fall Update On The Real Estate Market

Fall seems to be running late; it is so warm and the leaves on hanging in there. What a great time to sell.

We are slowly seeing a return to gentle normalcy as this pandemic gets somewhat under control. Buyers are still abundant, but they are not running to purchase the first day or paying a crazy amount over asking price, as they were six months ago. Homes are sitting a little longer, but this is acceptable. There was a frenzy of offers who canceled and preapprovals that were denied later on because of appraisal problems. All of it was recorded on the hot sheet, the daily update on the market. It started to look like a revolving door.

This past year and a half the market was a little unfair to sellers. They would expect

a deal that many times fell short of everyone's expectations. For example, during the inspection (the safety timeframe for buyers), requests to return deposit money were common. This made a property look suspicious. Was there a problem? Mostly no, the buyer had just rushed. It was probably just not the right home for them and they got cold feet.

I like a calm market, a more reasonable set of timeframes. The clients need to get all the facts, including motivating factors and individual personal situations. The representative, the realtor, serves to protect both seller and buyer.

We are getting back to the normal pro-



BARBARA LEHRER

cess, including that each transaction should have a home inspection and an appraisal. Each seller should be allowed a proper amount of time to vacate after the mortgage is approved. These are just some of the valuable procedures that remove stress and result in successful sales. We have heard all the stories of selling way over asking; you sold high and then you bought high.

I think the new market will level out. Certainly prices have increased this past year and should reasonably remain where they are. As always, some unique homes will be fought for and sold with competitive bids resulting in high closing statistics. We must

appreciate the low rates as driving the market forward; that keeps the buyers coming.

The buyers are over the stampede, so we have to be careful to price the listings correctly. How much you ask for your property has always been the bottom line. Sometimes it simply comes down to square footage and style. Remember, it is the bank appraiser who determines if your contract has the proper price. Otherwise the buyer has to come up with additional funds or he backs out. Why wait to find that out? Your realtor gets that figure for you when you list. Stay in the pocket, the sweet spot.

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

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Just Floored

Using Tiles To Spice Up The Kitchen

Are you growing tired of the same old kitchen design? Is it falling flat, and do the colors not pop like they used to? Then maybe it is time for a makeover.

Most people think that the summer is the best time to remodel a kitchen, but starting a project like this with the end of summer and early fall light can make deciding on a color scheme easier. The holidays are sneaking up, so what better gift to give yourself than creating a beautiful new kitchen?

When people think of adding texture to a space, the first components that come to mind are color palette, furniture and layout. Integrating texture involves more than adding a throw rug or some decorative pillows. It is a mistake to leave other surfaces, such as the walls or the floors, out of the equation.

Textured tiles create walls and floors full of nuance and stimulate the senses to

achieve a more significant visual impact. You can choose 3D wall tiles to class up a modern room or Zellige tiles that create a play of light in a chic kitchen. Whether it's metallic tiles or etched tiles, these additions make a striking statement.

If your kitchen design is falling flat, adding depth with textured tiles in a simple backsplash is a great way to liven up the entire kitchen. Lunada Bay Tile's gorgeous tiles, such as Agate Taiko – Verona Ribbed, are an excellent addition to any space, giving a sleek and impressive kitchen design. The Luce Two-Inch Hex Metal from Lunada Bay Tile is another fantastic option for a backsplash. The distinctive natural markings give the contemporary tile design the perfect mod-



ANNAMARIE AMORE

ern touch.

Metallic tiles are a great way to brighten up a space. If your kitchen or room needs a bright pop, this subtle addition will give the area an entirely different feel.

Everyone loves a good kitchen remodel, but textured tiles are versatile and can be placed on floors and walls in any room. Whether your vision for your wall is a light background to highlight the more outspoken pieces in a room or to inject some depth and personality, the versatility of textured tiles can bring any vision to life.

Having a white kitchen is all the rave right now, but it can feel one-dimensional and sterile. Our eyes need something to gravitate toward, and a textured tile back-

splash can be your secret weapon by adding a visually dynamic element to the room.

Just as popular as white kitchens are black bathrooms. They are stylish, sophisticated and easy to match with other shades. Zellige tiles work well in an all-black bathroom to create shadows within the black color. Their handmade look allows light to bounce off them and sets a rich backdrop for a masculine interior design.

Textured tiles can benefit almost any room in your home. If you are looking to spice things up or add a more nuanced and popping look to a room in your house, adding textured tiles to a wall or floor may be the right choice for you.

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

Group Asking Children To Advocate For Milford Library Funding

The Friends of the Milford Library is hoping to encourage even the smallest patrons to engage in advocacy.

Young library users are asked to draw a picture or write a short poem or story on a piece of letter-sized paper, telling municipal leaders why they love the Milford Public Library. Completed work can be dropped off in the library's Children's Department. Their work will be scanned for display in a new online gallery on Biblioboard, to be shared with city officials as part of the group's advocacy for library funding.

"We want to show young people that civic engagement is important and that their voices matter, even before they're old enough to vote," said Sarah Darer of the FOML.

"I want them to know I value their input, be it a book recommendation or a program idea," said Suzanne Thomas, Children's Librarian of the children who visit her department. "Our kids' voices should be heard not just by us at the library, but by the officials who make the big decisions. This is their library, it is their city, and they are an important part of what makes it all work."

"Our library is a community asset, for residents of all ages, and our youngest supporters are some of our busiest users," said Milford Public Library Director Chris Angeli. "Access to a well-stocked and well-supported library provides an open door to learning and exploration for children of all ages."

Orange Cemetary To Host Wreaths For Veterans

The Connecticut Minuteman Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol based at Tweed New Haven Airport, in association with the Orange Cemetery Association, the New Haven Rotary and American Legion Orange Post 127 has selected the Orange Cemetery for the Veterans wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 18 this year.

Wreaths will be placed on veteran grave sites in the cemetery. If you have a veteran in the cemetery and would like to make sure the grave has a wreath placed on it, contact 1st Lt. Jerald Barber at 203-671-7848. A \$15 donation is requested.

Wreaths may also be picked up at

the Orange Cemetery on the day of the event. Contact Barber in advance so that there are enough wreaths available to accommodate all recognition requests.

Thousands of CAP officers and cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances every year to honor America's fallen. They present the colors, deliver orations and place veterans' wreaths on headstones at national and local cemeteries and war memorials.

Last year, more than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veterans' graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad.

PEACE OF MIND



"We've been arguing for 57 years and I wouldn't have it any other way. I met Jim when he was in law school in Washington DC; I had just finished college and decided to take a celebratory trip. The trip came to an end but that was just the beginning for us. We've been married 57 years now and we still argue... But, I wouldn't want to be with someone who agrees with me all the time. Where's the fun in that? A few years ago, we found out that Jim had Alzheimer's, so we moved into Maplewood and it's brought us even closer together. We love it here. Jim gets the care he needs and we get to create new memories together. From being in bell choir to canning homemade applesauce, this has become our home."

—*Vivian*, Resident, Director of Bell Choir & President of the Resident

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Milford Property Sells For \$3.3 Million

Colonial Properties of Orange recently completed the sale of the Marsh Hill Business Park at 4 Oxford Rd. in Milford for \$3.3 million. The commercial/flex condominium portfolio is comprised of five buildings with 17 units totaling 33,000 square feet.

The commercial investment property had a long history of stable tenancy and features a diverse tenant mix.

Colonial Properties was the sole broker in the sale. The seller, Sanibel, 955, LLC was represented by Mike Richetelli, president and designated broker at Colonial. The buyer, Oxford Condos LLC,

was represented by Colonial realtor Tony Vitti. The seller's attorney was Menachem Sandman of Sandman Law Group, LLC in New Haven; the buyer's attorney was John P. McHugh of Cranmore, Fitzgerald & Meaney, LLC in Hartford.

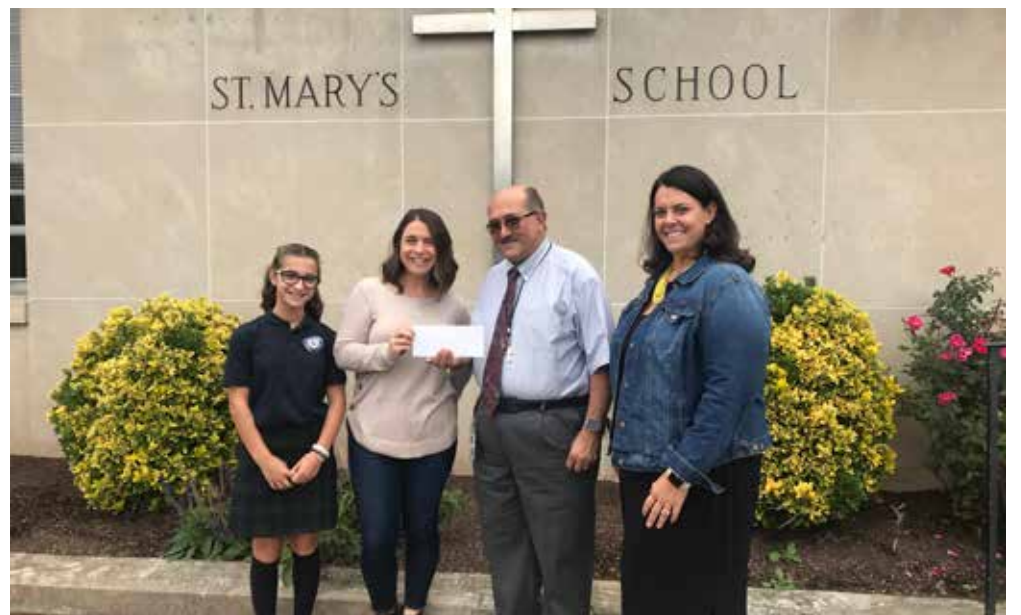
"We are very proud of being able to transact this sale on behalf of both the buyer and seller, who are both very pleased; it's truly one of those win/win scenarios where all parties enjoyed a favorable outcome," Richetelli said. "Colonial was also fortunate to have brokered the sale of this property to the seller back in 2005, so we were involved as it came full circle."

Orange Garden Club Hosts Tag Sale




The Garden Club of Orange held a tag sale on Oct. 16. Pictured are Greg Friedrichs, Patti Logioco and Joanne Friedrichs. Photo by Linda Bradford.

St. Mary School Pizza Night Raises Funds



St. Mary School held its fourth annual Family Night on Sept. 30 at Jimmy's Apizza in Milford. Anyone who bought a pizza from Jimmy's that night had 10 percent of the sale donated back to the school. Jimmy's Apizza presented a check for \$981.25 to St. Mary School from the fundraiser. Pictured are seventh grader Devyn Hogan, St. Mary School mother and Jimmy's Apizza family member Danielle Hogan, Principal Deacon Dominic Corarro and Assistant Principal Missy Dubin. Photos courtesy of St. Mary School.

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Kristallnacht Program In November

Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and with support by the American Society for Yad Vashem, will honor the heroism of Archbishop Damaskinos Papandreou of Athens on Sunday, Nov. 14 as part of the annual commemoration of Kristallnacht. The program, delivered via Zoom, is open to the public and free of charge.

The commemoration, which runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., recognizes the events which took place on Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, regarded by historians as the prelude to the Holocaust. In the course of 48 hours, mobs rampaged across Nazi Germany, Austria and German-occupied Czechoslovakia, murdering and maiming Jews. During those two days, hundreds of synagogues were destroyed and thousands of Jewish-owned businesses were plundered.

The violence of those days would be infamously called the Nights of Broken Glass, or "Kristallnacht," referring to the shattered windowpanes that littered the streets in the aftermath. Tragically, in the face of all this, the world was largely silent; almost no countries reached out to the Jews living under Nazism.

"That widespread inaction in the face of evil," according to Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus of Congregation Or Shalom, "is all the more reason to highlight the moral courage shown by a few. At our community's Kristallnacht commemoration, we focus on the unsung heroes whose life-saving acts were beacons that defied the darkness of the Holocaust."

This is the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany's occupation of Greece. After Greece fell to the Nazis, Papandreou, spiritual leader of Athens and all Greece, worked hard to protect Greek citizens from the German authorities and comforted those awaiting execution for resisting Nazism.

When the Nazi regime began deporting and killing Greek Jews in 1943, Papandreou openly protested. He published public letters denouncing the Nazis' actions, writing, "the Greek people must be willing to vouch for their Jewish brothers and sisters without hesitation." When the Nazi authorities threatened him with execution by firing squad, Papandreou responded, "According to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church, our leaders are hanged, not shot; respect our traditions."

The churches under Papandreou's authority were ordered to issue Christian baptismal certificates to Jews, and he advised priests to do their best to hide those to whom they could not issue certificates. In addition, the archbishop convinced Athens' chief of police to issue a false identification card to any Jew who asked for one.

The event will begin with the lighting of a yellow Holocaust Memorial candle and brief remarks on the significance of Kristallnacht by Wainhaus. Archbishop Elpidophoros of America will offer a prayer, followed by comments from Father Peter Orfanakos of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange. A US Senate citation will be presented by Sen. Richard Blumenthal to the family of Papandreou. That will be followed by comments from Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom, director of education of the American Society for Yad Vashem and by Lea Micha of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. Holocaust survivors who were rescued, directly or indirectly, by Papandreou will share their unique perspectives as well. Finally, a question and answer session led by Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, will take place.

Register for the Zoom link at jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht.

United Way Kicks Off Annual Fundraiser

The United Way of Milford held its 2021-2022 campaign kickoff on Oct. 19 at the Dockside Brewery in Milford. The campaign kickoff marks the start of United Way's annual fundraising effort and gives the organization

an opportunity to thank local companies, donors and volunteers for their generosity and commitment to the community. Event sponsor Subway contributed \$20,000 to kick off the campaign.



United Way of Milford Board of Directors President Gary Johnson, Campaign Chair Brian Smith and board members Diana Nytko, Pat Liptak, Diane Candido, Alisa White, Mary D'Amato, Joseph Dey and Gary Opin. Photo courtesy of the United Way of Milford.



From left: Michele DiNello, Gary Johnson, Jeanette Sten and Louis Rosa of the Subway Cares Foundation. Photo courtesy of the United Way of Milford.

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Obituaries

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

Joseph Alexander Andrews, age 48, of Milford, died on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Maria Antonelli, 80, of Milford, passed away peacefully on September 28, 2021. She was born on February 2, 1941 in Ptuj, Slovenia (former Yugoslavia). (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Michael Anthony Bakx, 23 of Milford, beloved son of Jodi and Anthony Bakx entered into heaven on September 25, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Karen A. Belotti, age 41, passed away suddenly on October 15, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Anne Elise Black, 80, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Raymond D. Black Sr., passed away on September 29, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Wilson E Blair, age 83 of Milford, beloved husband of the late Mildred Buturla Blair, died on Monday, October 4, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Annette "Bunny" Ochsner Chapin, 71, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on September 28, 2021. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Louise Dellipoali, 92, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Pompei Dellipoali, passed away on September 27, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Tina Kifer DiBona, 52, beloved wife of Michael DiBona of Milford passed away suddenly October 4, 2021 in Milford Hospital. (Porto-White Funeral Home)



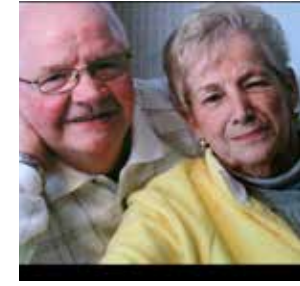
Lesley Erlacher, 96, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Paul Erlacher, Jr., passed away on October 20, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with much sorrow and great love, that the family of **Elizabeth Marie Fitzgerald**, 61, of Milford, CT, announce her sudden passing on September 27, 2021. (Cody-White Home)



Judith Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, 80, and **Daniel Moore Fitzmaurice**, 81, of Milford, both passed away surrounded by their entire family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Deborah E. Hardt, 64, of Milford, beloved wife of Richard L. Hardt, Sr., passed away on October 12, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Barbara J. Howe, age 91, of FL and formerly of Milford, beloved wife of the late Laurence G. Howe, died on Sunday, September 26th, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Harriet E. Jacobs, age 93, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Malcolm I. Jacobs, passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021 in Wallingford. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Mary Ann La Marca, born Marianna Cortese on April 17, 1947 in Sicily, went to reunite with her loving husband, Cirino, in Heaven the morning of October 21, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



On Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021 **Duane (Bud) Charles Sempsrott**, loving husband, father and grandfather went home to be with the Lord at 72. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert C. Sorensen, 88, of Woodbridge, passed away at his home on Saturday, October 23, 2021. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Jeffrey C. Ward was born on March 28, 1944 and passed away on October 12, 2021 at the age of 77. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Charles Peter Pigaty, 78, of Orange passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's. (Spinelli-Ricciuti Funeral Home)



MaryAnn Skurja, 91, of Huntersville NC and formerly of Stratford CT, died peacefully on October 2, 2021 with her family at her side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gary Teller, 68, of Orange passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Sept. 28, 2021 after a long and courageous battle with kidney disease. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



Charles D. Wheeler, age 76, of West Haven, died on Saturday, September 25, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Brittany Quirk, 26, of Milford, passed away on October 9, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



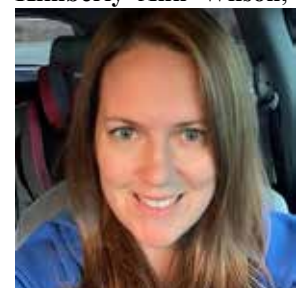
Walter Joseph Smith, Jr., 61, of Milford, beloved husband of Pam Black-Smith, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Francesco "Frank" Antonio Trombetta, 57, of Milford, beloved husband of Christine Trombetta, entered into eternal rest on October 18, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kimberly Ann Wilson, 38, of Milford, beloved wife of David Wilson, passed away on October 16, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Barbara Ann Rosiak, 80, of Milford, beloved wife of Franklin D. Rosiak, passed away peacefully on October 19, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Joan Elizabeth Carney Somers died at her Orange home under Hospice care on October 2, 2021, at the age of 92.



Shirley Ann Valentine, age 63, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on October 6, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Raymond "Ray" Wright Jr., a stagehand for Broadway and resident of Milford, CT, died of natural causes on September 19, 2021, at the age of 63. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



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The Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary Mourns A Tragic Loss

By Roger Tausig



As we all go through our lives, we are occasionally blessed to make the acquaintance of an extraordinary person or people who have a profound impact on us and those around us. Since I joined Rotary about eight years ago, I have had the privilege of knowing a number of people who are special, and among many other things embody the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

One of those people is Lynda Hammond, a dedicated Rotarian and tireless humanitarian. Hammond was taken from us on Oct. 16 after a relatively brief bout with an aggressive cancer that was quite advanced by the time it was discovered. Hammond was a friend to many and was a selfless person who dedicated herself to the betterment of people everywhere, from the local area to far flung places in Africa and the Caribbean. In the times we live in, where so many of us are singularly focused on our own wants and needs, I feel compelled to share the story of a person who spent a large part of her life putting others first.

Hammond has been a member of the Orange Rotary Club since 2010. She was a long-time member of the Hamden Rotary Club before that. One of her many accomplishments in service to others included a program called "Gift of Life." In heading up and executing this project, Hammond was the driving force behind the creation of a special hospital in the Dominican Republic singularly focused on lifesaving heart surgeries for hundreds of young children. She oversaw the construction of the hospital, the sourcing

of all the equipment and supplies needed and the staffing of doctors and nurses to perform the procedures.

Another major project that Hammond spearheaded, working hand-in-hand with her counterparts in Kenya, was a clean well water and sanitation system for a girls school in Nimbale, Kenya. Neither system existed before Hammond embarked on this project. Four hundred young girls who attend that school have her to thank for having these basic but critical systems to maintain their health and ability to learn and succeed.

Locally, and perhaps most dear to Hammond, was her engagement with St. Martin de Porres Academy in New Haven, an extraordinary faith-based middle school that provides tuition-free extended day education for children from low-income families. Under the auspices of Rotary, Hammond worked as an advisor to the student government there, helping to mold the leaders of tomorrow. She also mentored many children individually, providing guidance and acting as a role model for them. She always referred to them as "her kids," and she was beloved by the students and faculty for her extraordinary work there.

These are but a few examples of Hammond's prolific body of work with Rotary. Personally, she has inspired me and I'm sure many others to continue her work and take up the cause of helping others in need wherever and whenever possible. She was a beautiful soul who will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on through the people she has touched over her many years of service.



Lynda Hammond. Photo courtesy of Diane Eger.

Getting To Know You

Losing An Angel

I've met a lot of people in my life. It's a function of what I do and who I am. I enjoy meeting new people and I count myself lucky to have made their acquaintance.

Every so often I am fortunate to meet a truly mighty person, which is to say someone who uses their talents and time to make a huge impact on the lives of those around them. One of those mighty people I was privileged to meet was Lynda Hammond. She unfortunately passed away recently.

Allow me to be among the first of many who will say that she will be missed.

There isn't room for me to list all of Hammond's many achievements and accomplishments here. I'll leave it to others who can do it justice to read her resume into the record. Instead, I'll focus on what her example meant in my life. That is the best tribute I can give her.

To me, Hammond was a healer in the truest sense of the word. Along with a natural and easy empathy, she was also possessed of an iron will and determination that simply would not be denied in her quest to bring help to those who needed it most. For so many around the world, Hammond was literally the calvary riding to the rescue in their hour of greatest need. And when she set her mind to help someone, nothing and no one could stand in her way until that help was delivered in full, with her trademark smile and chuckle. Hammond brought aid and healing to the people, mostly children, who were in the direst of need



DAVID CROW

of it. Lynda Hammond spread life, love and seeds of hope wherever she went.

As I got to know more of Hammond, I came to regard her as a kind of superhero. There was a sense of incredible force of will and inevitability about her. I never once doubted that what she put her mind to in the course of helping people would

come to pass. Her soft but direct gaze could move whatever mountain stood in the way. I personally found it very comforting to know that such a magnanimous force for helping others walked the same Earth as me.

Whenever I spoke to Hammond, I always referred to her as "Angel." She was a shining example of the kind of person I always hoped to be. My life changed for the better because I met Hammond. The only regret I have is that I did not convey my admiration in strong and clear terms while she was here to receive it.

There are others who knew Hammond better than I did and are, therefore, much more qualified to eulogize her. This will be only one of the many pages of tribute written about her. That is entirely as it should be; Hammond is worth every word of praise and admiration she will receive. For the great gift she gave of light in dark places and the great example she was to me and others, all I will say is this: Thank you, Angel, and God speed.

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

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-Doug Manning

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