

# Milford-Orange Times

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December 16, 2021

## Milford, Orange Celebrate Holidays



Santa visited the Milford Green on Nov. 26 during the annual tree lighting ceremony. Photos by Robert Creigh. Additional photos on page 15.



Orange's town center became the focal point on Dec. 5 for the town's annual tree lighting and holiday festival. Photos by Lexi Crocco. Additional photos on page 14.

## Turkey Trot Brings Runners Out



Runners, walkers and dogs came out for the annual Orange Rotary Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot run/walk held at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Lexi Crocco. Additional photos on page 15.

## Orange Bicentennial Committee Gearing Up

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The committee that is organizing Orange's 200th birthday has been formed and held its first meeting Dec. 9, with another meeting scheduled for Jan. 6 at High Plains Community Center.

Patrick O'Sullivan, who recently retired

from his long-held position of town clerk, is chairing the Bicentennial Committee.

O'Sullivan said that the first brought 17 members of the committee together, where they decided to come up with ideas for the celebration and develop a calendar of events.

*Continued on page 2*

## Milford Capital Improvement Plan Moves Forward

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Planning and Zoning Board at its Dec. 7 virtual meeting unanimously approved Mayor Ben Blake's five-year capital improvement plan, sending it on for consideration by the Board of Aldermen.

The plan, which covers the years 2021-2026, is a yearly exercise in estimating the basic needs of the city and the costs they will entail.

Approving the plan does not necessarily mean that the projects contained in it will all be funded or carried out. Indeed, Blake acknowledged as much in his memorandum accompanying the plan, which said that "given

financial and economic realities, difficult decisions will have to be made as to what projects get funded and which ones will need to be deferred."

Nevertheless, the plan provides insight into the projects that the city is eyeing for the near future.

The most recent plan includes over \$190 million in projects. By far the largest chunk of those expenses would be paid through bonding – \$146.32 million of it. Almost \$27 million would come through state and federal grants, and the remainder would be paid by the city as each project was undertaken.

*Continued on page 2*

## Orange Selectmen Approve Fee Increases

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Some town fees are going up for people in Orange. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at its Dec. 8 meeting at Town Hall to increase fees at the Building Department and Fire Marshal's Office.

Orange Building Official Lucien

DiMeo made his case first, saying that the department saw about \$19 million in permit value when he arrived in 2014, the vast majority of which was commercial.

"The past few years, since 2017 to 2021, we've been averaging between \$50 million

*Continued on page 2*



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## Capital Improvement (Continued From 1)

The 146-page wish list focuses heavily on improvements to the schools and sewer systems.

First on the list is a new roof for Joseph A. Foran High School at \$3.5 million. Approximately 125,000 square feet of roof were installed more than 20 years ago and are due to be replaced.

Another \$15 million would go toward building a media center at Calf Pen Meadow Elementary school, which has not been significantly renovated since 1961, and \$16 million for a similar center at Live Oaks Elementary School, which has not been renovated since 1968. According to the justification for the projects, "The existing media center is inadequate by today's educational standards and is not on par with other elementary schools."

Other major renovations would occur at Harborside Middle School, with updates to the lavatories, front lobby and stairwell at \$25 million.

Various other outlays would fund replacing turf fields, improving ventilation systems and "miscellaneous renovations."

A large number of sewer projects are also up for consideration. One project would upgrade the Rogers Avenue sanitary pump station at a cost of \$3.63 million. The station, which serves Milford Center, had been planned for an upgrade in 2012 but lost out for lack of funding. Now, according to the document, the station "is frequently out of service."

A number of sewer upgrades would be designed to protect against flooding during storms – a trend that is becoming more frequent in Milford and the region. That includes the Rogers Avenue project, as well as pump stations at Captain's Walk, Carriage Drive, Crowley Street, Kinlock Street, Kurt Volk, Morningside Drive, Naugatuck Avenue

and Wanda Road. A proposal for submersible pumps at the Sailors pump station are also planned for "sea-level rise protection."

Toward the end of the plan is a request from the Recreation Department for a \$10 million recreation/community center, which would have a gymnasium, indoor track, fitness rooms, climbing wall, program and meeting rooms, teen center and internet café. While Milford doesn't have a center of that type, other towns including Orange do.

"A city of our size should have a unique and exciting community center that provides a healthy blend of recreation, fitness, culture and fun for all generations under one roof," the plan says.

## Bicentennial (Continued From 1)

O'Sullivan said there was "much excitement and many positive ideas from the members of the committee."

Several members of the committee were involved in Orange's 150th birthday celebration in 1972, including Mitch Goldblatt, Robert Hiza, Diana Duarte and Priscilla Searles, who also writes a column for the Milford-Orange Times.

The other members of the committee are: Rev. Norman Brockett, Rev. Jennifer Campbell, Rev. Bill Cavanaugh, Connor Deane, Polly Demirjian, Ann Denny, Rabbi Michael Farbman, Santo Galatioto, Jr., Raymond LaPlante, Patricia Logioco, Kevin Margenau, Kellie Martino, Marianne Miller, Rev. Peter Orfanakos, Lynn Plaskowitz, Virginia Proestakes, Ginny Reinhard, Rev. Joshua Schiff, Mary Shaw, Paul Tarbox, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus and Judy Williams.

The Orange Bicentennial Committee is still looking for volunteers to help in all aspects of the upcoming festivities.

Orange's legacy, of course, stretches

back more than 200 years. The land that is now called Orange was first settled by Europeans in 1639 as part of Milford and was incorporated as a separate town in 1822.

Even before that the area was under the control of the Paugussets. It was purchased by the Rev. Peter Prudden for six coats, 10 blankets, one kettle, 12 hatchets, 12 hoes, two dozen knives and a dozen small mirrors.

Orange was actually quite a bit larger until 1921, when the Connecticut General Assembly created West Haven from Orange's southeastern section.

To volunteer for the bicentennial activities, reach out to any of the committee members individually or email [adenny@orange-ct.gov](mailto:adenny@orange-ct.gov).

## Fees

### (Continued From 1)

and \$60 million worth of permit value. Our workload has increased, our demand for us has increased," he said.

DiMeo estimated that only about \$10 million to \$12 million would be raised in the coming year from residents, with the balance paid by commercial entities.

"It's not so much that it's going to be impacting the residents. It's going to be basically helping the residents by bringing more income into the town," he added.

He noted that only about seven years' worth of his department's records have been digitized, while the rest dating back to the 1950s remains in paper format. The fee increases would, he said, help the department to get the records under control.

Selectwoman Judy Williams asked DiMeo if he anticipated hiring more people with the added fees.

"There may come a time when I'm

going to need another person – a part-time person," DiMeo replied. "The load is tremendous, and the more I'm out in the field the less time I have in the office."

He said that the increased fees amounted to a minor expense for most commercial projects and wouldn't deter them from looking to develop in town.

Next up was Fire Marshal Jamie Vincent, whose department hasn't increased fees since 2011. He said that his department's fees are assessed based on square footage, and account for the time and effort it takes to review property drawings.

"I can probably count on one hand in the 23 years that I've worked for this town that we've had to review one drawing. They always come back with revisions," he said, adding that the proposed increases were largely "on par" with those of neighboring towns.

The last time the Fire Marshal's office increased fees was in 2011. Williams asked if the new fees would take the department through the next decade. Vincent said it probably would not.

"Maybe every five or seven years would be a little more effective, but that's up to the board to decide," he said.

Part of the reason both departments came to the selectmen together was because they knew the increases would have to go through a revision of the town charter.

Selectman Connor Deane wondered whether a time period for automatic increases could be built into the town charter to save money down the road.

Selectman John Carangelo replied that something like that had been offered during the previous charter revision but hadn't passed muster with the voters.

"The town shot down any idea that we had to try to make things simple," he said.

Both increases will take effect starting July 1, 2022.

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# Celebrating Another Successful Year!



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**SOLD for \$3,300,000**



**307 Great Oak Road, Orange**  
3 BR/3 BA Colonial - **SOLD for \$680,000**



**7 Strawberry Hill Road, Milford**  
3 BR/3 BA RR - **SOLD for \$450,000**



**173 Centennial Drive, Milford**  
4 BR/4 BA Colonial - **SOLD for \$715,000**



**29 Campfield Circle, Milford**  
3 BR/2 BA Cape Cod - **SOLD for \$431,000**



**172 Wild Rose Drive, Orange**  
4BR/3BA Ranch - **SOLD for \$680,050**



**342 Ridge Road, Orange**  
4 BR/ 3 BA Colonial - **SOLD for \$538,000**

# Happy Holidays!



# Opinion & Editorial

## Preparing For A Safe Winter



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

The past two years have been difficult for many Connecticut residents, but there are programs in place to help get you and your home through tough times safely, especially as the weather changes to winter.

For heating assistance please visit [ct.gov/staywarm](http://ct.gov/staywarm) or [operationfuel.org](http://operationfuel.org). There are also programs for utility assistance and advice on how to make your home more energy efficient. All of these links can be found on my website at [housedems.ct.gov/Welander](http://housedems.ct.gov/Welander). You can also call 211 for more information on home, food or personal assistance and support. Here are some suggestions of what you can do directly to stay healthy this winter.

Touch base with your physician. A recent DataHaven study showed that 12 percent of Connecticut women and 10 percent of men skipped or postponed (34 percent of women, 26 percent of men surveyed) needed medical care over the last year. Take care of yourself.

If you are looking for health insurance, or want to compare plans, visit [accesshealthct.com](http://accesshealthct.com) for more information and in-person events around the state. The open enrollment deadline is Jan. 15.

Be sure to have all prescriptions filled. Ask your doctor about advanced refills if a major storm is anticipated.

Get your flu and COVID vaccinations. School cases are increasing, and recent state positivity rates hit over 8 percent. Children ages 5 and up can get the vaccine, and all state residents over 18 are now eligible for the COVID-19 booster shot, which maintains higher levels of protection needed against this virus. While we have made incredible progress, we are not out of the woods yet. Vaccine information can be found at [portal.ct.gov/Vaccine-Portal](http://portal.ct.gov/Vaccine-Portal) or [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov).

Turn off water to outside spigots and let them drain empty. Know how to turn off your main water valve in case of a burst pipe.

Check generators and have extra fuel ready. Never run a generator or a gas/propane/charcoal grill inside your home. If your fireplace/woodstove is safe for fires, have seasoned firewood on hand.

Have non-perishable foods and water ready.

Be sure to have food and medication for your pets.

Check in with elderly or vulnerable neighbors and friends before a serious weather incident happens.

Lastly, I was thrilled on Nov. 19 to join our federal delegation to announce that a \$12.6 million federal grant had been awarded to improve the Derby Multimodal Transit Center. I had been working with the state Department of Transportation and local agencies on this grant for months, and I am so grateful for their partnership in this effort. Only 13 of these grants have been awarded nationwide, and this is the only one in Connecticut. This funding provides needed safety upgrades to the station and the surrounding area, electric bus/vehicle infrastructure, and will transform the way people travel in our region.

Please visit my website for other important information. As always, you can call or email me any time at 860-240-8354 or [mary.welander@cga.ct.gov](mailto:mary.welander@cga.ct.gov).

## Cautious Optimism On Budget



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, last week I had the opportunity to review the Fiscal Accountability Report issued by the governor's Office of Policy and Management and the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis. The FAR provides revenue and expenditure trends as they relate to the state budget to help policymakers develop future budgets.

The overall picture for the state is positive right now, with Connecticut continuing to have state surpluses for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, until federal funds decrease, leading to deficits in fiscal years 2024-2026.

And there lies the big problem. The state will run projected budget deficits of \$931.9 million in fiscal year 2024, \$670.3 million in fiscal year 2025 and \$325.6 million in fiscal year 2026.

One of the good things we can do with our excess state revenue is pay down some of our pension debt and obligations. An estimated over \$1 billion in both fiscal years 2022 and 2023 is being transferred to the state employee retirement system and teacher's retirement system accordingly.

Additionally, due to excess in the rainy day fund, Connecticut is able to transfer funds into the Special Transportation Fund with the fund balance growing from \$241.1 million in fiscal year 2022 to \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2026. I'm cautioned by this news because the main driver for this increase is mostly better than expected sales and use tax collections. The oil companies' tax has also increased, mainly due to the increase in the price of oil.

Next year the new "truck tax" begins. This is projected to bring in \$45 million in revenue in fiscal year 2023 and approximately \$90 million once fully implemented. This is sobering news for working families who will be paying more for home heating oil, gas for their vehicle and food due to the new truck tax.

The main item to glean from the meeting is that the projected budget deficits are largely due to the expiration of federal dollars. If we are not careful, the over-reliance on federal dollars from the America Rescue Plan could cause a huge fiscal disaster in the out years.

The Office of Fiscal Analysis is projecting that there is a positive structural balance going forward, which means revenue growth is outpacing fixed cost growth. This positive structural balance is largely due to the projected annual contributions to the state employee retirement system/teachers' employee retirement system funds. This is a result of excess budget reserve funds going toward these two accounts. This partly mitigates the loss in federal revenue. However, there are still deficits in the out years despite this positive structural balance.

I will not support raising taxes on middle class families to make up for the expiration of federal dollars. Instead, we need a comprehensive plan to solve the future deficits without asking taxpayers for more revenue, particularly as families are facing higher costs for food, fuel and other basic household items.

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

## A Year In Review



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

December is a month that marks the holiday season, a time in which people gather with friends, family and loved ones to reflect on the past year and set goals for the new year. I believe that just as we do this for ourselves, it is important to reflect on how the past year has impacted our community, and perhaps how we can build for a better 2022.

This year was the first fully virtual legislative session, which brought a unique set of challenges. At this point none of us is a stranger to adopting new habits and rethinking how our institutions operate. We are hoping that the upcoming session in 2022 can return to its normal in-person status, but we must realize that this year's new-look session was unproductive.

As we entered into the second calendar year of the pandemic, we knew that health care was as important as it's ever been for our constituents. I was proud to sponsor legislation providing health care, including mental health care, for COVID patients, veterans, homeless residents and residents with disabilities. We also passed special initiatives to ensure and protect health care and necessary services for victims of domestic violence. In a year where government accountability was of highest concern, I supported legislation to ensure legislative oversight on COVID funds. And when so much of our lives was made virtual, we replenished United Illuminating, expanded broadband, and made the internet more accessible for members of the 117th District.

While our community has accomplished and overcome so much together throughout the past year, we must remember that there are still issues that face us which require dedication and vigilance from elected officials in Hartford. My colleagues and I have spent the year reaching out to constituents in new ways to discuss important issues in our communities.

The House Republican Caucus has launched a series of juvenile justice forums, which began earlier this year and will continue into 2022. These forums are essential to create a public discussion on one of our most crucial problems in Connecticut. Youth crime is on the rise, and lawmakers are making it harder than ever to hold young criminals accountable.

Our juvenile justice forums are a great way to stay informed on the issue, learn about the laws in place, and my and my colleagues' plan to fix it. But it is also important that our community stresses the importance of safe and healthy lifestyles to our youth. This is essential to protect our future. We must emphasize the benefit of youth programs that encourage positive outcomes and reward good conduct. This is something of great personal priority to me, and something I employ in my own life as a karate and mixed martial arts instructor.

This year showed the resolve of our community in the 117th District, and I am proud to serve it in Hartford. Through my work there, I will continue to challenge myself to represent the best interests of the people of West Haven, Orange and Milford and make our community safe and prosperous in 2022.

From my family to yours, I want to wish you all the best in the holiday season. Please continue to reach out to me at [Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov) with your questions and concerns regarding state issues.

## Connecticut's Rainy Day Fund



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

I think of my grandfather often, but I tend to think of him more during this time of year. I am writing this on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. My grandfather was a World War II Navy vet, and he enlisted because of the events at Pearl Harbor.

Some of my fondest memories as a child include my grandfather. Many of those memories are spending time with him on his boat. What I learned from being on that boat is that you need to plan before you turn a boat around. The bigger the boat is, the longer it takes to turn around.

The same can be said of governments. It takes a long time to turn them around. While in past years Connecticut's finances haven't been in the best shape, they are definitely starting to turn around. That is thanks to reforms that were initiated in the 2017 budget – a budget that my predecessor Sen. Gayle Slossberg was instrumental in shaping. Connecticut has begun to right its financial ship.

We currently have the fifth best rainy day fund in the country. In fact, because our rainy day fund is at its statutory maximum of 15 percent of the current budget, or \$3.1 billion, this past year we made a \$1.6 billion payment towards our unfunded pension liabilities. By doing so, we are estimated to save \$3.45 billion in catch-up payments over the next 25 years. In addition, we are expected to pay off another \$3.1 billion dollars in unfunded liabilities over the next two years. Those payments will save us hundreds of millions of dollars each year in payments toward our pensions.

Over the last several years, Connecticut has also been shrinking the size of government and reducing our annual borrowing and total outstanding debt. In fact, we are down to 1950s-levels of state employees and our workforce is over 19 percent lower – more than 6,000 fewer employees – than at the beginning of 2019.

These changes to Connecticut's finances are not going unnoticed. Rating agencies have highlighted the state's recent performance with credit upgrades in the spring of 2021. We were upgraded by all four major credit rating agencies. It feels good to be recognized for our hard work. Right now we are getting our finances in order and it's a relief.

Recently I attended the Fiscal Accountability Report presentation, and while we are not completely out of the woods, we are only a few years away from eliminating structural deficits. There are still tough choices to be made and we need to maintain the discipline of the last several years, but at the presentation, the optimism of the budget professionals was clear. If we continue on the path we have paved, we are charting a path toward a brighter fiscal future for the state of Connecticut.



# Opinion & Editorial

## Editorial: Make This A Season Of Giving

As soon as the last bite of Thanksgiving turkey is eaten, the holiday season begins in earnest with a weekend of “themed” days: Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and, finally, Giving Tuesday.

What does the order of this parade of spending days say about our priorities? We have three days devoted to spending on toys, outfits, gifts and – let’s face it – things we want for ourselves that are finally on sale. Only after all that commercial spending, when our reserves are at their lowest, are we asked to consider the broader needs of the community or the world.

The fact that we can do all that spending in the first place is proof enough that we live privileged lives compared to so many.

Yet giving is needed to help people everywhere, at all times. Some people were, like us, Americans who would have gone through the same holiday spending spree if not for some unimagined tragedy.

Take the tornadoes that struck portions of several southern states – and especially Kentucky – this month. Possibly 100 or more people were killed, and hundreds lost their homes or workplaces. The damage will cost billions to repair. Lost lives, sadly, are irreparable.

There are ways we in Connecticut can help these victims. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear set up a fund to directly help victims in Western Kentucky called the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund. You can donate at kentucky.gov.

Several organizations have expertise

and a track record in responding to crises. These include groups like the American Red Cross. You can donate by going to redcross.org or calling 800-RED CROSS. Similarly, the international aid organization CARE has set up a donation fund specifically for the tornado victims at care.org.

While the tornado disaster is heartbreaking, it is only one of thousands of disasters that occur worldwide every year. You may recall Hurricane Ida’s effect in Louisiana this summer. Or the magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck Haiti in August. These events are still affecting peoples’ lives today, and supporting organizations like CARE can help ensure people get the help they may still need.

Of course, you need not go that far to

lend support to your fellow human beings. The Beth-El Center in Milford offers shelter, meals and services for the homeless in the area. You can find out more about their work at bethelmilford.org. The Connecticut Food Bank provides meals to those who might otherwise not get them around the state. You can read more about what they do at ctfoodbank.org.

An added benefit with local organizations like these is that you can also find ways to donate your time, not just your money.

Whatever cause you choose, and however you choose to help, make the effort this year to add charity to your list of gifts. By doing so we can truly make this the season of giving – not just the season of spending.

### Commentary:

## Paying Local Taxes At The Last Minute Is Not A Good Idea

Few of us enjoy paying taxes, but your local taxes are taxes you should prioritize. Many of us put this off to the last minute. What you may not realize is that this habit can cost you money.

If the tax payment becomes late for any reason, state statute requires the tax collector to collect interest owed. In the Connecticut General Statutes, the rate for delinquent taxes is set at 1.5 percent per month.

The statutes further go on to state, “The tax collector of a municipality may waive the interest on delinquent property taxes if the tax collector and the assessor, jointly, determine that the delinquency is attributable to an error by the tax assessor or tax collector and is not the result of any action or failure on the part of the taxpayer.”

This means that if the payment is received late for any reason other than the above the

taxpayer will owe the town interest.

Orange has many convenient ways for you to pay on time. You may pay online by debit card, credit card and by e-checks. Fees are assessed by the vendors providing these services. The town does not benefit from these convenience fees. You may also pay in person. The tax office takes payments between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. We take checks, cash, money orders, bank checks and online bank checks at the office. We do not take credit cards in the office.

The town has grace periods for paying your taxes. Check your bill. All taxes are due on July 1. Depending on motions at the



THOMAS P. HURLEY

Annual Town Meeting, real estate taxes are generally split into two halves payable on July 1 and Jan. 1. Other taxes are due in full on July 1 unless changed at the town meeting.

We have a supplemental motor vehicle billing period accounting for the buying and selling of vehicles over the year since the last billing cycle. Payments are due on Jan. 1. You should be seeing these bills shortly.

What happens when the last due date is missed? You will owe interest for the next full month on the principal. But we give you a month’s grace period to make your payments. So what happens when your payment posts after the grace period ends? You are considered two months in arrears. A

3 percent charge will be immediately added to your tax bill. Only a USPS cancellation stamp on your envelope on or before the due date allows an on-time payment to be posted. So don’t just drop it in the mailbox and expect you filed on time. Make sure the stamp gets cancelled in a post office.

Finally, if a third party such as a bank caused the problem, don’t expect the tax office to correct the problem. The tax collector must charge interest for late payments and will not waive any returned check fees if a returned check caused the problem. Your recourse is with the party causing the lateness.

Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.

### 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.

#### Legion Thanks Veterans

To the Editor:

Speaking for the veterans of Ameri-

can Legion Post 127 of Orange, we wish everyone a happy Hanukkah, a joyous Christmas and the best in the coming new year.

The post has served veterans, the community of Orange and its surrounding towns since it was formed after the First World War. Although we were forced to stop operations last year due to the pandemic, we did not lose touch with our core values of service to our community, state

and nation. With the support of our members, friends and neighbors, we were able to restart services at the hall in February 2021. Since then, we have been open every Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. with a casual meal and good company. We are open to all to come and meet and socialize with the people who have served in the armed forces of our nation.

A special thanks goes to all who have donated time, services or money to supporting our veterans organization and its mission. Both in the past and the future the Veterans Hall is here to serve both our military veterans and be a part of the community that our service was to protect. It is through the donations from the commu-

nity and its members that we are able to maintain our mission.

Today, the servicemen and women in our armed forces are standing guard to defend our nation. They may be at some remote base thousand miles from home, or at the local hospital helping the staff manage the task of fighting this pandemic. I hope that the rewards of their service of defending our country are as meaningful to them as my service was for me. Let us all take a moment to give thanks for their service and a prayer for their safe return home.

Lewis Merritt  
Commander, American Legion, Post 127  
Orange

### Public Notice: Town of Orange

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 10-153d(b), there is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, the signed copy of the labor contract between the Orange Teachers League and the Orange Board of Education.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut, this the 2, day of December 2021.

Patrick B. O’Sullivan  
Orange Town Clerk

### Notice of Democratic Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Orange, Connecticut

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: January 4, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut, on the November 19, 2021,  
Democratic Town Committee of Orange, CT

Jody Dietch  
Chairperson

### Milford-Orange Times

Stephen Hechtman, Publisher: publisher@theorangetimes.com  
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In The House: Rep. Mary Welander (D-114) Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117) Kathy Kennedy (R-119)  
Senator’s Seat: Sen. James Maroney

#### Columnists:

- |                                      |                                  |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Annamarie Amore, Flooring            | Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health | Hlene Moyher, Recycling           |
| Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences | Matt Gallagher, Finances         | Susan Oderwald, Senior Care       |
| Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This    | Patricia Houser, Environment     | Trish Pearson, Insurance          |
| Cathy Bradley, Running               | Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary     | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel        |
| Kathy Charbonneau, Orange Chamber    | 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            |
| Allison Depaola Drozd, Legal         | Marilyn May, Milford History     | Roger Tausig, Rotary              |
| Pat Dray, Gardening                  | Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health | Michele Tenney, Health            |
|                                      | Michael Moses, Milford Chamber   |                                   |

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### Mental Health

# Setting Goals To Improve Emotional Well-Being In 2022

It's no surprise that only about 10 percent of New Year's resolutions are actually accomplished. We are creatures of habit, and making sustained change can be very challenging when life and lack of motivation get in the way.

Some studies have shown that by the second week in January, many resolute goals setters start waving the white flag in defeat. There are a multitude of reasons why New Year's resolutions fail, one of the most common being that goals are too lofty or unattainable. This can often lead to frustration.

Instead of going into the new year with lofty goals that can be overwhelming, why not take steps to improve your emotional and mental well-being? Adopting steps to be happier instead of "better" can have a greater impact and can lead to a general sense of contentment. This approach beats putting

unnecessary pressure to completely change your lifestyle or appearance from unrealistic resolutions.

What steps can a person take in the new year to be happier?

Learn to say "no." You may not be one to decline requests or opportunities, but we have all experienced feeling overloaded, and that only adds to our level of stress. Start practicing saying no to things that cut into your personal time and the time that you may need to keep your life in order. You can't meet other peoples' needs if you can't meet your own first.

Practice random acts of kindness. In a world where we are all super busy and can't always pay attention to what's happening around us, offer a helping hand to someone



JENNIFER FIORILLO

who may be struggling. It could be as simple as helping an elderly person take their trash can to the end of the driveway or bringing food to a sick neighbor. Allow yourself to give back even if it's in a small way. Doing this will force you to pause and not be absorbed by the demands of your own life.

Ask for help when you need it. For those stoic people out there, it's time to allow yourself a little assistance from others when things become too overwhelming. Don't be afraid to ask your family or friends to help you when you're in a bind. This doesn't mean becoming dependent on others - you are admitting to yourself that you're human and could sometimes use a little extra

support with getting things done.

Finally, one that many of us will have a difficult time implementing: give yourself time to disconnect from social media and the cell phone. We are bombarded by a constant stream of news updates and trending items. A majority of what we read and see is negative news that only adds to the doom and gloom that we have experienced from the pandemic in the last 22 months. It's time to develop the habit of shutting it down, even if it's only for a few hours a day. There isn't anything of great importance that will happen in that short period of time to warrant staying connected to a world of chaos.

*Jennifer Fiorillo, MBA, MPH is the president and CEO of Bridges Healthcare in Milford, and may be reached at [Jfiorillo@bridgesmilford.org](mailto:Jfiorillo@bridgesmilford.org).*

### Just Floored

# Floor Finishes In Fashion

The new year is right around the corner, and with that comes new trends. 2022 is coming in hot with tons of new flooring trends that will transform any room in your home. Throughout the years, as technologies progress and homeowners acquire new tastes, there is more room for a greater variety of designs.

Floor finishes of brown hues became very popular in 2021. Anything ranging from ebony to driftwood was seen quite often. This natural look will continue to thrive in 2022, but with a few modifications.

Allowing floor imperfections such as mineral streaks and knots can serve as a part of the aesthetic of the space and can create a more natural feel - something many homeowners are striving toward.

Natural looks complement the "less is more" aesthetic that is rapidly growing in popularity. Everywhere you look, minimalist-styled homes are popping up. This year's trend is all about an organic look, affordability and convenience.

Another big hit for this upcoming year is faux flooring. These are tiles or planks that look like wood but are vinyl. Vinyl tile will never go out of style due to its realistic look, affordability and easy maintenance.

When it comes to genuine hardwood, there are a lot of options to manipulate it into making it have a certain feel. All types of wood floors undergo a type of staining to create the desired finished look. Smoked hardwood floors get their rich color and grain without having to stain.

Staining wood can take days and is a major inconvenience in your home. Smoked hardwood floors, on the other hand, comes from a reaction of being "smoked" in a chamber that yields a unique color. In general, smoking hardwood rather than staining it gives the wood dark tones and enhances the natural grain of the wood. It is much more attractive than the final outcome of stained hardwood floors.

Bleached woods are also strongly coming into style. Whitewashing wood gives it an ash-white look with the natural grain still visible from below, so there is no charm nor beauty of the natural wood lost. The downside to whitewashing hardwood is it can be an expensive and tedious job. Other options for a similar look would be a faux flooring with similar aesthetic and



ANNAMARIE AMORE

colors.

The style of a worn flooring look has been around for years, and in 2022 more owners will choose an aged look for their floors. The floors go through an artificial aging and styling process that gives them a slightly worn finish, which is perfect for spaces with a rustic look.

If you have an industrial space or a contemporary styled home, concrete or micro-cement may be a better worn flooring option for you.

Traditional materials are becoming more and more obsolete. In 2022, homeowners are looking for materials that have received special treatment to be unique in design and texture. Whether it is faux flooring, bleached floors or smoked hardwood, people are looking for new and exciting options.

*Annamarie Amore is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialist. She can be reached at [amoreinteriorsllc@gmail.com](mailto:amoreinteriorsllc@gmail.com).*

  
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**Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce**

# Changing For Success

The past year proved to be a whirlwind of challenges, surprises and opportunities. We learned to do almost everything virtually and spent more time than ever imagined in video meetings. Every organization adapted to new patterns of managing and conducting business. I'm especially proud of our Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce membership for reaching new levels of creativity and problem solving under these business conditions.



**MICHAEL MOSES**

issues head-on; first understand simple ideas deeply. Clear the clutter and expose what is important. Be brutally honest about what you know and don't know. Then see what's missing, identify the gaps and fill them in. Let go of bias, prejudice and preconceived notions. There are degrees of understanding (it's not just yes-or-no) and you can always heighten yours. Rock-solid understanding is the foundation for success.

We appreciate our members and their contribution to what makes the Milford region such a unique place to live, work and play. Our chamber staff is dedicated and passionate in support of our programming, education and events. Each member of our small but efficient team is available to assist all our members, so I hope you'll utilize the numerous resources available in building your business.

2022 is going to be a year of transformation – from a stable, successful chamber with an engaged membership to a best-in-class organization with diversified revenue opportunities, increased programming, education and legislative representation. While formulating our go forward plan, I referred to a foundation of progressive thinking – forcing a paradigm shift in the chamber business model.

One of my favorite sources for inspiration is a piece by Dr. Edward B. Burger and Dr. Michael Starbird called "The Five Elements of Effective Thinking." They argue that geniuses often practice learnable habits of thinking that allow them to see the world differently. By doing so, they avoid much of the folly that so often ensnares others. Eliminating stupidity is easier than seeking brilliance.

The say you can choose to become more successful by adopting five habits:

1. Understand deeply. Don't face complex

2. Make mistakes. Fail to succeed. Intentionally get it wrong to inevitably get it even more right. Mistakes are great teachers – they highlight unforeseen opportunities and holes in your understanding. They also show you which way to turn next and ignite your imagination.

3. Raise questions. Constantly create questions to clarify and extend your understanding. What's the real question? Working on the wrong questions can waste a lifetime. Ideas are in the air. The right questions will bring them out and help you see connections that otherwise would have been invisible.

4. Follow the flow of ideas. Look back to see where ideas came from and then look ahead to discover where those ideas may lead. A new idea is a beginning, not an end. Ideas are rare – milk them. Following the consequences of small ideas can result in big payoffs.

5. Change. The unchanging element is change. By mastering the first four elements, you can change the way you think and learn. You can always improve, grow and extract more out of your education, yourself and the way you live your life. Change is the universal constant that allows you to get the most out of living and learning.

Get ready for some fun with the return of more in-person events, networking and educational opportunities, and a significantly increased value equation.

**Orange Chamber of Commerce**

# Yielding Results

"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals." — Andrew Carnegie

The Orange Chamber of Commerce's efforts to create a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses and community organizations is starting to yield promising results. We have two new programs – Bucks for Bricks, and SARAH, Inc. volunteer workers – which are coming to fruition to connect businesses with the community.



**KATHY CONVERSE CHARBONNEAU**

sis by their name above. You can list only one organization per order. If you are a constituent of one of these organizations, you will receive more information from them through their communication channels. To order a brick and help your organization of choice visit [bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamberbricks](https://bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamberbricks).

**New free resource for volunteer employees:** The Orange Chamber is forging a partnership with SARAH, Inc. to supply volunteer workers to local businesses and community organizations for short-term or long-term staffing needs. SARAH, Inc. is a nonprofit that works with disabled adults to help them gain job skills and knowledge. They provide the insurance for their workers and on-site job coach, so things go smoothly. The goal is for the business and volunteers to have mutually beneficial experiences. Contact me for more information.

**Local holiday gift ideas:** Looking for last-minute gift ideas that support the Orange community? In addition to the chamber's bicentennial bricks (which come with a gift certificate upon request), the Orange Historical Society is selling beautiful bicentennial medallions, and a reprint of Mary Woodruff's History of Orange, 1639-1949. Woodruff's book is a fantastic way to brush up on Orange history. Visit [orangehistory.org](https://orangehistory.org) or call 203-795-3106 for more information. And of course, please try to spend your shopping dollars at all our town's local businesses. Keeping your spending local positively impacts the entire community.

Follow the chamber on Facebook for the latest updates and contact me at [director@orangechamber.com](mailto:director@orangechamber.com) or 203-795-3328 for more information on our programs and resources. Happy holidays.

**Bucks for Bricks:** The chamber is selling commemorative engraved bricks for the Orange Bicentennial in 2022. This program is an important chamber fundraiser that will help enable us to continue to support local businesses. The bricks will be installed around the gazebo at High Plains Community Center, becoming a permanent part of Orange town history.

We are partnering with local organizations to spread the word about the bricks and help these organizations raise money (\$5 for every brick they sell, and the chance to win a \$500 donation for selling the most bricks). If you are a local organization and would like to join this program, call me.

**Support your favorite participating organization:** The chamber is excited to announce that the Orange Historical Society, Orange Land Trust, and Congregation Or Shalom are the first to take part in the Bucks for Bricks program. You can show your support by purchasing a brick and entering the organization's "unique code" in the online order form to make sure they get credit for your order. Simply put the organization's code in the section that says, "Any comments or instructions." The code for each organization is in parenthe-

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Al Melotto



## Foodie Foursome

# Chips: Not Just Pancakes In Orange

If you have lived in the Milford-Orange area for even a short time you are probably aware of Chips Family Restaurant. The Post Road in Orange has been the home of one of Connecticut's most recognized restaurants since 1966.

The past two years have definitely been a trying time, between COVID and the perpetual road construction which almost hid the restaurant and its entrance from view. They did not just persevere: Chips created a wonderful outdoor oasis for their loyal patrons and even helped "health care heroes" during their most difficult days.

When "Georgie" Chatzopoulos took over the 37-year-old restaurant in 2003, he not only maintained the previous culture of community involvement but took it to a new level, creating fundraisers and support for Rotary, Parkinson's research and more.

Chatzopoulos's philosophy is, "We are here because of the local people; I believe that providing great service, high-quality food, and a friendly atmosphere will keep our customers coming back."

On this night I was joined by Eric, Kim and Brian for a fun and eclectic dining experience. While famous for their iconic breakfasts, we did start out with a few savory appetizers. They are light fare, but

when shared by several people made for the perfect starters. The chicken quesadillas were spot-on tender, cheesy and tasty. The southwestern mini egg rolls were oh so good, with the crispy wrappers filled to the brim with chicken, tomato, corn and black beans and served with fresh salsa.

Because they serve breakfast all day, every day, we went back to what Chips is known for: legendary pancakes, eggs, waffles and French toast. They are a treat any time, especially since their methods of preparation and recipes for pancakes and waffles are unique to them. They only use the highest quality ingredients, unique syrup flavors, real Vermont maple syrup and cage-free eggs. The results are pancakes that are fluffy, large and have a great texture and taste.

While there seems like an unending variety to choose from, we had the "Patriotic" which had fresh blueberries, strawberries and bananas atop five buttermilk blueberry pancakes. They were delicious with an abundance of fresh, ripe fruit. The "German apple," which had fresh sliced apples cooked inside five buttermilk pancakes,



STEVE COOPER

topped with cinnamon, powdered sugar and served with a raspberry puree sauce was a tasty treat.

We also tried the waffles and French toast. The waffles had a perfect, slight crunchy shell and an airy interior that did not have the doughy texture you get at most restaurants. The French toast was masterful with a buttery custard, yet firm interior encased in a browned exterior that begged for that pure maple syrup and melted butter.

The perfect pairing for the creations just mentioned are classic egg dishes. The first was eggs benedict: two poached eggs, perfectly cooked with a softened yolk, Canadian bacon on an English muffin, topped with a sublime hollandaise sauce. Next up was a skillfully prepared omelet customized to our combined tastes with onion, bell pepper, Swiss cheese, bacon and tomato – and of course three cage-free eggs. As a culinary photographer I will also say that they were not just delicious but artfully plated.

While we were impressed by what Chips is traditionally known for, what followed was truly impressive: the lunch and dinner choices. We kicked that off with the

patty melt, an eight-ounce certified angus beef hamburger with American cheese and grilled onions on toasted grilled wheat bread. The simplicity of seasoning and quality meat was extremely flavorful, cooked to a tender yet crusty exterior and a juicy medium temperature interior, just as we all liked. The Reuben, another classic, featured very tender and juicy corned beef, Swiss cheese and sauerkraut on grilled rye bread worthy of a New York deli. Last but not least was a superb pot roast with a full-bodied sauce that had a smooth yet savory finish. The beef was fall-apart tender with chunks of carrots and potatoes, providing an ideal partnership for an American classic.

The restaurant continues to make everything homemade. The staff and generations of customers know that is what sets them apart. Being proud of his Greek heritage, Chatzopoulos has fused Mediterranean favorites with traditional American comfort food to create a restaurant that the locals love and is a draw for surrounding communities.

They are open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner and also cater to vegan and vegetarian appetites. They have plenty of off-street private parking and are located at 321 Boston Post Rd. in Orange.

## Getting To Know You

# Meal Mistakes That Made The Holidays

I don't remember exactly when it happened, but somewhere around the birth of my first son my wife and I inherited the family holiday hosting duties, which we now share with my sister-in-law and her husband. Along with the hosting duties came the preparation of the various holiday feasts.

One of my favorite parts of the holidays is food. Well, let's be honest: one of my favorite things in life is food. It just so happens that food is a large part of the celebration during the holidays.

I'm a grizzled veteran of preparing holiday feasts, but there was a learning curve.

For example, I learned in our very first preparation of a holiday feast just how fast a turkey can slide across a kitchen floor when you butter it up and drop it before you put it in the oven. I'll never forget my pregnant and hormonal wife sobbing as I scrambled after it on my hands and knees while muttering about catching greased pigs.

Then there was that one holiday where I learned that if you don't strain the turkey drippings before you make roux, the resulting gravy will have lumps in it no matter how much you stir it. It didn't taste bad, but it didn't pass the eye test. We had a lot of leftover gravy that year.

A few years later I learned just how hard pecan pie can be if you forget that it's in the oven

and let it bake for around four to five hours. It wasn't fit to eat, but it would have made one heck of a manhole cover. Dessert that feast was Oreo cookies and milk. Everyone was happy and none the wiser until I frisbeed that burnt mass of pecan brittle over the back hedge.

Then there was the great cyan-pepper-infused-sweet-potato-pie mystery a few holidays later. In my defense, I had some extra help in the preparation of that particular feast, and no one has ever owned up to that recipe substitution. I have my suspicions, but there hasn't been a confession, so I got the official reprimand for that clandestine culinary misadventure.

I'm not a fan of creamed onions, but some of our regular guests are, so I make them. That is, unless I forget to make them and then they sit in the freezer until I get up the courage to get rid of them. I feel guilty, but not for the reason you think. I'm guilty because I'm destroying the evidence that I whiffed on the mandatory creamed onion preparation. Then again, that cranberry sauce that I forgot to put out had some company for a while.

Yes, there have been feasts when the wine wasn't so good. We drank a lot of it to compen-



DAVID CROW

sate. There have been feasts when the turkey was a little overdone, so we slathered on the gravy to cover it. I've also had a feast where the mashed potatoes might have looked to the naked eye a little closer to the potato salad end of the spectrum. That's a hard one to gloss over, even with lumpy gravy.

Those cooking faux pas used to embarrass me. I'd spend all year promising myself I'd do better, just to discover a whole new field of mistakes the next time around.

Now, however, the memories have become precious to me. They serve as reminders of holidays past with my loved ones gathered around our table enjoying the company and the great blessings in our lives. If I take a step back

before I look at that table, I don't see the small mistakes or omissions. Instead, I see laughter and love. That is the best feast of the holidays – even if the gravy has a lump or two.

This holiday season, be sure to hug all yours close and share a good laugh about the accidental string-bean-flambeau. Happy memories are the best gift ever.

Until next year, y'all come out!

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

## Milford Rotary Makes IRIS Donation



Milford Rotary Club president Carrie Reed recently presented the club's \$6,000 donation to Chris George of Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Service in New Haven to benefit refugees from Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of Milford Rotary.

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Facing Ourselves

Which Wolf Will You Feed?

Hanukkah. Bodhi Day. Christmas. Kwanzaa. These are some of the many celebrations that occur worldwide in December.

The holidays invite us to remember what is truly important. In the midst of our frantic schedules, the endless multi-tasking and the perpetual onslaught of overstimulation from the 24-hour news cycle, online shopping and a plethora of streaming options, we can often lose sight of who we are.

Who really benefits from the seeds of distrust and hatred that are sown by misinformation and animosity? Who is the conqueror when we divide?

In the 1990s, the discovery of mirror neurons was met with excitement about the potential for shedding light on the neurological mechanisms underlying how humans interact with one another.

we act and react to one another does have a neurological basis.

A common example of mirror neurons at work is the way in which infants are frequently observed to mimic the facial expressions of their caregivers.

Of course, there are times in which we reap what we do not sow. Injustice occurs, as do hatred, loss, fear and prejudice.

What action do we take when life is unfair or cruel? When we are faced with bias and unfair treatment, the practice of mindfulness teaches us to first feel, not suppress, those emotions.

Through mindfulness, we have the opportunity to pause, so we may be in tune with our emotions and our experiences.



JENNIFER JU

which to respond. Do we wish to fight fire with fire? Do we wish to live by the philosophy of an eye for an eye? Or do we wish to turn the other cheek or take the higher ground?

There may be no absolute one right way in which to respond to any situation. However, when we take time to honor our emotions and be present with our experience while concurrently honoring the sacredness of our shared humanity and the gift of life within each of us, we can better decide what we choose to put forth into the world.

There is a Cherokee tale that describes an interaction between an old Cherokee and his grandson. In this tale, the Cherokee describes the internal war within all people, which he describes as a battle between two "wolves" inside of us.

love, peace, joy, empathy and kindness.

Upon reflection, the grandson asks his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The Cherokee replies, "The one you feed." We have gone through a lot as a society and as individuals. The pandemic, diminished economic security, the loss of lives and good health, uncertainty about the future of our planet as environmental crises continue to escalate, ongoing racial injustice.

As this year draws to a close, ask yourself: which wolf will you be feeding as you head into the new year?

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.

GCC Awarded \$8,000 For Manufacturing Scholarships

The Gateway Community College GREAT Center recently received an \$8,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation to provide scholarships for manufacturing students.

Scholarships will support GCC students seeking National Institute for Manufacturing Skills credentialing on measurement, materials and safety. The

credential is useful for students seeking employment in the manufacturing industry or working in the field in an entry level position and looking to increase their skills for career advancement. Certification validates that an individual has the knowledge of standard steel classifications and numbering systems, precision measuring devices, shop and

machine safety and general machining practices and inspection techniques.

NIMS was established by the leading metalworking trade associations to develop and maintain a globally competitive American workforce. NIMS operates under rigorous and highly disciplined processes and is the only developer of American national standards for the

nation's metalworking industry accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

NIMS certifies skills against national standards. Candidates for credentialing must meet performance and theory requirements and exams are industry-designed. The credentials are used in hiring and promoting workers.

Stony Creek URGENT CARE advertisement with logo, services list, office addresses, and website information.

PRIME 16 advertisement for burgers and tap house with images of food, menu items, and contact information.



## Your Health

# Public Health Matters

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of public health services. There are several reasons why we must prioritize public health.

Protecting the public's health depends on strengthening the system and implementing proven strategies to improve health outcomes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the 10 essential public health services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities:

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets.
2. Investigate, diagnose and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion and implement policies, plans and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions de-

signed to improve and protect the public's health.

7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.

8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.

9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement.

10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

During the annual state Department of Public Health survey, each health department, whether full time or part time, is required to demonstrate how consistently and effectively they are providing these 10 essential services.

Recently, I had the opportunity to virtually meet our new DPH commissioner, Dr. Manisha Juthani, who shared her vision, priorities and goals. She is an infectious disease specialist trained at the Yale School of Medicine. Prior to joining the DPH, she was a director of the infectious diseases fellowship program



DR. AMIR  
MOHAMMAD

and was actively involved in training physicians. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been instrumental in leading the efforts at Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital.

During our meeting, she emphasized the importance of training and developing the public health workforce, enhancing essential funding to bolster local

health departments, improving public health data sharing and acknowledging the challenging work being done during this pandemic by all local health departments. She reminded us that the recently approved state and local fiscal recovery funds from the federal government should be used in supporting the public health response in mitigating the impact of COVID-19.

I am hopeful that Juthani will collaborate with the local health departments and provide leadership and guidance to overcome the existing gaps and deficiencies in providing the 10 essentials public health services to our communities.

We are seeing yet another surge of COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in our state after the Thanksgiving. In our community, all age groups are being infected – especially our school-aged children. This poses an undue challenge in keeping our schools open to provide in-person learning and education. The majority of the confirmed cases in Orange are among those who remain unvaccinated, as is the case statewide. However, the “breakthrough” cases with milder symptoms are occurring among those who had received the COVID-19 vaccines approximately six months earlier. This is consistent with the recommendation for booster vaccines.

I urge all town residents, and especially those with underlying risk factors, to not delay further in getting their booster shots, remain cognizant of the current situation and celebrate the upcoming holidays safely by following preventive guidelines. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

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

## Your Finances

# “Until Death Do Us Part...”

Most of us have heard the standard marriage vow, “For richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.” This phrase makes us think about the challenges in life we may face.

The focus of this phrase is about tackling these challenges together, which is how most great partnerships operate. However, the final concept introduced here is something we do on our own. Our partner in life is gone and we must face these challenges alone.

I would suggest the best approach to facing this inevitable challenge is to plan, in partnership, so the surviving partner is prepared to manage the responsibilities on his or her own. There are far too many details to address in the scope of a single column, not to mention the nuances of your specific situation. I would strongly suggest you meet with your investment, legal, insurance and accounting professionals during this process; their input will be invaluable. Nevertheless, here are some pre-planning ideas to get you moving in the right direction.

- List your assets and liabilities. Include account numbers, amounts, websites, usernames/passwords and contact names/numbers. Think about your home, mortgage, automobiles, loans, businesses, investment accounts, employee retirement plans and bank/checking accounts. These accounts should be titled appropriately with listed beneficiaries so the surviving partner will have easy access.

- List your insurance policies: life, health, auto, disability, long-term care, etc. Include contact names, passwords and other access

information as well as premium schedule/amounts. Make sure the beneficiaries are current.

- Review/update your legal documents: wills, powers of attorney, trusts, medical proxies, and so forth. If you have recently relocated from a different state, it is helpful to update these documents. While your current documents would still be enforceable, state laws and processes vary. Updating within your current state's guidelines would help to expedite and streamline any required paperwork.

- List all your professional advisors. It is not unusual for an advisor to work with one partner more frequently than the other, although it is critical that both partners know each advisor and are aware of goals and planning. This is a great time to strengthen the relationship between your advisors and both partners.

- Discuss who your support team will be. Who will be the executor of the estate? Who will help with final arrangements? Who will help with financial decisions? This may be a family member or a close friend, often an adult child or a sibling/parent. This person must know they are being chosen and accept the responsibility. They must know your wishes in advance and likely will be added to some legal documents. It is also prudent to review your planning annually with your support person.

- Gather all relevant legal documents and



MATT  
GALLAGHER

store them in a safe place known by both partners: deeds, mortgage, car titles, wills, trusts, insurance statements, powers of attorney, medical proxies, Social Security statements, tax forms, etc. Your executor/support person should have copies as well so as not to burden the surviving partner with finding and sharing these documents.

Here's a to-do list for when the time comes.

### Immediately

Arrange for organ donation (discuss beforehand); contact your executor/support person; contact family and friends; make funeral preparations (discuss beforehand); order several copies of the death certificate; and contact Veterans Affairs if applicable or other civic organizations (the funeral home can help).

### Within one to three weeks

Contact life insurance companies and file any claims – update beneficiaries on the surviving partner's policies; contact all professional advisors as they will be critical in completing many of the items on this list; cancel credit cards in the joint/deceased partner's name and have new cards issued in the surviving partner's name – this may be a good time to discuss opening a joint account with an adult child if appropriate; update legal documents and accounts with new titles/registrations, including the home deed, mortgage, car titles, security accounts, bank accounts, insurance policies, utilities, and so on;

update beneficiaries as applicable during this new title/registration process; contact Social Security to review survivor benefits; inform credit reporting agencies to prevent identity theft; contact former employers, Veterans Affairs or labor unions to explore any survivor benefits you may be entitled to; and contact insurance providers to update/cancel policies as appropriate.

### Within one to three months

Visit with all your professional advisors to review and make revisions as needed; update wills, trusts, powers of attorney, medical proxies, etc.; and cancel memberships, email accounts, social media sites (you may consider leaving social media sites open and posting a memorial notice).

### What not to do

Don't make any major decisions: selling your house, relocating, significant updates to your will and trust accounts; don't lend or borrow money.

The more prepared you are, the easier it will be to manage the necessary life decisions that must be made during this difficult time. Take the initiative now to plan and support your loved one who will be facing this challenge on their own. It really is one of the best legacies you can leave your partner when death do you part.

*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](mailto:mgallagher@trinitypointwealth.com).*

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## Insuring Your Future

# An End-Of-Year Insurance Checklist

As we close out 2021, it's time to make sure you tie up those loose ends on the insurance "to do" list.

1. Does your Medicare plan offer rebates for dental care and eyewear? If so, make sure to submit receipts for reimbursement. It is simple. There are no additional forms – just remit the copy of the statement with your ID number and mail to the address on the back of your insurance card.

2. Over-the-counter credits do not roll over to next year. Make sure to use any unused benefit before Dec. 31. Aetna members can now use their benefit in some CVS stores or order over the phone or online. Anthem members can redeem at Walmart.

3. The annual enrollment period is over, but there is an additional three-month period when you can make a change for 2022. If you want to make sure you have the right coverage, you have time to compare other options.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the commercials, calls and emails will continue. Broadway Joe is not done yet. Contact an agent for assistance – don't call the 800 number. A local agent can help throughout the year if you have questions or issues. The person on the other end of the phone is one and done. You will not be able to contact them in the future.

4. Individuals under 65 can enroll in plans through the health exchange until Jan. 15. Don't count on an extension this year and don't ignore the letters coming from Access Health CT regarding renewals. If you have any questions, contact a certified agent who can assist.

Here are some things coming ahead in 2022.

1. Social Security benefits will increase by 6



TRISH PEARSON

percent on average, but the Medicare B standard premium will also increase to \$170 per month.

2. The Medicare Part B annual deductible will increase to \$233. People who have supplement plans will be the most directly affected, as the first \$233 in medical expenses will be their responsibility.

3. The Medicare approved deductible for prescription drug plans is \$480 per year. This generally only applies to tier three, four and five medications. The deductible mainly impacts those on standalone prescription drug plans and not Medicare Advantage plans. Some of these plans have deductibles that apply to tier three and above, but it varies depending on the plan.

4. Insurance companies have increased

benefits to make them more competitive. The added benefits for dental, eyewear, hearing aids and over-the-counter medications have improved in many plans. Take advantage of open enrollment from January to March in 2022 and make sure you are getting the most from your \$0 premium plan.

A big thank you to all my faithful readers. Your feedback and comments are much appreciated. We are in a better place in the COVID battle than this time last year. This year we can celebrate the holidays with family and friends in person. That is indeed something for which we can all be thankful. Wishing you good health, good times and no insurance stress.

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

## Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

# Is Basement Accumulation Holding You Back?

It is very common to keep a lifetime of memories. If you want your home to stay neat, then everything else goes in the basement.

If you are anything like myself, you have your grown kids' stuff, from childhood up through college down in the lower level. Let's be honest: do they really want any of this stuff? When they buy homes, they want new and modern, and now even grandma's dishes are not worth saving.

So how do we start eliminating?

Over my real estate career this has become part of the preparation to sell, and it is overwhelming for the client when the project begins when you want to put the sign in the ground. Granted, a realtor with active resources can help you get the ball rolling with muscle and dumpsters, but the items are personal. It is too easy to want to hold onto things that are not realistic anymore, especially when you have the space.

Your agent is a home specialist; you need someone else to sell your antiques or put your items on Facebook Marketplace. You can take your time and go through each area with your children, giving them a deadline by which to take their stuff or have it donated.

Often I find that the client is downsizing, and therefore they have other major decisions to make about their belongings. A dining room hutch and other big pieces may not be practical in the next home you chose. The better your current address looks for the marketing and photos, the more chance you will have of getting your price and selling quickly. That is why getting rid of large pieces should be done early on in the process. If you are thinking about selling in the spring, then make a plan that starts now. It can cer-



BARBARA LEHRER

tainly start with your real estate professional giving you a consultation on what is going to happen when you list.

Buyers will want to preview your basement, the garage and the attic. How can they envision enough space for their personal items when what they see looks like it is crowded and insufficient for their needs? Your agent can help you also get organized with outside help. You will reap the

benefits later. It within the agents power to help with lifting items, cleaning after the clutter is gone and boxing stuff up with the help of a professional cleaner.

What is your motivation? Whether you are thinking of moving or just want to get a handle on organization and giveaways, do not wait. You never know when a sudden broken water heater could leak into the boxes in

your basement.

Many of my clients are elderly. Spouses worry about each other and leaving this work for someone to do alone. Press your children to come and assist, no matter how busy they are. They lived in your home and you gave them everything.

I cannot tell you how many times my sellers were so excited to move but regretted having to do all this work when they had only a month or two. Take the time this season while we are all stuck inside with the cold weather. Phone the resources you need. It will not be as bad as you think. Help is easy, with the right professional, and isn't that what a realtor is supposed to do – hold your hand from beginning to end?

Happy holidays.

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

## Wine Talk

# Wines For Holiday Dinner

Holiday dinners present a great time to try new wines with our old favorite recipes. Turkey, ham or prime rib all have various alternatives to try, and there are many diverse wines that are versatile and sure to make your holiday dinners something special.

Serving ham? This is a great place to start because ham is so popular. Whether it is honeyed, baked or smoked, ham needs a little dash of sweet. A German Riesling that is low in residual sugar and made in a lighter style will do the trick. I highly recommend an Alsatian Riesling because it contains more body and has a good deal less sugar. It has enough acid to match well with any pork dish. Gewürztraminer is a good choice

also. Reds can be served with ham also. The most compatible includes Beaujolais nouveau, pinot noir, and Tempranillo. You can even serve some zinfandels if they are lighter in nature. When serving reds with ham a light texture is most important.

Turkey is challenging because no one eats turkey by itself. There are rich sauces and a large assortment of wonderful sides that need to be accounted for. My favorite is Sauvignon Blanc. Sauvignon Blanc has an herbal quality that seems to blend with turkey and all the fixings. Viognier goes



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

nicely also. The experts like dry Riesling and Gewürztraminer. I can go along with dry Riesling but I don't agree with Gewürztraminer. If you must serve red, pinot noir is a good paring. Zinfandel works also. Syrah/shiraz is a good alternative, as well as Beaujolais nouveau.

If you are serving duck, you need to keep in mind that it has a very fatty profile and the meat is gamy. There are a large variety of duck preparations. If you are preparing roasted, smoked or braised duck, go with the great French regional red wines. That would include the reds of Burgundy, Bordeaux and Rhone blends. If you are going with a fruit-based type of sauce, then spice it in Gewürztraminer. Sauterne wines will work very well.

If you are serving prime rib, the big bold red wines are the way to go. Cabernet is my favorite, but a big Spanish Tempranillo goes great and a wonderful zin from Lodi works well. The experts tell us that white Burgundy, which is made from the chardonnay grape, will go together. With so

many wonderful red wines that will match perfectly, I wouldn't try to find just the right white. Merlot works great, and so does carmenère and malbec.

In my home, every holiday celebration has a pasta course. I love big tomato meat sauces and alfredo sauce. I drink big Italian reds with both of them; Chianti Classico Riserva is my favorite. This wine is made with a high percentage of Sangiovese grape. It is aged in oak for two years and aged in the bottle for six months. Look for a picture of a black rooster on the bottle and look for the letters DOCG on the label. These indicate a government guarantee of quality. The black rooster indicates the producers were members of the Chianti League, indicating the grapes came from the Chianti region.

Desserts are matched by weight. Try some fortified wine, like ports and madras. Some brandies go well – brandy is distilled wine. Experiment and mix and match. Most importantly, enjoy your holiday season with family and friends, food and wine.

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

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## Here's To Your Health

# Keep The Weight Off

Over the years my husband and I have run a winter meltdown challenge after the new year begins. However, after four years, we decided to stop running the program.

What we realized is that the average person puts on seven to 10 pounds during the holiday season. While we thought we were doing a good thing, it actually was counterproductive. Most people would gain the weight, but not take all of it off. They actually ended up heavier than when they started four years prior.

That said, I would like to encourage you to maintain or perhaps lose a couple of pounds during this holiday season. I've got some tips to help you succeed in doing so.

If I attend a holiday party with rich foods, wine and desserts, I will counter that day

with as many clean eating days I can fit in until the next event. I also increase my water intake to ward of dehydration and excess sodium in the foods I enjoyed. Drinking water prior to a meal will help you understand your level of hunger, as the sensation of being hungry can actually mean that you're thirsty.

I increase my cardio days too. If you're currently doing cardio three days a week, increase it to four or five. Adding in a mile walk after dinner is another great way to burn extra calories this time of year.

When tempted by the amazing desserts, cookies and sugary treats available this time



MICHELE  
TENNEY

of year, I suggest you use the three-bite rule. Self-abnegation is a vicious cycle, so don't deny yourself. Let's say you don't eat sweets for 30 days and on day 31 you eat an entire sheet cake in the name of "I deserve it." Then you feel guilty and grab some comfort foods to help you feel better. The next thing you know, you're throwing in the towel all together. So enjoy yourself by having three savory bites rather than the entire dessert.

It's all about balance. Balance will allow you to have fun, enjoy yourself and remain healthy.

This time of year isn't always the happiest for some, so I would also encourage you to

be intentional about your emotional wellbeing. Perhaps someone you know struggles during the holiday season. Setting realistic expectations is helpful, and setting time aside to pray or meditate is a bonus in keeping our emotions in check.

We know it gets harder to lose weight as we age so being strategic is key. From my family to yours, a very merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah and happy Kwanza. Peace be yours.

*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.*

## Personal Experiences

# Staying Present For The Holidays

The holiday season is upon us, and with that comes an abundance of emotions. There is a great deal of happiness and gratitude that aligns with holidays. It is a time for families to come together and show each other their love in terms of quality time, comfort food and sometimes a few unique gifts.

There are few moments better than waking up surrounded by loved ones, having no responsibilities, with the sole focus of the day being to enjoy, love and spread kindness wherever possible.

Holidays are a beautiful time for giving thanks, eating great food and spending time with loved ones. But the holidays can be extraordinarily stressful for some.

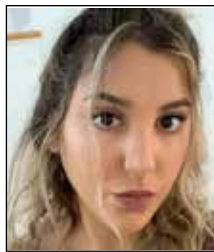
The holiday season has many upsides, but it also entails several familial, social or workplace functions that involve social drinking. For recovering addicts or alcohol-

ics, this time of year can be riddled with emotional triggers, making an already tricky change of life even harder.

The power it takes to stay sober on any given Tuesday, let alone during a highly festive time, takes a kind of courage and strength not often seen. Thankfully, there are sober parties and functions available within the recovering community for all to participate in.

It is crucial to never forget there is a world of people out there who are facing similar struggles. With the holiday season upon us, it is a great time to reach out and remember you never have to face adversity alone.

Holidays in general are also quite difficult for those who have lost a loved one. Family



CAROLINA  
AMORE

makes holidays feel special, and missing a crucial part of your family can make enjoying any special occasion feel particularly lackluster.

It is still possible to enjoy holidays without that person; it just will not feel the same, and that is to be expected. The loss of someone you held dear will change everything about how you experience life; the key is to accept the reality shift rather than fight it.

The holiday season comes with a great deal of happiness and gratitude while also bringing to light some of the more emotionally tumultuous aspects of life. Being present in each moment is an excellent lesson for this time of year.

It is easy to get caught up in the "what ifs" of life, particularly around the holidays. What if my family doesn't like the presents

I got them? What if I start to get upset at the Christmas party and must leave? There will always be several possible outcomes to a situation, and many of them are out of your control.

Stay present in your moments and try not to look any further. Being mindful and present is one of the best ways to make it through the holidays without unnecessary suffering. Feeling pain and struggle is something that everyone may experience and could be heightened during the year. Remaining present in each moment is how you can take back control and choose happiness and peace in every moment possible.

*Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.*

## Travel Matters

# The Privilege Of Travel

A couple of weeks ago, I attended our annual travel conference for Dream Vacations, in person for the first time in two years. The conference, aptly named "Together," was both a celebration of travel (particularly the cruise industry) starting up again, and a look back at what we have all learned over the last 20 months.

Takeaway 1: The power of attitude. All of us have weathered the most difficult 20 months – possibly of our lives – in different occupations, different circumstances and with different challenges. But one takeaway that we discussed was the power of attitude to shape our response to these challenges. If we have a purpose and a passion, we can channel a positive attitude to adapt – or possibly even change – our business model.

Many travel advisors shifted to land bookings, and some like myself turned to social media with some inspirational travel mes-

sages. I started a series of Facebook posts called "Around the World in 80 Days" from April 2020 through July 2020 that kept the travel dream alive for those who chose to follow along. It also kept me somewhat sane during some difficult days.

Takeaway 2: The privilege of travel. Before the pandemic, we may have taken our travel opportunities for granted. We could travel whenever we wanted, wherever we wanted – albeit with some time and budget constraints. But we didn't need to worry about when we could get our vaccinations or boosters, our COVID test requirements or whether we felt safe to travel.

Having started traveling in May 2021, I have taken three international trips, three



KAREN  
QUINN-  
PANZER

cruises, and one rail trip. And never have I felt more privileged to travel as I have in the last six months. I feel that I will never take for granted the privilege of travel again. Sometimes you have to lose something to fully appreciate its value.

Takeaway 3: Welcome back to the world. There are so many new ships, travel innovations and new itineraries, especially now that cruising started at the end of June. The world of travel is truly moving forward. New cruise lines like Virgin Voyages, Atlas Ocean Voyages and Ritz-Carlton Yacht Cruises. New expedition ships from Viking, Seabourn and SilverSeas. New classes of ships from Norwegian, Oceania and Carnival.

Another noticeable trend is longer trips.

Since many people have not traveled for close to 20 months, a lot of vacationers want longer trips. New world cruises for 2023 and 2024 are selling out – including the 274-day Ultimate World Cruise visiting all seven continents on Royal Caribbean. It's the longest world cruise to date.

And good news on the safety front: out of 60,000 people who have cruised since June 26, the COVID positivity rate has only been 0.03 percent. Cruising is among the safest vacations around at this point, since most cruise lines require everyone to be vaccinated.

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

## Recycling Tip: Holiday Recycling Ideas

By Ilene Moyher

Did you know that according to the Stanford Recycling Center, Americans throw away 25 percent more trash from Thanksgiving to New Year's than during any other time? The extra waste amounts to about one million extra tons per week. Since most decorating and gift wrap materials are not recyclable, here are simple ways you can create less waste.

- Reuse wrapping paper, use or reuse gift bags and get creative by wrapping gifts in a towel, scarf or other material that could be part of the gift. Wrapping paper is not recyclable. Do not put it in the recycling bin as it can cause problems at the recycling sorting

facility.

- Reuse ribbons or bows. They can easily be re-curled or fluffed up to be used repeatedly (you'll save money, too). If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.

- Turn holiday cards into gift tags or make them into ornaments or other decorations.

- Use brown paper bags to wrap gifts, then decorate them with pretty shapes you create from greeting cards.

- Regift or donate items you don't want. You can join a local sharing group on Facebook where you post items; people will be thrilled to take them off your hands, such as

bit.ly/BuyNothingOrange.

There are several wonderful second-hand stores in the vicinity where you can buy brand new or like-new wrapping paper, ribbon, decorations, candle holders, non-disposable dishes, glassware, utensils and more. You'll find some unique treasures, support local businesses, and reduce the amount of single-use items that end up in landfills.

When in doubt about what to recycle or throw away, go to recycle.com and type in an item to learn if it's recyclable. For example, here's what the site says about greeting cards:

"If your greeting card is simple – the card and envelope can be put in your mixed re-

cycling (single stream) bin. However, if the greeting card has glitter, ribbons, music box or other decorations, it should be put in the trash."

For more ideas, simply search "ways to reduce holiday waste" or similar phrases, and you'll find a variety of ideas to suit your interests and capabilities.

*Visit the Orange Recycling Committee's website at orangerecycles.com and follow the committee at facebook.com/ORCinCT for more tips and information.*



Ponder This

# Poetry Can Help Us



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

A new poetry collection by Amanda Gorman, "Call Us What We Carry," was just released on the 80th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. Gorman is the first national youth poet laureate, gaining worldwide attention and acclaim for her 70-word address, "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Gorman's words at a difficult and momentous time in history can unite us in collaboration and togetherness. We are in distress. "The hill we climb" is before us and represents not just crisis but opportunity. The world is waiting and watching for guidance and leadership as America navigates a pandemic and threat to our foundational democracy.

Poetry has been an important influence in my life, stemming from my family. My father raised my consciousness that the great Irish poets were to be found in collections of British literature. He pointed out this irony of false ownership that surely would otherwise have escaped me. History and art can merge to help us explain the human condition and what is happening in the world.

There are many reviews of Gorman's writing and much discussion about the new text. Gorman has received accolades as the youngest and first black female to receive such honors. Her newly published text is already on the New York Times bestseller list.

A Boy Scout standard is to leave each place better than before. This has been interpreted as not only physical space but the mood and atmosphere as well. We can each do our

small part to leave any encounter, meeting, classroom, phone call or virtual connection a little bit better and more positive despite our genuine disagreements and concerns. A wise mentor taught me this as a nurse, a wonderful clinician who watered a windowsill plant as a sign of hope for a dying client in hospice. There is always hope, and our obligation is to point in that direction, to keep hope alive no matter how brittle the forces against.

Let us not get binary about this inspirational writer. A futile discussion about whether she is a brilliant or a flawed poet misses the message in her work. Such wasted dialogue is a red herring that distracts from her genuine message of hope and healing that has not yet been dampened. We must take action to think and dream that we can join together to make our world a better place. Reading her poetry or stories can make us laugh, cry and feel our own experience. This opens the door for deeper, higher-level discourse and concern.

There may be some unevenness in her stories, not unlike our lives. In whatever craft we are engaged – parenting, professional employment, politics, friendship, sisterhood – our successes and failures fade. But so do the opportunities before us. There is an opportunity within our grasp to join in hope and healing; we must not squander it.

Let's take Gorman's poetry, subsequent

success as a writer as a rare opportunity to heal from the very real problems that confront our world, and in particular our struggling American democracy.

Engagement with the arts can help us to acknowledge our feelings of despair, spiritual fatigue and insensitivity to humankind. John Milton, the great English writer, reminded us to harden our resolve to make things better. W.B. Yeats, considered by many to be the greatest poet of the 20th century, wrote the Lake of Innisfree, an imaginary land. The poem engages us in memories of somewhere, a place to get away, to hear birds and frogs, lake water lapping. It's a make-believe place, but we can all hear it in our heart's deep core.

So, I am channeling Yeats when I take Gorman's call to heart. I feel where she has been despite our different but universal experiences. Yeats himself was surrounded by more trendy poetry that he did not adhere to. He was a traditionalist at times, with emphasis on rhyme and stanza, but he respected contemporary poets who wrote differently. He was not bothered that his emphasis on rhyme was out of step with contemporary trends of modern poetry. He differed but agreed that poetry can encompass the full complexities of life. His later works focused on aging and the loss of youthful vigor.

Yeats understood the universal call to connection that all poetry offers. He experiment-

ed with different styles influenced by theater and dance, with which he was involved professionally. Yeats would never fault emerging techniques or changing phases. His sentiment is that we all change over a lifetime and our writings reflect this.

Yeats was a devoted Irish patriot with a strong Irish identity. He used the beauty and energy of his poetry in response to disturbing times. He maintained his lifelong admiration for what he described as a bold heroism of both ancient and contemporary Ireland.

I look to the great Irish master to admire and appreciate Gorman. We must use the universal language of poems to make sense of local experiences.

So let's not discuss the success of Amanda Gorman but capitalize on her words to foster dialogue across our cultures. There is hope in the cross between poetry and life. The arts can inform us, but we must take up the call with enthusiasm.

*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.*

# Historic Barn On Its Way To New Pastures

By Marilyn May

The recent sale of the ancestral Beard homestead and farm at 97 Washington St.

was controversial for some. The Beard family had been here since the 1600s, occupying land granted them by King Charles of England in 1639, making the family among the

earliest settlers of Milford.

The land was purchased by Subaru for an expansion of its car dealership, while the historical community was concerned that Milford was losing yet another important part of its history.

One of the Beard barns, however, will be starting a new life serving new generations at a foundation in Ohio.

Former NFL player and three-time Superbowl champion Matt Light and his wife Susie established the Light Foundation in 2001 to help young people at risk. Students learn carpentry as well as life skills. Light specializes in dismantling old homes and barns around the country and having the youth rebuild them.

Of the Milford property, the earliest barn was a 24 by 24-foot building constructed around 1750. Some 80 to 90 percent of the building has been salvaged, and each piece tagged so that it can be reconstructed. Many other early timbers have been taken from other barns and outbuildings for reuse at the Ohio complex.

The Milford property includes a Greek Revival farmhouse from about 1840 that sits on the foundation of an earlier home that burned. A box was found inside the wall of the house currently there that contained a letter from 1925 from Jim Beard's aunt (his father's sister). At a time when floorboard renovations were being done, she apparently decided to make a time capsule. She wrote a letter, enclosed a copy of a newspaper and added a penny in a beer bottle cap. She secreted the box inside a wall.

Also tucked inside a wall was a carpenter plane. Carpenters typically left a tool behind as a reminder of who built the project.

The front portion of the farmhouse had pegs made of oak, while most of the beams along the porch were made of chestnut.

Future plans for the Washington Street property include a small park to honor the heritage of the Beard family.

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



A letter, photos and an old newspaper are among the things found in the walls of the farmhouse. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.

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## Festivities Return For Orange Tree Lighting



Orange's town center became the focal point on Dec. 5 for the town's annual tree lighting and holiday festival, which featured a tractor parade, ice carving, carolers and a visit from Santa. *Photos by Lexi Crocco.*



### Milford Decorated For Holidays



Santa visited the Milford Green on Nov. 26 during the annual tree lighting ceremony. Numerous trees and bushes along the green have been lit, along with various other decorations. Photos by Robert Creigh.

### Turkey Trot Brings Runners Out



Runners, walkers and dogs came out for the annual Orange Rotary Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot run/walk held at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Lexi Crocco.



## The Garden Spot

# Keeping The Birds Fed Through The Winter

Earlier this year, there was a mysterious outbreak that caused widespread songbird death across the eastern United States which led to a recommendation to remove bird feeders. However, reports of the illness have receded, and the Audubon Society has been recommending that homeowners begin to feed the birds again.

Here in Connecticut, we have several species that overwinter, including cardinals, goldfinch and several species of woodpeckers. If you are observant, you may also see some of the more unusual species, such as American tree, white-crowned and white throated sparrows, as well as dark eyed juncos. The birds that you see at your backyard feeders will be dependent upon the food, water and shelter available to them.

Certain birds, such as sparrows and juncos, are ground feeders and prefer their food on a tray or platform that can be set on the ground

or mounted on a pole. Others, such as cardinals, prefer hopper feeders, which have a seed storage component that releases food onto a tray when the bird lands on the release mechanism. Some of the ground feeders will rarely land on an elevated feeder but will readily eat the seed fallen onto the ground from a feeder. There are many shapes and sizes of feeders, and they can be quite elaborate and expensive, so use your judgment on what fits your needs best.

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



PAT DRAY

choice of feeder and seed type will let you attract the number and types of birds that you want to attract. It also means you will not attract unwanted birds, such as pigeons and doves, which favor corn.

Birds also need a water source. They prefer baths that are at ground level, so do not feel you need to purchase a fancy, pedestal-mounted bird bath. A shallow pan works just as well. You can put a few pebbles or branches in the water so that the birds can stand on them and drink without getting wet.

Now on to the issues of maintenance and protection. Please stay extra vigilant regarding cleaning and maintenance, since the cause of the songbird illness is still a mystery. However, we do know that dirty feeders

can grow mold and bacteria that may sicken birds. To clean a feeder, soak it in hot water with mild soap, scrub and then disinfect it by dunking in a 10:1 solution of water and bleach. Rinse and thoroughly dry it.

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

If you want a fun activity this winter, check out Cornell University's Project Feeder Watch, where you can count and track birds and enter your data. Visit [feederwatch.org](http://feederwatch.org) for more info.

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

## Orange Releases Snow Plowing Policy

The Orange Department of Public Works has released its snow plowing policy for the 2021-2022 winter season.

There are over 110 miles of streets in Orange, according to the department, and snow removal can cost up to \$2,500. The streets are plowed and sanded in order of priority, with main roads addressed first with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead-end streets.

"Side streets will remain unplowed if the main roads require repeat plowing due to heavy volume of snowfall. This may not seem fair to the residents of side streets or dead-ends. However, the main roads must remain open," the policy says.

All snowplows angle to the driver's right,

which is the reason snow is pushed in front of driveways during plowing. Homeowners in Orange are responsible for access to their own driveways.

The town will mailboxes and posts damaged by plowing, but only those that are actually struck by the plow blade. Mailboxes that fall from the plowed snow are the owners' responsibility. Usually, a paint mark or tire tracks provide evidence of a mailbox strike.

The Orange DPW in its policy recommends the use of a four-by-four-inch wooden posts or two-inch metal pipes and metal mailboxes, rather than plastic mailboxes or posts.

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

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

Orange's snow removal ordinance takes effect on Nov. 1 of each year and continues to April 1 of the following year. There is no parking on public roads during snowstorms while the ordinance is in effect. Should your vehicle be parked on the street causing an obstruction to snow removal vehicles, your vehicle may be ticketed or removed by the police department. The owner of the vehicle is responsible for the cost of removal and any

other subsequent fees.

The Highway Department recommends Orange residents install "snow stakes" now before the ground freezes. It is difficult to distinguish between the pavement edge and the edge of a lawn in heavy snowfall. Installing stakes along property edges as close to pavement as possible without interfering with traffic helps homeowners avoid lawn damage, especially for properties with underground sprinklers or invisible fencing. Snow stakes should be 30 inches to 36 inches high and can be purchased at a local hardware store. Paint the top 3 inches of wooden stakes red to increase visibility against snow.

The Orange Department of Public Works is available at 203-891-4775.

## Orange Dance Students Perform In Hawaii



Orange residents Molly Blair and Greta Pedenski from the Amity High School Dance Team performed from Dec. 4 to Dec. 8 in the Varsity Spirit Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii. Photo courtesy of Varsity Spirit.

Orange residents Molly Blair and Greta Pedenski from the Amity High School Dance Team were two of more than 600 high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the country chosen to represent the camp brands of Varsity Spirit from Dec. 4 to Dec. 8 in the Varsity Spirit Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Those invited to perform were part of a select group of cheerleaders and dancers chosen as All-Americans during Varsity Spirit summer camps across the country. All-Americans are selected via tryout based on either superior cheerleading or dance skills at camps operated by one of several nationally

recognized cheer and dance organizations. Only the top 10 percent of the cheerleaders and dancers from Varsity Spirit camps earn the chance to march in a holiday parade of this caliber.

Blair and Pedenski performed with the Varsity Spirit All-Americans in an exclusive performance prior to the opening ceremony of the parade, and then were part of the parade before thousands of fans lining the streets of Waikiki Beach.

This trip marks the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The parade theme was "remembering the past and celebrating our future."

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### Orange Preschool Blind Lottery Open

The Orange Elementary School System is now accepting names for the "blind lottery" for the 2022-2023 preschool program at Mary L. Tracy School.

The special education/general education integrated preschool is looking for 3 and 4-year-old children to enroll as community peers and positive role models. The idea behind the program is to enrich each child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive, intellectual and creative abilities through early academic and social experiences. It is designed to prepare the children for early success and school readiness.

By law, students with special needs identified with an individualized education program are placed in the preschool program

by the Department of Special Services through the planning and placement team process; they do not participate in the lottery.

In order to participate in the preschool all children: must be 3 years old but not older than 4 by Dec. 31, 2022; must be toilet trained to attend preschool; must be bona-fide Orange residents; if a child's third birthday is between September and December 2022, they will start on their third birthday; and parents need to provide transportation to and from school for their child.

The preschool program follows the district's school year calendar: the morning class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon class is held from noon to 3 p.m. Each classroom has a blend of 3 and

4-year-old children. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students per class, which includes special education students.

Community peer children are selected through the blind lottery. The total school year cost of tuition for community peers is \$3,250, or \$325 per month. The fee-based preschool is held five days per week, for three hours a day.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages: 1) All names are 'picked out of a hat' by age group for the limited number of available spaces, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list; 2) the second drawing decides if your child will attend the morning or afternoon class to balance each classroom with an equal

amount of 3 and 4-year-old children.

If you wish to have your child participate in the blind lottery, call the Special Services Department at 203-891-8023 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to place your child on the list. Names for the blind lottery will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28. Parents will receive a letter in the mail of their child's lottery results in February.

If your child is selected and you accept the lottery result, a tuition deposit of \$325 will secure a space in the classroom for your child. Your deposit is the first month's tuition for September 2022. Registration paperwork should be completed by April 2022. For further questions, call the Special Services Department at 203-891-8023.

### St. Mary School Marks 60 Years



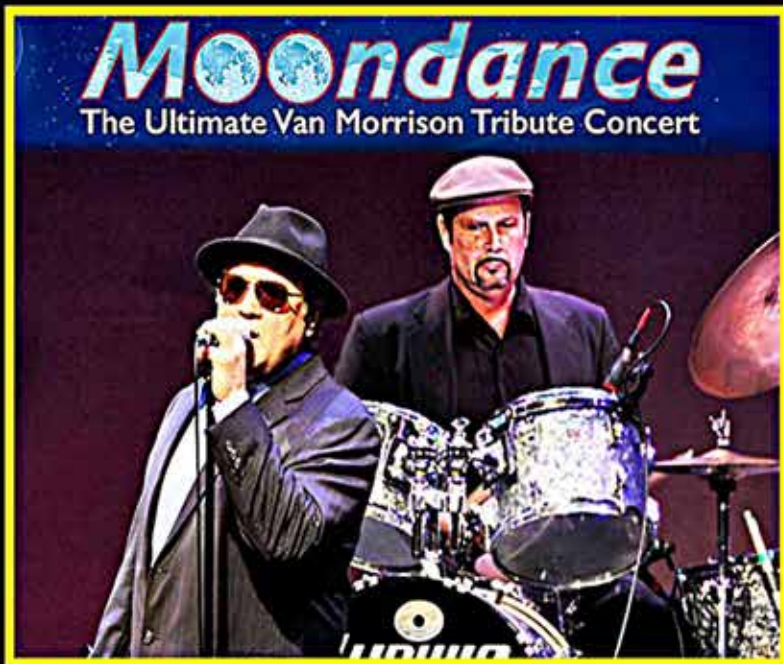
St. Mary School celebrated its 60th anniversary in Milford on Nov. 16 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by mayor Ben Blake, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Valerie Mara, Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce Membership Director Simon McDonald, Father Aidan Donahue, Deacon John Hoffman, Rep. Kathy Kennedy, radio personality Brian Smith, Sen. James Maroney, Makayla Silva from the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and other local dignitaries. They gathered in front of the school with the entire student body and listened to the choir sing their school song, heard comments from student government president Layla Alogna and Mara, prayed with Aidan, listened to the mayor read an official proclamation and Dominic read the papal blessing sent from Rome. Photo By Gregory Geiger.

### Orange Land Trust Sponsors Goat Walk



AJ walks one of nine goats that participated in the Orange Land Trust's first "Hike with the Goats" on Nov. 13 at the Racebrook Tract in Orange. Photo courtesy of the Orange Land Trust.

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# MAC Starting 2022 With Deadgrass For A Double Show



Deadgrass. Photo courtesy of the Milford Arts Council.

The Milford Arts Council is kicking off 2022 with a double show Jan. 8 by Jerry Garcia tribute band Deadgrass.

Deadgrass will be doing two separate shows at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The five-piece string band consists of Russ Gottlieb on banjo, Kensuke Shoji on fiddle, C Joseph Lanzbom on guitars, David Richards on bass and Matt Turk on mandolin, acoustic guitar and vocals.

Deadgrass celebrates and interprets the music of Jerry Garcia, drawing from Old & In The Way, JGB, Jerry's Jug Band and The Grateful Dead.

"When Deadgrass has previously played at the MAC they have sold out with more people still wanting tickets," said Meg

Carriero, marketing specialist for the MAC. "Now with our lowered seating capacity due to the pandemic guidelines we figured it was best to have a double show to allow as many people to see Deadgrass as we can, and the band agreed."

The MAC requires everyone to be fully vaccinated or show a negative covid test within 72 hours of entry and to wear a mask when walking around inside. All volunteers and staff are vaccinated and will be masked throughout the event. Concessions will be available, so no outside food or beverages are allowed in.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase a ticket visit [milfordarts.org](http://milfordarts.org).

# Beth-El Gets Funds From Archbishop's Appeal

Beth-El Center homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Milford, a provider of emergency housing and food, recently received a \$6,110 donation from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal through its Vicariate Outreach Program.

The annual appeal supports assistance organizations throughout Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield Counties. The funding for Beth-El will be used to support the emergency homeless shelter's operation, food programs and support services for men, women, veterans and families in the Milford area who are experiencing homelessness. Additionally, it will support the center's outreach and diversion efforts to prevent hunger and homelessness.

"Beth-El Center is very appreciative to receive funding from the Archdiocese

of Hartford," said Jennifer Paradis, the center's executive director. "We're grateful for their support, which allows us to continue to respond to the increased demand for the basic needs of food and stable housing. As a result of the pandemic, our neighbors continue to experience hardships and this funding helps us respond to those who are reaching out for critical assistance."

Over the past 19 months of the pandemic, the center has served nearly 55,000 meals in its soup kitchen, sheltered nearly 500 individuals, families and veterans and moved nearly 400 people to permanent housing.

For more information about Beth-El Center and its services, visit [bethelmilford.org](http://bethelmilford.org) or call 203-876-0747.

# Milford Plaza Sold For \$11 Million

Commercial real estate company CBRE announced on Dec. 1 the \$11 million sale of Milford Plaza, a 180,315-square-foot grocery-anchored shopping center in Milford. The CBRE team of Jeffrey Dunne, David Gavin, Steve Bardsley, Jeremy Neuer, and Travis Langer represented the owner, The Hampshire Companies, while also procuring the buyer, Northpath Investments.

Milford Plaza is situated across the street from another center containing a newly developed ShopRite, Total Wine and Starbucks anchored within Milford's dense Route 1 retail corridor and is one mile from the Connecticut Post Mall.

Milford Plaza is approximately 65 percent leased and is anchored by a new G-Mart grocer, as well as Planet Fitness,

Dollar Tree and Hartford HealthCare. "The offering represented a unique opportunity to acquire a value-add, grocery anchored center in a dense, infill market with over 108,000 residents within five miles," said Dunne. "Milford Plaza provides stable in-place cash flow combined with the opportunity to grow net operating income significantly through lease-up or partial redevelopment of the center."

"We are very excited about our latest acquisition of Milford Plaza, which is strategically located along Boston Post Road near other major retailers. This purchase fits our company's long-term value add strategy," said Gershon Alexander, principal at Northpath Investments.

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## Orange Garden Club Receives Awards

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut recently honored the Garden Club of Orange with four awards.

Gail Nixon was given the Tribute Award for all around excellence in 2020–2021. Nixon, a longtime member of the club is a skilled floral designer and gardener who has chaired many club committees and several flower shows.

Linda Bradford received the Lillian M. Rathburn Award for her involvement in all phases of garden club work. It is considered the highest award presented to an individual garden club member. During

the pandemic year, Rathburn continued to serve as president and came up with creative ways to meet and still follow health guidelines.

Laurian Kehoe and Pat McCorkle received a certificate of merit for the quarterly newsletter that they co-chair.

The Conservation Club Certificate of Achievement was awarded to the club as a whole for its project to beautify the grounds of town hall. To celebrate its 90th Anniversary, the club purchased and planted many mountain laurel and Japanese skimmia on the grounds.

## Orange FD Gets Donation From OEDC



The Orange Economic Development Corporation presented the Orange Volunteer Fire Department with a donation of \$2,500 on Dec. 9 from the proceeds received at the OEDC's Annual Golf Tournament. The organization teamed up with the fire department at the tournament that took place in September. Chief Vaughan Dumas accepted the donation, which will contribute to purchasing a gear extractor washing machine, used to wash carcinogens from firefighters' turnout gear. The machine has not been replaced since 1999. From left: Paul Gehr, OEDC treasurer; Debbie Clancy, OEDC president; Chief Vaughan Dumas; Mike Latella, OEDC board member; and Roy Cuzzocreo, OEDC board member. Photo courtesy of the OEDC.

## Children's Events At Milford Library

### Winter Take and Make

A "Take and Make" activity kit is available beginning while supplies last. Visit the Children's page at milfordlibrary.org for more information. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library. Questions? Email mplchildren@milfordct.gov.

### Zoom Storytime Junior

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Join the library Tuesdays or Thursdays on Zoom for an online program of stories, rhymes and songs. For children 5 and under with a caregiver to enjoy together. Visit milfordlibrary.org to register for the Zoom ID and password. For questions regarding this program, email mplchildren@milfordct.gov.

### Winter Riddle Scavenger Hunt in the Children's Department

Dec. 27-30  
Pick up the directions at the children's desk. Explore the Children's Department and find the hidden clues to help solve the riddle. Earn a winter-themed prize, while

supplies last.

### Winter StoryWalk at Eisenhower Park

Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 11 a.m.  
Join the StoryWalk at Eisenhower Park (weather permitting) to check the latest StoryWalk book, *Once Upon a Winter Day*, written and illustrated by Liza Woodruff. A small activity and a winter treat will be provided for all who attend while supplies last. Check the Children's page at milfordlibrary.org for any schedule changes due to weather. The StoryWalk promotes literacy and exercise in young children and encourages families to spend time together in nature. Enjoy the fresh air and let the library know how you liked the book. Reach out with any questions to mplchildren@milfordct.gov.

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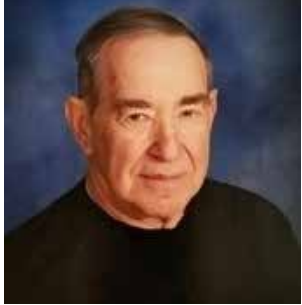
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# Obituaries

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

**Al Barnett**, 89, passed away on Dec. 5, 2021 at his residence in Woodbridge. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



**John Eugene Becker** passed away peacefully after a long illness on November 19, 2021. (Spear-Miller Funeral Home)



**Richard James Brennan**, age 71, of Milford, beloved husband of Nancy (Rothwell) Gorban-Brennan, died on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**John Joseph Callan**, age 97 of Milford beloved husband of the late June (Dingwall) Callan, entered peaceful rest on December 2, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Carol Kelly Carboni**, age 81, devoted and loving mother and grandmother passed away peacefully on November 20, 2021, with her loving family by her side. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**John C. Counihan** peacefully entered into eternal rest on Friday, 26 November 2021. (Cody-White Home)



**Mrs. Concetta Santina "Connie" (Campus) Datelle**, 88, of Milford, entered into the Gates of Heaven on Aug. 25, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. (Chase Parkway Memorial)



**Albert DeLorenzo**, age 81, beloved husband of Lucille Palumbo DeLorenzo of Milford, passed away on Dec. 4, 2021 at home with his family by his side. (Abriola Parkview Funeral Home)



**Diane DeLuca**, 39, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 19, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Constance M. Dumont**, 102, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Theodore E. Dumont, passed away on December 6, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Eunice Marie Sylvestre Dupre**, age 86, beloved wife of Norman George Dupre, of Woonsocket, RI, passed away peacefully Saturday, October 30, 2021.



**Anthony James Feledie Sr.**, 31, a believer in God's Word, a beloved husband to wife, Kayla Feledie, and Father to son, Anthony "Tony" Feledie Jr., has fallen asleep November 19. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Ellen Foley**, age 85, of Milford, beloved wife of the late James Foley passed away on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021 with her devoted sons and loving family by her side. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



On Nov. 27, 2021, **Rita Gaul** was received into the loving arms of Jesus. Rita was 89 years old and the mother of five children, 14 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Stanley Gedansky**, 89 of Woodbridge passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on November 21, 2021. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



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# Obituaries

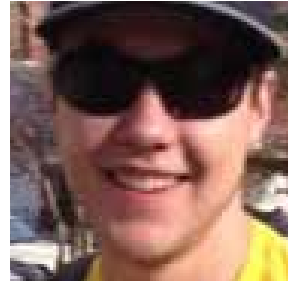
**Walter Charles Gintant**, age 94, of Milford, died on Friday, December 3, 2021 at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. (Pistey Funeral Home)



**Robert "Bob" T. Heid**, 91 of Milford, beloved husband of the late Barbara Heid, passed away on November 21, 2021 at his home. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paul Michael Kirmaier**, age 28, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Nov. 14, 2021, at Yale New Haven Hospital after a brief illness. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Mary Finn Nelson**, West Haven, beloved wife of the late John T. Nelson Jr. passed away November 15, 2021 at home surrounded by her family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Eric William Goncalves**, age 32, of Milford, died on Saturday November 13, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



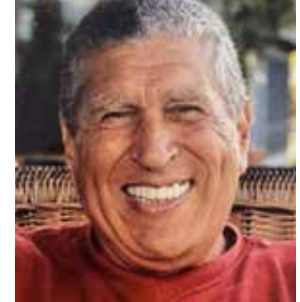
**Dorothy Hemming**, 102, of Milford, loving wife for 72 years to the late Howard Hemming, passed away peacefully on November 22, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Judith Ann Koseski**, an 80 year old Woodbridge resident and beloved wife to Skip Koseski, passed away at home surrounded by her family on Nov. 30. (Jenkins King & Malerba Funeral Home)



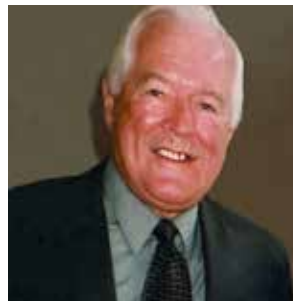
**Alex Orban**, 82, of Milford, CT, beloved husband of Betty Orban, passed away peacefully on December 2nd, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Richard "Rick" A. Hayes Jr.**, 43, of Milford, CT passed away on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. He was born on December 19, 1977. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Philip J. Hersey**, 93, of Caribou, Maine, beloved partner of Joanne Wade, entered eternal rest on November 16th, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Charles "Chick" Kranyak**, age 77, beloved husband of Beverly Dearborn Kranyak of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Nov. 26, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**George "Robby" Plaskowitz, III**, 35, passed away suddenly in Hadley, MA on Wednesday November 3, 2021. (North Haven Funeral Home)



**Benjamin J. Heck** died Nov. 22, 2021 at the age of 98. He was beloved husband of Joan. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



We regretfully announce the passing of **Celia Monteiro Jorge** formerly of Orange, Connecticut on November 27, 2021. (Keenan Funeral Home)



**Catherine "Katie" Lloyd**, 94 of Woodbridge, Connecticut passed away on December 2, 2021. (Colonial Funerals)



**Raymond Paul Pocevic**, age 72, of Orange passed away at home on Saturday, November 20, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. (McDonald Funeral Home)



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# Obituaries

**John Francis Provo, Sr.** age 72 beloved husband of 46 years to Annette (Barrette) Provo formerly of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Dec. 3, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Philip M. Salito**, age 62, of Milford, beloved husband of Kellie Harcherik Salito entered eternal peace on December 2, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Carol Ann Molloy Smith**, 83, of Milford, CT, died peacefully at her home, surrounded by family, on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Roberta "Bobbie" Unger**, 78, of Orange, beloved wife of 55 years to Ronald Unger, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Elizabeth "Betty" A. Regan**, 91, passed away on Nov. 28, 2021. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



**Christopher Eliot Schulte**, age 59, of Milford, Connecticut, passed away November 13, 2021, at Yale New Haven Hospital, from complications of advanced liver disease. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Gwendolyn W. Spencer**, 89, of Bloomfield, CT, beloved widow of Dr. Richard P. Spencer, passed away on December 5, 2021. (Molloy Funeral Home)



**Remedios Wegrzyn**, age 71, of Orange, beloved wife of the late Richard Wegrzyn Sr., passed away on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



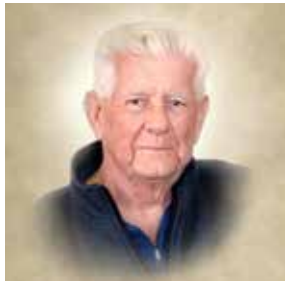
**Elizabeth Roman**, 94, previously of Arizona and California, passed away on November 24, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Judith Ann Schwarzenberg**, age 82, of Derby, found her way home on November 24, 2021 after a long and brave battle with Alzheimer's disease. (Riverview Funeral Home)



**John Anthony Steinbach**, age 79, beloved husband of Joanne M. Szamotulla Steinbach, died peacefully on Nov. 29, 2021 with his family by his side. (Wakelee Memorial Funeral Home)



**Gayle Rita Wosleger**, age 80, died on Wednesday November 10th 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



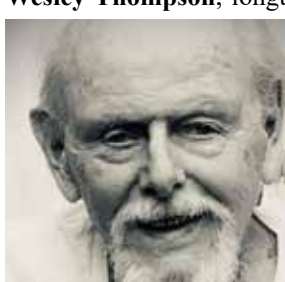
**Alfred Henry Dello Russo**, 91, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Shonnie Dello Russo, passed away peacefully at home on November 14, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**John Michael Simek**, age 71, of Milford, CT passed away December 6, 2021 in his home. (Cyril F. Mullins Funeral Home)



**Wesley Thompson**, longtime Milford resident and Darina Place patriarch, passed away at age 94 on Nov. 13, 2021 to finally join his loving wife Mary of 56 years. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Mary Zimbardi** 80, of Woodbridge passed away on December 1, 2021 in Yale New Haven Hospital. (Porto Funeral Homes)



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

*-Doug Manning*

**Cody-White Funeral Home**  
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(203) 874-0268

**Remember Me**  
**Margaret Mead**

To the living, I am gone.

To the sorrowful, I will never return.

To the angry, I was cheated,  
But to the happy, I am at peace,  
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea  
- remember me.

As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty  
- remember me.

As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity  
- remember me.

Remember me in your heart, your thoughts,  
your memories of the times we loved,  
the times we cried, the times we fought,  
the times we laughed.

For if you always think of me,  
I will never be gone.





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