

# Milford-Orange Times

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February 10, 2022

## Deane Leaving BOS, Orange

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



Connor Deane.

Orange selectman Connor Deane, who challenged first selectman Jim Zeoli in November for the town's top job, announced on Jan. 20 that he is resigning from the Board of Selectmen and the Orange Democratic Town Committee. He is also moving out of Orange.

"As you know, my goal was to be First Selectman, a full-time paid position," Deane wrote in a letter to the ODT. "I'm incredibly proud of our campaign and did win a seat on the Board of Selectmen but that position is a volunteer position whose schedule does not fit with my current schedule of running a business that has primarily evening hours. In

*Continued on page 2*

## Black Business Alliance Comes To Milford Mall

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Black Business Alliance, a nonprofit group aimed at empowering small and medium-sized Black and minority businesses around the state, has moved its headquarters to the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford.

The BBA website says it seeks to help address "the gap in business access to funding, educational resources and

statewide capacity building" often faced by minority-owned enterprises.

The space occupied by the BBA in the mall is also shared by clothing and fashion accessory consignment store ITS The Room, owned by Tia Woods.

The BBA was formerly located on Whalley Avenue in New Haven. Though the Milford site is already open, the BBA

*Continued on page 2*

## Bicentennial Committee Sets Calendar Of Events

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Bicentennial Committee has set the dates for a number of events throughout the year to celebrate the town's 200th birthday.

The committee after its Feb. 3 meeting put came up with a calendar that includes events spanning from May through September, including a parade, a golf tournament and the digging up of the sesquicentennial time capsule.

The "summer of celebration," as it's being dubbed, begins on Saturday, May 28 at 10 a.m. at the High Plains Community Center gazebo with a Founding Day ceremony, followed by a groundbreaking ceremony for the Orange Chamber of Commerce's bicentennial bricks. The bricks, which can be purchased by individuals and etched with messages,

will be installed around the gazebo.

On Saturday, June 25 at 2 p.m., the town will host a celebratory parade and family dinner. The rain date for the parade is June 26. Applications to participate in the parade have been drawn up and will be due to parade organizer Pat O'Sullivan by June 4.

Then on Monday, June 27 the town will be sponsoring a bicentennial golf tournament at Race Brook Country Club in Orange. The event begins with registration, warm-up and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by a shotgun scramble start at 9 a.m. The event will include 18 holes with live scoring by Golf Genius. In addition to the game itself, the \$200 fee will get players a tournament gift,

*Continued on page 2*

## Formal Wear Store Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting for Karlene Lindsay Designs, a formal wear store located in the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford. From left: mall general manager Ken Sterba, two models, owner Karlene Lindsay, mayor Benjamin Blake, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, two more models and Director of Marketing Simon McDonald of the MRCC. Photo by Gregory Geiger.

## Chip's Restaurant Owner Dies

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



George Chatzopoulos

George Chatzopoulos, the longtime owner of Chip's Family Restaurant in Orange, died Jan. 10 of brain cancer. He was 55.

Chip's started in Orange but

grew to four other Connecticut towns under Chatzopoulos: Fairfield, Southbury, Southington and Wethersfield.

Chatzopoulos's sister and business partner, Dina Bajko, said that he died peacefully in her arms shortly after his brother and niece arrived from Greece, where Chatzopoulos was born.

## Klarides To Run For Senate

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



Themis Klarides

Former Republican state Rep. Themis Klarides, who represented parts of Orange, has switched from running for governor this year and will instead challenge Democratic US Sen. Richard Blumenthal for his seat.

Klarides made the announcement that she was switching races on Jan. 31 in a "soft launch" that did not include the traditional creation of a campaign website, committee or fundraising apparatus. She made the announcement in a pretaped interview for News8 WTNH's This Week in CT.

"In the past year or so I've been all around the state of Connecticut, listening to people, talking to people, hearing what is important to them. What things they like, what things

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### New Columnist



BEN GETTINGER

### Send Us Your Poem

In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, the Milford-Orange Times will run selected poems from area residents in the April 7 issue. Submit your poem no later than Monday, March 28 to [editor@theorangetimes.com](mailto:editor@theorangetimes.com). Include your full name and address (only the name and town will be printed).



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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



**Deane**

**(Continued From 1)**

addition, the Town of Orange has limited comfortable housing options for young people. Our current apartment situation was less than ideal and unfortunately, nothing better is available in the same price range. This is forcing Natalie and I to move out of town.”

Jody Dietch, who chairs the ODTTC, said the Democrats were disappointed that Deane couldn't finish his term as a selectman.

“Had he won that seat, he would be in a full time paid (\$100,000 per year) position,” she said. “This would have allowed him to hire someone to run his business freeing him to do the job of First Selectman. He also would have been able to afford to stay in Orange. At this time, Orange doesn't have reasonably priced housing for young people and that is driving our youth out of our town unless they continue to live with their parents. Not good options for 20-30 age group.

Dietch said that Deane had raised some dynamic ideas for Orange during his campaign and had challenged Zeoli on many areas in Orange that residents said they weren't happy about.

“The Orange Democrats are proud to have had Connor as our candidate and we plan to build on the progress he made last fall,” she added. “We wish Connor and Natalie well and hope they will be back as residents someday.”

Zeoli will have the opportunity to appoint another Democrat to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen.

Deane said the decision was not an easy one for him, and that he will continue to support Orange Democrats however he can.

**Bicentennial**

**(Continued From 1)**

breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages on the course and other contests.

Another major event will occur on Saturday, Sept. 10 on the Town Green with the digging up of the sesquicentennial time capsule. The items found in the capsule will be displayed at the Orange Country Fair, which also happens in September.

Other events added to the bicentennial calendar included:

- Restaurant Week from May 28 to June 10.

- A flower show by the Garden Club of Orange on Sunday, June 5.

- A mud run at High Plains Community Center on June 18.

- The annual concert and fireworks display on July 3 at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds.

- A goat hike at the Race Brook Tract on Saturday, July 23 at 10 a.m., with a rain date of July 30.

- A falcon demonstration at High Plains Community Center on Saturday, Aug. 20 at 1 p.m.

The Orange Historical Society is also sponsoring a number of events to showcase the town's heritage during the year, including a lunch at the historic Bryan-Andrew House on Thursday June 2 and Tuesday, July 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; the Lebanon Town Militia at the Bryan-Andrew House on Saturday, July 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; tours of the Stone-Otis House herb garden on Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and crafters and a blacksmith at the Stone-Otis House on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Orange Historical Society is additionally selling commemorative bicentennial medallions to honor the anniversary.

**BBA**

**(Continued From 1)**

office will hold a grand opening event on Thursday, Feb. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The BBA provides assistance with access to capital, networking, training and technical assistance for different aspects of business, such as financial statements, business plans and resume writing.

One of the key services that the BBA offers is as a facilitator for the state Department of Economic and Community Development's Minority Business Revolving Loan Fund, which is targeted at minority small businesses that have been in business at least one year and have less than 100 employees. Participants in the program can request up to \$100,000 in loans.

According to the latest data from the US Census Bureau's Annual Business Survey, there were an estimated 134,567 Black- or African American-owned businesses nationwide through 2019. These businesses had \$133.7 billion in annual receipts, 1.3 million employees and about \$40.5 billion in annual payroll. Approximately 18.7 percent of all US employer businesses were minority-owned.

Though the survey data only covers the period before the COVID-19 pandemic, other indicators suggest that a broad swath of Americans are feeling the entrepreneurial spirit. Census data showed new filings for employer identification numbers grew 57 percent in 2020 over the average for the prior 15 years and was on track for a similar pace in 2021.

At the same time, minority communities continue to face disparities. For instance, according to the US Labor Department, while the overall unemployment rate in January was 4 percent, it was 6.9 percent for Black workers.

**Klarides**

**(Continued From 1)**

are working, what's no working," she said of her decision to switch. "And as many things as they have had to complain about in the state of Connecticut, because we certainly have our own issues here, the palpable dysfunction and the palpable disgust of the dysfunction in Washington, DC was just - I was taken aback by."

Klarides added that Blumenthal should not get a pass in the upcoming election and should have to explain what he's doing for Connecticut.

Prior to her announcement, Klarides had been actively pursuing a campaign to unseat Gov. Ned Lamont, another Democrat, who is up for reelection this year. As late as January her campaign filings in that race showed about \$400,000 in expenditures.

Klarides represented the 114th District in the state House of Representatives from 1999 to 2021, a district that includes parts of Orange, Derby and Woodbridge. She served the last six years of that period as the Minority House Leader, making her the woman to lead Republicans in that chamber. She widely expected to run for higher office after choosing not to seek reelection in 2020.

Blumenthal is seeking his third term in the US Senate and began the year with about \$7.55 million in his campaign war chest.



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*- Patricia*

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For Nature's Sake

# Walking With A Purpose (And A Trash Bag)

At 8 a.m. on a chilly winter morning in Milford, a figure in a bright orange jacket can be seen weaving back and forth along the sidewalk of Welch's Point Road with mechanical grabber in one hand and bucket in the other, picking up trash on his daily walk.

The figure is Bill Bevan, a lifelong Milford resident, retired businessman and former marathoner, still very active in his community who also, since 1999, has included litter removal in his daily five-mile walks.

Across the world today there is a growing movement of combining exercise with litter pickup. In Sweden in 2016 it was dubbed "plogging" – a combination of the Swedish phrase "plocka upp," meaning "pick up," with the English, "jogging." Today there are clubs across the world whose activities can be found on social media with the hashtag "plogging" or the version for walking while picking up trash, "plalking" (or for bird watchers, "pliriding").

None of those terms existed roughly 20 years ago when Bevan, realizing his marathon training days were over because of knee troubles, switched to walking and then gave in to the impulse to pick up the litter that he used to run past.

"I hated seeing the trash on the side of the road as I drove or ran by, let alone walk, and

I said if I'm walking by it, I'm going to pick it up." Someone else, says Bevan, came up with the description he likes best: "Walking with a purpose."

Bevan has picked up hundreds of thousands of pieces of litter in Milford since 1999 – from cigarette butts and fast food debris to cans and bottles, bags of dog poop (one to two per day) and excess plastic-encased advertising supplements and catalogs. Starting in 2020 there have also been medical masks "in incredible numbers" on the roadside.

In slowing down to retrieve litter, Bevan becomes attuned to his surroundings in other ways. If a particular homeowner on his route can use a helping hand getting the garbage bin up a long driveway or someone with mobility issues can be helped by having their paper closer to the stoop, he'll help with that too. His attention also extends to the wildlife and landscapes on his daily route. He notices, for instance, where erosion at a local stream's edge is nearing the road itself and worries about small pieces of plastic that could harm an osprey or other birds that forage amidst the debris.

Bevan keeps records, by nature and habit,



PATRICIA HOUSER

from his days of logging training runs. He has at times kept track of the percentages of beer cans versus soda cans versus water bottles, and even brand names of the most common products. He notes the prevalence among beer litter, for instance, of Budweiser and Bud Light for quite a while.

Many environmental organizations would applaud the impulse to track litter branding because it can help hold producers – not just the consumers – responsible for the damage of a "throwaway economy." An audit of litter, sponsored by the nonprofit organization Break Free from Plastic, found that products from Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestlé were the most numerous among litter in 239 cleanups across 42 countries and six continents.

Bevan's diligence and longevity at litter removal marks him as something of a celebrity to Tony Samuelian, who began doing his own trash-cleaning route near Point Beach two to three years ago. Samuelian, a former teacher who is also a runner, considers litter retrieval part of a larger ethical responsibility akin to "leaving no trace" in campgrounds. He sees others who have begun the habit, and he has encountered a lot

of appreciation from strangers.

"I've even had town employees stop me and thank me," he said. "As a matter of fact, a woman stopped me in her car and she said, 'I've been looking for you for a year' and she gave me two gift certificates – she works somewhere where there was money put aside for acts of kindness."

Bevan also talks about the appreciation for his "trash walking" hobby. "You get to meet so many people on these walks," he said. "I took the walk one day in early spring with my wife, and it was in the morning – and she didn't realize how many people, as they drive by, beep their horn, wave, yell out the window, encouraging things, you know."

When asked if he ever gets discouraged by the nature of the task, Bevan answered, "No. No. The only time it might be discouraging is if I'm out on my walk and it starts to rain hard," which he added tends to end a walk. "I look at it as a great treat to walk around and do what I'm doing. It's like a gift, it really is."

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

## Orange Country Fair Announces Scholarship

The Orange Country Fair has announced that applications for the Association of Connecticut Fairs scholarship program are available in the Amity High School guidance department, at the Case Memorial Library and at Orange Town Hall.

The association awards three scholarships of \$1,000 each to a

graduating high school senior or a current college student to assist them with their education at an accredited institution of higher learning.

One scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or college student pursuing a course of study in agriculture, family consumer service or a related

field during the next school year. One scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or college student pursuing a course of study in any field during the next school year. The third scholarship will go to a graduating senior or college student to be chosen at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

All applications must be received and returned to the fair secretary by May 15. Please mail applications to Marianne Bauer, Secretary – Orange Country Fair, 1041 Beechlawn Terrace, Orange, CT, 06477.

For more information, call 203-795-6489.



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# Opinion & Editorial

## A Strong Financial Outlook



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

The legislative session began on Feb. 9. This year is what we call a short session. What does a “short session” mean?

Connecticut alternates between a short session that runs from early February to early May in even-numbered years, and a long session that runs from early January to early June in odd-numbered years. In even-numbered year sessions, the state constitution and the legislative rules limit the introduction of proposed bills by individual legislators to budgetary, revenue and financial matters. All other bills would have to be raised by committees.

This session is commonly referred to as a budget implementer session, as we mainly deal with financial issues. Due to reforms that were included in the 2017 budget and which my predecessor former state Sen. Gayle Slossberg championed, Connecticut’s fiscal health has drastically improved. In the past 10 years our Budget Reserve Fund, more colloquially known as the rainy day fund, went from essentially empty to having \$4.7 billion at the close of fiscal year 2021 – a full 22.8 percent of 2022 appropriations. Because of reforms we championed, the resulting excess of \$1.6 billion dollars must go toward paying down our pension liabilities.

The state treasurer will make a bulk payment of \$719.7 million to pay down our State Employees Retirement System and a bulk payment of \$903.6 million toward our Teachers Retirement System. Because of these large bulk deposits into SERS and TRS, the state is expected to see \$3.45 billion in savings over the next 25 years.

According to the Office of Policy and Management’s fall 2021 fiscal accountability report, this also means that SERS is now projected to be fully funded by 2048 and TRS by 2050.

In even more promising news, current projections for fiscal 2022 show us with an operating surplus in the General Fund of \$1.4777 billion and a volatility deposit of \$969.2 million. What that means is we may be making an additional \$2.4 billion dollar payment towards our pensions.

In addition to the progress made toward reducing our overall unfunded debt, the state has made numerous reforms over the past 10 years to rein in costs. One major area has been the size of the state’s workforce. 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 2009. In addition, projections from the nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis show our state with a positive structural balance, meaning our revenue is increasing faster than our fixed costs as we look to the future.

Too often the state budget rides a roller coaster governed by Wall Street profits. Instead of spending the extra money the state has, we have filled up our fund and paid off debt to be prepared for our future. This is a historic time for Connecticut and our sustainable gains look for a promising future.

## Transparency Across The Board



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

Today our communities are connected more than ever. This means it is also paramount we demand transparency and accountability of our elected officials.

During the 2022 legislative session, I will look to make these principles of transparency and accountability a priority. We must be open and honest with the residents and taxpayers of Connecticut. This also applies across the board, to state government agencies and service providers alike.

Just last week, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families released an audit report for 2021. The report sent to the General Assembly was concerning on many governmental levels, some having to do with their internal operations, and others focused on financial malfeasance. Their report displayed instances of noncompliance with state law, a lack of oversight, and departmental deficiencies that must be addressed.

Particularly, the report noted that 79 percent of case narratives were not entered into the system within the required five days and 26 percent of appeal cases for neglect did not receive internal review within the required 30 days. Not only does this show a need for heightened transparency, but it directly affects the lives of our state’s most vulnerable children and families.

This is another example why I, along with the House Republicans, will again introduce legislation to require legislative committees of cognizance to hold public hearings in response to these reports. It is not only a concern of lawmakers that these deficiencies are accounted for, but for parents and families across Connecticut as well. This latest audit report should get an automatic public hearing by the legislature, and someone at the agency should be held accountable.

I am additionally making it a legislative priority of my own to increase accountability for energy providers, especially in the solar industry. As a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I will address the fact that there is no disclosure on statements or bills to show what a customer is exactly receiving or giving back to the utility company. At a time when the cost of energy is constantly rising, many people across Connecticut are searching for more economical or sustainable alternatives. If our utility providers are not being fully transparent with customers, residents will continue to suffer through increasing prices with no hope of a viable substitute.

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.

## Representing The People



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

We begin the new legislative session for the General Assembly on Feb. 9, and with the new session we bring an end to Gov. Ned Lamont’s emergency executive powers after nearly two years. The Connecticut state legislature will again undertake its proper role as one of the three branches of government.

There are 11 remaining executive orders from the governor that will expire on Feb. 15.

On Friday, Jan. 21 the governor sent a letter to all legislators requesting to extend the emergency and 11 of the existing executive orders, including masks in schools. I have voted against extending the governor’s powers and the executive orders in the past and will do so again. I believe it is past time that we reestablish the legislature as a co-equal branch of government.

As the legislator for Milford and Orange, it is my responsibility to represent the voices of my constituents as a co-equal branch of state government. That’s why I also strongly believe that should the 11 remaining executive orders issued by Lamont come to a vote, they need to be voted on separately and not with all 11 rolled into one vote. Each of these orders addresses very specific matters. We may not have compelling reasons to extend some, while for others, like addressing hospital staff and teacher shortages, the need may be necessary. Packaging these executive orders together for a single vote only serves to shield legislators from the accountability their constituents expect and deserve.

Over the last few weeks, I have received numerous emails from parents concerning the mask mandate in schools. Some of these parents also happen to be teachers. The central message of the emails I’ve received are all the same: unmask our kids. Many constituents believe the mask mandate is no longer justified and that it’s an unscientific mandate that is negatively impacting the well-being of our children. I am concerned about the increasing number of children suffering from speech and language development, anxiety, depression and yes, even suicide. The time has come to remove the mask mandate, or at least permit the legislature to vote up or down on the executive order which mandates masks.

In representing the voice of the people, we should also provide a forum for them to share with us directly, which is the purpose of the public hearing process. Before any executive orders are codified in state law, the public deserves the opportunity to be heard and observe their representative leaders vote on the matter.

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.

## Looking Ahead



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

While the 2022 legislative session officially began on Feb. 9, I have been working every day to prepare for the fast pace and early deadlines.

Last year we were officially clocked in from Jan. 6 through June 9. During that session we not only prepared and passed a bipartisan-supported budget, but individual legislators were able to submit proposals covering any topic.

This year there are more restrictions in place. Legislation has to be proposed and taken up by a committee, which makes it harder for specialized laws to be passed. The shorter schedule is specifically aimed at making legislative adjustments to the budget; this year that task is made more difficult by the uncertainty of what we can expect in federal dollars.

Despite the limitations, I do have legislative goals for this year. I am continuing to work with the Veterans Committee to find responsible pathways to reflect skills gained during military service in our state licensure process. I want to ensure that we respect the training our service men and women receive and fill the gaps in our workforce for skilled tradespeople.

I am also hopeful that the Public Health Committee will take up a proposal that came out of a tragic loss for a family in our area. “Scarlet’s Bill” would ensure that families who have suffered a stillbirth would be guaranteed a certain amount of time to make the important, heart-wrenching decisions that follow this tragic loss. I want to thank Scarlet’s mom, Katie, for not only being a tireless advocate for this legislation, but also for the work she does to support other families who find themselves in the same situation. You can learn more about her efforts at [facebook.com/scarletsmission](https://www.facebook.com/scarletsmission).

I have also continued to work on the mental health crisis so many of our children are facing. Access to care was a problem before the pandemic; now it is even worse. I am incredibly proud to have been placed by the Speaker of the House, Rep. Matt Ritter, on a select committee tasked with creating crucial legislation to address this in the immediate, short-term and long-term arenas. This work will continue throughout session.

I am also so grateful to have also been nominated by leadership to represent our caucus at a national behavioral health forum in Washington, DC this April. Collaborating with other legislators and mental and behavioral health specialists from around the country will be a unique opportunity to learn firsthand from others what worked and what didn’t. Bringing home proven strategies will put our communities and our state in a better position for finding solutions for this serious concern.

This is just a summary of what I will continue to work on; I would love to hear what you think our priorities should be. Please fill out the constituent survey on my website at [housedems.ct.gov/Welander/2021survey](https://www.housedems.ct.gov/Welander/2021survey) and let me know what is important to you.

# Opinion & Editorial

## Facing Ourselves

### Why Not Promote A Black Woman?

Supreme Court justice Stephen Breyer recently announced that he will retire, leaving a vacancy which President Joe Biden says he will fill this year.

In his remarks on Jan. 27, Biden said, "While I've been studying candidates' backgrounds and writings, I've made no decisions except one: The person I will nominate will be someone with extraordinary qualifications, character, experience and integrity, and that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court."

This declaration, met with both applause and criticism, asks us to consider what it means to have the first Black female appointed to the Supreme Court.

Some say that the focus on race further divides us, making us focus on our differences rather than what we have in common. After all, even Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared, "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Many say that focusing on race perpetuates racial stereotypes and racism itself.

As a minority myself, I have at times wondered if the emphasis on race causes a deeper divide. I have hoped that perhaps people were truly "color blind" when it came to evaluating me, as well as others, by the content of our "character." I admit there are instances when I have questioned whether the consideration of race handicaps the struggle to be viewed as equals.

These concerns are shared by many. A new ABC News poll regarding Biden's pledge to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court finds "just over three-quar-

ters of Americans (76 percent) want Biden to consider 'all possible nominees.' Just 23 percent want him to automatically follow through on his history-making commitment that the White House seems keen on seeing through."

Historically, presidents of both parties have focused on race and/or gender in selecting Supreme Court justices. Like Biden, Ronald Reagan pledged on the campaign trail to select a woman to the Supreme Court – a promise he kept by appointing Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981.

Donald Trump also promised rallygoers in Fayetteville, North Carolina, "I will be putting forth a nominee next week. It will be a woman," and followed through on his commitment by appointing Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court in 2020. Records also indicate that both Lyndon Johnson and George H.W. Bush favored appointing a Black candidate to the Supreme Court.

If there is historical precedent for the focus on race or gender in appointing Supreme Court nominees, why is Biden's announcement to select a Black female overwhelmingly unpopular? The underlying concern currently expressed by many is that by pledging to specifically appoint a Black woman to the Supreme Court, Biden will be selecting a candidate who is not qualified to serve on the highest court in this country.

Let's dissect this further. What lies at



JENNIFER JU

the root of this concern that an undeserving Black female candidate would be the next Supreme Court justice? Do you believe that there exist highly qualified Black females who are equal to their non-minority peers and who would be deserving appointees to the Supreme Court, or do you think that by focusing on selecting a Black woman, we are diluting the talent pool and settling for less?

Deep down, is there a suspicion or assumption that Black and other minority candidates are likely not as qualified as their white peers, and any achievement is due to a sort of affirmative action charity case? Do we believe that objectively less qualified minorities are being accepted into schools, elected to government positions and taking jobs from White people based on their skin color?

Or do we truly believe that these minorities are selected based on their ability and that consideration of race may propel them over other candidates only if all other qualifications are equal?

Let's pursue additional reflection. Does giving extra consideration to race, if all other factors are equal, help level the field by balancing out an implicit bias that often benefits non-minorities – one in which the impact of privilege is dismissed and assumes that non-minorities are being judged by their ability and not by their own, lighter skin color? Have we ever questioned if the best candidate was selected when a non-minority is elected, admitted or ap-

pointed? On what basis do we assume that the minority was less qualified than their white peer?

We must also examine if the prescription for racism lies in a kind of racial color blindness – a reverting back to the proverbial melting pot analogy in which all races and cultures are blended into one, indistinguishable, "American" mold. Do we really believe that all people are created equal, despite a long history of deep-rooted biases, regardless of skin color? Is there no need to correct past injustices? Is there no such thing as an uneven playing field for minorities?

We cannot both say that we are color-blind and that race does not matter, and simultaneously assume an achievement or position has been doled out to an unqualified individual as some sort of race card handout.

The extent of disapproval regarding Biden's pledge to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court has prompted me to investigate my underlying belief about race and ability. I encourage everyone to do the same.

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

### Goodbye, Mr. Chip's

By Steve Cooper

On the evening of Jan. 10, George Chatzopoulos lost his battle with cancer. Best known as Georgie from Chip's Family Restaurant, he immigrated to the US from Greece in 1987. He hailed from the village of Olympia. After arriving in the US, he worked in the restaurant business for many years.

Being proud of his Greek heritage, Chatzopoulos fused Mediterranean favorites with traditional American comfort food to create a restaurant that Orange considers a local treasure.

Chatzopoulos took over Chip's, a 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 way too many more to mention. He was a larger than life figure in the Milford and Orange communities. Chatzopoulos expanded, through the years, his legendary

restaurants to Fairfield, Trumbull, Southbury, Southington and Wethersfield.

The past two years have definitely been a trying time due to the pandemic. It has destroyed many restaurants. Chatzopoulos knew how to turn lemons into lemonade. Chip's did not just persevere; they created a wonderful outdoor oasis for their loyal patrons and even helped health care heroes during their most difficult days.

His philosophy was simple: "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."

It was that way of thinking, his infectious smile and big hugs that made him a treasured member of the community.

He was with family at home as he passed peacefully in his sister's arms. Chatzopoulos leaves behind a hole in so many hearts of those who considered him a hero and friend. Goodbye, Mr. Chip's.

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Recovering

# Losing A Loved One To Addiction

Sadly, I am going to begin this column where every ounce of my being hopes no individual has to experience for a loved one. This is not a story, but the real events that happened in January as an example of how addiction plays upon people and their families. Numerous people in our community and state have lived this reality and been severely affected by its trauma, redirecting the course of everyone's life involved.

I had to say goodbye to my best friend because he drank himself to death. He drank so much in the last week of his life, in complete solitude, pain and depression, that his organs completely shut down upon him.

On a very early morning I spoke to my dear friend, a gentle and brilliant person, one last time. He was dying and said he wanted to die over the phone to me. I pleaded with my friend to hold on as I was going to summon help to get to him. He hung up his phone, turned it off, and my messages and calls went unanswered.

I called the local police in the area, asking them to do a welfare check on my friend. He was a brilliant man, a top tier university graduate, partner at a venerable certified public accounting firm, father of two beautiful kids and a sickly tormented alcoholic suffering in silence.

Ultimately, the police entered my friend's house, saw him in distress and took him to

the hospital. I called my friend's family to make them aware of the condition and circumstances he was in, calling the only number I could find on the internet to leave a message of where he was. The police would tell me that he was at a hospital, but not which one.

My best friend's sister called me at 9:30 p.m. that night to inform me that my best friend would not make it more than an hour or two. His death was certain. He had ravaged his physical being at the cost of his spiritual and mental being. His body had shut down; he was tired of suffering. At my deep sadness of losing my best friend, all I could think of was his family. His father lost a son, his girlfriend a boyfriend, his sister a brother, his daughters a father. This man lost his struggle against the insidious disease of addiction and mental health. His pain was so great he would have preferred to die in isolation than around loved ones.

His sister asked me if I would like to say goodbye to my dear friend. She was able to turn on the speakerphone as I told my friend I loved him and that he did not need to feel his insufferable pain anymore, to be in peace. He spoke faintly back to me, a comment I will not share to anyone as it



ROB CRAFT

rests in my soul and heart.

I sent my friend's sister pictures of my last visit with him that he could see of us laughing, smiling and living life. Children happy and laughing. I wanted him to know he was loved. I wanted him to see my face, his children's, father's, and sister's, who were all present with him, as his pain ebbed and breath faded. In a life where my friend, like I, has felt alone in a crowd, he was surrounded by love.

His sister texted me at 12:38 a.m. that he passed. My heart sank. He was another victim to this epidemic. Countless tears will flow from his family's eyes and hearts. It does not have to end this way. No one deserves to suffer like this, not the addict or the family.

I asked my friend, John Palmer of J Palmer Recovery Services LLC, to add perspective to this experience.

"All to often in my career as a substance use disorder recovery specialist have I heard accounts such as the one Rob speaks of in his writing above," Palmer said. "Actively using people suck all of the air out of the room which can push loved ones away when they need to find the most courage and strength to move closer to the affected one."

"What does that mean? Well, for one, families can seek out help in many different ways," Palmer continued. "They can turn to Al-Anon or Nar-Anon which are groups specifically designed to help stabilize family members such as husbands, wives, children, brothers or sisters or the using family member. Stabilization means learning that you are not responsible for the active family member's drinking or drugging. You did not cause it or create it and you certainly cannot cure it. My guess is that you would have cured it by now should you possess such power. You can learn to modify your behavior and narrative to develop yourself as a willing contributor to healthy changes with the active one should they decide to attempt to do things differently."

"Seeking out family clinicians trained in addictions dynamics to help family members understand roles and opportunities to help themselves or the active one is always a good path," Palmer said. "Interventions that employ trained professionals is a powerful tool used frequently today to deliver a message of love and future consequences should the addict choose not to change or enter treatment."

I hope this column helps the community see this disease in a different light.

*Robert A. Craft is an investment advisor representative at Sentinel Asset Management.*



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**Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce**

**Five Business Growth Strategies**

The last two years have driven rapid transformation across all industries as we have dealt with shifting political and economic climates. To lead your business in the right direction as we head into 2022, here are five business growth strategies we recommend.

Learn video search engine optimization strategies to rank higher on search engines. Video marketing has become an integral part of a successful marketing strategy; in the coming year, videos will account for 82 percent of all consumer traffic. Small businesses that incorporate short-form videos into their website posts will see more organic traffic coming from search engines.

Use partnership marketing to reach a broader audience. Partnership marketing is a strategic collaboration that gives you and your partner company a chance to reach a wider audience together.

Collaboration with another company can aid in the development of better marketing initiatives that benefit both parties. If your target clients are similar, you may pool your resources to better your marketing techniques, build your brands and expand your audience reach.

Consider hiring more gig workers. The number of gig workers, freelancers and contractors has grown exponentially over the last few years, and they make up a substantial portion of workers within the current market. It is important to be agile in today's economic environment – skilled outsourced contractors will be the key to successful business growth moving forward.

Work with micro-influencers. While small

businesses may be competing against larger businesses to work with online influencers, collaborating with micro-influencers is a viable option to explore. Influencer marketing is becoming more popular than ever. Those with 10,000 to 50,000 followers are more open to collaborating with small businesses. Engaging just a couple of these small influencers will help you drive growth.

Prioritize company culture. Throughout the pandemic, businesses have been dealing with "The Great Resignation" as workers are quitting their jobs at record-high rates. One of the reasons for this is that people are changing their definitions of what they consider a healthy

work-life balance and what they want in a company culture. The pandemic has shifted the way people incorporate work into their life, whether it is moving to another state for cheaper housing or not going into the office every day and leveraging the opportunity to do remote or hybrid work. A key factor for employees, in addition to salary and benefits, is company culture, so it would be beneficial to have a culture strategy in place.

This is going to be a year of transformation for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, 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. Whether you are new to the area, or an existing business in need of support, we are here for you.



MICHAEL MOSES

**Orange Chamber of Commerce**

**ONET Will Foster Community Connections**

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Last month I wrote about the chamber's overarching goal of connecting the greater Orange community for the benefit of businesses, nonprofits and residents. When we work together it helps strengthen the community fabric that we all cherish and want to preserve. And that means learning about each other by sharing our goals, challenges and solutions through networking and communication.

One way the Orange Chamber of Commerce is facilitating community connections is through our new networking group, ONET, free and open to all local area businesses and nonprofits. ONET meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Initially, we will use Zoom, but we hope to meet in person as soon as possible.

Benefits of these meetings include updates

about opportunities to generate awareness for businesses and organizations; brainstorming sessions to address challenges and share solutions; networking with businesses and community organizations; how to tie in with the chamber's Orange bicentennial activities; and guest speakers to help navigate the business and nonprofit worlds of today.

If you are a business or a nonprofit organization that would like to receive ONET invitations, email me at [director@orangect-chamber.com](mailto:director@orangect-chamber.com) and we will get you on the list right away.

The ONET meeting on Thursday, March 10 is a win-win for both businesses and nonprofits with guest speaker Nadjeska Reilly, employment program manager for SARAH,



KATHY CONVERSE CHARBONNEAU

Inc., a nonprofit that helps disabled adults gain job skills and knowledge. The organization provides insurance for its workers and an on-site job coach. Nadjeska will talk about the skill sets of their teams and different ways businesses and nonprofits can use them. SARAH, Inc. is partnering with the chamber to offer this free staffing resource for chamber members.

We're thrilled to announce the addition of three new members to our Board of Directors, all with strong ties to our community: Jennifer Schempp of Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger, PC, Amy Neale of Otraway, LLC and Rob Craft of Sentinel Asset Management. All three have hit the ground running with Schempp and Neale ready to spearhead the chamber's Shop Local Club Committee

(with board treasurer Lynda Mason of The Milford Bank) and the Membership Committee. Craft is taking charge of ONET with co-chair Kevin Lai of Whitten, Horton and Gibney, LLP. Schempp, Neale and Craft are truly inspiring with their love of and investment in Orange. We can't wait to see the impact of their contributions.

In next month's column I will provide all the juicy details about chamber plans to support Orange's bicentennial through a restaurant and business week (with the Orange Economic Development Corporation), bicentennial banners for businesses to proudly display and holiday ornaments with the beautiful logo created by designer Michael Ulrich, coordinated by Bicentennial Committee member Mitch Goldblatt and his team of Ginny Proestakes and Polly Demirjian.

Follow the Orange Chamber of Commerce on Facebook for the latest updates.

**Just Floored**

**Keeping Your Hardwood Floors Protected**

I am always asked how to clean and protect my hardwood flooring. It is a lot easier than you might think. It really comes down to choosing the correct products that will keep your floors looking fabulous and newer longer.

Do your everyday cleaning by dusting with a broom, Swiffer or vacuum cleaner. Make sure you use the lowest level on the vacuum to ensure you are picking up the dust and debris. When dusting with a mop, use a microfiber or terry cloth mop.

Manufacturers do not recommend mopping with water. Use products designat-

ed for hardwood. Avoid ammonia-based or wax-based cleaners, detergents, bleach, polishes, oil soaps, abrasive cleaners and soaps or acidic substances like vinegar.

I always recommend products from Bruce, Armstrong and Bona.

Our homes are full of pets, people and things that could potentially cause damage to our floors. But don't worry: these simple steps will help protect



ANNAMARIE AMORE

your floors and enjoy living with them at the same time.

Don't let spills sit; clean them immediately. Mats and rugs are a floor's best friend. They provide safety from dirt and moisture. Avoid mats and rugs with rubber or vinyl backings; they can trap moisture.

Trim your pet's nails. Dogs and cats can scratch the surface of your wood. Keep their nails short and smooth.

Never drag heavy furniture

on the floors. Use sliders and protect the floors by using protectors on the bottom of your furniture legs. Leave your shoes at the door – specially ones with spiky heels or treads that collect sharp pebbles and other debris. Try and avoid direct sunlight on your floors.

All these steps can help with the upkeep of your beautiful hardwood floors.

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

**Running**

**Finding The Right Exercise Time**

Famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his burrow on a foggy Wednesday morning and did not see his shadow, indicating there would be six more weeks of winter.

People have been referencing the 1993 film Groundhog Day at times like we are living the same day over and over, but the groundhog shows us the monotonous pattern will end. Groundhog Day is just one day (like the virus), just a point in time. There is literally a new day coming on the horizon.

Even though there are six more weeks of winter, that is no excuse to be like Phil and crawl back into our burrow and hibernate.

Our schedules are busy and it's hard to find time and motivation to get out and exercise, even though we know it is vital to both physical and mental health.

There is a case for working out into the morning. First, you get your workout done and over before you even start your day. This means you will begin your day with your endorphins going and a good feeling you have accomplished something before 9 a.m. That's more than some people accomplish all day.

Many times the day gets away from you and...oh well, we will start again tomorrow. However, things put off to tomorrow will easily be put off to the day after tomorrow. Even walking briskly for 45 minutes increases metabolism, which means you burn calories throughout the day. Start fresh and you will feel refreshed throughout the day. It gives you time to think and set your goals,



CATHY BRADLEY

and it sets the tone for the day.

While morning is a great time to get up and out, there are benefits to exercising in the afternoon. Your body temperature increase throughout the day, and between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. your body is the most ready and efficient for a brisk walk. It may help you disconnect and reset for the rest of the day. It is something you will need to make an effort to schedule. Create a regular routine, as days get away from us. I prefer mornings, but if I find myself challenged or getting stressed, a good walk or disconnect helps reset the rest of the day.

Some people prefer working out at night. It may disrupt sleep for some, but others have said they have a better sleep quality

and sleep longer. For many, the day is over and you can let go of what is not done. It can help you unwind.

So what time is best? While science and studies reflect different benefits, one thing is clear: getting up and moving is important. What really matters is finding the time of day that works for you, fits your schedule and that you can stick to.

By keeping your regimen consistent, at the same time every day, you will make better gains. Isn't that what really matters?

Like Groundhog Day, the virus is just one point in time. There is a new day coming with a bright horizon. Let's make every day a great day.

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

## Foodie Foursome

# Sardinian Culinary Supremacy At Gusto's Trattoria

The island of Sardinia in Italy is known for its traditional and simple style of cuisine, featuring delicacies of the sea as well as influences of ancient Roman and Grecian cookery.

Gusto's Trattoria chef-owner Riccardo Mavuli was raised on a farm in Sardinia. He is co-owner of the Milford restaurant with his wife Ellen. His innovative style offers the delicacies of his upbringing blended with regional styles of northern and southern Italy.

While their menu tempts the palate with bountiful dining classics, his creativity and ever-changing specials offer a unique dining experience that reflects an abundance of incredible entrees, appetizers and desserts. As you approach the restaurant you're enveloped in the inviting smell of the brick wood-fired oven. The "front of house" staff are friendly, attentive and experienced.

The evening kicked off with fresh-made bread, roasted garlic cloves and flavored olive oil. Tina, our server, along with the Mavulis, made our dining experience a total pleasure.

Cindy and I were joined by friends Karen, Tom and Linda (yes, I know that is five). We decided to go with "chef's choice" instead of our own choices. It turned out to be a great decision, as his selections took us out of our comfort zones and allowed us to really take in the depth of Mavuli's culinary expertise. Each item was divided among us to create a unique

tasting experience so we could all discuss each selection.

Our starters were quite diverse. We started with the meatball gigante and shrimp al prosciutto. The meatball was ever-so-tender with great texture and taste, and as big as my fist, stuffed with mozzarella and covered in an amatriciana sauce and topped with a dollop of ricotta. The shrimp, a colossal, wrapped with prosciutto and stuffed with mozzarella and asparagus, was well balanced. The tastes melded together as the outer layer caramelized, encapsulating the succulent sweet shrimp and melted cheese. Next up was the eggplant rollatini – thin slices of eggplant, grilled and rolled with four cheeses and spinach. The eggplant, accompanied by a red sauce, was so tender it melted in your mouth.

The last app was baby lambchop lollypops. Four out of five of us were not normally big fans of lamb. That changed after trying these. To say they were amazing would be an understatement. The usual gaminess was absent, the preparation on point, tender and elegant in its simplicity. It was served with a refined, subtle pesto with layers of flavor and a hint of mint. This was one of our favorites.

Our culinary adventure continued with Mavuli creating a tableside "foodie perfor-



STEVE COOPER

mance," doing a tableside preparation. He came out with a cart containing a giant wheel of grana padano cheese, carved out in the center and a bowl with fresh, housemade, pappardelle. As he poured a healthy serving of 100-proof vodka into the center of the wheel he lit it on fire. The dramatic effect is captivating.

As the cheese softened and melted, Mavuli scraped and mixed the melted cheese with two stainless steel spoons until the liquid evaporated. All the molten cheese was incorporated and ready to marry with the pasta. While watching the show we shared a bottle of red wine from Sardinia, flowery and fruity and accented with balsamic notes. The pappardelle, fresh and cooked to a perfect al dente, was coated with the molten cheese. It was smooth, creamy and served with sprigs of fresh basil, exquisite and so much fun.

Following the dramatic presentation was a blackened swordfish over Sardinian fregula sarda pasta with corn and peas in a garlic cream sauce. The swordfish was delicately seasoned and seared to perfection. It was tasty and flaky and supported by the luscious pasta medley that we could not get enough of. Next was fresh pasta ribbons with a tasty duck ragu on top. We finished the entrée round with bone-

less short ribs with a vegetable demi-glace over mashed potatoes. The beef was tender and delicious, and the accompanying sauce was plentiful, scrumptious and savory. An extra shot of that as a chaser would have been perfect.

We finished the evening with cappuccino and dessert. The classics were excellent. We had stuffed cannoli with fresh cream filling. The tiramisu was rich and velvety, extremely moist yet not soggy. The semi-fredo was a house-made, toasted almond semi-frozen mousse, topped with toasted almonds and a chocolate drizzle. Our final treat was tartufo, an Italian gelato ball sliced for presentation and covered with cherries and nuts, fresh whipped cream, chocolate and strawberry drizzle and fresh strawberries.

Through renovations and additions, the restaurant features a beautiful bar with a cozy dining area, outdoor patio, private dining room with a private entrance that would be great for events, as well as a large glass-enclosed dining room. The main dining room caters to anything from a romantic dinner or lunch to a casual gathering of friends or family.

Gusto's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. They have plenty of off-street parking and are located at 255 Post Rd. Call 203-876-7464 to ask about their daily specials and the Valentine's Day special or for reservations.

## Getting To Know You

### Not In The Plan

Francesco Rinaldi was my father-in-law, a man with vision and strength, deserving of respect. A man who carefully organized his life and executed his plans with determination and drive.

Then I showed up: stupid, arrogant, disrespectful and definitely unplanned for.

Now, I didn't come uninvited. His daughter found me wandering around like a stray dog and brought me into his life. Initially he didn't like me, and for a long time he didn't really smile at me. He was always respectful and courteous, but he never really smiled.

I don't blame him; I understand. I didn't fully understand until my own daughter, Rachael, was born. As I stood there holding her, he walked up, beaming from ear to ear at me. It was a great big toothy smile. It wasn't long after that I figured out why he was smiling at me like that.

You see, when I held my daughter for the first time I quickly formulated a plan for her life. She was going to be smart and successful and tough and discerning and caring and independent and strong and beautiful like her mother. She would have a great career and live in a big house and go on fabulous vacations and hordes of people would call her "boss." She would have whatever she wanted out of life. And I would do everything in my power to make that plan come to fruition.

Francesco Rinaldi had that same dream when he held his daughter – my wife – for the first time. Then I came along and messed up the plan. His problem with me was simple; we were both in love with the same woman, only I wasn't part of the plan.

When Francesco Rinaldi planned out his daughter's life, I was definitely not in that plan. For starters, my wife was 100 percent Italian, was born in the old country, spoke Italian as her first language and learned English with her parents when they moved to the US. If my wife was going to marry, it would be to someone who would honor that Italian heritage. Then his daughter went out into the world and found me idling around, looking stupid like all guys my age. I was a mutt from all over the place, and I spoke only a couple of crude dialects of English. The worst part must have been that she liked me.

I didn't fit into Francesco Rinaldi's plan in many other ways. I was still in college when his daughter found me. I was young, arrogant, directionless and a rugby playing maniac. I didn't particularly enjoy soccer, and the only thing I knew about Italy was where to find it on a map and that pizza and pasta came from there. When I got out of college, instead of getting a job, marrying his

daughter and starting a decent life, I went on to more school. He was stuck, along with his daughter, waiting another three years for me to get my act together.

When I finally got out of school, he probably thought that things would get on track. But they didn't. Instead I spent six months in my parents' basement studying for the bar exam and searching for a job.

Then I made it worse.

During that time that I proposed to his daughter. In a gross violation of the respect her father deserved, I didn't even ask for his blessing. Like a thief, I just up and did it one night in a parking lot. I had no home, no job and no prospects. And now I was engaged to his daughter. I'm sure the man had nightmares of me living in his home and eating his food like a useless wart. The really tough part must have been his daughter was so happy.

At least his nightmare never came to pass. I did get a job. But I also continued to be disrespectful and foul up his plan. I got an apartment, and one Saturday afternoon showed up, completely unannounced, at his house with a U-Haul panel truck. I packed his daughter and her stuff into it and drove off. I took his daughter from his home like the Baltimore Colts left Baltimore – but not before Francesco Rinaldi walked out onto his front porch and gave me a grim and unrelenting stare that would have peeled the hide off a battleship.

My grandfather used to tell a story about the first time he met his father-in-law. He gave my grandmother a ride home from work, and as he pulled into the driveway my great-grandfather stomped off the porch and screamed at him. My grandfather used to say, "That was the biggest and the ugliest and the maddest man I ever saw in my life, and if I hadn't offered him a chew of tobacco he would have killed me."

As Francesco Rinaldi glared at me that Saturday afternoon, I realized my grandfather had lied to me. If Francesco Rinaldi could have gotten his hands on me, he would have torn me apart. The only thing that saved me was that his daughter was married to me.

He must have consoled himself with the idea that soon grandchildren would be on the way, but I messed up on that front too. For three years his daughter and I played house in that four-room apartment, called our cat "the baby" and showed no signs of getting serious about life. When we finally did get in a family way, his comment was "It



DAVID CROW

was time."

But Francesco Rinaldi softened on me after that. I bought his daughter a house and we settled into family life. He started to give me small smiles and respectful nods in private moments. I might not have been the pure-bred Italian stallion he had planned on, but after his daughter broke me, it seemed that I pulled the load ably enough and became a close enough fit to the plan to mollify him. The three grandchildren we gave him became the great joys of his life.

I told you that story to tell you this one. On Dec. 25, 2021, Francesco Rinaldi stood in my kitchen and gave me one of the greatest Christmas pres-

ents I've ever received. He put his hand on my shoulder and said, "I'm a wealthy man. I have two beautiful daughters who found two good men to marry and now I have five beautiful grandchildren. I'm proud."

I hope when my daughter brings home my useless mutt of a son-in-law, I honor you by following your gracious example of patience and kindness. God speed.

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

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Commentary:

# How To Write A Check Properly

When you write a check, do remember how to do it correctly? Were you ever taught these basic rules?

Rule one: please print everything except your signature, which is your personal mark to uniquely identify you. A poor signature is an invitation to forgery, especially with the mailbox thefts that have been occurring in town.

Rule two: no post dating of checks. If you are paying a bill, consider it paid on the day you write it. It will likely be deposited on the day it is received by the payee. So make sure there are sufficient funds in your account. Most receivers of your check will not hold posting it unless you have a prior agreement. And, of course, an undated check is worthless – make sure you fill in the date field. Double check the year.

If you fill a check out incorrectly, bounced

check fees are likely to be assessed. You will likely be assessed a fee both by the bank and the check payee. Don't expect your check to be redeposited either. Burned once shame on you, burned twice shame on the payee. You will also be assessed another fee for a second bounce, but so will the payee.

Rule three: use the memo field to identify what bill is being paid. The Town of Orange provides bill or list numbers that help to post the payment correctly.

Quiz: The bank by law is expected to honor which field on your check for the payment amount?

- a. The number written in the number field.
- b. The field with the amount written out.



THOMAS P. HURLEY

c. The amount stamped on the back of the check by the payee.

d. The number written field and the matching payout on the back of the check.

The correct answer is b. Do you know how this field should look?

Everything should be spelled out except the fraction representing cents. For example, \$10,957.21 should be printed as "Ten Thousand, Nine Hundred, Fifty-Seven and 21/100," with a line to the word dollars. The only numbers on the written check amount line occur in the fractional dollar amount. The numeric representation is in the number field and should correspond to the written amount field.

Do not leave open space between your written numbers. This is an open invitation

for forgers. For example, \$10,000.55 would look like "Ten Thousand and 55/100" with a line to complete the written field to the word dollars on your check.

You can write "xx/100" when no cents are needed on the check. Some people also use "00/100"; either is acceptable in the written area of the check.

Plan ahead when writing larger dollar amounts so everything fits on the line. When you use numbers instead of writing it out in the written field you invite forgery, as it is easier to slip additional digits on your check, such as an extra zero. This could turn a \$1,000 check into a \$10,000 check quite easily.

*Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.*

## Library Program To Discuss Connection Between Zoning, Global Warming

The Case Memorial Library in Orange will host a Zoom presentation on Thursday, Feb. 17 with Emily DiSalvo, Peter Harrison and Kevin Kurian of DesegregateCT who will discuss how restrictive zoning laws, from minimum lot sizes to a lack of multi-family housing, increase emissions and exacerbate global warming.

DesegregateCT will also discuss the potential of policies like transit-oriented communities and minimum lot size reform to create a greener, more equitable Connecticut.

The Dinner Disrupted series is a partnership of libraries in Fairfield and New Haven counties engaging patrons in collective discussions and actions focused on engaging residents to play a more active

role in their food system.

Food security is defined as the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious foods. They tie food security to policy, zoning, land use and increasingly, climate change.

Emily DiSalvo is a graduate journalism student at Quinnipiac University and a lifelong resident of Portland. She has been working with DesegregateCT since September. After graduating in May she hopes to be a reporter covering labor or housing issues.

Peter Harrison is the senior policy fellow at DesegregateCT. Previously, he served as the national housing advisor for Data for Progress, a progressive think tank, where he co-authored the Homes for All

report and advised on the 2020 presidential campaigns of vice president Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. He researched the intersection of the housing and climate crises at the Buell Center at Columbia University and contributed to the upcoming textbook Green Reconstruction. In addition to his academic work, he is also the co-founder of two startup companies and teaches IT Strategy at the business school of the City University of New York. He holds a bachelors degree in history from the College of the Holy Cross and an MUP from Columbia University. He grew up in Avon and currently lives in New York City with his wife and mini-dachshund.

Kevin Kurian is the outreach coordinator at DesegregateCT and a senior at New York

University studying politics and economics. He has worked as an organizer for racial justice and affordable housing within his hometown of Simsbury. Last summer, he served as a summer intern for Connecticut Attorney General William Tong. He hopes to return home after graduation to work to make Connecticut a more equal state.

The event runs from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration is required. Registered attendees will receive a Zoom link via email before the event. The registrant's name as displayed on Zoom must match the name used for registration in order to guarantee admission.

For more information, contact Rebecca Harlow at 203-891-2170 or rharlow@casememoriallibrary.org.

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## Your Health

# COVID Vaccine Clinics Resuming In Orange

Over the last two months, we noticed a rapid surge in the number of new COVID-19 cases across all states as well as in the town of Orange. These included both lab-reported cases as well as at-home test results. The new cases among school-aged children were significantly higher than previous months.

Although this spike of new COVID cases was unprecedented, we noticed that the health effects of the omicron strain were milder, especially among fully vaccinated people. Only this week, I have started to notice a decline in lab-confirmed reportable cases. However, we still need to monitor this downward trend.

As I have written before in my previous columns, I am a strong proponent of a robust and proactive local public health department and workforce. I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to recruit

a public health nurse to our team. Lynn Earlene Peckham is an Orange resident who recently retired from the Yale School of Nursing. Peckham spent the majority of her career working in school-based health centers, which serve as clinical settings within schools. She is known as a “rock star preceptor” and an experienced clinician who has always worked collaboratively with different agencies, including the Board of Education, the Department of Public Health and the hospital systems. During pandemic, Peckham was triaging phone calls, conducting telehealth visits and ordering COVID-19 tests for pediatric patients.

Now that I have Peckham onboard, I have reached out to our clinic volunteers



DR. AMIR  
MOHAMMAD

who were instrumental in hosting vaccine clinics. The Orange Health Department will be resuming COVID-19 vaccine clinics for our residents on Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 22 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the High Plains Community Center. We will be giving Pfizer vaccines for residents ages 5 and up. Our clinics will provide first and second doses, as well as booster shots. Only Pfizer vaccines will be available at this time. To schedule an appointment, please go on to the town's website at orange-ct.gov and register.

I am fortunate to be living in such an amazing town where I find like-minded people willing to step up and offer their

help to support our community. We can only win our fight against this virus if we work together, respect each other and learn from our experiences.

We must continue to learn, evolve, adapt and look forward toward the goals and strategies for the “new normal” of life with COVID-19. This pandemic has brought out the best and worst of human behavior. The status quo is not an option; we need our leaders and policymakers to institute necessary reforms and the resources to build and sustain an effective public health infrastructure to respond to these ongoing and future crises in a timely manner.

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

## Insuring Your Future

# Make A New Year Health Insurance Checklist

Whether you have a new insurance plan or renewed the same one from 2021, there are certain steps to take to make sure things work smoothly.

First, you should have received a new ID card even if you stayed with the same insurance. If not, that is a sign that something is not right. Call the member on the back of your old ID card. If your insurance is under a new company, call the customer service number. Also check to see that your primary care physician is listed correctly. This is especially important if the copay to see your PCP is less than a specialist.

Many Medicare plans, such as Silver Sneakers, include extra benefits that require a separate ID card, over-the-counter benefit and certain food plans. All the details on these benefits are included in the welcome kit or plan booklet. If you receive prescriptions through mail order and have a new insurance company, you will probably need to

sign up again as companies use different vendors.

Check to see if the company has a “proxy” form which allows the insured to designate someone to give and receive information on his/her behalf. If your plan includes dental, eyewear or hearing aid coverage, know the process for submitting a claim. Some providers will process the claim directly; others will require you to pay first, and then submit a copy of the bill for reimbursement. Some companies have a form to complete; others accept a copy of the bill with the member number. Most insurance brokers have instructions on how to manage these benefits. You can also contact the company directly. Their websites can be helpful, so spend some time navigating them.

The over-the-counter benefit includes a



TRISH  
PEARSON

wide variety of products. Items such as vitamins, non-prescription pain relievers, creams, eye and ear drops and cold medicines are covered. Less known items, such as rechargeable toothbrushes and replacement brushes, joint braces, heating pads, blood pressure monitors and some assistive devices such as canes can also be purchased using the OTC card.

Some companies provide a printed catalogue that lists the items available, for others you will need to go online to their website. An insurance agent will also have much of this information.

Know your wellness benefits. Most plans cover the cost of an annual well health visit, including blood work, a flu shot and pneumonia vaccine. Shingles shots are covered under the prescription drug coverage, so it

may or may not be subject to a deductible. Check with your pharmacist to be certain. COVID vaccines and tests are generally covered (if you're experiencing symptoms).

Make an appointment for a physical and other screenings such as mammograms, colonoscopies and an eye exams. Don't forget your dental cleaning appointment. Remember the adage, “Be kind to your teeth or they will be false to you.”

Experiencing buyer's remorse? Medicare-eligible recipients have an opportunity to make one change until March 31. If medical needs have changed or you wish you'd chosen the plan with the better dental benefit, contact an agent for assistance.

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

## Recycling Tip: Get Ready For Hazardous Waste Collection In Orange

By Ilene Moyher

There's a new service coming to the Paper Shredding & Mattress Recycling event at High Plains Community Center on April 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Orange residents will be able to bring hazardous household waste items to drop off at the Regional Water Authority's HazWaste Central mobile unit. This convenient new service will help many residents clear their homes of unused toxic chemicals.

As with previous events, paper shredd-

ing and mattress collection trucks will be in the front parking lot of HPCC. The HazWaste truck will be stationed elsewhere on the property. Residents will drive up to the designated area, and HazWaste Central employees will retrieve items from vehicles. Volunteers and signage will help keep things flowing smoothly.

Our tip is to put aside any unwanted toxic household chemicals – including cleaners, auto fluids and batteries, pesticides, photo chemicals, kerosene and rodent poison – to bring to this event for safe and

proper disposal. Visit orangerecycles.com/paper-shred-mattress-recycle for a complete list of acceptable hazardous chemicals and objects. Click the link to the electronic form that residents should complete before the event if possible; otherwise it can be done at the event.

The paper shredding service sponsored by Rotary has proven to be quite popular. Up to six filled boxes or bags (about the size of banker boxes) per vehicle will be allowed. The event is scheduled until noon, but if the truck fills up before then

the shredding drop-off may end early.

Residents may bring mattresses and box springs or arrange for pickup from their home. See more details at orangerecycles.com or facebook.com/ORCinCT.

The Orange Recycling Committee coordinated adding hazardous waste drop-off to the Paper Shredding & Mattress Recycling event after receiving unanimous approval from the Orange Board of Selectman. It's sure to be another successful recycling event in our community. See you on April 2.

## American Legion In Orange Holds Awards Dinner

The American Legion Post 127 in Orange held its annual awards dinner on Dec. 17, giving recognition to the veterans of the post who have provided outstanding service during the year to their fellow members and the community.

Legionnaire of the year 2021 went to Al DeWalt, a Navy veteran who served during the Korean War, and is now vice-commander of the post. DeWalt has been a longtime member of the post and his tireless efforts at keeping the Veterans Hall up and running deserve recognition. In addition to keeping the work parties going he can be counted upon to add a smile to any conversation.

Legionnaire of the year for 2020 went to Antony Monico, an Army veteran who served during the Korean War, and is now chaplain of the post. Monico, a longtime member of the post, reminds members of their devotion to God and service to others. He is there to give them counseling in time

of sorrow and a voice of encouragement. He does work at the Orange Cemetery to make sure the flags at the veterans' graves are in place.

A Special Service Award went to Donald Lewis. Lewis served in the US Marine Corps during Korean War. He has been the post's electronic communications manager. He is responsible for getting the Wednesday dinner menu published every week along with other important notifications about post activities. He has been there to help out when something goes awry.

Another Special Service Award went to James White, an Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War and is a former commander of Post 127. He now spearheads the post's oratorical events. This public speaking contest has high school students competing for cash prizes. The topics center around the US Constitution. The winner goes on to compete in state and national competitions.

A third Special Service Award went to Valentine Loureio. Loureio served in the Army during the Korean War. He has taken on the job of scholarship chairman. He has updated the program, making it possible for the post to award \$3,000 in grants last year to graduating high school seniors.

The final Special Service Award went to Barbara Hulbert. Serving for many years, Hulbert, a member of the Legion Auxiliary, has been the Veterans Hall's use and event coordinator. She has kept the usage of the hall flowing so that it is available for both members



The American Legion Post 127 in Orange honored members during its Dec. 17 awards dinner. From left: Legionnaire of the year 2021 Albert DeWalt, Post 127 Commander Lewis Merritt and Legionnaire of the Year 2020 Antony Monico. Photo courtesy of American Legion Post 127.

and non-members for special events. Her contribution has been vital to sustaining the post.

## Wine Talk

## Add Some Sparkle To Valentine's Day

When thinking about wines for Valentine's Day celebrations, everyone has a different opinion. Many of the wine retailers will print a varied list of wines with no apparent rhyme or reason. Some claim the wines for a date night would include the four most popular red wines in the world: Merlot, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and maybe Syrah.

When I think of Valentine's Day I think pink. It may be due to the efforts of my wonderful kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Marron who made her bulletin boards and everything I can remember pink at Mary L. Tracy school in Orange.

There are only a couple of rose wines that I like, and they are from the south of France. I generally try those in the late spring, which seems to be rose time. So how about some sparkling rose wine? That is something I will bet you have not had very often. There are several different price points and several different styles and characteristics for that wine.

The least expensive sparkling is a Kirkland sparkling prosecco rose that is priced at

\$6.99. I have not tried this one, but given the quality of Kirkland wines that I have tried, I would give it a go. Their wines have been remarkable buys for the money. They are only available at Costco.

There is also Domaine Bousquet Brut Rose at \$10. This is an organically farmed wine from Argentina. The grapes are handpicked. It is a big fruity wine that is a great value. Coming in at \$13 is Zonin NV Sparkling Rose. This is a nice, easy-drinking Italian sparkler with sweet fruit and a smooth finish. Then at \$19 there is a wonderful Alpine Wine Rotari Rose. This wine has a citrus nose with a peach and pepper finish. It is a northeastern Italian wine with good complexity.

Cote Mas Brut Rose is a Southern French beauty that is priced out at \$16, a great strawberry wine with tiny bubbles. Vecchia Modena is a Lambrusco that has strawberries and cherries and more citrus on the nose



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

with a dry finish available for \$18. Amelia Cremant De Bordeaux Brut Rose is a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. This wine is produced using the Champagne method, which is double fermentation in the bottle. This is not making some still wine and zapping it with carbon dioxide. This is priced out at around \$20 and is a great buy given the quality of its production.

Scharffenberger Cellars offers a great sparkler from Mendocino. This wine is made using the traditional (Champagne) method and is priced at about \$25. It is very floral and a great buy. J Vineyards makes a great sparkling rose at a \$37 that has a big fruit and a great finish with lots of grapefruit and honey.

If you can afford something over \$50 you can now get into the sparkling roses that are Champagnes – the grapes are grown in the

Champagne region and they use the traditional method to make the wine.

Vranken Demoiselle Brut Rose Champagne at around \$60 is a wonderful choice. So is Delamotte Brut Rose, which is made from Pinot Noir and costs about \$80. Charles Heidsieck Brut Rose Champagne is also a great choice and about the same price.

These are all good quality wines that will help you enjoy your Valentine's Day. Enjoy.

*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.*

## Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

## Supply And Demand On A Local Level

I know it's January and there is the usual sparse list of homes on the market. But this year is different, as buyers are still urgently looking to purchase and sellers are sitting firm, not knowing where to go if they sell – a common predicament for most homeowners.

This year's cycle of buying and selling needs to start moving. Homeowners who want to sell now are relocating to other areas out of state or putting down roots in surrounding towns. There are beautiful condos in Oxford, Shelton, Guilford and Wallingford (just to name a few) if you are ready to downsize. Smaller homes are also still very affordable. Buyers prospecting for larger homes are watching the hot sheet diligently

and struggling to bid fair and get the deal, an issue we're facing nationwide.

Whether interest rates increase or not, supply and demand rules the real estate market. If you are working from home, maybe you need more space. If you are commuting an hour plus, maybe you need to move closer to work. Whatever your needs are, there are plenty of homes being bought and sold in our area. In December alone I moved eight families, a few of whom moved into our area from down south.

The busiest season is coming up right after



BARBARA LEHRER

the snow clears. Price your home fairly and see how many interested and qualified buyers are ready to take your property off your hands.

Most people need to sell to buy, so the next step is to buy. I always say make your sale subject to you finding suitable housing; this way you are able to put your best foot forward when competing against others looking to buy as well.

We are in such a great area. There are many fantastic communities in New Haven county, and each one has something special to offer. Now is the best time to

jump into the market, because at the moment prices are up and interest rates are great. Sell high and buy high.

Let's get the cycle some momentum. It may start with the first-time home buyer. They purchase a condo for \$250,000. The seller of that condo buys a home for \$375,000. That seller then buys a home for \$500,000. And so on. That is the cycle.

Don't rent for \$1,800 a month when you can own for less on a mortgage and not waste your money. Let's get the cycle moving.

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

## Personal Experiences

## Making The Most Of Snow Days

The holidays may be through, but the joy of the season is far from over. Snow days have always been an exciting and comforting time throughout my life. The stress of a typical work or school day is eliminated, and all that is left is to enjoy the quiet with your family.

Snow days are meant for extra quality time with loved ones. Growing up, snow days and Sundays were the same. I woke to the smell of a tomato sauce cooking as my father stood over the stove.

The day was filled with good food, spending time just being with my family and enjoying watching the snowfall outside.

My father instilled the importance of making and eating a good meal with family – something as simple as sharing a meal with no distractions like the ones we have

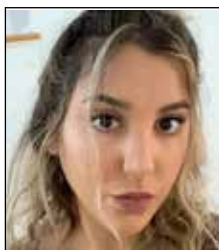
today is the kind of memory I will cherish for an eternity.

As I grew older and created a family, snow days differed, but I have carried my traditions into my new home.

There is nothing quite as consoling as waking to watch the snow fall from the sky, knowing the day awaits you with no responsibilities, only solace and ease.

As many Italian households do, I begin the day with coffee and cleaning. As my loved ones slowly wake, breakfast is cooking while the sauce for the afternoon is simmering.

The day is spent slow. The typical fast-paced work environment is far from here.



CAROLINA AMORE

The word 'home' is redefined with each new moment of love.

As the winter season continues, activities arise with the brisk cold air. It is easy to fall into a moment of sadness during this chilly time of year, but trying to participate in winter activities can be a burst of excitement we all need.

Sledding, for starters. Sledding is a staple in winter and full of fun.

There are several nature centers, parks and golf courses where anyone can enjoy sledding with their family.

If you are like me and enjoy a more athletic activity, there are winter trails around Connecticut to hike through that are safe for the harsh weather. East Rock Park in New Haven is a short but steep trail. At the top, you will find the memorial and

take in a beautiful view.

Ice skating is always a fun way to spend time with family or friends if hiking or sledding is not for you. The Sports Center of Shelton has a great deal of indoor and outdoor activities, including ice skating.

The winter season is filled with snow and cold and an opportunity to participate in fun activities to keep everyone's spirits lifted. We also can't forget about hot chocolate, a perfect end to a cold, snowy day.

While there are several activities to fill the next few months, the most important one is simply enjoying the company of loved ones. Enjoy your snow days, share meals with your family and choose to live every moment full of love.

*Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.*

## Milford Chess Club Starting

The Milford Recreation held the first meeting of its chess club on Feb. 3. This free club will continue to meet weekly

on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Margaret Egan Center in Room 155. The center is located at 35 Mathew St. No registration is required to join the club.

## Property Bought In Milford Center

H. Pearce Commercial Real Estate in Milford has sold the property at 62 West Main St., across the street from City Hall. The 0.41-acre site with a two-family house was purchased as an investment. Both the buyers,

Andrea Finta and Ignac Bene, and the seller, Nicholas D. Kefalas, were represented by senior commercial broker Carl G. Russell.

Both the Finta family and the Bene family own sheetrock and drywall companies. They contract spray foam insulation, automated taping and finishing systems as well as professional sheet-rocking and taping.

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## The Arts Scene

# Art, The Great Connector

Art is a movement; it doesn't sit still. Art is a connector of people, a driver of change and a bridge to growth in people and economies.

Art creates community; it connects us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, giving us a sense of being and belonging, while improving our happiness, health and well-being as individuals and as a society.

Community creates art, and by art we mean all and anything which is expressed from the imagination. The collective imagination of a community can envision the potential of what lies before us and can conceive change, making our world a better place to be, together.

So what is it about the arts that make them so essential to us? What is this connectivity? The arts provide a connective glue for community I call the space in between, and it can be illustrated with a tangible example in every art medium: the negative space in a painting or sculpture, the punctuation in written prose, the rests in music, the arch of a dancer, the acts of a play. The space in between gives meaning and emotion to what would otherwise be a jumble of color, incoherent words, esoteric noise, a clumsy pratfall or a disjointed series of events.

It's the intangible reactive part that gives it meaning, gravitas, grounding. This is best

illustrated by the experience of discovering art taped to the refrigerator, listening to a poet slam words on a subway platform and sitting in the darkness of a theater that separates an audience of strangers from the performer up on the stage. It's the electricity that happens there, that's the magic – the space in between.

Supreme Court justices Anthony Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg stood on opposite sides of the aisle. The opposite side of party. The opposite side of opinion. However, they crossed that "space in between" and connected as friends, as fellow patrons of the arts, as lovers of opera.

Scalia and Ginsburg served the same country, the same people and the same constitution. Through their disagreements, debates and dissent, important decisions were made with an eye on a vision for the future. Afterward they broke bread together, shared holidays with their families together and shared nights out at the opera together.

The opera. The telling of stories. The story of society and community. The stories of people, of lovers, of honor, of life, of struggle, of the underdog, of survival and of death.



PAIGE  
MIGLIO

"Most of the time, even when I go to sleep, I'm thinking about legal problems," Ginsburg said in 2015. "But when I go to the opera, I'm just lost in it."

When we experience the arts together, we are connected as one community. That space in between is electrified with imagination, with vision and with possibilities. Community creates art, and art creates community. So let's "get lost" in the space in

between and immerse ourselves in the essentials by supporting our local arts organizations, dance, music and art schools, performance venues and galleries. Get involved, make donations, attend events. Together let's join the movement and become the architects of our tomorrow.

*Paige Miglio is the executive director of the Milford Arts Council, celebrating 50 years of service in 2022 supporting and presenting all genres of art to the greater Milford community. Visit [milfordarts.org](http://milfordarts.org) for information on the MAC, and send her your events in the arts (include dates and details) to [executive-director@milfordarts.org](mailto:executive-director@milfordarts.org).*

### Upcoming Events:

The MAC's Eastbound Theatre presents "One Slight Hitch," Feb. 11-20; Tickets: [milfordarts.org](http://milfordarts.org), 40 Railroad Ave., Milford

MAC Member Exhibit, Feb. 10-March 22; Reception Thursday, Feb. 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Free and open to the public, 40 Railroad Ave., Milford

Pantochino Productions presents Teen Theater "Bat Boy," Feb. 25, 26, 27; Tickets and times: [pantochino.com](http://pantochino.com), 40 Railroad Ave., Milford

## Milford Public Library News

The Milford Public Library has a new streaming video service called Kanopy. Kanopy is a video streaming service that provides instant access to thousands of critically acclaimed movies, documentaries and kids favorites. Kanopy partners with studios like A24, The Criterion Collection, Great Courses and PBS. All you need is a valid library card to get started.

Some of the events happening at the library in February include adult programs such as actor Kandie Carle discussing the clothing of the Regency Era, employment and resume workshops, and a discussion on light pollution; teens can learn how to make quesadillas or join the teen writing group, Spill Some Ink; and on Feb. 5 the Children's Department celebrated Take

Your Child to the Library Day with family-friendly activities.

Library programs continue to be a mix of in-person and Zoom offerings. Programs and services may change as the library receives guidance from the Milford Health Department.

The library has a supply of N95 masks for distribution. It is now distributing three masks per person at the service desks. This procedure may change depending on demand and while supplies last.

Masks and social distancing are required in all city buildings, including the library, regardless of vaccination status.

For more information about the library and events, visit [ci.milford.ct.us/milford-public-library](http://ci.milford.ct.us/milford-public-library).

## Friends Of The Milford Library Seeking Board Members

The Friends of the Milford Library is seeking new board members.

The FOML is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 all-volunteer organization. The focus of the group is to encourage relations between the Milford Public Library and the community, to focus attention on library services and to encourage and support fundraising activities. All proceeds raised by FOML are used to fund children and adult programs, museum passes and expenses not covered by the Milford city budget.

The Board of Directors for FOML is on the lookout for new board members who can bring knowledge, energy and

a positive outlook to its leadership. The positions open include the president, who will lead the team in its mission; a vice president of public relations to coordinate the promotion of the public image and the community's awareness of FOML; and a vice president of special events to organize and oversee fundraising activities.

The board meets monthly at the Milford Public Library.

Full position descriptions and applications can be found on the FOML page of the Milford Public Library's website at [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org). Email questions to [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com).



## VEGGIES DON'T CAUSE WEDGIES

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# Milford's Mansions Felt The Whack Of Wrecking Balls

By Marilyn May

The original Milford settlers in 1639 were given home lots along the Wepawaug River to build shelters as quickly as they could, if only a lean-to, before they built more substantial yet simple dwellings.

One settler, however, built a house that still stands. That is the Buckingham House on North Street. The chimney has the numbers 1639 on it for when building the house began. Like many houses of the time, the chimney and fireplaces were built first and the rest of the house was constructed around it. It took a long time to gather the fieldstones, fell the trees, saw the planks and make all the pegs to hold it all together. Fortunately, Thomas Buckingham was a carpenter by trade. This house was made to last.

Capt. Jehiel Bryan later inherited it, and today it is the home of Elsie-Marie Clark, widow of the late Tim Clark. The Buckinghams, Bryans and Clarks were all related, so the house has always been in the same family. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over more than 380 years, the house has had additions and been kept up to modern codes. Its near future is secure.

That was not true for another Clark house just across the Wepawaug River facing the North Street pond.

That was the site of an exceptionally majestic house with fluted ionic columns rising to a second story and topped by a third floor. It was the Wepawaug Manor on West River Street.

The Journal and Courier newspaper of 1897 carried the notice: "Walter M. Irving has nearly completed the new house of Fred M. Clark of Orange. When completed it will be one of the prettiest homes in Milford."

Fred Clark was the secretary and treasurer of the Clark Everett Seed Company on West River Street, where the post office is today.

Talking about Wepawaug Manor, Elsie-Marie Clark said, "What I heard was that the house was ordered out of a Sears Roebuck catalogue." Apparently, Fred Clark saw it, liked it, ordered it, and all the parts were delivered to his property.

As a child, "Tim (Clark) went there for Sunday dinner every week," she said, because Fred Clark was Tim's grandfather.

As time went on, however, later generations of Fred Clark's family sold the manor,

and it became a Christian Science reading room. Eventually it was sold to a developer.

In 1968, the manor was destroyed by what was suspected to have been arson. "The fire was started in a laundry chute, but there was no one living there at the time," Elsie-Marie Clark said.

What was left of the manor was torn down to make way for the Founders' Way housing development. The beauty of the manor faded into the dust of the house's demolition.

Milford's old houses have faced many different fates. The mansions, once so desired, became a problem.

"What to Do with Milford Mansions" read the headline in a 1952 issue of The Milford News, noting that the question would soon be addressed by the Board of Zoning Appeals. The article went on to state, "The problem facing Milford and its people was of what use to make of its large old houses."

The question came up when an owner was seeking a permit to build four apartments in a 16-room, single-family house that had been in his family for generations. The appeal was needed because the house was in a residential zone.

At that time only single-family homes were allowed in a residential zone. Yet the old houses, the newspaper said, "are too large for the average single family of today and are not desired by prospective purchasers unless they can be converted into multiple family housing units."

The petitioner's request was granted. But the board knew the question would come up again, so they made an inventory of the large, old houses in town.

Real estate developers' answer to the question of what to do with Milford's mansions seemed to be: tear them down. Many were destroyed.

Milford lost the 1812 Falls/Hoffenberg/Clapp House in Fort Trumbull. It was a state-ly, red-roofed, 13-room house overlooking Long Island Sound. The city tried to buy the property, but ultimately the house was razed and a developer replaced it with condos that look like Lego cement blocks.

Milford also lost the 22-room mansion on the Thompson estate called "Morningside." That land had been owned by the Miles Merwin family beginning in 1645 and continuing for 16 generations.

Other large houses that were torn down for



The Wepawaug Manor that was once on West River Street. Photo Courtesy of Elsie-Marie Clark.

various reasons were "The Linden" on the corner of West Main and West River streets; Clark's Tavern on River Street; the Carrington House at the end of the green and the parsonage of St. Mary's Church on the corner of Broad and High streets. All succumbed to wrecking crews, along with other big houses around the green.

The list goes on. The most recent loss to Milford was the Beard farmhouse on Washington Avenue. Fortunately, the house was taken apart and will be rebuilt in Ohio. The Beards were one of the first settlers of Milford whose land had been granted to them by King Charles of England in 1639. The property is now scheduled to become a car dealership.

There was no town zoning department until 1929, and eventually zoning changes allowed owners and developers to convert big houses into condos. Some properties fared better than others. Milford philanthropist Henry A. Taylor had a 22-room mansion that still stands on High Street because it was purchased and saved by Lauralton Hall. It is a high Victorian Gothic mansion with spires built circa 1864. Taylor had a second "cottage" at Fort Trumbull that is the largest single style home in Milford. It still stands at the end of Seaside Avenue as a multi-unit condo.

The same was true at Audubon Manor on

Manor House Lane where the main house has more than one family living there. There are also condos on the property along an area called Audubon Close off Grinnell Street.

Some still want to tear Milford mansions down, but other developers have retained as much as possible of the original houses in making them multifamily units, as was done at the Sanford-Bristol House on North Street that is a circa 1790s double Dutch gambrel-style colonial home.

Milford has established historical districts limiting demolitions. The Milford Historic District #1 covers the North Street area up to the Boston Post Road, and there is a federal Park River plan that limits demolitions in the area stretching from the back of City Hall to the Boston Post Road. In places those two plans overlap. Meanwhile, Milford's South of the Green Historic District #2 protects more than 200 homes south of South Broadway.

Today, homes outside the historic districts are protected. The city's Milford Historic Preservation Commission is notified and reviews any proposal to demolish a house more than 75 years old.

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

## On Our Land

# Radioactive Rocks Under Our Homes Can Be Dangerous

The surges of COVID that occur as people move indoors for the winter and gather with family and friends for holiday celebrations are a reminder that indoor air quality can be a health hazard. This is true not only for infectious diseases, but also for indoor air contaminants. The concentration of many pollutants indoors exceeds the concentration outdoors. Most people also spend more than 90 percent of their time indoors, and for vulnerable groups like infants, the elderly and those with chronic diseases, that proportion is likely higher.

Most indoor contaminants arise from human behavior (secondhand smoke, aerosols), HVAC systems that allow mold buildup, and/or the presence of hazardous materials that can become airborne (such as dust from old lead paint) or are released as gases from furnishings or building materials. Many health effects are linked to poor indoor air quality, including a rising incidence of asthma.

However, one pollutant of concern is solely of natural origin – radon. This is an invisible, odorless and radioactive gas. It is present at low levels in the atmosphere but can increase in concentration to dangerous levels in buildings – particularly single-family homes. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of radon can cause lung cancer, with up to 20 percent of US lung cancer cases likely due to radon.

Radon is a radioactive element formed as the element uranium slowly undergoes radioactive decay via a multi-step series to ultimately form the stable element lead. This decay process was investigated by Marie Curie about a century ago, and the concentration of radon present in the air is now measured in terms of pico-Curies per liter of air.

Radon is an inert gas that does not chemically combine with any other elements. When it appears during this decay series, it can leak from rocks which originally contained uranium into the atmosphere or enter homes through foundation floors and walls, sump pump basins, groundwater well systems and other connections between the house and sub-surface.

Radon is very unstable, with a half-life of about four days before it decays by releasing alpha and gamma radiation into another radioactive element called polonium. Polonium is also a toxic poison, and one used by Russia in several notorious assassinations. Both radiation damage and polonium toxicity impact cells when radon atoms happen to decay in an individual's lungs.

In 2020, the US Department of Health and



DAN MAY

Human Services articulated environmental health goals in a document entitled Healthy People 2020. Two goals addressed radon exposure: increase the proportion of existing homes at risk for radon exposure with radon mitigation systems; and increase the proportion of new single-family homes being constructed in high-radon-potential areas with radon-reducing features.

Both goals focus on homes in high-radon-potential areas. The emphasis on single family homes is due to the fact that most residential HVAC systems do not bring in new fresh air at the rate of commercial or other large building air handling systems. The focus on high-radon-potential areas is due to the fact that radon is connected to geology. Since underlying rock types vary by location and generally possess different uranium concentrations, the amount of radon released from the ground varies from place to place.

Connecticut's public health agencies produced maps of indoor radon potential based on the underlying bedrock, the overlying glacial or river sediments and/or measurements of uranium in groundwater in the 1990s. Areas with low radon potential in this region included river valleys like those adjacent to the

West River or the Quinnipiac River, as well as the glacial lake deposits that underlie downtown New Haven.

West Haven's radon potential is also considered low, largely because it sits above ancient volcanic rocks with trace only uranium. In contrast, the coastal areas of East Haven and Branford are built on granitic rocks and derived sediments. The higher uranium concentrations inherent to these materials suggest high radon potential, with 40 percent or more of homes likely to need mitigation.

Milford, Orange, Woodbridge and Hamden are considered to have moderate indoor radon potential, with action needed for perhaps one in four homes. However, public health agencies continue to update the older potential maps with in-home testing. Results can be very specific to a given home site and type of construction.

If you have never had your home tested or are considering a move to another home in the region, a radon test is a good safeguard. Mid-winter is the ideal time to test. Contact your local or state public health office for what is often a free test.

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

Here's To Your Health

Isolation Is A Health Hazard

As I sit here looking out the window watching the snow and wind have its way, I'm reminded of how nice it feels to have a day of one-pot wonder, family time, hot chocolate and nothing on my to-do list outside of helping my husband shovel.

While this is heartwarming to me, there is also another side of the same coin, which is isolation. Isolation is bad for your health. According to MIT Medical, isolation lowers your immune system, increases your blood pressure and affects mental and emotional well-being. An article in Psychology Today reports that isolation and lack of socialization create loneliness, which directly affects our brain function.

I can see a "change" in my 99-year-old client who two years ago had a social calendar fuller than mine. It breaks my heart.

She used to work out with me three times a week. We'd have lunch on Thursdays. On Tuesdays she played tennis; on Fridays she played mah-jong with her girlfriends.

However, the pandemic changed all that for her. And I know she's not alone. I have another client who is battling depression because his job has gone remote and he doesn't leave his apartment for 12 hours a day.

This being a "thing," we need to address it with solutions and hope. Eating healthy and exercising has never been more critical in these days. Food actually does affect your emotions and exercising releases endorphins which retaliate against depression. There has never been



MICHELE TENNEY

a more important time in our history to get yourself fit – spirit, soul and body. All three are connected and interfaced which means you can't ignore one of them.

We have to be intentional about combating isolation. We can do that by lowering screen time on our computers and phones. Get out of the house and socialize with family and friends face-to-face. Have someone over for coffee and a chat. Get involved in a book club that has in-person meetings rather than over Zoom.

Fear is the opposite of faith, so I would encourage you to find a church or religious organization that suits you. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Meditation, prayer and reducing stress are keys

that can open doors for a healthy heart.

Boosting your immune system is also essential – every day, not just on some days of the week. Vitamins, local honey, fruits and vegetables, good hydration, lowering sugar intake and proper amounts of sleep will help you with that. You have the power to keep sickness at bay and love yourself back to life.

I believe in you. You can make changes one step at a time, one day at a time. Once you get moving, you're sure to feel better. Here's to your health.

*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.*

Milford-Orange Probate Court

What The Probate Courts Do

I officially began working as the Milford-Orange Probate Judge on Jan. 1 and I look forward to helping you and your friends and neighbors. Thank you for trusting me with such an important role.

While many people think of the probate courts as a place for wills and estates, the courts also help Connecticut families find community-based solutions for children, seniors and individuals with mental health conditions or intellectual disabilities.

The probate court can appointment a conservator, often a relative, to ensure a person's daily needs are being met in

the least restrictive setting that keeps them safe and secure. It can assist in making decisions about a person's medication and mental health treatment. The probate court can also appoint guardians such as relatives to help care for an individual with an intellectual disability. Often, we appoint grandparents or even close neighbors to help an abused or neglected child stay in a familiar setting instead of going into foster care.

The probate court also handles mat-



BEN GETTINGER

ters involving estates, trusts and wills, adoptions and name changes, among other services.

The Milford-Orange Probate Court is located in the Parsons Government Center at 70 West River St. in Milford. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and emergency hearings can be held outside of normal business hours.

The Milford-Orange Probate Court has been completely operational throughout the COVID pan-

demic. We are fully staffed and are conducting both in-person and remote hearings.

I intend to provide practical information and updates in this space in the months ahead. Please feel free to call the court's clerks at 203-783-3205 should you have any questions about our services, forms or procedures.

*Ben Gettinger is the probate judge for the Milford-Orange Probate Court.*

**www.milfordarts.org**  
**203.878.6647**

**Feb 11-20**      **One Slight Hitch**  
 Fri-Sun only  
 written by Lewis Black      directed by Kevin Pelky

**Mar 5**      **Paige Turner**  
 Sat 8PM      returns in *Joyride*

**\*Mar 24**      \*MAC Member Event  
 Thurs 7PM      w/ "the Bargain"

**the MAC**           **Firehouse Gallery**

**MAC Member Show**      **Figurative**  
 February 11th-      March 17th-27th  
 March 11th      Sat & Sun only  
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Mental Health

Addressing Mental Health Disparities

There are a multitude of reasons why some people may not access appropriate mental health care. A few of these reasons could include challenges as simple as not having enough time to locate a therapist or provider, to more complex barriers to care such as lack of insurance coverage or access to low-cost transportation.

With the increasing popularity of telehealth, it has become easier to access services without needing to leave the house, provided a person has the necessary technology and the ability to properly employ that technology.

The examples above only scratch the surface of access issues that can lead to mental health disparities. The reality is that a number of diverse populations are less likely to access mental health services for reasons beyond those mentioned above. According to the American Psychiatric Association, 48 percent of White Americans with mental illness received services compared to 31 percent of both Black and Hispanic/Latinx populations. Just 22 percent of Asians received services in 2017.

The APA also reports that people of color experience more persistent symptoms and have a disproportionately higher rate of disability from a mental health disorder. The highest rate of reported mental illness was among Native and Indigenous Americans at 23 percent. The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance reports that LGBTQ people are more than two times more likely to experience depression, substance abuse and anxiety compared to heterosexuals.

So what are the factors impacting both access and a disproportionately higher rate of disability from mental health issues? They primarily revolve around social determinants of health, including job and income, housing and food stability, adequate transportation and access to appropriate healthcare.

The stress related to not having stable housing and food in the Hispanic/Latinx population is higher than adults in other ra-



JENNIFER FIORILLO

cial and ethnic groups. Black people reported not having enough food three times more frequently than White people in 2019 based on the Centers of Disease Control's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. These issues have only been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and added to the equation, which compounds the increased risk for chronic stress leading to more severe mental health challenges and poor health outcomes.

Both communities of color and members of the LGBTQ community experience stigma and discrimination when they access healthcare. In some cultures, accessing mental health services is not an acceptable way to manage stress, anxiety and depression. It is also common for individuals of minority populations to go undiagnosed, underdiagnosed or misdiagnosed for historical and cultural reasons.

The health care community must re-

spond to these barriers by offering as many culturally and linguistically appropriate supports as possible to facilitate the delivery of services, and it should seek to understand the unique challenges and trauma that many in these communities have experienced. It is essential to offer more supportive services to work on meeting basic needs and overcoming other barriers to care if we want to increase self-sufficiency and resiliency in communities that are so disproportionately impacted by housing and food insecurity.

Adequately addressing mental health disparities in diverse populations ultimately requires a collaborative community approach and multi-level interventions that can touch hard-to-reach populations through tailored outreach, education and person-centered treatment.

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

Kennedy, Ferraro Sponsoring Blood Drive In Orange

State Reps. Kathy Kennedy (R-119) and Charles Ferraro (R-117) will be co-hosting a blood drive on Sunday, Feb. 16 in conjunction with the American Red Cross at the High Plains Community Center in Orange.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place from noon to 5 p.m. in the gymnasium. HPPC is located at 525 Orange Center Rd.

The lawmakers are co-hosting the

drive after the American Red Cross declared a national blood crisis at the start of 2022, saying it is facing its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. The blood shortage is threatening patient care and forcing doctors to make tough choices about who is able to receive blood transfusions.

In recent weeks, the Red Cross - which provides 40 percent of the

nation's blood - has had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals.

According to the Red Cross, the entire blood donor process takes about one hour. The donation itself is only around 10 minutes on average. Restrictions due to weight, health or travel may apply and donors are urged to check their eligibility beforehand by going

to redcross.org/give-blood.html or by contacting a local chapter.

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive. You can make an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org and using the sponsor code "OrangeCT." Donors can also download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App or call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment or for more information.

Advertisement for Gateway Community College, Norwalk Community College, and Housatonic Community College. Features text: 'YOUR EDUCATION YOUR WAY IN-PERSON | ONLINE | HYBRID', 'The top choice for cutting-edge, customized workforce training and professional development!', and 'fast-paced training in high-growth occupations'. Includes logos and contact information for each institution.

## The Rotary Club of Orange

# Rotary To Help Children In Need

By Roger Tausig



A few months ago, I wrote my column about a dear friend and extraordinary fellow Rotarian named Lynda Hammond, who was taken from us after a sudden and brief bout with a cancer that could not be cured. As I wrote then, Hammond was a tireless champion of causes and projects that benefit children in need locally, nationally and internationally. The initiatives that she undertook and often led saved the lives of countless numbers of children who, without her gallant efforts, would surely have perished.

Recently, our Orange Rotary Club board of directors was notified that, much to our surprise, Hammond had bequeathed a substantial portion of her estate to our foundation, with the goal being to continue the work that she did using the significant assets that she left behind. We were truly moved by this final gesture on her part to carry on her mission, and we are profoundly honored that she entrusted these resources to us to preserve her legacy for many years to come.

The Orange Rotary Foundation, the not-for-profit component of the Rotary Club of Orange, has set up what will be known as the Lynda Hammond Fund. It is our intention to focus on ways that we can best leverage the proceeds of the fund to maximize the uses of the money by partnering with the Rotary District 7980 Foundation. Hammond was a key member of that foundation, which provides matching funds

through a rigorous and well-defined grant program. A committee of dedicated Orange Rotarians has been formed to search for worthy organizations in need of funding and to carry out the vetting process.

While I am not at liberty to disclose the amount of money involved, suffice it to say it is substantial. A great deal of aid can be provided, especially through the process of developing matching funds grants, making a tremendous difference in the lives of children who are faced with a variety of challenges, whether they be health related, educational or food insecurity issues or others.

This endeavor cuts directly to the heart of the mission of Rotary, whose credo is "Service Above Self." As a worldwide organization with a local presence in thousands of cities and towns in the US and globally, we have delivered vital, often lifesaving aid to millions of people, many of them children. As an example, Rotary is a key player in the effort to eradicate polio outside the US and has seen tremendous success, partnering with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation toward achieving this goal. Currently, known cases are only in the double-digits, a tremendous tribute to the dedication of a committed team of Rotary volunteer workers from all over the world to administer the vaccine in remote villages in combination with generous financial contributors to the Rotary International Foundation.

If you know of a worthy charitable organization that works for the betterment of children and is in need of financial assistance, please reach out to me. In this way, we can carry on the legacy and outstanding work of Lynda Hammond locally and around the world. I can be reached at rogetausig@yahoo.com.

## The Garden Spot

# Plan Ahead For A Beautiful Garden



PAT DRAY

One of the first decisions that we make when we plan a garden is deciding where it should be. The answer to that is that it depends on what you want to grow.

These first questions allow us to think about our property and make a survey looking at a few critical issues: the availability of a water source, the amount of sunlight throughout the growing season and overall topography.

This column will focus on ornamental, rather than food, gardening.

When you look at planting strictly for aesthetics, start by thinking about the different areas of your property and how you use them – the patio or deck, the front entry, the mailbox/driveway and the view from different windows. You may want to plant some summer flowering plants near the patio so that you can enjoy them while sitting outside, with bulbs of varying bloom times near the mailbox since you go there every day. If there is something unsightly outside one window, perhaps a flowering tree at a distance would block that view.

Focus on the layering of the two design elements of color and texture to create year-round interest in the garden. When planning, repetition of plants throughout the landscape will create a restful, pleasant view. Plant in drifts or masses to give a sense of movement. Use of color echoing will give a cohesive effect. This is a practice in which plants of different matching tones of the same color are chosen, such as yellow spirea in one spot and yellow iris in another. On the other hand, contrasting

colors or whites will provide an exclamation point within the bed.

The foliage of the plant when it's not in bloom will become important as you go through a season of successive blooms. Grey plants, such as lamb's ear, break up the different areas and provide a transition from bed to bed or color to color.

Another key design element is texture – especially in a shade garden. The texture of the leaves and the variation of leaf size and shape will create interest, such as a combination of ferns and hostas. Use of plants with strong vertical lines growing among the lower-growing plants will create additional interest.

Using evergreens mixed in with deciduous plants, such as broadleaf evergreens like rhododendron with needled evergreens such as pine, will also give you a different winter silhouette. The evergreens will provide a barrier to sight and sound, becoming a strong backbone for the garden.

Finally, give some thought to landscape lighting. Well lit paths and entries are key, but think about if there is a particular feature that would benefit from up lighting? Keep fixtures simple so that they blend into the landscape and don't become a "feature" of the design. Most importantly, have fun.

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

## RWA Warns Against Going Out On Ice In Reservoirs

The Regional Water Authority, which services many homes in Milford and Orange, is warning residents that it is never safe to walk, run, skate, sled, ski or otherwise

travel over ice-covered reservoirs. Posted warning signs on watershed land are meant to be strictly observed.

"Frozen bodies of water can be deadly

as the top layer of ice can easily give way trapping you under the freezing water. Your body can go into shock from the rapid temperature changes leaving you disoriented and unable to find a way out. Reservoirs in particular present additional dangers due to being far deeper than most lakes or ponds," said RWA Recreation Program Specialist Jeff Yale. "These tragedies can be avoided by simply staying off the ice."

"In order to protect the safety of our customers and the quality of our water, the RWA does not allow activities of any kind on the ice at our reservoirs, which serve as the source of drinking water for some 430,000 consumers in Greater New Haven," said RWA Police Captain Paul Ruggiero. "Frozen reservoirs can be far more dangerous than a frozen lake. Reservoirs are essentially flooded river valleys with fluctuating water levels, and when people stand close to the shore, they are standing above iced-over water that can be up to 30 feet deep."

"We want our recreation permit holders to enjoy our watershed lands during Connecticut's beautiful winter weather, but it's important that people keep safety in

mind," Ruggiero said. "Any ice on reservoirs is unstable and dangerous. Falling through thin ice can very quickly become a tragedy, which is why we all must be diligent during this time of year."

The RWA offered some safety tips when near frozen bodies of water during winter:

- Obey all posted signs at RWA recreation areas and on watershed property.

- Don't test the thickness of the ice; it's easy to slip from the bank and fall through.

- Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it from freezing. It can also mask unsafe conditions like hidden cracks and other weak spots.

- Parents should always closely watch and supervise their children and explain the dangers of playing on frozen reservoirs and lakes.

RWA recreation permit holders can visit nine areas in south-central Connecticut controlled by the authority. All have different features to explore by walking, hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing while taking in the sights at the properties from which the region's drinking water is sourced.

## Virtual Tour Of Iceland Coming

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library is organizing a virtual travel group for a Zoom tour of Iceland on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.

Presenter Gerri Griswold, director of administration and development at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, has visited Iceland 52 times. Known as the land of ice and fire, Iceland features glaciers, snow-peaked mountains, volcanoes, geothermal hot springs, ice caves, gushing waterfalls, black sand

beaches and vertical sea cliffs.

Griswold is a wildlife rehabilitator and educator and has presented programs to libraries, classrooms, Scout troops and organizations like the National Park Service and Yale Peabody Museum. She is "head over heels in love" with Iceland and eager to share her knowledge and experiences of the people, places and natural splendors of the island.

Make your reservations at casememoriallibrary.org.

**Town of Orange**  
**Bicentennial Commemorative Medallion**

In honor of Our Town's 200th Anniversary we are offering this family keepsake heirloom displaying the historic and contemporary town seals.

All proceeds support the Orange Historical Society.

This amazing Commemorative Medallion is 2" (50.8mm) x 0.137" (3.5mm). Beautiful three-dimensional raised polished brass lettering and vivid town seals.

Bicentennial Commemorative Medallions are only \$25.00 each

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Add to Cart

Starting in 2022 the medallions are \$25.00 each.

Hard PVC cases are \$2.50 each.  
Clear Acrylic Display Stands are \$3.50 each.

Orders will be ready for pick-up at the Academy Museum and Antique Shop during the Bicentennial Events in June 2022.

Other Payment Methods

Pay by Check  
Please make checks out to Orange Historical Society and mail to: P.O.B. 784, Orange, CT 06477-0784

Cash  
The Academy Museum and Antique Shop is Open Saturdays 10am-3pm at 605 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT

Visit Us Online At <https://OrangeHistory.org> | [orangehistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:orangehistorical@yahoo.com)



## Travel Matters

# Cruise Lines Unfairly Maligned For Pandemic Safety

As a travel advisor and small business owner, I am concerned by the unfair treatment the cruise industry is receiving as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cruise industry has often been treated unfairly in the press, but these past two years, and especially in recent months, the negative coverage and misinformation being spread about the safety of cruising is alarming.

As a travel advisor, I do more than plan dream vacations. I am an advocate and advisor for my clients, and most recently my role has changed to include being an expert in global health mandates. I have to educate my clients about what tests and vaccines are required for the destinations they are visiting, and the rules are changing daily.

One thing that has stayed the same is the stringent protocols the cruise lines have had in place since the beginning.

Cruise lines have gone above and beyond

in protecting their guests and crew. They were one of the first to voluntarily pause operations and one of the first to require vaccinations of their front-line employees. Cruise lines are also the only entity, travel-related or otherwise, to require 100 percent testing and where at least 95 percent of the customers must be fully vaccinated – as opposed to the 62 percent rate of vaccination in the overall US population. In addition, cruise lines have enhanced cleaning measures and have modified ships to meet health and safety needs such as upgraded air ventilation systems, expanded onboard medical facilities and more.

Every day we see thousands of people packed into sporting events, concerts, visiting amusement parks. Every day people go through their daily routines of visiting the



KAREN  
QUINN-  
PANZER

grocery store, the mall, dining at restaurants. No testing or vaccination is required at many of these venues.

While you may not hear about COVID-19 cases at these events, I assure you that they are there. The difference is that no other industry is under a microscope and must submit timely reports to the Centers for Disease Control about the health of passengers and crew, including when there is nothing to report.

The facts speak for themselves. The safety protocols put in place by the cruise lines work. Yes, there are occasional positive cases, but there has not been an outbreak. The number of positive COVID cases on board cruise ships is incredibly low when compared to other places. Zane Kerby, president and CEO of the American Society of Travel

Advisors, even made the astute comparison that “if the average cruise were a US state, it would be the safest in the country by far.” According to the Cruise Lines International Association, more than 100 ships have returned to US waters carrying nearly two million Americans since June 2021.

Cruise lines have unfairly had a scarlet letter on them since the pandemic began. Instead of being crucified, they should be celebrated. We can all agree that COVID-19 is not going away and we will need to learn to live with the virus. The cruise industry is the perfect example of an industry that has adapted to putting the safety of people first.

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

## Ponder This

# Who Are Zoos For?

At the turn of the new year, a tragic incident occurred at the well-known, accredited Naples Zoo in Florida. County sheriffs responded to an emergency call from a man being bitten by a Malayan tiger. The man was a contract employee hired to perform nighttime cleaning services of ancillary structures with restricted access to animal enclosures. The cleaner was in an unauthorized area and had gained access to the tiger enclosure, presumably to pet or feed the animal.

The tiger, named Eko, was shot and killed by police. The cleaner survived but sustained serious injuries to his arm requiring intensive, ongoing treatment.

This event marks a human tragedy; a terrifying, traumatizing and life-threatening incident for the person involved. However, this is also a not-unfamiliar tale of the human/animal interface requiring the killing of animals entrusted to zoos. It could reactivate existing controversy about the merits of zoos.

A friend and colleague posed a direct question to me after this tragedy. “Which side are you on?” That is, am I pro zoo or no zoo?

But the issues stemming from the question are not simple or easy to resolve.

Much has been written about the role of zoos in modern conservation. Critics would question the role of zoos in protecting endangered species. It is easy to jump on the bandwagon to criticize zoos when a tragic incident happens. My lifelong opinion, based merely on personal experience, is that zoos can educate, protect, introduce exotic animals to the public and help restore endangered species through conservation efforts.

Zoos have a sacred trust to protect the precious animals in their care. All employees should be part of the mission of the zoo institution, regardless of their position within the organization.

Certainly, all employees should know not to touch the exhibits. If zoos are considered living museums, then the animal inhabitants are the exhibits. How could a worker assigned to limited cleaning services have access to the precious assets? A thorough investigation has been undertaken.

Thus far, there is no indication of charges filed by the state or zoo management. Spokespeople indicated that executive management was more focused on concern for the zoo staff, who considered Eko to be part of the family. Counseling services were made available so that normal zoo activities could be resumed swiftly.

The discussion is not about blame, but must lean toward prevention so that there is never another such occurrence. My reflection is on the varied issues that emerge in the broader discussion about animal activism, conservation and the purpose and function of zoos in general.

Those who are absolutists in their antipathy to zoos are not to be dissuaded. Critics ask if zoos are for the animals or for the viewers. Is this viewing experience justification to house animals in captivity?

My lifelong appreciation of elephants began as a young child amidst zoos in New York City. The captive elephants of my



ELLEN RUSSELL  
BEATTY

youth served as ambassadors for the species, enthraling me about wildlife. Ideally, these zoos seemed to be well resourced, excellent educational opportunities for children.

My adult reading has informed me of the threats to animals that captivity brings. This is especially true for large animals due to restricted space, limited roaming and isolation. Elephants are particularly vulnerable to captivity with data indicating negative, compromising effects on lifespan. Research indicates that elephants get lonely and suffer from anxiety, just as humans do. Many zoos have limited their elephant populations with the evolving knowledge about their social and cognitive nature.

Those who oppose keeping animals in captivity make the case that zoos do not bring about attitudinal change, education or interest in conservation among viewers. This is shocking to me and difficult to believe, because it seems outside of my experience.

Elephants require reproductive control in captivity for obvious reasons of space and to avoid genetic inbreeding. What is so enchanting about viewing a video clip of elephant in the wild is their parenting behavior. The maternal caretaking of all young elephants by the female adults is inspiring, amazing to witness.

Captivity inherently prevents reproduction and interferes with this natural behavior of parenting. Captivity takes away freedom, but it also prohibits the natural display of be-

havior unique to the species.

My lifelong appreciation of elephants didn't begin with a consideration of the natural behavior of reproduction and parenting being prohibited. I have learned that animal captivity, even if well designed, is not good for the animals.

Animal rights activists and zoo supporters have one thing in common: the desire to respect, protect and support wildlife. How is it that zookeeper influencers are head-to-head with animal rights activists? Can we use reframing to ask different questions?

The aim should be to gather consensus around shared appreciation, protection and concern for animals. The two opposing sides must gather resources and work together, rallying around shared values. Or are only two mutually exclusive choices possible? Climate change, diminishing habitat, environmental toxins, overdevelopment and hunting all impinge upon wildlife. Our discussion is not between two opposing sides but one side willing to take action to find solutions.

*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.*

## Shops At Yale Calling Area Artists For Events

The Shops at Yale and the Whitney-Audubon Retail & Arts District are inviting local visual artists and musicians of all skill levels to submit their information for participation in free contests as well as paid opportunities for events and activations in downtown New Haven.

Instrumental soloists: Paid outdoor performance opportunities are available during key weekends and holidays throughout the year for instrumental soloists. Musicians will be asked to provide their hourly rate on the “Call for Visual Artists & Musicians” form.

Bands: Paid outdoor performance opportunities are available during the biggest events of the year, as well as during the Live Outdoor Music Series, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays, July 23 and 30 and Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27 (rain dates are the following day). Bands will be asked to

provide their hourly rate on the “Call for Visual Artists & Musicians” form.

Window art contest: The Second Annual Window Art Stroll & Contest will take place in downtown New Haven in May. The Shops at Yale and the Whitney-Audubon Retail & Arts District invite all professional and amateur artists, students and artist groups of two to submit their proposal to paint a family-friendly, summer-themed window on May 7 (rain date May 8). The artwork will be painted directly on storefront windows and will be displayed for three

weeks, from Saturday, May 7 to Monday, May 30, along with a name plate and contact information for each artist.

Winners will be chosen via a people's choice voting system for chances to win more than \$1,000 in gift cards to local retailers and restaurants. In addition, participating artists will be invited to sell their personal artwork

at the inaugural Spring Outdoor Art Sale on Saturdays, May 14 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Broadway Island in New Haven at 56 Broadway.

Mural demonstrations: Selected artists will be hired for a mural demonstration, where they will paint a provided four-foot wide by eight-foot tall wood mural (primed white) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Broadway Island in New Haven at 56 Broadway. The outdoor mural demonstrations are in conjunction with the Live Outdoor Music Series on Saturdays, July 23 and 30 and Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27 (rain dates are the following day). The murals should reflect the theme of “Historic New Haven,” “A New Haven Icon or Landmark,” or “Future New Haven.” The finished murals will be displayed in downtown storefronts with the artist's contact information. Stipends of \$400 per mural will be provided to each selected artist.

Chalk art contest: The Shops at Yale invites all professional and amateur artists, students and artist groups to participate in the fifth New Haven Chalk Art Festival on Saturday, Oct. 22 (rain date Oct. 23) from noon to 4 p.m. This event is a contest open to the public where artists compete for more than \$2,500 in gift cards, creating a family-friendly four-foot by four-foot fall-themed chalk artwork on the sidewalk using washable chalk sticks. Artists will register to compete in one of the following age divisions: teen (ages 13-17), adult (ages 18 and above) or adult group (18 and above with a minimum of two artists). There is no entry fee, and free chalk, free snacks and free parking will be provided to participants.

For more information about each opportunity, including a link to the electronic submission form, visit [theshopsatyale.com/callforartists2022](http://theshopsatyale.com/callforartists2022).

Your Finances

# How To Plan For The Retirement You Deserve

If you're already thinking about retirement (and it's never too soon) you're probably thinking about it in terms of the "end of something." The satisfying end of a successful career. The end of a busy routine. The final reward for a lifetime of work.

While you may feel the urge to close the book on your career, retirement is just a new chapter – a new beginning. Just as you've meticulously planned every career move, you'll need to plan for retirement. That starts with having a clear vision for your post-career goals.

We may want to focus on our free time in retirement, but that's just one part of it. Whether you're interested in traveling, seriously pursuing a hobby, spending more time with your loved ones or simply looking forward to taking time to discover your post-career self, you'll need to create a plan.

Planning begins when you start thinking about the big picture. Before diving into the details, get a high-level sense of what you want your retirement to look like and how you might achieve it. Determine who your retirement income will need to support: a partner, a grandchild or other loved ones. Take inventory of the lifestyle you have grown accustomed to. Create realistic savings goals for yourself. Then find investment strategies that help you achieve those goals.

Determining where to start can be difficult, especially when some of the factors feel uncertain. You may still have decades before you retire, and that means your interests could change. Will you still be interested in cooking?

Will you still want to live in the city or state you've been calling home? What hobbies will 65-year-old you want to pick up? What habits will 65-year-old you have dropped? Will you have grandchildren?

It can feel daunting to plan for someone you might not know yet. But you can help that person by asking the right questions now. A financial advisor can help you determine how much you have saved so far; how much you will earn before retiring; when you should start drawing from Social Security; how much you will need to sustain your desired lifestyle; how you can maximize investment returns while minimizing risk and tax burdens; how much you will need to cover medical expenses as you age; and what other sources of retirement income you might have to draw from?

These questions can be tricky, but the sooner you start planning, the easier they will be to answer. Your future self will appreciate your foresight.

How to spend your time post-career might seem like a no-brainer. In fact, you've probably been planning on what you'll be doing or where you'll be going for a long time. Even so, you'll need to financially plan for your free time regardless of what you choose to do with it. Choosing what to do with your free time may change how you save for it.

The earlier you start saving, the better. How-



MATT GALLAGHER

ever, life doesn't always work out according to plan. Odds are you've even experienced some setbacks or surprises yourself. Luckily, it's never too late to change your habits.

Here are three ways you can start saving now.

Help your money make money. You may be familiar with the proverb, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." The same is true for putting money into your retirement fund. If you start saving today, you can rely on compound interest to help your money make money. Even if you haven't been saving money before today, you can certainly start today, and it will make a difference.

Take advantage of your 401(k). Even if your company does not match your monthly contribution, it's important to invest in it by taking a small amount out of each paycheck and setting it aside. When you set this money aside, that can make a big difference over time as your investments increase in value or accrue interest. If your company does not offer a 401(k) or if you are self-employed, you will want to contribute to an IRA. The best part about saving through a 401(k) or IRA is that you can essentially "set it and forget it" by automating your contributions. While a financial advisor would recommend you set aside 10 percent of your pre-tax income, you can start with as little as 1 percent and increase your contribution as you build wealth.

Finally, increase your income. Knowing your worth now can help you save for the life you want later. A simple way to increase your pay is to negotiate a raise or a better offer. You can also earn extra income through a "side hustle," such as consulting or freelancing. All that extra income is savable income and can help increase your retirement fund.

If you're like most people, when you think about retirement, you think about what you want to do, not what you want to leave behind. However, deciding on what kind of legacy you want to have now is the only way to ensure it will happen. Maybe you want to help pay for your grandchild's college tuition or leave an inheritance to someone who's made life special for you. Perhaps you'd like to gift your children their childhood home or set up an endowment fund for an organization that's meant a lot to you. Whatever legacy you want to leave behind, it's not something that just happens. It's a decision you need to make and plan for to ensure the things you love are passed on the way you want them to be.

Working with a financial advisor now can help you get to where you want to be later. Digging into your retirement goals, exploring saving strategies and discovering investment opportunities are all things that the right advisor can help you do.

*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).*

Senior Life

## Is Home The New Hospital?

The pandemic has hastened trends in providing care to people at home. While things like visiting nurse services, home care and telehealth have been around for a long time, all of these services are undergoing rapid change and are being utilized in different ways as a result of the pandemic.

Telemedicine – the practice of health professionals and patients meeting online or on the phone – and remote patient monitoring – the use of home-monitoring systems to gather health data – have become far more commonplace during the past two years. The technologies supporting both these trends also continues to advance rapidly.

Both telemedicine and RPM allow people who traditionally would require treatment in a facility to receive treatment at home. The value of this during COVID is obvious in helping facilities avoid emergency room visits or longer stays in the hospital or a skilled nursing

facility, freeing up beds.

Advancements in RPM are filling in many gaps that telemedicine formerly had. While a video conference with a doctor could include a description of symptoms and close-up views of something like a rash, basic diagnostic tools such as blood pressure, oxygen saturation and temperature were often completely missing from the discussion.

The use of RPMs exploded during the pandemic as a way for providers to monitor less severe COVID cases at home and free up much-needed hospital beds for those who really needed them. One study by Kaiser Permanente looked at 13,000 COVID patients between April 2020 and February 2021. Only 10 percent needed to be admitted to the hospital. By remotely monitoring oxygen saturation levels and making



SUSAN ODERWALD

treatment adjustments, providers were able to keep many people out of the hospital all together. Furthermore, the study showed that patients were satisfied with the quality of care received and would recommend the program to others.

But while RPM has been pushed more into service for these types of "sick visits," going forward it has much greater use in helping care teams monitor and manage chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Physicians can set parameters for patients that can then be monitored via a device throughout the day.

For example, if blood pressure monitoring is showing a level too high, an alert will be sent to the care provider, and they can proactively address problems. This differs significantly from traditional practice, where no monitoring is happening and the patient only alerts their doctor once they have reached some type of symptomatic crisis.

RPMs are typically used

for monitoring falls and vital signs such as blood pressure and oxygen saturation, but they are increasingly used to automatically monitor blood sugars, various heart conditions and other diseases. The cumulative effect of both telemedicine and RPM is that more and more people can get treated proactively, avoiding hospitalizations in the first place. Many more can be further treated at home because care teams can monitor their condition safely there instead of in a hospital.

There are limits to these technologies. Patients themselves need to be competent to use these devices or have family or other caregivers with them to ensure proper monitoring. Such programs work with people who regularly visit their doctors and are compliant with doctor instructions. Those who avoid doctor visits and are lax with things like monitoring and medications will remain vulnerable to costly emergency room visits.

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

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**TOWN OF ORANGE  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 7-394, there is on file for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk, the Auditors report for the Amity Regional School District #5 Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.  
Dated at Orange, Connecticut, this the 18th day of January 2022.

Mary Shaw  
Orange Town Clerk

**TOWN OF ORANGE**

**MESSAGE FROM THE ASSESSOR REGARDING TAX RELIEF BENEFITS**

Please be aware that there have been no executive orders issued in regards to the 2021 GL elderly homeowner applications OR the 2022 GL additional veteran applications due to be filed this year.

Any homeowner who is due to reapply for tax relief benefits for the 2021 GL must do so between February 1st and May 15th as required by 12-170aa. Assessors must also notify any such homeowner of the filing requirements by regular mail, including a copy of the application, by February 1st.

Any veteran who is due to reapply for the additional exemption on the 2022 GL must do so between February 1st and October 1st as required by 12-81g.

If you have any questions please call the Assessor's Office at 203-891-4722

**Milford Math Tutoring Service Gets Nonprofit Status**

Milford-based math tutoring service Room 17 is the city's newest nonprofit.

The organization, run by elementary mathematics professor Monica Cavender and elementary mathematics coach and part-time mathematics professor Sara Kaminski, offers private math virtual tutoring sessions, homeschool support and runs a virtual summer math camp.

The organization has partnered with the city's Recreation Department on outdoor activities for children that used mathematical thinking, and has partnered

with area businesses and other groups in recent months.

Room 17 recently hired six new teachers, bringing its total to 10. It has also expanded its services to include support for middle and high school level math.

"We are looking forward to the extended opportunities the non-profit organization status will provide," Cavender and Kaminski said in a statement. "We will be able to meet a wide range of math education needs in the Milford, CT community."



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**Shayna Goldblatt Named To Dean's List**

Shayna Goldblatt, daughter of Orange residents Mitch and Abby Goldblatt, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2021 fall semester at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina. The Dean's List is

composed of students with no grade below a B-minus and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in a minimum of 12 semester hours. Mitch Goldblatt is a member of the Orange Board of Selectmen.

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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.

With his close friend, Michael Rampino Jr, by his side, **Richard Nolan Ball**, beloved brother, Uncle, friend, neighbor and colleague, passed in his own home. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Nancy A. Bates**, 85, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Richard Bates, passed away peacefully at home on January 26, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert Paul Benco**, age 81, of Orange, peacefully entered into rest at his home on Sunday, January 9, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. (Adzima Funeral Home)



**Margaret Ann Benway "Peggy"**, 81, of Milford, wife of the late Eugene John Benway, Jr., passed away on January 17, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Mary Ellen Hogan Betlinski**, 85, formerly of New Port Richy, FL, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Dr. James (Jim) H. Blume** of Orange Connecticut died peacefully Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022 at his home. He was the beloved companion of Jane Arons Kasper. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



**Joseph L. Brady**, age 96, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Mary Lynch Brady, died on Thursday, January 20, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. (Gregory F. Doyle Memorial)



**Dominick Carl Buccitti, Sr.**, age 81, of Milford beloved husband of the late Barbara (Urbanowicz) Buccitti entered peaceful rest on Jan. 22, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Bernardine Mary (Velgot) Butcaris**, age 89 of Milford, CT, passed away on January 9, 2022. (Cyril F. Mullins Funeral Home)



**Peter J. Cavallaro**, 87, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Claire Cavallaro, passed away peacefully at home on January 21, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Patricia Anne Chasney**, age 81, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Kneeland Chasney, entered peaceful rest on January 15, 2022, at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**George Chatzopoulos**, 55 of Orange passed away peacefully on January 10, 2022 at his home surrounded by family after a valiant battle with brain cancer. (North Haven Funeral Home)



**Belvidera (Belle) E. Clark**, age 90, of Torrington and formerly of Milford for many years, beloved wife of the late Charles H. Clark Sr. died on January 7, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Barry Richard Crowley**, age 87, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on January 26, 2022, at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Jaclyn Cody D'Auria** entered into eternal rest on January 13, 2022. How do you write about a woman who could always give the words to say? I will tell you how - you just do it. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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**Molly Vargo**  
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**Amanda Veccharelli**  
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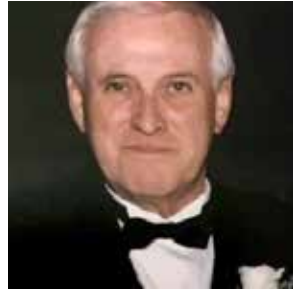


# Obituaries

**Carmen Thomas DeRosa**, 86, of West Haven, died on Jan. 12, 2022. Born in New Haven on May 14, 1935, a son of the late Carmen and Antonette (Furino) DeRosa. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Louis Vincent Fasold**, 84, of Milford, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2022 after a brief but fierce battle with Leukemia. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Helene Jackson** died peacefully on Jan. 24, at home surrounded by all three of her children, after a long a battle with pancreatic cancer. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Isabelle Marie Gorek Mannix**, devoted mother, daughter, sister, and friend passed away peacefully at 66 years of age on January 14th, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Richard Jay De Stefano** was born on July 19, 1947 and passed away on January 25, 2022 at the age of 74. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**James F. Fraulo**, age 79, peacefully entered into eternal rest on Friday evening, Jan. 21, 2022, in the comfort of his home, with his loving family by his side. (Spinelli-Ricciuti/Bednar-Osieccki Funeral Home)



**John Charles Jackson**, 73, of Milford, beloved husband of Janice (Murphy) Jackson for nearly 50 years, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2022, with his loving wife by his side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Annamae Rhodes Maturo**, age 101, of Milford, passed away on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at Milford Health Care center. (Abricola Parkview Funeral Home)



**Pasquale DiBioso, Jr.**, 62, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Carlene DiBioso, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Nancy Jean Canfield Fugal**, age 70, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Jan Peter Fugal, MD, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 22, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Genevieve Lasse (Salito)**, age 92, entered peaceful rest on January 13, 2022, at Milford Health & Rehabilitation Center. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Marjorie VK Mete**, 94, of Southbury CT formerly of Milford CT, beloved wife of the late Joseph Mete passed away peacefully on Wednesday January 26, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Marion H. Elio**, age 95, of Shelton, and formerly of Milford beloved wife of the late Joseph Elio, passed away on January 28, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Stanley Gabel**, 54, beloved husband of Jacqueline Gabel, passed on January 31, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved **Gail Parrett Malady** who went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Jan. 11, 2022. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Charles "Charlie" Miklos**, 68, of Milford, passed away on January 10, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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# Obituaries

**Walter J. Musfeldt**, age 84, of Milford, CT, passed away on January 31, 2022. (Adzima Funeral Home)



**Robert "Bob" Douglas Norman**, 74, of Milford, beloved husband of Joyce (LeGeyt) Norman, peacefully passed away surrounded by his family on January 30, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**William "Bill" Olah**, 76, of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 27. Bill was born on July 11, 1945 in Bridgeport. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Patricia Ann Onofreo**, 79, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Mark Onofreo, passed away on January 25, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert "Bob" Protomastro**, 79, of Milford, beloved husband of Marie Protomastro, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones on Jan. 23, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Gaetano Carmine Rossi**, 77, of Woodbridge passed away peacefully on January 20, 2022 at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Porto Funeral Homes)



**Edward Sansouci** was born on June 6, 1931 and passed away on January 23, 2022 at age 90. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Marilyn A. Schermerhorn**, 89, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Gilbert Schermerhorn, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Anne M. Shields**, 83, lifelong resident of Milford, beloved wife of the late Robert W. Shields entered into eternal rest on February 4, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing of my Mom, **Barbara Simmat**, on January 28th in our home with me and our cats, Cooper and Tucker, by her side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Ashley Nicole Simonelli**, 34 of Milford, CT, passed suddenly on January 14th, 2022. Ashley was born on August 24th, 1987 in Stamford, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert W. Skok**, 73, passed away January 24, 2022 from cancer caused by exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. He was a 100% disabled Veteran. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Walter "Bud" Smith**, 97, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Leontine "Lee" Smith, passed away with his family by his side on January 9, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Janet Sparks**, 77, of Milford, beloved wife of 55 years to James L. Sparks, Jr., passed away peacefully at home on January 19, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Rosalie Spinelli**, 88, of Orange, passed away on January 31, 2022. Rosalie was born on November 25, 1933 in Manhattan, NY. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Ronald E. Stach**, 79, beloved husband of Renate Stach, beloved father of Michael, succumbed to Parkinson's on January 8, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Jeffrey Banning Steck**, age 64, of Milford, died on Monday, January 24, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Aaron Marc Steinberg**, 34, of Brooklyn, NY and originally of Orange, CT, passed away on January 8, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Albert "Al" R. Subbloie**, 96, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Mary Theresa Passariello Subbloie, joined his heavenly family on January 28, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Gregory Thomas Varga**, 53, of Milford, passed away on January 21, 2022. Born on March 26, 1968, he was the son of Ann Varga and the late Steve Varga. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Donald R. Vincelette**, age 74, of Milford, beloved husband of Linda Arendarczyk Vincelette for 53 years, died on Jan. 30, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Virginia Ruth Goodbody Whitcomb**, 99, formerly of Orange, wife of the late Wayne P. Whitcomb, passed away on Feb. 2, 2022, three days before her 100th birthday.



**Glenn Alan Williams** was born on December 1, 1962 and passed away on February 2, 2022 at age 59. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Roland Joseph Zwiebel**, DDS, age 78, of Las Cruces, NM passed away at Memorial Medical Center on January 24, 2022. (Getz Funeral Home)



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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.  
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*-Doug Manning*

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