



Milford-Orange Times

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Orange Kicks Off 'Summer Of Celebration'



The Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia fires during a ceremony at the Orange Fairgrounds May 28 in honor of prominent Orange residents who recently died. Additional photos on page 16. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

State and local dignitaries gathered at the gazebo by High Plains Community Center on the morning of May 28 to heap praise on Orange as the town marked its 200th birthday and kicked off what has been dubbed the "Summer of Celebration."

"Let it be known that we, the people of Orange, rededicate ourselves to the advancement and progress of our fine community," said First Selectman Jim Zeoli, reading from a proclamation dedicating the event, "that therefore I ask the people of Orange to take time to reflect upon 200 years of hard work, strong ethical values and good fortune that has made our town such a wonderful place to live. We genuinely do enjoy the good life here."

As a pending rainstorm held off, about 100 people gathered around the gazebo on the fairgrounds to listen to Zeoli and a host of others with connections to the town talk about how far it's come.

Town Historian Priscilla Searles, who is also a Milford-Orange Times contributor, recalled her involvement with the 150th anniversary in 1972, which she said took a different approach but had one common thread: an appreciation for the community.

"We don't live on top of each other – we're spread out. We have a secure town, thanks to an outstanding police department. The volunteer fire department is second-to-none," she said. "The school system is outstanding. And as far as open space goes, there isn't a town in Connecticut that has what Orange can offer."

Orange's state legislative delegation – Sen. James Maroney and Reps. Charles Ferraro, Kathy Kennedy and Mary Welander – were on hand to read a citation granted to the town from the Connecticut General Assembly. As Kennedy read the citation, the other three legislators held a Connecticut state flag, which they then

Continued on page 2

Milford City Budget Passes

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Aldermen passed a citywide budget at its May 16 meeting that lowers taxes even more than the amount proposed by Mayor Ben Blake and the Board of Finance.

The final budget landed at \$238.3 million, for a decrease in the tax rate of one mill, from the current 27.65 to 26.65. It will be the sixth tax rate reduction in a row for the city.

The mayor's proposed budget, which was approved by the Board of Finance with essentially no change, would have lowered the mill rate to 27.18. But the aldermen made some adjustments to bring the total down even further, in part by increasing estimated returns from conveyance taxes and building

inspection fees as well as reducing projected contributions to pensions, self insurance and health insurance.

Even at the lower tax rate, some taxpayers could see increased taxes this year because of a recently-completed mandatory citywide property revaluation.

"This year there's going to be, depending on what your reval was, either an increase, a decrease or potentially a flat line for your taxes next year," Blake said back in March when the budget negotiations first got underway.

The final budget was not without sticking points – particularly for the police department. Chief Keith Mello had

Continued on page 2

Milford, Orange Hold Memorial Day Parades



Marchers in the May 29 Milford Memorial Day parade. Additional photos on page 14. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Orange Town Budget Passes, Amity Voted Down

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange taxpayers voted overwhelmingly by 374 to 116 on May 18 to approve the town budget, which will reduce the mill rate to 32.71 – slightly lower than that originally proposed by the town's Board of Finance earlier in the spring.

The Amity school district budget, however, was defeated twice at the polls, on May 3 and May 24. The Amity budget is considered separately from the town because it is shared by Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge.

On the town side, the mill rate was lowered

slightly because of changes to a proposal in Hartford that would have capped the mill rate for motor vehicles and reimbursed municipalities for the lost revenue. Gov. Ned Lamont had originally proposed capping the mill rate statewide at 29 mills, and this was factored into the Orange budget.

That proposal did not pass, though, so Orange will be able to charge 32.46 mills for vehicles and receive \$130,161 in grant money from the state to make up the difference.

Continued on page 16



Marchers in the May 29 Orange Memorial Day parade. Additional photos on page 15. Photo by Lexi Crocco.



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Amity HS Principal Resigns

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Amity Regional District No. 5 announced May 19 that Amity Regional High School principal Dr. Anna Mahon is leaving as of July 31 for a job leading Brookfield schools as an assistant superintendent. She has been with the district since 2000.

"I have been honored to be a part of such an amazing school community and to have been able to work with some of the best professional educators in Connecticut," Mahon wrote in her resignation letter. "Amity is a place that is and always will be near and dear to my heart. However, the time and opportunity have come for me to move to a new school district so I may continue to grow as an educational leader."

She promised to continue to support the district in any way she can.

"The Amity Regional School District

will clearly miss Dr. Anna Mahon – her leadership, her passion for education, her devotion to this community, and most especially, her clear focus on putting students first," said Superintendent Jennifer Byars in a press statement. "She has been a tremendous leader through a tumultuous period in education and has truly kept the high school moving in a positive direction. While it is a loss for our three towns, she is going to be an incredible Assistant Superintendent for the Brookfield School District and I look forward to seeing what she can accomplish in a district leadership position in a PreK-12 school district."

Byars said the search process for the next Amity High principal will begin immediately and will involve multiple stakeholders from the school community.

foundation or a load-bearing wall or a beam that's holding everything up," said Ted Novicki of the chamber. "I think of those types of individuals in the community like our honorees."

The presentation of the bricks was followed by three shots fired off in honor of Chatzopoulos, Bospuda and Smith by the Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia.

The Founding Day ceremony was only the opening salvo for a series of events to be held into September that include parades, dinners, games and historic displays. Later in the summer the town will be unearthing a time capsule buried 50 years ago and putting a new one in the ground.

Milford Budget (Continued From 1)

requested money to hire an additional four officers, which were not approved.

Republican alderman Anthony Giannattasio, who had at earlier budget meetings called for adding those new officers into the budget, attempted at the final meeting to have them included, but that measure failed along party lines.

The final vote in favor of the budget also passed along party lines, with majority Democrats in favor and the five Republicans opposed.



Local Officials Reassure Residents After Texas Massacre

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Officials in Milford and Orange are reassuring understandably nervous residents after the May 24 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas that left 19 children and two adults dead. The shooting has an especially strong resonance in Connecticut, which a decade ago saw a similarly deadly shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

"As a school community, we have always placed the highest priority on safety in our schools and in the days ahead, you will continue to see our community come together to maintain the safest environment possible and to reinforce your trust in us," said Milford schools Superintendent Dr. Anna Cutaia in a message to the community the day after the attack.

Cutaia said that the Milford Police Department had arranged for a heightened presence around the city's schools, with extra checks throughout the day as a precautionary measure.

"Our approach to safety and security in our schools is designed to be layered and comprehensive where we coordinate protocols, training, equipment, partnerships, and preventive measures continuously," she said. "Our emergency preparedness efforts are continuously exercised throughout the school year with an emphasis on prevention."

The police response in Uvalde has come under particular scrutiny as it has become clear in recent days that police were on the scene but waited more than an hour to enter

the classroom where the shooter continued his rampage. According to the active shooter guidelines in the 2020 training manual from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, police are trained to intervene quickly in active shooter situations. The US Department of Justice has opened an investigation into the police response.

In Orange, Police Chief Robert Gagne said it was premature for him to comment on the response of law enforcement in Texas, but said his department has been diligently enhancing its school security and active shooter protocols for over two decades.

"We have had strong partnerships and ongoing discussions on school security with the Orange and Amity Boards of Education, Superintendent (Anthony) Scarpetti, and Superintendent (Jennifer) Byars. We have trained our personnel in active shooter response, and we have also done training in conjunction with area police departments," he said.

"Our formal policy and training highlight the importance of immediate action to neutralize threats. Our officers understand this, and we have provided them with the necessary equipment to respond to incidents. We have protocols in place for a coordinated and specific response from area police departments if we should ever require large scale mutual assistance. We will continue to be vigilant and are committed to continuing to collaborate with our schools to keep our children as safe as possible," Gagne said.

Bicentennial (Continued From 1)

presented to Zeoli.

Before reading the citation, Kennedy shared a story of her own decidedly difficult move from New Haven to Orange as a child in the 1960s. She said in one of her first visits to the house that her parents had built on Wheelers Farm Road, she stepped on a snake.

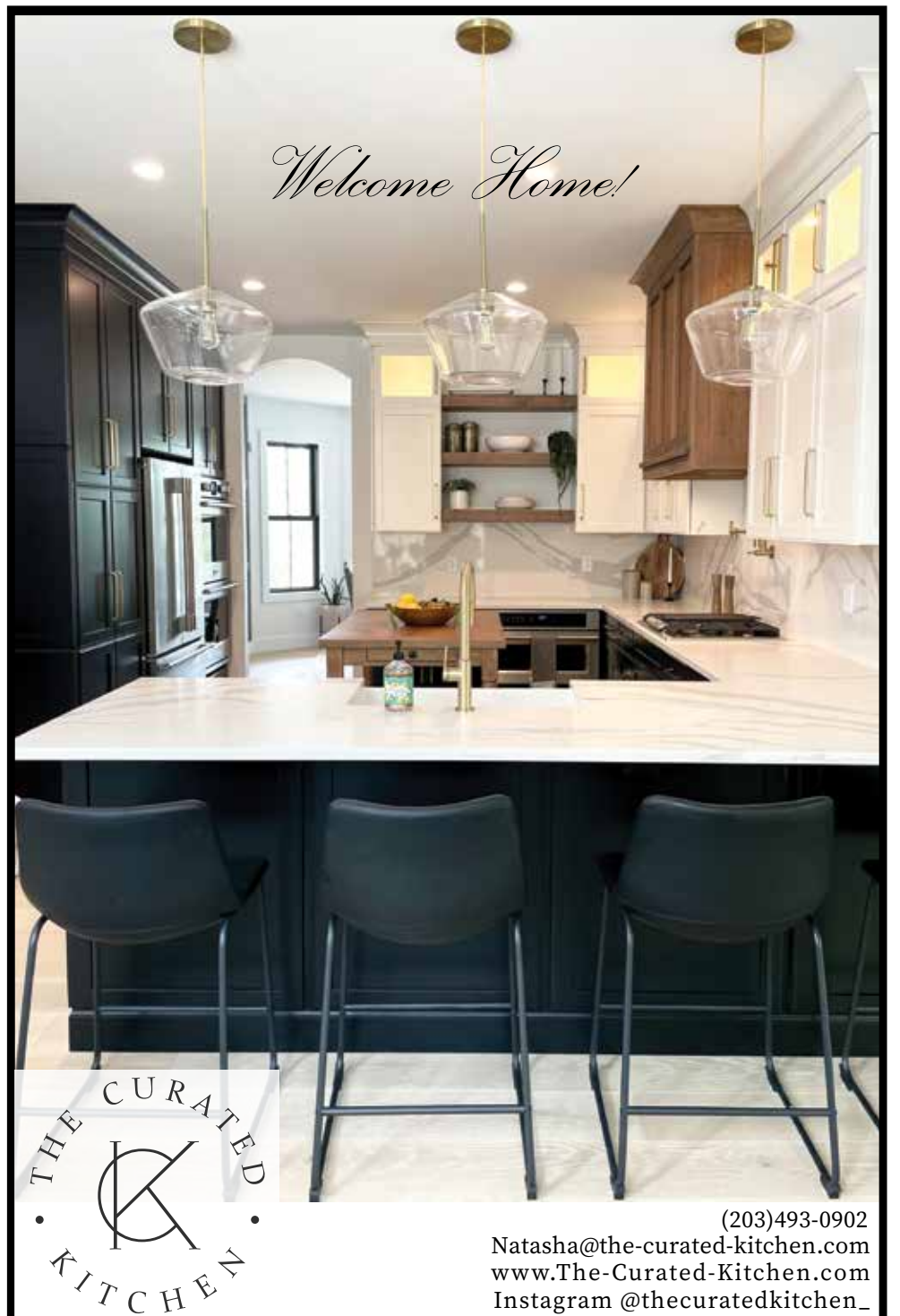
"For weeks to come I would sit in the car," she said. "My parents were like, 'You have to get out of the car.' I'm like, 'Oh no I'm not. This town has snakes!'"

Zeoli, for his part, told a group of Cub Scouts from Pack 922 who were by the gazebo that he remembered being a kid when the 150th celebration happened.

"You'll be here for the next one, so you better do a good job when it comes," he joked.

The ceremony was immediately followed by a dedication and groundbreaking for a bicentennial brick walk that the Orange Chamber of Commerce is spearheading that will be put in around the gazebo. The chamber presented special commemorative bricks to the families of three prominent members of the community who recently died: Chips Family Restaurant owner George Chatzopoulos, Orange Country Fair founder Walter Bospuda and Orange Hill Country Club founder Walter "Bud" Smith.

"Like a house, the community has certain parts of it that serve maybe a greater purpose, and I think of those like a



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Facing Ourselves

Celebrating Emancipation In June

Many of us learned about the Emancipation Proclamation as children in school. Issued on January 1, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln, it said, "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

However, the devil is in the details. Despite the common misconception that all enslaved people were immediately liberated with the Emancipation Proclamation, freedom was granted only to enslaved individuals in places which were under Confederate control, and it did not include opposition areas in which the Union had already gained control, nor did it include border states or regions in which there had been no large-scale fighting between the Union and the Confederation, such as Texas. This led to many enslavers relocating to Texas, which was considered a "safe haven" for continued enslavement of individuals who were still viewed as their property.

It wasn't until June 19, 1865, two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, that federal troops were deployed to Texas to ensure freedom for those still enslaved there. Approximately 250,000 enslaved people in Texas were finally liberated. For some, freedom would still have to wait until after harvest season, as many enslavers withheld this crucial information until it was more convenient to do so. Ultimately, slavery was formally abolished in December 1865 via the 13th Amendment.

The June 19 milestone of liberation for enslaved people was first celebrated in Texas, where it came to be known as Juneteenth. It was first recognized as an official state holiday by Texas in 1980, followed by several other states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. The majority of the remaining states recognize Juneteenth with an official observance of the day.

Juneteenth became a federal holiday in June 2021, after passing unanimously in the US Senate and by a vote of 415-14 in the House. Juneteenth is acknowledged as the longest running African American holiday, and its celebration has been taking place since 1865, often marked by parades, barbecues, get-togethers with friends and families, and the color red, which is considered symbolic for change and sacrifice.

However, many are still unaware of this important date or uncertain how to best honor it. Most recently, Walmart's actions have come under fire and have been called "tone deaf" when it released its own brand of "Juneteenth themed" ice cream featuring red velvet and cheesecake flavors and a label which read, "Share and celebrate African-American culture, emancipation and enduring hope." The ice cream was subsequently removed from stores after criticism that Walmart was attempting to commer-



JENNIFER JU

cialize and capitalize on Black emancipation.

Walmart was also called out for not supporting existing Black-owned brands, such as Creamlicious ice cream, which is nationally distributed in stores such as Target and Walmart and which already features similar flavors.

So how can we authentically and respectfully acknowledge and celebrate Juneteenth? We can make the effort to learn more about the history of enslavement in America and the fight for freedom, realizing that what we have previously learned may be inaccurate and/or incomplete. We can support Black-owned businesses. We can help spread the word about this important landmark event. We can also donate to organizations that support and advocate for equality.

We can additionally seek out and participate in events which celebrate Juneteenth, as well as explore educational resources about the holiday, such as those found on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture website.

There are some who criticize the Juneteenth holiday, saying that it is unnecessary in that Independence Day celebrates independence for all people. Some denounce the emphasis on learning about race as racist in and of itself, saying it sows division in the face of their belief that "all lives matter."

But many acknowledge that the struggle for true equality for all is ongoing and should not be dismissed as a thing of the past. Others point out that, if one truly believes that parity for all is of paramount importance, then everyone should celebrate Juneteenth as a significant step forward in the ongoing fight against discrimination and inequality.

When we reflect on Juneteenth and what it represents, we can take a moment to quietly and sincerely think about what this holiday means to us and to be aware of what assumptions or beliefs we hold about race issues. We can call forth our courage and compassion and take the time to reach out, listen, discuss and learn more. The ripples of the past are felt today, and it is important to understand the impact that long-standing systemic racism has on the present.





As Winston Churchill said, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Are we willing to learn?

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.

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Opinion & Editorial

Roses And Thorns



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

When our kids were younger, we picked up a habit from family friends of using part of our family dinnertime to talk about our days and share the good parts (the roses) and the not-so-great parts (the thorns). It was a simple way to teach them that it was okay to acknowledge things that bother us and to find even one small positive thing in every day.

The legislative sessions move so quickly that it is easy to lose track of some of the roses and lose sight of the lessons behind the thorns, so I thought I would share some that you may know about, and some you might not.

Rose: Supporting the mental and behavioral health services for our children and families. Last year I created legislation that evaluated the areas across the state where student access to mental health services was lacking. That report came out this year, and we were able to allocate over half a million dollars to those schools identified as very high needs to get school based mental health clinics into those districts. Additionally, I was part of a small bipartisan working group behind HB5001, which created the most comprehensive children's mental health legislation in the country.

Thorn: While the need for supports across the state was identified as urgent, we were not able to include funding for as many schools as we would like, and we were not able to expand some existing programs as much as we wanted due to the lack of specific providers. However, identifying those roles will help us as we work to attract and retain those providers in the future.

Rose: Creating a task force to identify the areas and methods causing children to be abused and exploited online as well as the reasons why some cases are not pursued – such as lack of law enforcement personnel. Identifying these points will allow for future funds to be directed at hiring police and data specialists to fill these gaps and stop the predators targeting our children earlier.

Thorn: Seeing the bill I wrote that created a new misdemeanor aimed at prosecuting those predators not called in the Senate despite going through unanimously in the House. However, if given the opportunity at another term, I will bring this back and look at expanding the language to make sure our kids are protected as much as possible.

Rose: Having more of this session be in-person and developing stronger working relationships and friendships with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Thorn: Having many of those colleagues retire this year, such as Rep. Cathy Abercrombie and Rep. Bill (Doc) Pettit. Their contributions to our state are innumerable and both will be missed very much, along with many other honorable public servants. However, I know that I can always call them with any question. I am grateful for the assistance, support and kindness they both showed me these past two years.

Prioritizing Public Safety



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

I am pleased to share some strides that the recently concluded 2022 legislative session made in restoring public safety. For years, we have heard calls from the public to address the increases in crime in our communities, for strengthening our support for first responders and more pointed solutions regarding juvenile crime across Connecticut. With your continued input, we were able to transform these concerns into meaningful legislation aimed at prioritizing public safety.

I supported and voted for SB 313 – An Act Establishing a Firefighters Cancer Relief Program. This program creates a fund sourcing for the firefighters cancer relief program, a new initiative in Connecticut, which will provide wage relief benefits for firefighters diagnosed with cancer. These brave men and women risk their health and safety every day to protect our communities. The nature of their work puts them at higher risk for various cancers. This increased risk called for the legislature to enact this program, which would require municipalities to contribute \$10 per year for each paid or volunteer firefighter in the city or town. This growing fund would additionally ensure that qualification for the benefits does not presume that their diagnosis, or illness, was work-related or requiring worker's compensation.

Through HB 5420, Connecticut will enhance its focus on the mental and physical health of police officers. Included in this legislation that passed are provisions which appropriate money for crisis intervention training of officers, the creation of a task force to study the mental health of first responders and enhanced training for officers to work with individuals with physical disabilities, including a person who is deaf or blind.

Republicans proposed an amendment, LCO 5001, to this bill, aimed at reeling back some of the shortcomings of the 2020 police accountability bill. In the amendment, which failed despite some bipartisan support, was language to restore a limited version of qualified immunity, reauthorize the use of consent searches under strict guidelines and empower officers in preventing motor vehicle chases.

One of the most startling developments over recent years has been the troubling volume of car part thefts, particularly of catalytic converters. This essential component is a common target of seasoned thieves because they are easy stolen and provide a lucrative return when sold, with no questions asked. I cosponsored SB 256, which prohibits anyone other than licensed motor vehicle recyclers or repair shops from selling unattached catalytic converters and strengthens recordkeeping requirements. With this legislation, we made strides in telling potential criminals that they cannot do business in Connecticut.

To address the overarching concerns of increases in car thefts, especially by juveniles, the legislature passed HB 5417. This bipartisan bill will broaden police officers' access to juvenile records at the point of stop, streamline the juvenile arraignment process and allow a judge to order GPS tracking of certain juveniles awaiting trial. These enhanced enforcement mechanisms will be integral in disincentivizing juveniles from engaging in illegal behavior and better equip our entire criminal justice system with the tools to tackle this issue head-on.

Please continue to reach out to me at Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov with your questions and concerns regarding state issues.

Reducing Hate In Our Country



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

On May 14, an 18-year-old man driven by hate carried out a racist mass shooting at a supermarket in a mostly Black area of Buffalo, New York. Two days after that, a 36-year-old man carried out a racially motivated shooting in an Asian-owned hair salon in Dallas, Texas.

According to one study, hate crimes in big cities rose by 39 percent in 2021. That is especially scary when you consider 2020 was a record high for hate crimes.

What is driving this rise in hate in our country? More importantly, what can we do to stop it? Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need action. We all need to commit to making a difference, but how? What can we do as individuals? What can we do as a community? How can we stand together against hate?

Personally, I believe everyone should take part in bystander intervention training so when you see something happen, you have the tools to say something and intervene.

I received training in bystander intervention from an organization that is now known as RightToBe.org. One important thing I learned is that when a bias incident occurs, the severity of the incident is lessened for the victim if someone intervenes. If people are there but don't help, they become complicit, and it can magnify the severity.

I know that bystander intervention training is not enough. We need to do more. I am a fervent believer in the power of education. I believe that to better understand diverse cultures and beliefs, we need to learn more about them.

Connecticut was one of the first states to require teaching African American and Latino history in our public schools. This past year, we also became one of the first states to require teaching Asian American history. In addition, we voted to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday.

I read an excerpt from "A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America," and a quote resonated with me: "But denial of difference is not the road to harmony. It is the road only to a kind of false unity that is so fragile it will splinter at a touch."

It seems that our false unity has been splintering in the United States, and now more than ever it is important to learn how to appreciate and celebrate differences and understand that not everyone has the same story.

My position as a state senator gives me a platform to share my views, but my life experience does not make me qualified to give solutions. I have never been the victim of a bias incident. What I can share is the best advice anyone can give: listen more. We know that our brothers and sisters are hurting. All kinds of hate are spiking. Anti-Asian hate, anti-Semitism, violence against Black Americans. We need to have more conversations with friends who are different and really listen and try to understand the pain.

While it may seem to those of us who have never been victims of bias crimes that the hate in our country has never been worse, the truth is it has always been there. We need to learn more about what has happened to others who are different than us and commit to understanding. We need to have the tough conversations with friends and family. As we develop a mutual understanding, together we can chart the best path forward.

Access To Breast Cancer Screening



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

It may come as a surprise to many, but in Connecticut one in eight women will at some point in their lives be diagnosed with breast cancer.

That is why I cosponsored and supported legislation this year expanding a law to cover diagnostic breast cancer testing, as well as other important related coverages for those not insured by either individual or group health insurance plans.

We know one thing to be true when it comes to the fight against breast cancer: early detection is essential in beating this cancer. To this day, patients often delay diagnostic screening because their insurance either does not cover it or there are prohibitive out-of-pocket deductibles for the procedure.

The legislation, Senate Bill 358, An Act Concerning Required Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Health Benefits, expands insurance coverage requirements for mammograms, ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging for breast screenings under certain commercial health insurance policies.

The bill also requires the policies to cover certain procedures related to breast cancer treatment, including breast biopsies; certain prophylactic mastectomies; and breast reconstruction surgery, subject to certain conditions.

Additionally, the bill requires these health insurance policies to cover the following services related to the testing and treatment of ovarian cancer: ovarian cancer screening and treatment, including coverage for genetic testing for insureds with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer; routine screenings; CA-125 monitoring subsequent to treatment; and genetic testing of BRCA1, BRCA2 and other gene variants that increase a person's risk for breast, ovarian or other gynecological cancers.

It makes no sense not to cover these screenings, considering prevention is the most humane and cost-effective course of treatment. The law will provide for no out-of-pocket costs, no having to meet outrageous deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance or cost-sharing. There will be no financial barriers for anyone to go back and get essential follow-up diagnostic testing for a definitive answer. This bill will save lives and money by extending access to early-stage detection.

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 or at 800-842-1423.

Opinion & Editorial

Commentary:

Questioning Complacency With Amity Operations

When government agencies become complacent, bad things can happen. This usually is caused by indifference from the ultimate authority, the citizenry.

Don't get me wrong here: boards and commissions can be easily misled by a small vocal minority. But it is a board's responsibility to balance the various parts of its citizenry's opinions and come up with the right solution. When this doesn't occur, bad things can happen.

A school board is a classic example of what can happen when a tin ear is given to what turns out to be the citizenry's real opinion. In a school district, typically the school board only has one employee, the superintendent. It is the superintendent's job is to hire everybody else. So selection of a superintendent who carries out the board's policies is extremely important.

It is not the superintendent's role to tell the board what to do. When a superintendent forgets this, it is to their peril. Yes, an important duty of the superintendent is to advise the board when they see or need something to fulfill their obligations in running the district. But it is ultimately the board's decision to either accept or reject a policy that the superintendent wishes to pursue.

An elected school board is subject to the wishes of its citizenry, and when it fails in this role, bad things can happen. When budgets get rejected, this is a sign the board needs to reflect on what the citizenry is really telling them and not what they want to hear. Likewise, the superintendent should request direction from



THOMAS P. HURLEY

their boss, the school board, and not try to work around the board and public to accomplish things that are not wanted by the electorate.

When these issues come up, the board needs to respond to the superintendent in writing with specific direction as to what they want the district to do. This needs to be in publicly available documentation.

It has been 20 years since Amity's budget has been rejected. It took a lot of pain to bring trust back to the public arena. It required 18 referendums, the member town finance committees, a new finance system and a new procedures manual with a zero-based budget to realign the district's finances after a major fail of the board, superintendent and finance officer at

that time.

How do I know? I was in the middle of fixing it. The last 20 years brought a major sense of competence to the district's finances.

However, voter complacency may have lulled the board into a false sense of security, with ever-increasing budgets over that time. What has changed in Amity operations that an assistant superintendent position was announced and filled? Amity had been known for efficient operations and cited for the low number of administrators required to run the district.

When I was on the board, we realized that if part of the towns' elementary systems were added to the district, this assistant superintendent position would become necessary. What changed?

Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.

Ponder This

Nursing: A Profession Of Special Obligation And Privilege

I was honored to provide keynote remarks to the graduating class of the University of Bridgeport receiving the bachelor of science degree in nursing in 2022. It provided me with an opportunity to reflect on the nursing profession in the context of current national and world events.

I had aspirations to become a nurse at an early age, and a wise family elder encouraged with these words of counsel: "Good choice...there will always be a need for nurses, since there will always be war, infirmity, old age, birth, disease, pain, suffering and death."

What a statement to make to a young person desiring to enter the nursing profession.

These words have held over many years of practice in a variety of institutional and community settings, and I often return to reexamine and reflect on their meaning. Nurses have the privilege of practicing within the human condition, including joy, pain and suffering.

There is profound joy in witnessing the birth of a new baby or the exquisite intimacy of being present during death. Nurses have the privilege and legitimate power of touch that can be a transformative and intimate connection with those whom we serve.

However, it is this same beautiful privilege of helping others during pain and suffering that also creates a paradox. The human body sweats, oozes, bleeds, groans, writhes and yes, even decays in the process of life's journey. This special ability to assist with these raw human ex-

periences may make it easier for the nursing profession to be taken for granted. There is something quite earthy about nursing, something inherent in the human condition that repels others and perhaps causes dismissal of the importance of our work.

It is a time of celebration when you embark on your career, yet many challenges lie ahead. These are stressful times for people, the world and for the profession. The practice of nursing during pandemic times is difficult at best. Nurses, physicians and health care workers feel overwhelmed, underappreciated and under siege.

The American Nurses Association code of ethics states that "Nursing is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy." Nurses hold a sacred trust and legal accountability for individual clients in their care. But the responsibility extends beyond individual, personal interactions. Professional nurses have an obligation to their clients, the profession and to the health of the community. Only an autonomous profession can be accountable to protect the health, safety and rights of the patient by developing good policies to affect the delivery of quality care.

Florence Nightingale held the vision of nursing as a force to improve society. Corporations



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

– even nonprofits – operate within a for-profit industry and must not be allowed to view nursing through the prism of health care workers being interchangeable and replaceable. Salary and professional working conditions must acknowledge the education, credentials and experience of providers so they can more fully impact the welfare of their patients.

Once again language matters, especially in the workplace. We do not refer to lawyers as court workers; indeed, much essential legal practice takes place outside of the physical judicial system. The terms "lawyer" and "attorney" reflect a profession that entails education, credentials and the expertise of the individual practitioners.

Similarly, teachers are not school workers and must not be considered interchangeable with other categories of essential workers. Teachers are employed for their education, credentials and licensure rather than the necessary tasks that are also performed in the course of their practice.

This is also true for the nursing profession. It is incorrect and diminishing to view the practice of nursing by the tasks that are performed. They are nurses, not hospital workers.

The intimacy involved in nursing lends itself to the risk of taking the professional service for granted. According to the oath nurses take,

they do not have the right to hold the profession back. Nurses cannot be complicit in policies or actions that impede individual or collective obligation to care for others. If nursing accepts a blurring of boundaries or a diminution in credentialing, this diminishes both the power and obligation to help people; the ill, infirm, injured, aged and all those so in need of nursing.

Nurses must ask themselves: Is there something in the system that seems frozen yet prevents a fuller contribution? How can we help to change it? What are nurses doing that expends time, energy or resources yet keeps them from doing that which only professional nursing can provide? These are acts of omission rather than commission. What is not being accomplished for patients required by the professional license and oath of practice? The constraints of agency rules, policies, norms and revenues needs can interfere with good policy and practice.

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.

Letters to the Editor:

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

Praise For Beatty

To the Editor:

Once again I am so very impressed with Ellen Russell Beatty's astute analysis ("Language Can Guide Us," May 5, 2022) of dealing with privilege, status quos, the challenge for inclusion, equity, fairness and justice, and the need to be ever humble, vulnerable and absolutely committed to changing the dynamics of an embedded tiered-system based on gender, status, race and other variables that are used to keep the biased status quos in place. Her analysis is so well-argued and expressed. I hope the readers meditate on the critical points that she makes in her reflection. Congratulations, Ellen – it is amazingly well done and I thank you for your continuous feminist activist-teachings!

Rosalyn M. Amenta
Women's & Gender Studies Program
Southern Connecticut State University
New Haven

End of MEPI

To the Editor:

It is with both pride and gratitude that the Board of Milford Environmental Protection Initiative announces its decision to close our non-profit.

Our pride comes from knowing that since its founding in 2004, MEPI was a force for positive environmental action and education in Milford. We awarded 46 grants over the years to grantees who included: scouts and scout troops, the CT Audubon Coastal Center, the NOAA Fisheries Lab, the Milford Public Library, high school students and clubs, Milford Garden Club members and numerous other individuals who had a vision for environmental improvement in Milford.

These many grantees did much good work such as: planting pollinator gardens and rain gardens, cleaning open spaces of litter and invasive plants, installing nest boxes for bluebirds and recycling containers for fishing line, holding educational talks and workshops, conducting aquatic research, providing environmentally themed books for children, developing a management plan for Solomon Woods that ended damaging ATV use and so much more. Our pride in award-

ing grants is really our pride in our grantees' accomplishments.

We wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to all our grantees for their contributions to Milford, and to all community members who supported MEPI's efforts over the years with financial support and encouragement. It has been an honor

and a pleasure to contribute to the betterment of Milford's natural environment.

The MEPI Board

Jeanne Cervin, Barbara Milton, Anne Berman, Gail Dymling, Sherri Belden, Janet McAllister, Lori Romick

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Columnists:

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Annamarie Amore, Flooring | Matt Gallagher, Finances | Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health |
| Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences | Ben Gettinger, Probate | Michael Moses, Milford Chamber |
| Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This | Patricia Houser, Environment | Susan Oderwald, Senior Care |
| Cathy Bradley, Running | Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary | Trish Pearson, Insurance |
| Kathy Charbonneau, Orange Chamber | Jennifer Ju, Bias | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel |
| Steve Cooper, Food | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate | Priscilla Searles, Orange History |
| Rob Craft, Recovery | Dan May, Earth Science | PJ Shanley, Life Insurance |
| David Crow, Conversations | Marilyn May, Milford History | Loretta Smith, Recycling |
| Allison DePaola, Legal | Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances | Raymond Spaziani, Wine |
| Pat Dray, Gardening | Paige Miglio, Arts | Roger Tausig, Rotary |
| Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health | | Michele Tenney, Wellness |

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Your Health

Advanced Directives: Important To Understand

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Erin Wilson, an Orange resident with two years of experience as a registered nurse, triple-board certified in medical/surgical nursing, nursing leadership and nursing management. She obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees from Fairfield University and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at Sacred Heart University.

Wilson was instrumental during the early stages of the pandemic and managed a dedicated COVID-19 wing at the local hospital over the last two years. Being a dedicated health care worker, she has always taken her role as a patient advocate seriously. This means ensuring that her patients have all the pertinent information they need to make their own health care decisions.

Wilson became concerned after finding out that only 33 percent of adults have completed an advanced directive. She recently gave an informative presentation to the Orange health department staff on this topic. I requested her to share her knowledge to educate our residents.

"As a former Girl Scout, I've always held to the motto of 'Prepare for the worst, and hope for the best,'" she said. "And as we all know,

when the only two guarantees in life are death and taxes, then it's best to be prepared with an advanced directive.

"An advanced directive is truly a guideline. It's written instructions regarding one's end-of-life preferences. They can be highly-detailed or more generic. Advanced directives only go into effect when the person becomes unable to make their own decisions," she said.

"While each advanced directive is tailored and customized to the individual, there are a few topics that are often discussed, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the placement of a breathing tube and life support (the use of breathing machines and other medical devices). Some advanced directives also discuss specifics around nutrition and artificial feeding methods," she said.

"Of course, these are not easy decisions to make. These decisions can also be influenced by spouses, children or grandchildren. And while it's important to be open and honest with your family about your preferences, it's equally important to remember your own autonomy," she said.



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

"All advanced directives will ask the individual to name someone who will make health care decisions for them when they are unable to make decisions for themselves. This person is known as the power of attorney. This person should be selected after careful deliberation. Most importantly, this person should be aware that they have been chosen. It's important that this person is keenly aware of the individual's preferences and can be comfortable advocating for their end-of-life decisions," she said.

"If you don't have an advanced directive, in the US there are 'family consent laws' that provide a hierarchy of authorized family members to act as decision makers. In Connecticut the order of decision makers is spouse, adult son or daughter, parent, adult brother or sister and grandparent. For families with multiple adult children, this can become difficult as the law doesn't specify which child has this power. This is another reason why having an advanced directive is so important," she said.

"The biggest myth is the belief that an advanced directive is permanent. An advanced

directive that states 'No CPR' can be changed instantly to 'Full CPR' if the power of attorney decides as such. Another myth is that only 'older' or 'sick' persons need advanced directives when in fact all adults would benefit from having them. The last myth is that you need to hire a lawyer to complete an advanced directive. Blank, easy-to-use advanced directive forms can be found online and can be printed at home for free. The most important step after filling out an advanced directive is letting others know you've done so (your doctors, hospital and your family)," she said.

"There are several excellent resources available" to help people, she added. "The Conversation Project through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement is excellent. They created many useful guides such as 'Your Guide to Choosing a Health Care Proxy' (power of attorney), 'Your Guide to Talking with a Health Care Team' and 'Your Conversation Starter Guide.' There are also many medical bracelets and/or wallet cards titled 'advanced directive notification' for EMS to reference during an emergency."

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

Amity Theater Students Among Award Nominees

Students from Amity High School are among those nominated for the Stephen Sondheim Awards from the Broadway Method Academy in association with the Shubert Theatre of New Haven and Sacred Heart University's Theater Arts Department.

Over the past eight months, a panel of judges from the industry attended performances by 25 high schools, including Amity. The program's mission is to recognize excellence in high

school musical theater.

The Amity nominees are: Logan Keys and Leah Katz in the category of costume design; Robert Farbman as Harry Bright in the category of best supporting actor; Zola Kneeland as Tanya in the category of best actress; Andrea Kennedy in the category of best choreography; and Robert and Andrea Kennedy in the category of best direction. All nominations were for the performance of

Mamma Mia, which is also nominated under the best musical category.

The black-tie gala will take place on June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven.

"We are thrilled to return to the Shubert Theatre for another fantastic ceremony, celebrating the best that high school musical theater has to offer," said Broadway Method Academy founder Connor Deane. "We

are looking forward to bringing some of Broadway's brightest talents to share this special night with the next generation of musical theater performers."

The awards evening will also feature the presentation of special achievement awards, and all student stage managers will be honored.

Tickets for the gala are \$35 per person and are currently on sale through the Shubert box office or Ticketmaster.

TWO EXCITING ORANGE EVENTS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

JUNE 23, 2022

ORANGE

Artisan Fest & Vendor Fair

Orange Fairgrounds • 2:30 – 6:30 pm

525 Orange Center Road, Orange

VENDORS • FOOD TRUCKS • ACTIVITIES

LIVE MUSIC • GIVEAWAYS • NETWORKING

A great mix of Artisan, Business and Farm Vendors

OPENING DAY ~ JUNE 30, 2022

Orange Fairgrounds • 3:30 – 7:00

525 Orange Center Road, Orange

VENDORS • FOOD TRUCKS

LIVE MUSIC

Under the Pavilion all Summer!

Event runs each Thursday until 9/29

Vendors offering:

Fresh vegetables, herbs, flowers, sauces, jams, baked goods, soaps, candles, pottery, jewelry, crafts, & more

Scan to check our list of vendors

Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

Voting Open For Chamber Awards

Welcome to the 2022 Best of the Milford Region Awards and 40 Under 40.

These awards celebrate the best our community has to offer. The nominations are in, and the response has been overwhelming. Only the top businesses in each category made it to the final voting stage. We invite you to vote for your favorites in dozens of categories.

Winners will be recognized at a special event to be held at The Dockside in July – stay tuned for details.

Why are these contests important for businesses? They're not only extremely fun and engaging but also a great gift to marketers. They are cost-effective and expand your social reach exponentially. Giveaways and contests

help you generate leads, engage your customers and increase your audience reach, all at the same time.

Thirty-three percent of contest participants are open to receiving information about the brand and partners. Contestants spend an average of two minutes and thirty seconds on a contest app. Contests have a conversion rate of almost 34 percent, which is higher than other content types, and 94.46 percent of the time users share the promotion immediately after they register. Of the total participants, 62.13 percent share the promotion with a friend to suggest that they take part



MICHAEL
MOSES

too.

Here are some key demographics: 53 percent of participants of contests are male, while 47 percent are female. Sixty-eight percent of the participants are above 18 years old. The average age of participants is 30.

Contests have their own benefits. An average of over 34 percent of new customers are acquired through contests. Brands gain an average of 17,500 fans through organizing these campaigns on their fan page. Instagram accounts that hold contests grow their followers 70 percent faster on average than accounts

that don't hold contests. Active promotions get 30 percent more clicks than regular posts. And contest emails have an average open rate nearly double that of standard email marketing campaigns.

Vote today for your favorite businesses and help us choose the outstanding professional under 40. Collectively, they underscore what makes this region so special.

Michael Moses is the president of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-878-0681 or mmoses@milfordct.com.

Orange Chamber of Commerce

Keep The Heart In Our Community

"Community is a place where the connections felt in our hearts make themselves known in the bonds between people." – Parker J. Palmer

Orange has always held a special place in my heart. It's where I grew up. My dad, Bill Converse, was tax assessor for over 30 years. I have wonderful memories of skating at Wright's Pond, sledding at Grassy Hill Country Club, watching my brother pitch at Little League, meeting friends at the Orange Country Fair and Fireman's Carnival, getting ice cream at Dip Top and many more. These experiences cannot be manufactured or felt by anyone who has not lived or worked in Orange, past or present. They are the common threads that create a sense of belonging and passion for our hometown.

It seemed quite serendipitous when a year ago I saw an ad for the executive director position at the chamber. It presented an opportunity to come full circle, enabling me to give back to the town that gave so much to my family. I felt compelled to apply.

While interviewing, I learned the chamber was contemplating the best path forward as it faced the challenges brought about by the pandemic and its impact on businesses. When businesses struggle, chambers struggle.

Merging with another chamber was one of the options considered. But in the end, it was decided that having its own chamber was important to preserving the identity and town character of Orange. Our goal is to strengthen the fabric of our community to keep it vibrant for all. We are always striving to hold events, programs and activities designed to connect businesses, nonprofits and organizations with residents.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce certainly has one of the most affordable memberships in the area. We try to be as inclusive as possible for anyone wishing to join so they can tap into our resources to help them



KATHY
CONVERSE
CHARBONNEAU

achieve their objectives. This includes home businesses, small and medium size businesses and large corporations, as well as nonprofits and local organizations. All play critical roles in what makes our town so amazing and contribute to the qualities that make us want to live in Orange.

The best way you can support the chamber as a resident is to invest your spending in area businesses. When businesses flourish, so does the chamber and the entire community.

Beyond membership fees, we must continuously find ways to fund chamber efforts. You can help by attending chamber events, participating in programs and activities like the Shop Local Club and the Community Art Project, buying a bicentennial brick or purchasing items at our new online store, orangechamber.shop. Let's work together to keep the heart and bonds in our community

strong so Orange continues to be the unique and special place we all love.

Welcome to new chamber members Ed Knight of Transference, Connor David of Vital Strength and Performance and Tamara Ketchian of Wildwood Granola.

The chamber's Community Art Project was a great success. Thank you to partners Katie Kelly and Jennifer Narcisco of Art People, Judy Primavera and Fred Hulley of the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, premier sponsor SCG UI, seed package giveaway sponsor Myla Chadwick of Community Champions Network, Lynda Mason of The Milford Bank, Amy Neale of Otraway Promotional Products, Suzi and Ian Smolinsky of Stillwater Wellness and media sponsor the Milford-Orange Times.

Kathy Converse Charbonneau is the executive director for the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Contact her at 203-795-3328 or director@orangechamber.com.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Do You Have Home Equity Cash?

Now that the value of your property has substantially increased through the recent buying frenzy, why not invest the equity?

We all know that there are many ways to put your funds to good use. Real estate investments can include retirement, home improvements or a line of credit to buy whatever it is that you may need.

Ever thought of buying a second home – a second location not used as a rental property but solely as a seasonal family house? Do you know that you can buy it with as little as five percent down?

This discount in down payment has sparked the purchase of many beach homes and more and is indeed possible. An addi-

tional investment is, of course, rehabbing your present home to increase its value and make it more enjoyable.

You can also purchase a rental property. It doesn't have to be a multifamily home. Maybe instead you buy a condominium. With a condo, you don't have to worry about the maintenance of snow removal, landscaping or roof repairs. Of course, if you purchase income-producing properties, the down payment is

minimally between 25-30 percent.

The rental industry has low inventory,



BARBARA
LEHRER

similar to residential sales. What that means is that rentals are more expensive now and therefore will give you a greater rate of return. Keep in mind that becoming a landlord does have its pros and cons, so make sure to look over your finances, talent for minor fix-up projects and consult with an agent as to the best locations for income-producing properties.

Finally, the most popular use of equity is as a down payment on your next home. Here you may have the ability to purchase without having to first sell your current house. That's ideal, as many

bids are lost to buyers who do not have this contingency. If you qualify for the present expenses on your home and the new expenses to come, then you can get a loan and own two properties at the same time. Taxes and insurance are combined with monthly loan payments. If you can carry two homes, it is only for a few months. The market is so competitive this has become a differentiating factor when deciding which buyer may be best. Discuss it with your real estate agent and you may be pleasantly surprised.

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

Just Floored

Exploring Creative Commercial Flooring

Are you renovating a space for a new business? Opt for creative commercial flooring for a unique aesthetic that sets you apart.

Here are some of my favorite creative flooring ideas from Tarkett flooring. Tarkett luxury vinyl tile has multiple colors, textures and shapes to create an amazing pattern with interest and appeal. Instead of using one color you can change it up by using two or three in the space to create an amazing look.

Make your product selection shine by perfecting each detail of your retail space. This flooring is fresh and modern. Try a two-toned design for maximum style.

Stay away from stale carpeting and boring speckled tile; create a waiting room your patients and customers will enjoy spending time in with creative commercial flooring.

There are cool zig-zag designs to keep things contemporary in black and white. Herringbone patterns have become popular, with dark colors and coordinating wallpaper to compliment the space.

If your restaurant or pub is lacking luster, say cheers to a new flooring design. Masculine and rustic enough to be cool with the guys and sleek enough for the girls, this flooring is trendy and hip. If you're in a design rut, try playing with shapes in your design. Inlays of different colors and shapes can also be pleasing to the eye.

If you have extra room, create a relaxing Zen space for your employees to enjoy. This



ANNAMARIE
AMORE

design plays with lots of textured neutrals for a contemporary style that will last a while. Cultivate an elegant interior for your boutique with creative commercial flooring. This flooring's variation of color, placement and design is awesome. I love the cool color palette and original layout.

Floors play a pivotal role in the esthetics of interior design, given the surface area they are covering and the resulting visual impact. Play with light and use lighter hues to create a sense of space. Or if your room is large and you have enough natural light, couple that with darker shades

and fill the space with elegance.

Commercial flooring requires a higher degree of durability and design. Learn about what options you have for your business and research a complete flooring guide. If you own a business or other commercial operation, it's important to choose durable flooring that holds up well to a lot of foot traffic. Commercial flooring requires a higher degree of durability so that it lasts longer, which is why you need to know what options are available to you.

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

Foodie Foursome

Authentic Italian Cuisine On The Milford Green

Strega is an authentic Italian restaurant, pizzeria and bar located on River Street across from Milford Photo in the heart of downtown Milford. Their concept is a modern and relaxed restaurant that reflects the Italian roots where owners Danilo Mongillo and Rosanna Merenda were raised. All ingredients arrive weekly from Italy, including their bar stock. Some of their wines are imported from a family vineyard. The white, terreStregate, from their winery, was light, slightly fruity yet slightly dry – a nice combination that paired well with our dinner selections.

The name, Strega, means “witch” in Italian and is inspired by the legend of the janare of Benevento. Even today these “women priestesses of the goddess Diana” bestow upon Benevento an air of magic and intrigue. The play between food and the “Strega” women is historic. Using selective ingredients, Strega women created genuine dishes with simplicity, skill and imagination. These masterful skills and recipes are now artfully crafted in this intimate Milford restaurant.

On this evening Cindy and I were joined by friends Rose and Linda. Each of our culinary choices (appetizers, entrees and desserts) were shared among us to create a unique tasting experience for discussion.

Our starters were varied and discernable as to their quality and authenticity. First out was an incredible platter called “misto,” an assortment of imported Italian cured meats and cheeses, like no other. The prosciutto di Parma, salame napoletano, mortadella,

caciocavallo, gorgonzola, provolone and Parmigiano Reggiano were served with olives and focaccia bread. The meats were so tender, tasteful and subtle while the cheeses were wonderful. The Parmigiano was creamy and not as dry or sharp as what we are accustomed to. Though I’m not usually a fan of gorgonzola, after one taste it became a favorite. The subtle, smooth taste and texture was a delight on their homemade focaccia.

That was followed by the polpette di angus, three nice-sized angus meatballs with Strega sauce (made with authentic San Marzano tomatoes) and Parmigiano Reggiano. They were very tender and tasty, and the sauce was spot-on “tomatoey,” gently seasoned and without the acidity.

The capesante e carciofi was a unique presentation of scallops with artichoke puree, artichoke heart and cherry tomato confit, subtle in taste and texture. The last appetizer was melanzana ripiena. This lightly fried eggplant was filled with mozzarella and Parmigiano Reggiano, topped with confit cherry tomato, San Marzano tomato mousse and basil powder. The connection of each element made for a unique and tasty dish.

Strega has at least 18 varieties of Neapolitan style, hand crafted pizza; we had to check it out. The dough is allowed to poof for 40 hours with an abundance of moisture, and cooked in a high temperature oven, which gives an incredible crust with bite and



STEVE COOPER

stability, yet light and airy. The savory ingredients seem to almost reside in a pool surrounded by the pizza crust. When trying pizza for the first time in a new restaurant I like to go with plain or something I know well. This time we went with the ever-popular margherita. The personal-style pizza gave each of us a nice-sized slice. The pizza was calling my name and was “as advertised.” It had great sauce (as was the case on all dishes), great taste and the crust was unique to the area and a perfect partner to my espresso martini.

Our entrees were diverse, unique and authentic Italian dishes. The servings were consistent with those of European restaurants. We started with baccala alla puttanesca, a Mediterranean cod over San Marzano tomato sauce, black olives, capers, oregano and chili pepper. The stinco di agnello was a lamb shank with rosemary fingerling potato and red peppers. The simplicity of both was impressive. The baccala was not as it is usually prepared locally with a dried fish. This was fresh cod that melded well with the other ingredients for a dish with a different complex taste. The lamb shank was tender, slow cooked, and served with a savory sauce that makes for a rich fusion of tastes.

The next entrée was muscolo di manzo, a slow-cooked beef muscle, sunchoke purée and baby carrots. This unique cut was cooked “low and slow,” and the puree and

carrots made for a perfect accompaniment. The beef was fork tender and, along with the puree, a nice execution of flavor. Our last entrée was creamy, silky and delicious. The cannelloni al forno, a cannelloni pasta, was stuffed with ricotta and mozzarella and smothered with an Italian wild mushroom bechamel sauce. The perfectly cooked pasta, the cheesy filling and tasty sauce were elegant in their simplicity and a perfect end to this chapter of our dinner.

Our evening concluded with cappuccino and dessert. The espresso was rich in flavor and had a perfect foam. Their tiramisu, a mascarpone mousse, Savoiardo cookie and coffee layered in a glass mug was scrumptious. It had a great flavor and texture without being too wet. The cannoli was presented in a “deconstructed” manner to appreciate the tasty crunchy shell with the delectable filling. The last was a creamy, fresh custard with pistachios and short-crust pastry. Every dessert was as tasty and fresh as it was artfully plated.

Strega’s is open Monday through Saturday from 4 p.m. to midnight. They are located at 9 River St. June will be their first anniversary, so treat yourself to their hospitality, cuisine and bar specials. You won’t be disappointed. For reservations call 203-283-1849.

Steve Cooper is a photographer and event promoter. He runs the Milford Performance Center.

Insuring Your Future

What’s Different About The Summer Of 2022? Travel

Learning to live with COVID now includes making travel plans. People are scheduling travel that was planned two years ago, including trips out of the country. As a result, several questions have arisen regarding what travel insurance will cover.

Airlines and many countries are requiring proof of vaccination, and some countries are requiring a negative test within a certain timeframe. Both of these expenses are covered by health insurance. COVID-related cancellation is covered under most travel insurance policies. In other words, if you have to cancel/postpone a trip because of a positive COVID diagnosis, any non-refundable costs would be covered.

The cost of medical care due to COVID is covered the same as any other illness that requires medical attention during the course of the trip. Some countries are requiring proof of “COVID” coverage. Because we are still considered to be in a pandemic

situation, they can require such proof as it relates to that specific condition. In most cases, a person’s regular health insurance will cover expenses for treatment in another country, including COVID-related illnesses. The challenge is that the facility may not have a way to process a claim, so they will require payment up front. The traveler may then ask to be reimbursed by their insurance carrier after returning home. Always keep receipts for any payment to a doctor, hospital, clinic or pharmacy.

Travel insurance is highly recommended for anyone traveling outside the US. It should include protection for lost luggage, missed connections and trip cancellation as well as emergency medical assistance.

Depending on where you are, the medi-



TRISH PEARSON

cal facility may not accept your health insurance. So be prepared to pay out of pocket and then request reimbursement. If you have a deductible as part of your health plan, the travel policy will cover most, if not all, of the expense. Make sure that the policy includes emergency evacuation to a larger medical facility.

The premiums are based on the length, value of the trip and your age. Companies offer a variety of packages based on the maximum limits for various coverages. The trip cancellation benefit is determined by the amount of benefit purchased. Generally, the cost is a small price to pay for protection in the event of an unexpected medical incident. Some plans will also assist with transport and delivery of forgotten passports.

Travel insurance can be purchased from

an insurance agent or travel agent. Some airlines and credit card companies also offer plans, but they may not include comprehensive medical coverage. There are certain guidelines about when to purchase travel insurance. The usual recommendation is to buy it within the month you’re going to travel.

Don’t let fear of unexpected circumstances – including COVID – keep you from planning that trip. Just make sure to take proper precautions and purchase travel insurance so that an unexpected event doesn’t cost you anything but aggravation. Enjoy the summer, stay safe and don’t forget to wear sunscreen.

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

Travel Matters

Resort Review: Secrets Akumal Riviera Maya

I just spent five glorious days at a business conference in Riviera Maya. Usually “glorious” does not go with “business conference.” But it does when you are staying at Secrets Akumal, an adults-only all-inclusive resort near Tulum.

Secrets is part of the AM Resorts group and promises “unlimited luxury.” This resort delivers on that promise and includes full breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks each day. It has bottomless fruit juices and soft drinks, international and domestic premium beer and top-shelf spirits, nightly entertainment, three swimming pools, a fitness center, currency exchange, concierge services and taxes.

Expansive, yet private due to a lush and tropical garden atmosphere, this resort is a five-star property offering swim-out suites, a beautiful beach and VIP treatment. The world’s second largest barrier reef lies less

than a mile offshore. It’s is an all-suite property, with private balconies or terraces, 42-inch satellite TV with smart system, iPod docking station, spacious bathrooms with shower and whirlpool for two, bathrobes and slippers, coffee maker and mini-bar refreshed daily.

There are multiple pools, including beachside pools with swim-up bar that becomes active later in the afternoon. A massive quiet pool near the spa features floating mats provided by the resort for your own private Zen moments. A sports bar with billiards or drinks served to your lounge chair are served by attentive staff.

Dining venues do not require reservations at any of seven restaurants, including an Ar-



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

gentinian steakhouse, seafood, pan-Asian, market café, Italian, wine cellar and French spot. A 24-hour coffee house is a nice touch for early morning departures and early risers.

All food is excellent (my favorite was soups and desserts) and allergies are taken seriously. Room service is available 24 hours as well. Entertainment is both authentic and unexpected, including an AkumArt show put on by local artisans and a Beatles retrospective with a great setting around the pool. Rock bands perform later at night in a theater and a disco is available.

The spa is on a grand scale with an outdoor hydrotherapy circuit and luxurious treatment rooms offering signature massages

and facials, with a full beauty salon.

If you are planning a special event, such as wedding, shower, bachelor party or conference, this resort does events right. They have an average of five events going on each night, but each private event is in a protected lush garden area, or high above and looking over the property - and you have no idea that you are not the only event of the evening.

Although the resort is 60-90 minutes from Cancun Airport, its only 20 minutes from Tulum and 25 minutes from Playa del Carmen and Xcaret – accessible to all the top excursions.

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

Here's To Your Health

Depression, Anxiety And Endorphins

You are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body. It seems everywhere we turn these days different opinions, adversity and division are all around us. Let's face it, these past two-plus years have been hard. I don't know anyone who has survived these years without feeling some anxiety or depression, or both at one time or another.

But here's the good news: your body has endorphins that will combat them both.

Depression and anxiety are sometimes treated with medications; however, others may prefer a more natural approach. A 2018 study in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* showed that exercise resulted in a greater reduction of depression symptoms as well as greater sleep quality and cognitive function. Getting 30 minutes of exercise three to five times a week has shown to not only

reduce depression but reduces inflammation and decreases the release of stress hormones.

If that isn't enough to get you motivated, here's some more good news. Exercise can help boost self-esteem and help give people a better outlook on life in general, with fewer negative thoughts.

I recently met a remarkable woman in her 70s who is running marathons to help her cope with the death of her son.

I was so honored and privileged to hear her story while giving her a good stretch before a race. She found a way to release her grief and help her stay focused and healthy all at the same time. She's a true inspiration.



MICHELE TENNEY

We can all do a little better to be kinder to one another, bearing with one another for the sake of peace, agreeing to disagree and respect each other's views even if drastically different from our own. We need to be intentional about our own inner peace and make sure we aren't losing hope.

Exercising doesn't have to be done alone. Grab a buddy and go for a hike. Taking walks on the beach during sunrise or sunset is another option. Gardening counts as exercise. My husband and I have been very busy getting our gardens going.

Just be sure to get a good sweat going when you do exercise. Heart rate increase is essential to kicking in those endorphins.

It's wise to get an exercise program developed for you personally by a professional when dealing with chronic illness, injuries, dietary restrictions and the like. Now is the time. There's no more time to waste in getting you back on track living your best life possible. I encourage you to begin today.

A journey of 10,000 miles begins with a single step. Take that step. You can do this. 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.

The Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary Calling For Speakers

By Roger Tausig



As many of you may know, Rotary Club of Orange, like most other Rotary clubs, meets once a week. Oftentimes when I tell this to

people who are unfamiliar with Rotary, they are quite surprised by the frequency of our meetings. After all, in this age when everybody is so busy, it seems like a lot of time to devote to this type of activity.

However, there is some wisdom to meeting regularly that I first learned about when I went for my training prior to becoming the club's president four years ago. At a workshop that I

attended that addressed the subject of how to have successful meetings, the workshop leader stressed the importance of regular meetings as being critical to creating cohesion among the club members. He emphasized that when people come together on a regular basis they strengthen their relationships through fellowship. The makes them more likely to want to participate in the many worthy projects that the club undertakes to deliver on our pledge to provide services and aid to those in need locally, regionally and globally.

I also learned that people are more likely to attend meetings that are interesting and offer an opportunity to learn or simply be entertained. With the onset of COVID-19 over two years ago, our meeting format changed to Zoom, which was less than ideal in general

and made it particularly challenging to incorporate speakers into our meetings.

If you or someone you know is interested in speaking at one of our lunch meetings (we have two each month), we would love to hear from you. Our goal is to provide our members with a rewarding experience when they come to a meeting. Over the years that I have belonged to our Rotary club in Orange, I have heard many interesting people speak on topics that enriched us, educated us and entertained us.

Examples of past speakers are a CPA who informed us about the new changes to the IRS tax code, a motivational speaker who taught about happiness and how to adjust our thinking to achieve it, an acupuncturist, a hypnotist, an expert on local wildlife, an expert on home

organization and decluttering, a chiropractor, elected state officials, a feng shui practitioner and many more diverse and interesting presenters. One speaker was a member who had struggled with a serious, life threatening illness that nearly took their life. They survived to share their story with fellow members.

These meetings were well attended until the pandemic started, which obviously put a wrench in things. But as people feel more comfortable with mixing and mingling in person, our live meetings will resume, so it is critical that we make them as interesting as possible.

If you have a profession, pastime or entertaining skill that you would like to share with our club, please contact me at rogetausig@yahoo.com. We'd love to hear from you.

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Wine Talk

Porto: Fortified Wine From Portugal

Porto is a natural, rich fortified wine produced from grapes grown in the Douro region of north Portugal. The wine is matured in wood before being blended and bottled.

Vines and wine existed in the Douro region since the times of the Romans and the Visigoths. The Methuen Treaty of 1703 between Portugal and England was crucial for the future of Porto, granting it preferential taxes for the Portuguese over French products, including wines.

Porto as we know it today was not yet discovered. Douro wines were full-bodied, intense in colors and flavors. They were also likely to ferment during transportation, which was a long journey during those times. Some "brandy" was added to help stabilize the wine for its long journey, and Porto was born.

The Douro Valley is among the oldest wine growing regions in the world. It was first delimited in 1756 by order of the Marquis de Pombal. It comprises approximately 900,000 acres and has unique climatic conditions. Winemakers had to cut and hand-build terraces to hold the rocky soil and prevent erosion. The mountains and valleys, proximity to the river, exposure to sun and shelter from wind create a patchwork of microclimates that result in a wide variety of wines. Both the cli-

matic and human factors contribute to the classification and registration of the vines in the Douro in quality scale, from A to F.

Native red and white grapes are grown, traditionally mixed in the vineyard. Varieties such as Touriga Nacional and Touriga Francesa were selected to make the best Porto. Both of these are red wine grapes. The vines struggle for nourishment in the poor rocky schist soils. The rocks absorb heat in the daytime and release heat at night, maintaining a relatively constant temperature. This is important for sugar concentration. The grapes mature in the summer and are fully ripe by September. The harvest lasts four to six weeks.

Due to the difficult landscape, the harvest is done by hand, traditionally by women, while men transport the grapes in big baskets that can weigh 60 pounds each. Today, top quality grapes are transported in small interlocking boxes that give a more gentle treatment and prevent premature crushing and fermentation. Traditionally, the grapes were trodden by men's feet in open stone tanks. Today, they are vinified in modern wine centers to guarantee the best and most consistent quality.



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

On arrival at company wine centers, grapes are assessed for quality, de-stalked and crushed, and the resulting mass is transferred into stainless steel tanks where fermentation takes place under controlled temperature and pH levels.

When fermentation has reached the desired sugar levels, the fermenting must is taken into a storage vat and brandy is added at the same time. This addition results in a naturally sweet, fortified wine. The new Porto will age for three years before being released to the market, first in large oak vats in the Douro valley. Within a year the wines are transported to traditional aging lodges in Vila Nova de Gaia. Transport is made in sealed stainless steel tanker trucks to guarantee quality. Upon arrival at V.U. Gala, the wines are tasted and stored according to quality.

There are three basic types of Porto wine: ruby, tawny and white. White Porto is made from white grapes using the same winemaking process as red Porto. White Porto can be made dry, medium or sweet. Ruby and tawny Portos are both made from red grapes, but have dif-

ferent evolutions. All red Portos initially have deep purple colors and fresh red fruit aromas. These are classified as rubies. Take this wine and place it in oak and the color changes to amber. The aromas also become more complex. These are called tawny.

With the exception of dated wines, Porto is generally a selection of different wines from several years. The head taster continuously monitors the wines, and they are blended and finalized according to the commercial brand and style of the company. Vintage Porto is also classified under a special category. This wine is matured in the bottle and is an exceptional wine from a single year. These are aged from five to over 15 years and are bottled two years after the harvest.

Try some tawny, ruby or white Portos and see which one becomes your favorite.

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.

Milford Duck Race Approaching

The United Way of Milford will host its third annual Milford Harbor duck race on Saturday, June 4. This year's festivities will begin at 1 p.m. at Fowler Field.

"We have exciting features planned for this year's race including a kids' activities area, face painting by Nicole, live entertainment by DJ Jeff - Decades Entertainment, food trucks, vendors, followed by the duck race at 3:30 p.m. where up to 10,000 rubber ducks will be dropped into the Wepawaug

River for a race to the finish line," said Mary D'Amato, Duck Race Committee chair. "This is a fantastic opportunity for families to come out and enjoy an afternoon full of activities, entertainment, music and food. The duck race celebrates the organization's commitment to help people and it's a way for the city to gather together and support the Milford community."

Lucky ducks can be adopted online at milfordduckrace.com. Admission is free

to watch the race; tickets to participate and win one of over 75 prizes are \$5 per duck. The top five prizes for the duck race include a 65-inch smart TV, an Apple iPad, an Apple watch, a kayak and Apple Air Pods.

Another added attraction is a corporate duck race, where a corporate duck can be purchased for \$100 with cash prizes of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 being awarded to the winners.

The United Way of Milford is currently

accepting sponsors for the event. A sponsor can be an individual, a family, a company, agency or club. Call United Way of Milford at 203-874-6791 if you would like to participate. All proceeds will go to support the agency's 21 partner agencies, its diaper bank and its emergency fund.

For more information, visit milfordduckrace.com, call 203-874-6791 or visit facebook.com/milfordduckrace for the most up-to-date event information.

Estate Planning Checklist

Protecting What's Important to You

- Last Will and Testament
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Health Care Instructions
- Living Trust (aka Revocable Trust)
- Review/update designated beneficiaries
- Schedule free consultation with attorney to review

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The Garden Spot

Watch Out For Ticks

Earlier this spring, I noticed a bite that was quite red, and sure enough, found a tick imbedded in my neck. My husband couldn't remove it so we went to urgent care. The physician could not remove a part of the tick, so I was treated with the assumption that the tick was carrying Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria).

I'm sure that if you spend any amount of time outdoors, you'll find a tick or two on yourself or your pet sometime this spring and summer.

First identified in Lyme, Connecticut in 1975, Lyme disease is now the most common tick-borne illness in Europe and the US.

Although most of us will immediately fear Lyme disease if we discover an imbedded tick on our bodies, seven new tick-borne illnesses have been discovered over the past

20 years. It will generally take between 10 minutes and two hours for a tick to imbed itself on a host and spread disease, so avoidance and prompt removal of any ticks is key to illness prevention.

According to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, about 75 percent of Lyme disease cases are associated with activities around the home, either while playing, doing yard work or gardening. Since ticks live in areas with tall grass, brush or wooded areas, when enjoying the outdoors avoid tall grasses, wood piles and shrubs.

Ticks don't "jump" – they play contact sports only. Wear a hat and long, light colored pants tucked into your socks so that



PAT DRAY

you see any ticks easily and can remove them before they reach your skin. Use Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. You can treat your clothing with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin, which will remain protective through several washings. You can even buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear, including special socks.

I spray my gardening pants and hat with repellent and always leave them outside between washing just in case they have a hitchhiker on board. Shower as soon as possible upon coming indoors, but always within two hours to minimize the potential for

any tick to imbed itself. Wash clothing in hot (not warm) water, or put it in the dryer on high for 10 minutes to kill any ticks that may have attached themselves.

It's also important to check your pets for ticks, since they can bring one into the house where it may then migrate to you. There are a wide variety of prescription medications (oral and topical) for protecting pets against ticks.

Follow these tips and have a safe and enjoyable summer. Please join the Garden Club of Orange as we help celebrate the town's 200th birthday by hosting a standard flower show, "Bicentennial Blooms," on June 5 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the High Plains Community Center Gym.

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

Milford-Orange Probate Court

Addressing Conservatorship Abuse Or Overreach

A few high-profile cases have recently brought public attention to conservatorships and the potential for conservatorship abuse or overreach. Connecticut probate courts have a number of procedures and safeguards in place to prevent, identify and remedy such abuse or overreach. This column will highlight some of the procedures and safeguards in place for involuntary conservatorships.

In Connecticut, all conservatorship hearings are recorded and all witnesses are put under oath. The initial hearing cannot take place unless the subject of the involuntary conservatorship hearing (known as the "respondent") has at least a 10-day notice. The notice of the hearing must be served on the respondent to confirm the notice requirement has been met. The hearing cannot take place unless the hearing notice was properly and timely served.

In general, the hearing cannot take place unless the respondent was examined by a physician no earlier than 45 days prior to the hearing. The physician must submit a report

detailing their medical findings and answer a number of questions about the respondent to assist the court in determining if a conservatorship is appropriate.

Unlike in some states, the respondent is guaranteed the opportunity to have an attorney throughout the entire involuntary conservatorship process. If the respondent is indigent or otherwise cannot afford an attorney, the attorney will get paid through the probate court administration fund. The attorney will advocate on behalf of the respondent at the initial hearing and throughout the process if an involuntary conservatorship is ordered.

If a conservatorship is ordered, it will be subject to court review in a year and then every three years. The purpose of the review is to determine if the conservatorship is still appropriate. In addition, the conservator of the person must file a conservator's report at



BEN GETTINGER

least once a year. The conservator of the estate must file a financial report after the first year and then every three years and must keep all supporting documentation, such as bank statements, invoices and canceled checks.

If a conservator of the estate is ordered, the court will generally order a bond if the total assets are over \$20,000 or there is over \$10,000 in unrestricted assets. The conservatorship may also be subject to a random financial audit.

There are also restrictions on the conservator's powers. For example, a conservator must get court approval before placing the respondent in an institution for long term care, changing the respondent's residence, terminating the respondent's lease, disposing of the respondent's furnishings, selling the respondent's real estate or consenting to psychiatric medication.

Finally, the respondent has the right to try to terminate the conservatorship. The respondent may request termination at any time. A hearing must be held within 30 days of the request. The respondent does not need to submit medical evidence. The respondent also has a lower burden of proof than the initial burden of proof needed to grant the conservatorship. The burden of proof to terminate is a "preponderance of the evidence" that the respondent is capable, whereas the burden of proof needed to grant an involuntary conservatorship is "clear and convincing evidence" that the respondent is incapable.

Even with these procedures and safeguards in place, involuntary conservatorships in Connecticut are not infallible. Please feel free to call the Milford-Orange Probate Court at 203-783-3205 if you have any concerns, suggestions or general questions about conservatorships.

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

Personal Experiences

Eating For People And The Planet

As society progresses, we are moving toward a more plant-based culture. You may be wondering why we are shifting toward a more plant-based lifestyle. Is it for health? Could it be geared around spiritual belief? Or is it simply for the betterment of our environment?

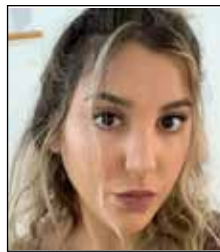
The answer could be all of the above or none. Choosing a more mindful way of eating is individual to the person who decides to change their lifestyle.

A plant-based diet means many different things to various people. For a few, it's adding more greens and nutrients. For

others, it's a stricter way of life. Eating a strict plant-based diet can look like someone only nourishing themselves with what grows from the earth.

No matter how a plant-based diet is executed, there is nothing but upside.

Adding more plants and lessening the consumption of meat and dairy has not gained popularity because of celebrities or for the possibility of weight loss. It is



CAROLINA AMORE

becoming more known because it is helping the planet and the quality of life for people and animals.

According to Dr. Marco Springmann of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food, "Imbalanced diets, such as diets low in fruits and vegetables, and high in red and processed meat, are responsible for the greatest health burden globally and in most regions. At the same time, the food system is also responsible for more than a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore a major driver of climate change."

A plant-based diet has fewer calories, no cholesterol and is more nutrient-dense and rich in vitamins. For most people, it comes down to one question: is it worth the sacrifice? That entirely depends on you. A strict vegan diet isn't for everyone, but a plant-based diet can be.

Eating a plant-based diet could be as simple as choosing more environmentally conscious options and adding a healthier variety to your daily

diet. The word vegan has a lot of connotations – some negative and some positive. For people who have eaten meat their entire life without a second thought, the words plant-based or vegan might seem foreign.

But the way our culture is shifting is toward a more plant-based world. This shift in how we perceive and act on our nourishment is to create a healthier, more sustainable life for people, animals and the planet.

We all strive to live long, healthy lives, and the first step in that goal is ensuring we are treating ourselves and our world with the compassion it deserves. Choosing healthier and environmentally friendly food options is easier than ever, as these items are becoming more accessible every day.

Change never flourishes when forced; it must be nurtured and chosen. Moving forward in your day, choose to be mindful of each moment you are a part of, each step you take and how you choose to nourish yourself.

As long as you remain self-aware in as many otherwise mundane moments as possible, you are closer to the goal of healthy living.

Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.

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Why State Budget Reserves Matter

Connecticut is one of many states that use reserves and fund balances to manage budgetary uncertainty, including revenue forecasting misses, budget gaps during economic downturns and other unforeseen emergencies like natural disasters. This financial cushion can soften the blow for spending cuts or tax increases when states need to balance their budgets.

Because reserves and balances are vital to managing unexpected changes and maintaining fiscal stability, state reserves are closely monitored by bond rating agencies. For example, in March 2021 Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings upgraded Connecticut's credit rating for the first time in 20 years. This was thanks to a strong stock market and surging state income and business tax receipts, which led to a boosted budgetary reserve.

This was a monumental milestone for Connecticut and started with Gov. Ned Lamont's corporate business-like approach, managing with fiscal discipline by building reserves and targeting some of the reserves to pay down another \$3.6 billion on the state's pension obligations.

So how has Connecticut weathered the pandemic storm compared to other states? At the close of fiscal year 2021, the first full budget year affected by the pandemic, Wyoming recorded the nation's largest rainy day reserves as a share of operating costs (301 days). North Dakota (115.7), Alaska (111.7) and New Mexico (101) were the only other states with more than 100 days' worth of operating costs set aside.

Thirty-six states had increases in days' worth of operating costs compared with the year before, and 23 states hit record highs. Kentucky had the greatest increase in days (51.2), followed by California (40), Colorado (34.4), New Hampshire (34) and – in fifth – Connecticut (27.6).

However, Connecticut now needs to prepare for a potentially significant economic recession, which will certainly generate revenue volatility in the coming two budgetary years and may require the state to dip into larger reserves. I predict this will happen in the third or fourth quarter of this year.



**KEVIN
MCNABOLA**

Most states have avoided tapping their rainy day funds since the outset of the pandemic-driven recession in early 2020. In general, states were cautious about using their dedicated savings accounts because of uncertainty about how the pandemic and resulting recession would play out, as well as about the availability and extent of federal aid. Instead of first drawing down savings, most states managed fiscal 2020 budget gaps through a combination of spending cuts, early federal aid to state governments and a historically high cache of ending balances that had built up over two previous years of widespread revenue surpluses.

States, including Connecticut, learned a valuable lesson from the 2007-2009 economic downturn, when tax revenue losses far outstripped savings and nine states nearly or completely emptied their rainy day funds by the end of fiscal 2008. States had pumped up total savings enough before the pandemic to run government operations for a medi-

um of 28.9 days – equivalent to 7.9 percent of spending. That was compared with 17.3 days, or 4.7 percent of spending, just before the Great Recession of 2008. At least 36 states could have covered a greater amount of government spending as they entered the pandemic than they could have prior to the Great Recession.

With inflation at 40-year highs and disruptions to the supply chain, it will be important for Connecticut and all states to first closely monitor their reserves and have a forward-looking fiscal approach in conducting long-term budget projections.

States like Connecticut are more likely to see an economic impact because of heavy reliance on the stock market and state income and business tax receipts, which generate a high percentage of revenues. Connecticut will need to continue to weather the storm in the days, weeks and months ahead and prepare for the challenges that lie ahead in what will most likely be a down-cycle economy.

Kevin McNabola is a member of the Orange Board of Finance and finance director for the town of Meriden.

Recycling Tip: What's The Story With Plastic Foam?

By Loretta Smith

My husband just brought me a latte with extra foam. That's my favorite: thick foam on top. Doesn't that make you drool?

Let's talk about foam, but not the milky type – the type used for food packaging. It comes in at least three colors: white, green and black. As you know, those packages often come in

the form of little trays or containers.

The white and green are used to hold fruit and vegetables. Black and white ones hold meat. They have the familiar triangle with the number six in it, implying the tray could be recycled.

But wait – recycle foam? No. It is polystyrene foam, a petroleum-based plastic, a lightweight material with about 95 percent air. It

does not break down over time. Some experts estimate it could take 500 years to decompose. It is toxic and a major environmental problem.

Every day, around 1,400 tons of plastic foam is buried in US landfills; it takes up more space than any other waste. California and some US cities have banned its use. And some national coffee chains have changed to cardboard containers.

How can we help? Simple: bring your own travel mug and takeout container. Travel mugs were banned by some establishments during COVID, but I just read they are allowed again. I've put mine in my car so it will be ready when I need my coffee fix. How about you?

For more, visit orangerecycles.com or facebook.com/ORCinCT.

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

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For Nature's Sake

Protecting Everyone From Pollution – Equally

Some people are exposed to more pollution in Connecticut than others. Some neighborhoods, because of the number of smokestacks and landfills and highways nearby, have air quality problems that put every resident there (even before birth) at a higher-than-average risk for heart disease, diabetes, asthma and more.

That disturbing and uneven distribution of pollution in Connecticut, and the US as a whole, is significantly due to historic, race-based real estate and zoning policies. (For examples, see the March 2022 New York Times article, "How Air Pollution Across America Reflects Racist Policy from the 1930s.")

As we approach our second official celebration of "Juneteenth" on June 19, a holiday commemorating the end of slavery, it seems a good time to reflect on how bias and pollution have combined to burden low-income groups and people of color, locking them into neighborhoods and homes that are, literally, toxic.

Some key events and facts related to the need for greater "environmental justice" are highlighted in this quiz:

Question 1: So-called "Cancer Alley" is a notoriously toxic corridor in the US – an 85-mile stretch including more than 150 petrochemical plants and refineries, with a majority Black population where, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, an individual is 95 percent more likely to get cancer from air pollution than the average American.

Where is cancer alley? a) Louisiana, b) Texas, c) Oklahoma, d) Illinois

Question 2: Starting in 2014, residents in this majority Black city complained for 18 months about foul smelling and discolored water that caused hair loss and skin rashes. Public officials did not correct the problem until thousands of children had been exposed to lead contamination in the water.

That city was: a) Nashville, Tennessee, b) Flint, Michigan, c) Glastonbury, Connecticut

Question 3: True or false: In the US, according to a 2019 study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, non-Hispanic white people experience around 17 percent less air pollution exposure than is caused by their consumption.

Question 4: True or false: According to the same 2019 study, African Americans experience 56 percent more pollution than their consumption generates and Latinx people experience 63 percent more pollution than their consumption generates.

Question 5: True or false: In Connecticut, the recent strengthening of the state environmental justice law allows a community to stop a new factory from being built in an already over-polluted community.

Answer 1: a) Louisiana – The stretch along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans is nicknamed Cancer Alley. Texas is not a bad second guess, though, given the 2021 research of ProPublica and its online interactive, "Most Detailed Map of Cancer-Causing Air Pollution in the United States," which shows 1,000 "hotspots" around the country and locates five of the 20 most toxic places nationwide in Texas.

Answer 2: b) Flint, Michigan. Among other things, the Flint crisis alerted many Americans to the dangers of lead in water. The EPA and health experts agree: no amount of childhood lead exposure is safe. In Connecticut, according to a March 2022 public radio report, health experts have found that Hispanic and non-Hispanic Asian children of the same age in our state were twice as likely to have elevated lead levels than white children. Non-Hispanic Black children under 6 years old were 2.6 times more likely to have lead poisoning than white children.



PATRICIA HOUSER

Answer 3: True. White populations generally have what the study calls a "pollution advantage" in that they feel the impact of whatever waste leaves their homes less than others. Once the garbage truck leaves the curb or the toilet is flushed or the sink drained, many Americans don't tend to think about the destination of their waste. Others live downstream and downwind of effluent and emissions at the end of that waste stream.

Sharon Lewis, the executive director of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, tells people, "You have no idea what it's like living near an incinerator because you send your trash to a transfer station and you walk away and you don't know where it goes. Well, I'm letting you know this trash goes to an urban area where people breathe this trash being burned 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Answer 4: True. Lewis cites disproportionate pollution burdens as an example of an "environmental wrong."

"Environmental justice is righting an environmental wrong," she notes. "Unfortunately, not everyone has access to clean and healthy environments. Many people are disproportionately exposed to the environment's ills as opposed to the environment's benefits. Some people never enjoy the benefits. So, for me true justice comes when everyone shares equally in the burdens and the benefits."

Answer 5: False. There is much to celebrate in Connecticut's 2020 legislation to strengthen our state's environmental justice law. It improves requirements for engaging the local community when a new, potentially polluting, facility is proposed for a neighborhood; it also adds mitigation requirements.

However, Connecticut state agencies still

do not have the power to outright deny a permit to a new factory or plant in an already burdened community. The two states that have added that authority in landmark legislation, are New Jersey in 2020 and New York in 2021.

When asked what residents from Milford and Orange can do to support greater environmental justice, Lewis agreed with the idea of lowering one's waste footprint and ensuring street trees and park space accompany new, denser, housing projects. She offered to send on a more complete answer in a few days.

Before Lewis could follow up, a new gun violence incident occurred in Buffalo, New York, killing 10 mostly Black victims at their local supermarket, in the rampage of a white supremacist.

Lewis's usual answer for what she wants people to know most or how they can support environmental justice had a special resonance in the wake of the Buffalo shooting.

"I often tell people that racism is the root of environmental injustices which begin with 250 years of slavery, 100 years of Jim Crow and decades of government sponsored segregation, redlining and a plethora of other conditions which gave rise to why African Americans are forced to live in sacrifice zones where they are disproportionately assaulted on a daily basis by life-altering toxins from polluted air, water and soil," she said.

"I tell people to say something when they see something that's not fair and equitable. I tell them to go to the source of the racism and call it out. To learn the real history of the way things are."

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.

The Arts Scene

The Importance Of Public Art To Community Health

After being stowed in hibernation for nearly two years, five creatives are finally unveiling their public artworks for the greater Milford community to see, touch and enjoy this month. What started as an application in 2019 for a Department of Economic and Community Development arts and tourism project grant was really a hope to illustrate the impact a "percent for art" program could bring to our town and start the conversation.

The grant, titled "Meet Me at the Bench," was a simple enough idea. The park bench has long been a placemaking tool for com-

munities to provide a space for visitors, families, coworkers and strangers to meet, rest, linger and spend time enjoying the view, a cup of coffee, an ice-cream and fresh air. With every passing year, our lives have become more over-scheduled, siloed and insular – way before COVID arrived. Taking the time to sit on a park bench, or one's front stoop talking with neighbors is a lost art.

Before COVID, the focus of the project was for the bench to become the neighborhood stoop in a downtown that was witnessing multiple developments that were bringing forward concerns of losing the small-town charm that many had stopped noticing as their days got busier and busier. This project was not for decorated or painted benches, nor an art trail for viewing from a bench. These were to be experiences to bring people together.

As an arts council, we love asking "what is art" and "who is an artist." The answer for me is everything and everyone. If you love what you do and do it with passion, you are an artist. Your trade is your art.

This project embraced the tradespeople, craftspeople, architects, metalworkers, woodworkers, designers and engineers as artists. Because they are. Their challenge was to recreate the park bench as a community and arts experience that built community through conversation in the moment.

Our application to the state was accepted and we were awarded \$12,000 with a required business match of at



PAIGE MIGLIO

least \$7,500 and in-kind assistance from the city for site approval and installation. We had eight applicants and selected five projects. Everything was looking good.

And then COVID hit.

When we came out of the original shutdown during the spring of 2020, the committee felt strongly that the project should move forward. We also knew we had an obligation to five creatives who were dependent on those fees during a time of extreme uncertainty. To be totally honest, it now felt imperative to see this project come to light. Its purpose was tangible; we could taste it.

The creatives took on the project. Then came the endless delays and scheduling issues that came with the pandemic never really releasing its grip on our lives. Finally, they are having their moment. We celebrate this project with them.

The projects are by Sonny Cardinali, "Sitting in the Shade" on the Green across from People's Bank; Gerard Kelleher and Mary Lou O'Connor, "Replicant" in front of the Milford Historical Society; Io Escu and Rich Bourque, "Community Blocks" at Lisman Landing; Bob Gregson, "Face to Face" behind the Milford Library; and Erich J. Davies, "Why Am I Here?" along Founders Walk.

A huge thank you goes to the state DECD, the city of Milford and Public Works, TrinityPoint Wealth, Wines & More, Subway, the CT Post Mall, Milford Boat Works and the Milford Historical Society for supporting and sponsoring this project. It truly takes a village.

So, about that village. Why is public art

important to our communities? Why should a municipality consider a "percent for art" program? Public art is a widely accepted element of community and economic development and civic design. It not only provides a destination for residents and visitors; public art boosts local economies by creating a destination for all, enjoyed by all. Public art is accessible 24/7 by its nature, and it serves to grow community pride and enhances workplaces by improving morale, productivity and quality of life.

If municipalities approved a project for, say, \$20 million, a one percent for art would create a bank of \$200,000 – only \$1.81 per household over a 30-year loan period. That would fund numerous projects across the community. These types of programs can also be a partnership between municipalities and developers, sharing the investment for the sake of community development.

By using the Meet Me at the Bench project as a much smaller example, if a community spends \$1,500 to \$2,000 per park bench, with a business match you could offer creatives \$3,000 to \$4,000 per project and build an art trail that not only beautified your community but created interactive engagement with viable spaces for convening and hosting small events.

This is not a new idea. This is not a far-fetched idea. This should not be an idea, but an action. Art is a movement.

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 for information on the MAC, and send her your events in the arts (include dates and details) to executive-director@milfordarts.org.



Artist Sonny Cardinali and Paige Miglio on the art bench, "Sitting in the Shade." Photo courtesy of Paige Miglio.

Milford Memorial Day Parade



Marchers took to the street in Milford for the May 29 Memorial Day parade. Photos by Steve Cooper.

Orange Memorial Day Parade







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Marchers took to the street in Orange for the May 29 Memorial Day parade. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Orange Founder's Day Ceremony



Orange kicked off its summer-long celebration of the town's bicentennial on May 28 with a ceremony featuring local and state officials, proclamations and dedications. After the ceremonies, the Orange Chamber of Commerce and local art studio Art People held a community art project to create seed mosaics that will be strung on a mobile display to be showcased at future events. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Orange Budget (Continued From 1)

The overall budget remained at \$78,367,690 – the number approved by the Board of Finance at a special meeting on March 28. It increases total expenditures by 2.96 percent, but that is more than offset by a 5.44 percent growth in the Grand List to \$2,249,438,880.

The final budget number, however, is still likely to be different because it includes the proposed \$26,575,116 for Amity that has not

yet passed.

The finance board has in previous years complained that Amity overtaxes its constituents by padding its reserve funds, resulting in multi-million-dollar surpluses even while continually asking for increased contributions.

“You were overtaxed \$171 every single time this happened,” BOF Vice Chairman Jim Leahy said in March when presenting a per-person breakdown of these surpluses.

This year, the Amity Finance Committee had proposed Orange pay an additional \$1,339,066 in 2022-2023 – a 5.31 percent

increase. But BOF members scoffed at that, and this year unanimously approved only a 0.41 percent increase overall, with Orange paying \$406,839 of that for a 1.61 percent increase in its contribution.

Adding to the controversy was the decision by Amity to hire an assistant superintendent, Frank Purcaro, at a salary of \$186,668. The position was created as an expansion of the former Director of Curriculum and Staff Development role, which was discontinued after the retirement of Dr. Marie McPadden. But some have seen this and other additions to staffing as unnecessary, especially at a

time when enrollment rates across the state are in decline. After the first failure of the Amity budget, district Superintendent Jennifer Byars attempted to dispel some of these criticisms in a series of letters to the community. She pointed out, for instance, that unlike towns that can hold surplus funds in reserve and carry them over year-to-year, Amity must return any unspent funds to the towns at the end of the year – which it regularly does. “The school district must develop a budget that covers unforeseen events,” Byars wrote. “For example,

when the current budget for 2021-2022 was developed in October 2020, we had no idea that a war in Ukraine would begin, driving up costs of fuel, heating, shipping, and travel reimbursements. You personally are feeling the effects of the conflict when you get gas or buy heating fuel – this is magnified when operating a school district budget. Yet these are the very circumstances we have to plan for when developing a budget. As such, there are years when we spend close to the budgeted amount and years when we spend less than the budgeted amount (because we can never over expend).”

Byars also noted that the increases in staff, though often couched in general terms, largely fall into the categories of special education – which are mandated and vary widely from year to year – and non-instructional staff. “There is a request for an additional computer technician to address cybersecurity, as well as management of the additional devices that were added last school year. There is also a request for an additional school security guard at the high school to bring the number of guards actively moving through the building back to the level we had prior to the installation of the security vestibules,” she wrote.

Amity budgets have failed in the past, and all three member towns must approve them. In 2001, it took 18 referendums to pass a budget. The district will continue at its current funding level until a new budget is approved.

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Purple Pantry Marks Milestone With Ribbon-Cutting



Top: Founder Susan Brown stands by one of her Purple Pantry Boxes. Bottom: The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting May 25 in honor of the PPB's deployment of its 14th pantry. Contributed photos.

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for the Purple Pantry Boxes in Milford on May 25 as the nonprofit organization deployed its 14th pantry.

The Purple Pantry Boxes was started in March 2020 by founder Susan Brown with the hope of relieving some of the food insecurity in the area. The pantries are self-service wood structures that are placed in the community and open around the clock, making food accessible for people in need. They are visited every day by a volunteer, maintained and filled with shelf-stable food.

The organization is currently distributing

10,000 pieces of food a month from its workspace. Most of the food is donated at food drives, which PPB holds regularly. The organization is all-volunteer, with over 25 active volunteers.

"I believe that food should be a right, and not a privilege, so I am doing everything in my power to increase awareness of the issues surrounding food insecurity. There are approximately 500,000 people in Connecticut struggling with hunger; one third are children," Brown said.

She regularly visits schools, civic organizations and religious communities to bring awareness about the struggles of food insecurity and the people that the PPB serves.

Amity Students Win Rotary Awards



The Rotary Clubs of Orange and Woodbridge recently announced the winners of their 2022 Four Way Test Speech Contest. The contest is an annual event for freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors at Amity High School. Participants choose their own subject and give a five to seven-minute speech without notes incorporating the elements of the Rotary Four Way Test: is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned. Front row, from left: runner up Evelyn Chen, first place winner Anni Yun and runner up Ellen Ko. Back row, from left: speech instructor and mentor Robert Catalde, Orange Rotary past president and Youth Services chair Richard Dumbrill and Amity Principal Dr. Anna Mahon. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Orange.

Birder Leads Nature Walk In Orange



Birder Anthony Zemba led a walk April 9 through the RaceBrook Tract with the Orange and Woodbridge Rotary clubs and members of the community as part of Rotary's day of service. Photo by Sharon Ewen.

Sirico's Dog Walking

My name is Emma Sirico. I have been dog walking for over two years, and I love it. I have walked all different kind of dogs, from mastiffs to toy poodles and everything in between. My rates are \$20 for a 30-minute walk. I also do 24-hour overnight stays for \$110 that includes six walks, feeds and all the love.

203-520-3644

Milford Cemetery Talk To Focus On Meaning Of Symbols

The Friends of the Milford Cemetery is sponsoring a talk on the meaning of symbols on early gravestones in the Milford Cemetery during a tour on Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and will be sold the day of the

event. There is no fee for children under 12 when accompanied by adults. The tour starts from the parking lot of the DAR building at 55 Prospect St. The rain date is June 18.

Three additional gravestones have been added to this year's tour.

The Friends sponsor this event annually, and every October the Milford Historical Society sponsors a tour on the history of those buried at the cemetery.

Getting To Know You

Breaking Out The Pitch Deck

My paternal grandparents loved to play cards. When company came, there was bound to be a card game after supper. If they had a lot of company, it invariably turned into a card party with a round robin tournament.

It was equal parts social and competitive. More than a little pride might be on the line, depending upon the players. I spent many Ozark nights sitting at the card table in my grandparents' home conversing, teasing and generally enjoying the company of others.

My grandparents knew many card games. They played pinochle and cribbage, and occasionally they'd mix in a game of whist. But they favored faster paced, team versus team games, so two games in particular became the mainstays of their card table. The first was uno, which I'm sure you've heard of. The second was called pitch, which I'm sure you haven't heard of.

They liked to play pitch the most. Pitch is a Midwestern derivative of what New Englanders know as setback, played with nine cards in each hand, eleven points and four players on two teams of two. As a nod to my

New England roots, I will confess that I have nightmares about playing setback. I spent a lot of winter nights at setback with my father and brother and whoever else had the misfortune to be at the table, when my father famously gave what he called the "Ed-Crow-Cut-throat-Setback-Masterclass." Everyone's change jar got cleaned out when dad was on the prowl at the setback table. I always start awake from those nightmares when I hear the taunting refrain of, "a penny a point and a nickel a set."

Pitch has the same furious pace of setback, but with more points and team play. At times it seemed to go even faster. If you want to play well, it is important to stay focused on each trick and remember which cards fell. Otherwise, you'll find yourself going set (not making your bid for you bridge players out there) and wondering what happened. The fast pace favors a good memory, a sharp eye and a couple of other "dark arts" abilities.



DAVID CROW

Among the more, shall we say, dedicated pitch players, the ability to needle and distract opponents with witty banter is as celebrated as a player's ability to play the game. During card parties at my grandparents' house it didn't take long for the chatter to turn into a buzzing din that underscored the tension of the evening. A player's ability to, ahem, bend, flout or get around the rules of the game in creative and original ways is also a sort of badge of honor. A master pitch player can outplay you, make you laugh-sneeze Coca Cola out of your nose with a witty remark and deftly cheat you all at the same time.

To give the games even more spice, my grandparents played for high stakes. The evening's losers were assigned tasks such as washing the dishes, feeding the dogs or hulling the daily mess of beans picked from the garden. I hate hulling beans. Ever have blisters on the tips of your thumbs? Try hulling a peck of green beans and you'll see what I mean.

After my grandparents passed away, pitch kind of slipped off the radar in my family in favor of other games, including that nightmare setback. It had a dormancy of about a decade.

But after hearing my parents, my brother and me relive some pitch memories and playfully air old grudges still carried because of particularly artful cheats, my children foolishly expressed an interest in the games. We were only too happy to oblige and broke out the deck of cards with "Big" and "Little" written on the jokers. We proceeded to give them epic whippings along with the attendant taunts and cheats. They fell in love as quickly as I had. Pitch made a roaring comeback.

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.

Orange Lions Club Hosting Wine Tasting

The Orange Lions Club will be hosting "Uncorked," its wine-tasting event, on Friday, June 10 at St. Barbara's Church hall, located at 480 Racebrook Rd. in Orange.

The Cork Shop on 317 E. Main Street in Branford will be the facilitator for this year's tasting. Participants will sample an assortment of wines, beers and other spirits throughout the evening. Trader Joe's of Orange is sponsoring a cheese table and Eli's of Orange will have appetizers available. Raffle tickets will be sold for a

chance at many different baskets.

The event will mark the town's bicentennial and the 70th anniversary of the Orange Lions Club. The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each and includes a stemless commemorative wine glass.

Tickets can be purchased from any Orange Lions Club member or by calling Marianne Miller at 203-795-3906 or Betty Hadlock at 203-645-8209. Tickets are also available at the Cork Shop in Branford.

Cupcake Store Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for Je T'aime Cupcakes & Cocktails. From left: Milford Mayor Ben Blake, owners Laurran Robinson and Maxine Harris, and MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

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New Visitors Must Learn Dangers Of Tombolo

By Marilyn May

There was news in late May that the Silver Sands State Park in Milford had to close because the parking lot was filled to capacity. It's great that the park is attracting so many, but it's likely that many were from out of town and know nothing about a tombolo.

That three-quarter-mile strip of land that connects the beach to Charles Island is not an ordinary sandbar. It's a tombolo, and it's very dangerous to walk on it if you do not know the day's tide schedule. It is even worse if you do not know how to swim, and unbelievably, non-swimmers have died trying to get back to shore. Once you disappear underwater, firefighters will know exactly where to look for your body. Because of prevailing currents, your body will likely be facedown somewhere between the tombolo and Woodmont.

Those are blunt statements, but not as bad

as having to read a newspaper headline about another drowning.

Every swim season, there is either a desperate rescue or a tragic body recovery. The concern today is that the newly opened state park will draw hundreds of beachgoers unaware of the topography or the timing of tides.

Yes, there are warning signs, and no, people either do not read or heed them. The signs are excellent, but they are only in English.

Think of the tombolo as being the shape of an upside-down U, like this: ∩. This land formation has very steep sides, and in certain places as the tide rolls in, you can be swept into water over your head and fighting an undertow. Even a strong swimmer is in danger. The Milford Fire Department routinely gets emergency calls for rescues.

No one knows the number of people who have lost their lives out there, but drownings

happen every few years. Fortunately, where Charles Island and the tombolo meet there is a bay-like area in which recreational boaters often drop anchor and relax for a few hours. It is not unusual to hear boaters and jet skiers talk about having had to rescue people.

At the right time, a walk around the edge of the island is fine and enjoyable, but conditions change quickly. Unless you know what you are doing, do not take little children out there. If you must, have them wear life jackets. A round trip from the shore around the perimeter of the island and back to shore can take an hour. Time it wrong and you are in trouble. The tombolo is covered by two high tides a day.

There is another reason to stay on the beach: the birds do not want you out there. The 14-acre island interior is closed from May 1 to Aug. 31 to protect nesting heron and egret colonies. Going past the warning

signs on the island is a violation of state and federal laws.

There is one more thing to consider: deer ticks. Deer walk out on the tombolo, but more often they just swim out there. They are excellent swimmers. Some have been seen swimming back to shore, but those who choose to live on the island become malnourished, sickly and, sadly, must be removed.

Why do some people want to explore Charles Island? They have heard stories that sometime around 1699 Capt. William Kidd, the Scottish privateer turned pirate, buried treasure there. But the only treasure out there is your family and your own life. Besides, Kidd buried treasure on Gardner's Island, and it was dug up shortly after he left it there.

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

Your Finances

Choosing A Retirement Plan For Your Business

Connecticut business owners were recently informed of the launch of the state-mandated retirement program, MyCTSAVINGS. The program is a good-faith effort on the part of state government to address the ongoing retirement savings crisis. The MyCTSAVINGS website touts the program as a "seamless way to help Connecticut employees save and plan for retirement," particularly for the "more than 600,000 private-sector employees who have no employer-sponsored retirement savings plan."

The program requires employers with five or more employees who do not currently offer a retirement plan to provide a payroll mechanism for employees to contribute to a Roth IRA. Employers will be responsible for providing eligible employees with information on the program as well as deducting and remitting contributions in a timely manner.

Depending on the number of employees, employers will need to implement the program between June 2022 and March 2023.

For many Connecticut business owners, the launch of the state-run program is viewed with concern and some skepticism. Past attempts by the state to run similar programs

have failed, and typically private business owners prefer to decide for themselves whether to offer a retirement benefit. However, since the state is mandating this program, employers should review the retirement plan landscape and decide which plan best aligns with their company and its goals.

For most employers not currently offering a retirement plan benefit, the biggest concern is cost. Benefit programs – including retirement plans – can be expensive, both in actual outlay of dollars as well as the administrative burden. In a competitive landscape, many employers do not believe they can rationalize offering additional benefits.

To allay these concerns and ensure that they are making an educated decision about this type of benefit, business owners should consider the following:

Does the business owner have a retirement strategy, and would they consider participating in the plan themselves? By contributing to a qualified plan, a business own-



MATT
GALLAGHER

er can build retirement savings while lowering their tax liability. In many instances, the reduction in taxes can greatly mitigate plan cost. However, since most plans are subject to compliance testing, business owners may be required to offer an employer match or contribution if they wish to participate. Conversely, if an employer has no interest in participating, they could offer a plan without a required contribution.

In an extremely tight labor market, would a retirement plan benefit assist you in recruiting and retaining talent? Finding skilled employees in the current labor market is a real challenge, and offering a retirement plan benefit can differentiate employers. Most plans allow for a vesting schedule for employer contributions to further assist in retaining talent.

Would cost controls, such as a discretionary employer match or eligibility requirements, assuage concerns about plan costs? Employers do have some discretion in terms of plan design, which in turn can limit the

type of employee who is eligible to participate and what they might choose to contribute.

Consider participation in a pooled employer plan. PEPs, which were created as part of the SECURE Act in 2019, allow for unrelated businesses to join together to offer a 401(k) plan. PEPs have the potential to be less expensive, limit liability and enable employers to outsource most of the compliance and administrative burden.

Connecticut business owners who do not currently offer a retirement plan will need to make some decisions. The state has begun to implement a mandatory program, but there are other options to consider. A retirement plan, like any employee benefit, should align with the goals of the particular business. Knowing your options will help you in making a reasonable decision.

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.

Milford Historical Society Opening Day In June

Where can you see an authentic leopard coat, dozens of vintage hats, firefighter memorabilia and photos from Artic Engine #1 and a display of books that have been banned in the last 100 years?

That eclectic combination of exhibits will be at the Milford Historical Society this summer. The opening weekend is June 4 and 5, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The three houses at the MHS complex, located at 34 High St., will be open for docent-guided tours that weekend and every weekend up to Columbus Day. Admission is free, and the Bryan-Downs House is accessible by

a ramp.

In addition to learning about the history of the three early Milford houses, the special exhibits will cover historic and contemporary subjects.

The leopard coat was a donation from the estate of the late Sally Stowe Clemence of New York City, Florida and Milford, her hometown. Her accessories include a leopard fur hat, purse and other accessories. She also donated all the stylish hats. Clemence, who graduated from Milford High School in 1941, was the first woman director of a New York

Stock Exchange member firm.

The Milford Artic Engine Co. was founded in 1838, and many of the photos are from the early 20th century. The firefighters' dress uniform was donated by Pomela Pepper Flanigan from a collection belonging to her parents, the late Jerry and Esilda Pepper. (Jerry Pepper was a popular athletic coach and headmaster of Milford Prep School for many years.) This uniform was used in the firefighters' parades that were followed by the laying of flowers on the graves of their fallen brothers.

For the age-old – and contemporary – subject of book banning, a display will include information on when and why the books were banned. Also included will be Milford Public Library's policy on determining what materials to purchase.

The Country Store gift shop will be open each weekend. There are items for children in the 10 cents to \$5 price range. For adults, there are Milford history books, various reprints of early maps and pen and ink sketches of Milford scenes.

For more information, call 203-874-2264 or visit milfordhistoricalsociety.org.

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Time Limited For Former Amity Students To Get Special Ed Records

Amity Regional School District No. 5 is currently disposing of student special education records per state guidelines. The records of any student who has received special services are maintained for six years after their class graduates.

Former Amity students who were born between 1996 -1998 and/or graduated in 2016 who

have received special services at the Amity Middle School Orange, Amity Middle School Bethany or Amity Regional High School may obtain their special education records until June 27, at which point they will be destroyed.

Former students must call 203-397-4820 prior to claiming records in order to allow sufficient time to retrieve the records from the district's archives and schedule a time for pickup. Leave a detailed message with student name, date of birth and a phone number.

Ribbon Cut At Giggling Pig In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for art studio The Giggling Pig on May 6 at its new Milford location, 44 Naugatuck Ave. in the Walnut Beach Arts and Business District. Front, from left: MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald, Giggling Pig Milford owner Makayla Silva and Milford Mayor Ben Blake. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Orange Scouts Hold Pinewood Derby



Top: Friends and family line the track on May 6 in Orange during Cub Scout Pack 922's annual pinewood derby. Bottom: The scouts who joined in the May 6 pinewood derby race. Photos courtesy of Pack 922.

Cub Scout Pack 922 held its annual pinewood derby in Orange on May 6, with over fifty custom cars competing. Some cars had names like Speed Storm, Cosmic Convoy, Red Ready and the Flash.

The pack will continue with the 2022 Sky's the Limit Hiking Challenge with hikes scheduled throughout the spring and

summer. The pack will hold a meeting on June 13 under the pavilion at the High Plains Community Center with ice cream and field games. New recruits interested in scouting are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Cubmaster Jessica Zamachaj at jessica.zamachaj@gmail.com.

Fashion Store Cuts Ribbon In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting for fashion store La Unique Boutique. Having opened right before the pandemic started, the store had to pivot quickly to online shopping and shipping. Now with the world reopening, La Unique Boutique, located at 362 New Haven Ave. is back to full capacity carrying fashion items, jewelry, art and home décor. Photo by Greg Gieger.

Milford Marine Institute Acquires Whale Tooth



The Milford Marine Institute acquired a 19th century sperm whale tooth, which will be available for handling by campers at its spring and summer camps. Photo by Tim Chaucer.

The Milford Marine Institute recently acquired a large 19th century sperm whale tooth which will be shown to campers during its spring and summer camps. At the camps, campers will be able to hold this rare marine object.

"We are great practitioners of 'hands on' history where our campers are able to hold rare ancient native American artifacts, marine specimens such as whale baleen or antique bird mounts from our museum," said director Tim Chaucer.

This is the 39th year that the Milford Marine Institute has operated its science and art oriented camps in conjunction with the Milford Recreation Department.

The Marine Biology Science/Art A camp will meet at the Tri Beach Neighborhood Center on Hillside Avenue from June 20 to June 24. Campers will study nine marine habitats and the whales, dolphins, porpoise, sea turtles, fish, sharks, seals and mollusks which inhabit them. Campers will choose favorite marine animals and draw them on a pine board, have them cut out and learn to sand and paint their marine art. The camp is open to ages 6 and up with those age 11 and up acting as junior counselors.

The Marine Biology Science/Art B camp will meet at the Tri Beach Neighborhood Center on Hillside Avenue from June 27 to July 1. Campers will study nine marine habitats and the whales, dolphins, porpoise, sea turtles, fish, sharks, seals, and mollusks which inhabit them. Campers will create a marine mollusk board using the Latin and common names of the animals. Campers will also choose favorite marine mammals and draw them on a pine board which will be cut, sanded and painted to create a work of marine art. This camp is open to campers 7 and up with campers 11 and up acting as junior counselors.

Bird Identification Art Camp will meet at the Tri Beach Neighborhood Center on Hillside Avenue from July 12 to July 15. Campers will learn to identify birds from mounted species, from observations at differing habitats, from field guides and from posters. Campers will choose favorite birds, draw them on pieces of pine, then learn to sand and paint birds to create a work of ornithological art. This camp is open to those 6 and up with children age 11 and up acting as junior counselors.

Archaeology/Native Culture Camp A will meet at the Gulf Pond Museum on Gulf Pond from July 18 to July 22, and camp B will meet from July 25 to July 29. Campers will learn the history and culture of the Paussett people. They will hold ancient tools and spend three days working at an archaeological dig at an actual historic Native American village site. This camp is open to 9 and 10-year old campers, with those 12 and up acting as junior counselors.

For more information about these science/art camps, call the Milford Marine Institute at 203-874-4000 or 203-988-0918.

Orange Garden Club Events

The Garden Club of Orange will present Bicentennial Blooms, a juried flower show, on Sunday, June 5 in the gymnasium in High Plains Community Center at 525 Orange Center Rd. from 1:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. This event is free to the public.

The Garden Club will also be hosting their annual herb garden tours at the Stone-Otis House, located at 615 Orange Center Rd., on Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. That event is also free to the public.



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To: dlang@haynesct.com

Project documents available via ftp link below:

<http://ftp.cbtghosting.com/loginok.html?username=lascanahomesoforange>
This contract is subject to state set-aside and contract compliance requirements

All questions must be submitted in **written** form and directed to the appropriate estimator:
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Amity Inducts 2022 Honorees



Amity Regional School District No. 5 inducted new members into its Athletic Hall of Fame and Academic Hall of Honor on April 28 in a ceremony at the Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. From left: Gilbert Jennings, Michael Slomsky, Rob Leonard, Mark A Levine, Erin McLaughlin Guise, Allison Barwise, Janise Ehorn, Sal Coppola and the late Joey Ciancola (sketched drawing). Not shown is Scott Klein. Inductees into Athletic Hall of Fame exhibit excellence in athletic performance, leadership or support associated with the Amity Regional High School interscholastic athletics program. Those inducted into the Academic Hall of Honor must exemplify excellence and honor and have consistently demonstrated leadership, innovation in their field, excellence in their vocation or avocation, integrity, dedication and living out of the Amity District's mission statement. *Photo courtesy of the Amity School District.*

Kennedy Talks Issues With Milford Residents At Beach



State Rep. Kathy Kennedy on May 24 at Gulf Beach in Milford. *Contributed photo.*

State Rep. Kathy Kennedy (R-119) hosted a post-legislative session wrap-up with close to two dozen Milford residents May 24 on Gulf Beach.

Kennedy invited residents to join her before sunset to discuss the recently concluded 2022 legislative session and any other state government issues that concern them.

Kennedy's goal was to look for different ways to meet and talk to her constituents.

"I thought having something on the beach might attract some different people. It was great to see folks bring a beach blanket and chair and join me for civil discussion on the state issues that matter to them," Kennedy said.

Carriage Green At Milford Recognized By U.S. News & World Report

Out of the more than 275 assisted living communities in Connecticut, Carriage Green at Milford, a Benchmark Senior Living community, has been selected as one of the best in the state by U.S. News & World Report.

Carriage Green at Milford earned "Best" status by achieving the highest possible rating for memory care in U.S. News & World Report's inaugural Best Senior Living ratings following a comprehensive consumer satisfaction survey. Carriage Green's residents and family members gave the community high marks in areas such as overall value, management and staff, resident enrichment, dining and food, safety, transportation, maintenance, housekeeping and location.

"For 25 years, Benchmark communities have set the standard for senior care excellence in the Northeast. The U.S. News & World Report designation is special because – once again – it's our residents and their families who are validating the

important and successful role Benchmark associates play in their lives," said Tom Grape, founder, chairman and CEO of Benchmark.

Carriage Green at Milford offers both traditional senior assisted living and specialized assisted living with memory care for those who would benefit from a safer, engaging environment, chef-prepared meals, supportive living services, transportation and assistance with daily activities, such as getting dressed and medication management.

"Whether it's connecting our residents to their passions, providing meals just the way they like or making sure they get to doctor's appointments, our associates constantly strive for excellence in all they do," said Doris Quagliani, executive director of Carriage Green. "Carriage Green is truly an extraordinary community committed to supporting one another, and we are thrilled to now be among an elite group in Connecticut."

Orange Rehabilitation Recognized For Excellence

Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center has received a Center of Excellence certificate, awarded by Wound Care Specialists, Connecticut's largest provider of post-acute and long-term care wound management services.

Leaders, physicians and clinicians from Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and Wound Care Specialists gathered on May 13 to celebrate the Center of Excellence award. The certificate is given to skilled nursing facilities in the Wound Care Specialists network that have demonstrated outstanding wound management performance for a minimum of twelve consecutive months.

"On behalf of the team at Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center we are honored to accept this award. Under the leadership of Adrienne Bowman, our wound care team has had much success. Adrienne and our nurses and CNAs work tirelessly to ensure our residents are provided state-of-the-art wound care and prevention. In conjunction with Wound Care Specialists, our facility has one of our state's fastest wound healing times as well as a comprehensive wound prevention program," the center said in a release.

Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center is a member of the Wound Care Specialists network of over 120 client skilled nursing facilities.

The Center of Excellence certificate is awarded to skilled nursing facilities that have an average days to heal of less than 30 over a one-year period; have a dedicated facility wound nurse who conducts rounds led by a Wound Care Specialists provider; have a physical therapy/occupational therapy department providing one or more wound healing modalities; have a registered dietician on staff; conduct a quarterly review of wound healing outcome data; and have a facility acquired pressure ulcer rate at or less than state average during the reporting period.

"We are honored to award Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center with a Center of Excellence Certificate for their outstanding wound management performance," said Jonathan Brenes, COO of Wound Care Specialists. "Our partnership with Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center has demonstrated a commitment to advancing the treatment, healing and prevention of acute and chronic wounds."



Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center recently received a Center of Excellence certificate from Wound Care Specialists for outstanding wound management. *Contributed photo.*

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Republicans Endorse Kennedy



Kathy Kennedy at High Plains Community Center in Orange on May 17, where she was endorsed by local Republicans for a third term as state representative. Contributed photo.

Milford and Orange Republicans on May 17 unanimously endorsed two-term state Rep. Kathy Kennedy as their candidate for the 119th Assembly District in November's elections.

"I'm grateful for the support I've received from party members as well as the greater Milford and Orange community at large," said Kennedy, who was endorsed at the 119th Assembly District Convention held at High Plains Community Center in Orange.

"There is much still to do at the State Capitol. With all-time high inflation and the highest fuel prices in history, Milford and Orange residents deserve a financial break," Kennedy said. "That is why I pushed for a historic \$1.2 billion in tax relief for working

class families in the waning days of the legislative session as the state is collecting a record \$4 billion surplus."

Among her legislative accomplishments, she lists working across party lines to assist those most affected by COVID-19; supporting the scheduled phaseout of the state tax on pensions and annuities; working to preserve local control of zoning; supporting expanded coverage for breast cancer screening; fighting attempts to eliminate school resource officers from schools; and supporting a bill to ensure coaches, teachers or instructors pass an extensive background check.

Kennedy has devoted much of her time to promoting public education, serving on numerous parent teacher association committees, culminating in her election as president of the Connecticut PTA from 2015 to 2017. She has served as president of the Milford Council of PTAs. She is a graduate of Amity Regional High School and attended Southern Connecticut State University.

Kennedy volunteered as a patient care volunteer for Connecticut Hospice in Branford from 2013 to 2016, served as chair of United Way giving from local government officials and is a past member of the Milford Prevention Council and a Faith Formations Teacher at St. Agnes Church. She has also been a volunteer coach for the Milford United Soccer Club.

Ferraro Nominated for Reelection

State Rep. Charles Ferraro on May 17 secured the Republican nomination to run for a fifth term in the 117th House District in Orange on May 17. The district includes parts of Milford, Orange and West Haven.

"During my time as your representative in Hartford I have worked across the aisle to pass legislation that helps families, encourages the development of offshore wind power generation and improves our state government. I have advocated for new legislation to fight juvenile crime and to properly support our police. I fought against legislation that threatened local control of zoning decisions, the forced regionalization of schools, and harmful tax increases," Ferraro said.

"I am proud of what I have accomplished but we still have a lot of work to do. I will not stop until our taxes are permanently reduced

and our economy is firing on all cylinders. A safer Connecticut starts with a stronger Connecticut. It starts with an economy that can support jobs, build hope and create a path to success for young people," he added.

Ferraro is the ranking member of the Energy and Technology Committee. He also serves on the Appropriations and Veterans Affairs committees.

Ferraro is the founder of the Tang Soo Do Mi Guk Kwan Association, which serves martial artists throughout the US and South America. He is the owner of the West Haven Academy of Karate, a 45-year-old local business. He is also the cofounder of the Worldwide Tang Soo Do Family, which is based in West Haven and Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The WTSDF is an umbrella organization created for the purpose of uniting Tang Soo Do organizations worldwide.

Amity Middle School Student Runner-Up In National Map Competition



Monica Chen, seventh grade student at Amity Middle School Orange, was one of 25 runners-up among over 2,000 submissions to the national Junior Scholastic Map Man Contest. She participated in this yearly contest by entering her drawing of a map of Yellowstone National Park which highlighted the geography and wildlife of the park. Each year a different location is chosen for students to submit to Junior Scholastic in New York City. Chen received a t-shirt for her submission. Photo courtesy of Amity Middle School Orange.

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St. Mary Students Join National Honor Society



Fifteen students at St. Mary School in Milford were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society – St. Mary School Milford Chapter on April 28 at the St. Mary Church of Precious Blood Parish. The students must exemplify excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. The newly inducted members are William Bader, Sam Mayugba, Gabrielle Ciuci, Kaylee Pellino, Everett Cweklinski, Elyssa Power, Robert Edgerton IV, Jackson Salamino, Arin Fuller, Eli Ssenyange, Vasanth Jakka, Josh Tandon, Johannes Jaskolski, Mark Tirita and Bianca Maciel. They join current members William Rosati, Cole Alogna, Everett Alogna, Tessa Santos, Emily Vella, Clare Hayes, Addison Harry, Layla Alogna, Hannah Newman, Robert Baird, Reese Caterbone, Molly Gunning and Kaitlyn Dzialo. The eighth grade students were presented with their cords to wear at graduation. Photos courtesy of St. Mary School.

Network Of Executive Women Awards Scholarships



The Network of Executive Women awarded scholarships to six women at its April 5 luncheon. From left: Kelsey Concepcion, Kristen Miller, Gretchen Ramos-Guadalupe and Heather Taylor-Little. Not pictured are Karema Foster and Maria Rivera. Photo courtesy of the NEW.

The Network of Executive Women awarded scholarships to six women at its April 5 luncheon.

The luncheon, held at Gabriele's Ristorante in Orange, was this year's celebration of one of NEW's goals – to award scholarships to help support the educational goals of women in business who needed financial help and whose circumstances caused them to take a break in the pursuit of their education.

The scholarship recipients were: Kelsey Concepcion, who received the Virginia Allen Scholarship to Housatonic Community College; Gretchen Ramos-Guadalupe, who received the Harriet Cohen Haggerty Memorial Scholarship to Albertus Magnus College; Kristen Miller, who received the Donna Marino Scholarship to Albertus Magnus; Karema Foster, who received the Phyllis Holt Scholarship to Albertus Magnus; Maria Rivera, who was awarded a scholarship to Southern Connecticut

State University; and Heather Taylor-Little, received a scholarship to Albertus Magnus

Several of the scholarships awarded bear the names of former or notable members of the network's organization. Each has contributed their time and expertise to the organization and their local community.

This year, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce's Trust Committee, which helps to support NEW's scholarships, renamed its award to the Harriet Cohen Haggerty Memorial Scholarship in honor of Harriet Haggerty, who served as a board member, leader and past president of NEW and was also a board member of the Milford chamber for 25 years. She died on Feb. 24.

"We will dearly miss Harriet," said NEW's president Heather Smith-Jaser. "Remembering Harriet reminds us how proud we are that our members and our scholarships change women's lives in our community."

KMW Leisure's Future Day Trips

The Bushnell

MEAN GIRLS: Sunday, October 3rd, 2022,

Orchestra Seats, snack bag plus... Call for pricing and flyer details! MEAN GIRLS is a ferociously funny new musical from an award-winning creative team! The cast is sensational – expert comedians with fierce voices and acting chops to match. Departs 11:00am – Returns approximately 6:00pm

Goodspeed Opera House

Anna of Green Gables: Wednesday August 17th, 2022 \$130.00

Departs 10:30am – Returns approximately 6:00pm
Enjoy lunch at the Gelston House before this marvelous play. Anne Shirley just arrived on Prince Edward Island and she's already making waves. With bold choreography, witty humor, and a revolutionary spirit, this is Green Gables as you've never seen it before!

42nd Street: Wednesday, September 28th, 2022 \$130.00

Departs 10:30am – Returns approximately 6:00pm.
Enjoy lunch at the Gelston House before this marvelous play. 42nd Street – the big, bright tap-dancing extravaganza – is coming to Goodspeed in a fresh, newly imagined production. This love letter to Broadway is the ultimate show biz fairy tale of the chorus kid who becomes an overnight star!

Ivoryton Playhouse

Smokey Joe's Café: Sunday, July 24th, 2022 \$130.00

Departs 10:45am – Returns approximately 6:00pm
This Grammy Award-winning and Tony Award nominated smash, made history as Broadway's longest-running musical revie! As always, lunch at the Blue Hound Cookery is included.

Ring Of Fire: Sunday, August 28th, 2022 \$130.00

Departs 10:45am – Returns approximately 6:00pm
The Man in Black is Back! From the songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique musical about love and faith, struggles and success, rowdiness and redemption, and the healing power of home and family. As always, lunch at the Blue Hound Cookery, is included.

AQUA TURF PRESENTS

The Jersey Tenors: Wednesday, August 10th, 2022 \$115.00

Departs 9:30am - Returns approximately 5:00pm
A Musical Tribute to Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons!!!! The show consists of four young, hot Broadway veterans recreating the music and stories of the era. Delicious lunch with a family style menu: Garden Salad, Pasta, Chicken Parmesan, & Broiled Scrod Topping, Vegetable, Potato, Rolls, Dessert, Beverage.... Coffee and Donuts upon arrival!!

Albuquerque Balloon Festival October 7-12th 2022

Set in New Mexico, a place diverse in culture and scenic beauty, the Fiesta is simply one of the most spectacular displays of sound and color you are ever to witness. This exciting journey also includes time in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, two culturally rich cities. Visit the unique shops and restaurants of Old Town Albuquerque. Wind through the stunning Turquoise Trail. Set out on an open-air tram tour of Santa Fe with a local guide. Experience the Santa Fe School of Cooking.

Also Coming This Fall!: Funny Girl on Broadway:

Will include lunch, as well round-trip transportation. Date and price to come. Also coming will be day trips to Log Cabin, Holyoke MA.... Great Line UP..... Attention all Opera fans..... just heard from CT Opera Theatre with their summer/fall lineup. So, call me and let me know if you are interested.

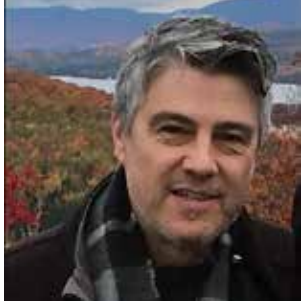


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Obituaries

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

Ernest Paul Addario, longtime Milford resident, passed away on May 2nd after a battle with Creutzfeldt-Jakobs Disease.



Jinny Monique Giovanna Antonelli, was born on December 10, 1981 in Norwalk, CT to Mark and Monique Antonelli of Milford. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Marie Claire Baneat, 84, of Milford, beloved wife of Henry Baneat, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2022 at home, surrounded by her family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nina Bialka was born June 16, 1926 and passed away on May 16, 2022 at age 95. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Helen Buchla, 89, of Stratford and formerly of Milford, beloved wife of the late Thomas Buchla, passed away peacefully on May 15, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carleen A. Celmer, 68, of Orange, beloved wife of Francis Celmer, passed away surrounded by her family on Saturday, May 21, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with profound sadness that the family of **Max J. Chalmers III**, 41, announce his death on May 19, 2022. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Linda M. Cline, 75, of Orange, CT passed away at Yale-New Haven Hospital on May 9, 2022 with her loving family at her bedside. (Keenan Funeral Home)



Lydia Cortez, 68, beloved fiancé of Richard Gulesh, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, May 1, 2022, in her home surrounded by the love of her family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Michael Coscia, 66, of Orange, passed away on May 3, 2022 at St. Raphael's Hospital. Michael was born in Waterbury on March 9, 1956 and was the son of the late Louis Coscia. (DellaVecchia Funeral Home)



Francis "Frank" Reed **Anthony Coyle, Sr.**, 80, of Orange, beloved husband of Barbara Pfnausch Coyle, passed away on May 8, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Anthony "Tony" James Del Visco, 89, of Orange, beloved husband of 63 years to Constance Bonando Del Visco, passed away after a brief illness on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Rowland Gill** of Milford, who passed away on May 5, 2022, at the age of 55. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Henry M. Goldbach, Jr., 95, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Mildred (Murphy) Goldbach, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Herbert James Golde, 97 of Orange and formerly of Milford, beloved husband of the late Doris Golde, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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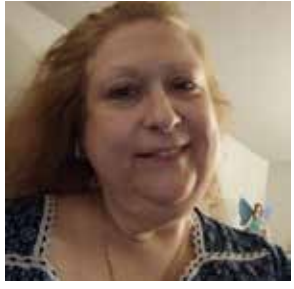
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Obituaries

Alicia Ann Haley, 57, of Milford, passed away on May 13, 2022 after a brief hospitalization. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Maria (Wurzburger) Iannaccone, 94, of East Haven passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 15, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. (North Haven Funeral Home)



Sharon Longobricco, 50, of Milford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 12, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Pehr Olsson was born April 30, 1963 and passed away on May 20, 2022 at age 59. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nicholas Achilles Haskos, 59, of Orange, CT, passed away suddenly, May 1, 2022. (Celenzano Funeral Home)



Lorraine Mary Janosko, 66, of Milford, beloved wife of Gerald John Janosko, peacefully passed away from a long battle with pneumonia on May 2, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



William J. McDonough, 85, of Orange, beloved husband of Joanne (Alpers) McDonough, passed away peacefully on May 4, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

John "Flash" Peregrim, age 99, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Frances Bonavitch Peregrim, died Thursday, May 12, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Evelyn Fisher Hendricks, 90, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of the late Bruce William Hendricks Jr., passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 22, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Irene A. Jones, 93, of Milford, passed away peacefully at her home on March 21, 2022, surrounded by her loved ones.



Joseph P. Neeley, Jr., 81, of Milford, CT, passed away on May 23, 2022, after a yearlong battle with cancer. Joe was born on April 5, 1941 in Bridgeport, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Oscar C. Pesotini, age 90, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Carolyn Johnson Pesotini, died on Thursday, May 5, 2022. (West Haven Funeral Home)



William "Billy" Horlacher, 76, of Woodbridge, passed away on April 28, 2022 at Hospice in Branford.



Akile Kareco, beloved husband of Ksanthipi Lito Kareco passed away May 10, 2022 in CT Hospice. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Carol Olexovitch, age 78, beloved wife of 58 years to John "Jack" Olexovitch entered peaceful rest on May 17, 2022 with her husband by her side. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Dolores Ann Peters, age 78, of Milford, passed away on May 20, 2022, in Bridgeport Hospital. (Adzima Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Robert P. Petrucelli, Sr., age 90, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Saturday May 14, 2022 at surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ronald Joseph Sader, 88, of Milford, beloved companion of Patricia Gabrielli, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Dorothy E. Sylvester, 91, of Milford, CT, left this world for her next adventure on May 6. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gloria Voloshin, daughter of the late Professor Louis and Lena (Pasinetti) Lupo, wife of the late Stewart Voloshin, left this life peacefully on May 8, 2022. (Alderson-Ford Funeral Home)



Glenn Powell, 98, of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on May 13, 2022, three days prior to his 99th birthday. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Josephine A. Serini, age 89, of Milford, beloved wife of Rudolph "Rudy" Serini of 64 years, died at home on Friday, May 6, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



JoAnn Tutino was born June 12, 1948 and passed away on May 23, 2022 at age 73. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert Joseph Williams was born on March 28, 1951 and passed away on April 22, 2022 at age 71. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Thomas Joseph Raynor Sr., age 71 of Milford, beloved husband of Janet Ettore Raynor for 46 years, died at home on May 27, 2022 surrounded by his family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Paula Joanne Shiff Shemitz died Friday, May 20, 2022, peacefully surrounded by her family at Yale New Haven Hospital. She was 90 years old. (Weller Funeral Home)



Louella Unnever, 79, formerly of Stamford and Milford, beloved wife of the late Matthew Unnever, passed away on May 3, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Pamela "P" Hope Williston, 70, of Milford, beloved wife of 42 years to Larry Williston, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kathleen A. Romano, age 80 of Melbourne, Florida passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 17, 2022, in her home surrounded by her family after a brief illness. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Stephanie Marie Shubert, 51, passed away peacefully May 1, 2022, at her home in Woodbridge after a long fought battle with cancer.



Christine (Chrissy) Elisabeth Lorenz Varholak, age 50, of Orange, Connecticut, passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family on May 23, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Walter L. Wolog, age 96, of Orange, a retired Mechanical Engineer and project manager with Pitney Bowes, passed away on Friday, May 13, 2022. (Adzima Funeral Home)



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