

Milford-Orange Times

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Milford Protest Aims At Abortion Ruling



Protesters brandish signs during a rally at Milford City Hall on June 26 to protest the US Supreme Court's decision overturning the national right to abortion. Photo by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Protesters rallied in front of Milford City Hall on June 26 to vent their anger over the US Supreme Court's decision two days earlier to overturn 50 years of court precedent on abortion rights.

The heat of the afternoon sun was no match for the heat of protesters' passion as they brandished signs, listened to the entreaties of state and local officials and vowed not to back down in the face of what is likely to be a rapidly shifting landscape of civil and individual rights.

The event was a veritable who's who of Connecticut Democratic politics, including Gov. Ned Lamont, US Sen. Richard Blumenthal and US Rep. Rosa DeLauro, whose third district includes Milford and Orange.

"This was not about protecting life. It's about stripping power, control, and stripping dignity and respect for women,"

DeLauro told the crowd. "Make no mistake. Women will die because of this ruling."

Blumenthal warned that, should Republicans control the White House and both houses of Congress, they could move to enact restrictions nationwide.

A number of the speakers took aim at the makeup of the court, with Blumenthal calling the justices who voted in favor of overturning Roe as a "bunch of politicians masquerading as judges."

All of the speakers took turns reminding the audience to vote for people who support abortion rights in the November elections. At times the event took on the tone of a campaign rally.

"We put in place a law that says that if Roe v. Wade is not the law of the country it's going to stay the law of Connecticut,"

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Orange Celebrates Bicentennial With Parade And Dinner



Orange held a parade and family dinner in the historic center of town on June 25 in honor of its 200th anniversary. Top photo, from left: Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, First Selectman Jim Zeoli, and Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Ann Denny. Additional photos on page 14. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Amity Budget Passes; Diversity Position Targeted

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The third time was the charm for the Amity Regional District budget. After two failed referendums, voters on June 14 approved the Amity budget by a narrow margin.

The budget was pushed over the threshold by Bethany and Woodbridge residents, as a majority of Orange residents still voted against it.

Orange voted 1,094 in favor to 1,168 opposed. Bethany voted 558 in favor and 418 opposed. Woodbridge voted 792 in favor and 625 opposed. That gave approval

an edge of 233 votes.

The two main factors that drove discussion on the budget were claims that Amity annually pads its budget with excessive surpluses, and opposition to efforts at increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the district.

The surpluses have been a perennial complaint by critics in Orange, including members of the Orange Board of Finance, which has in previous years complained that Amity overtaxes its constituents by padding

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Milford Chamber Names 'Best Of'

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce has released the results of its annual "Best of Milford Region" awards for 2022.

The awards are given each year after a period of voting from people in the community for businesses and organizations broken down in a variety of categories.

The Milford-Orange Times received the award in the category of best newspaper.

Some sectors had multiple

subcategories. Among restaurants, for example, the Bridgeport Flyer Diner took the top spot for best 24-hour restaurant, Scratch Baking won best bakery and Bin 100 took the title of best restaurant overall.

The best place to work award went to Dockside Brewery.

Some of the categories explored aspects of the local scene beyond business. Best beach went to Walnut Beach, best church went to St. Mary's

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Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont speaks during a rally at Milford City Hall on June 26 to protest the US Supreme Court's decision overturning the national right to abortion. Photo by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

Protest

(Continued From 1)

Lamont told the crowd. "But you can only count on that as long as Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz are your governor and lieutenant governor," he said, adding a jab at Republican opponent Bob Stefanowski, who is running for governor against Lamont in a reprise of their 2018 showdown. Stefanowski, Lamont said, had taken a pass during his previous campaign on a question about what would happen if Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh was the deciding vote to overturn abortion rights.

"You do not take a pass women's rights. You do not take a pass on human rights," Lamont said to cheers.

Many of the officials who participated are up for reelection, including Lamont, Blumenthal and DeLauro.

State Rep. Mary Welander, whose district includes parts of Orange, spoke of the shock she felt as she heard the news of the court's decision, wondering how to tell

her daughters that they did not have the same rights they had the day before.

While access to abortion is unlikely to change much in Connecticut, where state law has long enshrined the principles in Roe, Welander pointed out that even in this solidly blue state there exist people who, if given the chance, would roll back many of those rights.

"Some of the things that I have heard on the Connecticut state floor would turn your stomach," she said. "Those views that we see elsewhere that we think we don't have to worry about in Connecticut – they are here, and they are holding office."

Milford alderman Michelle Parente noted how deeply rooted patriarchal ideas remain even in local politics. "I'm an alderwoman – actually, by charter it's a man," she pointed out, adding that she was pushing to get the term changed.

"Look around. The men who are here – and we are so glad you are here with us – but guess what? We are literally unequal to you right now. So let that sink in today."

Amity

(Continued From 1)

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.

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.

Nevertheless, Amity reduced its budget slightly after each failed vote.

Prior to the first referendum on May 3, the requested budget was 3.99 percent higher than the 2021-2022 fiscal year. That was lowered to 3.59 percent before the second referendum on May 24, which also failed. The final ask was for a 3.19 percent increase, for a total budget of \$53,349,805.

Three positions were removed from the operational budget after May 3, according to district officials: the instructional coach for diversity, equity, and inclusion, an administrative assistant and a custodian. After the second failed vote, new cuts included lowering the medical reserve to 18 percent, a decrease in a legal assistance line item and decreasing post-employment benefits other than pensions.

While it is not clear how many voters in the three towns covered by the district – Bethany, Woodbridge and Orange – voted against the budget because of the DEI coach

position, it did come up in public meetings and private discussion of the budget. The position was removed from the regular budget and funded instead with grant money after the first referendum failed in May.

Emails circulated between some groups claiming the position is a front for indoctrinating students.

One such email obtained by the Milford-Orange Times was sent by Woodbridge resident Reena Levine Seltzer and claimed that "DEI is antisemitic and will continue to fuel the problems Amity is having. It basically lumps all Jews as privileged whites, despite the facts that Jews live all over the world (as a result of being kicked out from other countries) and come in multiple colors."

The messages also contained links to material from places like the Southeastern Legal Foundation, a conservative nonprofit advocacy firm, on how to combat what it considers "critical race theory" – a legal theory that is not part of most schools' curricula, including Amity's.

"Let us be clear: The goal at Amity is not to teach students that people are oppressors or oppressed. It is not to create a permanent class of victims who will be trained to hate their oppressors. Our curriculum and teachers can encourage each student and teach diverse experiences without casting blame on anyone," members of the Amity Board of Education wrote in a letter to the community after the second referendum.

The board pointed out that state and federal laws require that the district develop certain curricula that address the needs of minorities and other groups, "to increase access to advanced classes for minoritized students; to develop curricula that cover Holocaust and genocide education, African American and Black Studies, Puerto Rican and Latino studies, and integrate Native American

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Facing Ourselves

Dreamers With Nowhere To Belong

Belong. Derived from the word “belongian,” an Old English word of Germanic origin, to belong reflects connection, affection, allegiance and membership. But for many, belonging feels as unfamiliar as the root word from which it evolved. Research indicates a growing sense of isolation, even in the context of 24-hour news cycles and a multitude of omnipresent social media platforms. So why is it so tough to feel that one is a part of something, that one truly “belongs”?

Although the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program turned 10 years old on June 22, many grapple with the question of who belongs and who does not. Made possible by an executive order from former President Barack Obama, the DACA program protects eligible immigrants who came to the US as children from deportation. DACA also provides qualifying immigrants with a work permit, which allows them to legally work in the US. DACA participants must reapply to the program every two years, with failure to do so resulting in removal of the temporary protection from deportation as well as revocation of work permits.

However, many complain that DACA was forcibly pushed through by Obama after Congress failed to pass similar legislation. Opponents criticize DACA as providing immigrants here illegally with amnesty and argue for the importance of going through the proper steps to become citizens, cumbersome, time-consuming and expensive as the process may be.

Some immigrants who obtained their citizenship through legal pathways point out that they did the hard work to obtain citizenship, and others should be expected to abide by the same rules as well. Many emphasize the importance of upholding

law and order. Others are fearful that undocumented immigrants bring increased rates of crime and disease to the US, as well as being a drain on valuable and often scarce resources.

So let’s take a look at who the recipients of DACA are. Are the majority criminals or parasites bleeding the country dry? What are they doing here in this country? State and national records offer a glimpse of who these DACA recipients are and what they do in the US. Data suggests the majority of DACA recipients are employed. DACA participants are also noted to be more likely to work in office jobs compared to manual labor such as construction work, which is more frequently performed by their undocumented counterparts. Additional professional occupations in which significant numbers of DACA recipients are employed include education, health and social services, retail, hospitality and other professional services. Most of those who are not in the labor force are enrolled in school.

What services are DACA recipients receiving? How much are they draining the country’s resources? Data suggest that DACA recipients pay billions of dollars in taxes, with almost half going to state and local governments. Data also reflect that DACA recipients pay nearly the same percentage of their income in state and local taxes as the middle 20 percent of taxpayers, and more than the percentage paid by the top 1 percent earners in this country. As taxpayers, DACA recipients can participate in Social Security and Medicare but are ineligible for most forms of welfare.



JENNIFER JU

Despite these contributions from DACA recipients, opponents of the DACA program continue to push to limit or reverse it. In 2017, the DACA program was rescinded, which was met with lawsuits challenging its termination. After multiple reviews in the federal courts, it was brought to the Supreme Court in June 2020, which ruled 5-4 that the repeal of DACA violated the Administrative Procedure Act. However, in July 2021, a ruling by a federal judge in Texas blocked approving any new applications, essentially leaving the DACA program and hundreds of thousands of its participants in a state of limbo.

Many point out that, even without the recent blocking, DACA is not a permanent solution for those eligible for the program, and it does not offer a clear path forward for permanent residency or citizenship. There is also no federal law outlining a plan to address the millions of undocumented immigrants who do not fit the limited eligibility requirements for the DACA program.

Many of the undocumented youth who were beneficiaries of DACA are referred to as “Dreamers.” The question remains – do these dreamers belong? If they, as well as undocumented immigrants, do not belong here, then we may want to consider what the data demonstrate, which is that much of our workforce depends on immigrants, legal or otherwise. This is especially the case in the agricultural, manufacturing, construction, restaurant, housekeeping and landscaping industries.

We may also want to consider how the system benefits from the hiring of undoc-

umented workers, with businesses capitalizing on not having to contribute to wage taxes, provide benefits or meet minimum wage requirements. How much would a head of lettuce cost if we hired only US citizens to pick our produce?

Beyond the economic factors in which immigrants play a major role, one can consider what the inscription on the Statue of Liberty means to us today:

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:

I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

As a country and as individuals, do we still welcome these “huddled masses yearning to breathe free”? Can we work together to create a fair, equitable and accessible plan for all? By what stroke of luck or sheer grace do we find ourselves in a more fortunate position than the tired and poor? Ask yourself who really “belongs,” and whether the laws which govern belonging, acceptance and fellowship are superseded by the greater command to love others as one would love oneself.

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

Challenges Of A Changing World



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

I am so grateful for these monthly columns as it gives me a chance to directly communicate with so many of my neighbors. Each month I try to leave room at the end for the ways that I can be contacted, but this month I am asking directly for feedback right at the beginning. If after reading this you would like to contact me, you can reach me at mary.welander@cga.ct.gov or 860-240-8585.

In the past I have discussed my work on creating legislation to protect children from online abuse and exploitation, sharing both the progress and the setbacks those proposals have faced.

While the task force to investigate these issues was successfully passed through both state legislative chambers, my proposal to create a new felony/misdemeanor definition for this abuse was not called in the Senate, despite passing through the House unanimously.

I am preparing for the next legislative session where, if I have the honor of continuing to serve the district in this role, one of my main goals will be to get this across the finish line so that these predators are held accountable for their deliberate acts of exploitation of our children.

Data from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children indicates that in 2020 alone there were almost 38,000 reports of online enticement. This is happening in all of our communities to both girls and boys, and it can have lifelong traumatic impacts on these kids and their families.

I want to make sure that this law is as strong as possible in identifying a clear pattern of deliberate, early behaviors that create abusive and unsafe situations. Sometimes referred to as grooming, these seemingly innocuous behaviors at the beginning of a relationship lead to an unbalanced power structure where the child is threatened and believes they have no other option than to do what is instructed of them by these predators.

Direct feedback from those who have experienced this kind of abuse has been invaluable in creating the current proposal. Additional feedback will only make this stronger in the future, which is why I am asking for your help.

Please contact me any time if you would like to share any thoughts that could help address this issue and be part of creating a safer online space for all our kids.

I am proud of the work that has been done so far on this and with the additional data privacy law that Sen. James Maroney championed for the past few years. That groundbreaking law has specific provisions to protect the information about minors that is shared online, and addresses some of the new online challenges to privacy that communities and small business are facing. It is a changing world and our laws should reflect those changes head on.

Truck Taxes Will Hurt Families



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

As record inflation continues to rise, Connecticut families are already shouldering the burden of dozens of state taxes. Now, as recently announced by the Department of Revenue Services, Connecticut will raise its tax on diesel fuel by over 9 cents beginning on July 1.

This tax increase is due to a required annual adjustment set each year by multiplying the prior year's average wholesale price by 8.1 percent. Total taxes on diesel will reach 49.2 cents per gallon. The increasing price of diesel drives up the cost of all goods and services we rely on each and every day. This tax increase drives home the importance of the Republican call for a special session to act on inflation relief by reducing over-taxation.

Another forthcoming tax residents should be aware of is the highway use tax set to go in effect Jan. 1. This will add another layer of taxation on goods in our state. While the goal is to incentivize electric vehicles and disincentivize out-of-state trucks from damaging our highways through transit, the proponents fail to recognize the inevitable financial collateral. There is no doubt that these new taxes and hikes to existing ones will enhance the burden on the truck operators themselves. But as the increases mount and costs rise even more, businesses will have no choice but to pass the cost onto consumers. These consumers are Connecticut families, those working to make ends meet in a state which has put them behind the fiscal eight-ball with damaging policies.

A common misconception in considering tax increases on diesel and truck usage is that corporations with large semi-trucks are the main targets and will stand alone in assuming its costs. Around Connecticut and nationwide, small businesses rely on diesel fuel to deliver goods to our local shops and provide other essential services like manufacturing, travel services and outdoor maintenance.

As ranking member on the Energy & Technology Committee, I have prioritized the push for sustainability and sensible energy policy with fiscal responsibility in mind. In fact, we were proud to make great strides in this past legislative session which position our state for a future of energy policy that increases energy reliability and lays a foundation for decades to come of environmentally conscious strategies.

That said, it is unreasonable to expect Connecticut residents to accept another increase to their cost of living when our state has proven to be among the most unaffordable in America. An increase to the tax on diesel and trucks is an increase to the cost of doing business, to the cost of making a living, and the cost of raising a family. Republicans in the legislature will continue to oppose these harmful tax increases and push for a more affordable Connecticut.

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

An Affordable Connecticut



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

I'm sure everyone is feeling the economic pain I'm feeling. Connecticut is unaffordable and growing more unaffordable by the day. Families are being forced to make tough decisions on purchases of food, fuel and clothes.

At the same time, Connecticut is over-taxing its residents to the tune of over \$4 billion. While state revenues surge because of inflation, household budgets are strained to the breaking point. Remember, the state makes money from higher prices because it collects more in sales tax revenue. We believe this over-taxation of state residents must be returned to taxpayers.

During the 2022 legislative session, Connecticut Republicans proposed a \$1.2 billion tax relief plan that would have provided immediate, significant and long-term tax relief to Connecticut's working- and middle-class families facing historic inflation.

The majority party voted against our historic tax relief package during the regular legislative session, instead opting for only short-term rebates for a select few. Meanwhile, the pain has not stopped for Connecticut families.

Contrary to what has been billed by some as "great economic news," the Democratic budget proposal that passed was a missed opportunity to provide residents of Connecticut with much more significant and lasting tax relief.

Since the state budget adjustment passed, state revenues have grown even further. As government gets richer, Milford and Orange families are only experiencing more financial pain and they need further relief.

To provide families tax relief, we have also proposed to lower the income tax rate from 5 percent to 4 percent for individuals earning less than \$75,000 and joint filers earning less than \$175,000 annually. This will help working families keep more of what they earn.

Adding insult to injury, the state Department of Revenue Services is expected within the next two weeks to announce a major increase in the state's diesel tax, effective July 1 and driven by rise in wholesale fuel prices over the past year.

Let's not forget: everything we buy comes by truck. That is why Republicans have called for the elimination the entire state excise tax on diesel through the end of 2022. I have also called for the repeal of the highway use tax on trucks which starts on Jan. 1, 2023. State government can make these modest changes to help out Connecticut families.

To read more about our historic tax relief plan for Connecticut families, go to affordableconnecticut.com.

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.

Get Ready For Car Tax Shock



THOMAS P.
HURLEY

Before you open your upcoming tax bills from the town, I want you to find a nice, quiet, relaxing spot, quaff your favorite beverage, take a mood mellowing herbal and take a couple of deep breaths. Comfy? Good.

First, the good news: the state has capped the mill rate for motor vehicles at 32.46 mills, which is less than the 32.71 real estate and personal property tax rate you'd have paid on motor vehicles without the state caps. This is also less than the 33.25 mill rate you paid last year.

Mellowed out yet? Good. Think you will have no trouble paying your motor vehicle taxes with all this good news? Well, there is something I haven't told you yet. Here is the other shoe to drop.

The tax assessor is required by the state to value your motor vehicle based on state mandated sources. We all know that your motor vehicle is a depreciating asset, right? So with a lower mill rate you expect a lower tax bill this year. But your vehicle actually appreciated in value over the last year and is worth more today than it was a year ago. That's great news if you're trading it in or selling it, but not so great when we are talking about paying taxes.

What impact does this new information have on a typical motor vehicle bill? From the assessor's office, a 2011 Buick Lucerne Super was valued at \$5,810 last year. This year it is valued at \$6,460. The tax bill will be going up about 11 percent, or \$21 this year on this 12-year-old vehicle.

How about something more recent? On a 2018 Buick Encore, last year's assessment was \$12,150, and this year it's \$15,440. Tax bill went up about 27 percent, or \$107. Heaven help you if you have something newer.

If this assessment seems counterintuitive, you are not alone. What the government gives with the right hand, it seems to find a way to take it back plus with the left. It happens in the form of increased inflation, government policy market interventions, changes to Social Security taxation rules, changing assessment rules.

What's a citizen to do? Remember the source of your pain and don't take it out on we who must carry it out. We pay taxes too. Local government officials are still at the mercy of state and federal policies. If you don't like the state and federal policies, you still have the ballot box to make changes. The citizenry has to do its job and figure out if they really want what a candidate supports. Voting is your first and last line of defense if you do or don't like what you see.

An informed citizenry is a republic's greatest defense. It produces a reasoned support by the voters of the candidates who most closely align with their opinions and produces those policies the electorate favors. Don't like what you see? Do your homework.

Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.

Opinion & Editorial

Ponder This

The Legacy Of Title IX

As the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the sweeping, historic federal law that guarantees equity in any education program or activity receiving federal financial aid, champion swimmer Katie Ledecky continues her remarkable accomplishments. Earning a gold medal and breaking the world record in women's freestyle, Ledecky is the most decorated athlete in women's freestyle history.

Surely, the interconnection of the stories of Ledecky and Title IX are just one of many amazing outcomes of federal policy that occurred in my lifetime. There would be no championship celebration of Ledecky and her astonishing individual and team accomplishments without Title IX, the landmark legislation that is foundational to a more inclusive legacy for the next generation.

I have had the distinct privilege of following Title IX and the changing culture of women's sports from a bird's-eye view within the university. Much recent attention and credit is due to the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland for the significant discovery, analysis and interpretation of documents, data, focused testimony of administrators, athletes, parents and

coaches about the status of Title IX legislation.

The fascinating story of legislative impact on women's sports can help our national leaders with other pieces of legislation and complex policy formation. It is an added, unintended yet monumental consequence that Title IX will help us to legislate more effectively in the future. This important evidence and testimony to the magnificent results of thoughtful and well-resourced governmental action can guide us.

It is worth repeating the simple words that changed the world and set the stage for progress to come for women: "no person in the United States shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Prior to Title IX, there were only 295,000 girls participating in high school sports. Today, for 3.4 million girls playing sports across 24,000 American high schools, the sweeping, historic federal law guarantees equity in any



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

education program or activity receiving federal financial aid.

The continuing goal must be on boosting participation and improving conditions for high school girls' sports. Field conditions, amenities, publicity and attention from administrations all remain hurdles to full participation.

The scope of the problem can be better determined as more accurate data are gathered and analyzed. It is always a component

part of good legislative policy to fund properly, resource adequately and use the data in decision making. Change in any complex issue is not done on good intentions. Did the outcome match the intent of the policy? If not, why not? Does original legislation need modification to meet original goals? What are the barriers to full implementation?

Here I am applauding Title IX, yet still I struggle with the issues of women in general and in elected service. The subtle exclusions, lack of information and marginalization still diminish full agency now and hold back progress for women in the future.

Many influential others are writing and emphasizing these facts clearly, so I amplify the chorus. Playing sports, especially softball and public park tennis, changed my life and had ripple effects off the field. We must cherish and protect this special lived experience of knowing with the obligation and determination to help others. Much is still to be accomplished post-Title IX, but the nation has learned powerful, practical and enlightening lessons on how to herald and implement important civil rights legislation and resultant policy. This is the legacy of inclusion that our knowing obligation must help steer going forward.

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.

Amity Vilification Unwarranted

To the Editor:

Recently, the residents of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge approved the budget of the Amity Regional High School on the third referendum. Some residents were upset that a diversity, equity and inclusion coach was in the budget. This was budgeted at 0.5 and was removed from the budget after round one.

With DEI out of the budget, many turned their focus to Amity's annual surplus. As a regional school system, a surplus becomes a necessity. If the school runs out of money, they can't just go back to the towns for more as the Orange Board of Education has done. Remember the burst pipe at Peck Place School?

This had become a very contentious and divisive issue. The Orange Board of Finance chair and vice chair have been anti-Amity for years.

At a recent meeting, the chairman said of the superintendent, "she's a dictator." This is one example of his frustration not having control. The vice chair said he put together a presentation that "I think is fact based." He "thinks"?

Another member noted how everything is going up for people. He said that residents' utilities are going up, clothing, Right, and that holds true for the schools as well. Another member said, "I am okay with Amity having a surplus." He noted that the surplus was about \$400,000 in 2007. So in 15 years, one would expect expenses and the surplus to increase.

The chair also noted that in 2008 the Orange BOF asked the superintendent to not add any new positions but "they did it anyway." Who do I want deciding what's best for our students' education? A superintendent and board of education or a local town board of finance?

Finally, the vice chair said "I think this is straight information." Again, he "thinks," but in reality we know it isn't. He consistently manipulates the data to prove his points using his elected position to advocate his opinions.

BOW towns passed the budget. Bear these facts in mind for next year as we get to another budget cycle. Our school systems are the reason our property values are high. Don't be fooled by their emperor's new clothes strategy each year.

Jody Dietch
Chair, Orange Democratic Town Committee

Thanks from Orange Lions

To the Editor:

The Orange Lions Club would like to thank

all the people who attended our "Get Uncorked" wine tasting event on Friday, June 10, and also our facilitator, The Cork Shop of Branford. Your participation will enable the Orange Lions to continue to provide community grants to worthy local groups and individuals, as well as support blindness prevention and eye research programs. It will also allow us to provide financial support to Fidelco Guide Dogs, Lions Low Vision Centers, the Orange Senior Center, the Case Memorial Library, Youth Services, DARE, the Orange Historical Society, the Volunteer Fire Department and fund scholarships to qualified seniors at Amity High School.

Our sponsors were a huge part of our success. A big shout out to Eli's of Orange, Coldwell Banker of Orange, West Shore Family Dental, Mild to Wild Automotive, Cellini Design Jewelers, People's United Bank, New Haven Painters, Trader Joe's, Lumos Dental, Wayne Hugendubel of Coldwell Banker, Bruce Spiewak AIA Consulting Architect, Law Office of Russell G. Small, Harris Company Wealth Management, Mark Fagan of Coldwell Banker Oxford, Marianne Miller and Marion Nugent.

It was a wonderful evening celebrating both the Orange bicentennial and the 70th year of the Orange Lions Club. Thank you for your support. It is very much appreciated.

Betty Hadlock
Marianne Miller
Orange Lions Wine Tasting Co-chairs

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BE PART OF ORANGE HISTORY

Bicentennial Bricks
 The Orange Chamber is proud to announce our Commemorative Brick Project as part of the Town of Orange Bicentennial Celebration. The bricks will be installed around the Gazebo at High Plains Community Center in Fall 2022.

ORDER AT: bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamberbricks

Milford-Orange Times
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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

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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
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Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health		Michele Tenney, Wellness

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Your Health

Committing To Public Health Workforce Development

I recently attended the state health commissioner's semiannual meeting with all the directors of public health. Our last in-person meeting was held in 2019, so it was a great pleasure to meet and mingle with my public health colleagues and DPH staff members.

Our Health Commissioner, Dr. Manisha Juthani, shared her vision and acknowledged the ongoing efforts by the local health departments during the COVID-19 pandemic despite various challenges.

Dr. Matt Carter, our state epidemiologist, provided a brief history of the pandemic and how to manage it while negotiating public response. Historians and policymakers concerned with epidemics tend to look backward and ask what "lasting impact" particular incidents have had and what "lessons" have been learned.

Dr. Lynn Sosa shared a graph on a year-over-year comparison of COVID-19 cases within Connecticut. She reminded health directors that they will be receiving weekly

reports, monitoring of syndromic trends, hospitalizations, deaths and reports of viral illnesses during the respiratory virus season.

I was specifically asked by the health commissioner to share my vision and experience related to the development of the public health workforce. It was my honor to be among those who are considered visionary public health leaders.

During my presentation, I shared some of the historical trends on how public health workforce development has fallen behind. According to the Centers for Disease Control, this chronic underinvestment in PHWF development has resulted in several challenges. Examples include an aging workforce, understaffing of critical positions, insufficient investment in training, non-competitive salaries, lagging skills among workers due to changes in technology, a lack of systems and data to assess and



DR. AMIR
MOHAMMAD

monitor workforce needs and hiring barriers that exist at federal, state and local levels.

I shared the results of a survey that was sent out to all the local health directors asking what the barriers and facilitators in developing a robust public health work force are. Some of the emerging themes were "specific funds are needed for developing training programs, development of standardized training curriculum and collaboration between public health departments and academic programs offering degrees in public health."

Our collective goal should be to educate, train, and retain our public health workforce. It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the consequences of this chronic underinvestment in public health. Hence, there is a critical need for a strong and diverse public health workforce

to tackle current and future epidemics. We were also informed that the state Department of Public Health will be receiving funds to bolster the training and development of the public health workforce.

During the final session, the local health directors were informed about Gov. Ned Lamont's lead poisoning prevention public act and the President Joe Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law funding.

In closing remarks, Juthani once again emphasized the need of a strong, trained and robust local public health department with adequate staffing and funding to deal with the current and ongoing public health challenges. I strongly believe that the steps we take now will have an impact for years to come.

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

Running

Every Run Has A Story

This year marked the 50th anniversary of women participating in the Boston Marathon. It has been 50 years since eight women lined up alongside the men. This year, 12,000 women entered the marathon

I had the honor of having dinner with Katherine Switzer, one of the eight. Fifty years ago, she signed up as K.V. Switzer to receive an official bib in case they weren't accepted. She and her compatriots only received acceptance a few weeks before. There was no gender indicated on the application, so when the race director found out she was a woman, he tried to drive her off the course.

She said there was a feeling of "unbelievable, we are going to do this" when they received acceptance. They felt no one could drop out – all eyes were on them. They knew many people felt they should not be running the marathon. They felt great pressure. They faced sneers, catcalls and administrative roadblocks from an organization that was supporting "manly" sports.

Valarie Rogosheske, another of the eight, was going to hide and



CATHY
BRADLEY

run as a bandit if they did not get accepted. These women were determined. This year she ran again, now with her daughter. She was an honorary starter for the race.

Now we can run. We can train and are accepted as athletes. I thank those women for their determination and courage. I would never imagine running to be different.

During the race, fans waved Ukrainian flags in support of the country facing war. Athletes from

Russia and Belarus were disinvited due to the invasion.

It seems every run has its own story.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing. I will be back running in 2023 with many emotions.

God Bless America and our freedoms. We should reflect and be thankful for the greatest country in the world.

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

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 !me in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, two culturally rich cities. Visit the unique shops and restaurants of Old Town Albuquerque. Windthrough 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.

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

Orange Chamber of Commerce

Bringing Community Together Through History

“A community receives light from its history, it becomes aware of itself by remembrance of its history.” – Sir Muhammad Iqbal

Bicentennial Brick Project - Phase One Almost Sold Out: What better way to give someone a permanent place in Orange history than an engraved commemorative brick? It’s a unique and touching gift that honors loved ones past or present. There are approximately 50 bricks available for purchase before phase one is sold out, so don’t delay if you want one. All bricks purchased by Sept. 23 will be installed around the gazebo at High Plains Community Center in October. A dedication ceremony is planned for early November. Buying a brick raises funds for the chamber so we can continue connecting businesses, nonprofits and residents to help strengthen the fabric of our community. To order a brick, visit bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamberbricks.

Bicentennial Holiday Ornaments: The chamber is excited to offer bicentennial holiday ornaments, a top item requested by residents

to commemorate Orange’s 200th anniversary. No matter what holiday you celebrate, these ornaments are a beautiful and festive way to remember this special town celebration. It’s a keepsake snowflake with the bicentennial logo in the middle, made of quality die cast metal with intricate detail. It comes in a pretty silk bag, perfect for gift-giving. You have a choice of silver, gold or white. Visit the chamber’s online store at orangechamber.shop to purchase one.

Historical Society Coloring Books: Kids have fun coloring and learn about history with the Historical Society’s new coloring book. It’s filled with wonderful illustrations of Orange town history and is dedicated to Walter Bepuda, one of the honorees at the chamber’s recent bicentennial brick groundbreaking event. Bepuda was a longtime Orange farmer who started the 4-H Club and



KATHY CONVERSE CHARBONNEAU

the Orange Country Fair. The cost is just \$5 and proceeds support the Historical Society. Get yours at The Academy, located at 605 Orange Center Rd., on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 203-795-3106.

History and Theater Together at the Orange Cemetery: The Orange Players and Orange Historical Society present Grave Matters – Early Voices, a collaborative partnership that brings history alive. Early residents – husbands, wives, farmers, soldiers, entrepreneurs – all contributed to the growth of Orange. There is even a tale of a murder included in our history. This theatrical production takes place at the Orange Cemetery on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, and Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24 at 3 p.m. The production is free and open to the public.

Orange Land Trust Goat Hike: Come hike and frolic with goats along the beautiful

trails of Racebrook Tract while learning about some of the native plants and animals of Orange. The Land Trust is sponsoring a free goat hike on Saturday, July 23 (rain date July 30) as part of its bicentennial activities. Registration is required. Space is limited, so sign up early at orangelandtrust.org. It’s a one-mile hike on fairly level terrain that takes approximately one hour.

Welcome to new chamber member Savers. Since its thrift shop beginnings in 1954, Savers has grown from a single store to a global reuse leader. Savers is located at 130 Boston Post Rd. and has an amazing selection of second-hand items, all beautifully displayed. If you haven’t already been there, be sure to visit Savers soon. Go to stores.savers.com/ct/orange/ to learn more.

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

Well Maintenance An Important Consideration

It is so easy to take utilities for granted; we will service certain utilities like the furnace or air conditioning and forget that the well produces minerals and other considerations that need to be maintained too.

When someone purchases a home with a well, the inspector always suggests a complete water analysis which includes over 20 samples that are evaluated for drinking. You can also go to Aquatek in Woodbridge and purchase a kit to test the water yourself, which is recommended to be done yearly. What this process does is looks for bacteria or anything that can corrode your pipes or damage your systems, such as a hot water furnace or the dishwasher, for example. Whether it affects the color of your laundry or has a substance that is unhealthy, this utility is an important one.

There are four sections to the testing: bacteria, physical parameters such as pH and odor, chemicals such as too much iron or arsenic and radon in the water. Keep in mind that you can have one but not all of these substances present.

No matter how many years you live in a home, the well water needs annual maintenance. This specific evaluation keeps you safe and your household equipment in good working order.

Your well may even have a conditioning system on it already. This filtering aid has a backwash which takes the excess water used when cleansing the water through extra tanks set up for this method. This excess needs to



BARBARA LEHRER

go somewhere and, in the past, it was directed into the septic but now it is recommended that this water go into a drywell, a designated proper pipe and hole in the ground, separate from the septic. This is because these minerals can hurt your septic the way they can damage your pipes in the house.

In the event that you do not have enough water for multiple showers and your dishwasher in a few-hour period, then you may need to replace your pump or bladder in the well tank.

Don’t worry – anything can be fixed. The well, whether you drink from it or just use it for showers, dishes and laundry, is very important in your daily living and should be reviewed for water quality. Pick up the back of the toilet tank. Is it brown?

This could indicate you need maintenance. There are many capable companies in our area. Have a professional stop by to take a look, run some samples, and stay informed.

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

Just Floored

Wallpaper Is Back

The trends of wallpaper have come and gone. It is now back and becoming hotter than ever. Wallpaper is a great decorative feature for any home when applied in the correct space.

Let’s state up front how difficult it is to remove and reinstall wallpaper. I always preferred paint accents or tile accents on feature walls. But the designs of wallpaper are so amazing you can’t help but want it.

The best way to make sure you are a fan is purchase one roll of the wallpaper you are leaning toward and tape it to the wall to make sure you are excited about the look. Leave it up for a few days and look at in the day and evening to make sure. Once you have decided, then I would suggest having it installed professionally.

Using wallpaper is one of the quickest ways to transform a space.

I enjoy using wallpaper in powder rooms. There are numerous options. The patterns are bold and bright, hand painted or silk, bamboo and textures, grass cloth, herringbone patterns, animal print...the options are endless.

Not only can the prints and patterns instantly dress up a room, but they can also be used to help hide stains, smudges and blemishes far better than a coat of paint. If you’re on the hunt for wallpaper, there are several options. The most popular options are guaranteed to bring forth pops of pizzazz no matter the space.



ANNAMARIE AMORE

Jungle and plant printed wallpapers in vibrant greens and deep browns have become fashionable again. If you can’t get out in nature as much as you’d like, foliage, botanical and forest motifs are a great way to introduce a little wilderness to your well-ordered urban lifestyle.

Geometric prints work well with retro and/or midcentury interiors and are an easy way to add character and color to any space. Large two-toned geometric patterns with clean lines are great for more modern concepts, while tribal or folk-inspired patterns can work for rustic kitchens or minimalist bedrooms.

Channel the spirit of the 70s with bohemian-style floral or paisley wallpapers. Intricate, sensual and flamboyant, such eye-catching and flowery designs can be used on feature walls or above kitchen cabinetry to bring a fun, playful touch to your home.

Using marble for your walls can not only be impractical, but expensive too. Yet that shouldn’t stop you from introducing the wonderful swirls and textures of marble to your decor. There are numerous wallpaper designers who make these types of collections of luxurious marble-inspired designs that can assist in bringing a touch of natural elegance into any room.

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

MICHAEL ULRICH
Fine Arts

Aubunon 24x24 Oil on Panel

Exhibiting at
Case Memorial Library
June thru July
Opening June 16 • 6pm to 8pm

Foodie Foursome

Northern And Southern India Come Together In Milford

Barosa Indian Kitchen is located in the plaza with Bob's Discount Furniture in Milford, situated in the corner of the plaza between the UPS store and the G-Mart Asian Supermarket. The restaurant is spacious with a relaxed atmosphere and a great bar.

The menu features a wide variety of dishes that includes both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. In addition to the well-known Indian dishes, their cuisines include those of Andhra, Telangana and a perfect fusion of South Indian and North Indian dishes. Mongolian, Persian and Chinese cuisine have affected Indian cuisine over time. The particular combination of spices and herbs that invariably gives Indian cuisine its flavor and aroma has been consistent, and Barosa skillfully incorporates them into their dishes.

Cindy and I were joined by friends Judy and Decelle as well as the co-owner of Barosa, Sahana. We started out with the Manchurian. These fried fritters are available in both vegetarian with a sweet baby corn interior, and for the non-veggie version chicken. Both have a tasty sauce with a hint of sweetness and subtle heat that kicks in at the end. You can order all dishes with your choice of heat.

We went with mild to medium across the

board, and it was enough heat for each of our choices. The perfectly fried fritters had a nice crunch while staying tender on the inside, and the sauce of stock, cilantro, garlic, soy, peppers and ginger perfectly coated each piece.

Our next app was the "Chicken 65," also a fritter. However, it was marinated in yogurt, curry leaves and green pepper and sautéed in a red sauce. Its was really tasty and with the choice of mild heat was perfect. Next was the "Lollypops" which were visually creative and succulent. The juicy chicken drumsticks were carved to form a handle and coated in a wonderful spicy batter. The chili was cooked with onions, green chilies and bell peppers, stir fried in soya and red chili sauce to perfection and served with plump, expertly done prawns.

It was time for the entrees. We started off with one of the most popular Indian culinary dishes: chicken tikka masala. It was chock full of tender chicken and freshly marinated vegetables coated in a delicious sauce made of fresh tomatoes, onions and traditional herbs and spices. This delicious sauce was



STEVE COOPER

a little more viscous than most, adding to its ability to cling to the other ingredients. It was also great for dipping the garlic naan bread.

Next came the dal tadka and egg fried rice. The rice was extremely flavorful, and the egg and veggies a perfect addition. The dal tadka was a serving of cooked and spiced lentils finished with a tempering of ghee, oil and spices – a smooth and tasty selection.

The next Indian specialty was tandoori prepared lamb chops. Tandoori is a cooking method that involves marinating meat and cooking it over an intense fire in a tandoor – a clay oven. The meat is lowered into the oven and cooked in this smoky, hot environment until done. They were prepared to perfection, fresh, succulent and not too gamy.

Last was a beautifully prepared biryani, a mixed rice dish, and is one of the most popular dishes in South Asia. Barosa made theirs with Indian spices, basmati rice and usually some type of meat (chicken, beef, goat, lamb, prawn, fish). To try something different – and one of the most consumed meats in

the world – we went with the goat. The rice mixture was served atop the goat and slow cooked mutton gravy. While it does have a stronger taste than beef, it was flavorful and tender, and the rice and gravy the perfect pairing.

Our evening concluded with an order of gulab jamun. This treat is one of India's most popular desserts and is often referred to as "Indian doughnuts." This delicious treat was melt-in-your-mouth fried dumpling (milk balls) gently fried but moist in the middle and dipped in cardamom and rose water flavored honey. They were served with vanilla ice cream. It was a classic way to end our Indian dining experience.

The service was fast and attentive and the food worth putting on your regular rotation of restaurant visits. Call for reservations or takeout at 475-206-6739. They are open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week and are located at 157 Cherry St.

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

Insuring Your Future

Changes Coming For HUSKY Eligibility

The HUSKY insurance program, Connecticut's version of Medicaid, is for children and adults under the age of 65 whose income is below a certain level. During the pandemic many people lost their jobs or worked reduced hours, and as a result their income decreased dramatically. Many folks qualified for HUSKY insurance coverage.

Normally people on this plan are required to show proof of income on an annual basis – usually close to the anniversary of the month they enrolled. Because the economic climate remained poor, HUSKY did not require that those in the program update their income for the past two years.

During that period many people returned to their previous jobs or gained employment, thereby increasing their annual income. Since the state did not request verification of income, many people who did not receive

benefits through an employer remained on the HUSKY plan.

Once the public health emergency is over, (most likely in the fall), HUSKY will again request enrollees to confirm their income status. This could result in a change in eligibility for many. If a person is no longer eligible, there are options that have been put in place to provide affordable and comprehensive health insurance.

Each individual will be eligible for a special enrollment period of 60 days when they can choose a new plan on Access Health CT, the state health exchange. Connecticut has created a transition program called Covered Connecticut will enable people to enroll in a silver level plan through either of the carriers that offer insurance on



TRISH PEARSON

the exchange at very low or zero premiums. This program is designed to provide a "bridge" to the new plan without creating a financial hardship.

If a person who is on HUSKY is no longer eligible, they will have at least one month to choose a new insurance plan. It is quite likely that they will be eligible for an advanced premium tax credit, which will reduce the monthly premium and still provide comprehensive coverage. If this occurs, seek help from a certified broker who can assist with choosing the best plan as well as the application process.

Going without health insurance should not be an option. The risk of financial disaster in the event of an unexpected medical sit-

uation is great. Even non-emergencies can be expensive-but-necessary expenses. Also, HUSKY will not penalize those whose income increased within the past year. All eligibility is determined on a going forward basis.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the Milford Chamber "Best of" category for insurance brokers. It was an honor to be nominated and I appreciate the confidence and trust that people place in me. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously. Enjoy the rest of 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

Reconnecting Through Travel – Again

About a year ago, I wrote a column on reconnecting through travel, about looking for destinations where we can connect with the places and people that mean the most to us. Ideas to inspire us to explore the world's wide-open spaces as we navigated through the pandemic world.

Today, at the start of the summer vacation season we are still navigating the pandemic, but most countries are open and there are many positive changes. People are traveling again. Cruise lines are sailing again. The airlines report that air traffic is at pre-pandemic levels and higher. Most countries in Europe and other parts of the globe have lifted COVID entry restrictions. Even the US on June 12 lifted COVID test requirements for return to the US from international destinations.

Pent-up demand from the last two years is

a reality. So what does this mean if you are hearing about flight cancellations on the news, and not sure if you want to fly anywhere right now?

The truth is most flights are flying. Having been on 13 trips in the last 10 months (most of them international), I can assure you that travel is still the exhilarating high that it has always been. Exploring destinations with less crowds is a blessing, and one of the reasons we decided to travel so soon and so frequently.

Many cruise lines are expanding their home drive-market itineraries to make travel easier as the airlines increase their capacity. This includes round-trip cruises leaving from New York City and Cape Liberty, New Jersey. In



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

addition to Norwegian and Royal Caribbean, MSC Cruises will be homeporting a ship in New York City next year. At least a dozen cruise lines offer fall foliage cruises this fall to New England and Canada from both New York and Boston – 83 sailings in all. And starting next year, Holland America is offering "grand journeys" round trip from the US. My favorite, a Grand Africa Voyage, is available from Fort Lauderdale in October 2023 – great if you're retired and have 74 days to travel.

What I have really enjoyed reconnecting with is the people, the culture and the experiences that we have experienced in such diverse locations as the Loire Valley, Croatia, a Moab-to-Denver rail trip, Egypt, Jordan,

Portugal and six cruises on Celebrity, Virgin Voyages, Princess, Royal Caribbean, Holland America and Azamara.

On all of the cruise lines, one of the highlights was reconnecting with the crew who could not do enough for you. They are so pleased to be back sailing again. Local guides are also thrilled to be back working again.

The important thing is to reconnect through travel again. If you've been traveling, you may agree that the overall benefits of travel are worth the sporadic upsets along the way. That's why I became a travel agent: to connect with people, places and cultures around the globe. I love my job.

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

Milford Rotary Lobster Bake Returning

Milford Rotary Club is gearing up for its annual Lobster Bake, which has been on hiatus for the past two years, but will be back in force this summer.

The event will take place at Lisman Landing, located at 37 Helwig St. in Milford, on Saturday, July 30, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30

p.m. The last meal will be served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$60 for one lobster, \$85 for two lobsters, \$60 for a steak and \$5 for a kid's hot dog ticket. The ticket price includes corn on the cob and all the other fixings. Beer and wine are included in the ticket price for guests 21 and older, and soft drinks are included for all.

We Regret The Error

A column on page 13 in the June 2, 2022 issue regarding disparities in pollution exposure carried an incorrect headline. The correct headline should have been "Protecting Everyone From Pollution – Equally." The article also incorrectly stated that most of those who died in the May 14 mass shooting in Buffalo, New York were Black. All those who died were Black.

Here's To Your Health

The Path Of Least Resistance

In my profession I deal with some people who've recovered from injuries or surgeries. Most have done their due diligence in getting themselves back on their feet by seeing a physical therapist, though a few have not.

In the past, my clients have always come to me after recovery and so I never had the opportunity to witness what was actually done during their PT sessions to get them stronger and fully recovered. However, I am now doing my job in a setting where I get to witness firsthand what physical therapists actually do. I am amazed daily at the progress I am seeing in their patients and I feel privileged to be among them watching the medical side take a totally different approach from big pharma and surgery-first approaches in getting their patients pain free

and stronger. I am not against modern medicine or surgeries. I am pro taking the path of least resistance and starting with a more natural approach to wellness first.

As in any profession, not all people are equally proficient. Finding the right physical therapist for you is essential. Finding one that believes in overall wellness – body, soul and spirit – is important. They shouldn't just be getting you pain free and stronger and then send you out the door without a proactive program in place to help you stay pain free and get even stronger.

Being in this new environment, I now also



MICHELE TENNEY

have a better understanding of the emotional aspect of chronic pain and how true compassion must be present for these patients. Everyone heals differently, and some people take longer than others to heal for a medley of reasons. Nonetheless, I enjoy supporting them and encouraging them.

You are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body. I know you've heard me say that plenty of times before, but it's worth repeating. We cannot devote only a part of ourselves to wellness. We have to be all in on all three dimensions.

Devotion is a good word when it comes to being fully whole and healthy. Love your-

self enough to be devoted to your health. You are an investment. An investment to yourself and reward to those who love you. There's a saying I heard this week. "Invest now or pay later with interest." It's never too late to start living your best life. Start today. Don't wait for tomorrow, because tomorrow is not promised to us.

Don't ignore what your body is telling you. Living with pain is not an option. I believe in you and encourage you to start living your best life possible. 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

Orange Rotary's Lobsterfest Is Back

By Roger Tausig



I am pleased to announce that one of the great traditions here in Orange will go on in 2022. The Orange Rotary Annual Lobsterfest is set for Aug. 13 at the High Plains

Community Center for its 15th consecutive year.

Thanks to the dedication of the stalwart members of the Rotary Club of Orange, this great event will go on as it has for the past 14 years, but with an eye toward safety for those who still are having second thoughts about participating in large public gatherings. To accommodate those customers, we have designed the

Lobsterfest so that diners will have the option to pick up their dinners through an orderly drive-through process while those who wish to enjoy their meals on premises at HPCC may do so as well.

The dinners, which will cost \$60 per person, will consist of two one-and-one-quarter-pound lobsters, New England clam chowder, corn on the cob, coleslaw and a roll with butter. For those who are not lobster lovers, we will be also offer a thick, juicy one-pound New York strip steak with all the same sides.

For those who dine at HPCC, beer and wine also will be provided. For those who take away their meals, the steak will be provided uncooked in a shrink-wrapped package along with a separate container of our top-secret blend of seasonings (imported directly from Montreal). Unfortunately, we cannot legally supply alcohol to

takeaway customers.

For those who are not familiar with Rotary, an event like this constitutes one of our largest fundraisers. Our club – and Rotary clubs across the country and around the world – work hard to raise money to fund causes that aim to help people in need.

For example, some of the money we raise goes toward supporting veterans service organizations like Homes for the Brave, where we underwrote the cost of providing their facility that houses homeless veterans with a much-needed air conditioning system. We also help Beth El Center in Milford, where the funds we donate are used to support a wide array of services they provide to veterans.

We donate money to local organizations that address food insecurity locally and in the region. During the height of the pandemic, Or-

ange Rotary funded a large project to supply personal protective equipment to local health care providers and first responders. We accept grant requests from numerous local organizations of all types that are in need of funds to serve those less fortunate.

Every meal we sell at the Lobsterfest has the potential to bring assistance to people who are underserved and depend on organizations like ours to keep them stay fed, sheltered and safe from disease.

So mark your calendars for Aug. 13 and bring your family and friends to this wonderful event. Tickets will be available through our website at rotarycluboforange.org starting July 1.

It doesn't get much better than having a delicious, freshly made lobster or steak dinner while doing your part to help those who are less fortunate than we are.

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Wine Talk

The Rise And Fall And Rise Of California Wines

In 1769, Franciscan missionary Father Junipero Serra planted the first California vineyard at Mission San "Diego de Alcalá." Serra continued to establish eight more missions and vineyards until his death in 1784 and has been called the father of California wine.

The grape variety he planted presumably descended from earlier Mexican plantings. It became known as the mission grape and dominated California wine production until about 1880. There are still to this day mission grapes planted in California but used primarily for distillation purposes and the production of California brandy. Wines made from mission grapes do not meet modern quality standards.

California's first documented imported European wine vines were planted in Los Angeles in 1893 by Jean-Louis Vignes. In the 1850s and 60s, Agoston Harazsthy, a Hungarian soldier, merchant and promoter, made several trips to import cuttings from 165 of the greatest European vineyards to California. Some of this endeavor was at his personal expense and some through grants from the state. Overall, he introduced about 300 different grape varieties, although some were lost prior to testing due to difficulties in preserving and handling. On several of his trips to Europe, Harazsthy was promised reimbursement from the state of California for delivering the vine cuttings. But he was never paid.

Harazsthy is considered the founder of the California wine industry and contributed his enthusiasm and optimism for the future of wine along with considerable personal effort and risk. He founded Buena Vista Winery

and promoted vine planting over much of northern California. He dug extensive caves for cellaring, promoted hillside planting, fostered the idea of non-irrigated vineyards and suggested redwood casks when oak supplies ran low. He was indeed the founder of the California wine industry.

In 1863, a species of Native American grapes was taken to botanical gardens in England. These cuttings carried a species of root louse called phylloxera, which attacks and feeds on the fine roots and leaves. European vines had no evolutionary protection. By 1865, it had spread to vineyards in Provence. Over the next 20 years, it inhabited and decimated nearly all the vineyards of Europe. Many methods were attempted to eradicate phylloxera, but all proved temporary and none economical.

Finally Thomas Munson, a horticulturist in Texas, suggested grafting the European vinifera vines onto American rootstock. There began a long, laborious process of grafting every wine vine in Europe over to American rootstocks. It was only in this manner that the European wine industry could be retrieved from extinction.

During the period when Europeans were dealing with phylloxera, the American wine industry was flourishing. California wine was exported throughout Europe and South America.

The destruction of the American wine industry would come from prohibition, which lasted from 1920 to 1933. Prohibition had



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

been enacted in 1919, followed by the Volstead National Prohibition Act and the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920 forbidding the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors.

Through a loophole allowing each home to "make 200 gallons of non-intoxicating cider and fruit juice per year," thousands of otherwise law-abiding citizens became home winemakers and bootleggers. Prices for fresh grapes shot up because of the increased demand and a railroad shortage of refrigerated freight cars in which to ship them.

Several states stayed dry after the repeal of prohibition. Other states got into the liquor business by running state package stores. Other states granted licenses. The only group of wines that sold well were the fortified dessert wines. Taxed at a lower rate than distilled spirits, but with 20 percent alcohol, this group made the cheapest intoxicant available. It wasn't until 1968 that table wines overtook fortified wines, regaining the status of most popular wine category.

In 1920 there were more than 2,500 commercial wineries in the US. Less than 100 survived as winemaking operations by 1933. Prohibition distorted the role of alcohol in American life and ruined a fledgling world-class wine industry, which took decades to overcome.

Some California winemakers began to produce quality wines but still had difficul-

ty marketing them. Frank Schoonmaker, a prominent journalist and wine writer in the 1950s and 60s introduced the idea of labeling wines using varietal (Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling) rather than generic names borrowed from famous European regions. (Burgundy, Chablis, Rhine). Robert Mondavi was one of the first to label the majority of his wines by varietal names and was tireless in promoting the practice.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, the quality of some vintners' wines was outstanding. But few took notice. On May 24, 1976, a blind tasting was held in Paris with a panel made up exclusively of French wine experts. After comparing California Chardonnays with the very best French chards, three of the top four were Californian. Every one of the nine judges ranked Chateau Montelena the highest. Chalone Vineyard came in third and Spring Mountain ranked fourth. When reds were evaluated, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars was ranked number one, above Chateau Mouton-Rothschild, Chateau Montrose, Chateau Hout-Brion, and Chateau Leoville Las Cases. America had arrived.

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

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The Garden Spot

Reduce Your Kitchen Waste By Composting

Like yard waste, food waste can be composted. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in 2018, 2.6 million tons of food (4.1 percent of wasted food) or 0.42 pounds per person per day was composted. Composting these wastes creates a nutrient-rich product that can be used to help improve soils and nourish your lawn and garden.

According to the Public Interest Working Group, composting could reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills and incinerators in the US by at least 30 percent. Organic waste in landfills generates methane. These landfills are some of the biggest emitters of this potent greenhouse gas in the US. By composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced. If all Americans composted, it would be equivalent to taking 7.8 million cars off the road.

Compost reduces and can even eliminate the need for chemical fertilizer and pesticides. These chemicals may be toxic and wash into waterways, fueling the growth of algal blooms that can kill or displace large numbers of fish. Using compost instead of mulch in the garden or as a light top dressing on turf will provide most of the nutrients you need for healthy plant growth.

Composting helps the environment and your pocketbook by reducing the use of chemicals.

You can buy a compost bin at most home and garden or big box stores, you can make your own or you can just make a compost pile. You want a location that gets some sunlight so things “cook” properly. A properly



PAT DRAY

maintained compost pile won't have an offensive odor, so no worries there.

There are four key ingredients to successful composting – carbon, nitrogen, moisture and air. These ingredients feed the bacteria, fungi, and other microbes that are the key workers in composting as they “feed” on organic matter and use the carbon and nitrogen it contains to grow and reproduce.

It's an amazing cycle.

The first, carbon, can be thought of as brown: fall leaves, cardboard, newspapers, straw and wood chips.

Ingredient two, nitrogen, can be thought of as green, and is what the composting workers need to help break down the carbon. Nitrogen can come from lawn clippings, vegetable peels and other kitchen scraps.

Ingredient three, moisture, is needed to keep the composting workers alive. Every time you add a layer to the compost pile, you should sprinkle in a little water.

Ingredient four, air, can easily be added by “turning” the pile with a metal rake or pitchfork every time you add a layer of one of the other ingredients.

Once you have your four ingredients, you need to get the microbes to come. You can purchase compost starter or worms, but I find that I can just take a few shovels full of garden soil and add it to my compost pile.

It can take from three months to a year for the decomposition process to finish, so be patient. Soon enough you'll have a better garden and smaller environmental footprint.

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

Mental Health

Addressing Mental Health In The Schools

The May 24 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas was enough to make us all seriously question how and why these tragedies continue to play out with such incredible impact. The issues surrounding the “why” have led to greatly varying opinions related to gun control, mental health and safety in the schools. The responsibility lies with multiple parties, including our policymakers, the community and the institutions that operate within those communities.

One glaring aspect of several of these school shootings is the young age of the perpetrator. Another is the lasting effect that incidents like these have on the children who witness them. To say that there would be “some” trauma would be an understatement. Whether we're looking at a perpetrator who somehow fell through the cracks of our mental health system or the kids who are impacted by these events, it's becoming clearer that the schools should be a place where mental health is adequately acknowledged and addressed.

According to the National Alliance on

Mental Illness, one out of six youths aged 6-17 experiences a mental disorder each year, and about half of them experience mental health conditions by the age of 14. School-based mental health services exist to reduce barriers to accessing treatment by having school psychologists and counselors available. Many schools now partner with community behavioral health providers to embed licensed social workers or professional counselors in the school settings to provide these services.

Youth are almost just as likely to receive mental health services in the school setting as they are with an external provider. A logical step in the right direction is to increase these services to increase the likelihood that more youth who are at-risk or experiencing mental health symptoms get the help that they need.

Providing direct treatment isn't the only way that the educational setting can ad-



JENNIFER FIORILLO

dress mental health. Developing a culture of mental health awareness and promotion can go a long way toward reducing stigma and creating an environment where there is a higher likelihood that early signs of mental health issues can be identified.

Increasing mental health awareness through social emotional learning can help to mitigate symptoms of mental health disorders among children. The SEL curriculum teaches children to better understand their feelings and how to handle them in addition to learning to understand the feelings of others.

Some practices that align with SEL can include creating calm-down areas for self-reflection, teaching strategies for stress management, promoting positive self-talk, journaling and practicing respectful disagreement. Some research has shown that SEL can reduce aggressive behaviors in children by

as much as 42 percent in the school setting. Fostering a culture that promotes the appropriate management of feelings, positive social interactions and mental health awareness and promotion will keep the topic on the radar and have a more meaningful impact than only addressing behavioral health issues when they require treatment.

Addressing mental health in the school setting requires a multipronged approach of not only treating issues as they are identified but also promoting ongoing discussion, resources and coping skills to equip children with the emotional skills they need to navigate life. Parents should seek to fully understand why mental health promotion and treatment are important in the educational setting.

It's time to normalize this idea and involve everyone, because positive mental health is everyone's business.

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

Beth-El Involved In Housing Program For Those Impacted By COVID

Beth-El Center, a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Milford, is partnering with TEAM Inc., a nonprofit human services agency in the Naugatuck Valley, to provide housing services and financial aid to individuals who've experienced hardship as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Supported by funding through TEAM from a Community Service Block Grant via the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act, this short-term housing assistance program will provide up to 15 households that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic with housing assistance, financial aid and case management services.

“This program helps folks who are experiencing hardship as a result of COVID to find housing and it provides financial aid to help them make their rental payments,” said Ruth Menard, Beth-El Center director of programs and facilities. “Beth-El Center's staff will work with tenants for six months to make sure they're utilizing necessary resources that will help them maintain the housing. The goal is for tenants to achieve self-sufficiency, sustain a healthy relationship with their landlords and to continue to stay housed long term.”

TEAM Inc., which has an ongoing contract with CSBG, received additional funding for the emergency relief effort. TEAM chose

Beth-El as its partner to execute the program and provide the housing assistance, case management services and administer the rental financial aid.

According to Jillian Ruisi, TEAM director of support services, “Through the aid provided in this program, we're able to help tenants with their security deposit plus first and last month's rental payments. The program also provides landlords and property owners with a tenant liaison and support from an established community partner.”

To be eligible, households that have been negatively impacted by COVID must be experiencing homelessness or at imminent

risk, demonstrate income at or below 200 percent federal poverty level and live in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton or Woodbridge.

Landlords in these areas who are interested in partnering in this program will work with tenants who have secured housing funds including monthly rent, security deposits and utility assistance.

More information about the housing assistance program for tenants and landlords can be found at bethelmilford.org or by calling Beth-El's Housing Case Manager Alisa Wilson at 203-876-0747.

Milford Launches Property Fraud Alert Program

Milford is offering a free tool to help property owners protect one of their most valuable assets from fraud.

The free online fraud alerts program allows Milford property owners to sign up to receive alerts whenever a document, such as a deed, mortgage or lien, is recorded in their name. The document can be viewed online or at the Milford city clerk's

office.

“We've been getting an increasing number of calls from owners concerned about fraudulent transfers or liens filed without notification,” said City Clerk Karen Fortunati. “This alert system will provide peace of mind. It's easy – all you need to do is register your name and an email address. If a document is recorded in our office, you will get a notification and can call us for more information.”

Call the city clerk's office at 203-783-3210 for more information. You can find the registration form at searchiqs.com/fraudalert/?CC=CTMILF.

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Getting It Wrong On Inflation

In June the Federal Reserve raised its target interest rate by 75 basis points, the largest increase since 1994. To make matters worse, retail sales unexpectedly fell and gross domestic product for the second quarter is projected to be flat to slightly negative.

With the first quarter coming in at -0.5 percent, this begs the question of whether we are in a recession right now. The true definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of negative growth. However, all the signs indicate that we are about as close to a recession now as we have been since 2008.

The latest statement from the Federal Reserve is mind-blowing. A press release states, "Overall economic activity appears to have picked up after edging down in the first quarter."

Really? The Federal Reserve totally miscalculated inflation early on, calling inflation transitory in nature, meaning that inflation will be short-lived due to supply chains being negatively impacted by the pandemic. But the pandemic is only one driver of the current inflation equation.

There are three leading factors which are driving the current historic 40-year high 8.6 percent inflation rate: excessive levels of debt, monetary stimulus and rising energy prices.

The US is more indebted today than it has ever been historically, with a total non-financial debt/GDP ratio of nearly 300 percent, including government, corporate and con-

sumer debt. This excessive debt is a financial time bomb that, left to its own devices, could result in a deflationary bust involving widespread defaults, stock market and housing market crashes and bank failures.

As a result of this genuine and worrisome threat, policymakers are not leaving anything to chance. It has become increasingly clear that a high level of inflation is becoming a policy goal to alleviate indebtedness and the risk of deflationary bust that comes with excessive debt.

There are good reasons to assume that this was the policy goal in 2011, too, only policymakers failed at their goal. The US debt/GDP ratio has not fallen but has, in fact, risen by about 50 percent of GDP since then. Today's excessive level of debt, then, is not a driver of inflation per se; however, it is a driver of the government policies that cause inflation.

The Fed hasn't mentioned that the M2 money supply (an indicator of money supply and future inflation) increased by 40 percent within the past year. The Fed also purchased nearly two-thirds of the bonds sold by President Joe Biden's \$2 trillion rescue package, which is a major factor in causing the inflation we experience today. In addition, the Fed has financed spending with the purchase of over \$4 trillion of US Treasury bonds



KEVIN MCNABOLA

and other financial assets since March 2020.

These gargantuan stimuli have been accompanied by the increasing popularity of modern monetary theory among economists, which argues that the only limit to fiscal spending is excessive inflation. With inflation being the only limitation on deficit spending, it is no wonder that policymakers are describing the current inflationary impulse as transitory.

The third factor is rising energy prices. Look back to 2008; the world experienced record-high oil prices, and the profits of the energy industry expanded greatly. With rising profits came an extraordinary level of investment in future oil production. The resulting oil boom of the 2010s and a rapid increase in global oil production dampened energy prices.

In 2020, record low oil prices driven by the pandemic led to record losses among energy companies and significantly reduced capital expenditures in energy exploration projects. Due to lack of investment and fewer new discoveries, supply growth across the world is limited and outright supply declines are already taking effect.

Although supply will likely be tight given aggressive policymaker plans to invest in infrastructure, demand for oil and other com-

modities should remain robust, even assuming considerable growth in electrification in transportation. With constrained supply and increasing demand, energy prices should continue to rise in the coming years, putting upward pressure on costs across a wide range of goods and services, including food supplies (while also enabling the rise of alternative modes of transportation which are more energy efficient).

These three inflationary factors will undoubtedly force the Federal Reserve to raise its target rate a full percentage point every meeting from here on out, until the actual inflation rate starts coming down significantly.

Connecticut has already started to feel the impacts, with an additional tax of 9 cents per gallon on diesel fuel that begins on July 1, which will most certainly have a negative ripple effect on small businesses and consumers.

This increase in diesel taxes could not have come at a worse time. Inevitably, it essentially means that the cost of goods and services, apparel and food are going to increase as well across Connecticut for the next six to 12 months. Higher gas prices will ultimately siphon off discretionary income and consumer spending, ultimately leading to a hard landing for the economy in the near future.

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

Amity Students Win In Film Festival

The Amity Regional High School Film Club won first place on June 3 in the Skills21.org film festival. The winning five-minute short film, Act Your Age, was written, planned and produced entirely by the students in the film club over the course

of the 2021-22 school year.

The film festival accepted submissions from high schools and middle schools across Connecticut. The Amity Film Club won in the open film category, one of several categories that were awarded. The other

categories were best documentary, best 84 hour film, and best augmented reality film.

"I was ecstatic to have our club win the award," said Daniella Landino, an Amity senior and president of the Video Club. "I am incredibly proud of the video club

members for everything they contributed to the film and was ecstatic to win the award," she said.

The sponsoring organization, Skills21, is a Connecticut-based national leader in digital learning and STEM achievement.

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For Nature's Sake

When Illegal Fireworks Take A Toll On Birds

For those taking stock of the natural riches in our part of Connecticut, it's easy to point to birds as a precious asset. The morning sounds of birds summering in Milford and Orange, although somewhat diminished from past years, reassures us that conservationist Rachel Carson's cautionary tale of a time "when no birds sing" is not yet here.

For those interested in sustainability, birds are a useful indicator of what is going well or not with environmental protection (birds are our "canary in the coal mine"). Birding havens, like Milford Point and Silver Sands State Park, are linchpins of local eco-tourism; plus, the combination of cormorants, egrets, plovers, terns, osprey, herons, songbirds and more in our area confers invaluable benefits to visitors and residents alike.

Why then would a private landowner do anything to harass and even repel local bird populations?

Unlike professional firework displays, the widespread incidence of personal (and illegal) backyard and beachfront explosions in the weeks leading up to, during and after July 4 in our area have consequences that many may not realize. According to the state Department of Consumer Protection, it is illegal for non-professional, non-licensed individuals to purchase, use, possess or sell fireworks in Connecticut. Only sparklers (which don't explode or fly into the air) are legal for those 16 and above.

Birds' reactions to fireworks are one clue of their incompatibility. Fireworks are used, after all, to deliberately drive birds away at places like airports, where FAA wildlife experts utilize short, unpredictable explosions as part of their management strategy for repelling birds. In another application in 2022, the Oregon Department of Trans-

portation is using a "gun-like mechanism that looks like a fireworks show" to clear birds out from under bridges that need maintenance.

In occasional gruesome incidents, fireworks can also kill large numbers of birds at a time. During a 2011 New Year's celebration in Beebe, Arkansas, as many as 5,000 roosting birds, spooked by the noise, were killed as they flew into buildings, trees and each other. At a 2021 New Year's celebration in Rome, hundreds of birds fell dead in the streets as a result of a particularly loud set of explosions near where birds were nesting. In the aftermath, the Italian branch of the International Organization for the Protection of Animals has called for a ban on selling firecrackers and fireworks for personal use, citing the threat to animals.

An endangered species biologist for the New England Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Susi von Oettengen, explained from her offices in New Hampshire how fireworks present an additional risk to birds already listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

"There are many different ways that fireworks can affect nesting shorebirds - whether they're plovers or terns or oyster catchers. The noise and lights are startling. They go into their flight or fight response, and if they have young and everyone scatters, it leaves the young vulnerable to predation," she said.

Because of that threat, the FWS has created distance guidelines for professional fireworks organizers. For instance, fireworks should not be detonated within a radius of



PATRICIA HOUSER

half a mile of an area with piping plovers. In the case of nesting terns, which are far more sensitive, according to von Oettengen, a minimum distance three quarters of a mile is the rule.

"They will abandon their colony as a result of fireworks," she said.

Noise in particular alarms shorebirds, says von Oettengen. "The noise is different - it's even more than a thunderstorm," she noted.

A secondary threat at fireworks shows is crowd behavior that can include treading on nesting areas in the dark and leaving trash near the nests, which attracts predators.

Professional firework displays do take many of those concerns into account; there are crowd management plans and perimeter guidelines, plus monitoring and state and local oversight that all contribute to public health and safety, according to Dan Worroll, organizer of Milford's official fireworks display. Wildlife is considered too; Worrell remembers the city's 375th anniversary planning eight years ago, when Walnut Beach was disqualified as a possible site for the city's event because of proximity to threatened bird species at the Silver Sands refuge area and Charles Island.

Worroll, who served in the fire department for nearly 35 years and is currently chair of the Milford Parks, Beach, and Recreation Commission, also requires a scrupulous cleanup of the toxic particles that are strewn around an area in the aftermath of fireworks explosions.

The problem is that most of the fireworks in Milford and Orange, including many elaborate displays, are illegal. Thus, they

don't apply the monitoring, oversight, safety and wildlife guidelines that state and federal experts have deemed important for our communities.

All of that is very much on the mind of Orange Assistant Chief of Police Max Martins at this time of year. As he thinks of illegal backyard fireworks, Martins mulls over the problem of increased access to illegal fireworks, the challenges of catching a violator in the act, but also what seems to be a pattern of overall decline in civility and common courtesy.

"Nobody wants to be told what to do, and nobody wants to follow rules anymore," he said.

It's not that it's just one day, either. The sporadic, loud explosions begin sometimes weeks before July 4 and extend long after. So does the need for cleanup and soothing the frayed nerves of pets and children and vulnerable adults.


Martins thinks in terms of his own household: "Listen, who doesn't like a fireworks display now and then? But as a pet owner now I cringe because I know what it's going to do to our dog."

Considering the environmental angle in all this, Martins leaned back in his office chair to see a wren feeding her young in a homemade birdhouse outside his office window.

"We take it for granted until it's not there," he said. "People think, 'Ah it will always be there'...but that's not always true."

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

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Orange Bicentennial Parade And Family Dinner



Orange held a parade and family dinner served by Mission BBQ in the historic center of town on June 25 in honor of its 200th anniversary. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Strawberry Festival Sweetens Orange



Orange Congregational Church sponsored the annual Strawberry Festival on June 11 at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds in Orange. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

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Garden Club Of Orange Hosts Flower Show



The Garden Club of Orange held its Bicentennial Blooms Flower Show on June 5 at High Plains Community Center. Photos by Lexi Crocco.



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PHOTOGRAPHY



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St. Mary Students Graduate



The class of 2022 at St. Mary School in Milford held their graduation ceremony on June 3 in St. Mary Church. The 23 graduates will be heading to Notre Dame Fairfield, Notre Dame West Haven, St. Joseph, Luralton Hall, Sacred Heart Academy, Jonathan Law and Joseph Foran high schools. Photo courtesy of St. Mary School. Photo courtesy of St. Mary School.

Orange Rotary Awards Scholarships



The Rotary Club of Orange recently awarded its 2022 scholarships of a \$2,250 apiece to local students. From left: Scholarship Chair Maria LaViola; club President Cathy Bradley; Fiona Li, who will be attending the University of California Berkley; Melanie Sherrick, who will be attending Pratt Institute in New York City; and Dina Aggarwal, who will attend Tufts University. Photo by Trish Pearson.

Cemetery Plays To Explore Orange History

The Orange Players and the Orange Historical Society are presenting a collaborative effort to celebrate Orange's bicentennial, a Readers' Theatre production at the Orange Cemetery called Grave Matters – Early Voices.

The productions take place at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, July 9, 10, 23 and 24.

Grave Matters was researched and written by Pat Miller and Trish O'Leary Treat, drawing of town histories written by Mary Woodruff, Harry Jones and Marvin Jamron, as well as documents from the Orange Historical Society. Miller and Treat are both

former columnists for the Milford-Orange Times.

Early inhabitants of Orange – husbands, wives, farmers, soldiers, entrepreneurs – all contributed to the growth of Orange. There is even a tale of murder included in the town's history.

The cast includes local actors familiar to Orange Players audiences, Jan Daddona, Jaqueline Koral, Linda Martin, John Mille, David Ortaleva and Paul Templeton. Incidental music was selected and will be performed by Betsy Anderson Malone. Pat Miller is the director.

OPS Names Student Awardees

Orange Public Schools has announced the recipients of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Superintendent/Student Recognition Award: from The Peck Place School, Anais Tavenas, Ellie Luo and Dashan Xia; from Race Brook School, Sean Fitzpatrick, Brady Wynne and Edward Doubovik; and from Turkey Hill School, Tariq Webber, Akriti Kapoor and Avery Alves.

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

The school system also announced the recipients of the South Central Area Superintendents' Association Award: Peyton Brown and Charlie Sakowicz from The Peck Place School; Olivia Huber and Luke Richard from Race Brook School; and Jake Alvarez and Lea Ramsauer from Turkey Hill School.

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

All recipients will receive their award during their sixth grade award ceremonies.

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Getting To Know You

Facing The Bald Facts

A little while back baldness made it into the public consciousness. Something about a slap and an award. I don't know specifically because I don't watch a lot of television anymore, and when I do I very definitely don't watch award shows. I only noticed because I am bald.

For me, going bald wasn't episodic. I didn't just one day wake up bald. My hair started leaving its post several years before I went bald. For some reason or another my body quit growing hair in sufficient amounts to cover my dome. Over time the condition of baldness became a fact of my existence.

Funny thing about facts: you can try to deny them, ignore them, refuse to accept them, change their names and/or hope you're somehow exempt, but eventually you'll have to deal with them. As my grandma Fink (my mother's mother) so sagely put it, "Like it or not, it's a concrete wall." What she meant by that was eventually you have to face the facts and deal with them.

Previous to shaving my head, the idea of baldness both terrified and depressed me. I was self-conscious about it and worried over what people would think. I readily admit that

I went through a significant period of denial and creative combing. However, no matter what I did the twin facts of too much head and not enough hair to cover it stared out of the mirror at me every day. Like it or not, it was a concrete wall I had to deal with.

So I had to make a choice. I could either cover my head with something else or start shaving off what hair would grow up there. I chose the second option and around Thanksgiving of 2004. I got out the clippers and shaved my head bald. I've been bald ever since. And honestly, after almost 20 years of freedom from being accused of using all the shampoo, I don't think that if they came to me with a pill that would miraculously grow my hair back that I would take it.

What gave me the courage to face the facts was my mother. Just prior to the time I decided to shave my head my mother found out she had brain cancer. On Dec. 24, 2004 she endured an operation to remove the tumor and then endured several weeks of postoperative che-



DAVID CROW

motherapy to stop the cancer from returning. Fortunately, it all worked pretty well. But for two brief scares and a couple of doses of radiation, she has remained cancer free for nearly 20 years.

For the operation they shaved my mother's hair off. Then there was the attendant hair loss due to the chemotherapy. She bore it with patient dignity and grace, never once fretting about it. She simply faced the facts, dealt with it and moved on with her life. Then she began helping others in a similar position deal with their situation. Her example suddenly made my baldness seem like a very minor problem. Seeing my mother cope made my reluctance to face the facts seem petty and small. I dealt with my concrete wall and shaved my head. I've never regretted it.

I'm not claiming to be better than anyone and I'm not encouraging everyone to up and shave their heads, although that's fine if that is what you want to do. Whatever your concrete wall is, there is someone else out there dealing

with it too – and some for much more frightening reasons than you. Maybe it's a fact that you're hungry because you missed a meal, or tired because you aren't getting enough sleep, or cold because you forgot your jacket and the weatherman was off a bit on the forecast. I'm sure those facts are irritating.

However, if you begin to fret, remember that there are millions of people dealing with that exact same concrete wall in their life. They may not have the option of stopping at a convenience store for a protein bar, or getting a safe, comfortable good night's sleep or returning home for their jacket. When I think of it in those terms, being bald ain't so bad after all.

Until next time, y'all come out!

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

Orange Farmers' Market Here

The Orange Community Farmers' Market will kick off its season on today and run each Thursday until Sept. 29 under the pavilion at the Orange Fairgrounds by High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. Market hours are from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"We have returning vendors from years prior as well as some new vendors this year. We are looking forward to another great season," said Market Master Annemarie Sliby.

A variety of farm, artisan and craft vendors will be participating. Visitors can find products such as vegetables, meats, baked goods, cheese, chocolate, honey, sauces, jams, soaps, essential oils, flowers and handmade items such as pottery, jewelry, pet accessories and embroidered items. Visitors can also expect food trucks and live music.

Visit FarmMarketOrange.com for vendor information and the entertainment schedule. More vendors and music may be added as the summer progresses.

Summer Concerts Coming To HPCC In Orange

Orange Community Services will host four summer concerts throughout July and August at the High Plains Community Center gazebo.

The shows include 60s band West Rock on June 30, with a rain date of July 7; local band Sister Funk on July 14, with a rain date of July 21; six-piece modern country party band Boondocks on July 28, with a rain date of Aug. 25;

and Beatles tribute band Penny Lane on Aug. 11, with a rain date of Aug. 18.

All the concerts run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and dovetail with the Orange Economic Development Corporation's farmers markets, which also happen on the fairgrounds from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Audience members are encouraged to bring their own chairs for the concerts.

Haven Hot Chicken Opens In Orange



The Orange Economic Development Corporation held a ribbon-cutting on June 18 for Haven Hot Chicken, located at 550 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. From left: Milford-Orange Times Publisher Steve Hechtman, Orange Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Converse Charbonneau, OEDC Executive Director Annemarie Sliby, owner Rob LaTronica, owner Jason Sobocinski, state Rep. Charles Ferraro, owner Craig Sklar, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy and local firefighters. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Amity (Continued From 1)

studies, Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, LGBTQ studies, Military Service, the experiences of veterans, social-emotional learning, and racism. We are required to create a minority teacher certification, retention, and residency program. We must review implicit bias and anti-bias training for all staff involved in hiring. In 2022, new laws require us to hold suitable educational programs for Juneteenth, if school is open that day. We must celebrate Children's Mental Health Day. We must include disability in our educational anti-discrimination practices."

"All of this work – and it's a lot of work – MUST be done by the schools, MUST be overseen by the Board," the letter said. "Having one of our own teachers act as a

DEI instructional coach to help their peers adjust to these requirements is not merely cost-effective. Because it is home-grown and customized to our needs, it will help our teachers teach our children better."

Amity has been in the headlines in the past over claims of racial and ethnic insensitivity. Students spoke out at Board of Education meetings in 2018, for instance, because they felt that too little was done after prior allegations of anti-Semitic acts were brought to the high school's attention.

The Anti-Defamation League, which advocates in particular for the Jewish community, came to Amity Middle School Bethany on June 14 – the date of the third referendum – to present the three schools in the Amity Regional School District with banners designating them as "No Place for Hate" schools.




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Tibbals Building Legacy Stretches Centuries

By Marilyn May

The original caption on photo of the building with a 'T' on it was, "The store of Messrs. Mark and George Tibbals at the corner of Broad and High streets was a grocery and like most stores, was a sort of club room for men in the evenings. Each store claimed its own particular coterie of gents who invariably gathered in their chosen places by the stove or upon a barrelhead."

Today, instead of Tibbals' store it's Tony's store. The store's full name today is Tony's Bikes & Sports. The name Tony's has been used by the past three bicycle shop owners: Tony Arnold, Anthony Libretti and their longtime friend and current owner Mike Macisco. Macisco said he kept the name Tony's because "Mike's Bikes" sounded funny to him. The business was started 32 years ago, and Macisco has been running it now for 16 years.

During the height of the coronavirus pandemic, you could see a line of customers along South Broad Street, six feet apart, masked and waiting for a turn to go into the store, one customer at a time.

When someone comes into Tony's and asks to talk to the boss, Macisco says, "You're the boss. I work here for you. How can I help?" As in decades past, the same welcoming atmosphere is still in the building.

Macisco's helpful attitude goes well beyond the store: "I do a lot with scouts, and I met a boy one time who had a lot of talent but no means to buy a bike, so I gave him one." His passion for bike riding took him all the way to Cuba a few years ago when he packed up tools and bicycle parts and ran workshops there in which he showed people how to repair their bikes. Bicycles are especially important on the island, because today only 3 percent of the people own cars. And Macisco is still in touch with those he met there.

There is an intriguing piece of Milford history in the basement of the bike store today.

"There's an old safe down here," said Macisco, pushing away packing boxes to reveal a steel safe with a creaky door and a wooden interior. "There's so much stuff in here. One of the old owners must have just left everything. Someday, I want to go through it all."

The safe is a little time capsule of the years 1948-1949, when Fraser's Market and Co-Op did business there. There are hand-written accounts totaling the day's sales and copies of receipts given to customers and vendors. The safe is full of canceled checks and books of unused checks from the former Milford Trust Co.

In 2006, Donna and Larry Galbo bought the building and Donna said restoring it "was a labor of love" — apparently a lot of labor and a lot of love, not to mention a lot of money. The building was completely renovated from top to bottom.

The building needed a new roof and a modern sprinkler system. They had to redo the plumbing, electrical wiring and sewer system. The integrity of the whole structure, however, can be seen in the basement, where an original hefty, wooden beam runs the length of the cellar along with other beams extending to the walls and anchoring the floor above.

Donna Galbo was eager to learn more about the history of the building. There were few records, however, because much of what she was looking for, she was told, was destroyed in the infamous flood of 1982 when the Wepawaug River poured over its banks and right into City Hall's basement where the oldest records were stored.

She was told the building was constructed in 1920, but recently found out it was actually built in 1828.

Undaunted, she kept digging into other archives and found that the entire top floor of the building was once a dress factory. The room has a 15-foot ceiling and had intricate moldings that she regrets she was not able to restore.



When there was a big "T" on this building, it was hard to miss that it was the J.B. Tibbals & Sons grocery and gasoline station. This building, constructed in 1828 on the corner of South Broad and High Streets, was extensively renovated in recent years. Photo courtesy of the Daniel E. Moger Photo Collection.

While doing historical research, some culled information reveals just hints, not provable facts. There were intriguing notices in the Morning Journal and Courier newspaper that may — or may not — be part of this building's story. The Sept. 22, 1897 edition reported that "Mrs. Frank M. Brown has decided to go out of the dressmaking business."

Is that the same dress shop mentioned above? In the Oct. 1, 1897 paper it was noted that "Mr. Frank M. Brown, the local bicycle dealer, will sell at public auction Saturday afternoon, Oct. 2, his entire stock of second hand bicycles, many of which are nearly new."

If the dress shop information was about a business in the same building, did Mr. Brown run a bicycle shop in the late 19th century on the first floor of the building? Maybe. At any rate, he did not go out of business. The March 3, 1898 issue reported "Mr. Frank M. Brown, the local cycle dealer, has a pretty 'Storner,' tandem on exhibition in his large show window."

Along the High Street side, a one-floor addition was put on probably sometime in the early 1950s. One of the first tenants was Connie Moore's Dance Studio. Many a little girl in Milford tapped across that floor or tiptoed around in ballet slippers, following the instructions of their beloved teacher "Miss Connie."

Later, there was a barber shop there, and today there is a studio called "A-T Sangha Yoga," where instructor Traci Weber wants to bring people together in community. (Sounds a little like what the old gents sitting around on barrel heads were doing long ago.)

Today, the second-floor space over Tony's shop has been made into three apartments with those wonderful 15-foot ceilings.

Most old-time Milford residents know that the Tibbals' name goes back to one of

the first settlers, Sergeant Thomas Tibbals (1613-1703). The name is spelled Tibballs in some references, and later he was referred to as Capt. Thomas Tibbals by way of his service in the Connecticut Militia.

He was born in Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire, England and migrated to New England in the Puritan Great Migration of 1620-1640.

In 1637 while traveling along the Connecticut shoreline, Tibbals noticed that this area would be a good place for a settlement. It had a freshwater river, lush meadows, abundant seafood, dense forests, plenty of game and a fine harbor that led to Long Island Sound.

Meanwhile, in that same year, many of Milford's founders were sailing from London to the already busy city of Boston. In 1638 they were in New Haven, where they stayed about a year. Once there, their much-admired leader, Rev. Peter Prudden, was called to preach for a time at a Wethersfield church that was without a pastor. Several Wethersfield families decided to follow Prudden and his original group, and all had their minds and futures set on founding a settlement of their own. That's when Tibbals told them what he had seen here in what became Milford.

So in 1639 it was Tibbals who led about 54 families and their livestock the 11 miles from New Haven to Milford, traveling mostly by Indian trails that he had traversed many times. He is memorialized by inscriptions on Memorial Bridge.

The building at 108 Broad St. has served many purposes in its 194 years. Today it is restored, renewed and ready to take on the future.

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



The renovated Tibbals' building as it looks today, with an addition in back that was also modernized. The front, ground-floor store is where Tony's Bike Shop carries on business today. The cannon in cement on the corner can be seen in both photos. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.

AMSO Registration Day Coming

Registration day at Amity Middle School in Orange for students who are new to Amity Regional District #5 and reside in Orange

will be held on Monday, Aug. 15. Call Amity Middle School at 203-392-3200 to schedule an appointment.

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EOH



OCC Golf Tournament Coming Up

The Orange Congregational Church golf tournament is taking place on Friday, July 15 at 9 a.m. (8.15 a.m. for breakfast and registration) at Orange Hills Country Club. The annual charity benefit is organized in cooperation with Columbus House, a homeless shelter in New Haven. Sign up for a foursome for 18 holes

or a nine-hole event. There will be games with prizes, including a putting contest, closest to the pin, longest drive and a raffle drawing at lunchtime. Breakfast, lunch and goodie bags are included. Sponsors can donate at the gold, silver, long drive or tee box sign levels and have a sign with their name on the golf course. To register, call the church office at 203-795-9749, email occchurch@snet.net or visit the signup website at occ-columbus-house-scramble.perfectgolfevent.com.

Shayna Goldblatt Graduates

Shayna Goldblatt graduated Magna Cum Laude from Elon University on May 20 with a bachelor of science degree after majoring in exercise

science.

Shayna Goldblatt is the daughter of Orange selectman Mitch Goldblatt and wife Abby. She was among more than 1,500 students invited to participate in commencement ceremonies at the university this spring.

Life Insurance

What If You Are Unable To Work?

Life gets in the way. We are all busy. I will take care of that tomorrow.

Does this sound familiar? It seems like everyone we talk to these days is being torn in different directions.

Life is full of significant moments. Some of them you plan, like buying a home or starting a new business. Others you don't, like divorce or becoming sick or hurt.

Either way, these are the events that shape your life. These are also the moments that may affect your financial stability. Just imagine what would happen if you or your partner became too sick or injured to work and your income suddenly stopped.

Believe it or not, according to the US Social Security Administration, one in four 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67.

Some of us may have protection at work through a group long-term disability plan,

but do you realize that many plans only cover up to 60 percent of base salary and often don't cover bonus, commissions or other incentive income? Also, the benefit amount under a typical group plan is taxable. Think about the potential consequences of a 40 percent reduction in your family's monthly income. What would happen to your ability to save for retirement?

So what are your options to protect yourself and your loved ones?

Personal savings, Social Security disability insurance or employer-sponsored group long-term disability plans are great resources if you become disabled, but they could supply less than you'd expect. That gap would not only affect your day-to-day quality of life but could also impact your ability to reach your financial goals.



PJ SHANLEY

How will you know if this will be enough? Everybody's financial situation is unique, so I suggest you review your monthly living expenses plus additional budget items, like saving for retirement, college or another important family financial goal. Think about everything you need your income to do for you not only for today, but also in the future.

Now that you know how much you need, do you already have disability income insurance coverage at work? Regardless of your coverage status, an individual policy that you personally own will stay with you throughout your career. Additionally, an individual disability income insurance policy can help replace a portion of lost earnings – or can protect a larger

portion of your income by supplementing employer-provided coverage – and can help provide return-to-work benefits.

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

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

Barry Berman To Head Milford United Way

Barry Berman, former chief executive officer of CRN International and Connecticut Radio Network, has been named CEO and president of Milford United Way. He succeeds Gary Johnson, who is retiring after 44 years.

"I'm honored, humbled and pumped to lead this phenomenal organization and I'm excited about using my experience and skills to help those in need," Berman said. The Milford United Way supports more than 20 nonprofit agencies and at-risk individuals.

"These are challenging times for so many," said Berman, adding that "Milford United Way, with support from its donors and partner agencies, creates a healthier, safer and stronger Milford. It helps provide a place for those without a home, meals for those who are hungry, aid for people struggling with substance abuse, education assistance and

comfort for families in need."

"Gary Johnson is a beloved and iconic figure in the Milford Community; he will be sorely missed by all," the United Way's Board of Directors said in a press statement. "There is no way to thank Gary for the 44-year legacy he leaves behind. Barry Berman has huge shoes to fill; the board is confident he is the right man for the job and up to the task. We are excited to welcome Barry to the helm. Barry has the comprehensive skill set to take Gary's legacy forward in a very positive and productive way for the benefit of the Milford community at large."

Berman's experience spans business and nonprofit sectors. Under his direction, CRN, a marketing and media company, created its own charitable foundation called CRN Helping Hands. It contributed to homeless

shelters, soup kitchens, hurricane victims, cancer patients and families of employees, among others, and funded a scholarship to the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven.

Berman served on the board of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center and was the marketing chair of the Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology, creating the "You Belong in Connecticut" economic development initiative. He was also on the boards of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven Park Friends, Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven and Congregation Mishkan Israel.

At CRN, he initiated ski and beach reporting services for radio stations across the country, news programming in Connecticut, play-by-play broadcasts for the University

of Connecticut and Villanova University basketball, University of Connecticut football, New York Giants football, Wimbledon tennis, marketing campaigns for Fortune 500 companies that aired on thousands of radio stations and podcasts for Car & Driver and Cosmopolitan magazines, among others.

Berman was inducted in the first class of the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame and was a finalist for Inc. Magazine Entrepreneur of the Year award and received awards from Adweek and Mediaweek for Most Creative Use of Radio and Most Creative Use of Television. CRN was one of Inc. Magazine's 500 Fastest Growing Companies for two consecutive years.

United Way of Milford was founded in 1957 to work with community leaders to address residents' most pressing needs.



**UPCOMING
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Jump into a summer of dancing and fun!

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July Open Class Week
July 5th-8th
Anyone with or without dance experience is invited to join us for classes. Great chance to try something new or kickstart the summer.

Themed Dance Camps for Kids!
Time: 9am-1pm Ages 3-7
July 18th - 22nd "Under The Sea" & July 25th- 29th "Encanto"
August 8th-12th "Raya Ninja Warrior" & August 22nd- 26th "Descendants"

Ballet Intensive
Weeks of August 15th-19th & 22nd-26th
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Pre-registration required, new members only

August Open Class Week
August 8th-12th
Start the dance year with a tune up week of a variety of classes
Anyone with or without dance experience is invited to join us for classes.

Open House/ Pre-registration
August 20th 1pm-4pm
Join us for a fun and relaxing day of dance exploration.
Prizes, dance demonstrations, games, refreshments, & much more

*First day of Fall Session Classes
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Recovering

Listening To Children Key In Deterring Substance Abuse

I had a wonderful opportunity recently to share time with Broadview Counseling and Assessment out of Milford to ask questions about what parents can be observant of for children possibly going down a path of substance abuse to manage mental health issues. Michael Crane and Tim Morris offered their expertise and collective 40 years of child and teen therapeutic counseling experience to help paint a picture of what we as parents can be alert about in our children's behavior that seems to be a precursor to substance abuse.

Crane was quick to point out that unique stressors of children exist today that many of us did not confront as adolescents. Social media has become an instantaneous mode of both communication and judgement.

"The perception of self on social media... body imagery, social status, number of friends, has created a dynamic of perfection that many young children cannot attain," Crane said.

These children are addicted and identify their self-worth many times by the number of "likes" or positive reviews from peers that in an instant can transform their internal self-worth. Social media today fixes these daily life experiences in perpetuity.

Morris said that this "has created for both young men and women eating disorders, sexual promiscuity, sense of self issues, and need to fit in with the 'scene' of what peers are doing."

Furthermore, this creates a constant distraction to themselves as these children seek perfection, peer acceptance and social status.

Our children today have no grounded idea, in many ways, of how to relax. They do not know how to calm their brains. Social media has created instantaneous click bait to social recognition and acceptance. From Snapchat and Instagram to TikTok, children have access to peer response and review immediately.

Both Crane and Morris continue to said that children do not know how to be alone, so the only dopamine release (good/happy hormone) they get is by being technologically engaged. Both counselors explained that COVID was a challenge for parents in helping their children not to feel isolated. We were inhibited in our ability to respond. Social media became the key to immediate gratification. Many of these children have no idea how to self soothe or calm themselves down.

With the lack of this coping mechanism, many children have elevated their cortisol release. This becomes extraordinarily bad when under stress. The stress of social acceptance, peer acceptance and getting into the right college or playing the right sport had already



ROB CRAFT

overwhelmed our children in countless ways.

All these scenarios deteriorate in some form our children's self-worth, value and self-love. These precursors of stress are what opens the gateway to substance abuse issues to numb these children's anxieties, depressions, body imagery issues and self-worth.

Both Crane and Morris spoke about making sure children find ways to relax and self soothe. Communication with our children is a progressive investment, they added.

When an opportunity arises to have a deep conversation with your child about their fears, anxieties and depressions, Crane said, "listen longer than you naturally would listen, thank your child for sharing and being vulnerable. Do not respond quickly or interrupt your child, but take time to respond. Your child needs to not be judged, but feel safe. It is terribly hard as parents to not react; we all know this. Yet, envision the best response you can deliver to your child's vulnerability, and do your best to be 'your best self' in delivering that."

Morris advocates parents search out support groups to help better understand their children and how to communicate, like the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Al-Anon or the Mil-

ford Parent Connection.

For many addicts/alcoholics, our prison is between our two ears. We yearn for connectivity, security and a safe place. Parents in many cases did not create this or push this upon their children; it's just the maladaptive ways people like us, addicts, self soothe. Communicate, listen, love, be supportive and never judge. These kids judge themselves already more than one could imagine.

Please reach out, as an amazing resource, to Broadview Counseling and their competent staff. Locally based in Milford, I can tell you that if they had spoken to me as a young man my life may have taken different routes. I regret no path I have taken, but the resources of today are for more advanced than 30 years ago.

Talk to your kids, love them, and for God's sake make them feel secure.

Robert A. Craft, CIMA is an investment advisor representative at Sentinel Asset Management. His passion outside of work is helping the recovery community, people suffering from mental illness and helping children/families who are effected by the totality of these concurrent diseases. He can be reached at 973-809-9716 or racraft44@msn.com.

FUSE Theatre Presenting 'Lost Girl'

FUSE Theatre of CT will present Kimberly Belflower's play Lost Girl on Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23 at Gateway Christian Fellowship in West Haven. The play, by the award-winning American playwright Kimberly Belflower, is based on the continued story of Wendy Darling of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan. Years after returning from her adventure in Neverland, Wendy remains fixated on her

beloved Peter and the childhood magic she left behind. Can Wendy face finally leaving her nursery and learn what it really means to grow up?

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit fusetheatre.org. Tickets are \$15. Seating is general admission. There is a \$10 discount for purchases of more than five tickets.

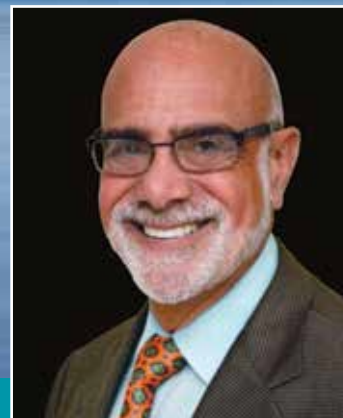
The July 22 performance is at 7:30 p.m.

There are two performances on July 23 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Gateway Christian Fellowship is located at 129 Bull Hill Ln. Masks will be required for all audience members.



The cast of the FUSE production of Lost Girl. Front row, from left: DeMarie Lopez, Serena McFarland, Emma Bender, Riley Arenberg and Abigail Page. Back row, from left: Emma Blanchette, Gwen Seward, Andrew James Bleidner, Justin Wargo and Dyllan Stegmund. Photo courtesy of FUSE Theatre.

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Pack 922 Busy In May



Cub Scout Pack 922 hiking on their trip to Kettletown State Park in May. Photo by Dan Pfeifer.

Orange Cub Scout Pack 922 held their annual spring campout over the weekend of May 21 at Kettletown State Park in Southbury. Despite sweltering temperatures, scouts had hikes, made bottle rockets and did geocaching. Over the Memorial Day weekend, scouts participated in the annual parade and helped open Orange's bicentennial celebration. The pack rounded out their

month with more hikes and a recruitment event under the pavilion at High Plains Community Center. The troop is welcoming new members and is open to all children grades in kindergarten through fifth grade. For more information, contact Cubmaster Jessica Zamachaj at jessica.zamachaj@gmail.com or visit the pack's Facebook page at facebook.com/CubScoutPack922.



Cub Scout Pack 922 marched in the Orange Memorial Day Parade. Photo by Tom Fatone.

Best Of (Continued From 1)

Church and best scenic spot was awarded to the Connecticut Audubon Center. Even a few individuals got awards. Jennifer Paradis, who heads Beth-El

Center homeless shelter, came away with first place for local community activist, and John Ratzenberger got won in the category of best local actor. Perhaps speaking to the city's overall popularity, "downtown Milford" won the award for top attraction in the arts and entertainment category.

Legal Notice Town of Orange

The first installment of the town tax on the Grand List of 1 October 2021 is due and payable on 1 July 2022. Payments received after 1 August 2022 are considered delinquent and are subject to the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month dating back to the original due date. Motor Vehicle bills are payable in one installment. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are payable in two installments with 1/2 due on 1 July and the second installment on 1 Jan 2023. All taxes may be paid in one installment. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM PAYMENT OF ALL INTEREST CHARGES AND COLLECTION COSTS, per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130, 12-148.

Payments maybe processed in person Monday-Friday except holidays from 8:30 a.m. -12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Tax Collector's Office, Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT. Bring your entire three-part tax bill if you wish a receipt. A payment coupon or duplicate bill must accompany each payment. There is a \$2.00 fee charged for each duplicate bill requested. Payments may also be made by mail. The receipt date will be that of the USPS date on the envelope. Only USPS stamped dates are considered valid. If a receipt is desired a self-addressed stamped envelope and your three-part bill must be included with your payment. We do not accept CASH payments through the mail! E-checks, Credit and Debit Card payments are only accepted on-line (fees apply). See Town of Orange website. Town of Orange - Tax Bills Search & Pay ([mytaxbill.org](https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=orange)) <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=orange> Online payments from credit cards may experience up to 10 days hold time for DMV releases. Exact change is preferred when using CASH at our windows. (Payment in minor coinage [pennies or nickels] is limited to 25 cents or as acceptable to the Tax Collector.) Thomas P. Hurley, Tax Collector

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Ribbon Cut At Milford Mexican Bakery



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on June 7 for Isabel's Bakery and Mexican Restaurant, located at 18 Lenox Ave. in Milford. From left: Hispanic Chamber of Sommerce President Marisol Herrera, owners Armando and Dominguez Owner Isabel's Bakery and Mayor Ben Blake. *Photo by Greg Geiger.*

Basketball Trainers Cut Ribbon



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on June 7 to mark the opening of Revolution Basketball Training's second Connecticut location at 252 Depot Rd. in Milford. RBT is a service to enhance player's skills. From left: Mayor Ben Blake, trainer Mark Lindberg, owner Mike Welsh, trainer Richard Rodriguez, trainer Tyler Brevan and MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald. *Photo by Greg Geiger.*

Milford Sail And Dine Cuts Ribbon



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on June 8 for Captain Tack's Sail and Dine, located at 164 Rogers Ave. A Dock in Milford. From left: Mayor Ben Blake, Capt. Chris Tack, Christine Munson, and MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald. *Photo by Greg Gieger.*

Brewery Cuts Ribbon At Milford Facility



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on June 17 for Stratford-based Athletic Brewing Company, which specializes in non-alcoholic beer, and recently opened a production facility at 75 Cascade Blvd. in Milford. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

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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.

Barbara Ann Ambriscoe, 74, of Milford went home peacefully to be with the Lord on June 10, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Jonathan Roland Anderson age 76 of Milford, loving husband of 39 years to Ellen Ann (Mellas) Anderson passed away on, June 12, 2022 surrounded by his family. (Commerce Hill Funeral Home)




Margaret "Marge" Anne Bagley, 71, of Stratford, CT, beloved mom and grandmother passed away peacefully on June 18, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Joseph Bakis, 71, of Orange, entered into rest on May 28, 2022, leaving his cherished wife of 49 years, Claudia Manson Bakis. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Henry M. Baneat, 88, of Milford, passed away peacefully on June 6, 2022 at home. His beloved wife, Marie, predeceased him by one month on May 6. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Patricia Marie Barron was born August 13, 1934 and passed away on June 17, 2022 at age 87. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Tracy Battaglia, age 74, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 16th. She was the beloved wife of 56 years to Bill Battaglia. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




August Ronald Bebon, 91, of Milford, Connecticut passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 18, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ronald Richard Benedetto born October 10, 1947 in New Haven, CT. passed away at age 74 peacefully on June 7, 2022 with his family by his side in Milford, CT.




Thomas "Tom" John Bresnan, 91, of Milford, passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2022. He was born in Shelton on January 3, 1931 to the late Michael Paul and Catherine Bresnan. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Josephine Consiglio Carotenuto, 89, of Woodbridge, formerly of Orange, beloved wife of the late Frank Carotenuto, passed away on June 15, 2022. (Porto Funeral Home)




Olga Dalaker, 94, of Milford, beloved wife of 64 years to Sidney Dalaker, passed away peacefully on May 31, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Bruce Carle Day, 86, of Milford, beloved husband of 26 years to Helen Day, passed away peacefully at home on June 18, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



James DeGiacomo, 87, of Milford, CT beloved husband of 57 years to Virginia (Nuccio) DeGiacomo, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Lorraine (Blair) Denslow, 83, of New Haven, Connecticut, unexpectedly passed away on June 15, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




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Obituaries

Peter DiLeo, 66, of Milford, beloved husband of Eileen DiLeo, passed away peacefully at home on June 22, 2022 from complications due to Multiple Systems Atrophy. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nellie Fraser, 85, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Jerry Fraser, Sr., passed away peacefully at her home on June 22, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Margret Laine ("Maggie") Hotchkiss escaped her struggles on June 16, 2022.



Mary M. Kozej, 76, of Milford, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2022 surrounded by her family.



Marie A. Dingee, 92, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of the late Ralph Dingee, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



In Woodbridge, June 7, 2022, **Charles F. Gocłowski Jr.**, 64 of Woodbridge. (Sisk Brothers Funeral Home)



Serge Mary Jacques, age 62, beloved husband of Lynda (Heriveaux) Jacques of Milford, Connecticut entered peaceful rest on Sunday, June 19, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Marie Librandi passed away peacefully just one month shy of her 101st birthday. She was truly a force of nature whom we dubbed "the Energizer Bunny." (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nicole Marie Ende, 37, of Milford, passed away on Thursday, June 2, 2022 from injuries sustained as a passenger in a motor vehicle accident.



Mary Beth Hanson was born on March 4, 1958 and passed away on June 10, 2022 at age 64. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Walter Alvin Joy Jr. (Walt), age 84, formerly of Milford, CT beloved husband of Andrea K. Joy for 56 years, died in his sleep on June 8, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Raymond Loch, 66, of Milford, beloved husband of Mary Loch, passed away peacefully on Thursday May 26, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Dominick John Facin, Jr., "Cipolla", 87, formerly of Milford, Connecticut, entered peacefully into the Hands of God on May 31, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Delores Surgalis Hopper was a loving and attentive wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She left this world in Columbus, OH on June 4, 2022 at age 78.



James "Jimmy" Karpicky, 41, of Stratford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Cecile M. Mashtare, age 80, of Orange passed away peacefully Wednesday June 1, 2022. (Keenan Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Hugh Masterson (Benny), age 57, of West Haven, CT, died peacefully Saturday morning, May 28, 2022 surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Bernard J. McDermott, 82, of Sunrise, Florida, formerly of West Haven passed away on Sunday April 24, 2016. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Nicholas Meyer, 24, of New Rochelle, NY and Milford, CT, died peacefully on May 30, 2022 at his home. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



N. Lorraine Miskella, 86, of Milford, beloved wife of the late William Miskella, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Deborah A. Moffet, 70, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of Gary Moffet, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Doris M. Moretti, age 95 of Milford, loving wife of 42 years to the late Pasquale Moretti passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. (Commerce Hill Funeral Home)



Antone Robert Opekun, age 91 of Orange, beloved husband of the late Ann Lauer Opekun, died peacefully on May 29, 2022 at the West Haven VA. (Wakelee Memorial Funeral Home)



Richard L. Pacelle, Sr. died on May 27, 2022 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in West Haven after a brief illness. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Kathleen (Cocozza) Pacelli of Milford, age 79, the beloved wife of Patrick R. Pacelli entered into eternal rest on May 21, 2022. (Parente-Laurio Funeral Home)



Robert Penrosa was born April 26, 1956 and passed away on May 25, 2022 at age 66. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ava Skye Perrella, 10, of Milford, passed away peacefully 6/6/2022 at after a brief illness surrounded by her loving parents James and Gail Perrella. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



John F. Peterson, 84, of Woodbridge passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, June 5, 2022. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Antoinette Podpolucha, age 89, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Joseph Podpolucha, died on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Donna Marie (McDermott) Post, 60, of Orange, died on June 17, 2022, surrounded by her family. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Judith Soule Redmann, 66, of Branford, beloved wife of Robert H. Redmann, passed away peacefully June 18, 2022 surrounded by her family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Judith L. Rice, 77, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Stanley Rice, passed away on June 14, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carolyn Nelson Ryan, 97, a longtime resident of Milford and beloved wife to the late James J. Ryan, entered into eternal rest on June 9, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gloria Anna Sanwald, age 81, of Milford, the beloved widow of Robert J. Sanwald, passed away in her home with her loving family by her side on Thursday, May 26, 2022. (Adzima Funeral Home)



Amalia Molly Simoes, age 94, of West Haven passed away at CT Hospice on May 27, 2022. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Susan (Sue) Foyer Smith, of Orange, passed away on June 17, 2022 after a lifelong illness, Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Justin Spray, 35, was killed, at his home in Milford on May 22, 2022.



Kathrine M. Trimboli, age 82, of Milford entered peaceful rest on June 8, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Ruth Vaglivo, 94, of Monroe, Connecticut, passed away peacefully into eternal rest on Saturday June 18, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Richard Zitser, 89, our beloved "Papa Z," of Woodbridge, CT passed away peacefully with his family by his side on June 13, 2022. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



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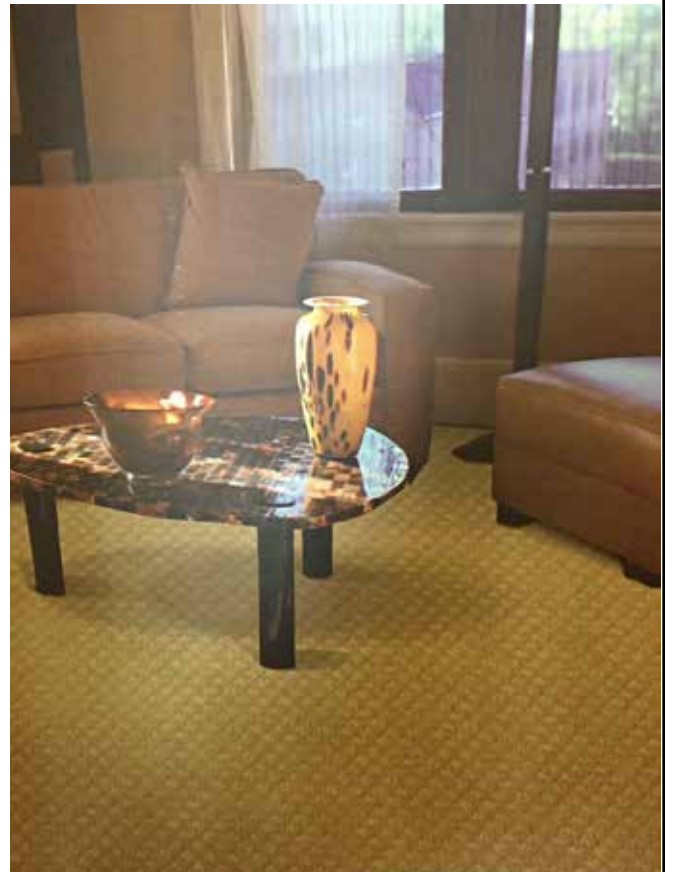
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