

Milford-Orange Times

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Fireman's Carnival Brings Summer Fun To Orange



Families enjoyed the rides and activities at the Orange Volunteer Fireman's Carnival in early August. The event is an annual tradition and usually the biggest fundraiser for the OVFD. Additional photos on page 23. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Milford P&Z Votes Down Electronic Billboards Again

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Planning & Zoning Board has voted once again to reject a plan that would allow electronic billboards along the highway corridors of the city.

The proposal, brought to the board by developer Dominic DeMartino, would have allowed for the conversion of six existing billboards adjacent to I-95 at 58-60 Research Drive, 84 Research Drive, 116 Research Drive, a sign in the state Department of Transportation right of way

between the Metro-North Railroad tracks and near 270 Rowe Ave.

After a public hearing on Aug. 2 that drew multiple residents to voice their opposition, the board voted 6-4 against the plan at its Aug. 16 meeting.

Electronic billboards have been a perennial bugbear for Milford. DeMartino came before the P&Z with a similar proposal in 2020 to convert a non-digital

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Asian Cultural Center Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Aug. 19 for the New England Asian American Cultural Center. The center is run by business partners Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy and Aiping Tai Chi in a jointly operated space at 49 Research Dr. in Milford. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Bicentennial Bricks Gearing Up For Fall Installation

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Bicentennial Bricks project spearheaded by the Orange Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to go into the ground this fall.

The chamber will continue selling bricks with personalized engravings through its website until Sept. 30, at which point those who have purchased a brick will become immortalized as part of a semicircle to be

put in around the front of the gazebo on the Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center.

Chamber Executive Director Kathy Converse Charbonneau says that people have already bought about 260 bricks, and that around 300 can go into this "first phase" of the project.

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Birds Of Prey Descend On Orange In Land Trust Demonstration



The Orange Land Trust brought SkyHunters in Flights to High Plains Community Center on Aug. 20, 2022 as part of Orange's bicentennial celebration. SkyHunters in Flight is run by Brian and Teddy Bradley and engages in the art of falconry and demonstrates how hawks, owls and falcons from around the world play an important role in the environment. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Milford, Orange Follow State Primary Choices - Except Klarides

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Primary voters in Milford and Orange largely selected the candidates who won statewide, with one notable selection: Republicans overwhelmingly voted for party-endorsed US Senate candidate Themis Klarides over rival Leory Levy, who ultimately won the primary.

According to data from the Secretary of the State's office, Orange broke for Klarides by a wide margin, 385 to 192, giving Klarides 63.74 percent of the vote. Peter Lumaj, the third Republican primary candidate in that race, picked up only 27 votes.

The margin was much closer, but still in Klarides's favor, in Milford, where she picked up 675 votes, or 48.04 percent, to

Levy's 616 votes for a 43.84 percent tally. Lumaj got 114 votes in Milford.

Statewide, Levy beat Klarides by 10,000 votes with 50.6 percent. Turnout was low at about 20 percent overall: just over 92,000 Republicans cast votes statewide in the Senate primary.

The disparity between the statewide and local results is not that surprising; Klarides represented part of Orange in the state legislature for over 20 years before choosing not to run for reelection in 2020. The Klarides family is an institution in the Derby area; Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Themis's sister, still holds office in the 105th District that includes parts of Derby,

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IT'S BACK TO-SCHOOL TIME



A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles



Children participated in Orange's sesquicentennial in 1972 by dressing up in vintage costumes. Photo courtesy of Priscilla Searles.

Looking back to Orange's sesquicentennial celebration is apparently a temptation I can't resist...especially when it involves "little people." First Selectman Ralph Capecelatro held court over what I remember as a parade of babies, toddlers and preschoolers. If he had to pick a winner, he certainly earned his pay that day. Frankly, I don't remember if it was a contest or just a wonderful parade. Participants showed up in vintage carriages and strollers of every description, wagons and other vehicles I can't describe. The costumes

were extremely creative, thanks to mothers with a lot of imagination. Pictured are just two of my favorites.

If you have a vintage photo of Orange and are willing to loan it to Town Historian Priscilla Searles, contact her at publisher@theorangetimes.com. All photos on loan will be scanned, with the scan becoming the property of the Orange Historical Society. Originals will be returned to the owner.

Priscilla Searles is the Orange Town Historian.

SMITH SELLS MILFORD PROPERTY FOR GENESIS SHOWROOM

DeForest W. Smith, CCIM, SIOR president of George J. Smith & Son Commercial and Investment Real Estate is pleased to announce that it's firm was successful in selling a property for a new Genesis automobile showroom. The property, located at 990 Boston Post Road in Milford, was the former Hooters Restaurant and sold for \$2,800,000.

The new Genesis facility will be devoted solely to the sale of electric vehicles. It will be utilized together with the abutting property, which previously was the Howard Johnson's hotel and restaurant.

Genesis is a division of the Hyundai Motor Group, which is building a \$5.5 billion manufacturing complex in Georgia dedicated to making electric vehicles.

DeForest W. Smith is the third-generation owner of his family's real estate firm, which was established by his grandfather in 1886 and has been servicing the real estate needs of Connecticut for 136 years. Smith joined the firm after graduating from Yale University with a degree in international economics.

The Smith firm was the only agent involved in this transaction.



Billboards

(Continued From 1)

billboard at an industrial building at 45 Banner Dr. which also drew concerns from residents and ultimately failed.

Many highways around the country, including I-95 in other parts of Connecticut, now have electronic billboards, which allow for displays to change, often at a rate of around every 10 seconds.

The proposal would have required changes to the zoning regulations to allow the billboards in light industrial and industrial districts.

Taking its cue from previous concerns expressed by the board that the new regulations would have made the proliferation of electronic billboards too easy, the developer's team adjusted the language of the proposed new regulation to require a special permit and site plan approval – essentially meaning that future billboards could not bypass P&Z oversight.

"In the original language, if you had a billboard that met the criteria as outlined in the proposal, the applicant could just come in and get a zoning permit over the counter," City Planner David Sulkis explained, "versus making them a special permit, which would come to you."

Nevertheless, Sulkis said, any developer who passed muster, even under the stricter regulations, would be able to put in as few or as many electronic billboards as they wanted.

Board member Robert Satti, as in past meetings on the subject, remained unconvinced that the billboards were a good idea.

"We had a substantial number of private citizens from the city of Milford who came forward," Satti said, "and my memory is that every one of them was opposed to it."

"I am concerned that if we do pass this regulation change, it could lead to other parts of the city having billboards on them," he added.

Among the concerns Satti and other members had raised in past meetings was the potential for the billboards to be distracting to drivers and to become a safety issue.

Though research has shown that such displays do attract drivers' attention to a greater degree than billboards with static images, there is conflicting evidence about whether they have any impact on traffic safety.

Chairman Jim Quish said that he didn't have a problem with the billboards, and was in the minority who voted to approve the regulation change.

"I think any issue with safety or more accidents is at best anecdotal," he said. "I think that there is not real evidence that it's dangerous. I do think this present motion does give this board and future boards discretion."

Bricks

(Continued From 1)

There is expected to be at least one more phase, installed sometime in 2023, to complete the circle around the gazebo. Though Converse Charbonneau expects there to be some drop-off in sales after the bicentennial celebrations are over, she thinks that people will still want to commemorate life events and loved ones.

Even if there aren't enough engraved bricks to complete a section, Converse Charbonneau said, the mason "can leave blanks in, and those can easily be lifted up and filled in."

People who buy a brick have a choice between two sizes and can put almost any message they want on them. Many have opted to honor family names or loved ones who have died.

But others have gotten creative. A few have written dedications to their pets. For example, one reads, "FOR OUR BELOVED CATS/GREMMIE & VAN GOGH/ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS/THE PROPEN FAMILY." Another engraving went the tongue-in-cheek route with, "KNOCK, KNOCK/ORANGE YOU GLAD/YOU LIVE HERE?/R SCHETTENHELM WARDIN."

The Bicentennial Bricks project actually got its start in May 2021, and was spurred by a very different impetus – the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After COVID, just like the local businesses, we had struggled, because the chamber is really a reflection of the local businesses," Converse Charbonneau said. "We needed to find a way to bring in more money to supplement the membership fees that we receive, especially after having a hard year. And we knew the bicentennial was coming up. So we were brainstorming different ideas, and this is the one that came to the forefront."

Since the bricks would be sunk into town property, the chamber approached the Board of Selectmen to get their approval. The board was happy to endorse it and incorporate the project into its bicentennial "Summer of Celebration" activities.

When the celebration kicked off on Founders Day in May, the ceremonies took place at the gazebo and included a dedication and groundbreaking of the brick walk. The chamber at that time presented special commemorative bricks to the families of three prominent members of the community who recently died: Chips Family Restaurant owner George Chatzopoulos, Orange Country Fair founder Walter Bepuda and Orange Hill Country Club founder Walter "Bud" Smith.

Those bricks, and a few others since, were purchased by the chamber as gifts to the families, Converse Charbonneau said.

She added that the bricks program, while helping the chamber financially, is more about trying to tie multiple elements of the community together.

"We're all interwoven together," she said, "and if one area is successful, then the whole town is going to be better off for it."

After the Sept. 30 deadline for buying bricks passes, the engraving, shipping and laying will begin in earnest. Assuming all goes well, Converse Charbonneau has set a tentative date to hold a dedication ceremony for the completed project on Nov. 5.

"It's amazing how the community has embraced the chamber's Bicentennial Brick Project, and we are extremely grateful," she said. "It has been a critical fundraiser which enables us to provide resources and support for members while continuing our mission of connecting businesses, nonprofits and residents to strengthen the fabric of our community. The brick installation is something that will be enjoyed for years to come and memorializes many of our citizens' place in Orange history."

Primaries

(Continued From 1)

Seymour and Beacon Falls.

Levy ran to the right of the more moderate Klarides, and may have benefitted from a late endorsement from former President Donald Trump. She goes on to face US Sen. Richard Blumenthal in the general election, who is running ahead of her in the polls.

Republicans in Milford and Orange largely mirrored statewide results in the other primary race, which featured Dominic Rapini against Terrie Wood for secretary of the state. Rapini earned 62.78 percent in Milford and 67.78 percent in Orange, slightly above his statewide take of 58.24 percent of the vote.

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Facing Ourselves

Indigenous Children Forced To Melt In The Pot

“There is a great melting pot in which we must compound a precious metal. That metal is the metal of nationality.”

These words, spoken by President Woodrow Wilson, appear to echo the sentiment “united we stand, divided we fall” from Patrick Henry’s 1799 speech. However, in the single-minded pursuit of security and unity, assimilation can be weaponized and forced upon many minority and indigenous groups, often with disastrous and tragic results.

The devastating impact of forced assimilation on indigenous people was highlighted once again last month when Pope Francis made history with a public apology for the treatment of Canada’s indigenous people by the Catholic Church via the network of federally funded residential schools, where the primary focus was to force native people’s assimilation into white Canadian culture.

These residential schools ran for over 100 years, from 1883 until 1997, directly impacting seven generations of indigenous people. These schools represented a fraction of the widespread and aggressive plan to force assimilation via erasure of cultures, customs, languages and religions.

Enrollment was involuntary and traumatic, with over 150,000 indigenous children forcibly seized from their families and sent to these residential schools. Children were beaten if they were caught speaking their na-

tive language or practicing their customs. Many were sexually abused. Neglect was rampant. Many of these children never saw their families again. An estimated 6,000 children died in these schools, but due to poor record keeping (many children’s names were not even recorded), this number is believed to be an undercount of the number who actually perished, with some experts estimating the true number of deaths reaching closer to 25,000.

The Department of Indian Affairs also refused to return the bodies of children who perished in these schools. Using radar technology, over 1,300 unmarked graves were recently discovered near the sites of residential schools, although it is unclear how many of these graves are filled with indigenous children.

These residential schools in Canada were not unique. In fact, they were modeled after schools created throughout the US and other countries, all in an effort to “colonize” indigenous people. The aggressive assimilation tactics are highlighted in *Between Two Knees*, a full-length play that was performed this year at Yale Repertory Theatre. It was also covered by Robin Wall Kimmerer in her



JENNIFER JU

book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, which includes stories from the vastly dwindling number of indigenous people who can still speak their native tongues and whose customs remain intact because they hid from captors who were seizing children from their homes to be taken to residential schools.

Residential schools in the US, where many indigenous children were forcibly sent, ran from approximately 1860 to 1978, and were also backed by the government during this time period.

These colonization and assimilation tactics occurred here in Connecticut as well. Examples of residential schools in the state include the Foreign Mission School in Cornwall, Moor’s Indian Charity School in Lebanon and Plainfield Academy in Plainfield. Although not all children in Connecticut residential schools were seized by coercion, the theme of mandated assimilation still prevailed.

The extent of the resulting multi-generational trauma cannot be fully accounted for. Although the Anglican and Presbyterian churches apologized in the 1990s for their complicity, followed by the apology rendered by Pope Francis this July, the damage rendered by coercive assimilation tactics is

embedded in the genetics of survivors and its descendants and can be witnessed in high rates of mental health, addiction and poverty, which are just a few of the many critical issues facing indigenous people today.

Seen through the lens of history, we can understand the horrific damage wrought by a misplaced application of “united we stand.” Survival depends on the ability to learn from past mistakes. What have we learned? Have we erroneously associated “united” with “same”? Survival is not predicated on similarity, but rather in the ability of a group to stand together. Can we cast away the “melting pot” and show that our “precious metal” is reflected in our diverse and multifaceted individuals and customs? Can we forge a future in which we stand united but unique, one in which our differences are embraced and not erased?

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.

Primaries

(Continued From 2)

Democrats in Milford and Orange hewed even more closely to the statewide results in their choices for secretary of the state and state treasurer. Stephanie Thomas, the party-endorsed candidate for secretary of the state, beat out her challenger Maritza Bond by more than 57,000 votes statewide,

coming away with a blowout win of 75.81 percent. In Milford, she got 1,017 votes to Bond’s 299, for 77.28 percent of the vote total. In Orange, she picked up 287 votes to Bond’s 86, for 76.94 percent of the vote total.

In the three-way treasurer primary contest, party-endorsed candidate Erick Russell came away with 57.53 percent of the vote statewide against Dhita Bhargava and Karen Dubois-Walton. In Milford he

got 60.57 percent of the vote, and in Orange he earned 63.1 percent.

Turnout among Democrats was even lower than among Republicans, at just 14.32 percent. Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans about two-to-one in the state.

Part of the reason for the low turnout may have been due in part to the small number of primaries. This is not a presidential election year, and both parties’ candidates for

governor went unchallenged. Although all state legislative seats are up in November, none of the candidates in Milford or Orange had primary challengers.

Connecticut has closed primaries, meaning that only voters registered with a party can vote in that party’s primary. The majority of Connecticut voters are unaffiliated, and they will have a chance to weigh in during the Nov. 8 general elections.



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Opinion & Editorial

Back To The Future (Of Ed)



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

As the new school year begins, our teachers, students and families will be facing both familiar and new challenges. This year our schools will still have to deal with COVID infections and disruptions to learning, but hopefully to a lesser extent now that vaccines for all ages are readily available.

Beyond public health concerns, educators will start the year with the important task of assessing their students, creating and implementing plans to address any concerns, all while guiding and supporting busy classrooms. The pandemic has exacerbated many problems that we are all still working to overcome, and our schools are no different.

Seeing our children succeed is one of my biggest goals personally and professionally. You might also know that I am a big fan of data; accurate information is key to creating solutions for complex problems. Knowing this, what I share next may come as a surprise.

I do not like standardized tests. Our educational system has become too reliant on them to measure benchmarks, when instead we should be focused on work that allows us to measure whole-student goals and progress. If we are hoping to educate and prepare our children for an evolving world, we need to move away from static testing and back to the basics of educating students to be able to assess and meet the challenges of the world at large.

The current schedule of standardized testing in Connecticut and across the country means that large sections of the school year are spent preparing for these tests. Combined with the increasing curriculum requirements, I worry that this leaves little open time for the deep dives that often encourage the curiosity of students to delve into broader topics and the discussions that lead to greater subject matter understanding.

Guidance and structure are important so that our schools provide equal educational opportunities, but I believe we need to give our teachers more freedom to bring these lessons to the classrooms they know best. Play-based learning and flexible lesson plans allow for greater cognitive achievement as well as stronger social-emotional skillsets to develop, which in turn can lead to better academic performance and personal success in the long run.

Standardized assessments increased dramatically when the No Child Left Behind strategy was implemented; at this point it is clear these tests are not creating the outcomes hoped for. Additionally, increased stress felt by students, educators and parents are often reported with these assessments. At a time when mental and behavioral health systems are already stretched, continuing a practice known to increase these stressors doesn't make much sense. Standards are already changing; many colleges and universities are discontinuing the requirements for the SAT/ACT in admissions.

It is time for Connecticut to continue to lead on education and rethink how we prepare our children and support our teachers at every level.

Seniors Face Brunt Of Inflation



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

Soaring prices on essentials like gas and groceries, increases to utility and home heating costs and constant tax hikes in Connecticut have made life for residents more unaffordable at every turn. Unfortunately, our seniors and those on fixed incomes are the ones most disproportionately affected by inflationary policies and trends.

I hear from community members who are concerned with the difficulty of retiring and staying in Connecticut. In Hartford, we are going to continue fighting for solutions to these problems that are causing seniors and retirees to pack up and leave their homes in Connecticut for greener, more affordable pastures elsewhere.

Making Connecticut more affordable has never been more important than right now, especially for those on fixed incomes. While industries adjust for inflation and can make salary adjustments for employees, a fixed income is just that – fixed. As we experience record inflation and rising costs to maintain a home, many of our neighbors are left behind the financial eight-ball.

The General Assembly passed the biennial state budget for 2022-23 in May, which my Republican colleagues and I voted against due to concerns that we were not returning enough of the state's budget surplus back to taxpayers. While there were provisions within the budget that my colleagues and I supported, we hoped that it could have been taken a step further.

One of these successful provisions will accelerate the phase-in schedule of the pension and annuity income tax exemption. Beginning with the 2022 tax year, qualifying pension and annuity income is fully tax exempt for income-qualifying taxpayers. This will surely benefit our seniors and retirees by freeing them from state income tax hikes, which we will continue to oppose. For those folks on fixed incomes, however, an exemption on income tax is only the first step in making their retirement in Connecticut more palatable.

At the local level, West Haven is a leader in serving its senior residents. In West Haven, any qualified property owner over 70 who has lived in their home for 20 consecutive years will be eligible for a freeze on their residential property taxes at the time of application for the Elderly Tax Freeze.

It is clear to me, and many of you, that the way forward for making retirement in Connecticut more affordable is through tax cuts, rather than one-time rebates that lead to red tape and confusion. Not only should we prioritize affordability but make it easier for these folks to reap the benefits of these initiatives.

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

Don't Forget Farmers



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Connecticut celebrated National Farmers Week from Aug. 7 to 13, giving us an opportunity to remember and support our locally established farming industry. Between apples, tomatoes and squash, Connecticut is home to over 200 certified farmers' markets and farm stands, all of which provide some of the best and freshest produce in New England.

I fear that between the stage 2 drought and soaring food costs, consumers will be left with fewer crops and less savings. Inflation has only been accelerated by the diesel and highway user taxes, making already high food prices soar.

As more Connecticut families figure out how to navigate these factors, I wanted to explore the perspective of our local farmers who have continued to fortify a strong agricultural tradition in our state for generations, despite the high cost of doing business here. How have they combatted affordability issues in Connecticut and how can we prioritize their concerns this upcoming session?

In Milford and Orange alone, there are roughly 20 farms that specialize in anything from berries to common vegetables, not to forget the annual Christmas trees which also make for special and memorable family outings. Unfortunately, these anticipated outings and tasty crops are at risk of equal return this year due to major concerns: higher diesel and fertilizer costs, the current drought and higher taxes on shipping food on Connecticut roadways.

Today, higher fertilizer costs of almost 200 percent in some areas are a result of a variety of factors including foreign sanctions, Chinese export restrictions and lingering supply disruptions from the recent pandemic. Additionally, the highway use tax, initially passed in 2021, has only increased delivery costs for small farms and markets as predicted by Republicans, who called for its repeal in March during the 2022 legislative session.

Beyond these concerns, Connecticut has also seen some of the driest and hottest months with calls from the state to encourage outdoor water conservation among all eight counties. Although this hasn't been the hottest summer on record, the unfortunate combination of drier conditions with higher fuel and fertilizer costs has motivated me to share some ways we can better support local farms during these difficult times.

How can we show our support? First, find local farms and markets to buy your produce directly, which is also a great way to meet other residents and even the farmers themselves. Next, see if you qualify for recent funding to the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, which awards up to \$32 to certain seniors, women and children to purchase Connecticut grown fruits, vegetables, eggs, herbs and even honey. Together, both consumers and farmers can reap the benefits of newly harvested support.

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. Also, please visit ctfarmlink.org for more information about state farms.

Children's Data Matters



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

While it may not seem possible, back to school season is already upon us. The sales have already begun, and families have already started purchasing their supplies.

Undoubtedly those supplies include some tech devices. The pandemic accelerated the use of technology in our classrooms. We are all familiar with Zoom and Google Classroom. What we don't know is how the data will be collected by these platforms and other programs that are used.

When we think of consumer data, many of us think of online uses. But the data is not just generated when we go on the computer. We are wearing watches that collect and share data. We carry phones that gather and share data. We have smart phones and smart homes. We are now living our daily lives on the internet. Even our children's toys can generate data that is tracked. Baby monitors and baby cameras are connected to the internet, and so are toys like Cloud Pets.

As parents, we are generating data about our children. The average parent posts 1,300 pictures on social media by the time a child is 13, and the average child will make 70,000 social media posts by the time he or she is 18. An app called life360 that many families use to keep track of where their family members are also sells the location data that it collects.

This past session, I authored and shepherded to passage a consumer data privacy bill. Connecticut became the fifth state to pass such consumer protections. While we were seen as having some of the strongest privacy protections for children in the country, there is more work to be done. I look forward to working with state Rep. Mary Welander and my colleagues to strengthen our privacy protections.

We are in the early stages of developing a working group to look at several issues related to improving privacy protections for children. We are planning on requiring more controls for parents as well as looking at technologies to verify the age of children so we can prevent those who are too young from accessing social media.

While technology can be a wonderful tool, we need to be cognizant of the potential harm it can cause and be certain that we are protecting our children from those dangers.

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

Opinion & Editorial

Ponder This

Ireland's Great Hunger Bord A Triumph

In a previous column, titled Forging a Future for the Great Hunger Museum, I wrote about the many challenges facing the collection upon announcement of the closing of the Irish Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University. The collection told a visual story of the famine, including governmental neglect, the great migration and the quest for equality and justice. The goal of the museum was to educate about the underlying political, social, economic and historical causes of the Great Hunger.

It seemed a tragedy to close the museum and diminish efforts to continue its fundamental purpose. But this particular story has a promising closing as indicated by the following excerpts of recent press coverage.

An Aug. 18 press release from the newly formed Ireland's Great Hunger Bord expressed satisfaction in the recent ruling issued by Connecticut Attorney General William Tong. The result of an inquiry initiated in October 2021 into the closure and subsequent intended relocation by Quinnipiac University of the collection was well received by significant leaders of the Irish American community. In particular, Turlough McConnell, executive director of the Save Ireland's Great Hunger Museum and chairperson of the Great Hunger Bord,

the newly created 501(c)(3), expressed appreciation that the office of the attorney general would provide some oversight responsibilities for the collection.

Special appreciation and admiration to Turlough McConnell, chair of Ireland's Great Hunger Bord, which was formed with the intention of preserving and maintaining this Irish Hunger collection. It is worth thinking about the terms used by McConnell's group to describe the Great Hunger Museum collection – as public cultural property. Had this important understanding been present from the beginning, the museum would not have been closed without a plan for the special care and boarding necessary for both the scholarship and the art.

The hope of Ireland's Great Hunger Bord is that the collection can be preserved until an appropriate entity can emerge with both the financial resources and capacity to build a museum to care for the scholarship and collection. A special mention to Dr. Christine Kinealey, a professor of history, renowned Irish scholar and founder of the Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac who worked as part of the group to protect the collection as



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

a new home is created.

The plan is that the American Gaelic Club of Fairfield will accept the collection as it plans to build a permanent facility, according to John Foley, president of the club. Ireland's Great Hunger Bord is dedicated to assisting in the preservation of the collection until a suitable entity can emerge with both the financial resources and capacity to build a museum.

These developments provide needed hope and validation that advocacy can pay off and eventually reap benefits. The investigation and subsequent report by influential elected officials certainly rebuke Quinnipiac University even if the university remains impervious to critique and suggestion.

The issues of cultural destruction with resultant historical obliteration remain a risk for people worldwide. Perhaps this small success can be a beacon for Ukraine and indigenous peoples throughout the globe who risk loss of culture, language and religion to powerful oppression.

We are fortunate in Connecticut to have elected leaders who have courage and de-

termination to do the right thing. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Rep. Rosa DeLauro remained steadfast due to their understanding and concern about equity, injustice and oppression. The legacy of the Irish story resonated with each of these individuals and prompted them to engage their time, knowledge and leadership. Thank you for being steadfast to the future. The state attorney general's office was once again deliberate and effective in bringing about a plan to protect and preserve the collection and the story.

So hats off to my colleagues, friends and supportive comrades who listened and learned from this modern Irish saga of continued insult that ended in triumph.

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.

Commentary:

Misconceptions About Town Tax Payments

First, I would like to thank the taxpayers for their payments. This is the most difficult part of the tax year due to the enormous number of bills that are processed.

Normal services are suspended during this month and the first couple of weeks of August as processing tax bills is the priority. It takes about six weeks to process the bills. This year we added an additional tax processing computer station and shaved about two days off the process. Window payments in town hall take precedence over mailed-in tax payments and many involve cash payments which cannot be transacted via mail.

Our online system was up a few days later than it should have been but was vendor corrected. Since online payments are processed electronically along with escrow payments,

they get processed when time permits. Mailed-in tax payments are worked around these restraints. If we receive your mailed-in payments on time, it doesn't matter when we process it. The payment is grandfathered in as an on-time payment.

All those who called in asking about their checks not being cashed totally shut down our ability to answer other calls that actually had to be addressed. We do not know where your check is, and we do not have time to find it. We only know once we actually process it, and that can easily be checked on our online website or at your bank.



THOMAS P. HURLEY

All of the preceding is dependent on your knowing how to write a check. Three things are critical. First, date the check, and no postdating. Do not ask us to hold a check for a particular day. If everybody tried it no work would be done until Aug. 1. Your bill is due and payable July 1. Undated checks may be sent back to you, resulting in penalties and interest.

Second, sign your check. Unsigned checks must go back for a signature. If we miss it and process it, you are also charged a \$25 returned check fee, plus you will likely be charged penalties and interest if we don't get the check back from you by the deadline.

Third, by law we must honor the written amount line. If you forget to write anything at all it will go back to you. If you leave off the fractional dollar amount (cents), we will process your check as a shortage. If you leave off something more significant like hundreds, you will likely incur penalties and interest on the shortage. Technically we can return the whole check to you to fix. Shortages also take longer to process.

We are now taking your suggestions for improvements that you would like to see in our online payment system. The Next Generation Front End project is being looked at for an upgrade.

Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.

Letters to the Editor:

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

Family Thanks Community After Fire

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the Orange community for your overwhelming show of support for our family. Recently, we suffered a fire at our home, rendering it uninhabitable. Thankfully, no one, including our cats, was injured as we were all able to escape. Notwithstanding the quick response of the Orange Fire Department, Derby Fire Department and Woodbridge Fire Department (it was a three-alarm fire), we will be unable to return to our home for many months. Your support through a GoFundMe account, well wishes, donations of clothing, food, furniture and other necessities will help us get through this difficult time. We feel very fortunate to live in such a caring community.

The Stenson Family
Orange

Grocery Nonprofit Seeks Donations

To the Editor:

FISH has served the Greater New Haven community since 1968. We have helped feed hundreds of thousands of homebound, food insecure individuals, families and veterans, delivering free bags of groceries directly to their homes. FISH serves 1,000 greater New Haven households each month, representing over 2,500 individuals. This equates to almost 500,000 pounds of groceries in a year.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic FISH continued to serve the community with increased production, realizing firsthand that their services were needed more than ever before.

COVID funding has ended, and FISH is facing an uncertain future with a funding gap that could make it difficult for them to continue to provide their unique service.

The current economic environment is boasting the highest inflation rate we have seen in decades, making the unique services of FISH more crucial than ever. Over the last 12 months, grocery prices have risen 13.1 percent – the largest annual increase since March 1979, ac-

ording to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The cost of eggs has risen 38 percent, flour is up 22.7 percent, chicken is up 17.6 percent, milk has risen 15.6 percent and fruits and vegetables have risen 9.3 percent.

Feeding America estimates one in eight people in America could face hunger, which is 42 million people in the US, including 13 million

children.

Will you help save FISH and provide hope for those in need? Please donate today.

Jill Meyerhoff
Executive Director, FISH of Greater New Haven

Milford-Orange Times

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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

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

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Your Health

Getting Ready For The Fall Infection Season

The summer this year has been really hot. Despite experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases in our community, high levels of immunity and the availability of effective COVID-19 prevention and management tools have reduced the risk for significant illness and death.

The omicron variant of the virus is less virulent but more contagious. Although the symptoms are milder, it is important that every person understand their individual risk and take appropriate steps to protect themselves and others with vaccines, therapeutics, timely testing and by wearing masks if exposed. You should continue to isolate for at least five days if infected.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health published revised guidelines to assist in local school decision-making based on a town's rate of infection while focusing on maximizing in-person learning.

School districts, child care programs, and youth camps are still required to report COVID-19 cases using systems put in place by DPH and the Office of Early Childhood. DPH encourages continued sharing of general information about COVID-19 cases in school systems with families.

I have advised our school superintendents and principals to continue to follow

COVID-19 mitigation strategies to prevent surges or outbreaks in our school settings. Although contact tracing at schools is not required, the health department will continue to monitor the number of outbreaks and provide guidance on preventive measures to maximize in-person participation opportunities for children.

For example, "test-mask-go" is a strategy that allows children to continue with in-person learning while reducing the risk of spread of respiratory infectious diseases like COVID-19. According to this strategy, any child or staff member with mild respiratory symptoms like infrequent cough, congestion, runny nose or sore throat has the option to continue participating in-person provided: they are fever-free and feel well enough to participate; they do not live with anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past two weeks; they can wear a mask consistently and correctly (if facility operators require them to do so); and they test negative for COVID-19 prior to reporting in-person on every day they have symptoms, as well as one final test on the morning their symptoms have completely resolved.

On the other hand, individuals who have



DR. AMIR
MOHAMMAD

any respiratory disease symptoms should not go in person if they have a fever or feel feverish, or they live with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks. They should not report in person until their fever has resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

Test-mask-go is designed to assist with the management of ill children and staff in order to have them continue with in-person learning to the extent possible.

I have further advised our school systems to continue close communication with the health department and follow the community level of infection by reviewing the COVID-19 County Check database that is updated weekly. As of this writing, the New Haven County's community level is medium.

We also received a recent update that the US Food and Drug Administration advised manufacturers seeking to update their COVID-19 vaccines to add an omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component to the current vaccine composition to create a new bivalent booster vaccine.

The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine will be administered as a single booster dose to those who previously completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. It is anticipated that bivalent booster doses may initially be authorized for people ages 12 and older (Pfizer-BioNTech) and for people ages 18 years and older (Moderna), followed by younger age groups. It is also anticipated that the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines will only be authorized as a single dose in people who have completed a primary vaccination series. Submissions for new emergency use authorizations are expected from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna in early September, potentially by Labor Day.

While we are gearing up to resume our vaccination campaign for both influenza and COVID-19 in the fall season, I encourage you all to remain proactive and follow the medical guidance from your primary care providers. We have updated our webpage and are uploading all relevant information. You can also submit your comments, questions or concerns to the Health Department.

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

Here's To Your Health

Onward And Upward

Over the past 17 years of my experience in the fitness and wellness industry, I've recognized the importance of embracing the continual changes that occur in this field. However, I have found it just as important to discern what changes won't last, such as fad diets, the latest and greatest gadgets as well as over-the-top fitness programs. As in life, we need to be pliable. As our body changes, so will our workouts, whether those changes are due to injury or simply because we are aging.

I started out in this industry with my personal training certification, and a few years after that I added in a nutrition degree. Some years after that, I received my certification in emotional healing. I am currently study-

ing for a Pilates certification. Each one of these journeys has allowed me to better serve my clients and allowed me the opportunity to practice wellness on a three-dimensional level.

At the same time, I am learning so much about growing myself. In years past, I discovered the way in which I was originally taught in my training was nonfunctional and ineffective. Today's training needs to be functional, and we need to treat the root causes of dysfunction in the body, not just the symptoms. It's the same as prescribing medicine for aches and pains



MICHELE
TENNEY

rather than doing an injury analysis and going from there.

Change doesn't just apply to our professions; it applies to so many other areas of our lives. We try to overcome things or do them differently, and for some people change can be hard. Change can also be scary and uncomfortable. It may in fact be all those things at once.

However, change is generally a good thing, especially if it's helping you grow. The end result will enrich your life in some way. I

don't think we can afford to stay stuck in the same old, same old, just like a tomato plant can't grow if it stays in the pot it was originally brought home in. Perhaps applying an attitude of gratitude toward the situation can assist you through changes, especially if they are difficult ones.

These last two years have proven to me how things that originally looked awful, felt very uncomfortable and scary, actually

turned out to work out better than I could have imagined. In hindsight, I can see how many things that looked bad actually got turned around for the good. It helps to look at the silver lining of things and try to keep a positive attitude.

Life is good and how you see it should be good as well. It changes. I'm embracing the changes. I am well aware I may not be running at 80, but I can learn to enjoy the pool and keep up on my yoga. Last year, I became a grandmother. Now parenting has taken on a whole new meaning as I watch my son navigate parenthood and I am released to be just a G-Ma to my granddaughter.

You can do this. Here's to your health.

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

Wellness Fair Coming

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Council will host a Health & Happiness Wellness Fair on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the West Haven Green. The fair will feature practitioners and vendors from across the Milford region, with booths featuring a wide variety of healthy ways to create happiness.

Aiping Tai-Chi will perform an interactive display of authentic Tai-Chi exercise with

instruction from shifu Shirley Chock. There will be consultants to help attendees look and feel their best and home physical therapists to demonstrate ways to keep their body in balance. Home care consultants will be available to help aging families make sure they are in the right place.

There will be raffle prizes from each vendor and activities for children and adults throughout the day.

Physical Therapist Adds Fitness Division To Milford Practice

Physical therapist Michael Dow has just added a new fitness center to his existing physical therapy facility in Milford.

When Dow founded his practice 18 years ago, he was determined to develop physical therapy holistically so it would include diagnostics, treatment, healings, fitness and extending his services to include health and wellness, including nutritional programs.

The Milford office is one of five area offices that are part of Amity Physical

Therapy. The Milford office is now staffed with licensed clinicians and fitness trainers schooled in both disciplines.

"Adding fitness programs to physical therapy has bridged an important gap in the diagnosis and treatment of injuries," Dow said. "Patients can now get both personal care for injuries while, in the same facility, they can move from the healing process to benefit from professional fitness trainers and help prevent future injuries. It's the best of both worlds."

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Orange Rotary Hosts Lobsterfest



The Rotary Club of Orange held its annual Lobsterfest fundraiser on Aug. 13 at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Steve Cooper.

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Clothesline Laundromat 249 Naugatuck Avenue	Milford Med Spa 31 Cherry Street	Valerio Tax Edge 200 Platt Street
Colonial Power Sport 480 Boston Post Road	Milford Performance Center 53 West Main Street	Walnut Beach Beauty Bar 16 Broadway
		Your CBD Store 972 Boston Post Road

Foodie Foursome

Bridge House A Gateway To Flavor

Bridge House restaurant opened in 2007 in the former Bel Air Seafood location at the edge of Devon. The four owners – Frank Basile, Rick Durzyk, Chris Saley and Rob Cyr – created an instant classic with the warm décor, attentive staff and creative renditions of the classics. On this night Cindy and I were joined by friends John and Christine. Helping us with our menu choices and hospitality were Monique and John.

As our culinary team took the field, we began the evening with a sampling of their signature cocktail, the watermelon and basil Wahlbanger, which was refreshing and smooth. This was followed by four completely different appetizers, the first a giant meatball for two. It was an enormous mozzarella-stuffed meatball with a tasty marinara sauce, hints of pesto, shaved parmesan and grilled points of pita-like toast. The second, guacamole hummus, was a beautifully composed dish that showed off the creativity, balance and fresh tastes that reflect many of the chef's offerings. The two large tortilla chips, leaning on each other, created a tunnel underneath to house the shaved cucumber, edamame, cohita cheese and roasted veggies

for color and texture.

Third up was the mini wonton tuna tacos. The lightly spiced chunks of tuna were a refreshing taste on top of a crispy fried wonton wrapper atop a mirin spiced rice bed with edamame and peanut ponzu. Batting cleanup were the crispy lump crab cakes with a jicama slaw and Old Bay aioli. These were among the best crab cakes I have ever had, including in Maryland. They were perfectly crunchy on the outside and just as moist on the inside – a perfect bite for taste and texture with a well-balanced sauce to enhance yet not overpower.

The creativity continued with the two huge salads we sampled. The roasted beet salad was a picturesque creation made up of fresh fennel, frisée, citrus, pistachio, whipped goat cheese and a honey ginger vinaigrette. The berry harvest salad was a bright and fruity arrangement of fresh berries, segmented oranges, quinoa, red onion and candied walnuts nestled on a field of greens.

Then came the incredibly fresh swordfish.



STEVE COOPER

The large portion of white flesh was perfectly seared and joined by a creamy sauce and an abundance of gnocchi. Next up was an awesome Wagyu ribeye steak. It was superbly prepared to our liking, just a touch less than medium. Each bite was juicy. The accompanying rice was tasty and the asparagus impeccably pan-roasted.

The shrimp Lara Valencia featured a creamy parmesan polenta that provided the perfect base for sautéed gulf shrimp, spinach, roasted tomatoes, figs, chorizo sausage, bite-size chunks of mozzarella and pesto sauce. This beautiful dish had balanced yet contrasting flavors. Next was a Bridge House favorite – and their take on a Southern favorite – chicken and waffles. The crisp and tender fried chicken was anchored by a vanilla waffle and adorned with a couple of dollops of purple slaw, a strip of thick, smoked, candied bacon and drizzled with a maple aioli.

As we toured the desserts our first stop was one of my favorite places in the US: New Orleans. The Bridge House take on

the classic beignet made famous by Café Du Monde were round fried dough fritters speckled with powdered sugar and served with two luxurious sauces for dipping: vanilla sambuca and chocolate espresso. I would come just for a cappuccino or chocolate martini and these wonderful little treats.

The next American favorite was a rich, moist chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream and smooth sauce. The last treat, and one of John's favorites, took us to London for bread pudding, where it was developed sometime around the 11th century. This rum raisin bread pudding featured soaked raisins, caramel and whipped cream. It was a perfect ending to a memorable night. It was rich and velvety, not soggy like most, but firm and tasty.

Bridge House is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. They have off-street private parking and are located at 49 Bridgeport Ave., just before the Devon Bridge in Milford. For reservations call 203-878-2800.

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

Travel Matters

When Travel And Cinema Collide

There's never been a better time to be both a movie lover and a traveler. Location scouts for the world's biggest films scour the globe in search of the destinations needed to bring Hollywood movies to life. Some spend months tracking down the ideal locations for their films. But you can visit these incredible sets and their real-life surroundings whenever you'd like, and for as long as you'd like.

Of these locations, some of the most beloved by tourists and moviemakers alike are Mexico, New Zealand and England.

To begin, let me tell you about my favorite place in all of Mexico, a seaside city by the name Puerto Vallarta. Known for its sprawling beaches, lush jungles and renowned art, the city was "put on the map" by Hollywood royalty such as Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, as well as action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The two big movies that were filmed there were the Oscar-winning *The Night of the Iguana* and the 80s action classic, *Predator*. Sightseers can enjoy organized excursions or simply drive to the neighboring village of Mismaloya themselves to see the filming location for *The Night of the Iguana*. The views of the beach and old fortress conjure up an atmosphere that is as romantic as it is beautifully haunting.

If you're an adrenaline junkie, then the jungles which once concealed a prowling predator are the set for you, as they are now home to action-packed adventure. Visitors can ride ATVs, zipline, swim in streams and rivers and enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine deep within the heart of the



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

jungle.

The next must-visit film destination is Matamata, New Zealand. This amazing little village is home to *Hobbiton*, the official set of the *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* film franchises. The set itself is a magical village built directly into the side of a hill and embodies all the enchantment of the films. Anyone touring New Zealand will find that it's perfect for backpacking, hiking or kayaking and experience the same sense of adventure that the hero of the films experienced across the fantastical land of Middle Earth.

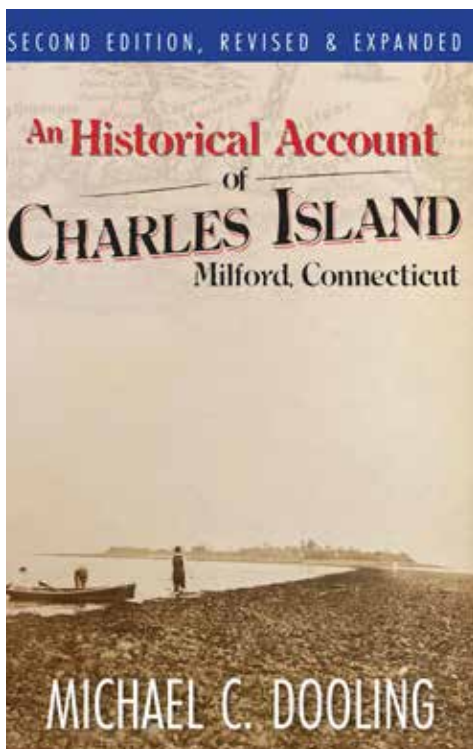
Finally, there's London. You may have been to London before, but did you know that in 2020 alone, the UK produced over

134 feature films, the majority of which were filmed in London? From *Notting Hill* to *Harry Potter*, the city of London is a treasure trove of cinema history and should not be overlooked by film buffs.

The bookstore featured in the 1999 romantic comedy *Notting Hill* starring Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant is now the official giftshop for the film. The street it's located on is a great place for photos and specialty bookstores. From double-decker tour buses to cruises along the Thames, there's no shortage of ways to explore this world-renowned city and its many film sites.

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

Connecticut Author Releases Updated Book About Charles Island



Author Michael C. Dooling has revised and expanded his Milford history book, *An Historical Account of Charles Island*. Originally published in 2006, his book relates the history of what is arguably the most storied island in Long Island Sound. He traces the history from native inhabitants through European discovery, the legend of Captain

William Kidd's treasure being buried on the island, the 19th century resorts, a prize fight gone bad, the Aquinas Retreat in the 1930s and fictional stories that used the island and backdrop.

New material includes shipwrecks off the island, its place in the history of flight when Gustave Whitehead of Bridgeport used it as a testing site for one of his flying machines, testing of a torpedo by the US Navy, the Hermit of Milford Beach, a rumrunner who paid his debt to God, the backstory of a nudist colony proposed for Charles Island and a mysterious woman in white who purportedly walks the tombolo connecting the island with the shore.

Cooling is a lifelong Connecticut resident, former news librarian at the Waterbury Republican-American and former archivist at the Mattatuck Museum. He is the author of four other historical books, including *Clueless in New England: The Unsolved Disappearances of Paula Welden, Connie Smith and Katherine Hull*; *Milford Lost & Found*; *Seaworthy Timber: The Life & Times of New England Sea Captain Aaron H. Wood*; and *The Haunting on East 27th*, a true story of an investigation into a house haunting in New York City in 1862.

Copies of *An Historical Account of Charles Island* are available in Milford at The Canvas Patch, the Ships Store and Milford Pharmacy & Home Care.

Recycling Tip: Visit The Recycling Booth At The Orange Country Fair

By Ilene Moyher

Once again, the Orange Recycling Committee will host a booth on Sept. 17 and 18 at the Orange Country Fair. All are invited to stop by and ask questions, learn about recycling opportunities, play a game and even get a special treat. Our friendly volunteers will be there the entire time, unmissable in their bright orange shirts.

In previous years, how and where to recycle plastic bags has been a hot topic. The most important thing to remember is not to put plastic bags in blue residential recycling bins, the mixed recycling dumpsters at the Orange Transfer Station & Recycling Center or recycling bins at grocery stores. When plastic bags are mixed in with cans, bottles and other recyclables, the entire load may be rejected by the sorting company. When this happens, the town is charged an extra fee and truckloads of recyclables end up in the garbage.

Thankfully, there are several easy ways to recycle pliable thin plastic bags, wraps and

packaging material. This includes most every type of packaging for produce, household goods, construction materials, multi-packs of toiletries and electronics. The only requirement is that bags must be free of food residue or other contents. If bags are soiled, simply rinse them. Then put all clean bags/wraps in the designated shed at the transfer station or bins at grocery stores and other stores, including Lowe's and Kohl's.

Knowing what's not recyclable is as important as knowing what is. Non-recyclables include black bags/wraps; bags soiled with mulch, soil or other gardening materials; and potato chip and similar types of snack bags.

When possible, reuse plastic to save money, reduce use of resources and help our environment.

To find out if specific items are recyclable, go to recycle.com, type in the item and you'll know immediately. Otherwise, when in doubt throw it out. For more info about recycling in Orange, visit orangerecycles.com and facebook.com/ORCinCT. See you at the fair.

Orange Resident Graduates From Albertus Magnus

Jaiden G. Williams of Orange graduated Magna Cum Laude from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven with a major in psychology and minor in criminal justice. Williams was also an integral part of the volleyball team as starting setter for four

years. She accumulated over 1,700 assists, over 700 digs, over 100 service aces and 132 kills in her volleyball career at Albertus Magnus, as well as several Great Northwest Athletic Conference honors and scholar athlete awards.

The Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary Lobsterfest Fundraiser A Success

By Roger Tausig



To continue our long tradition, on Aug. 13 the Rotary Club of Orange held our annual Lobsterfest for the 20th consecutive year.

Initially, there was much debate about the format of the event for this year. Historically, the Lobsterfest was a dine-in affair where customers would order their meals ahead of time or simply show up if the weather was nice and eat their freshly cooked lobster or steak meals at High Plains Community Center.

In the interest of maintaining this beloved event during the COVID-19 pandemic, we held it in two different formats. We offered pickup only in 2020 due to serious concerns about the virus. The following year,

when the danger posed by the virus had subsided but not disappeared, we opted for a hybrid event whereby customers would have the option to dine in or drive up and pick up their meals. This year, after much deliberation, we decided to hold it as a hybrid event again to ensure that anyone who still had reservations about congregating in a large group could still participate.

This year, ticket sales, which were about 300 meals, fell short of expectations for various reasons – primarily the economic times in which we all now live. This was confirmed by learning about similar events that are held in neighboring towns, all of whose volume was down significantly from previous years. Even our lobster supplier is having his most challenging year in 30 years.

While this is an important fundraiser for our club that generates money which we donate to various humanitarian causes in

our town, region and globally, it has another important purpose.

You see, Rotary isn't just a grim group of people who raise money for causes. We are also a collegial, fun-loving group of friends and acquaintances who very much enjoy working together and playing together. I, for one, had a lot of fun working with fellow Rotarians, their spouses and other volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to do the substantial work involved in pulling off an event such as Lobsterfest.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday we had veteran members and their spouses, new members and their spouses, Rotarians from other area clubs, Boy Scouts and others working together. There was a lot of laughter, good-natured ribbing and a generally upbeat atmosphere that, as club president, I feel blessed to have experienced.

So while we didn't necessarily achieve

our financial goals, I had a feeling from the energy that I sensed that day that our club, after a long time of limited activity, was truly galvanized by the experience of working elbow to elbow and having fun doing it. The spirit of cooperation and teamwork that I'm sure everyone sensed bled through to several customers who were heard to say that they would be interested in joining our club because of what they observed that day.

Next year when it comes time to decide whether we continue with the Lobsterfest, I think my vote will be in the affirmative. In my view, creating greater cohesion in our club and keeping it strong is as important as raising money for the causes we support.

If you want to get in on the fun, just let me know. My email address is roger-tausig@yahoo.com. We'd love to have you.

Orange Town Clerk Urges Students To Register To Vote

Orange Town Clerk Mary Shaw is urging all students to register to vote prior to leaving for school or college and to complete an application for an absentee ballot.

"One of the greatest ways we can demonstrate our commitment to our democracy is to exercise our right to a free and secret vote," Shaw said. "When you look at other countries you immediately recognize it is not something we should take for granted."

Any US citizen 17 or older may apply for

admission as an elector by pre-registering and will become an elector on the day of their 18th birthday.

The voter registration application and all related details can be found on the Town of Orange website at orange-ct.gov. Once on the website, visit the Registrar of Voters page. The absentee ballot application is also available on the website; visit the Town Clerk's page and click the link for voting and election information. Applications for the Nov. 8 election are currently being accepted.

Upcoming Events At Chabad Of Orange/Woodbridge

Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge will hold a Rosh Hashana community lunch on Monday, Sept. 26 following service at approximately 1:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$18.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, the synagogue will host family apple picking from 10 a.m. to noon at Norton Brother Farm, located at 466 Academy Rd. in Cheshire. There will be a hay ride, apple picking and a picnic lunch. The cost is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family.

On Thursday, Oct. 13, Chabad of Orange/

Woodbridge will host a Deli on Derby Pop Up and Sukkot Family Festival at the synagogue. There will be life-sized inflatables and live music. The event starts at 5 p.m. and is free; there will be food for sale.

On Monday, Oct. 17, there will be a Simchat Torah with Chabad, with services at 7 p.m. followed by lavish kiddush and hakafot.


Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge is located at 261 Derby Ave. in Orange. For more information, visit chabadow.org.

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Wine Talk

Wine Temperatures For Maintaining And Serving

Given a very warm summer and no cooling rain in sight, we should take a look at the correct temperatures to serve wines and the correct temperatures to store wines.

With global warming becoming a reality, the temperatures are becoming a great issue associated with wines. The Bordeaux region of France is looking for some other grapes that are more warm-weather-oriented to include in the famous Bordeaux blend. Wines are being made in England, Scandinavia, Canada and many other places around the world not known as wine regions previously.

Americans tend to drink their red wines too warm and their whites too cold. Many small restaurants and bars will ask or even just serve their white wines with a cup of ice. Even in fine restaurants they will serve their whites with a carafe filled with ice or ice water. That's too cold. All you will get out of that white wine is some acid, and it will be stripped of its wonderful aromas and flavors

if it is served in the low 40°F. If reds are served too warm – over 75-77°F – all you will get is lots of alcohol.

When the French recommended their reds be served at room temperature in the Middle Ages, the average room temperature was 55 to 60°F.

Check these guidelines for some direction on proper wine serving temps.

Full bodied reds like Zinfandel, Bordeaux, Shiraz and Napa vabs should be served between 64-66°F.

Lighter bodied reds such as burgundies, pinot noir and Chanti should be served at 54-57°F.

Light young reds such as Beaujolais and merlot should be served at 54-55°F.

For full-bodied whites such as chards and white burgundies, 53-55°F is optimum.

Rose, Semillon, viognier and sauterne



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

should be served 50-52°F.

Riesling and vintage champagne should be served at 46-50°F.

Dessert wines should be served about 44°F and sauvignon blanc, pinot gris, sparkling wines and ice wines at 42-43°F.

Proper wine storage is always an issue that needs to be dealt with. Many fine wines have been ruined by being stored improperly. Any wine can be stored at 55°F. Fifty-five to 59°F is fine with 60-75 percent humidity, even long term. Some recommend whites to be stored between 46 and 55°F. Big whites at the higher end of that range are fine.

Wine temperature gauges are available; they are little copper strips that are wrapped around the bottom of the bottle with an LED

readout that gives you the temperature. They are inexpensive and can greatly add to your wine enjoyment. Give the temperature recommendations a try and see if it makes a difference to you.

If you order whites in a restaurant, take them out of the carafe. If you are transporting wine on a hot summer day, use an insulated container to store the wine. Most importantly, enjoy.

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

Mullin Blasts Maroney Over Recent Crime In Orange

Citing the violent Aug. 5 pistol-whipping and carjacking of a 70-year-old at the Valero gas station on the Post Road in Orange, 14th State Senate District Republican candidate Kim-Marie Mullin blasted Democratic Sen. James Maroney for his "yes" vote on police accountability legislation which Mullin says damaged public safety and policing in Connecticut.

"As the new state senator representing the people of Milford, Orange, West

Haven and Woodbridge, my priority will be making our communities safer," Mullin said. "When he voted yes on the so-called 'police accountability' bill, my opponent voted to make our communities less safe. This shocking recent violence in Orange is a prime example of why men and women, Democrats and Republicans, and people of all ages now must worry for their safety when they are out running errands. We need to change course. We need a new voice representing us at the

State Capitol. That's why I am asking for your vote. I will push for a safer Connecticut. My opponent won't. His voting record proves that."

Mullin noted how the new law supported by Maroney in 2020 limits the ability of police to search cars stopped solely for motor vehicle violations. The law, passed in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd, makes changes to the legal concept of qualified immunity that shields police officers from financial

damages in lawsuits related to their conduct while on duty.

"Voters will have a clear choice in November," Mullin said. "Do you want to keep seeing stories about pistol-whippings and carjackings? Then vote for my opponent. If you want a state senator who, like you, feels that our communities are not as safe as they once were, then I invite Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters to elect me, Kim-Marie Mullin, as your new state senator."

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The Jamie Hulley Foundation is a non-profit organization providing opportunities to young artists and early career professionals to expand their talents and pursue their dreams.

Congregations of Orange Collaborative is a new collaboration of eight houses of worship in Orange to "Help Others Together."

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Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
Tour: Saturday, 10/29
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Saint Barbara - Call 203-795-1347

The Garden Spot

Take Advantage Of The Fall Planting Season

Most of us get very excited about the spring planting season and tend to ignore fall and the opportunity it provides to improve our landscape. Mid to late fall is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials. Many will be on sale, as nurseries reduce their stock prior to shutting down for the winter.

If you've been keeping your garden journal, you already know where your bloom gaps and bare spots are. You should also be aware of any plants that aren't in the right place for optimal health. Have you or your neighbor cut down any trees? That can significantly change your microclimate, bringing full sun into areas that were part or full shade. After my neighbor trimmed my trees (much to my surprise) I found that an area in my front yard now has enough direct sun for

me to plant a vegetable garden.

One of the key items on the fall list should be splitting and relocation of perennials. Perennials should be divided very few years so that the roots structures remain healthy and blooms remain strong. Those with "fleshy" roots, such as peonies, daylilies, iris and hosta are easily split and replanted in the fall, taking note that they should not be split until several weeks have passed since their last bloom. Dig the entire plant up and then use a pitchfork, shovel or even a hand saw to split the clump into two or three separate plants. Put the new plants in a bucket of water to remove loose soil and any insects that might be hiding in it. You can in-



PAT DRAY

spect the roots closely; if there are any dead roots, prune them off. Now your new plants are ready to be planted. Plant them at the same depth that the original plant was growing.

If any of your shrubs are crowded, this is also a good time to do some pruning. Prune from the base of the shrub, rather than at the top, letting more sunlight and air into the center of the shrub, which improves plant health. If one is in the wrong place, either for plant health or aesthetics, you can transplant it. Make sure you dig up as much of the root ball as possible. The transplant hole should be the same depth as the original hole, but twice the diameter. Water well, and push down the

soil (but don't compress it) so that any air pockets are removed. Remember, we are in a drought, so you will need to deep water the transplant several times a week until there is a frost.

You can plant spring blooming bulbs up until the ground is frozen. Just remember the "pointy" side is usually the side that goes up, and the planting depth is generally three times the height of the bulb. If you are in an area where you see a lot of deer, you should consider your tulips to be annuals.

Please stop by the Garden Club of Orange's booth at the Country Fair on Sept. 17 and 18 and say hello to your fellow gardeners. And, maybe, join the club.

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

Mental Health

The Importance Of Trauma-Informed Care

I find that the most effective way for me to navigate solutions to problems is to fully understand the context. Having a clear backdrop to an issue allows me to consider variables that would likely not have entered my mind, and it provides detail that would be critical for future planning and decision-making. Without context, solutions to problems run the risk of being ineffective and uninformed. Similarly, the use of trauma-informed care to address mental health and substance use issues is key to effective treatment and recovery as it offers context to complex clinical problems.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration defines trauma as an event or circumstance that results in physical, emotional or life-threatening harm. The event can have a lasting impact on an individual's emotional, physical, mental and social well-being, especially if traumatic events are severe and chronic. A staggering 66 percent of children report at least one traumatic event

(adverse childhood event) by the age of 16. These events can include sexual exploitation, physical or sexual assault, neglect, community or school violence, serious accidents and many others. This percentage increases to over 70 percent of individuals having experienced at least one traumatic event in adulthood.

Using a trauma-informed lens shifts the focus of treatment from what is wrong with a person to what happened to them. This approach seeks to understand the full context and picture of an individual's life circumstances to best treat the underlying issues. There are a number of evidenced-based practice models of care that are used in the behavioral health setting to address trauma as part of treatment. In addition to addressing trauma on a clinical level, providers must also adopt a culture that promotes the principles of a trauma-informed approach.



JENNIFER FIORILLO

The core principles of trauma-informed care from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's "Guiding Principles of Trauma-Informed Care" include safety, empowerment, humility/responsiveness, peer support, collaboration, and trustworthiness/transparency.

Patients and staff must feel both physically and psychologically safe throughout an organization, empowered to recognize and build on their own strengths, and feel that power differentials are managed enough to promote choice and shared decision-making.

Integrating peer support into treatment and recovery allows for patients to share experiences. Care should be delivered free of biases and stereotypes based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age (humility

and responsiveness). Finally, a culture that is transparent about decision making helps to build and maintain trust. Adopting a trauma-informed practice and culture can increase patient engagement, help to maintain open and trusting relationships with providers and improve long-term health outcomes.

Individuals who seek behavioral health treatment should have the expectation to receive care that involves a thorough assessment of their history and events that have shaped who they are today. Much like anything in life, the way to effectively solve problems and work through issues is to fully understand the history and circumstances behind them. We owe it to ourselves to take the time and thoughtfully support making positive changes.

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

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Inspecting Before Listing Can Save Headaches

Contrary to what a homeowner may think, having a "physical" done on your property before you list it can make you feel more confident in the price you are asking and the terms you will settle on. A potential buyer will feel the same way when they are aware that a professional has already reviewed the home.

There are often surprises when an inspector starts evaluating a home, and many sellers tend to shy away from the process of pre-inspecting because they do not want to open a can of worms. But why not? Doing the inspection up front gives the homeowner the time to decide which problems to address, the budget for these expenses and decide how to market their home, which

with some existing issues may be sold "as is."

Most homes in our area are about 60 years old on average. It is no wonder then that defects may be found. By offering up materials that disclose the state of the building, both buyer and seller can move forward feeling there is a good understanding between them. Granted, each buyer will also host his own inspection. But that will only give them more ability to research any issues found by either inspection that have been pointed out.

Recently, a pre-inspection on a septic



BARBARA LEHRER

system for a seller I was working with saved a lot of confusion. The system had been redone previously, but the health department records listed a design that was not accurate when we opened the tank. It turned out that the owner at that time had three bids for the one design and used an alternative estimate than the one on file, which is perfectly fine. We located the proper permit and the vendor's plan that was actually used. It prevented what could have been an issue for a potential buyer, as many buyers are not savvy on septic systems and therefore worry about any work needed on them in the future.

The seller who does a pre-inspection can be forthcoming about what they are not willing to give credits

for, and the buyer goes into the transaction feeling there is transparency. Protecting the transaction is what this is all about. There is now a joint effort between a conscientious seller and a serious buyer. This helps build the most important aspect of a sale: trust.

No one likes negotiations, so an accurate disclosure can speed up the process, cast away doubts the buyer may have and give the seller and the buyer a realistic overall view of the building. The network of buying and selling real estate starts with a home inspection for a reason. It sets the stage and is often the deciding factor on moving forward. This system must be based on honesty and disclosure, taking away any unknown risks and justifying the bottom line as fair to all parties involved.

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

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Students Receive Book Awards On Milford History

Three students recently received Milford Historical Society Book Awards for excellence in the study of history.

The students are Grace Lomax, rising sophomore at the Academy; Zakary

Heart, graduating senior from Jonathan Law High School; and David Gaetano, graduating senior from Joseph A. Foran High School. Each received a copy of the book, *The History of Milford, Connecticut 1639-1989*.

Students are chosen for the awards each year by faculty members.

Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Partners With On-The-Job-Training Firm

The strong labor market has made it more difficult than ever for employers to find qualified and skilled workers. On-the-job-training plays an important role in bringing new hires up to speed quickly and effectively without paying top dollar for a new hire who checks every box. Billions of dollars of federally budgeted and allocated on-the-job-training funds go unused every year.

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act provides funding for employers to conduct on-the-job-training. These funds reduce employer risk by reimbursing a new hire's hourly wages and salary during training for up to six months.

Corporations and nonprofits fail to take advantage of available funds because of the amount of time, effort, paperwork and tracking required to submit a new hire for the program.

The company OJT Associates has developed

a services and technology platform that make applying for on-the-job-training funds efficient for every organization.

OJT Associates has developed a "done for you" service platform that makes applying for on-the-job-training funds efficient for organizations regardless of size. Now the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce is partnering with OJT Associates to bring their services to the community. The program is risk-free to employers. The employer pays OJT Associates only for approved OJT applications.

OJT Associates will be at the chamber for a special information session to be held in conjunction with our job fair on Monday, Sept. 22. OJT Associates helps employers align their



MICHAEL MOSES

training plans to the skill gaps identified by OJT Associates. After identifying new hire skills and knowledge gaps, OJT Associates works with the employer to ensure that the on-the-job training plan is straightforward, relevant and documented. Upon completion, the OJT plan and form are submitted for approval to the local workforce development board by OJT Associates.

There is no upfront cost for client setup and no recurring retainer fee.

OJT Associates splits salary reimbursements with the employer, who is responsible for paying OJT Associates when a new employee OJT plan is submitted and approved by the state and when final payment is made by the state to the employer.

Whether a new hire OJT plan is approved for salary reimbursement by the state or not, OJT Associates creates a report which includes a skills gap analysis and the on-the-job-training plan. If the employer is not in an active hiring mode or no candidates are approved, they pay nothing to OJT Associates.

If you are interested in discussing how OJT Associates can help you capture federal on-the-job training salary reimbursements and reduce the risk of hiring while accelerating your hiring processes, contact Simon McDonald at the chamber at smdonald@milfordct.com for more information on the program and details about the job fair.

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

Party In The Stacks Returning After Two-Year Hiatus

The Friends of the Milford Library are calling all dreamers to the Milford Public Library on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 22, when they will be hosting their fifth annual fundraiser Party in the Stacks fundraiser.

The storybook theme of this year's event is "Where dreams come true: celebrating storybooks and children's literature."

"We are so excited to be holding the fundraiser after a two-year pause," said Jen Israelite, vice president of fundraising for the group. "We hope to see many new and returning faces for this year's event."

Guests will encounter storybook-themed decor, music, dancing, themed hors d'oeuvres, signature drinks and an array of silent auction and raffle baskets.

Tickets for this year's party will be

available for sale at the Milford Oyster Festival on Aug. 20, online at biddingowl.com/FriendsofMilfordLibr or at the Milford Public Library, located at 57 New Haven Ave. starting on Monday, Aug. 24. Individual tickets will be \$45 through Sept. 30 and \$55 starting Oct. 1. Friends of the Milford Library members who purchase tickets in advance of the event will receive a coupon at the door. The coupon, valued at \$5, can be used to purchase a drink from the bar or to purchase raffle tickets.

Visit The Friends of the Milford Library on the Milford Green during the Oyster Festival for more information on the party and to purchase tickets. For questions or for donation/sponsor opportunities, email partyinthestacks.milfordlib@gmail.com.

Milford Announces Fall Bulk Waste Pickup Schedule

Milford's Fall Bulk Waste Pickup Program is scheduled to begin in September.

The service requires the homeowner to prepare and separate the bulky waste. Similar items should be placed together in bags and containers. Small items must be bagged or boxed. Compostable yard waste must be placed in disposable paper bags only (no plastic bags). Brush and wood must be cut, tied, and bundled in lengths of four feet or less. Passenger car tires (four tires maximum) must be separated from other waste. Metal must be no longer than four feet long and separated from other waste. Electronics and white goods must be separated from other waste.

Bulk waste must be placed away from regular trash/recycling containers and be set out for collection no sooner than the Saturday

prior to the scheduled pickup. All acceptable items placed at the curb will be taken, including containers.

The following materials are prohibited: hazardous waste; any liquid waste, including oil-based paint; propane tanks; grass clippings, logs and stumps; and sheetrock, concrete/cement, bricks, porcelain tubs, sinks or toilets and other demolition material.

If your garbage day is Monday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Sept. 12. If your garbage day is Tuesday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Sept. 19. If your garbage day is Thursday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Sept. 26. If your garbage day is Friday, bulk pickup day will be Monday, Oct. 3.

Questions should be directed to the Public Works Office at 203-783-3265.

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Milford's Gold Star Memorial Is First In Connecticut

By Marilyn May

Thanks to the Milford Garden Club, the newest memorial marker on the Green is dedicated to Gold Star mothers and families whose loved ones died in active-duty military service while defending America.

The wording on the marker is: "Gold Star Memorial By-Way; A tribute to all Gold Star Families; Honor - Hope - Healing; Milford Garden Club, National Garden Clubs, Inc."

The awarding of the military's Gold Star has been called the distinction nobody wants but all recipients are proud to wear.

It all started during World War I when women began forming small groups of widows, and by 1928 a national organization was incorporated. The Gold Star project started out as Gold Star Mothers and later became Gold Star Mothers and Families.

On June 23, 1936, a joint congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, and it is proclaimed annually by each president.

President Barack Obama amended the day in 2011 to "Gold Star Mother's and Family Day" to include all relatives of the fallen and recognize families as a vital part of the country's military community.

This year's observance is Sept. 25. It is a tradition that during official gatherings members wear white in remembrance of their loved ones' goodness, innocence and sacrifice. It's also a day when all Americans are encouraged to fly the American flag.

The gold star reference comes from small banners called service flags that were first seen during World War I. It included a blue

star for every immediate family member in the armed forces during any period of war or hostilities. If that loved one died, the blue star was replaced or covered by a gold star. This allowed the community to know the price that the family had paid in the cause of freedom. The service flags were indoor symbols that were hung in front windows.

If a loved one was injured in battle, a gold cross was placed on the blue star. A red star signaled a person had been captured or was missing, and a white star denoted a suicide while serving.

Service flags became especially popular during World War II, with the gold star as the most poignant symbol. Although the use of the service flag waned in post-World War II years, it regained some of its popularity after 9/11 and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today's Gold Star families continue to offer each other support, and their motto is "Honor, Hope and Healing." They endeavor to provide an atmosphere of emotional and psychological aid to those whose lives have been so sadly changed forever.

The Milford Garden Club wanted to honor the Gold Star program, so they worked with the National Garden Clubs, Gold Star Families and the state to make this project a success. It honors both the fallen and their families.

The local club started the project a year ago, in September 2021. The marker was ordered in November and was delivered to Linda Natoli at Milford Monument for safe-keeping. Natoli ordered the granite for the base and also stored the stone until the ded-

ication ceremony on May 29 of this year.

After expenses were paid, \$1,000 remained. That will be used to award a scholarship to a student in a Gold Star family.

Every December, the Gold Star organization of more than 470,000 families partners with "Wreaths Across America" in helping raise money to put wreaths on soldiers' graves.

The women of the Milford Garden Club who made the memorial on the Green possible are Bunny Elmore and Marika Mosley, Gold Star Committee co-chairs and Cheryl Cappiali, Gold Star Committee treasurer. Other members of the committee included Patti Kellam, Patty Primavera, and Margot Sahlmann.

There are still Gold Star families from World War I and many thousands from World War II, the Korean Conflict and the



The Gold Star memorial at the base of the flagpole on the Milford Green. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.

Vietnam War. To date, US Central Command confirms that 7,015 US service members and more than 8,000 contractors have died in the post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Names can be added to the online list at the Department of Defense.

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

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Protecting Retirement Through Disability Plans

In my last column I discussed the potential devastating effect a long-term disability could have on you and your family's finances, both immediate and for the future.

Just imagine what would happen if you or your partner became too sick or injured to work and your income or a significant portion of your family income suddenly stopped. How would this affect your family's financial stability?

According to the US Social Security Administration, one in four 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67.

To summarize from the last column, some of us may have protection at work through a group long-term disability plan. However, many plans only cover up to 60 percent of base salary and often don't cover bonuses, commissions or other incentive income. The benefit amount under a typical group plan is also tax-

able. Think about the potential consequences of a 40 percent reduction in your family's monthly income and then paying taxes on that already reduced amount.

What would happen to your ability to save for retirement? A typical disability income insurance protection policy or group long-term disability plan can help plan participants cover day-to-day living expenses, but often doesn't provide retirement savings protection.

There could be an additional benefit. Some disability plans, through an optional rider to the policy, offer a way to protect saving for the future as well. During a period of total disability, eligible benefits are paid monthly into a trust account at the insurance company.



PJ SHANLEY

As benefit payments are made to the trust, the insured person usually has the ability to invest these funds according to their investment strategy. The trust proceeds are paid to the insured person at retirement age as set forth in the trust. Retirement age is generally tied to the end of the benefit period chosen.

I do need to be clear: this is not a retirement program, nor a substitute for one. Instead, these policies can help participants replace an amount equal to the retirement contributions that would have been made had they not become totally disabled. That is something that is oftentimes overlooked or not talked about during disability insurance conversations.

What retirement plans are eligible? Fortunately, most of the common plans that people are already contributing to can participate. Most 401k, profit sharing plans, individual retirement accounts, simplified employee pensions and tax-sheltered annuity arrangements or 403(b) plans are eligible.

Most policies designed to protect your retirement are available as a rider on a on an individual policy or as a stand-alone policy. Whether you need a stand-alone policy or a rider depends on your financial situation.

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.

Jimmy John's Opens In Orange

A new Jimmy John's sandwich shop located at 550 Boston Post Rd. is now open in Orange.

"As Connecticut locals, and the franchisee team that brought the first Jimmy John's to Connecticut earlier this year, we're thrilled to be opening a second Connecticut store here in Orange," said owner William Roth.

Roth said he plans to hire around 30

employees. Anyone interested in applying can email the store at Orange.jjct@gmail.com.

Founded in 1983, Jimmy John's has over 2,700 Jimmy John's locations across 44 states.

The new Jimmy John's in Orange is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will have delivery and catering.

Orange Record Store Celebrating 60 Years



Merle's Record Rack owner Mike Papa. Photo courtesy of Merle's Record Rack.

Orange.

Merle's has a large selection of new and used CDs, LPs and cassettes, as well as a variety of rock'n'roll merchandise, including t-shirts, posters and other collectibles. Additionally, Merle's provides services such as stereo equipment repair and analog-to-digital format transfers (cassettes and LPs to CDs, VHS to DVDs).

Merle's will hold a celebration on Sept. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will commemorate the store's history as well as its future as it continues its mission to prioritize its customers and meet their needs and interests in a changing industry.

To help the store celebrate, the Rum Runners, a popular local band, will perform live from noon to 2 p.m. Merle's will also offer a number of discounts: buy three CDs, LPs and/or tapes, get one free; spend \$50 and receive a free Merle's t-shirt; get one free extra copy with transfer orders; receive \$20 off diagnostics for equipment repairs; and save \$25 on all stereo sales. Merle's will donate 10 percent of the day's sales to the Red Cross to support their efforts in Ukraine.

Orange Country Fair Approaching

The Orange Country Fair is coming up on Saturday, Sept. 17 and Sunday, Sept. 18 on the High Plains Community Center Fairgrounds at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange.

The fair is a storied tradition in Orange, having run from 1898 to 1912, then being revived in 1975 in its current form.

The fair features rides, food, tractor pulls, animals, antique equipment and community booths.

The fairgrounds are open on Sept. 17 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sept. 18 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Children 14 and under can enter free. Pets and alcohol are not allowed at the fair.




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For Nature's Sake

Time To Celebrate And Safeguard Clean Water Act

The photo of seven youngsters at a beach, circa 1969, shows a row of neighborhood chums of varying heights, hair plastered down from swimming, posing proudly behind a network of "dribble castles."

Three of the friends from that photo, Janice Castle, Jane Cuppernull and David Skirkanitch, gathered on a shady patio a block from Long Island Sound this past July and reflected on their idyllic childhood as Milford "beach kids." They also mulled over what they had witnessed, often unknowingly, in the way of environmental change.

In today's era of environmental bad news, these friends and some others from their generation can attest to a bit of good eco-news that may be easy to take for granted. They have seen changes in local waterways – in color, smell, and clarity – since the 1960s and 70s that reflect the vital impact, very much worth celebrating, of the Clean Water Act.

The 50th anniversary is coming up on Oct. 18 of the signing of the 1972 version of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, dubbed the Clean Water Act. Today, the law is praised by nonprofits and government agencies engaged in safeguarding our streams, lakes and oceans as well as private enterprises like tourism and shellfish industries, that are especially reliant on clean water. Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, the country's largest conservationist organiza-

tion, regards it as "one of the most successful environmental laws in world history."

At the time that Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the law with overwhelming bipartisan support, American waterways had for decades been used to dispose of a brew of chemicals, oil and excrement spewed via waste pipes into rivers and lakes in every part of the country. For many, the wakeup call on the impact of all that effluent came with frequent depictions of dead fish on the shores of Lake Erie, an enormous water body that had become largely devoid of life, or the 1969 incident in Cleveland, Ohio, where the Cuyahoga River caught fire (as it turns out, for at least the thirteenth time since 1868).

In Connecticut water resources were also profoundly burdened by pollution. Statistics from a 1966 state report suggest that 100 million gallons of raw sewage and another 100 million gallons of industrial waste were entering Connecticut's waterways each day. Katherine Hepburn described the Connecticut River in a 1965 documentary as "the world's most beautifully landscaped cesspool."

As a child, Skirkanitch, one of the former "beach kids" and today a member of



PATRICIA HOUSER

the Milford Tree Commission, remembers looking out the car window on trips up the Naugatuck Valley and noticing "the Naugatuck River was black and the rocks were dark as can be, and it smelled – it was an awful smell – like burnt rubber." He also remembers the waste ponds on the grounds of the Raybestos plant in Stratford.

Raybestos, where asbestos was used in the production of brake linings in a factory across the Housatonic River from Milford, was a significant local employer and sponsored a women's softball team.

"They had a ballfield there," said Castle, today a part-time consultant in Milford. "We would go see the Raybestos Brakettes team play."

Through a child's eyes, Skirkanitch remembers that the water in the waste ponds took on phosphorescent shades of "lime green, orange – all these crazy colors that as a kid you think of as pretty."

When the Clean Water Act came along, it halted the unrestricted release of effluent to places like the Naugatuck and the Housatonic rivers and every other major river and water body across the country. A centerpiece of the act is a rule that makes it illegal to pipe waste into a waterway without a permit. Violators can be fined tens of thousands of dollars per day and be sentenced to prison.

These permits also include limits, monitored by states and the federal government, on the amount and type of pollutants that go in the water. The Clean Water Act also provided significant funding to help municipalities upgrade their sewage treatment plants. EPA figures show that the number of rivers, lakes and estuaries suitable for fishing and swimming doubled within 25 years of when the Clean Water Act went into effect.

In our region, Rich Rosen, president of the Nutmeg Chapter of Trout Unlimited, said, "It took legislation and enforcement, but the Clean Water Act protects an element all living things need to survive and has improved our quality of life. Anglers throughout Connecticut can enjoy numerous rivers, lakes and Long Island Sound in part because of the Clean Water Act."

Rosen added it's also been 50 years since the Nutmeg Chapter of Trout Unlimited was established, "and it continues to support cold water fisheries in our area."

Alicea Charamut, executive director of the Connecticut Rivers Alliance, noted that the Clean Water Act was actually modeled on the Connecticut Water Act of 1967. When she thought of what it would be like without all that had been accomplished by the nation's primary water law, she said, "It's so important that we don't take how far we've come for granted."

Meanwhile, there is still work to be done. One issue that comes up when experts consider limitations of the Clean Water Act is its central focus on so-called "point source" pollution, or overt pollution from waste pipes (that you could "point" to). While that was the largest pollution source in 1972, today the biggest source of water pollution is non-point, or diffuse, sources of pollution, including stormwater runoff that picks up pesticides and other chemicals as it runs across parking lots, roadways and farm fields and drains into streams and lakes.

Returning to the three childhood friends who had played at the beach, their informal recognition that something had changed about the water came, for Castle and Cuppernull, after they had moved away and then moved back to Milford. As children, they remember the water being "murky."

"You couldn't see your feet," they said, and in games of Marco Polo, where you might dive under the water, they estimated the farthest you might see was about "one and a half feet."

Cuppernull, who raised her own children in Milford and is now immersed in family responsibilities, first remembered noticing the water was clearer when she moved back to the area as a young parent and brought her children to the beach in the 1980s and 90s. For Skirkanitch, there was, most vividly, a moment around 2007 when he had waded up to his waist in the Long Island Sound and suddenly realized, "I can see to the bottom."

Castle thought of how unaware they were as children, "We didn't know any better." They all agreed that they appreciate it more because they lived through the "murkiness."

Cuppernull said it reminded her of the commercial of the crying Indian from the early 70s "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. "Let's not go back to murky water," she said.

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.



Seven Milford youngsters at a beach circa 1969, several of whom recently recalled the water they played in during their youth, prior to the Clean Water Act, as "murky." Photo courtesy of Patricia Houser.

Cub Scouts Wash Cars In Orange



Cub Scout Pack 922 of Orange held a car wash on July 30 at the Orange Firehouse at 355 Boston Post Rd. The Orange Volunteer Fire Department hosted the event, and Town Fair Tire donated supplies. Scouts washed nearly 100 cars and, according to at least one customer, provided the "best carwash" they ever had. The pack also hosted a picnic where scouts ate hot dogs, spent time with their friends and played frisbee golf. The pack will be holding a recruitment event when school starts up in September. For more information on Pack 922, contact the cubmaster at cubmaster@orangecubscouts.com or visit facebook.com/CubScoutPack922. Photos courtesy of Pack 922.

Your Finances

Navigating The College Financial Aid Landscape

For most Americans, August signals the end of summer and a return to a more normal schedule for work and family. If you happen to be a parent or grandparent of college-aged children, it signals a drive to campus and a sober reckoning of the cost of educating your children. Regardless of their age, if you have children, you are constantly thinking about saving for and paying for college. As such, every family should become knowledgeable about college savings plans and student financial aid programs.

The first step to addressing the cost of college should be a 529 plan. Investing in a 529 plan provides an array of tax benefits, as the plan grows on a tax deferred basis and any distributions are tax free when used for eligible education expenses including tuition, room and board, fees and supplies. In Connecticut, contributions are deductible for state income tax purposes up to \$5,000 for a single return or \$10,000 for a joint return. A

529 plan also receives favorable treatment when your student is applying for financial aid, as it is considered a parental asset and has a minimal effect on eligibility for aid.

The second step for parents looking to tackle the issue of college costs occurs once your child starts to apply to colleges, when you will need to understand and navigate accessing federal, state and institutional student aid. Regardless of income level, anticipated borrowing or potential schools, everyone needs to use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA is used by all schools in awarding federal student aid and filling out the FAFSA form is the only way to ensure that you are taking advantage of the best student loan options. The FAFSA form opens on Oct. 1 for the subsequent school



MATT GALLAGHER

year, and aid is awarded on a rolling basis, so the sooner you apply, the better.

As you prepare to use the FAFSA form, your initial step will be to gather all relevant financial information including recent tax documents, bank and savings account statements, employment and income verification and the school information for the colleges your child wishes to attend. Once you apply via the FAFSA form, it is important to review your student aid report, which is a summary of the information submitted. This report will include a breakdown of your expected family contribution, which is an estimate of your expected contribution toward college expenses. Confirming that the information is correct and a timely response to any requested information is critical to maximizing any

financial aid.

Ultimately you will receive a financial aid award letter from the various schools you listed on the form. The award letter will outline the entire aid package, detailing subsidized or unsubsidized loans, grants and work study opportunities. It is also possible to appeal your aid package to request additional aid or if your financial circumstances have changed.

Ensuring the opportunity for a college education is the goal of most parents. Reasonable planning and a greater understanding of the college financial aid landscape can assist parents in attaining this goal.

Matt Gallagher is a partner and head of business development at TrinityPoint Wealth. He can be reached at 203-693-8519 or by email mgallagher@trinitypointwealth.com.

Folks On Spokes Returning To Milford

Bridges Healthcare's annual cycling and walking fundraising event, Folks on Spokes & Step Forward, returns on Sunday, Oct. 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fowler Field in downtown Milford. The long-standing event raises funds for community mental health and addiction recovery services. Participants of all ages can choose from a number of scenic Connecticut coastline

routes, including a 5K for walkers and 5, 10, 20 or 40 miles for cyclists.

Early registration fees of \$35 per cyclist, \$25 per walker and \$15 for kids under 18 are available through Aug. 31 and include a free t-shirt.

Event sponsorships are available. For more information or to register, visit folksonspokes.bridgesct.org.

Or Shalom Hosting Shabbat At Orange Gazebo

Congregation Or Shalom is inviting members and nonmembers to its annual outdoor Shabbat at the Gazebo on Friday, Sept. 2 beginning at 7 p.m. at High Plains Community Center, located 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange.

Spiritual leader Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus said, "Bring yourselves, relatives and friends for some prayer. I'll bring my guitar for a festive singalong. Who knows, maybe dancing will break out as we celebrate."

Shabbat at the Gazebo follows the synagogue's Shabbat at the Beach in Milford attended by a record crowd of over 100 adults and children.

"We hope to have an even greater crowd

at this event," said synagogue president Bob Spaulding. "Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Come early with dinner or snacks before the service. Dogs on leashes and cats are welcome."

An oneg, or festive gathering, with light refreshments will follow as part of the celebration.

Shabbat at the Gazebo is a continuation of Or Shalom's yearlong celebration and reintroduction of its commitment to provide Jews and non-Jews with spiritual, social and educational experiences. If you are not a synagogue member, let them know you are coming to Shabbat at the Gazebo by calling the office at 203-799-2341.

Orange Continues To Offer COVID Vaccines

The Orange Visiting Nurse Association in partnership with the Orange Health Department are offering Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, to

adults and children ages 5 to 18 on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Clark Building, located at 605A Orange Center Rd. Call 203-891-4752 for an appointment.

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BE PART OF ORANGE HISTORY

Bicentennial Bricks

The Orange Chamber is proud to present 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

Orange Board of Finance

ESG: The Commitment For Responsible Investment

Are environmental, social and governance investments the new investment strategy going forward?

There is growing evidence and real data indicating that nearly two thirds of all endowments and pension investment portfolios will include ESG within the next decade. Here in Connecticut and across many regions of the US we have seen a significant increase within ESG investments, particularly within college and university endowments and state pension funds.

Connecticut, along with Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, has taken significant steps to invest in companies and portfolios that have adopted ESG principals. The state treasurer has committed Connecticut's \$43 billion pension fund over the past four years to including many new investment partners with investments heavily weighed on ESG and away from the traditional fossil fuel investments. Treasurer Shawn Wooden has been confident that ESG investments will ultimately outperform the conventional in-

vestments.

It is important to understand that the treasurer does assess ESG matters together with weighing the financial criteria when making investments decisions within the pension portfolio, including weighing those companies that promote sustainable business practices and promote diversity on corporate boards. This is done so that there is a real potential to deliver value to the stakeholders consistent with the fiduciary obligations to act in the best interests of investors and maximize returns. However, the grim economic climate of 2022 featuring rising interest rates, volatile markets and persistently high inflation will make it difficult for both university endowments and state pension portfolios to generate healthy returns regardless of ESG investments.

Many CEOs of publicly traded companies, such as General Electric, Starbucks



KEVIN MCNABOLA

and Pepsi, are advocates of the ESG metrics. Many corporate executives feel that taking steps to improve labor conditions, enhance the diversity of their corporate teams, give back to their communities and take a stand on sustainable environmental policies strengthen their companies' brands. As millennials become employees, consumers and investors, they take note of good corporate actors and reward them with loyalty.

Many US-based companies are taking proactive stances to incorporate best practices as part of ESG issues. It is important to adhere to some best practices for benchmarking and strengthening the company's ESG program.

As a former corporate executive at General Electric, I believe the best approach would be for companies to identify the appropriate ESG criteria for both their industry and company. When developing an

ESG policy framework, companies should not try to be all things to all people. Rather, identify three to five measurable ESG criteria that are material to the business and constituency, but most importantly aligned with the corporate strategy.

I would also recommend to asset managers and investors not to totally divest oil and gas or other fossil fuel investments, since it has been the bedrock of the US economy for decades. A diversified portfolio is always the way to go.

I hope to follow up on this subject in the coming months and present an analysis in the near future to benchmark some of the state pension portfolios, university endowments and US-based corporations to see whether ESG investments outperformed the traditional portfolios of those institutions that did not invest heavily within ESG.

Kevin McNabola is the chief financial officer for the city of Meriden and a member of the Orange Board of Finance.

Milford's Furniture Row Gains New General Contracting Tenant

Commercial agent John Bergin and commercial broker Carl Russell of Pearce Real Estate were instrumental in the leasing of a large bay at 65-145 Furniture Row in Milford, bringing to the community a new company.

Bergin and Russell recently negotiated the long-term lease of the nearly 12,000-square-foot space for United Civil, Inc., a general contractor and civil subcontractor. The new lease extends United Civil's presence into Connecticut, adding to its operations in New York and

Massachusetts. The company specializes in performing underground utility, sitework, concrete infrastructure, and other specialty civil services throughout the Northeast. The company delivers "comprehensive solutions for a variety of infrastructure challenges" in wide-ranging sectors including power, gas, public, campus and commercial.

Both Bergin and Russell represented the landlord, American General Life Insurance Company, while Bergin also represented United Civil in the deal.

Orange Resident To Celebrate 106th Birthday



Koziel. Photo courtesy of Barbara Schmidt.

Helen Koziel of Orange will be celebrating her 106th birthday on Sept. 27. A birthday car parade will be held in her honor from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 28 in front of the High Plains Community Center.

Schmidt continues to be active in the Orange community as a member of the Milford-Orange YMCA and the Orange Senior Center. She also reads voraciously and enjoys playing games on her computer.

ORANGE DEMOCRATS VS REPUBLICANS KICKBALL GAME

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 Dominick.Lombardi@icloud.com



DevonFest To Showcase Milford Retailers, Eateries

The first annual DevonFest will commence on Aug. 26 with a performance by Shutdown, who will perform at Hair of the Dog in Milford. The performance will kick off a weekend-long celebration in Devon. Saturday is the Good Vibes Festival at the municipal lot adjacent to Bohemian High, featuring The Grateful Dead all-stars and vendors from across the region. On Sunday the jam band Hubinger Street will perform at 3 p.m. on the Bridgeport Flyer's outdoor stage at 249 Bridgeport Ave.

DevonFest is about more than music

as Devon continues to grow into a retail shopping and restaurant destination. The Devon Stroll will feature prizes as people explore the Devon scene with drink and food specials at local restaurants and sale prices at the many shops along Bridgeport and Naugatuck avenues.

Some of the restaurant stops in Devon include Dockside, Hair of the Dog, Bridge House, Liberty Rock and the Bridgeport Flyer. Retail shops include Weirido Wonderland, Bohemian High and Route 1 Guitars.

Milford Resident To Be Featured At Times Square



Ava Skye Perrella on Memorial Day 2022, just a week prior to her passing. Photo courtesy of the National Down Syndrome Society.

Ava Skye Perrella of Milford will appear in the bright lights of Broadway on Saturday, Sept. 17 as part of the annual National Down Syndrome Society Times Square video presentation. The one-hour video of roughly

500 photographs includes children, teens and adults with Down syndrome from all 50 states. These collective images promote the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome in a visible way.

The photo of Perrella, who passed away after a brief illness June 6, was selected from more than 2,400 entries in the NDSS worldwide call for photos. Her photo will be shown on two JumboTron screens in the heart of Times Square thanks to the support of ClearChannel Outdoor. The two screens are located above Dos Caminos restaurant in Father Duffy Square.

The presentation will be livestreamed on the NDSS Facebook page from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 17.

The NDSS is the leading human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome.

Orange Community Women Selling Bicentennial Crocks



The Orange Community Women are offering a 2022 Commemorative Crock as a hand-crafted keepsake to recognize the

town's bicentennial this year.

All proceeds from the sale of these crocks will help fund the various projects the group supports within and surrounding the community. These include Food2Kids, scholarships for Amity seniors, Days for Girls, food basket donations and social gatherings with the Tracy Bunch and residents of the Silverbrook Senior Center.

Each one-quart stoneware crock stands six inches high and is hand-made in the US. They are oven, microwave, dishwasher and freezer safe and cost \$35 each.

The crocks are available for immediate delivery within the town of Orange. To order, call Michelle at 203-605-4383, or email Orangetowncommunityw@gmail.com. They will also be available at the OCV booth in the Civic Tent at the Orange Country Fair on Sept. 17 and 18 while supplies last.

Orange Senior Center Events

Orange Community Services installed a computer kiosk to check in for events and activities. Be sure to come by the office and for a key tag to use to swipe in. The key card will be used to sign in for classes, activities and volunteering and other activities.

Health & Safety Fair: The Senior Center on Sept. 23 will host its 19th annual Health and Safety Fair at High Plains Community Center from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Meet local vendors, enjoy a raffle and receive a free boxed lunch.

Hiking Group: Hikes on Thursdays at 9 a.m. throughout September are about two miles and take about an hour. Meet at the location of the hike. Sept. 1, Ewin Farm Preserve, 648 St. John Dr. in Orange. Sept. 8: Fitzgerald Tract, 112-126 Beecher Rd. in Woodbridge. Sept. 15: Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, 125 Shelton Ave. in Shelton – meet at the Pine Lake parking

area. Sept. 22: Turkey Hill Preserve, 700 Derby Milford Rd. in Orange. Sept. 29: Solomon Woods, 810 West River St. in Milford.

American Music Cities Presentation: Join the Senior Center on Sept. 13, at 3 p.m. for a trip presentation on Collette's trip Music Cities. The trip departs Oct. 7, 2023.

Arts & Crafts: There will be a class arts and crafts project on Monday, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Call 203-891-4784 to sign up.

Book Club: The book club meets the last Friday of the month at 2 p.m. The next meeting will be in the senior lounge on Sept. 30. September's book is Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison.

Movie of the Month: On Sept. 9 at 1 p.m., the Senior Center will feature the film Ondine. An Irish fisherman discovers a woman in his fishing

net whom his precocious daughter believes to be a selkie. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Call 203-891-4784 to register.

Lunch & Fun – American Heroines: Join the Senior Center on Sept. 12 when Patty Caver returns with "American Heroines," a one-woman musical presentation where four noted women of American history are portrayed. Carver conceived of and wrote the show. Call to reserve a seat. Coffee and dessert at 12:30 p.m. The show runs from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Beginner Pickleball with Mary: Beginner pickleball is available on Fridays at the High Plains Community Center tennis courts from 8 a.m. Bring a chair as there are no benches.

Hot Lunch Program: Lunch is offered Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to noon. There are no meals on Saturday or Sunday. A \$3 donation is accepted for people 60 and older.

Call Ellen at 203-891-4765 to register.

Legal Clinic: The law office of Floman DePaola has merged with Wiley, Etter, & Doyon, and they are still available the first Wednesday of each month for a free legal clinic. Some things they will be able to help you with, while others may require an office visit and fee. To schedule an appointment, call 203-891-4784.

Griffin Hospital/Parish Nurses Blood Pressure Check: Griffin Hospital will be at the Senior Center the last Friday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon to take blood pressure. This is a free clinic.

Big E: There will be a trip to the Big E on Sept. 21, leaving Connecticut around 9:30 a.m. and staying at the Big E until 6 p.m. Tickets will be distributed on the bus for participants to explore the Big E. The cost is \$81 per person with transportation. There is extensive walking.

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Lions Club Hosts Picnic



The Orange Lions Club held a picnic in August at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Lexi Crocco.



ALEXANDRA JOY
PHOTOGRAPHY



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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.

Dorothy Clair Avery, age 95, of Milford, beloved wife of the late George Avery Sr., died on Monday, August 15, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Charles K. Cianci, 74, of Milford, husband of Jayne Gamble Cianci, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on August 1, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kathleen M. Dwyer, 63, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of the late Mark Gilbert, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Dorothy C. Abramski, 96, beloved wife of the late Joseph Abramski, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Joyce C. Beggs, 88, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Gerald Beggs, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mary Ann Connors, 84, of Milford, beloved wife of the late James Connors Jr., passed away peacefully on July 25, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Norene (Norman) Schreck Ebeling, of West Palm Beach, FL, and formerly of Orange and West Haven, CT, charted her own course and stayed true to it all of her life. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Diane Andrews, 77, of Milford, beloved wife for 58 years to Robert C. Andrews, passed away on August 3, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



George A. Bevilacqua Sr. 86, of Milford, beloved husband to Margareta (Jeffries) Bevilacqua, passed away peacefully on August 3, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John J. Dacier, 57, of Orange passed away unexpectedly on August 5, 2022. His cherished family includes his very best friend and wife of 31 years Cynthia Ramadon Dacier. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Tracy Harrower Fallon, 61, of Seymour, beloved wife of William Fallon, passed away peacefully with loved ones by her bedside on July 20, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kelly Armour, 48, of West Haven, CT, beloved wife of William Armour, III, entered into eternal rest on July 31st, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Wayne H. Carson, age 93, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Lena (Alves) Carson entered eternal rest on August 7, 2022. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



RuthAnn Ferris Durgy, 92, of Derby, CT, beloved wife of 57 years to the late Francis Merritt Durgy, passed away into the presence of the Lord on June 26, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ethel "Bunny" Foster, 90, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Robert Foster, passed away on August 12, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Dr. Armen C. Haig MD, was born on March 9, 1932 and passed away on August 2, 2022 at age 90. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Madelyn Claire Warminton Jannitto, age 96, died peacefully on July 25th with her family by her side. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Marcy (Whitehead) Lepesko, age 63, of Milford, beloved wife of David Lepesko, passed away on August 6, 2022. (Adzima Funeral Home)



John O'Hare, 95, of Orange, beloved husband of Rita Firth O'Hare, passed away on July 24, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Harry James Haselkamp Sr., 90, beloved husband of Karen (Hayes) Haselkamp entered into eternal life on July 30, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Elizabeth (Betty) P. Keen, 79, of Orange, beloved wife of 55 years to Lawrence Peter Keen, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 5, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Susan L. Lombardo, age 74, lifelong resident of Milford, left this world on August 4, 2022 surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Frederick E. Parmelee, 73, beloved husband of Sheila Parmelee, passed away on August 2, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nelson Roger Hicks, age 81, of Milford, beloved husband of 51 years to Donnarae Reilly Hicks, died on July 29, 2022 after a long illness. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



David H. Kiley, Jr., 54, of Milford, beloved husband of Kathleen Kiley, entered into eternal rest on August 12, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



James J. Marino "Jim" died peacefully in his home surrounded by his children, on August 12, 2022 on his 79th birthday. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Rita "Rickey" Epstein Rubin, 94. Rickey passed away peacefully July 21, 2022 surrounded by family members. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



Madeline Innamorato, 96, of Milford, CT and previously of Queens, NY, beloved wife of the late Carmine Innamorato, passed away on July 21, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John T. Lane, Jr., 78, of Milford, beloved husband of Elizabeth "Betty" Lane, passed away peacefully on August 8, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert "Bob" James Marino, 53, of Milford, CT passed from this earth on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 from Metastatic lung cancer. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



An avid technologist and a die hard foodie, **Debarghya Sengupta's** life didn't come to an end with his death. August 6, 2022 at the young age of 46. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

David Paul Serfilippi, 75, of Orange, beloved husband of Cheryl (Grieb) Serfilippi, passed away on July 26, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



On July 29, 2022, **Margaret Vargo**, 98 years young, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, entered into eternal peace and love. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Michael E. Simpson, 71, of Milford, beloved husband of 51 years to Patricia Simpson, passed away peacefully at home on August 11, 2022. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Arthur Weyant, 81, formerly of Milford, passed away after a brief illness with his loving wife of 43 years, Celia, by his side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Lucia "Lucy" Ann Townsend, 100, of Milford, beloved wife of the late William Reed Townsend, passed away on August 9, 2022 with her family by her side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Olympia Zappas, of Milford CT, passed away peacefully Friday, August 12, surrounded by family. (Westchester Funeral Home)



Evelyn S. Garlick Turner "Evvie" of Milford, CT passed away on August 9, 2022 at the age of 69 surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Faye Coralie Zeiner went into the arms of the Lord on August 11, 2022.



TOWN OF ORANGE

ADMINISTRATOR
ORANGE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

Orange Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) is seeking an Administrator (RN) with current homecare clinical and administrative experience to continue to guide the agency so it will continue to thrive as well as to provide high quality patient care going forward in our ever-evolving health care environment. OVNA is a state licensed, Medicare/Medicaid certified home care agency providing patient centered, high quality, individualized care to the residents of Orange, Milford, West Haven, and Woodbridge in addition to public health/community services. The position is a full time (40 hours/week) with Town of Orange benefits including a 401A plan which is available after one year of employment.

The Administrator has many responsibilities that include but is not limited to daily management of the agency; patient advocacy; assurance of delivering quality care and services; regulatory oversight and compliance with agencies such as CT DPH and Medicare; recruitment and retention of personnel; development of an effective budgeting and accounting system. The Administrator oversees development of policies and procedures, performance improvement programs and develops a system of staff communication that ensures coordinated implementation of plans of care and utilization of necessary services for comprehensive care of patients; and serves as the liaison between the agency, the Governing Board, and the community.

The candidate needs to have a current CT RN license, current understanding of OASIS D, ICD 10 coding, Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM), use of EMR – such as Netsmart, computer, and marketing skills. The candidate should have a BSN and/or master's degree in nursing or healthcare administration, at least two years of supervisory/management experience and two years of current homecare experience. Current Salary: \$106,208.81

Interested applicants, please send a cover letter, and resume to First Selectman James M. Zeoli, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477 or by email to jzeoli@orange-ct.gov by 4:30 p.m. September 9, 2022 EOE

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

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Orange Fireman's Carnival Returns



Families enjoyed the rides and activities at the Orange Volunteer Fireman's Carnival in early August. The event is an annual tradition and usually the biggest fundraiser for the OVFD. Photos by Lexi Crocco.



Amit Lahav, MD

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