

Milford-Orange Times

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June 1, 2023

Milford, Orange Host Memorial Day Events



Milford and Orange held events in honor of on May 28 in honor of Memorial Day, including wreath-layings for fallen soliders and parades. Additional photos on page 19. Left photo by Steve Cooper. Right photo by Lexi Crocco.

Milford, Orange Budgets Adopted

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford residents will see their taxes rise slightly, while Orange residents will see theirs drop slightly.

Those were the topline results of the months-long budget process that took place in each municipality and finally culminated in May.

Milford's budget process was particularly

fraught. After more than half a decade of falling mill rates, the rate for the 2023-2024 budget year was set at 27.17, up from 26.65.

The total budget, adopted by the Board of Aldermen on May 11, came in at just over \$253 million. That number was higher than

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Milford Holds Hearings On Conservation Plan

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford's Planning and Zoning Board has been undertaking a rewrite of the city's plan of conservation and development, and held two public hearings in May to allow residents to weigh in on the draft document.

The 80-page POCD draft covers a wide range of topics relating to Milford's land use, including the preservation of open spaces, flood mitigation, future zoning and energy efficiency. The POCD was last updated in 2012; the state requires municipalities to update their plans every 10 years.

The plan contains several recommendations relevant to affordable housing, a perennial point of contention

around the state that has recently been exacerbated by a limited amount of available housing of any type.

The POCD does call for exploring more opportunities for multi-family and affordable housing, including by undertaking a comprehensive review of all multi-family standards across all sections of the city and identifying "areas where zoning unnecessarily restricts multi-family development." It also suggests changes to the zoning around the CT Post Mall to allow for residential uses on the property – something that the owners of the mall

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Orange Playground Nears Completion



The community playground at Fred Wolfe Park in Orange is nearing completion, with the main playscape elements fully installed. It will be Orange's first public playground not attached to a school. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Giannattasio Enters Milford Mayoral Race

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Anthony Giannattasio, the Republican Minority Leader on Milford's Board of Aldermen, has announced that he's throwing his hat into that city's mayoral race.

Giannattasio joins Democratic Registrar of Voters Kerri Rowland in a field that could continue to expand, as the mayor's office has become wide open with the departure of former mayor Ben Blake.

Blake, a Democrat who held office for

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Giannattasio.



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Budgets Adopted (Continued From 1)

the \$251 million recommended by the city’s Board of Finance, which also would have raised the mill rate.

The biggest sticking point in the Milford budget this year was over the Board of Education, where a \$1.8 million cut that the finance board made to their request of \$106.48 million led to dire predictions from Superintendent Anna Cutaia and other education officials that a school might need to be closed or other popular programs gutted simply to make ends meet.

Parents and other education supporters held rallies at City Hall and urged the aldermen to restore the funding throughout budget deliberations.

The Board of Aldermen ultimately restored \$1.6 million to the Board of Education.

“We had different departments come before us, particularly in the public safety environment, and we have to make sure that we are meeting their needs as well for the sake of our whole community,” said Alderwoman Michele Parente. “So that’s where we came up with a little bit of a smaller number. It’s something that we felt just in our communication is not great – I, and I think all of us, would love to give you more money if we could.”

Parente went on to praise Cutaia as a visionary and said that she did not appreciate the way the Board of Finance had made its decisions and put people “in limbo.”

The Board of Aldermen also added \$120,550 for the Police Department into the budget to fund one additional police officer and overtime. They also increased the Fire Department’s funding by \$210,000, noting that the department had been underfunded in the past.

Alderwoman Ellen Russell Beatty, who is also a Milford-Orange Times columnist, said that the board learned some lessons about budget sustainability during the process that they hope to reduce confusion anxiety in future budget negotiations.

“I don’t have a campaign hat on. I have my governing hat on. And we’re looking at the entire thing, and it’s tough,” she said.

Orange’s budget process, meanwhile, went more smoothly this year, as almost all parties involved in developing the various portions of the budget were in agreement that the budget was, overall, sound.

Orange’s budget process ended with two referenda: one on May 2 to approve the Amity regional budget, which is shared between Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge; and one on May 17 to approve the town and elementary school parts of the budget.

Both votes passed on the first try. That was a significant change for Amity in particular, as it took three rounds of voting in 2022 before their budget was settled.

In part the relative lack of difficulty in passing Orange’s budget likely resulted from the fact that it would lower the mill rate from 32.71 to 32.31 mills.

The budget, which topped \$80 million in total, is an increase by just under \$2 million from last year. However, that increase was offset by growth in the town’s grand list from the previous year by \$63.74 million, or 2.83 percent.

The Amity portion of the budget was less controversial in Orange this year as well because even though its overall budget would increase, Orange’s share of the cost actually fell due to the town sending a smaller proportion of students to the regional school compared with last year.

Orange’s grand list could grow more by the time the next budget season rolls around. The town faces a property revaluation this year, a process every municipality must go through every five years. It will be the first revaluation for Orange since the coronavirus pandemic began. One of the effects of the pandemic was

a general increase in real estate values across Connecticut.

Conservation (Continued From 1)

had unsuccessfully tried to get approved in recent years.

However, the plan also largely maintains the status quo for residential areas that have historically been limited to single-family homes; the section on future land use says that “every effort should be made to preserve the prescribed density of the underlying zone and promote and preserve” these types of homes. Multi-family development would continue to be restricted mainly to the city’s commercial corridor along the Boston Post Road and other major routes.

During the May 24 public hearing, resident Rachel Merva asked for the document to take new types of housing into further consideration.

“What I see big picture is that the residential areas stay residential and we just look to the commercial corridors for affordable housing. And of those nine commercial corridors, it looks like only two have called out zoning changes,” she pointed out. “There’s nothing about public housing over the next 10 years. We have a three-year wait list. There’s senior housing that’s critical. How many affordable housing units do we want and need?”

Several residents spoke in favor of the POCD’s efforts to increase the number of community gardens and open space around the city, including Carolyn Alling, who sits on the Conservation Commission.

“I think it is important to create more community gardens, especially in the high-density areas,” she said.

The plan calls for increasing the amount of and access to open space throughout the city, as well as better identifying open space within mixed-use areas, such as Fowler Field near the library.

Several residents also suggested changes to the process by which historic preservation is addressed. Resident Michele Kramer, who has been involved in historic preservation for several decades, suggested that historic preservation notifications tend to come late.

“It seems a little bit inefficient that an applicant would have to go through Inland Wetlands, Planning and Zoning, and only then find out that there could be a historic component and they might not be able to go forward,” she said, adding that getting to the historic piece earlier could allow for greater clarity and avoid some legal troubles.

The Planning and Zoning Board will continue to deliberate on the POCD draft through June before submitting a revised draft to the Board of Aldermen for consideration. There will be additional opportunities for public input as the plan wends its way toward final adoption.

Giannattasio (Continued From 1)

12 years, announced in February that he would be stepping down as mayor to fill the post of Administrative Law Judge for Connecticut’s Workers’ Compensation Commission. The Board of Aldermen followed the city charter in appointing Richard Smith, a fellow Democrat, to fill Blake’s role on an interim basis until the November elections.

Giannattasio has been a member of the Board of Aldermen for 16 years, serving the first district. He is also the aldermanic liaison for the Fire Commission, the

Continued on page 4

Adopt A Pet: Spice



Spice is a medium-sized spayed female dog who is sweet but full of energy. From observation, she may not be too fond of other dogs but may need to meet another dog in a potential home to be sure. Small children are not recommended for her. Spice is friendly, affectionate, playful, curious, independent and smart. She has short hair, is house trained and her vaccinations are up to date. She can be seen at the Milford Animal Shelter, located at 664 East Broadway in Milford. Call 203-783-3279 for more information. Photo courtesy of the Milford Animal Shelter.

St. Mary School Carnival Coming Back Again

The St. Mary School carnival will return on the weekend of June 2 to June 4 after its April event was cut short due to weather. The carnival ran on April 28 as a one-day affair. The second round will happen at the school, located at 72 Gulf St. in Milford, on June 2 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., June 3 from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and June 4 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be rides, games, music, food trucks and fireworks on Saturday night. Wristbands will be available for \$35 on Friday night and Sunday, and \$40 on Saturday for all day and night. Visit saintmaryschoolmilford.org/carnival for more information.

Orange Rotary Hosts Pancake Breakfast



The Rotary Club of Orange held a pancake breakfast for seniors on May 20 at the pavilion at High Plains Community Center. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Orange Rotary Holds Rose Sale



The Rotary Club of Orange held its annual Mother’s Day rose sale on May 12 at the pavilion at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Orange Students Awarded Scholarships



The Orange scholarship Fund Association held its presentation ceremony for seven Amity Regional High School students on May 20, 2023 at the gazebo at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Each student was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the association. The scholarship winners and their schools were: Adam Martire, Coastal Carolina; Izabela Kurpios, UMASS Amherst; Sophia Liu, Smith College; Fabian Cuprys, Bryant University; and Marissa Scotti, East Carolina State University. Emilia Dottori, who will attend Quinnipiac University, and Alana Abrams, who will attend Sacred Heart University, each received \$2,000 scholarships through the Ashlie Krakowski Memorial Fund. The Ashlie Krakowski scholarships are presented from her family to students entering a health-related field. The recipients for the Ashlie Krakowski scholarship are chosen by Krakowski's grandmother. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Giannattasio (Continued From 3)

Police Commission and the Economic Development Commission.

As the Republican leader on the Board of Aldermen, Giannattasio has worked collaboratively with Democratic colleagues and the mayor's administration as often as he has disagreed with them. He most recently supported an effort to restore \$1.8 million

in funding for Milford Public Schools in the city's budget that had been cut by the Board of Finance.

On the day of the budget vote, Giannattasio introduced the amendment that brought the funding back to cheers from the audience.

"After careful consideration and productive meetings with the city and board of education leaders, and countless conversations with members of the Milford community – including the parents – it's

time to restore the Board of Education budget to what was originally requested," he said.

Despite his push to restore the entire amount, the board instead voted to put \$1.6 million back in - \$200,000 less than he had wanted.

He also successfully supported increased funding for police and fire departments at the levels over what the Board of Finance had recommended.

Giannattasio has historically pushed for additional funding for the Police Department, including in 2022 when he attempted to get funding for four new officers that had been requested by Police Chief Keith Mello. That attempt failed when majority Democrats on the board did not back it.

Giannattasio filed his paperwork on May 23. He is a lifelong Milford resident and the owner of the Milford Barrel Co., a steel drum supplier in New Haven.

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Devon Rotary Renovates Beth-El Center’s Kitchen, Dining Hall



Members of the Devon Rotary after finishing renovations to Beth-El Center’s kitchen and dining room. Photo courtesy of Devon Rotary.

Devon Rotary has completed a transformation of Milford-based Beth-El Center’s food/meal program by renovating its kitchen and dining hall.

The renovation was necessary to address issues raised by the health department regarding damaged and non-approved ceiling tiles, old dim lighting and HVAC grills. The project spanned nine work sessions.

Devon Rotary paid for all the estimated materials and the contractor to install the tiles.

“I am grateful to the hardworking and dedicated members of our club who came together to make this project a success. The renovation of the Beth-El Center’s kitchen and dining hall was a true team effort, and we are thrilled to have been able to make a positive impact on the community in this way,” said Jason Jenkins, Devon Rotary’s 2022-2023 president.

The renovation included replacing all the ceiling tiles and HVAC grills in the dining room to meet the approved standards of the health department. The club also installed new LED lights to replace dim and yellowed lights, making

the dining hall brighter and more inviting. Similarly, the ceilings in the kitchen area were replaced with approved commercial kitchen tiles, and new LED lights were installed in both rooms and the hall.

Devon Rotarians worked over numerous partial days due to scheduling constraints. The team cleaned the entire dining room and kitchen after every work session due to the significant amount of debris and dirt that fell from above the ceilings.

The club cleaned and painted all the ceiling grids in the dining room, sanded and painted the grid and removed all the old lights and wiring. They installed new LED lights, wired them and helped the contractor install new ceiling pads and HVAC ceiling grills. The same was done for the ceiling grids in the kitchen and storerooms, with additional ceiling supports installed by the contractor. All the old lights and wiring were removed and replaced with LED lights.

The project also included installing new LED lights in the hall and additional storeroom, with work carried out during specific hours to keep the kitchen and dining room in operation.

OCC Hosting Strawberry Festival In Orange

Strawberries are the star of the show on Saturday, June 10 (rain date June 11) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. when Orange Congregational Church will host its 15th annual Strawberry Festival on the fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center in Orange.

The event will include plenty of fruit-themed foods, such as strawberry shortcake, ice cream with strawberries, a strawberry slushie and homemade strawberry jam. There will be a pie eating contest, kids’ activities, old time games, magicians, balloon animals, puppy adoption, an afternoon hayride, and the Red Car Show during the festival. Red cars and trucks of every era will be on

display at the fairgrounds; enter yours for \$15 with a chance to win a trophy. A live band will play in the gazebo. Explore vendor booths of every kind or browse the Country Store tent for more strawberry wares. The day opens at 9 a.m. with strawberry-topped pancakes. For lunch, the grill will be making hotdogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, sausage and peppers, grilled cheese, veggie burgers, fries and other staples of summer.

Admission and parking are free. For questions about the festival, call the Orange Congregational Church at 203-795-9749. For questions about the Red Car show, call George Catalano at 203-799-6748.

Pirate’s Day Back In Milford

Milford is set to launch its 21st annual Pirate’s Day on June 4, a tradition that continues to expand with multiple events throughout the day.

The day, which is hosted by the Downtown Milford Business Association, begins at 9 a.m. with pancakes with the pirates at Lisman Landing. Families can get their photo taken, enjoy balloon animals, have their face painted and have breakfast on the water with Rockin’ Ron the Friendly Pirate. The cost is \$15 per person.

At noon, Captain Kidd will come into town on the OZ and take over Milford.

Pirate’s Day maps will be available at

Lisman Landing until noon at the DMBA table, and available at the DMBA table on the Green any time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Throughout the afternoon, there will be vendors at Lisman’s Landing and on the Green, story time with the Milford Public Library children’s department at 10 a.m., pirate-themed yoga at 11 a.m. and more.

The Milford Historical Society will be telling tales of pirate lore from Free Men of the Sea and hosting old-fashion lawn games from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a full list of events, go to downtownmilfordct.com/event/21st-annual-pirates-day.

Milford Duck Race Coming Soon

The Milford United Way Duck Race will launch the unofficial start of summer on Saturday, June 3 at Milford’s Memorial Bridge behind the library. Festivities begin at noon and the race itself will launch at approximately 1:30 p.m. The event is open to people of all ages.

There will be prizes, including a 65-inch smart TV, Apple iPad, watch, kayak and more.

Each raffle duck costs \$5. With numerous prizes, the odds of winning are high - especially if you adopt more than one duck.

Ducks can be “adopted” online at

milfordduckrace.com and at stores on the Milford Green.

A high-stakes duck race is also happening with a \$2,500 first prize, \$1,500 second prize and \$1,000 third prize. High stakes tickets cost \$100 each and are limited to 200 entrants.

All proceeds benefit the Milford United Way to help people facing food and housing insecurity and mental health challenges, as well as other local programs. Milford Mayor Richard Smith has declared June as United Way Month in Milford. Milford businesses will promote special deals to support the United Way.

Beauty Salon Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and Milford officials on May 4 welcomed the newest Latina-owned beauty salon to the city. Lyra Luxe Beauty Salon is owner Lisa Vega’s first business. Lyra Luxe offers a variety of beauty services consisting of acrylic nails and lash extensions, along with hair services such as highlights, balayage, braiding, locs, silk presses and more. From left: Denasia Morales, Katie Mancero, MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald, owner Lisa Vega, Milford Mayor’s office Chief of Staff Justin Rosen, Jocelyn Lugo, Ciana Ramos and Tiana Krause. Photo by Gregory Geiger.

Pizza Shop Opens In Orange



The Orange Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 16 for We’re Back Pizza, located at 106 Boston Post Rd. in Orange at the former site of Abate’s Pizza. The venue serves pizza, salads, sandwiches, wraps, subs, burgers and Italian dinners. Pictured center are owners Christine and Michael Avena. Also in attendance were Orange Chamber President Ted Novicki, Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annemarie Sliby and Marianne Miller of the Orange Lions Club. Photo by Robert Creigh.

OCC Hosting Charity Golf Scramble At Orange Hills Country Club

The Orange Congregational Church Golf Tournament will take place on Friday, July 14 at Orange Hills Country Club, located at 389 Racebrook Rd in Orange. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. for a shotgun start, with a 7:30 a.m. time for breakfast and registration. The annual charity benefit is run in cooperation with Columbus House. Sign up for a foursome for 18 holes event. There will be games with prizes, including a putting contest, closest to the pin, longest drive and a raffle drawing at lunchtime. Breakfast

at Orange Hills, goodie bags and lunch at Orange Ale House are included. Sponsors can donate at the Gold, Silver, Long Drive or Tee Box Sign levels and have a sign with their name on the golf course. A lunch-only option at Orange Ale House is available at 1:30 p.m. for \$20. To sponsor or register, call the Orange Congregational Church office at 203-795-9749, email occhurch@snet.net (especially for lunch-only) or visit the sign-up website on the events pages at orangecongregationalchurch.org.

Opinion & Editorial

Ponder This

The Relentless Drive Toward The Mean

Much has appeared in commentary about the recent Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue featuring a cover portrayal of Martha Stewart at the age of 81. Author Nancy Sales has posed an important question: “Should it be a triumph for women that Martha Stewart is a swimsuit star?”

The answer should be a resounding no. We should welcome the notion that human beings can be sexual into their 80s, but this must not translate into images of women being sexualized in the media. The come-hither look on the cover is merely an advertisement for the leading sports magazine in the country. Many have questioned the focus on the appearance of women rather than on the talent, determination and strength of female athletes.

In the late 1970s Jean Kilbourne began a series of exploratory discussions about the power of the advertising industry. Her premise was both enlightening and shocking: that the advertising industry relentlessly enforces stereotypes of women within a regressive and often debased notion of femininity.

As far back as the early 1980s, a film created by Kilbourne, titled Killing Us Softly, asked us to question and think critically about the relationship between representation and power. How are the images of women in the media influencing societal attitudes and resultant behavior towards women? Kilbourne urged serious-minded people to think critically about popular culture with emphasis on superficial beauty, and rigid views of

women and femininity.

My baccalaureate students majoring in nursing were shocked awake by Kilbourne’s work, especially the intellectual trivialization of women coupled with portrayal of sexual objectification. A generation ago, they traced the stereotypical, sexist attitudes still prevalent in society that continued to hold back the progress of our profession to the messaging prevalent in the advertising industry.

These rigid definitions of female behavior, now amplified in social media, remain a problem. Kilbourne may have pointed us in the direction of examination of poor body image resulting in low self-esteem, which remains an issue for young girls. Problems of eating disorders, gender violence and addiction persist and warrant our collective exploration and attention.

It is not positive to pose as a supermodel, looking sleek, stylish, glamorous and sexy – and dare I say downright silly. It is not progress.

Women and men can and should be considered sexual as they age. It is part of the human condition. But this should not be limited to the very few who can model swimsuits, the wealthy and famous among us. There persists a suffocating influence in the entertainment industry of an ideal definition of beauty and fashion.



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

A new text, titled Flawless, examines the rise of the beauty culture in South Korea. Author Elise Hu examines the rigid definition of beauty emerging in another culture, complete with specific metrics about weight, breast size and jawline contours. Plastic surgery is now reasonably priced, readily available and no longer subject to societal disapproval. This combination of factors, coupled with an emerging economy and modernization of a technological culture has fueled a renewed interest in an ideal standard of Asian beauty. In a society abundant with media images, advertising and cameras have created an atmosphere focusing on an ideal concept and perhaps westernized view of beauty. A trend of drastically modifying one’s body must not be viewed as a positive for young women.

We need to change the ways in which we communicate publicly about one another. Yes, let us support healthy aging, including human sexuality, across the lifespan. But let’s not do it through some glamorized sexuality for the very few.

The issues surrounding the images of women in society demands a serious discussion. It should be a call to recognize and object to advertising and social media influences that exploit or trivialize in any way. Restrictive images of women, even if intended to be positive, undermine women in the

real world.

So where is the discussion of Martha Stewart in relation to messaging about and to women? The conversation has declined to the least common denominator of cheers and applause. Good for Martha. Doesn’t she look marvelous at her age?

Where are the women who know better?

Stewart should be recognized as an entrepreneur, executive, designer, creative artist and opinion leader who with intelligence, grace and hard work earned success in many fields. Her ability to pose as a swimsuit model at age 81 on the cover of a sports magazine is not the lens through which her life’s accomplishments should be viewed.

A counter message should be ringing in our ears for the good of all the young girls and women coming of age.

Dr. Ellen Russell Beatty is in her fourth term on the Milford Board of Aldermen. She 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

Bounced Checks Are A Big Thing

The new tax season is almost here. Having sufficient funds in your financial institution account to pay your written checks is important. Think that writing a check on a closed or non-existent account is no big deal? Well, let’s see what the Connecticut General Statutes have to say about such things.

CGS 52-565a specifies the liability of the drawer for dishonored checks. If it is determined that the drawer knows or should have known that there are insufficient funds in the account, or the account no longer or never existed, that person shall be payable to the payee for damages. You have a very short window of 30 days from the written demand for payment to pay the face amount of the check.

Let’s see what the penal code has to say about issuing a bad check. Refence 53a-128: A person is guilty of issuing a bad check when they issue a check knowing that they do not then have sufficient funds to cover it, and they intend or believe at the time they write that check that payment will be refused by the institution from which the check comes. Issuing a bad check over \$2,000 is a Class D felony offense. Typically, this size check would be for real estate or personal property.

Wondering how to prevent this from hap-



THOMAS P. HURLEY

pening to you? First, start putting away funds for your July bill now. Last year’s tax bill should be a good guide for how much you will owe on July 1.

Second, balance your checkbook now so you know how much is actually in your account. Do not rely on your bank’s reports. There is always a time lag and you may have written other checks that have not cleared yet. A balanced checkbook with current checks and deposits correctly placed and entered in your check register should prevent bouncing your check.

Last year some taxpayers were caught flat-

footed because they did not leave enough money in their account for 30 days until the tax office was able to process the check. Remember that it takes us time to process the thousands of transactions the tax office receives in July.

Third, do not wait until the last minute of the grace period to pay your taxes. They are due July 1. The grace period is for your convenience to pay your taxes, not a license to wait until the last day and hope nothing goes wrong. If something does go wrong, you will be charged at least 3 percent interest plus the \$20 dollar bounced check fee and whatever your bank charges you.

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. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Update On Fred Wolfe Park

To the Editor:

I am writing to give an update on Fred Wolfe Park since I have heard a lot of misinformation being distributed by a few people.

The Town of Orange has needed a new community playground since the closing of the Mary L. Tracy playground during school hours. This has been a wish of mine and brought to me as a need by many parents and families. I began an evaluation of possible locations since the schools were all off limits during school hours and High Plains Community Center cannot be used during camp sessions and the many events that are held during the year. The open space areas were considered, but many hold development restrictions.

Fred Wolfe Park seemed like a perfect fit for a community family-friendly playground.

The property was measured out and the idea was brought to the Board of Selectmen to clear the property at the Oct. 2, 2019 meeting. It was approved unanimously to clear eight-plus acres for a barrier-free playground, access road and future use at Fred Wolfe Park. In February of 2020 the Playground Committee was formed to start choosing the layout and equipment. This was going to be an extensive project and I agreed to handle the site work and prep for a beautiful new family-friendly playground as approved by the Board of Selectmen, not just Jim Zeoli. The entire Board of Selectmen have voted and approved on each phase to develop this playground.

This property is owned by the 14,000 people who call Orange home. Fred Wolfe Park is not a single-use property; it is just over 67 acres of both usable and unusable areas. The first area that was developed was for soccer, then lacrosse fields were added. These two programs are excellent for children, and the playground is also for the children. Profound consideration has been given to this playground and safety measures planned to make sure it is done correctly, including a separate parking area, sidewalk and fencing. The

original entry will be improved this year, and the second entrance is in development. The central hub of Fred Wolfe Park will continue to be Hollow and Oakview roads. This made the best sense then and with limited access points to this property it continues to make

sense today.

At the request of residents, the Fred Wolfe Park Ad Hoc Committee was appointed in December 2022. There has been a petition circulating under the name of the Orange

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Milford-Orange Times

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Opinion & Editorial

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STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

“For too long, parents have borne the entire responsibility of managing social media use. Certainly, there are steps parents and their children can take to set boundaries. But they shouldn’t have to do this alone,” US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy said in his recent safety advisory about the use and impact of social media on our kids.

Two weeks ago, Sen. Chris Murphy held a forum at Amity Regional High School to hear feedback from students about his proposed social media legislation. It was an interesting, but concerning, conversation.

Jessica Simone, Orange Youth Services coordinator, shared valuable data gathered in a recent BOWA student survey focused on online behaviors and social media usage which showed a direct correlation to the amount of time spent on social media and increases in negative feelings such as anxiety, worry or feeling constantly on edge. It reported that 28 percent of seventh graders, 39 percent of ninth graders, and 41.5 percent of eleventh graders spend on average two to four hours on social media a day, with many spending six hours a day or more.

Student feedback also reported that 24 percent of seventh graders and 38 percent of ninth graders have had a conversation electronically with someone they do not know in the past 30 days. Additionally, 4.5 percent of seventh graders, 11.4 percent of ninth graders and 10.5 percent of eleventh graders reported that in the past 30 days they have sent pictures of themselves to someone they had only ever met online. Data was also gathered about the exchange of inappropriate pictures by and to students.

Increasingly concerning is this: of students who spend two to four hours on social media sites per day, 19 percent reported that they never or almost never talk with a parent or guardian about a problem that bothers them.

It only gets worse the more time that a student spends online. If they spend four to six hours, 23 percent won’t talk to a parent about an issue, and 50 percent of students who spend six or more hours on social media a day will never or almost never speak with a trusted adult about a problem.

The internet can be a wonderful place to learn and connect with others across the world, but it can also be a dangerous space for our kids. The surgeon general is right: we can’t protect our kids alone. I appreciate Sen. Murphy’s and Sen. Richard Blumenthal’s proposed legislation to create guardrails for safer internet usage, but the bottom line is that until we create harsher penalties for the adults who are purposely targeting and exploiting our kids online, that kind of abuse will continue unchecked.

This year I reintroduced my bill that creates additional criminal charges surrounding these actions. I will keep fighting for this bipartisan legislation until it becomes law. Right now, though, we can talk with our kids about navigating the internet safely and encourage them to always talk to you if they are contacted by a stranger. You can find helpful tips from a local organization at sosatogether.org/faqs.

An Alternative To Legislation



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Amidst my daily responsibilities in Hartford, I have recently found myself pondering one important question: Is legislation the only solution?

In recent weeks, the General Assembly has discussed and voted on several bills that I believe have good intentions with missing mechanisms. Whenever I see bills that may need a little work, my colleagues and I propose amendments which either add or subtract concepts from a bill to make it more attractive for the interests of both sides. Unfortunately, as one state senator said only a month ago, when Republican amendments come up they are routinely voted down.

So what’s the alternative? My solution: collective responsibility and accountability. For instance, as the ranking member of the Transportation Committee, it is my job to support legislation that promotes safer driving measures and the general efficiency of transportation. But I am also called to lead by example, promoting safe driving by practicing it in my own life.

We can see how social solutions can benefit more than legislative solutions in our attempt to lower traffic accidents and fatalities associated with intoxicated and distracted driving. Although proposed SB 1082 offers a legislative solution to drunk driving by effectively lowering the blood alcohol content limit to 0.05, the reality is that it will disincentivize the food industry from serving liquor, hurting them financially. Furthermore, it will create a need for increased policing when we have a decreased number of officers.

Concerning distracted and wrong-way driving, the House successfully passed HB 6746, which would install lights, rumble strips and signage throughout the state to deter wrong-way driving.

Ultimately, the change can only come from practicing awareness when driving. If we practice more collective awareness, educate the public and our youth on the dangers of distracted and intoxicated driving, we can do more to train our future generations and make safe driving a part of our daily lives.

I stand by my colleagues who propose legislation to make our roads safer. But as my parents taught me, sometimes the ends don’t justify the means. Legislation can include incomplete and unnecessary means that distract from a bill’s intentions and makes it more challenging to achieve its goal.

That’s why I believe it is our duty to lead by example and exercise personal accountability alongside our commitment to legislative solutions. In the interests of all Connecticut residents, it’s time we remind members of our legislature to respect the office and be a positive influence in both the state Capitol and at home.

Making a difference involves all of us collaborating despite background or party affiliation.

Through emphasizing personal responsibility, I look forward to weaving trust and confidence back into our communities so that we can come together to make Connecticut a safer, more affordable state and promote quality of life.

As always, I encourage you to contact me with your questions, ideas and concerns about this and any other state issue. Please never hesitate to email me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or call my office at 860-240-8700, or visit RepKennedy.com for frequent updates.

Fighting For Mental Health



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

Every day, millions of Americans have to live with mental illness. These changes in emotion, thinking or behavior can be associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities.

May has been deemed Mental Health Month, and during May, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the rest of the country work to raise awareness of mental health. Each year, NAMI works to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.

In Connecticut, we fought too. We work to provide mental health care and resources to those in need. My colleagues and I made mental health a priority this legislative session and recently passed Senate Bill 2, which concerns the mental, physical and emotional wellness of children.

Over the last several years we have witnessed a mental health epidemic in our country. Our local schools are dealing with the fallout of the increases in anxiety and depression among children. Adding necessary resources allows for the continued support of students in need.

Within Senate Bill 2, employers are required to allow service workers to use accrued paid sick leave for a “mental health wellness day” to attend to their emotional or psychological well-being. The bill also makes it optional for the state Department of Education to hire one full-time employee responsible for awarding a grant to, and collaborating with, a nonprofit organization specializing in identifying and providing services for at-risk teenage students with depression, anxiety, substance abuse struggles and trauma and conflict-related stresses, per the bill language.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, nearly one in five US adults experience some form of mental illness. One in 24 US adults has a serious mental illness, and one in 12 US adults has a diagnosable substance use disorder.

Mental illness is treatable. Mental health is the foundation of our emotions, thinking, communication, resilience, hope and self-esteem. It is nothing to be ashamed of. As a society, we are continuing to learn and understand others.

We see things every day. We face new challenges. We hear about issues that affect us on the news, stories from other people, stories in our own life. We all have a different past and our everyday environment shapes who we are. Life gets tough. Mental health is important. It’s okay to ask for help and there are resources available.

2-1-1 of Connecticut provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on programs and services that can assist with mental health care. You can visit uwc.211ct.org to search for counseling services for adults and children, support groups and other information assisting with physical, emotional and financial wellness. 2-1-1 is always ready to assist you to find the help you need. Dial 2-1-1 or search online.

The Realities Of Driving Safety Law



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

At the time I’m writing this column, roughly two weeks remain in the 2023 legislative session. With about 10 days left to debate and vote on important legislation, I reflect on some of the work that we have done to this point.

Many factors, like the voices and concerns of constituents, will help shape the attitude of a legislative session and set a tone for the issues that lawmakers address.

This year, it was clear that something needed to be done to address the safety of Connecticut roadways and help to protect and educate drivers, passengers and all residents in a smart but decisive manner.

There are intense debates on the leading causes for unsafe driving practices, like decreased traffic violation enforcement due to the 2020 police accountability bill, a change in social habits during the pandemic, the 2021 legalization of marijuana or some combination of those. But there is no debate that our roads are increasingly less safe than before.

In Connecticut, when a law enforcement officer sees and smells marijuana smoke billowing out of a vehicle, they are told it is not enough probable cause to stop that vehicle.

From 2021 to 2022, there was a 31 percent increase in motor vehicle collision deaths in Connecticut. This was by far the largest increase year-over-year in a decade, even compared to deaths by firearms and suicide.

To me, it is no coincidence that in the year since Connecticut fully legalized marijuana and began to develop its commercial market, our roadways witnessed tragic and historic losses of life. Yet lawmakers double down on this trend and have begun to push for legalization of psilocybin, or magic mushrooms.

Legislators have also made strong efforts to reduce the blood alcohol content limit from 0.08 to 0.05, which would make Connecticut the only state besides Utah with such a low threshold, the same one used for airplane pilots.

This is why I struggle to fully comprehend the debates taking place in the General Assembly this year on road safety.

For years in Hartford, I have advocated for adding rumble strips and stronger deterrents for wrong way driving in high-risk areas. Thankfully, some of these provisions were adopted by the House in a bipartisan road safety bill, HB 6746, which addresses the devastating trend of wrong way collisions. But clearly, there is more to be done.

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

For Nature’s Sake

Five Ways Protected Bike Lanes Make A Town Better

When Janette Sadik-Khan was asked in April by an interviewer what strategy she would recommend to help any city achieve a better future, “if she could wave a magic wand,”

the former New York City transportation commissioner and author of the 2017 book Street

Fight said, “If you want to change the world you can start by building a bike lane.”

She emphasized that bike lanes are “the innovation that’s made the most difference in transforming cities around the world... particularly protected bike lanes.”

Protected bike lanes, unlike mere stripes of paint, provide a physical barrier between cyclists and the rest of traffic. Also called separated lanes or cycle tracks, this infrastructure is enjoying widespread recognition among planners and municipal leaders across the US for their many benefits. However, they are not just useful in big cities; it’s worth considering the gains to be made in adopting this infrastructure in our region.

1. Safety: Studies show that most people in US towns and cities who own a bike and would be interested in pedaling to the beach or park or a local shop, especially on a sunny day, are prevented from doing so by the danger of riding right next to moving traffic. At least 50 percent of the population in most cities and towns, according to a 2016 paper in the journal Transportation Research Record are not using their bicycles for short

trips because of safety concerns.

The good news, according to a landmark study from the University of Colorado in 2019, is that when networks of protected lanes are added to the streets, people are not only attracted to cycling in greater numbers, but the streets become safer – for bicyclists and pedestrians and car drivers. Part of the explanation is that redesigning streets to be safe for bicycles also tends to provide visual cues and encourage more cautious behavior by drivers.

2. Lower emissions: The average passenger vehicle emits close to a pound of carbon dioxide per mile, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while a bicycle traveling down the road emits zero greenhouse gases.

A study of protected bike lanes in the cities of Austin, Chicago, Portland, San Francisco and Washington, DC showed that when additional safety of the lanes encouraged new bikers to take to the road, bicycle traffic increased from 21 to 171 percent in those places. Meanwhile, the extent to which such additional bikers contribute to reduced emissions can be computed in a new tool available (using Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets) through the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy in an online report titled, “Protected bicycle lanes protect



PATRICIA HOUSER

the climate.”

3. Water quality: The number of car trips that people make in a given area over a certain amount of time is sometimes summed up by the term “vehicle miles traveled,” and the more VMT there is in any area, the more polluted the waterways tend to be there. That’s because cars leave behind chemicals and particles from their engines and tailpipes and even tire wear that then runs off the road in rainstorms and pollutes water. Protected

bike lanes not only play a role in reducing VMT in an area; the design of protected lanes can include, and are often improved, by bioswales and trees and other green infrastructure that reduces and filters runoff.

4. Improved public health: In New York City, researchers at Columbia University looked at the effects of reduced risk of injury, health effects of exercise, reduced pollution and increased probability of bike ridership that came with the construction of new bike lanes. Then they weighed those benefits against the costs of bike lane implementation and maintenance. In their final cost-benefit analysis, they found “investments in bicycle lanes come with an exceptionally good value because they simultaneously address multiple public health problems.” In fact, the report said, protective bike lanes are “more cost-effective than the majority of preven-

tive [health] approaches used today.”

5. Economic impacts: A 2020 study from Portland University looking at six cities – Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Memphis, Minneapolis and Indianapolis – found that adding improvements like bike lanes had a positive effect on business and employment in the retail and food service sectors. Cyclists tend to spend less per shopping trip than drivers; they also make more trips, which adds more total money into the local economy over time.

Here in Milford, the local Environmental Concerns Coalition has been advocating for protected bike lanes since 2021, with activities including a citizens’ petition, a public talk at Walnut Beach and conversations with city officials. Last February the ECC was one of four organizations, including Sierra Club Connecticut, to sign a letter to former Mayor Ben Blake to express support for establishment of a connected network of protected bicycle lanes in the city.

In their closing they said, “Adding a practical network of protected bike lanes in the ‘Little City with the Big Heart’ would establish Milford as a regional leader in climate initiatives and smart city design.”

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

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Your Health

Social Media And Mental Health Among Young People

Recently I was invited to attend a roundtable discussion with US Sen. Chris Murphy at Amity High School. He is proposing a bill titled the Protecting Kids on Social Media Act and wanted to discuss with high school students, teachers, administrators, public health officials and other community leaders and stakeholders.

It was a lively discussion between the senator and the students representing various grade levels.

The Protecting Kids on Social Media Act would:

- Require social media companies to undertake rigorous age verification measures based on the latest technology, while prohibiting companies from using age verification information for any other purpose;
- Prohibit children under the age of 13 from using social media, consistent with the current practices of major social media companies;
- Prohibit social media companies from recommending content using algorithms to users under the age of 18;
- Require a guardian’s permission for users under 18 to create an account;

- Create a pilot project for a government-provided age verification system that platforms can choose to use; and
- Provide the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general authority to enforce the provisions of the bill.

Overall, the intent and purpose of the bill seems to be a step forward in the right direction. However, there were several specific scenarios/issues that haven’t been addressed.

During the discussion, it was evident that a lot of students rely on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube and Instagram to find and connect with each other and other communities.

They also critiqued the idea of having parental consent to be able to use the social media content.

Murphy also took some questions and provided his response as some of the details will need to be ironed out. For example, age verification processes needs to be streamlined to create an account.



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

According to various news outlets, US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued an extraordinary public warning about the risk of social media to young people, urging a push to fully understand the possible “harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents.”

According to a survey conducted in 2021 by the Pew Research Center, a majority of 18 to 29-year-olds say they use Instagram (71 percent) or Snapchat (65 percent), while roughly half say the same for TikTok. Those on the younger end of this cohort – ages 18 to 24 – are especially likely to report using Instagram (76 percent), Snapchat (75 percent) or TikTok (55 percent). A majority of Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram users say they visit these platforms on a daily basis.

A recent survey sponsored by the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee and Alliance for Prevention & Wellness was administered to seventh, ninth and eleventh graders in the Amity school

system. The survey also included questions related to social media usage and prevalence of mental health issues. It found that 14 percent of students who spend two to four hours, 22 percent of students who spend four to six hours, and 30 percent of students who spend more than six hours on social media reported always feeling nervous, anxious or on the edge.

An increasing trend of negative feeling was also observed as the number of hours spent on social medial increased for an average daily usage.

Based on this survey and ongoing research, there are several indicators suggesting that excessive use of social media can also cause profound risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of our children. As a parent, I closely monitor the use of digital devices and have placed a daily time limit for my children. This can help kids to focus on their studies, exercise and sleep.

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

The Garden Spot

Is That A Bear There?

Black bear sightings in Connecticut have been on the rise for several years. I’m sure you’ve read about or seen videos of their love of “home invasions” over late winter and early spring.

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the black bear population in Connecticut is both increasing and expanding. The population, including juveniles, is estimated at about 1,000 to 1,200 and their territory has expanded from the northwest corner to most areas of the state. Although their natural habitat is forests, where they can enjoy bark and acorns, they also like the wetlands in early spring for the tender plants that grow there.

As woodland habitat is developed, it should be no surprise that we see black

bears locally. They have now been spotted in almost every community in the state, including large cities such as Hartford, New Haven and Stamford. I had one enjoying the acorns in my backyard last fall, and he or she was in no hurry to leave, even with my dogs doing their best barking.

They are now so prevalent that it’s important that we know how to coexist happily. Black bears are very large, smart animals with a keen sense of smell and hearing. They can be active any time of the day and they breed in late spring and early summer. The pups are usually born in late winter and stay in the den with mama



PAT DRAY

bear.

Bear avoidance tip one is to make sure you aren’t attracting them. Odor from carelessly stored food, garbage and even compost piles and barbeque grills can lure bears long distances. Remember that keen sense of smell and eliminate as many attractants as possible, such as bird feeders and yummy smells, to reduce the chance that bears will visit you.

According to the DEEP, black bears are seldom aggressive toward humans even when cubs are present, so the DEEP will usually not remove them in suburban or rural settings. Even a female bear will usually send her cubs up a nearby tree while she

stands watch beneath if confronted.

If you do have a bear visit, do not approach the bear. In most cases, the bear eventually will make its way to a more natural habitat. However, you can make loud noises (again, from a safe distance) to try to scare it away.

If you accidentally come within very close range of a black bear, the DEEP suggests you slowly back away and quietly retreat. They will sometimes “fake charge” you, and if one does, wave your arms and shout – do not run away. Black bears are omnivores, and per the DEEP attacks on humans are “exceptionally rare.”

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

Wine Talk

The Early Years Of California Wine

In 1769, Franciscan missionary Father Junipero Serra planted the first California vineyard at Mission San Diego do Alcala. Serra continued to establish eight more missions and vineyards until his death in 1784 and has been called the “father of California wine.” The grapes he planted descended from earlier Mexican plantings. They became known as the mission grape and dominated California wine production until about 1880. There are still mission grapes being planted in California but used primarily for distillation purposes and the production of brandy.

California’s first documented imported European wine vines were planted in Los Angeles in 1833 by Jean-Louis Vignes. In the 1850s and 60s, Agoston Haraszthy, a Hungarian soldier and merchant, made several trips to import cuttings from 165 of the greatest European vineyards to California. Some of this endeavor was at his personal expense and some through grants from the state. Overall, he introduced about 300 different grape varieties, although some were lost prior to testing due to difficulties in preserving handling. On several of his trips to Europe, Haraszthy was promised reimbursement from the state of California for delivering the vine cuttings, but he was never paid.

Considered the founder of the California wine industry, Haraszthy contributed his enthusiasm and optimism for the future of wine, along with considerable personal effort and risk. He founded Buena Vista Winery and promoted vine planting over much of northern California. He dug extensive caves for cellaring, promoted hillside planting and

fostered the idea of non-irrigated vineyards. He was indeed the founder of the California wine industry.

In 1863, species of Native American grapes were taken to botanical gardens in England. These cuttings had a species of root louse called phylloxera, which attacks and feeds on the vine roots and leaves. Phylloxera is indigenous to North America and native vine varieties had developed resistance. European vines had no such protection. Phylloxera spread to vines in Provence. Over the next 20 years it decimated nearly all the vineyards of Europe.

Thomas Munson, a horticulturist in Texas, suggested grafting the European vinifera fines onto American rootstocks. There began a long process of grafting every wine vine in Europe over to American rootstocks. It was the only way the European wine industry could be saved.

During this period the American wine industry was flourishing. By 1900, America was exporting barrels of California wine to Australia, Canada, Central America, England, Germany, Mexico and Asia.

But prohibition nearly destroyed the American wine industry. The 18th Amendment forbade the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors. After the repeal of prohibition, several states stayed dry. Seventeen states chose to establish monopoly liquor stores with limited selections.



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

States became license states or control states. Control states have only state-run stores with state employees.

The only wines that sold well were fortified dessert wines. Taxed at the lower rate of wines as opposed to distilled spirits and with 20 percent alcohol, this group made the cheapest intoxicant available. Before 1920, table wines accounted for three out of four gallons shipped. After 1933, fortified wines three of every four gallons shipped. It wasn’t until 1968 that table wines finally overtook fortified wines.

In 1920 there were 2,500 commercial wineries in the US. Less than 100 survived prohibition. California had 713 bonded wineries before prohibition. It took 50 years, until 1986, before that many were again operating.

Prohibition distorted the role of alcohol in American life and it took decades to overcome. Research at the University of California at Davis and Fresno State greatly assisted a new breed of vintners who arrived in California in the 1960s and who were committed to producing wine of the greatest international quality. They did produce great wines, but they had trouble marketing them. Frank Schoonmaker, a prominent wine writer in 1960s, had the idea of using varietal (Pino Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling) rather than famous European regions (Burgundy, Chablis, Rhine). Robert Mondavi was one of the first to label his wine using the varietal name, and

he encouraged others to do so. The idea started to work.

By the mid-1970s, the quality of some vintners had greatly improved. A blind tasting was held in Paris on May 24, 1976 with a panel exclusively of French wine experts. After comparing California chardonnays with the very best French chards, three of the top four were Californian. Every one of the nine judges ranked Chateau Montelena the highest. Chalone Vineyard came in third and Spring Mountain came in fourth. When the reds were evaluated, Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars was ranked number one, above Chateau Mouton-Rothschild, Chateau Montrose, Chateau Hout-Brion and Chateau Leoville Las Cases.

America had arrived. People in the US started to realize how great California and indeed American wines could be.

Ray Spaziani is the former chapter director for 25 years of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is a certified wine educator who worked for the American Wine Society, Amete de Vino and Winemaker Magazine judging wines and conducting wine judging. He is an award-winning home wine maker and has written wine articles for newspapers and magazines for the past 20 years. Spaziani teaches wine classes for the Milford Board of Education at Citrus Restaurant in Milford. Look for his classes this fall on the Milford adult education website.. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at real-estatepro1000@gmail.com.

Just Floored

Staircase Custom Designs

A staircase can serve more purpose than just connecting two levels of the home. We have designed many staircases where we customize the carpeting to the specific needs of the staircase, which gives an amazing presence to the home. We love transforming a boring staircase into a focal point.

Whether you are building or remodeling your staircase, there are key elements to look at as you make your final decisions. Hard surface flooring on stairs has a few options: hardwood, of course, but also engineered hardwood, luxury vinyl plank and laminate. All are categorized as hard surface flooring.

Hard surface flooring is beautiful. You can achieve the same look with any hard surface flooring product. While hardwood flooring on stairs is a timeless option, it can tend to be slightly slicker than carpet and often quite a bit more expensive.

Wood treads and risers are no doubt a beautiful, durable and timeless option for stairs. This look is achieved by securing the hardwood flooring onto the riser and stair treads and finishing it with a matching stair-nose.

Adding a runner to a staircase with wood and painted risers is the perfect way to add a pop of color or texture. Stair runners can be custom made out of any carpet. Carpet on a staircase tends to be a little more slip-resistant, and more affordable than wood.

If a tonal texture carpet is more your style or a modern cut loop, this type of carpet can bring a clean look to the staircase. Patterned carpet or different shapes can also be customized.

If you think about your staircase carpet like you would an area, rug the result will be a beautiful focal point. Patterned carpets that have a looped construction will wear exceptionally well because the fibers are twisted and pulled down tight.

Plush carpet tends to show the most wear on stairs, but if you love that look, go with a dense low pile. The shorter the tufts of fibers, the less they will show crushing. I also recommend more durable fiber types, like nylon or SmartStrand. Printed plush is always unique, but something a little more neutral. Animal prints have become a favorite for my clients and look incredible on staircases. Another option is tonal textures, with a modern-style carpet.

The major factor in the overall look is how the carpet is installed. There are two options: Hollywood and waterfall installation. If the plywood stair frame has a lip, the carpet will be installed Hollywood style, where the carpet wraps around the lip of the stairs. If the plywood stair frame does not have a lip, then a waterfall style is where the carpet hugs the frame closely at a 90-degree angle.

At the end of the day, it is your home and you should choose your flooring style, colors and patterns that you love.

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

Foodie Foursome

Carmine's Italian Cuisine, Revitalized

It is fun to dine with friends. I am always on the lookout for restaurants to recommend within a 10 to 15-minute drive from the Milford/Orange area. Cindy and I were joined by friends Tammy and Steve for a fun night out at Carmine's di Vega, a forgotten gem that lost luster after years under a previous owner. It is just off the exit 59 from the Wilbur Cross Parkway in Woodbridge.

If you have not been to Carmine's di Vega in a while you will notice the open spacing of tables in the dining area and plentiful table seating in the bar area. Jose Luis Jara and chef Miguel Vega Bernal took over in 1998. The ambiance has been enhanced under the more recent ownership – a cleaner look of raw wood beams and losing the old, dusty fake grapevines. It's nicely designed with the formality of cloth-covered tables and cloth napkins. Since its reemergence on the culinary scene, I have been there with smaller Rotary lunch gatherings, a larger group dinner with over 80 people and smaller, more intimate dinners. Their style is based on Tuscan/southern Italian cuisine.

Our evening started with a variety of appetizers. The nice thing about being out with friends is our "family style" approach in sharing each app, entrée and dessert. One of the things we instantly noticed was the chef's attention to detail. The food was all elegantly presented and the recipes impeccably prepared.

We started out with caprese-style thick slices of fresh, beefsteak tomatoes served with fresh mozzarella and a balsamic drizzle. It was a refreshing way to start off the evening. The stuffed portobello was a large and meaty mushroom filled to overflowing with a delicious homemade stuffing of crabmeat, chopped onions and red peppers served over vodka sauce.

The tore di melanzane was so pretty and tasted as good as it looked. The eggplant was layered with roasted red peppers, mozzarella, fresh basil and drizzled with balsamic glaze.

Our last starter was a true classic. The calamari fritti, fresh squid served with a side of marinara, was done to perfection. The squid was tender and the coating delicate and lightly fried.

The next course was the house salad. It comes with most entrées and was a nice blend of crisp fresh lettuce, shredded carrot, cucumber and tomatoes. Their house dressing was a balsamic vinaigrette, tasty and properly emulsified. It was served with thick slices of warm, fresh Italian bread as well as a butter that was nicely softened and blended with honey.

This was followed by another classic: pasta fagioli. This traditional Italian soup consisted of two types of small noodles and cannellini beans in a flavorful broth enhanced by onion, garlic, parsley, Italian seasoning and celery. It was smooth and tasty.

All of Carmine's selections are prepared from scratch using the freshest, finest ingredients. Their menu is extensive, creative and offers a daily variety of specials derived from Vega Bernal. This made the entrée choices more difficult. We started with the pappardelle alla Vega. These wide egg noodles had the ideal texture and chew, cooked to perfection. It contained bounteous amounts of fresh-picked lobster meat, extra-large shrimp, and asparagus in a flavorful brandy and tomato cream sauce. While the tastes of the shrimp and lobster were subtle, they incredibly did not overpower the sauce. This is one of those special dishes that will become a favorite.

Next was the filetto pepe nero, an angus beef filet encrusted with black peppercorns and topped with a brandy cream sauce. This was a wonderful, large piece of tenderloin that was prepared to our desired temperature. The seasoning was spot-on, enhanced by the sauce and accompanied by green beans and hand-cut roasted potatoes. This was followed by the pollo capriccio. This exquisite dish had a delicate egg batter coating on the most tender chicken breast you may ever eat. It was gently layered with prosciutto and smoked mozzarella and finished with a delightfully exquisite sherry wine and lemon sauce.

Our last selection was one of their signature cuts of beef: the French cut veal chop. Since they welcome "off the menu" selections, I choose to have it pounded for tenderness while keeping its textural integrity and thickness and preparing it as veal parmigiana. This chop was so large that even after we all had some there was a sizable piece left over. It was tasty, tender and the marinara sauce well balanced with a wonderful acidic balance and level of flavor.

We finished the evening with an array of beautifully articulated desserts. The first two were frozen confectionary delights. The exotic bomba was a creamy ball of ice cream encased in white chocolate and served with a sliced strawberry and fresh whipped cream. The orange sorbet was served inside a carved-out frozen orange. The same was true of the lemon sorbet that I had during a previous visit. This simple and elegant dessert was tasty and palate-cleansing.

The last were Italian classics that were artfully prepared. The tiramisu had a delicate moistness with alternating layers of creaminess and espresso dipped lady fingers. It was not mushy, like you find in many restaurants, just the perfect taste and texture and made in-house. Next was a plate of biscotti, which means "twice baked." These cookies had great texture and crunch and would have been the perfect dunking companion if we had a cappuccino. Next time. Last was the crème brûlée. The smell of that arriving was intoxicating, as the top had freshly caramelized sugar atop a perfect creamy custard.

After going to Carmine's with friends, family or for a special occasion you will wonder why you have not been there before or in a long while. They open at 11 a.m. every day and are open for lunch and dinner. Carmine's is located at 1500 Whalley Ave. on the Woodbridge/New Haven line. For reservations call 475-234-5976.

Steve Cooper is a local, national and international award-winning photographer, culinary influencer and executive director of the Milford Performance Center. Contact him at 203-723-3672.

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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Does Your Home Still Work For You?

There are many reasons we chose a home to purchase. At the time, perhaps it was the location, or the school system, or even a first-floor bedroom for an elderly family. Lifestyles change, and sometimes the home you are in is no longer fulfilling your needs. Many characteristics cannot be altered, such as the floor plan or backyard. If these are important to you as your tastes change, then perhaps it is time to look elsewhere.

In today's market you will definitely benefit from a bidding war if you list your property. You may sell high with a large profit. This seller's market assures that your home will not sit if it is priced right, so having a plan on where to go next is essential. Buyers will want your home and they will want a definite closing date.

Renting a home for a few years is a solu-

tion for some. If you are ready to commit to that solution first, then this can be a great plan. If you get a rental property, you can declutter gently and stage your home to sell. You no longer have the stress of figuring out where to go. It is also a good opportunity to try out other locations with commutes, shopping and community offerings.

I recommend sitting with an active real estate agent, someone who specializes in your area and knows a realistic price point for your sale. Someone who can help with finding that perfect rental.

Most people need to sell to buy, so looking for a purchase before you even list your home is not realistic in this market. You can compete for the purchase you are attracted to



BARBARA LEHRER

(as a purchase, not a rental) only if you have enough equity in your present home to hold two properties at once, even if it is only for a few months. The fall is a great time to rent, especially if you want a beachfront rental through the winter.

Many homeowners working from home are finding that the convenience they needed is not necessary anymore. Without a long ride to work or the educational system needed, options open up everywhere. The farther out of town you go, the less expensive it is. If you make a list of what you really would like now instead of what you gained in the past, you can use the profits you achieved from the new selling price in order to renovate a new space. You may find

something that really works for you now.

Products and professional contractors are open for business now. The last few years were not easy, but you could create your new home. After all, our tastes change too. Many house hunters are expanding their search all around the state, hoping for a water view or a private tract of land. Connecticut is a beautiful place to live, with elegant village towns and walking distance to shopping.

Whether it is to upsize, downsize or just resize, when profits are high it is a good time to take the chance. The season of beauty is certainly upon us now. Enjoy the hunt; take the plunge. Good luck.

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

Recovering

COVID Leaves Substance Abuse In Its Wake

Since the onset of COVID-19, there has been a 23 percent increase in alcohol abuse and a 16 percent increase in drug abuse for people who had consumed those substances before the pandemic, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. People in self-isolation reported a 26 percent higher consumption than they normally would. In plain terms, COVID-19 accelerated the addiction and mental health issues masked by the ability of those suffering from addiction to simply go unnoticed or stay in their maladaptive coping ways.

As we come out from under the three-year trauma of change, isolation and absorption from all the social and societal changes caused by the pandemic, we need to assess the damage done to all of us.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13 percent of Americans have reported increasing or starting substance use as a way of coping with stress related to the pandemic. Numerous reports suggest that access to mental health care, detoxification and in-person recovery community access drastically affected those in the throngs of addiction or that were teeter-

ing on the brink of uncontrollable use. COVID-19 helped set the stage for the exacerbation of mental health crises and inadequacies.

An article from the National Institutes of Health on the topic of COVID and substance use disorder says, "Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been various impacts on societal well-being; not only have many people had to face the potentiality of COVID-19 infection and death, but they have also had to struggle through economic collapse and social isolation due to quarantine measures."

The NIH article points to a significant increase in those reporting symptoms of mental illness. In 2019, one in 10 American adults reported symptoms of anxiety or depression. That rose to four in 10 throughout the course of the pandemic. The article says that reports of substance abuse have been on the rise as well.

Although the medical response to COVID has subsided due to our collective response,



ROB CRAFT

the unseen trauma of the experience for our children, people who are susceptible to mental health issues and global society are just now being recognized.

The National Institutes of Health goes on to say, that the burden of SUD has been increasing in the US for decades among both adults and adolescents. Around 20.3 million people 12 years or older reported having an SUD in 2018. Of these, 14.8 million were related to alcohol abuse and around 8.1 million were related to illicit drug use. Of the 8.1 million with an illicit drug SUD, around 2 million people had an opioid use disorder, second to marijuana use. Almost two thirds of those with an opioid SUD used them to relieve physical pain.

The correlation between SUD and mental health issues is only now being more fully understood as psychologists, social service networks and therapists understand the behavioral modification of people to simply "survive" emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Research shows we need to be increasingly focused on creating compassion, patience, understanding and networking to bring back "community" and social interaction in numerous forms.

As we celebrate our transition from the overhang of COVID, there is much work to be done as a community to enrich our children and peers in a sense of community and connectedness.

Be conscious of this transition and aware that we all carried this change in different ways. Be kind to one another and lend a hand, ear or just a presence to those you may think need it. We are trying to get through this life as safely and securely as we can.

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

Orange Board of Finance

Compromise Needed To Address Our National Debt

The American people continue to grow tired of both parties failing to work together for a sensible compromise to solving the nation's debt crisis. Gone are the days of Democrats and Republicans working together to find workable solutions to strengthen the economy and tackle the increase in crime we are experiencing.

It seems like yesterday when President Bill Clinton and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich worked closely and compromised with members of both parties within the House and Senate to deliver the 1994 crime bill to combat crime, particularly within the larger cities throughout the US. Clinton and Gingrich also delivered the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which delivered on a balanced budget in 1998 – the last balanced budget the US has had.

Other examples of compromise with defined solutions was between President Ronald Reagan and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill. Reagan and O'Neill compromised to strike a deal in 1983 to reform Social Security. Reagan and O'Neill struck another big compromise in 1986 with the Tax Reform Act, which lowered the top tax rate for ordinary income from 50 percent to 28 percent and raised the bottom tax rate from 11 percent to 15 percent. This was the first time in US income tax history that the top tax rate was lowered and the bottom rate was

increased at the same time.

Unfortunately, over the last decade there has been too much acrimony and no appetite for Democrats and Republicans to effectively compromise on key issues. The path forward is not easy. However, it is achievable by limiting future spending and borrowing, which would promote economic growth and reduce inflation.

Today the national debt stands at \$31.4 trillion and has increased by \$8 trillion just within the last three years. When federal government spending exceeds revenue, creating a budget deficit, the US covers the gap by selling securities, such as Treasury bonds. The national debt is the accumulation of all past deficits and the interest owed on the resulting debt. Measuring the debt as a share of gross domestic product allows for comparing the level of debt over time relative to the size of the US economy, and for comparisons with other countries' debt-to-GDP ratios.

Within the past few years the government spent nearly \$3.6 trillion in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both on social safety programs and financial stabilization. Unlike during the 2008 financial crisis, tax revenue increased during COVID, bolstered by a strong stock market.



KEVIN MCNABOLA

However, big expenditure increases have not only come from spending to combat COVID-19. They have also come from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and covering the rising medical costs of an aging population. To make matters worse, last year the federal government put forward a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending package that only fueled the fire for continued inflation.

There has not been much agreement within Congress to address the need for balanced budgets. The federal budget is largely made up of mandatory entitlements, with close to 46 percent of the budget consisting of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The Social Security figure alone is expected to grow to 24 percent of the budget by 2028 as an aging population pushes up costs.

Only about one third of federal spending is labeled as discretionary, which includes defense spending and requires congressional approval through annual appropriations bills. The Congressional Budget Office also expects that net interest on debt payments will account for 13 percent of spending by 2028, up from 10 percent in 2023.

What would happen if the US defaulted on its debt? Although it has never happened, the

US has come close to a default. In August 2011, for example, some ratings agencies downgraded the US from its top AAA credit rating to AA+ amid prolonged debate in Congress on whether to raise the debt ceiling. It sent the markets into a freefall.

An actual default would be much worse, most economists agree. Not only would the US likely be downgraded again, but government workers and Social Security recipients – among many others – would go unpaid. Financial markets could be significantly impacted. For businesses and average Americans, it could become difficult to borrow money. Without access to credit, a recession would be all but certain.

Americans expect our elected officials to compromise and work effectively to solve our national debt crisis, since the alternative would be detrimental and have significant financial impacts on everyone. A bipartisan plan, which will lock Congress into balanced budgets moving forward and paying down debt over the next few decades, should be the goal and can only be accomplished with constructive compromise.

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

Here’s To Your Health

Benefits Of The Great Outdoors

It’s easy to get stuck in the same workout routine indoors, whether it be at a local gym or your basement. However, there is great benefit to changing up your workout and taking it outdoors. Spring and summer months are short here in New England, and if you’re anything like me, you never want to come inside until frost hits the ground.

Taking up tennis, hiking and/or biking is a great way to get exercise while enjoying the great outdoors. Sunrise yoga is one of my favorite ways to start a Sunday morning. It sets my mind, body and heart and helps me appreciate the beauty in my surroundings and what’s coming back to life.

It’s not healthy for your body to do the same workout repeatedly. Your body will plateau, and strength and cardio will be harder to achieve. That is why I am a big supporter of cross training. You’re using the

same muscles, just in a different capacity.

Getting outdoors boosts your mood, which in turn reduces stress. Stress kills, and we really do need to be intentional about reducing it every day in our lives.

Getting outdoors can help people engage socially, as in finding a walking or running buddy. By doing that, we help our mental wellness as well. We weren’t created to be alone. With so many suffering with depression and anxiety these days, it’s the perfect way to help one another stay well. Social connectedness in green areas has shown to also help not only mental health conditions but obesity concerns and anxiety as well.



MICHELE TENNEY

Gardening and yardwork count as exercise too, so don’t discount them. Weeding is not my favorite thing to do, but it’s always hard work. Of course, take some time to sit and smell the roses. Maybe read a good book by a pond or at the beach. We should take advantage of down time too.

Hydration and nontoxic sunscreens are a must when working out or enjoying yourself outdoors. Though the daylight is getting longer, it’s still important to get the proper amount of sleep as well. And with all the farmer’s markets available to us, eating healthy has never been easier. Load up on those fruits and veggies. Remember, there is no portion control on vegetables.

I realize this is also a season of graduation

parties, picnics and barbecues. Remember that balance is key. If you’re indulging on weekends, spend the week eating clean and cleansing from your weekend indulgence. Put some lemon and ginger in your water to help with inflammation and cleansing. Eat to live. As we get older, nutrition should be more of a priority than ever.

You can do anything you put your mind to, I promise. Happy spring/summer. 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 Hmgb3@gmail.com.

Letters
(Continued From 1)

Soccer Association that was started before this committee met for the first time. I have had residents tell me how they have been accosted by Tom Pisano at the soccer field while trying to watch their children and grandchildren play their soccer game and that they must sign this petition. They have made claims that the town chooses corn over kids, and you need to sign because that is how a state-of-the-art facility will be built. The Orange Soccer Association and Pisano have personally exposed themselves to a defamation of character lawsuit from the Hine family of Field View Farm and the Bespuda family. These families have done nothing wrong by leasing farmland from the town, yet Pisano continues to defame these families.

The Hine’s lease does not hold up any

development of that portion of Fred Wolfe Park, as there are no present plans or funding sources currently for that area. In April 2021 it was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen to grade and seed the area directly across from the current soccer fields for new practice fields; this area is fully fenced and includes underground sprinklers for the fields. This area could easily accommodate the young children who play at Mary L. Tracy, but Pisano refuses to use this area and continues to call this area a dog park. Each morning as I have watched the playground construction, residents do bring their dogs in but not to run in the fenced-in area but on the soccer fields.

The Ad Hoc Committee is reviewing the current layout of the park and is in the middle of reviewing traffic and safety study proposals that were submitted. There are no plans until this committee completes their evaluation

task. There have been many expansion ideas proposed to the committee, including bathrooms, basketball courts and pickleball courts, to name a few. The committee meetings are open to the public and they have encouraged residents to submit their ideas.

The Ad Hoc Committee has also been working in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Commission regarding current uses by groups that use the park. The Orange Soccer Association, Amity Girls Youth Lacrosse and Amity Youth Lacrosse were each invited to both committee meetings to give updates about the number of children participating in their programs and to share their wants and needs. The Park and Rec Commission has also asked for insurance certificates and copies of their financial tax returns, which they should be providing yearly. The Park and Recreation Commission would like to get the organizations using town fields to contribute

“in-like-kind.” The town mows all the fields, provides irrigation to the fields and lines the fields, as well as emptying trash and recycling.

Expansion is a great thing, but it does come with costs. The last filing seen for the Orange Soccer Association shows net assets or fund balances at the end of year to be \$200,000. I ask why does a not-for-profit carry such balances? Why is this money not spent on the children in the program?

I have received many calls asking when the playground will be open. The playground construction is almost complete. The safety pads will be added soon. There will not be a grand opening until the sidewalk and fencing are complete. I believe the playground grand opening will be in June and I look forward to seeing you all there.

James M. Zeoli
Orange First Selectman



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Book Reviews

The 1998 Yankees, By Jack Curry

For long-term Yankees fans such as myself, the 1998 season was a year of redemption. Capturing the 1996 World Series title, the team’s quick exit in the 1997 American League series against the Cleveland Indians left many fans (myself included) dismayed, depressed and distraught. Very few people expected the 1998 season to play out the way it did.

Best-selling author and Yes Network pre- and post-game analyst Jack Curry had a front-row seat to witness the magic of 1998, which he writes about in his book with the subtitle, “The Inside Story of the Greatest Baseball Team Ever.” The season did not start off well. Struggling in all aspects of the game, the team had a lackluster first few weeks. It wasn’t until manager Joe Torre’s players only closed-door meeting that things began to change. The team was angry at their subpar perfor-

mances. That anger and Torre’s message were the catalysts for this remarkable season.

Adding key members to the team would prove to be a solidifying factor. Scott Brosius became a solid utility infielder, proving reliable and effective at all infield positions. As a result of his offensive and defensive prowess, Brosius was awarded the Most Valuable Player award at the series conclusion.

To a man, the Yankees were resolved to eradicate the misery of the 1997 season. There were individual achievements that shone through. On the last game of the season, David Cone won his 20th game of the year. On May 17 an inebriated (and hefty) David Wells pitched a perfect game.



CARMELA DEVITO

There were several characters on the team as well. Wells, a rebel, needed his teammate Cone’s guidance when he and Torre became involved in a heated verbal argument. Pitcher Orlando “El Duque” Hernandez escaped from Cuba on a fishing boat and proved to be a valuable addition to the pitching staff.

No book on this team would be complete without a look at future hall of famer (and my all-time favorite Yankee) shortstop Derek Jeter. Many of his teammates and opponents were in awe of his abilities and his instinctual knowledge of being at the right place at the right time. There is such a high level of respect between Jeter and his manager that to this day Jeter refers to him as Mr. Torre.

Curry doesn’t hesitate to discuss few obstacles in this season: Darryl Strawberry’s health issues; Chuck Knobloch’s throwing problem; occasional bullpen and pitching meltdowns; hitters’ offensive struggles; familial health worries.

This book brought back so many memories for me, figuratively living and dying with every pitch. I recall massive memorabilia shopping and calling in sick so not to miss the celebratory parade through the Canyon of Heroes.

This is a great read, not only for Yankees fans, but general baseball fans as well.

Carmela DeVito, a voracious reader, is a retired social worker and a member of the Friends of the Milford Library.

The Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary Serves Orange Seniors

One of the great joys of being a Rotarian is having the opportunity to provide service to others, whether the beneficiaries are local, regional or international. I have written numerous times in this space about major projects that are large in scope and complexity. These include building surgical hospitals and staffing them with doctors and nurses who provide lifesaving surgeries for children with heart defects in the Dominican Republic through a project know as the Gift of Life, just to name one.

However, these projects are complemented by ones that have a more local impact and are no less important because they serve others. While these local projects are not necessarily aimed at saving lives, they do focus on bringing people a measure of enjoyment that may be all too rare for them.

To that end, as part of a Rotary District 7980 Day of Service project, Rotary Club of

Orange, under the leadership of Trish Pearson, organized and ran a pancake breakfast on May 20 for senior citizens in Orange. With help from Orange Director of Community Service Stacy Johnson to publicize the event, we mobilized 16 volunteer Rotarians to set up, cook and serve a full pancake breakfast to nearly 70 senior citizens who reside in town.

However, there was an added aspect of service to this event that extended its impact beyond the seniors who attended.

To increase the benefit that we could achieve through the event, we asked that each attendee of the breakfast bring non-perishable foods items to donate to a project being carried out by our club called Purple Pantry. This



ROGER TAUSIG

project involves collecting food items for donation to food insecure people in Milford and Orange. Our Rotary Club members coordinate the collection of food items from numerous sources and perform regular distribution to purple storage boxes located in areas where they are easily found but discreetly situated. Those in need of food are encouraged to take food from the boxes as their needs dictate.

In observing the attendees of the pancake breakfast, it was clear that they all had an enjoyable time, many of them remaining in the dining hall long after they had finished their meals. Some seniors have limited contact with other people. This event gave many people an opportunity to enjoy the company of others and have some fellowship that is all too infrequent for them. In addition, it enabled them to have the grati-

fying experience of donating food to a worthy cause.

Most people who I come in contact with and tell that I am in Rotary ask me the same question: What does Rotary do? In writing this column, it is my hope that people will find the answer to this questions and develop an appreciation for the fact there are organizations whose members have a strong desire to make a difference in their communities and beyond.

If you think that serving those less fortunate and enjoying the fellowship of others who are likeminded, please consider joining Rotary Club of Orange. It has been one of the great joys of my life to be a part of Rotary and perhaps it could be for you as well.

Roger Tausig can be reached at roger-tausig@yahoo.com.

Orange Artisan Fest Approaching

The third annual Orange Artisan Fest & Vendor Fair is scheduled for Thursday, June 22 from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center, located 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. The all-outdoor event is rain or shine and free and open to the public.

Visitors will find a mix of business, craft and artisan vendors selling their homemade specialty products and services, product demonstrations, raffles, food trucks, free activities and the sounds of the Sabb’s Brothers, who will be performing from 6

p.m. to 8 p.m. under the gazebo.

“There is a nice mix of vendors such as artisan foods, crafts, clothing, beauty products, home improvement and maintenance, legal, insurance, health care, senior care, insurance, finance, realty and more,” said Annemarie Sliby, executive director of the Orange Economic Development Corporation, which is hosting the fair. “The event is a nice kick-off to the summer, and I would like to welcome the public and business population to stop by and shop, network, and enjoy the day.”

This year will for the first time feature a job fair, which will be contained under the pavilion from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors looking for employment are encouraged to attend. Recruiters and employers wanting to reach the regional skilled workforce should register for a table; there is space still available. Industries highlighted include health care, hospitality, information technology, professional services, manufacturing. The job fair is being promoted through Workforce Alliance and the American Job Center.

Additional free activities include: blood pressure checks provided by the Orange Visiting Nurse Association; children’s temporary tattoos provided by Milestones Behavioral Services; and a children’s coloring event provided by Bright Horizons. Visitors who stop by the welcome table will receive a free event bag and a program listing vendors and activities.

A complete list of vendors and activities is available at OrangeEDC.com/events_activities or by calling the OEDC office at 203-891-1045.





ALEXANDRA JOY

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Orange Chamber of Commerce

Chamber’s Work Is A Labor Of Love

“Who we are cannot be separated from where we are from.” – Malcolm Gladwell

It’s hard to believe I’ve been with the chamber for two years serving as executive director. It has been a true labor of love to carry on the Orange legacy of my dad, Bill Converse, who served as tax assessor for 30 years.

I have many memories of growing up here: skating at Wright’s Pond, sledding at Grassy Hill Country Club, meeting friends at the Fireman’s Carnival and Country Fair and getting ice cream at Dip Top. My role at the chamber has given me the chance to give back to our community. And I am grateful for the opportunity.

The mission of the chamber is clear: connect local businesses and nonprofits with residents to strengthen the fabric of our community for all. It means the world to me when people reach out to thank us for our efforts. We strive to collaborate with schools, the senior center, local nonprofits, new and existing businesses and local stakeholders to keep the chamber vibrant and relevant to our town and its unique characteristics.

Do you know the chamber raises all its own funding through membership fees, event sponsorships and programs like the new bicentennial brick installation? When I joined the chamber, we were slowly emerging from the throes of the pandemic and basically starting from scratch under difficult economic circumstances. We’ve made strides, but it is a constant challenge.

If you’ve noticed the work of the chamber and like what you see, we hope you will support us. There are many ways to show support, including patronizing local businesses, contributing to local nonprofits, attending events and programs or donating to help us continue our efforts to enrich the community. Checks can be made out to the Orange Chamber of Commerce and mailed to 605A Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477. Your donation goes a long way towards ensuring the chamber continues to thrive and is not swal-

lowed up by a regional entity with no roots here or understanding of our town.

Thanks to all who attended the Orange Chamber Cornhole Tournament & Family Fun Day on May 6. This event was made possible by the generous contributions of our main sponsor AVANGRID SCG UI, venue sponsor The Pagusset Club, and media sponsor the Milford-Orange Times. Special thanks to Matt’s Homestead Foundation, the CT Healing Center and Keystone House for running the cornhole tournament, and the Orange Volunteer Fire Department for providing hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages. The local businesses and nonprofits that participated and donated raffle prizes are too numerous to fit in this column. I encourage you to visit the chamber’s Facebook page for a full list because each and every one deserves to be recognized for their involvement.

The deadline to order bricks for phase two of the bicentennial brick project in June 5.

Time is running out to order a commemorative brick to be installed at the newest town treasure in front of the gazebo at High Plains Fairgrounds by the end of June. Phase three will not be installed until June 2024 and the brick company recently informed us that prices will go up. Order today at bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamberbricks.

The chamber welcomes our newest member, PhysicianOne Urgent Care, located at 236 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. They provide high-quality, easily accessible, walk-in and virtual medical care for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries 24/7, 365 days a year. PhysicianOne has 26 locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. For more information visit physicianoneurgentcare.com or call 860-650-3848.

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

Child Care Center Opens In Orange



The Orange Chamber of Commerce and Orange Economic Development Corporation recently held a ribbon cutting for the opening of Good Child Transitional Center in Orange. This new child care center, located at 380 Boston Post Rd., Suite 5, serves children 2-6 years old, providing full-day, full-year toddler and preschool child care. Executive Director Bill C. Okwuosa and Program Director Jo-Ann Arena are pictured center. Photo courtesy of the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

Amity Special Ed Records Available To Former Students

Amity Regional School District #5, as per state guidelines, is properly disposing of student special education records. The records of any student who has received special services are maintained for six years after their class graduates.

Former Amity students who were born between 1998-2000 and/or graduated in 2017 who have received special services at the Amity Middle School Orange; Amity Middle School Bethany; or Amity

Regional High School may obtain their special education records.

You must call prior to claiming records in order to allow sufficient time to retrieve your records from the archives and schedule a time for pickup.

If you wish to obtain records, call 203-397-4820 and leave a detailed message with student name, date of birth and a phone number.

If records are not claimed by June 30, they will be destroyed.

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Orange Cub Scouts Move To Next Level



Cub Scout Pack 922 on April 22 held its annual Blue and Gold Ceremony. The ceremony celebrates the year in scouting and each scout who moves on to the next level. This year several scouts completed their Cub Scout journey and were welcomed into Boy Scouts. Pictured in blue is Arrow of Light Scout Antonno Bonazzoli, who has finished his time as a Cub Scout. Pack 922 will hold a recruitment meeting on June 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the High Plains Community Center pavilion in Orange, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. Any children entering kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall are welcome to attend. Photo courtesy of Pack 922.

Milford Chamber Hosting Concerts Through June

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting concerts every Friday at 6 p.m. until June 30 at Fowler Field in Milford. The concerts are open to the public; small business owners are encouraged to come and network over the music.

The events, called Fridays After Five, are being sponsored by Minnella & Tramuta, Attorneys at Law.

Milford Chamber Holding Networking Events Featuring Local Bands

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce will be hosting “Thursday Night Live” at Old Grove Park every Thursday from June 23 to Aug. 17 starting at 7 p.m. This is a weekly concert featuring local bands like Freeplay, Downtown 6, Silver Steel and more. The events are intended for local business owners to come, listen to and support local bands and network. For more information, contact Simon McDonald at smcdonald@milfordct.com.

Streetcar Named Desire Coming To MAC

Eastbound Theatre presents the classic drama A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams and directed by John Atkin. The show will run from June 2 through June 17 at The MAC, located at 40 Railroad Ave. in Milford. Evening and matinee performance tickets may be purchased through the MAC website at milfordarts.org/streetcarnew.

Orange To Celebrate Living Treasures

The Orange Senior Center will celebrate some of the town’s older residents on June 15 during its Pasta Festa when the center will present its 2023 Living Treasure Awards.

This year’s award recipients are Betty Hadlock, Rowland Hine and Maureen White.

Hadlock is a member of the Orange Board of Education and sits on the Board of Directors for the Orange Historical Society. She is also a member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee. Hadlock is a former teacher and regularly works at the Orange Country Fair and at the Academy.

Hadlock is also the recording secretary and vice president of the Garden Club of Orange, through which she helps maintain the garden

at the Stone-Otis House. She is a long-time member of the Orange Lions Club, and developed the vision screening program for preschoolers and elementary school children in Orange.

Hine is a lifelong Orange resident, former selectman and highway superintendent. His father and grandfather were both first selectmen in the town, and he also served for 10 years on the Board of Selectmen.

Hine served as a staff sergeant of the Connecticut National Guard, was a member of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department for 34 years. He was also a founding co-member of the Orange Agricultural Fair in 1975, and a 50-year member of the Little Wheel Shriners,

which raises funds for the Shriners Hospital.

Hine is involved in the Rotary Club of Orange, including volunteering at the annual lobster bake and Mother’s Day rose sale. He also has a long involvement in the Orange Historical Society to ensure the history of his cherished life-long roots were preserved and remembered.

White is a long-time volunteer at Holy Infant Church, starting when her family moved to town in 1982. She became a member of the Women’s Guild, then the Parish Council and finally became a trustee.

White was a member of FISH, delivering emergency food to individuals in the greater New Haven area. For almost 20 years she ran

a Christmas party with the children of Holy Infant and the children of St. Peter’s School in New Haven.

White has served as president of the Friends of the Case Memorial Library, where she assists in book sales, decorating the library for the holidays and coordinating the group’s table at the Orange Country Fair. She started a joint endeavor between the Friends of the Library, Orange Food2Kids and Orange Community Services.

White is a member of the Library Commission and acts as its corresponding secretary.

Tickets for the Pasta Fest are sold out, according to the Orange Senior Center’s June newsletter.



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Senior Life

Summer Safety For Seniors

With Memorial Day kicking off the summer season, it is a good time to review the special needs of seniors during the hot weather months.

According to the autumn 2021 edition of Harvard Medical Magazine, more than 80 percent of the 12,000 people who die from heat-related deaths annually are over age 60. During the heat wave in the Pacific Northwest in the summer of 2021, the average age of people who died was 70. The article points out that as our population ages and the weather skews hotter, age-related heat deaths are expected to rise.

For the most part, these deaths are avoidable. Those who will be most vulnerable to heat deaths lack air conditioning in their homes, live alone and do not have anyone regularly checking in on them during heat waves. Folks with even mild, functional dementia will be more at risk. It is important that we take note of people in our family, neighborhoods, our circle of friends or fellow church or club members who may be

vulnerable and ensure they have support systems to check up on them during any weather-related emergency, including hot weather.

There are several key things to keep top of mind when checking on seniors during hot weather. Perhaps the most important is hydration. Drinking water or other hydrating liquids like juices is key to staving off heat stroke. Also important is avoiding alcohol and caffeinated beverages, as these work against hydration.

Avoid being outside during the hottest part of the day. Anyone vulnerable to heat stroke should stay indoors in air-conditioned spaces. Likewise, even if you're out at cooler times of day, be mindful of activity to ensure your body is able to cool to safe levels. If a senior does not have air conditioning, it is important to go to a cooling center or some other air-conditioned space. Most towns will open cooling centers during extreme heat



SUSAN
ODERWALD

conditions, but movies, libraries, grocery stores, friends and family are all options. If needed, check into a hotel.

Dressing appropriately is also key. Seniors who are not feeling the heat or have any cognitive impairment may dress inappropriately. That is a key warning sign that someone may be especially vulnerable. Clothing should be lightweight, breathable fabrics such as cotton and light colored to reflect heat. If you see a senior coming out of the house in a dark sweatshirt, they may be in trouble. While not specifically related to hot weather, it is always important for seniors to ensure they are protecting their eyes and skin from sun exposure, as both are more susceptible to damage from the sun as we age.

Finally, seniors take a lot of medications, and medications can have side effects that will make tolerating the heat and sun more

difficult. It is important that seniors are aware of any side effects or activities they should avoid in the hot weather because their prescriptions make such activities unwise. Some medications include photosensitivity as a side effect. This is something folks rarely think about.

Regardless of how we avoid heatstroke, it is important that we all know the early warning signs. These include disorientation, dry skin/parched lips, excessive tiredness, headache, lethargy, nausea, flushed face, fever, rapid pulse and dizziness. All of these symptoms are concerning and require immediate attention.

Stay safe this summer and look out for seniors in your family and neighborhood.

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

Insuring Your Future

Using Health Insurance Added Benefits Can Be Challenging

Health insurance plans often include "extra benefits." They can range from weight loss or smoking cessation in employer sponsored plans to dental, eyewear and over-the-counter medications for Medicare Advantage plans.

Reading through the brochures it all sounds great, but when it comes to using them it can be another story. It can be particularly challenging when the process for the benefit involves a computer.

The following are some tips to decrease the aggravation factor and make it easier to take advantage of the perks included in health insurance plans.

Medicare Advantage plans generally offer dental and eyewear benefits. Here are some items to consider when comparing plans: Does the provider need to be in network? Is the credit processed by the provider or do you need to pay and then be reimbursed? Is the benefit amount different if you use an out-of-network provider? Is the benefit limited to cleanings or does it include other dental procedures, such as root canals or crowns?

The over-the-counter medications and supplies benefit can be the most challenging. Some benefits can be used in a retail store such as Walmart or CVS, but some require you to order over the phone or online. The first step is to request an OTC catalogue. There may be different catalogues depending on the type of MAPD

plan. These are available from your agent, or you can request one by calling customer service. They are generally available on the company website, but you can request a printed version.

Make sure that all retail locations of a particular pharmacy will allow you to use the OTC benefit. Bring the catalogue with you to the store. There are generally blue stickers that identify products that are eligible for the OTC benefit, but it is easier if you use the catalogue.

The most efficient way to order is over the phone or online. Recently there have been some issues with data security involving the third party that administers OTC benefits. Policy holders were sent a letter informing them of the incident. They are required to notify any party who could potentially be impacted by the event. It is not necessary to cancel your credit cards or change accounts. However, you should be vigilant about your credit activity by reviewing monthly statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized purchases. If you see any suspicious activity, notify the credit card company immediately and they will investigate for you.

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one free credit report every 12 months from each of the nationwide credit reporting agencies. You may receive a free credit report by going to annualcreditreport.com or by calling 877-322-8228.

Many group plans offer a variety of wellness benefits such as diet and nutrition programs, exercise classes online and smoking cessation programs. These can be valuable benefits

both for the employee and the employer as the company receives "credits" for participating which can turn into financial rewards for employees. It is not only good for your health to know about added benefits, but it can also be good for your pocketbook.

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

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June Is Dog License Month

All owners of dogs six months or older in Orange must renew their dog licenses in June.

There are three ways to renew or obtain a dog license. One is to visit the town clerk's office at Town Hall Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A second method is to visit the town website at orange-ct.gov for instructions on how to renew a dog license electronically or by mail.

The costs to obtain a dog license are \$8 for a spayed female or neutered male and \$19 for a non-spayed female or non-neutered male.

All dog owners who obtain a dog license during June will automatically be entered to win a basket of dog treats and toys. The drawing will take place on Monday, July 3.

An up-to-date rabies vaccination certificate and a neutering/spaying certificate are required to renew or obtain a new dog license. State law requires individuals to get renew their licenses each June. After June 30, there is a state-mandated \$1 per month penalty for unlicensed dogs.

For questions, call the town clerk's office at 203-891-4030.

Event Space Opens In Milford's Beach Area



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 16 for event space The Reign, which is open at 240 Naugatuck Ave. in the Walnut Beach section of Milford. The space has been renovated and can be booked for weddings, bar-mitzvahs, quinceañeras, anniversaries and corporate meetings. Owner Marci Dunbar has been an event planner for more than two decades. From left: Milford official Justin Rosen, Milford alderman John Moffit, employee Dannie Steer, owner Marci Dunbar, employee Francisco Dunbar, Milford alderwoman Holly Mulrenen and MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald. Photo by Greg Geiger.

Thermography Service Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 22 for B Well Thermography, a thermographic imaging service. The company, which is located at 39 Naugatuck Ave., offers scans of any part of the body as well as full-body scans. B Well had been in business as a traveling service prior to opening its Milford location. From left: state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, Milford Mayor Richard Smith, MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald, owner Shirley Prendergast, Laura Faith Tudisco, Danny Prendergast and Daniel Prendergast Jr. Photo by Greg Geiger.

Beth-El Center To Hold Annual Gala Fundraiser

Beth-El Center is hosting its annual spring gala on Saturday, June 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. Every year, corporate and civic leaders join the gala to raise funds that will support the center's shelter, food and outreach programs to alleviate poverty, hunger and homelessness in the greater Milford area, shoreline communities and the lower Naugatuck Valley.

The event will feature a 1960s Summer of Love theme and includes a signature cocktail hour, sit-down dinner, live music from The Elwoods, dancing, a live auction and an awards ceremony. The Beth-El Individual Community Star award will be given to Kelly Fitzgerald of United Way of Greater New Haven. The Business Community Star award will be given to TEAM Inc., one of the Center's housing assistance partners. The Honorary Community Star will be awarded to Milford Mayor Benjamin Blake in honor of his service to Beth-El and the Milford community at large.

Tickets for the gala are \$100 per person. To sponsor the event or to secure tickets, visit bethelmilford.org/gala or call Troy Gonda at 203-876-0747.

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Ocean State Job Lot Opens Relocated Orange Store



Ocean State Job Lot associates gathered on May 18 for the grand opening of the newly relocated store at 53 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. Photo courtesy of Ocean State Job Lot.

Discount retail chain Ocean State Job Lot has opened a newly relocated store at 53 Boston Post Rd. in Orange.

The new store has 45,654 square feet of space, up from the 29,484 square feet at its previous location at 401 Boston Post Rd. The location was most recently home to a Best Buy, which shuttered its Orange store in March. Ocean State Job Lot also owns the 12,556 square foot building that houses PetSmart within the plaza, but not the building that houses Target.

“We are thrilled to offer our customers in Orange a much bigger and more modern shopping experience,” said Paul Cox, director of store operations for Ocean State Job Lot. “We hope our loyal customers and new shoppers alike will enjoy this improved, upgraded location for many years to come.”

Store hours are currently 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

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Orange Holds Memorial Day Events



Orange held events on May 28 for Memorial Day, including honoring fallen soliders and a parade. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Milford Holds Memorial Day Events



Milford held events on May 28 in honor of Memorial Day, including wreath-layings for fallen soliders and a parade. Photos by Steve Cooper.

The Outsized Role Of A Short Milford Street

By Marilyn May

Depor Street, one of the shortest streets in Milford center, runs off North Broad between the Milford Bank parking lot and the Masonic Lodge built in 1878.

Over the years on this street, you could rent a horse and carriage, stable your own horse, get lodging and a meal for the night, attend a Daughters of the American Republic meeting, learn the Cub Scout way to tie knots, join the lady volunteers of the Red Cross making cancer dressings, or do your banking.

There were times when you could also select a roast for Sunday dinner, buy insurance for your house or attend a meeting of the Masons – if you knew the secret signs to get you past the front door.

At one time on that street, there was the Woodruff Seed Co. that sold “dependable seeds,” as their advertisement said, by the packet or the train carload. For a brief time, you could buy scissors or shears manufactured right there in the old Woodruff building. Today, you could secure a mortgage for your house in that same building now used by Milford Bank.

On the west side corner there was (and is) the Ansantawae Lodge #89 of the Masons. In their early years, they met on the second floor and rented the first floor to Milford businesses: Theodore Platt’s Meat Market, the Milford Savings Bank and the George J. Smith Insurance Co. Today on the first floor, you can get a tooth fixed.

On the east side corner, there was Vischer’s Milford House and Livery that stretched from North Broad all the way to the New Haven-bound railway track. The Milford House, with an attractive grape arbor overhanging the sidewalk, was a hotel run by Nathan Merwin, but it was destroyed by fire in 1897.

The next structure on that same corner was the Park Hotel run by R.L. Spencer. In 1900,

it too was also destroyed by fire. The empty lot, however, did not stay empty for long. In 1905, Spencer sold the property to Mary Hepburn Smith for the DAR to build a new chapter house. The cornerstone for the house was laid in 1907. That fairly large house was shared with the Boy Scouts, the Red Cross and probably other town nonprofit groups. Then in 1957, the house was purchased by the Milford Savings Bank that demolished it and put up a parking lot.

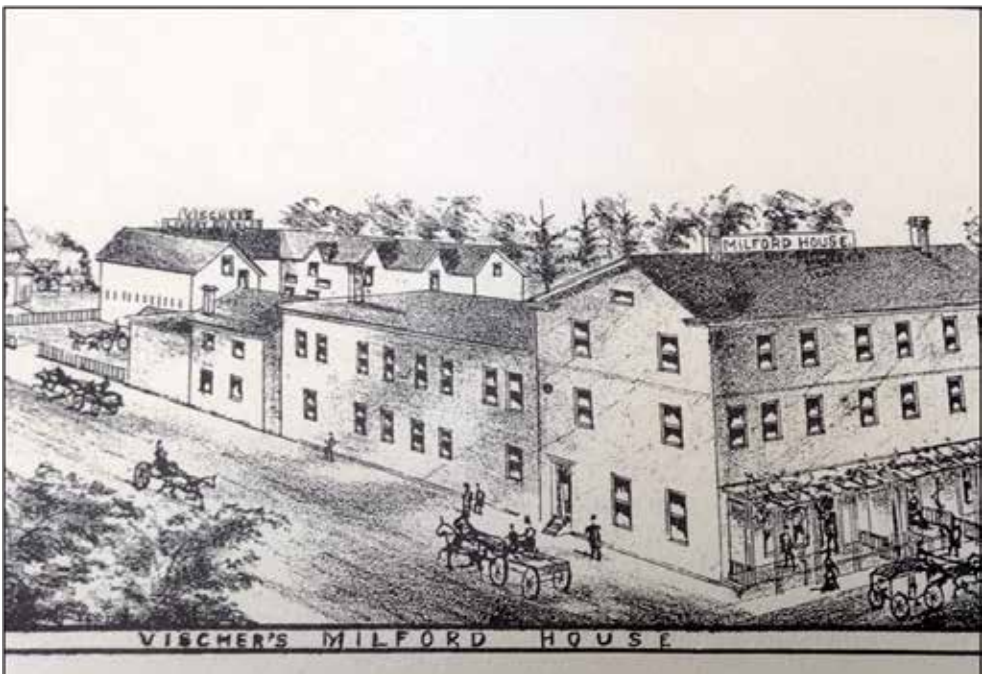
For a short time there was a factory at 42 Depot St. in the former Woodruff Seed Co. The new business manufactured scissors and shears. It was the W.F. Concannon Shear Co. that was founded in Bridgeport in 1920. The 1921 issue of The Iron Trade Review of Cleveland, Ohio reported that “The W.F. Concannon Shear Co. had been incorporated to make cutlery with \$30,000 capital by Donald Page, E.L. Oviatt and E.L. Nettleton.”

William F. Concannon, of Bridgeport, was president and general manger. The secretary was Frederick F. Kiefer, an expert diesinker, or engraver of dyes for embossing. The treasurer was Edwin L. Oviatt, who had been making shears in West Cornwall and Bantam. Shears are large, handheld scissor-like tools with flat blades for activities like cutting hedges or shearing sheep.

Things moved fast. The company was granted patents on its methods of making scissors and shears, and Concannon filed a certificate with the secretary of the state to increase its capital stock to \$100,000.

A local newspaper had an article with the headline: “Milford-Made Scissors World’s Best.” The sub-head read, “Concannon Shear Co. Turing Out Product of which Town Is Proud.”

The story went on to say, “One prominent businessman of the town, after inspecting the plant, stated that he had every reason to believe that the business would prove very



This drawing of the Milford House and Vischer’s Stables is from an 1882 engraving by the O.H. Bailey & Co. of Boston. Oakley Hoopes Bailey (1843–1947) was known for producing panoramic, bird’s-eye views. The eastbound railway station is at the far left of this picture. Photo courtesy of the Daniel E. Moger photo collection.

successful and promptly backed up his statement by subscribing to some of the common stock of the company, which (was then) being underwritten by J.A. Goldsmith of Plymouth Court.”

The New York trade publication, The Iron Age, of January 1922 reported that “production had started.”

Then what happened? The May 1922 issue of American Machinist announced that the “concern will shortly remove to Bridgeport, Conn where a factory will be established.”

After such a promising beginning, scissor making in Milford ended. There is no information to be found after that move, and perhaps with all that the company had going for it, a larger firm bought it.

By 1949, Edwin L. Oviatt was working out of 42 Depot St. again selling “Fancy Poultry-Feed of All Kinds.” His goods for

sale included grain, straw, and baled hay.

The end of the story must include the end of the street. It is there that Depot Street meets Railroad Avenue South. There will never be a time when there’s little activity in that area – not with more than 100 passenger trains traversing the tracks every day. Then the train station on the eastbound side was opened around 1880. When it was no longer needed, it was turned into the Milford Arts Council, which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2022. For all those decades since, it has been a popular venue as an art gallery, reception facility, performance space and the Pantochino Summer Theater Camp.


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

Cornhole Tournament Hits The Mark In Orange



The Orange Chamber of Commerce held a cornhole tournament on May 6 at the the Paugusset Club in Orange. In addition to the tournament, the day included games and activities for families, with food provided by the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. Photos by Robert Criegh.

Milford Group Finds Petroglyph At Gulf Beach



Members of the Milford Marine Institute recently discovered a petroglyph on a large boulder at Gulf Beach in Milford. A petroglyph is a pictorial image carving into a rock. The petroglyph can be viewed by walking about 100 yards east toward Welches Point on the bank side. The institute said in a press release that members assume the petroglyph was made by native Americans who lived and thrived in the area. *Photo courtesy of the Milford Marine Institute.*

Tax Collector’s Legal Notice Town of Orange

Per CGS 12-145, the first installment of the town tax on the 2022 Grand List of 1 October 2022 is due and payable on 1 July 2023. Payments received after 1 August 2023 are considered delinquent and are subject to the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, \$2.00 minimum CGS 12-146, dating back to the original due date. Motor Vehicle bills are payable in one installment. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are payable in two installments with ½ due on 1 July 2023 and the second installment on 1 Jan 2024. All taxes may be paid in one installment. We DO NOT rebill for second installments. Your tax bill has a January tax bill attached. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM PAYMENT OF ALL INTEREST CHARGES AND COLLECTION COSTS, per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130, 12-148. Payments may be processed in person at the Town Tax window in Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT, Monday-Friday except holidays from 8:30 a.m. -12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your entire three-part tax bill if you wish a receipt. A payment coupon or duplicate bill must accompany each payment. There is a \$2.00 fee charged for each duplicate bill requested. Payments may also be made by mail. The receipt date will be that of the USPS date on the envelope. Only USPS stamped dates are considered valid. If a receipt is desired a self-addressed stamped envelope and your three-part bill must be included with your payment. We do not accept CASH payments through the mail! E-checks, Credit and Visa Debit Card payments are only accepted on-line (convenience fees apply). See the Town of Orange website. Town of Orange - Tax Bills Search & Pay (mytaxbill.org) <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=orange> Payment in minor coinage [pennies or nickels] is limited to 25 cents or as acceptable to the Tax Collector. Thomas P. Hurley, Tax Collector

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TOWN OF ORANGE LEGAL NOTICE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pursuant to Section 12-632 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Orange will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m. in the Lower-Level Meeting Room at the Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT, to receive comments on an application received for the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program which will be submitted to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Service for funding consideration. The application is on file in the First Selectman’s Office and may be reviewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received at the First Selectman’s Office until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2023. Thereafter comments should be presented at the public hearing. The following application has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen:

Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy - \$150,000

Dated at Orange, CT this 11th day of May 2023.

Board of Selectmen
Town of Orange

Amity Students Place 2nd In Global Investment Competition



Members of team Amity 7 Chakras Investments. Top row, from left: Piyush Bahel, Henry Ranani, Eydan Lavi, Aarav Patel and Lucas Rodriguez-Herlihy. Bottom row, from left: Anchal Bahel and Annika Yun. *Photo courtesy of Amity Regional School District.*

Students from Amity Regional High School took second place globally in the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, annual contest run by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Unlike other competitions, winners are selected on the strength and creativity of their team investment strategies, not on the growth of their stock portfolios. The team, known as team Amity 7 Chakras Investments, presented live to a panel of industry professionals. The team consists of members Piyush

Bahel, Anchal Bahel, Lucas Rodriguez-Herlihy, Eydan Lavi, Henry Ranani, Annika Yun and team captain Aarav Patel. Over 3,200 registered teams from 53 countries competed in this competition, which focused on a case study of a client, Peter Hjemdahl. Since September, these seven students have developed an investing strategy for Hjemdahl with several “chakras,” or stages, which use data-driven analysis to ensure peace-of-mind investing. Out of the thousands of initial teams who submitted investment reports, only 55 moved onto the semifinals to submit a video pitch. After their presentation was reviewed, Amity qualified for the global finals, placing them within the top 10 teams. These finalist teams were invited to the Wharton School from April 20 to April 22, where they had the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers, take a tour of the campus and meet students from across the world. The global final teams spanned from Virginia, California, Georgia, Indiana, Texas, Canada, South Korea, India and the Czech Republic. On the morning of April 22, the 10 teams competed for the global finale. Each team had 10 minutes to pitch their unique investment strategies followed by five minutes of questioning from the judges. Patel said, “I was in awe when they announced the results. I am very proud of how far we have come since starting the club two years ago.” Lavi said, “It was a once in a lifetime experience. Seeing the countless hours of work we put in throughout the competition culminating in a second place victory made the experience all the more special.” The team took home a second place and finalist trophy, which they presented to Principal Andre Hauser back at Amity.

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.

Patricia Lee Adams, age 80, of Milford, beloved wife for 34 years of Charles Pape, died peacefully at home on May 18, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Joann Marie Brown, age 67, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on May 1, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gary J. Ciuci, age 69, of Milford, beloved husband of Carol Urban for over 20 years, passed away on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Michael "Coop" Cooper, age 51, of Milford, passed away unexpectedly on May 4, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Maureen DeRosa was born on July 9, 1951 and passed away of May 2, 2023 at age 71. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Patricia Geelan Dimenstein, 81, of Woodbridge, formerly of New Haven, passed away May 4, 2023 in the Willows of Woodbridge. (Porto Funeral Home)



Douglas P. Fortune, Sr., of Woodbridge passed away peacefully April 27, 2023 in Yale New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael Campus with his son by his side. (Iovanne Funeral Home)



It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of **Jacen Paul Gallbrunner's** passing on May 22, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Joan M. Goda, age 92, of Orange for 39 years and previously of Milford, beloved wife of the late William R. Goda, entered eternal rest on May 23, 2023 (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gloria Virginia Hansen, age 93, of Milford, entered eternal rest on May 8, 2023 at Bridgeport Hospital, Milford Campus. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Randy (Rumzi) Kaoud, 85, of Woodbridge died on May 6, 2023. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Florence "Cookie" Kern, 97, of Bradley Rd., Woodbridge, devoted wife of the late Eugene Kern, died at her home on May 17, 2023. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



Michael Kijewski, age 63, of Milford, owner of Arboreta Landscapes in Milford for over 30 years, died on Monday, May 15, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Robert H. Klein, PhD, 83, of Orange, CT, devoted husband of 41 years to Serena Lynn Brown, MD, PhD, died at Yale Bridgeport Hospital on May 22, 2023. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



Mary R. Lacey, longtime resident of Woodbridge, passed away at her home on April 21, 2023.



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Obituaries

Louis Frederick LaChioma Sr. sadly departed this life on May 15, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Giustina Natale was born on March 18, 1931 and passed away on April 28, 2023 at age 92. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Wilma Sielert, age 93, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Vern Sielert, entered peaceful rest on May 15, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Janice E. Uberti, 78, of Milford, beloved wife of the late James E. Uberti, Jr., passed away on May 1, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ray Dennis Leoni, 94, of Woodbridge, CT and Centerville, MA, passed away peacefully at home on May 10, 2023. (Wakelee Memorial)



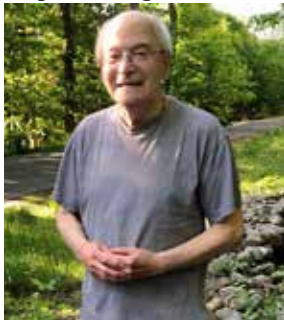
Christine Kasper Pandolfi 72, of Stratford, CT entered into eternal life on May 1, 2023 after a long illness. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Georgianna H. Sorensen, 87, of Woodbridge, CT passed away at her home on April 29, 2023, in the same home where she was raised. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Stephen Vargoshe, 87, beloved husband of Pauline Vargoshe, passed away on May 9, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carola Malinowski, 78, lifelong resident of Orange, left this world March 22 after a long battle with dementia.



Klara Polito passed away peacefully on May 4, 2023 at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Phyllis G. (Sagnella) Terrasi, 93, of West Haven, died peacefully at home on May 21, 2023. (West Haven Funeral Home)



John Justin Verbiskas, 90, passed away on May 1, 2023 at his home in Orange, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mary Miller, 93, beloved wife of the late Paul Miller, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Maria M Schmidtke, 87, of Milford, beloved wife of recently deceased Herbert Schmidtke, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Anthony Troiano (74), a longtime resident of Milford, CT, passed away on April 30, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



George Joseph Zentkovich, Jr., 76, passed away on Sunday May 14, 2023 at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gregory F. Doyle

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