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Milford-Orange Times

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July 27, 2023

Sand Sculptures Grace Milford Beach



The Milford Arts Council hosted its 46th annual Sand Sculpture Contest on July 9 at Walnut Beach, where people of all ages built art from beach materials that would wash away with the tides. Additional photos on page 17. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Rotary Celebrates Summer In Orange



Cathy Bradley of the Rotary Club of Orange stands surrounded by wines during Rotary's 2023 Summerfest, which took place on July 15 at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Additional photos on page 18. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Orange TPZC Decides Dry Ice Cleaning Is Okay

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Is dry ice cleaning an permitted activity in a commercial zone?

That was the question put before the Orange Town Planning and Zoning Commission during its July 5 meeting.

Mike Landino was before the board to express his interest in opening a dry ice cleaning service at 367 Boston Post

Rd., which is located in a C-2 zone that includes other commercial activities. The only problem was that dry ice is not explicitly covered under Orange's zoning regulations.

Dry ice is the solid form of cooled

Continued on page 13

Milford Residents Complain About Pool Party Noise

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A large party at a residential Milford pool where swimmers were apparently charged admission led to numerous complaints by neighbors at the July 10 Board of Aldermen meeting and calls for the city to enact a noise ordinance.

Police were called to a Haystack Road home on June 24 to investigate a noise complaint, where they found an ongoing pool party. Although they issued several parking violations, they did not shut the party down because it was going on during the day and there is no local restriction on noise levels.

The owners of the home, Mauricio and Blanca Tabares, were later issued a

notice of a zoning violation by the city's Planning and Zoning Office – not because of the noise, but because tickets were sold to the party in online advertisements.

The party in question was not thrown by the homeowners, but rather by someone who had rented out the pool through a pool-sharing app called Swimply.

The app works similarly to Airbnb, allowing property owners to rent space out for short periods of time to other users.

Although Milford Police had little grounds on which to shut the party down

Continued on page 6

Milford Celebrates 'Best Of'



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated the region's businesses, organizations and personalities on July 10 with its annual "Best Of" awards at Stonebridge Restaurant in Milford. The staff of Nautilus in Milford won Best Bar, and Jenny Kim of the restaurant was named Best Bartender. Additional photos on page 17. Photo courtesy of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Orange Chamber Executive Director Stepping Down

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Converse Charbonneau has announced that she will be leaving her post running the day-to-day operations of the organization effective Aug. 4.

Converse Charbonneau said that she made the decision to leave because she had accomplished her most important goals for the chamber to "get it back on track" and wanted to pursue other opportunities in her specialty of marketing.



Converse Charbonneau

Continued on page 2

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Chamber (Continued From 1)

Chamber President Ted Novicki said the organization would miss Converse Charbonneau and was better off because of her work.

“She has left the Orange Chamber of Commerce with a tremendous foundation that can continue to be built upon for the new executive director, the chamber and the community as a whole,” he said. “We at the Chamber of Commerce wish Kathy all of the best in her future endeavors and know that this is not goodbye but thank you for all you have done.”

She started at the chamber in 2021 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, a period during which businesses locally and across the country were trying to function through lockdowns, reduced customer traffic and supply chain snarls.

“The chamber had been basically almost shut down for the year of the pandemic because the businesses were struggling,” she recalled. “The last thing we wanted to do was put more of a burden with pushing them to pay chamber memberships when they were just struggling to survive.”

Since chambers of commerce generally pay for their operations primarily through dues paid by member businesses, Converse Charbonneau’s biggest task of trying to raise money without putting more pressure on businesses meant that she had to explore less conventional options.

The project that best represented this effort – and that she called “closest to my heart” – was the Bicentennial Bricks installation around the gazebo at High Plains Community Center.

“We have residents with bricks there. We have businesses with bricks there. We have nonprofits with bricks. It’s just such a great testament to Orange residents and businesses past and present,” she said. “I think it captures

the personality of Orange.”

Throughout her tenure, Converse Charbonneau stressed that the chamber’s role should be about more than networking opportunities and technical support for businesses, but about making connections through all aspects of the community.

Though the bricks project was perhaps the most visible of this type of community effort, it was hardly the only one.

“Kathy instantly put her unique stamp on the chamber and created a plethora of value adding programs and events that closely tied the chamber to the community (and vice versa), including a community center brick project, a leads generating group, a community event at the Paugusett Club and a community arts project which is still on display at High Plains,” Novicki said.

Converse Charbonneau, who grew up in Orange, said she thinks it’s important for the town to have an independent chamber of commerce that reflects the community’s unique qualities.

It’s not an idle question. Even prior to the pandemic there were suggestions that the chamber might merge with one in a surrounding town. Next door in West Haven, that’s exactly what happened as the pandemic eased; that town is now being represented by the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“We’ve been approached by other surrounding chambers, and we feel like we would just be swallowed up and lose our identity,” she said. “I think it’s greatest strength is being able to be part of the community fabric and bring the businesses, nonprofits and residents together.”

The chamber’s Board of Directors is expected to announce their pick for a new executive director soon. Novicki said more than 70 candidates had applied.

In the meantime, Converse Charbonneau said she intends to help her successor get situated – a luxury she didn’t have – and remain involved in the Orange community.

Giannattasio Gets Nomination For Mayor From Milford GOP



Giannattasio

Alderman Tony Giannattasio’s bid to become Milford’s next mayor got a boost on July 19 when he received the unanimous endorsement of the Milford Republican Town Committee during its 2023 convention at City Hall.

Chairman John Drapp introduced

Committee Secretary Diane Candido to the podium to cast a nomination for the position of mayor. Candido spoke of a dream she had about 18 months ago, of opening the garage door of the Giannattasio home, where she had never been, and seeing lawn signs reading “Tony G For Mayor.” Candido said Giannattasio’s nomination proves “that dreams do become reality.”

Alderman Ray Vitali seconded the nomination and spoke of having known Giannattasio for over 40 years, including working with him for 16 years on the Board of Alderman. Vitali said he has found Giannattasio’s commitment to the citizens of Milford “totally unconditional” and showcased the ability to work across the aisle, bring reason, common sense and a pragmatic approach to votes.

The crowd gave a standing ovation and shouts of “Tony, Tony” after a 90-second campaign video for the candidate was broadcast.

“I can tell you with 100 percent certainty that I am ready to be Milford’s next mayor,” Giannattasio told the convention when it was his turn to speak. “I want to win this for all of you, as a team. I’m going to do my best to make you proud.”

“My citywide knowledge and experience have prepared me well. I have had the privilege to work with three mayors,” he added. “I know, firsthand, that the job of mayor requires consistency, sound judgement and collaboration. My past two decades of public service have prepared me to be ready on day one. This is our time to shine. I want to help Milford thrive as a community.”

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Urgent Care Opens Orange Location, Earns State Citation



The Orange Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed PhysicianOne Urgent Care to Orange with a ribbon cutting event at their new facility located at 236 Boston Post Rd. Bottom: State Rep. Kathy Kennedy, right, presented a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly to Dr. Jeannie Kenkare, center, chief medical officer and founder of PhysicianOne Urgent Care, and CEO Lynne Rosen, left. Photos by Robert Creigh.

Orange Little League Team Ends Season With Win



The Orange 8U Seabreeze Navy All-Star Team ended its season on July 15 with a 7-1 record. These 6- and 7-year-olds came from behind and pulled out a win in their final game against Berlin, winning 15-13. Front row: Marco Arias, Vincent Gallo, AJ Ayala and William Chen. Middle row: Tommy Gallo, Ryan McCarthy, Christopher Gallo, Chase DeGray, Cillian Luka, Jack Rabuse and Luca Verdura. Back row: coaches Barry Luka, Peter Gallo, Anthony Ayala and Luciano Verdura. Photo courtesy of Sarah McGovern.

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Memories Of Children's Library In Milford

By Marilyn May

Milford has lost many beautiful old houses, but one that so many adults of today remember -- and miss the most -- is probably the house that was the Children's Library.

The library was part of the Taylor Library system and was in a graceful, stately Queen Anne-style house on West River Street across from the Town Hall. It was a favorite destination for children from Central Grammar School. Over the years, the old house welcomed hundreds of children at lunchtime and after school. On Saturdays, it was a popular destination for children from many other grammar schools; many children got to know that house.

Going there felt like going "home" to a mansion with lots of rooms just filled with books waiting to be discovered. To the right as you entered was a winding staircase lit by the light filtered through a stained-glass window.

Often the downstairs hallway was decorated with the latest book-reading contest posters. For one contest, you would get a poster with the outline of a suitcase drawn on it. Then as you read a book on any subject, you got a stamp from different countries to represent your "travels" in reading. After so many stamps on your "suitcase," you won a new book.

Because both the Children's Library and Central Grammar School were demolished in the late 1960s and 1986, respectively, it's necessary to explain that the grammar school was located just behind today's Toulson building, also known as the Yellow Building. A short walk down a sloping sidewalk along the south side of the Toulson Building brought you to the sidewalk leading to the library next door.

Children from many schools enjoyed their time at that library, and moms who were shopping at the nearby A&P grocery would let their youngsters go there while they shopped.

When asked about memories of the Children's Library, the answers go like this:

"Yes, I discovered 'The Happy Hollisters' there. I loved that place." And, "Yes, I remember that library! It was very convenient (being) next to school." Other comments were "Yes! I was so happy when I got my very own library card," and "I remember shelves of books in bright orange covers. They were all biographies, and that's how I learned about George Washington Carver."

Of course, not every child had a perfectly happy memory. One person recalled that every Saturday, she, her sister, and the boy next door went there. "The lady was nice but after we got books, we read them and went back for more. The librarian said we



The Children's Library shown here in 1965 was closed, and the front lawn temporarily became a parking lot. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.

couldn't come back the same day! We were not happy!"

The house was believed to have been constructed in the 1890s by a G.F. Smith, (no relation to G.J. Smith and family). It was owned by James T. Patterson, was later inherited by James T. Patterson Jr., and both families lived there for many years. Patterson, Jr. later became known as J. Tyler Patterson, the 1963 Speaker of the House in the state legislature and well known in Republi-

can circles. He was born in Milford, but later resided in Old Lyme.

In 1936 he sold the house to the town for \$11,000. By 1965 there were plans to tear it down and put up a building for the growing town municipal offices.

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



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Homelessness

Union Station Crackdown Exacerbates Homelessness Crisis

As the crisis of homelessness grows in our community, so do the number of people sleeping in places that aren't meant for habitation—under bridges, in woods and parks, and in other public places like train stations. The estimated number of unsheltered people in greater New Haven has grown from 76 households to 128 at this time last year, an increase of 68 percent. As a result, as many as 60 people per night have sought emergency refuge in Union Station over the last six months.

These people are now at even more serious risk. In recent weeks, state and local authorities within the Department of Transportation and Park New Haven (the New Haven parking authority, which manages Union Station) have begun to remove from the train station, through enforcement tactics, anyone who is observed violating their code of conduct.

On July 17, state police began asking those seated on the benches at Union Station to produce tickets for an imminently-departing train so as to justify their presence.

These enforcement tactics disproportionately target unhoused individuals by focusing on those who are “laying down in the station” or who are “placing baggage or personal items on seats or benches.” It is just the latest example of the increasing and troubling trend toward the criminalization of homelessness in our community.

Based on our collective decades-worth of experience, we call on our government partners to work with us to identify how best to serve people staying in encampments in ways that reduce harm, meet basic needs in an appropriate and accessible manner and avoid further traumatizing our most vulnerable and dispossessed neighbors.

To be sure, there are several differences between Union Station and what is more typically thought of as an “encampment.” It's more heavily used by the public; there are no tents. But the same principles apply, just as they do to any situation in which an individual or group is residing in a place not meant for human habitation.

From the perspective of those we serve—the people who sleep there night after night—they are seeking the same thing: safety and respite.

The prevalence of unsheltered people across our state—whether inside train stations, in public parks or throughout downtowns—is a direct result of our community's collective failure to provide an adequate supply of deeply affordable housing — that is, housing options that are affordable to those receiving federal or state housing assistance. Deeply affordable housing options are what is necessary to execute the most successful strategy to solving homelessness: permanent supportive

housing.

Last month, our General Assembly and our governor passed and signed into law a two-year budget that failed to include much-needed investments in deeply affordable housing or emergency housing response services. Members of this group joined homelessness service providers, people with lived expertise and other partners from across the state in advocating for funding that would support our services and get people housed. We asked for a \$50 million commitment as a reasonable response to this crisis; we got \$2 million. We can't reasonably expect to address this crisis with 4 percent of what is needed.

On the streets of New Haven, and in Union Station, we see the results of this collective failure. Because our community cannot offer sufficient, adequate and acceptable housing or shelter, it is inhumane and unethical to sweep people out of encampments or force them out from relative safety and into the streets. Doing so not only puts them in real and immediate danger; it also impairs our community's ability to serve them in a manner that builds trust and that results in moving to permanent housing.

This group of providers strongly endorses the Principles for Addressing Encampments published by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness and asks our government partners to fully implement them before dispersing any additional encampments or forcibly removing any sojourners from other train stations (as is the plan, according to the state Department of Transportation).

USICH calls for the creation of a “cross-agency, multi-sector response to encampments” to include people living in such places. Those staying in encampments know best why they have chosen that location over others. Before dispersing an encampment those needs should be met with proposed and acceptable alternative solutions.

The participants in a cross-agency, multi-sector response to encampments should bring the resources at their disposal to bear and not merely make requests of the social service agencies and faith-based organizations already doing this work on the frontlines daily; it is both unfair and unproductive to demand a response from community-based organizations without offering the appropriate resources to assist. If the local or state government decision-makers conclude that an encampment impacts the health and safety of the community, then they should simultaneously



JENNIFER PARADIS

ask service providers what the cost will be to provide a USICH-compliant response and put their energy into marshaling resources not already committed to homelessness services to meet the needs of the people they plan to displace.

USICH also calls for alternative solutions for shelter or housing offered to encampment residents to “account for personal choice, that they are voluntary, sanitary, safe and connect people to services and housing.” Merely offering a bed in a shelter or a chair in a warming center is not good enough.

Although we applaud and appreciate New Haven's efforts to quickly stand up 50 new shelter beds in a Columbus House building on the Boulevard, doing so does not, in itself, absolve the community from our responsibility to offer housing options, nor does it in any way entitle or empower Park New Haven, DOT or state police to remove people from Union Station. The ineffectiveness of this effort is evident in the relatively few folks from Union Station who took up the offer of relocation to the Boulevard.

Encampment residents should be offered a range of options because, like all of us, each person has different needs in terms of location, community, transportation, sense of safety, need to store belongings and ability to meet their activities of daily living. No one should be forced to choose between the feeling of relative safety in an encampment of peers and being displaced from a loved one (or a pet) in a congregate sleeping environment. Doing so will only cause further instability and trauma.

Our community needs to do what other communities have done and offer a range of shelter options, such as “tiny houses,” safe parking lots and sanctioned encampments or safe sleeping sites.

Given the range of best-practice options, we ask that the DOT and Park New Haven reject enforcement tactics in addressing the Union Station encampment. Because they are not, by their own repeated admission, mental health or community services providers, we ask that they work more directly with those of us who are. A nuanced, collaborative, multi-agency response would appropriately support the work that community-based organizations (like our own) have been doing for decades and would ultimately put the individuals at Union Station on the path toward housing in a compassionate and person-centered manner. We know that we, as a community, can do much better by working collaboratively toward common, attainable goals.

The DOT is, of course, simply reacting to a problem that is bigger than their state agency. To reiterate: unsheltered homelessness in all its forms is a reflection and a stark symptom of our collective disinvestment in deeply affordable housing and our homelessness response system. As our housing crisis continues, cities in Connecticut—along with most cities in the US—are going to see more encampments and more people sleeping in public, putting their own health and their own safety at risk.

Unilaterally sweeping these people away is not the answer. The answer is plentiful and accessible deeply affordable housing and a network of compassionate crisis-response providers, well-supported through proper training and fair compensation. An enforcement approach, as implemented by DOT, is a dangerous step toward criminalizing homelessness, breaking down critical trust and prolonging this crisis.

We call upon the state DOT and Park New Haven to:

- Postpone indefinitely their directive to law enforcement and security personnel to remove by force unhoused individuals from Union Station and other stations around the state.

- Work with community-based providers, such as the Greater New Haven Regional Alliance to End Homelessness, local authorities and, most especially, people with lived expertise, to develop a more appropriate, long-term strategy to reducing the usage of train stations as places of refuge for the unhoused.

Ultimately, we hope that DOT, Park New Haven and statewide leadership will champion the most appropriate means of accomplishing the latter—by investing in housing and services that will solve homelessness in Connecticut altogether.

This column was coauthored by Kelly Fitzgerald, senior director of financial stability at the United Way of Greater New Haven; Margaret Middleton, CEO of Columbus House; Jim Pettinelli, executive director of Liberty Community Services; Steve Werlin, executive director of Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen; Susan Compton Agamy, executive director at ACT Spooner House; Mary Guerrero, executive director of Fellowship Place; and Karen DuBois-Walton, president of Elm City Communities and executive director of the Housing Authority of New Haven. A version of this column previously appeared in the Hartford Courant.

Jennifer Paradis is the executive director of the Beth-El Center in Milford.

Pool Party

(Continued From 1)

when it happened, numerous frustrated residents came before the Board of Aldermen to express their frustration that more could not be done to prevent future events of this scale.

“Cars were parked along both sides of both Cornfield and Haystack roads, almost the entire length of both roads,” said Rob Andel, who lives on Cornfield Road. “Objects inside my house vibrated due to the very loud, low-frequency sound from the bass speakers being used during the entire duration of the party.”

“I have never, ever seen anything like this in our neighborhood — not even close,” said resident Bill Petremont. “You have people without any clothes on walking down the middle of your street, and all the kids in the neighborhood can see them because it's before 10 o'clock at night. You have wall-to-wall cars, most from out of state, into our neighborhood, where they're conducting a business and their selling liquor.”

Marlene Sanchez, whose property is next door to where the party occurred, said she received a letter from her neighbor the day after her party apologizing for its effect on the neighborhood. However, it seemed to her that the parties might continue, with another event already scheduled for July.

“It's not so much that we want the government to take over and start doing things for us,” she said. “We just need you to be aware that this is intolerable and we do need some kind of action because obviously he's not showing respect for the people in our neighborhood.”

“The music — from where I live, I could hear it,” said Robin Moran, who lives a few blocks over on Plains Road. “I had all my windows shut. The TV couldn't cover the sound. Music couldn't cover the sound. I actually had to leave my house during the middle of the day just because my head was hurting.”

“I'm asking for a noise ordinance because the noise is terrible,” said Tory Vienneau, who lives directly behind the Haystack Road property where the party

occurred. “Ever since they moved in there, it's been constant.”

Other neighboring communities have noise ordinances, including West Haven, where police have decibel meters to help

them accurately determine violations. Milford has considered adopting such an ordinance before.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen is scheduled for Aug. 7.

Milford-Orange Times

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Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This	Ben Gettinger, Probate	Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health
Cathy Bradley, Running	Patricia Houser, Environment	Michael Moses, Milford Chamber
Kathy Charbonneau, Orange Chamber	Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary	Susan Oderwald, Senior Care
Steve Cooper, Food	Jennifer Ju, Bias	Jennifer Paradis, Homelessness
Rob Craft, Recovery	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Trish Pearson, Insurance
David Crow, Conversations	Dan May, Rotary	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel
Theresa Rose DeGray, Bankruptcy	Marilyn May, Milford History	PJ Shanley, Life Insurance
Carmela DeVito, Book Reviews	Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
Pat Dray, Gardening		Michele Tenney, Wellness

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Opinion & Editorial

The National Child Care Crisis



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

I had the incredible honor and privilege on July 19 to participate in a discussion surrounding child care held at the White House. In total, 91 legislators from 41 states attended the White House Convening of States on Child Care with the mutual goal of learning from each other about the actions their states had taken to make child care more affordable and accessible while strengthening workforce development and employee retention.

At first glance, it would appear that Connecticut wouldn't have similar concerns as South Dakota, Kansas or New Mexico. But we all quickly confirmed what a universal crisis this is. We all have child care "deserts" where there is an acute lack of providers. We all need more slots for children in care centers. We all recognize that providers need to be paid more – but that families cannot afford child care costs as they stand now.

What was a challenging situation before the pandemic has hit its tipping point, and we need to finally address this matter head-on. It was a relief to hear the recognition that the current state of child care is truly a major problem and that states and the federal government are committed to making change.

For too long concerns about this profession were often seen as less important than more standard industries. We could debate the reasons why, but my hunch is that it is because this is a female-centered industry in both the employees and the customers. We have seen similar dismissals of concern in areas like K-12 teaching, nursing, counseling – all female-dominated professions.

There is finally the beginning of an acknowledgment that our society and economy literally would not be able to function properly without these professions. As it stands, the lack of child care costs the US roughly \$122 billion per year, according to US News & World Report. It also leaves many people, again mostly women, vulnerable during their childrearing years through retirement due to the loss of income earned and saved.

As you may know, I have three school-aged children and stayed home with them for 13 years. While I am grateful we had that option, a large factor behind our decision was the cost of child care for three children under the age of 5.

I also worked at a child care center before I had children; while I loved working with the kids, the hourly rate was nowhere near enough to support myself. I also saw how parents were completely reliant on their kids attending each day and the stress they faced when a sick child needed to stay home. These experiences have left me with a unique understanding of this problem.

My trip to the White House made one thing very clear: we have to do more, and quickly, to support parents, children and child care workers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues both in Connecticut and across the country to find sustainable solutions to our child care crisis.

Summertime In District 1-1-9



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy Fourth of July. Please join me in thanking our brave military men and women currently serving and all our local veterans for their dedication to protecting our freedoms.

In case you couldn't tell from the hot and humid weather, it's officially summer. Before you plan any elaborate vacations, don't forget about some of the best must-see spots right in your backyard. Take a look at some of Milford's and Orange's best summer sites to visit for all ages this summer.

The best part about living along Connecticut's shoreline is our proximity to some of my favorite beaches. In Milford alone, there are several popular beaches for those hot summer days including Walnut Beach, Woodmont Beach and Silver Sands State Park, which sees hundreds of statewide tourists daily. Don't forget to visit the town website for more information on parking and general access fees.

If you're not sold on the sand, try checking out our district's best parks for hiking, outdoor sports, playgrounds and splashpads. In Milford's Eisenhower Park, you can expect extensive trails, community gardens and a scenic escape surrounding popular tennis and pickleball courts, and our famous splashpad.

For serious hikers and birdwatchers, I recommend Orange's Racebrook Tract, a 230-acre nature wonderland that is perfect for nature lovers who can appreciate the Orange Arboretum and the occasional sighting of the great horned owl.

One of my favorite parks is the High Plains Community Center in Orange, which is home to indoor and outdoor summer activities, great for large group events and all ages to play. For those who seek a quieter setting, head up the road to Wright's Pond in Orange for another lovely view and perfect local fishing.

What makes Milford and Orange home is our history and tradition, which is why I highly recommend either the Orange Historic District or Milford's Ghost Walks to engage with fun facts about our hometowns. Even today, elements of our past live on through Milford's Robert Treat Farm and Glendale Farms, which are generational gems and great locations for fresh produce throughout the year.

Finally, nothing says tradition like a visit to Orange's PEZ Center, where you can take a rainy-day tour to learn some interesting trivia on the classic candy. Then, don't forget to make your way to support the Orange Volunteer Firemen's Carnival from Aug. 3 to 6 or the Milford Oyster Festival on Aug. 19, for fantastic food, great games and family fun.

Once again, there are so many beautiful hidden treasures around the corner, and I look forward to seeing you in and around these spots as we celebrate summer. Don't forget to practice safety measures for children, seniors and our pets to ensure a better experience for all community members. I want to thank our local and state public works and specialized committees for all their efforts in cleaning and maintaining our beaches, parks and community sites all year round.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with your questions, ideas and concerns by contacting me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or 860-240-8700. Don't forget to visit RepKennedy.com or my Facebook Page for more frequent updates on events and more.

Thinking About Next Session



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

Even though it seems that we just finished the 2023 legislative session, I am already thinking about the 2024 session and what I can do to enhance the lives of our residents here in Connecticut. I'm currently working on developing my legislative agenda in hopes of building upon legislation passed this year.

I am proud of the work that has been done surrounding artificial intelligence. I led passage of a bill that will work to regulate government use of AI in Connecticut. Several requirements will be put in place for state agencies to develop and use automated systems for critical decisions.

Part of my goal for next year is to build upon this legislation. I am putting a working group together to focus on AI legislation. As our digital world evolves, the intelligence of machines and software continues to progress. We need to put in safeguards and ensure responsible use of artificial intelligence.

I have many other ideas that I am looking to bring forward next year. Connecticut is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, but we need to make certain that all residents are given the opportunity to succeed. The best way to do that is to provide quality early childhood education. This past session we created an early childhood trust fund, but we didn't dedicate a funding source. Next session I want to work with my colleagues to identify a funding source to help ensure high quality and affordable early childhood education for every child.

Most importantly, I am committed to going out and seeking input from constituents on issues that we need to address. I cannot underscore enough how pivotal your input is in my capacity to function effectively as a legislator.

In the recent legislative sessions, two of the bills I worked on came directly from constituent feedback. These included a law requiring pharmacies to create plans for unexpected closures that will allow their customers to get their needed medicines at nearby pharmacies, and another establishing a GPS tracking system aimed at safeguarding domestic abuse victims.

Over the coming months I will be holding coffee and conversations and evening community meetings. I hope you will reach out and share your suggestions. In addition, if you haven't already, I urge you to subscribe to my e-newsletter to stay updated on information about upcoming legislation and outreach opportunities.

You are always welcome to connect with me through email at James.Maroney@cga.ct.gov.

Unemployment Benefits Fraud



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

This session, my legislative colleagues and I made it a priority to protect our constituents as consumers through various pieces of legislation which strengthen their safety in the marketplace online and in various sectors.

Unfortunately, our communities are witnessing growing rates of fraudulent activity targeting you and your families. Data show that our seniors are disproportionately targeted and affected by this predatory trend. We are constantly searching for solutions and protections.

I want to pass along this information for your safety to use as a guide. Beware of scams and use this guide if necessary.

Connecticut and eight other states are currently experiencing a new uptick in fraudulent unemployment applications.

There was a spike in unemployment claims submitted using stolen identities across the country during the pandemic, and that fraudulent activity is continuing. Connecticut has not been immune, and this came at a time when the Department of Labor updated its 40-year-old unemployment filing system, which may have compounded the problem.

The state Department of Labor is partnering with the federal Department of Labor, the Office of Inspector General and law enforcement agencies to take steps to combat fraud and protect the Unemployment Trust Fund. The CTDOL homepage now includes Fraud Watch, an access point to information for employers and individuals about unemployment fraud and identity theft.

If you didn't file a claim for unemployment benefits and any of the below happen, you may be a victim of ID theft: you are still working, and you or your employer receive a request for information about an unemployment claim in your name; you receive a monetary determination letter; you receive a 1099G tax form; or you receive unexpected unemployment benefits.

CTDOL will never call you and ask you for your account username or password; do individual unemployment claims work over text; or use social media for claims work. CTDOL will never ask for identifying information, photos or documents through social media.

Do not click on any links or attachments. Check URLs carefully to ensure an exact match with CTDOL web resources. If you have a question, always navigate to your unemployment account through ReEmployCT or call the Consumer Contact Center.

If you get a scam text, report it to your carrier. Forward it to 7726 (SPAM). (This works for all major mobile companies.)

Some best practices include:

- Use different passwords for your social media, banking and other accounts; change your passwords regularly.

- Use strong passwords – upper and lowercase letters, symbols, possibly a short phrase in lieu of a single word, and stay away from dictionary words.

- Use two-factor authentication to access your accounts whenever possible.

If you receive a message via text or email and it seems suspicious, do not reply to the message; instead, independently search out the contact information for the organization so you can confirm the communication.

For Nature's Sake

Q And A On Water Testing And Beach Closings

Every Monday morning from May to September, certain staff from the Milford Health Department show up at the office wearing swimsuits under their clothes. They are licensed sanitarians, equipped with sterile collection bottles and notes, preparing to drive out in city vehicles to each of Milford's 17 private and public beaches. Once they've arrived at each site, their duties include surveying conditions on the beach and then wading out into water three to four feet deep to collect samples.

This weekly ritual can go unnoticed, even by residents of beach communities. Still, what officials learn from those samples – and what the larger data set can tell us about how to live on Long Island Sound while preserving its, and our, health – makes the protocols for testing and closing beaches worth a closer look.

The answers in the Q and A below are based on information from state and federal websites plus input from regional experts on water testing and beach closings.

Q: Where do the water samples go once they have been collected?

A: Samples from across Milford's coastline are brought back to the health department's downtown offices, says Milford Director of Health Deepa Joseph, where they are handed over in coolers to a courier from the state Department of Public Health. The courier will then drive them to the state DPH lab at Rocky Hill for testing, with results available 24 hours later.

Q: What are the samples tested for?

A: As established by Environmental Protection Agency standards in the 2000s, the bacteria most often used to measure safety for saltwater bathing has been enterococci. Because enterococci are found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, say scien-

tists, their presence in a water sample is a good indicator of the possible presence of other, more dangerous organisms and viruses. Labs measure how many colony-forming bacteria are in a 100 milliliter sample (roughly 3.5 ounces), and if the number exceeds 104 per 100 milliliter, according to DPH protocols, officials must go back and re-test the beach to see if the levels have lowered.

Q: Who decides whether a municipal or private beach in Milford will be closed?

A: The Milford Department of Health determines when to close a municipal or private beach based on state protocols and local conditions. A resampling that shows enterococci levels still over the safe threshold will close a beach, but the city may also act preemptively (before test results are in) based on a local hazard like a nearby sewage overflow. Beach closures in Milford have been uncommon in the past two years, but when the decision is made, says Joseph, Health Department staff goes out in person to notify beachgoers and posts notices at the site while also reaching out to the press, posting on social media and updating the department's website.

Q: Who samples the water at the state beach, Silver Sands?

A: According to Ansel Aarrestad, environmental analyst in the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Water Planning and Management Division, the water samples at Silver Sands and other state parks are collected by DEEP staff from the Water Monitoring & Assessment program. On Monday mornings they



PATRICIA HOUSER

can be seen in waders, waist deep in the Sound, scooping up water from state sites; the same staff will transport those samples up to the Rocky Hill lab where the state Department of Health runs tests and interprets results.

Q: If a beach such as Silver Sands is closed one day for sanitary reasons, how can an adjacent swim spot, like Walnut Beach, still be open? Isn't it all the same water?

A: DEEP's Aarrestad noted, "Bacteria results can be localized to a specific area depending on winds, tides, and the flow of water across the shoreline."

Joseph also observed that the shape of the coast in one place or the outflow direction of a particular stormwater pipe can lead to local differences.

An illustration of this, from the 2023 Long Island Sound Beach Report, is the strange case of two Milford beaches that are immediately adjacent to one another. In the report, Anchor Beach #2 earns a place on the list of ten best Long Island Sound beaches for water quality in Connecticut, while Anchor #1, also called Crescent Beach, is on the 10 worst list. The culprit causing lower scores in the past at Beach #1, as explained in the report, is most likely a large stormwater pipe.

Q: What is the main source of water contamination at Milford beaches, when it happens?

A: Sources of bacteria vary by location, but experts agree that stormwater runoff is a leading source of pollution in places like Milford.

Aarrestad explained, "When it rains, especially in large amounts, any contaminants

sitting on impermeable surfaces will get flushed into waterways and eventually into Long Island Sound."

That includes fecal matter from wild animals such as waterfowl, plus dogs and cats. Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns become part of the stormwater flow during a large rain event too.

Q: How does the water quality at Milford's beaches compare to other beaches in Connecticut?

A: Despite the bad report card grades that Save the Sound's Beach Report assigned to Anchor Beach #1 in earlier years, in 2022 it scored an A+ average. In fact, weekly testing from the past two years shows Milford's beaches overall to be among the top beaches anywhere along the Sound.

When asked what more people should know on this topic, Joseph wanted to reassure the public about the rigor of testing procedures and decision-making "based on solid information and in the interest of being as protective as possible."

She noted what great recreational opportunities our beaches offer.

"We want people to be able to be outside and enjoying that, and so we're always making sure people are safe while they're doing that," she said.

Aarrestad, for his part, said DEEP would like people to think about the relationship between what we do on the land and the fate of the state's waters.

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

Launching The Community Health Survey

I am happy to report that Orange's Health Department has created a 2023-2024 Community Health Assessment for the purpose of understanding the current health status of our community.

Improving the health of a community can be influenced by several risk factors, not just diseases or illness. Therefore, it is important to identify the top priorities for future planning based on the source of funding for staffing and educational programs focused on prevention and re-

ducing the burden of illness.

We need to collect relevant information in all aspects of our lives including health, safety, economic, recreational and environmental. Being healthy requires more than just genetics and the lifestyle of individuals.

Research indicates that the social determinants of health greatly impact the health of a community. Factors such as



DR. AMIR
MOHAMMAD

affordable housing, employment, education and local governmental policies can impact how people live their lives and their resulting health status.

By completing this assessment, our goal is to discover our community needs and issues to fill in the knowledge gaps. This anonymous survey will provide all the rel-

evant information and make us aware of community needs.

You can go to the survey at survey-monkey.com/r/GYQCXBV and take few minutes to complete it. We thank you for your cooperation.

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

Wine Talk

Wine And Grilling

The end of July and the beginning of August is a great time to visit some Connecticut wineries. Here is a few I will recommend I think you will really enjoy.

One of the first Connecticut wineries on the Connecticut Wine Trail is Stonington Vineyards. Located in Stonington, midway between New York and Boston, it is known for its Chardonnay and delicious Riesling. It makes a Cabernet Franc that I like and also has some popular blends.

Another great stop for summer activities is Priam Vineyards in Colchester. The wines are great, and they host some wonderful musical events and wine pairing classes. The views are fantastic. This 40-acre farm has 12,000 grapevines in production. It is a perfect place to spend an afternoon tasting wines and enjoying our wonderful New England countryside. The vineyard is named after Andrew Priam, the grandfather whose lands were confiscated during the Russian Revolution in Hungary. It is a fun place to

be.

In Gales Ferry, Holmberg Orchards is a nice place to visit for the entire family. There are lots of activities for everyone. They have fruit picking, wine tasting and a great farm market. The pies are excellent. They also produce fruit wines and hard cider, and their tasting room is wonderful. It is a gorgeous spot.

Preston Ridge Vineyards in Preston has some of the most remarkable views of any vineyard in Connecticut. It is located only 15 miles from Long Island Sound and sits on 60 acres. The vineyard is located on the peak of a ridge. The Connecticut countryside can be appreciated wonderfully from this location. They are known for their Rieslings, but you must take in some of their breathtaking views. They have a great tasting room as well.



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

Jones Winery in Shelton is a winery where the farm's founder, Philip James Jones, said "Be good to the land and it will be good to you." Jones Winery features traditional grape wines and specialty fruit wines. Tasting of several different wines and specialty fruit wines is available in their converted dairy barn daily. Jones also has a farm-to-table cooking studio and wine-food pairing classes. It is a great place with great people.

Elijah Hopkins founded a farm in Warren on Connecticut's Lake Waramaug on his return from the Revolutionary War in 1787. It is currently the home of the Hopkins Vineyards. The first vines were planted in 1979 and the land was turned into a state-of-the-art vineyard. The surroundings are beautiful and the wines very good.

Savino Vineyards is close by in Wood-

bridge. The wines are great. They are open Saturday and Sunday from May to November. They have live music and special events.

Connecticut has 56 wineries; these are just few. Visit and support our wonderful Connecticut wineries. You will be glad you did.

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 realstatepro1000@gmail.com.

Foodie Foursome

New York-Style Deli In Our Own Backyard

If you are near the Boston Post Road in Milford or Orange, Katz Deli is less than 10 miles away in Woodbridge just off the Exit 59 on Rte. 15. It puts authentic New York-style deli options in easy reach.

Steve Katz started his restaurant in 1997. From day one he has provided his guests with great food, service and the New York vibe and scents that take you back. To start with, the restaurant design presents a casual, relaxed feel, showing off regional sports art and monitors with perfect table spacing. There is a varied menu with something for everyone – including a soda fountain style counter.

The experience starts with being seated by a hostess and served a bowl of crisp fresh pickles and some house-made coleslaw. This family recipe is one of the finest preparations I have ever had.

Their menu is expansive, starting with breakfast choices from omelets to smoked fish platters to fresh bagels with real New York "schmear" of cream cheese, lox, muenster and tomato.

Since Cindy and I were there for dinner with Decelle and Judy, we started off with the ultimate deli classics: chicken soup and a nosh. The chicken soup is a hearty, yet clear, broth with a supersized fluffy matzo ball (a Jewish dumpling), pieces of chicken, carrot and noodles. We also added a chicken kreplach (a Jewish dumpling prepared like a wonton). Both the matzo ball and kreplach were great options. For the nosh we had the

potato latkes (pancakes) served with applesauce and sour cream. The browned, crispy exterior and tender inside brought together the fresh grated potato and seasoning for the perfect start to our deli excursion.

That was followed by the incredible "super salad." This huge salad was made with crisp romaine lettuce topped with warm julienne chicken breast, tomato, kalamata olives, cucumbers, shredded carrots, fire-roasted red peppers, candied walnuts and cran-raisins with Bermuda onion and feta cheese on the side (by request). This salad is definitely enough for a meal and was artfully presented.

While they do have a huge variety of burgers and club sandwiches, it made more sense to start with Katz's corned beef and pastrami, all cooked in-house. They have many choices and combos; we started with a corned beef Rachel. The steamed corned beef was served on grilled rye with melted Swiss cheese, coleslaw and Russian dressing. It was tender and tasty.

That was followed by a pastrami special, a sizable mound of grilled pastrami, melted Swiss, grilled onions and tomato served on rye toast. I asked for mine slightly warmed from the fresh-to-order sliced meat to maintain that juicy, unctuous, pastrami flavor. It was adorned by a grilled onion which was almost a marmalade. It married perfectly



STEVE
COOPER

with the Swiss cheese and tomato – and just a slather of their stone-ground deli mustard.

After those "have-to-try" deli classic renditions we had a specialty wrap. The wrap was huge and chock full of flavor. It was called the turkey terrific wrap. It would not be an exaggeration to say it was as if Thanksgiving had exploded in my mouth. The warm oven-roasted turkey breast was tender and juicy. The homemade stuffing had a great texture and herbed taste. And the cranberry sauce and gravy tied it all together. We ordered a side of gravy to dip each bite in.

Our last entrée was an open-faced sandwich platter. The hot open-faced brisket was so tender. It was served with a brown gravy on top of thick sliced rye toast. That was served with a generous portion of caramelized and roasted vegetables, a perfect partner to the brisket and gravy.

We finished the evening with a selection of awesome pastries and dessert options. The first was as New York as it gets: a rich and creamy house-made cheesecake served with sliced strawberries and sauce. The multi-layer cake, Mississippi mud, was served with two unbelievable macaroons, also made in house. Last was an elegant assortment of rugelach pastries. These traditional rugelach are made in the form of a crescent by rolling a triangle of dough

around a filling. These special nuggets are very addicting. They were flaky, buttery and filled with a variety of confections (chocolate, nuts and fruit preserves).

The coup de grace, an egg cream, took me back to my childhood. My uncle owned a candy store/soda fountain in Staten Island near the ferry. I can still remember the smells, the wall of magazines and comic books and the counter with the stools that twirled around. It was there that I learned how to make the perfect egg cream, a New York deli and soda fountain mainstay.

That is what they made for me to end the night. There is no egg or cream in the drink. It is actually a chocolate soda with a thick creamy head created with just U-Bet chocolate syrup, a splash of milk and a bubbly seltzer.

After going to Katz's Deli you will make it a regular stop when you want casual comfort, great service and the best Jewish style deli cuisine in our own backyard. They are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. They are also BYOB. The deli is located at 1658 Litchfield Tpk. in Woodbridge. For information or large parties and catering call 203-389-6301

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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Just Floored

2023–2024 Color Trends

Every year the design industry announces a new color of the year. Interior designers set the tone for our everyday lives. These announcements change the entire setting in paint colors, furniture, fabrics, wall coverings, carpets, area rugs, fixtures, lighting and so many other items for our home.

The top pick by some designers is warm neutrals. Warm neutrals embrace wellness and comfort; they can also be incorporated into every design style. Behr Paint named Blank Canvas as its color of the year for 2023. White is the key to individual style simply because it's so easy to change up.

Benjamin Moore announced its color of the year is Raspberry Blush, a fiery red-orange that's basically the best color in a really great sunset. It represents bold and warm

The Garden Spot

hues.

While you can cover a blank canvas with pops of color you can also lean into neutrals, warm tones that are not intrusive. Soft tan tone materials provide comfort and tranquility. Pair them with smaller accent pieces, such as dining chairs with bold colors.

Softer shades will promote tranquility. Tones that make it easier to create monochrome looks give a sense of consistency and allow homeowners to choose which area of the home they want to emphasize.

Light blue is becoming a winner in kitchens and bathrooms. Cabinetry is softer in tones and warming in look and feel. Fabu-



ANNAMARIE
AMORE

wood makes a tan cabinet that is amazing with a calming vibe.

A major requirement in color in 2023 is versatility. Neutrals often possess this quality, but they don't have to be the neutrals we are used to seeing. They can have blush, yellow, purple, soft bronze or blue undertones. Neutral does not mean white, beige or gray. It is all about the space you are creating and the feel you want from that space.

If you are familiar with jewel tones, they create an elegant feel and mood-altering effect for any room in your home. Most designers enjoy working with these colors. Burnt orange and reds are common with a jewel tone design.

Aubergine is a big color this year, and would make for a beautiful alternative to red. Pairing this color with creams and green hues is an unexpected combination.

Deeply saturated hues found in the wild are on the rise and inspire. They include everything from flowers to carbon. York wall coverings has an amazing line of wallpaper showcasing this look in a wide range of colors from navy blue, orange, reds, aubergine and yellows.

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

Climate Change In Your Garden

After a cool start to summer, July kicked off with hot, humid days and late afternoon thunderstorms. The weather has made things some things take off and grow like weeds – mainly because they are. Other things have not grown so much. If climate scientists are correct, this will be an recurring weather pattern.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Connecticut is expected to see hotter-than-normal temperatures this summer. The average summer temperature in Connecticut is 70.3 degrees Fahrenheit, and NOAA is predicting there is a more than 50 percent chance that the average temperature across June, July and August will exceed that this year.

And what about rainfall? As of July 13, we've had measurable rain for 15 out of 30 days. That sounds good in terms of reducing drought, but we are still in a drought situ-

ation. Over the past three gardening months (April, May and June) we are at only 77 percent of the usual precipitation. And since that precipitation has been mainly in downpours, there have been numerous flooding events.

These changes may seem trivial, but they aren't. Climate change is happening right in your garden.

As the temperatures rise, and rainfall changes from drizzles to downpours, there are steps we can take to have lush gardens. First things first: think though what you choose to plant and where. Make sure your garden is close to your water source so that you can "spot water" rather than running sprinkler systems. Spot watering reduces the amount of water to unwanted plants



PAT DRAY

(weeds), stunting their growth while encouraging the growth of desired plants.

If you absolutely can't live without a sprinkler system, don't water paved areas and don't run it on a schedule. Instead, have water sensors installed so that irrigation only runs when needed. Running irrigation daily encourages shallow root growth, which only contributes to the need for more watering. Let your lawn go dormant in drought rather than wasting water.

Consider methods for rain capture. Rain barrels are an easy solution for water storage. You can also plan for rain gardens either in a shallow depression or down a slope. You can then plant your thirsty plants there.

Focus your planting on your own microclimate. If you have shady property, plant

accordingly. When selecting plants, remember that full sun is considered at least six hours of direct sun. If you don't have a spot that fits that description, don't plant full sun plants. There are beautiful flowers (but not too many veggies) that are part sun/part shade. In general, remember the gardener's mantra of "right plant in the right place."

Interested in learning more about our natural world? Consider attending the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station's 113th Plant Science Day Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lockwood Farm, located at 890 Evergreen Ave. in Hamden. For more information, go to portal.ct.gov/CAES/Plant-Science-Day/2023/Plant-Science-Day-2023-Wednesday-August-2.

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

Milford-Orange Probate Court

Name Changes Are Now Free In Probate Court

There is no longer a filing fee for name changes in probate court. The \$250 filing fee was eliminated in July (there is still a fee if you file in superior court).

While people wish to change their names for various reasons, the process is the same and relatively straightforward in probate court.

You need to file an application (called petition), a confidential information sheet and affidavit. For an adult name change, the application is Form PC-901, the confidential information sheet is Form PC-901CI and the affidavit is Form PC-910. For a minor child name change, the application is Form PC-900, the confidential information sheet is Form PC-900CI and the affidavit is Form PC-910A. All those forms can be found online at ctprobate.gov at the forms tab.

For an adult name change, the applicant (referred to as the petitioner) must also file a certified copy of their long-form birth certificate and two forms of identification, including at least one photo ID. The paperwork gets filed in the probate district where the adult applicant resides. Adult applicants residing in Milford or Orange file at the Milford-Orange Probate Court, located at 70 W. River St. in Milford, at the Parsons Government Center.

For a minor child name change, the applicant (referred to as the petitioner as next friend and who must be a parent or guardian of the minor child) must file a certified copy of the minor child's long-form birth



BEN
GETTINGER

certificate along with the court documents. The paperwork gets filed in the probate district where the minor child resides (the Milford-Orange Probate Court for minor children residing in Milford or Orange).

The probate court will process the paperwork after it is filed, conduct a search of the sex offender and deadly weapon offender registry (and may conduct a full criminal background check) and then send out a notice for an in-person hearing to the applicant and all interested parties.

The hearing will take place at the probate court. The applicant and any witnesses get sworn in and answer a series of questions un-

der oath. A hearing on an adult name change takes approximately 15 minutes. A hearing on a minor child name change can take longer if it is contested by another parent or guardian.

If the application is granted, the probate court will provide four certified copies of the order and a list of agencies that should be notified (such as DMV and Social Security). The Milford-Orange Probate Court tries to provide those documents immediately after the hearing if the applicant has time to wait.

If you have any questions about name changes, please feel free to call the Milford-Orange Probate Court at 203-783-3205.

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

Summer Concert Series Continues In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce continued its summer Friday's After Five concert series on June 30 with Rum Runners at Fowler Field in Milford. Photos by Robert Creigh.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Financing Is Everything When Buying A Home

One thing that has not changed in the purchasing of a property in the last three years is how important it is that you set up your financing ahead of time. All potential buyers should set up how they will finance their next move before they shop.

This crucial step is for everyone; it does not exclude those who own a home. In fact, each homeowner currently has debt and that debt does not go away until they sell.

Why is this information so important? The buyer pool is huge, and the competition ranges from low money down offers to cash offers. All sellers love cash offers because they only have to wait days for the home inspection, and then their deal is free and clear pending the title search, giving them more time to search and buy.

If you want to, for example, downsize, then find out if you have enough equity in order to purchase without the contingency

of a Hubbard clause. This clause states that when you close on your current home you will immediately have the resources – the cash – to close on the new home.

It's a tough market, so you really want to make a plan and speak to your financial advisor about your accounts. There are multiple ways to get money – even life insurance policies. A lender will look at your bills, credit cards, car payments and all your monthly commitments. Your advisor will look for money that can be used to purchase if you are downsizing. Then in a few months you can replenish those accounts when you close on the home you are in. In other words, avoiding a mortgage can help you get the new deal when you have a lot of competition.

Another reason to not have a loan is that



BARBARA
LEHRER

the closing costs add \$10,000 or more to your purchase price on the new home.

Set up the finances in their entirety. This cannot be done quickly, and when you find the home you want to buy you have to be ready. It doesn't cost to be ready. All your realtor needs from you when you actually write an offer is verification of funds. In that moment it is not a good idea to be panicked about how it is going to work.

If you are not ready and confident, then the listing side will know and move on to another potential offer. The purchase and sales agreement specifically asks how you are financing, and the proof has to be attached.

Sometimes homeowners are disappointed when they find that they do not have every-

thing they need. Sometimes the temporary funds can be a bridge loan. In this manner a mortgage company gives you a short-term loan based on the closing of your home. Even the bank knows that in today's market you do not have to worry about selling your home. The buyers are waiting in line. Anyone changing properties is anxious to make sure they have a nice place to go, so many do not want to list unless they find that perfect downsize.

This strategy of pulling together assets temporarily will let you find the home you like first, and then you can jump into the market to list. If you have owned your home for a long time and created other savings options, this might be just what you were looking for.

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

Orange Board of Finance

Northeast States Implement Broad-Based Tax Cuts

While most US states came out of the pandemic in relatively good shape, Connecticut, along with many of the Northeast states, came out way ahead and implemented big-ticket tax cuts.

Despite expectations for declining revenues in the upcoming year, many of the Northeast governors went along with their state legislatures during budget negotiations and found some common ground to implement tax cuts.

According to the National Tax Foundation, 43 states adopted tax cuts in the past two years, and in the Northeast, tax reduction packages have varied in size from proposed adjustments to select tax credits, as floated in Pennsylvania, to income rate reductions passed in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut. In New Jersey and Massachusetts, where revenues rose rapidly across the board, in some cases to historic highs, massive overhauls of the tax code were also undertaken.

Most states have experienced robust growth in all major tax streams since 2021, with increases driven by strong employment growth, rising wages, high levels of short-term government aid to individuals and unprecedented federal support. These trends have also led to quicker-than-anticipated recoveries within the stock market.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont signed into law a \$51 billion two-year spending plan that includes what he called the largest cuts in the 32-year history of the state's income tax.

The plan, which passed with strong majorities last month in both the House and Senate of the state's Democratic-controlled leg-

islature, allocates \$25.1 billion to fiscal year 2024 and \$25.9 billion to fiscal year 2025, marking a 7.5 percent spending bump from the previous biennial budget.

Connecticut's budget also includes new spending on several large initiatives, including \$800 million for education and \$810 million for housing development and assistance over the next two years. This was done while keeping below a mandatory cap restricting annual budget spending growth.

In New Jersey, where major tax cuts came along with passage of the state's largest budget ever, Gov. Phil Murphy indicated that the tax cuts were a direct result of the state's improved financial footing.

New Jersey's budget includes a \$54.3 billion spending plan. Similar to Connecticut, the budget continues to fully fund commitments to pension payments and school funding while also maintaining a healthy surplus.

The New Jersey budget contains an \$8.3 billion surplus and \$5.4 billion in new spending while paying the state's full annual pension payment for the third year in a row. It also directs more than \$2 billion toward retiring debt and avoiding new bond issuances, and boosts the states Debt Defeasance Fund to \$2 billion.

Similar positive metrics were cited in Massachusetts as some of the chief forces driving a major package of middle-class tax cuts proposed by first-term Gov. Maura Healey and approved later by state senators



KEVIN
MCNABOLA

along with their \$56 billion plan.

The budget and \$742 million tax cut package, which doubled and expands the state's child tax credit, provides homeowners and renters relief and expands a tax credit program for developers working on new housing.

Opposition to those bills echoed wider complaints heard across the Northeast and nation, mainly from minority Republican lawmakers in Democratic-controlled statehouses who question the timing of the cuts and consequent revenue loss amid falling figures and an uncertain economic future.

With an economic slowdown expected throughout many Northeast states in 2024 and 2025, Republicans within the Connecticut state legislature argue predictions for declining revenues and future obligations on existing debt service and pension is a less-than-ideal time to reduce billions from state coffers.

On the other side of the aisle, Democrats argue that the 2024 and 2025 biennial budgets focus on affordability, competitiveness and equity, delivering relief to those who need it most and making reforms that will attract and retain more businesses and residents to the state.

I firmly believe that Connecticut delivered on a balanced budget for both sides of the aisle, although some might argue it wasn't enough. Tax cuts for the middle and lower class were warranted. Affordability and making Connecticut more competitive in

attracting new business and employees is paramount to future financial sustainability. In addition, maintaining the fiscal guardrails was needed, because they keep Connecticut on a trajectory to long-term fiscal sustainability.

Here are four major parameters of the fiscal guardrails in Connecticut:

The volatility cap requires that all revenue from the estimates and final portion of the personal income tax and pass-through entity tax are deposited into the Budget Reserve Fund, also known as the rainy day fund. If the Budget Reserve Fund is maxed out, revenue is used to pay down pension debt.

The revenue cap limits General Fund and Special Transportation Fund appropriations to a certain percentage of estimated revenues; 98.75 percent in fiscal year 2023, 98.5 percent in 2024, 98.25 percent in 2025 and 98 percent each year after that.

The spending cap limits general budget expenditures to the level of spending in the previous year plus a percent increase based on either average income growth in the last five years or the consumer price index over the last year, whichever is greater.

The bond cap limits the issuance of general obligation or credit revenue bonds in excess of \$1.9 billion per fiscal year, which grows as indexed to the Consumer Price Index.

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

Travel Matters

The Art Of Travel In 2023

Traveling in 2023 is an adventure, and there's an art to enjoying yourself that I thought might make a good subject to discuss.

US leisure travel is now back to pre-pandemic levels of 2019. Furthermore, there are fewer flights, due to a pilot shortage and a Federal Aviation Administration-directed cut-back in flights which was supposed to result in fewer cancellations this summer.

The uncontrollable factor of weather-related delays is a given, so what's a traveler to do? Stay home?

Not for this world traveler, always curious about the next new destination, or a new experience at a favorite destination.

The best piece of travel advice is: pack your patience. I'm not sure where I first heard that expression, but it's a good one. If we know beforehand that the path to our destination may be a bit rocky, then we can go with the

flow a bit and try to focus on the experience when we arrive. We also invested in one of the credit cards that offer priority lounge access in worldwide destinations, giving us a calm haven in busy airports all over the world. It's another trick to enjoying the journey.

One tip many are profiting from – and one I have learned myself – is to make our trip a bit longer to experience multiple destinations, or savor one destination a bit longer. Travelers are turning one-week trips into two weeks or enjoying back-to-back cruises for three or four weeks – especially if they're retired and they have the time.

Make sure you have all the documentation you need for your trip. Some countries require



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at least six months expiration on your passport from the date of travel; others only require three months. Some countries require at least two empty pages on your passport to enter. And visas should always be investigated well in advance. Regarding passport applications and renewals, the time is backed up to 12-16 weeks. If you expedite the passport, you can do it in eight weeks. It's worth the extra fee, whether it's through your post office or online.

Here's a good resource if you need your passport within nine weeks and you have international travel plans: travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/get-fast.html.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the value of a good travel agent to guide you

through the process of planning your particular journey. Maybe you want to do a land trip to Iceland, but based on your walking mobility, or your budget, a cruise around the country may be better suited to your needs. Or vice versa. You want to cruise to Tuscany, but you may be better off renting a villa for a week. Florence is a good 90 minutes from the nearest cruise port, for example.

The art of travel is to be prepared with all the information needed, starting from the time you plan your trip, to having the right documentation and "packing your patience" along the way.

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

Here's To Your Health

Healthy Choices Become Healthy Habits

How many of us have continually fluctuated in weight? Thirty pounds here, 25 pounds there. Keto, South Beach, Mediterranean diets...the list can go on forever. It seems like a never-ending story. In my profession and I feel like I've seen it all with no one true answer for success.

The International Journal of Exercise Science says that yo-yo dieting can increase your risk for disease and can be harmful to your health. But I'm wondering why we continue to buy into this captivity. There is more than one way to be "bound" and held captive, and the remedy is to simply recognize the bondage.

If you lived in a prison all your life and never knew there was an outside world with trees, grass and flowers, how would you feel once you made that discovery? Would you stay inside the prison because it's where you feel safe and comfortable, or would you go on an adventure and make some discoveries? Perhaps the new thing will turn out to be the best thing, but you'll never know unless you make the first step. I realize that it takes cour-

age, but I can promise you once you get started on that journey, you will be happy you did.

There's another form of bondage when it comes to foods and diets. It is an obsession to measure, weigh and calculate everything that goes into your mouth and have it broken down into fat, sugar, sodium, protein and more. I am not opposed to this as a means of keeping yourself accountable, because it has been proven to help bring awareness and mindfulness. However I am opposed to allowing it to control your life. It's not only time consuming, but it's somewhat restrictive and leaves little room to just enjoy your life. Remember it's about balance, not self-abnegation.

Healthy choices become healthy habits which eventually become healthy lifestyles. A healthy lifestyle allows you to enjoy things you wouldn't or at least shouldn't eat every day. It doesn't look like a prison;



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it looks more like the rolling hills of Vermont to me. You feel good, you breathe in fresh air, you're not bound but free to roam wherever your heart leads, taking in the sights and sounds around you.

For many of us learning how to live this lifestyle, it can be overwhelming. I understand that because the media has played a huge part in telling you on one day that coffee is bad for you and the next it's fine. We can no longer afford to rely on information about "general" health because each of us has our own DNA, and our food is just as unique as we are. What works for my body doesn't mean it will work for yours or the next person.

I would recommend an elimination program so you could see just how that works. I also encourage you to read from reputable resources about nutrition and exercise rather than the morning news. Activist organization the Environmental Working Group is one valuable place to find information.

This time is of year is the best time of year where we live to fill our bodies with excellent amounts of nutrients eating foods from your garden or local farmer's markets. Optimize your health by eating organic, local fruits and vegetables and don't be afraid to ask the local farmers if they grow their gardens organically. There are also good fruit/vegetable washes out there to remove pesticides if you can't find organically grown foods.

You are worth every bit of effort you put into living your best life, without disease, discomfort and living it free. Remember that you are a spirit which has a soul that lives in a body and all three of those things need to be in good condition for you to live your best life. You're important and loved. Here's to your health.

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

The Rotary Club of Orange

A New Rotary Year

The Rotary Club of Orange is one of nearly 46,000 clubs active in about 200 countries under the umbrella of our host organization, Rotary International. Global Rotary membership exceeds 1.4 million members, making it one of the largest service organizations in the world.

Rotary is perhaps known best for its efforts distribute polio vaccine internationally. The campaign to end polio began in 1979 and has helped reduce cases by 99.9 percent, with endemic polio now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is notable that Rotary International has recently been allowed to continue its vaccination work in Afghanistan, and an end to the spread of this communicable disease may not be far off.

Rotary services and donations extend to a wide array of health, education and sustainable economic development programs, and as the end polio campaign winds down other initiatives are expanding. Rotary's theme for the upcoming year is "Create Hope in the World." And one of this year's primary initiatives is prioritizing mental health initiatives across all

of Rotary.

There is no vaccine to prevent mental illness or improve well-being and resilience, so the challenge is very different from that of polio. But Rotary, as well as other local service organizations like Lions and Kiwanis, have unique opportunities to connect peoples and cultures, giving hope and receiving it through community-based acts of kindness and engagement.

The new Rotary year officially begins every July 1, and the local Rotary Club of Orange sponsored an inaugural Summerfest for families around the region on July 15 to launch its events year. This was a new club event intended to draw in families with young children as well as young adults. Inflatables, yard games and a cornhole tournament have not previously been regular club-sponsored activities, but the goal was and is to spread awareness of both the Orange Club and Rotary International across all ages and to



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appeal to the child in each of us. A good time was had by all despite the muggy weather, and having fun is a good substrate for hope.

Orange Rotary supports a number of youth- and family-focused initiatives and can expand these. They are supported by annual club fundraising and a club foundation that awards grants to other not-for-profit service organizations. Requests for funding can be submitted from the club's website at rotarycluboforange.org/. Information about sponsoring club activities or becoming a club member are also posted on the website. The Orange club can also partner with other clubs across our regional southern Connecticut district for collaborative or larger requests. Recent projects linked club service and funding from the Milford, Devon, West Haven and New Haven Rotary clubs.

One promising Orange Rotary youth initiative is to establish a satellite Rotary Inter-

act club at Amity High School. Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while delivering the premise of "service above self." It is anticipated that the Amity Interact club will launch when classes resume this fall. We encourage Amity students to "find out how serious leadership can be seriously fun." Projects can range from the local community service to international exchange. Rotary has worked with the United Nations nearly since the founding of the UN, and youth activities are celebrated at the UN's Rotary Day every spring.

Leadership development is an integral part of Rotary at all organizational levels, and leadership changes annually. I have succeeded Roger Tausig as Orange club president for the 2023-24 Rotary year, and we have a number of other new officers as well. Please visit the club website for our contact information and other news about the Rotary Club of Orange.

Dan May can be contacted at dmay@newhaven.edu.

Orange Chamber of Commerce

Leaving The Chamber A Better Place

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." – Pericles

The country was emerging from the throes of the pandemic when I joined the Orange Chamber of Commerce as its executive director almost two and a half years ago. I knew there would be many challenges, as businesses were still struggling to survive and navigate the "new normal" of an economy forever changed. I have been grateful to be able to give back to the community where I grew up and my dad, Bill Converse, was tax assessor for over 30 years.

Now, I write this column with mixed feelings because it is time for me to turn the page to the next chapter. This means leaving a job I have loved and been fortunate to hold. I have valued the opportunities to collaborate with so many chamber members, local organizations, stakeholders and residents while working together to strengthen our commu-

nity. I'm proud of the positive contributions I've made through fundraising, new program development and the creation of community connections that added value to chamber membership. I've done my best and put my heart into building a strong foundation to support the chamber's continuation and future success.

There is one person in particular who stands out during my time at the chamber as a shining example of leadership, humility and kindness. This individual supported and encouraged me every step of this journey. We have made a great team. He is Chamber Board President Ted Novicki of AVANGRID, my colleague and friend. I have appreciated him so much. He helped make my time at the chamber something I will remember fondly.



KATHY
CONVERSE
CHARBONNEAU

I would like to encourage local businesses, large and small, to be chamber members. The chamber is an important thread in the tapestry of what makes our town unique and special. When we join forces for the sake of our community, we are all better for it. The Chamber Board of Directors is taking great care to find the next executive director, who will be in place before my last day on Aug. 4.

Finally, thank you to every person, business and organization that has expressed gratitude for the work of the chamber and supported our efforts through your crucial involvement and partnerships. It has meant the world.

Phase Two Bicentennial Brick Installation Update: One of the projects I am most proud of is the engraved brick installation in front of the gazebo at High Plains Fair-

grounds. Do you know more than 430 bricks have been purchased since November 2021? These bricks tell the stories of the people and businesses of Orange, past and present. It is truly a community treasure. The fact that I had something to do with this legacy gives me great satisfaction and is something I will always cherish. Phase Two will be installed as one of my final acts as executive director before I leave. I can't imagine a better way to say goodbye.

There will be at least one more phase, but quantities are limited, and only large bricks are left to purchase. Don't miss your chance to be part of Orange history. Order today at bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamber-bricks.

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

Walnut Beach Farmers Market Open Thursdays

The Walnut Beach Farmer's Market is taking place every Thursday afternoon this summer from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. under the Pavilion at 113 East Broadway at Walnut Beach in Milford. The market includes

live music, food trucks, a wide variety of homemade items, flowers and fresh vegetables from Gazy Brothers Farm from Oxford and Smith Acres Farm from Niantic.

Vero At Orange Hires New GM

Senior living community the Vero at Orange has announced that Kimberly Coleman Phulgence has been hired as its new general manager.

Phulgence was born in a small town in Alabama. She was one of the first females to join the 242nd Combat Engineer Battalion

in the Connecticut Army National Guard, where she served for over 10 years.

She has over 16 years of experience in skilled nursing and the senior living industry. She received her bachelors degree from UConn and is a licensed nursing home administrator.

Book Reviews

The Glass Chateau By Stephen P. Kiernan

Asher, resistance fighter and assassin, is one of the lucky ones. He survived the Nazi occupation and felt freedom for the first time when World War II was over. His feeling of freedom came at a heavy cost. His wife and young daughter were killed, as were his friends. His cobbler shop was also destroyed. Heavily burdened by grief and survivor's guilt, he decided to take his life.

Walking along the beach, fully intending to drown himself, fate intervened in the form of a woman and her dog. She informed him that positive things were happening at a glass chateau but was unable to provide any additional information. Asher glanced back to thank the woman, but she and her dog had disappeared.

After an exhausting and demoralizing journey, Asher arrived at the chateau. There he met Brigitte, who gave him a chance for redemption and purpose. After seeing his skill at completing menial tasks she offered, him the opportunity to rest, begin to heal

himself and learn about the craft of glassmaking.

It took Asher a great deal of time to adjust to his new environment and circumstances. As the newest member of the team, he needed to learn the glassmaking business from the bottom up. While he was being treated respectfully by Brigitte and her husband, Marc, the majority of his coworkers were distant – waiting for him to prove himself.

Proving himself was a difficult task. Following a thumb injury, he was unable to manipulate the tools necessary for the work. He incurred the wrath of a nameless man who criticized Asher wherever and whenever possible. He also felt a mixture of guilt and shame by not disclosing and practicing his Jewish faith.

His fears were heightened when it was revealed the artisans received a commission



CARMELA DEVITO

to create stained glass windows for a cathedral in Clovide. Those plans were put in jeopardy when Marc suffered a debilitating stroke. Any planning for the cathedral work was put on hold.

A startling development helped accelerate Asher's healing. He began a friendship and love affair with Marie, provider of the chateau's fruits and vegetables.

Marie had secrets of her own and insisted Asher adhere to strict guidelines in order for their relationship to continue.

In his spare time, Asher began to sketch. He sketched whatever inspired him with the hope that someday his designs would be used in the stained glass.

But then Asher violated one of the shop's main tenets, leading to a renewal of his fear of being terminated.

Despite constant rebukes from the nameless man, Asher did an extraordinary job in

not responding to the rage he felt and would have acted on in the past. When Marie is harassed by a former coworker, those impulses rise again.

I wholeheartedly and unequivocally love this book. There are many reasons why. The intricate and precise detailing of the glassmaking process is fascinating. The development of a family – of sorts – is heartwarming. The presence of two gargantuan brothers is humorous. The author infuses his broken, troubled, weary characters with empathy, compassion and sensitivity – even the unlikeable ones. That to me is the mark of a gifted and talented writer.

This is a wonderful story of secrets, hope, faith, redemption and, ultimately, love. I strongly urge you to read this novel. You won't be disappointed.

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

Recycling Tip: Using Less Plastic

By Susan Wineland

Many of us are looking for ways to reduce our use of plastics that too often end up in landfills, lakes, rivers and oceans. According to the Ocean Conservancy, every year over 12 million tons of plastic enter our oceans and 1,200 tons are currently circulating through the marine environment.

In a recent recycling column, some alternatives to using less plastic were noted: bees wrap, glass food storage containers with lids, mesh produce bags, single-use water bottles made out of glass or stainless steel, laundry sheets or powdered detergent in cardboard boxes, reusable grocery bags, metal straws, cutlery, and bars of soap, shampoo and conditioner.

Here are a few more non-plastic,

eco-friendly solutions for everyday uses. Compostable garbage bags are made from a non-toxic, plant-based material that degrades. Coconut scour pads are made from natural coconut coir and natural rubber, which won't shed off any microplastics that are toxic to us and our environment. They are biodegradable and home compostable. The same can be said for bamboo products like dishes, hair brushes, toothbrushes, soap dishes and cooking sets. Sisal is a natural, plant-based fiber and a great alternative to traditional plastic loofahs and shower sponges. Sisal products are also used to make soap-saver bags, which are great for exfoliation and also allow your soap to dry between uses, extending its life.

Buy reusable storage bags made from silicone that can go from the fridge to the

freezer, into a boiling pot of water, through the dishwasher, and be ready to be reused again. They're extremely durable and versatile, without sacrificing form for function. These bags come in a variety of sizes and colors. They're slim and space-saving, yet long-lasting. They are simple to clean in the dishwasher by standing them upside down in either the top or bottom rack, depending on their size, and I have yet to encounter any oily residue or unpleasant odor.

In addition to choosing eco-friendly products, we can reuse what we have. One example is plastic storage bags. According to a leading manufacturer, SC Johnson, plastic storage bags can be hand washed, rinsed and reused – but not if they were used to store raw meat, fish or eggs. They

recommend washing the bags with soap and water and letting them air dry. Don't turn them inside out, or the seams might rip. Just add some warm water, a little soap and slosh it around. Rinse well, wipe the bag with a clean dish towel, prop it open and hang it to dry.

How can we do our part to contribute less to the plastic pollution filling our oceans and land and endangering wildlife and ourselves? We can look for ways to reduce our use. There are lots of great alternatives out there. Try them.

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

Dry Ice

(Continued From 1)

carbon dioxide. Though CO2 mostly gets attention these days as a driver of global climate change, it's a naturally occurring molecule in the atmosphere and is expelled by humans and other animals as a byproduct of respiration.

Frozen carbon dioxide is called "dry ice" because at room temperature it evaporates into the air as a gas instead of melting into a liquid the way that water does.

Dry ice cleaning is a relatively new technology that blasts small pellets of the molecule onto a surface. Because the pellets are nontoxic and dissipate into the air, the method has been touted as being more environmentally friendly than other chemical cleaning processes.

Landino told the commission that

dry ice cleaning could clean "just about everything," including fabric, and that unlike sand blasting would not leave scratches on paint or other surfaces.

"We're not producing CO2," he said. "We use reclaimed CO2 to do the process."

Though the dry ice itself would not be toxic, there is a possibility that the debris cleaned off of various items could contain toxic materials. Landino said that he was in contact with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on how to handle debris disposal.

The commissioners went around trying to find relevant regulations that might fit Landino's proposal. On the one hand, Vice Chair Judy Smith noted, a business like a dry cleaner, which does use toxic chemicals, would be allowed to go into the space without even coming before the commission.

On the other hand, Chair Oscar Parente pointed out, if the TPZC decided that the business was a permitted use, then the commissioners would basically be allowing a service to go in that they were unfamiliar with and still had questions about.

"You won't see this again if you say yes," he noted.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Jack Dmirjian said that if the TPZC decided to that it was a permitted use, that the business would still need to get approval from other town departments, such as the Building Department and Health Department, to ensure the safety of the operations.

"We wouldn't give a doctor's office or a real estate company a second thought," Parente said, likening the cleaning service to other purely service-related businesses.

"But this is a process that is sort of industrial too."

"I think what we're getting held up by is that we don't understand the technology," Smith said after the commissioners had gone through several rounds of trying to find applicable language to cover it. "We know what dry cleaners are; we know what laundromats are...."

"But this isn't that," replied commissioner Paul Kaplan.

Smith agreed. "But this might become the new technology," she added.

"I think it's a permitted service," commissioner Kevin Cornell said.

That language seemed to satisfy the other commissioners. They decided that it was a permitted use after all, and there was no need for a vote. Landino was left to pursue his plans through the other town agencies.

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Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy And Divorce, The Real Chicken And Egg

The top five reasons most of my clients file for bankruptcy are (1) loss of income, (2) foreclosure, (3) medical crises, (4) over-spending, sometimes tied to an addiction or gambling and (5) divorce.

I see clients at all stages of the divorce process: before, during and after.

When I meet with clients before they file for divorce, or after the case is filed but before the date of dissolution, they often ask me if it is best to file for bankruptcy before or after they finally get divorced. It's kind of like the chicken and the egg. What comes first?

In this case, my answer is always "it depends." Because it does: it ultimately depends on if and how they qualify. Qualification is based solely on income – income based on a median for your state and household size. As I write this article, a household of four is allowed to make up to \$142,596 (gross annual combined income) and still file for bankruptcy. But if the parties are physically separated, yet not legally divorced, they can be tested for qualification based on their individual household size. So "it depends," and it gets complicated.

If you are contemplating a divorce or in the process of getting divorced, it would be

wise to consult an attorney like me who practices in both the bankruptcy and divorce law areas, to analyze your financial circumstances, ensuring all of your obligations will be accounted for in the divorce decree/separation agreement, and to determine if you can handle paying them once you go back to a single income after the divorce. Bankruptcy may be a safe option once you are divorced if you find you cannot afford living on a single income supporting debt.

If you will be taking the bulk of the debt once you separate and do not have the income to support it, you may consider filing for bankruptcy and starting over altogether once the divorce is finalized. Here are some topics that often arise from divorce when contemplating a bankruptcy or may lead you to the necessity of filing for bankruptcy after your divorce:

1. Who will take the marital home and pay its related expenses? If you are getting a divorce and taking over possession of the marital home, along with taking over the related expenses, especially the mortgage(s) on the home, be sure to have your divorce decree



.....
THERESA ROSE DEGRAY

state the terms of this transfer accurately.

Making a budget before the divorce is final will also help you determine if you will be able to afford to stay in the home.

If it is determined that you can, in fact, afford to live in the home after the divorce, then make sure the proper documents are recorded on the land records after the transfer. This will give you a paper trail you may need to provide in your bankruptcy case later on.

2. Will you be responsible for credit cards in your ex-spouse's name? If so, make sure the divorce decree/separation agreement spells out all debt you will be taking responsibility for once the divorce is final, along with the last four digits of any account numbers. Be advised that no bankruptcy of one person will discharge debt in another person's name. So if it is joint debt you are taking on, be sure to contact the creditors and see if you can have the other person's name removed. Also, remember to check your credit report once every three months or so to make sure everything is reported accurately. If you are ordered to pay your ex-

spouse's debts, they will never be dischargeable in your bankruptcy.

3. Will you be ordered to pay alimony or child support? Keep in mind that court-ordered domestic support obligations such as alimony and child support are what is known in the bankruptcy world as "priority debt" and cannot be discharged in most cases. It is vitally important to have all obligations in this category fully defined and explained in your divorce decree/separation agreement, as you will likely be fulfilling these obligations regardless of ever filing for bankruptcy.

Filing for bankruptcy before, during or after a divorce is not the end of the world. In fact, it may be the best thing that ever happened to you, and will help you to move on and start fresh.

Attorney Theresa Rose DeGray is the owner of Consumer Legal Services, LLC, a debt relief agency in Orange helping people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code, among other legal services. She can be reached at TRD@ConsumerLegalServicesLLC.com or 203-713-8877.

Orange Health Department Launches Community Health Survey

The Orange Health Department has created a 2023-2024 Community Health Assessment for the purpose of improving and understanding the current health status of the community. It will be used to identify the department's priorities for future planning, funding and knowing its strengths and assets.

The department needs to gather information in all aspects of peoples' lives, including economic, recreational, environmental and health and safety.

By completing this assessment, the department's goal is to discover the community's needs and issues to better the

community.

With the data collected the department hopes to become aware of needed improvements.

You can complete the Community Assessment by going to [surveymonkey.com/r/GYQCXBV](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GYQCXBV) or scanning the QR code with your phone.



Elderly Brothers Returning To Orange

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will host a Saturday matinee concert with the arrival of The Elderly Brothers. They will perform on Aug. 19 at 2 p.m.

Long-time popular solo artists, T-Bone Stankus (guitar) and Brian Gillie (keyboards) have teamed up as The Elderly Brothers, serving up "oldies" rock 'n' roll

with harmonies and improvisations. Their repertoire features rock-hop hits from the 50s and 60s.

Their previous performance in Orange took place in the library parking lot because of COVID restrictions.

Makeareservationatcasememorallibrary.org or call 203-891-2170.

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Mental Health

Social Isolation And Loneliness Are On The Rise

Loneliness and social isolation have become widespread issues in the US, affecting one in three adults over the age of 45 and one in four adults aged 65 and older, based on a 2020 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The US Surgeon General has declared loneliness and isolation a public health issue, and he released a 2023 advisory report on the epidemic of loneliness and social isolation that outlines the effects of social and community connection.

This report highlights many alarming statistics around loneliness and reduced social connectedness and its impact on our mental and physical health that are not just exclusive to older adults.

Social isolation and loneliness can be linked to an increase in premature death, heart disease and stroke as well as higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicide. The report from the National Academies found that social isolation was associated with a 50 percent

increased risk of dementia and a 68 percent increased risk of hospitalization among heart failure patients.

Immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community and older adults are at an increased risk of low social connectedness for a variety of reasons that include language barriers, discrimination, feelings on not being accepted and poor health that limits opportunities for interaction.

One striking reality of today is the notable increase in the amount of time people spend alone as well as the decrease in social engagement. Young people aged 15-24 have shown nearly a 70 percent decrease in the amount of time spent with friends in-person from 150 minutes per day in 2003 to 40 minutes per day in 2020. The size of social networks decreased by 16 percent between June 2019 and June 2020. People are reporting having fewer close friends now than



JENNIFER
FIORILLO

three decades ago.

Some of this can be attributed to the social isolation that many experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is also a sign that we are more disengaged from people and the outside world.

There have been efforts to address social connectedness in communities that acknowledge the impact of social isolation on health and well-being. The

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports the Building Resilient Inclusive Communities program that was implemented across 20 states and 60 communities to promote individual and community resiliency. One of the three main areas of focus for BRIC is social connectedness, along with nutrition security and safe physical activity. Several other national partnerships and coa-

litions have formed to address isolation and loneliness as well as community-wide strategies and activities to promote engagement, inclusion and social contact.

The need for belonging and feeling like we're part of something meaningful is inherent in the human condition. Communities can offer the tools to tackle loneliness and isolation through public education, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, research and tailored programs. What matters the most is that communities embrace the idea of inclusion for all people. With everyone's participation and commitment to ending social isolation, there can be a lasting impact on health outcomes and increased quality of life.

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

Insuring Your Future

To Pay Or Not To Pay: Understanding Your Medical Bills

Navigating the maze of medical information can be complicated these days. First, there is MyChart, which not only shows medical results but also provides cost information online. Then there is the member account information on the insurance company website, followed by paper bills from the medical provider.

Sound confusing? It is. The following are some simple steps to follow that will help to avoid long wait times on the phone and frustration with multiple phone conversations about something you probably don't want to discuss in the first place.

Rule 1: Do not pay a bill from MyChart. Just as test results and medical notes are posted within days of your visit, so are the charges. Often the charges do not reflect insurance adjustments or credits. It is always better to wait to receive a paper bill after

the insurance claim has been processed.

Rule 2: If the bill is not what you expected, do not pay until you receive the explanation of benefits that reflects the insurance coverage for the visit or procedure.

Rule 3: If you are not clear about the insurance coverage and your financial responsibility, pick up the phone and call your insurance agent, provider's office or the member services number on the back of your insurance card. Be sure to know the date of service when speaking with the claims department.

Facility fees can also be very confusing. You may be asked to pay a facility fee in addition to the office visit copay. The state



TRISH
PEARSON

legislature passed strict laws regarding notification procedures for provider's offices that may charge a facility fee. Many doctors have now affiliated with large hospital systems, and they may or may not be located in a building owned by the hospital. If there is a possibility that you may encounter a facility fee for your visit, the provider is required to notify you in advance.

Unfortunately, these notices can create a lot of confusion.

Generally, if the appointment is a consultation or exam, there should not be a facility charge. However, if the doctor performs a procedure – even something minor – it can result in a facility fee. These fees can range from \$15 to several hundred dollars depend-

ing on the service you receive.

Here are some things to know in advance regarding facility fees:

1. Check the doctor's office website to see if they charge facility fees.
2. When making the appointment, ask if you will be charged a facility fee.
3. Request to see the doctor at a different location that is not in a hospital-owned property.

The bottom line is that you have the right to understand medical fees and the amount you owe. It may require some time and research on your part, but it can be well worth it. The providers are quick with the bills, but slow with refunds.

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

Getting To Know You

A Dog's Age

Time just goes by. We don't even realize it unless we look at a clock or a calendar. It always reminds me of the David Foster Wallace quip about an old fish asking a young fish, "Hey, how is the water today?" Like fish who just live in water, time is something we exist in and really don't notice – that is, until it has gone by.

There is an exception to that rule. If we have an appointment or something to look forward to, we notice the time. When we look forward, we seem to think the time is going by very slowly. It isn't until we stop, turn around and look back that we realize how fast time has gotten past us.

After my daughter's graduation this year I took my family out to dinner to celebrate. Everyone likes to celebrate. That's because most of the time we have our heads down and plow ahead to get to the next thing. Every once in a while, it's nice to look up and notice that we've actually arrived at a destination and take a moment to acknowledge that all of our heads-down plowing ahead actually took us some-

where. It's those intervals between looking up when time slips away.

During dinner, my children all crowded around one another and snapped several selfies together. While they did, I couldn't help but stare at them. My oldest son caught me staring and asked me what I was staring at. I denied that I was staring, but he insisted and noted that I had a quizzical look on my face. I denied it again, but by then they were all asking what was wrong. I finally relented and somehow managed to answer them without crying.

"I didn't expect 24 years could go by so fast," I told them honestly. "I hope I didn't miss anything important."

After the obligatory "good dad" comments and hugs, my children went back to their conversation and the celebration moved on. A little while later, I took my wife's hand and gave it a squeeze. When she smiled at me it dawned on me that we'd been married for almost 27 years.



DAVID
CROW

I don't know where that time went either.

Later that night, I felt a little melancholy, so I pulled out my cell phone to check emails and opened my contacts list. I have an enormous list of peoples' names and phone numbers saved in my phone. I noticed that my phone had helpfully compiled a list of phone numbers I call most frequently, but there was a tremendous list of other people who I hadn't spoken with in a long time. There were several contacts who I hadn't called for a long, long time.

It reminded me of a phrase my grandparents used when describing the length of time apart from someone they hadn't seen in a while: "a dog's age."

I started scrolling through my contacts and saw a lot of names to which I would apply that phrase. There were people I knew from college, people I knew from law school, people I'd met through work and family life. There

were even a few who I couldn't remember how I met them.

Then I pulled out my old rolodex. The list of names I hadn't heard from in a dog's age got even longer. It made me think about time and how it got by so fast.

I started a new project: I'm working my way through that list of folks I haven't heard from in a dog's age. Mayhap you might get a call.

We're all guilty, I suppose, so you might want to sort through your own contacts list. Just don't let too much time go by before you pick up the phone. A dog's age isn't as long as you think.

Until next time, y'all come out!

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

Orange Lions Hosting Comedy Night

The Orange Lions Club is again hosting its annual comedy night fundraising event, "Comedy Under the Stars," which is set for Saturday, Aug. 26 at the picnic pavilion outside High Plains Community Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show is scheduled to start at 8 p.m.

The event features four professional standup comedians and is suitable for

mature audiences. The affair is a bring-your-own-beverage and bring-your-own-snacks event. Picnic table seating will be provided, but audience members may bring their own folding chairs if desired. There will also be a free door prize and chances for several prize raffle baskets.

Tickets for the charity fundraising event are \$25 per person, available for purchase

from any Orange Lions Club member or by calling Lions Ken Lenz or Marianne Miller at 203-795-3906. All proceeds go to the Lions' charity and service events.

For more than seventy years the Orange Lions Club has supported many local charitable causes, including senior citizen and youth programs, the local food pantry, the fuel bank, annual children's

eye screenings, diabetes screenings and college scholarships for Amity High School graduates. The club also supports several foundations in Connecticut, throughout the nation and the world that aid in preventing blindness, services to the blind and sight-impaired, children's cancer research, environmental impact and disaster relief.

Milford Ceramics Studio Opens



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on July 7 for Sunshine Ceramics, a community-based pottery studio focused on peoples' creativity. The studio is located at 22 Broad St. From left: state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, MRCC Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald, a bystander, owner Marie Chutjian, Registrar of Voters Kerri Rowland, Alderman Matt Arciuolo, Alderman Tony Giantasio and Mayor Rich Smith. Photo courtesy of the MRCC.

Bakery Owner Gets State Citation



State Rep. Kathy Kennedy presented an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly to Orange Chamber of Commerce member Tarik Saray, owner of Saray Bakery & Ice Cream Café, located at 108 Boston Post Rd., to welcome his business to the community. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Consumer Counsel Praises UI Rate Hike Rejection

Claire Coleman, of Connecticut's Office of Consumer Council released a statement July 21 regarding the issuance of a draft decision by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority rejecting United Illuminating's rate increase application.

"While my team and I are conducting a thorough review of PURA's preliminary decision, we are pleased to see clear major victories for ratepayers that will shield United Illuminating customers from paying tens of

millions of dollars in unjust and unreasonable increased rates," Coleman said. "We fought hard to protect ratepayers from substantial unjustified company costs, incomplete and poorly developed plans and proposed capital expenditures from which they receive no direct benefit, and PURA agreed with many of our key recommendations."

UI is headquartered in Orange and is the main supplier of electricity for Milford and Orange.

Local Kung Fu Students Win Championships

The students of Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy in Milford won champions at the third New York International Kung Fu Championships on June 24 in Queens College in Flushing, New York.

The students from Milford, Orange, New Haven and neighboring towns are

in the age group of 8-17 and have been practicing Kung Fu, also known as Wushu, for several years. Master Jack Guo, the head coach, not only trains the students in Kung Fu skills but also helps them build up discipline, self control and respect.

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Sand Sculptures Grace Milford Beach



The Milford Arts Council hosted its 46th annual Sand Sculpture Contest on July 9 at Walnut Beach, where people of all ages built art from beach materials that would wash away with the tides. *Photos by Robert Creigh.*

Milford Celebrates 'Best Of'



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated the region's businesses, organizations and personalities on July 10 with its annual "Best Of" awards at Stonebridge Restaurant in Milford. Top left: Bobby Morrill, Best Musician. Top right: Bin 100, Best Restaurant. Bottom left: Cafe Atlantique, Best Coffee House. Bottom right: Amy Grey, Best Radio Personality. *Photos courtesy of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce.*

Rotary Celebrates Summer In Orange



The Rotary Club of Orange held its 2023 Summerfest on July 15 at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Steve Cooper.

Milford Rotary Hosts Lobster Bake



The Milford Rotary Club held its annual Lobster Bake on July 22 at Lisman Landing in Milford. Photos by Steve Cooper.

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7TH PRIZE - \$500 GIFT CARD - THE ORANGE ALE HOUSE, 517 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

8TH PRIZE - \$400 GIFT CARD - SHOPRITE, 935 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

9TH PRIZE - \$300 GIFT CARD - HOME DEPOT, 440 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

10TH PRIZE - \$260 ROUND OF GOLF - ORANGE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, 389 RACEBROOK ROAD, ORANGE, CT

11TH PRIZE - \$250 GIFT CARD - KNIGHTS, INC., 286 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

12TH PRIZE - \$150 GIFT CARD - OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE, 132 MARSH HILL ROAD, ORANGE, CT

Drawing to be held on Sunday, August 7th, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

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Amity Little League Team Makes State Championship



For the first time since the formation of Amity Little League Softball, which merged Orange and Beth-Wood programs, the Amity 10U All Star team is playing in the state little league championship. Led by Coach Joe Costanzo and Assistant Coaches Joe Alicia and Chris Morse, the 9- and 10-year-old girls defeated Milford to win District 4 and Fairfield to win Section 1. The team played in the state championship tournament, which wrapped up on July 21 in Bristol. Photos courtesy of Meghan Rabuse.

Dancers Perform In Milford



The Alison Cook Beatty Dance company performed on July 11 at the Milford Green along with the East Coast Contemporary Ballet and Thomas/Ortiz Dance as part of the Fairfield County Dance Festival tour throughout the summer. Bottom photo: Allison Cook-Beatty, left with her son and mother Alderwoman Ellen Russell Betty, right. Photos by Robert Creigh.

Thai Restaurant Opens In Orange



The Orange Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting recently for Xay's Kitchen, located at 500 Boston Post Rd. in Orange, a new restaurant featuring Thai and Lao cuisine. From left: Chamber Board President Ted Novicki with his son, Ben Novicki, the Xay family, Orange Chamber Executive Director Kathy Converse Charbonneau and Orange Economic Development Executive Director Annemarie Sliby. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Orange Community Services is looking for local businesses and service providers for the
20th Annual Orange Senior Health and Safety Fair
Friday September 22, 2023, from 9:30 AM to 12:00PM
At the High Plains Community Center Gym
525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477

Early bird registration by August 11, 2023, is \$90, after that the fee is \$100 a table for businesses and free to nonprofit providers with a 501(c)3 designation. Final registration is due by August 31. The event is free to the public. All proceeds from this event will go to the Orange Senior Center. All our programs, activities, events, and offerings are self generated solely from fees and donations. For more information or to reserve a table please contact Dennis Marsh or Denise Stein at Community Services 203-891-4788

We ask your support to maintain these vital programs
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Orange Community Services

Or Shalom Donating Tabs For Children's Care



Orange-based Congregation Or Shalom member Lauren Sepowitz recently dropped off 17 pounds of pop tabs/tops for the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven, associated with the Yale New Haven Hospital. The organization recycles beverage pop-tops, cat and dog food can pop tabs, beans and soup can tabs, then uses the money it gets from recycling them to fund its operations. The Ronald McDonald House has a mission to keep families of pediatric patients close together and near needed resources. Tabs can be dropped at Congregation Or Shalom, located at 205 Old Grassy Hill Rd., and will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House. Photo courtesy of Congregation Or Shalom.

Goddard School Of Orange Gives \$5,000 Scholarship

The Goddard School of Orange has presented its 2023 Bob Marchetti & Gerard Kick Memorial Scholarship to Troy Ramos, who is starting at UConn in the fall and plans to study computer science.

Now in its second year, this \$5,000 scholarship is granted annually to a Goddard School of Orange pre-k graduate who demonstrates a hard work ethic and perseverance.

"The life lessons I learned at The Goddard School helped prepare me throughout my entire academic career," Ramos said. "I am thrilled and so thankful to receive this scholarship as I continue my educational journey."

The scholarship honors Bob Marchetti, the original owner of The Goddard School of Orange and father of co-owner Kim Kick, who had a vision for creating a school that his family would be proud

of for generations. It also honors Gerard Kick, father of co-owner Chris Kick, who devoted his life to his family and his community, and spent much of his time helping various charitable causes benefiting children in need.

"Both of our fathers exemplified their commitment to their careers, their families and their communities, and we are so honored to give back to our students in their name," said Kim Kick. "Out of all of the applications we've received, Troy's positivity and dedication to being an outstanding student truly stood out, and we are honored to name him this year's recipient of the Bob Marchetti & Gerard Kick Memorial Scholarship."

Six of Ramos's siblings have also graduated from The Goddard School of Orange's pre-k program, while his youngest sibling recently started at the school.

Swim School Opening In Orange

Goldfish Swim School, a water safety and swim lesson school offering infant and child swim lessons, will open a new Orange location in early 2024.

Located along Route 1, Goldfish Swim School Orange will provide indoor, year-round swim instruction to children ages 4 months to 12 years old. According to a press release from the company, the lessons will occur "in a safe, fun and family-friendly setting with highly trained instructors, small class sizes (max four to one student to teacher ratio), shiver-free 90-degree pools and a state-of-the-art water purification system."

Goldfish offers perpetual lessons and families can enroll at any time.

In addition to swim lessons, the school offers frequent family swims (for both members and non-members) and party packages. The facility will have an air-conditioned viewing gallery for parents to watch lessons, individual/private changing rooms, blow dry station, snack bar, a retail shop and tropical décor.

In addition to providing swim lessons, the school will also offer free water safety presentations to any interested school, organization or community group.

Goldfish Swim School already has several other Connecticut locations, including in Manchester, Cromwell, Norwalk and Stamford.

Students Get Awards From Milford Historical Society

Four Milford students, recognized by their teachers for excellence in the study of history, have received Book Awards from the Milford Historical Society.

The winners are Annalysa Ellis of The Academy; Caroline Doyle of Jonathan Law High School; Joseph Cichowski of Foran High School; and Marina McGuiness of

Lauralton Hall.

The students will get a copy of The History of Milford, Connecticut 1639-1989 from the society. These annual awards are a project of the MHS Education Committee headed by Margaret Bolger. For more information, email info@milfordhistoricalsociety.com.

Milford's Carriage Green Gets Top Rank In U.S. News

Assisted living community Carriage Green at Milford has ranked among the best assisted living with memory care communities in Connecticut and the entire US for the second year in U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Senior Living ratings.

The community was selected following a comprehensive resident and family member survey. Carriage Green is the only assisted living community in Milford to have earned the award.

Carriage Green earned "best" status by achieving the highest possible rating for memory care. Respondents gave the community high marks in critical areas, such as overall value, management and staff, resident enrichment, dining and food, safety, transportation, maintenance, housekeeping and location.

Forty communities throughout the Northeast run by Carriage Green's parent company, Benchmark, received a total of 53 U.S. News awards for the second straight year.

"We are honored and humbled that our residents and their families, once again, recognized the hard work, compassion, and dedication of our 6,000-plus associates. It's their shared purpose of transforming lives through human connection that earned Benchmark these U.S. News & World Report awards and continues to separate Benchmark communities from other senior living companies," said Tom Grape,

founder, chairman and CEO of Benchmark.

Carriage Green's care and experiences spans independent assisted living to specialized memory care assisted living for those who would benefit from a safer, engaging environment, chef-prepared meals, supportive living services, transportation and assistance with daily activities, such as getting dressed and medication management.

Carriage Green's Mind & Memory Care program offers living "carefully created environments and unique opportunities for those with Alzheimer's and dementia to find joy in each new day," the company said in a news release. "Residents are supported by 24/7 care providers who have been hired for heart and educated in memory loss, communication and empathy. Neighborhoods provide the comforts of home and have unique features that help those with memory impairment stay connected to who and what matters most to them. Thoughtful touches, visual cues and purposeful amenities further promote familiarity and wellness."

"Our team is committed to keeping our residents connected to who and what matters most through outstanding care and experiences," said Jeffrey Williams, executive director of Carriage Green. "Exceeding expectations every day is what we strive for so it's incredibly exciting to have our dedication recognized by an industry leader like U.S. News."

AMSO Summer Registration Coming

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

Orange will be held on Monday, Aug. 14. Call Amity Middle School at 203-392-3200 to schedule an appointment.

Who we are/what we do best:
 YouTherapy Wellness & Physical Rehab in Milford, CT is devoted to providing one-on-one physical therapy and fitness programs for older adults. We focus on Parkinson's disease therapy, balance correction and training, orthopedic, pain management, neurological and all functional movement disorder diagnosis.

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Obituaries

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

It is with great sadness that the family of



James Alan Bartow, 68, of Milford Connecticut, is announcing that he peacefully passed away on July 9th 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Marion A. Cicero, age 98, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Miller Cicero, entered peaceful rest on June 27, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Raymond Norman Cole, age 91, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Joan Mae Smith passed away on December 24, 2022 at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gregory Cook, 59, longtime resident of Milford, passed away after a brief illness on June 25, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carlo Costanzo, age 93, of Orange, entered into rest on Monday, July 17, 2023 at his daughter's home with his loving family by his side. (Adzima Funeral Home)



Helen M. DellaMonica passed away peacefully on June 26, 2023 at Milford Hospital in Milford CT while surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



We mourn the loss of **Francis J. Eastwood**, a loving husband, father, grandfather, and esteemed member of both the engineering and military communities. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Jose Antonio Egurbide, 84, passed away peacefully on Friday June 23, 2023 in Milford, Connecticut. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



David J. Fish, 85, of Milford CT, beloved husband for 59 years of Jennifer Barbour Fish, passed away after a hard-fought battle on Saturday, July 15, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



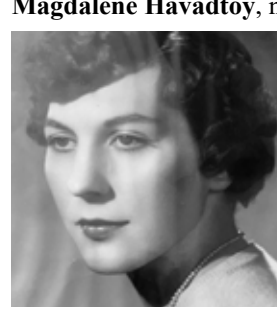
Jeanne H. (Cavalieri) Flynn, age 86, of Milford, passed away peacefully with her family at her bedside on Sunday, June 25, 2023. (Redgate-Hennessey Funeral Home)



Angelina (Goodman) Gange died at Connecticut Hospice in Branford on November 29, 2022.



Alex Hall, formerly of Milford, Connecticut, passed away on Wednesday, April 12, after a long and happy life filled with family, friends, work and golf. (Pearson Funeral Home)



Magdalene Havadtoy, nee Juhasz, born in Windsor Ontario, Canada, on June 6, 1928, died on June 21, 2023. (Lesko & Polke Funeral Home)



Joseph F. Hellauer, 88, of Woodbridge, CT, died July 17, 2023, at home after a lengthy illness. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Kevin E. Kelley, age 59, of Milford, passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2023. (Adzima Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Deborah Delia Kelly of Milford Ct. sadly passed away after a long illness on July 4, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Jean Marie Lewis, 87, of Orange passed away with her family at her side on July 14, 2023, at Maplewood of Orange. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Patrick Sean Rooney, 58, of Milford passed away Sunday, June 25, 2023 at Bridgeport Hospital surrounded in the love of his family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Vincent P. Veccharelli, 64, originally of Milford, beloved fiancé of the late Theresa "Terry" Williams, passed away on July 14, 2023 after battling chronic illness. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Joan (Hurley) Kirker, 87, passed away at the Maplewood at Orange on July 12th, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Joseph A. LoCasto, 82, of Milford, beloved husband of Susan (Dollard) LoCasto, passed away on July 3, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Lisa Joella Veccharelli Rua, 56, of Milford, passed away on June 30, 2023 after a sudden illness. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Philip J. Waisonovitz, 66, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved husband of Elizabeth Waisonovitz, passed away on July 6, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Barbara E. LeMere, 80, of Orange and beloved wife of Peter LeMere for 60 years, passed away on July 12, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Arlene E. Milo, age 98, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Luke Milo, died on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 surrounded by her loving daughters. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



William E. Stanton, age 97, formerly of Bellefonte, PA, passed peacefully on July 9, 2023 at home in Milford, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Michael "Waj" Wajnowski, 61, of Orange beloved husband of Denise Marczak Wajnowski passed away on July 19, 2023 surrounded by his family in Yale New Haven Hospital. (Porto Funeral Home)



George F. Lewis, 97, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Anna Fiorillo Lewis, passed away at his home on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Anne (Martone) Rapini, 101, passed peacefully on July 12, 2023, with her children by her side. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Donna L. Torrenti, 66, of Orange, CT passed away on July 8, 2023, after a long and courageous battle with illness. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Peter A. Weinstein, 85, of Woodbridge, devoted husband of 64 years to Mryna (Cohen) Weinstein, died at his home on Friday night, July 21, 2023. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



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