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# Milford-Orange Times

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November 20, 2023

## Milford, Orange Honor Veterans



Orange held a ceremony honoring veterans led by the local American Legion on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Orange War Remembrance Memorial at High Plains Community Center. Photo by Lexi Crocco.



Milford held a Veterans Day parade on Nov. 12 that featured local veterans, area officials, girls scouts, boy scouts and the high school bands. Additional photos on page 11. Photo by Robert Creigh.

## Plans For Subway Property Face Challenges

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

FCP Euro wants to build a 160,000 square-foot warehouse for its online auto parts business on the Milford land being vacated by Subway as the fast food giant decamps to Shelton.

But at a Planning and Zoning Board meeting on Nov. 8, that plan met with some stiff headwinds, as many residents from the section of the city where the warehouse would go spoke out vehemently against its environmental

impacts.

Attorney Kevin Curseaden, representing the developers, came before the board seeking both a text amendment to the zoning rules around the property, as well as to seek a special permit and site plan review for the proposed warehouse.

Curseaden said that large office complexes – what is currently allowed

*Continued on page 15*

## Orange Selectmen Skeptical Of Sewer Expansion

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Members of the Orange Board of Selectmen tabled a request at their Nov. 8 meeting to approve an amendment that would allow a sewer expansion for a developer who wants to build a housing complex on Dogburn Lane.

Toll Brothers, which wants to buy the approximately 24-acre property near the border of West Haven to build age-restricted senior housing, is asking for Orange to amend an intermunicipal

agreement that the town has had with its neighboring city since 1985 to hook the eventual development up to the sewer system.

Even those details, however, were not entirely clear; the packet of information the selectmen received contained little information about the plans for the development. Town Engineer Bob

*Continued on page 15*

## Goats Take A Stroll Through Orange



The Orange Land Trust sponsored a goat walk on Nov. 4 with Got Your Goat from Washington Depot. The hike, in coordination with the Brownie Troop of Orange, occurred at The Racebrook Tract Conservation Area. Additional photos on page 11. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

## Top Races In Milford, Orange Go To GOP

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The top jobs in Milford and Orange have both gone to Republicans after the latest round of municipal elections.

Milford, which was under a Democratic mayor with Ben Blake for 12 years, and for the last few months under interim Mayor Richard Smith, flipped on Nov. 7 to Republican Tony Giannattasio.

Smith chose not to seek election to a full term, so there was no incumbent to defend the seat. Giannattasio, the minority leader for the Board of Aldermen and a local business owner,

*Continued on page 16*

### New Columnists Page 3 & Page 8



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## Adopt A Pet: Russell



Russell is a friendly, affectionate, playful young pup. He has short hair, he is up-to-date on his vaccinations and is neutered. He's also house-trained. Russell was found running around Silver Sands State Park as a stray. He was initially shy and has blossomed out of his shell. He loves walks and loves people. Russell can be adopted from Milford Animal Control, located at 664 East Broadway in Milford. For more information, call 203-783-3279. Photo courtesy of Milford Animal Control.

## St. Mary School Holding Tree, Wreath Sale

St. Mary School in Milford will hold their annual Christmas tree sale starting Nov. 24 – an annual tradition for over 20 years. Starting at 11 a.m., freshly cut Christmas trees, wreaths and cemetery pieces will be available to purchase at St. Mary School, located at 72 Gulf St.

All the wreaths and cemetery pieces are handmade by volunteers. The hours will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All proceeds benefit St. Mary School. Learn more at [saintmaryschoolmilford.org](http://saintmaryschoolmilford.org).

## Race Brook School Honors Local Veterans



Twenty-eight veterans came to Race Brook School in Orange on Nov. 9 to be honored by the school community. Photo courtesy of Race Brook School.

The Race Brook School community in Orange celebrated veterans on Nov. 9. Among the 28 veterans in attendance was Warren Mulston, a long-time Orange resident. Mulston served in World War II and was awarded the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with five Bronze Stars, the American Theater Campaign Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. Mulston served in the Army Air Corps from July 1942 to September 1945 as a radar navigator, flying 52 missions in the B-26 out of England, France and Belgium with the 9th Air Force.

Mulston was not only recognized for his service to the country, but for his 100th year being a positive role model. Mulston was surprised by the children softly singing "Happy Birthday" and received a birthday cake which was hand-delivered by the superintendent of schools, Dr. Vince Scarpetti. Photo courtesy of Race Brook School.



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The Arts

# Arts From The Shoreline And Beyond

The winter season is a great time to see, experience and feel the joy of the arts in our local and surrounding communities. As we gather with friends and family, it is a wonderful time to begin new traditions or renew our interest in the arts. The excitement and wonder of the season is around us, and what a great gift it would be to enjoy the offerings of the arts community with those we treasure.

**Orange Players** is gearing up for their 50th anniversary gala celebration in 2024. If you have any photos, memories, memorabilia, or want to reconnect, please contact TheOrangePlayers@gmail.com or call 475-227-7547.

The **New Haven Chorale** will be hosting its "The Season of Peace and Joy" holiday concert featuring works by Bach, Haydn and Vivaldi expertly performed with choir and orchestra, stunning a cappella performances, seasonal works, and a carol sing - with audience participation. The event is family-friendly. Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 129 Edwards St. in New Haven. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and free for students. They can be purchased at eventbrite.com or by contacting newhavenchorale.org.

**Toyota Oakdale Theatre** is putting on "Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet," a staged adaptation of the Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m., as well as "Champions of Magic," five world-class illusionists in one Broadway-scale family-friendly show on Saturday, Dec. 2 7:30 p.m. at 95 S Turnpike Rd. in Wallingford. Tickets for both events are on sale now at oakdale-theatre.net or by calling 203-265-1501.

**Amity Creative Theater** will be performing "Love/Sick" by John Cariani. This is an un-romantic romantic comedy of nine short, slightly twisted and completely hilarious plays. This 80-minute romp explores the pain and joy of love, from the author of "Almost, Maine." It's recommended for ages 12 and up. The show is on Dec. 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Rd. in Woodbridge. Tickets are on sale now (Amity students may attend free) at amitytheaterdepartment.com.

**Center Stage Theater** will feature "All Shook Up," a musical fantasy play loosely



CYNDI CONSOLI

based on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." A guitar-playing young man changes everything and everyone he meets in a small town. It features classic Elvis songs "Don't Be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock" and more. The show runs from Dec. 1-10 at 7:30 p.m. at 26 Grove St. in Shelton. Tickets are \$18-\$36 at centerstageshelton.org.

The **Case Memorial Library** will hold a talk titled "Ban This Book Club: Let's Talk About It and When Aidan Became A Brother" with Librarian Rebecca Harlow and discussion co-leader Elizabeth Ewen. The book "Let's Talk About It: A Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships and Being a Human," by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan, has been formally challenged in several LION libraries, and "When Aidan Became a Brother," by Kyle Lukoff, was named in a challenge to a Pride Month display in the library. Join the discussion of these books as works of literature and objects of censorship on Monday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange. Register at casememoriallibrary.org.

The **Milford Performing Arts Center** dance team will perform on the holiday stage at the Connecticut Post Mall, 1201 Boston Post Rd. in Milford on Dec. 16 at 4 p.m.

**John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts** will put on "A Peter White Christmas," an annual fun-filled contemporary jazz concert featuring acoustic guitarist Peter White and revered saxophonist Mindi Abair. The show is on Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at 501 Crescent St. in New Haven (the Southern Connecticut State University campus). Tickets are \$55 for general entry and \$45 for SCSU students/faculty.

The **New Haven Symphony Orchestra** will perform its "Holiday Extravaganza," a wonderfully fun concert of classic carols and new festive favorites for the whole family. The show is led by Chelsea Tipton and happens on Dec. 9 at 3 p.m., also at the Lyman Arts Center, 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. Tickets are available at newhavensymphony.org or by calling 203-693-1486.

*Cyndi Consoli is an actor/director in her seventh term as President and Producer for Orange Players. She can be reached at TheOrangePlayers@gmail.com and 475-227-7547.*

## Orange Holding Holiday Festivities

Orange is hosting its annual holiday festival with a lighted tractor parade and tree lighting on Sunday, Dec. 3. Festivities will be on and around the Town Green beginning at 3 p.m.

There will be an ice carving demonstration in front of the Clark Building. Inside the Clark Building visitors can guess how many candies are in the jar and vote on gingerbread houses. Gingerbread house creations may be

dropped off between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winner of the gingerbread house contest; all entries must be picked up between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Children can mail letters to Santa at the library. The Case Memorial Library will be open from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be singers from Amity High School starting at 3 p.m., and Al DeCant will be performing in the meeting room from

3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. The library staff will be handing out take-and-make crafts while supplies last.

The Stone-Otis House will be open to visitors beginning at 2 p.m. So will the Academy Building, where the New Haven to Derby Line Model Railroad will have displays.

The Orange Congregational Church will be hosting a "cookie walk" where Christmas cookies will be available

for sale in the lower level of the church before the handbell concert and carol sing that will be held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The lighted tractor parade will begin around 4:30 p.m. from Fred Wolfe Park, and Santa will arrive at the end of the parade. The lighting of the tree will follow on the Town Green, and there will be time for pictures with Santa.

For more information on the parade visit orangetractorparade.com.

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# Opinion & Editorial

## Youth Club Getting National Attention

By Richard Dumbrill

Earlier this summer, a member of Orange Rotary Club met with a group of high school students from Greater New Haven to discuss the idea of forming a club on a local campus that would undertake projects designed to help communities in need.

This club, which would become part of the Rotary International family, would bring together young people aged 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of "Service Above Self," the Rotary motto. A board of leaders would establish

the club's goals and objectives for the year and determine its operational structure. This would mean developing an organizational chart outlining the duties of various committees and selecting future projects. That is called a traditional Rotary Interact club.

At the conclusion of a second meeting, the original plan had morphed into an on-line multi-school effort designed to recruit members from a wider geographic area and to stress a social advocacy/educational component operating alongside community services. This decidedly-untraditional ap-

proach meant that this future club would not affiliate itself with a single school but would operate as a satellite club sponsored by the Orange Rotary Club. The club's leadership would come from various schools in the area, notably Amity Regional High School, Hopkins School of New Haven and Hamden Academy.

The desire was to broaden the outreach to different members and different markets in and outside the New Haven area, into the state of Connecticut and beyond.

The results so far have been extraordinary. To date, the club, called the CT Speech and Action, has 50 members and over 500 followers. They have run a number of speech contests, organized a number of fundraisers, developed a website, selected community service projects, joined up with several education and social advocacy partners and have arranged to campaign with other Rotary clubs on issues of shared interest. They have developed a schedule of events – one for every month through December, including a speech advocacy event in New York.

Their mission is straightforward. CTS&A is a student-based organization dedicated to education discourse and community service. Through attending public speaking events, the club's founders learned about modern issues that affect American youth. The organization was founded with the idea that both raising awareness and making a real difference were essential components

to public speaking.

What makes them unique is combining debate and social action. For example, their very first event was a three-minute speech contest via Zoom with Rotary and attorney judges, fueled by passionate and connected people. Twenty-five participants took part in the contest.

Their sophistication is evident in the holistic organization they have built: instead of a top-down organization, theirs is made up of a core group in the center (the Board of Leaders) surrounded by four teams (outreach, education, finance and social action). Each team reports to the center where ideas and issues are discussed. Each team has specific responsibilities, tasks, and focuses, while the finance team works with all groups regarding funds and grants designated for nonprofits. New members become part of the education and social action teams per their interests, while the finance team handles money coming in from events and out toward the other teams depending on need.

CTS&A has created waves of interest inside the Rotary organization and potentially has laid the groundwork for an exciting future in expanding Rotary's online outreach to the youth of our country.

*Richard Dumbrill is a member of the Rotary Club of Orange.*



Members of youth club CT Speech and Action with members of the Rotary Club of Orange. CTS&A members, from left: Emily Sun, Jessie Zhang, Maria and Janet. Photo by Steve Cooper.

## Veterans Day: A Call To Serve

By Lewis Merritt

I want to tell you a story: not so long ago, in a town not so far away, picture an 11-year-old boy in front of a TV. It's 1961, so it's a black and white TV, and the screen is not very large.

He is watching a man take an oath of office. He pledges: to the best of his abilities, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

To this the boy thinks "Wow! This Constitution must be really important."

Then the new president speaks in his Boston accent: "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

The boy and millions of others soak in this vision of the future.

Time passes. It's the early 70s. The boy has completed his university degree in science

and engineering. We have gone to the moon, and NASA is still laying off staff. There are other doors to choose from. He selects officer candidate school. Upon graduation as an ensign in the US Navy he takes the oath of service. Here again is that pledge to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.

Time passes. He has completed his military service and is pursuing his professional career. He's single and has time to be a volunteer fireman for many years. There is that oath again: to protect and defend the Constitution. He learns that over 90 percent of firemen in the US are volunteers.

Time passes. Our engineer is married and raising a family. He finds himself working for the Defense Department to defend our nation against real physical threats. He doesn't have

to take an oath, but he knows that he is serving a need for the nation.

Time passes. Now that engineer finds himself here today before you, the commander of the Veterans Post here in town. Part of their mission is to promote good citizenship in the community, state and nation. Again they are repeating that pledge, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

In the course of this story this engineer has learned what the Constitution is. It's the contract between the sovereign people of this country, "We The People," and those we elect to run our organized government on our behalf. It binds our government to the will of the people with rules of what the government can do, and what they cannot do.

The other thing he learned is that serving has more rewards than just making a living.

It's good for the soul. I thank President Kennedy for planting that light of service to our country in me. Through the turmoil of life, it has been my steady beacon.

We have a great nation, and it has a good heart. It deserves our support. So I call upon you my fellow citizens: take up the president's challenge.

Whether it's in the armed forces, being a first responder, serving in government or performing your civic duty of serving on a jury, ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what can I do for my country.

May God keep blessing the United States of America.

*Lewis Merritt is the commander of the American Legion Post 127 in Orange. He delivered a version of this speech on Veterans Day.*

## Letters to the Editor:

### Thanks for First Selectman Candidacy

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Orange Democratic Town Committee for nominating me to run for the office of first selectman. It was a great experience campaigning alongside the highly qualified Democrats who stepped forward to run for a board. I applaud their commitment to our town and willingness to share their expertise, and congratulate those who won their race.

To the residents who answered your door or talked with me at events over the past four months, thank you. It was very important to me to listen to what you had to say and learn about the things you envision for our town going forward.

I couldn't have campaigned without the many volunteers who gave their time, talents and tremendous amount of positive energy. Your efforts were greatly appreciated as we all worked hard together on this worthwhile endeavor. Thank you also to those made generous donations in support of the campaign.

I say many thanks to the voters who supported me. I will stay engaged in town happenings and look forward to continuing conversations with community members. Feel free to reach out to me via my website [morewithmoyher.com](http://morewithmoyher.com) as I'm always available to chat.

**Mark Moyher**  
Orange

### Thanks for Reelection

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the voters of Orange for supporting my re-election to the Board of Selectmen for a 16th term. I appreciate the confidence in my ability to continue to represent our town in this legislative capacity. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time on any issue, as I will always put the interests of our community first, while serving the Town of Orange with pride, conviction and integrity.

**Mitch Goldblatt**  
Orange

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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

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Cathy Bradley, Running  
Cyndi Consoli, Arts  
Steve Cooper, Food  
Rob Craft, Recovery  
David Crow, Conversations  
Theresa Rose DeGray, Bankruptcy  
Carmela DeVito, Book Reviews  
Pat Dray, Gardening

Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health  
Ben Gettinger, Probate  
Patricia Houser, Environment  
Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary  
Jennifer Ju, Bias  
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# Opinion & Editorial

## Staying Safe This Holiday Season



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

Since the beginning of October, the Milford Patch has reported over 20 stories concerning local crime and incidents of theft, many of which involve juveniles. Although the governor's office reported a 6 percent decline in various crimes on average in 2022, I am still convinced that crime is one of the most pressing issues in our community.

For example, in the governor's 2022 report, it's critical to acknowledge that 8.1 percent of property crimes (7,209 instances) were vehicle thefts, while 10.7 percent of these property crimes were committed by juveniles. After a \$19 million estimated property loss across the state, it's time for Connecticut to have a serious conversation on combating crime.

The problem: we have fewer police and there is a lack of accountability for criminals. Currently, our state only has 800 state troopers, and even with the 376 new troopers on the force, our state police presence is still at a record low. Moreover, between the negative effects of the police accountability bill and increased pardons and paroles, the rate of recidivism has gone up, leading to patterns of crime with repeat offenders.

The solution: first, let's roll back limitations from the police accountability bill so that law enforcement can fulfill their protective duties without unnecessary regulations. Second, we need to exercise common sense when administering pardons and paroles to defend against repeat offenders. Finally, I highly recommend showing support for our local law enforcement this holiday season and always, as they dedicate their lives to making our communities safer.

Helpful tips: during the holidays, shopping for food and gifts can be fun, but only by keeping yourself safe. Police recommend securing personal items and goods in locked places, especially remembering to lock vehicles immediately upon entering and exiting them. It is also encouraged to shop in groups and contact local police to report any suspicious activity in stores and malls.

The holidays should be a time for us to celebrate safely and worry-free. Please be sure to be aware of your surroundings in local stores at the Connecticut Post Mall and along the Boston Post Road during this holiday season. It is important to contact your local and state legislators on how rising crime has affected you so that we can make a positive bipartisan difference in Hartford. With your support for our police and for legislation that protects our communities, we can begin confidently celebrating the holiday season once again.

As always, please never hesitate to reach out to me about this or any other state issue with your questions, ideas and concerns at [Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov) or at 860-240-8700. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

## Legislative Session Around The Corner



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

With elections and campaigns behind us, I want to congratulate the newly elected municipal executives, boards and commission members, and all of our dedicated local officials on their success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to run for office, volunteer with a campaign or even cast a vote. Your participation in our democratic process keeps our local communities alive and thriving, with leaders who are committed to serving us and solving difficult problems.

Your voice is equally as important and influential at the state Capitol. The legislative session is only a few months away, and your input greatly affects my concerns and priorities as your state representative.

Lawmakers are preparing for a short session in 2024, from February through May. The "short session" comes on even-numbered years, when the state budget is not up for re-drafting, but only for review. Additionally, legislators in a short session may only recommend bills – not propose specific legislation unless it is strictly related to the state budget. This helps centralize our focus to the most important issues and also emphasizes the importance of collaboration.

I encourage you to contact me regarding any state issues that you feel need to be addressed in the upcoming session.

Among many concerns that we hear from residents is an ongoing push to ban gas-powered cars in Connecticut. The majority in Hartford is adamant about mirroring California's emission standards law, which will stop the sale of new gas-powered vehicles in a decade in Connecticut. We feel that this is a mandate without a plan, and it will cost Connecticut residents greatly.

The state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection just submitted its official proposed emissions standards regulations, so the clock starts now.

We are calling on the state's Regulation Review Committee, which is split evenly among Democrats and Republicans, to reject these proposed regulations that mirror California's emissions standards. Doing so would allow the legislature's full membership – 151 House members and 36 senators – to vote on whether the state should begin throttling back the sales of new gas-powered passenger vehicles beginning with the 2027 model year, with the full ban in place by 2035.

I remain concerned by the impact a full-scale ban on the sales of new gas-powered vehicles would have on our fragile electric grid, with one utility company estimating it must spend as much as \$2.4 billion to upgrade its infrastructure to meet demand resulting from the surge of electric vehicles that would be on the road. There's no plan for development of sufficient charging infrastructure, either, and the impact on the cost of goods and services could be significant given that trucks would be forced to make multiple trips due to charging-related needs.

## Changes To Auto-Renewals



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

Have you noticed lately that you are getting more emails letting you know that a service you purchased is about to auto-renew? Have you wondered why that is? A large part of the reason is a bill we passed last session, HB 5314, that went into effect on Oct. 1.

Most of us have many different subscriptions set on auto-renew, and if you're like me, you probably have several that you have forgotten about. Whether you pay weekly, monthly or yearly for a particular subscription, auto-renewals can be convenient. On the subscription's expiration day, your credit or debit card gets charged, and the subscription is automatically renewed for another term.

Since the bill has passed, though, before a company can auto-renew your subscription it needs to send you a renewal notice, thus giving you the opportunity to cancel subscriptions you may no longer be using so that you can save money.

Have you ever paid for a subscription that you signed up for online, but when you went to cancel it, they made you call a phone number and likely put you on hold for a while? That too will change with the recently enacted bill. If you sign up for a service online, they need to make it so that you can also cancel the service online. This should help save you both time and money when you want to cancel a service you no longer need.

In addition, we also enacted requirements when free gifts or trial periods are offered. For those consumer agreements offering free gifts or trial periods, Connecticut's automatic renewal law requires that businesses disclose to consumers, before entering into the agreement, the amount that the consumer will be charged after the trial period ends. The business must disclose that there will be an automatic renewal unless the consumer takes an action to prevent automatic renewal, the length of the term, and a description of how to terminate the automatic renewal. Where the free gift, trial period, discounted or trial promotional period is at least 32 days in duration, the disclosures must be made at least 21 days after the trial.

Another key provision of that bill is that businesses will no longer be able to charge you to send you a paper bill or statement if you opt to receive them, as long as they already offer paper statements. I have heard many people complain about the fact that they are getting charged to see account balances and receive statements. This is another consumer-friendly provision of the bill.

Auto-renewals are beneficial. They allow people to effortlessly continue their subscription services. But what is also beneficial is a little reminder that the renewal is happening. Life is busy.

As we prepare to start the 2024 legislative session, please reach out if you have suggestions for any more consumer-friendly laws. Please email me at [james.maroney@cga.ct.gov](mailto:james.maroney@cga.ct.gov).

## What Do Constables Do?



THOMAS P.  
HURLEY

I was recently asked: what do constables do? Since we elect seven of them every two years, I thought that it was a very good question.

No, they are not just a ceremonial position. Constables do have work they should be doing. Serving alias tax warrants (liens for unpaid taxes) for the town tax office is one of the more important jobs they perform. They only get paid if they actually collect money from an alias tax warrant. They can collect a minimum fee of \$50 per collection as of Oct. 1, and the fee is established by law as 15 percent plus incidental expenses incurred to collect the tax debt. This fee is collected from the taxpayer. The tax monies collected are paid to the tax collector.

Town constables have badges to present when collecting and should also have town IDs to verify their official status.

Besides providing services to the tax office, constables may have other sources of income providing services like those that state marshals have. According to Connecticut General Statutes, constables may serve and execute any and all civil processes and they have the same power in their towns when doing so as sheriffs, as well as the same liability for neglect in doing so. The statutes establish and authorize fees and expense payments to sheriffs and constables who serve process.

The statutes specifically mention certain types of summonses that can be served by constables: mechanics liens, prejudgment remedies, attachments, and postjudgment procedures, for instance.

Probate courts can also use constables. The statutes authorize constables to take possession of decedents' estates in certain circumstances and at the direction of the probate court. They are also directed to serve probate court notices in certain types of cases: to respondents in sterilization cases and for hearings on conservatorships and guardianships of mentally challenged persons. They may also be directed to file a distraint (seizure) order against the property of a delinquent lottery sales agent.

Constables may also be required to deliver to members of the General Assembly notice of special and reconvened sessions of the General Assembly.

Constables have several responsibilities related to animals. They are directed to cooperate with the US Department of Agriculture in its program for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and other contagious diseases and the eradication of avian (poultry) diseases.

When speaking with a constable, remember that constables may command necessary assistance in the execution of their duties from any person, so please be as helpful as you can if they are asking questions related to carrying out their duties.

Orange has not enacted legislation to authorize our constables to be "peace officers," which would give them warrantless arrest powers similar to police.

Constables have an important role to play in the town and voters should consider who they are bringing in when electing them.

*Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.*

# MOT

Milford-Orange Times



## The Garden Spot

# What's A Mast Year?

You may have recently seen the term “mast year” in the news referring to the higher than usual number of acorns.

Mast is a term used for the fruit of forest trees and shrubs, such as acorns and other nuts. It comes from an old English term that referred to the nuts that were used to fatten up domestic pigs.

Mast years are cyclical, generally occurring every two to five years. The oak trees of North America produce more nuts than any other tree region worldwide, cultivated or wild. With about 90 species of oaks in North America, and with the average grown oak dropping up to 10,000 acorns in a mast year, you can see why it may seem treacherous to walk outside lately. I had my car parked under one of our oaks, and it looked like it had been in a hailstorm with all the roof dents.

Scientists are still not sure what causes a mast year, but they do know that they have a positive and negative environmental impact. It's been theorized that since the oaks produce the same number of flowers every year, a mast year will occur when the spring has been warm and dry enough for the flowers to mature into ripe acorns. However, since the trees have been growing in different microclimates, there is some belief that the trees somehow communicate, and all have mast years across wide geographic areas. It is still a mystery.

Mast years seem to have an evolutionary advantage for the oaks. Producing nuts is hard work for the trees and stunts the tree's



PAT DRAY

growth, so it couldn't survive if every year was a mast year. However, since in a mast year not all the acorns can be eaten by the animals, it means that a number of buried acorns will grow up and become oak trees. This is referred to as “predator satiation.” The following year, the oaks will produce few or no acorns, and the nut eating wildlife will decrease, keeping their population in check.

Since oaks (especially the native white oak in our area) support a wide range of pollinators, that's the good news.

However, more acorns means more mice and deer, which means more deer ticks and cases of Lyme disease in our area. That's the bad news.

Mast years are not a predictor of a severe winter. I guess trees are no better than our local weather reporter for future weather.

We do need to keep in mind that the population of oaks is decreasing as our area becomes less forested. In New Haven County alone, tree cover has decreased by 2.1 percent since 2000, which represents a decrease in the amount of carbon emissions and heat absorbed. Most oaks are now planted on private land, so it becomes increasingly important to understand “right plant in the right place.” Please plant natives to increase our biodiversity.

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

## For Nature's Sake

# Ideas For Eco-Friendly Gifts

Santa Claus is going green. At least it appears that way from the number of recent articles on sustainable gift-giving in places like Good Housekeeping, CNN, Readers Digest and Rolling Stone as well as the more predictable Treehugger.com. And that's encouraging in light of the World Economic Forum's assurance that consumer choices play a role in addressing global environmental challenges. At the same time, on a personal and community scale eco-choices can also be fun and inexpensive while helping us establish new traditions and habits.

When it comes to choosing sustainable gifts, one approach is to consider three things: Can the item help reduce waste generally? Does it specifically address excess plastic waste? Does it avoid chemical toxins like PFAS? (This is a partial list; additional priorities would include, for instance, measuring eco-success based on carbon footprint.) Consider the examples below from just four categories of gifts.

**Stocking stuffers:** Smaller, less expensive items that help reduce plastic waste include reusable straws (the silicone variety are popular), a bar of shampoo soap and a handy reusable produce bag (the Connecticut Audubon shop at Milford Point sells a group of three rolled up net bags for \$3.98). Bamboo-handled toothbrushes, a biodegradable item, are now in nearly every grocery store and pharmacy; a website for Registered Dental Hygienists has pointed out that conventional toothbrushes account for 50 million pounds of plastic waste in the US every year. Meanwhile, out of six eco-friendly toothbrushes, Treehugger.com rates the Humble Company's \$5 bamboo toothbrush as best.

Yet another item to switch out for plastic is the reusable sealing storage bag from Stasher; both Walmart and Target carry the Stasher

brand. A final small item, helpful for avoiding chemical exposure, is PFAS-free dental floss. Floss can be a tricky thing to get right, but word-of-mouth (pardon the pun) favors the Dr. Tung brand found at Milford's Big Y.

**Kitchen stuff:** There are three suggestions here. While it can be tricky for apartment dwellers, an important way to combat food waste is composting. A comparison of several varieties of countertop bins for collecting food waste is offered in another Treehugger article. (Electric composters are not recommended here.)

If a friend or family member finds themselves repeatedly restocking bottles of seltzer water (often plastic), this column highly recommends a portable seltzer maker. Treehugger.com awards its top rating in this category to the Drinkmate Sparkling Water and Soda Maker at Walmart for \$111.

A key way to reduce human exposure to PFAS is to entirely avoid using pans and tools with artificial stick-proof coatings like Teflon in cooking. A good reference on this is the 2022 Consumer Reports article, “You Can't Always Trust Claims on Non-Toxic Cookware;” the safest bet is to occasionally help family or friends replace non-stick muffin pans or frying pans, for instance, with stainless steel or cast-iron options.

**Clothing:** The series of chemicals collectively known as PFAS is widely present in clothing, including children's articles where manufacturers add stain-proof or waterproof qualities. One brand for different ages that has banned PFAS in clothing, accessories and shoes since 2013 is H&M; Milford's H&M is



PATRICIA HOUSER

at the Connecticut Post Mall. For children, a clothing brand that has stepped up its sustainability standards is Hanna Andersson. Perusing their website for sleepwear or play clothes, family members and caregivers can be reassured by the highly regarded OKEO-TEX rating that certifies the item is safe from hundreds of harmful chemicals. See a previous column (“Five Ways to Reduce Babies' Exposure to PFAS”) for websites with other safe brands.

The Hanna Andersson company has also embraced the sustainable measure of helping customers seek out used clothing; their website has a category called “preloved” which offers information on condition as well as notes from the previous owner (“worn only 10 times”).

**Gift memberships/subscriptions/experiences:** One of the best ways to reduce waste during the holidays, say environmentalists, is to offer more “experience based” gifts. A gift certificate to Fandango can cover the cost of a movie at the Connecticut Post Mall, and other organizations can provide a theater or museum experience, or art lessons. Locally, Scoot and Paddle, a business that rents kayaks or paddle boards near Walnut Beach, offers gift cards on their website.

Memberships to a place like the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium may seem a bit steep at \$140 per year, but it comes with free admission for the member and a second individual for the entire year plus special member benefits. Those who make even a single visit to the aquarium in the coming days, for all the inspiration that offers, can also stop at the gift shop and do a bit of holiday shopping that will further sup-

port the mission and operation of the aquarium.

A Connecticut Audubon individual membership, at \$45 (\$28 for seniors), also brings attractive benefits, not least of which is the yearly mailing of the State of the Birds report, a highly readable and informative short synopsis that includes ecosystem conditions hereabouts. Other environmental nonprofits, including local watershed associations and land conservancies are worth exploring for gift ideas.

While online shopping can be problematic because of extra packaging waste, the gift options from World Wildlife Fund, with their symbolic gift adoptions of endangered species, can be a way to send a child a stuffed animal with positive impacts for an actual animal. And the National Wildlife Federation is worth checking for several gift options including their subscriptions to Ranger Rick and other children's publications.

Those who pursue any one of the above options for gift giving should know they are part of a movement of conscious consumerism today. In the September issue of the Harvard Business Review, researchers suggest that we are “on the brink of a major shift in consumption pattern” which will favor producers and retailers that offer genuinely sustainable options. Businesses that will benefit the most, say researchers, will be those “that make good on their promises to people and the planet.”

*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.*

## Wine Talk

# Wines For Thanksgiving

The most classic wine for Thanksgiving is Pinot Noir.

It pairs with everything on the classic Thanksgiving table. Many Pinots have very tangy, red fruit notes which will match wonderfully with cranberry sauce. There are many Pinot Noirs that contain a woody flavor that is savory and is ideal with mushrooms and squash. They match well with sage and rosemary that are used in so many Thanksgiving dishes.

I like my Pinot Noir with a slight chill of maybe a half an hour in the fridge. The wine matches even better, and you will find it is rather refreshing. Pinot Noir is a cool climate wine.

I like the ones from the Willamette Valley in Oregon. These wines seem to have a savory character that makes them work even

better.

Sparkling wines are very versatile. They match well with most foods and are a great way to start any meal. The high acid together with the bubbles work to cleanse the palate. Thanksgiving, with lots of butter and cream recipes, is a great time for sparkling wines.

It is not necessary to blow up the entire bankroll on expensive Champagnes. Try some wines produced using the method champenoise or the traditional method. Some of these would include Cava, Franciacorta, and my favorite, Prosecco.

If you are serving white wines you should find wines that are high in acid with very little or no oak. These wines will work great



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

with a traditional Thanksgiving meal and will not overcome any of the food on the table. Try to stay away from the California Chardonnays. Some great matches might include Vermentino, Sancerre, Dry Riesling or Bordeaux Blanc.

Rose is a very food-friendly wine and can be served any time of the year. Rosato from southern Italy works well. Provence roses are popular and well-made. There are also some great rose wines made from Pinot Noir from California or the state of Washington. One of these would make an interesting change.

Thanksgiving is all about family and friends and the blessings we have received

throughout the year. Enjoy your meal with some of these nice wines and be thankful for all our good fortune. Happy Thanksgiving.

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

## Insuring Your Future

# Time To Renew Individual And HUSKY Insurance

This is the time of year when people who are on individual insurance plans through Access Health can enroll in a plan for 2024. For those who are already enrolled in a plan, it is time to renew. And for those who missed the deadline or lost insurance in 2023, this is the time to reenroll.

The open enrollment for Access Health plans is Nov. 1 to Dec. 15 for a Jan. 1 effective date. Open enrollment will end Jan. 15 for 2024 unless you qualify for a special enrollment period.

The rates have increased slightly, but so have the tax credits. The net increase is relatively small unless there is another change such as income, household size or number of people needing insurance. Those on HUSKY are also receiving renewal notices that may require action. There are deadlines for all of these plans.

How do you know what you have to do? If

you are on an Anthem or Connecticut plan through the exchange you should have received a notice from Access Health in late October. This notice restates the plan you currently have as well as the 2023 premium and tax credit. It also indicates the premium for 2024 and the estimated tax credit based on current income.

When you receive this notice you should do three things:

1) Confirm that the information on the current application is still correct. Will your estimated income be more or less in 2024? Is the household size still the same? Is there a household member who is no longer a dependent of the main subscriber?

2) Determine the net premium for next year by subtracting the advanced premium



TRISH  
PEARSON

tax credit from the full premium.

3) See if you need to provide any additional documentation in order to renew for 2024. If you did not receive a renewal notice, you should contact Access Health or log into your account. The notice was sent to whatever address is on file. If you moved and did not inform them, the notice might not reach you in time.

The insurance companies may also send you information about next year. However, all renewals have to be done through Access Health.

There are three ways to renew:

1. Log into your access health account, choose "Renew/Report a Change" and follow the prompts. You can stay on the current plan or make a change at the end of the application. Be sure to review the income in-

formation and make sure it is accurate.

2. Call Access Health and they can help you renew your current plan and record any changes. They cannot advise you on other plans and will refer you to a certified broker.

3. Contact a certified broker who can walk you through the renewal process and explain your options for other plans.

The most important thing is not to ignore the notice from Access Health. If you go beyond the Jan. 15 deadline for enrolling you risk not having insurance for 2024, which is a risky business.

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

## Here's To Your Health

# Keep It Off

Over the years my husband and I have run a "winter meltdown challenge" after the new year begins.

However, after four years of running this challenge, we decided to stop running the program. What we realized is that the average person puts on 7 to 10 pounds during the holiday season, and while we thought we were doing a good thing, it actually was counterproductive to successfully getting people to lose the weight they gained. That's because most people would gain the weight but not take all of it off. Over the period of four years, they were actually heavier than when they started.

I would like to encourage you to maintain or perhaps actually lose a couple of pounds during this holiday season. I've got some tips to help you succeed in doing so.

If I attend a holiday party with rich foods, wine and desserts, I will counter that day with as many clean eating days I can fit in until the next event. I also increase my water intake to ward of dehydration and excess sodium in the foods I enjoyed. Drinking water prior to a meal will help you understand your level of hunger, as the sensation of being hungry can actually mean that you're thirsty.

I increase my cardio days too. If you're currently doing cardio three days a week, increase it to four or five. Adding in a mile walk after dinner is another great way to burn extra calories this time of year.

When tempted by the amazing desserts,



MICHELE  
TENNEY

cookies and sugary treats available this time of year, I suggest you use the three-bite rule. Self-abnegation is a vicious cycle, so don't deny yourself. Let's say you don't eat sweets for 30 days, and on day 31 you eat an entire sheet cake in the name of "I deserve it." Then you feel guilty and grab some comfort foods to help you feel better. The next thing you know, you're throwing in the towel all together.

So, enjoy yourself by having three savory bites, rather than the entire dessert. It's all about balance. Balance will allow you to have fun, enjoy yourself and remain healthy.

This time of year isn't always the happiest for some, so I would also like to encourage

you to be intentional about your emotional wellbeing or the wellbeing of someone you may know who struggles during the holiday season. Setting realistic expectations is helpful. Setting time aside to pray or meditate is a bonus in keeping our emotions in check.

I know it gets harder to lose weight as we age, so being strategic is key. From my family to yours, have a very happy Thanksgiving. Peace be yours.

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

## Your Health

# "Movember" And Other November Awareness Campaigns

There are often multiple public health awareness campaigns happening simultaneously in the month of November.

For example, "Movember" is a global movement that encourages men to grow mustaches to raise awareness for men's health issues. This campaign focuses on men's health, particularly raising awareness about prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. Here are some general tips on how men can take care of themselves:

**Regular health check-ups:** It is never too late to schedule regular check-ups with your health care provider for routine age-appropriate screenings and health assessments. For example, this may include blood pressure checks, cholesterol screenings, glucose level check, and discussions about any concerns or symptoms.

**Testicular self-exams:** Men should perform regular testicular self-exams to detect any unusual lumps or changes. If they find anything abnormal, they should contact their health care provider.

**Prostate health:** This is an important topic to discuss with your health care provider, especially for men above the age of 50. Prostate cancer screenings may be recommended based on individual and family risk factors.

**Mental health awareness:** This topic holds significant importance, considering that men often conceal their mental health symptoms. It is crucial to prioritize mental health and well-being, paying close attention to any signs of stress, anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges. Seeking professional help is paramount in addressing and managing these concerns effectively.

**Healthy lifestyle:** Adopt a healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise, a balanced diet, and sufficient sleep. Maintain a healthy weight and avoid smoking and alcohol consumption.

**Awareness of family health history:** Be aware of family health history, as it can provide insights into potential genetic predispo-



DR. AMIR  
MOHAMMAD

sitions to certain health conditions.

**Regular exercise:** Engage in regular physical activity, which is essential for overall health. Incorporate both cardiovascular exercises and strength training into your routine.

**Stress management:** One must develop effective stress management techniques, such as mindfulness, meditation or hobbies, to cope with daily stressors. Volunteer to have a meaningful impact in your community.

**Dental health:** It is important to maintain regular dental check-ups and practice good oral hygiene habits.

Other national campaigns during November include Lung Cancer Awareness Month. This initiative strives to increase awareness about lung cancer, emphasizing its risk factors and stressing the significance of early detection and prevention. Smokers are encouraged to consult their health care pro-

viders for guidance on smoking cessation therapies.

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month is designed to educate the public on the symptoms, risk factors and available treatment options for pancreatic cancer.

National Diabetes Month, led by the American Diabetes Association, seeks to heighten awareness about diabetes, emphasizing both prevention strategies and effective management practices.

It is important to keep in mind that individual health requirements can differ, highlighting the importance of consulting with your health care professionals for personalized advice and recommendations tailored to individual health factors and risk assessments. Your regular communication with your health care providers remains essential for proactive health management.

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

## Recycling Tip: A Refresher On What Can Be Recycled

By Loretta Smith

To help new residents in Orange and to refresh the memories of others, we write about recyclables and nonrecyclables. The following is from the home page of the town website's Orange Recycling Committee:

Put the following items into your recycling

bin. It is not necessary to sort or tie any items. Items can be squashed if space is needed. But do not jam them into your bin.

- Paper: newspapers, plain paper, books/catalogs, newspaper inserts, etc.

- Cardboard: food boxes (clean ones: remove pizza box bottom if greasy, for instance), shipping, gift boxes.

- Glass: bottles, jars.

- Plastics: containers, bottles, items marked with triangle 1-7.

- Metals: aluminum cans, foil, aerosol cans.

Do not put in your bin:

- Plastic bags and films: they go in plastics recycling bins at the transfer station and many local stores.

- Garden hoses and wire: they can go in the hopper at the transfer station.

Need to know about a specific item? Refer to recycleCT.com to see what can be recycled. You can type in an item.

For more information, visit orangerecycles.com and follow us at facebook.com/OR-CinCT.



## Orange Chamber of Commerce

# Orange Chamber Rebuilding Website

I'm the new executive director for the Orange Chamber of Commerce. It's been an amazing experience getting to meet so many passionate people in this community. Thank you to everyone I have met so far in this journey for the amazing hospitality.

The chamber is proud to announce that our website rebuild is nearly complete. We have simplified the process for you to join or renew your Orange Chamber of Commerce membership with a credit card online at [orangetchamber.com](http://orangetchamber.com), or simply email [director@orangetchamber.com](mailto:director@orangetchamber.com) for an invoice you may pay online or by check.

If you would like to advertise with the Orange Chamber of Commerce, we have banner ads available for you on our chamber emails and on our website. These ads are 100 percent digital and you may update them quarterly to fit your needs.

One of the newest member benefits the Orange Chamber of Commerce has added are our

custom membership plaques and 2024 window decals. These items have been carefully designed and created for you to proudly display in your business.

Please visit our website and join or renew today. We are looking forward to the opportunity to serve you and your business.

We have been busy with ribbon cuttings. The turnouts have been amazing for ribbon cuttings at The Grind, The Vero, GHP/Sign Center, Bob's Discount Furniture, Elevate Style Lounge and Lash Demand. We are so grateful to our elected officials both at the town level and at the state level for supporting these events with their presence, welcoming words and citations. These ribbon cuttings are a testament to the hard work of the Orange Economic Development Corporation.

You are invited to our monthly ONET se-



LIAM  
OHLMANN

ries. ONET is a networking and leads group which meets at 8:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. Each month we have received a larger turnout for this event with energetic local professionals. Information and location for these meetings can be found by liking and following our Facebook page. In addition to networking, each ONET meeting has a business-specific topic.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce and the Orange Economic Development Corporation are working together to host a holiday party at 6 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Courtyard by Marriot. This event will benefit the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. We will be handing out complimentary drink tickets (limit two) in exchange for new and unwrapped toys. You can visit our Facebook page to register for this event.

I would like to personally thank Matt Salem from Sentinel Asset Management for authoring our Monthly Member Profiles. He has done an amazing job of recording the stories of our members which we share by email and social media.

We have a new vendor booth setup for the Orange Chamber of Commerce being designed for us. This will enable our chamber to have a greater presence at more community events.

Our chamber president, Ted Novicki (of UI/Avangrid), has been hard at work on our Board of Directors. We are excited for 2024 and the beginning of a new chapter for the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Join us for 2024. We can't wait to build our chamber with you.

*Liam Ohlmann is the executive director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-795-3328 or [director@orangetchamber.com](mailto:director@orangetchamber.com).*

## Book Reviews

# Such Kindness By Andre Dubus III

Tom had it all. The builder of his family's dream home, he takes great pride in creating the perfect home for his wife and son.

A freak accident changes everything. In constant pain, Tom develops a chemical dependency on painkillers. His wife leaves him after admitting to an affair and takes their son with her. Struggling with financial limitations, Tom becomes involved with his neighbor Trina's boyfriend and engages in illegal activity as a way of increasing his income.

Tom has many new problems and concerns: Trina being physically abused by her ex-boyfriend; his son Drew's alcohol poisoning; his constant and ongoing pain. Despite that, Tom begins to take comfort in random acts of kindness. The more random acts of kindness he experiences, the more his mindset begins to change.

Those acts start off small, but grow larger the more comfortable he feels



CARMELA  
DEVITO

looking at his life circumstances and life in general with a new attitude and a reintegration with the world as a whole. He begins to find ways of spreading kindness wherever he goes and with whomever he interacts. That change of paying kindness with kindness manifests hugely in his relationship with his son and an improvement in his relationship with his ex-wife and her new husband, who plays a key role in a

major incident in Tom's life.

There is so much to love about this gem of a novel. Tom's struggles and his mindset change are so realistic, and the timeframe for this change is valid. There are random acts of kindness around us every day, although they may seem small and insignificant at the time. I absolutely loved this.

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

## Shoreline Pickleball Opens In Milford



Indoor pickleball court service Shoreline Pickleball held a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting on Nov. 11 at its location at 333 Quarry Rd. in Milford. Shoreline Pickleball has five courts and a lounge. From left: owners Patrick Oliver, Cindy Oliver, Ryan Geddes, Danielle Geddes, Hanna Malia, Brian Malia and state Rep. Kathy Kennedy. Photo by Robert Creigh.

## Flag Footballers Named Champs



James Parrella, director of flag football for Milford Eagles Flag Football, recently announced the fall 2023 champions. Milford Eagles Flag Football has celebrated their largest season to date with over 300 athletes taking part in the flag football program at the YMCA Orange Athletic Complex. The three championship teams were the 8U Bengals, 10U Cowboys and 12U Steelers. There were also 50 new players in the 6U learn to play division. The spring 2024 season begins in April and registration is open at [milfordteagles.org](http://milfordteagles.org). Photos courtesy of James Parrella.

## Small Business Saturday To Feature Pop-Up Market

The Downtown Milford Business Association will have a booth in downtown open during Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25. Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities.

The DMBA booth will be located at the

Taylor Memorial Library at 5 Broad St. and will have giveaways for the first 100 shoppers supporting the event. There will also be a holiday pop-up market with over a dozen unique vendors inside the Taylor Memorial Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visit [downtownmilfordct.com](http://downtownmilfordct.com) for more information.

## Lamplight Stroll Coming To Milford

Downtown Milford will be the stage for the 21st annual lamplight stroll, a holiday event and shopping experience.

There will be horse and carriage rides around the twinkling Green, yuletide carolers and a visit from Santa. Downtown

will be bustling from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be unique gifts available from participating downtown businesses, who will also have refreshments and specials.

Visit [downtownmilfordct.com](http://downtownmilfordct.com) for more information.



## Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

# Supporting Local Businesses And Those In Need

As the holiday season arrives, we find ourselves wrapped in the warmth of traditions, festivities and the joy of giving. This season of goodwill is the perfect time to reflect on the power of community, gratitude and the impact we can collectively make. At the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, we believe that the holiday season is not just about shopping; it's about giving back to our community.

**Shop local, support local:** The heart of any thriving community lies in its local businesses. They are the lifeblood that pumps vitality and character into our neighborhoods. When you choose to shop locally, you are directly investing in the well-being of our community.

Small businesses are the heartbeat of our shopping districts, offering unique products, personalized service and a shopping experience that is unrivaled. Whether you're searching for the perfect gift or stocking up on holiday essentials, consider making your purchases right here in our Milford and West Haven

communities.

By shopping locally, you're ensuring that the dollars you spend stay within our cities, supporting jobs, funding local events and contributing to the vibrancy of our region. The economic impact is not just about numbers; it's about sustaining the very essence of our community.

**Give to those in need:** The holiday season is a time to share the joy of giving. While we celebrate with our families and loved ones, let's not forget those among us who may be facing challenges. Whether it's through donating to local charities, volunteering your time or extending a helping hand, giving back is a vital part of our community's spirit.

Our community organizations work tirelessly to support those in need, and your generosity can make a world of difference. Consider



MICHAEL  
MOSES

donating to local food banks, contributing to clothing drives or participating in community outreach programs. Even small acts of kindness can have a profound impact.

**Celebrating our unique community:** Our local businesses are not just faceless entities; they are our friends and neighbors. When you shop locally and support those in need within our community, you're strengthening the bonds that make our town feel like home. You're preserving the traditions that define us.

In the spirit of giving, consider patronizing local businesses that offer special items, hand-crafted gifts and services that are unique to our region. When you choose local, you're celebrating the distinct character and traditions of our community.

This holiday season, as you prepare for festive gatherings and the exchange of gifts, let

the spirit of giving be at the forefront of your thoughts. Remember that when you shop locally and extend a hand to those in need, you are participating in the profound tradition of community, kindness and togetherness.

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce encourages you to celebrate the holiday season with a giving heart, knowing that your support for local businesses and your contributions to those in need can truly transform our community.

Let this holiday season be a testament to the spirit of giving, the strength of our community and the warmth of our hearts. Together, we can make the holiday season brighter for all.

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

## Getting To Know You

# Conversational Traveling

November is a travel month. By the time this column goes to press I will have flown nearly 3,600 miles and driven a bunch too. People all over the country will board planes, trains, buses and drive their cars to go from one place to another.

I don't particularly enjoy traveling, but I don't hate it either. It can be stressful due to crowds and strange schedules and delays. In the end, a lot of travel time is spent waiting, which I'm not very good at. Whether it's sitting in an airport waiting for a plane or sitting in a car waiting for the mile markers to pass, there is a surprising amount of down time with traveling.

Over the years I've learned a few tricks that help me pass that time. I always bring a big thick book when I travel; a book so thick I'll never finish it during the trip. For some reason the idea that I'll never run out of words to read makes the travel time seem shorter. I bring a book of crossword puzzles handy to wake up my brain cells, so I don't sink into a travel nap. The writer in me requires a pen and paper on which to scratch out a travel journal or doodle out ideas.

As I've traveled around, I've found that there are really two ways to travel. The first way is

to plug into a book or an electronic device, burrow down into one's own space and silently endure the inevitable waits and delays of traveling. It works. As you can see from the last paragraph, I use it myself. Sometimes you simply must gut it out.

However, there is a second way to travel, and I'm quite a fan of it. I call it the conversational approach to travel. The conversational approach helps those long waits and lines seem to slide by rather than drag, and when practiced with care it can transform those inevitable waits and delays from something to be endured to something to be enjoyed. All that is required is a simple realization: everyone around you has a story.

A carload of people you've known your whole life is full of stories. Mass transportation, like planes and trains, is rife with people who have a story. Every other traveler you encounter when you travel is leaving somewhere and going somewhere else. Everyone has a reason for their travels; that is their story.

Last weekend I flew to Florida to see my brother, and on the way home I had a sev-



DAVID  
CROW

en-hour layover in Atlanta. When you're sitting around your home, seven hours doesn't seem like a lot of time, but when you're parked in a semi-comfortable chair in an airport searching for a place to plug in so your cell phone doesn't die, seven hours can seem like a stint in Dante's purgatory; you haven't gone all the way to hell, but you can see hell from there. Thanks to the conversational approach, my seven-hour layover didn't seem

that long.

A man and his teenaged children sat down next to me in an airport waiting area. I moved my backpack a bit so he could have some room for his luggage, and he nodded his thanks. He sat down with a long sigh of exhaustion. I asked him if he'd had a long trip; he chuckled and nodded again. We shared a couple of knowing dad-chuckles about traveling with teenagers, and then I asked him about the purpose of his trip.

I'll spare you the details of the conversation that ensued. It would be unfair of me to share his story because it is his story to share. I will tell you that because he chose to share his sto-

ry with me, it didn't seem that long until the flight attendant called for people to board the flight to Hartford. I hadn't even noticed that the seven-hour layover had become an eight-hour layover because my flight had been delayed an hour. Such is the power of a good conversation; it can turn an eight-hour wait in travel purgatory into a memory.

So, if you're traveling this November, you have two options. You can either delve into your giant tome with your earbuds in and endure the trip, or you can take a chance and ask the person next to you where they're going or where they have been. Either way you'll pass the time. But the second method might make the trip into a memory.

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 Board of Finance

# Fiscal Stability Act Needed To Address National Debt

A bipartisan bill was recently introduced within the US Senate by Utah Sen. Mitt Romney and West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin. The Fiscal Stability Act would establish a statutory debt commission whose main objective would be to find legislative solutions to stabilize and decrease the national debt, which now exceeds \$33.6 trillion.

This endeavor is long overdue and is necessary so that the next generation of Americans aren't left paying the price for decades of inaction by the US House and Senate. The US Congress needs to take immediate action on our national debt within the coming months in order to avoid future government shutdowns which would ultimately send shockwaves throughout global financial markets and potentially cause a significant recession within the US.

The path forward is not easy. However, it is achievable by limiting future spending and borrowing, which would promote economic growth and reduce inflation. The last time the US had a balanced budget was under President Bill Clinton in 1998 with the successful passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

So how did the US get to a \$33.6 trillion

national debt? The reality is bad policies and massive overspending during the past two decades by both Republicans and Democrats has led to a national debt that is up \$1.3 trillion in 2023 and up \$8 trillion dollars just within the last three years, largely driven by government spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike during the 2008 financial crisis, tax revenue increased during COVID, bolstered by a strong stock market. However, big expenditure increases have not only come from spending to combat COVID-19 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq within the past two decades, but also covering the rising medical costs of an aging population. Last year, to make matters worse, the federal government put forward a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending package, which only fueled the fire for continued inflation.

When federal government spending exceeds revenue, creating a budget deficit, the US covers the gap by selling securities, such as Treasury bonds. The national debt is the accumulation of all past deficits and the in-



KEVIN  
MCNABOLA

terest owed on the resulting debt. Measuring the debt as a share of gross domestic product allows for comparing the level of debt over time relative to the size of the US economy and for comparisons with other countries' debt-to-GDP ratios.

The Fiscal Stability Act will aim to propose legislation "to improve the long-term fiscal condition of the federal government, stabilize the ratio of public debt to GDP within a 15-year period, and improve solvency of federal trust funds over a 75-year period."

There is even a plan to allow the federal government to borrow money and invest it in the stock market and use the returns to fund Social Security. It is, however, going to be a tall order for the commission to address the spending within the federal budget, which is largely made up of mandatory entitlements. Close to 46 percent of the budget consists of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The Social Security figure is expected to grow to 24 percent of the budget by 2028 as an aging population pushes up the costs of

Social Security and Medicare.

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

I applaud the move for a bipartisan solution within the Senate to address our longstanding national debt crisis. However, the Senate and House need to get serious about putting the fiscal house of the US in order and addressing the current unsustainable path of our national debt. It is imperative that Congress act now so that global economies are not adversely impacted by our national debt. If the Senate and House cannot come together to stabilize this looming crisis, they would be essentially failing the American people and harming the well-being of our future generations.

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



# The Rotary Club of Orange

## Rotary's Impact

The Rotary Club of Orange, like clubs worldwide, executes service projects in the community and its 40-plus members collectively provide about 2,000 hours in related volunteer roles. In addition to service projects and support, club members sponsor fundraisers and individually contribute both to the club's foundation and to the global Rotary International Foundation.

Recent projects funded by the club included underwriting and cooking at a tailgate party for Special Olympics athletes at the Yale-Columbia football game along with a grant to the Ansonia-based not-for-profit organization Traveler on a Mission. TOAM provides personal hygiene products (toothpaste, deodorant, shampoos) to those in the area who are food insecure, and their activities complement other club projects with area food pantries. Next up is a Thanksgiving dinner for veterans at the American Legion Hall.

Around the world last year, local Rotary clubs performed and/or funded service projects worth about \$2 billion. And the global Rotary International Foundation itself funded nearly \$500 million in projects, with the campaign to end polio being one of its largest continuing projects.

A significant part of Rotary activity then is its goals and operations as a charitable organiza-

nization.

Charity Navigator is the assessment organization that the evaluates hundreds of thousands of charitable organizations based in the US that are operating as tax-free 501 organizations. Charity Navigator also serves as a portal for those exploring giving opportunities for specific or timely needs. For example, they are currently highlighting about 40 organizations addressing the humanitarian crises in Israel and Gaza.

The methodology of Charity Navigator historically emphasized organizational measures for accountability and finance, and they recently added other factors addressing culture and community, as well as leadership and adaptability.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a four-star charity, and receives a perfect 100 percent score from Charity Navigator. Our local club foundation is only scoring 69 percent now, mainly as we have not posted some policies and financial disclosures on our club website. The club is currently in the process of fixing that as we upgrade our website to make club activities and practices transparent.

Perhaps more important than these adminis-



DAN MAY



trative disclosures are preliminary efforts to assess impact and results. Ultimately, Charity Navigator hopes to weight impact/results as 50 percent of the total score. As someone who has spent the last few decades trying to assess educational outcomes, I know how challenging this will be. Once I even had to ask a university chaplain how he planned to assess chaplaincy activities to justify his current and projected budgets. His pithy answer: "I will let you know when God gets back to me."

One of the most interesting experiences in my personal not-for-profit history was when I sat in on a series of state budget hearings in Ohio. I was a board member for a statewide environmental not-for-profit organization that included representatives from heavy industry to staunch preservationists. The first hearings were to review and prioritize expenditures across the range of state environmental needs (such as clean water or clean air). The next rounds allowed me to listen in to see where environmental needs fit versus other needs for K-12 education, prisons, Medicaid, highways, pensions and so forth.

I was amazed to see how much outcomes

data were used to guide decision-making even 20 years ago. It was both heartening and disheartening, but I quickly learned that the budget process is where rhetoric meets reality.

Charitable organizations, as well as schools and health care, have a long way to go before impact and results measures can be reliably employed for their own assessment or to help them assess which projects they in turn fund. Part of the challenge is that impact and results may be years in the making.

One advantage local clubs have when deciding how to allocate funds is their history of community engagement, contacts and memory. Most members have lived here for decades if not their entire life and have strong family and professional connections. They are familiar with the community, know what's been successful in the past, who will get a project completed, and who they might partner with to add additional leverage. It is not wholly objective, but until AI assessment systems can incorporate both soft and hard data and also establish long-term trends, we can reliably count on the collective wisdom of our neighbors to help each other. If you want to help inform the process, too, consider Rotary membership.

Dan May can be contacted at [dmay@newhaven.edu](mailto:dmay@newhaven.edu).

## Kennedy Gets Perfect Score From CBIA

State Rep. Kathy Kennedy (R-119) received a 100 percent rating from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association in the group's 2023 Legislative Voting Records grading, released on Oct. 30. Members of the General Assembly were graded on their support for key bills that promote local business, economic development and a

positive post-pandemic recovery.

"I am honored to once again receive a 100 percent voting record from the CBIA," Kennedy said. "My goal has always been to promote economic development and be a voice for small business owners and employees across our state. Right now, as residents navigate rising prices and the effects of

inflation, it is critical to support local business in all ways to ensure a strong economy overall."

The CBIA is a major business advocacy organization within the state.

"I want to thank CBIA and congratulate all recognized legislators for their dedication to local business," Kennedy said. "During the 2023 Session, I voted

in favor of bills that promoted workforce development, property tax abatements, reduced health care costs and more transparent reporting requirements. Moving forward, I will continue to prioritize local business owners and their employees, encouraging all residents to reach out to me so I can be your voice in Hartford."

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### Milford Honors Veterans In Parade



Milford held a Veterans Day parade on Nov. 12 that featured local veterans, area officials, girls scouts, boy scouts and the high school bands. Photos by Robert Creigh.

### Goats Take A Stroll Through Orange



The Orange Land Trust sponsored a goat walk on Nov. 4 with Got Your Goat from Washington Depot. The hike, in coordination with the Brownie Troop of Orange, occurred at The Racebrook Tract Conservation Area. Photos by Lexi Crocco.



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Foodie Foursome

# Authentic Chinese Noodle And Soup Cuisine In Orange

Our Foodie Foursome travels have brought us to different styles and regional culinary treats in the greater Milford/Orange area, from traditional American fare to pub style, Indian to Italian, Columbian to Jewish deli to Peruvian.

With Asian restaurants taking on rapid growth and popularity in our area, we now venture into this popular cuisine with our visit to Ji Bei Chuan. Opening earlier this year, partners chefs Jin and Lin Yang Kang share a passion for authentic Chinese cuisine and believe that the traditional taste of rice noodles should be shared with Connecticut foodies. The two decided to open a restaurant dedicated to showcasing the true flavors of rice noodles.

According to the restaurant's website, they take "great care in sourcing only the freshest and highest-quality ingredients to ensure that each dish is authentic and packed with flavor. From the classic chicken noodle soup to the spicy mala rice noodles, every dish will transport your taste buds straight to the streets of China."

Ji Bei Chuan started in China in 2018 and has grown into a popular franchise. It is like authentic street food with the care of a home cooked meal. Their menu is based on the two main ingredients, mi xian and chicken broth.

Mi xian is a type of rice noodle from Yun-nan Province in China. It is made from ordinary non-glutinous rice, and it is generally used fresh rather than dried. The noodle is wide, up to two inches, slightly flat yet medium thin and cut into long ribbons. The soup they make daily at the restaurant is made with tasty chicken thighs and cooked for a long time with Chinese vegetables and spices to give a rich and tasty broth.

Cindy and I were with longtime friends and foodies, Stephanie and Lance. We started off with the spicy garlic cucumber, as it was different from the ordinary appetizers and we wanted to try something unexpected and different. The cucumbers fit that bill perfectly, with a subtle level of spice that prepared our palates for the rest of our feast. The chunks of cucumber, prepared fresh each morning, were marinated in a Szechuan garlic sauce with Chinese spices taking on a fresh crunchy pickled flavor that tasted awesome and left a gentle tingle in your mouth.

Our next appetizer was the Taiwan fried chicken. This was a basket of petite, bite-sized pieces of chicken breast seasoned with Chinese five spice. It was then dusted with a micro-thin coating of rice starch before giving it a quick fry. This plentiful treat was, in spite of the small stature of each piece, tender and juicy with a nice crunch due to the seasoned coating. It kept us reaching for more.

Our next choice was JBC's take on pan fried dumplings. The spinach-based wrappers encased a tasty combo of veggies, done with a beautiful bite, and were extra tasty when dipped into the soy-based sauce.

Our last starter completely caught us by surprise. We went with fried coconut shrimp, expecting the normal restaurant or steakhouse version. We were wrong. This was a plating of sizable fresh shrimp with a delicate coating of tempura batter fried perfectly and served with shredded coconut and a creamy coconut puree that was nothing short of spectacular.



STEVE COOPER

Our main courses started with a classic Vietnamese pho, a recognized staple. This soup, called the House of Pho, was a chicken base with fresh onion, cilantro, fresh basil leaves, lime and beansprout with noodles. Ours was adorned with rare beef, brisket and meatballs. This tasty soup was filling and a perfect start to our meal, especially on this chilly evening. Next was a side of chicken fried rice, which had the perfect texture and taste with wok fried onion, egg and scallion.

If you like a dish with a bit of a kick, then the dry tossed rice noodle is the ticket. This noodle dish has wonderful levels of texture, flavor and heat. Once you take a few bites you keep diving in for more. We had both chicken and beef brisket; however, you also can choose minced pork or beef shank. It had cucumber, crushed peanut, scallion and cilantro. This dish was so tasty with levels of flavor and texture that did not disappoint.

Next up was the original bone soup. We chose the original beef brisket rice noodle made with the bone broth, rice noodles, wood ear and other mushrooms, tofu puff, corn, lettuce and scallions. Noodles are pure comfort food. But what makes noodles slurpable and delicious is the broth – a flavorful part of many complex and delicious recipes.

Next we had our second side dish. The vegetable stir fry noodles with ho fun noodles, onion, egg, scallion, baby bok choy and bean sprouts was awesome and, between the four of us, seemed to just disappear. Our last two dishes were the signature JBC rice noodle soup and of course a ra-

men dish. The soup was an incredibly beautifully designed selection, tasty and filling with chicken, wood ear mushroom, bean curd, corn, enoki mushrooms, lettuce and scallion and of course rice noodles and broth. This dish is a definite all-star.

The last main dish was the roast duck ramen. This popular Japanese noodle dish consists of Chinese-style noodles served in a broth with a variety of toppings. In this incredible JBC bowl, the broth and rice noodles were topped with onion, nori, scallion, mushrooms, radish, fresh basil, bean sprout, corn, a marinated hardboiled egg and bok choy – and of course the roast duck. The duck was perfectly prepared and inserted into the dish as pieces of meat and a roasted leg. This was a mini feast and one of the best ramen bowls I have had anywhere.

We completed the evening with Thai tea, which was perfectly flavorful and thirst quenching, and two wonderful and light desserts. The mochi ice cream was a smooth and classic confection with fresh whipped cream. The mango crepe cake was divine, made up of multitudes of layers of sweet subtleness and fruity mango.

Ji Bei Chuan is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. It is located at 519D Boston Post Rd. (in the Orange Ale House plaza). You can call in for a reservation or order for pickup at 203-553-9125.

*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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## Garden Club Of Orange Members Receive State-Level Awards

Several members of the Garden Club of Orange were recognized on Oct. 25 at the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut annual awards meeting. Mary Ellen Buspuda was recognized for her work with youth gardening and received the Tribute Award for Youth. Patricia Logioco was recognized for outstanding horticultural achievement and received the Joyce P. Harris Award. Lana Ho was recognized for her overall work with the club and received the Lillian. M. Rathburn Award.

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**Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers**

# Your Well: Does It Have A Pitless Adapter?

A well is another one of those things in your home that you can take for granted. I have a habit of reminding clients to test the water ever so often, but if you are getting enough pressure that is all most homeowners care about.

There are many parts to the well, and today we are just referring to the cap. Many of the homes in our area were built between 1958 and 1975. During that time, it was appropriate to drill a buried well, as long as the water could be tested, even though the style was not easily accessible for work to be done.

Today, the most appropriate upgrade is a well head above ground. Normally it has a

steel casing. That style has now been even further improved as to what is the best protection for its water within. In other words, nowadays you need to check your well cap and make sure this pitless adapter, which is the above ground well casing type, has the proper cap to code.

These caps were started in the 1990s for many reasons. It makes sense that small rodents or snakes can decay in the area. Chemicals from landscaping or clippings themselves can contaminate the well water. The cap is meant to help prevent this. The proper cap is a sealed well



**BARBARA LEHRER**

cap, a water tight cap.

The average homeowner will not know if they have the proper cap. This is a \$300.00 item, and it is important. My advice is to call a certified well specialist who can quickly inspect whether your cap is up to code.

Older homes may have buried wells, even hand dug-wells. But the upgrade to replacing metal pipes with steal pipes is what all inspectors are recommending at home inspections. Wells should all be above ground.

Let's not wait to find out there are possible contaminants happening when you de-

cide to sell. Be proactive and have the cap checked now.

Knowledge is power, and in this case, it is also a health concern. Testing the water for potability is important. If you have been away for any length of time, the water could need a chlorination and you just do not know. A specialist for all your mechanics is the best attitude of a conscientious homeowner.

The well is just another one of those things. It is okay to have well water instead of city water; just take care of it.

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

**Travel Matters**

# Celebration At Sea

When I was growing up, my great aunt was traveling the world by cruise ship. This was in the 60s, mind you, before most people even learned about cruising with "The Love Boat" in the 70s. We would go see her off in New York City on the Cunard line, and there would be bon voyage parties in her cabin, since the world was less security-minded back then. I was hooked from that experience alone.

Fast forward to 2023. I've been a travel advisor since 2013 and cruised on 72 sailings, on 15 ocean cruise lines and five river cruise lines. But until this week during my annual conference cruise, I had not sailed on the newest Carnival cruise ship since there are so many choices these days.

Carnival Celebration is an amazing ship, and so much more than I remembered from

my last Carnival cruise in 2016. There are places on the ship that I am still finding after five days on board.

And the ship lives up to its name, as there are many ways to celebrate onboard. From iced champagne in Loft 19 adults-only outdoor terrace to celebrating Carnival's 50-year heritage with memorabilia and vintage travel posters in the Golden Jubilee Bar and Heroe's Tribute Lounge.

The centerpiece for me is aptly named Carnival Center Stage, and it's literally in the middle of the atrium entertainment space – on three floors – that can be seen and accessed by anyone walking through the atrium on their way to dinner, casino or



**KAREN QUINN-PANZER**

wherever. During the day, it has huge windows and seating where it stages game shows like Family Feud.

At night, it literally stops you in your tracks when the multi-deck windows transform into a production space. You encounter a beautiful, creative production event that is part Cirque du Soleil, part Broadway and partly a work of art based on the set design, costumes and production quality.

Speaking of celebrating, specialty restaurant highlights include Fahrenheit 555, one of the best steakhouses at sea; Emeril's Bistro 1397, which features some of the finest beignets and jambalaya outside of New Orleans; and Bonsai Teppanyaki, with singing teppanyaki chefs who present a wonderful meal with only eight to a grill. There are more lounges than you can get to on a short cruise, and no fewer than seven

different venues with different music genres. Shopping includes pre-owned Louis Vuitton and Gucci handbags.

But I can't forget the families. For young kids, the Dr. Seuss entertainment is superb, and the staff sets up adorable towel animals on all the pool lounge chairs early in the morning. It's a wonderful discovery for kids and kids at heart. There are eight complimentary restaurants, including Guy's Burger Joint and Miami Slice, so fussy kids are no problem for mom and dad. And Carnival's Seaside Theatre features family films outdoors under the stars.

This ship packs a great celebration for multi-gen families who appreciate great variety and value.

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

# Bridges Gets Federal Grant

Bridges Healthcare in Milford has announced that it has been awarded a five-year \$600,000 annual grant by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration through the National Child Trauma Stress Initiative. Bridges has been selected as one of 28 agencies nationally to receive this funding.

SAMHSA's NCTSI improves treatment and services for children, adolescents and families who have experienced traumatic events. Its goal is to transform mental health care for children and adolescents affected by trauma by improving the quality of community-based trauma treatment and services and increasing access to effective trauma-focused interventions.

"Bridges Healthcare is very excited to have received funding from SAMHSA through the National Child Trauma Stress Initiative to best respond to the increasing mental health needs of youth in the Milford and West Haven communities," Bridges CEO and President Jennifer Fiorillo, who is also a Milford-Orange Times columnist, said. "Having a greater presence in the schools will increase the likelihood that kids will access necessary treatment to address trauma and resulting emotional and behavioral issues that we have seen a spike in throughout the last several years since the COVID pandemic. We look forward to expanding our partnerships with the West Haven and Milford school systems."

Through this Supporting Our Students project, Bridges will offer evidence-based

treatment services for children and teens that have a history of trauma (which can be caused by a variety of things including abuse, grief, loss, accidents and natural disasters) at West Shore Middle School and Jonathan Law High School in Milford and Carrigan Intermediate School and West Haven High School in West Haven. The schools chosen will allow Bridges to expand its care presence in the Milford and West Haven school systems and serve more students by meeting them where they are, reducing barriers to care.

Another component of the grant is trauma screening and training which will be developed in collaboration with the Child Health and Development Institute so school staff or social workers can identify students suffering from traumatic stress and refer them to this program.

According to Melissa Jacob, Bridges' Director of Child Outpatient Services and Care Coordination, "What we know is that when kids are able to manage their symptoms they are better able to focus in school and peer relationships improve. We are excited to be able to offer these services to more children and families in our local communities."

The grant funding will allow Bridges to reach 100 children and teens in the first year, scaling up to 160 in years two through five for a total of 740 students served over the course of the grant.

The grant provides funding for four full-time clinicians (one at each school), a case manager and a project coordinator. Staff hiring and training is underway with a target implementation of February 2024.

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### Mental Health

# The Importance Of School-Based Mental Health Services

In the last three years we have seen an emphasis on the need to support mental health services in our schools. This push has been brought about by the spike in trauma, as well as emotional and behavioral issues in children and adolescents throughout the last several years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although there has been more advocacy for school-based services in the recent past, mental and behavioral health issues in our youth have been prevalent for long before that time.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children and adolescents experience a mental health problem during their years in school. Some of these issues can include anxiety, depression, coping with bullying, stress and substance use. More severe problems that have been on the rise in the last several years include self-injurious, suicidal and aggressive behaviors.

A report issued by the Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration in 2019 outlines that 3.8 million adolescents ages 12-17 reported a major depressive episode in the last year. What's troubling is that nearly 60 percent of those adolescents did not receive treatment – and out of those who did, two-thirds of them accessed services in the school. The school provides an ideal environment for caring relationships, positive development and intervention, making it more likely that students will access treatment and receive support navigating the system to connect them to appropriate services.

Schools struggle to meet the mental health needs of students, especially as the demand has increased. The National Association of Social Workers recommends a ratio of 250 students for each social worker. In 2022, this ratio was one social worker for every 580 students. The recommended ratio for school



JENNIFER FIORILLO

psychologists is one for every 500 students. This number can get as high as one to 5,000 in some states. The shortage of staff in schools to address mental health issues is concerning given that the school setting is a place where it is more likely kids will access treatment.

Developing partnerships with community-based provider organizations has been one strategy that schools have used to better manage the increase in need and complex emotional and behavioral issues that children and adolescents are experiencing. School-based mental health services provide a direct link to clinical expertise for mental health screening and treatment that also allows for more seamless collaboration between school personnel, parents and external resources.

As a partner of the West Haven and Mil-

ford School systems, Bridges Healthcare will be providing evidenced-based trauma informed treatment to students and training on trauma screening to school personnel through a grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Through this funding, a clinician will be available at West Shore Middle School, Johnathon Law High School in Milford, and Carrigan-Intermediate School and West Haven High School in West Haven. A case manager will also be available as part of this initiative to work with the school in supporting students and families in navigating the service system. Bridges is very excited to be partnering with these schools to meet students where they are and reduce barriers to care.

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

### Milford-Orange Probate Court

# The Potential Benefits Of A Will

If you pass away in Connecticut without a will, your assets get distributed in accordance with state statute, which is known as the laws of intestacy. For example, if you have a surviving spouse and children of the marriage, your spouse would get the first \$100,000.00 and half of the balance and your children would split the remaining half balance.

A will allows you to control how your assets get distributed with some limitations. Using the example above, you may want your surviving spouse to receive all of your assets, or you may want to give one child more than another. Similarly, you may want to leave something for your grandchildren, a charity or caregiver. Unless you have a will (or another estate planning vehicle in place), your assets will get distributed through the laws of intestacy and not in accordance with your other preferences.

In addition to potentially giving you the freedom of choosing how your assets get distributed, there may be other advantages to having a will in place. A will allows you

to select the fiduciary of your estate, who will manage the estate throughout the probate process. The appointment of a fiduciary can sometimes be contentious, if one or more individuals want the role, so naming someone in your will can limit any arguments, as the court is generally required to appoint the fiduciary named in the will.

Your will can also give the fiduciary certain powers without the need for court approval. Such powers may include being able to sell or mortgage real property, which can save time and money and may allow the estate to enter into a transaction it may otherwise have missed if it needed to wait for court approval.

A will can also waive the need for a probate bond, direct how certain debts and expenses get paid and account for certain scenarios (such as leaving money to a child only if he or she graduates from college). In short, a well written will can potentially re-



BEN GETTINGER

duce or negate disputes, limit the need for court intervention and approval, save time and money during the probate process and give you more control over how your assets get distributed.

Below are a few examples of how a will can potentially prevent or resolve certain issues:

Issue 1: You do not want your assets distributed through the laws of intestacy.

Potential solution: Use a will to distribute your assets in accordance with your preferences.

Example: I hereby leave my wife Rebecca and my children David and Cindy my entire estate in equal shares. I specifically omit my child Edward because he won the lottery and does not need my support.

Issue 2: You are worried multiple members of your family will want to be fiduciary of your estate.

Potential solution: Use a will to name a fiduciary and successor fiduciary.

Example: I hereby appoint Frank Martin as the fiduciary of my estate. If Frank Martin predeceases me, is incapable of serving as fiduciary or declines, I hereby appoint Dean Sinatra as the fiduciary of my estate.

Issue 3: You do not want your estate to incur the expense of a probate bond.

Potential solution: Use a will to waive the bond requirement.

Example: I direct that no fiduciary shall be required to file or furnish any bond.

As always, this column is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Its purpose is to simply illustrate the potential benefits of a will. The law governing wills is complex and nuanced, so you should familiarize yourself with the applicable laws or consult a professional before drafting and executing a will, to make sure it is a valid will and actually accomplishes what you want it to accomplish.

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

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## Subway

### (Continued From 1)

in the zone – are on the decline, and the developer was looking for a way to make the best use of the site.

“We’re looking for a way to reuse this site with something that is needed in Milford, and something which is also needed for the economic health of Milford and to keep jobs here,” he said.

FCP Euro already has a presence in Milford, with one location on Bic Drive nearby and another location several miles away on Hill Street, a few blocks from the Green. The plan would be to consolidate its headquarters and warehouse into one facility at the former Subway site. The FCP owners suggested this would increase their own efficiency and reduce overall vehicle traffic in the city.

Several city leaders spoke in favor of the plan, including members of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and Milford’s Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Richard Smith also spoke out in favor of the proposal, saying that FCP was a “word-class” company and that developer Bob Scinto had worked well with the city for years. He also noted that he was involved in creating the city-owned passive open space that contains Mondo Ponds near the property, and that it was “near and dear to my heart.”

Others, however, spoke out strongly against the environmental impact the FCP facility would have, citing everything from the effects on the wildlife to the effects on those who frequent the nature preserve to the effects of diesel fumes on the children at the nearby John F. Kennedy Elementary School.

Milford resident Dr. Lisa Tryon, who has worked in environmental conservation,

pointed out that the Mondo Ponds area is listed by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as being home to numerous endangered plant and animal species.

“The noise of trucks, the particulate matter from diesel and the light pollution at night is obviously not conducive to a nature preserve. And that includes the people who previously enjoyed Mondo Pond as a quiet spot to walk in nature,” she said. “Industrial warehouses do not belong in an area with precious natural resources. They belong in a zoned industrial area, of which Milford has several.”

Resident Alan Koller provided a petition to the board signed by 302 residents opposing the project. A second petition in opposition was also handed in by attorney Thomas DeMatteo, who lives in the area and is representing some of the opposing neighbors.

The petitions could put a further damper on the project’s approval, since if more than 20 percent of those within 500 feet of the property deliver such a petition, the board will need a two-thirds majority to approve the project, instead of a simple majority.

“There’s not one positive impact for anyone who lives in that area,” DeMatteo said. “The idea that our tax base and our economic development dictates the quality of life in this city is absurd.”

After the public participation, Curseaden countered that the facility would actually have fewer trucks traveling shorter distances than they do now. He argued they would not be idling on the site or running late into the night.

Planning and Zoning Chair Jim Quish asked the applicant about the storage of oil-based products, which come with their own environmental and safety issues. He was told the facility would hold about 200 gallons of used motor oil per day.

That prompted further questioning from City Planner David Sulkis about other potentially hazardous products and the handling of oil products.

Quish said that in light of the information the board had received, including the petitions, it would not be possible to make a decision on the applicant’s proposal that evening. It was continued to the board’s Nov. 21 meeting.

“I will be in California,” Quish mentioned to his colleagues as the nearly four-hour meeting came to a close. “Have fun.”

## Sewer

### (Continued From 1)

Brinton shared a letter he had received which called for up to 75 three-bedroom, market-rate units.

“But what I just read you, there’s no commitment,” Brinton told the board. “It hasn’t gone to wetlands or planning and zoning or anything like that.”

“So you’re putting a sewer approval on an unknown,” First Selectman Jim Zeoli cautioned his fellow selectmen. He noted that sewer approvals can be tricky, citing a current project on the opposite side of town near Fieldstone Village and Route 34.

“I received a phone call from the property owner over there because they’re going through his field along the easement edge,” Zeoli said. “That kind of made me think about this a little bit, because you’re opening a door that you don’t know.”

“There’s people that live across the street from there who obviously are going to be impacted in some form or fashion,” said Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, referring to the Dogburn Lane site. “I agree. I think

we need to have more information before we’re going to make such a statement and approve a sewer use extension into the residential area. I can see why, but I think there’s more for us to know.”

Zeoli said that he had spoken to plenty of people around town who were looking to downsize their living spaces but stay in town; he and Goldblatt both mentioned the need for more housing options.

“But I don’t know if they’re looking for three-bedrooms, I don’t know if they’re up and downs, or stacked...I don’t know anything about it,” Zeoli said. “You’re giving carte blanche to a space without knowing what goes with it, and that could change.”

Goldblatt suggested there be some restrictions placed on the approval based on what the developer eventually presents to the town. Brinton, however, noted that the approval was to amend an agreement with West Haven, not the developer, and that there might not be a vehicle within that for adding restrictions.

“You’re right – it would not go into that,” Goldblatt said of the intermunicipal agreement. “But then that would be held by the first selectman or the town attorney until such time that we were sure that what was going in met the parameter of whatever we were being told was being approved.”

Brinton mentioned that he could only recall four times when the sewer extensions like this had been considered, with the most analogous being the apartments on Smith Farm Road.

“The difference with the apartments on Smith Farm Road was you could see what the design was,” Brinton said.

“That’s my exact point,” Goldblatt replied. “We need to know what’s being built before approving a sewer agreement.”

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## Elections

### (Continued From 1)

defeated Democratic Registrar of Voters Kerri Rowland with 51.63 percent of the vote, or just over three percentage points.

“Thank you Milford,” Giannattasio wrote on his campaign’s Facebook page after the results came in. “Now we can move forward together,”

“I remain so positive about the outlook of our city and I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves as your mayor. My door is always open for you,” he added.

Although Giannattasio was the big winner on election night, the GOP did not flip many other city seats. Democratic City Clerk Karen Fortunati

won reelection to her post by nearly 10 points over challenger John Fowler. And Democrats won more votes for the Board of Education in all districts except District 1.

Republicans – perhaps unsurprisingly – had better luck in Orange, where they dominated most of the polls.

Republican First Selectman Jim Zeoli cruised to victory with more than 61 percent of the vote over challenger Mark Moyher, a Democrat with a long career in the financial industry who offered to bring that acumen to town finances.

Zeoli, who is starting his 10th term as first selectman, has consistently won at least 60 percent of the vote in the last few election cycles.

“I am honored to be so strongly supported in this election process. The confidence shown in my leadership abilities by residents, both young and old, long term and new is heartwarming,” Zeoli said of his win. “I have never gone into an election just sitting back and thinking, you got this. I do know that some will be thrilled at my receiving the blessing of a 10th term and others will be disappointed in the outcome, but I do know that when you sit in the first selectman chair you must make considerations that affect all residents and taxpayers of Orange.”

Zeoli said his team planned to stay the course in planned improvements to infrastructure and economic development, and noted that he was

looking for more parcels of open space to get the town to his stated goal of 2,000 protected acres.

Similarly to the 2021 municipal election, Republicans collected more votes than Democrats across the board for the various offices in Orange. In many cases, such as on the Board of Selectmen, minority representation is assured by town rules. Democrats did not run candidates for town clerk or tax collector.

The wins for Republicans in Milford and Orange were something of an outlier compared to much of the rest of the state, as Democrats flipped party control of twice as many top municipal seats as the GOP did, including in places like Fairfield, Derby and Danbury.

## Grind Baseball Opens In Orange



The Orange Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Nov. 3 to celebrate the grand opening of Grind Baseball & Softball Training, located at 83 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. The 6,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility has five tunnels, three full-size turf mounds and two Hack Attack Hitting Machines – the same machines used by all 30 major league affiliated teams, according to the center’s website. Owner Michael Moras, center, cut the ribbon as staff and officials looked on, including state Reps. Kathy Kennedy and Charles Ferraro, First Selectman Jim Zeoli and Orange Chamber Executive Director Liam Ohlmann. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

## Psychologist Opens Milford Office



Psychotherapy company Coastal Connecticut Counseling held a ribbon-cutting on Nov. 4 to mark the grand opening of their second Milford location at 58 Wellington Rd. The company offers over 30 office spaces for counseling sessions and conference rooms for group training. The company offers in-person and telehealth sessions. From left: children Ethan and Jacoby Koleser, husband Ken Koleser, Simon McDonald of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, Coastal Connecticut Counseling owner Alyssa Kolesar, Milford Mayor Richard Smith, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, state Sen. James Maroney, staff member Glenda O’Connell and staff member Kass Mayer. *Photo by Greg Geiger.*



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### Milford Nov. 7, 2023 Municipal Election Results

**Mayor**  
 Kerri Rowland: 7,773  
 Tony Giannattasio: 8,298

**City Clerk**  
 Karen Fortunati: 8,634  
 John Fowler: 7,241

**Board of Aldermen 1st District**  
 Michelle Parente: 1,504  
 Matt Arciuolo, II: 1,569  
 Buddy Prete: 1,746  
 Andy Fowler: 1,827  
 Jason Jenkins: 1,1759

**Board of Aldermen 2nd District**  
 Ward Willis: 1,426  
 Robert Pacelli, Jr.: 1,533  
 Scott Marlow: 1,454  
 Chris Goulden: 1,372

**Board of Aldermen 3rd District**  
 Holly E. Mulrenan: 1,459  
 Paul J. Healy: 1,488  
 Michael S. Casey: 1,404

Jeffrey R. Parkin: 1,195  
 Peter Berube: 1,296

**Board of Aldermen 4th District**  
 Phil Vetro: 1,744  
 Jennifer Federico: 1,740  
 Dan German: 1,530  
 Win Smith Jr.: 1,593  
 Katie R. Martino: 1,498

**Board of Aldermen 5th District**  
 Carl S. Moore: 1,707  
 Ellen Beatty: 1,851  
 Ray Vitali: 1,937  
 Bill Bevan: 1,890

**Board of Education 1st District**  
 Gary Peluchette: 1,465  
 Erin Pinsince: 1,370  
 Scott Firmender: 1,722  
 Christina Prete: 1,870

**Board of Education 2nd District**  
 Susan Glennon: 1,529  
 Meghan Doyle: 1,501

Bob Tschilke: 1,229  
 Frank Musante: 1,294

**Board of Education 3rd District**  
 Tracey Irby: 1,445  
 Una Petroske: 1,418  
 Thomas Jagodzinski: 1,275  
 Ellen Monforte: 1,283

**Board of Education 4th District**  
 Tom Koba: 1,624  
 Cindy Wolfe Boynton: 1,786  
 Nancy L. Sobocinski: 1,442  
 Tara J. Galbo: 1,396

**Board of Education 5th District**  
 Mike Smith: 1,882  
 Loren Mahler: 1,802  
 Scott A. Marlow: 1,595  
 Dawn King: 1,608

**Planning and Zoning Board 1st District**  
 Joe Castignoli: 1,503  
 John Agnese: 1,796

**Planning and Zoning Board 2nd District**  
 John Mortimer: 1,426  
 Mark Macchio: 1,427

**Planning and Zoning Board 3rd District**  
 Robert Satti: 1,466  
 Steve Visconti: 1,328

**Planning and Zoning Board 4th District**  
 Joseph Alling: 1,711  
 Frank Fanelli III: 1,516

**Planning and Zoning Board 5th District**  
 Marc Zahariades: 1,905  
 Andrew King: 1,613

**Constables**  
 Linda J. Hardiman: 8,348  
 Theodore Boynton: 7,863  
 Shaun Liebskind: 7,025  
 Dominic Cotton: 7,033  
 Shirley Serrano: 7,269  
 Steven T. Visconti: 7,446  
 Scott Monforte: 6,934  
 Erik Smith: 7,099

### Orange Nov. 7, 2023 Municipal Election Results

**First Selectman**  
 Mark Moyher: 1,864  
 Jim Zeoli: 3,032

**Board of Selectmen**  
 Mitchell R. Goldblatt: 2,313  
 Melissa Johnston: 1,749  
 PJ Shanley: 2,048  
 Judy Wright Williams: 2,644  
 Ralph G. Okenquist: 2,576  
 John J. Carangelo: 2,809

**Town Clerk**  
 Mary Shaw: 3,770

**Tax Collector**  
 Thomas P. Hurley: 3,595

**Board of Finance**  
 Jen Alfaro: 2,035  
 Anna Mahon: 2,263  
 James A. Leahy: 2,901  
 Kevin Houlihan: 2,959

**Board of Education**  
 Susan Riccio: 2,153  
 Betty Hadlock: 2,071  
 Ralph Marguy: 1,824  
 William J. Kraut: 2,566  
 Anthony Scarinzi: 2,672

Ken Ziman: 2,639

**Town Plan & Zoning Commission, Four Year Term Begins 2023**  
 Scott Rogalski: 1,780  
 Ken Lenz: 1,904  
 Tom Torrenti: 2,769  
 Judy Smith: 2,942

**Town Plan & Zoning Commission, Four Year Term Begins 2024**  
 Paul Kaplan: 2,964

**Amity Regional Board of Education**  
 Josh Orlinsky: 1,995  
 Paul Davis: 2,431

Ken Briodagh: 1,773  
 Jennifer Jacquet: 2,150  
 Cathy Bradley: 2,733  
 Michael McDonough: 2,550  
 Dana Lombardi: 2,726

**Constables**  
 Santo Galatioto, Jr.: 2,118  
 Jody Dietch: 2,055  
 Randy Thomas: 2,163  
 Gary Palermo: 2,671  
 Jody Daymon: 2,660  
 Glen P. Papelo: 2,422  
 Michael Donadeo: 2,572

Blue = Democrat; Red = Republican

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



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# Obituaries

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

**Barbara Fradette Alpert** (August 1964 – November 2023)



passed away peacefully at her home in Palmetto, Florida, with her loving husband by her side.

**Jaime Alfonso Buelvas**, 77, of Milford, Connecticut, passed away on October 20, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Janice Lola Benoit Fodero**, 83, died peacefully in her home in Orange on October 24, 2023. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



**James R. Law**, age 97, of Branford, beloved husband of the late Dorothy (Cushing) Law, entered peaceful rest on November 6, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Paul Dempsey**, a beloved father, passed away on November 5th, 2023, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, Connecticut. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Eric Furtado**, 47, passed away on October 24, 2023 at his home in Milford CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Grace Anne Lewis** 74, passed away peacefully at home in the company of family on July 20th, 2023. She will be missed.



**Vincent James Ardigliano, Jr.** age 57 of Milford, entered peaceful rest on October 25, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Andrea Dente**, 57, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of Joseph Dente, passed away on November 1, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Jo Kilbride**, age 93, of New York City, beloved wife of the late Richard Kilbride entered peaceful rest on October 30, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Richard Merritt Merrill**, age 80, beloved husband of 36 years to Susan A. Merrill passed away at home in Milford on October 31, 2023. (McDonald Funeral Home)



**Robert Scott Bowe**, 69, of Milford, passed away on November 5, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Frances Aletta Steevels Duhamel**, 92, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Daniel Joseph Duhamel Jr., passed away on Oct. 28, 2023, with her loving family by her side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Marie Kubanis**, 82 of Milford, CT passed with her daughter by her side on November 7, 2023 - a month and a week before she would turn 83. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Mary Jane Murray**, 85, longtime resident of Milford, beloved wife of the late William J. Murray Sr, passed away on November 5, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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# Obituaries

**Beryl Swire Novitch** passed away on Nov. 9th in West Palm Beach, FL at the age of 86 after a nine-year battle with Alzheimer's. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



**Troy Douglas Ruff** passed away on November 3, 2023, at his home in Stratford CT. He was the loving husband of Carmen Ruff. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Carol Ann Peterson, 72** of Orange, CT passed away on October 30, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. (North Haven Funeral Home)



**Howard (Howie) Seat, Jr.** passed peacefully at The Fairfield House, Stamford, surrounded by their loving staff and Constellation Hospice on April 5, 2023.



**Russell Pisacane, 51**, of Milford, passed away on October 24, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Pauline Vargoshe, 85**, beloved wife of the late Stephen Vargoshe, passed away on October 30, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert Paul Rosa Sr, "Bob"**, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Betty Jane Vodola, 77**, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of the late David Pond Vodola passed away on November 6, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



## HSSK Named To 2024 Best Lawyers List

Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff, a boutique law firm in Milford, announced on Nov. 2 that the firm has been included in the 2024 Best Lawyers Best Law Firms in Commercial Litigation and Land Use and Zoning Law, Tier 1, New Haven.

To receive the Best Law Firm distinction, at least one attorney from the firm must be featured in Best Lawyers in America, an honor reserved for the top 5 percent of practicing attorneys. All

four HSSK's partners – David Slossberg, John Knuff, Amy Souchuns and Kristin Zaehringer – were included in this year's edition.

"It's an honor for HSSK to be listed in the 2024 Best Law Firms," said partner David Slossberg. "We are thankful to Best Lawyers, our peers and clients and the broader legal community for recognizing our contributions and considering HSSK among Connecticut's elite law firms."

## Dockside Brewery Donating Turkey Dinners To Beth-El

On Thanksgiving Day, while Dockside Brewery is closed, their team will come together to package and donate turkey dinners to the Beth-el Homeless Shelter as part of the brewery's annual Thanksgiving "give-back" initiative to support the area's homeless community.

"Our annual Thanksgiving 'Give-Back' is an opportunity for us to express our gratitude and provide support to those less fortunate in our community," said Bob Chicoine, general manager at Dockside. "We believe that everyone deserves a warm and hearty meal on Thanksgiving,

and we're honored to partner with the Beth-El Homeless Shelter to make that happen."

"We hope our small act of kindness brings joy and warmth to the hearts of those at the Beth-El Homeless Shelter," Chicoine added. "It's essential for us as a community to come together and support each other, especially during these challenging times."

Dockside staff engage in various community-based initiatives throughout the year, working closely with local organizations.

## Festival Of Carols Coming

Our Lady of the Assumption Church will host a Festival of Carols on Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. at 81 Center Rd. in Woodbridge.

The carols will be performed by the combined adults' and children's choirs and instrumentalists. Admission is free.

## Apartment Wanted by Senior Couple

A well-established local senior couple seeks a ground floor, 2 bed room apartment... non-smokers, no pets, no children, very credit-worthy. Call 203-799-7500 and leave a message.

# Gregory F. Doyle

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