

Milford-Orange Times

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Election 2023 Special Section: Voter Candidate Guide Pages 16-21



Milford mayoral candidate Kerri Rowland.



Milford mayoral candidate Tony Giannattasio.

Zeoli, Moyher Face Off In Debate

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli and challenger Mark Moyher came together at High Plains Community Center for their first debate, put together by the Milford-Orange Times, on the evening of Oct. 18.

Moyher, a Democrat and longtime financial professional, is seeking to unseat Republican Zeoli, who has held the town's top position for the last 18 years.

Zeoli and Moyher clashed directly on several issues, including Orange's use of public funds, community engagement and the direction of education.

Moyher, who has campaigned on the idea that his financial background will make him a better steward of town money, used his opening statement

to criticize Zeoli's preference for socking extra funds away.

"I'm confident that I'll be able to handle the fiscal responsibility that this town expects while judiciously using our overfunded balance to address the issues that are important to our community," he said.

Continued on page 24



Orange first selectman candidate Mark Moyher.



Orange first selectman Jim Zeoli.



Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli and challenger Mark Moyher faced off in two debates on Oct. 18 and Oct. 29. Top photo by Lexi Crocco. Bottom photo courtesy of Orange Government Access Television.

Milford Adopts POCD After Public Hearing

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Planning and Zoning Board held its final vote on Oct. 24 to adopt the city's new Plan of Conservation and Development during a special meeting at which Milford residents also got a chance to sound off on the draft.

The 2032 Plan of Conservation and Development has been in the works for about three years within the Planning and Zoning Board and lays out an overall vision for how the city should grow and change. The Board of Aldermen already

Continued on page 6



Jerry Ucci, founder of United Insurance Group, Inc.

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Orange Lions Host Military Whist



The Orange Lions Club held its Military Whist card party on Oct. 27 as a fundraiser for their local charities. Top photo: members of the club in attendance. Bottom photo: one team of four players – Lion Kevin Hadlock, Lion Roz Klein, Lion Betty Hadlock and guest Marietta Meyers. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Amity Students Make National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Seven Amity High seniors have been selected as semi-finalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program: Aditi Bhattamishra, Haseeb Chaudhry, Edward Han, Deborah Luo, Jack Morrison, Alice Xu and Annika Yun.

They are among the top 16,000 scorers nationwide out of the more than 1.3 million students who took the PSAT-NMSQT test

during their junior year.

Amity is tied for the fifth highest number of semi-finalists among all public high schools in Connecticut this year. All seven recipients were recognized at the Oct. 16 Amity Board of Education meeting and are now in the competition to become National Merit finalists later this year.

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OVFD Gets Into Halloween Spirit



Members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, with the help of the Orange Players, transformed the fire station to a haunted house where ghosts, ghouls, goblins and others set up camp on Oct. 27 and 28. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Milford Candidate Forums For BOA, BOE Available

Candidates for Milford Board of Aldermen and Board of Education participated in recent forums that are now available to the public online at youtube.com/@milfordedadvocates.

The forums were a joint effort by the Milford PTA Council, Milford Ed Advocates and All in for Milford partner to help voters make informed choices. Of the 43 candidates, 19 participated.

Questions were sourced from community members. All candidates were invited and questions were provided ahead of time.

“This spring, over 2,000 Milford residents successfully united to fight for restoring

\$1.65 million in education funding. We emerged with a stronger understanding of the roles our elected officials play in education funding, and an interest in learning more about the candidates,” said Kara Flannery, founder of Milford Ed Advocates.

“Milford PTA Council is proud to have hosted Board of Education forums for years, and now to expand, engaging with Board of Aldermen candidates,” said Bridget Krauss, president of Milford’s PTA Council. “We learned so much from the candidates about why they want to serve Milford and their priorities – even from incumbents.”

Topics address key concerns that

elected officials will need to grapple with. Candidates delve into managing the challenge of balancing desired investments with rising costs, preparing students for the future workforce while ensuring their well-being in the present, teacher hiring and retention, and identifying critical initiatives to guarantee an adequate supply of housing.

The sponsor organizations pointed out that participation does not imply an endorsement by those groups.

Participants from District 1 were: Matt Arciuolo (D) and Michelle Parente (D), Board of Aldermen; Gary Peluchette (D), Erin Pinsince (D) and Christina Prete (R),

Board of Education. Participants from District 2 were: Robert Pacelli, Jr. (D), Board of Aldermen; Meghan Doyle (D) and Susan Glennon (D), Board of Education. Participants from District 3 were: Paul Healy (D) and Holly Mulrenan (D), Board of Aldermen; Tracey Irby (D) and Una Petroske (D), Board of Education. District 4 participants included: Jennifer Federico (D), Board of Aldermen; Cindy Wolfe Boynton (D) and Tom Koba (D), Board of Education. The District 5 participants were: Ellen Russell Beatty (D) and Carl Moore (D), Board of Aldermen; Loren Mahler (D) and Mike Smith (D), Board of Education.

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For Nature's Sake

A Scientist's Eye On Spotted Lanternflies In Milford

A typical workday for state scientist Claire Rutledge over the past year has included fieldwork in Milford at sites where she can reliably find swarms of spotted lanternfly. With a masters and doctoral degree in entomology, and research experience with such invasive pests as the emerald ash borer, Rutledge shifted last fall in her work for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to look at the lanternfly. That has led her to spend significant time in the perhaps less picturesque corners of Milford.

Some of the more predictably infested spots for lanternfly in the city – places that are also easily accessed for experiments and collecting samples – are so-called disturbed sites like roadsides or park-and-ride lots in the shadows of big highways. That's partly because these places tend to also feature the invasive tree of heaven, an ecologically destructive, rapidly growing deciduous tree. The spotted lanternfly is especially attracted to the tree of heaven which, in turn, plays a key role in helping the lanternfly population to thrive.

For those who have not yet encountered the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect

originally from southeastern Asia, in the adult phase it looks like a lavishly decorated moth about one inch long and half an inch wide, featuring dusky wings with black spots in an outer layer and an underlayer with striking red, white and black coloring. From birth, it passes through four nymph stages, all of which are spotted and wingless; they're great hoppers. By September they've transformed into adults, and through November or until the first killing freeze they'll be laying eggs.

While spotted lanternfly doesn't bite or sting humans or pets, it does feed "voraciously" on a range of food crops, hardwoods and ornamental plants, according to biologists at Penn State. They have mouth extensions that help them drain the nutrients from a range of plants – often to the point of stressing rather than killing the plant, although a large, persistent enough swarm can kill a tree. In general, experts consider them a threat to agriculture and tourism, and Rutledge points to the particular threat they present for vineyards.

The first spotted lanternfly infestation in the US occurred in 2014 in eastern Pennsylvania. Here in Connecticut, the first infestation was discovered in 2020, says Rutledge, clarifying that, "we call it an infestation when we find a population that's reproducing – where we see evidence of adults and eggs."



PATRICIA HOUSER

In New Haven County, she says, the first infested sites were at two highway rest stops: one in Milford on I-95 and one in Orange along the Wilbur Cross Parkway. That's not surprising, since these bugs seem to spread by hopping on cars, trucks, trains or any other moving vehicle and then drop off when the vehicle comes to rest.

This insect's tendency to hitchhike and accumulate where vehicles stop is also why residents of Milford and Orange will notice especially large numbers of spotted lanternfly at the CT Post Mall or train stations – there have been swarms sighted on the northbound side of the Metro-North station in Milford.

On her rounds to collect lanternfly samples, Rutledge visits a park and ride between the north and south ramps at Exit 40 of I-95, where she is dressed in head-to-toe field-work garb, prepared for dirt and thorns and wearing a vest for visibility. Her equipment in this case includes soda cups, the kind with domed lids and a small opening at the top. Those make an ideal receptacle for the 100 to 150 lanternflies that Rutledge will deliver to colleague Dr. Hany Dweck at the state lab.

Dweck, who has an expertise in chemical ecology, is studying the way that lanternflies detect odors as well as which odors are the best attractants. This kind of knowledge has been used to create traps at places where lanternflies lay eggs on trees near Old Gate Lane, Oronoque Road and other spots in Milford. Such oviposition traps are skirt-like devices attached a few feet off the ground, each with a different scent, that Rutledge and others measure for activity.

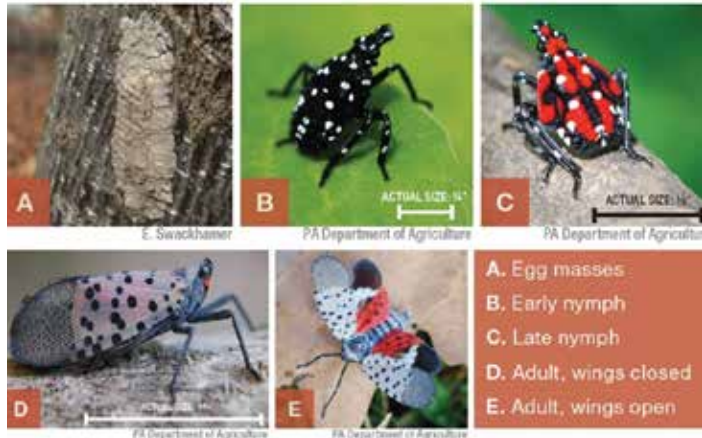
"We're testing different smells to see what they like to lay eggs on," she says.

That's just one of several experiments which are helping Rutledge and her colleagues build a level of scientific expertise on lanternflies that can reassure us all. But these same experts will also warn against complacency.

Officials from affected states regularly assert at least five ways the public can help reduce the harm caused by spotted lanternflies. 1) Help scientists gather more data by using online reporting when and where you see a lanternfly or swarm. See the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website for that link. 2) Squash or otherwise collect (some use a handheld vacuum) and dispose of the insect to prevent more egg-laying. Each female can lay at least two masses, and each egg mass consists of 30 to 50 eggs. 3) Scrape egg masses off of any surfaces around your property, including your car, and dispose of it in a sealed zip-lock with alcohol or hand sanitizer. 4) Check that you don't help transport these pests. See the USDA's online spotted lanternfly checklist. 5) Look for opportunities to eradicate the tree of heaven plant in your town. For background, view the three-minute video from Purdue Extension called, "ID that Tree: Tree of Heaven."

Of the steps listed above, the one thing that may help most in the long run toward controlling this and other invasive insects is ridding your property and town of the tree of heaven. Still, especially now during egg-laying season, each one of the above actions can help protect local landscapes and ecosystems.

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



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Milford POCD

(Continued From 1)

had a chance in September to approve the draft, and now it is awaiting a final decision by the Planning and Zoning Board.

Municipalities are required by state law to create a POCD every 10 years. The documents are not specific laws or regulations, but are meant to guide decisions on other zoning rules and specific projects.

Michele Kramer, who is involved with the Milford's Historic Preservation Commission and president of the Milford Preservation Trust, said that the POCD should do more to secure the city's historic heritage.

"I would like to see a little more substance, not just acknowledging the importance of historic preservation but also perhaps some guidelines," she said.

In particular, she noted that the POCD refers to the existence of design standards, but doesn't specify which standards those are.

"In the two historic districts, those should be the Secretary of the Interior's design standards, so maybe there could be mention of that," she said.

Kramer also noted some misleading language that seemed to suggest all historic property owners needed to file an application to make certain changes to the property, when in fact only those properties listed on the state Register of Historic Places fell under that requirement.

Milford Historian Richard Platt said he wanted to add a resounding "yes" to the multiple mentions of affordable housing mentioned in the draft plan. He cautioned, however, that some of the maps in the draft seemed to include certain historic properties in zoning districts that would

allow for major development.

"Number 67 Prospect Street is probably the most historic area in town. That was the home lot of the man who led the founding of Milford, the Rev. Peter Pruden," Platt said, noting that the property was supposed to be rehabilitated but was undergoing "demolition by neglect."

Several residents from Shell Avenue, where a 20-unit apartment building development was also recently before the Planning and Zoning Board – though not on this night – turned their frustrations over that proposal into general critiques of the POCD. They suggested the plan include more provisions against "monstrous" buildings in certain neighborhoods and that it take into more account the effects of flooding and traffic on the construction of new structures.

Resident Sarah Bromley said that she wanted more direction on affordable housing in the plan so that residents such as her daughter or herself could afford to live – and stay – in the city. She suggested the city even consider fully public housing.

"It doesn't have to change neighborhoods. There are ways to create gentle density," she said.

City Planner David Sulkis pointed out during the hearing that the plan had been reviewed by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "and they very much liked it." He added that it had also met with approval by the South Central Regional Council of Governments, which coordinates planning between area municipalities.

Before the board voted unanimously to adopt the POCD, Chair Jim Quish said the approval was being done with the expectation of "scrivener's changes" in accordance with some of the feedback the board had received.

Milford, Orange To Honor Veterans

Milford and Orange will hold events around Veterans Day to honor those who have served the country in the military.

Orange will be honoring Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Orange War Remembrance Memorial at High Plains Community Center. The American Legion, which is leading the event, welcomes the public and any veterans who wish to attend. Applications are also available to purchase commemorative bricks for the Remembrance Memorial at High Plains. Bricks are \$100 each and can be purchased by veterans themselves or by families in honor of their beloved veterans, either living or deceased.

For more information, contact the First Selectman's office at 203-891-4737 or

adenny@orange-ct.gov.

Milford will hold its annual wreath laying ceremony, also on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 10:45 a.m. in front of City Hall. The event will then move to the monuments on the Green.

Milford will also host a Veterans Day parade on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. All units and marchers are asked to assemble at the Daniel Wasson Field parking lot at 1 p.m., located at 70 West River St. The Milford Concert Band will perform on the Green prior to the parade.

If your organization would like to participate, email Tom Jackson, chairman of the Veterans, Ceremony & Parade Commission at jackson.west@att.net.

Orange Garden Club Cleans Historic Herb Garden




Members of the Garden Club of Orange did some early fall clean up at The Stone-Otis House herb garden. Beginning in 2017 the club, in collaboration with the Orange Historical Society, began the restoration of the herb garden. Using an original description of the garden provided by the society, the club cleared years of debris and added donated compost and improved the soil. Under the leadership of Maryellen Bepuda, club members planted 31 types of herbs. They were divided into four quadrants – two of culinary herbs, one of beverage herbs and one of medicinal herbs. To learn more about the Garden Club of Orange and its various civic projects, contact Lisa Stackpole at 203-795-1343. Photo by Linda Bradford.

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Opinion & Editorial

Amity Teacher Retention Top Election Issue

By Patrick Cumpstone

Over the last three years, school districts across Connecticut have experienced an alarming rate of teacher turnover. Amity is no exception. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 25 percent of Amity teachers have either resigned or retired from the district (this percentage represents 55 total teachers). In a work climate survey administered by the teachers union in March-April 2023, approximately 60 percent of Amity teachers indicated they have considered seeking employment in another school district or in a career outside of education, and approximately 70 percent reported they are more likely to retire or leave education earlier than planned. Teacher retention deserves to be the top priority among Board of Education candidates.

Studies by organizations such as the National Education Association and the National School Boards Association have shown that such turnover, especially that which occurs during the school year, has an overwhelmingly negative effect on student academic performance, student social-emotional wellbeing, and productivity in the workplace.

The good news is that the solutions are apparent. Competitive salaries, affordable and high-quality health care, autonomy in classrooms, and working conditions founded in respect and trust by administrators and community members all contribute to the retention of highly qualified and effective educators. The implementation of such solutions, however, is dependent on the extent to which elected officials perceive teacher retention to be an issue and their steadfastness and belief in getting the job done regardless of the actions and resources it will require.

We are confident that of the seven candidates from Orange running for a position on the Amity Board of Education, Ken Briodagh (D), Paul Davis (D-Incumbent), Jennifer Jacquet (D) and Joshua Orlinsky (D) recognize that we are at a pivotal moment in public education and believe that retaining highly qualified teachers is integral to the overall success of the school system.

We cannot be nearly as confident in the three Orange Republicans running for the board. Unfortunately, even after numerous discussions with the vice chairman of the Orange Republican Town Committee, he

suggested that the candidates were not interested in responding to our questionnaire. They also chose not to respond to the questionnaire by the Amity Allies or the questionnaire by the League of Women Voters. We find it incredibly disheartening that the three Republican candidates have deliberately chosen to be silent on issues such as teacher retention, balancing taxpayer dollars with providing an effective education, and creating safe and welcome learning conditions for all students.

Meanwhile, all four candidates from the Orange Democratic Party responded to our questionnaire and highlighted where they stand on the centrality of teacher retention to upholding and improving the high quality education that community members expect from Amity. They also provide insight on their stance on inclusion, equity and diversity. We believe that changing the inflammatory rhetoric that has unfortunately become commonplace, and entrusting teachers as professionals to make appropriate and sound decisions in creating a learning environment in which all students feel welcome and safe is critical in all regards.

It is clear that they are mindful of the intricacies of an effective, comprehensive school district. Ken Briodagh, for example, seeks to combat the public attacks on the integrity of our school system and improve student access to arts and humanities programming alongside STEM education. Jennifer Jacquet believes that the budget needs to be more carefully examined to allow for significant retention efforts while minimally impacting the taxpayers. And Joshua Orlinsky states the need for striking a careful balance between resolving the concerns of stakeholders and upholding and protecting the district's goals and resources.

When casting your ballot on Nov. 7, we encourage you to keep education top-of-mind. We are at a critical moment, and we need to do all we can to support teachers so that we can continue to provide the level of support our students deserve.

To view full responses to our questionnaire, visit our website: aea5.org.

Patrick Cumpstone is president of the Amity Education Association teachers union PAC.

Letters to the Editor:

Regarding First Selectman Debates in Orange

To the Editor:

As the Democratic candidate for first selectman of Orange, I value the opportunity to debate my Republican opponent. Two in-depth debates, held Oct. 18 and 29 and open to the public, can also be viewed on OGAT, YouTube and Facebook Live, giving voters ample chances to see them.

Now, my opponent is pushing for a third debate, to be sponsored by the Orange Republican Town Committee. While under the guise of an Amity High School "Mock Trial Debate," it would not be held at the school or led by educators from the school. My team and I considered this offer and ultimately declined, as it would be a skewed forum and therefore not in the best interests of voters. (There was also discussion of a school-led debate to be held at Amity High School during the day, which I would have participated in, however it didn't come to fruition.)

Debates are just one way for voters to gain insights into each candidate's values and viewpoints on town issues. My campaign also includes meeting with groups of voters at various times and locations convenient to them and speaking with residents as I've knocked on over 1,500 doors (and counting). My objective is to get to know residents better, listen to concerns firsthand, discuss potential solutions and share ideas. As first selectman, I will bring this philosophy of outreach and communication to my tenure in office.

Please feel free to contact me directly (info at morewithmoyher.com/contact) to discuss any issues of concern to you.

Mark Moyher
Orange Democratic First Selectman Candidate

Confusion Over Orange First Selectman Debates

To the Editor:

As your willing and able first selectman I must make you aware of some confusion put forth by my opponent. Prior to the start of the political season there had been a plan for three debates as there had been in previous election cycles. The Chamber of Commerce would sponsor one, The Men's Club at Or Shalom

have sponsored a second and a third by the political town committees.

The first debate this year was sponsored by the Milford-Orange Times at the Community Center on Oct. 18, the next was held at Or Shalom by the Men's Club on Oct. 29. All are welcome and can be viewed by OGAT on Ch 79 or YouTube. The third debate was supposed to be held on Nov. 2, but was declined by the Democratic Town Committee. My office was contacted by the Amity students that participate in the Mock Trial Club at Amity Regional High School. I offered the Nov. 2 date since the Democrats declined the offer from the Republicans. I thought this was an opportunity for the students. The Democrats felt that it was being done by the Republicans hiding behind the Amity students. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

I gave this some deep thought after I was told the reason they declined and then decided after hearing my opponent's answers regarding the controversial topics under scrutiny in the schools and responding to my comments about students struggling with the basics of education like math, writing and history. I was not surprised that he chose not to allow the Mock Trial Club this opportunity. Mark Moyher stated that we don't need to teach these basic courses because the students can do it on their computer, tablet or phone; I was stunned. This is readily available to see on the video if you missed it earlier.

I have worked hard as your first selectman of the Town of Orange and ask that you vote for me to continue the work that has been done, road improvements, building upgrades and improvements, open space purchases, sound and solid financial planning and maintaining a AAA bond rating, keeping schools safe and open through dialog with the town's health director and superintendent during COVID-19, economic development that has allowed for decreases in the mill rate that your home and property are taxed at.

I ask for your support for myself and the entire team on Nov. 7. All voting takes place at High Plains Community Center from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

James M. Zeoli
Orange First Selectman

Orange Overtaxing Residents

To the Editor:

A lot has been made during the last several

campaigns about the undesignated fund balance. Two years ago, it was over 20 percent and First Selectman Jim Zeoli said then that they would be scaling it down. In this year's debate he said that our fund balance should be about 16 percent, but it has been well over 16 percent since 2017. So, what is our undesignated fund balance as of the last annual town report? Seward and Monde, our own independent auditors, show that it is now 22 percent.

Hence, despite all of the complaints about Amity hoarding money, it has been our own government that has been overtaxing the residents. Mark Moyher is a financial professional and that is what we need. No more Republican overtaxing. It is time for a change.

Noel and Harriet Barstein
Orange

Time for Change In Orange

To the Editor:

Mr. Zeoli, it's time for change. During the debate held on Oct. 18, you waxed poetic about clearing land years ago, how nice the town used to be and how our schools and technology have changed but not for the better.

Well, it's time for change now. The land was cleared, but after so much time the buildings built back then, such as High Plains Community Center, now need major repairs.

Orange is still a wonderful town with great

neighbors and neighborhoods. There are just more of us now. You seem to take credit for everything that goes your way, like where to place the Fred Wolfe Park playground. But when the benches and bricks aren't ready, it's the committee's fault.

Technology is here to stay but your own latest first selectman message on the town website is about the 2021 Labor Day fireworks. 2021! That was two years ago. Your communication during the COVID-19 crisis was nonexistent, as you let others take the lead, unlike other real community leaders.

Orange deserves a professional leader who will tackle the problems, not place blame, communicating with the public through the town website in a timely manner and not on his own personal Facebook page.

It is time for Orange to make the necessary change and put Democrat Mark Moyher in charge. Give him a chance for two years and then we can compare.

Phyllis McGrath
Orange

First Selectman Too Far Right on Education

To the Editor:

Did I hear him correctly? It seems to me that our first selectman, who claims to be full-

Continued on page 9

Milford-Orange Times

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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

Columnists:

Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This
Cathy Bradley, Running
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
Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate
Dan May, Rotary
Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances
Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health

Michael Moses, Milford Chamber
Susan Oderwald, Senior Care
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Trish Pearson, Insurance
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PJ Shanley, Financial Planning
Raymond Spaziani, Wine
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Opinion & Editorial

Support When You Need It



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

Last issue I shared a few resources that you may find helpful in staying healthy this winter. But sometimes no matter what you do, you aren't able to fight off every germ or virus. What happens when you or a family member have surgery or a serious medical condition that requires direct care?

In the past, the only option many people had was to take time off of work, either completely unpaid or using up all their vacation and sick time. This changed in 2019 when the CT Paid Leave Act was passed by the legislature, and again in January 2022 when the program began providing benefits. A parallel program to the state and federal Family and Medical Leave acts, CT Paid Leave provides income replacement, alleviating some of the financial hardship of taking time to care for a loved one or recover, such as after a birth or medical procedure.

A key aspect of CT Paid Leave is the flexibility afforded to employees with the option to take leave time in either a continuous, intermittent or reduced schedule format. Continuous leave would be one solid block of time. Often taken after major medical events such as heart surgery or childbirth, you can also take time for bonding after an adoption or foster care placement.

Intermittent leave can be scheduled on an hourly or daily basis (for example, if you have a regularly scheduled medical treatment every Tuesday afternoon).

A reduced schedule leave gives you the option of continuing to work daily, but with an adjusted schedule (such as working from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. rather than 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

In order to be eligible, employees must meet minimum earning requirements and be currently employed, or employed in Connecticut in the 12 weeks before leave begins, by a covered employer (most businesses with one or more employee in the state will be covered, with some exceptions).

While CT Paid Leave can work alongside FMLA, there are some important differences.

FMLA provides job protection while on leave – meaning that your job will still be waiting for you at the end of the leave term. In order to have your leave covered by FMLA or CT FMLA, you must apply directly to your employer. To receive benefits from CT Paid Leave, the employee will apply directly to the CT Paid Leave Authority. CT Paid Leave does not protect your job while you are on leave; you must apply to both your employer and the CTP-LA to receive benefits and job protection.

As with any program, there are more details involved than I can share here. Please visit

ctpaidleave.org to learn more about the program, the qualifying reasons for leave, check eligibility requirements or apply.

As always, if I can be of any help with this process or any other concerns, please reach out to me at mary.welander@cga.ct.gov.

No More Gas Vehicles?



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Recently the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection submitted its proposed emissions standards, which would effectively ban the sale of all new gas-powered cars by 2035. This proposal, modeled from other states like California, seeks to reduce our carbon footprint. The reality: these mandates will limit consumer choice, negatively impact our electric grid and make Connecticut more unaffordable.

Residents of Milford and Orange have already contacted me opposing this proposal, sharing their concerns about the cost, maintenance and safety of electric vehicles. Right now, the average price of a gas-powered car is \$33,797, while EVs cost double that at \$66,997. The average monthly EV insurance payment rings in at \$206, which is 27 percent more than a combustion-engine vehicle, and it costs another \$2,000 for owners to have an at-home charging station.

Surprisingly, these high costs are just the beginning. It is currently predicted that by 2032, the gigawatt hours of grid demand is expected to increase from 56 today to 2,535 – a 4,427 percent increase overall. This means that a full electrification of our transportation system could cost from \$1 billion to \$3 billion in investments from utility companies, directly raising the rate for ratepayers.

Other impacts from mandating the sale of EVs also negatively affect our environment. First, without ample sources of electricity to meet charging demands, we will be required to burn more coal to generate necessary amounts of electricity. Second, the manufacturing of EV batteries requires 30 times the amount of critical minerals (like lithium, cobalt and nickel) which, when mined, contaminate local drinking water and ecosystems, while the mines themselves are notorious for inhumane working conditions.

My stance: although I agree that EVs should be integrated into modern transportation over time, the government has no right to limit your freedoms as a consumer. With studies demonstrating that one in five EV owners in California have switched back to gas-powered vehicles due to affordability and infrastructure concerns, it is irresponsible to mandate the sale of EVs without necessary preparation and resources.

It's not fair to force middle- and working-class families to purchase something they need that most people cannot afford. Furthermore, it's also unfair to raise utility rates and make residents wonder about how we can pay for these grid upgrades. What's next? Mileage taxes? Tolls?

DEEP's proposal will be reviewed by the Regulation Review Committee, which consists of and even split of 14 Democrats and Republicans. As members, they have the power to halt any unreasonable mandates before they are voted on by the General Assembly. As voters, we need to stand up against excessive government overreach and protect our freedoms as American consumers.

How can you share your voice? Contact your state elected officials today and be sure to take my brief survey at RepKennedy.com, where you can submit your stance on the banning of new gas-powered vehicles in Connecticut and let me know how it will affect you.

As always, please never hesitate to reach out to me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 860-240-8700 with any questions, ideas or concerns about this or any state issue.

State Crime Crisis Runs Deeper



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

It seems every week that Connecticut is making headlines for all the wrong reasons, highlighting a serious issue that my majority party colleagues at the Capitol refuse to tackle.

It's crime, and residents throughout the state are seeing an escalation in the seriousness of incidents that are more synonymous with Baltimore or Detroit than our communities.

Across Connecticut and in our own neighborhoods, residents are concerned about staggering increases in car and auto-related thefts, like in North Haven, where local police reported a staggering 46 car break-ins in one week.

Or in East Haven, where just weeks ago a 3-year-old girl was grazed with a stray bullet while laying in her own bed – a shocking display of unnecessary violence.

Some incidents will even result in the forced invasion of one's home, like in Westport, where thieves attacked a man in his own garage as they stole his car. Officials there quickly held a community forum to discuss an increase in crime in the town, and themes mirrored messages shared in other parts of the state over the last couple of years. Residents want criminals held accountable, and police officers want more help from the legislature.

Despite all of this, the governor and his majority will insist that "crime is down."

They have made it harder for police to be proactive on the front end, and for the judicial system to be reactive on the back end, creating a cycle of recidivism for keenly aware juveniles.

These "smart on crime" policies from the majority who control the Capitol are slap-on-the-shoulder jail diversionary programs and funding for community organizations that say they encourage residents to avoid criminality.

For the sake of the victims of these senseless crimes, something has to give. Democrats in the majority must shift their focus from closing every prison – that's their goal – to sending a strong message that Connecticut won't stand for this dangerous trend of carjackings and purse snatchings in grocery store parking lots.

Many of the proposals I've backed in the legislature have fallen on deaf ears. In a state where juvenile crime is rampant, increasing the penalty for an adult who entices a minor to commit an illegal act, such as car theft, makes perfect sense to me. And for the sake of victims, shouldn't we prosecute serious crimes in the geographical area where they occurred rather than where the perpetrator resides? I think so.

I'll continue to push for those proposals, and many others, when the 2024 legislative session begins in February.

In the meantime, heed the advice of our local police departments. If you see a crime underway at your home, don't confront the criminal – call officers to the scene. The people who are committing these scary, illegal acts have no regard for the safety of you or your family.

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

Letters (Continued From 8)

time, while still running his farm, hires kids who can't make change and then says that our school system is "failing our children."

Our Orange and Amity schools are why so many people move here and stay here. These schools are the envy of so many surrounding towns, and the accomplishments in academics, the arts and athletics over several decades are outstanding. Our graduation rates and the number of merit scholars produced have been incredible.

For the last several years, we have been listening to some right-wing Republicans try to bring down our schools by challenging and criticizing every move that teachers and administrators make, causing some of them to leave the district prematurely.

In the recent debate, Jim Zeoli himself mirrored these right-wing Republican comments, criticizing our educators, staff and administrators when he said, "We are failing to teach our children the basics they need" and that "the schools are overstepping their bounds" by "pushing things that don't need to be" by teaching subjects other than basic reading, writing and arithmetic.

Zeoli is now one of them in tearing down our beloved schools. He has to go, and we can make that happen on Nov. 7. Vote for Mark Moyher and the entire Democratic team to bring sanity back to our town and our schools.

**Debra and Justin Kidder
Orange**

Children Excelling in Orange

To the Editor:

I attended the recent First Selectman debate in Orange. I was disheartened to hear First Selectman Jim Zeoli say, "We are failing in teaching our children the basic things they need." He said our schools have lost their focus and are failing to teach our students reading, writing and arithmetic. This is not what I, a parent of both a fourth and seventh grader, have witnessed. My children are excelling in these subjects thanks to the thorough education their teachers provide.

When my son needed reading help early on in elementary school, extra services were provided to him at school and during the summer. This year he was recommended for all advanced academic classes at Amity Middle School Orange. I had my fourth grade parent teacher conference recently and the topics discussed were reading, math and briefly science.

Every year before school starts, I wonder how the teachers will be and how the year will go, and every year I am blown away by the caliber of the teaching, the well-rounded curriculum and the skills my children have acquired.

To our teachers, administrators and board members: You are crushing it. Your significant efforts are recognized and appreciated, and I firmly believe you are preparing our students for success in today's world. To quote the ever-popular Taylor Swift, "Haters gonna hate," but don't let it deter you. You are doing an amazing job, and our future is bright because of it.

**Melissa Johnston
Democratic Board of Selectmen candidate, Orange**

Educators Not Failing Children

To the Editor:

In watching the debate on Oct. 18 between incumbent First Selectman Jim Zeoli and

Continued on page 25

Foodie Foursome

Goodies Features Classic Fare At A Reasonable Price

If you live in Milford or Orange you have probably driven by Goodies restaurant many times in any given week. You may have even seen a cool car show in the parking lot on a Thursday night. In the recent past it was known as The Greeks in Milford. Now this family-owned restaurant, Goodies, is in Orange on the Post Road, at the beach in Milford and where Dan, Mike and Kevin joined me recently on Cherry Street across from Bobs Plaza and the Old ShopRite location.

The Goodies concept seems to be a cross between a burger/hot dog joint, a fried seafood joint on the cape or Revere Beach, a carhop and a classic diner with a huge dose of Arnold's from Happy Days.

You can eat comfortably inside at a table, outside at a picnic table or get takeout. Whichever you choose, you order at the counter from one of the owners: Nick Vlastaris, Elani Filipidis or Effie Kolitsas.

Their menu is extensive and has something for everyone: fried seafood, burgers, Hummel hot dogs, soups, Greek and Italian selections, salads and much more. We were there, as usual, for "Foodie Foursome" for dinner. However, I will tell you I do stop in quite often when on the run for a quick egg sandwich or for a networking meeting over a breakfast platter. Where else can you get an egg sandwich in a matter of minutes for \$2.19 or two eggs, meats and pancakes for \$9.99? They make mine, to order, perfectly every time. The restaurant is really clean, and while it's not fast food, it is prepared to order in a timely manner.

How many times do you come home from

work, out driving with friends or the family and just want something good, quick and reasonably priced to eat? This could be the ticket.

Our "family style" approach to the evening allows us each to sample each app, entrée and dessert. We kicked off the evening with some classic apps that would fit the bill for kids too. We went with mac and cheese bites that were breaded and lightly fried, giving them a crunch on the outside and a creamy interior. The buffalo wings were quite tasty,

not too hot and had a nice bite. The nacho supreme featured a good sized serving of nacho chips topped with their house-made chili, nacho cheese, jalapeno peppers and a side of sour cream and salsa.

While they have many salad choices, we went with a cobb salad, which was an ample platter of mixed romaine and iceberg lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, avocado, crumbled bleu cheese, and tender grilled chicken, an abundance of crispy fresh-made bacon, croutons and hard boiled eggs. We chose Ken's balsamic vinaigrette. It was a fresh and tasty salad – a meal in itself.

One of things you notice about Goodies is that the dining area is bright, clean and low-key, not noisy at all. A group of young kids in baseball uniforms came in with their parents. It reminded me of when I was a kid, having a favorite place to go after a game or practice.

We started our main dinner selections with two of their namesake choices: the Goodies



STEVE
COOPER

double cheeseburger and the Goodies dog. Both are adorned with their outstanding chili, cheddar cheese, onion and of course bacon. Yes, they do have plenty of other burger and dog choices, but these were really substantial and tasty even without condiments.

We had a variety of sides to choose from and they were all wonderful. The fries were a nice size and the onion rings had just the right amount of batter to show off the juicy, sweet onions. For events I am the one usually tapped to make pounds of coleslaw, so I am picky. Their slaw was spot on: sweet, but not too sweet, and creamy, but not too creamy. The cabbage was shredded perfectly and maintained a delicate crunch.

Next we sampled the Milford cheesesteak grinder. This Philly style sandwich featured a healthy amount of shaved beef on a split grinder roll smothered in cheese and sautéed onions. It was tasty.

Now that we had devoured classic American fare it was time to take a turn. We went with a Greek classic – chicken souvlaki. It was flavorful and a beautifully constructed treat. The fresh grilled marinated chicken was sautéed with onions, tomatoes and green peppers, which were served on a crispy yet pliable pita with a side of feta cheese and their fresh tzatziki sauce.

Last was one of their specialties, and it was easy to see why. The Goodies seafood combo was a beautiful platter of goodness made with

never-frozen seafood and freshly breaded to order. There was an abundance of fish and chips, clam strips and breaded shrimp delicately fried, as were all fried selections, and golden brown. The fish was moist and flaky with a wonderful texture and taste. The shrimp were plump, plentiful and cooked to perfection, while the clam strips, also plentiful, were nice sized, succulent and sweet. The platter was served with tartar and cocktail sauce.

We completed our evening with a classic dessert drink for this style restaurant: an old-fashioned milkshake. We tried different shakes – strawberry, vanilla and coffee, made with Hershey's ice cream. They were perfectly old fashioned, not too sweet to overpower the flavor of the ice cream, nice and thick, yet not so thick that you couldn't get it through the straw. They were so good that we wanted to scarf them down. Don't do it unless you want to suffer brain freeze.

Goodies is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday until 7:30 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is located at 170 Cherry St. in Milford. You can call in your order for pick up at 203-874-0113.

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.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Is Your Dehumidifier On Recall?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is sending a strong message. All Gree Electric-manufactured dehumidifiers are recalled, as they can overheat, smoke and catch on fire. The CPSC announced this recall in August, right around the time that one of our own, on East Slope Road, had the misfortune of running one of these units and thus resulting in a fire.

It is tricky to uncover, because there are 42 models with brand names Kenmore, GE, SoleusAir, Norpole or Seabreeze. These dehumidifiers were manufactured between January 2011 and February 2014.

These units come in various shapes, sizes and colors, and you must look at the stickers with date codes and model numbers to determine if there is a danger. The list of model

numbers is huge and is available quite easily when you look online.

Maybe you knew about the recalls. Maybe you heard about the fire in Orange being due to a faulty dehumidifier. But let this be a huge reminder to check your own equipment. These units were sold at local stores like Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart, Sears and Sam's Club.

Gree Electric heads up the red flag here, as they created the units and then sold them through well-known companies like Kenmore. Dehumidifiers serve a strong purpose, and their mechanisms can overheat as they strain to remove all the dampness in your



BARBARA
LEHRER

basement.

Certainly, these recall details are a concern for us all. Spread the word, tell your friends and your kids to unplug each dehumidifier in their home and research the company.

As a good habit, most appliances should be unplugged when not in use. If you travel, for example, be sure to set up a professional basement company with the proper equipment. In this manner, you can feel confident that whether you are at home sleeping or away for days at a time, a company that warrants their product will oversee all safety issues. If you hook up to a plug and you blow a circuit, that is a sign that the

electric current running in your home has an issue. Immediately stop using that plug and call your electrician.

Dehumidifiers are a great investment, especially if you are emptying them regularly or hooking them up to a drain. However, take heed when a recall comes into play: this is no joke, as there were close to 700 incidents, 23 fires and huge property damage. Do not ignore this information. If you do not need your unit until next summer, then still see if the manufacturer was Gree. Get a refund or throw it away. Practice your due diligence.

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

The Rotary Club of Orange

Giving And Receiving

Thanksgiving is my favorite family holiday. Family and friends gather, commercialization is at a minimum, communal food preparation is a vibrant and noisy norm, and grateful thanks are shared.

Not everyone is so lucky though, and Thanksgiving is a time when food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, churches, schools and many other groups try to serve those less fortunate a traditional holiday meal and to provide fellowship with friends old and new.

This year the Rotary Club of Orange will host a pre-Thanksgiving dinner for veterans at the American Legion Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 15. The Orange Lions Club will host their Thanksgiving dinner for seniors at High Plains Community Center. Other area service organizations also reach out to diverse groups for this special US holiday, on or around its formal recognition on Thursday Nov. 23.

Local philanthropy funds these dinners, and organized fundraising is a part of nearly every service organization and club. One big fundraising event for Orange Rotary is our annual

Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. This year will be the 11th time this event has been offered annually under the watchful oversight of club member Carl Russell.

Turkey trots have become an American Thanksgiving tradition, dating back to the 19th century in some parts of the country.

This year, more than one million people across the US are expected to participate in an early morning run, jog or walk. In some ways, this occurrence probably makes Thanksgiving the most physically active day of the year in the US.

A route distance of 5 kilometers (about 3 miles) is the most common, and a turkey trot is oftentimes an individual's welcome to the world of 5K road running. Some are organized as a competition, and runners can be very competitive both with others and with their own expectations for meeting or surpassing a personal best time. However, most are set up as a friends and family event. It is, after all,



DAN
MAY

a trot.

The event for Orange Rotary on Thanksgiving morning is based out of High Plains Community Center and traverses a gentle route through the neighborhood streets between Orange Center Road and Ridge Road. The participants are multi-generational, and everyone is invited, from those in strollers and/or wheelchairs to competitive athletes of all ages. Costumes and funny hats are appreciated, too.

Last year about 700 individuals participated in either the 5K run or a companion one-mile walk. Arrivals begin about 7 a.m. for a group start at 8 a.m. for runners, followed shortly after the runners takeoff by the guided walk. Competitive runners line up first, followed by those out primarily to enjoy the recreation, scenery and fellowship. It is timed for all, and the first will be back in about 15 minutes, while those enjoying the stroll will still be back in less than one hour.

Most say it is a great way to jumpstart the

day. And for many, it has become an Orange family tradition. More information and registration for the event can be found at rotarycluboforange.org.

Registration fees and individual/corporate sponsorships are used to support other community needs. Net proceeds from the Turkey Trot and other club fund-raising events like Summerfest, shred days with the town recycling committee and rose sales are used to support the club's philanthropic activities with other area organizations and community groups, as well as larger collaborative projects with other Rotary clubs, too. Current initiatives are focusing on youth and mental health. The needs are substantial even in well-to-do communities. Please consider coming out Thanksgiving morning for a fun community and family event, knowing that your participation is also giving back to others as well.

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

Wine Talk

Chartreuse a Unique Elixir

Carthusian monks in 1737 started to produce Chartreuse from a recipe discovered by François Annibal d'Estrées in 1605. It is produced using 130 herbs and botanicals and has the unique ability among liqueurs of getting better with age.

There are two types of Chartreuse. Green Chartreuse is produced from a sugar beet-based concoction. The yellow is a grape-based recipe. They are both distilled in copper and aged in charred French oak. They are produced from a secret recipe passed down by the Carthusian monks.

There are two guardians who are permitted in the herb room where the botanicals dry. The botanicals include saffron, thyme and citrus rind, and they come from all over the world. Green Chartreuse gets its color from chlorophyll. Yellow Chartreuse gets its hue from saffron. Green Chartreuse has an alcohol by volume of 55 percent. It is macerated for eight hours. The flavor is herbal. Yellow Chartreuse comes in at about 40 per-

cent alcohol by volume and is a little sweeter than the green.

The secret recipe for Chartreuse allegedly helped people live a long life. François Annibal d'Estrées discovered it and brought it to monks near Paris. It ended up at La Grande Chartreuse Abbey. The original recipe was changed and tweaked some years later, and green Chartreuse was developed. Some 75 years later another version was crafted, and that is where the yellow Chartreuse came from.

The Carthusian monks used the profits from their productions to take care of the sick and poor. This continued until 1903, when the French government was looking for additional revenue. The Catholic monks were expelled from their monastery. They took their secret formula to Tarragona, Spain where they kept the profits and continued to help the poor.



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

Bak in France, a company was put together to produce Chartreuse. It had little success and eventually went bankrupt. Some businessmen purchased the remaining stock in 1929 and sent the shares to the Carthusian monks; Chartreuse was French once again.

In the early 1980s my oldest brother, Eugene Spaziani, was writing for several newspapers around the New London area. He wrote a story about Chartreuse and its history. Some weeks later, he received a letter from the abbot of the monastery thanking him for his writing. They told him how pleased they were to have their history published in a daily US newspaper.

Some weeks later he received a special gift from the Carthusians. It was a one-liter bottle of their special treasure, the V.E.P. Chartreuse. Some time later, my brother

introduced me to the "nectar of the gods," as he called Chartreuse. I don't think it was that special V.E.P. variety, but it was good enough for me to develop a special appreciation for this wonderful liqueur. Thanks, Gene.

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.

Here's To Your Health

The Aging Population

Let's face it: we're all getting older and that's excellent news compared to the alternative.

Eating healthy and exercising definitely will help add years to your life. However, it's been my experience training the aging population that attitude is everything. Baby boomers and even the Silent Generation who are intentional about their wellbeing cover all their bases – body, soul and spirit are quite amazing to train.

I am privileged and honored to have this as my area of expertise. They are happy people. They don't put limits on themselves, and neither do I as their trainer. Prior to the lockdown in 2020, my now 100-year-old, whom I refer to as the apple of my eye, was doing 20 squats with 10 pulses on a Bosu ball twice. She is now doing 15 squats with a 10 second hold no longer on the Bosu because we are on Zoom training sessions. She and I have been together for 17 years, and though I modify exercises as things change, I never discount her ability to be challenged and complete the exercises I give her.

I have another client who is 82 years old and ranks nationally for squash. Every year on his birthday he does his age in push-ups. If that's not impressive enough, both these clients are heart attack survivors.

Another client who just turned 72 came to me last March to get fit. He was an avid swimmer but found himself bored with it, in a very big several-years slump and looking to do something new. He's never weight trained before and is not only working out twice a week doing a high intensity interval training program, but he has also lost 26 pounds to date and lowered his blood pressure significantly.

I hope you're finding encouragement here, because our mind is our battlefield. If we listen to the naysayers, we may never find out what we are truly capable of doing "at our age." Some of the reasons the aging population comes to see me is they've retired, some



MICHELE
TENNEY

have had a health scare, others are coming off of an injury, but most all of them are out of shape. My response to them is always "Now is the perfect time."

The old Chinese proverb applies here: a journey of 10,000 miles begins with a single step. As a certified physical therapist I have learned to never judge a book by its cover because the body can do more than our minds will sometimes allow.

Though I do have staple exercises for core strength, balance, flexibility training and brain teaser exercises, I make sure there are challenges in the programs as well. Functional movements – exercises that utilize the whole body – are good for everyone, especially the aging population. I move and modify exercises with the changes in their bodies and I diversify the exercises often so they're constantly being challenged. I also have them practice getting up and down off the floor, as some rely on holding onto

objects for assistance. I teach them how fall "correctly" in ducking and rolling rather than stretching their hands out to break the fall.

I also understand that it's important to know their story. Listening is key because some of these people live alone, have lost spouses or children and need to be loved on, not just trained. I love what I do and I love that every day these people are the ones inspiring me – not the other way around.

I hope in some way this column inspires some of you to get up and get going. You are worth every bit of effort you put into yourself. Replace "can't" with "can," or better yet, "I'll do my best and try." I believe in you. Here's to your health.

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

Your Health

RSV Vaccine Could Save Lives

We are currently in the fall season, and as we step outside, we can appreciate the beautiful transformation of colors.

Physicians and other health care providers are reminding their patients to get their annual flu shots and update their protection against COVID-19 based on their individual risk factors. There is another vaccine against a common respiratory pathogen that can cause pneumonia or bronchiolitis.

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration approved two newer vaccines to

prevent infection with respiratory syncytial virus, commonly known as RSV. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports, this virus can lead to up to 160,000 hospitalizations and 10,000 deaths each year among adults aged 65 years and older.

However, this newly developed vaccine is targeted to provide protection against the potentially life-threatening respiratory



DR. AMIR
MOHAMMAD

among older adults.

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices recommended that adults ages 60 and older may receive a single dose of an RSV vaccine, using shared clinic decision making. This is to ensure that physicians address all the issues and allow more flexibility for providers and patients when they consider getting this vaccine.

Overall, an RSV vaccine can have a significant positive impact on public health, particularly for those at higher risk of severe RSV infections. It has the potential to reduce the burden of illness and health care costs, as well as save lives.

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

Book Reviews

The Fun Widows Book Tour By Zoe Fishman

Mia has always been a fun person, often considered the life of the party, which helped make her who she is. Marriage to the love of her life, mother to two boys (affectionately known as the dudes) and a career as a writer make her life complete.

That all changes when her beloved husband suddenly and unexpectedly dies. In an effort to ease her grief, Mia begins to chronicle her feelings. She is quite surprised when those jotted feelings turn into a marketable memoir, which inspires her to set out on a

book tour.

To help her on the tour (and to reconnect), Mia enlists the aid of her three best girlfriends – each important in different phases of Mia's life. Prior to starting the tour, news reports begin to surface about a new virus and the potential for a worldwide pandemic and its effects on the country. While Mia's attitude is more of a wait-and-see mindset, the dudes



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immediately become frightened and implore her to come home as soon as possible.

Mia's friends, while appearing happy on the surface, are all struggling with relationship issues. Mia is a good listener and offers solutions to their problems.

In time Mia begins to heal from her grief. She, like many widows, has regrets over lost opportunities she and her husband

could have engaged in or trips they could have taken. Mia slowly begins to realize that in many ways she is truly blessed.

There is so much to love about this book by Zoe Fishman. It's funny, warm, abounds with heart and is very realistic in its portrayal of a woman navigating the difficult grief process. I absolutely loved it.

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

Facing Ourselves

Witch Hunts Of The Past Still Haunt Us

Jack o'lanterns softly glow in the crisp night as leaves crackle beneath feet scurrying from door to door, costumed children collecting their harvest of candy corn and chocolates. It is Halloween, with its traditions which harken back thousands of years ago to the Celtic people and their festival of Samhain, in which costumes would be worn to keep unwanted spirits away.

When the Romans began to convert the Celts to Christianity, the ancient Celtic traditions were considered a form of devil worshiping, and their practitioners were considered witches and persecuted. By the 1400s, approximately half of the more than 100,000 individuals in Europe accused of being a witch, many of whom were young, poor mothers or women over the age of 40. Often, these individuals were killed either by hanging or burning at the stake, then buried in unmarked graves. These witch hunts in Europe continued through the 18th century.

The witch hunt spread to America, as evidenced in the Salem witch trials in the 1690s, with thousands of people accused of witchcraft and killed. However, many may not be aware that witch hunts were performed throughout Connecticut as well, with trials held in the 1640s to the 1690s. These trials resulted in many executions, including that of Else Young, the first to be convicted in the American colonies and who was hanged in Windsor, as well as Goody Bassett, after whom a Stratford ice cream store is named today.

Charges were made for any reason, including being accused of breaking the Sabbath, being blamed for the death of a cow or for the failure for butter to churn, or being suspected of spoiling a neighbor's beer. Often, those who were accused were not granted legal counsel and were imprisoned or executed,

with very little to no evidence presented.

This mass hysteria eventually waned, and in 1711 many of the individuals convicted of witchcraft in Massachusetts were exonerated, including John Proctor, who was featured as a protagonist in "The Crucible," one of Arthur Miller's most famous plays.

Additional exonerations have continued to trickle in with time. Three centuries after the height of the European witch hunts, Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister of Scotland in 2022, offered a formal apology to the Scots who had been falsely accused and convicted of witchcraft. Massachusetts granted exoneration in 2022 to the reportedly last Salem witch who had been left out of the 1711 exoneration.

This left Connecticut as the remaining state to not overturn false witchcraft convictions.

However, in 2023, the culmination of grassroots efforts spanning almost 20 years, including the development of the Connecticut Witch Trial Exoneration Project, and work with state legislators, resulted in the bipartisan passing of a Connecticut state resolution proclaiming the innocence of the individuals falsely accused of being witches. It was approved by the state House of Representatives with a vote 121 to 30, and by the state Senate with a vote of 33 to 1.

Republican Rob Sampson, the only state senator who voted against passing the resolution, is quoted by the Associated Press as saying, "I don't want to see bills that rightfully or wrongfully attempt to paint America as a bad place with a bad history," as well expressing the desire to "focus on where we're going, which is a brighter and better future."



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occur worldwide, including in countries such as Ghana and Nigeria. These witch hunts continue to be propelled by "fear, misogyny and superstition," according to the members of the Connecticut Witch Trial Exoneration Project. Proponents of the resolution argued that the resolution was neither a waste of time, nor was it an attempt to mire the present with the past. Rather, it was a declaration of what America stands for now and its willingness to correct wrongs and work to ensure that these mistakes remain firmly in the past.

As Democratic state Rep. Jane Garibay, who sponsored the resolution, said, "It's a simple thing to do to say, 'We're sorry this happened'...I think the time is now, especially when it feels like people aren't understanding each other."

Other descendants of the exonerated said that an apology from the state would be an example for how we should treat others, particularly those who are viewed by society as "different."

Unfortunately, the mistreatment of others has been recurrent throughout history, fueled by misunderstanding, paranoia, hatred and fear. This happened during the Cold War, when fears that the US was being infiltrated by communism led to the 1947 Federal Employee Loyalty Program, in which federal employees repeatedly faced vague charges and investigations which resulted in the resignation of approximately 8,000 employees. Around the same time, the House Un-American Activities Committee also initiated investigations of suspected communist activity, and along with Sen. Joseph McCarthy, created an environment in which citizens could be interrogated, subpoenaed and pressured to provide names of suspected communists, and in which unsubstantiated claims of communist activity and treason ran unchecked and unchallenged.

Like the Salem and Connecticut witch trials, innocent people were subject to false accusations in which the burden of proof or

any semblance of facts was abandoned. Often, the charges were based on scapegoating or discrimination.

As Sarah Jack, a member of the Connecticut Witch Trial Exoneration Project, said, "You've got scapegoating and fear and accusations and blaming. When you don't understand a group and then you blame them for a problem, that is witch-hunt mentality."

Other factors that play into a witch hunt are when we are faced with scarcity and uncertainty, which ignites our flight-or-fight survival response. This floods our bodies and brains with cortisol, resulting in less effective use of our brain's frontal lobes and decreasing our ability to make logical and rational decisions, particularly if the stressors are chronic.

Society today is bombarded with fake news designed to propagate fear, misinformation, propaganda and mass hysteria. This has led to recent hate crimes and profiling based on race or religion, such as discrimination and attacks against Muslims after Sept. 11, 2001; violence toward Asians during the height of COVID-19 when they were blamed for the pandemic; maltreatment of Latino American citizens who are wrongly detained as suspected illegal immigrants; incidents of police brutality against Blacks that continue at a higher rate than other groups; and in the recent alarming surge of anti-Semitism and assaults on the Jewish community.

These are only a few examples of what fear and hatred sow. Discussing these issues and proposing reparations and solutions are in no way unpatriotic. They are an exercise in patriotism, which can be defined as a vigorous devotion to one's country, which includes its citizens, each and every one, irrespective of differences. Loving our great country includes loving all of its people. With awareness, education, critical thinking, tolerance, persistence and an unwavering commitment to justice, including for those who are marginalized, we can ensure these mistakes are not repeated and create a better present and future for all.

Jennifer Ju, MD is a physician who is a graduate of the Brown University family medicine residency program. She is also an actor and writer who has performed in various theatres across the state and whose plays have been produced locally. Ju has also presented numerous online and in-person workshops on mindfulness, health and wellness for parents and children, as well as for pre-K-12 educators in New Haven and Fairfield counties.

Holly Hill Children Visit Orange Firefighters



The children of Holly Hill Childcare & Learning Center got a firsthand experience on fire safety on Oct. 11 thanks to members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. The firefighters demonstrated fire equipment as the students climbed up on the fire engine and manned the heavy water hoses. They learned that firefighters are real people who want to help, never to be afraid of them and never, ever panic and hide. The event was part of Fire Safety Awareness Month in October. Bright red fire hats were given to each child at the end of the event. Photo by Kyla Rhoades.

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Orange Board of Finance

CT Transportation And Possible Tax Shift For Next Session

Connecticut officials announced in October that they plan to issue and bring to market \$1.2 billion of bonds for various transportation initiatives. Connecticut is one of the most densely populated and traveled areas within the US, so this is long overdue. I am excited to see that we are finally taking steps to shore up an aging infrastructure within our rail and highway system.

The timing is perfect. Connecticut's bond allocation for transportation based on recent financial results over the past four years now has a AA rating from Standard & Poor's. This will go a long way in supporting our core infrastructure improvement projects on roads, bridges and rail.

With Connecticut experiencing descending debt service requirements in the near future and rising revenues, now is as good a time as any to invest in the necessary infrastructure projects that need to be completed.

The infrastructure projects include \$666 million allocated to public transportation, \$300 million for road and bridge improvements and \$398 million for rail improvements. This investment also comes on top of the recent \$2.1 billion of various federal transportation funding dedicated to these

projects.

The rail corridor between New Haven and New York has long been considered the busiest within the US, so the goal of the project is to deliver a rail system that is faster and modernized to the needs of today.

As we head into a new legislative session that begins Feb. 7, I am hearing that there is the possibility that state Sen. Martin Looney may propose a tax increase on the wealthiest affluent families within Connecticut. The senator's argument is that the state's wealthiest households, particularly those whose earnings come chiefly from investments, should pay a higher income tax rate. A capital gains surcharge on wealthy families "is a way of once again trying to build more equity into the system," he said, or ensuring the relief passed last year does not go away if finances slip. It is a way "to make sure the income tax is going to continue as a healthy revenue generator," Looney explained.

According to the State Budget Office, millionaires within Connecticut make up just



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0.7 percent of all state tax filers, but account for 30 percent of all income tax receipts.

Does Looney realize that Connecticut is already one of the least attractive places for high income earners and that additional tax burdens will only reinforce their instincts to live and invest in other states? Connecticut just last year provided working and middle class families with the largest income tax cut in state history, which provided roughly \$500 million of relief to middle- and low-income households.

Historically, Connecticut tax relief across all sectors of the economy has been paired back during difficult times when the economy goes into recession. However, over the past five years the state has reaped the rewards of a positive stock market with record tax receipts and capital gains earnings from the wealthiest Connecticut residents.

It is equally important to factor in that over the past five years Connecticut has had surpluses within the budget and has had excess funding available to pay down \$8 bil-

lion of outstanding pension debt obligations. So why would we look to raise taxes on 30 percent of the income tax base? Connecticut should be focused on lowering taxes when it can do so without significantly adversely destabilizing our revenues.

Higher taxes on any resident – wealthy, middle-class or poor – runs the risk of driving residents out of Connecticut, thus lowering our collective tax base even further.

In each of the past three years, similar bills proposed by the Looney have failed amid opposition from Gov. Ned Lamont and other fiscal moderates within the legislature's majority. I hope to see next year that moderates within the legislature and the governor will continue to look at ways to create more efficiency and cut down on wasteful spending so it could be repurposed to the programs in need and not take the easy road by simply raising taxes.

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

By Susan Wineland

What is a small lifestyle change that can have a huge impact? Composting.

Composting is a natural process in which naturally occurring bacteria and fungi in the soil break down to form compost. This nutrient-rich soil amendment enriches garden soil and is the very best for all of our plants.

Composting can be successful in almost any setting, from indoor bins in condos or apartments to outdoor open piles or bins of various sizes and types for backyards. There are lots of options when it comes to the kind of composter you might like, and you can shop for them in stores or online.

For home composting, you can use eggshells and coffee grounds, shredded newspaper, brown paper bags, unseeded hay, fruit and vegetable scraps (whether fresh, cooked, frozen or completely moldy). By keeping these things out of your garbage

disposals, septic systems and landfills, you are truly making a difference.

Other things to compost at home are yard trimmings, leaves and grass cuttings. Make sure to break yard waste into small pieces before throwing it into a composting heap. Avoid diseased leaves and plants as they may infect your compost. Don't include animal waste. And don't include meats or dairy, as they tend to become foul smelling and might attract animals.

There is a new opportunity to compost in addition to or as an alternative to home composting. Orange residents can now take their compostable material to the town transfer station located at 100 South Orange Center Rd.

Items that are accepted in the transfer station green composting bins are: fruits, vegetables, peels and pits; eggs and eggshells, dairy products, meat and poultry including bones, and seafood including shells; coffee

grounds and tea bags; baked goods, chips and snacks; pet food; and rice and grains.

Items that are not accepted are: coffee pods; plastic wrap; takeout containers; plasticware; paper goods; metal or aluminum foil; jars or glass; and pet waste.

Residents may bring food items and dump them directly into a bin or in a plastic bag. If you'd like to avoid using plastic bags, there are many excellent odor-free kitchen compost bins with lids that store on or under a counter. Taking these small bins to the food scraps containers at the transfer station is easy, mess-free and they rinse out easily. Or you can reuse a container you might have at home, such as a pail or lightweight pitcher.

Remember, by diverting food scraps to the transfer station, you are not only helping the environment but also helping save taxpayer money. Home composters (myself included) will take advantage of the transfer station compost bins and take meat, seafood and

dairy products there.

Without a doubt, composting provides many benefits. It significantly cuts down on the amount of trash in a landfill and reduces the costs and the carbon emissions it takes to haul and process those materials. Composting adds valuable nutrients back into the soil, enriching it and greatly reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticide while increasing the soil's ability to retain moisture. Compost improves the workability of the soil and plants grow better in this enriched, crumbly soil.

However you choose to compost – at home, bringing compostables to the transfer station, or both – do compost. It's the best for all those food waste products that can be so beneficial to soil and keeps them out of landfills where they produce methane gas, a large contributor of greenhouse gas.

For more information, visit orangerecycles.com or follow [facebook.com/ORCinCT](https://www.facebook.com/ORCinCT).

Recycling Tip: Composting Is Key

Bankruptcy

Most Means Test Numbers Are Going Down

Qualification for Chapter 7 bankruptcy is based solely on income; specifically, income from the last six complete months. So if we are sitting in October, we analyze gross (not net) income from April 1 to September 30. It is a rolling six-month basis, so in November we will count May to October. We go by check dates (not pay periods) and include all income from almost every source (except Social Security) received during that timeframe. Then we take that six-month total and divide it by six to get an average monthly income amount. Next we multiply the average by 12 to get an annual view. Last, we compare the annual amount to the median income for the prospective client's state and household size.

This calculation (which I often refer to as "magical bankruptcy math") is technically called a means test. It is an assessment used to determine if you qualify to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy. In legal terms, it is a calculation used to determine if a presumption of abuse applies.

Before 2005, it was easy to file for bankruptcy; virtually anyone could do so. Congress that year enacted the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act and added the means test requirement to prevent abuse of the bankruptcy process.

Simply put, if you "pass" the means test, you are a qualified candidate and can file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition. If you "fail" the means test, you may not file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy but you may pursue other alternatives, such as a Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

The means test primarily encompasses a two-step analysis:

Step one: The debtor's gross income is calculated on an average over a six-month period prior to filing for bankruptcy. Gross income for means testing purposes includes wages, salary, tips, bonuses, overtime and commissions as well as rental income, retirement and pension payments, etc. It does not include Social Security benefits. The figure derived from taking the average is then considered the debtor's current monthly income, which is then compared to the median income for your state and household size. If your current monthly income is less than the median income for your state and household size, then you "pass" the means test and are allowed to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition. If, however, your current monthly income is greater than the median income for your state and household size, you may proceed to step two.



THERESA
ROSE DEGRAY

Step two: If your current monthly income is greater than the median income for your state and household size, there is, in technical terms, a "presumption of abuse." In order to rebut the presumption, or in other words, to pass the means test by using the second step analysis, the means test's second section allows you to subtract from your current monthly income certain allowable and deductible expenses (based on national and local IRS standards, and not dollar-for-dollar deductions.) These allowed deductions include, but are not limited to, expenses for living (mortgages and property taxes), transportation (car loans and car taxes), health insurance and charitable donations.

After the calculations are performed, and the allowable deductions are taken, and if you then have no disposable monthly income available, you will have passed the means test (with no presumption of abuse) and may file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy. If, on the other hand, you do have remaining disposable income, you may consider a Chapter 13 bankruptcy or other bankruptcy alternatives.

The median income amounts for each household size vary from state to state and change (going up or down) historically every April and November. The United States Trustee announced in October that median income amounts were mostly going down in Connecticut on Nov. 1. That means a single individual who has an income of \$81,909 or less could have filed in October 2023, but in November they are only allowed to make up to \$78,071. The median income amounts are going down for households of two and three as well, but they are going up for households of four.

Due to these changes, fewer and fewer people will be qualified for bankruptcy relief.

If you are contemplating filing for bankruptcy, please contact an attorney versed in this area of the law to have your means test run immediately.

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

Insuring Your Future

For 2024 Medicare Insurance, It Pays To Shop Around

The outlook for Medicare insurance in 2024 is very good. Many plans that offer Medicare Advantage plans have added benefits, reduced or eliminated deductibles and maintained or increased their networks. There is a lot to consider, and it is well worth your time to do so.

The annual enrollment period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 is the time in which Medicare recipients can make a change to a new Medicare Advantage plan or switch back to original Medicare and a supplement/prescription drug plan.

These are some things to consider when deciding whether to investigate other options:

First, are there any changes in your health that could mean surgery or a hospital stay? Some plans have a deductible for this type of care and all plans have a copay, but they are not all the same.

Second, are you taking any new medica-

tions? The formularies change each year, which could impact copays.

Third, is fitness a priority? Most gyms accept Silver Sneakers, and some insurance plans will reimburse for membership fees at gyms that do not participate in Silver Sneakers.

Fourth, are you anticipating large dental expenses in 2024 or do you need glasses? Many plans are now offering generous dental coverage that can be used at any dentist office as well as payments toward glasses or contact lenses.

Fifth, many plans have increased the over-the-counter benefit, which can be used for nonprescription medications and medical supplies such as eye drops, nasal sprays, allergy medications, first aid supplies, vitamins



TRISH PEARSON

and even toothbrushes.

As of now, the standard Medicare B premium remains at \$165 per month. It is expected to increase \$5 to \$10 per month in 2024. For those on standalone prescription drug plans, the deductible will be \$545 on drugs that are tier 3 or higher (brand name). Also, many plans are reverting to a coinsurance (a percentage of the retail cost) as opposed to a copay for tier 3 and 4 drugs. In some cases, it may result in a lower cost than the copay that is assigned to that drug's tier – but it can also be higher. In short, there are a few more moving parts in drug coverage pricing for next year.

How to do this? One way is to attend five or six seminars sponsored by various insurance carriers, and perhaps gain five pounds

from the snacks and mini meals. Another is to call each insurance company directly and speak with a representative with whom you will never speak again if you have questions.

Or make an appointment with an independent agent who represents multiple plans in our area.

What to look for includes better dental and vision benefits, increases in over-the-counter medication benefits, a variety of fitness plans that allow you to go the gym of your choice as well as Silver Sneakers. Some will even reimburse you for a ski lift ticket, round of golf or personal trainer or exercise classes. Remember there are only 37 shopping days left 'till annual enrollment ends.

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

Traffic Stop Practice Available For Those With Autism

Officers from Sacred Heart University Public Safety, Fairfield, Westport and Southern Connecticut State University police departments will perform practice routine traffic stops with drivers and passengers with autism on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Sacred Heart University West Campus.

These traffic stops will allow participants to engage with an officer and experience a routine traffic stop in a controlled setting. Participants will learn how to effectively utilize the Blue Envelope when stopped by a police officer.

The Blue Envelope is a Connecticut DMV

resource that provides a blue colored envelope with written instructions to assist a motorist with autism spectrum disorder navigate a traffic stop. Participants will use their own vehicles for the practice traffic stops, which will take place in a closed parking lot. Drivers must have a current license, car, registration and insurance. One support person is welcome to attend.

To register, email asd-center@southernct.edu. In the subject line of the email, include "traffic stop practice," and in the body of the email, include: name, phone and email.

Milford Talk To Address PFAS Exposure In Children

A public talk about the health effects of PFAS chemicals (used in carpets, car seats, raincoats and more) on children's health is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. at Harborside Middle School in Milford. This one-hour talk, with follow-up questions, is open to the public, and admission is free.

Sponsored by the non-partisan, nonprofit Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition, the featured speaker is Sten H. Vermund, an epidemiologist and pediatrician at the Yale School of

Public Health. He served as dean of the school from 2017-2022, is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and is the president-elect of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

Vermund's main emphasis will be the steps we can take to make our homes and community safer places; the talk is titled, "How to Reduce Children's Exposure to PFAS."

Parents, grandparents, school officials, childcare workers – and all else – are welcome to attend.

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The Garden Spot

The Microclimate In Your Yard

You may have heard the term microclimate used to describe a small area that has a different set of atmospheric conditions than the greater surrounding area. This term can be applied to an area several square miles, or as small as a garden bed.

An obvious example of a microclimate is a parking lot. It's noticeable how much hotter the paved areas are than those with vegetation. Other examples are places near bodies of water which may cool the local atmosphere, or urban areas where brick, concrete and asphalt absorb the sun's energy, heat up and re-radiate that heat to the ambient air.

My yard is its own microclimate, with its location across from the Housatonic River and wind rushing down the valley resulting in cooler spring temperatures. My forsythia actually blooms a week or so later than

those of my neighbor across the street.

How you manage your property can affect the microclimate and make it either hotter or cooler. For example, wet soil will absorb twice as much solar energy as dry soil, since water absorbs about four times as much energy as soil. Stone and concrete absorb about twice as much solar energy as soil, while black surfaces and materials absorb 35 percent more solar energy than white surfaces.

You may be creating "heat traps" and changing your microclimate when you expand the driveway with asphalt and put in a stone patio. Because plants, and the pollinators that are attracted to them, are very slow



PAT DRAY

to adapt to changes in temperature, you may start to see different plants thrive in those newly hotter areas.

If you do have a heat trap in your garden, you can take the following steps:

1. Watering your plants in the early morning is the best option before the sun starts shining brightly on your plants. If you water later in the day, you risk the water evaporating before it makes it to the plant's roots, causing the leaves to burn.

2. Keeping your lawn at least 3 inches long can add shade to the grass, which will help retain moisture in the soil.

3. Take advantage of nearby structures as heat sinks and natural covers. Fences, boul-

ders and shrubs can serve a protective function for nearby plantings. Trees surrounding your garden can act like a blanket and reduce the amount of heat radiating from the soil, potentially keeping the temperature high enough to protect your plants from early fall frosts.

4. Mulching around your plants can help keep moisture in the soil and reduce evaporation.

5. Keep hard, impervious dark surfaces to a minimum.

Happy gardening.

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

Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

A Blueprint For Success: Recognizing Mayor Smith

As we enter the home stretch of our 2023 election season, I wanted to express our appreciation for the outstanding accomplishments and dedicated service of our mayor, Richard Smith, during his tenure in office. Over the past six months, Smith has demonstrated exemplary leadership and made significant contributions to our community.

One of the most notable achievements has been his steadfast commitment to fostering transparency and open communication within our local government. Through his efforts, our community has seen increased accessibility to information, improved public engagement and a more inclusive decision-making process. Smith has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between our government and its constituents, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every

concern addressed.

In addition to enhancing government transparency, he has shown a remarkable dedication to economic development and supporting our local business community. Not only has he made it a priority to attend all our ribbon cuttings, but he always takes a pause to engage with local business owners to better understand their business, their story and their needs. His vision for a thriving and inclusive community has inspired positive change and has set the stage for a brighter future for all residents.

Furthermore, Smith has displayed a keen understanding of the pressing issues facing our city. His ability to address challenges with inno-



MICHAEL MOSES

vative solutions and a collaborative approach has been commendable. Whether it's addressing infrastructure improvements, environmental concerns or social justice issues, he has consistently worked toward making our city a better place for all.

It is important to recognize the tireless dedication and hard work that Smith has put into his role as our mayor; albeit short-term, his commitment to serving our community during this interim period has been instrumental in maintaining stability and progress. He has not only managed the responsibilities of the office but has also shown exemplary leadership during challenging times.

As we look forward to the future, I believe

that Smith's accomplishments and leadership will continue to have a lasting and positive impact on our city. His ability to bring people together, commitment to transparency and accountability, and dedication to making our community a better place are qualities that we should all deeply appreciate.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude for the exceptional service provided by Mayor Smith. His accomplishments have established a blueprint for our next mayor's path to success. We wish him well on his next journey.

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

Orange Lions Club Completes Eye Screenings

The Orange Lions Club recently spent seven days in the local elementary schools providing eye screenings to students.

Using a specialized camera made by Welch-Allyn, the screening takes just seconds per student. The screener takes a photo of the child's eyes and the camera is able to interpret the picture and diagnose several different eye issues, including visual acuity (near or far-sightedness), "lazy eye," astigmatism, detached retina, corneal deformity and other potentially serious eye issues which if treated by an eye doctor can be corrected or cured early to keep vision problems from interfering with a child's education.

Led by pediatric eye screening chair

Betty Hadlock, 15 different Lions worked in Racebrook, Turkey Hill, Mary L. Tracy, Peck Place and Hebrew Day schools. During the seven days, they screened 776 children and referred 64 students for follow-up with an eye doctor.

The Lions have provided for a number of years. This screening is much more sophisticated than reading an eye chart and takes less time.

"The children are all so cooperative and polite and we know that this makes a difference," Hadlock said. "It is our pleasure to be in the schools doing this important work. In the winter, we will be scheduling screening time at local preschools."

United Insurance Group Celebrates 50 Years In Orange

United Insurance Group of Orange celebrated their 50th anniversary on Oct. 15 with over 100 friends, family, and members of the community at Treat Farm.

"In a fall full of rainy weekends, we were blessed with a beautiful day to join our friends family and members of the local community at Treat Farm," said Rachel Gaudet, vice president at United Insurance Group.

Attendees were treated to popcorn, cotton candy, giveaways and a chance to win raffle items from local businesses.

United Insurance Group is a family owned and operated independent insurance agency founded in 1973 in Orange by Jerry Ucci. The son of Italian immigrants, Ucci

grew up in New Haven. He started his career in insurance in 1966 as a salesman for Union Central Life Insurance Company. His daughter, Rachel Gaudet, transitioned from a career in media in 2003 to help him run the agency and his son, Jason, joined the sales team at United Insurance Group in 2017.

Ucci has since stepped back from the day-to-day operations, and Gaudet oversees the agency. They now have a team of 10 and they represent over 20 insurance carriers. The company offers both personal and business insurance products, servicing clients all over the state as well as in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, South Carolina and Florida.



ALEXANDRA JOY
PHOTOGRAPHY

Award Winning

PPA Certified Professional Photographer

(203)-641-4527 Alexandrajoyphotography@yahoo.com



Milford Democratic Candidates

MAYOR

Kerri Rowland



Kerri Rowland, a lifelong Milford resident, currently serves as our Registrar of Voters. She attended Orchard Hill School, Foran High, and The Taft School before graduating from Boston College with degrees in English and Secondary Education. There, Kerri played as a starting goalie and captain for the women's hockey team.

Kerri has had a successful professional career, working at New Standard Institute Inc. as a Seminar Coordinator, where she organized large-scale seminars and training events. She and her husband Brian have two children, Sean and Emily, and one grandson.

Kerri has been actively involved in Milford politics since 2005, serving as a Board of Alderman member and as Registrar of Voters. In bipartisan collaboration with the Republican Registrar, she has implemented best practices and protocols for accessible, transparent, and accurate elections and has led the way on improved training for poll workers, Election Day voter registration, and kept elections safe during COVID.

A long-time softball umpire, high school coach, and golfer, Kerri has recently taken up pickleball, competing in local and state tournaments. In addition to her political involvement, she currently serves on the Milford Park, Beach, and Recreation Commission.

CITY CLERK

Karen Fortunati



Karen Fortunati is completing her second term as Milford's City Clerk. Karen has a wide and varied professional experience that she draws upon as City Clerk. Karen is both an attorney and an accomplished author.

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 1ST DISTRICT (Northwestern part of Milford, bordering the Housatonic River and the town of Orange)

PLANNING & ZONING

Joe Castignoli



- Previously served on Board of Aldermen for 10 years
- Milford resident for over 60 years
- Attended UCONN, obtained BA and MBA
- Currently corporate CFO and business consultant
- Treasurer, ValTrebba Scholarship Fund

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Matt Arciuolo



- Member, Milford Board of Aldermen
- 4th Generation Owner, Arciuolo's Shoes
- Chairman, Public Safety and Welfare Committee
- Proud lifelong Milford Resident
- Strong Advocate for Education, Police, & Fire Departments

Michelle Parente



- 4-year Member, Milford Board of Aldermen
- Chairwoman, Ordinance Committee
- Liaison, Milford Fire Commission
- Proud mother of Milford Public Schools graduate.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gary Peluchette



- Current Member, Board of Education
- Former Board Member, National Education Association
- Former President, Bridgeport Education Association
- Retired 35-year public school teacher
- Former Board Member, CT Education Association

Erin Pinsince



- Former Member, Board of Education
- Over 15 years an educator in public, private, and vocational schools in Milford
- Current role: Learning Experience Manager for BioLaunch
- Lifelong Milford resident and parent of two in Milford Public Schools (Foran HS)

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 2ND DISTRICT (Just west of downtown, and on either side of the Wilber Cross in the north.)

PLANNING & ZONING

John Mortimer



- Elected to P&Z in 2019 and serves on Regulations and Conservation Committees
- Attended St. Ann's and Jonathan Law
- Recent retiree, previously worked at Sikorsky and its union, Local 1150
- Associates in Management Information Systems, Bachelor's in professional studies, and Masters in American Studies

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Robert Pacelli, Jr.



- A Managing shareholder at ZNC Law
- Milford Harbor Management Committee
- Family business owner and supporter
- Proud parent of two children with wife, Mickel Montano-Pacelli
- Volunteer coach, Milford Little League and Milford Eagles Pop Warner

Ward Willis



- Member, Milford Board of Aldermen
- Cum Laude graduate, University of Bridgeport
- Lifelong Milford resident
- Volunteer at Milford Senior Center

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meghan Doyle



- Member, Milford Board of Education
- Northeastern University, Vermont Law and Graduate School graduate
- J.D. Quinnipiac University School of Law
- Product of Milford Public Schools

Susan Glennon



- Current Chair and Certificated Board of Education Member (CBEM)
- Small Business Owner
- Licensed Early Childhood Professional
- Mother to three children, all Milford graduates
- State PTA Board of Directors '04-'11

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 3RD DISTRICT (Southwestern area of Milford, bordering on the Housatonic, including Devon and Walnut Beach)

PLANNING & ZONING

Robert Satti



- Current Vice Chair, Milford P&Z, 6 yr member
- Retired 43-year State Prosecutor
- 43 years in Milford

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Paul J. Healy



- Retired 25+ Years Criminal Justice Career
- Milford Police Department., CT State Police, Chief S.A. Office – Chief Inspector
- Retired 10+ Years SHU Ex. Director Public Safety, EM & Campus Operations St. Ann Church – Finance Council & School Board
- Southern CT Youth Hockey – VP &

Chair of Development

Holly E. Mulrenan



- Member, Board of Aldermen
- Nurse, Health and Science College Educator
- Lifelong Milford Resident
- Three sons are graduates of Milford Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tracey Irby



- Member, Milford Board of Education
- Science Teacher, Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School – Biotech
- Member, Milford Education Foundation
- Cornell University, B.S., University of New Haven, MAT

Una Petroske



- Member, Milford Board of Education
- BS in Economics, SCSU
- VP, Tech & Environmental Products
- Mother to one grown son

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 4TH DISTRICT (Southeastern part of Milford, bordering West Haven. Includes Woodmont, Morningside, Point Beach, and Hillside.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Joseph Alling



- President, Milford Land Conservation Trust
- Organizing volunteer events to maintain open space
- Advocating for affordable neighborhoods
- BSc in Ecology
- Scientific editor and fact checker

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Phil Vetro



- Chairman, Board of Aldermen
- Board of Directors, United Way Milford
- Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps
- 44 years in Milford with wife, Peggy

Jennifer Federico



- Milford Board of Education Majority Leader 2017-2019, Member 2014-2019
- Corporate Finance Director – 30 years experience in budgeting
- Mom of 2 kids – 1 Jonathan Law graduate and 1 at Foran, former PTA Treasurer

Milford Democratic Candidates

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Cindy Wolfe Boynton



- Current Member, Board of Education
- President, CT National Organization for Women
- College professor & community activist
- Mother to two Milford public school graduates

Tom Koba



- A happy Milford resident since 2020
- BSEE University of Hartford/MSEE RPI Hartford
- 40+ years as project engineer in aerospace
- Significant experience with budgets & schedules
- STEM Advisory board member MxCC since 2014

MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 5TH DISTRICT (Southcentral area of Milford, Includes downtown, Melba Beach, Gulf Beach, and most residences south of the Post Road.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Marc Zahariades



- Current member of Planning & Zoning Board
- Milford Resident for 21 years
- Wife Michelle and son Logan are both lifelong Milford residents and Milford Public School graduates
- Small business owner in downtown Milford

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Ellen Russell Beatty



- Board of Aldermen Majority Leader, 5-term incumbent
- Professor Emerita Public Health and Nursing, VP of Academic Affairs, SCSU
- Board Member, Bridges Healthcare & Boys and Girls Village
- Strategic Planning & Financial Management Consultant

Carl Moore



- Former Vice Chair, Milford Planning & Zoning Board
- MBA, Health Care Management
- Veteran, United States Air Force
- Chair, Golden Hill Methodist Men's Ministry.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Loren Mahler



- Small business founder; cybersecurity and communications consultant
- Proud wife and mom of a Milford Public School 4th grader
- Raised by generations of public school educators

Mike Smith



- Proud graduate of Milford Public Schools
- Masters of Public Administration
- Daughter now at Calf Pen Meadow
- 15-year cancer survivor who rides in cancer charity bike rides annually

CONSTABLES

Theodore Boynton



Theodore Boynton is a lifelong resident of Milford. He has been a member of the Democratic Party of Milford since 1979. He works for the Milford Board of Education at Jonathan Law High School and has coached football and girls softball for many years. He currently is a Constable and looks forward to serving the people of Milford once again.

Dominic Cotton



- 19 year active resident of Milford
- Constable from 2019 to 2021
- Brain Injury Rehabilitation Provider
- 20 Year Business Owner
- Legislative Advocate for Brain Injury Survivors, Rare Disease, Justice, and Housing Issues
- TV host for Street Talk Ministries
- B.A. Psychology, MHA

Linda Hardiman

- Milford Resident since 1973
- Long time Constable
- Charter member of the Irish Heritage Society and participated in organizing Milford's St. Patrick parade for many years

Shaun Liebskind

- Longtime Milford Resident
- Army Veteran
- French Teacher
- Army Veteran

Milford Republican Candidates

MAYOR

Tony Giannattasio



With over twenty years of public service, Alderman Tony Giannattasio has a proven record of commitment to the City of Milford. As the sitting minority leader, he fought to keep 1.8 million dollars in the budget to safeguard our schools. He brings extensive experience from various municipal boards, including Planning and Zoning, where he served as a commissioner, as well as Public Works,

Sewer, and Economic Development committees. Tony recognizes the importance of preserving the sound and all that it represents for Milford. His role as a liaison to the Police Department and Fire Department has earned him the respect of their members. Now, as Tony embarks on the next phase of his commitment to the City of Milford, he humbly seeks your support.

CITY CLERK

Jack Fowler



John "Jack" Fowler -- a former First District Alderman and Majority Leader, board member of the September 11 Memorial Commission, Milford Housing Authority, and Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, and treasurer of the Jonathan Law Sports Association -- heads strategic development at AmPhil, which helps nonprofits with their fundraising needs. The former National Review publisher and his wife Sharon are

parents of five, all Law graduates, and members of Precious Blood parish, where for seven years he ran the Bingo program. Fowler has served on and chaired various nonprofit boards, and for 11 years was a regional judge for the White House Fellows program.

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 1ST DISTRICT (Northwestern part of Milford, bordering the Housatonic River and the town of Orange)

PLANNING & ZONING

John Agnese



- Over a decade of experience in the real estate industry
- Practice focused on commercial real estate valuation, consultation, and advisory services
- Director at Integra Realty Resources
- MAI Member of the Appraisal Institute
- Graduate of Notre Dame West Haven and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Jason Jenkins



- Past president, Devon Rotary Club of Milford
- Founder and Past President, Business Networking International
- Past Chairman of the Milford Youth Network
- Founding member, Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness
- Connecticut Chiropractic Council Legislative Liaison
- 23 Year Business Owner

Buddy Prete



- Featured in Connecticut Magazine's "40 under 40"
- BS Finance Fairfield University

Andy Fowler



- Board of Education, Minority Leader 2019-2023
- Manger of Internal Affairs, Yankee Institute
- Valedictorian, Jonathan Law High School 2011
- Award winning writer recognized by CT Press Club, Catholic Press
- Member, Precious Blood Parish and Knights of Columbus
- Member, Milford Irish Club

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Scott Firmender



- Milford Board of Education 2017-2019
- Supporter Of Milford's Camp Happiness
- Medical Imaging Systems - CF
- Owner Of Firmender & Company
- Milford resident since 1992
- Married with two sons

Christina Prete



- Director of Resource Development, Milford Boys & Girls Club
- Substitute teacher for the Milford Public schools 2022- present
- Past member Board of Directors Milford Education Foundation
- Parent of the Year - Calf Pen 2014, Harborside 2016
- Past officer/member several PTA's Milford PTA Council

- All In For Milford, focusing on food insecurity
- MBA, B.S. Fairfield University

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 2ND DISTRICT (Just west of downtown, and on either side of the Wilber Cross in the north.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Mark Macchio



- Platt Technical High School Graduate
- Licensed Plumber
- Knights of Columbus Housing Investor in Milford CT
- National Honor Society
- Treasurer Black Rock Church - Asst. Dir. Catering Team

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Scott F. Marlow



- Appointed Second District Alderman 2020
- Elected Second District Alderman 2021 - to present
- Appointed to Board of Education 1992
- Board of Education 1993 - 1995, then 1997 - 1999
- Liaison, Library Board, Sewer Commission, InlandWetlands, MGAT
- Board of Finance under two administrations
- Planning and Zoning Board, served 5 yrs. Chairman one term

Milford Republican Candidates

Chris Goulden



- Milford Attorney
- Member, Milford Elks (selected Elk of the year 2020)
- Past President, Milford Bar Association
- Daughter graduated Lauralton Hall
- Son long time member of the Southern Stars Hockey Team

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bob Tschilke



- Business Owner, Quality Systems Auditor /Consultant
- Over 45 years of work experience in Quality assurance
- BA in Psychology Charter Oak State College
- Masters Of Art Organizational Mgmt from University of Phoenix
- Father to a Stepson and Stepdaughter and Grandfather to three grandchildren. Milford Resident since 1987

Frank Musante



- Works for a mutual Life Insurance, specializing in small business and family
- BA in Political Science from SCSU
- Associates Degree from Housatonic CC
- Jonathan Law graduate, National Honor Society

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 3RD DISTRICT (Southwestern area of Milford, bordering on the Housatonic, including Devon and Walnut Beach)

PLANNING & ZONING

Steve V. Visconti



- Born and Raised in Milford
- Served four terms as Constable
- Over a decade in business management
- Orchestrated several park clean ups in Milford
- Works to find common ground solutions to issues
- Proud to raise his family in his hometown

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Michael S. Casey



- Board of Alderman 2013-2017; 2020 to present
- Zoning Board of Appeals 2018-2020
- Planning and Zoning Board 2011-2013
- University of Connecticut Graduate; JD, BA; Attorney
- Milford Kiwanis Member
- Board of Directors at Boys and Girls Club of America
- Resides in Milford with his supportive wife and beautiful son

Peter Berube



- U.S. Navy Veteran, Former White House Chef
- Milford Boys and Girls Club Trustee
- Teller Supervisor at The Milford Bank
- Member VFW, DAV, American Legion, and Milford Elks
- Resides in Milford with his beautiful wife Lynn and rescue dog Steel

Jeffrey R. Parkin



- Two term Selectman in Kent, CT
- Five years nuclear engineering industry
- 28 years major airline Captain
- Member, IRLI Board of Directors (Immigration Reform Inst.)
- Senior Manger for International Companies
- Engineering Degrees, Cornell, Purdue, and University of Texas

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thomas Jagodzinski



- Retired Senior V.P./Chief Technology Officer Peoples Bank
- Served on the Milford Board of Education.
- Member, Lector and Eucharistic Minister - St. Raphael Parish
- Volunteer Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus
- Justice of the Peace
- Married, 3 children, 3 grandchildren

Ellen Monforte



- Board Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist, 25 years
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- Master of Biology SCSU
- Vision - Excellence in K - 12 education w/ fiscal responsibility
- Former PTO officer, TAG Program - Calf Pen Meadow School
- CT and American Assoc. of Nurse Anes
- Milford Junior League volunteer

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 4TH DISTRICT (Southeastern part of Milford, bordering West Haven. Includes Woodmont, Morningside, Point Beach, and Hillside.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Frank Fanelli, V



- Owner of Milford based interior design business
- Zoning Enforcement Manager for the City of West Haven
- Bachelor of Arts from University of New Haven
- Resides in Milford with his wife and four amazing sons

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Dan German



- 12 year Board of Aldermen member
- Financial wellness, insurance and financial services; 35 year Milford small business owner.
- Degree in finance and Master's degree in business; Member of Milford Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and BNI.
- My goal is to utilize my business and government experience to enhance Milford as a place to live, work, play and invest, making it more affordable and beautiful.

Win Smith, Jr



- Milford's State Senator, 1993-2005; former State Ethics Commissioner, Milford Police Commissioner and Milford City Attorney; U.S. Army Veteran.
- Milford Rotary Past President; Milford Bank Board of Corporators; born & raised in Milford; Eagle Scout-Troop 1; Milford High School Graduate;
- Married to Debbie Franco Smith for 41 years, raised three children in Milford, grandfather of two girls in Milford;
- Milford Home-Owner; practicing attorney, small business owner in Milford; Lector St. Mary's Church; Senior Citizen.

Katie R. Martino



- Owner of Milford based business, iparalegalCT, LLC
- Past Kiwanis Member
- Past Milford Elks Member
- Real Estate Agent
- Resides in the Longmeadow community with her husband John and rescue dog Enzo

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nancy Sobocinski



- Owner of Milford Law Firm, Sobocinski Law Offices, LLC
- Received Doctorate of Law from Case Western Reserve University
- Member of Connecticut Bar Association
- Member of Christ the Redeemer Ladies Guild
- Member of Thadeus
- 33 Year practicing attorney

Tara J. Galbo



- Litigating Partner at Milford Law Firm, Dey, Smith, Steele, LLC
- Past President, Milford Bar Association
- Past Secretary, Statewide Bar Presidents
- Certified Yoga instructor
- Single Mother and Jewelry Maker,
- Attorney Galbo has lived in the City of Milford for over 20 years

MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 5TH DISTRICT (Southcentral area of Milford, includes downtown, Melba Beach, Gulf Beach, and most residences south of the Post Road.)

PLANNING & ZONING

Andrew King



- State Certified Real Estate Appraiser
- Extensive knowledge and experience with zoning issues
- International Who's Who List of 1993
- Business owner for over 20 years
- BS in Education
- Foster dad for col Potter's Cairn Terrier Rescue since 2010
- Lifelong Milford Resident
- My goal is to protect and preserve Milford's historic charm
- Proud dad to his son

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Ray Vitale



- Fifth District Alderman 2007 - Present
- Former Chair, Board of Bridges Health Care
- Member, Permanent School Building Committee
- Milford Oyster Festival Committee
- Created 9/11 Memorial Garden at Lives Oaks School
- Co-founder "Folks on Spokes", Chair of Milford Prevention Council
- Former Principal, Live Oaks Elementary & Harborside Middle School

Bill Bevan



- Police Commissioner
- Commissioner Park, Beach and Recreation
- Fourth District Alderman 2009 - 2011
- Fifth District Alderman 2015 - 2017
- US NAVY Veteran
- Milford Oyster Festival Committee
- Board Of Directors, Uganda Farmers INC

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Scott A. Marlow



- Four years teaching Experience
- Active CT Teaching Certification
- Bachelors in Education
- Lifelong Milford Resident
- Proud parent of a student in Milford Public Schools.

Dawn King



- Owner DWKing Talent Management
- Manager 15 yrs, representing children in Film and TV
- 30 years in the music industry, over 20 years training performers
- Provisional Real Estate Appraiser
- Associates Degree in Music
- Foster mom for Col Potters Cairn Terrier Rescue since 2010
- Proud mom to her son

CONSTABLES

Shirley Serrano

Scott Monforte

Steven V. Visconti

Erik Smith

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

Orange Democratic Candidates

FIRST SELECTMAN

Mark Moyher



I moved to Orange 25 years ago and together with my wife Ilene, have built a life of involvement and enjoyment in this community. Volunteering as a member and officer of community organizations has inspired me to seek the role of First Selectman to further my interest in helping Orange move forward.

If elected First Selectman, I'll bring new energy and ideas to propel our town forward while embracing its rich history. I strongly believe that communicating and engaging with residents of all demographics is central to continually improving our town's government. I will make sure that Orange keeps up with the times and is modernized for the future. I look forward to working with and serving you.

With nearly 40 years as a financial services professional, I'll bring my strong business acumen, professionalism, financial expertise, and enthusiasm for innovation and business development to town hall.

My passion for the environment and reducing Orange's trash and carbon footprint led me to join the Orange Recycling Committee, of which I am Secretary and Treasurer. You may have seen me assisting at the popular biannual Paper Shredding and Mattress Recycling event or manning the committee's booth at the Orange Country Fair. I'm an active member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee and ran for the position of Tax Collector in 2021. Although I didn't win, I gained insights into our local government and appreciated meeting residents throughout town and discussing issues they care about.

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Ilene and I host many gatherings, where I put my culinary skills to good use! My interests include doing home DIY projects, bowling, traveling, and golf. I'm pleased to be a long-standing member of Grassy Hill Country Club Men's Association.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mitch Goldblatt



Member of the BOS who has served in many capacities in Orange including First Selectman, Orange Recycling Committee Chair, and much more.

- Board of Selectmen, 2005-Present, 1993-1999
- First Selectman, 1999-2005
- Town Plan and Zoning Commission, 1981-1993
- Town Constable, 1979-1981
- Orange Recycling Committee, Chair

- Orange Bond Oversight Committee
- Library Building Committee, 1997-1998
- Fire House Building Committee 1996-1997
- Inland Wetlands Commission, 1983-1993
- Human Resources Director, Town of Guilford
- Adjunct Professor, University of New Haven
- MBA, Management, University of New Haven
- BA, Political Science Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA

PJ Shanley



PJ Shanley has a background in corporate finance and 20+ years of experience as a financial advisor. He is a fiscally conservative Democrat, who has worked hard to help implement budgets that make sense for the entire town.

- Served on Orange Board of Finance for 8 years before appointment to BOS
- Financial Advisor/Financial Services Executive, Barnum Financial Group

- Licensed to sell Life, Health, Accident & Disability, Property & Casualty Insurance In CT
- Holds Series 7 and 66 Securities Licenses
- Holds Chartered Advisor Senior Living (CASL) Designation
- Knights of St. Patrick, Former Officer
- Orange Democratic Town Committee, Former Officer
- BS Finance, University of Rhode Island
- Amity High School-Class of 1990

The town of Orange holds a special place in PJ's heart. He grew up here, met his wife and most of his close friends here, and is raising a family here. His mother and mother-in-law still reside in Orange.

Melissa Johnston



- Mom of two children: 4th grader at Turkey Hill School, 7th grader at Amity Middle School Orange

- 11-year Orange resident, life-long CT resident
- 20-year business career with roles in marketing, communications, project management & product development, with special skills acquired in budgeting, negotiations, market research, public relations, vendor management, strategy development, digital communications, and team leadership

- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Sacred Heart University, achieving the highest grades possible in courses related to statistics, operations management, accounting, legal environment of business, leadership & ethics, negotiations and corporate financial management. Graduated with honors. Member of Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honors Society

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies from American University, cum laude. Member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society
- Active member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee & Co-Chair of the Meet the Candidates Picnic
- Co-facilitator of children's presence at many town & school activities

BOARD OF FINANCE

Anna Mahon



- Educational Leader - Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Brookfield, CT
- Bachelor's of Art from University of Vermont (English and psychology double major; Class of 1996)
- Masters of Arts in Teaching from Boston University (1997)
- 6th Year Professional Diploma for Advance Studies from SCSU (in Educational Leadership; 2007)

- Doctor of Education from University of Bridgeport (Educational Leadership; 2022)

- Former professional track and field athlete, member of Team USA for multiple world and other international championship teams, and Olympic Athlete, 2004, in hammer throw (former American Record Holder in hammer throw from 2002-2004)

- First Year Principal of the Year in 2016 for State of CT (presented through Connecticut Association of Schools)

- Member of New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission since 2018

- National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Advisory Board member (2018-2022)

- Co-chair of CIAC Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Committee for Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

- Assistant Coach - Track and Field at Yale University for throws (men and women; 2004-2012)

- Presenter at a variety of regional and national educational conferences

- Years in Orange: 24 years.

Jen Alfaro



- Business owner: Alafogiannis Plumbing & Heating Inc. and Dafnos Realty Management LLC)
- Former Peck Place PTO Treasurer (4 Years)
- Former ODTIC Secretary
- Board Member of SHAREing and CAREing Breast Cancer Organization

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION

Ken Lenz



- Attorney at Law (recently retired after 46 years in practice)
- Bachelor of Arts from American International College
- Juris doctor (law) degree from Western New England University School of Law, Springfield MA
- Former U.S. Army enlistee and U.S. Air Force Academy cadet.
- Former Executive committee member of Connecticut Bar Association's commercial law and bankruptcy section; former director of New Haven County Bar Association; former trial referee for CT superior court, current justice of the peace.

- Former Orange Board of Selectmen member (one term)

- Active member of Orange Lions Club and former President, Secretary and Treasurer

- Former president, coach and referee in Orange Soccer Association

- Years in Orange: 42

Scott Rogalski



- Attorney (self-employed)
- Bachelor of Science (Summa Cum Laude) in Finance from Bryant College (University)
- Juris Doctor, Honors Program Graduate from Roger Williams University School of Law
- Rotary Club of Orange member
- Orange Chamber of Commerce member
- Years in Orange: 12

Paul Kaplan



- Attorney at Law - General Commercial/Real Estate
- Norwalk Community College, Part-Time Professor of Real Estate (20 years)
- Town Plan and Zoning Commission - current member (18 years)
- Zoning Board of Appeals - former member (5 years)
- JD, Albany Law School
- BA, Boston University

ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ralph Marguy



- Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice, University of New Haven
- Bachelors degree in Computer Science, Southern New Hampshire University (in progress)
- Occupation: Fire Inspector, Yale University
- Awards/Certifications: Delta Chi Fraternity, NSLS (National Society of Leadership and Success), Forensic Photography certification (UNH), Computer Forensic certificate (UNH), HAZMAT TECH EPA, Firefighter 1 CT certified, CT EMT-B Licensed, CT certified Fire Marshal

Betty Hadlock



- Member of Orange Board of Education 2015-present
- HOT (Higher Order Thinking) Schools Coach and Facilitator 2013-present
- Retired Elementary School Teacher 1985-2013, Durham/Middlefield
- Teacher of the Year 1992, Team Leader 1991-2013, Head Teacher 2000-2013
- PIMMS Fellow (Project to Increase Mastery of Math & Science), Wesleyan University Summers 1996-1998

- MS, BS from Southern Connecticut State University
- Member of Orange Lions Club, Chair of Pediatric Eye Screenings, Co-Chair of Annual Wine Tasting
- Orange Historical Society Board of Directors
- Member of Garden Club of Orange
- Parishioner of Holy Infant Parish
- Orange resident 40+ years
- Married, 4 children (all graduates of Orange and Amity schools), 7 grandchildren

Susan Riccio



- Monroe/Masuk High school mathematics, computer science and business teacher
- Winner of best new teacher award
- Orange Board of Education Executive Board Member, Secretary of the Board and Finance Chair
- ACES Governing Board Chairman and former Finance Chairperson
- Orange and Amity school graduate
- Retired Accenture Executive

- Shubert Theatre Volunteer
- Gettysburg College, BA - major Business Management
- University of Nebraska, BS with honors - majors: Mathematics and Education
- Wesleyan University, MA - majors mathematics and analytics
- Former CT and NE certified 7-12 teacher mathematics, business and computers
- Who's Who in Business, Diversity and Inclusion awards
- Mentoring Awards, New Teacher of the Year - Masuk High school
- Golden Key National Honor Society
- Former Moms Club of Orange president and Gamma Phi Beta alumni

AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Paul Davis



- Amity Board of Education 1st Term 2019-2023
- Current BOE Chair
- Former Policy Subcommittee Chair
- State Representative 117th District, 2005-2015
- Deputy Majority Leader
- Chair, Regulations Review Committee
- Vice Chair Environment Committee
- Member: Education Committee, Energy and Technology Committee, Transportation Committee

- Orange Board of Selectman 2015-2019
- Served on: Orange Conservation Commission, Orange Clean Energy Task Force, Platt Tech Citizens Advisory Council, Governor's Appointee Connecticut Grade 11 School Testing Working Group, M.O.R.E. (Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies) Commission, Southwest CT Advanced Manufacturing Consortium, Special Olympics World Games Organizing Committee, Relay for Life, Amity Post Prom, West Haven Project Graduation, Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors
- Orange Community and Amity High School Head Swim Coach
- Founder and Coach of Orange Swim Team Program in 1975-1992
- Amity Swim Coach 27 years Boys and Girls
- Inducted CT High School Coaches Hall of Fame
- Inducted Amity Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame
- Past President of Amity Coaches Association
- CIAC Sportsmanship Committee Founding Member
- Orange Foundation Scholarship and Community Grant Fund member

Jennifer Jacquet



- Director of Operations at the nonprofit SOSA (Safe from Online Sex Abuse)
- BS from New York University in Special Education
- MA from New York University in Music Therapy NYS Special Education K-12 permanent teacher certification
- Former board member, President, and program coordinator at NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness) Westchester

- Former preschool special educator and music teacher
- Clubs/Organizations: Race Brook PTA and Talent Show organizer
- Jennifer served as the President of the NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness) Westchester board for 2 years and board member for 4. She was instrumental in establishing their local affiliate as a chartered NAMI organization. Her diplomatic working style helps build teams who achieve important goals. As a strong believer in public schools, she has witnessed firsthand the possibilities of strong early education, by attending one of the highest rated public high schools in the country.

Jennifer has lived in Orange for 2 years with her wife, Kristen Blando, who was born and raised in Milford. Their son, Cayden, attends Race Brook Elementary School and is a proud raccoon who has flourished since moving to Orange. She hopes to bring her knowledge of special education and student's holistic health needs to the Amity Board of Ed. She is committed to the Amity administration and teachers to help prepare Amity students for college and their successful futures.

Orange Democratic Candidates

Ken Briodagh



- Writer
- Educational Background- college, post-grad, certifications: University of Maine at Machias
- Winner of awards for writing and editing from AFCP, ASPBE, NEPA, SIPA and TABPI
- Author of "Stories & Sins" a book of poetry, and "IoT Time: Evolving Trends in the Internet of Things"

- Published in "Connecticut Bards Poetry Review 2023"
- Instructor for "Not in the Face" Stage Combat company
- Years in Orange: 10

Josh Orlinsky



- Social Studies Department Chair & Teacher, Platt HS (Meriden) entering 5th year, 21st overall in education
- BS: Accounting, Minor History, Minor Criminal Justice, The College of New Jersey
- MS: Social Studies Education, Syracuse University
- MA: Education Leadership, Montclair State University

- Certifications: Social Studies Education, Business Education, Athletics and Coaching, CPR & First Aid
- Clubs/Organizations: New Haven Spurs Supporters Club
- Years in Orange : 4

CONSTABLES

Santo Galatioto Jr.



- Years in Orange: Lifelong resident
- Occupation: Educator
- Town Constable, 2009-Present
- School Teacher
- Orange Youth Services Advisory Board
- Graduate, Amity High School
- Eagle Scout
- Justice of the Peace
- The Orange Foundation Scholarship Foundation Member

- MA, Quinnipiac University
- BA, Quinnipiac University

Randy Thomas



- Mortgage Broker.
- Town Constable, 2003-Present
- Zoning Board of Appeals-Former Member
- Vice President Residential Loan Officer, People's United Bank, 34 years
- New Haven Middlesex Realtors Affiliation
- MBA, Management, with Honors, University of New Haven
- Certified Firefighter

- Married, 4 children

Jody Dietch



- Occupation: Executive Director
- Attended Racebrook School K-6, graduate of Amity Regional High School
- BA Keene State College, Major in Journalism, minor in Business
- MS American University, Public Relations
- Mediator certified, Quinnipiac University School of Law
- Past President Racebrook School PTA

- Served 8 years on the Orange Board of Education: Vice Chair, Chair Finance Committee, Chair Personnel Policy, and Transportation Committee
- Past Secretary and Past President Kids Count of Milford
- Past Treasurer, Secretary and Chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee

Orange Republican Candidates

FIRST SELECTMAN

Jim Zeoli



Jim has served nine terms as First Selectman and has been an active member of the Orange Board of Selectmen since 1999. He has shown the necessary experience in municipal management to effectively continue to lead our Town as First Selectman.

Jim is no stranger to hard work. His commitment to the people of Orange is undeniable. Jim has always given freely of his time for Orange, serving as a volunteer

fireman for over 20 years, past Assistant Treasurer of the Volunteer Fire Association and Co-Chairman of the Orange Agricultural Fair. Jim knows the people of Orange. He listens to them and identifies with them and their problems. He is always genuinely interested in offering his advice and help. Jim tackles issues head-on and goes out of his way to find win-win solutions. He is the type of leader that considers the feelings of all residents from the very young to our growing senior population.

Jim is ready to continue his leadership of Orange as our First Selectman. His honest straightforward leadership style is right for Orange. It is right for seniors. It is right for children. It is right for education. It is right for economic development. It is right for business. It is right for open space. It is right for all taxpayers. AND...Jim's straightforward, honest leadership style needs to continue!

TOWN CLERK

Mary Shaw



- B. S. Industrial Technology, CCSU
- M. S. Counseling in Higher Education, SCSU

- Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Town of Orange 2012-2019

- Orange Board of Education - Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent 2019 - present

- As a result of her extensive experience working closely with all Orange municipal offices, Mary is uniquely qualified to serve as Town Clerk.

TAX COLLECTOR

Tom Hurley



- B. S. Michigan State University
- M.S. Economics, Wayne State University
- PMI—Project Management
- APBM, Certified Business Manager
- USAF Veteran (Captain)
- Sr Vice Commander American Legion Post 127

- Tom Hurley been dedicated the people of Orange for many years. As a member of the Amity Board of Education for over 13 years Tom served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary.

- Tom is a Financial Professional, owner of Thomas Hurley Consulting LLC and a APBM Certified Business Manager

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Ralph Okenquist



- B.S. Fairfield University
- M.B.A. University of New Haven
- Fred Wolfe Park Committee 1995-98
- Park & Rec Commission 9 years, 5 years as Chairman Capital Planning Committee Chair

- Allied Signal - Manager
- Advanced Business Program Planning Chandler Evans - Senior Program Administrator

Judy Wright Williams



- Board of Selectmen - 12 years
- B.S. Southern Connecticut State University

- M.S. Special Education, Southern Connecticut State University
- Graduate of the Orange and Amity School Systems
- Teacher 33 years, Orange School System

- Human Service Commission

- Historic District Commission
- Orange Cemetery Association

John Carangelo



- Orange Board of Selectmen - 8 years
- B.A. Syracuse University
- J.D. Quinnipiac College School of Law Former Judge of Probate for Orange
- Practicing attorney with over 28 years of legal experience

- John Carangelo has been a lifelong resident of Orange and resides with his wife Kathrine and his sons Michael and Joey."

BOARD OF FINANCE

Kevin Houlihan



- B.S. in accounting, University of Rhode Island

- Certified Public Accountant
- Chairman Board of Finance since 2009
- Board of Finance Member since 1999
- Orange Capital Planning Committee
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accounts

Jim Leahy



- B.A. in mathematics, Bates College
- MBA, Harvard Business School

- Orange Board of Finance, 2005 - present
- Vice Chairman - Orange Board of Finance, 2009 -2023

- Amity Finance Committee, 2005 - 2009

- Orange man of the year Award, 2000

- Served on Army, US Government,

- Sikorsky Leadership Team: OMEGA project and ICE project
- Jim brings over 35 years of experience and a proven track record of accomplishment with Fortune 100 organizations. He has consistently communicated his overarching theme of "Doing More with Less" and shown how to utilize those principles in Town budgeting & government. During his ten-year tenure, Orange has reduced its spending 57% annually while maintaining town services and educational excellence. Jim currently works at Sikorsky Aircraft as the leader of Enterprise Transformation projects.

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION

Judy Smith



- MBA. in Restaurant & Hotel Management University of New Haven

- B.S. in Marketing - University of Connecticut

- General Manager Orange Hills Country Club

- Instructor - University of New Haven, 1986-1988

- Member of the Orange Town Planning and Zoning Board: 1995, 1999, 2003, 2011-2019

- Elected Vice Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission, January 2006 to Present

Tom Torrenti



- B.S. Civil Engineering, Syracuse University

- Owner of Thomas A. Torrenti, P.C. Consulting Structural Engineers

- Founded in 1986

- Licensed Professional Engineer State of Connecticut

- Tom is an ACE Mentor Program Volunteer for Students interested in pursuing careers in Science, Engineering & Architecture.

- Tom and Donna Torrenti have resided in Orange for 40 years and have 3 children."

ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bill Kraut



- Chairman, Orange Board of Education

- B.S. University of Rhode Island

- Business Owner of Newport Tennis, Inc.

- Active member of Turkey Hill School PTA

- Bill and Phyllis Kraut live in Orange with their daughter Michaela

Ken Ziman



- B. S. in marketing, University of Bridgeport

- M. S. in education, University of Bridgeport

- 8th Year in Education

- Classroom Teacher Specialist, Southern Connecticut State University Elementary School Teacher K - Grade 6 Bridgeport CT 36 Years

- Former Member NEASC Evaluation Team

- Ken Ziman is a 35 year resident of Orange with his wife Pat Ziman. Ken is the father of 2 children who attended Orange Public Schools and graduated from Amity

Anthony Scarinzi



- B.A. Computer Science and Business, Southern Connecticut State University

- Graduate Amity Regional High School. Class of 1996

- Computer Programmer, Aquarion Water Company, Shelton - 1999 to present

- Anthony lives in Orange with his wife Amanda and their two children

MOT

Milford-Orange Times

Orange Republican Candidates

AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dana Lombardi



dogs Buck and Mocha

- B.S. Southern CT State University
- Dick Clark Productions 1995-97
- Viacom 1997-2000, Manhattan
- Television Production and Management
- Yale University Financial assistant 2000- present
- Turkey Hill School & Amity Middle School PTA
- Dana lives in Orange with her husband Chad, sons Dominick and Carlo, and her

Cathy Bradley



- B.A. & B.S. Business Economics, University of Connecticut
- MBA University of New Haven
- Board of Directors, Orange Chamber of Commerce
- Advisory Board for Dean of Business School University of New Haven
- Member of Zoning Board of Appeals
- Network of Executive Woman member
- President at Large Rotary of Orange

Mike McDonough



- B.S. Business Management and Administration, Albertus Magnus University
- CT Paramedic Licensure, Norwalk Community College
- CT Massage therapy Licensure, Galen Institute for Alternative Medicine
- Little Engineering Services, Outside Sales and Service Representative 2005-present
- President/Owner, Sage Ave LLC
- K&M Property Management LLC, 2007-Present
- American Medical Response, Senior Preceptor Paramedic 1994-2005
- Member of Inlands Wetlands Commission, Town of Orange
- Peck Place & Amity Middle School PTA
- Orange Little League Softball Coach 2015- 2021
- Michael lives in town with his daughter, and their dog Friday

CONSTABLES



Jody Daymon
Jody Daymon is a resident of Orange running for constable..

Michael Donadeo



Michael Donadeo is a resident of Orange running for constable.

Glen Papelo



Glen Papelo is a resident of Orange running for constable.

Gary Palermo



Gary Palermo is a resident of Orange running for constable.

Sample Ballot Information For Milford And Orange

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Milford, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 7, 2023 | Districts 1-1, 1-2 | Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE	1 MAYOR Vote for One	2 BOARD OF ALDERMAN Vote for Up to Three			5 CITY CLERK Vote for One	7 CONSTABLES Vote for Up to Four				10 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Two	12 PLANNING AND ZONING Vote for One	
PARTY												
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A KERRI ROWLAND	2A MATT ARCIUOLO	3A MICHELLE PARENTE	4A	5A KAREN FORTUNATI	6A LINDA HARDIMAN	7A THEODORE BOYNTON	8A SHAWN LIESKIND	9A DOMINIC COTTON	10A ERIN PINSKIE	11A GARY PELUCHETTE	12A JOE CASTIGNOLI
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B TONY GIANNATTASIO	2B BUDDY PRETE	3B ANDY FOWLER	4B JASON JENKINS	5B JOHN FOWLER	6B SCOTT MONFORTE	7B ERIC SMITH	8B STEVEN T. VISCONTI	9B SHIRLEY SERRANO	10B SCOTT FIRMENDER	11B CHRISTINA PRETE	12B JOHN AGNESE
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Milford, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 7, 2023 | Districts 2-1, 2-2 | Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE	1 MAYOR Vote for One	2 BOARD OF ALDERMAN Vote for Up to Three			5 CITY CLERK Vote for One	7 CONSTABLES Vote for Up to Four				10 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Two	12 PLANNING AND ZONING Vote for One	
PARTY												
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A KERRI ROWLAND	2A WARD WILLIS	3A ROBERT A. PACELLI, JR.	4A	5A KAREN FORTUNATI	6A LINDA HARDIMAN	7A THEODORE BOYNTON	8A SHAWN LIESKIND	9A DOMINIC COTTON	10A MEGHAN DOYLE	11A SUSAN GLENNON	12A JOHN MORTIMER
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B TONY GIANNATTASIO	2B CHRIS GOULDEN	3B SCOTT MARLOW	4B	5B JOHN FOWLER	6B SCOTT MONFORTE	7B ERIC SMITH	8B STEVEN T. VISCONTI	9B SHIRLEY SERRANO	10B BOB TSCHILSKIE	11B FRANK MUSANTE	12B MARK MACCRO
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Milford, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 7, 2023 | Districts 3-1, 3-2 | Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE	1 MAYOR Vote for One	2 BOARD OF ALDERMAN Vote for Up to Three			5 CITY CLERK Vote for One	7 CONSTABLES Vote for Up to Four				10 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Two	12 PLANNING AND ZONING Vote for One	
PARTY												
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A KERRI ROWLAND	2A HOLLY E. MULLENAN	3A PAUL J. HEALY	4A	5A KAREN FORTUNATI	6A LINDA HARDIMAN	7A THEODORE BOYNTON	8A SHAWN LIESKIND	9A DOMINIC COTTON	10A UNA PETROSKE	11A TRACEY IRBY	12A ROBERT SATTI
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B TONY GIANNATTASIO	2B MICHAEL S. CASEY	3B JEFFREY R. PARKIN	4B PETER BERUBE	5B JOHN FOWLER	6B SCOTT MONFORTE	7B ERIC SMITH	8B STEVEN T. VISCONTI	9B SHIRLEY SERRANO	10B THOMAS JAGODZINSKI	11B ELLEN MONFORTE	12B STEVE VISCONTI
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Milford, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 7, 2023 | District 4 | Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE	1 MAYOR Vote for One	2 BOARD OF ALDERMAN Vote for Up to Three			5 CITY CLERK Vote for One	7 CONSTABLES Vote for Up to Four				10 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Two	12 PLANNING AND ZONING Vote for One	
PARTY												
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A KERRI ROWLAND	2A PHILIP J. VETRO	3A JENNIFER FEDERICO	4A	5A KAREN FORTUNATI	6A LINDA HARDIMAN	7A THEODORE BOYNTON	8A SHAWN LIESKIND	9A DOMINIC COTTON	10A CINDY WOLFE BOYNTON	11A TOM KOBA	12A JOSEPH ALLING
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B TONY GIANNATTASIO	2B WIN SMITH, JR.	3B DAN GERMAN	4B KATIE R. MARTINO	5B JOHN FOWLER	6B SCOTT MONFORTE	7B ERIC SMITH	8B STEVEN T. VISCONTI	9B SHIRLEY SERRANO	10B NANCY L. SOBODZINSKI	11B TARA J. GALBO	12B FRANK FANELLI III
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Milford, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 7, 2023 | District 5 | Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE	1 MAYOR Vote for One	2 BOARD OF ALDERMAN Vote for Up to Three			5 CITY CLERK Vote for One	7 CONSTABLES Vote for Up to Four				10 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Two	12 PLANNING AND ZONING Vote for One	
PARTY												
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A KERRI ROWLAND	2A CARL S. MOORE	3A ELLEN R. BEATTY	4A	5A KAREN FORTUNATI	6A LINDA HARDIMAN	7A THEODORE BOYNTON	8A SHAWN LIESKIND	9A DOMINIC COTTON	10A MIKE SMITH	11A LOREN MAHLER	12A MARC ZAHARIADIS
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B TONY GIANNATTASIO	2B BILL BEVAN	3B RAY VITALI	4B JOHN FOWLER	5B SCOTT MONFORTE	6B ERIC SMITH	7B STEVEN T. VISCONTI	8B SHIRLEY SERRANO	9B SCOTT A. MARLOW	10B DAWN KING	11B ANDREW KING	12B
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C

State of Connecticut Official Ballot | Orange, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 7, 2023 | Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE	1 FIRST SELECTMAN Vote for One	2 SELECTMAN Vote for Up to Three			5 TOWN CLERK Vote for One	6 TAX COLLECTOR Vote for One	7 BOARD OF FINANCE Vote for Up to Three			10 BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for Up to Three	12 TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION Four Year Term Begins 2023 Vote for Up to Two	13 TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION Four Year Term Begins 2024 Vote for One			
PARTY															
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A MARK MOYHER	2A MELISSA JOHNSTON	3A PJ SHANLEY	4A MITCHELL R. GOLDBLATT	5A	6A	7A JEN ALFARO	8A ANNA MARON	9A	10A SUSAN RICCIO	11A BETTY HARLOCK	12A RALPH MARGUY	13A SCOTT RIGALSKI	14A KEN LENZ	15A PAUL KAPLAN
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B JAMES M. ZEOLI	2B JOHN J. CARANGELD	3B RALPH G. OKENQUIST	4B JUDY WRIGHT WILLIAMS	5B MARY SHAW	6B THOMAS P. HURLEY	7B JAMES A. LEAHY	8B KEVIN HOULIHAN	9B	10B WILLIAM J. KRAIT	11B ANTHONY SCARINZI	12B KEN ZIMAN	13B TOM TORRENTI	14B JUDY SMITH	15B
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C	15C

Running

Enjoy The Crisp Fall Air

Here we are again, well into fall. This is a great time of year. Runs and walks are starting. Make them a family event. It's a great way to get out and set a healthy goal for the whole family.

Make it an early New Year's resolution. Set internal competitions with yourself, friends or family members: who can get the most steps, distance or best pace in a week.

We are lucky to have many safe places where we can get out and enjoy the beautiful foliage: High Plains Community Center, Racebrook Tract, the Woodbridge walking/running track and many of our open spaces.

Get out and enjoy the beautiful, crisp days ahead and the changing of the seasons, as well as the colorful landscape. People come here from thousands of miles away to see the beautiful colors that line the skies.

Most of you know me and have seen me

out around town training for one event or another. I am usually looking at my watch, watching my heartrate or even looking at a text that I need to respond to when I get home.

I have decided to leave all that technology behind. No smartphone, headphones, watch, fitness band, virtual coach or music. The beauty around me was lost in making sure I was on pace and finishing on time. I was missing the joy that hooked me in the first place.

I am now out there with just me and my two feet, and loving it. Instead of looking down at my phone I am looking up at the sky, feeling my steps and hearing my breath. I see the surroundings of children playing



CATHY
BRADLEY

soccer and my neighbors walking their dogs.

I am not anti-technology. I am as addicted as the next person. But running with all that stuff made me anxious. I would step out the door, glance at my fitness band, sync my GPS and worry if my headphones had enough charge for the long run. I was disconnected from the joy of the beauty and peace which drove my passion. The tranquil, peaceful hobby was not what I was experiencing.

riencing.

Now I leave the house with a \$10 bill in case I run into a Starbucks, and I leave a note on the route I will be running in case someone notices I am not home by dinner (that hasn't happened).

In my time outside, I am now present and more grounded to the earth. I now know sometimes less is more. We all get inputs from many directions all day long. Step outside, take a deep breath and enjoy the cool crisp air.

Enjoy a few minutes to refresh, reset and be present. There is so much to be thankful for when you look around the world. We may not be perfect as a country, but I would not want to be anywhere else.

I encourage you walkers and runners to sign up for Rotary's Thanksgiving 5K event. It's a great way to get ready for the big meal and start a family tradition. It's at High Plains Community Center in Orange at 8 a.m. Sign up at rotarycluboforange.org.

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

Getting To Know You

Creepy Classics For Halloween

Once again, we're on the cusp of holiday season here in New England. As the days get shorter and the nights grow colder, the yearly celebration of Halloween is now the unofficial kickoff to the holidays.

Halloween is one of my favorite celebrations for two reasons. The first reason is obvious: candy. Halloween means big bowls and fat sacks full of candy. Nothing says "happy times" like a bunch of sweet treats to choose from and chew on.

The second reason is a little less obvious, but no less integral to the season: spooky stories. To me, nothing goes better with a sack of candy than a good spooky story. Every Halloween the spooky stories are dusted off and retold, and each year they give us all a familiar chill and a tingle in the spine.

One of my favorites is "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe. Halloween is never complete until I pull my leatherbound tome of Poe stories off the shelf, sit in my easy chair and read that poem out loud by the light of a candle.

The mood set by Poe's epic poem is truly bone chilling. The image of a lone person sitting by a fire in a gothic library, haunted by a memory they cannot shake is the stuff of eerie nightmares. When I read the line, "the rare and radiant maiden that the angels named 'Lenore',

nameless here for evermore," I always look up from my book to be sure her shade is not standing before me. Each time I read the last line, I can almost hear the raven, perched "upon the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door" croak "Nevermore!"

Another favorite of mine is "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving. The crescendo of Irving's tale has the protagonist, the Connecticut schoolmaster Ichabod Crane, fresh from wooing the pretty Katrina Van Tassel, astride his mount Gunpowder as he makes his way home from a party at the Van Tassels' farm. As he rides through Sleepy Hollow, Crane sees a large man on a black horse. Crane slows to let the rider pass, but the eerie rider keeps pace. Crane, his head full of Bromm Bones' warnings of the Headless Horseman in Sleep Hollow, turns to look at the rider and realizes that the strange rider has his head in his lap. Poor hapless Ichabod Crane has come face to empty space with the Headless Horseman.

A fantastic chase ensues as Crane, with the Headless Horseman hot on his heels, urges Gunpowder through the night, racing the



DAVID
CROW

Horseman to the church bridge because the ghost cannot cross it. Finally, Crane, clinging frantically to Gunpowder, scampers across the bridge, just ahead of the ghost, to apparent safety. However, Crane cannot resist a pause for a backwards glance just in time to see the Headless Horseman fling its head at him.

The next morning no sign of the Ichabod Crane is found except for his hat near a smashed pumpkin. Irving tells us that some believe that Crane survived his encounter with the Headless Horseman and prospered in Manhattan as a lawyer, politician, writer and judge. But still others believe that on that fateful night Ichabod Crane was taken to the spirit world by the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

Each year when I finish the story I always ruminate on the fate of poor Ichabod Crane and wonder, just for a chilly moment, if his spirit still haunts the remote stretch of road in New York known as Sleepy Hollow.

Perhaps you too have heard ghost stories told in a darkened room with the curtains drawn against the gloom of night. Perhaps you too have felt a chill of uncertain dread slither

up your spine. Perhaps you too have hazarded a glance behind you, just in case you're wrong and the creepy-crawlies, ghouls, ghosts, shape shifters and blood suckers the stories warn of aren't just figments of active imaginations. Perhaps you too, after the last trick-or-treater has gone and the jack-o-lantern is extinguished and the doors are locked and the curtains are drawn, will pull up your bedclothes a little extra close as you take a long, hard look around your bedroom just to be sure that those shadows that dance in the corner of your eye are really shadows and not the ghastly ghosts that haunt us on Halloween night. Perhaps you too will chide yourself for foolishness and drift off to sleep safe in the knowledge that, as we all know, those are just stories...right?

The candy bowl is full, so y'all come out... if you dare.

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.



**MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1973
50TH REUNION**

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

**MILFORD YACHT CLUB
6-10 P.M.**

**IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE IN THE CLASS,
PLEASE LET THEM KNOW.**

**NOTICES HAVE GONE OUT, BUT THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE WE CAN'T
FIND.**

IF YOU GOT A NOTICE AND HAVEN'T RSVP'D THERE'S STILL ROOM!



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Travel Matters

The Power Of Travel

We recently organized a fundraiser called Travel in Luxury for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It was held in Naples, Florida and we partnered with 13 travel companies who donated multiple trips for both a silent and a live auction. Attendees had travel conversations with travel representatives about new trip ideas. We were pleased to surpass our fundraising goal and raised \$40,000 for Make-A-Wish.

I mention this to illustrate the “power” of travel. What I mean by the “power” of travel is that travel creates excitement, positivity and enthusiasm.

Neuroscientists have done studies on how travel impacts brain health – through relaxation, mindfulness and better sleep. Results include creativity and positivity in other aspects of our lives, including the workplace.

One very dramatic example: Lin-Manuel Miranda started writing “Hamilton” while

he was on vacation.

Yet 212 million vacation days are lost every year by employees in the US.

Any type of travel is good. It’s a change of pace, a change of place and often a change of cultural experiences. Simply planning a vacation boosts happiness up to eight weeks before the trip.

Rebecca Zucker, an executive coach, wrote an article in July 2023 for Harvard Business Review entitled “How Taking a Vacation Improves Your Well-Being.” In it, she concluded, “making sure your people regularly take time off is key to creating a more sustainable workplace with healthier, happier employees.”

Many people who attended our fundraiser had traveled extensively but had not yet



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

traveled with a luxury cruise line, rail or safari company. They were surprised to learn that when you look at the extras you often pay for after the initial fare for your typical cruise, for example, that luxury travel can be the same price or sometimes even save you money. And the benefits offered, like butler service, can go far beyond what you can get on some cruises.

Extras like drinks, WiFi, specialty restaurants, gratuities and sometimes excursions are all included in the price of luxury cruise lines. That alone creates some mental well-being, because you know everything is taken care of. No nickel and diming.

Some companies, like Silversea, offer door-to-door service that includes a private

car roundtrip from your home. Others, such as Seabourn and Regent Seven Seas, include hotel nights pre-cruise plus all transfers.

And it’s not just on sea...Great Safaris offers a VIP meet-and-greet when you land in Africa, with 24/7 support while on safari. This is important to quell any fears of traveling to Africa for the first time.

At the fundraiser, we were fortunate to meet Sophia and her family. Sophia is an 11-year-old girl with cystic fibrosis whose wish is to go to Hawaii and see dolphins and black sand beaches. We were very happy that we were all there helping to grant her wish.

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

Debate

(Continued From 1)

Later, in response to a question about the fund balance, Zeoli defended his efforts as ultimately saving the town much more through higher credit ratings.

“It took time to build that bond rating up to a AAA bond rating, which I am very proud of,” Zeoli said. “That bond rating affects your interest rate. We have money borrowed at 0.90 percent. Any of your would give your eye teeth to be able to borrow money at less than one percent.”

Moyher agreed that having a fund balance is important – just not as high as where Orange’s has recently been.

“I think that when you have needs, and you have old buildings that need repairs,

you have schools that need HVAC and/or air conditioning issues, you have leaky roofs, you have an unfinished High Plains Community Center that started 10 years ago – you need to direct that money properly into fixing those issues,” he said.

Moyher also generally criticized Zeoli for his communication style, suggesting that the town’s website was out of date. He needed Zeoli about personal clashes the first selectman has had with some members of the community, arguing that it has at times deprived the town of useful perspectives.

“You may not like Tom Pisano,” Moyher said, referring to the Orange Soccer Association leader who has perennially butted heads with Zeoli over the development of Fred Wolfe Park. “But the man knows a lot about the Orange Soccer Association, he knows a lot about the park, and he knows

a lot about engineering,” Moyher said. “I think to not have a viewpoint, whether it’s contrasting or not, on your committee hurts the overall evaluation.”

Zeoli shot back that Pisano had made some highly controversial comments in the past.

“He is not the only person that knows about (Fred) Wolfe Park,” Zeoli said.

Although the first selectman only has a tangential role regarding education in the town, the two candidates possibly had their most heated exchange over education in town.

Zeoli first praised Orange’s education system, saying it was one of the best in the state, but said he was concerned that education was going adrift.

“I have three boys who work for me, who when they started really struggled with

basic math, and English, and even science,” he said. “You may want to teach other things in the school system, but I think you need to teach the basics first, because we are failing in teaching the children the basic things they need.”

Moyher responded schools needed to be moving forward to keep with the times.

“Arithmetic, math? I mean, I get it, but who doesn’t have an iPhone and a calculator now?” he said. “I think you have to go with the time, adapt, focus on what’s coming down the pipeline and teach kids what they’re going to come up with in the real world.”

The debate was moderated by Milford-Orange Times editor-in-chief Brandon T. Bisceglia and columnist Dave Crow.

A second debate between the candidates was scheduled for Oct. 29, after press time.

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Letters

(Continued From 9)

candidate Mark Moyer I was appalled at how Zeoli responded to the question about his feelings on the Orange and Amity schools systems and his vision for them. I am the daughter of an educator, and she has been in education for 51 years. My mother has seen the changes, and boy have there been many changes over 51 years. Change is inevitable. Zeoli was focused on the fact that some of his employees at his farm do not know simple math and English and that we are "failing" our children by not teaching basic things such as math and cursive so children write a letter to their grandmother.

I have two children in the Amity system now and one still in the Orange system. I cannot say enough about how the teachers and administration do an excellent job with curriculum development as well as keeping up with the state standards. Math and science standards are set very high now. Much higher than when I was in school. Times are changing and some people do not like change – but it will happen. Both of my older boys (seventh and tenth) learned cursive, but they text their grandmothers on a very regular basis so they do not need to use cursive to write them a letter. But they know how to do it and they have the basic skill.

Our teachers are amazing and we are so lucky to live in Orange where it is valued and our Board of Education and administration work so hard to be sure our children have the best education possible.

If you were to ask the same question 20 years ago, there is a huge variable missing that we have now: technology. Smartphones and social media are a thing that unfortunately are not going away. Our public education system is there to provide an education focused on ideas of core content knowledge, citizenship and skills necessary for all young people to be successful when they become adults.

We are not failing our children by implementing social and emotional learning in addition to academics. It is a very positive thing as our children navigate a world much more complex than when we were growing up. Just look at the world we live in. We did not have social media constantly in our faces. Peer pressure is never ending because they have phones and immediate ways to bully and cause issues. It's much different than passing a note on a piece of paper when we were kids or using word of mouth and it took a while for the "gossip" to get around. Now it is immediate.

We are not failing our children.

**Erika Higgins
Orange**

Believing in Orange and Amity

To the Editor:

Hello friends and neighbors in Orange and Amity. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Ken Briodagh and I'm running for the Amity Board of Education. Here's a little about me by way of introduction. I've lived in Orange for about 10 years and I grew up in Stratford, Derby and Shelton.

I've lived all over the Northeast, but when it came time to start a family, Orange is where we had to be. We brought our family to Orange not just because of the wonderful, welcoming community we knew we'd find here, but because of the famously excellent education and enrichment we'd be able to provide for our two daughters in this school system.

Both of our kids are now at AMSO, and I've watched in dismay as a small minority of members of this community have disparaged, denigrated and attempted to disrupt the great work that the teachers, administration and staff of the Amity schools are trying to do. Whether they're spouting racist dogwhistles,

transphobic and anti-queer rhetoric, counterfactual nonsense or outright falsehoods, this tiny faction has been doing everything it can to erode the fabric of education and community that our kids need to find in their schools. I couldn't stand by and watch that happen, and so I'm running to join the good work of the Amity BOE and stand as a bulwark against that tide of ignorance and malice.

Although I've made my positions well-known in a variety of venues, I want to make sure everyone in the community knows where I stand and in what I believe when it comes to education in Amity.

I believe in interdisciplinary education. The world has progressed beyond simplistic rubrics like 'readin' 'ritin' and 'rithmatic' and these kids need to continue to get a well-rounded and full education that incorporates leading-edge science and technology, creativity and the arts, social and emotional intelligence, and a robust understanding of context and holistic history.

I believe in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Schools are places of learning, and not all of that learning is academic. The students are also learning social skills and life skills and hundreds of other intangibles that boil down in many ways to learning how to be a whole person. And I think it behooves us to do what we can to help them be compassionate and accepting people. What's more, every relevant and reputable study has shown that learning is severely hampered or even prevented in stressful or unwelcoming environments. DEI helps our schools to be places ideal for learning all these lessons, and prevents our schools from becoming sources of trauma.

I believe in teachers. Our Amity teachers are the best anywhere, and I believe that we need to support them, give them resources, and provide them with every opportunity to focus on our kids and their education rather than forcing them to spend unnecessary stress and effort on finding missing supplies, supplementing outdated materials or worrying

that kids aren't getting all the opportunities they need and deserve. We need to do everything we can to retain our excellent teaching staff and administration, and we need to provide them with the resources to do their best work.

Finally, I believe in Orange, and Amity. We are a loving, accepting and engaged community that cares deeply about our future and our neighbors. Let's all band together to protect our future by serving our schools in the best way we can. I hope you agree that my stance and the stances of my colleagues on the Democratic ticket is the way forward. Make sure you vote on Nov. 7, and if you see a bright future for Amity and Orange, vote for Row A. Please feel free to reach out to me any time at Ken@WriteMe.com and I hope to see you around town soon.

**Ken Briodagh
Democratic Amity Board of Education
candidate, Orange**

Moyher for Orange

To the Editor:

What will make Mark Moyher a great First Selectman for the Town of Orange? Let's start with his finance background. Mark has a nearly 40-year career in finance. He knows that we don't need a 20 percent surplus when a 16 percent surplus will get us the same AAA bond rating and we can use the other 4 percent to work for us to improve the quality of life for Orange residents. He won't raise taxes to unnecessarily raise our surplus.

Mark knows the backbone of our property values lies with our schools. He understands collaboration with our school boards, and not antagonism, is what drives progress.

Mark knows that we can have economic development, even in these times of online ordering and that Route 1 doesn't have to become a row of warehouses.

Continued on page 27



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Mental Health

Let's Talk About Health Care Access In The US

It's likely that most of us will experience an issue navigating and receiving appropriate health care services at some point in our lives. There are a number of reasons why access to health care may be lacking, or we feel our concerns may not be properly addressed. In both instances the end result involves having less than adequate access to care that each one of us should be afforded.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine defines access to health care as the "timely use of personal health services to achieve the best possible health outcomes."

One of the most common barriers to receiving accessible care is inadequate or no insurance coverage. The 2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report published by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality offers results from a number of measures that were tracked from 2002 to 2019.

Two measures that were tracked included the percentage of people who were uninsured at any point of the year under the age of 65 all year and the percentage under 65 who were uninsured all year from 2002 to 2018. The percentage of those with any period of being uninsured decreased from 25.5 percent to 17.1 percent. Those who were uninsured all year decreased from 13.4 percent to 7.8 percent.

While this is a good indicator that more people have health care coverage, the report shows disparities that are related to timely access to care which are present among subgroups based on race, ethnicity and geographic location. Some examples of these access measures include wait times for appointments, access to care when it is needed right away for an illness, injury or condition in the last 12 months, and getting appointments for routine care



JENNIFER FIORILLO

when it was needed in the last 12 months.

In 2019, Hispanic people had worse access to care than White people for 70 percent of access measures. Black people had worse timely access to care than White people for 53 percent of access measures. There was also a disparity in access for those in large central metropolitan areas versus fringe metro areas. Those in large central metro areas had worse access in 71 percent of these measures. People in poor and low-income households experienced worse care than high income households on more than half of quality measures.

The National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report outlines a number of other dimensions of health care access that are considered when assessing disparities.

One key takeaway from this is that health insurance alone doesn't necessarily eliminate barriers to access and adequate care. It can reduce the risk of poor outcomes, but variables related to delayed care or access based on geography that is also compounded by lack of reliable transportation can be very impactful when it means that a person can't even see a provider to address health concerns.

Ease of entry into the health care system and the efficient delivery of services are just as critical as the ability to pay if we are going to have a meaningful discussion about how to make health care accessible to everyone.

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

Recovering

Holiday Season Can Bring Stress To People In Recovery

As the holiday season encroaches upon us all, most hope to capture the season of gratitude by sharing time, laughs, religious ritual, meals and community together. It's my belief that as a society we do our best to reflect upon our lives, family, vocations and community in such a way that we permeate gratitude and humility for our circumstances. For a month's time, through connectedness and communal sharing, we bridge gaps, forgive, become more patient and reconcile our own accountability to our life's circumstances. There is a magic to this season, and all the possibilities it brings.

What we also know to be true — and I believe the majority of us know this — is that the upcoming holiday season may also bring remembrances of lost loved ones, lost relationships, being distant from our family or friends, confused about our spiritual alignment or unsettled about our life's circumstances. The holiday season may become, in certain years, something we must simply

"get through" as we are reminded, fearful or remorseful about traumas and events in our life.

For people in recovery, the period from Thanksgiving to New Year's is where we can see many relapse back in to active substance abuse. The reasons vary, but the important thing to know, for the community that loves and embraces these mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles and friends, is that keeping a watchful eye on those loved ones, observing the behaviors of people in recovery leading up to and within the holiday season, can help people like me continue to stay recovered.

Many people in recovery will look to isolate during times of stress. Proactive phone calls become less frequent. We send inbound calls to voicemail (rarely calling back), we make less effort to socialize, we create ex-



ROB CRAFT

cuses to be disconnected from others. Many more newly recovered people do not know how to act or partake in festivities that include drinking, or to feel comfortable in bars where social gatherings may take place. Many recovered people feel ashamed at things they did while still actively using during years past.

The list of reasons are important for that person in recovery. But to the community supporting that person, all you need to know is that that person feels disconnected, isolated and unworthy. It is terrible way to feel when through the holiday season people in recovery should be embracing and grateful for the most triumphant form of self-love, by working to rid themselves of the maladies of physical, spiritual and mental destruction caused by substance abuse.

If you are able and observant enough,

please keep a close eye through this holiday season on all people in need of connectivity. For those of us with loved ones who are in the midst of recovery, please make sure we let them know we love them, want to share time with them, and create a safe place for people like us to learn how to see the beauty of the holiday season through new lenses and experiences.

May you all prepare yourselves for this wonderful holiday season in the spirit of service, gratitude and peace.

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

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McGovern has been a travel advisor for six years and has sent more than 150 clients on vacation destinations around the world. She specializes in multi-generational family travel and has extensive expertise working with the Walt Disney Travel Company.

"Sarah made planning our vacation so easy. Her response time to emails is incredible and her advice was spot on. I was so grateful to have someone else to do the legwork for me while still having a hand in the planning," said Marietta McEvelly, a client who has planned numerous multigenerational vacations with Halcyon Travel Company.

McGovern also has a master's in business administration from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor of science in communications from New York University. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and the Parent Teacher Organization board at her son's school.

Letters

(Continued From 25)

Mark knows that residents are busy and want to be informed without having to hunt for the information they need. He knows that collaboration can work with residents and wants to hear their ideas. He won't be shutting down those with opposing ideas but welcomes their input.

Mark will be a leader for all of the residents of Orange, not just a select group. He knows our town diversity is changing for the better and not only welcomes it but embraces it.

Keep the MAGA Republicans out of Orange government. I ask you to vote for Mark Moyher for first selectman, myself for constable, and the entire Democratic slate on Tuesday, Nov. 7, Row A.

Jody Dietch
Democratic Constable candidate, Orange

Orange Deserves Better Communication

To the Editor:

Effective communication is the cornerstone of a thriving community, fostering trust and ensuring residents are informed. Unfortunately, our current first selectman consistently leaves us in the dark on issues, decisions and even exciting news in Orange.

The "First Selectman's Updates" section of the town website has only a single post, and it's from 2021. No matter where you stand on the renovations at Fred Wolfe Park or the purchase of Race Brook Country Club, the lack of transparency caused unnecessary confusion. For example, the new playground at Fred Wolfe Park is open, but without any promotion to inform the community. While I appreciate that our current first selectman shares updates on his personal Facebook page, this is not a substitute for the town having official

social media channels and updating its website regularly.

This lack of communication is unacceptable and it's time for change.

This is one of many reasons why I am voting for Mark Moyher to become our next first selectman. Transparency and engagement are central to his platform, which is easily accessible at MoreWithMoyher.com. I have personally witnessed this commitment in my interactions with Moyher – he's always approachable and an attentive listener. Regardless of how long you've lived here, your political affiliation, or whether you agree with him, Moyher will proactively bring you to the table, which will strengthen our community.

If you agree that Orange deserves consistent and open communication, vote for Mark Moyher in person or by absentee ballot on Nov. 7.

Daniel Fitzmaurice
Orange

Lombardi Right for Amity BOE

To the Editor:

We always knew as children that our mom, Dana Lombardi, was exceptional. She balanced her career and her community involvement and raised us with unparalleled grace. More importantly, when one of us was diagnosed with a learning disability, she became a relentless advocate. She dove headfirst into understanding the educational support needed, tirelessly meeting with educators and administrators to make sure we had every opportunity for success. Our fight became her fight, and that dedication is something she will bring to the Amity Board of Education.

As a woman who has empowered her sons to fight against adversity, she stands as a shining example to all mothers and, indeed, all parents. She has instilled in us the values of hard work, empathy, and the unwavering be-

lief that perseverance conquers all obstacles. She's the mom who sat with us through every bedtime story, every scraped knee and every life lesson. It's this same nurturing spirit that she will carry into every decision she makes on the board.

To all the moms and dads reading this: think of the parental figures who have touched your lives. Wouldn't you want someone with that same instinctual capacity for care and advocacy to be part of shaping the future of our schools? We know mom will fight for every child in the district with the same ferocity she fought for us.

As the sons of Dana Lombardi, we couldn't be prouder to endorse her candidacy for the Amity Board of Education. Our mom is a pillar of strength, a person who is capable as well as caring. Please join us in supporting our mom, Dana Lombardi, for the Amity Board of Education.

Dominick and Carlo Lombardi
Orange

Giannattasio Flipped on Budgets

To the Editor:

Among the many claims Alderman Tony Giannattasio has made recently is his claim that he is responsible for the recent municipal tax cuts. This is not true. Giannattasio never voted for any of the budgets proposed by Mayor Ben Blake while Blake was in office. He stated in 2021 that he was voting against Blake's tax reducing budget because it funded a lot of vacant positions. Those positions, he said, should be eliminated.

He seems to have flip flopped. Not only did he not want to cut positions this year, but he debated to add more. Giannattasio lobbied for the funding of several departments above what the department heads asked for. He argued that one department should add four new positions, ignoring the fact that the de-

partment had 11 vacancies.

He argued for funding of the Board of Education above the amount the superintendent said she needed to keep a school open. No one is against providing the best education possible, but Giannattasio seemed to forget that the majority of Milford households don't have children, and many are financially strapped due to inflation and the high cost of housing.

Kerri Rowland understands the financial struggles many Milford residents are experiencing. As an alderman, I have seen Rowland run one of the best voter registration offices in the state. As a person who voted for the last two budgets, I can say with confidence that she ran it on a tight budget. She has spent the last four months listening to the individual stories of Milford residents. She understands her constituents and will act on their behalf to fulfill their needs.

I have known both candidates for over a decade. They are both good people, but Kerri Rowland is the best one to lead us through these troubling times.

John Moffitt
Milford Alderman

On Amity High School's Drop in Ratings

To the Editor:

Given the fundamentally flawed attack on the Amity Board of Education and its educators in the Oct. 12th Milford-Orange Times and the Sept. 29 Orange Town News, I was heartened to read Sudhir Karunakaran's well-researched "Understanding Changes In Amity's Rankings" in the Milford-Orange Times.

It turns out that 40% of the reason Amity's rating declined in 2023 is that Connecticut did not "publish state assessment data." Instead,

Continued on page 28

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Letters

(Continued From 27)

“U.S. News & World Report used older 2018-2019 data [that] did not reflect Amity’s recent performance improvements.” He goes on to list some of them: “a record 27 students out of a class of 315 achieved Commended Scholar/Semi-Finalist status at the National Merit Scholar Competition last year...three times higher than the national average”; our number 10 niche statewide rating for college preparation; Amity High’s improved rank among Connecticut schools in math (from 28th to 9th), English and language arts (from 27th to 11th) and science (from 28th to 17th). There are 196 public high schools in Connecticut.

Karunakaran tackles the remaining issues for the drop in ranking, notably the high cost of AP exams, which is not covered by the board and is therefore voluntary – issues not related to curriculum or pedagogy.

Had the writer of “The Problem with Equity in Education” done similar research, she would have concluded that far from “aspiring for mediocrity,” Karunakaran is correct when he states “Overall, Amity’s performance is on the rise, not on the decline.”

Instead, she deployed the drop in ratings to argue that “Equity is guaranteeing that the outcome is the same for everyone” that “you have to give more to those who aren’t ‘equal’ by taking from those with ‘more’ until they equal the lowest common denominator.”

The way I see it, “equity” means “fairness” and “equality” is a form of fairness. Since when has fairness (equity) of opportunity been a “guarantee” of “outcomes,” whatever they are? Is she using vocabulary carelessly when she refers to “those who are not ‘equal,’” or is she suggesting that some folk are more “equal” than others? What is “the least common denominator” she fears our children are devolving into?

Not surprisingly, she labels CRT “toxic” and “racist,” without apparently understanding that the “C” for “critical” refers to critical

thinking, not criticism of those with “more.”

I wish she had defined “equity” the way she means it rather than simply stating that its definition is different from its common meaning and that it is not the same as equality. Instead, she writes, “When you treat different classes of people differently to achieve equity, that clearly sounds like other words we know – racism and discrimination.”

I feel a need for specifics here. Who are these “different classes of people” and how are they being treated differently? Again, what does she mean by equity? Why is it a bad thing? And how is “equity” equivalent to racism and discrimination? None of this is clear to me. Undefined rhetoric might be appealing at first glance, but there’s always more lurking between the lines.

To her credit, she does state that “Equality of opportunity...means that everyone is given the opportunity to excel and those who need extra help are given it,” and had she stopped there, I would have applauded and added that “equity” of opportunity yields the same result. But no, she had to qualify a fine ideal by adding, “without taking opportunity away from others to do so,” leaving me to question her sincerity and making me wonder what she meant in the first place. It sounds as if she’s saying that you can’t really give help to those who need it without denying it to “others,” whoever they might be – perhaps those with “more.”

The big hypocrisy as I see it is that in chicken-little-ing the work of Amity’s enlightened Board of Education and its excellent educators, our kids are “being dragged down when in fact they need to be lifted up. They deserve better.” I am grateful to Karunakaran for his work in exposing this irony and to the Amity educators and board for resisting political backlash and rhetorical nonsense. Stay strong. You can be sure I will be voting in November and urge other concerned citizens to do the same.

**Gene Burshuliak
Orange**

Orange Transfer Station Now Accepting Food Scraps

Mitch Goldblatt, Chair of the Orange Recycling Committee, has announced that effective Oct. 9, “Orange residents can now help reduce our municipal solid waste by segregating their food scraps and depositing them at the Transfer Station and Recycling Center.”

In partnership with Country Disposal Services, four large green bins are now located at the top of the Transfer Station (between the Goodwill trailer and the hopper) for this collection.

For those who compost at home, no action is required, but to help reduce waste and improve sustainability, residents are urged to bring food scraps that will be composted for agricultural uses by Country Disposal Services.

The Orange Recycling Committee in cooperation from the Board of Selectmen

and the Public Works Department has initiated this pilot program, which will not only reduce MSW tonnage being burned or buried, but will reduce town costs as well. The cost of removal of the food scraps will be considerably less than the tipping fees currently being charged to the town for MSW removal.

Residents may bring food scraps and food waste to the transfer station during regular hours. Such material may be dumped directly into the bins or by means of plastic bags (which will be opened and disposed of after removal from the transfer station).

Items that are accepted in the bins are: fruits, vegetables, peels, pits, eggs and eggshells, dairy products, meat and poultry including bones, seafood including shells, coffee grounds and tea bags, baked goods, chips, snacks, rice and grains, and pet food.

NEW Meeting To Feature Pastore

Fran Pastore, Founder and CEO of the Women’s Business Development Council, will present “Empowered Women Empower Women” at the next monthly luncheon meeting of the Network of Executive Women on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 at noon at Gusto Trattoria, located at 255 Boston Post Rd. in Milford at noon.

This event is open to women in business.

Guest attendance is limited to two network luncheons or events; thereafter membership is required.

Visit networkofexecutivewomen.org to learn more and register no later than Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, by 5 p.m. The cost to register is \$40 per person. Walk-ins will be charged a \$5 late fee at the door. Seating cannot be guaranteed for walk-ins.

Condo to Share

Must be over 45, M/F, non-smoker. Lovely 55+ community in Orange. Full use of kitchen/ laundry. \$700 month plus 1/2 utilities (water, gas and electric – I can have paid bills to show monthly charges) Large bedroom and full bath. Large closet plus smaller one in bedroom. Fully furnished.

Also, I have 2 shy cats. They were rescues.

Please contact Eileen at 475-331-9054 (cell) any time between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.



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December 9
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Who we are/what we do best:
YouTherapy Wellness & Physical Rehab in Milford, CT is devoted to providing one-on-one physical therapy and fitness programs for older adults. We focus on Parkinson’s disease therapy, balance correction and training, orthopedic, pain management, neurological and all functional movement disorder diagnosis.



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318 New Haven Ave. Unit A, Milford, CT 06460
9am to 5pm Monday - Friday
475 209 1606

Orange Community Women Hosting First Annual Craft Fair

Orange Community Women will hold its first annual craft fair at High Plains Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature more than 50 vendors, food trucks and a raffle.

OCW is a chapter of Connecticut Junior Women, Inc., uniting the women of Orange and surrounding areas by

participating in community service and providing enrichment, leadership and social interaction.

OCW welcomes new members. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at High Plains Community Center. For more information, contact Orangecommunityw@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/orangecommunitywomen.

CT-Made Guitars To Feature In Milford Library Talk

Musician Jim Lenn will discuss the Connecticut-made Ovation guitar and the role it played during the singer/songwriter development of the 1970s in a presentation at the Milford Public Library on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Lenn will also be performing some songs from the era that typify the Ovation

sound. The Ovation guitar, built in New Hartford, played a significant role in the foundation and flourishing of the singer/songwriter explosion of the late 60s and early 70s music scene. This guitar filled a void created by the advancement of live sound systems and propelled this segment of the music industry to the forefront.

Please join us for our **Kristallnacht Commemoration 2023**

"SYNDROME K"

A true story about a **FAKE** disease that saved Jewish lives in Italy



Dr. Vittorio Sacerdoti



Dr. Adriano Ossicini



Dr. Giovanni Borromeo



500-year-old Fatebenefratelli Hospital, "House of Life", Rome, Italy

"There are times in life when we must act out of pure principle alone..."

Dr. Adriano Ossicini

This year, Italian Jewry celebrates the 80th anniversary of the daring Fatebenefratelli Hospital rescue operation. Our 17th annual Kristallnacht commemoration this year will therefore honor the trio of doctors who risked their lives to save Italian Jews from the clutches of Nazism, by inventing a fake disease: "Syndrome K." For their deeds of conscience and courage, Dr. Giovanni Borromeo has been honored by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Center; and Dr. Vittorio Sacerdoti has been honored by B'nai Brith's Committee to Recognize Jewish Holocaust Rescuers. On November 12th we will shine a light on Dr. Adriano Ossicini and his life-saving heroism.

To attend in-person or via zoom:

Register at jewishnewhaven.org/RSVP

IN-PERSON & ON ZOOM
SUNDAY, NOV. 12
9-11 A.M.
Congregation Or Shalom

PROGRAM'S EVENTS:

- Professor Millicent Marcus, Sarai Ribicoff Professor of Italian Studies at Yale University, will relate the story of "Syndrome K."
- Screening of selected clips from the 2021 acclaimed documentary, "Syndrome K," by filmmaker Stephen Edwards.
- United States Senator Richard Blumenthal will present a U.S. Senate Certificate of Special Recognition to Dr. Cristina Ossicini, which she will receive on behalf of her late father Dr. Adriano Ossicini.
- Dr. Cristina Ossicini will speak on her father's legacy.



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CONTACT:

Douglas Mills, LMSW, PROGRAM COORDINATOR
MILFORD YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES/DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

TELEPHONE: 203-783-3253

EMAIL: DMILLS@MILFORDCT.GOV



Obituaries

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

Pamela Colangelo, 67, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved wife of Anthony Colangelo, passed away on October 12, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



L Amy Fortunato Dolan, 54, of Connecticut, passed away on October 23, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Frederick Hartman, peacefully left this world on October 10, 2023 at his own home in Milford, CT. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Lynnette Ann Keeley Agnoli, 82, passed away peacefully on Monday October 9, 2023, at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven, CT. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Pietro "Pete" deNicolo, age 62, husband of Sandra L. (Brown) deNicolo, of Milford, died Oct. 22, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Paul John Fandrella, age 84, of Milford, died on Thursday October 12, 2023 in Milford. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Marilyn Virginia Iulo, 82, of Milford, passed away on October 16, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John Bustelos, Jr., age 80, of Woodbridge, beloved husband of Joan Jarusinsky Bustelos, entered eternal rest on October 7, 2023, after a long illness fought with courage. (Adzima Funeral Home)



Joseph M. DiDia, age 86, beloved husband of Patricia Forlivio DiDia for 66 years, entered peaceful rest on Saturday October 14, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Dr. Lawrence Gramling, 77, of Milford, Connecticut, beloved husband of Cathy (Kramer) Gramling, passed away on October 17, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Helen Margaret Felicia Caplankas Johnson, 93, of Milford Connecticut passed to her long awaited peace on October 13th, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Holly Frances Byrne passed away on October 18, 2023 while surrounded by her beloved husband and family in her home in Milford after a long illness. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nancy Root Doheny, a longtime resident of Orange, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2023, while surrounded by family and comforted by her faith. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carol Ann Greco, 83, of Milford, passed away on October 21, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Barbara Jones, 81, of Orange, Connecticut, beloved wife of Jeffrey Jones for 57 years, passed away on October 18, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Yen Tu Kauffman, 73, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Ronald Kauffman, passed away on October 21, 2023 in her home surrounded by family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Claudette Elaine (Heslin) Lipp, age 89, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on October 25, 2023. She is now in the loving arms of our Lord. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Michael Arthur Paoletto Jr., 76, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Patricia J. Paoletto, passed away on October 16, 2023, at home surrounded by his family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David Phillip Wanciak, 71, of Milford, beloved husband of 27 years to Linda Boczer Wanciak, passed away at Bridgeport Hospital on October 7, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mark Richard Kuba, 70 of Milford, passed away quietly on Thursday morning October 5, 2023 at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Joan Z. Litwinski, 81, cherished wife, devoted mother, loving nana, and dedicated nurse, passed away surrounded by her family on October 24, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David J. Pouliot Sr., 56, of Coventry, beloved husband of Nicole (Forgette) Pouliot, passed away on 12 October, 2023. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Richard Webb, 84, formerly of Trumbull, CT died Thursday, October 19, 2023 at Vero Assisted Living in Orange, CT. (Tasker Funeral Service)



Constance Joan (Verzaro) Leonetti, age 89, of Orange and formerly of Bridgeport, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Daniel Martin Massey, age 72, of Milford, passed away at his home on September 27, 2023. (Riverview Funeral Home)



Linda Secondi, 75, of Milford, amazing mother of Shannon Secondi, passed away on October 18, 2023 after a very recent diagnosis of lung cancer. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Charles Williams, 87 entered eternal peace on October 13, 2023 in his home surrounded by family. (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.



Volodymyr Nevkrytyy, age 65, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2023, in the comfort of his Orange, CT home. (Wakelee Memorial Funeral Home)



William H. "Tic" Tickey, Jr. passed away suddenly on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 at his home in Milford. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Stewart Michael Yontef, 80, of West Hartford, formerly of Orange, CT, died peacefully on October 19, 2023, surrounded by his loving family.



Gregory F. Doyle

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