

Milford-Orange Times

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June 27, 2024

Orange Sees Red During Strawberry Festival



Orange saw red at the High Plains fairgrounds on June 8 during Orange Congregational Church's annual Strawberry Festival. Additional photos on page 14. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Pirates Sail Into Milford Harbor



Milford held its annual Pirates Day family event on June 2 with activities at Lisman Landing and throughout downtown. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Milford-Orange Times Cofounder Dies

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



Hechtman

Milford-Orange Times cofounder Carol A. Hechtman died at her home in Orange on June 2. She was 77.

Carol Hechtman was the wife of MOT publisher Stephen Hechtman and acted as co-publisher of the paper. The two started the The Orange Time, now the Milford-Orange Times, in 2012 after a previous career working together that frequently took them away from home.

Her primary roles were to keep her husband on track and help the editor with the final edit. The role also gave her many opportunities to connect with the

community in Orange, where she became well-known.

"I have been very impressed with the way people are remembering her," Steve Hechtman said, recalling numerous times in recent days when acquaintances from the area shared their sadness at her loss.

Carol Hechtman was born on Aug. 6, 1946 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of the late Dr. Stanley and Evelyn Pekala.

After earning a two-year college degree, Carol worked in her father's OB/GYN office and managed the practice while raising three children.

Carol first met Steve in Pittsfield, where he ran a furniture retail store. At that time Carol's mother was quite ill from cancer, whereas Steve's mother had passed away from cancer nine months earlier. This shared experience brought them into a relationship. Soon after, Steve sold his business and purchased a furniture store in Orange, DOMUS Contemporary Interiors. Carol started visiting on weekends, and eventually moved to Orange. They married on Jan. 27, 1980.

In short order Carol became the leading force of the business; she was known as Mrs. DOMUS to many. She was a licensed interior designer with her services in high demand. She expanded the business and opened a larger store in Westport with a design staff of eight.

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Orange Selectmen Approve Money For Fred Wolfe Plan

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Board of Selectmen approved a request to spend \$137,000 to develop a new master plan for Fred Wolfe Park during their June 12 meeting in the lower level of Town Hall.

The request came from the Fred Wolfe Park Ad Hoc Committee, which since 2023 has been responsible for managing much of the park's development. The committee had agreed in May to recommend that Meriden-based civil engineering firm BL Companies take on the project. BL has been intimately involved in some of the work already done at the park, including most recently a plan to redesign traffic flow within the park.

"The committee as a whole has very

much enjoyed their experience with BL," said selectman John Carangelo, who also sits on the ad hoc committee. "They've been very attentive and upfront about providing various scenarios that may work at the park."

Dominick Celtruda, a landscape architect with BL, said the project would involve an iterative process of in-depth analysis, community engagement and recommendations.

Celtruda said his company wants to "make sure that the uses of the park are going to serve the whole of the community."

"The cost of this work is fairly substantial," said BL Vice President

Continued on page 5

Milford Abandons Paper Road So Business Can Grow

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Aldermen gave up part of a city street at their June 3 meeting, a move that will allow a local lawn care business to expand but also drew concern from several residents who live on that street.

William Street is currently a dead end just north of I-95 in the west end of the city. The street is primarily residential. But not far on the other side of the dead end are several auto service centers and a

Residence Inn facing out toward the more commercial Rowe Avenue.

Zero William St., which theoretically completes the connection from William Street to Rowe Avenue, is what is known as a paper road, existing on maps and plans but never completely built out. Daniel Thornberg, who owns landscaping business Total Lawn Care & More, wants to take over

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Arnold is a chocolate lab who is looking for a new home. He's a large, young male who has all of his shots and was just neutered. Like all labs, Arnold is friendly, loyal, gentle and playful. He can be adopted from Milford Animal Control, located at 664 East Broadway in Milford. For more information, call 203-783-3279. Photo courtesy of Milford Animal Control.

Friends Of The Milford Library Name Scholarship, Book Award Winners

The Friends of the Milford Library has announced their annual scholarship and high school Book Award recipients.

FOML said the winners have exhibited outstanding personal character, made a positive impact on their school or community and demonstrated a strong and consistent love of reading. Recipients were recognized and chosen by their teachers.

Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors with plans of furthering their education.

The 2024 scholarships were awarded to Grace Mrsich from Joseph A. Foran High School and Giuliana Agria from Jonathan Law High School.

The Book Award is presented annually to a member of the junior class at each of the high schools in Milford. Each student

chooses a book for their school which is donated by the FOML with a bookplate commemorating the student's achievement. Additionally, each winner received a personally inscribed copy of "Only in Milford" by Milford author DeForest Smith.

The 2024 winners and their books are Charlotte Hanks from The Academy, with "We Are Okay" by Nina LaCour; Gavin Nett from Jonathan Law with "Watership Down" by Richard Adams; Joseph Galaburri from Joseph A. Foran with "Iron Gold" by Pierce Brown; Hunter Brice from Platt Tech with an anthology of Edgar Allan Poe stories and poems; and Roxanne Vincent from Lauralton Hall with "The Secret Life of Mirielle West" by Amanda Skenandore.

Songs Of The American West Coming To Case Memorial

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will be celebrating another musical style at its July 13 Saturday program, where Marc Berger will be sharing his love of the Western US through his performance of "Songs of the American West."

The American West has become enshrined in movies, television, literature and music. Cowboy ballads or Western ballads are a distinct genre of American folk music that emerged during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These songs originated from the experiences and narratives of cowboys, outlaws and pioneers living in the frontier regions of the American West.

On his trips out west, Berger would gather

as many stories as he could from "fellow wilderness junkies," knowing that at some point he would put them all together. His career eventually became that of a singer, songwriter and storyteller.

Berger has performed at Austin's South by Southwest music festival and The Kerrville and Falcon Ridge folk festivals, and has opened shows for Bob Dylan and other national acts. His song, "The Last One," was a staple of Richie Havens's concerts and has been quoted in the New York Times and featured on the CBS Evening News.

The program begins at 2 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 203-891-2170 or by visiting casememoriallibrary.org.

Orange Awards Student Scholarships



Orange Youth Services recognized four Orange senior scholarship recipients on June 12 at High Plains Community Center. The awardees were, from left, Lydia Bissenden, Camryn Flaherty and Amia Miller, as well as Caroline Tirollo, who is not pictured. The students were recognized for their outstanding character, community service and leadership potential. Photo by Stacey Johnson.

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For Nature's Sake

Glass Or Plastic Bottles: Which Is More Eco-Friendly?

Facing rows of bottles in a grocery aisle, one local resident paused to consider whether it would make a difference, environmentally, to purchase a particular beverage in a glass or plastic container.

Today it's clearer than ever: if price makes no difference and your orange juice or spring water bottle comes in glass as well as plastic, the best choice for human and environmental health is glass. Research has shown that plastic doesn't just pollute the oceans and landscapes; it can enter a person's body when tiny plastic particles are shed from the inside of the bottle and enter the liquid. Research from Columbia and Rutgers universities this past January showed that there are 10 to 100 times more nanoplastics, or microscopic pieces, in water from a plastic bottle than previously thought. And recent studies suggest that bottles shed more particles every time someone opens and closes the cap or squeezes the sides.

Further explanations on health risks from plastic are worth checking out in sources like Consumer Report's January 2024 article, "How Plastic Can Harm Your Health," or the June 2024 article from the New York Times titled, "Microplastics are Everywhere: Here's How to Avoid Eating Them." (Also see "The Plastic that is All Around (and Inside) Us," from this column, July 28, 2022.)

However, it's also helpful to return to the original question to point out that glass, while the less harmful choice, is also prob-

lematic.

Kim O'Rourke, recycling coordinator in Middletown, had just given a presentation on waste policy to the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters a few years ago when I first sent the above question to her.

"It's a good question," she said, then offered, "If I have a choice, I choose glass."

But, at the same time, said O'Rourke, just opting for glass doesn't eliminate environmental harms. Glass, like plastic, creates an environmental burden at every stage of production and transport, and glass recycling has been problematic in Connecticut.

Both O'Rourke, and more recently Steven Johnson from the Milford Department of Public Works, have explained that the single stream recycling we have in Connecticut leads to a certain amount of glass broken or contaminated by other materials, all of which makes it more difficult to recycle. Given that challenge, Johnson is enthusiastic about Milford's recent participation as one of the "pilot test collection" sites for the Urban Mining CT company, which takes used glass containers and converts them into a product called Pozzotive which can be added to concrete mix, replacing more costly ingredients like concrete.

If we expand this discussion to include aluminum cans, like those for soft drinks



PATRICIA HOUSER

and beer, experts will cite, on the positive side, the greater ease and frequency of aluminum recycling over glass and plastic. On the downside are the extensive ecosystem damages of bauxite mining, plus a concern over exposure to a troubling chemical from the can's plastic lining.

Cans for beer and soda, as well as other things, often have a thin interior lining of plastic comprised partly of BPA, short for bisphenol A, a chemical used to make certain plastics that is also an endocrine disruptor. A 2019 article from Treehugger.com titled "Who cares about BPA: Canned beer is more popular than ever," cites Canadian research showing small amounts of BPA present in beer, and concludes with the warning, "You should not be drinking canned beer. Period." Psychology Today singled out one of the health implications of BPA exposure in a 2021 article titled, "Is that Can of Diet Soda Making You Fat?" Meanwhile, a 2020 CNN headline linked high BPA levels in humans to a "greater risk of death in 10 years."

Even more than the material used to make a beverage container, environmentalists say we should be focused on the broader issue of containers that are designed to be thrown away after only one use; so-called single use containers. Some are combating this by carrying, for instance, reusable water bottles to avoid buying plastic bottles at the

store. Today several websites are featuring 2024 picks for best reusable bottle, with an increasing emphasis on glass and stainless steel.

As awareness grows on these issues, there may be room for devising more systems for reusing beverage containers in commercial ventures. After all, in the UK and even some parts of Connecticut, milk deliveries in glass bottles are making a comeback. And most breweries in our part of Connecticut follow the tradition, for those who ask, of offering a reusable container, called a growler, that can be refilled at the tap.

In a world literally feeling the heat of environmental harms, it seems more important than ever to keep asking questions, like the one that started this column, that will help us know how better to act.

This column is dedicated to the memory of Carol Hechtman. Described by Editor-in-Chief Brandon T. Bisceglia as a "behind-the-scenes integral part of the Milford Orange Times," Carol Hechtman also, at one point a few years ago, wondered aloud to her husband, Publisher Steve Hechtman, about the options on a store shelf and whether it made an environmental difference to buy the glass or plastic versions of a bottle.

Patricia Houser, PhD, AICP is a freelance writer and researcher focused on environment and sustainability.

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The Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary's Investment In Servant Leaders

The Rotary Club of Orange recognized and presented cash awards on June 21 to three graduating seniors from Amity Regional High School who reside in Orange: Danielle D'Avignon, Alexander Kallmeyer and Caroline Tirolo. The recipients were selected from a pool of applicants based on a combination of academic achievements, extracurricular activities and/or athletics, and notably, community or school service and leadership.

All three are heading to colleges this fall in Rhode Island. D'Avignon is going to Providence College, Kallmeyer to Johnson and Wales, and Tirolo to the University of Rhode Island. The awards are modest – only \$2,000 and are only provided once – compared to the total cost of a degree at a private college or out-of-state public university.

The National Center for Education Statistics tracks all the direct and indirect costs to obtain four-year bachelor's degrees across all institutional types and locales. In 2023-2024 the average annual US cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board) for four-year schools ranged from approximately \$24,000 at in-state publics to \$42,000 at out-of-state-publics to \$60,000 at private nonprofits.

Most media attention focuses on these listed costs for residential students. But when all expenses are factored in – for off-campus or summer housing and food, clothing, trans-

portation, insurance, books and data/telecom services, entertainment, as well as lost income/benefits when not working full time – the combined direct and indirect costs approach \$100,000 per year when averaged across all school types. And since the average time to complete a degree is closer to five instead of four years, you are not far off in currently describing a college degree as a half-million-dollar commitment.

It is understandable then that US headlines are increasingly asking "Is college worth it?" Rotary thinks it is, and most clubs across the US provide one-time or recurring awards to some who are college- or trade-school bound to help make that case, even if nominally. All clubs wish they could provide more funding, and to more students, and many clubs devote the majority of their fundraising to youth services. But an important goal of the awards is also to make the case for and to publicize the need for a commitment to community service and positive leadership. Both are Rotary goals and fostering that commitment into young adulthood is a hopeful intent behind the recognitions.

Rotary International sponsors a number of initiatives for all age groups, and for both



DAN MAY

members and non-members. Collectively these initiatives can be described as promoting servant leadership. This a leadership philosophy that focuses on serving others rather than the leader's own needs or even that of the organization's. More generally, the focus is on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong.

College degrees in the US have increasingly come to be seen as a private good, with most costs borne individually. This was not always the case, nor is the case even today around the world.

My first university teaching job was at Victoria University in New Zealand in the 1980s. I was a newly minted PhD from US schools and thrilled to land a job at this high-caliber school. VUW had very competitive admissions standards and world-class research facilities. A few things shocked me, though. There were no dorms or athletic teams, and extracurricular clubs and activities were limited. But at that time, New Zealand citizens paid no tuition or fees. And nearly all students received a monthly stipend for food, housing and other expenses. The country collectively considered it a

national investment in economic and social development. I do not know if this is still the practice in New Zealand, but it still can be found in other countries.

Today in the US some federal aid is available to low income families and students, but it has not kept up with inflation and more has been deferred into personal loans. More substantial subsidies for higher education at a national level are primarily a benefit for ROTC students or active/reserve and veteran military members, with benefits (including living expenses) often tied to prior or future length of service. The US support of education opportunities for those men and women who serve in the military is viewed as a model around the world.

Many other community service organizations like Rotary, and other public service non-governmental organizations, provide recognitions and awards and scholarships to undergraduates who possess an inclination toward servant leadership. Most would be in accord with promoting Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." In an era of increasing polarization and self-interest, promotion of such an ideal is likely even more important.

Dan May can be contacted at capemay2013@gmail.com.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Keeping Good Records Key To The Sale

If you are thinking about selling your property you need to thoroughly reflect on the history of your home during your ownership. This may sound over the top. However, the house will now give signs of past wear and tear, repairs and replacements. These are tell-tale clues. Even the grounds, such as water being rerouted in the back, or trees that were cut or had fallen in the past are part of your list.

Where a shed sits in relationship to your boundary, is a significant subject to be accurate about when presenting a new listing on the market. From town information to an inspector's eye, you would be surprised at what can surface when an overall new study is done by prospective buyers and their professional researchers. There are updated permits on file in town that relay projects in the past.

When I list a property I go to the town re-

ords and research what is in the file. I am not implying that there could be negative results which will make you appear inconclusive or uncaring. The family that loves your home is concerned and needs reassurance that you have been efficient. Good information is also on file, such as dates when a pool was installed or a new roof put on. Disclose everything.

Some owners are adding solar, and this product requires a lot of research. The company you chose to install the product on your roof, to save electricity costs, must have your roof analyzed for its age and condition. The town building department should supervise the process. Never put solar on an old roof.

What you are doing is trying to disclose everything you can about your home. For



BARBARA LEHRER

example, if you added a high-end dehumidifier system to your basement, was it due to dampness or is it just to be proactive and not have to empty a system daily in the summer? This kind of system is great; it comes with a lifetime warrantee, but only if you are religious in servicing it each year.

You need to review your files, the data you have saved, and then you can recall the reasons why each expense was made. I know this sounds like a lot of work, but the word disclose has a huge meaning. It may not be your intent to pass over information like how many times the HVAC serviceman added freon to your air conditioning unit over each summer for years or how the chimney cleaner told you to replace your liner five years ago, so you

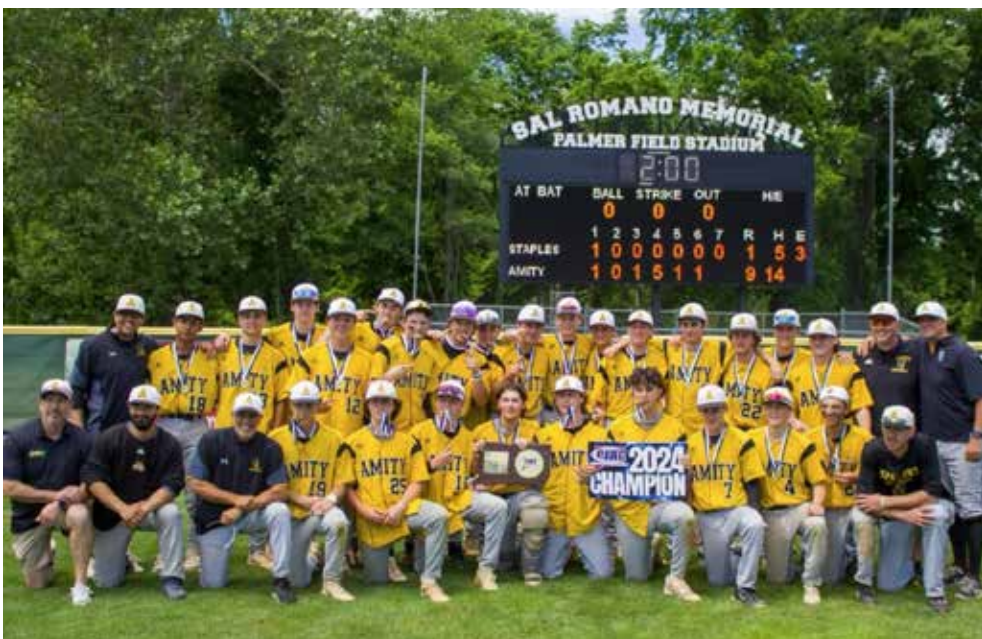
chose not to use the fireplace. Little things are funny.

If the garage foundation has holes or has a rotted sill, it is time to empty the garage and do the repair. Get ahead so you can proudly add to your information that you recently had a professional company, with invoice, replace the rotted wood.

Many people get a home inspection before they even go on the market. You may say that opens a can of worms, but in a market where the prices are substantial and the inventory is growing, it is a competitive and honest way to do business. Think about it. Use a realtor's professional eye to decide how to proceed. Do it before it is time to sell. The market is now.

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

Amity Spartans Win CIAC State Championship



The Amity Regional Spartans won the CIAC Connecticut Baseball State Championship on June 8 in a match with the team from Staples in Westport. Top, from left: Coach Robert Rosner, Justin Minaya, Eric Leszczek, Collin Tenney, Ben Cewe, Jake Boguniecki, Dylan Agvent, James Pelligrino, Robbie Solsbury, Johnny Aldi, Robert Pullie, Jack Windsor, Riley Numberg, Derek Voulo, Carlo Lombardi, Luke Gianquinto, Joe Wyskiel, Coach Eric Mills and Coach Mike Francese. Bottom, from left: Athletic Director Ernie Goodwin, Coach Smith, Coach Sal Copolla, Will Cameron, Brennan Camus, Drew Petigo, Tim Cap, Jack Lewis, Sam Gettinger, Derek Porto, Cam Delvecchio, AJ Lucibella and Coach Brendan Moss. Photo courtesy of Michele Tenney.

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Summertime Road Safety



STATE REP. (R-119)

KATHY KENNEDY

With more reasons to gather outside in summer, it's important to remember how to celebrate and travel safely. That's why I invite you to explore my road safety tip sheet below that includes key travel recommendations to ensure you can make the most out of your summer.

Tip 1: Don't speed. According to a recent survey by the Seattle Times, roughly 82 percent of adults, or 212 million Americans, plan to travel this summer. So much travel often brings heavy traffic and longer travel times. This means that it's our job to obey speed limits and respect emergency and non-emergency vehicles while driving to our summer destinations.

In 2022, Connecticut recorded the most accidents/deaths primarily due to speeding, and sadly, we're on track to repeat that this year. To avoid this, I have supported measures for municipalities, like Milford, to install red-light speeding cameras that document fast drivers, directly aiding our local police in their investigations to crack down on speeding.

Tip 2: Don't drive distracted or intoxicated. The proliferation of wrong-way and intoxicated driving has led to police, pedestrian and driver fatalities throughout our state in recent years. That's why I joined my House Republican colleagues in supporting two pro-police amendments that would have permitted an officer to conduct motor vehicle stops for reasonable suspicion of a driver using marijuana or if a marijuana smoke-filled vehicle carried a child passenger.

Although these amendments were opposed by the majority party, we are continuing our work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Connecticut State Police on addressing intoxicated and wrong way driving through increased enforcement and education initiatives.

Tip 3: Don't engage in reckless driving. Even if reckless driving and street racing looks fun on social media for teens, it's not safe for anyone involved. After a "street takeover" ripped through our local streets last year, I joined members of the House in passing a bill increasing punishments for organizers and participants of illegal roadway activity. Although the bill wasn't a priority for the Senate, it addressed the growing issue of how social media can negatively influence our youth and contribute to illegal activity in our communities.

Tip 4: Protect children and pets from the heat. Hot weather makes for hot cars, which is a reminder for us to never leave behind children and pets in parked vehicles. Additionally, let's remember to stay hydrated, watch for ticks and mosquitoes and be cognizant of asphalt temperatures when taking pets for walks.

As ranking member of the Transportation Committee, I know that implementing these safety tips not only contributes to a positive summer experience for you, but for our entire community. Keeping our roads safe requires a team effort, and together we can both protect one another and change current statewide traffic data trends to reflect our commitment to roadway safety.

Please never hesitate to contact me with your questions, ideas, and concerns at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 860-240-8700. Don't forget to follow me on Facebook and subscribe to my brief email updates at RepKennedy.com.

Ponder This

Playing "Gotcha" With Pope Francis

Media outlets in Italy have widely published a leaked story of Pope Francis using an offensive term. The tale reminds me of school-age snitching; a media leak on an aging pontiff about private sentiments expressed during a closed meeting of bishops. The Italian language makes the translation imperfect, but the term used, frociaggine, is definitely considered an outdated and inappropriate slur.

There have been various explanations and two different interpretations of what actually occurred. One can report the incident to express one's own ideology on the matter even if these emerge without context. One interpretation of this reported encounter is that it emerged from the progressive faction of bishops seeking faster church reforms, particularly concerning ordination of gay priests.

There was a quick and outraged response from bishops representing the LGBTQ community once the story leaked from the Vatican. Recently, there has been profound disappointment from this group of clergy that Francis has not changed his position to embrace ordination of gay men.

Another view of the pope's remarks and subsequent apology stems from the most conservative hardline faction of bishops who are against church reform and in opposition to the current pontiff. This group represents the patriarchal, old guard threatened and angered by the philosophy and emerging ideas of the current pope.

Many consider this faction to be responsible for the leak. The intent was to embarrass and demean Francis among his more liberal supporters and at the same time hypocritically object to any of his more progressive views. The concern is that these efforts in distorted messaging have thus far been quite successful.

Many will be able to forgive Francis and accept what seems to be an authentic and public apology. Harder to condone is the manipulation of such an expression perhaps stated in a heated, impatient and frustrating moment. At a time when Francis is attempting to gain trust in the LGBTQ community, this leak from within is a particularly nasty violation of trust. It is time to reframe the message.

I am not defending the slur, but countering the message that deliberately misinterprets events to give energy to those who would knock, tear down and sabotage true dialogue. Of course, the pope's reluctance about true inclusion for women is a profound disappointment that I have written about previously. But my faith in Francis as a leader stems from his writings; his powerful intellect and considerable scholarship that moves Catholicism and Christianity in an expansive direction. The pope's writings bring the interconnection of environment, poverty, peace and prosperity together as a communal obligation to challenge us all.

Over a decade ago he became famous for his sentiment of "who am I to judge?" Everyone has a right to family, to love and be loved. He challenged all to reflect on our own hypocrisy in these matters. Actions of the institutional church are slow to reflect the true meaning of these sentiments, but that is reason to push harder rather than give up.

I hope that it is in my lifetime that inclusion and peace for women will be embraced fully. The recently synods convened to discuss the future of the church provided such hope and promise. For many, the failure to act on the ordination of women as priests and deacons is a profound disappointment. For me, it is more encompassing of a failure to acknowledge the role of women for the



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

benefit of humankind. We need a feminist perspective on the operationalized word of the Lord. It is difficult to remain hopeful and resolute when change is explicitly avoided despite 50 years of advocacy and discussion.

However, authentic efforts toward progress should be recognized and supported. Young people are disinterested and impatient with an institution so slow to change. They have lost hope and energy for the future.

The similarities to national politics are striking. Polarize the issues requiring complex problem solving and creative solutions so that discussion ends and progress stops. Collectively, this misses critical opportunities to advocate, reconcile and move forward. What have these conservative bishops and rightwing followers accomplished for the LGBTQ community? What have they done for women, if not impede their important contribution to the church and to humankind?

An 87-year-old pontiff is finally causing a paradigm shift within an ancient church hierarchy. This is the real story that must be told.

A decade has passed since Francis steered people the world over with advocacy, courage and resolute love to care for the environment and each other across all geographic boundaries. I was present when he challenged our American Congress to avoid war and embrace the aim toward world peace. This elderly world leader asked difficult questions about capitalism, the arms industry and barriers to social justice. The manufacture, distribution and sale of arms and weapons to other nations must activate questions about what these are used for and on whom. The pope's writings bring the interconnection of environment, poverty, peace and prosperity together as a communal obligation to challenge us all.

Unfortunately, the pontiff has given those who would take advantage a legitimate reason to object. Perhaps a supportive papal community will move forward and forgive this transgression as one of an elderly, ailing cleric. In many progressive circles Francis is being widely criticized for excluding gay men from the seminary. The discussion of women as priests is no longer even under discussion in the church institution. The recent synods seemed to overlook the issue for another time.

There are many accomplishments to appreciate. The pope has changed the thinking and helped people to endorse same-sex couples, approve and respect transgender people, denounce homophobic laws worldwide and approve of secular unions for all. This falls short of what many expect and demand, but these are significant steps toward a more open, inclusive and loving society.

Francis has brought the north star of all religions into the foreground. The work of the church must be toward peace, social justice for all, care for each other and our common home. The work has only just begun.

Dr. Ellen Russell Beatty is in her fifth term on the Milford Board of Aldermen. She served seven years as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University, and also served as interim Academic Vice president, Dean of Health & Human Services and Director of Faculty Development. In addition to the broad perspective and a multitude of skills required of high-level administrators, her areas of special expertise lie in strategic planning, accreditation, assessment and planning and budgetary allocation.

Fred Wolfe

(Continued From 1)

Derek Kohl. "But this is the roadmap for the future of the park. With our work with other Connecticut municipalities on similar projects, this becomes the roadmap to go get additional funding beyond the town's contributions. There are state and federal grants out there, and having a plan that outlines and getting community input and buy-in, and having graphics ready to go puts you at the front of the line."

Kohl said the plan would likely be implemented in phases over several years, rather than all at once. It would be created with a view toward the park's next decade or two. Developing the master plan would probably take between a year and 18 months.

"I was impressed with the amount of contact you expect to have with the public and stakeholders. I'm also encouraged by the fact that you're planning on developing a website that would dovetail onto our website," said selectman Mitch Goldblatt.

Tom Pisano, head of the Orange Soccer Association and sometimes a critic of the way the park has been handled by the town, said he was "100 percent" in favor of a new master plan.

"Pardon me for being skeptical. It's been 23 years at Fred Wolfe Park and we can only get new outhouses next year," he said. "We had one (master plan), but it apparently fell apart. But we like to see the development, and glad to work with whoever."

Pisano also offered to put some of the money that he's been saving through Orange Soccer for years toward some of the eventual improvements.

"I know that's part of the problem," he said. "Where does this money come from, and where is the development?"

The Board of Selectmen's approval was not the last stop for the agreement; they forwarded it to the Board of Finance, which on June 17 acceded to use surplus money from other line items to pay for it.

Cofounder

(Continued From 1)

Some years later Carol was asked to help out a store in San Francisco that was facing difficulties. She went out as a consultant with Steve, where they stayed 10 weeks. Another retailer in Pennsylvania asked for her help not long after, leading to another eight-week trip.

Carol Hechtman's next chapter in the industry was to become an independent sales representative, covering New England and upstate New York, a role she loved and held for 10 years with Steve. They put on just under 300,000 miles in the town car.

She loved her work with the Rotary Club of Orange, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and other charitable groups and organizations. She especially enjoyed her time with American Legion Post 127 in Orange, where she would have dinner on Wednesday nights with her husband and other veterans.

In addition to her husband, Carol Hechtman is survived by her children Ronald Estabrook of Denver, Colorado, Devon Esparza and husband Joseph of Corte Madera, California, and Derek Estabrook of Victor, Idaho. Her granddaughter is Audrey.

She is also survived by her siblings Stanley Pekala and wife Susan, Robert Pekala and wife Chitra, Michael Pekala and wife Phyliss and Rick Pekala and wife Susan.

Friends are welcome to join the family in a celebration of life to be held at noon on Friday, June 28 at Bin 100, located at 100 Lansdale Ave. in Milford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Rotary Club of Orange.

Orange Transfer Station Happenings

By Susan Wineland

The Orange Recycling Committee and the town have been busy over the last nine months.

Last fall, town composting began so that Orange residents can now take their compostable material to the Transfer Station and Recycling Center located at 100 S. Orange Center Rd. There are four large green bins to toss kitchen waste into. Acceptable items are fruits, vegetables, peels, pits; eggs and eggshells; dairy products; meat and poultry including bones; seafood including shells; coffee grounds; 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 or pet waste.

Bay State Textile Recycling started serving Orange in January with a new opportunity to recycle clean, dry textiles while producing added revenue for the town. Recycling clothes, footwear, towels, bedding and other fabric-based products prolongs their life and reduces waste, providing social, environmental and economic benefits. You can find their collection bins at three locations in

town: High Plains Community Center near the pavilion, at the Orange Transfer Station on the hill next to Goodwill and at the Orange Public Works driveway at 308 Lambert Rd. near the Post Road. Go to baystatetextiles.com for more information and to see what can and cannot be donated.

The Orange Household Hazardous Waste Collection took place on April 13 at High Plains, providing residents with a safe and easy way to protect our environment by keeping chemicals out of our landfills, roadsides and waterways. The Regional Water Authority reported that there were 168 cars counted and 230 pounds of hazardous waste collected. This includes liquids, solids, antifreeze/oil and miscellaneous household waste products. HazWaste Central is now open for the season at 90 Sargent Dr. in New Haven. Go online to water.com/hazwaste/to for more information including the collection schedule, how to register and satellite collections.

A very successful Shredding Day was held at High Plains on April 27. A huge 12,450 pounds of paper was shredded to be repurposed by a local paper manufacturer. This service was funded by the Rotary Club of Orange, which received \$2,443 for the

Orange Rotary Scholarship Fund. Fifty-six mattresses were collected by Bye Bye Mattress, which not only keeps mattresses out of landfills but recycles each part into new and useful products. The Orange Lions Club charities provided at-home pickups. Electronic recycling collected over 50 computers and hard drives which were then wiped clean of data and broken down for their scrap metal value while also ensuring landfill disposal of the remaining waste.

A new, sturdy plastic bag shed was installed at the transfer station in May. A big thanks to the Orange Rotary Club for securing funds for the purchase of this shed from Home Depot, which took care of all the particulars including constructing the shed on site. And many thanks also to the Orange Public Works Department for leveling and grading the area so the shed sits securely.

The shed also has signs indicating what you can recycle and what you can't. Please read these and adhere to the guidelines so that everyone's recycling efforts pay off and the plastics aren't contaminated. For instance, mulch bags, fertilizer bags, animal and bird food feed bags and black plastic bags are not accepted. As with all recycling, if we don't recycle materials properly, they

can damage equipment, injure workers, slow the process down, increase the cost of sorting and decrease the value of recyclables.

A glass jar and bottle recycling bin was located next to the recycling container in June. Among the many reasons to recycle glass are that it can be recycled endlessly with no loss in quality. Orange will save valuable tax dollars, as this program will be less expensive than paying for the cost of transporting single-stream mixed recyclables. The collected glass will be taken to Urban Mining, a recycling company in Connecticut. They create a wide range of products including fiberglass insulation, food and beverage containers, reflective materials and other consumer and industrial products. When recycling glass, the food-grade containers and bottles should be empty and clean. Remove the lids, which can go into your recycling bin. Redeemable beer and soda bottles should be returned for their deposit value or given to a local donation center that collects redeemable bottles for local charities. No plastics or bags are accepted.

Support the Orange Recycling Committee efforts. Our next Shredding Day will be on Saturday, Oct. 26 at High Plains Community Center.

Insuring Your Future

Buyer Beware Of Non-ACA Insurance

If you google "affordable health insurance plans for individuals," a variety of responses appear. They are listed as cash pay health plans, faith-based plans or "medishare." Some ads even show the logo for well-known insurance companies, which makes them look more legitimate.

In Connecticut, individual health insurance is only available through the health exchange. The two companies that participate are Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and ConnectiCare. These are Affordable Care Act plans, which means they must conform to all the benefits that are included in the ACA. The non-ACA approved plans, such as those mentioned above, may include restrictions and exclude preexisting conditions or health issues that occur within a given time frame after the policy is in effect.

Specifically, the non-ACA plans do not have to cover everything from day one. Over the past month I have received two calls

from people who purchased one of these plans and were subsequently diagnosed with a serious medical condition, only to discover that conditions diagnosed within the first 30 days were not covered. This made the insurance worthless. Fortunately, we were able to find a path to getting them proper coverage outside of the open enrollment period.

There are several main differences between ACA and non-ACA plans. Not as many medical conditions may be covered in the non-ACA plans. Preexisting conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease or other chronic conditions may be excluded but cannot be excluded on ACA plans. There may be a maximum amount that a non-ACA plan will cover, whereas an ACA plan provides a maximum out-of-pocket amount that a



TRISH PEARSON

person can be expected to pay. Non-ACA plans do not have to cover screenings such as mammograms, colonoscopies or physicals, whereas ACA-compliant plans do. There is also no "anonymous shopping" on non-ACA plans; you cannot get a quote without providing a phone number and email address (it's not hard to figure out why). Anyone can get an estimate of plans and cost for ACA plans by going to accesshealthct.com, putting in

some basic information such as county, age for each person who needs coverage and adjusted gross income. There is no tracking or record kept unless you create an account. Finally, medications may or may not be covered on the non-ACA plans.

The non-ACA plans are not underwritten by an insurance carrier, but rather create a

pool of money which is funded by the premiums from which they pay claims. However, if someone needs insurance outside of the annual open enrollment period of Nov. 1 to Jan. 31 and they do not qualify for a special election period (change in life circumstances), there are short-term insurance policies which do provide basic coverage and are backed up by insurance companies.

Remember, if it looks too good to be true it probably is. You get what you pay for, not what you may expect. If you are considering purchasing a non-ACA plan, consult a professional who can make sure you understand the limitations and confirm that there are no other options available.

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

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The Garden Spot

Just When You Thought It Was Safe...Joros Are Coming

We may have missed the dual swarms of cicadas, but next up are the giant venomous spiders.

Joro spiders, or *Trichonephila clavata*, although sensationalized in recent news stories, have had no documented appearances in Connecticut. According to entomologists, this spider was first noted in Georgia in 2014, most likely arriving through imported shipping and/or plant materials. In Japanese folklore, the Joro, which is native to Japan, China, Korea, Southeast Asia, and the eastern part of India, is a shapeshifter that can change into a beautiful woman.

Adult females are large and brightly colored, with yellow and blue-grey stripes, with a body length up to 1 inch and a leg span up to 4 inches – just the right size to fit in the palm of your hand. Perhaps when the spiders were first seen, they were maturing

into the beautiful females. The males are smaller and bland looking.

The Joro has fortunately not spread quickly over the past 10 years and is now widely found in northern Georgia, western South Carolina, and southern North Carolina. They have also been found in much lesser numbers in Tennessee and Alabama and even outside of Baltimore, Maryland.

Since the Joro spiders overwinter as eggs and hatch in the spring, most entomologists do not think this spider can survive in the colder temperatures of northern New England winters. However, in their native range, Joro spiders can be found in relatively cold areas – the average January



PAT DRAY

temperature of northern Honshu, Japan (the largest of the Japanese islands and where Tokyo is) is 25–32 degrees Fahrenheit with temperatures occasionally below zero. So, it is likely that they will be able to spread throughout coastal southern New England over the next decade.

Here in Orange, we are in Hardiness Zone 7A, with an average minimum expected temperature of 0-5 degrees – very similar to northern Honshu.

Joro are what the Japanese refer to as globe spiders. While small, they can be transported through the air through a process called ballooning, where the young spiders release silk and are picked up by the wind. Ballooning spiderlings can travel tens to hundreds

of miles, especially if they are picked up by strong winds and storms. They are another example of how amazing nature is.

Despite the sensational reports, Joro are harmless to people as they are quite shy and try to avoid us. Their bite venom is weak and not medically important. Usually it will just cause itching. Joro spiders will eat whatever lands in their web, which mainly ends up being insects. That could mean they'll compete with native spiders for food, but what's in the web can also feed our native pollinators.

Bottom line: don't fear the Joro.

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

Book Reviews

Sweetness In The Skin By Ishi Robinson

Eleven-year-old Pumpkin has a difficult home life. Her family is poor, and her mother is physically and emotionally abusive. Her grandmother and Aunt Sophie are the bright spots in her day. Pumpkin is sustained by her dreams of going to Paris with her beloved aunt one day.

Things change for Pumpkin following the death of her grandmother and the transfer of Aunt Sophie's job at an embassy to their office in Marseilles. Sophie receives a brochure describing a school specializing in French education. The headmistress is impressed with Pumpkin's grasp of the French language and culture as taught by her aunty, and offers her some classes in preparation

for an expensive placement test.

With no income of her own and no assistance from her mother, Pumpkin begins to bake and in time is sought out by her classmates for her delicious treats. She is frequently sold out by the end of the school day. Her business is going great until school officials find out and she is forced to cease operations.

Pumpkin is dejected – until fate intervenes and she receives assistance from unlikely sources.

Pumpkin struggles with so many things that it seems like she'll never achieve her



CARMELA DEVITO

heart's goal. Pumpkin's abuse at the hands of her mother is one of the catalysts that propel her to make a better life for herself with the ultimate goal of living in Paris with her beloved aunt. She sees a problem – no money to join her beloved aunt – and comes up with a solution: taking advantage (in a good way) of her classmates' hunger at the end of the school day. When forces conspire to ruin her fledgling business, Pumpkin takes a new approach.

There are so many reasons to love Pumpkin. She's smart, motivated to succeed and

won't let anything get in the way between her and Paris.

Pumpkin is such an endearing character that you'll root for her throughout this tale. This is a debut work for Ishi Robinson, and I can't wait to read more from this talented author. I guarantee you will root for Pumpkin. She's an unforgettable character that I hope the author revisits in the future. I absolutely, positively, without a doubt love this book.

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



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Orange Lions Swear In New Board



The Orange Lions Club swore in their new board members on June 18. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Holy Infant Faith Formation Enrollment Open

Enrollment is open for faith formation in Orange. Re-registration forms for grades two through nine have been emailed to all registered families. Additional forms are available at the religious education office. The due date for all registrations is Aug. 15.

If you have a child entering the first

grade in September and presently do not have children enrolled in the church's program, contact the religious education office by email at dre@holyninfantorange.com or by phone at 203-799-2417 to obtain the necessary information for enrollment.

All families of children in the faith formation programs must be registered members of the parish.

Devon Rotary Names Officers

Devon Rotary installed Don Anderson III as President for 2024-2025 on June 13 at the Milford Yacht Club.

Other officers installed were Susan Lambiase as president-elect, Anthony Andriolas as vice president, Melissa Nixon as club secretary, Erica Wikstrom as assistant secretary, Vincent Lambiase as treasurer, Darren Hagerty as sergeant-at-arms and Marcie Wright as assistant sergeant-at-arms.

Serving as directors on the club's board will be Jim Donegan, Howard Sadinsky, Ben Gettinger and Brian Parke, along with Joe Rousseau, the club's immediate past president. All terms are for one year.

Serving as officers of the club's foundation trust will be James Secondi as chair, Michael

Zanarini as vice chair and Paul Otzel as secretary and treasurer.

The foundation trust's board of directors will be former club presidents Lee Cooke, Paula Demirjian, Henry Jadach, John Kuehnle, Scott Moulton, Jeff Solomon, David Slossberg and Darryl Zebrowski.

The club also recognized member Nixon with the Oliver B. Andrus Founders Award/Rotarian of the Year, in recognition of her devotion of time and energy to the club. Scott Monforte was recognized with the Evio Giovanelly Award, a non-Rotarian recognition for his extensive community service. This person is a community servant who lives the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

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Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

Embracing Positive Practices During Election Season

As we approach another significant presidential election season, it's essential to reflect on our roles within the community and the impact of our actions on those around us. Election periods often bring heightened emotions and enthusiastic discussions, which can sometimes lead to division and discord. However, as members of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and this vibrant community, we have a unique opportunity to lead by example, demonstrating thoughtfulness, kindness and active engagement.

Be Thoughtful

Thoughtfulness begins with listening and understanding. Let's commit to listening to each other's viewpoints with an open mind and heart. Thoughtfulness involves considering the perspectives and experiences of others, even when they differ from our own. By fostering

an environment where diverse opinions are respected, we contribute to a more informed and empathetic community.

Practice Kindness

Kindness is a powerful tool that can bridge divides and build stronger connections. Whether in our personal interactions or on social media, choosing kind words and actions can make a significant difference. Remember, the businesses in our community are run by our neighbors and friends, who may have different political beliefs. Let's support our local businesses not only through patronage but also through positive and encouraging interactions. A kind word or a smile can go a long way in maintaining the friendly, supportive atmosphere that makes our



MICHAEL
MOSES

region special.

Engage with Your Community

Active engagement in our community is more crucial than ever. Attend local events, participate in community discussions and support initiatives that promote well-being. Engaging with our community helps us stay connected and informed about the issues that matter most to us. It also provides a platform to voice our concerns and contribute to positive change.

During this election season, let us remember that we are all part of the same community, striving for a better future for ourselves and our families. Our actions can set a powerful example for others, showing that despite differing opinions, we can coexist with respect

and kindness.

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce remains committed to fostering a supportive and collaborative environment for all our members. We believe that by working together, we can continue to build a thriving, inclusive community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to making Milford, West Haven and surrounding communities a wonderful place to live, work and play.

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

Travel Matters

Transatlantic London Theatre At Sea

There are cruise ships and then there are ocean liners. The Queen Mary 2 is the only ocean liner built expressly for crossing the Atlantic. In fact, you rarely feel like you are on a ship at all. It's more like a floating five-star hotel.

We are experiencing an amazing themed cruise on Cunard's Queen Mary 2, called London Theatre at Sea. This is only the second iteration of this cruise, which is curated by Julian Byrd, CEO of London Society of Theatres and UK Theatre. Byrd designed the current Lawrence Olivier Awards – the British version of our Tony Awards.

Sailing from Brooklyn, New York to Southampton, England, we are eight days at sea with so much to do that we cannot possibly get restless for land. In fact, there is so much to do and experience, we can't fit it all in. Vocal and dance workshops are led by

theater professionals who teach as well as they perform. (They also gave us the inside skinny on how they really got their first major break on stage.) This will result in guest performances on the last full day onboard. I am in the dance workshops and learning routines to "Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious" from Mary Poppins and "One" from Chorus Line – complete with sequin hats as props. My husband is in the guest chorus performing songs from Mama Mia, Blood Brothers and Chicago. There are almost 200 in the chorus and about 50 dancers. Amazing.

We are enjoying discussions on theater luminaries Noel Coward and Stephen Sondheim, complete with featured readings and



KAREN
QUINN-
PANZER

songs performed by West End stars who performed their works. There are master classes in musical arrangements and orchestration plus acting workshops. There is no reason to doubt that you will be challenged from a theatrical standpoint.

For those who want a bit more variety, there are scientists discussing astronomy and navigation and the latest new telescopes on the horizon.

Add to that trivia at the Golden Lion British pub, karaoke, singalongs of favorite musicals from both sides of the Atlantic, watercolor painting classes, three pools, a running track, fitness center, Zumba and spa offerings including medi spa treatments and acupuncture. We are talking a very full

day.

In the evening there are multiple shows, five different musicians, duos and a jazz trio playing throughout the ship, the Queen Mary 2 orchestra performing for dancers on the largest ballroom dance floor at sea and a casino.

Consider the options pre and post cruise as well. We saw two Tony-nominated Broadway shows before we boarded in New York City. And we have tickets to two West End shows in London when we arrive, including Hamilton with orchestra seats for under \$100.

Based on the popularity of this cruise, I am sure the next one will sell out fast.

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

Paper Road

(Continued From 1)

part of that road to accommodate his plan to build a warehouse for his own company and incubator space for other small businesses.

By statute, the land where the paper road sits gets split between any adjacent property owners – in this case Thornberg and two others.

Thornberg won approval from the Planning & Zoning Board in May to go forward, with the conditions that the city retain easements for known stormwater drainage and sewage, as well as any other buried utilities that might be there. The decision on abandoning the road needed approval of the Board of Aldermen, though.

During the aldermanic meeting, some William Street residents were concerned that discontinuing the street would allow for the erosion of the barrier of woodland between their neighborhood and the commercial

properties just a few hundred feet away.

Gisela Huerta, who moved to William Street in 2004, asked for an "adequate buffer strip" to preserve the residential nature of the street.

"In a meeting of the Board of Aldermen in 2019 we opposed a request by AAA to abandon the city's rights on that area. Once again we are asking your office not to abandon your rights on the paper street, and instead to protect it and convert it to an open space for the promotion and maintenance of the residential character of William Street – and to record it accordingly on the land records of the city," she said.

Huerta added that the neighborhood did not want to get in the middle of any plans that the businesses on the other side had, as long as the buffer remained. She noted that several years ago someone had already cleared a portion of the trees and vegetation.

Carla Libretti, who has lived on the street since she was a kid, said she has seen the

gradual encroachment of noise, lights and other disturbances as the buffer between her street and Rowe Avenue has been eroded.

"It would be a big change for our neighborhood," she said. "We would see the highway. We would see the trains. We would see the commercialization that's going on."

In his own presentation, Thornberg said he has for years been renting a limited amount of warehouse space and had purchased the land where the paper street runs within the last year so that he could build a more suitably-sized warehouse that could accommodate his growing business. He also envisioned it as an "incubator space" for plumbers, electricians and other small business owners. He contrasted his own plan with that of AAA's earlier proposal, which would have created a 24-hour road service hub.

"This is nothing like that. This is meant to be something that is pretty much low impact on the neighborhood, but is also going to be something good for small businesses in the community like my own that are looking to grow," he said.

"There's a significant natural border there," he added, addressing some of the neighbors in the audience. "I look to maintain that as much as possible."

Thornberg already has the right to build the warehouse on his land, which sits in a light industrial zone fronting Rowe Avenue. Discontinuing the street, he noted, would basically allow him to back the

building up a few feet and add a few parking spaces.

Alderman Paul Healy said that the plan was in the right spot and was ripe for development, but expressed concerns that the promise to shield the William Street residents might not be kept.

"Can you say tonight unequivocally that you will maintain a buffer that is there currently at a minimum? That the buffer that's there now will absolutely be maintained and that you may add additional buffer?" he asked.

Thornberg replied that there is currently a 20-foot buffer and that the design called for at least that amount.

Thornberg's attorney, Kevin Curseaden, argued that discontinuing the street was actually more advantageous for the residents, because it would forever keep William Street separated from Rowe Avenue.

"If the road's not discontinued, theoretically one of the abutting property owners could pay to have that road improved to city standards, and it would run from Rowe Avenue through William Street. By discontinuing the road, that cuts off any possibility of that happening."

The board engaged in some back-and-forth over whether it made sense to postpone their decision, but a vote to shelve the matter failed. Some of the aldermen also questioned whether the warehouse itself could serve as an additional buffer to some of the noise and lights the residents had complained about. Alderman Scott Marlow cautioned against getting into site plan details that were under the purview of the Planning & Zoning Board.

The motion to abandon the road finally passed 12-3, with Healy joining Robert Pacelli Jr. and Ellen Russell Beatty (who is a Milford-Orange Times columnist) in dissent.

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Orange Republican Town Committee

Celebrating Flag Day Every Day

Since 1916 The US has annually celebrated Flag Day on June 14.

This day honors our grand old flag, adopted by the first Continental Congress in 1777. Over nearly 250 years, the American flag has evolved alongside our nation, symbolizing its growth and resilience. Our current flag, with 50 stars and 13 stripes in traditional red, white and blue, represents each state and the original thirteen colonies that founded our nation.

Around the world our flag serves as a beacon of hope, inspiration and partnership to our allies, and a reminder of the definition of American might to our adversaries. Here at home, our flag stands as a timeless symbol of freedom, unity and American resilience. On Flag Day we celebrate not just a piece

of cloth, but the principles and sacrifices it represents. Our flag has flown over battlefields, displaying the bravery of those who fought for our liberty. It has been a bright spot during times of darkness and struggle and an emblem displayed proudly in moments of triumph and American exceptionalism.

For Orange Republicans, Flag Day is not just something we celebrate annually but a daily appreciation for the stars and stripes. This year we celebrated Flag Day with our first annual "Freedom Family Picnic," in which we gathered with friends and family to celebrate our great American freedoms. Year-round, we proudly display our flags at home,



DOMINICK LOMBARDI

in our businesses and in public spaces, renewing our pledge to the values of freedom, individual rights and a government, which is of, by, and for the people.

Orange Republicans honor the flag by strongly supporting our veterans who fought to defend her, our military who defends her today as well as our brave men and women in law enforcement, fire departments and first responders who protect the citizens the flag represents. We make it a top priority to ensure that in our work as Republicans, we make sure that the ideals and liberties our flag represents are preserved for generations of Orange residents to come.

I end with a verse from an all-American song by an all-American icon, Johnny Cash's Ragged Old Flag:

"In her own good land here she's been abused, she's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused, and the government for which she stands has been scandalized throughout the lands and she's getting thread bare and wearin' thin, but she's in good shape for the shape she's in. So, we raise her up every morning and take her down every night, we don't let her touch the ground and we fold her up right. On second thought, I do like to brag, cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag."

Dominick Lombardi is the chair of the Orange Republican Town Committee.

Here's To Your Health

To Juice Or Not To Juice

In my professional career I've seen a lot of fad things come and go, like toe running, ThighMaster, vibration belts and more. I do feel, however, the diet industry is the most disturbing, especially because they set people up for failure and are generally not good for your health.

I happened to be talking with someone who also works in the fitness industry who asked me if I knew about juicing. My first thought was "Oh no. Not another diet." But what she was explaining to me got me curious, because I really didn't know much about juicing. So naturally I did some researching and decided I would give it a try. But before I go on, here are some things to consider.

There is no conclusive scientific evidence that juicing is any healthier than eating whole foods or that juicing is a better way

to detox our bodies from toxins. I do believe that vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients from fruits and vegetables are very important to maintaining good health.

To continue: I bought a book and a juicer and I started juicing celery every morning. I didn't feel any immediate benefit, but after the first week or so I noticed I was more regular and had a decrease in bodily inflammation. Then I upped the ante and started adding more vegetarian meals to my weekly meal plan. This combination was really showing good results with less bloat, better sleep and better energy.

I turned a client onto what I was doing,



MICHELE TENNEY

and she said it was helping her have better mental clarity. Each of us had different but similar results. I'm the type of trainer who will not suggest something to my clients I haven't tried myself. It's only fair.

Better digestion, anti-inflammatory response, adding more nutrients to my body and reducing toxins all at the same time is a win-win to me. Now, please hear me when I say no one should use juicing as a sole means of consuming food or as a weight loss option. It can be

something good for you to add to an existing healthy way of eating to help boost your nutritional intake. Of course, exercise, sleep and good hydration are included in living a healthy lifestyle as well.

I think for some – especially those who do not like to eat fruits and vegetables – juicing is a solid way to get vital nutrients into the body. Once a week, usually Sunday mornings, I don't juice. I get up and enjoy a nice cup of coffee with some quiet time to start my day instead of juicing. We need to have balance in all that we do.

I hope you give juicing a try. I believe in you. You got this. Here's to your health.

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

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Orange Democratic Town Committee

The Democratic Party Is Fighting For You

The Orange Democratic Town Committee meets monthly, generally on the third Tuesday of each month. Each meeting consists of a "hot topic" discussion. At the May meeting, a discussion was held on the banning of TikTok.

I felt pretty hip as I was one of only a few in the room who even had a TikTok account. TikTok does have a "younger" following – not to categorize myself as old. But I am definitely not in the 30-something crowd anymore.

As with the national discussion, there were some who had concerns about what data China may be collecting on us and what misinformation they could be posting to try to interfere with our upcoming elections. Others also pointed out that anyone online or with a cell phone is easily tracked by anyone who wants to get their information.

One key point is Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, enacted as part of the Communications Decency Act of 1996. Basically, this provides immunity from liability for providers and users of "interactive computer service" who publish information provided by third-party users. If Section 230 were to be repealed, the platforms would all be liable for dissemination of illegal material. There could be more action on this down the road.

These "hot topic" discussions afford us the opportunity to learn more about the topic and

hear other views we may not have considered. It is an open dialogue we limit to 15 minutes of our meeting. Our June meeting's hot topic is the proposed elimination of the car tax in Connecticut as our legislators head into a special session.

Speaking of legislators, besides a Presidential election this year there is an election for the state senators and representatives. We are fortunate to have state Sen. James Maroney running for re-election. Maroney is a leader in artificial intelligence technology knowledge and the implications that lie therein.

State Rep. Mary Welander is also running for reelection. Welander is a fierce advocate for children and families. She was instrumental in getting mental health assistance for our children passed. She and Maroney helped procure funds for our schools' HVAC upgrades, our recreational trails, supported tax breaks for veterans, as well as working to protect our loved ones in nursing facilities.

They have secured thousands of dollars for local programs, including \$50,000 for our Orange Volunteer Fire Department. Welander and Maroney work tirelessly to help our community and have earned the honor to continue to repre-



JODY DIETCH

sent us.

Welander represents the largest district in Orange, the 114th (known as District 1 in Orange). Our little town has two other districts, as I noted in last issue's column. MJ Shannon is running for state representative in the 117 District. Shannon has been out door-knocking since mid-May, listening to constituent concerns and ideas. Shannon is a clerk of the state General Assembly's General Law Committee. He is an advocate for the environment and small business development. His family owns a small business in Milford called Cappugino's, so he understands the challenges facing small businesses and the vital role they play in our communities and our economy. Shannon's work with the General Assembly makes him more than ready to represent the 117th and be a leader from day one.

In the 119th District, which is the Milford side of Orange, Etan Hirsch is running to be our next state representative. Hirsch is an attorney who lives in Milford right over the Orange line. He is also an elected member of the Milford Planning and Zoning Commission after having served on the Milford Zoning Board of Appeals. He has been out meeting the community not

only at people's homes but at events such as the annual Strawberry Festival and as a participant in the charity golf tournament to benefit Orange Food2Kids.

Hirsch is a small business owner with his law firm, Hirsch Andrade LLP, in Bridgeport and Danbury. Naturally, that experience makes him an advocate for small businesses as well as economic development. His platform also includes environmental sustainability, women's rights, education and insurance. Hirsch looks forward to working with all stakeholders when elected Nov. 5.

The strong slate of Democratic candidates and their backgrounds will continue to move our state forward and protect our rights that others are working very hard to take away. This election, you've heard it before and I will say it again, is about ensuring our democracy. As the nation grapples with a Supreme Court that is clearly teetering on major ethics violations to a presidential candidate who is now a convicted felon 34 times over, it is imperative that we all take a few moments this fall to get the facts and get out and vote on Nov. 5.

Jody Dietch is the chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee.

Orange Lions Club To Host Comedy Night

The Orange Lions Club is hosting its annual comedy night fundraising event, "Comedy Under the Stars," on Saturday, Aug. 17 at the picnic pavilion outside High Plains Community Center in Orange.

In addition to headliner Craig "the FIG" Figueredo, Orange native Dave Sheehan is returning along with two other comedians. This event features professional stand-

up comedians and is suitable for mature audiences.

The affair is a "bring-your-own beverage and snacks" event. Picnic table seating will be provided, but audience members may bring their own folding or concert chairs if desired. There will be a door prize and chances sold for baskets and prizes.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show is

scheduled to start at 8 p.m. Tickets for this charity fundraising event are \$30 per person, available for purchase from any Orange Lions Club member or by calling Lions Ken Lenz or Marianne Miller at 203-795-3906. The Comedy Under the Stars event has been a favorite of many patrons, because of the high quality of the comedic talent, and all proceeds go to the

Lions' charity and service events.

Funds raised by the Orange Lions Club supports many local charitable causes, including senior citizen and youth programs, the local food pantry, the fuel bank, annual children's eye screenings, diabetes screenings and college scholarships for Amity High School graduates.

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The Arts

Enjoy The Arts Outdoors This July

With the summer season upon us, warm days and breezy evenings make for a perfect time to delight in creativity. Enjoy the sand between your toes as you participate in, or view, a sand sculpture competition. Listen to familiar tunes played by Milford's official band on the beach. Bask in the sun or relax under the stars as you watch an outdoor Shakespeare play.

Too hot outside? Indoor events are great for warmer days and evenings. Take the kids to see a musical based on "The Little Mermaid" or support a musical production with kids as the cast. Remember to stop and enjoy the sights and sounds of the summer on your way to your destination, and make memories with the arts.

The Milford Arts Council will host their **47th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition** at Walnut Beach, 113 E. Broadway in Milford, on Sunday, July 13. This tradition draws people from up and down the East Coast and is a destination event for vacationing families. It will be held rain or shine; however, it is recommended to check milfordarts.org if storms are predicted. Create anything from lobsters to mermaids to astronauts. Participants are encouraged to be as creative as they'd like. Come participate or view these creative sand sculptures. Registration is at 8:15 a.m. and judging will begin at 12:30 p.m., with awards at 1:30 p.m. For more information go to milfordarts.org/sandsculpture-2024.

Center Stage Theatre presents "Rent" featuring performers ages 14-23 from July 12-

28. Book, music and lyrics are by Jonathan Larson. Set in the East Village of New York City, this musical is about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Based loosely on Puccini's "La Boheme," "Rent" follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The physical and emotional complications of the disease pervade the lives of Roger, Mimi, Tom and Angel. Maureen deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art; her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble. Benny has sold out his bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends. Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general. How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical. Matinee and evening performances run at Center Stage Theatre, 54 Grove St. in Shelton. For ticket information visit centerstageshelton.org or call 203-225-6079.

Spotlight Stage Company presents "Once on This Island Jr.," a highly theatrical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's popular fairy tale, "The Little Mermaid" and the Tony-nominated Broadway writing team, Abrens and Flaherty. Through almost non-stop song and dance, this full-hearted musical tells the story of TJ Mounce, a peasant girl who



CYNDI CONSOLI

rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide TJ Mounce on a quest that will test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death. The colorful sets, costumes and creative movement will capture the imagination of the audience. Production dates are July 19 at 7 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee performance on July 20 at Seymour Middle School, 211 Mountain Rd. in Seymour. Tickets are \$12 for children and students and \$18 for adults. They are available at spotlightstagecompany.com or by calling 203-837-0261.

Hudson Shakespeare Company presents "The Merry Wives of Windsor" by William Shakespeare at two venues in Stratford. "In love the heavens themselves do guide the state. Money buys lands, and wives are sold by fate." Falstaff decides to fix this financial woe by seducing the wives of two wealthy merchants. The wives find he sent them identical letters and take revenge by playing tricks on Falstaff when he comes calling. With the help of their husbands and friends, the wives play one last trick in the woods to put Falstaff's mischief to an end. Matinee and evening performances take place from July 12-14 at the Stratford Public Library, located at 2203 Main St.; and July 18-20 and July 25-27 in the outdoor courtyard at Boothe Memorial Park, located at 5800 Main St. For all shows, bring

a lawn chair or blanket, friends and a picnic. Performances will be held indoors in case of inclement weather. Visit hudsonshakespeare.com for more information.

Castle Craig Players presents "Spring Awakening," with book and lyrics by Steven Slater and music by Duncan Sheik. The performance is based on the play by Frank Wedekind. The winner of eight Tony awards including best musical, this production explores the journey from adolescence to adulthood with a poignancy and passion that is illuminating and unforgettable. The landmark musical is an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality and rock and roll that is exhilarating audiences across the nation like no other musical in years. Matinee and evening performances run July 26-Aug. 1 at Almira F. Stephan Memorial Playhouse, 59 West Main St. in Meriden. General admission is \$25; seniors 65 and over are \$20. Visit castlecraigplayers.org to purchase tickets and for more information.

The Milford Concert Band, the official band of Milford, will continue their **Summer 24 Beach Concert Series** with an evening of family-friendly musical favorites at Gulf Beach, located at 571 Gulf St. in Milford on Monday, July 29 at 7 p.m.

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

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



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Orange Board of Finance

Supply Side Economic Policy For Future Growth

The US economy continues to exceed expectations to the surprise of many economists and leading financial firms on Wall Street. It's surprising because the US has seen over \$5.6 billion of federal funding thrown into the economy for green energy initiatives and American Rescue Plan Act funding driving inflation, which in June 2022 reached its highest level of 9.1 percent.

One of the key measures of the US economy is gross domestic product, which for the first quarter of 2024 finished at 2.9 percent year-over-year despite economic headwinds and the highest level of monetary tightening in the last 40 years. The economy continues to defy expectations despite significant geopolitical factors, with the wars in Ukraine and Gaza and with three out of four of the largest commercial bank failures within the last year.

From a global view, the US economy also continues to outperform most NATO and European Union countries on GDP, with France at 1.1 percent, Italy at 0.7

percent, Switzerland at 0.6 percent and Germany at -0.2 percent.

So if the economy is outperforming, then why are average Americans not feeling it in their wallets, whether it be at the gas pump, grocery store or when trying to buy a new home?

The reality is that real estate, groceries and fossil fuels still continue to have an inflated price structure due to the fact that there is high demand and low supply for all three. In addition, we also still have the harsh reality of our national debt that continues to be a drag on the economy and which Congress has failed to take action on.

Our national debt now stands at \$34.8 trillion and will in the near future ultimately impact banks and both domestic and global investors. It's hard to believe, but the national debt has increased by \$14 trillion dollars in just the last three years.



KEVIN MCNABOLA

The US Treasury has taken extraordinary measures to keep paying the government's bills, but the well could run dry sooner than later. Debt growth continues to outpace economic growth (as measured by GDP), and has already reached 100 percent of GDP. It will reach 118 percent by the end of this decade.

Today the federal government continues to implement tax increases at a time when it should be adopting a sound supply side economic policy. The US faced similar issues back in the 1950s, shortly after World War II, when high taxes were prevalent and America endured several recessions every two to three years. We need to learn from history and implement an across-the-board tax cut for Americans that will drive a pro-growth economy for businesses and deliver on free market entrepreneurship.

We have seen throughout our history that there are valuable lessons we can learn when it comes to economics. President John F. Kennedy implemented sweeping tax rate cuts across the board in 1962, leading to GDP growth of 6.1 percent in 1963 and an average of 4.9 percent for the remainder of the 1960s. President Ronald Reagan implemented similar supply side economic policies in 1982, which lead to a free market economy, deregulation, lower taxes and a strong dollar.

At a time when all Americans are feeling the effects of increased prices in all sectors of the economy, we need sound solid economic policy that will ease the tax burden and inflationary impact. Hopefully the economic advisors and economists who sit on the National Economic Council will consider a supply side approach to the economy in the future.

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

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Orange Sees Red During Strawberry Festival



Orange saw red at the High Plains fairgrounds on June 8 during Orange Congregational Church's annual Strawberry Festival. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

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Orange Rotary Installs Officers



The Rotary Club of Orange installed new officers for the 2024-2025 year in mid-June. Top left: Wendy Barry becomes the new president as outgoing president Dan May gives her a pin. Top right: Mike Richetelli, Phil Smith, May, Trish Pearson and Roger Tausig. Bottom left: Pearson and Denise Stein. Bottom right: Tausig receives an award. Photos by Steve Cooper.



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Silver Steel Plays In Milford



The Silver Steel Band played at Fowler Field in on June 20 as part of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce's Fridays After Five concert series. Then Bridgeport-based steel drum band plays Caribbean favorites as well as Soca and Calypso styled music. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Orange Rotary Awards Scholarships



The Rotary Club of Orange gave \$2,000 student scholarships to three Orange students going to college this fall. From left: Phil Smith, Richard Dumbrill, Amy Tirollo standing in for daughter Caroline, Danielle D'Avignon, Wendy Barry, Alexander Kallmeyer and Sharon Ewen. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Milford Rotary To Hold Annual Lobster Bake

The members of Milford Rotary Club are gearing up to hold their 46th annual Lobster Bake on Saturday, July 27.

The event will take place at Lisman Landing, located at 37 Helwig St. in Milford from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The last meal will be served at 7 p.m.

Raffles, entertainment and dancing will be provided, with music by Odd Fellas with Pat Matto, rain or shine.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will provide college scholarships to local students as well as helping to support many local charitable organizations.

The ticket price is \$85 for twin lobsters, corn on the cob and all the other fixings. A

single lobster option is available for \$60. Steak tickets are available for \$80 for those preferring "turf" over "surf," and children's hot dog tickets are \$5. Beer and wine are included in the ticket price for guests 21 and older, and soft drinks are also included for all. White claws will be available separately for purchase, and souvenir lobster bake t-shirts and mugs will also be available.

Tickets can be purchased from any club member or at The Milford Bank, located at 33 Broad St.; Milford Photo at 22 River St.; and Milford Body Therapy at 318 New Haven Ave. Online purchases can be made at rotaryclubofmilfordctinc.ticketspice.com/milford-rotarys-46th-annual-lobster-bake.

Raffle To Benefit Charles Island

The Community Rotary Raffle of Milford has announced its first annual \$10,000 cash prize raffle, "Trees 4 Charles," to benefit the Charles Island reforestation project. The proceeds of the raffle will be used to purchase trees for the fall planting on the island.

The Charles Island Reforestation LLC is a nonprofit working with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to reforest the island. Years of storms, deer, invasive plant species and a fungus which attacked the old trees have deteriorated the island. Only trees that are resistant to the type of fungus present on the island can be planted.

Teams of volunteers have been working with DEEP workers to bring the island tree canopy back. This canopy is necessary for

not just the bird habitat but also to prevent the erosion of the island.

This project is five years in and approximately 40 percent completed.

The raffle, which is sponsored by Devon Rotary and the Milford Rotary Club, hopes to sell all 6,000 tickets with the help of concerned citizens. This will help the reforestation team purchase the trees needed for the fall planting and more. The raffle will start Tuesday, July 16 at 6 p.m. at Gulf Beach, with Charles Island in the background. The drawing of the \$10,000 cash prize ticket will be on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at Tyde at Walnut Beach, located at 72 Broadway in Milford. The drawing is open to the public.

For more information on how to purchase a ticket, go to devonrotary.org.



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The Garden Club Of Orange Welcomes New Members



The Garden Club of Orange held their annual meeting on June 11 at the Stonebridge Restaurant in Milford. The club, which is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, was founded in 1930 and has been helping to beautify the town since then. To learn more about the club, visit gardencluboforange.com. Pictured are new members and their club sponsors. Front row, from left: Margherita Lisi, Yoon-Ock Kim and Cynthia Flynn. Back row, from left: Lana Ho, Kathy Chiaro, Barbara Sidebottom, Sandy Horling, Lisa Stackpole, Nancy Bartle and Cynthia Campos. Not pictured are new member Gloria Signore and sponsor Sally Denny. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.

Orange Residents Can Apply For Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Orange residents may now apply directly through the Orange Community Services office for the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program by appointment by calling 203-891-4788. The SFMNP provides electronic benefit cards to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, eggs and honey (seniors only) at local farmer's markets in Connecticut.

The program is available to participants who are 60 years old or older, or disabled individuals under 60 living in housing facilities occupied primarily by older individuals where congregate nutrition services are provided. Individuals must have a household income of not more than 185 percent of the annual poverty income guidelines.

Town of Orange Tax Collector's Legal Notice

Per CGS 12-145, the first installment of the town tax on the 2023 Grand List of 1 October 2023 is due and payable on 1 July 2024. Payments received after 1 August 2024 are considered delinquent and are subject to the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, \$2.00 minimum, dating back to the original due date [CGS 12-146]. Motor Vehicle bills are payable in one installment. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are payable in two installments with 1/2 due on 1 July 2024 and the second installment on 1 Jan 2025. All taxes may be paid in one installment. Bills were mailed on or about 14 June 2024. We DO NOT rebill for second installments. Your split tax bill has a January tax bill attached. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM PAYMENT OF ALL INTEREST CHARGES AND COLLECTION COSTS, per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130, 12-148. Payments may be processed in person at the Town Tax Window in Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT, Monday-Friday except holidays from 8:30 a.m. -12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your entire three-part tax bill if you wish a receipt. A payment coupon or duplicate bill must accompany each payment. There is a \$2.00 fee charged for each duplicate bill requested. Payments by check or money order may be made by mail or at the tax window. The receipt date will be that of the USPS date on the envelope. Only USPS stamped dates are considered valid. If a receipt is desired a self-addressed stamped envelope and your three-part bill must be included with your payment. We do not accept CASH payments through the mail only at the tax window! Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express branded Credit and Debit Card payments are accepted on-line or at the tax window or by telephone (Interactive Voice Response) 203-902-0387 or E-check (On-line only). Convenience fees apply. See the new Town of Orange payment website for details.

Town of Orange - CT - Tax (orange-ctmybill.com) <https://orange-ctmybill.com/#/>
Payment in minor coinage [pennies or nickels] is limited to 25 cents or as acceptable to the Tax Collector.
Thomas P. Hurley, Tax Collector

TangoFest Events Coming To Milford

Milford will once again be one of the locations for this year's Connecticut Tango Festival, with three events featuring professional tango experts happening in the city.

The first, on Friday, July 19, will be a Tango Passion Show featuring pianist Emiliano Messiez, bandoneonist Rodolfo Zanetti, and dancers Natalia Turelli and Juan Paulo Horvath, Grupo Folklorico Rio de la Plata and the Tango Sueño Performance Group. The show starts at 8 p.m. at the Milford Arts Council, located at 40 Railroad Ave. S. Tickets are \$38-\$48.

The second event is a tango boot camp for beginners on Saturday, July 13, Milford: Tango Boot Camp for beginners with expert dancers Dale Ellison and Gem Duras. This event runs from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., also at the Milford Arts Council. It costs \$60.

The final event will be workshops with Turelli and Horvath on Saturday, July 20 from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The workshops take place at the Milford Arts Council and cost \$90.

For more information, go to cttangofest.org or call 203-584-4480.

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Obituaries

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


Jeffrey Mark Casceillo, 44, of Milford, passed unexpectedly on June 12, leaving his family devastated. (Galelo-Luchansky Funeral Home Funeral Home)



Joy Carloni (nee Adley), wife of the late Ralph A. Carloni, graduate of the University of Connecticut, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on June 9, 2024. (Iovanne Funeral Home)




Jayden Chetlen, 21, of Milford, passed away on June 7, 2024. Born on January 12, 2003 in Milford, CT, he was the son of Cristen Chetlen. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Denise Morris Curt, age 88, of Milford, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2024 at Bridgeport Hospital. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Jamie Lee Davidson, age 70, of Milford, passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 2, 2024 after complications with cardiac surgery. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Francis "Frank" Mario Gargiulo Sr., 83, of Milford, beloved husband of Carmella "Carmie" Cusmano Gargiulo, passed away on June 5, 2024 after his long battle with dementia.. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Donald Germaine, of Orange, Connecticut, passed away peacefully, at the age of 91, on June 6, 2024. (Weller Funeral Home)




Marie Gloria Guido, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Raymond Patrick Guido Sr., passed away on June 11, 2024, at the remarkable age of 100. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mary L. Hanson, beloved wife of the late Earle Hanson, passed away peacefully on June 19, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




George Raymond Hoppes, age 78, of Milford, beloved husband of Patricia Pettinella Hoppes, died on Thursday, June 13, 2024, surrounded by his family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




Sherry Ann King, age 57, of Milford, beloved wife of 28 years to Jeff King, entered peaceful rest on June 9, 2024 at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




Nicholas G. Laggis (Nick) 81, born in New Haven, CT and residing in Orange, died peacefully on June 11, 2024 in St. Vincent Hospital after a 15 day battle with cancer.




Daniel Anthony Lagonigro, 71, of Milford, beloved husband of Noreen (Kelly) Lagonigro, passed away on June 12, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Lawrence L. Lanna, 96, of Milford, beloved husband of Gloria (Giarrizzo) Lanna, passed away on June 12, 2024, surrounded by the love of his family and friends. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Father Cyriac Maliekal, 79, was called home to the Lord on June 3, 2024 at his home in Milford, CT. Born on March 3, 1945 in Kerala, India. (Cody-White Funeral Home)





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Obituaries

Sharon Eileen Blawie



Swift Mallico passed away unexpectedly June 7, 2024. She was born November 7, 1966 in Bridgeport CT. (Gregory F. Doyle Doyle Funeral Home)

Robert Soltes, Sr., 86, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Joanne (Dion) Soltes, passed away on June 4, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Josephine "Josie" Perrone, 87, of Orange, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, at Hamden Health Care Center on June 15, 2024. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Judy Spragg, 82, of Orange, passed away on June 19, 2024, at her nephew's home, surrounded by her family.



Mary Anne Shannon, 80, of Woodbridge, beloved wife of Eugene Shannon, passed away comfortably on June 12, 2024 after a courageous battle with dementia. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Paul Varrecchio, 95, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Eleanor DePito Varrecchio, passed away on June 2, 2024, at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Porto Funeral Home)



Michael A. Siegman, 88, of Milford, beloved husband of nearly 64 years to Julia W. Siegman, passed away at his home on June 14, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Homes)



Elizabeth "Libby" Williams, 71, of Milford, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Orange Firefighter Hailed As Hero For Saving Child's Life While On Vacation

Tom Bartiss has responded to more than his share of emergency calls as a member of the Orange and West Haven fire departments, though emergencies were the furthest thing from his mind as he and his wife relaxed in Mexico. But when he saw a boy in trouble by the resort swimming pool, there was no hesitation.

"When you're trained, you're trained," he said, recounting the story.

Bartiss, an active firefighter and chaplain of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, was on vacation with his wife, Ann, at a resort outside of Cancun. The pair was enjoying dinner when Ann noticed "a commotion" outside by the pool.

"My wife said there's little feet out there and they're working on him," recalled Bartiss.

That's when instinct kicked in and Bartiss dashed to the child's side. Another bystander had just started CPR.

"I said you do compressions and I'll get the breaths in," he recalled. "I kept looking at his eyes. They were almost normal. I said we've got a chance."

Bartiss said he and the women did CPR on the child for about 20 minutes. At times, the child seemed to moan, but there was no pulse. They continued compressions and rescue breathing.

Finally, a doctor and a pediatric ambulance arrived. An automatic external defibrillator indicated no shock needed. The doctor and other emergency personnel began administering medications to the child. Finally, the AED indicated it was time to shock the child. After two shocks, the team found a pulse.

"He started coming around," Bartiss said. The child was coughing, but not coughing up water. The ambulance whisked the child

away to a pediatric hospital in Cancun. Bartiss noted that the city has very modern medical and emergency medical facilities.

Three days later, the child was back at the resort.

Like most first responder experiences, this was nothing like what TV programs show. There was no dramatic music – just two strangers desperately working as a team. And there have been no medals, no joyous reunions. Other than a quick thank you from the resort, there was no recognition from anyone.

But that's not what's important to Bartiss. After the firefighter's instincts were no longer needed, the chaplain's instincts kicked in.

"If that woman wasn't there and started CPR before I did, I don't think he would have made it," said Bartiss. "I was just in the right place at the right time. I'm so grateful I was there. I hope I gave the kid a long, good life. God definitely has a plan."

An Orange firefighter for about eight years, Bartiss was a career firefighter in West Haven for about 28 years, retiring as a captain. After training to become an Episcopal deacon, Bartiss worked as a chaplain at Griffin Hospital in Derby for eight years.

"Tom is a great firefighter and a wonderful part of the Orange Fire Department," said Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas. "Whether he's working at the scene of an emergency or talking quietly with a firefighter about something they've seen or something going on in their lives, Tom always applies all his skill, talent and compassion. We're very proud of what Tom did in Mexico. We're not surprised, though, because he is the consummate firefighter."

Gregory F. Doyle

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