



# Milford-Orange Times

Vol. 14 / Issue 6

www.TheOrangeTimes.com

June 6, 2024

## Milford, Orange Celebrate Memorial Day



Milford and Orange held ceremonies and parades on May 26 in recognition of Memorial Day. Additional photos on pages 14-15. Left photo by Robert Creigh. Right photo by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

## Orange Hears Bids For Plan Of Conservation

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Town Plan & Zoning Commission launched into the multi-step process of updating the town's plan of conservation and development at its May 21 meeting with presentations from three companies that hope to put the plan together.

Creating a POCD, which is meant to guide a town's planning decisions for a decade, is often itself a process that takes many months. The state requires all municipalities to update their POCD every 10 years; Orange's was last updated in 2015.

The TPZC heard from Sarah Brown and Neil Desai of Manhattan-based H&H; Thomas Madden and Suzanne Goldberg from BFJ Planning, also of Manhattan; and Debbie Lawlor and Jacob Robison

from international company Colliers Engineering and Design.

All of the presenters emphasized the importance of community engagement as a key factor to creating a successful POCD. Desai said that in addition to traditional outreach methods through social media or mailers, they try to reach people "where they don't expect us."

"In West Haven we set up a booth at the Savin Rock Festival. We had people come and write down on their little message boards what their big idea is," he said. "What this did for us is that it underscored, at least in West Haven, that economic development was the top issue on people's minds."

Continued on page 11

## Milford Aldermen Pass Budget, Keep Ed Cuts

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

After making minor adjustments to the Milford budget, the Board of Aldermen largely left intact the \$256.3 million budget recommended to them by the Board of Finance – including a cut of over \$1 million to the Board of Education's budget request.

Earlier this year, the Board of Education put forward a \$111.3 million budget, representing a 4.7 percent increase over the previous year's amount. The finance board instead approved a 3.44 percent increase during their March 20 meeting, putting the education budget at \$109.9 million.

Despite that, taxes will still go up for city residents: the mill rate is set to rise from 27.17 to 29.14 – a 7.25 percent increase. If the additional education funding had gone

through, the mill rate would have gone up to 29.31, or 7.88 percent.

This was the second year in a row that the Board of Finance had recommended a reduction in the school system's requested increase. Unlike last year, when the aldermen eventually restored the full amount for education, this year there was not enough support from the aldermen to add the money back.

Superintendent Anna Cutaia had at an earlier meeting provided a list of potential cuts if the full funding request was not granted. Some of the largest reductions could come in the form of deferred facilities projects and specialized programming for behavioral and clinical

Continued on page 21

## Milford Group Fundraises For Juneteenth

By Isabel Birge

Community group All In for Milford kicked off the town's celebration of the Juneteenth holiday season on May 16 with a fundraiser held at the Milford Arts Council Firehouse Gallery in Milford. The proceeds from the event will go toward Milford's fifth annual Juneteenth Celebration.

Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of enslaved Americans after the Civil

War. The date honors June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas, two years after the proclamation was first issued.

The fundraiser, while small in scale, was lively and well-attended. The evening featured live music provided by soloist

Continued on page 2

Thank you to our former columnists.

New Columnists Page 9



DAVID CROW



THOMAS P. HURLEY



LEONORA RODRIGUEZ



DENNIS MARSH



## Alexandra Joy Photography

Award-winning  
PPA professional photographer

(203)-641-4527

Alexandrajoyphotography@yahoo.com



# Scouts Place Flags On Veteran Graves



Boy Scout Troop 41 recently placed flags for the veterans at the Congregation Or Shalom cemetery on Derby-Milford Road in anticipation of Memorial Day. The scouts performed the service under Scoutmaster Brian Cleveland and the guidance of Senior Patrol Leader Seth Glassman. Flags were also placed at the congregation's Shelton and West Haven cemeteries thanks to Or Shalom congregants Sharon Teller, Roger Hess and Gordon Lann. The flags are purchased annually through the Congregation Or Shalom Men's Club and the Yellow Candle Fund. To donate to the Yellow Candle Fund, visit orshalomct.org or call 203-799-2341. Photo courtesy of Congregation Or Shalom.

# Mandolin And Guitar Duo To Perform At Case Memorial

Husband and wife duo Judy Handler and Mark Levesque will play melodies from Europe, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia, the US and more in their concert titled "World Café" at the Case Memorial Library in Orange on June 8 at 2 p.m. They perform arrangements that blend swing, Latin American, classical, gypsy, Celtic, folk and jazz music influences.

Mark Levesque started playing guitar at age 10 and soon began working with rock and blues bands. He also became interested in other styles of guitar music, including jazz, classical and international. He has composed songs and instrumental music, worked with synthesizer orchestration and

learned the art of studio recording.

Judy Levesque has given concerts and workshops throughout the US and Europe. Her solo playing spans diverse genres of music, including classical, Latin American, Brazilian and jazz arrangements. She has performed with many prominent guitarists, including Charlie Byrd and Oscar Ghiglia, and she has received numerous awards, including an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Case Memorial Library. Registration is required. Call 203-891-2170 or register online at casememoriallibrary.org.

# Juneteenth (Continued From 1)

Fernanda Franco, food and drinks from Silver Sands Pizza and Walnut Beach Creamery and historic Juneteenth artifacts and materials. Among these was a series of informational posters on everyday items developed by Black inventors – from the clothes dryer to the gigahertz chip.

Another display, entitled, "Meaning of Juneteenth Expressed in Quotes" captured the spirit of the holiday with words from Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr., among others. A quote by New York Times columnist Jamelle Bouie

read, "Every Black person you meet is a MIRACLE. We are descended of lineages meant to be destroyed by slavery or colonization."

Many of the event's attendees reflected that Juneteenth is, first and foremost, a celebration.

"[These events] are about celebrating Black culture in Milford," said Jenn Paradis, executive director of Milford's Beth-El Center, who also gave a nod to the hard work of all those involved with the planning of the upcoming celebration.

The town's Juneteenth Celebration will take place on June 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Milford Green.



All In For Milford held a fundraiser on May 16 for the city's Juneteenth celebration. Photo courtesy of Bryan Anderson.

# Amity BOE Approves Design For ARHS Library Renovations

The Amity Regional Board of Education approved the schematic design and educational specifications for the renovation of the Amity Regional High School Library Media Center at its May 13 meeting. Approval of the design and specifications was essential for meeting the June deadline to apply for a Connecticut

school construction grant. If awarded, the grant will cover roughly 42 percent of the approximately \$3.2 million dollar project. The board also authorized the cost of the project, a requirement of the grant application. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2026, pending receipt of the grant.

# BON APPETIT

A BOUTIQUE STORE FOR CHEESE, CHARCUTERIE, GIFT BASKETS AND GOURMET ITEMS - ESTABLISHED IN 1970 -

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, BON APPETIT HAS BEEN PROVIDING ITS CUSTOMERS WITH 100+ GOURMET CUT TO ORDER CHEESES AND FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. SPECIALIZING IN GRAZING TABLES, CHEESE & CHARCUTERIE BOARDS AND GIFT BASKETS OUR CREATIONS ARE NOT TO BE MISSED.

2979 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT | 203.248.0648  
BonAppetitCT@att.net | WWW.BonAppetitHamden.com



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

# Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you'll want to know your retirement account options.



There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer's 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



Philip F Ucci III  
Financial Advisor

400 Boston Post Rd Suite 5  
Milford, CT 06460  
203-874-1576

For Nature's Sake

# Woodman Spare That Tree

There's a saying that "the best time to plant a tree was 30 years ago and the second-best time is today."

Because of all the ways that trees, especially large trees, improve our surroundings, experts in urban (and suburban) planning have been urging communities for decades to strategically expand the use of trees in our environs while taking better steps to prevent the removal of mature, non-hazardous, trees.

Some threats to our region's trees in 2024, like insect infestations and extreme weather events, can only ultimately be kept in check if governments and powerful corporate interests will better confront the need to reduce fossil fuel use. However, there are other threats to local trees – like gaps in local planning and knee-jerk clearcutting – that can be at least partly reduced through broader public education. The good news is that trees are fascinating, and there are now resources available, via smartphones and personal computers, that make it easier to turn even a daily stroll into a lesson on the extent to which trees are performing miracles in our midst.

In an informal experiment one day this past mid-May, some local residents took the measure (literally) of a few select trees in Milford and Orange and plugged those numbers into easy-to-use online programs to calculate some ways those trees benefit us all. The data from that activity is reported toward the end of this column. But for those who first wish to test their knowledge on trees, consider the quiz below:

1. True/False: Strategically placed trees can save more than 50 percent in annual air-conditioning costs.
2. Which one of the following statements has been supported by research?
  - a) Street trees increase the value of homes.
  - b) Trees reduce stormwater runoff in ways that can save a city money.

c) Trees can filter pollutants and make air quality better.

d) There are fewer car accidents on streets that are lined with trees.

e) All of the above.

3. True/False: More than 90 percent of low-income communities in US urban areas have less tree cover than high-income blocks.

4. Consider the opening lines of a perhaps-familiar poem below:

WOODMAN, spare that tree!  
Touch not a single bough!  
In youth it sheltered me,  
And I'll protect it now.

The above lines, which also became the basis of a popular song, were written by:

- a) an American newspaper editor in the 1830s.
- b) a Canadian folk singer in the 1970s.

Answers:

1. True. In addition to providing shade, trees also cool surrounding areas on hot days by releasing moisture into the air through their leaves via a process called evapotranspiration. A website for the US Forest Service reports, "strategically placed trees save up to 56 percent on annual air condition costs." Those cooling effects are widely recognized as the most vital role of trees in every American community today.

2. e. All of the above. Examples of each of these claims can be found in an online pdf titled, "Benefits of Trees and Urban Forests," from the Alliance for Community Trees.

3. True. This is well illustrated at the Tree Equity Score website, with its interactive maps for every municipality in the US that



PATRICIA HOUSER

show as the poverty rate goes up in different urban census blocks the tree cover goes down. Meanwhile, lower tree cover is correlated with dirtier air, more noise, hotter temperatures and higher health burdens, especially for children and seniors.

4. a. Newspaper editor George Pope Morris wrote those lines as the opening for his poem titled "The Oak" which appeared in an 1837 edition of the New York Mirror. Later renamed "Woodman Spare that Tree," the poem was set to music more than once over the next century.

There was a song released in 1970 by Canadian folk singer Joni Mitchell called "Big Yellow Taxi" that also included some memorable lines about trees:

They took all the trees  
Put 'em in a tree museum  
And they charged the people  
A dollar and a half just to see 'em.

To sample some little-known accomplishments of local trees, a few of us from Milford and Orange approached three different trees situated in public spaces, equipped with a ball of string, a tape measure, a clipboard and a smartphone. We referred to an online app at plantnet.org to verify the species, then calculated the diameter of each tree and plugged in that information to i-Tree.

In front of Orange Town Hall nearest to the corner of Orange Center Road and Schoolhouse Lane, we measured a large linden tree and a spruce tree, and in Milford at the southwest corner of Trubee Dolittle Park we measured the horse chestnut tree. Based on the i-Tree app, some ecosystem benefits of those three large trees over the past year have been as follows:

Carbon dioxide absorbed from the air: linden tree, 417 pounds per year; spruce tree, 372 pounds; horse chestnut tree, 415 pounds.

Runoff avoided (because the rain was intercepted by leaves): linden tree, 446.14 gallons; spruce tree, 372 gallons; horse chestnut tree, 615 gallons.

Air pollution removal: substances removed by all three trees included nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, large particulate matter and, in greatest amount, ozone.

Not measured by the app was the way these trees buffer noise, play host to an array of valuable insects, birds and other animals, and significantly cool a large area – all the while lending significant beauty to the landscape.

The two volunteers measuring tree benefits in Woodmont were recruited out of a group of Milford beach walkers who had just finished one of their walks. When I asked afterwards what they found significant in our findings about the horse chestnut tree, both mentioned the amount of carbon dioxide removed from the air.

Vivian Tanner expressed awe at the data overall, adding, simply, "It's fascinating."

Al Merola, said, "It's totally amazing what this measurement tool does – especially the carbon dioxide removed: 415 pounds."

It may be that the best effect of the tree measuring activity was that it made us pay such close attention to a particular tree, which then made us notice other trees. As we stood in generous shade of the horse chestnut tree, we started commenting on other trees around us and speculating on their ecosystem values. Then someone noticed the buzzing of bees amidst the hundreds of white flowering clusters in the leaves above us.

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

# COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

<p><b>TIME TO DOWNSIZE? LET ME HELP!</b> CURIOUS TO KNOW THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME IN TODAY'S MARKET? <b>SCAN THE QR CODE AND CONTACT ME TODAY!</b> AUDRA DIGELLO ~ 203.506.4778</p>		<p><b>ORANGE 149 NEW HAVEN AVENUE</b> <b>FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY!! \$425,000</b> Charming 3BR, 2 full BA Ranch on a beautiful, level lot. NEW roof, an open concept living rm / dining rm w/ fpl, Eat-In Kit, sun-filled Family Rm. WAYNE HUGENDUBEL ~ 203.605.2946</p>	
<p><b>WOODBIDGE 18 TANGLEWOOD LN</b> <b>UNDER CONTRACT IN 3 DAYS!</b> THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IS HOT!! CALL ME FOR A COMPLIMENTARY MARKET EVALUATION OF YOUR HOME! YOU MAY BE SURPRISED!! FRAN MORROW ~ 203.605.7733</p>		<p><b>MILFORD 154 YALE AVENUE</b> <b>COMING SOON!</b> Well cared for 2BR, 1BA home with newer roof. Freshly painted, hardwood floors, in great shape! Just awaits your personal touch! WENDY BARRY ~ 203.913.2923</p>	
<p><b>MILFORD 165 GULF STREET</b> <b>SOLD TO MY BUYERS!! \$1,100,000</b> If YOU Want the Same Results, Call Me. Let My Experience Work for YOU! SHARON TUDINO~ 203.257.9601</p>		<p><b>ORANGE 528 TREAT LANE \$539,000</b> <b>COMING SOON! OPEN JUNE 9TH 12-2PM</b> Updated 3 BR, 2 BA Ranch on 1 acre. Open style living space w/custom LR w/ fplc, DR, fam rm &amp; adjoining kit w/dining area opens to deck &amp; patio. NICK MASTRANGELO ~ 203.641.2100</p>	
<p><b>ORANGE 497 DOGWOOD ROAD</b> <b>UNDER CONTRACT!</b> THINKING OF SELLING? MY CLIENTS DID! THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME! LET MY STRATEGIC MARKETING PLAN WORK FOR YOU! LORI MIKO ~ 203.641.0486</p>		<p><b>MILFORD 273 NEW HAVEN AVE #8</b> <b>NEW LISTING! \$385,000</b> 55+ condo community near Milford Center! 2BRs, 2BA Townhouse. 1BR &amp; full bath on Main Level, expansive bedroom suite w/full bath on 2nd. CINDY SLOAN ~ 203.306.8453</p>	
<p><b>THINKING OF MOVING? NOW IS THE TIME!!</b> I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH A COMPLIMENTARY MARKET EVALUATION OF YOUR HOME! CALL ME TODAY! LAURA GIAMMATTEI ~ 203.415.9959</p>		<p><b>MILFORD 15 SQUIRE COURT</b> <b>UNDER CONTRACT IN JUST 3 DAYS!</b> <b>THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO SELL!</b> Let's Connect and Explore the Possibilities! NYDIA FELIX-PERCIVAL ~ 718.791.8297</p>	
<p><b>MILFORD 24 MEADOWPARK DRIVE</b> <b>SOLD FOR OVER ASKING IN 4 DAYS!</b> <b>YOURS COULD BE NEXT!</b> THINKING OF MOVING? LET MY REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU! ERIK SMITH ~ 203.215.9846</p>		<p><b>MILFORD 5 EASTERN STILL ROAD</b> <b>BUSINESS FOR SALE! \$695,000</b> GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Very profitable large volume liquor store for sale. Open flr plan, large size walking coolers, varieties of wine, beer and liquor. SNEHAL DHARANI ~ 203.676.1343</p>	

**Orange Office** 236 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477 203.795.6000

**Woodbridge Office** 270 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT 06477 203.389.0015

**COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM**

©2024 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realogy Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair

## Medicaid Planning Legal Help

We help seniors and their families protect their assets from the costs of long-term care.

Kirschbaum Law Group, LLC provides sophisticated Medicaid planning services for clients throughout Connecticut.

We help with Medicaid asset protection planning, as well as applications for Medicaid for long-term care, with a focus on crisis cases when there is a current or imminent need for long-term care.

[www.medicaidplanninglegalhelp.com](http://www.medicaidplanninglegalhelp.com)

## Probate Court Legal Help

We help people protect their rights in probate courts.

Kirschbaum Law Group, LLC provides sophisticated advocacy for clients in probate courts throughout Connecticut.

We handle conservatorships, estate administrations, power of attorney disputes, trust disputes, will contests, and other probate court proceedings. We also handle appeals from probate courts to the Superior Court.

[www.probatecourtlegalhelp.com](http://www.probatecourtlegalhelp.com)



## Kirschbaum Law Group, LLC



**Damon Kirschbaum**  
Managing Attorney



**Anna-Liisa Nixon**  
Supervising Attorney

Call for a free telephone consultation with Damon Kirschbaum.

**Shelton**  
**(203) 944-9700**  
4 Research Drive, Suite 402

**Westport**  
**(203) 221-8300**  
8 Wright Street, 1st Floor

Kirschbaum Law Group, LLC represents people statewide with offices in Shelton, Westport, Stamford, Danbury, West Hartford, and Manchester.

## Collins Accepts GOP Nomination For 117th District



Republican Ray Collins received the endorsement from local party leaders May 16 to run for the open 117th District state House seat. Photo courtesy of the Collins campaign.

Republican delegates from Milford, Orange and West Haven came together at the Milford City Parsons Government Center on May 16 to unanimously endorse Ray Collins III as their candidate for state representative in the 117th District.

In his acceptance speech, Collins emphasized the value of community service and the need for immediate leadership to succeed outgoing state Rep. Charles Ferraro, a Republican who is not seeking another term.

“The residents of the 117th deserve a dedicated advocate, just as Representative Ferraro has been,” said Collins. “Our communities seek safety, tax relief and an education system that equips our children for a brighter future. Together, we can achieve these objectives.”

Collins has chaired the Police Commission in West Haven and served as vice chair of the Emergency Response Services Commission

in that city. He has also served eight years on the Board of Education.

“Ray possesses not only the requisite experience but also the ability to prioritize community needs over political agendas,” Ferraro said in endorsing Collins. “Community service runs deep in Ray’s family, with his father holding this seat for nearly two decades. Ray is intimately familiar with our communities, residents, businesses and their concerns. Let’s rally behind Ray and ensure his victory this November.”

In addition to his official capacities, Collins has coached youth sports and served as a trustee at the West Haven City Point Yacht Club.

Collins lives in the West Shore section of West Haven with his wife Mara. He is the father of Raymond Collins IV, his two stepdaughters Marina Amorim and Raquel Matias, and a grandfather of five.

## Expert To Discuss Tips For Managing Stress In Milford

Nationally-recognized stress expert Dr. Wendy Hurwitz will give a presentation at the Milford Public Library on Tuesday, June in which she will discuss 12 tips to manage stress.

Learn about anxiety and what you can do to help prevent and manage it. Everyone will come away with information, tools and techniques to help manage anxiety and help restore balance and calm.

Hurwitz is a graduate of Yale University

School of Medicine and a former medical researcher for ABC News. She is an expert in two fields: mind/body medicine and energy medicine. She has a forthcoming book on stress.

The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. It is free and open to the public; no registration is required. The Milford Public Library is located at 57 New Haven Ave. in Milford. For more information, call the library at 203-783-3290 or go to [milford-pl.libcal.com/event/12377654](http://milford-pl.libcal.com/event/12377654).

## We Regret The Error

A story on page 1 in the May 9, 2024 issue about Orange firefighters who participated in the Fight for Air fundraiser challenge misspelled the name of participating firefighter Scott Horwitz.

### Milford-Orange Times

Stephen Hechtman, Publisher: [publisher@theorangetimes.com](mailto:publisher@theorangetimes.com)  
Brandon T. Bisceglia, Editor-in-Chief: [editorinchief@theorangetimes.com](mailto:editorinchief@theorangetimes.com)  
Photographers: Steve Cooper • Lexi Crocco • Robert Creigh  
Intern: Isabel Birge

In The House: Rep. Mary Welander (D-114) Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117) Kathy Kennedy (R-119)  
Senator’s Seat: Sen. James Maroney  
Columnists:

Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This  
Cathy Bradley, Running  
Cyndi Consoli, Arts  
Steve Cooper, Food  
Rob Craft, Recovery  
Theresa Rose DeGray, Bankruptcy  
Carmela DeVito, Book Reviews  
Jody Dietch, ODTC  
Pat Dray, Gardening  
Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health

Ben Gettinger, Probate  
Patricia Houser, Environment  
Jennifer Ju, Facing Ourselves  
Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate  
Dominick Lombardi, ORTC  
Dan May, Rotary  
Marilyn May, Milford History  
Dennis Marsh, Orange Seniors  
Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances  
Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health

Michael Moses, Milford Chamber  
Liam Ohlmann, Orange Chamber  
Susan Oderwald, Senior Care  
Jennifer Paradis, Homelessness  
Trish Pearson, Insurance  
Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel  
Leonora Rodriguez, Milford Seniors  
PJ Shanley, Financial Planning  
Raymond Spaziani, Wine  
Michele Tenney, Wellness

The Milford-Orange Times is published by The Orange Times LLC, P.O. Box 584, Orange, CT, 06477  
Phone: 203.799.7500 Online: [www.milford-orangetimes.com](http://www.milford-orangetimes.com)  
Facebook: [@milfordorangetimes](https://www.facebook.com/milfordorangetimes) Instagram: [@theorangetimes](https://www.instagram.com/theorangetimes) Twitter: [@OrangeTimesCT](https://twitter.com/OrangeTimesCT)

# Opinion & Editorial

## Looking Back At The 2024 Session



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

With the 2024 legislative session adjourned, I am excited to reflect on many notable achievements that focused on tax relief, increased community safety, public health and government transparency.

First, based on the strong opposition from Connecticut residents, I believe that one of the most prominent successes was our work in shutting down the governor's electric vehicle mandate. After listening to my constituents, I worked to delay the ban on gas-powered vehicles because it worried middle- and working-class families about their financial future and consumer freedoms.

Similarly, resident concerns with affordability are at an all-time high as we navigate the effects of inflation, skyrocketing prices and high taxes. That's why I am proud to announce our efforts in securing two property tax relief bills, one supporting our disabled veterans (Public Act 24-46) and first-time homebuyers (House Bill 5167). Although our House Republican budget adjustments were unsuccessful, they also included necessary sales and gas tax relief.

Concerning public safety, I am proud to announce several legislative victories, most importantly the enactment of a Fallen Officer Fund (PA 24-27) which will distribute one-time payments to the families of officers who have died in the line of duty while offering them health care up to five years beyond the tragedy.

On a similar note, the legislature proudly passed "Broko's Bill," which requires restitution of anyone convicted of intentionally injuring or killing a police officer's K-9, following the death of State Police K-9 Broko last December.

I am grateful for the success of my personal proposal to increase access to existing nutrition programs offered to food insecure families and children across Connecticut (PA 24-82). Aside from this, we also made tremendous strides in promoting nursing home resident quality of life (PA 24-141), adopting a nursing licensure compact for nurse recruitment and retention (PA 24-83), and through expanding telehealth services for homebound patients (PA 24-110).

With increased calls for transparency and accountability following Bridgeport's election fraud case, we successfully passed a bill that requires the state attorney to prosecute elections-related crimes within a certain period of time (PA 24-135). Although our amendment to implement a minimum 12-month prison sentence for offenders of these crimes did not pass, we will continue to advocate for election integrity going forward.

Even though not all 500-plus bills slated this session were voted on, my Republican colleagues and I still began the conversation on many legislative solutions. These included eliminating pandemic-era absentee ballot drop boxes, defeating attempts to raise local property taxes and increased assessment rates, and implementing measures to shut down illegal cannabis shops.

Despite the legislative session ending on May 8, my door is always open to making your voice heard throughout the year. I encourage you to follow me on Facebook and to subscribe to my brief email updates at RepKennedy.com for updates on state and local issues. As always, please never hesitate to share your questions, ideas and concerns by emailing me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or by calling my office at 860-240-8700.

## Behind The Scenes



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

It all started about a year ago when I stopped by the Community Emergency Response Team tent at the Orange Country Fair. While talking with some of the team members, I happened to see a sign up for more information. Thinking of my husband's activities and interests I quickly jotted his name down and then continued on to enjoy the day.

I will admit that I forgot about that action...until my husband received a call from the Assistant Director of Emergency Services, Tino Russo, a few months later.

Tino: "Matt! There is a spot for you in the upcoming CERT training class if you're still interested."

Matt: "Thank you, Tino, but I have no idea what you are talking about. I didn't sign up."

Me: "Oh wait! That was me! I think you would really enjoy it!"

Matt: "Well, I guess I am interested."  
Everyone laughs.

All joking aside, Matt did take the course and really enjoyed it. He graduated with over a dozen other residents of Orange and other surrounding towns recently after a nine-week course. I shouldn't have been surprised, but it was eye-opening to me to see just how long and intensive the training was for this volunteer role, and the level of commitment from the experts and professionals who helped with instruction.

Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CERT was started in California in 1985. Orange's CERT is an organization that works to support local emergency services in times of crisis, like after hurricanes Sandy and Irene. The members also serve important roles in keeping the public safe at many community events. You have probably seen them in their neon yellow shirts at events at the community center, or helping with traffic and pedestrian safety at the haunted firehouse in the fall. Or perhaps they also helped you, as they did me, through the process of getting a COVID vaccine at the clinics held at High Plains Community Center just a few years ago.

There are so many ways that our community is made better and safer through training and responding efforts that most of us will never see. I said this the night of the CERT graduation, but I want to restate it now for a broader audience and direct it not just to CERT, but also to our first responders and all other organizations in Orange:

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives and away from your friends and families to put in the effort and time to support our town and the areas beyond. We may not see everything, but it is all so very much appreciated.

You can find more information about CERT and other ways to get involved in town at orange-ct.gov. As always, if I can be of help, please reach out to me at mary.welander@cga.ct.gov.

**MOT**  
Milford-Orange Times

## Legislative Session In Review



STATE REP. (R-117)  
CHARLES FERRARO

It was bittersweet at the state capitol on May 7 when I bid farewell to my legislative colleagues, capping my tenth and final session representing the great people of Milford, Orange and West Haven. It has truly been the honor of a lifetime serving you and while the final days of my last legislative session have brought much reflection, there is still work to do.

I want to provide an update on some of the major legislation that was passed – or came up short – in the recently-concluded session.

I was proud of the creation of the Fallen Officer Fund (PA 24-27), which establishes a fund to provide crucial financial support to families of fallen police officers. This fund will ensure that members who were covered by insurance of a fallen officer will continue to have health insurance coverage for up to five years, and \$100,000 will be provided to the surviving family members.

Additionally, I supported a bill (PA 24-16) which allows a chief of fire or police to designate a "line-of-duty" death up to 24 hours following the end of the fallen emergency worker's shift or training, provided that the death was due to a cardiac event, stroke or pulmonary embolism.

Many abusive relationships involve some form of economic abuse, with coerced debt being one of the possible tactics to gain and maintain control. I supported PA 24-77 to prohibit an individual from incurring a coerced debt against any one victim and strengthen the state's ability to determine whether a debt has been coerced.

To improve safety, under PA 24-39, home health care workers will now be required to wear an identification badge, and the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is required to implement a plan to expand statewide fingerprinting locations for licensing purposes. It expedites Medicaid enrollment authorization for seniors, making it easier to age in place and avoid unwanted nursing home stays. It also creates a nursing home database to enhance transparency while incentivizing nursing homes to improve care.

I have been a proud member of the Veterans Affairs Committee for many years. Working with and serving our veterans is a distinct honor to me. That's why I supported PA 24-46, which establishes a municipal property tax exemption for veterans with a service-connected permanent and total disability rating from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The exemption covers the entire value of either the veteran's primary residence or one state-registered motor vehicle.

The "short" session allows us an opportunity to amend the budget passed in the year prior and ensure that it still meets the moment for our state and its residents. Unfortunately, this year instead of making real investments in local education, we opted for financial gimmicks that skirt our fiscal guardrails. My House Republican colleagues and I supported a budget adjustment proposal that would fully fund local special education and strictly adhere to the fiscal safeguards which have created our surplus and paid down debt. The majority responded with a package of American Rescue Plan Act fund allocations that relies on one-time revenue and financial games. I was disappointed by this final product and hoped that we could have done more.

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

## Opportunities In AI Abound



STATE SEN. (D-14)  
JAMES MARONEY

No matter how you feel about it, there's no denying the age of artificial intelligence is upon us. Everywhere from ChatGPT to Midjourney, from OpenAI to music videos from your favorite artists, the technology's use is growing rapidly, and people are paying attention.

AI's prominence and prowess has especially important ramifications for the workplace. According to a report from Microsoft and LinkedIn, countless industries are adopting the technology in different ways, with use of generative AI doubling in late 2023 and early 2024 and nearly three quarters of global knowledge workers using it. That's not all; employees are calling for AI's increased use in many industries, whether the technology is supplied by an employer or used by staff members themselves. Users have said AI saves them time, inspires creativity and helps them enjoy their jobs more.

But AI can't just be thrown out there and expected to cause an immediate tech revolution. As many as three in five business leaders worry about making AI work for them, with a similar number of leaders worried their organizations don't have plans or visions for the technology's long-term use.

It's important to know what the technology's potential is. It's also vital to make sure AI can be implemented in a way everyone understands and can use to benefit them.

In Connecticut, leaders are focused on this issue, making sure AI is used for good and can be adopted in any number of industries. While legislation supporting AI unfortunately did not pass in the 2024 legislative session to become law, my colleagues and I are working to build the Connecticut Online AI Academy.

This organization would exist to collaborate with state nonprofits, building training classes that would allow citizens across the state to learn AI systems and develop new skills. For all of its controversial uses, AI can move health care, tech and education forward in new and valuable ways; it's with this understanding that the academy stands to create a positive difference statewide.

While the academy is under development, there are already opportunities available for people looking to jump into AI and machine learning across Connecticut. Middlesex Community College, part of the Connecticut State Community College system, offers an AI machine learning boot camp which is intended to provide hundreds of hours of education over six months to complete a detailed curriculum and join an industry with a median annual salary of more than \$125,000.

That's just the tip of the iceberg. For anyone looking to expand their skills and pursue this growing industry, Amazon offers courses to earn certificates in AI use, while Google has its AI Essentials courses and the Infosys Springboard offers to do just that for those who complete its training. In an industry needing new staff to meet growing demand, these courses present a real opportunity for career growth.

In coming months and years, we'll continue to learn more about AI and its continued rapid ascent. With opportunities and focus like this from business and government leaders, I'm looking forward to what's next.

## Insuring Your Future

# Tips For Using Insurance While Traveling

Summer is almost here and vacation season is upon us. Whether you are traveling in the US or abroad, there are a few things to remember about how your health insurance works when you are out of state.

The first thing to remember is that if you have an emergency or medical issue that requires immediate attention your insurance will cover you no matter where you are. However, how the bill is paid can vary greatly depending on the circumstances and location.

If you are traveling out of the area but within the US, most facilities such as walk-in clinics, emergency rooms or urgent care centers will accept your insurance. However, some insurance plans – especially HMOs – may require prior authorization before being seen. If possible, contact the member services department (the number is on the back of your insurance card) and explain the

situation. This can save time and aggravation when you reach the front desk.

The other option is to schedule a telehealth visit if it is a condition that can be diagnosed easily and a prescription written. However, if it is a true emergency, seek immediate attention and provide the insurance ID card. An emergency facility will not refuse care and the insurance will cover you.

When filling existing prescriptions while away, if your current pharmacy has a location near you simply contact your “home” pharmacy and request that the prescription be filled at that location. Often, you can save time by doing it online. It is much easier if you have the Rx number. If there is not a match with a local pharmacy, then you may have to have the provider call



TRISH PEARSON

in a prescription to the pharmacy near you.

The best way to protect against unexpected medical costs when out of the country is to purchase travel insurance. Depending on the length of the trip, the insurance is generally quite reasonable and will save time and aggravation. While US health insurance will usually cover you out of the country, the challenge is that the systems for paying claims in the US do not match with the billing

systems abroad. Many countries have national health systems, and they deal directly with those government agencies. Often, they do not want to deal with US insurance companies. (Can you blame them?) Instead they will require payment upfront and leave you to file for reimbursement. In addition,

there are currency issues; insurance companies don't usually pay in pesos or lira. Travel insurance is sold by travel agents as well as insurance brokers.

Insurance will generally cover immediate medical needs away from home. Once the patient is “stable,” the expectation is that they will return home for follow-up treatment. This is often a judgement call by the insurance company in consultation with the medical provider on site. To avoid an unhappy financial situation, check with member services once the patient is out of immediate danger before taking the next step.

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

## Your Health

# Stroke Prevention: Empowering Communities To Save Lives

It's essential to educate and remind ourselves and our communities about stroke prevention.

Strokes are one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide, yet many strokes can be prevented through lifestyle changes and proactive health measures.

A stroke occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. There are two main types of strokes: ischemic, caused by a blockage in an artery, and hemorrhagic, caused by a rupture in a blood vessel. “Mini stroke” or transient ischemic attack is caused by a temporary clot.

About one in two US adults has at least one of the conditions listed below. Several risk factors increase the likelihood of having a stroke. However, many are related to lifestyle factors that can be managed.

- The leading cause of strokes, high blood pressure can be controlled through balanced diet and regular exercise as well as medications.
- Smoking significantly increases the risk

of stroke. Quitting smoking reduces this risk over time.

- Proper management of diabetes through diet, exercise, and medication can help reduce your risk of getting stroke.

- High levels of cholesterol can lead to artery blockages. A healthy diet and regular exercise as well as medications can help manage cholesterol levels.

- Obesity can increase stroke risk. Maintaining a healthy weight through a balanced diet and regular physical activity is crucial.

- Sedentary lifestyle is another risk. Maintaining a regular physical activity can help lower blood pressure, improve cholesterol levels, and maintain a healthy weight.

Taking proactive steps to reduce stroke risk involves making healthier lifestyle choices.

- Adopt a balanced diet. Emphasize fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and low-fat dairy. Reduce intake of salt, saturat-



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

ed fats and sugars.

- Exercise regularly. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity each week. Even brisk walking is effective.

- Avoid smoking and alcohol. If you smoke, seek help to quit. Limit alcohol consumption as there are no nutritional benefits.

- Manage your stress. Chronic stress can contribute to high blood pressure and other health issues. Practice stress-reducing techniques such as mindfulness, yoga or deep breathing exercises.

Recognizing the signs of a stroke and seeking immediate medical attention can save lives and improve recovery outcomes. Remember the acronym FAST:

- Face drooping: One side of the face droops or feels numb. Ask the person to smile and if the smile is uneven, check for other signs.
- Arm weakness: One arm feels weak or

numb. Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

- Speech difficulty: Speech is slurred or strange, or the person is unable to speak or understand. Ask them to repeat a simple sentence.

- Time to call 911: If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if they go away, call 911 immediately. Time is critical.

Stroke prevention is not just an individual effort; it's a community initiative. Sharing personal stories and experiences can also motivate others to take their health seriously.

By participating in stroke awareness, we can all contribute to reducing the incidence of strokes in our communities. Let's spread the word, support one another and take action toward a healthier future. Remember, prevention is the best cure, and together we can make a significant impact.

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

**Bring Us Your Pain.**

**Awarding-winning Physical Therapy Pediatrics to Geriatrics.**

**Locations:**  
Woodbridge  
Branford  
Hamden  
Milford

203.693.2350 **Amity** PHYSICAL THERAPY  
135 Cherry St Milford

amitypt.com

**We Provide Reliable Homecare Assistance**  
Home Care Aides - Companions - Homemakers

**203-777-1234**  
Serving Woodbridge, Orange, Milford and Greater New Haven

*Aides & Companions*

Aides & Companions Provides Non-medical Care  
CT Reg HCA 0000807 - Bonded - Insured

### The Garden Spot

## Rewilding Your Property

You may have recently heard about a new trend in landscaping called rewilding. I didn't know that what I've been doing in my backyard had a name, but in landscaping it refers to the intentional practice of restoring native plants in urban, suburban and rural landscapes.

It's essentially about allowing a non-wild area to return to its natural state, no matter how big or small that space may be, creating a habitat that will support biodiversity. A few years ago, an old white oak on our property line fell during a winter storm and my neighbor offered to remove it. But I decided it would be the start of a great habitat for some bugs and pollinators. This is a perfect example of what some would call laziness but is in fact rewilding.

Here in the US we certainly love our lawns. Turf grasses cover an area roughly the size of Florida at a tremendous environmental and economic cost. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, to keep weeds and insects at bay, homeowners dumped around 59 million pounds of pesticides and herbicides onto their residential landscapes in 2012. Those little yellow signs telling you to keep off indicate the toxicity of these products.

Rewilding your property involves reducing turf, encouraging beneficial insects, reducing herbicide and pesticide use, pruning less and planting more native plants. By do-



PAT DRAY

ing this, you encourage biodiversity, reduce your carbon footprint, improve soil health and save time and money. If you're interested in rewilding your own garden, consider these steps.

One of the easiest things to do is to continually expand your existing beds. Plant natives that support local wildlife. I love to use some native "creepers" like creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*) or cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) at the edges of the beds – as they move into the turf, I let them go. Remember not to "over tidy" the beds – leave the insects in the debris so the pollinators can have a good meal.

You can also create areas of interest and create privacy screening using native grasses. One that will grow in pretty much any environment is Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). It grows in clumps that reach heights of four to six feet and has nice color changes throughout the fall. I like to leave the grass up until mid-spring to provide some winter habitat.

Even small-scale rewilding efforts can make a significant impact on local ecosystems and contribute to a healthier planet. To learn more about native plants of Connecticut, visit [nativelandscapingsmallpdf.pdf](http://nativelandscapingsmallpdf.pdf) (ct.gov).

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

### Book Reviews

## The Incredible Winston Browne By Sean Dietrich

People come into our lives for a variety of reasons. For Sheriff Winston Browne the appearance of a young runaway child was a game changer.

Browne is part of a group of Moab Floridians devoted to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Daily schedules are adjusted whenever there is a game on the radio. Debates ensue when the game is over, and the results are discussed and analyzed ad infinitum.

That Browne is dying is made clear in the first sentence of the book. He does his best to hide the truth from the town's citizens and his friends. He makes the decision not to wallow in self-pity and enjoy whatever time he has left.

Meanwhile, young Jessie is being forced

to leave her religious community for unknown (at this point) reasons. When she is frightened by an unexpected event, she flees her caretakers and walks to Moab from Pensacola.

Jessie's sudden and unexpected presence in the town shakes up the Moab residents. Browne and his deputy attempt to find out where Jessie came from and who her parents are; however, their search is unsuccessful.

Jessie is taken in by Eleanor, a gentle soul and expert pie-maker who tries to be a stabilizing influence in her life. Slowly, Jessie begins to open up to both Browne



CARMELA DEVITO

and Eleanor. The bond she eventually develops with both of them is solid and unbreakable.

Eventually, though, Jessie's birth mother, Ada, tracks her down and the truth of why she orchestrated Jessie's leaving the community is revealed.

Browne is a much-loved and much-respected figure in Moab. When the fact of his impending death is revealed, and knowing what a die-hard Dodgers fan he is, the town concocts a plan that left tears in the eyes of this lifelong die-hard Yankees fan.

The book wraps up nicely with a look

at the lives of the major characters in the years following Browne's passing. Incredible is indeed the word to describe Winston Browne, not just because of his commitment to always doing the right thing but the impact he has on the community.

This book is full of love, laughter and warmth. Have tissues ready as you may need them. I guarantee you'll remember this beauty for a long time.

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



# Woodland Tree Works

- Four CT Licensed Arborists
- Two ISA Certified Arborists
- ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor
- 76' tall track lift - Fits through 40" gate
- 80% of cutting is done with eco friendly & quiet battery chainsaws.

---

Removal • Pruning • Tree Risk Assessment  
• Root Remediation • Portable Sawmill

## Serving Orange/Milford for 20 years





Website



Youtube

203-606-7835  
203-228-1795



mail@woodlandtreeworks.com  
www.woodlandtreeworks.com

Contact us Today!!

# 1950s Paperboys Were On A Route To Responsibility

By Marilyn May

*Wanted: Someone to work seven days a week, early morning hours and most afternoons, work during heat waves, hurricanes and blizzards, no sick days, no vacation time, no overtime. Must have ability to carry heavy loads, sales territory may cover miles, must supply own transportation.*

How many young teenage boys today would jump at a chance to do that job?

For the newspaper boys of the 1950s, however, that job was the route to responsibility.

Ask a man in his 70s or 80s if he ever had a paper route. He smiles, tips his head back, and looks off in the distance as if he could see himself decades ago on his bike as he delivered newspapers. Then his mind comes back to 2024 and says something like, "Those were good days."

Being a newspaper boy in your young teens meant you were earning your own money. You could spend it or save it. If you bought a 5-cent pack of baseball cards, you might have scored and gotten a Mickey Mantle card. Today, certain Mantle cards are sold to wholesalers for big money – some for very big money. Early card companies knew everyone wanted a Mantle card, so they deliberately printed very few. That meant you had to keep buying packs of cards with those pieces of the pink, dried-out bubble gum that tasted like cardboard. (Check out a Mantle card on a computer and see how much money Mic's cards are worth today.)

Now, back to newspaper boys.

If you saved your earnings, you learned how to manage money at an early age, and that really paid off in later life. Most Saturdays meant going over your route collecting from customers for papers delivered the previous week. You knew the value of money and the good feeling of getting tips when your customers said, "Keep the change," and you always said, "Thank you." The tip was probably just a few coins, less than 25 cents, but it was yours.

You learned about keeping good records, listing who paid and who owed. You got to know almost all your neighbors by name. How many boys of today know almost all the people on their street or block or in their condo complex? Young girls had paper routes too, but most of the carriers were

boys.

Lori Field, a lifelong resident of Milford who lived on Darina Place, started with 12 newspapers and in three years had 95 customers. He recalled that he paid for his school lunches and bought some clothes he wanted. He delivered the Bridgeport Telegram and the New Haven Journal-Courier in the morning and the Bridgeport Post in the afternoon for five years.

If he happened to have one or two papers left, he stood outside the downtown A & P supermarket or Milford Hospital and did not go home until all were sold.

His diligence paid off when he won the trip of a lifetime. Field was selected to go on a 12-day, all-expense paid trip to Spain and Portugal. Imagine what that felt like to a kid who had struggled out of bed most mornings at 6 a.m., finished his paper route in time for school, and after school did an afternoon route.

He won the trip by entering "The Columbus Contest" that was sponsored by Parade Magazine, a national supplement to many Sunday papers. The Post Publishing Company selected Field out of 100 other news carriers to compete for the prize. Other newspapers in Connecticut championed their newsboys as well, but within a few weeks the number was down to five state finalists. Interviews were not usually part of the competition, but this was going to be a hard choice, so judges interviewed each boy. Field won, and his win was especially impressive considering he was in the final five the two previous years.

After a whirlwind trip with 80 Columbus Contest winners from across America and with a mind filled with everlasting memories, he was back at home. All too soon, his alarm clock went off at 6 a.m., and he got back on his bike to deliver papers that had stories about his trip in Europe.

Field learned about time management long before that was ever talked about. He played the trumpet, tuba and French horn and was in the Police Cadet Drum & Bugle Corps and the Milford High School orchestra. He studied the accordion for nine years, and along with his teacher he entertained people in convalescent homes. He earned varsity letters while competing on the Milford High School track team and the swim team and excelled in diving. He participated

in a Presbyterian youth group and DeMolay, the young man's version of the Masons. Field also got good grades and earned a perfect attendance certificate while in high school.

When a boy had a paper route, it meant the whole family had a paper route.

"We had an old Ford station wagon and the back door folded down flat," he said. In snowstorms, "my father drove the car about five miles an hour. I sat on the open back door and jumped off at each house. Can you imagine doing that today?"

Danny Moger, another Milford resident, was a paperboy who had a different way of beating harsh weather.

"There were days in the winter when there was so much snow that I put the papers on my sled and walked the route," he said, remembering trudging around his Gulf Street neighborhood and beyond. "I can recall two March snowstorms about a week apart that each dumped about 12 to 15 inches of snow."

Moger delivered the New Haven Register seven days a week, and sometimes his route included the New Haven Journal-Courier six mornings a week from 1954 to 1959.

"When I was playing sports at Milford Prep I would have to do the route as quickly as possible. If my team had an away game, my mother and sister would take over," he said. He practically earned enough junior varsity and varsity sports letters to make a quilt.

"I opened a savings account at First Federal early on," he said. "I learned to save money. It gave me a sense of what money saved and invested could do," he said.

In his college years, he earned a degree in business administration and then spent two years doing investment research with Merrill Lynch brokers in Manhattan. Then he came back to Connecticut and worked as a broker with various firms in New Haven for the next 38 years.

When a paperboy wanted to give up a route, he could sell it to a younger boy for maybe \$10, but routes were never sold in December.

"Christmas tips usually ran about \$1 or sometimes \$2," Moger recalled.

Each carrier remembers their customers' delivery requests, such as putting the paper under the doormat, inside the screen door

or rolled up to fit on loops under mailboxes. Some houses had a porch box especially for newspapers, and if there was a mail slot in the front door and the newspapers had few pages, it could slip through the slot.

On collection days, some customers had "secret" plans. They left the money they owed in places known only to the newsboy: under an upside-down, empty clay flowerpot or in a sealed envelope in some designated spot on the porch. One carrier was allowed to open the unlocked front door, step in, and take the money off a table in the front room. (Imagine that kind of trust today.) All these clandestine pickups meant the carrier could collect quickly and be on his way. However, it also meant that those particular customers left, to the penny, exactly the change for what they owed.

Harlan Gage was another who had a route of 50 to 60 customers for five years in the late 1950s and early 1960s. His territory was his Pond Street neighborhood and beyond.

"I recently dreamt that I was out collecting for the papers, but I couldn't find my customer payment list. That was a dream about (the route) 60 years ago," he said.

At various times he delivered the New Haven Journal-Courier, the Bridgeport Post and the New Haven Register.

"Delivering the papers by bicycle was both challenging and fun. I would double fold the papers...place them in canvas carrying bags, one for the Post and the other for the Register. I had the bag straps crisscrossed, one over each shoulder, and I'd be on my way," he recalled. "The heavy bags made it tough riding until the load was gradually reduced."

For Gage, collecting coins from his customers had an extra benefit. "I was into coin collecting, so the route provided a weekly supply of change to look through. Silver coins were still in circulation. It was a great time for collecting coins," he said.

He also has a memory of a very tragic time. "A day that stands out is Nov. 22, 1963, the day of President Kennedy's assassination. I still have a copy of the Register that I put aside."

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

## Mental Health

# The Use Of Peer Support In Recovery

The use of peer support in mental health treatment dates back to the 18th century at the Bicetre Hospital in Paris, where recovered patients were employed to provide "gentle, honest and humane" care as described by Chief Physician Phillipe Pinel. The movement did not become more widespread until later in the 19th and 20th centuries, when patients of the psychiatric system began to share their stories and experiences with the public.

These stories started to gain the most traction in the mid-1960s and early 70s, when institutions were closing down and displacing patients with minimal community support. Peers became advocates with the goals to break down the stigma associated with mental illness and improve the behavioral health system.

There are a number of leaders of the peer movement from the early 60s and 70s that

not only shaped mental health advocacy but also reinforced the need to reform services. Later, the evolution of peer support led to it being seen as an alternative to traditional care by offering the nonjudgmental exchange of shared experiences through self-help groups and one-on-one dialogue.

Howard Geld, otherwise known as Howie the Harp, was a leader of the peer movement in the 90s who founded drop-in centers for the homeless and mentally ill as well as the HTH Advocacy Center that provides training in peer support. By the early 2000s, Steve Harrington, founding member of the National Association of Peer Specialists, helped to develop guidelines and best practices that would be adopted in organizations across the country called National Practice



JENNIFER FIORILLO

Guidelines for Peer Supporters. As of 2018, there were 45 states developing or offering programs for the training and certification of peer specialists.

A review of programs and services from a paper published by Mental Health America in 2019 highlights the benefits and outcomes of peer support in recovery. Data from outcomes of the peer bridge model created by the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Services showed a 47.9 percent decrease in the number of patients who use inpatient services as well as a 62.5 percent decrease in the number of inpatient days.

A wealth of additional data exists to illustrate the impact of peer support on inpatient hospitalizations and the cost of care. There

is also data showing increased rates of engagement among consumers who received peer-based services and reports of more connections to community resources, increases in self-advocacy, increased satisfaction with treatment and increases in service retention.

The evolution of peer support in recovery has led to a recognition that it is an important component of mental health and substance use treatment. Peers participate as valuable members of multidisciplinary teams to act as advocates, sounding boards, connection to resources and support to individuals and their families. Peer-based work not only supports the health care workforce but also offers meaningful employment opportunities that support recovery.

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

**Advertise In The Milford-Orange Times. Call us at 799-7500.**



**Milford Senior Center**

# Life At The Milford Senior Center Is Only The Beginning

The “third age” is a period of life typically marked by increased leisure time, a focus on personal fulfillment and a desire to stay active and engaged. This timeframe, between the ages of 60 and 90, presents a unique opportunity for individuals to explore new possibilities. Senior centers, far from the stereotypical image of bingo and card games, play a vital role in supporting individuals during this transition by fostering connections with others and providing opportunities for purpose and well-being.

The Milford Senior Center stands as proof of this transformative time. On any given day, the hallways and rooms buzz with activity, filled with individuals participating in diverse programs and activities. Whether it’s the energetic music of a popular fitness class, the creative expression in an art class or the camaraderie of volunteers, the center reflects the dynamic interests and engagement of today’s older adults.

As a gerontologist, specifically one who focuses on the social aspects of aging, I know the benefits of social interaction extend far

and wide at the center. Like many senior centers, the Milford Senior Center provides valuable resources and assistance through its social services department, offering support and guidance to navigate the challenges of aging. Additionally, the center offers discounted lunches and free local transportation to its members, demonstrating its commitment to promoting accessibility and well-being for all.

The center provides a welcoming space for older adults to socialize, build friendships and combat the loneliness and isolation that can often accompany aging. Shared interests connect others with like passions and hobbies. Events, such as our recent Luau Party, further foster a sense of belonging and connection, all while creating a supportive network for older adults to maintain independence.

Maintaining good health is at the forefront of many of our hosted educational workshops and presentations. These opportuni-



**LEONORA RODRIGUEZ**

ties for continuous learning and personal growth keep individuals engaged and stimulated. For members who prefer to engage in quieter activities, the center offers a reading and puzzle room. For those who prefer inspiring activities, the center offers two writing groups and two language learning groups.

The center will offer its members opportunities to enjoy live music and dancing in June during “Musical Moments,”

our first summer celebration of the year featuring the Over Easy Band and the Milford Concert Band, Milford’s official city band.

There will also be opportunities for educational workshops featuring an online safety workshop, aging well with your pets, pressed flower lanterns and a heishi bead bracelets workshop.

Support our talented members during their bi-annual Wordsmith Publishing Party on June 26 at 1 p.m. The party is open to

the public. All guests will receive a copy of the 2024 edition of the Collected Wordsmith Stories.

The Milford Senior Center stands as a shining example in Connecticut of how senior centers can empower older adults to thrive during this enriching and fulfilling stage of life. By fostering connection, promoting well-being, and providing opportunities for purpose, the center plays a crucial role in ensuring that individuals can embrace the possibilities.

Milford residents who are 55 and older may become members and enjoy the benefits of a center that serves the specialized needs of Milford’s senior population. Those who are non-residents of Milford may call to place their name on the non-resident waitlist. Annual membership is currently \$15 for Milford residents.

*Leonora C. Rodriguez is executive director of the Milford Senior Center. The center can be reached at milfordctseniorcenter.com or 203-877-5131.*

**Orange Senior Center**

# The Value Of Adult Day Care

When I worked in the senior insurance industry, I had a service call with a client and his wife. When I got to their house at 9 a.m., I found the husband cooking a big pot of spaghetti sauce on the stove. The aroma even that early was delicious; I could taste the pasta through its smell.

I asked my client where his wife was. He explained to me that the van for the adult day center had just picked her up. He continued to say that before he enrolled her in adult day care he felt like a tiger in a cage, pacing back and forth, always looking for a way to get out. Finally, after several years of caring for his wife, watching her dementia become worse, he found his way out of the cage. A friend suggested a valuable, though not well-known service called adult day care.

This client had promised his wife he would not send her to a nursing home. But the stress of the last several years, the daily rigors of 24-hour caregiving, the arguing that ensued from being trapped in the same house

every day was becoming too much. He feared he would not be able to keep his promise. He became desperate and reluctantly began to look at other options, hoping there was some relief from the prison they were both in.

My client said at first he was nervous to allow someone unfamiliar to care for his wife. He worried whether they could do as good a job as him; if she would be watched and kept from wandering away from the center, get a good nutritious meal, have things to do.

He had a few representatives from the local adult day centers come to visit him at his house. He learned that some centers serve breakfast, a full nutritious lunch and several healthy snacks throughout the day. He learned there were arts and crafts, a daily exercise program, music and bingo, and a nurse on site who would check her blood pressure



**DENNIS MARSH**

and help to monitor her diabetes. He also learned the doors to the adult day centers have special alarmed handles, and the participants are constantly supervised to prevent anyone from wandering away.

He decided to try it for a few days. The van picked her up and brought her back. He called to check on how she was doing and even stopped by to see what was going on.

“I don’t know if it is the same for everyone, but after six months my wife was doing better than she had been in the last five years,” he said, adding that his wife looks forward to her days at the center. “The days when she is home are much better too. We like each other again.”

When he is finished with the cooking for the week, he will pay the bills, then have his friends over to play cards. He told me that

this respite has cured his burnout. He told me his wife enjoys the time she spends with other people as well – and sometimes she needs time away from him too.

My client also explained that the long-term care insurance he had bought before he retired was paying for the adult day care center. Not all long-term care policies will pay for adult day care; it depends on the policy. If eligible, the home care program for elders may pay for the service. Many facilities offer services on a sliding fee scale, meaning that what you pay is based on your income and ability to pay.

If you think an adult day center might be a program for you, you could look up some local ones with a simple Google search or call your local senior center for assistance.

*Dennis Marsh is director of the Orange Senior Center. The center can be reached at orange-ct.gov/783/Orange-Senior-Center or 203-891-4789.*

## Recycling Tip: Glass Recycling Is Coming To The Orange Transfer Station

By Susan Wineland

The Orange Transfer Station and Recycling Center will soon have a glass recycling bin for all food-grade glass such as jars and bottles. Orange joins some of its neighboring towns and many across the state that are collecting glass separately at their transfer stations. A bin just for glass will be located next to the plastic bag shed.

The glass goes directly to local recycler Urban Mining CT, which began operating a first-of-its-kind waste glass processing facility in Beacon Falls in 2020. The plant can

take up to 100,000 tons of waste glass annually, which is milled into a fine powder and then turned into a product called Pozzotive that creates stronger, longer-lasting concrete. The success of this enterprise relies on a readily available supply of waste glass.

Urban Mining has developed a new product that takes glass – a material that can be difficult and expensive to recycle – and turns it into a safer, more effective, and more sustainable carbon cement replacement.

Urban Mining says the environmental benefits of using recycled glass as a pozzolan (a class of materials used in concrete) are

huge. Glass is made from readily-available domestic materials, such as sand, soda ash, limestone and “cullet,” the industry term for furnace-ready recycled glass. Recycled glass can be substituted for up to 95 percent of raw materials and is always needed because glass manufacturers require high-quality recycled container glass to meet market demands for new glass containers or new products such as Pozzotive. From a recycling perspective, glass collection is an effective solution for glass that often ends up thrown onto the sides of roadways or in landfills. Urban Mining’s Pozzotive is a safer, more sustainable material that dramatically reduces

CO2 emissions by using a much less energy-intensive process than cement. Pozzolan also contains no crystalline silica, heavy metals or known carcinogens, making it a non-toxic material.

Separate glass recycling keeps glass out of the trash and from potentially contaminating other recyclables. Glass fragments can embed themselves into more valuable recyclables, like cardboard and paper, and paper recyclers won’t accept glass contamination in their fiber. Broken glass is also very hard on the

equipment at recycling facilities.

Orange will save valuable tax dollars, as this program will be less expensive than paying for the cost of transporting single stream mixed recyclables.

As with all recycling, it’s important to follow the instructions to recycle acceptable glass items. Contamination of the glass container bin with unacceptable items may cost your town contamination fees. In order to recycle the glass at its highest value, recycle only unbroken beverage and food containers and jars, condiment bottles, and wine and liquor bottles.

Glass is designated recyclable by state law. Glass should not be disposed of in the trash. Redeemable bottles should be returned for their deposit value or at a local donation center that collects redeemable bottles for a local charity. However, unredeemed soda, beer and juice glass bottles are also accepted.

Unacceptable items will contaminate the entire truckload and may cause rejection of the entire load. Unacceptable items include mirrors, drinking glasses, ceramic cups/plates, crystal and lightbulbs.

Spread the word about the benefits of glass recycling as an important end market for glass. This is recycling at its best: less waste and weight in the landfills, less contamination of the blue bins and local reuse.

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

**BuyingOrSellingYourHouse.com**

**LEHRER HOME SALES**



Here's To Your Health

Injuries And Fixing Weak Links

When you're injured, the typical response is ice, rest and Advil. However, progressive strength training should be what the doctor orders instead.

I recently suffered a pretty severe injury to my spine. Even though I had completed 12 weeks of a strength training program and added 1.3 pounds of muscle to my body, overuse and stress sent my pelvis one way and my sacrum another.

I was discouraged at first because I had just completed this program and got myself in very good shape. Now I was barely able to move.

My chiropractor suggested two books for me to read. "Built from Broken" is my favorite of the two. One of the reasons I love working in the fitness industry is because you are constantly learning and evolving. I

am learning so much from this book that really goes against the grain of traditional treatments for injuries. One of the most important is not rest - it's exercise.

Inflammation isn't necessarily good or bad. At its worst it is necessary to deliver oxygen and nutrients to injured tissues and organs. But inflammation is only a symptom, not a cause.

There is a difference between acute inflammation and chronic inflammation. Acute inflammation is necessary for healing, while chronic inflammation can be detrimental to your health.

The pain going on in my back wasn't due to inflammation; the inflammation was a response due to my sacrum and pelvis being out of alignment. I needed to resolve my issues and learn how to prevent them. When we are hurt or in pain our first response is not to do anything to exacerbate the pain, when the truth is we need to slowly work out the pain and discomfort by moving and with exercise - most importantly strength training.



MICHELE TENNEY

There are five primary causes of joint pain and dysfunction: posture, movement quality and variation, muscle imbalances, tendinopathy and arthritis, aging and collagen deterioration. Strength training is the most valuable exercise you can do to prevent such things.

Strength training is.

Building muscle in your 30s, 40s and 50s is incredibly smart, but continuing beyond is even smarter because it can prolong your life. Do you remember Jack LaLane? Almost up until the day he died he worked out two hours every day. He should still be the example for us all today.

We have to be doing some form of exer-

cise every day to prolong our lives. Walking is one of the best forms of exercise and we really should do it often. I am part of a group on Facebook that encourages each other for 10,000 steps a day. The accountability aspect helps me tremendously in my recovery process, and it's nice to know I'm not alone trying to get all those steps in.

Of course, good nutrition, sleep and hydration have to go along with all of this and will help aid in a quicker recovery from injuries.

You have to be intentional about your health - spirit, soul and body. I am in this with you. I'm not immune to injury or poor health. You can do this. I believe in you. You just need to believe in yourself too. 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 Hmgb3@gmail.com.

Pop Shop Market Coming Back To Milford For Juneteenth

Pop Shop Market will return to the Milford Green on June 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The market, launched in 2012, will include clothing, jewelry, home goods and self-care items.

This year's event will coincide with the fifth annual Milford Juneteenth Festival, a day dedicated to celebrating the art, culture and individuality of African Americans.

"We are excited to be part of this special day, celebrating diversity and individuality alongside the Milford Juneteenth Festival," said Ashley Daley, founder of Pop Shop Market. "Our vendors are passionate about their crafts, and we believe this event will provide an exceptional shopping experience while supporting small businesses and independent artisans."

Orange 'Big Brother' Featured

Mekhi McCotter, from New Haven, was profiled recently on the popular "Great Kids" feature, which runs every Tuesday on the 4:30 p.m. edition of WFSB-TV's Eyewitness News Program. McCotter earned the spotlight for his achievements as a Little Brother (mentee) in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut community-based youth mentoring program. His Big Brother (mentor) in the program, Alex Beck, from Orange, was featured with

McCotter in the segment. The two have been matched for more than 10 years. McCotter is a 2023 graduate of Eli Whitney Technical High School in Hamden. He's currently a private first class in the US Army Reserve, where he serves as a patient administration specialist. Beck is assistant state's attorney for the Ansonia/Milford Judicial District. He's also a longtime member of the board of directors at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut.

Advertisement for LTKE Law, Lynch, Traub, Keefe & Errante, Connecticut Trial Lawyers. Includes a group photo of the law firm and a list of services such as Personal Injury, Criminal Defense, Medical Malpractice, Family Law, and Worker's Compensation. Contact number: (203) 333-3333.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

# Approaching Retirement – What’s The Plan?

Wondering how to use your resources best in order to live out the rest of your life enjoyably and economically? All of the concerns are right in front of you. From finances to taxes, the process of how to live after your job is over is one that can be satisfying with minimal stress. This is the time when you want to relax and enjoy life.

Realistic expectations can be presented to you with the assistance of a professional realtor. So many of the questions of what’s in the future can be answered with practical numbers. Now couple that with a lifetime wish to own maybe two homes, one down south and one up here, and perhaps you can do it all.

If you would like to purchase something first, you will definitely need to arrange financing. In other words, for a time you will have the expenses of two properties: the one you are selling and the one you are buying. There are advantages to choosing your new home first, such as the timing when you see

something that you love and can jump on, competing with other offers from people who may have to sell to buy. Without a Hubbard contingency (which makes the purchase dependent on the buyer’s ability to sell their existing home), you are more apt to secure the deal.

In the event that you have a low or no mortgage on your home you can get an equity line of credit. This is temporary and a little pricey, but as soon as you sell your home you will pay it off. This will get you a generous down payment, so with that and savings you can close on the new property before you even market your home.

Always set up the financing ahead of looking; you will be too rushed if you already see something you like. What you like, other potential buyers like also. If you will stay in your new home for over 10 years then another



BARBARA LEHRER

er option is a reverse mortgage. It’s also a little expensive but a good option to research.

Check with your attorney for information on reverse and equity line loans and then check with your accountant on costs for the taxes as you close on your current home. The increase in value on properties makes for higher prices. Therefore, the gap between what you paid years ago to now will be large. Capital gains exclusions include large expenses you have invested in the home over the years. It is important that you have good receipts to show the work paid for. These will reduce your tax expenses.

Baby Boomers seem to be looking for the next home for their lifestyle. Living longer and retiring is a good combination. Are you ready for the next stage in life? Picking a strategy that is right for you means first get-

ting exposure to all the options. Your realtor is a good place to begin.

How much is your home worth? Can you afford to move? Aging in place in your forever home is a cool goal. Preparing for it up front eliminates stress and surprises. Get advice from your legal assistant to explain things like reverse loan commitments and tax advice to let you know what a solid qualifying improvement is so you do not trigger substantial federal income tax costs.

Last, structure the ownership of your purchase with an attorney. Perhaps putting the home in a trust will have significant benefits in the future. You are retired. You have plenty of time to do these things now, finally. Look around you; ask your friends. It’s happening everywhere and people are very pleased with their efforts.

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

## Orange POCD

### (Continued From 1)

Another thing that Desai said distinguished his firm was that they identify top community priorities that should be highlighted in the eventual POCD.

“You had given us in the first page of the request for proposals a number of topics – affordable housing, open space assessment, traffic, storm water treatment. We want to see how these align with the community priorities,” he said.

Madden, of BFJ, was formerly the economic director for Stamford. His organization has worked with area

municipalities, including Newtown, Wilton and Meriden. He said BFJ sees the POCD as more than just a document “that sits on a shelf,” adding that the company would look to work with Orange on the implementation of the ideas that are eventually adopted.

Madden said they would be sure to work with the various town departments to find out what their capabilities and limitations actually are.

“We’ve been across certain comprehensive plans that say, ‘Yeah, we would like to do x,’ and the departments go, ‘I can’t do x.’ And so we want to be making sure that everything is achievable within the plan itself,” he said.

Lawlor, of Colliers, opened her team’s presentation by saying that her company has people involved with expertise in almost every area of planning, design and engineering.

She described one feature of the engagement process that they would offer as an online interactive map of the town where residents would be free to mark individual spots with comments and ideas.

“They literally go into the program, they drop a pin,” she said, “and it opens up a sticky note that you write your comment on. So you could say, ‘At this corner there’s this that needs to be done,’ or ‘We’d love to see this.’”

Lawlor also talked about the possibility of creating a design guidebook or “palette” for the town that laid out expectations about the types of colors and materials they would like to use.

“Create something much more visual so people understand what the town wants in terms of the visual appearance, the character of the community,” she said.

The TPZC did not come to a decision on which company to use at the meeting. Regardless of the choice, the process of creating a new POCD is expected to continue well into 2025, with multiple opportunities for public participation as it is crafted.

## COURTYARD<sup>™</sup>

BY MARRIOTT



**“STAY CATION”**

**We host parties, events, receptions, business meetings & more!**

**Courtyard by Marriott New Haven - Orange - Milford**  
 136 Marsh Hill Rd,  
 Orange CT 06477  
 203-799-2200





## HOMewood

### SUITES by Hilton<sup>™</sup>



**Enjoy time for yourself and your family with our wonderful hotels at great prices!**

**Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange - New Haven**  
 99 Marsh Hill Rd,  
 Orange CT  
 203-553-9148





# Orange Republican Town Committee

## The Patriotic Spirit

I begin my column this issue with a solemn reflection that every American undertakes in the last week of May. While many of us enjoyed our extra day off from work and school, spending time with friends and family, opening pools, playing golf or fishing (my favorite pastime this time of year), we must pause to reflect on why.

Why do we get a long weekend off from school and work? Why do we have a beautiful parade marked with stars and stripes down Orange Center Road? Why do we see people flying their flags especially proudly this time of year?

The reason is the 1.2 million brave men and women who gave their lives so we can enjoy not only this holiday weekend but all the others. These courageous individuals, some even

younger than the age permissible to serve, were filled with such patriotism and gumption to defend the 50 stars and 13 stripes and all the values and rights that our glorious flag represents. They knowingly gave their lives for us to be free.

It is my hope that as the hotdogs and hamburgers were grilled and the pools were opened, you and your family took a minute to recognize Memorial Day is not just a day of remembrance, but a solemn reminder of the cost of our freedoms. It is a time to honor the brave souls who sacrificed everything so we could live in liberty, and to reflect on our duty to preserve the values they fought to defend.



DOMINICK LOMBARDI

In a similar spirit, I have a call to action for our younger patriotic members of the community. Recently, the Republican Town Committee launched a new initiative to grow our party and usher in the next generation of Orange Republicans. Under my direction, we established the Orange Republican Youth Advisory Coalition. This initiative is already yielding tremendous results, engaging the next generation and providing our conservative youth with an environment to grow and develop as young conservatives.

We aim to expand this opportunity beyond the young family members of the RTC to the

entire town of Orange. If you know a young conservative looking for a place to grow, learn leadership skills, meet like-minded Republicans and gain a voice in Orange politics, I highly recommend visiting our ORTC website, [orangerepublicans.com](http://orangerepublicans.com). Sign up using the Google link provided.

The Republican Party of Orange is the party for the next generation of Orange residents. We are committed to fostering the next wave of leaders who will uphold our values and guide our community into the future. Join us in this exciting journey and be part of a vibrant, forward-thinking movement.

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

### Travel Matters

## The 24-Hour Adventure

Let's say your travel advisor sets you up with the vacation of a lifetime, and you want to do your own airfare because you have points. You search your favorite airline and find your best option is tied into an extended layover.

Here's what we did: we made an adventure of it by extending it for another day.

We were flying Royal Air Maroc from New York to Bordeaux for a river cruise, and there was no direct flight. On first glance, the best return flight had a seven-hour layover in Casablanca. Too long in the airport, but not enough time to explore. So we decided to book another flight with a 24-hour layover and create a "mini-dream vacation."

We booked a boutique hotel in town and made reservations for dinner at Rick's Club. Bogie wasn't there, but they did have a piano player giving a great rendition of "As Time

Goes By."

We hired a driver for a private tour the next morning. The driver spoke very little English, but we used our limited high school French. The Hassan II Mosque was massive, with beautiful marble floors and ornamentation. Next, we went to the Old Medina, an exotic bazaar right out of the movies. We ended up in a shop that sells rugs, since the owner was a relative of our guide. We had tea and resisted the rug purchase. From there we were on to our final adventure, wondering if our driver would be at the appointed spot our meager French had set up. He was there with a smile, and we were on our way back to the airport.

Our second extended layover was on our



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

return from Dubai. We flew business class on Turkish Air with a connection through Istanbul (often the least expensive business class fare in Europe). We extended our stay one more day and booked a small hotel on the water about 30 minutes from the airport.

When our driver arrived, he spoke perfect English and off we went. After about 10 mins, he stopped and said, "Problem with the water pump." When the next car arrived, we tried to talk to the new driver, but he did not respond.

We looked at each other. Were we being abducted in a foreign country? We checked on Google Maps to make sure we were heading to the hotel and not being abducted.

About an hour later, we pulled up to the cute little hotel and walked into the reception/dining area, surrounded by windows with a view of the Black Sea.

Our room with a view had a gas fireplace - all for under \$100. Downstairs, we ordered the Turkish local dinner of the evening. Along with breakfast the next morning, these two meals rank as two of our best meals of our 20-day trip.

The moral of the two stories? Make your next long layover an adventure to remember. Call your travel agent; they may have some suggestions.

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

### Wine Talk

## Some Wines From Portugal

Portuguese wines have unique flavors and aromas. They have been around for centuries and there is a wide variety of styles from dry to sweet. Climate, soil and temperature vary greatly, and this is known as terroir. This is what gives wine its uniqueness.

The Douro Valley is one the major growing regions in Portugal. The soil is very rocky, and the climate is hot and dry. This is a perfect combination for the production of big red wines with lots of tannins. The Alentejo region has very sandy soil. It has a much cooler climate, and this leads to the production of light-bodied whites with great aromas. The Minho region has granite soil and the climate is mild. There they produce crisp whites with a citrus aftertaste.

The Portuguese make wine from a variety of grapes. The most common red wine grapes

include Alicante Bouschet, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz. These grapes produce big red wines. The white wine grapes include Fernão Pires, Albariño and Arinto. These grapes produce light-bodied whites with floral noses.

Aging has a great deal to do with the flavors associated with these wines. Oak barrels are a traditional method of aging. European oak is what is generally used, and this will add vanilla and spice flavors to the wines. Wines can be aged in stainless steel as well. This, it is said, preserves the freshness of the wine and causes it to be more fruit-front. The length of time the wine is aged is left to the discretion of the winemaker depending on what style he



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

is attempting to achieve. Some Portuguese winemakers use both and oak to shape the flavors of the wines a little differently.

Port wine is made by adding liquor to the wine during the fermentation process. It produces a sweet wine that varies with the aging process. It originated near the city of Porto; hence the name. The major styles are vintage, tawny and aged ports, and each is a little different.

Some of my favorite Portuguese wines include Soalheiro Alvarinho 2022. This is an Albariño from Vinho Verde, Portugal. This is a light and crisp white wine that runs about \$23. Casa Relvas Art. Terra Amphora Red is a great red blend from Alentejo, Portu-

gal that costs \$25.

There are a lot of great ones out there. Go find some. Try each style of port and see the one you like the best. They have been making wine there since 400 BC and they are starting to get it right.

*Ray Spaziani is the former chapter director for 25 years of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is a certified wine educator who worked for the American Wine Society, Amete de Vino and Winemaker Magazine judging wines and conducting wine judging. He is an award-winning home wine maker and has written wine articles for newspapers and magazines for the past 20 years. Spaziani teaches wine classes for the Milford Board of Education at Citrus Restaurant in Milford. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at [realestatepro1000@gmail.com](mailto:realestatepro1000@gmail.com).*

# BuyingOrSellingYourHouse.com

<p><b>Barbara Lehrer</b> REALTOR 203.640.6407</p>	<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>REDUCED! PRICED TO SELL!</b></p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>72 PUTTING GREEN LN, ORANGE</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>ON DEPOSIT IN JUST 4 DAYS!</b></p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>911 RAINBOW TRAIL, ORANGE</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>COMING SOON!</b></p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>920 GREEN CIRCLE, ORANGE</b></p>
<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>SOLD TO OUR BUYERS!</b></p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>12 HILLCREST DR, WOODBRIDGE</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>UNDER CONTRACT!</b></p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>8 LANDMARK TERR, WOODBRIDGE</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>SOLD OVER ASKING PRICE!</b></p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>30 SKYVIEW ROAD, ORANGE</b></p>	

### Orange Democratic Town Committee

## Election Season Has Begun

The Orange Democratic Town Committee continues to meet and plan over the summer months. We generally meet the third Tuesday of each month at High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd.

Our hot topic of discussion at our May meeting was "Should TikTok be banned." The meeting took place after the deadline for this column, but we will give you an update in the next issue.

We have some exciting events planned in the next few months as we work to support candidates state Sen. James Maroney, state Rep. Mary Welander and Etan Hirsch and MJ Shannon. Save the date for Sept. 8 at 4 p.m., when we will host our annual Meet the Candidates Picnic at the pavilion at High Plains. More information will be on our website, OrangeCTDems.org, and our Facebook and Instagram pages at OrangeCTDems.

Do you know who's district you live in?

Our little town is all part of the state Senate District 14, but we are divided into three districts for the state House of Representatives. Welander represents the 114th District, which also includes Woodbridge and parts of Derby and Hamden.

The other two districts are the 117th, in which MJ Shannon is running to be your representative, and the 119th, in which Etan Hirsch is running. The 117th covers part of Milford, Orange and West Haven. The 119th covers part of Milford and Orange.

To make things more confusing, within Orange these districts are known as districts 1, 2, and 3. That's how you find where you will be voting in November. All voting takes place at High Plains Community Center. District 1 is



JODY DIETCH

state representative District 114 and votes in the gym. District 2 is state representative District 117 and votes in the south wing, Room 3 (best parking is by the tennis and basketball courts; go in that door). District 3 is state representative District 119 and votes in the senior café (you can park by the pool and go in the back by the dumpster). It helps to know your district before showing up at the polls in November.

This year, you will also be able to vote early. Early voting will begin 14 days before the Nov. 5 election, which is Monday, Oct. 21 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 3. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Oct. 21 through Oct. 28, again on Wednesday, Oct. 30 and from Friday, Nov. 1 to Sunday, Nov. 3. Polls

are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29 and Thursday, Oct. 31. There is no voting on Nov. 4. Polls on election day are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee voting is also still an option. This is especially important for our college students, members of our community with mobility issues or disabilities or anyone who will be away from Orange during the early voting period and election day. College students should get their absentee ballot applications before they leave for college. We also recommend sending them with a couple of stamps.

If you have any questions on what district you are in and how to vote, reach out to Registrar of Voters Janice Casey at 203-891-4715 or me at JLDOrange@yahoo.com.

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

### Orange Chamber of Commerce

## Orange Chamber Thankful For Community

The Orange Chamber of Commerce celebrated a fantastic Family Fun Day and Cornhole Tournament at the Paugusset Club in Orange on May 19.

Several hundred attendees came out to the support the Orange Chamber of Commerce. First, we would like to thank Paugusset Club & Tennis for hosting this event and preparing the facility for us. We are so grateful for their hospitality. Next, we would like to thank our main event sponsor Coldwell Banker Realty. We are grateful for their generous support of this event and for our Chamber of Commerce. We are grateful they call Orange home. A special thank you goes to Realtor Wendy Barry for her generous sponsorship of the bounce houses provided by the Party People. Additionally, we would like to thank our event sponsor and chamber member BBI Technologies for their generous support of this event.

Thanks also to chamber member Yasmee Khan of Beauty Henna for spending the day with us and the fantastic work with the face painting. Thanks to 24/7 Entertainment and DJ Hector for spinning the 1s and 2s all day. Thanks to the Vittles food truck for feeding all of our attend-

ees. The Southern food was amazing. Thank you to Robert Creigh for photographing this event.

We would also like to thank Sue Ianniello, Financial Services Professional, NYLIFE Securities, The Orange Players, Rana Tree Removal, the Orange Recycling Committee and the Orange Volunteer Fire Department for sharing the day with us. Finally, thank you to Orange and the surrounding towns for supporting the chamber and all of the attendees.

We were honored to celebrate recently with Senior Helpers of Fairfield and New Haven County as we cut the ribbon on their new office space. Senior Helpers is located at 109 Boston Post Rd. Ste. 204 and can be reached at 203-297-9559.

Ribbon cuttings are a staple for the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Ribbon cuttings are run jointly in Orange with the Orange Economic Development Corporation. If you would like to celebrate a grand opening or celebrate an anniversary with a ribbon cutting, email Director@



LIAM OHLMANN

orangechamber.com. The public is always welcome to attend these ribbon cuttings and join us to celebrate our local businesses.

You are always invited to our monthly ONET series. ONET is a free networking and leads group which meets at 8:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month at The Homewood Suites by Hilton, located at 99 Marsh Hill Rd. in Orange. Each month we have received a larger turnout for this event with energetic local professionals. In-

formation regarding these meetings can be found by liking and following our Facebook page.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce would like to thank our corporate partners who are so generous with our chamber and with our commu-

nity. Thanks to Avangrid, Coldwell Banker Realty, The Eagle Leasing Company, The Milford Bank, the Milford-Orange Times and Trinity-Point Wealth for making many of our programs and initiatives possible. If you are interested in becoming a corporate partner for the Orange chamber, email director@orangechamber.com.

To schedule a time to meet with the Orange Chamber of Commerce and discuss membership or sponsorship, email director@orangechamber.com. I am looking forward to meeting with you and discussing your business needs and how the chamber may help.

*Liam Ohlmann is the executive director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-795-3328 or director@orangechamber.com.*

### Orange Economic Development Corporation's

Outdoor Event

Thursday  
June 20<sup>th</sup>



Rain or Shine

2:30 -  
6:30

Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange

### Artisan, Craft, and Business Vendors

Shopping • Food Trucks • Live Music  
Giveaways • Networking • Activities

### FREE ACTIVITIES

2:30 – 6:30 Event Hours: Visit Vendors  
4:30 – 5:00 Dance Performance: Brennan-Lucey Irish Dance Academy  
6:00 – 8:00 Concert: The Sabb's Brothers

### Free All Day Fun

Blood pressure checks (OVNA), rock painting (Milestones), touch a truck (Baybrook Remodelers and United Illuminating)

Food Trucks will Remain Open until 8 pm (or until food runs out)

More activities are being added. Scan for a full schedule, and to see a vendor list or call the OEDC at 203-891-1045



### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## Summer Concerts

2023



6:00-8:00pm

### Music under the Stars

Come on out for 4 free Summer Concerts in the Gazebo at the High Plains Community Center. Be sure to bring your chairs and join us in enjoying all age appropriate music out on the lawn.

June 20 ♪ *Sabb Brothers*

At the OEDC Artisan Festival

June 27 ♪ *Lunch Box* ♪

Orange Elementary School Teachers

July 11 ♪ *Richard Badowski Blues Band* ♪

July 25 ♪ *Sister Funk* ♪

From West Haven

August 31 ♪ *West Rocks* ♪

Come out early for the OEDCC Farmers' Market from 3:30—7:00pm



# Milford Memorial Day Parade



Milford held ceremonies and parades on May 26 in recognition of Memorial Day. Photos by Robert Creigh.

# Orange Memorial Day Parade



Orange held ceremonies and parades on May 26 in recognition of Memorial Day. Photos by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

## Homelessness

# Hungry For Change

The statistics regarding food insecurity in Connecticut are staggering. Feeding America's 2024 Map the Gap study found that nearly 13 percent of Connecticut households do not have enough food to meet their nutritional needs and do not know where their next meal is coming from. Totaling 470,000 households, this number is up by 90,000 residents and includes a rise in food insecurity amongst children throughout the state.

In 2021, one out of every eight children did not have enough food to eat. As of 2022 (the current data), one of six children is food insecure. What's even more unsettling is this ratio is one in four for Black and Hispanic Connecticut residents.

The Beth-El Center served more prepared meals in 2023 than in our 40-plus year history, totaling 48,214 meals. This is nearly one meal for every person living in Milford and enough to feed the whole town of Orange for a day. Each year, we see these numbers rise, with no structures in place to turn the tide.

Before we furiously assemble ourselves, organizing food drives, applying to volunteer at our local food pantry and paying for the person

behind us in the fast-food drive thru, I implore us to stop, breathe and ask the question: Why are so many of us going hungry?

The answers to this desperate plea are complex but not insurmountable. First, the cost of food continues to rise, as well as the budget shortfalls connected to food relief. In Connecticut, the average cost of a meal is \$4.27, yet Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits only support 50 percent of the monthly food budget needed for each participant (the average participant receives \$216 per month, which equates to \$2.40 per meal). Further, 51 percent of Connecticut residents who are food insecure do not qualify for SNAP benefits, earning above the qualifying financial threshold.

Funding the unmet food needs in our state would require an investment of \$375 million. Today, the state invests less than \$1 million toward food relief through CT-NAP.

Last, due to our society's long history of gatekeeping basic needs in local communities



JENNIFER PARADIS

with concern for welfare dependency, program accessibility is limited with participatory screenings. As a result, fewer people are assisted than are excluded from life-saving programming.

We must dispel stigmas of welfare dependency, as study after study shows that it is the ability to rely consistently on assistance programs that allows households to overcome poverty.

Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond summarizes this concept by saying, "The bigger problem is welfare avoidance. Every year, \$140 billion allocated for benefits programs goes wasted because eligible people fail to apply to programs like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The government makes applying for benefits onerous and confusing."

This phenomenon trickles into local community structures, with food pantries having limited hours (typically conflicting with work schedules) and program criteria limiting the number of times one household can use the

service at all, usually only once or twice per month.

It is my hope that my comments on organizing food drives, volunteering and displaying acts of food kindness do not discourage you from engaging in those activities. Our contributions to those efforts are critical to maintaining the food safety net keeping so many households supported today.

My plea is that we won't stop there, and that we will work together to address the structural challenges that keep poverty livable for so many of our neighbors and friends.

In light of the increased service needs at the Beth-El Center, we are launching our More Than Food Council, focused on building connection, choice and culture that increases food access and invests in solutions to the root causes of increased food insecurity in greater Milford.

Food insecurity is preventable, and it takes more than food to end it.

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

## Students From Milford Kung Fu Academy Win At International Competition



Area students from the Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy in Milford recently participated in the 2024 National Junior Taolu Trials and Golden State International Wushu Championships held in Santa Clara, California. Photo courtesy of Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy.

Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy in Milford recently showcased the talent of students from the area at the 2024 National Junior Taolu Trials and Golden State International Wushu Championships held in Santa Clara, California from May 25 to 27. The international event drew around 2,000 athletes competing at the

highest levels of Wushu Kung Fu.

Ten students from Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy participated in a total of 25 events, bringing home seven gold, seven silver and four bronze medals.

The events were divided into two major categories: fist forms and weapons.

The participating students were: Elsie Guo and Elaine Guo from Amity Middle School in Orange; Nanxin Zhou of Foran High School in Milford; Maya Zhou of Harborside Middle School in Milford; Felicia Ky and Philip Ky of Beecher's Road School in Woodbridge; Angelina Chen of Masuk High School in

Monroe; Sofia Donroe of Staples High School in Westport; and Brendan Lam of Yale University.

Six of the students earned spots on the US Kung Fu Team. These students will represent the US at the Pan American Kung Fu Championships next year.

## 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 Community Rotary Raffle of Milford, 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 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, again with Charles Island in the background. The drawing is open to the public.

For more information on how to purchase a ticket, go to [devonrotary.org](http://devonrotary.org).

## Milford, Orange Students Win In Energy Contest

Milford student Eleanor Apicella and orange student Molly Kovar were recently honored as a winner in the 19th Annual eesmarts™ Student Contest.

Presented by Energize Connecticut in partnership with Eversource and Avangrid, the eesmarts Student Contest invited Connecticut students in kindergarten through 12th grade to showcase their energy smarts.

Participants chose from a variety of project formats based on their grade-level including poems, essays, posters, billboard advertisements, comic strips, short videos, persuasive images and more.

Apicella, a kindergarten student at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School, was awarded second place for her poster

that shows someone turning the lights off as a way to save energy. Kovar, a second grader at Turkey Hill Elementary School, received second place for her poster, which depicted ways to save energy around the house like taking short showers, turning off the lights and electronics, using LED light bulbs and installing solar panels.

More than 600 students throughout Connecticut submitted projects for consideration. Twenty-nine entries from 19 schools in 16 Connecticut communities were selected as this year's finalists.

Finalists attended an awards ceremony on May 7 at the Connecticut Science Center and received their prize and certificate.



The Rotary Club of Orange

# Graduation Congratulations From Rotary

Graduation season is here. This spring about 8 million US high school and college students will celebrate this milestone in ceremonies with family and friends in attendance.

A standard part of most ceremonies, especially at colleges and universities, is an invited keynote speech by a dignitary. As a lifelong university educator, I have listened to more than 100 commencement speeches. The majority seek to inspire graduates as they move into the next phase of their lives. Most were enjoyable, but only a few remain memorable for me.

The first I often recall was by an alum who had gone on to become a very young principal in an underserved Cleveland middle school. He had attended that school as an adolescent, and by his account had spent as much time in the principal's office for disciplinary reasons as he had in classrooms. His description of that principal's office décor was one of foreboding – drab walls with military-gray metal chairs lined up in front of a vast desk sitting on a raised platform behind which presided a ruddy taskmaster.

His story was that his first act as the new principal was to redecorate that office to make it warm and welcoming for a pre-teen. I do not recall his name or that of his school,

but I do know that I went back to my own office and rearranged the furniture to limit intimidation.

The second was by a university trustee who was the CEO of the local hospital. He had started his career as a pharmacist there. When he started the hospital's pharmacy was crammed into a small space next to a much larger lounge area that supported the hospital volunteers. Incensed by the disparity, he marched up the chief hospital administrator and boldly stated that the pharmacy was the future of health care, that it should have far more space and that the administrator should relocate the volunteer's lounge to make it happen. The administrator said no. The young pharmacist sulked, decided he could run the hospital much better, and set out on a plan of professional development to lead the hospital. In fairly short order, and after gaining an MBA and JD, he was the CEO and enlarged the pharmacy at the expense of the lounge.

In a few months, though, he realized he had made a colossal mistake in snubbing the volunteers. By his belated admission, their contributions to patient welfare were at least



DAN MAY

as great as prescription meds. So he moved the pharmacy down to the basement and expanded the volunteer and patient reception area to a front entrance setting.

The third speech I recall was that by a faculty colleague – Louis Stulman, a professor of religion at the University of Findlay in Ohio. He is fluent in Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Aramaic, and works with original source materials in the Middle East to analyze the Old Testament books of the prophets. His 2005 address is

the only one I have ever asked the speaker to provide me with a copy of. The speech was titled "Living in the House of Fear or the House of Love" and I reread it when the latest divisive news event plays out across the media.

Stulman's address drew on the writing of Henri Nouwen, a scholarly Dutch priest who combined psychology, spirituality and community in multiple books in the late 20th century. Stulman noted the pervasive and palpable consequences of fear and anxiety, both individually and collectively, and how fear has been (and still is) exploited throughout history. His message to graduates was

that the antidote to fear is not courage, but love. He provided Old Testament examples from the books of Jeremiah and Hosea, the prophet of Hesed (which is the Hebrew word for love).

Love is more complex than fear and harder to describe in all its manifestations. Love rarely is addressed in schools, and understanding and expanding it is typically relegated to families and churches. However, empathy is a related emotion, and many organizations and nonsectarian service clubs like Rotary or Lions or Kiwanis attempt to promote shared understanding beyond familial boundaries. In many ways, that is probably their main value. Collective behavior makes empathy more readily achievable as well.

Preparing this column, I searched online for common commencement speech themes. In 2022, TED.com analyzed about 100 well-reviewed speeches and noted that nearly all contained four tips – dream big, work hard, make mistakes and be kind. Wherever you are in your life's journey, do not forget the last tip. The speakers I still recall never did.

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

## Bankruptcy

# Mastering The Art Of Writing A Separation Agreement

Sure, you can use the form provided by the judicial branch. But writing a well-crafted separation agreement for a divorcing couple is so much more beneficial to the uncoupling parties and has become an art form.

Whenever a couple divorces in my practice, whether it is by mediation or litigation, nearly the first thing I do after the case initiation documents are filed is take a pass at the first draft of a separation agreement. I once heard a colleague call the separation agreement the "operating agreement" of the divorce – as if it were a business winding down. I have kept that nugget with me to these many years in my own practice. It is a true and accurate description of the document, as the separation agreement really does become a roadmap for the couple who has now become two individuals.

The only time parties would not use a separation agreement is when the case goes to trial. But most cases settle.

The separation agreement may also include a custody agreement and parenting plan if there are children issues around the marriage.

The main parts of the separation agreement are as follows: establishing jurisdiction, providing for the disposition and dis-

tribution of property, potentially awarding alimony (spousal support), tax and debt considerations, and if there are children, custody (legal and physical), parenting access time and child support, including post-secondary education (college), as well as methods for resolving disputes.

For any area where the parties are making promises of future acts like quitclaiming property, refinancing mortgages or paying for college, in the months and years after their dissolution, it is always a good idea to have language in the agreement that states that the court will retain jurisdiction (power) over the parties. This is in case one party fails to act; the other party can file a contempt of the court order, as ultimately the separation agreement becomes an order of the court by being incorporated by reference into the final judgement.

Some attorneys also include language about bankruptcy. Although it is widely known and accepted that domestic support obligations of child support and alimony are not dischargeable in bankruptcy, it is always a good idea to spell it out in the



THERESA ROSE DEGRAY

agreement.

The separation agreement is also used to restore or change a party's name to a birth name or former name.

The last section of a separation agreement usually contains boilerplate language regarding mutual releases, acceptance by the parties, entire understanding (no side agreements), modification, construction of agreement, binding nature, financial affidavits (mutual disclosure of income, liabilities, assets), notification of change of address of the parties, law and application, full disclosure, representation by counsel and counsel fees (who pays what).

During COVID, when the courthouses were shuttered, we began putting canvas language at the very end of all separation agreements. This would allow the parties to attest to the agreement being fully read and understood (almost like an affidavit), that the parties were not under any improper influences (by persons, drugs or alcohol) and competent to make such an agreement. If children were involved, it would attest that the agreement was in the best interest of the children. This would allow the

courts to take the agreements on the papers and excuse the parties from appearing in person to be adjudicated single and unmarried.

Now, post-COVID, we still use similar language even though the courthouses are open, and include a few more ancillary forms, to allow parties to get divorced "on the papers" for convenience purposes, thus allowing them to avoid having to go to court. It has certainly made the process easier and more discreet.

If you have any questions about divorce and family law and would like to meet me in person, I will have a vendor table at the Orange Congregational Church's Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds at 525 Orange Center Rd.. Hope to see you there.

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

Beat the Summer Slide  
With Mathnasium

Don't Let Math Skills Slip!

203-783-1490  
[mathnasium.com/milford](http://mathnasium.com/milford)  
201 Cherry St in Milford

Summer Pre-Enrollment  
\$100 off!\*

QR Code

MATHNASIUM  
The Math Learning Center

The Arts

# Celebrating Family Fun And History With The Arts

If you are looking for fun things to do while learning about history and culture at the same time, the arts have you covered. Take a walk and mingle with giant puppets, visit medieval times with a Renaissance faire, make ceramics, celebrate and learn the history of Juneteenth, and take in a concert or a unique play on classic Shakespeare with acrobats. Visit a local artisan fair in Orange or learn the secrets of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis as written by a local bestselling author. Spend some time outdoors with many interesting adventures and hands-on opportunities to keep everyone busy. With something for everyone, you are sure to enjoy the offerings of the arts during warm days and cool evenings this June.

The **Orange Artisan Fest and Vendor Fair**, a craft fair and business expo, will take place on Thursday, June 20 at the Orange Fairgrounds and Pavilion, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It will be an all-outdoor community event with artisans, crafters, small business vendors, live music and food trucks. Free event bags stuffed with goodies are available to all attendees and vendors while supplies last. Entertainment includes rock painting, a dance performance by Brennan-Lucey Irish Dance from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and a concert in the gazebo with the Sabbs Brothers from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is family friendly, free and open to the public. For more information, call 203-891-1045.

**Anne Cubberly's Giant Puppets** will roam the New Haven Green and Downtown New Haven on June 21. Experience the whimsical magic of these colossal, colorful creations. They are more than just puppets – they're vibrant reflections of our essence and the boundless spirit within us all. Don't let their size intimidate you; instead, seek them out and bask in the awe-inspiring wonder they evoke. This event is family-friendly and free to the public.

The Amistad Center for Art & Culture and the Wadsworth Atheneum of Art join in celebration of Juneteenth and explore themes of emancipation and diaspora through "Free-

**domWays: From Jubilee to Juneteenth**" on view in the Pryor Gallery on June 8 from noon to 5 p.m., located at 500 Main St. in Hartford. Come work with Hartford-based ceramist Danessa Pedroso in a "nkisi nkondi" (power figure) workshop or make your mark with your own Jackie Robinson coloring book. Tune in to a Harlem Renaissance-inspired musical set by the Erica Tracy and Tom Sullivan Duo in the galleries and enjoy various Afro-beats with DJ Michelle Bee in Gengras Courtyard. Free admission all day.

The International Festival of Arts & Ideas presents Romeo and Juliet "The 7 Fingers: Dual Reality," in partnership with Yale Schwarzman Center and originally produced and created with Virgin Voyages. You won't want to miss this exhilarating performance with Montreal's renowned arts collective, the 7 Fingers. In "Duel Reality," they combine death-defying acrobatics, theater, dance, multimedia, music and storytelling, and present human stories with superhuman skills. With the essence of a circus spectacle, they breathe new life into Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." Witness a lively arena where two groups collide in playful competition and fierce conflict, all while star-crossed lovers steal the show, proving that love triumphs, even amidst rivalry. This thrilling acrobatic event runs from June 21-23 with matinee and evening performances at University Theatre, located at 222 York St. in New Haven. The show run-time is one hour 15 minutes. Tickets are \$48.31, and a select number of student discounted tickets are available by visiting [artidea.org](http://artidea.org). They are also available on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) or by calling the box office at 1-888-ART-IDEA for more information.

The **Midsummer Fantasy Renaissance Faire** will be held on weekends from June 29 to July 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with a special afterhours pub sing and fire show Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 9 P.M. at Warsaw Park, located at 119 Pulaski Highway in Ansonia. Join Orange residents Taliesin Phoenix, a



CYNDI CONSOLI

bard, seanchaí and storyteller and Daniel and Vanessa Greenwolf with all new magic, comedy and spectacular fire-breathing along with an array of superior talents, all in period garb. This event features stage shows, fire breathing, face painting, sword fighting, tarot reading, axe throwing, archery, stage combat and more. Local beer and mead will be for sale at the pub, and food and treats of the historical times are available for purchase. Vendors offer a unique opportunity for shopping. This event is held rain or shine. Tickets are \$17 for adults (age 15 and up), \$13 for special admission (ages 65 and up, veterans, Peace Corps and disabled), \$8 for children ages 5-14, and children ages birth to 4 are free. VIP and season passes are available. It is recommended to purchase tickets online as they are not guaranteed at the gate; dates may sell out. Online sales are available by visiting [mfrenfaire.com](http://mfrenfaire.com) or emailing [info@mfrenfaire.com](mailto:info@mfrenfaire.com) for group rates of 15 or more tickets.

Bridgeport Public Library, Klein Memorial Auditorium, Friends of the Bridgeport Public Library and Juneteenth of Fairfield County present a free event, "The Journey," a musical one-woman show written and performed by Kimberly Wilson on June 20 at 6 p.m. Take an intricate look at the Black experience told through the eyes of the Black woman as performed by the professional actress and singer. Seven women, seven pivotal generations, present to you their stories through song, movement and dialogue and how ultimately their faith, hope and calling help shape the America we know today. Joyful celebrations and painful reflections are rendered artistically to tell a story of persistence and courage and how Black womanhood is another thread that weaves together the fabric of America's history. Included in this journey are historical reflections from a native African queen, a slave girl, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks and more. This performance will be held at the Klein, located at 910 Fairfield Ave. in Bridgeport. Parking is available in the lot across the street for \$5. Free tickets are

available at any Bridgeport Public Library location or at the Klein box office by visiting [theklein.org](http://theklein.org) or calling 800-424-0160 x 2 for more information.

Seven Angels Theatre presents "JBKO" by bestselling author and Waterbury native Tom Santopietro. This new work explores the life, legend and legacy of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. This intimate solo play pulls back the curtain on the notoriously private former first lady, allowing us a glimpse into her marriages, her tragedies, her career in publishing and, ultimately, the woman behind the dark sunglasses. The woman everyone thought they knew, yet no one did – until now. Matinee and evening performances run June 14 to June 30 at Seven Angels Theatre, 1 Plank Rd. in Waterbury. Specialty nights are offered pre-show in the lobby with complimentary treats included in the ticket from local eateries. Tickets are \$37 and are available at [sevenangelstheatre.org](http://sevenangelstheatre.org) or by calling 203-757-4676.

New Haven Chorale presents "Music of Remembrance and Gratitude: Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest. In the composer's own words, "the five movements form a narrative just as much for the living, and their own struggle with pain and sorrow, as for the dead." This 40-minute contemporary masterpiece is a highly moving work that will inspire you with its lush sounds, comforting words and delicate sonorities. The chorale will be performing this work in the expanded chamber music version. The second half of the concert will feature thought-provoking works based around the topic of gratitude by composers J.S. Bach, Eriks Esenwalds, Craig Hella Johnson, Christopher Theophanidis and Gwyneth Walker. The performance will take place on June 9 at 4 p.m. in Woolsey Hall, 500 College St. in New Haven. For tickets, visit [newhavenchorale.org](http://newhavenchorale.org) or call 203-776-7664.

*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](mailto:TheOrangePlayers@gmail.com) and 475-227-7547.*

Orange Congregational Church  
**Strawberry Festival**  
 SATURDAY  
**June 8, 2024**  
 RAIN DATE: JUNE 9  
 Come enjoy a day of strawberry treats and family fun at the Orange fairgrounds!

- Food and Drinks
- Strawberry Treats
- Red Car Show
- Family Games
- Local Vendors
- Live Music

**9AM - 5PM**  
**HIGH PLAINS FAIRGROUNDS**  
 ORANGE, CONNECTICUT  
[OrangeCongregationalChurch.com](http://OrangeCongregationalChurch.com)  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**Orange Community Farmers' Market**  
**The Pavilion at the Orange Fairgrounds**  
 525 Orange Center Road, Orange  
**THURSDAYS, 3:30 – 7:00**  
**June 27<sup>th</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 No market 7/4, 8/1, 9/19

**OPENING DAY JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Vendors, Food Trucks, Live Music**  
 Scan to see a list of vendors, or call 203-891-1045

In Conjunction with <b>Town of Orange Concert Nights</b> Performing 6 pm – 8 pm at Gazebo		Instrumentalists <b>At the Pavilion</b> Performing 5 pm – 7 pm	
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Sabb's Brothers	July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Bettencourt
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Box	August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Big Tom Intelisano
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Badowski Blues Band	August 29 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sister Funk	Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Foggy Otis
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pangea	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sal Grillo
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	West Rock		

### Orange Honors 'Living Treasures'



The Orange Senior Center recognized three Orange senior residents who have given their time to the Orange community with the "Living Treasure" awards on May 16 at High Plains Community Center. The 2024 recipients were Judy Wright Williams, Lynn Plaskowitz and Sharon Ewen. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

### Orange, Amity Budgets Pass

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange town budget and Amity regional budget both passed in two separate referenda during May.

The \$83,815,766 budget is divided into three major pieces: the town budget, Orange Public Schools and the Amity Regional School District.

The Amity budget, which includes the middle and high schools, is paid into by the three participating towns - Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany - and was passed by all three on May 7. Orange's contribution to the Amity budget is \$27,479,044.

The town side and Orange Public

Schools, which covers elementary education, were voted on by residents on May 15.

All aspects of the budget rose this year by a total of 4.44 percent. That might have been offset by growth in the grand list, but a recently-completed revaluation showed changed the dynamics of who pays property taxes, with residential real estate seeing a much higher rise in values compared to business personal property. The Board of Selectmen in April approved a plan to phase that revaluation in over four years.

### Ethan Allen Reopens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand reopening of the Ethan Allen design center at 1620 Boston Post Rd. in Milford with a ribbon cutting on May 9. After a year of renovations, the new Ethan Allen design center's showroom displays numerous designs. The celebration included music from DJ Sonja and a buffet supplied by Shoprite. First row, from left: MRCC Director Simon McDonald, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, Milford Mayor Anthony Giannattasio, Ethan Allen President/CEO and Chairman Farooq Kathwari, wife Farida Kathwari, Executive VP of Retail Amy Franks and General Manager Jennifer Zaniewski. Second row, from left: Territory Leader Marybeth Wisniewski, Market Operations Leader Scott Sanders, and designers Janine Belenardo, Dawn Connors, Staci Shoemaker and Kimberly Westfield. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Friday Concerts Resume In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held its first Fridays After Five event of the season on May 24 with the Kathy Thompson Band at Fowler Field in Milford. The concert series continues through June. Photo by Robert Creigh.

YOUR LOCAL GEICO AGENT MAKES BUNDLING SIMPLE. HOME + AUTO = EASY

**GEICO** LOCAL OFFICE  
Neil Feigl | 203-799-2886  
¡Hablamos Español!

Limitations apply. See geico.com for more details. GEICO & affiliates. Washington, DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2022. © 2022 GEICO

Visit the Waterfront Venue Everyone is Talking About and Help Support a Great Cause!

**45th Anniversary Gala**  
Wednesday, June 26, 2024  
Tyde at Walnut Beach  
6:00 p.m.

Includes open bar, appetizers, 3 course dinner, DJ and dancing, dance lessons from Fred Astaire of Shelton, and many great prizes up for auction. Tickets are \$100 per person.

Scan to register or visit our website:  
[www.networkofexecutivewomen.org](http://www.networkofexecutivewomen.org)

Questions?  
[info@networkofexecutivewomen.org](mailto:info@networkofexecutivewomen.org)

We are grateful for the support of all our sponsors!

**Sapphire Sponsors:**

[www.networkofexecutivewomen.org](http://www.networkofexecutivewomen.org)

### Milford Muralist Gets Mini-Grant From MAC



Milford artist Miguel Estrada has been named as the first recipient of the Milford Arts Council's mini-grants program for his mural at the Firehouse Gallery at Walnut Beach. Photo courtesy of the MAC.

The Milford Arts Council's Endowment Fund has announced the first recipient for its new mini-grant program for supporting public art projects by Milford-connected artists.

Miguel Estrada has been selected for a "LOVE" mural highlighting the history of the MAC's Firehouse Gallery at Walnut Beach. Estrada has created his LOVE murals at the CT Post Mall, Yellow King Brewing, for the

MAC's 50th Anniversary Gala and in private collections.

The MAC Endowment Fund was established to promote and nurture the arts in Milford, providing scholarships for Milford students furthering their education in the arts. The mini-grant program will be accepting new applications between September and December.

### Amity Summer Theater Camp Available

Amity Creative Theater will host its 17th annual Amity Summer Theater Camp, a half-day camp that runs from July 3 to 28, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Kids from second grade through high school will participate in singing, dancing and acting.

The cost is \$575 (a sibling discount is

available) and includes all camp activities, such as movie day and the ice cream social. The cost also includes a camp t-shirt and a free performance of the camp show on July 28. The camp is open to students from anywhere. For more information, go to [amitytheaterdepartment.com/summer-camp](http://amitytheaterdepartment.com/summer-camp).

### Milford Native Rowing In International Competition



SantaBarbara

Madison SantaBarbara of Milford is preparing to travel to England this summer to compete in one of the most prestigious events in the sport of rowing.

SantaBarbara, a senior at Jacksonville University in Florida, is one of 16 JU athletes to compete in the Henley Women's Regatta that is held each June, west of London.

SantaBarbara, who attended Joseph

A. Foran High School, is responsible for raising a portion of the funds needed for the trip.

"I'm thrilled to embark on this adventure filled with new experiences. This trip will be so much fun, and I'm grateful for the chance to explore, learn new things, and have a great time with my second family," SantaBarbara said.

"These experiences will shape me into a more confident, culturally aware, and well-rounded individual, preparing me for success in the future," she said.

"It's shown me the importance of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork," she added. "Through early morning practices and grueling races, I have learned to push my limits and strive for excellence. It has not only strengthened my body, but also molded me into a more resilient, disciplined, and collaborative individual."

To help SantaBarbara reach her fundraising goals, go to [givecampus.com/schools/JacksonvilleUniversity/rowing-international-trip](http://givecampus.com/schools/JacksonvilleUniversity/rowing-international-trip).

### Science Center Director To Speak At Milford Library

Elliot Severn, Director at Sacred Heart University's Discovery Science Center in Bridgeport and an adjunct professor of astronomy at SHU, will discuss the museum's upcoming programs, planetarium and science center, and give a presentation about his professional rocket launch photography on Wednesday, June 12 at the Milford Public Library.

Severn is an astrophotographer and photojournalist who has covered the US

space program for the last decade. Some of his photography is currently on display at the C.H. Booth library in Newtown in conjunction with a special NASA exhibit entitled "Discover Exoplanets: the Search for Alien Worlds," which is running from March through May.

The event is open to the public and all ages; no registration is required. It runs from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Library Program Room.

Surprisingly great rates that fit any budget.



Kevin Piscitelli ChFC CLU, Agent  
380 Boston Post Road  
Orange, CT 06477  
Bus: 203-799-9900  
info@sfconnecticutinsurance.com  
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 6pm  
Open 24/7 Online or By Phone  
Video Appointments Available  
Hablamos Español

I can help you bundle your home and auto insurance, at a rate that may surprise you. Call me for a quote today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums and budgets will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements. Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Indemnity Company  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
State Farm General Insurance Company  
Bloomington, IL  
State Farm Florida Insurance Company  
Winter Haven, FL  
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas  
State Farm Lloyds  
Richardson, TX

2101564



### SUPERCHARGE Your Health!

- Precision Medicine • Hormone Optimization, • Aesthetic Enhancement • Advanced Diagnostics



HyperFit MD is the premier age management center in the tri-state area. We offer a science forward, preventative approach to health optimization. It starts with advanced diagnostics, our first step in helping you improve your quality of life. Call us for a **FREE** consultation!



Visit us in our **NEW** office  
2080 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford  
203.890.9777

[www.hyperfitmd.com](http://www.hyperfitmd.com)



Charles Guglin, MD, FACS

## Milford Budget (Continued From 1)

support. Cutaia had warned, though, that deferring facility projects in particular could result in even higher costs down the road for emergency repairs.

A measure that would have restored the school funding failed along party lines, with Republicans siding with the Board of Finance's recommendation. Though the aldermen supporting restored funding outnumbered those opposed by 8-7, the city charter requires major budget changes to garner at least 10 votes in favor to pass.

"In our education budget, there's too much staffing, too many buildings and there are not enough students, and those are megatrends that are not going to change," said alderman Win Smith Jr., citing a recent study on population trends in the city. "Although the tax increase here as articulated by some some seems somewhat de minimis, there are senior citizens and other people in this town for whom they're living on the edge, where that tax increase does mean something."

Alderman Healy responded to Smith's comment regarding seniors.

"As you may recall at the hearings relative to the Board of Education budget, a number of seniors were present, and

came up and voiced their support for the full budget that Dr. Cutaia had asked for," he said. "And why was that? Because they have grandchildren, and because they have lived in this community for years and they have good faith and good judgment. They saw that it's not about them; it's about what's in the best interest of the children that we're investing in."

The subject of instructional coaches also came up again during the discussion. The coaches have been a frequent target of some Republicans for years, on all three of the budget-making boards. Cutaia has consistently defended the coaches, and their positions were not on the list of potential cuts she had provided earlier.

Alderwoman Ellen Russell Beatty, who is also a Milford-Orange Times columnist, noted that during budget hearings Cutaia had not proposed removing the coaches and had pointed out that they are involved in helping struggling students.

"You want to cut the teachers who are working directly with the students who are behind?" she asked.

Alderman Jason Jenkins responded that he agreed Cutaia would not cut the coaches, but that it would be "prudent" for the coaches to have more hands-on, face-to-face intervention with the students.

"I don't want to throw more money at a system that needs to be altered," he said.

## Orange Senior Center Holding Trip To See Play

The Orange Senior Center is hosting a trip on Sunday, to see the production of "Cemetery Club" at the Newport Playhouse. Three widows, Ida, Doris and Lucille, meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Sam the butcher meets the widows while visiting his wife's

grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida. The meal choice is one quarter-pound boiled lobster or oven-roasted chicken. The cost is \$189 per person with transportation. This is a Lilly's Tours trip. There is minimal walking. For more information, call 203-891-4784.

## AMSO Students Get Superintendents' Award



Two students from Amity Middle School Orange were recently honored as recipients of the South Central Area Superintendents' Association's Student Recognition Award for 2024. The award is based on community service and service to others; academic prowess (relative to ability); and leadership to the school community. From left: AMSO Principal Kathy Burke, awardee Sophia Gaudet, awardee Ethan Parks and Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars. Photo courtesy of the Amity Regional School District.

## Orange Daisy Scouts Plant Flowers



Members of the Garden Club of Orange met at High Plains Community Center on May 7 with the Daisy Chapter #60562 of the Girl Scouts. The goal was to teach the first graders about planting and caring for spring flowers. The young girls were given clay pots to decorate and marigolds to plant. Garden club members explained about marigolds and what it takes to make them grow, and gave the girls the assignment of keeping them alive through the summer with the task of entering their plants in the horticulture part of the Orange Country Fair. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.

*Vincent Farrucielli & Robert Modena*  
Will be Designing & Coloring Hair at Their New Location  
**The Hair Artist Salon**

**155 New Haven Ave  
Milford CT 06460  
Call Now For Your Appointment  
(203) - 877 - 4000**

TYDE AT WALNUT BEACH  
**FATHER'S DAY**

Sunday, June 16th 2024  
Seatings: noon & 12:30pm

**FROM THE GRILL**  
Smoked Ribs | Flank Steak | Marinated Grilled Chicken | Assorted Roasted Vegetables

**FROM THE ICE**  
Freshly shucked oysters | shrimp cocktail cocktail sauce | mignonette | lemon & tabasco

**SOUP STATION**  
Clam Chowder & Corn Chowder

**SIDES**  
Mac & Cheese | Roasted Red Potatoes | Corn on Cob | Red Cabbage Cole Slaw | Tomato Cucumber Salad

**BEVERAGE STATION**  
Lemonade & Iced Tea

**PRICING**  
\$80 per adult | \$50 per child (ages 4-12)  
subject to 10% service fee & 7.35% CT State tax

**CONNECTICUT CIGAR COMPANY**  
Enjoy the rich legacy of hand-rolled cigar craftsmanship with CT Cigar Co. Cigars will be available for sale on the patio!

72 Broadway | Milford, CT 06460  
203.877.1150 | www.tyde-walnutbeach.com

# Food Truck Fest Comes To Milford Mall Fortunati Resigns As Milford City Clerk



Food trucks, vendors and games lined the parking lot of the CT Post Mall from May 25-27. Photos by Robert Creigh.



Fortunati

Milford City Clerk Karen Fortunati has resigned from office effective May 24, saying that she intends to move out of state.

"I have very mixed emotions about leaving. It's been the greatest honor to have served this city for almost seven years, first as an alder and now as city clerk. I love working alongside Mayor Giannattasio, Chief of Staff Justin Rosen, my amazing city clerk colleagues and the many city departments to provide superior service to residents. Even though my position is elected, I take enormous pride in serving my community in a completely apolitical, non-partisan manner. But the illness and death of my husband last year has made being with my children an even greater priority, so I am relocating to Pennsylvania to be closer to them. I will truly miss this special city and my friends and colleagues here."

Fortunati, a Georgetown Law graduate,

nonprofit public programs manager and author, was elected to the Milford Board of Aldermen in 2017. She won the city clerk position in 2019 and has held the office since.

"This is definitely a loss for Milford, but I completely understand Karen's desire to be closer to family," Giannattasio said. "Karen and I have spoken about the best way to ensure continuity of services in the city clerk's office, and I have decided to appoint Rose Elliott as the acting city clerk. Elliott is a 26-year city employee with over 12 years' experience as assistant city clerk. She is an exceptional public servant with a vast institutional knowledge of the city clerk's office, the city's finance system and department operations; she is also certified by the Connecticut Town Clerk Association and is the best qualified to lead the office. The City of Milford has a long history of city clerks who have served in an apolitical manner and always put the residents first; I look forward to continuing that tradition."

The city charter requires that the Board of Aldermen fill the upcoming vacancy with a member of Fortunati's Democratic political party. Any Milford residents who are registered Democrats can submit their resumes to the mayor's office at [mayor@milfordct.gov](mailto:milfordct.gov) or by calling 203-783-3201. The person appointed by the Board of Aldermen will serve in that position until the next municipal election in November 2025. The city clerk is a city employee with a salary of approximately \$93,000 with full benefits and a team of five employees. The position has varied responsibilities that require strict adherence to statutory guidelines. For more job information, go to the Milford city clerk's webpage at [ci.milford.ct.us/city-clerk](http://ci.milford.ct.us/city-clerk).

**LEGENDS OF THE ORIGINAL BILLY JOEL BAND**

**THE LORDS OF 52nd STREET**  
NOT A TRIBUTE BAND!

**RICHELLE CANNATA** **LIBERTY DEVITTO** **RUSSELL JAVORS**

**SATURDAY JUNE 8TH**  
Doors open at 6:30 PM ~ Show starts at 7:30 PM

Private Meet & Greet @ 7:15 Tickets Available At The Door & Online @ [www.MilfordPerformanceCenter.org](http://www.MilfordPerformanceCenter.org)

Located in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium / Parson's Govt. Center / 53 W. Main St., Milford, CT  
MPC is a 501C3 Organization

**Tickets: [MilfordPerformanceCenter.org](http://MilfordPerformanceCenter.org)**

**OLD COLONIAL LANDSCAPING**

**HIRE US THIS SEASON! FIRST CUT FREE!**

**Services:**  
-Lawn Mowing & Maintenance - Spring & Fall Clean-Ups  
-Tree Removal & Trimming -Stump Grinding  
-Mulch, Hedges and so much more to beautify your property!

**Serving:**  
**Milford, Orange, Derby, West Haven & Woodbridge**

Get An Estimate At No Cost

**203-804-2249**

## Orange Chamber Hosts Family Fun Day



The Orange Chamber of Commerce hosted its second annual Cornhole Tournament and Family Fun Day on May 19 at the Paugusset Pool and Tennis Club in Orange. The club opened its doors one week early and prepared the grounds for the chamber. The cornhole tournament featured local teams competing for a \$500 prize. Family Fun Day featured bounce houses provided by Party People, face painting and henna provided by Beauty Henna and a live DJ featuring DJ Hector from 24/7 entertainment. Vittles, a local Southern cuisine food truck, was available for attendees on site. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

## 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](http://rotaryclubofmilfordctinc.ticketspice.com/milford-rotarys-46th-annual-lobster-bake).

## Bounce Park Comes To Milford



Massive bounce park Funbox held a grand opening for its new location at the CT Post Mall in Milford on May 23 with the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. The park, open to all ages, will be at the mall all summer. Pictured are CT Post Mall General Manager Ken Sterba, Milford Mayor Anthony Giannattasio, Funbox owner Kimberlina Gutierrez, co-owner Erin Sloan and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

## Durkee-Maravel Engagement



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Durkee of Orange are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Kevin Durkee to Kristine Maravel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Maravel of Tewksbury, New Jersey. An October wedding is planned.

To submit an engagement, wedding, birth or graduation announcement, email [editorinchief@theorangetimes.com](mailto:editorinchief@theorangetimes.com).



### SUNRISE PHARMACY

CARE BEYOND DRUGS



**Sunrise Pharmacy**  
Now Serving  
**Orange And**  
**Milford**  
**Residents**

Call For  
Prescription Transfer

**Free Services We Offer:**

- \*NEW COVID VACCINE
- \*FLU VACCINE
- \*SHINGLES VACCINE
- \*HEP-B VACCINE
- \*Rx Pick Up And Delivery
- \*Multidose Blister Packaging
- \*RSV VACCINE

NURSING/SENIOR Centers Assistance

**No Insurance?...Our Generics Are Only \$5.00**

**240 Indian River Rd, Orange 06477**

**475-209-9284**

Hours: Monday- Friday 9AM -6PM  
Saturday : 9AM-2PM  
Sunday ; Closed  
[SUNRISEPHARMRX.COM](http://SUNRISEPHARMRX.COM)

Facebook "like" us on facebook

**Free Delivery To Your Doorstep!**



**Orange Visiting Nurse Assoc.**  
Over 85 Years of Service

**SERVING:**  
ORANGE, MILFORD, DERBY, WEST HAVEN & WOODBRIDGE

**605A Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477**  
**Phone: (203) 891-4752 • Fax: (203) 891-2169**



✓ Remember to request the Orange VNA upon discharge from the hospital.

- Skilled Nursing
- Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy
- Medical Social Worker
- Home Health Aides
- Wound Care Consultant
- Post Surgical
- Orthopedic Program

A state licensed, town Municipal agency providing cutting edge homecare with a personal touch.  
Medicare, Medicaid and most major commercial insurance plans accepted.

2020 TOP 25  
HHCAHPS  
Fazzi

2021 TOP 25  
HHCAHPS  
Fazzi

4 STAR  
MEDI CARE RATED

HomeCare Elite AGENCY  
2019

### Peruvian Restaurant Opens In Milford



Peruvian restaurant Costa Peru had a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its grand opening at 333 Naugatuck Ave. in Milford on May 29. Members of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce and everyone who attended were able to get a taste of authentic Peruvian food. From left at the ribbon: Milford Mayor Tony Giannattasio, Costa Peru owner Kevin Inahuazo, and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Mediterranean Bistro Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 22 for new restaurant, Bistro Mediterranean & Tapas Bar, which opened its doors at 1015 Bridgeport Ave. Unit A in Milford. Included in the photo are Milford Mayor Tony Giannattasio, owner Leonardo Carreño, MRCC Director Simon McDonald and state Rep. Kathy Kennedy. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Bob Puchala, Owner  
**BP LANDSCAPING**  
 Phone:  
 203-887-6392

**HOUSE FOR RENT in Orange!**  
 3 bedroom Ranch, two full baths, single car garage, approx. 1,250 square feet. Nice one floor living! Spacious living room with fireplace. Lots of room for entertaining also. Nice large back deck overlook lovely yard. Beautiful finished basement. Minutes to Route 34 and the Merritt Parkway. Move in ready July 1st. \$2,650/month plus security. Call 203-927-7343.



**FRIDAY JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**RAIN DATE: SUNDAY JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**TOWN OF ORANGE**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**CONCERT & FIREWORKS**

**BEST SHOT**  
**"Featuring"**  
**Melissa Lotardo**  
**"A tribute to the music of Pat Benatar"**

*Best Shot*

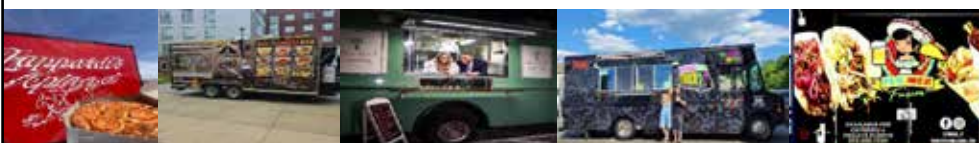


**FAIRGROUNDS OPEN AT 3:00 p.m. CONCERT STARTS AT 6:30 p.m.**



**FOOD TRUCKS WILL BE THERE TOO!**

- LEMONADE & FRIED DOUGH ~ FORK IN THE ROAD ~ SZABO'S SEAFOOD
- TEX-MEX FUSION ~ WHAT THE TRUCK BBQ ~ ZUPPARDI'S PIZZA
- J & D KETTLED CORN ~ MICCALIZZI'S ITALIAN ICE ~ POLAR SWEETS
- SWEETNESS BITES ~ WALNUT BEACH CREAMERY



Restore with the healing hands of

*Massage*

**Gary Augustine - LMT**  
 Massage Therapy & Body Work  
 (203) 215-5570  
 CT License #005372

College student-run full service garbage removal

**DUMP RUNS**

- Garbage
- Furniture
- Electronics
- Metal Waste
- Appliances
- Demolitions

**203.430.2443**



# Orange Raffling Treats During Dog Licensing Month



Orange will raffle off a basket of treats and toys to one of the dog owners who obtain licenses in town this June. Photo courtesy of the Orange town clerk.

June is the renewal month for dog licenses for all dogs six months and older in Orange. This year, the town is automatically entering all those who obtain a dog license into a raffle to win a basket of dog treats and toys.

The raffle drawing will take place on Monday, July 3.

One of the three ways to obtain a license is to visit the town clerk's office at Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you are unable to stop by in person, you can visit the town website at orange-ct.gov for instructions on how to renew a dog license electronically or by

mail. The costs to obtain a dog license are \$8 for spayed females or neutered males, and \$19 for unspayed/unneutered dogs. An up-to-date rabies vaccination certificate and a neutering/spaying certificate are required to renew or obtain a new dog license. According to state law, it is the responsibility of the dog owner to obtain a license in June each year. After June 30, there is a state mandated \$1 per month penalty for unlicensed dogs.

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

# June Is Dog Licensing Month In Milford

The Milford city clerk's office is reminding residents that June is dog licensing month. All dogs over the age of six months must be licensed, and that license must be renewed in June every year. A new dog license will be valid from July 1 until June 30, 2025. A late penalty of \$1 per month begins on July 1.

To obtain a license, dog owners must submit a completed application, proof of

current rabies vaccination, proof of spay or neuter if appropriate and payment. The fees are \$8 for a spayed female or neutered male and \$19 for a non-spayed female or non-neutered male.

To get an application or submit the application online, go to the city clerk's website at ci.milford.ct.us/city-clerk/pages/dog-licenses. Contact the city clerk's office at 203-783-3210 with any questions.

## Town of Orange Legal Notice Neighborhood Assistance Program

Pursuant to Section 12-632 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Orange will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. in the Lower-Level Meeting Room at the Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT, to receive comments on an application received for the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program which will be submitted to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Service for funding consideration. The application is on file in the First Selectman's Office and may be reviewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received at the First Selectman's Office until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Thereafter comments should be presented at the public hearing. The following application has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen:

Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy - \$150,000

Dated at Orange, CT this 29th day of May 2024.

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Orange

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

MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL  
weekends: June 7-22

a true story of 19th century astronomer, Henrietta Leavitt, during a time of great scientific discoveries, and a woman's ideas would be dismissed until men claimed them as their own.

# SILENT SKY

by Lauren Gunderson  
directed by Nancy A Herman

milfordarts.org 203.878.6647

2024

## DOWNTOWN MILFORD FARMERS' MARKET

Wasson Field

EVERY SATURDAY  
8:30am-12:30pm  
June 8 - October 12

Children's Markets  
6/15, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14

DowntownMilfordFarmersMarket.com

# Obituaries

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

**John "Jack" Barton Jr.**, 90, beloved husband of the late Shirley Barton, passed away on May 26, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Victoria Brennan** of Milford, beloved wife of the late Arthur R. Brennan for 54 years, passed away on May 22, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Gregory Edward Clukey** (age 79) of Milford, CT passed away peacefully on Tuesday May 28, 2024 after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Agnes Estelle Dupree**, 91, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Robert G. Dupree, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Gail Arnold Meeson Elker** (nee Spooner) passed peacefully on May 25, 2024 surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paul Ernst Sr.**, 83 passed away April 25, 2024. He was born in Somerset, MA, the son of the late Alder and Marie (Bibeau) Ernst. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Dianne, 'Dee', Forino** passed away peacefully on February 3, 2024. Dee was born and raised in Waterbury, CT and settled in the seaside town of Milford, CT. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Yolanda Gaudette**, 84, passed away Sunday, May 5, 2024 at her home in Milford with her loving family by her side. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Maryann C. Gurz**, 92, formerly of Milford, beloved wife of the late Joseph J. Gurz, passed away on May 6, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Linda Ann Gustafson**, born June 3, 1943, in Bridgeport, CT, peacefully passed away on April 29, 2024, at her Milford, CT home. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Anna Goetze Hartshorn**, 100, passed away May 10, 2024 at Lutheran Life Villages in Fort Wayne, IN. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Irma (Ela) Venosta Heiter**, 93, of Milford, passed away peacefully with her family by her side in her home, on May 9, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Beloved wife, devoted mother, cherished grandmother, and treasured friend, **Jane Hemingray** (nee Foley), 79, passed away on May 22, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Christina "Chris" Lynn Hey**, 61, of Milford, was a loving daughter, mother, sister, and friend. She passed away suddenly on May 6, 2024. (Cody-White Doyle Funeral Home)



**Carol Lee Hosler**, age 78, of Milford, beloved wife of the late James Q. Hosler Sr., entered peaceful rest on April 29, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



## Celebrating Life in Milford and Orange for over 95 years!

### Our Difference is

- Service • Facilities • Location
- Streaming Services • Fallen Hero Program
- Certified Life Planning/Funeral Director – James Cowan
- Sponsor of the Caring Network Aftercare Program facilitated by Bridges Healthcare

**Amanda Veccharelli**  
– Managing Partner

**Thomas J. Cody**  
– Funeral Director

**Carly North**  
– Funeral Director

**Kevin W. Cody**  
– Funeral Director

**David J. DeRubeis**  
– Funeral Director

**Brian Garrity**  
– Funeral Director

**Bethany German**  
– Funeral Director

**Renate K. Eastman**  
– Office Manager

**CODY-WHITE FUNERAL HOME**

*Conveniently located on the  
Historic Milford Green*

**107 North Broad Street  
Milford, Connecticut 06460**

**(203) 874-0268**

[www.codywhitefuneralservice.com](http://www.codywhitefuneralservice.com)



# Obituaries

**Martin "Marty" S. Lippman**, 90, of Milford, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert Daniel Oliver Sr.**, of Milford, CT, beloved husband of Barbara Brotherton Oliver, passed away peacefully at home, on May 21, 2024 on his 88th birthday. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Joseph Delbert Rogers III**, of Woodmont, passed away on May 7, 2024. (Cody-White Joe, or Joey to his family and many neighborhood friends, was born on Aug. 21, 1946. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Jerrold Jaroslaw "Jarek" Skakacz** passed away suddenly on April 22, 2024 at Yale New Haven Hospital with his daughter by his side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Ruth H. Martin** was born on November 23, 1927 and passed away on May 20, 2024 at age 96. (Cody-White Funeral Homes)



**Paulina Papendorf**, 91, formerly of Milford, passed away on May 3, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Roger John Rottkamp**, 82, of Milford, beloved husband of Cecilia Rottkamp, passed away on May 25, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Dennis Alan Twigg**, age 75, of Stratford, beloved husband of 24 years to Patricia Kutis Twigg, entered peaceful rest on May 18, 2024, at his home. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Ann Moll**, age 96 of Milford, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 14th, 2024, surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Helen Julia Baker Pasenelli** entered into glory on May 8, 2024. She was the daughter of the late Albert and Helen Baker of Stamford. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



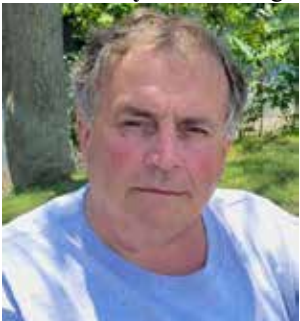
**Hedwig "Hedi" Seefeldt**, age 88, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Charles J. Seefeldt entered into peaceful rest on Saturday, May 4, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Steven J. Wells**, 44, of Mystic, CT, passed away on May 16, 2024 after being stricken ill at home. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Darrell Ray Moran**, age 65, long term resident of Milford, CT, passed away unexpectedly on May 11, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Janice May Rainey**, 96, of Milford, beloved wife of the late David Rainey, passed away on May 24, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Robert "Bob" K. Simington**, 66, of Shelton and formerly long time resident of Milford, beloved husband of the late Diana M. Simington, passed away on May 4, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Anthony Frank Yarochovicz Sr.**, age 78, of Milford, beloved husband of Kathleen Harrington Yarochovicz, entered peaceful rest on Friday May 24, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



## Gregory F. Doyle

### FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

Now Entrusted with the Smith Funeral Home families



**Handicap Accessible**

*"Our Family Takes Care of Your Family With Compassion & Dignity"*

Directors:  
Dorothy Doyle, Moriah Doyle Britt,  
Conan J. Doyle, Dody Doyle,  
Andrea K. Blackwood  
Gregory F Doyle (1918-2005),  
Colleen Doyle Britt (1950-2010)

"Serving the Milford and surrounding communities since 1950"

**203-874-5641**

**291 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford**

US Route 1, Rte I-95 Exit 34, Right .2 Miles  
**Devon Center**

[www.gregoryfdoylefuneralhome.com](http://www.gregoryfdoylefuneralhome.com)

MEMBER OF THE  
MILFORD CHAMBER

DELIVERY FROM  
NEW HAVEN TO  
GREENWICH



The Best Flower Shop in Milford Since 1985

Flowers - Plants - Gift Baskets - Weddings - Sympathy



**Family Owned & Operated**  
**All Products 100% Guaranteed**  
**Full Service Florist & Gift Shop**

**- SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS -**  
**MAKE YOUR EVERYDAY MORE BEAUTIFUL**

Same Day Delivery to Orange & Milford

**325 New Haven Ave.**

**Milford, CT 06460**

**(203) 878-3717**

[www.beachwoodflorist.com](http://www.beachwoodflorist.com)

# HINE

PAVING • SEALCOATING  
■ Residential - Commercial

Family Owned & Operated for 4+ Generations



877 GRASSY HILL RD.  
ORANGE, CT 06477  
HIC.#0641115

**HinePaving.com**  
**203-795-4546**

## FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES / ORANGE FAIR GROUNDS

Doobie Brothers, Grand Funk, The Eagles, Led Zeppelin

**RADIO FLASHBACK**

70's/80's Rock & Roll Radio Tribute Show! 7.10.2024

Rod Stewart, Three Dog Night, Billy Idol, ZZ Top, etc...

Journey, Aerosmith, Foreigner, Boston, ELO, Bad Company, Styx



**Milford-Orange Times**  
*when there's better writing, there's better reading.*

**LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER IN MILFORD AND ORANGE\***

FEATURING LOCAL NEWS \* POLITICS OPINION \* ARTS

And More Than 35 Local Columnists Offering Insights In Their Fields Of Expertise

\*Mailed to 12,000 homes & businesses  
**WINNER Best Newspaper in Milford**

Fair And Balanced With An Unfettered Voice For All.

CONTACT:  
publisher@theorangetimes.com • 203-799-7500  
Online too at www.milford-orangetimes.com

**ALL REVVED UP**  
The Ultimate Meatloaf Tribute!  
8.8.2024

**Courtesy of Milford Performance Center, Milford-Orange Times, Our Sponsors & Food Trucks**