



Milford-Orange Times

Vol. 14 / Issue 11

www.Milford-OrangeTimes.com

October 31, 2024

Election 2024 Special Section: The Candidates Speak Pages 14-17



State Sen. James Maroney, District 14.



State Senate District 14 candidate Steven Johnstone.



State Rep. Kathy Kennedy, District 119.



State representative District 119 candidate Etan Hirsch.



State Rep. Frank Smith, District 118.



State representative District 118 candidate Mark Macchio.



State representative District 117 candidate MJ Shannon.



State representative District 117 candidate Ray Collins III.



State Rep. Mary Welander, District 114.

Milford BOE Begins Budget Planning

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Although a final version won't be adopted until next spring, planning for the sometimes-contentious Milford Public Schools budget has already begun in earnest.

The Milford Board of Education voted during its Oct. 14 meeting to adopt a list of budget priorities and assumptions – an outline of the kinds of things the school system should seek to protect or expand in the coming year, as well as challenges that may be on the horizon.

The board had held a separate meeting with superintendent Dr. Anna Cutaia on Sept. 23 to discuss this outline in depth.

Many of the items on the priorities list involve keeping current programs intact, such as maintaining class size maximums, supporting existing extracurricular and sports activities or providing staff with ongoing professional development resources.

Other priorities are centered around

Continued on page 22

Zapatka Fills Vacancy On Orange BOE

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Board of Selectmen during their Oct. 9 meeting unanimously approved Amanda Zapatka to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Education.

Zapatka's appointment was the final step in a series of shifts that began with the resignation of Ralph Okenquist from the Board of Selectmen in August. First Selectman Jim Zeoli chose Board of Education Chair William Kraut to fill Okenquist's seat on the Board of Selectmen, thus creating a vacancy on the education

board. All four are Republicans.

Zapatka grew up in Orange, having attended Racebrook Elementary and Amity Regional High School. She attended Fairfield University and received her master's degree in elementary education from Southern Connecticut State University. She has previously worked at Peck Place School, and her children are now enrolled in Orange Public Schools.

"I'm very passionate about traditional education, and I'm looking forward to keeping those principles and values in our education system," Zapatka told the selectmen.

Zapatka is not unfamiliar with the political scene in Orange. Her father, Jeff Vargo, has served as a town constable, having last won election to the position in 2019.

Zapatka was sworn in immediately after the vote by Town Clerk Mary Shaw.

There was some question about whether the appointment allows Zapatka to serve for the remainder of Kraut's term, in which case she would not need to seek reelection until 2027, or whether the appointment only runs until the next municipal election in 2025. Town Attorney Vincent Marino said that he would need to check the statutes to be sure.

Orange Granted Affordable Housing Moratorium

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange has received approval from the state for a four-year moratorium on being subject to the state's 8-30g affordable housing law.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Jack Demirjian made the announcement during the Oct. 15 Town Plan & Zoning Commission meeting.

"On the initiative of the Board of

Selectmen and the town attorney's office, we said, 'Let's retally our numbers,'" Demirjian said. "We now no longer need to entertain any 8-30g applications for the next four years."

The state's affordable housing law, known as 8-30g, allows developers broader latitude

Continued on page 22



Zapatka speaks during the Oct. 9 Orange Board of Selectmen, shortly before being sworn in as the newest member of the Orange Board of Education. Image courtesy of Orange Government Access Television.

11.2.24

THE HILARIOUS HITMEN

At The Parson's / Veterans Auditorium

MUSIC-COMEDY-9 Piece Orchestra

Billy Mira, Sal Governale and Richard Christy
from Satellite Radio's 'HOWARD STERN SHOW'

An Evening of Song & Conversation With
PETER YARROW
(Peter, Paul & Mary)

Doors @ 6:30PM
Show @ 7:30PM

203.723.3672

December 7th

MilfordPerformanceCenter.org

Swim Academy Opens In Orange



Bulldog Swim Academy opened its doors for its grand opening on Oct. 24 with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Located at 200 Indian River Rd. in the former Christmas Tree Plaza, Bulldog Swim Academy is owned by Adriana and Kyle Schack. Adriana Schack is a former Mexican Olympian, while Kyle Schack is an associate head coach of swimming at Yale University. This is the couple's second location, with another in New Haven. In addition to the Schacks, those pictured include Orange Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Barry Lee Cohen, Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annemarie Sliby, chamber board member Sarah McGovern of Halcyon Travel Company, and clients, staff and family. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Milford, Orange To Honor Veterans Day

Milford will hold a Veterans Day parade on Sunday Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. starting from Daniel Wasson Field at 70 West River St in Milford. After the parade, there will be a performance by the high school bands at the gazebo on the Milford Green.

Milford will also hold its annual wreath laying ceremony on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. in front of City Hall. The ceremony will then move to the monuments on the Green.

Orange will be honoring veterans on Monday, Nov. 11 at the Orange War

Remembrance Memorial at High Plains Community Center at 11 a.m. The American Legion welcomes the public and any veterans who wish to attend.

Applications are also available to purchase commemorative bricks for the Remembrance Memorial at High Plains. Bricks are \$100 each and can be purchased by veterans themselves or by families in honor of their beloved veterans, either living or deceased. For more information, contact the first selectman's office at 203-891-4737 or adenny@orange-ct.gov.

Orange Residents Invited To Weigh In On Town Plan

BFJ Planning, which has been hired by Orange to update their 2015 plan of conservation and development, will host a public workshop on Nov. 13 at High Plains Community Center.

The workshop, which runs from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., will seek feedback from the broader Orange community, create a vision for the POCD and identify key issues and opportunities within the town.

The POCD update will guide the town's growth, preservation efforts and quality of life for the next 10 years, and BFJ is seeking

robust public participation. Key topics will include land use, open space, transportation, municipal facilities, the local economy and environmental concerns.

The workshop will begin with a presentation by the project consultants, who will provide an overview of the POCD planning process, the town's current conditions and a summary of initial findings. Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to share feedback and discuss issues and opportunities for the future of Orange.



Get Out to VOTE!

MILFORD & ORANGE NEED YOU!

Kathy will fight for...

- AFFORDABILITY & TAXES**
Make Connecticut more affordable by fighting for lower taxes on working families and those on fixed incomes
- ELECTRIC RATES & RELIABILITY**
Continuing to fight the electric utility companies on rate hikes, demanding greater accountability and better reliability
- COMMUNITY SAFETY & THE POLICE**
Working to protect residents and victims of crime while giving law enforcement the tools they need to fight crime, especially car thefts and speeding on our roads
- EDUCATION**
Advocating for more educational resources for Milford and Orange schools





Kathy KENNEDY
State Representative Milford and Orange
@KathyKennedyforStateRep



Endorsed by the Independent Party of CT

Paid for by Kathy Kennedy for the 119th, Scott Willey Treasurer. Approved by Kathy Kennedy.

VOTE FOR
★ ★ MJ ★ ★
SHANNON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MILFORD • ORANGE • WEST HAVEN

Early Voting Until Nov. 3
Election Day Nov. 5



EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT
AFFORDABILITY • PUBLIC SAFETY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

www.shannon117.com
P: (203)751-7256 E: shannonfor117@gmail.com

Opinion & Editorial

Letters to the Editor:

Send us your letters to the editor with no more than 350 words to editor@theorangetimes.com. Include your name and full address; only your name and town will be published. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

OCNS Playground Fundraiser Underway

To the Editor:

There is currently a community-wide effort to enhance the children's play area at the High Plains Community Center. In September 2023, due to safety concerns and after years of heavy use, Orange removed the primary playscape structure that was a familiar symbol of the south side of the community center. While the town did install a smaller replacement structure in April 2024 with available funding, due to the massive increase in pricing of materials for suitable all-season play structures, it is substantially smaller than the original and cannot safely accommodate the same number of children and also lacks the allure of the previous playscape.

This fundraising effort is underway to add an additional structure to the area for the use of Orange Community Nursery School students and community members alike. During school hours, this play area will be used exclusively by the nursery school, but it is also highly trafficked and open to the public during non-school hours. It is a popular place for siblings of those enrolled in town recreational activities and sports, a gathering place for families on the evenings and weekends and has been a meet-up of sorts for many families during big town events such as the Strawberry Festival, Fireman's Carnival and the Country Fair.

The loss of the previous playscape directly impacts the experience of the current (and future) students of OCNS, as the children still spend a large amount of time outdoors, engaging in creative and interactive play while improving gross and fine motor skills.

The campaign to expand the playground has been well received by our community thus far. To date, the playground fund has received over \$15,000 in contributions; much of this has been due to the generosity of families inside and outside of the Orange community. There has also been tremendous support from local businesses and organizations, such as Walmart, the Rotary Club of Orange, Vancord Cybersecurity, Soundview Landscape Supply, The Grind, Orange Pediatrics, Baybrook Remodelers and Burns Construction.

We still have a ways to go in our fundraising, so please consider a contribution to this campaign to enhance this valued community space. Visit our GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/28e4b499>. Email questions to ocnsplaygroundfund@gmail.com.

Lisa Grande
Orange

Thanks for Stopping Cell Tower

To the Editor:

The neighbors and families impacted by the proposed Verizon cell tower at 425 Old Tavern Rd. in Orange would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the local landowner, Frederick A. Knight, for his willingness to withdraw the application and to the entire community for its incredible support throughout this process.

When we first learned of the plans for the cell tower, many of us felt a profound sense of unease. The prospect of a large industrial structure looming over our neighborhood

raised concerns not only about potential health risks but also about the impact on local wildlife and wetlands, our property values and the overall aesthetic of our neighborhood. We were worried about how this would change the environment we cherish, a place where friends gather, families live and children play.

From the beginning, the landowner's willingness to reconsider the application demonstrated a remarkable commitment to our community. It takes great courage to stand against corporate interests, and we are truly grateful for his willingness to prioritize the well-being of his neighbors over financial gain. His actions have not only relieved our immediate concerns but have also reinforced the values we cherish in our community – integrity, respect and collaboration.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our neighbors, friends and local elected officials for their support in our opposition to this project. We appreciate the swift and passionate response from our community. Many of them signed our petition, attended town meetings, wrote letters, participated in discussions and rallied to express their concerns. Their dedication to preserving the character of our community and protecting our homes has made a profound difference in our lives.

We remain hopeful that our collective efforts will yield positive outcomes, not only in this particular case but also in fostering a community that prioritizes health, safety and the preservation of our neighborhood's unique character. Thank you once again for standing together in support of our community values.

Orange & Milford Residents Against the Old Tavern Road Cell Tower

Support for Dems

To the Editor:

We citizens get an occasional chance to cast our votes for our elected representatives, not just nationally, but in our own state. I will leave it to others to argue the pros and cons of the presidential candidates other than to state that in my opinion it would be foolhardy and dangerous to vote for a fascist felon who has already proven his contempt for democracy, when the alternative is a pragmatic and experienced candidate. Kamala Harris is the obvious choice whether one is a member of either party or an unaffiliated voter.

I would like though to highlight what I consider the superior qualifications of the candidates for state representative that I have gotten to know during the campaign. Mary Welander, the incumbent for the 114th District, has done a truly excellent job in representing the voters of Orange and other towns in her district, and promises to continue to do so. She has a passion for the state representative's job, and is an empathetic, intelligent and reasonable legislator. The fact that the Republicans could find no one to run against her this term is testament to her high reputation.

MJ Shannon, candidate for the open seat in the 117th District is just about the hardest campaigner I have ever met, and I have met dozens. He approaches his campaigning with joy and excitement, listens carefully to his prospective constituents as he knocks on their doors, calls them or meets them at various public events, where he's picked up many new admirers and ideas. Shannon's employment as a clerk with the State Senate gives him experience in the state legislature and relationships with many legislators and staffers in Hartford already. His family operates a small business in the area, so he is intimately familiar with the challenges and rewards of running a small business. He'll be ready to be

our state representative on the first day of the next session if he's elected.

Etan Hirsch, candidate for state representative for the 119th District of Milford and Orange, is already highly regarded in the legal community as a litigator and leader of the Greater Bar Association. He has served as a member of the Milford Planning and Zoning Commission, which has overseen an incredible amount of economic development in that town, to the envy of other towns. I've spent several hours in discussions with Hirsch, and find he has a deep understanding of the difficult issues coming up in the General Assembly: addressing the shortage of affordable housing, escalating electric costs and aging infrastructure. We need a representative who has the capacity to collaborate with colleagues, advocate for his ideas and come up with sensible policies to solve our state's issues and keep Connecticut growing and prospering. The best candidate for the 119th is undoubtedly Hirsch.

Above all, come out and vote on Nov. 5.

Kenneth Lenz
Former member, Orange Board of Selectmen

A Vote for Hirsch

To the Editor:

I have known Etan Hirsch professionally for nearly 20 years, having first met him when he was a student intern at the state attorney's office in Bridgeport. We have served together on the Planning and Zoning Board for the past three years, where I have witnessed Hirsch's passion and articulate discussions during the board meetings. He is an active leader in the legal profession, being a member of the Connecticut Bar Association and the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association, rising to the association's presidency for the 2022-2023 term.

As a practicing attorney and member of public commissions, Hirsch possesses the necessary attributes needed in a state representative for the 119th District of Milford and Orange, in the following ways.

- He is passionate about the matters of discussion;
- He listens attentively, is articulate and properly addresses the issues being discussed;
- As is his duty, he listens to the concerns of his clients and provide appropriate legal advice;
- He understands the concerns of the citizens he represents.

We need compassionate and strong leadership in our representation at the General Assembly. Accordingly, I support Etan Hirsch for state representative and I hope you will too.

C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Milford

Endorses Hirsch

To the Editor:

I enthusiastically endorse Etan Hirsch as Connecticut state representative for the 119th District (Milford and Orange). Hirsch possesses a keen intellect and eagerness to learn coupled with an abiding curiosity that will be a powerful tool for high level representation. I have worked with Hirsch as a colleague and fellow elected official in Milford and am witness to his effective actions in this role. Hirsch's professional background and experience as a litigator and elected Planning and Zoning official motivate him to ask probing questions, a skill most needed when various competing constituencies do not always share interests or goals.

Hirsch prefers open dialogue and constructive debate in decision making to bring about fair, equitable and reasonable solutions. I have enjoyed our policy discussions and find Hirsch to be an intellectually curious colleague. I have been impressed with his straight-shooter approach and his ability to get to the heart of the issue with a determined desire to reach solutions. Hirsch is likable and energetic, and easily forms workable connections that aid him in helping others. He is unquestionably caring and ethical in his decision-making process, with a fundamental integrity being a significant asset ensuring that what Hirsch says on Monday still stands on Tuesday.

I can say without reservation that Etan Hirsch has outstanding leadership and community building skills that will make him an excellent choice to represent the 119th.

Ellen Russell Beatty
Milford

When the Right Is Wrong

To the Editor:

I registered as a Democrat when I moved to Orange in 2013, but for over 20 years I was a registered Republican in Ohio. When I moved there in 1990, the state was a welcoming place that had effective, mainly Republican leaders optimistically guiding recovery from a rust-belt legacy. It was not difficult to promote my hometown, or to vote for past governors George Voinovich and John Kasich, Sen. Rob Portman and Rep. Mike Oxley, or to support Speaker John Boehner. They were public servants who possessed skill and integrity, and reliably delivered robust outcomes.

Today, JD Vance and Jim Jordan are disappointing bombastic substitutes for Ohio's past leaders. Even the very conservative incumbent governor, Mike DeWine, has had to call them to task for damaging rhetoric. In my decades there and since leaving, I watched a far-right minority use fear, anger, disinformation and absurd gerrymanders to seize power, and centrists fall in line to cling to it. Importantly, it has not worked out well for Ohio, since the state has subsequently lost ground in many economic, health care and educational measures. Ohio has not become great again.

Perhaps more disappointing is how its citizens increasingly became intolerant. Rhetoric matters. My children noticed it, left Ohio after high school and have vowed not to return. So did many of their friends. My kids are now in interracial and/or interfaith relationships and have told me their families would find Ohio unpleasant. That is painful for me to grasp. In my last years there, though, it became difficult for me to recruit professional talent for good high-paying jobs. It was not the physical climate, but the social one that often turned people away. I left and cannot imagine going back.

It can feel good to sometimes get angry, and revenge is a popular dramatic theme. But it doesn't work interpersonally or for nation-states historically. I am hard-pressed to think of a modern nation that has prospered long-term with insular nationalism and systemic prejudice. I would be sad to see the US follow the path Ohio has taken. It leads to mediocrity.

Dan May
Orange

MOT
Milford-Orange Times

For Nature's Sake

The Case Of The Dissolving Oyster Shells

When a late autumn morning in Connecticut is interrupted by the fumes and roar of a nearby gas-powered leaf blower, I think about oysters.

That is, I think of ocean acidification, which is caused by air pollution created by machines that burn coal, oil and gas. The seas absorb a lot of that carbon pollution: about 30 percent according to experts. But when excess carbon dioxide enters the ocean it changes the seawater's chemistry, making it more acidic. Among other things, that higher acidity harms oysters and other bivalves (organisms producing two shells) growing in places like the Long Island Sound. In some cases, the more acidic water is actually dissolving oyster shells.

Included in her work at the Milford NOAA Fisheries Lab, Shannon Meseck, who has a PhD in chemical oceanography and expertise in ecology and aquaculture, has worked with colleagues to investigate the impacts of ocean acidification, producing insights important to communities from a local to a global scale. To perhaps best appreciate some of the research related to ocean acidification, consider the following.

The term acidification, as it affects oceans, refers to a simple lowering of pH, rather than converting seas outright to the equivalent of lemon juice. Still, the change from a higher to slightly lower pH, in this case, means that today's oceans are up to 30 percent more acidic since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. This decline in pH happened 50 times faster than any period over the past 50 million years, ac-

ording to a factsheet from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That decline, it turns out, can harm the likes of oysters, clams and mussels. It can also disrupt marine ecosystems like coral reefs.

Events on the Pacific Northwest coast sounded the alarm on potential harms of ocean acidification when, from 2005 to 2008, billions of hatchery-grown oyster larvae died and many surviving oysters had deformed shells or were undersized because of an upwelling of acidified seawater. Swimmers and boaters, at the time, were not bothered by the subtle changes in the water's pH, according to the PBS NOVA program titled "Oceans of Acid: How Fossil Fuels Could Destroy Marine Ecosystems." But a trend toward more acidic water led to the near-collapse of a \$110 million industry.

While there is a difference between the Long Island Sound and the ecosystem of the West Coast, our local waters are still vulnerable to acidification's risks. One of the goals, then, of both the geneticists and chemists at NOAA's Milford Fisheries Lab is to support the resilience of local marine species in the face of ocean acidification.

In an interview at the NOAA lab on a recent October afternoon, I asked Meseck, whose official title is research biologist supervisor, what happens to oysters when the water they're growing in has a higher acidity. She pointed to a photo from a pre-



PATRICIA HOUSER

vious study she headed of three oysters that were the same size but showed variations of wear on their shells. The biggest difference between the shells, said Meseck, was felt when they were picked up; the oysters that had been raised in more acidic surroundings were lighter and more fragile, even easy to crush. I asked what word would best sum up what had happened to the shell that became the most fragile – was it eroding or de-

grading or dissolving?

"They appeared to be dissolving," Meseck explained.

These days Meseck and her colleagues continue to explore how small variations of pH and other environmental factors can affect oysters at different life stages. A typical day, said Meseck, could begin with retrieving samples of oyster larvae from tubs of varying pH seawater. First, they would test the environmental parameters of the water that the larvae had been kept in, "like your temperature, your salinity, your dissolved inorganic carbon, pH, alkalinity."

"Then, if we're working with larvae, we would take those samples and look at them under the microscope to see if they're swimming, see if they have stomachs that are full of food, see if they are not moving or if they are developing more normally," she said.

They even check the breathing patterns of individual oyster larvae.

"How do you measure the breathing of

larvae?" she asked. "We measure their respiration rates. We use respiration chambers, and basically you put a little individual in there and you watch; it measures how they remove oxygen from the seawater over time."

There's an urgent need, according to government and nonprofit groups, for more action on ocean acidification, including the kind of research being carried out in Milford. Experts sometimes refer to ocean acidification as, "the evil twin of climate change" or "the other CO2 problem." One of the four main required elements for action in the landmark 2023 US Ocean Acidification Action Plan, is, unequivocal: "Mitigate ocean acidification through reducing CO2 emissions." There's more, even, than oysters at stake.

Individuals can do their part, among other things, through such actions as limiting car trips, not idling a vehicle, looking for less harmful lawn fertilizers and, perhaps, creating local incentives for swapping out gas-powered leaf blowers with electric models. (A fast fact cited in USA Today is that "One hour of leaf blowing is the equivalent in emissions of driving 1,100 miles in a car.")

In the meantime, Meseck says the work at NOAA makes her hopeful.

"This research is working toward providing sustainable seafood and shellfish despite changing ocean chemistry."

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

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



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



**BETHANY 14 BRIAR ROAD
BETHANY FARMS!**

Stunning 5BR, 3.5BA, 3538 sf Colonial on 1.82 ac features luxurious details thruout. Elegant Eat-In Kitchen, ML Library / Office, formal Dining Rm, finished LL. New Roof + C/A.
HOLLI SHANBROM ~ 203.298.2050



**MILFORD 20 SOUTHWICK CT NORTH
UNDER CONTRACT ~ MULTIPLE OFFERS!**
WITH DEEP MARKET KNOWLEDGE AND DEDICATION, I PROVIDE AN EDGE IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE. LET ME TURN YOUR GOALS INTO REALITY!
KAREN KLINE ~ 203.535.5706



**ORANGE 315 WEST RIVER ROAD
MULTIPLE OFFERS!
SOLD ALMOST \$100,000 OVER LIST PRICE!
YOUR HOME IS IN HIGH DEMAND!
I AM JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!
SHARON TUDINO ~ 203.257.9601**



**ORANGE 889 INDIAN HILL ROAD
SOLD FOR \$87K OVER ASKING!
LOOKING FOR SIMILAR RESULTS?
CALL ME!
ALLEN GREALISH ~ 203.623.8484**



**STRATFORD 61C WEDGEWOOD RD
COMING SOON! \$335,000**
Far Mill River Complex
Great Condo features 2 BR, 2.5 BATH.
Freshly painted. Partially finished basement.
WENDY BARRY ~ 203.913.2923



**DON'T FORGET! TIME TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK ON NOVEMBER 3RD!**
And if You're Thinking of Moving, I'm Here to Help! Let My Experience Work for YOU!
THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!
NYDIA FELIX-PERCIVAL ~ 718.791.8297



**MILFORD 305 OLD POINT ROAD
GREAT OPPORTUNITY! \$385,000**
Situating about 1 mile from Walnut Beach, this well-constructed 3BR home is ready for new owners to bring it back to life! HDWD FLRS. C/A.
AUDRA DIGELLO ~ 203.506.4778



**MILFORD 92 HAWLEY AVENUE
GREAT NEW PRICE! \$649,000**
WATER VIEWS! Located in the highly sought-after Woodmont. Just 1 block from the water, this 2236 sf home has 3 Beds + 3 Baths.
TOM CAVALIERE ~ 203.907.7800



**ORANGE 49 S. LAKESIDE DRIVE
WELCOME HOME! \$449,000**
Lovely Active Adult 55+ Community. Single level living with attached garage. Deck offers peaceful wooded/lake view. 2BR, 2.1 BA.
PAT CARDOZO ~ 203.824.2177



**WEST HAVEN 428 UNION AVENUE
PRICED TO SELL! \$399,000**
Charming 3-bed, 2.5-bath Colonial with modern updates, attic retreat, hardwood floors, fireplace, updated kitchen, and spacious lawn and garden.
LAURA GIAMMATTEI ~ 203.415.9959



**MILFORD 85 VISCOUNT DR #B23
NEW LISTING! \$325,000**
Step into this stunning unit at Heritage Sound, where your everyday life feels like a permanent vacation. This bright and spacious two-bedroom condo boasts an open floor plan. MUST SEE!
SUSAN CASSIDY ~ 203.257.1675



**ORANGE 321 MICHAEL COURT
NEW LISTING! \$559,900**
Beautifully maintained 3BR, 2 full BA Ranch in a picturesque neighborhood. Roof 1 yr young, C/A 2 yr young, newer furnace! Den w/sliders to patio + more!
WAYNE HUGENDUBEL ~ 203.605.2946



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

Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary Prepares Season Of Events And Fundraisers

As president of the Rotary Club of Orange, I'm excited to share the many community-centered initiatives we have coming up this season. Our club is committed to giving back and creating a lasting impact on our town, and we invite everyone in the community to get involved.

We are hosting our annual Thanksgiving dinner for veterans on Monday, Nov. 13 at the American Legion Hall. This special event is our way of giving thanks to those who have served our country. Our Rotary volunteers will be serving a delicious hot Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings and deserts and ensuring our veterans and their families have a wonderful evening. The event starts at 4 p.m., and anyone interested in helping out can contact me for more details.

Our biggest annual fundraiser, the Turkey Trot, is coming together nicely. With nearly 100 runners already signed up, this year's

race is shaping up to be our best yet. We are still actively seeking sponsors for the event, and we encourage local businesses interested in supporting the Rotary Club and our community service projects to reach out to me to sponsor. If you'd like to register to join the event, go to rotarycluboforange.com. The funds raised support scholarships, community outreach and essential services in Orange.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the club supported the Orange Recycling Committee with their fall shred day at High Plains Community Center. This event is always a great way to safely dispose of sensitive documents while supporting a good cause. Proceeds from this event go toward our local community service initiatives. There will be another chance to dispose of



WENDY BARRY

your sensitive documents at our next shred day in the spring.

In addition to our shred day, Rotary was a sponsor for this year's Funtober event where we had a booth and a free raffle giveaway. I hope you were able to stop by and learn more about Rotary and how you can get involved with our service projects.

Each month, our Rotary Club gathers for an evening of fellowship at a local establishments, offering a chance to connect in a casual, social setting. This November, we are excited to support a meaningful cause while having some fun. We'll be attending A Christmas Story: The Musical at Broadway on Main in East Haven on Friday, Nov. 22. This children's theater provides inval-

able programs for at-risk youth, and we are proud to contribute to their efforts through our fundraising initiatives.

We are also working on some exciting new projects, including a potential partnership with the Orange Little League for a fun community event in 2025. More details will be shared as they develop.

I want to thank everyone for their ongoing support of our club's mission. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of veterans, students, and families across our community. For more information on any of our events or to volunteer, please contact me or visit our website at rotarycluboforange.org. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Wendy Barry is the president of the Rotary Club of Orange. Contact her at director@wendy@wbarryrealtor.com.

Orange Chamber of Commerce

The Coolest Candy Is Made In Orange

Just when you thought that Orange couldn't get any more awesome, PEZ appears. Yes, the PEZ of candy cartridge and cartoon character fame. Please allow me to elaborate.

It was a Sunday morning and I'm reading the papers and perusing social media. In the middle of finishing one of my multiple mugs of coffee, a posting perked me up from my perch. The post read, "Vote for the Coolest Thing In Connecticut."

Digging a bit deeper, I learned that the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, in partnership with the Connecticut Office of Manufacturing and CONNSTEP Inc. scoured our great state to unearth the "Coolest Thing Made in Connecticut."

With over 115,000 votes cast, sixteen companies competed head-to-head to win the distinction of being the coolest of cool.

PEZ Candy made it to the second round of eight with its iconic – and yes, very cool – PEZ candy. Our Orange confectionary company was pitted against none other than the competition's winner, General Dynamics

Electric Boat's Virginia Class submarine.

Considering that there are over 4,700 manufacturers in Connecticut, making it to the top eight is pretty sweet.

Okay, a submarine emerged as the victor, but no other candy would dare compete with the crunchy mouthful of grape goodness and outrageous raspberry refresh that pops out of a PEZ dispenser.

Although my childhood aspirations of being one of the "cool kids" didn't exactly materialize, little did I realize that as the executive director of the chamber I would have the opportunity to hang out with the coolest of cool candy companies. Equipped with this knowledge, I paid a visit to our valued and longtime Orange Chamber member.

Greeted by Shawn Peterson, PEZ's direct to consumer business manager, a guided tour of the PEZ Visitor Center followed. Peterson, who made the journey to Connecticut



BARRY COHEN

from Kansas City, Missouri almost 20 years ago, is a collector and expert on everything PEZ. He subsequently became a PEZ employee in 2010. In 2011, the visitor center opened. Many of the items exhibited throughout the 4,000 square foot center belong to Peterson and are enjoyed by children of all ages. Today, the center attracts over 75,000 visitors annually.

As part of the center's community engagement, the company has special needs students from various schools throughout the area assist with the disassembly of candy from returned PEZ dispensers. The keepsakes are eventually reintroduced for sale with fresh candies.

No lie, my very first PEZ dispenser, which I still own to this day, is none other than Bozo the Clown. It sits on my office desk with distinction, along with Buzz Lightyear from the movie "Toy Story" circa 1995.

According to the company's website, bil-

ions of PEZ candies are consumed annually in the US alone, and they are available in more than 90 countries. Located at 35 Prindle Hill Rd., the PEZ Visitor Center is open daily to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Welcome new members

You know what else is cool? Orange Chamber membership. I'm pleased to report that the chamber has increased its membership by over 15 percent since July 1. New members joining in October include Optimum, Charter Senior Living, Family Eye-care of Orange, Yale University West Campus, Connecticut Orthopaedics, WSI World – Bain Group, Consumer Legal Services, Maplewood Senior Living and Gabriele's Ristorante Italiano.

Barry Cohen is the executive director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-795-3328 or director@orangectchamber.com.

Bring Us Your Pain.



Awarding-winning Physical Therapy Pediatrics to Geriatrics.

Locations:
Woodbridge
Branford
Hamden
Milford

203.693.2350 **Amity** amitypt.com
PHYSICAL THERAPY

135 Cherry St Milford

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

What's Up With All The Acorns

A friend of mine recently asked me why my driveway was covered with acorns. Unfortunately, the windshield of my car would also like to know.

It's not an illusion – we are experiencing what is called a "mast year." Mast is a term used for the fruit of forest trees and shrubs such as acorns and other nuts. It comes from an old English term that referred to the nuts that were used to fatten up domestic pigs. A few years ago, there were so many acorns in my yard that the folks who own Walden Hill Farm came and collected them for their pigs to eat.

Mast years are cyclical, generally occurring every two to five years, depending on the species. The oak trees of North America

produce more nuts than any other tree region worldwide, cultivated or wild. With about 90 species of oaks in North America, and with the average grown oak dropping up to 10,000 acorns in a mast year, you can see why it may seem treacherous to walk on my driveway lately. I feel like I need to wear a hard hat.

It's amazing to me that these trees can somehow synchronize when to bear their fruit. Tree nuts like acorns are a high protein snack for a wide variety of wildlife species, from tiny beetles to birds to big black bears.



PAT DRAY

Mast years seem to have an evolutionary advantage for the oaks. Producing nuts is hard work for the trees and stunts the tree's growth, so it couldn't survive if every year was a mast year. By coordinating the timing of their seed production, it's more likely these seed-eating species will be satiated before they can eat all the surplus seeds produced during a mast year – and this means, ideally, the rest of the seeds are left to sprout and grow into trees. This is referred to as "predator satiation." And, since oaks (especially the native white oak in our area) support a wide range of pollinators, that's the good news.

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

Mast years are not a predictor of a severe winter. I guess trees are no better than our local weather reporter for future weather. With our milder winters we are seeing ticks much later into fall and much earlier in the spring. Please be careful in areas with tall grass or shrubs and do a thorough tick check on you and your pets when coming inside.

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

Your Health

Providing Public Health Career Awareness Early On

The field of public health has been chronically underfunded. However, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted an urgent need: the public health workforce is understaffed, under-resourced and unable to meet the challenges posed by today's increasingly complex health crises. In fact, studies estimate that the US needs an additional 80,000 public health professionals to meet minimum state and local public health requirements adequately.

To address this issue in Connecticut, the Department of Public Health has created a dedicated Office of Public Health Workforce Development within the commissioner's office. The office is focused entirely on the development and deployment of the public health workforce in the state.

One of the strategies to address the public

health workforce shortage includes providing career awareness early on. On Oct. 11 my team and the director of the Quinnipiac Valley Health District, Luis Pantoja, were invited as guest speakers by Amity High School College and Career Counselor Lynn Cocco.

We engaged with high school students across all grade levels and held interactive question and answer sessions. Our presentations emphasized the diversity of career paths in public health, helping students see how these roles align with a range of interests – from data science and research to community organizing and health policy.

In collaboration with Amity High School,



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

the Orange Health Department has been offering internship opportunities to high school seniors as part of Amity's Unpaid Experiential Learning Program. During their internship these students can design campaigns to promote vaccination awareness, organize community health fairs or participate in health data collection.

Rebuilding and expanding the public health workforce will require broad, cross-sector collaboration. In addition to inviting public health professionals to speak at high schools, school leadership should consider incorporating public health concepts into biology, health and social studies classes.

Topics like epidemiology, community health and environmental health can help students understand the real-world applications and importance of public health, potentially inspiring the next generation of professionals in the field.

Public health isn't always a well-known career path. Increasing the number of individuals entering public health begins with promoting education and training opportunities. Integrating public health education into high school and college courses can help students recognize it as a meaningful, impactful profession. I believe this is the perfect time to address this topic.

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

L | T | K | E LAW Lynch, Traub, Keefe & Errante

For 70 years, Southern Connecticut's Personal Injury Lawyers

If you have been injured as a result of someone else's negligence or wrongdoing, call **LTKE Law**. When you need a Connecticut trial lawyer with experience, resources, and the respect of their peers, judges, and the courts, **LTKE Law has the Lawyers you need.**

Just listen to what our clients are saying...



"I will thank LTKE for the rest of my life."

Learn more at **LTKEstories.com**

\$2.5m

JURY AWARD FOR PATERNITY TEST NEGLIGENCE

Joel Actual LTKE Law Client

The Lawyers you need when you need a lawyer.

(203) **333-3333**

Milford Library Talk To Feature Memoir Of Migration

The Milford Public Library will hold a virtual conversation on Nov. 14 with New York Times bestselling author Javier Zamora as he chats with us about his book, "Solito: A Memoir," his tale of survival and perseverance.

Zamora's story is of a 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador through Guatemala and Mexico and across the US border. He leaves behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years earlier and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Zamora expects his trip

to last two weeks.

At 9 years old, all Zamora can imagine is rushing into his parents' arms, snuggling in bed between them and living under the same roof again. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family.

The event runs from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is required. For more information, go to libraryc.org/milfordpubliclibrary/60170/register.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

City Water, Well Water, Founts Of Information

We all know well water comes from a private well, which is actually coming through fractured rock underground. This water type has many advantages as it is free from many of the products that can be found in city water. Yet some of my clients shy away from purchasing a home with well water. An education on both systems can help us all live with both kinds of water without worry.



BARBARA LEHRER

Breaks can occur and lead or copper can leach into water supplies.

Radon in the home or in the water is an important reason to test, as it odorless, colorless and can lead to lung cancer if breathed in – including through water vapor.

You can test your city water the same way well water is checked. Purchase a sanitized test kit and drop it off or mail it to a home water testing company. You will not know what you are looking for, but the companies that study water will.

Well water is naturally rich in minerals. It can develop an earthy smell or taste from algae or bacteria and can be easily fixed with chlorination. This water should be tested yearly for all the things that do not show any signs of a problem, like smell or taste.

If the water is too hard, which is a common issue, then it is not dangerous to drink but it can create problems with your skin, clothing, plumbing and appliances. Adding a softener, another simple basement attachment, is normal and not expensive. However, yearly maintenance is still important. Many homeowners forget about their well upkeep until it is time to sell.

City water draws from surface sources, which makes it vulnerable to things like runoff. It should also be subjected to testing periodically. There are products on the roadways from maintenance, snow removal and gardening runoff, for example, that can seep into the system. City pipes may be old.

Many local well companies can upgrade your systems and teach you how to better maintain them too. Filtering canisters on main pipes in your basement can easily straighten out city water issues. Well water has multiple resources for any problems: iron filters, bacteria preventative lighting and salt mechanisms.

Either city water or well water is great. If you want to live in the country, then well water may be all that is available. Milford and Orange have many homes with both kinds of setups, and a huge percentage of Connecticut gets by with one or the other. Stay educated. Be conscious that you are drinking or breathing in the vapor of the water in your home. Use testing.

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

AN INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF STORY

CELEBRATION!

with CT storyteller Meris Palmer

Saturday November 16 at 11am

for all ages

Milford Public Library

CONNECTICUT STORYTELLING CENTER

WHY CHOOSE A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 pm

For High School students & their caregivers

Milford Public Library

TOWN OF ORANGE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Come learn about the POCD process & share your ideas for the future of Orange!

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

November 13, 2024

7:00 - 8:30 PM

High Plains Community Center

For more information, visit: www.orange-ct.gov

Orange Arts Foundation Sponsors Musical



The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation, based in Orange, provided the Bethany Spartan Players a \$1,000 grant to help fund the production of Seussical Jr., on Friday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. Advanced tickets are available at <https://tinyurl.com/seussicaljr24>. Tickets are \$16 per adult, \$12 per student and children under 4 are free. Front row, from left: Rylee Maxwell, Alexios Selearis, Mirah Chang, and Judy Primavera of the arts foundation. Back row, from left: Musical Director Dr. Keith Smolinski, Addison Merrill, Andrew Mordecai, Katerina Borrego, Sharlotte Winter and Lucius Edwards. Photo courtesy of the Amity Regional School District.

Milford-Orange Times

Stephen Hechtman, Publisher: publisher@theorangetimes.com; Carol Hechtman, Co-Founder
Brandon T. Bisceglia, Editor-in-Chief: editorinchief@theorangetimes.com
Photographers: Steve Cooper • Lexi Crocco • Robert Creigh

In The House: Rep. Mary Welander (D-114) Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117) Kathy Kennedy (R-119)

Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

Columnists:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wendy Barry, Orange Rotary | Jennifer Fiorillo, Mental Health | Amir Mohammad, MD, Public Health |
| Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This | Ben Gettinger, Probate | Michael Moses, Milford Chamber |
| Cathy Bradley, Running | Patricia Houser, Environment | Susan Oderwald, Senior Care |
| Barry Cohen, Orange Chamber | Jennifer Ju, Facing Ourselves | Jennifer Paradis, Homelessness |
| Cyndi Consoli, Arts | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate | Trish Pearson, Insurance |
| Steve Cooper, Food | Dominick Lombardi, ORTC | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel |
| Rob Craft, Recovery | Dan May, Local Geology | Leonora Rodriguez, Milford Seniors |
| Theresa Rose DeGray, Bankruptcy | Marilyn May, Milford History | PJ Shanley, Financial Planning |
| Carmela DeVito, Book Reviews | Dennis Marsh, Orange Seniors | Raymond Spaziani, Wine |
| Jody Dietch, ODTIC | Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances | Michele Tenney, Wellness |
| Pat Dray, Gardening | | Don Wetmore, Time Management |

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
Facebook: [@milfordorangetimes](https://www.facebook.com/milfordorangetimes) Instagram: [@theorangetimes](https://www.instagram.com/theorangetimes) Twitter: [@OrangeTimesCT](https://twitter.com/OrangeTimesCT)

Here's To Your Health

Holiday Challenge

There was a time several years ago when my husband and I would run a winter melt-down challenge for our clients. The purpose of this challenge was to take off the extra pounds people generally gain over the holidays from Thanksgiving to New Year's.

It was after the third year that we decided this wasn't the best approach to helping our clients. Each year an average of 10 pounds would be gained and then an average of 8 pounds would be lost. The following year the same thing occurred, which means our clients were still up 4 pounds from the time they began the first challenge. We then created a challenge to maintain or lose weight during the holiday season and that proved to be a better and more successful challenge.

This year I'm asking each of you to be all in for the same challenge to maintain or lose unhealthy pounds during this holiday season. I realize that's a big ask. However, I'm going to give you some tips to help you be successful.

First, do not deny yourself. Self-abnegation creates a vicious cycle and quite honestly just doesn't work. You'll deny yourself,

then you'll eat an entire sheet cake in the name of "I deserve it," feel guilty and grab some comfort food to make up for it. So, let's make that rule number one.

Smaller portions are the key here. Eat that pasta with vodka sauce. Eat those mashed potatoes. Just eat a smaller portion. Put more vegetables on your plate and less meat. Eating a small salad before going to a holiday party will help offset the sodium in the food you eat and help you not to be as hungry when you arrive.

Drinking plenty of water and limiting alcohol consumption is another great way to not overindulge. Staying hydrated will help you with the dreaded "hangover" as well.

Increasing your cardio days during the week is also helpful to ward off unwanted pounds. If you're getting cardio in twice a week, bump it up to four. You can also add in one or two complex/HIIT workouts that will help boost your metabolism and burn



MICHELE
TENNEY

extra calories. Commit to a six-to-eight-week program to keep you accountable to your workouts. I usually start a program on my Peloton to hold myself accountable the first week of November. I find it helps me not to want to lose any of my hard work when I attend holiday parties.

Use the three-bite rule when it comes to desserts – especially those homemade Christmas cookies. Remember your mind is your battlefield. Your mind will tell your body no, but train your body to tell your mind to be quiet.

I recently was in the emergency room because my mom had a fall. The rooms were full and the hallways were lined with gurneys. Being out in the hallway, I was astonished at what I kept seeing being wheeled in. It broke my heart. Old and young, they were the unhealthiest people I've ever seen. Obviously, they were there for a reason. However, I wondered how much could have been prevented if they were taking care of their

bodies, souls and spirits.

When I asked the nurse "is it always like this?" she responded with "Yes, ever since COVID." We need to take back our lives and live intentionally about taking care of ourselves in all three dimensions. I can't say it enough. You are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body. Living a life being the best you can be will never disappoint you.

Be encouraged that every day gives you a new opportunity to begin anew. I've been in slumps; I've had setbacks. I get it. Join this challenge. Let's do this together. I believe in you, but it's way more important for you to believe in yourself. You got this. Here's to your health.

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

Travel Matters

A Tale of Two Rivers

Having just returned from France, I am delighted to share my experience on sailing two back-to-back river cruises on AmaWaterways. The first was on the Saone and Rhone rivers from Dijon to Arles. The second traveled on the Seine to Paris and Normandy.

On our first cruise – Essence of Burgundy and Provence – we started with a stay in beautiful Geneva, Switzerland, European home of many international organizations including the United Nations. Its medieval old town is a short walk from beautiful Lake Geneva and is an easy drive to many other areas of interest. We explored Gruyeres (cheese and chocolate factory); Montreux, home of Chillon Castle; and French Annecy in the foothills of the French Alps.

On the drive to our river cruise, we stopped in Dijon (the famed birthplace of mustard). After a tour of the city, we enjoyed a private winetasting lunch with our guide/sommelier

– perfection in the capital of the Cote-d'Or in Burgundy.

The next stops were the quaint cities of Chalon-sur-Saone and Macon, where we explored vineyards in Burgundy, tasting wines including Pouilly Fuisse. We then went to a Beaujolais vineyard overlooking the "prettiest town in France," Oingt. There were both biking and hiking tours offered almost every day. We went on to Tournus, the gateway to southern Burgundy; Lyon, the culinary capital of France, where we had our own taste of Lyon experience; and on to the Roman ruins of Vienne.

In Viviers, we had a wonderful truffle hunting experience, and in Avignon ("City of the Popes"), we had lunch outside the Papal Palace of Avignon next to an Italian market day



KAREN
QUINN-
PANZER

on the square.

What is wonderful about this company is their ability to curate excursions that give you a great sampling of the local culture, history and cuisine of the area you're sailing through, including daily menu offerings, wines and onboard demonstrations of macarons and crepes.

For Paris and Normandy, the itinerary was both picturesque and historical as many of these cities and towns were affected by World War II. The Normandy beaches are the stars of this sailing, but there was so much more to see and do. Our first stop in Normandy after we boarded near Paris was the magical area of Les Andelys. The Chateau Gaillard Castle is perched above the most beautiful limestone cliffs. We sailed into mists that gave way to

blue sky as we sailed away hours later. The next stop was Le Havre, and the picturesque fishing town of Honfleur, where we were lucky to be there on market day.

In medieval Rouen, we dined at La Couronne, the first restaurant in France visited by Julia Child in 1949, which inspired her to learn to cook at the Cordon Bleu in Paris. We had the same menu of oysters, Dover sole and soufflé.

We explored the Pays d'Auge, with stops in the seaside resort of Deauville, and a Calvados distillery. After that, we went to Giverny, home of Monet and inspiration for "Water Lilies." We then capped off our trip with a quintessential cruise down the Seine from the Eiffel Tower. C'est magnifique.

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

Recycling Tip: Recycling, Reducing And Reusing During The Holidays

By Susan Wineland

As the holidays approach, let's take a look at ways of reducing waste and making sound decisions for cleaner celebrations. The holidays are a time when we indulge our families and friends with food, gifts and cards. But it can also be a time of excess and waste. That's why making the right choices is important: they can minimize the impact on the environment while we celebrate with the ones we love.

During the holiday season, household waste increases by more than 25 percent from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. So, where's all this waste coming from? It's from all the additional excess food and packaging that usually does not get recycled.

Let's consider some ways to reduce food waste. Before going to the grocery store or farmer's market, make a shopping list, plan meals and avoid impulse buys. Store food appropriately so it lasts longer. Keep greens in a mesh bag (not plastic) in the crisper drawer, tomatoes and bananas on the counter. Keep potatoes in a cool (43–50°F), dry, dark place with good ventilation and out of direct sunlight which can cause them to turn green and produce solanine, a toxic substance. Don't store potatoes with onions, as the gas emitted by onions can cause potatoes to spoil faster.

As a general rule, avoid storing fruits and vegetables together. Also, the cold temperature can turn their starch into sugar, which affects their taste and texture. This rule applies to onions, cucumbers, bell peppers, avocados, and winter squash.

Freeze leftovers in clear, labeled containers – preferably glass or a silicone plastic bag container – with dates. Preserve surplus fruits and vegetables by freezing, pickling, dehydrating, canning or making jam or jelly. Donate extra food to a local food pantry or food drive.

Understand the difference between use-by and best-by date labels. Best before dates are not related to safety, and you can still eat food that is a few days past its best before date.

Composting is a very effective solution to food loss and waste. You can put the food waste in your home compost container and/or bring it to the Orange Transfer Station compost bins. Composting is a win-win because it keeps food waste out of the landfill which drives up carting costs because of its weight. Then there is the problem of methane gas this waste produces. Methane is the primary contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, a hazardous air pollutant and greenhouse gas.

Choose sustainable wrapping. Millions of pounds of wrapping paper are made in

the US each year, and more than half of it ends up in a landfill. Regular and glossy wrapping paper is recyclable unless it has non-paper additives like metallic flakes, colored shapes, glitter and plastics. Foil and plastic-coated wrapping paper along with ribbon, bows and glitter cannot be recycled. A good and more economical solution is using salvaged packaging paper that so many online purchases come packed in. Or buy an inexpensive roll of brown craft paper to wrap gifts. If needed, paper tape eliminates the need for plastic tape. Or you can use cooking-type twine made of 100 percent cotton to tie up the packages. Decorate the paper with some rubber stamps and ink and get creative.

Paper products like shopping bags and cardboard are easily recycled. Recycling keeps paper and boxes out of landfills and makes the most of our natural resources because it can be recycled up to seven times. But before you recycle your paper, see if you can find festive ways to reuse or upcycle it. Some DIY ideas include making paper snowflakes for winter decor or ornaments. Use cardboard tubes as gift tags, napkin rings or gift pouches. Save cardboard boxes to reuse for gifts.

Disposables may make your life a little more convenient, but the process of making paper or plastic cups, plates and plastic utensils is harmful to the environment.

Plastic utensils, plastic plates and plastic bowls are not recyclable. If you're considering buying any "disposable" with the intention of recycling it, it's better to choose a reusable or compostable alternative. It's time to move on from plastic utensils, plates, cups and bowls. Companies cut down trees for paper products or consume significant energy making plastic, then burn fuel shipping those disposable products all over the world. When you're done with the spoon, it will probably end up in a landfill. Look for compostable fiber-based utensils and tableware, or opt for reusable metal utensils and take the time to wash them instead of spending the time in search of recycling. They will perform better than plastic forks for your guests anyway.

When buying holiday or cards for any occasion, opt for a 100 percent paper-based card because it comes from a renewable resource, and it's recyclable. Instead of harvesting trees, companies are creating cards from hemp, recycled cotton, reclaimed straw and wheat, bamboo and sugarcane among other post-consumer, post-agriculture sources. You can also make your own card with drawing paper.

Continue to think of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. Each of our small actions creates a big impact and makes an important difference.

Orange Democratic Town Committee

The Importance And Significance Of Early Voting

As we spoke with visitors to the civic tent at the Orange Country Fair, many still didn't realize that we now have early voting in Connecticut. It's true. Across the state, you have been able to vote in-person starting on Oct. 21.

Why should you do it and not just wait until election day? For one, juggling work and kids and activities, you know that life happens. Just when you least expect it, your boss will ask you to travel to visit a customer that day, or you or your child will come down with a fever. Can you really afford to take the chance and sit out during this important election?

More than that, our legislators and state leaders worked hard to secure this opportunity for us. Only three states in the country remain without some form of early voting. Now, it's our turn to make the most of this se-

care and important convenience.

In Orange, you can vote early right in the basement of Town Hall. Early voting for the general election began on Monday, Oct. 21, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 3. The hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 29 and 31 (go before the kids put on those costumes).

When you go to cast your ballot this year, you will have the opportunity to weigh in on another important voting topic. Right now, our state's rules only allow someone to vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear on election day due to absence from town, sickness or physical disability, military assignments, religious obligations or duties as an election official. Your vote on



JODY
DIETCH

this critical question could allow anyone to request an absentee ballot, making it even more convenient and accessible to those of us who live busy (and sometimes crazy) lives.

Our democracy should work for all of us and not make it difficult for any one of us to take part in voting, a critically important right and duty of a US citizen. Make your plan to vote and make it early. What day will you vote? What time? We've got great candidates who need and deserve our support. So tell your friends and avoid election day lines. Let's check this item off our sometimes endless to-do-list.

We are proud to remind you of the great candidates the Democratic Party has to rep-

resent you. Besides Kamala Harris and Tim Walz at the top of the ticket, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and US Sen. Chris Murphy are both up for reelection. For our state government, state Sen. James Maroney and Rep. Mary Welander are both running for reelection. Also running for state representative this year are two very experienced neighbors: MJ Shannon, who brings youth, enthusiasm and legislative experience to the ticket; and Etan Hirsch, who brings a strong legal background as well as being an elected officeholder in Milford. Supporting these candidates is supporting yours and your family's future.

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

Insuring Your Future

Open Enrollment For Health Insurance Plans Coming

The annual enrollment period is in full swing, to be followed shortly by open enrollment for individual insurance through the health exchange. Because there are so many changes in Medicare plans this year, it is particularly important to closely review current plans. This is particularly true for those who are taking name-brand (tier 3) medications as the cost structure has changed dramatically due to the aggressive and positive moves that Medicare has made for 2025.

There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to insurance plans. It could not be more true this year. It is a matter of what makes the most financial sense as opposed to quality of

care. Whenever there is a major shift in the insurance industry, it has a ripple effect on all aspects of the plan. Insurance companies have adjusted benefits for dental, over-the-counter medications, vision, and yes, the fitness allowance.

The most important benefits to consider are medical care and prescription medications. After that, the extra benefits should be considered. Priority should be given to the benefit amount, where it can be used and what



TRISH
PEARSON

(spend money on) the most.

Just as with other areas of life, you should schedule an insurance review with a professional who can explain the changes and help you understand how it will impact your coverage. If a change is warranted, make it. There are several options available. One size does not fit all.

You have until Dec. 7 to educate yourself and decide if a change is appropriate for Jan. 1 for Medicare beneficiaries. You have until Dec. 15 for individuals under age

65. It will be time well spent and you don't have to do it alone. Call a certified professional for help.

Insurance coverage is on the ballot this year among many issues. The benefits we receive are directly due to the actions taken by the federal government. This is our annual opportunity to have an impact on issues that will affect us directly. Please consider and vote thoughtfully.

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

Bankruptcy

The Lifestyle To Which You Have Become Accustomed

Alimony, rooted in the Latin word "alimonia" and meaning nourishment or sustenance, is also known as spousal support or maintenance.

The history of alimony is fascinating and dates far back to the 1750s BCE when it first appeared in the Code of Hammurabi, which stated in part that a man must support a woman who bore his children so she could raise them on her own. It was also found in the Code of Justinian in the 500s CE. Much later, the Ecclesiastical Court – a court adherent to religious and spiritual notions – developed a more modern version of alimony and a continued duty to support a spouse, because, in the eyes of the church, the divorce was a mensa et thoro: a Latin term meaning the spouses were separated but the marriage was not dissolved. It was much like a legal separation today.

In the 17th century, marriages started to be dissolved, but one could only get divorced if they could prove fault.

In Connecticut prior to 1877, women had no legal identity. Their identity was either found through their father or merged with their husband upon marriage. Through the Married Woman's Act of 1877, the Connecticut legislature created a legal identity for a married woman separate and apart from her husband. She was therefore able to seek a divorce and claim alimony. Some say this is how alimony became tied to fault in dissolution actions.

First legalized in California in the late 1960s, it wasn't until 1973 that no fault divorce became an option in Connecticut. Since then, one can get divorced for any reason and simply state that the marriage has broken down irretrievably with no hope of reconciliation.

There is, however, still a duty to support.

Years ago, I bought a bunch of old law books from a colleague who retired. Among the tomes was a copy of the fifth edition of Black's Law Dictionary. It was published in 1979 (the year I was born, ahem) and defined alimony as "support of the wife by her divorced husband."

Later in 1979, the US Supreme Court issued the decision in the case of Orr v. Orr in which the court held "unconstitutional a statute that imposed alimony obligations on the husband only."

Black's Law Dictionary is now in its 12th edition. Black's has also published a helpful Handbook of Family Law Terms which provides an updated gender-neutral definition that is not spouse-specific.

Upon dissolution of marriage, a couple can negotiate a settlement to include a form of alimony or, if the couple cannot reach an agreement, a judge, with broad discretion, will decide an award of alimony.

The general rule of thumb is that alimo-



THERESA
ROSE DEGRAY

ny is used to equalize income and often results in a term of half the length of the marriage. While that may be a good starting point, it is not always the outcome.

Unlike child support, there is no guideline or mathematical equation to arrive at an amount or term of alimony.

Instead, it is based on a case-by-case analysis, and judges rely on the enumerated factors found in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 46b-82: "the length of the marriage, the causes for the annulment, dissolution of the marriage or legal separation, the age, health, station, occupation, amount and sources of income, earning capacity, vocational skills, education, employability, estate and needs of each of the parties and the award, if any, which the court may make pursuant to section 46b-81, and, in the case of a parent to whom the custody of minor children has been awarded, the desirability and feasibility of such parent's securing employment."

Once alimony is established and ordered by agreement or as a result of a trial, it may be modifiable by returning to court and proving a substantial change in circumstances. If the orders are willfully and intentionally not followed, the disobeying party may be held in contempt of court.

The statute also states that a court can order a party to obtain life insurance to secure

the payment of alimony.

If a party does not request alimony at the final hearing before the marriage is dissolved, or in an agreement that is made an order of the court, that party cannot ever go back to any court and ask for alimony.

The latest development with regard to alimony came out of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, when it changed the way alimony was taxed by the Internal Revenue Service. The TCJA said that after Jan. 1, 2019, alimony could no longer be a deduction for the payer, nor was it taxable income to the recipient. According to Joshua Dickinson, a local CPA and Orange resident, the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services follows this federal law.

Domestic support orders such as alimony are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

If you are thinking about getting a divorce, please consult with a local attorney to understand your specific legal rights and duties.

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 such as divorce and mediation. She can be reached at TRD@ConsumerLegalServicesLLC.com or 203-713-8877.

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

Orange Republican Town Committee

A Primer On Party Platforms

We're in the bottom of the ninth inning of the 2024 election, and polls suggest this one's going down to the wire. Recently, a politically engaged constituent admitted to me that he wasn't entirely sure where the two major parties stand today – and he's not alone.

If you trace the evolution of America's political landscape, it's clear both parties have shifted over time. Years ago, my family was affiliated with the "old-school" Democratic party – champions of the working class, opponents of unnecessary wars and supporters of traditional family values. On the flip side, they saw Republicans as the party of country clubs, Wall Street elites and Hollywood insiders who seemed out of touch with ordinary Americans.

But times have changed – and so have the parties and their voters. For example, imagine telling a political insider four years ago that Vice President Kamala Harris would receive endorsements from former Republicans Liz and Dick Cheney. They'd have laughed you out of the room. Yet here we are. Similarly, no one would predict that RFK Jr., an environmental lawyer, and Tulsi Gabbard, a former DNC leader and Democratic congresswoman, would team up with former President Donald Trump in 2024.

With political alliances shifting so rapidly, it's no wonder voters feel overwhelmed. I believe the best way to serve the voters in our town is by offering a straightforward, fact-based comparison of where each party stands today. This way, you can cut through the noise and make an informed decision at the ballot box.

To ensure a fair and accurate comparison, I have taken the information directly from each party's official platform, as adopted at their respective 2024 conventions. These platforms, available on the RNC and DNC websites, represent the formal policy positions approved by each party. Each platform covers a wide range of policy topics. For those interested in deeper insights, I encourage reading the full documents on their respective websites. In this overview, I'll provide a concise breakdown of the key issues driving many voters to the polls this November.

On the economy, Democrats prioritize wealth redistribution, advocating for

a 25 percent minimum tax on high-earning tax brackets and an increase in the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent. Their platform also emphasizes student loan forgiveness, free community college and expanded child care and family leave programs. In contrast, Republicans remain committed to preserving the Trump-era tax cuts, reducing additional tax burdens on service workers and senior citizens, reducing government regulation and opposing large-scale student loan relief, favoring market-driven solutions and individual accountability.

The divide is equally prominent in energy and climate policy. Democrats pursue aggressive green energy initiatives, including electric vehicle mandates, federal subsidies for renewable technologies and phasing out fossil fuels entirely. They also emphasize environmental justice, aiming to redistribute resources to marginalized communities. Republicans, meanwhile, advocate for energy independence through increased production of American oil, gas and nuclear power. They reject mandates like those imposed by the Green New Deal, opposing environmental regulations they argue raise costs for consumers.

In health care and social programs, the Democratic platform calls for expanding Medicaid to cover undocumented immigrants and supports government-funded gender-affirming care, even for minors. Additionally, Democrats push for unrestricted access to abortion, seeking to override state-level restrictions. Republicans oppose these policies, advocating for a market-based health care system, restrictions on taxpayer-funded gender-related treatments and abiding by state abortion limitations with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother.

The parties diverge sharply on immigration and border security. Democrats support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, oppose the completion of the southern border wall, and advocate for the creation and expansion of sanctuary cities. Republicans focus on securing the border, completing the border wall and deporting undocumented immigrants while opposing



DOMINICK LOMBARDI

sanctuary city policies and demanding stricter enforcement of immigration laws.

Education and parental rights have also become diverging areas of opinion. Democrats promote the teaching of gender identity education and critical race theory in schools, opposing parental control bills that limit access to such curricula. They back public education funding while opposing school choice initiatives.

Republicans take the opposite approach, banning CRT and gender ideology in schools and while supporting public education, also believe in emphasizing school choice, including vouchers, charter schools and homeschooling options.

On social issues, Democrats support expansive gender rights, including taxpayer-funded gender surgeries and the inclusion of transgender athletes in women's sports. They also advocate for unrestricted abortion access, including late-term procedures. Republicans, by contrast, promote traditional family values, restrict biological males from competing in women's sports, and defend religious freedoms. They also advocate for states (through the voters) to determine abortion restrictions as ruled by the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

Law and order remain another key area of division. Democrats prioritize police reform, reducing incarceration, eliminating cash bail and enacting stricter gun control measures, including assault weapon bans. Republicans, however, oppose police defunding and call for increased law enforcement funding, stricter penalties for violent criminals and the protection of Second Amendment rights against federal restrictions.

These are just a few of the key issues dominating the headlines and reflecting the deepest divides between the two major parties. The 2024 election stands as one of the most polarized in modern history, with party platforms and candidate positions drawing sharper contrasts than ever before.

As we approach this crucial election, it is essential to do two things. First, do your research. I cannot emphasize this enough. While I feel as though I provided a fair assessment of where the two parties stand, I

am encouraging you to further your research and do not just rely on one person or news outlet to get your information from. Second, vote your values. Your vote isn't just a choice, it's a statement about the future you want to create for yourself, your family and your community.

As the chairman of the Orange Republican Town Committee, I am incredibly proud of the Republican slate that will appear on the ballot this November. It includes resolute incumbents with proven leadership and dynamic newcomers who bring fresh energy and a commitment to serving our community. As a young American with hopes of building a life in a strong, prosperous community and country – just as my parents and grandparents did – I will be casting my vote for Republicans from registrar of voters to president of the United States.

Our nation is at a pivotal moment. We need leaders with courage in their convictions, loyalty to the people, and faith-based values guiding their actions. In my view, the Republican Party and its candidates offer the only viable path forward.

Yet, no matter your choice, remember this: voting is among the greatest rights we hold as Americans. It is our opportunity to hire and fire our leaders, holding them accountable to the people they serve. Government serves us – we do not serve it.

On election day, I urge you to vote with American pride and civility. Those who vote differently are not enemies; they are fellow Americans. Disagreement is a cornerstone of this republic, but it only strengthens us if it remains respectful. My hope is that no friendship or family relationship will ever be lost over differing political choices. Our republic is not only built on free and fair elections but also on the ability to disagree civilly. As I learned in kindergarten at Mary L. Tracy School, treat others the way you want to be treated.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the polls on election day – but remember, you can vote early at Town Hall as well. However you choose to do it, just vote. Your voice matters. Make it heard.

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

On Our Land

Natural Hazards And Unnatural Disasters

News coverage of recent extreme weather events in southwest Connecticut, western North Carolina and central Florida prompted my wife to ask me if our home in Orange would be "safe" in similar events. She has taught introductory meteorology in the past, so her question was not specifically weather-related, but concerned more with our home's location and any potential risk from wind, flooding and landslides.

We have much sympathy for victims of storm events, in part because we suffered through two major property losses when we lived in Ohio. A wind- and hailstorm destroyed our roof, siding and a few windows, as well as hammered our new car. A few years later, a 100-year downpour led to widespread flash- and river-flooding, filled our basement with sewer-line backup, and shut the city down for a week.

My most vivid memories of those events are not the lost dollars, but the image of household storm debris piled everywhere along with the pervasive stench of sewage and mildew. There was also the protracted aggravation of cleanup, restoration and insurance claims and disputes. It will be many months before this year's storm victims will be at ease, and even then, emergent mold and other recurring hazards will cause concern.

When we came to Connecticut and looked

for a home in Orange, physical setting was as important as a house's architectural features. To us "location, location, location" meant nothing near a stream or river that would be within its 500-year floodway; no ridgeline setting exposed to prevailing wind; no large trees near the house; and no evidence of slope movement. I probably drove our realtor crazy, and she said I was about the only person who ever walked around a house outside before going inside.

Weather hazards naturally can occur anywhere, but location as well as structural design (and drainage) affect the overall risk level and likelihood of major damage. We ultimately found a nice home on the leeward east side of Turkey Hill Preserve, set on a well-graded excavated bedrock building pad about 60 feet below the ridgeline, and about 80 feet above the closest stream. Built by a structural engineer, too. Rainfall and wind are not likely to be a problem for us in up to 500-year events as we also are vigilant in maintaining tree setbacks.

Most building designs and related zoning restrictions are based on the expectation that a dwelling should withstand what is known as a 100-year event. Such an event is based



DAN MAY

on historical records and is so named by having a probability of occurrence of 1 percent in any given year. A 500-year event reduces the annual probability down five-fold to 0.2 percent. Since storms in recent decades have become increasingly severe compared to earlier records in actuarial use, published 100-year estimates currently underestimate hazards. Add in our misfortune in experiencing two 100-year events in three years, and we opted for a lower-risk site location and premier homeowner's insurance. Limiting risk limits your choices, though, and comes at a cost.

Even so, we got a bit nervous when we first saw the pictures and videos of widespread landslides in North Carolina that accompanied the flooding. The bedrock of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Asheville region is similar to that of western Connecticut, and although the mountains are higher there, the terrain is broadly similar. And parts of Connecticut have on occasion received rain amounts exceeding 20 inches in a single storm.

However, we recalled that North Carolina has thick soils known as saprolite that grade

slowly into solid bedrock well below the surface. When saturated on hillsides, these thick clayey soils can become fluid and yield landslides or mudflows. In contrast, New England was glaciated and only has very thin soil above often-exposed bedrock, so widespread slope failure is not likely in western Connecticut. We also recognized that Connecticut has more stringent zoning restrictions for construction than North Carolina, and some of the homes lost near Asheville would never have been built in hazardous locations in our region in the first place.

Nationally, as damage claims from severe weather events have risen, insurance companies are becoming more sophisticated in assessing site-specific risks and premiums for homes, commercial properties and even municipalities. And everyone is collectively paying more for coverage, if it is even available.

Future mitigation of increasingly common storm damage will rely on some combination of updated and more rigorous design standards, increased zoning restrictions and a rethinking of personal property insurance and presumptive liability. It will not be inexpensive.

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

The Arts

Ease Into The Holiday Season This Fall With The Arts

The fall season is a great time to see, experience and feel the joy of the arts in our local and surrounding communities. As we gather with friends and family, it is a wonderful time to begin new traditions or renew our interest in the arts. Not ready for the holiday glitz and décor just yet? Go see a great comedic musical or the fantastic Broadway tour of one of the world's best musicals just a short drive away. Relax and listen to local poets reading their works or favorite poems on stage right in town. Perhaps register to read one of your own. Listen to some smooth jazz by award-winning artists or take in the only ballet Beethoven ever wrote.

Can't wait for the holidays to start? Have an ugly sweater? You are encouraged to wear it to the new interactive comedy musical playing nearby. Watch the incredible dancing of the Kyiv Ballet from Ukraine as they perform a holiday favorite. Have you ever seen a live reindeer? How about three of them with Santa as you are immersed with family activities to fill your day with fun and wonderment? Need unique gifts? Shop several local artist fairs as they sell their wares specially priced for budget-friendly gifts. Take a drive and enjoy the sights and sounds of the beautiful fall season.

Little Theatre of Manchester presents **"Something Rotten"** from Nov. 8 to 24, with book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John Farrell with music and lyrics by Karey and Wayne Kirkpatrick. Performances are at Cheney Hall, located at 177 Hartford Rd. in Manchester. Brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of the rock-star playwright, "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theater involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. Amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self – and all that jazz. Earning ten Tony nominations, including Best Musical, "Something Rotten" is a love letter to Broadway musicals. Tickets for matinee and evening performances start at \$24 and can be purchased by visiting cheneyhall.org or calling 860-647-9824.

The John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts presents **"Women of Jazz"** featuring Billboard top artists Jazmin Ghent and Kim Scott on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. The center is located at 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. Jazmin Ghent is an award-winning international jazz saxophonist and educator. Over her brief career, she has become a decorated leader for the new generation of jazz, rhythm and blues and gospel. Ghent's start in the jazz industry was the Show Your Talent competition aboard the Smooth Jazz Cruise in 2014. She has six top five Billboard singles, including "Kickin' It Up," "Stride," "Amends," "Work Wit It," "Heat" and "Compared to What." The songs remained on the Billboard Smooth Jazz Airplay Chart for over 20 weeks and received heavy rotation on major jazz stations including Sirius XM Watercolors. Top album and Billboard top chart flutist Kim Scott is known for her exceptional tone, melodies and flawless technique. She is one of the most sought-after flutists in both the classical and jazz fields. The contemporary jazz superstar has an ever-growing fan base garnered from her continued presence on the performance scene and from her visibility as radio host of the nationally syndicated, two-hour jazz program, Kim Scott's Block Party Radio, which airs weekly across the world. With five albums and multiple Billboard #1 hits to her credit, Scott has proven to be a mainstay in the field with an abundance of promise for the future as both a soloist and collaborator. Tickets are \$55 at lymancenter.org or by call-

ing 203-392-6154.

Orange Community Women present their second annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. Over 50 vendor booths will be there featuring an array of handcrafted items including jewelry, clothing, artwork, soaps, painted glassware, woodworking and one-of-a-kind items. Perfectly timed for holiday gift-giving, this event is sure to offer unique items especially for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list. For more information email orangecommunityw@gmail.com.

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra presents Ludwig van Beethoven's only ballet score, **"Prometheus,"** with conductor and music director Perry So and featured performers Sharmont Influence-Little, poet, and Tia Russell Dance Studio, dance and choreography. The show is on Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. at John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts, at 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. This world premiere setting of Beethoven's only ballet score, *The Creatures of Prometheus*, featuring the Tia Russell Dance Studio and New Haven Poet Laureate Sharmont Little, will shine new light on humanity's timeless questions of power and morality. Tickets to this concert start at \$15 for adults. Kids under 18 go free with the purchase of an adult ticket. Visit newhavensymphony.org or call 203-865-0831 for tickets and further information.

The Bushnell presents the Broadway tour of **"The Lion King,"** book by Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi with music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice. The show runs from Nov. 13 to Dec. 1 at William H. Mortensen Hall, located at 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. Get ready for an amazing production you will love from the first note to the last curtain bow. Giraffes strut. Birds swoop. Gazelles leap. The entire Serengeti comes to life as never before. And as the music soars, Pride Rock slowly emerges from the mist. This is Disney's "The Lion King," making its triumphant return to the Bushnell. More than 100 million people around the world have experienced the awe-inspiring visual artistry, the unforgettable music and the uniquely theatrical storytelling of this Broadway spectacular – one of the most breathtaking and beloved productions ever to grace the stage. Winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, "The Lion King" brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway. Tony Award-winning director Julie Taymor brings to life a story filled with hope and adventure set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals. "The Lion King" also features the extraordinary work of Tony Award-winning choreographer Garth Fagan and some of Broadway's most recognizable music, crafted by Tony Award-winning artists Elton John and Tim Rice. There is simply nothing else like "The Lion King." Tickets are \$29 to \$154, with the option of an "extra magic package" that includes show merchandise for \$170 and an "online wheelchair" option for \$29. Purchase tickets at bushnell.org or call the box office at 860-987-5900.

The Milford Arts Council's Written Word Writer's Group presents **"Poetry Open Mic"** on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the MAC at 40 Railroad Ave. S. in Milford. This is a family-friendly event. Participants are invited to share their work, or their favorite poet's work, from the stage with an appreciative and supportive audience. There is no theme or special requirement. Register online at milfordarts.org. Admission is free for per-



CYNDI
CONSOLI

formers and \$5 for audience members payable at the door. For more information visit milfordarts.org or call 203-878-6647.

The **Orange Players 50th Anniversary Gala** celebration will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, located at 630 Grassy Hill Rd. in Orange. Since its inception in 1974, the Orange Players community theatre continues to bring together its devotion for the performing arts and the community by bringing quality performances to the stage and community events for over 50 years. Come meet past and present members and join in the festivities. There will be a musical revue and entertainment, appetizers by Chefs A L'Orange and dessert. Bring your own adult beverage. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased by visiting orangeplayers.org or calling the box office at 475-227-7547 for payment options.

Hygienic Art presents their annual holiday show, **"Art=Gift 2024"** at Hygienic Art, located at 79 Bank St. in New London. The opening reception will take place Nov. 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the exhibit will be on display until Dec. 21. This year's show features handcrafted, affordable art by local and regional artists. Participating artists will submit special pieces with gift-giving in mind. All works will be priced to be especially affordable for the holiday season and will be priced under \$100. Art=Gift includes a wide array of exquisite art including, but not limited to paintings, prints, photography, glass art, jewelry, hand-printed T-shirts, knitted garments, drawings, woodturning, holiday cards and ornaments. Visit hygienic.org or call 860-443-8001 for more information.

Ivoryton Playhouse presents **"God Bless Us, Everyone!"**, a new holiday show conceived and directed by playhouse Artistic/Executive Director Jacqueline Hubbard. Performances run Nov. 14 to Dec. 15 at Ivoryton Playhouse, located at 103 Main St. in Ivoryton. Take an unexpected blizzard, add a sprinkling of slapstick, and a pinch of Dickens' Christmas Carol. Stir in a little romance and festive song, top it all off with holiday magic and you get a new family tradition called "God Bless Us, Everyone!" Tickets are \$60 for adults, \$55 for seniors, \$25 for students of all ages and are available by calling the box office at 860-767-7318 or by visiting ivorytonplayhouse.org.

The Silvermine Arts Center will host an **Artisans Market Fine Art and Craft Fair** on Nov. 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Silvermine Arts Center, located at 1037 Silvermine Rd. in New Canaan, Ceramics, clothing, fiber, jewelry, sculptures and art for your walls and more will be offered in this fine art and craft sale. Meet and speak with all of the artists and enjoy the expanded holiday gallery gift shop. For more information visit silvermineart.org or call 203-966-9700.

Grand Kyiv Ballet presents **"The Nutcracker,"** adapted into a ballet in 1892 by Pyotr Tchaikovsky with a libretto by Marius Petipa, and based on the story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E.T.A. Hoffmann on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts. The center is located at 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. Join the Grand Kyiv Ballet on an unforgettable journey into a world of dreams, magic and triumph over evil. The Grand Kyiv Ballet, including the most prestigious ballet dancers from Ukraine, invites you to a heartwarming experience that has thrilled audiences on the world's stages for years. In this enchanting

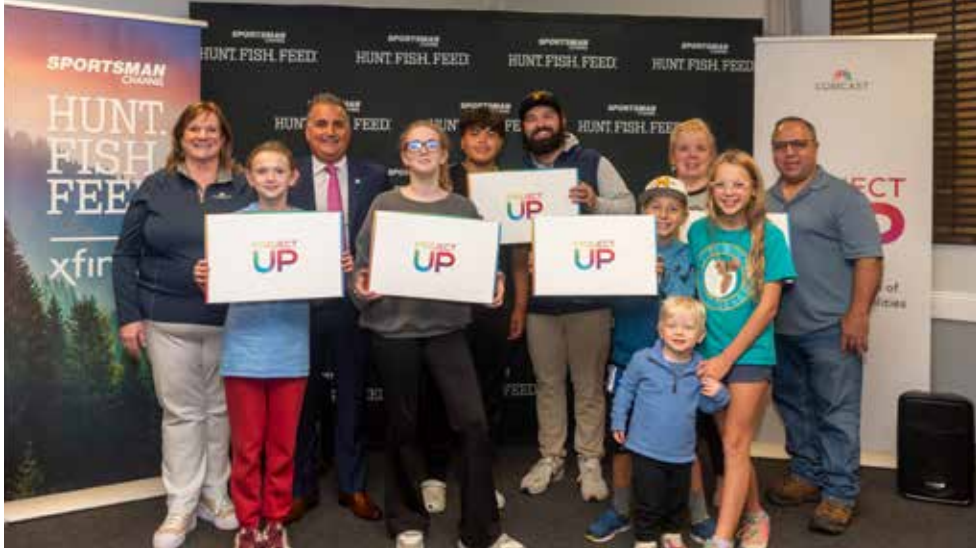
tale, a young girl befriends a nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve. Together, they embark on a fantastical journey to a magical kingdom filled with dancing sugar plum fairies, toy soldiers and other whimsical characters. Through their adventures, she learns that love, imagination and kindness can overcome adversity and create wonder in our lives. Tickets are \$59 to \$79 at tickets.southernct.edu or by calling 203-392-7278.

Playhouse on Park presents **"The Ugly Christmas Sweater Musical"** by Dan Knechtges and Megan Larche Dominick. Matinee and evening performances are Dec. 4 to 22 at Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Rd. in West Hartford. Blending the comedy style of *The Office* with the competitive spirit of *Project Runway*, "The Ugly Christmas Sweater Musical" is a brand-new laugh-out-loud, interactive musical. In this not-so-everyday story, a group of employees must take desperate measures when they learn that their company is being bought out by an international conglomerate. In order to save their jobs, they have to come up with the best ugly Christmas sweater ever made. This interactive, laugh-out-loud musical is the perfect holiday treat for everyone. Wear your favorite ugly festive sweater, sing along if you wish, and celebrate the holidays with friends, coworkers and family. Talk back with the cast following matinee performances. Tickets are \$25 to \$50 at playhouseonpark.org or by calling 860-523-5900.

The John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts presents **"Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2024"** on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. The Center is located at 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. In a recording career that spans nearly three decades, saxophonist Dave Koz has racked up an astoundingly impressive array of honors and achievements: nine Grammy nominations, 11 number one albums on Billboard's Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart, numerous world tours, 13 sold-out Dave Koz & Friends At Sea cruises, performances for multiple US presidents, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and appearances on a multitude of television shows. A platinum-selling artist, Koz is also known as a humanitarian, entrepreneur, radio host and instrumental music advocate. Jonathan Butler is a singer-songwriter and guitarist who leads a life few can imagine. Born in South Africa under the shadow of apartheid and raised in poverty, Butler was the first non-white artist to be played on South African radio and appear on national television. Nelson Mandela credited Butler's music as having inspired him during his imprisonment. Multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer Vincent Ingala has grown to become one of the fastest emerging contemporary jazz artists since his 2010 critically acclaimed debut album, *North End Soul*. He has had nine number one hits and 22 singles in the Billboard Smooth Jazz Top 10. Guitarist and Producer Adam Hawley has burst on to the scene as a celebrated and innovative artist, composer and band leader. Handpicked by Maurice White (founder of Earth, Wind, & Fire), he first debuted on the legend's label Kalimba Music. In all, Hawley's four albums and work as a producer has spawned an incredible sixteen Billboard number one hits. Rebecca Jade is a vocalist, growing up in a musical home and having generations of musicians in her family. Her repertoire includes a vast assortment of artists, genres and styles. Tickets are \$75 for general admission and can be purchased by visiting tickets.southernct.edu or calling 203-392-7278.

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

Milford Boys & Girls Club Gets \$20,000, Laptops



Carolayne Hannan, senior vice president of Comcast's New England Region; Tony Giannattasio, Milford Mayor; and Ryan Pearson, Boys & Girls Club of Milford teen director with raffle winning Boys & Girls Club members. Photo by John Giammatteo Photography.

Amity Physical Therapy CEO Michael Dow was recently awarded the 2024 Silver Pioneer Outstanding Alumni designation from Sacred Heart University. Dow graduated from Sacred Heart 25 years ago, and the award recognizes "an alumnus who has reached a 25th milestone reunion year and whose life has been exemplary."

In 2023, Dow partnered with the youth Pop Warner Football program, bringing awareness to young athletes of the potential danger of concussions and how to prevent them. In the same year, he established a \$10,000 scholarship at Sacred

Heart to encourage and support students intent on a degree in physical therapy. For years he and his staff have participated in local road races, raising funds for their communities while offering pre- and post-race complementary therapy to competing runners.

Dow has been recognized by the US Department of Health and Human Sciences for his work with the Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2019 he was invited as guest speaker by the California-based Life Fitness Annual Forum to present his breakthrough concept of medically-based fitness.

Orange Lions Pack Food For Those In Need



The Orange Lions teamed up with the Anthem/LCIF Hunger Grant Program on Oct. 4 at High Plains Community Center to tackle food insecurity with a \$2,500 grant. Thirteen Anthem volunteers joined eight Orange Lions to pack bags with groceries, for the Orange Food2Kids program, ensuring that kids in need had food when school meals weren't available over the weekend. The group also sent essentials to our local community food bank, helping to fill their shelves and bring a little joy to families in need. Photos courtesy of the Orange Lions.

Milford Holding Limited Registration Session

The Milford registrars of voters will conduct a voter registration session on Monday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the registrars of voters office, located at Parsons Municipal Office, 70 West River St. in Milford.

This limited registration session is only for

those seeking to vote in the Nov. 5 election who have met the qualifications by turning 18 years old, have become a US citizen or have become a Milford resident on or after Oct. 19.

The registrars of voters are Kerri Rowland, a Democrat, and Debra Fellenbaum, a Republican.

Beth-El Gets Donation From Catholic Church

The Beth-El Center homeless shelter in Milford recently received a \$7,350 donation from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal through its Vicariate Outreach Program, which offers support to local organizations whose missions are consistent with the mission of the Catholic Church.

This funding will be used to support the operation of the Beth-El Center's emergency homeless shelter, food programs and support services for men, women, veterans and families in the Milford, shoreline and lower Naugatuck Valley areas who are experiencing homelessness.

"As homelessness continues to increase, the Beth-El Center is supporting many more individuals, families and veterans since before the pandemic," said Jennifer Paradis, executive director of Beth-El Center. "This gift from the Archdiocese of

Hartford will help us provide emergency shelter and services to our clients. We're grateful for their support, which allows us to continue to respond to the increased demand for the basic needs of food and stable housing."

Demand for Beth-El's services have been growing. In 2023, 347 households were supported by the center's shelter diversion services and as of September 2024, the center received 872 requests for support – an increase of over 150 percent. Outreach and engagement services received 48 referrals from homeless individuals and families in 2023, and as of September 2024 they had received 70 referrals. The emergency shelter services currently have a waitlist for those in need of shelter. Last year, the center served 48,214 meals, a 40 percent increase from 2022.

ORTC Holds First Pickleball Tournament

The Orange Republican Town Committee held its first annual pickleball tournament on Oct. 20 at Picklespot in Orange.

Seventeen teams played in the competition for more than 50 spectators. The tournament involved players of all ages, with participants ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens.

Louis Gloria Jr. and Elis Pelaccia claimed the top spot in the tournament.

"This event well exceeded our expectations," said Dominick Lombardi, chairman of the Orange Republican Town Committee. "We are proud of the incredible turnout and deeply grateful for the overwhelming community support. We look forward to making this tournament a cherished annual tradition."

For more information or to get involved with next year's event, contact Lombardi at ortc.chairman@gmail.com.

Approaches to **Conflict Resolution** with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz

Tuesday November 12 at 6:30pm

A graduate of Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Hurwitz is a nationally recognized expert on stress. A former medical researcher for ABC News, Dr. Hurwitz is an expert in two fields: Mind/Body Medicine and Energy Medicine.

Milford Public Library

Orange Chamber of Commerce Commemorative Bricks

Give the Gift of a Lifetime! *Limited availability, don't miss out!

Scan for Info

50 YEAR RESIDENTS
JAMES & ELAINE MCKEON

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
MITCH, ABBY, CARL & SHAYNA GOLDBLATT

IN MEMORY OF
LOUIS AND PHYLLIS GIORDANO
DEDICATED WITH LOVE FROM YOUR DAUGHTER
MARIANNE G. MILLER

THE GERVAIS FAMILY
EST. 2004

Email director@orangectchamber.com or visit bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangechamberbricks

Special Section: Election 2024

The *Milford-Orange Times* is continuing its election-year tradition of asking the candidates to respond to questions about what they would do for the residents of Milford and Orange if voters elect them. This special section features the responses from the candidates. An asterisk next to a candidate's name indicates that they are the incumbent. Election Day is Nov. 5.

State Senate, District 14

What do you think are the greatest challenges facing the district right now, and how will you help address them? Be as specific as possible.

James Maroney (D)*



Rising costs are the most significant hurdle many families struggle with in Milford, Orange, West Haven and Woodbridge. From housing to energy to groceries to early childhood education, so many people in the community are having trouble with increasing expenses.

While inflation has recently come down, costs remain high. The causes for these challenges vary, but as a state, it is incumbent upon us to do what we can to provide some relief for residents.

Too many times, walking door to door, I hear from parents who are afraid that their children won't be able to live here because housing is too expensive. People who have also lived here for decades are concerned they, too, may not be able to stay. The state needs to do more to partner with municipalities through tax credits and grants to incentivize the building of housing that will give choices to those who want to downsize and stay in our community or those who are looking to start their career and live in our community.

Offering more affordable options will allow more of our municipal workforce – our teachers, police officers, firefighters and more – to live in our community and not just work here.

I have also heard from companies across the state that are having trouble attracting new employees. Providing workforce housing will help foster workforce development. If people have an affordable option for a place to live, they are more likely to take a new role in a new career.

Another major hurdle for families is finding affordable quality early childhood education. When people want to start a family, they often struggle to find high-quality, affordable child care. The average cost of full-time infant toddler care in our commu-

nity is almost \$20,000 a year. Yet, despite that, our early child care workers are some of the lowest paid workers. The state must find ways to make this more affordable for families while ensuring the staff is paid appropriately.

One way is to expand the Early Childhood Trust Fund that I worked with my colleagues to create. This fund allows for accepting money from philanthropy, corporations and government so that it can be combined to find innovative and transformative approaches to early childhood education.

Another way is to expand a pilot of a tri-share program, a program that is currently only being run in eastern Connecticut. In this model, the state pays one third, the employer pays one third and the employee pays one third of the costs of early childhood education. The best investment we can make in workforce development and improving the life opportunities of a child is to invest in high-quality early childhood education. So investments in high quality early childhood education benefit both the child and our economy.

Energy prices are another issue that impacts everyone. Costs are increasing, but so are corporate profits. We need to empower the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to

hold energy companies more accountable in their rate setting and move toward true performance-based rate setting. The state will also need to find ways to invest in energy generation and create more options for customers.

It is not just rising energy prices that are causing members of our community to suffer. The costs of many common goods are increasing as well. As an economics major, I understand that the laws of supply and demand dictate prices. However, sometimes corporations take advantage of natural disasters or other situations to price-gouge consumers. We need to do more to empower the attorney general to pursue price gouging and invest in improving the supply chain and transportation.

Connecticut has always been one of the most innovative states in the nation. We cannot continue to do the same old things and expect different results. We need to find innovative solutions to the problems that are facing our state. We can and must work together for the betterment of our community. With the state's finances on solid footing, we have a unique opportunity to build a stronger, more prosperous future for everyone in our community, and that starts by implementing policies to make living here more affordable.

Steven Johnstone (R)



After knocking on thousands of doors and speaking with concerned citizens, the

two issues that I would prioritize once being elected are public safety and affordability. They affect everyone regardless of income bracket.

As the police liaison for the West Haven City Council, I have had conversations with not only officers from District 14 but all over the state about the issues that face law enforcement. I have personally done six ride-alongs with West Haven police officers. Since the police accountability bill was passed in Connecticut, police and corrections officers are facing an uphill battle. For years, our departments have faced difficulties in recruitment and retention of officers. It is clear to see that the profession is becoming more dangerous by the day. Agencies that once saw hundreds of applicants for one vacancy now only see a couple dozen if they are so lucky. It is not debatable; the reduction in applicants is a direct result of

Hartford's knee-jerk reaction to the actions of a few bad cops from half a country away.

Ever had your car broken into, or know someone who has? Chances are the perpetrator was a juvenile. The lack of punishment and accountability concerning juvenile criminals has resulted in a significantly higher crime rate in Connecticut; more specifically, motor vehicle thefts. In Connecticut, we coddle these offenders. Police are arresting the same juveniles over and over again, only to find that these same criminals are back on the street, committing the same crimes, shortly after their arrest. The lack of improvements in legislation is mind-boggling.

The byproduct of this shortfall of commonsense legislation is higher insurance premiums. It doesn't matter how safe of a driver you are anymore, your insurance bill is going up simply because of the number

of break-ins and car thefts that continue to happen in this state. The bill that makes the officers' jobs more difficult and dangerous must be changed. It is high time to stop vilifying law enforcement officers.

On top of skyrocketing car insurance premiums, how are your utility bills? Days will become shorter and nights will become colder, which means you're going to have to turn on the lights and the heat. I applaud every state official who stepped up on behalf of your constituents to ask the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to reconsider their decisions of approving rate hikes. For those of you who didn't, I would ask yourself, "If I'm not here for the people who voted for me, then who am I here for?"

We need to stop kicking the can down the road. Pick it up and throw it in the trash. We need to try something different because what we're doing isn't working.

State House of Representatives, District 119

What do you think are the greatest challenges facing the district right now, and how will you help address them? Be as specific as possible.

Etan Hirsch (D)



There are several challenges facing the 119th District, with three in particular being those that district residents have repeatedly reported to me.

The first challenge concerns the high inflation that we have all been experiencing since COVID reached our shores in 2020. Inflation is a hidden tax and one that is experienced by everyone no matter one's political affiliation. Although inflation is

best addressed at the federal level, such as through raising interest rates, it can be addressed at the state and local level through enforcement measures, such as civil and criminal prosecution, directed to those who artificially inflate prices in an attempt to take advantage of an inflationary environment. Another means of addressing rising prices is to reduce the production costs of goods, as such costs are passed on to consumers. One such cost is the cost of employee health insurance. To address this cost, we need to seriously consider "opening up" the Connecticut health insurance market to out-of-state insurers who can compete for Connecticut business. Such competition will lead to lower costs and a better insurance product. We need to also seriously consider allowing legally-formed entities the ability to "pool" their members into a group plan which provides negotiating power with respect to offered insurance plans. And, at the same time, we need to provide tax breaks and incentives to businesses that provide comprehensive health care to their employees.

The second challenge is that we have a supply crisis with respect to our housing stock. We all know that there is not enough

housing, of all manner and types, to meet consumer demand. Since 2020, the cost of housing has far outpaced the rate of inflation and has far outpaced the rate of wage increases. Many citizens have reported to me that their children cannot afford to live in the town in which they grew up. In addition, many seniors have shared with me their belief and concern that there is a lack of housing in which they can downsize should the need arise. In my opinion, the solution to this supply crisis is that we must build our way out of it, and I support reasonable and necessary modifications to the tax code to incentivize developers and builders to construct all manner and types of housing to address the needs of the market.

The third challenge concerns shoreline erosion. This issue is one which pertains to the preservation of our territorial integrity. Climate change is real. Earth is becoming warmer and storms are becoming more powerful. A lot of the discussion and political discourse surrounding climate change focuses on its cause, be it man-made carbon emissions or the natural heating-cooling cycle of our planet. My position is that the cause is immateri-

al because whether it is caused by Thing A, Person B or Subject C, the effects of climate change must be addressed. Shoreline erosion is caused by climate change, and must be addressed through the funding of infrastructure projects such as: 1) the placement of groynes, wall-like structures that extend from beach to the sound; 2) the infusion/replenishment of sand on a beach; 3) the construction of offshore breakwaters, such as can be seen when one approaches Port Jefferson on the ferry, that act as a wave barrier, and; 4) the construction and maintenance of seawalls. Such an undertaking will require funding and, perhaps, a federal-state partnership and collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers. This must be addressed sooner than later because for those of us who live near or enjoy the Milford shoreline, there is massive flooding affecting the residents and shoreline community whenever there is a moderate to major storm.

These are three of the many oft-raised issues and concerns that the residents of the 119th District have shared with me in the course of this campaign. I look forward to addressing these issues as your next state representative.

Kathy Kennedy (R)*



resistance from our Democratic majority to reduce unnecessary taxes and preserve the spending guardrails we currently have in place.

As a mother who also knows what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck, I want to continue protecting our savings from useless taxes and rate hikes that only set our families and businesses further back. For example, many of our hard-working residents who have good paying jobs are now more worried about budgeting for basic goods, forcing many to leave our state for more affordable locations.

In my fight for affordability, I helped pass the largest income tax cut in Connecticut history, invested in our local schools, secured state funding for community projects and proposed several bills to offer financial incentives to attract new families, develop our businesses and protect senior retirement benefits. More recently, I joined my House and Senate Republican colleagues in standing up against the rising utility rates by calling for a special legislative session, while Democrats stated they wanted to wait until after the election.

I won't stand for that. With your support, I will fight for a more affordable place to live, putting the needs of our communities before political agendas.

Another challenge facing our district is crime and our public safety. While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe that crime is down, folks in our neighborhoods disagree. In recent months,

we have witnessed rising episodes of theft and reckless driving that put more pressure on our law enforcement and threaten our quality of life.

These issues stem from current legislation that prevents our police from effectively carrying out their investigative duties, including simply being able to stop a vehicle that is emitting marijuana smoke. Additionally, we must invest in our youth and address juvenile justice reform policy that protects our teens from getting involved with criminal activity.

On public safety, I am proud to have been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Officers Association of Connecticut for my commitment to protecting our values and communities. During the last session, I supported legislation that invested in police retention and recruitment programs, cracked down on street takeovers and established a Fallen Officer Fund to aid the families of officers who made the ultimate sacrifice. I also passed bills that implemented safer driving measures, such as the installation of speed cameras and wrong-way driving signs, to help reduce road accidents and fatalities.

Properly attending to our public safety concerns requires legislative changes and social changes. For instance, by encouraging the growth of the school resource officer program, we can protect our students and help them get acquainted with our police and respect the job they do every day. Enacting similar social and political

changes will once again invite new businesses to grow and families to remain in our district.

Other important issues that I have heard from our constituents include local control on affordable housing, protecting our shoreline and environment, combatting unfunded education mandates, as well as election integrity, following the ballot incident in Bridgeport last fall. On all of these issues, I have been and will remain dedicated to reaching across the aisle and always making your voice heard, because to me, that's what matters most.

In my time as state representative, the greatest challenge facing our entire state has been that our government is managed by a sole party agenda. If we recall, one Democrat lawmaker said, "When we see Republican amendments, we vote them down." As a candidate endorsed by the Republican and Independent parties, I know what it means to stand up for all voices, despite party affiliation.

Even in a presidential election, we must remember that the state government affects us the most. Being your representative means giving all folks a seat at the table, not just one ideology or interest.

This election, I encourage all of my constituents to share their voice, either from Oct. 21 to Nov. 3 or on election day, Nov. 5. I invite you to support me as state representative so that Milford and Orange can continue to have an open-minded leader and a confident voice in Hartford.

Voters Head To Polls On Nov. 5

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

In addition to state legislators, voters in Milford and Orange will go to the polls on Election Day to make their choices for a number of offices, including president, US senator and US representative. They will also have the chance to weigh in on a possible amendment to the state constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting.

The highest-profile race will, of course, be that for president. Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, is facing former President Donald Trump, a Republican.

Connecticut has been a reliably blue state in previous elections, and this year

is expected to be no different. Harris has shown a consistent lead in polls of state residents since she entered the race. However, the presidency is determined through the Electoral College, making a handful of swing states vital. In those states, Harris and Trump have been virtually tied in the polls.

US Sen. Chris Murphy is also up for reelection to a third term this year. Republican Matthew Corey is running against him for that seat.

Milford and Orange sit in the Third Congressional District, represented in

Congress by veteran Democrat Rosa DeLauro. She has held the seat since 1991 and sits as the ranking member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. She is opposed by Republican Michael Massey, a small business owner and former convict.

In addition to all the politicians up for election, ballots will contain the following question: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?" A yes vote would allow the state legislature to draft laws to expand absentee voting in the state, which is currently only

allowed under specific circumstances.

This is the first presidential cycle in which the state is allowing early voting through Nov. 3. On Oct. 31 the polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; from Nov. 1 to Nov. 3 polls are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Milford's early voting location is in the Parsons Government Center gymnasium. Orange's early voting location is in the lower level meeting room of Town Hall.

Polls on Election Day are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. To find your polling place on Election Day, visit <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>.

State House of Representatives, District 118

What do you think are the greatest challenges facing the district right now, and how will you help address them? Be as specific as possible.

Frank Smith (D)*



There are a number of challenges confronting the residents of Milford's Devon and West Shore areas as we prepare for a new election. Some owe to the losses and dislocations of the recent COVID pandemic, which altered our lives and routines in unprecedented ways.

First and most immediately, the cost of living, driven in large part by both unconscionably high electric rates and the

escalating price of goods and services, is too much for our working families to bear. Holding the utilities accountable not to their shareholders, but rather the ratepayers that they serve, is critical. We have some of the highest utility costs in the country and it is impacting virtually every resident and business in the district. It is long past time that the public utilities recognize the public as their primary responsibility. This will require close review and accounting of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority that oversees and sets rates charged by investor owned utilities. I believe that the new 2025 legislative session will afford a renewed opportunity for the General Assembly to identify and pursue true bipartisan solutions that might not have been considered more recently. I am committed to looking at ways to decrease this burden on all of our ratepayers while also ensuring that programs are available for energy efficiency and green alternatives. Ensuring that we continue to keep more money in our taxpayers' pockets through continued tax relief to working families is critical as a key piece to alleviate that burden.

Secondly, as a city with the longest linear coastline in Connecticut, and significant

inland tidal areas and wetlands, the threats we face from climate change are having increasing catastrophic and costly impacts to our community and its residents. As we see with startling regularity on our evening newscasts, these events (rising ocean temperatures, elevated tides) are happening in greater magnitude and frequency. They are not confined to shoreline communities but threaten to fundamentally transform every area of our town's infrastructure, residential and commercial property, land use and critical services. We need to redouble coastal resiliency efforts while also adopting policies that set an example for climate change mitigation more broadly.

This is long beyond a political debate. This is a national and global emergency, and the response will require coordination and collaboration at the local, state and national levels. The threat is real and immediate and many of us are one bad storm away from catastrophe. We must focus on both the impacts and the causes of climate change now. As a member of the Environment Committee and Coastal Caucus in the legislature, I pledge my commitment to advance and prioritize this existential issue.

Lastly, while I recognize and acknowledge the critical need for more affordable workforce housing to support our growing local economy, we must ensure that we retain local autonomy when it comes to most zoning policies. It is the local governments that know their communities and their challenges best, not Hartford. While there have been some commendable ideas, no two communities are the same. Housing and zoning policies that work in rural eastern Connecticut likely do not work in an urban area like New Haven nor in a suburban area like Milford. Different communities have different challenges for which a one-size-fits-all approach simply does not work.

I remain committed to locally directed affordable housing development reflected in the Milford Affordable Housing Plan 2023, submitted to the state by the Milford Zoning Board last year and funded in part through incentives to prospective developers through direct state subsidies, low interest loans and tax credits. This would go a long way to achieve levels of affordable housing needed to satisfy the statute without the imposition of the state statute bypassing our local zoning authority.

Mark Macchio (R)



I am running for office because the challenges facing our community are becoming increasingly urgent and require immediate attention.

One of the most pressing issues is the

housing crisis. Homes are becoming unobtainable for people in my generation, making it nearly impossible for young families and individuals to achieve the dream of homeownership. The skyrocketing prices and lack of affordable housing options are pushing many to the brink, forcing them to either move far away from their places of work or live in substandard conditions. This is not just a personal issue; it is a community issue that affects the overall well-being and stability of our society.

The rising cost of living is another significant concern. Electricity bills are going up, straining the budgets of families and individuals who are already struggling to make ends meet. While this is a visible and immediate problem, it is merely a symptom of a much larger issue: mismanagement. Poor planning and inefficient use of resources have led to increased utility costs, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. We need to address the root causes of these problems to create a sustainable and fair system that

works for everyone.

Mismanagement extends beyond just utility costs. It affects every aspect of our public services and infrastructure. From transportation to health care, the inefficiencies and lack of foresight in planning and execution are evident. We need leaders who are committed to transparency, accountability and effective management. This means making informed decisions based on data and expert advice, rather than short-term political gains. It means prioritizing the needs of the community over the interests of a few. By addressing the root causes of mismanagement, we can create a more efficient and effective government that truly serves the people.

One of the most critical areas that require immediate attention is retirement security. We need to protect retirement for those who are just starting to pay into it and for those who are already retired. The current system is failing both groups. For young people, the uncertainty of the future and the lack of

trust in the system are major concerns. They need to be assured that the contributions they are making today will provide them with a secure and comfortable retirement in the future. For those who are already retired, the fear of outliving their savings or facing unexpected medical expenses is a constant worry. We need to ensure that they have the support and resources they need to live with dignity and peace of mind.

I am running for office because I believe that we can and must do better. We need to address the housing crisis, rising utility costs and the underlying issue of mismanagement. We need to protect retirement security for all. By working together and implementing comprehensive and forward-thinking policies, we can create a community that is fair, equitable and sustainable. A community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and achieve their dreams. This is my commitment to you, and this is why I, Mark Macchio, am running for office so I can serve you.

State House of Representatives, District 117

What do you think are the greatest challenges facing the district right now, and how will you help address them? Be as specific as possible.

MJ Shannon (D)



The 117th District currently faces several challenges that demand our attention and action, including affordability issues, environmental concerns like flooding and

difficulties in securing proper education funding. Addressing these challenges is critical to improving the quality of life for our residents, and as your representative, I am committed to developing effective solutions that foster a stronger, more resilient community.

Affordability is perhaps the most pressing issue confronting our district today. Many residents, particularly young people, working families and seniors, struggle with the high cost of living. Housing prices and rents have skyrocketed, making it increasingly difficult for individuals to find affordable places to live. Rising costs for everyday necessities such as food, health care and transportation add to the burden on families trying to make ends meet.

To tackle this issue, I will advocate for policies that promote diverse housing solutions and support initiatives to keep housing costs manageable. This includes implementing zoning reforms that encourage the

construction of more affordable housing units and providing incentives for developers to create mixed-income communities.

I will collaborate with local organizations and state agencies to ensure that residents have access to financial assistance programs, including rental assistance and first-time homebuyer grants. I will also push for policies that focus on economic development and job creation. By supporting small businesses and fostering an environment where they can thrive, we can create good-paying jobs that help lift families out of financial strain. Investing in workforce development programs, particularly in sectors like technology and renewable energy, will equip residents with the skills necessary for stable employment.

Environmental issues, especially flooding, are another significant challenge for our district. Climate change has led to more frequent and intense storms, which result in flooding that threatens homes, infrastruc-

ture and public safety. This not only affects residents' quality of life but also has economic implications, as repairs and recovery efforts can be costly for both families and local governments.

To address these environmental concerns, I will advocate for comprehensive flood management strategies that prioritize both immediate and long-term solutions. This includes investing in green infrastructure projects, such as rain gardens, permeable pavements and wetlands restoration, which can help absorb excess rainwater and reduce flooding. I will work with local and state agencies to assess and upgrade existing drainage systems to ensure they can handle increased rainfall and mitigate flooding risks.

Promoting sustainability and climate resilience is essential. I am committed to supporting initiatives that encourage energy ef-

Continued on page 17

Shannon

(Continued From 16)

efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the use of renewable energy sources. By working with local businesses and residents, we can develop community programs focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Proper education funding is another critical issue facing our district. Schools are the backbone of our community, yet many educational institutions struggle with inadequate funding, affecting the quality of

education students receive. Insufficient resources can lead to larger class sizes, outdated materials and a lack of support services for students who need additional help.

To tackle these challenges, I will advocate for increased funding for our public schools. This includes pushing for a more equitable distribution of state funding that ensures every school receives the resources it needs, regardless of its location or the income level of the surrounding community. Education should be a top priority, and we must work together to secure the necessary funding to support our teachers and

students.

Engaging parents, educators and community members in discussions about education funding and resource allocation is essential. By fostering a collaborative environment, we can ensure that the voices of those most affected by education policies are heard and that decisions are made with the best interests of our students in mind.

The challenges facing our district – affordability issues, environmental concerns and difficulties with education funding – require immediate and focused attention. As your next state representative, I am ded-

icated to addressing these challenges head-on. By advocating for policies that promote affordable housing, investing in sustainable environmental solutions and securing adequate funding for our schools, we can create a brighter future for all residents. Together, we can build a community that values affordability, prioritizes environmental protection and ensures that every child receives a quality education. I look forward to working alongside community members, local leaders and fellow legislators to bring about meaningful change that will benefit our district for generations to come.

Ray Collins III (R)



Over the past several months, I have personally knocked on nearly every door in the 117th District, which covers parts of Milford, Orange and West Haven. It has been an incredible experience meeting neighbors and hearing directly about the issues you believe to be the most important this election.

The overwhelming concern I've heard from most residents is the high cost of living in Connecticut. As someone who has lived in Connecticut my entire life, I completely understand the frustrations that come with trying to make ends meet in one of the most expensive states in the country.

A recent report produced by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association found

that Connecticut is the ninth most expensive state in the nation when it comes to the general cost of living. Furthermore, for housing, Connecticut is ranked as the 10th most expensive state. These statistics represent real struggles that families, seniors and small business owners face daily.

As a homeowner and someone who works closely with small business owners, I've seen firsthand how difficult it can be to make a living here. The burden of high taxes and expensive utilities leaves too many people struggling to stay afloat. We need to make Connecticut a more affordable place to work, live and retire.

So, how do we begin to address this affordability crisis? I believe the solutions are straightforward.

First, we need to support structural spending reforms and maintain the state's spending and bonding caps. These measures are critical to preventing tax increases and reducing our long-term debt obligations. By controlling state spending, we can create a more sustainable budget that doesn't rely on constant tax hikes.

Second, we need to tackle the issue of high energy costs. Connecticut residents pay some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. A significant portion of these costs come from public policy mandates passed down to customers through their monthly utility bills. This simply isn't fair. Lawmakers need to prioritize state spending and move these programs into the general fund rather than

forcing electric customers to bear the burden month after month.

Let's also address inflation, which continues to erode the purchasing power of hard-working families. As your representative in Hartford, I will fight to roll back the sales tax expansion, cut the highway use and gas taxes and introduce a state child tax deduction. These changes will provide real relief and put more money back into the pockets of Connecticut residents.

Crime is another major concern on the minds of voters. As the former chair of the West Haven Police Commission, I spent 14 years working closely with police officers, community organizations and local elected officials to address crime at the community level. During that time, I witnessed firsthand the importance of supporting our law enforcement officers and giving them the tools they need to do their jobs effectively.

Since the passage of recent anti-policing laws in Hartford, criminals have become emboldened. Many feel that they can't be stopped, and when they are, our court system provides them with second or third chances, allowing them back onto the streets to commit more crimes. This revolving door of justice must end. We need to hold criminals accountable for their actions and ensure that they face the consequences of their crimes.

I'm proud to be endorsed by the Connecticut Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Association of Connecticut. These organizations represent thousands of police officers

across our state; officers who put their lives on the line every single day to protect our communities. Their endorsement reflects my deep commitment to public safety and my determination to restore law and order in Connecticut.

As your voice in Hartford, I will work to roll back policies that prevent our police officers from doing their jobs. We need to create harsher penalties for car thefts and street takeovers, while also working with community leaders to provide more resources to parents and our youth.

Above all, we need to feel safe in our homes and communities. I am the only candidate with the experience necessary to tackle the crime problem in our state, and I will make it my absolute priority to restore safety to our neighborhoods.

This upcoming election is critical. With state Rep. Charles Ferraro retiring, we need someone with the experience and proven ability to find bipartisan solutions to the pressing issues facing our state. I am honored to have Ferraro's endorsement, and I am committed to continuing his legacy of effective leadership. As your representative, I will work tirelessly to be an active and vocal advocate for our communities, ensuring that your concerns are heard and addressed. Together, we can make Connecticut a more affordable, safer, and stronger place for everyone. I humbly ask for your vote this November so we can get to work for a better future.

State House of Representatives, District 114

What do you think are the greatest challenges facing the district right now, and how will you help address them? Be as specific as possible.

Mary Welander (D)*



It was hard to decide what to address in this response; while there are many concerns that are impacting more community members than not, I know that there are specific issues that if addressed would make a huge difference in the lives of some constituents. At the same time, the ways that most of these challenges need to be addressed to see meaningful change requires broad actions coordinated on a federal, state and local level. Unfortunately, there are no easy fixes, but there are steps we can take together to make things better.

To start, and to be very personal, things are just way too difficult for the middle

class. We need for individuals and families to feel confident that they and their children can succeed and get ahead, not just get by. In order for that to happen, people need to feel safe and secure.

I recently had someone say to me that "stress is corrosive," and right now too many of us are feeling constant stress over what is happening in our daily lives. That is eating away at our ability to look ahead with confidence.

One way to increase that feeling of security is to create a pathway to access to safe and affordable housing that meets the current needs of residents. We have an example right here in town with the new Lascana Homes of how a project can be successful when there is community input, the needs of the target demographic are considered, and when there is respect for all stakeholders throughout the process. We know we have a great community and that our young people want to stay here (or come back), but they can't find anywhere to live, so they relocate and spend their money elsewhere. Seniors who are looking to downsize but stay in their hometown can't find an affordable option, so they stay in a home they can't maintain and their lifelong investment suffers. Companies can't recruit employees if there aren't suitable housing options for them. Improve the housing opportunities responsibly for both buyers and rent-

ers and the entire community will benefit.

Another major concern is the increase in everyday costs. As the parent of three teenagers, we are facing sticker shock every time we go the grocery store, even more than we anticipated. And I know we all felt the hit of the utility bills this summer. The state needs to empower the office of the attorney general to prosecute companies that implement intentional price gouging and we need to add more "teeth" to bodies like the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority so they can behave like the consumer watchdogs they were intended to be. We need to write consumer protections into law so that the insane rate hikes we saw recently aren't able to happen again. I have already suggested to leadership in the House a proposal that if a similar rate increase were to be proposed before the current Millstone agreement expired, it would require a certain period of notification time (for example, six billing periods) and the additional costs would need to be spread out over time. These kinds of protections should have been built in from the beginning, but they weren't. It is our responsibility to put them in place now, and insist that the governor fills all five appointments in PURA with at least one being a consumer protection expert.

Finally, our schools need to be properly funded. The state has made historic invest-

ments in education over the last few years, but they have not been permanent investments. We need to be more consistent in providing another pillar of stability by committing to fund the educational needs of all of our students, rather than leaving districts and towns unsure of funding levels. This challenge specifically needs an increase in federal funding for special services costs. More children than ever are requiring extra supports to be successful; the distribution of costs needs to be updated with the federal government actually contributing their fair share. This funding also needs to extend beyond academics and take into consideration everything a child needs to be successful, including mental and behavioral supports, access to nutritious and reliable meals, and enrichment programs. Proactive approaches allow for early interventions that keep concerning situations from getting to crisis points, which is better for the child, the school and the budget. We, like so many others, moved to Orange for the schools and have been so happy with the education and support our children have received. I want to make sure that future families are also given this great opportunity.

I never promise anything that I can't guarantee to deliver, but I can promise to continue to work hard for everyone in the 114th District and do my best to serve my communities with honesty and integrity.

Time Management

Time Management Horse Sense

Every horse race has a first-place winner and a runner-up, second-place contender. It is not uncommon for the first-place horse to earn twice the prize of the second-place finisher.

Curiously, the number one horse did not have to run twice as fast or go twice as far as the competition to get twice the money. It only had to be a nose ahead of the competition to reap twice the rewards.

Time management, personal productivity and success in life are a lot like the horse race metaphor. To get more done in any of our seven vital areas of life (health, family, financial, intellectual, professional, social and spiritual), we do not have to double our effort and input. We only need to get a nose ahead of where we are now to realize significant increases in our results.

Five suggestions, when applied, can help us to get a "nose ahead."

First, plan your day, every day, preferably the night before. Then, when you start your day there is a plan of action to direct you forward. Without a plan, temptations may draw

you into unproductive avenues where you may serve the loudest voice that demands your time rather than dealing with the most productive opportunity.

A simple plan consists of a list of all the items you ideally might want to accomplish during the next day. Prioritize those items in order of their importance (most important, next most important, etc.). Begin the most important item first, and then go to the next most important item. It is unlikely that all items on the list will be completed, but that is fine. Success has little to do with how much was left undone at the end of the day, but rather what was accomplished.

Second, over-plan your day to take advantage of "Parkinson's law" which teaches that a project tends to expand with the time allocated for it. If you give yourself one thing to do during the day, it will likely take all day to complete it. If you give yourself two things to do during the day, you will likely accom-



DON
WETMORE

plish both. If you give yourself twelve things to do during the day, you may not get all twelve done, but you may complete seven or eight items. Having a lot to do creates a healthy sense of pressure to naturally become a better time manager. With a lot on our plates, we tend to be more focused, we tend to suffer interruptions less and we delegate better.

Third, work with a clean desk and work environment.

There is truth in the saying, "Out of sight, out of mind." Equally true is the reverse, "In sight, in mind." When items are in our field of vision, we cannot help but be distracted and pulled in the wrong direction. You may "major in the minors," being busy all day long but accomplishing little of significance.

Fourth, restrict meetings. During any typical business day, there are reportedly 17 million meetings being conducted in the US. A meeting is two or more people getting to-

gether to exchange common information. That's simple enough, but it is probably one of the top institutional time wasters. Always ask, "Is this meeting necessary? Do I contribute anything to this meeting? Do I get anything of value from this meeting?" If the answer to these questions is "no," try to find a way out of attending the meeting.

Finally, handle paper just once. Get out of the "shuffling blues" of emails or voice-mails that are looked at and relooked at again and again while deadlines slip through the cracks. As you receive each new item, if it can be responded to quickly, respond then and there. If it will require a longer amount of time, schedule it for the time when you will get to it and then put it away.

Common sense ideas: that's what horse sense is, yes? Enjoy the race.

Don Wetmore is a certified business coach and the author of "The Productivity Handbook" and "Organizing Your Life." Contact him at 203-394-8216 or csem@msn.com.

Orange Board of Finance

A New Axis Of Power Greatest Challenge For The US

With just a few days until our presidential election, it is abundantly clear that the next US president will be facing the greatest geopolitical challenges of any president since Harry Truman in the late 1940s.

Shortly after World War II, the Soviet Union developed a plan to infiltrate other countries for the sole purpose of spreading communism throughout the world—first into Iran, then into Central America within Guatemala. Truman's Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, was born and raised in Middletown, Connecticut and considered the architect of Truman's Cold War policies. These included the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan and the NATO alliance, which essentially stopped the expansion of the Soviet Union and Marxist ideals. President Dwight Eisenhower continued the same approach and even took it a step further by using intellectual, scientific, military and economic power to defeat the spread of communism into both Iran and Guatemala in the early 1950s.

Today the US is dealing with an even greater global challenge with the Russia-Ukraine

War and the Middle East in flames after the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Iranian proxy terrorist groups. There is a newly-developed alliance of power between China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

Today China is not only an economic power but also a military power; one the US must now compete with on the global stage. China has become not just a competitor on the world stage but in recent years has taken a more adversarial approach toward the US with a large military buildup backing Russia in Ukraine. It is also an imminent threat to its neighbor Taiwan.

One of the many challenges facing the next president will be how to address the fact that the US standing and influence around the world has been in decline over the last decade. China is the next superpower after the US and is ascending technologically, militarily and economically. This global competition with China is ultimately a race for technological and military superiority.



KEVIN
MCNABOLA

The State Department's approach, along with many policymakers within Washington, D.C., for some reason, continues to be soft on China. They turn a blind eye to the growing superpower which has extended its global reach with renewed alliances and investment of technology and infrastructure within Russia, North Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The State Department also reached a deal with Iran which included sending the Iranian government over \$6 billion while Iran continues to get closer to developing a nuclear weapon.

Many Americans are concerned that the US has been weak on Iran and has become too economically interdependent on China. Many Americans would prefer to see the US strategy going forward focusing on reducing its dependency on China for technology—particularly within the energy sector. Americans would much prefer to expand energy production here, boosting our energy exports

to Europe. By bringing back manufacturing of energy components and enhancing energy production of oil and gas here within the US we can once again become a major exporter of energy throughout the world.

We need to seek a workable but disciplined approach economically with China. That includes a balanced trade agreement, and not having an overreliance on China. China's level of investment in other countries over the past decade should be of concern to Americans. China, to its credit, has been building these alliances for decades and has certainly put the US on notice that a new economic superpower is on the rise.

Whoever becomes the next president of the US, it is safe to say that America will need to adopt a tough, disciplined and hard line approach similar to the Cold War policies instituted 75 years ago.

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

Book Reviews

The Princess Of Las Vegas By Chris Bohjalian

I am a major Chris Bohjalian fan. I've had the honor to meet him on three separate occasions. On each occasion he has been unfailingly welcoming, funny and downright charming. He is the foundation on which I've built my personal Mt. Rushmore of favorite authors.

Las Vegas is a city known by several titles, Sin City being the most famous. It is also known as the wedding/divorce capital of the world, among others. It's broken the hearts of many who arrive with dreams of hitting it big and going home with empty pockets.

Lately the city is trying to fashion itself as more of a family vacation spot by offering a variety of kid-friendly options, such as a shark exhibit and helicopter rides. It's also home to many singers, most notably Barry Manilow (who recently set a record for performances and whose act was voted the "best of") and others who have done long-term engagements at one venue.

What hasn't changed though is the public's fascination with celebrities. Celebrity impersonators are big business in Las Vegas—particularly those who impersonate

deceased celebrities. One of the world's most beloved celebrities was the late Princess Diana, perfectly captured by Crissy. Not only does she resemble Diana physically, Crissy has studied hundreds (if not thousands) of taped interviews and studied her mannerisms to make her act as authentic as possible. This is not to say Crissy is perfect (neither was Diana). She drinks a bit too much and uses a tad too much Adderall and Valium: one to address her attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and the other to calm down at night.

Crissy works at The Buckingham Palace Casino, which in no way resembles its namesake. The casino has seen better days and there are frequent discussions about its future. Crissy becomes concerned when Richie Morley, one of the brothers who own the Palace, is found in the Las Vegas desert in what appears to be a gangland shooting. Crissy's anxiety begins to rise.

Her anxiety is further increased when her sister Betsy, with whom she's been



CARMELA
DEVITO

estranged, announces she's coming to Las Vegas with her boyfriend Frankie and her adopted daughter Marisa for a visit. Crissy is taken aback by Betsy's decision to leave the social work profession due to burnout and an overwhelming caseload (a feeling I can most definitely relate to as a retired social worker).

Betsy and Crissy were polar opposites as children. Crissy was responsible and dependable; Betsy not so much. Betsy was a bit of a wild child, abusing drugs and alcohol and hanging out with unsavory characters before she got her life together.

Crissy is further taken aback when Betsy informs her she's not just visiting Las Vegas, but is planning to live there.

Betsy informs Crissy that with Frankie's encouragement and tutelage she is going to start a new career in the cryptocurrency market with a new company called Futurium. Now it's Betsy's turn to educate Crissy on what cryptocurrency is and how they

both could make a fortune and never have any financial concerns for the rest of their lives.

With great attention to detail (one of his trademarks), Bohjalian begins to paint a picture of the dark underside of glittery Las Vegas. Bodies begin showing up (including Artie Morley, Richie's brother, and Yegeny Orlov, a man Crissy spends a couple of nights with). Slowly the involvement of Futurium and a Vegas congresswoman comes to light. The discoverer of the connection? Marisa, an intelligent teenager and math genius who knows how to reach the dark side of the worldwide web as only a teenager can.

Bohjalian has made a vow to his readers never to write the same book twice, unlike some "cookie cutter" authors. He has remained true to his word. All his books are individual stories. My particular favorites are "Close Your Eyes Hold Hands," "The Sandcastle Girls" and "Hour of The Witch."

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

Ponder This

Purple Pantry Helps Those ‘Between The Cracks’

Many people inquire about the purple boxes in varied locations around Milford. One constituent thought that these purple stations, resembling colorful mailboxes, might be drop-off stations for miniature libraries. In fact, these boxes are locations for the Purple Pantry initiative.

Founded during the pandemic, Purple Pantry is a food distribution project for those in the community experiencing food insecurity. The Purple Pantry webpage declares its mission as providing support to those in need. The boxes offer immediate food assistance on a self-indicated basis. The purple boxes are open 24 hours daily, seven days a week and 365 days a year. The philosophy of Purple Pantry translated into action is “Take what you need, leave what you want.”

There are currently 13 Purple Pantry boxes in Milford. These stations are filled daily with shelf-stable food by volunteers.

There are no paid staff members of any kind in the Purple Pantry project. This is an entirely volunteer organization so that 100 percent of food donations go directly to people in the Milford community facing food insecurity on either a temporary, episodic or more consistent basis. The pantry boxes are replenished daily by volunteers who operate private vehicles at

their own expense to maintain the routes. Currently, 18,000 food items are delivered each month with the program considered a major success that meets a unique and previously not fully recognized community need.

I first knew of Purple Pantry founder Susan Brown in her previous professional role as attorney, public defender and educator. Brown spent her professional life helping people and has carried that philosophy into her retirement. She is a highly competent, trustworthy, organized and hardworking individual.

Purple Pantry was started as a temporary project that uncovered food insecurity needs not previously recognized, even by those involved with programs designed to assist the needy. The participants of Purple Pantry are not served by any other government agencies or services. The targeted recipients fall outside of the parameters for seniors or disabled programs, so they are the proverbial “fall between the cracks” population. Many of the Milford residents helped by the program do not have home insecurity and can store and prepare food but still experience food insecurity.



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

Brown manages the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and does the fundraising along with volunteers. Purple Pantry has stepped up fundraising to create a sustainable revenue stream. The goal is to get food into the community with the fewest barriers – hence distribution boxes are embedded in the community for ease of access.

A long-term goal is to create additional space for perishable supplies, thus improving the nutritional value of the distributed food.

The demand for the program has expanded with more requests for home delivery. This indicates that access to food remains a barrier even if people are not facing home insecurity.

The pantry box donations do not supply enough food to balance out the demand. There are necessary donations of food from Stop & Shop in Fairfield, other organizations and high school food bank projects help to meet the demand. The volunteers pick up donated food and then pack accordingly and distribute to the Purple Pantry boxes.

Purple Pantry has reached a turning point in development and looks to the next phase. With the aim of serving only Milford residents, there

is need for additional space for perishable food storage along with increased need for home delivery to an underserved population.

It is important to note that the various church groups and nonprofit organizations are not in competition with one another. All efforts are directed at helping alleviate food insecurity and mutual aid and respect occurs among the different agencies. Purple Pantry has shared resources and food donations to Beth-El Center and other not-for-profit agencies in Milford.

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

Hirsch Gets Endorsement From Equipment Operator Union

Etan Hirsch, the Democratic state House candidate for the Milford-Orange 119th District, has been endorsed by the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478. The union is the premier supplier of heavy equipment operators, mechanics and support personnel in Connecticut, with over 4,000 present members.

“I am thankful for the support from the Local 478. The union promotes fair wages,

prevailing wage and the advancement of project labor agreements to ensure the stability of the heavy construction market. The union advocates for righteous principles including health benefits, job safety, apprenticeship training and commitment to building a better Connecticut by building stronger communities. I will be proud to champion the cause of the working people of this state.”

Orange Lions Club To Host Thanksgiving Dinner

The Lions Club of Orange will provide their 36th annual Thanksgiving dinner at High Plains Community Center. The dinner is on Dec. 1, the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. Dinner begins at 12:30 p.m. Doors open at noon.

The dinner is open to everyone free of charge, but the target guests are the town’s elders, shut-ins and those in need of good food and fellowship.

If you plan to attend, call Orange Community Services at 203-891-4788 to get your name on the list by Friday, Nov. 22. This will let the Lions know how many guests to expect so they will have enough food for everyone.

Transportation can be provided by the Community Services transportation program. Call the transportation coordinator at 203-891-4788 to arrange a ride.

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 Florida Insurance Company Winter Haven, FL	State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas State Farm Lloyds Richardson, TX
--	--	--



2101564

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Take advantage of tax-advantaged income. Let's prepare for your future together.



Philip F Ucci III
Financial Advisor
400 Boston Post Rd., Suite 5
Milford, CT 06460
203-874-1576



MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

Natural Products Store Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce congratulated Yani Natural & Organic store on their grand opening with a ribbon cutting on Oct. 19. Located at 575 New Haven Ave. in Milford, Yani provides organic, natural items such as vitamins and homemade products. From left: MRCC Director Simon McDonald, Marie and Jean Gilus and Mayor Tony Giannattasio. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Radiance MD Opens Expanded Center In Orange

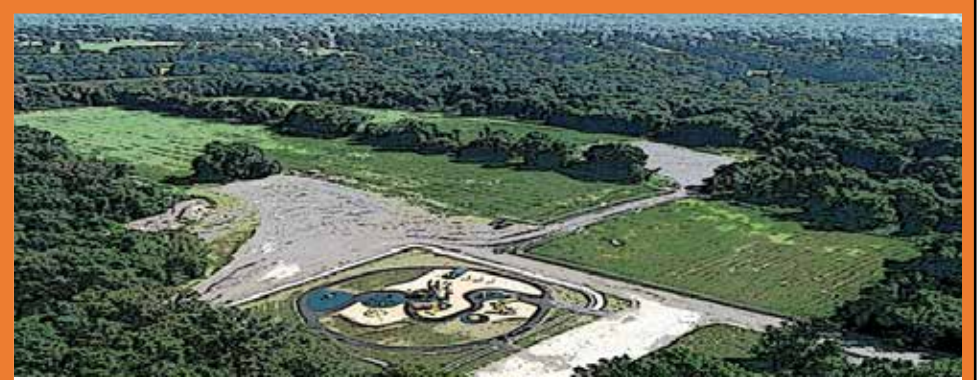


The Radiance MD marked the opening of its new, larger med spa at 291 S. Lambert Rd. in Orange with a ribbon cutting on Oct. 17. The company has more than doubled the size of its center that offers expertise in both primary and urgent care medicines with medical and aesthetic techniques and technologies. Co-owners Sherif Saleh and Jennifer DiLungo were joined by Orange Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Barry Lee Cohen, Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annemarie Sliby and members of the Radiance MD team to celebrate the opening. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Financial Services Firm Opens New Milford Branch



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting on Oct. 19 to celebrate the opening of Edward Jones Investments' newest branch in Milford, led by Christopher N. Durkin. Located at 247 Broad St. Suite 1, the branch provides complete wealth planning and investment management. From left: Mayor Tony Giannattasio, Durkin, Branch Office Administrator Amy Thomas and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.



Community Workshop For the Fred Wolfe Park Master Plan

When: November 14th, 2024
Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Where: High Plains Community Center
Room 2
525 Orange Center Road

Please come and share your ideas regarding
the future of Fred Wolfe Park.



Planning, Preservation, Progression

11.2.24

THE
HILARIOUS
HITMEN

At The
Parson's / Veterans
Auditorium

MUSIC-COMEDY-9 Piece Orchestra

Billy Mira, Sal Governale and Richard Christy
from Satellite Radio's "HOWARD STERN SHOW"



60's Music Explosion

MUSIC OF THE 60's

The Music You Grew Up With...
Beatles, Beach Boys, Association, Byrds
Strawberry Alarm Clock, Buckingham
Mowtown and More!

Doors @ 6:30PM
Show @ 7:30PM
203.723.3672

November 16th

www.MilfordPerformanceCenter.org



An Evening of Song
& Conversation With

PETER YARROW
(Peter, Paul & Mary)

Doors @ 6:30PM
Show @ 7:30PM
203.723.3672

December 7th

MilfordPerformanceCenter.org

Connecticut Orthopaedics Opens Consolidated Location In Orange



The Orange Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening of Connecticut Orthopaedics' new health care facility in Orange with a ribbon cutting on Oct. 10. The event marks the consolidation of two former Orange locations into a single center located at 235 Boston Post Rd. The company has over 20 locations in central and southern Connecticut. Among those pictured are health care professionals from the facility, Orange Chamber Executive Director Barry Lee Cohen, Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli, Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annemarie Sliby and state Rep. Kathy Kennedy. *Photo by Steve Cooper.*

Orange Community Women Holding Craft Fair

The Orange Community Women will hold their second annual craft fair at High Plains Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be more than 60 vendors, food trucks and a raffle.

Orange Community Women is a chapter of Connecticut Junior Women,

Inc. The group unites women of Orange and surrounding areas by participating in community service and providing enrichment, leadership and social interaction. For more information, contact Orangetcommunityw@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/orangecommunitywomen/.

Optometrist Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Sept. 27 for the grand opening of Bright Eye's Optometry at 88 Noble Ave. in Milford. From left, Michala Rao, Cristina Rao, Dr. Anton Rao, Daniel Hawkins, owner Dr. Samantha Rao, Mayor Tony Giannattasio, state Sen. James Maroney and MRCC President Michael Moses. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

Wellness Boutique Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of Mind, Body & Soul Wellness with a ribbon cutting on Oct. 12. The wellness center, which is located at 50 Broad St. Unit 29 in Milford, offers infrared saunas, reiki, red light treatment, halotherapy, and mental health services. From left: Mayor Tony Giannattasio, Ava Vondle, Laila Vondle, Morgan Vondle, Charlene Paskiewicz, Jen Paskiewicz, Ray Paskiewicz and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

Wound Care Specialist Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 18 celebrated the grand opening of Complete Wound Care, located at 20 Commerce Park in Milford. Complete Wound Care is an advanced wound clinic specializing in innovative and modern technologies to assist in wound care. From left: Mayor Tony Giannattasio, Dr. Adrien Wyllie, Shania Wyllie, Dr. Vadim Kurbatov and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

Milford Funeral Home Celebrates Expansion



Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home in Milford held a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 30 to celebrate the completion of a parking lot expansion and a newly-renovated interior that can accommodate large gatherings. The funeral home has served Milford for over 70 years and is now led by third-generation funeral director Moriah Doyle Monsif. *Photo courtesy of Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home.*

Moratorium (Continued From 1)

to bypass local zoning restrictions if a certain percentage of units are deemed affordable. Municipalities generally must allow such developments unless the plan poses risks to health, safety or the environment.

Towns and cities become exempt once 10 percent of their housing units meet

affordability criteria, but towns under that threshold can also apply for a temporary exemption if they have shown progress toward affordable housing goals.

Demirjian estimated that about 6 percent of Orange's housing stock current qualifies as affordable.

"We exceeded the number of points we needed to qualify for the moratorium, and actually over that. So we have points now

rolled over toward the next four years. So we're in very, very good shape," Demirjian said.

Orange can continue to add new affordable housing units during the moratorium, and the town may indeed wish to do so as it faces the same affordable housing shortage affecting the entire state. But officials can be more selective about which projects they approve or deny while the moratorium is in place.

mentioned many of these in the assumptions portion of the planning presentation.

They include obstacles faced by many school systems in the state this year: inflationary pressures raising the costs of goods, services and labor coupled with expiring state and federal funds and grants – especially pandemic-era funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

"That money that we used in the past – well used and much needed – has now dried up," he said.

Board Chair Susan Glennon noted that the Milford system had carefully avoided using ARPA funds to create long-term funding cliffs.

Cutaia, however, gave the example of an after-school credit recovery program at the high schools that the district had meant to be temporary.

"But what we're hearing from our administrators and our school counselors is, 'Wow, that was super beneficial. Can we continue something like that?'" Cutaia said.

Other challenges are specific to Milford, such as the expiration of several contracts that need to be negotiated and an increase between 11 and 13 percent in health insurance plans for retirees. The district will also likely have higher transportation costs, as the current contract with Durham School Services expires in June 2025.

"We're currently locked in at an artificially low rate that we were able to lock in right at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, when the times were a little more uncertain," Brennan explained, saying that the cost could rise by about \$1 million.

The budgets adopted by the Board of Education have faced pushback in the past two years, with the Board of Finance recommending cuts to the BOE's funding request. The Board of Aldermen restored that funding in 2023, but allowed a cut of over \$1 million this year.

Orange Selectmen Mull Field Agreements

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Board of Selectmen spent a portion of their Oct. 9 meeting discussing the terms under which it is currently licensing town-owned fields to local farms.

Some of the agreements have been the subject of controversy over the last few years, with some town residents complaining that the parcels could be put to uses that better benefit the community.

The most disputed the plot – and the reason they have been thrust into the spotlight – is a section of land adjacent to Fred Wolfe Park under the care of Field View Farm. A two-year license agreement from 2021 allows Field View Farm to use a 14.4-acre portion of the northern section of the park for growing hay or crops. Field View pays \$375 to use the land.

As the license agreement was expiring in early 2023, Field View Farm took advantage of a clause that gave the farm the option to renew the license once for another two years without getting town approval – thus tying the hands of town officials.

The board is not likely to take the land near Fred Wolfe Park back yet, as designs for that section of the park are not yet ready.

However, Selectmen John Carangelo and PJ Shanley, who have been involved with the current park planning, had requested that the agreement be shortened to a year.

Though there was some discussion about adding language to allow the town to terminate the contract at any time, First Selectman Jim Zeoli pointed out that state law requires that farmers be allowed to harvest their crop once it's planted.

Selectman Mitch Goldblatt also suggested, as he has with other agreements, that the town put out a request for proposals and let people competitively bid on using the land.

"I think all four of these (agreements), we should see what it's worth," he said. "If it's worth \$200 a year, then it's worth \$200 a year. If somebody else bids \$300 or \$400, it may be in our best interest to do so."

Tom Pisano, who heads the Orange Soccer Association, has been a longtime advocate for getting rid of the farm fields adjacent to Fred Wolfe Park and using them for park-related activities. He spoke in favor of an open bidding process.

"I'd like to bid the farm at Fred Wolfe Park, and see what it's worth," he said.

BOE Budget (Continued From 1)

expanding what the district offers. For instance, one of the priorities involves expanding the Talent Management Department, which handles recruitment, hiring, induction, growth and development, evaluation, recognition and retirement. Another suggests providing "21st-century physical learning spaces" – a priority that would require facility upgrades in many schools.

Cutaia noted that the coming year would mark a major shift in the district's literacy curriculum, as it has been moving toward alignment with the state's Right to Read Act.

"We're currently in a pilot and will be making a decision on what resources we'll be committed to. And that budgetary impact will land in the 2025-2026 school year," Cutaia said.

She also noted that it would be difficult at this stage to say what the budget implications for facilities improvements might be. At the same meeting, the board was introduced to Mary Broderick and Jack Reynolds, who have been selected to facilitate the board's long-range planning for the school system's facilities.

The district is, however, facing cost pressures on multiple fronts that may affect how far it can move forward with its priorities in the coming year. Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations Sean Brennan

COURTYARDSM

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

SUITESSM by HiltonSM



"STAY CATION"

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





Please join us for our Kristallnacht Commemoration 2024

Featuring: King Christian X's Role in the Remarkable Rescue of Danish Jewry

Denmark recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of its remarkable rescue of Danish Jewry.

In 1943, the Danish people did something no other country in Western Europe attempted.

Anticipating that the Nazi regime would issue the long-feared order to round up the Jewish population for deportation to concentration camps, the Danish people rose up and resisted. Come and learn King Christian X's role in the miraculous rescue of Denmark's Jews.



"Looking at the inhumane treatment of the Jews these days, one worries that such a demand might be made of us as well... Well, if so, we must refuse to cooperate. I will not consent to it. If such a demand is made of us, we will all wear the Star of David!"

From King Christian X's diary

PROGRAM'S EVENTS:

■ Professor Emeritus Leo Goldberger will recall how, at age 14, he and his family were ferried to safety in Sweden on a Danish fishing boat. Professor Goldberger was awarded the order of

Dannebrog, by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, for his work on promoting communication between Danish and American professors.

■ Howard S. Veisz, consultant for the new "Rescue in Denmark" exhibit at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage, will recount the story of Denmark's & King Christian X's defiance of the Nazi occupation. Mr. Veisz, a historian, is the author of "Henny's Boat: the Maritime Rescue Operation that Saved Denmark's Jews and Sparked a Nationwide Revolt Against the Nazis." He is also the boat-keeper of the Danish rescue vessel, Gerda III, docked at Mystic Seaport Museum.

■ United States Senator Richard Blumenthal will present a U.S. Senate Certificate of Special Recognition to Ambassador Helle Meinertz, Consul General of Denmark, who will receive it on behalf of the descendants of King Christian X.



U.S. SENATOR Richard Blumenthal



— IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM —

SUNDAY, NOV. 10 | 9:30 AM—11:30 AM

REGISTER TODAY AT:

jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht



CO-SPONSORED BY



Or Shalom Men's Club



EVENT HELD AT CONGREGATION OR SHALOM | ORANGE CT
(203) 799-2341 info@orshalomct.org | orshalomct.org

Amity PT Owner Honored By Sacred Heart



Michael Dow, Center, received the 2024 Silver Pioneer Outstanding Alumni designation from Sacred Heart University. Photo courtesy of Amity Physical Therapy.

Amity Physical Therapy CEO Michael Dow was recently awarded the 2024 Silver Pioneer Outstanding Alumni designation from Sacred Heart University. Dow

graduated from Sacred Heart 25 years ago, and the award recognizes “an alumnus who has reached a 25th milestone reunion year and whose life has been exemplary.”

In 2023, Dow partnered with the youth Pop Warner Football program, bringing awareness to young athletes of the potential danger of concussions and how to prevent them. In the same year, he established a \$10,000 scholarship at Sacred Heart to encourage and support students intent on a degree in physical therapy. For years he and his staff have participated in local road races, raising funds for their communities while offering pre- and post-race complementary therapy to competing runners.

Dow has been recognized by the US Department of Health and Human Sciences for his work with the Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2019 he was invited as guest speaker by the California-based Life Fitness Annual Forum to present his breakthrough concept of medically-based fitness.

Sept. 27 Named ‘Helen Koziel Day’



The Woodruff YMCA in Milford hosted a Happy Birthday Garden Party for member Helen Koziel as she turned 108. During the event, Mayor Tony Giannattasio of Milford brought a proclamation naming Sept. 27 as Helen Koziel Day. Photo courtesy of Barbara Schmidt.

Seminar To Explain Medicare Options

Trish Pearson Insurance of Orange will host a free seminar in Woodbridge on Tuesday, Nov. 12 to help people understand their Medicare insurance coverage and plan options. Learn everything you need to know about Medicare, including the

enrollment process as well as how the parts of Medicare work.

The seminar starts at 6:30 p.m. at the JCC of Greater New Haven, located at 360 Amity Rd. RSVP by calling 203-799-2327.

Advertise in the Milford-Orange Times: 799-7500

Always Best Care Helps Keep Seniors in Their Home Longer.



With our individualized assesment and personalized in-home care plan, seniors can continue to safely age in place. With our individualized non-medical assessment and personalized care plan, seniors can continue to safely age in place. This can be beneficial not only for the physical and mental health but also provide peace of mind to family and friends.

If, or when the time comes, Always Best Care can help families navigate the transition to assisted living or nursing home care.

Call Today: 203-877-1377



Always Best Care senior services® Solely Provides Non-Medical Care

50 Broad Street, Unit 50-06 Milford, CT 06460 DCP Registration HCA.0000831

AlwaysBestCare.com/milford

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

Comment Period Open For Long Island Conservation Plan

The Long Island Sound Study estuary program has opened a 60-day public comment period for formal review of the full draft 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The LISS is a partnership of federal and state agencies working with local governments, communities, universities and industry to restore and protect Long Island Sound. It develops and implements a management plan that establishes priorities for conservation, research and funding for the estuary and its watershed.

The CCMP serves as a blueprint to guide future decisions and addresses a wide range of environmental protection and restoration issues. It was last revised in 2015. Members

of the public will have the opportunity to provide specific comments on the revised vision statement, mission statement, goals, objectives and actions in the CCMP until Nov. 22.

“Through collective effort, the quality of the Sound’s waters and habitats are substantially improved, but there’s more to do,” said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. “Long Island Sound stakeholders are encouraged to share their thoughts on the new plan and help set priorities for the next decade.”

Input on the draft plan will help shape future efforts to restore and care for the Long Island Sound watershed. The draft plan is available at LISstudy.net/PLAN.

Regional Planning Group Creating Bicycle, Pedestrian Plan

The South Central Regional Council of Governments is inviting community members to help shape its “Mobility for All” plan. This initiative aims to build upon the 2017 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and other local plans to create a more vibrant, accessible and connected bicycle and pedestrian network. A connected bicycle and pedestrian network links safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities to the regional transit system, enhancing connections to important destinations.

The plan will consider and recommend bicycle and pedestrian improvements to help address safety, connectivity and infrastructure within the region.

In June, the Mobility for All project team

hosted a visioning session to gather insights on the challenges, opportunities and ideas for improving active mobility in the region.

Residents of the SCRCOG communities – Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge – are encouraged to take the survey at <https://bit.ly/walkbikeplan> to share their thoughts on enhancing safety, accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

Visit the project website at <https://bit.ly/scrcogwalkbike> to learn more about the project and stay update to date on future events.

UNH Dean Joins Orange Chamber Board



Kench

Dr. Brian T. Kench, dean of the Pompea College of Business at the University of New Haven, was recently elected to the

Orange Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

An expert in behavioral and experimental economics and the economics of organization, Kench is also a consultant in the areas of unemployment, economic damages and economic impact analysis.

Kench’s appointment comes one month after the University of New Haven renewed its membership with the chamber.

Barry Lee Cohen, the chamber’s executive director, said, “Brian is a respected leader and trusted business partner who will create significant value for the board. We are excited to have Brian on our team and look forward to collaborating with UNH as we continue to expand programs and professional educational opportunities for our members, businesses and the greater Orange region.”

Probus Club Hosts Picnic To Benefit Those With Special Needs



Approximately 200 people attended The Greater New Haven Probus Club’s recent picnic benefiting special needs individuals, families and caregivers at Camp Cedarcrest in Orange. There were games, food, music, face painting and temporary tattoos. Photo courtesy of the Great New Haven Probus Club.



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



“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
HHCAPHS
Fazzi

2021
TOP 25
HHCAPHS
Fazzi



4 STAR

★★★
MEDICARE
RATED




HomeCare Elite
AGENCY
2019

Obituaries

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

George J. Amato, Jr. passed away peacefully on October 7, 2024 as a result of pancreatic cancer. He was ninety-one years of age. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Eric Donald (Jamal) Benigni, 33, of Milford, CT passed away on September 28, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Janet M. Covaleski, age 92, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Stanley F. Covaleski, died at home on Thursday, October 17, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Marylou Driscoll, loving sister, aunt, great-aunt, cousin and friend, of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on October, 20th, 2024 after a courageous battle with cancer. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Jim (James Robert) Bilskis, 78, of Clinton, beloved husband of Stephanie (Bonwill) Bilskis, passed away on October 17, 2024, at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Patricia Ann Cucuzza, beloved wife of the late Francesco Cucuzza, passed away on September 26, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Arlene Elmo, age 84, of Milford, cherished wife for 55 years of Louis V. Elmo, Sr., died on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Alice Astriab, age 89, beloved wife of the late Robert P. Astriab, entered eternal rest on September 27, 2024. She was born on April 4, 1935 in Wilkes Barre, PA. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




William "Bill" C. Boynton, 70, of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2024. Born on December 4, 1953, he was the son of the late Clifford and Joan Boynton. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Sandra "Sandy" Mary (Cummings) Doebler, age 75, passed away surrounded by family Monday, October 7, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Marcia Caroline Gemignani, age 86, of Milford entered peaceful rest on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




Mary Lee Balcerowski, 75, of Milford, passed away on September 29, 2024. Born on May 11, 1949, in Bridgeport, CT, she was the daughter of the late John and Crystal Balcerowski.. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Sally King Cooney, 85, beloved wife of the late John Cooney, passed away on October 3, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kathy Donahue, 69, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Edmund Donahue, passed away on September 25, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Rosemary Theresa Izzo, 88, of Bridgeport, passed away on October 8th, 2024. Born on August 6th, 1936, in Manhattan, NY. (Cody-White Funeral Home)





Celebrating Life in Milford and Orange for over 95 years!

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

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

CODY-WHITE FUNERAL HOME
*Conveniently located on the
Historic Milford Green*

107 North Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460
(203) 874-0268
www.codywhitefuneralservice.com



Obituaries

Elizabeth "Beth" Lee Largen, 74, of Derby, passed away on October 15, 2024. She was the daughter of the late James and Thelma Largen. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Kevin R. Murphy, 75, of Milford, passed away with his wife (Karen Karpie) and two children (Katie Hayward and Daniel Murphy) at his side on October 11, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Martin "Marty" Howard O'Leary, 89, of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 9, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Cheryl D. Szogedi, 76, of North Haven passed away peacefully on October 5, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Robert 'Bob' Larsson** of Milford, CT, who peacefully left us on October 14, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Marilyn Hayden (Natlo), beloved wife of the late Patrick E. Natlo Sr., passed into eternal rest on Sunday, October 6th, 2024, surrounded by her loving family (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Glenn David Reynolds, 56, of Milford, CT passed away suddenly on September 19, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mary Jane (Nyshy) Vidnansky age 78, peacefully passed on to her heavenly reward on Thursday, October 3, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John Liscio Sr., 68, of Milford, reunited with his wife of thirty-five years, Marion (Doran) Liscio, and met his Savior, Jesus Christ, on October 3rd, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gail Marie Gelinax Nixon, of Orange passed away peacefully on September 29, 2024. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Helen Olenski Rice, 101 years young, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Steven J. Rice Sr., passed away peacefully on October 7, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Francis Carl Wasylink, age 77, beloved husband to Suzanne (Ryan) Wasylink of Milford, entered peaceful rest on September 25, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gloria J. McAndrew, 78, of Milford, beloved wife of James McAndrew, passed away on October 1, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Dr. John Eugene Nori, age 92, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Nancy Lu Nori for 67 years, passed away on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Elizabeth Rita "Chick" Searle, 96, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on October 6, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Käthe Luzie Zvaigzne, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 14th, 2024 at the age of 95. (Cody-White 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

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

SWIMMING CLASSES FOR EVERYONE!

A BRAND NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY WITH 2 HEATED POOLS!

- Develop Confidence!
- Learn New Skills!
- Have Fun!



BULLDOG Swim Academy

CHRISTMAS TREE PLAZA

200 Indian River Road
Orange, CT
203.701.7740



Water Babies

7 MONTHS - 3 YEARS



Youth Program

AGES 4 - 12



Discover Swimming

TEENS & ADULTS



Get \$35 credit for first month
(Must register by December 1)

REGISTER NOW!



bulldogswimacademy.com