

Milford-Orange Times

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April 10, 2025

Volunteers From Milford, Orange Distribute Food In New Haven



Several members of the Knights of Pythias Fidelity Lodge #78 volunteered on the morning of March 22 to help Loaves and Fishes distribute food to several hundred people with food insecurity at the Church of St. Paul and St. James in New Haven. Loaves and Fishes is a gathering place centered around community, offering food and clothing to those in need. Knights of Pythias members assist several local charitable activities each year. Included in the photo are several area members, including Mitch Goldblatt, Brad Selmon and Jon Kelman from Orange, as well as Scott Teller, Dan Boemmels and George Malesky from Milford. Photo courtesy of Mitch Goldblatt.

Milford Honors Vietnam Veterans 50 Years Later



Milford and several veterans' organizations came together to honor the 50th anniversary of Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29 with ceremonies and speeches on the Milford Green and in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium at the Parsons Government Center. A field of flags lined the green for a "Welcome Home" reunion for the veterans. Included in the photo are Mayor Tony Giannattasio and US Sen. Richard Blumenthal. March 29 was chosen as it marks the withdrawal of the last US combat troops from Vietnam in 1975, and is an opportunity for people to thank Vietnam-era veterans and their families for their service. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Milford BOF Cuts Ed Request, Raises Mill Rate

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Finance made its recommendation for city finances in the coming year on March 19 that will include a modest rise in the mill rate.

Under the board's plan, the \$264,903,595 budget would push the current 29.14 mill rate up to 29.58, a 1.5 percent increase.

In their message accompanying the budget, the Board of Finance singled out

a drop in the city's grand list by almost \$57 million as a reason for the need to raise the mill rate. The rise in value of personal property has been more than offset by the falling value of real estate – particularly commercial real estate. The Connecticut Post Mall, Milford's largest single taxpayer, has lost approximately

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Orange Mill Rate To Drop, But Costs Rise

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange's mill rate is likely to drop under the budget plan put forward by the town. However, residents' property taxes could be going up anyway due to the recently-completed revaluation.

The \$86,083,562 budget proposed by the Board of Finance marks a rise of about \$2.3 million over last year's totals, or 2.71 percent. However, the town's grand list,

which values all taxable property, went up by 10 percent over the past year.

That larger grand list is allowing the town to lower the mill rate from the current 31 mills to 29.1 mills. One mill is equal to \$1 of tax for each \$1,000 of assessed value.

The reason for the dramatic increase in the grand list mainly comes from higher

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Ospreys Return To Milford For Spring



Members of the Milford Marine Institute observed a male osprey on the nesting platform at the Gulf Pond State Wildlife Refuge opposite Gulf Beach on March 20. Males always return before females to claim territory and often return to the same nesting site. Females will return a few days later. The Milford Marine Institute chose the Osprey as their logo in 1983 because the osprey best represents the link between the avian and marine world. Ospreys are fish-eating hawks. Dozens of ospreys have been raised on the Gulf Pond State Wildlife refuge since the mid 1980s when the Milford Marine Institute in collaboration with the then state Department of Environmental Protection erected nesting platforms and perches. Ospreys, once endangered, are now thriving across the state. Photo by Tim Chaucer.

Milford Aldermen Reject Car Assessment Change

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Board of Aldermen voted during a March 26 meeting not to adopt the state's new motor vehicle depreciation schedule, arguing that it was just another tax increase.

The bipartisan vote of 9-4 rejected a new option being offered by the state that would have allowed the city to collect 1.5 million in additional tax revenue by changing the method through which motor vehicle values are assessed.

Under the existing depreciation schedule, the city saw the motor vehicle portion of its grand list fall by over \$66 million, from \$568,611,114 in 2023 to \$502,471,440 in 2024. Adopting the new depreciation schedule would have

increased the value and shifted some of the tax burden from other types of property in the current budget.

However, several aldermanic members called the option nothing more than a tax increase on those who could least afford it.

Board member Robert Pacelli pointed out that the car tax is levied only on those who keep their vehicles registered in the city, while other types of property taxes are split between residents and commercial enterprises.

"I can't vote in favor of anything that would put an additional tax increase on

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Who's Next
The Ultimate Who Tribute Show
APRIL 19th
Location: High Plains Auditorium
Tickets & Info:
MilfordPerformanceCenter.org

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Amity Renames DEI Coach

The Amity Board of Education has renamed its diversity, equity and inclusion coach to the broader role of school climate coordinator following political controversy over the role.

Superintendent Paul Davis read the following statement into the record at the March 24 BOE meeting:

“Recent concerns raised by community members about Amity Regional School District No. 5’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts merit clarification. Many of these concerns are related to a US Department of Education letter dated Feb. 14, 2025, which has been cited as containing a directive for schools to cease all DEI activities including staffing. However, this is a misinterpretation. The letter reiterates Title VI protections against discrimination for all students, regardless of race, color or national origin, without mandating the end of DEI programs in K-12 schools or the removal of DEI positions. Amity does not engage in discrimination – our DEI principles focus on supporting every student’s potential and does not favor any group over another.”

“Statutory updates to school climate

policy made in 2023, however, now requires all districts to adopt a school climate policy by July 1, 2025. It defines “school climate” as the quality of school life, emphasizing relationships, safety and equity. To align with this, Amity’s DEI coach will transition into the school climate coordinator. This new role, mandated by the policy we will adopt, ensures no drastic changes to how we champion student success. Retaining the DEI coach position while adding the school climate coordinator position would have been permissible, but this did not seem logical nor fiscally sound, since the new position will cover the responsibilities of the DEI coach. This deliberate and planned transition was first shared during the November 2024 Board of Education meeting.”

“Our Board of Education remains committed to fostering a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment for all students. This is in line with our core values, which include nurturing a community that embraces differences, ensures equitable access to resources and promotes belonging for all learners.”

Milford Kiwanis Holding Easter Flower Sale

The Milford Kiwanis is holding its annual Easter Flower Sale in the parking lot of the Milford Bank at 33 Broad St. on Easter weekend.

This is the sale’s 75th year. It will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 20.

Flowers for sale will include azaleas,

daffodils, hyacinths, hydrangeas, kalanchoe, lilies, mums, tete-a-tetes, tulips, and hanging baskets of pansies, geraniums, calibrachoa and trailing petunias.

Proceeds will primarily be used to help fund the Kiwanis annual scholarship program for eligible graduates of Milford schools.

OSFA Scholarship Applications Open

Applications are open until April 22 for scholarships from the Orange Scholarship Fund Association.

To qualify, a student must be an Orange resident enrolled in public, private or parochial school entering his/her freshman year of postsecondary education. The applicant may be going to a vocational school, community college, four-year

college or university.

Over the years the OSFA has provided scholarships based on financial need, academic achievement and community service. Since its inception, more than \$553,000 has been awarded to nearly 300 students.

Applications are available at orangescholarshipfund.com.

Yale A Cappella Group To Perform At Case Memorial

The Yale Citations a cappella group is back for a return engagement at Case Memorial Library on Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m.

The group is comprised solely of Yale graduate students. Their majors represent a wide array of disciplines including science, medicine and law – studies may range from biomedical engineering to ecological performance art.

These multitalented singers know a wide

variety of genres and styles, including jazz, classic standards and musical theater. Their songbook is also replete with pop hits, everything from James Taylor to Taylor Swift.

Sponsored by Friends of Case Memorial Library, this event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at casememoriallibrary.org or call 203-891-2170.

Maroney Forms AI Caucus

State Sen. James Maroney (D-Milford) and state Rep. Hubert Delany (D-Stamford) announced the creation of an Artificial Intelligence Caucus on March 27.

The AI Caucus will strongly support Senate Bill 2, “An Act Concerning Artificial Intelligence.” Senate Bill 2 will work to create regulations for AI in Connecticut, with a focus on transparency and accountability; training Connecticut’s workforce to use artificial intelligence; and criminalization of non-consensual intimate images.

“I’m honored to work with my colleagues to make Connecticut a leader in responsible AI innovation,” Maroney said. “AI has the ability to transform the

way we work and live. In order to unleash its true transformative power, we need to ensure there are reasonable guardrails to mitigate potential risks and provide training opportunities to all Connecticut residents.”

Maroney emerged as an early leader among state legislators around the country on AI, but similar legislation he proposed last year to regulate AI was panned by Gov. Ned Lamont, who has suggested that Connecticut might cut itself off as a destination for AI innovation if it took the lead on regulation.

Colorado, which was discussing regulations at the same time, became the first state in 2024 to enact comprehensive AI consumer protections.



ESTATE PLANNING & WILLS HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH | 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Maplewood at Orange, 245 Indian River Road, Orange, Connecticut

PRESENTED BY: Attorney Mark A. Healey

You’re Invited to Estate Planning Essentials: Protecting Your Legacy. Join us for an exclusive event designed for residents and their adult children. Enjoy an insightful presentation, an engaging Q&A session, and a cocktail hour. Mark will be prepared to speak about the core elements of estate planning, wills, and pitfalls to avoid.

RSVP

by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions, contact Caroline MacKinnel at orangecrd@maplewoodsl.com or call 203.795.3117.



ABOUT MARK A. HEALEY

The Law Offices of Mark A. Healey is a trusted legal practice based in West Haven, Connecticut, with nearly 40 years of experience helping clients navigate probate law and estate planning. The firm provides comprehensive guidance on wills, trusts, estate administration, and probate matters, ensuring clients’ assets are protected and their wishes honored.



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AT ORANGE



245 Indian River Road | Orange, Connecticut | 203.795.3117 | MaplewoodatOrange.com

Orange Gears Up For Recycling Event

Orange's semi-annual Shredding Day event organized by the Orange Recycling Committee is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at High Plains Community Center at 525 Orange Center Rd. The event is intended to provide convenient and responsible ways to dispose of many types of household items. Residents are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for local food pantries.

The event centers around secure shredding of confidential documents such as tax papers, bank statements and medical records, handled by Affordable Solutions of Orange. This free service is funded by the Rotary Club of Orange, and donations to the organization's scholarship fund are appreciated. Rotarians will be on hand to collect contributions.

The Regional Water Authority's

HazWaste Central mobile unit will collect household hazardous liquids, including paints, stains, solvents, pesticides, old gasoline, cleaners, pool chemicals, aerosols, vehicle fluids and more. Go to rwater.com/hazwaste for details and to save time by pre-registering within two weeks of the event.

The Mattress Recycling Council's "Bye Bye Mattress" team will once again collect mattresses and box springs. Orange Lions Club volunteers can also pick up items from homes for a \$15 donation per item. To arrange pickup, contact Ken Lenz or Marianne Miller at 203-795-3906. Items must be dry and outside or in a garage, as volunteers will not enter homes. Mattresses from futons, sofa beds, waterbeds, and those that are wet, damaged or soiled will not be accepted.

Residents may also bring e-waste such as computers, laptops, tablets and phones. Data will be wiped and components will be reused as scrap to minimize landfill waste and the potential for toxicity. There is a fee for this service, ranging from \$5 for small items such as phones to \$20 for large items such as computers.

The Orange Community Women will be collecting clothing and household goods, including used clothing, shoes, accessories, blankets, curtains, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, books, housewares, dishes, small appliances, home decor, toys, sporting goods, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes, records and knick-knacks. Residents are encouraged to bag or box their items appropriately for collection. These items will be sold to a local thrift shop and proceeds will be used to fund OCW's community projects.

The Buy Nothing Orange group will host a "swap meet" under the pavilion from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., allowing residents to exchange items at no cost. They will also collect non-perishable food for the Orange Food Bank and Orange Food2Kids.

To ensure an organized experience, the Orange Recycling Committee is urging participants to follow signs and volunteer instructions. Paper shredding and electronics collection will be in the front parking lot. Mattress collection will be near the building entrance. Hazardous waste drop-off will be behind the building near the rear exit. Clothing, household items and food collection will be at the main pavilion.

For more information and updates, visit orangerecycles.com or facebook.com/ORCinCT.

OLT Makes Local Syrup



The Orange Land Trust in collaboration with the Minore Maple Syrup Farm in Orange sponsored a free maple syrup demonstration and pancake/waffle breakfast on March 7. The importance of open space not only for recreation and wildlife, but also to support the sustainability of local food production was emphasized. Maple sap to maple syrup is labor and energy intensive, whereby 6,000 gallons of sap is boiled down to 72 gallons of syrup in the sugar shack. Included in the picture are Chris and AnneMarie Minore along with Orange Land Trust board members in front of the sugar shack. Photo by Chrystyna Messina.

Performance Troupe At Milford Library



Actors Randye Kaye, Brian Hoover, Robert Esposito, Jessica Chesbro and Matt Austin pose with creator/director Marti LoMonaco, Library Director Scott Brill and President of the Friends of the Milford Public Library Pam Pilla, celebrating "Acts In The Stacks: A Performance in Four Courses" on April 5 at the Milford Public Library. The show was a celebration of literary food featuring the work of Nora Ephron, Oscar Wilde, A.R. Gurney, MFK Fisher, David Foster Wallace, Tina Howe, Ogden Nash and Stratford author and playwright, Steven Otfinoski. All proceeds benefited the Milford Public Library. Photo by Jamie Mullen Rude.

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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.

Say Yes to Orange and Our Schools

To the Editor:

Orange is a wonderful community and I'm grateful to be an active part of it. But reading the letters to the editor about the Amity school district in the last issue makes me wonder what kind of community we are.

In reality, a town like ours is made up of living people with individual experiences and perspectives. To me, this is a good thing. When we see familiar faces at the country fair, fireman's carnival or around town, we're polite because we don't want to live in a world in which everyone is rude to each other. Even if – or because – we don't agree on everything.

Why is it, I wonder, that we seem to leave all that aside when we talk about our schools? I think it has to do with what happens when people start thinking about our schools as if their policies matter more than the children they support. It's like how someone may think that a person's political party registration matters more than the person they are.

But I think both are mistakes and that policies are there to guide decisions so they are as fair as possible for each student: our daughters and sons, nephews and nieces and neighbors. It feels easy to forget when we talk so much about schools and their budgets – especially when we argue past each other like we seem to be doing recently.

Each year, our kids and young adults (and teachers) need your support to make sure they get what they need to be successful – not easy in the world we live in. The Amity budget referendum on May 6 gives you the opportunity to say yes to each child in Orange, to say yes to their futures, and yes to continuing Orange's proud tradition of supporting its schools.

I hope you join me in setting a reminder and making a plan to vote in the Amity budget referendum at High Plains on May 6 and sending a message that despite our differences, we are still one community. These are our schools. These are our kids. Let's not forget that.

Robert Lim
Orange

A Teacher's Perspective on DEI

To the Editor:

There is a voice we aren't hearing from in the debate over diversity, equity and inclusion: that of a professional, veteran educator who can weigh in on how students are directly affected by the presence of a DEI coordinator in a district.

I have been an English teacher for 18 years in a neighboring district, and based on what I hear from my own AMSO student and other parents and teachers, I think the experiences in my district's classrooms are not dissimilar from Amity's classrooms. Recently, we rewrote our core course curriculum documents, coincidentally after our district hired a DEI coordinator, and not once has "political ideology" ever been part of our discussion of what to include in our documents.

Our time with our students is so short and so impeded on by the many distractions around them that we barely have time to ad-

dress all of the necessary skills they need to navigate the world we release them into when they graduate from us.

Teachers spend their time talking about how to best engage and motivate their students, how to help the ones who struggle. We discuss books that offer a range of experiences for our students, so that they feel represented, but also so they can learn about other perspectives.

We do not have the time nor the desire to "indoctrinate" our students. As if they would listen anyway. Imagine if we could influence them to pick up a book, any book, outside of our classrooms.

None of the work that DEI coordinators facilitate comes at the expense of classroom time spent on curriculum. No programs are being cut; we are not being denied access to materials in lieu of salaries or programs. Instead, the DEI coordinator in my district provides professional development outside of the school day that helps all of us understand the experiences of the students who sit in front of us each day.

These activities often involve having speakers come to educate us about the unique experiences our students bring to the table. This helps me better understand them to meet their needs. I am being given perspective so that I can make sure I am empathetic and understanding for all of the children in my care, not just the ones whose "ideologies" or beliefs mirror my own.

Without being in a school every day, it is hard to know how policies are directly affecting our students. Many teachers, like myself, are also parents, and so we feel these concerns deeply, on multiple levels. I couldn't be more thankful that my own children attend school at Amity. In addition to their strong academic, athletic and extracurricular programs, I feel comfort in knowing that the district also values the compassion, understanding and responsiveness that DEI initiatives promote.

Carissa Lucia
Orange

Behavior at Board Meeting Inappropriate

To the Editor:

As a father of twin 17-year-old girls my wife and I attended the BOE meeting at Amity High School. People were allowed to speak for 3 minutes each about the diversity, equity and inclusion subject. Two opposed and two for in that rotation for a total of 20 minutes. While waiting to speak I couldn't help but wonder if there was a new disease I was unaware of spreading throughout the town because the majority of these people were wearing masks. As people spoke it became evident 90 percent of the people attending were in favor of keeping the DEI policy within the school, even though the executive order was signed. There were cheers from the audience when someone spoke in favor of DEI, and boos when someone opposed the issue of DEI. At one point someone on the board mentioned how inappropriate this behavior was, but the damage was done. It was clear who was attending the meeting and which political party rallied their troops to attend. Prior to the meeting a letter from Orange Democratic Town Council Chair Jody Deitch to town Democrats in Orange was sent out stating dramatically that the Amity school system was under attack. The politics within the district interfered with this meeting and in turn interfered with people who have children that actually attend the school and are directly impacted. If government policies were so important the past four years and our district abided by everything it

required, why is there such a pushback now? The practice of DEI that claims everyone gets a say and deserves a voice obviously hasn't played out at the latest BOE meeting. I guess you only get a voice if you agree with everyone. It is not healthy for a community if we can't disagree on issues, have arguments and push forward. But to stack the deck at a BOE meeting is wrong. It gives the impression that you know what's best for my kids and that is not only wrong it is immoral.

Phil Tower
Orange

Unhappy with Democrats at Amity BOE Meeting

To the Editor:

On March 10, as the Amity BOE meeting started, the main topic of parental concern that evening was DEI in the district after President Donald Trump signed an executive order calling for the elimination of DEI and CRT in public schools. After Orange Democratic Town Committee Chair Jody Deitch called for a stand at the board meeting via email to the Democrats in the BOWA district, stating "Our schools are under attack, specifically Amity," there were countless individuals attending.

The Chairman, Paul Davis, allowed a total of eight individuals to speak on this subject. Four people in favor of DEI and four against DEI, which is fair and reasonable. As those for DEI spoke, it was quiet until those people were finished speaking. Then there was very loud and obnoxious clapping. As those who made public comment against DEI spoke, there were consistent booing, heckling and rude comments from those in the audience (Democratic side). As I proceeded to stand up and speak, there were more boos and heckling. I think that Deitch is responsible for the outlandish and uncalled for outbursts from the people whom she invited to the meeting.

DEI really stands for division, exclusion and indoctrination as it racially, politically and individually separates and divides. I find it rather interesting that those supporting DEI in the name of peace were the very people who were booing and heckling. I do not teach my child to treat people this way. I teach him to treat everyone equally.

I am calling out Jody Deitch for gathering so many individuals to the meeting that have never been to a meeting and do not belong there, yet Deitch herself wouldn't stand up and speak. She is only looking for your vote in the future, but when it comes down to it, she isn't willing to actually stand up for you and be your voice.

Liz Nucifora
Orange

Amity BOE Meeting Turned to Political Mob

To the Editor:

My four daughters are third generation Amity students. All of them are currently attending Amity High School. Over the past few years I have attended over a dozen BOE meetings. On March 10 I arrived a few minutes late and was immediately surprised by the crowd.

Over 20 men and women with masks on were all seated in a large group clapping for a supporter of diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory.

After only a few minutes it was obvious these people whom I've never seen at a BOE meeting were coached to heckle, boo and laugh at anyone opposing DEI and CRT.

I asked a school employee who these people were and where they came from. This individual stated that Jody Deitch had sent out an email calling for help as our school was under attack. She also told them that their support was needed at this board of education meeting.

As I waited in line to speak I was personally heckled by a small group of Amity students as their parents stood idly by. One of these kids was later found to be the one responsible for starting a fake account on a town page stirring up trouble in town over the transgender topic.

This harassment went on throughout the day. Several adults and children were removed from the page if they had not already removed themselves.

As the heckling continued I did speak out of turn after a board member finally stood up and asked for the heckling to stop. Before letting the board know that I was leaving I asked who these older individuals were and let it be known that they could not hear or see what was being done toward the back of the room or along the line of people waiting to speak.

After leaving without getting a chance to speak I was told that Paul Davis did make it clear that if any of this rude heckling behavior continued people would be asked to leave. In my eyes it was a bit late on the board's reaction to this behavior. This meeting was a disgrace. It was not about our children. Due to Jody Deitch and her email to her party members the meeting was made to be purely political.

I believe that Jody Deitch should be held responsible for a failed BOE meeting. The students attending AHS need to be heard and so do their parents. Not a political mob. Another meeting should be held for the students of AHS as well as their parents or guardians.

Seth F. Harkness
Orange

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Milford-Orange Times

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

Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney (D-14)

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 Deitch, ODTC	Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances	Michele Tenney, Wellness
Pat Dray, Gardening		Don Wetmore, Time Management

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Opinion & Editorial

An Update On Your Electric Bill



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

“Are lawmakers doing anything about our utility costs?” said one constituent who was left wondering if she had to reevaluate her monthly budget to feed her family and keep the lights on. Whether it was in an email, Facebook group or protest, Connecticut residents deserve to know what their elected officials are doing to make our state more affordable.

The Energy and Technology Committee held a routine meeting on March 13 to vote on bill proposals that, if approved, would then be subject to debate in the House and Senate. One of these key proposals was Senate Bill 647, An Act Concerning Protections for Consumer Access to Affordable Electricity.

In this Republican-led bill, we addressed your concerns with utility rate increases and the public benefits charge by shifting these costs into the state budget process. This means that the public benefits costs will be paid by our state budget, taking the burden off of ratepayers while continuing to support residents who rely on these benefits.

Additionally, this bill would have been key to not overpaying for energy, studying alternative energy sources like natural gas and nuclear, and eliminating any unnecessary electric vehicle mandates that limit consumer freedom and economic development. Sadly, leaders on the Energy and Technology Committee thought differently.

Here’s what happened. A week before this meeting, the Energy and Technology Committee hosted a public hearing on this same bill. It garnered support from a remarkable 700-plus residents throughout the state, many from Milford and Orange. Yet to the majority party, that wasn’t enough.

Remember, this is an issue that affects Democratic, Republican, unaffiliated and unregistered voters alike; why wasn’t it passed?

When SB 647 was given the opportunity to move forward in the legislative process, majority Democratic leaders rejected our proposal. Not only was it rejected, but these same leaders refused to even allow this bill on the meeting agenda, leaving no opportunity for open discussion and a vote.

Ever since I was elected to be your voice, I have always worked hard to represent our diverse community of ideas and concerns, despite political affiliation. With a state-wide concern like the rising cost of utilities, we cannot afford to put political parties before our constituents.

I want to thank all of my constituents who submitted public testimony, participated in public hearings and contacted me about this issue, because your voice matters. As we transition from our committee meetings to conversations on the House floor, I look forward to revisiting this affordable proposal and fighting for you.

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

Key Bills Under Development



STATE REP. (D-117)
MJ SHANNON

As the legislative session continues, I want to share some key bills I’m keeping an eye on that could have a big impact on our state.

Two of the committees I serve on, the Environment Committee and the Government Administration and Elections Committee, have wrapped up their work. But the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee is still in the thick of it.

One of my priorities this session is protecting our environment. The Environment Committee recently passed HB 5004 and SB 09, two critical bills that I’ll be following closely as they move to the floor for debate. HB 5004 focuses on tackling climate change by promoting clean energy and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. SB 09 is all about preserving our natural resources and strengthening policies to protect Connecticut’s ecosystems and coastal areas. These bills reflect our state’s ongoing commitment to sustainability, and I’m excited to see them move forward.

Another major focus for me is voting rights. The GAE Committee has advanced two important bills – SB 1535 and SB 1516 – that aim to make voting more accessible and secure. At a time when voting rights are under attack in other parts of the country, it’s critical that Connecticut continues to lead in ensuring free and fair elections for all.

While those committees have finished their work, the Finance Committee is still deep in discussions. I’m especially excited to be working with Chair Maria Horn on a bill that would provide tax incentives for small businesses that hire locally. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and this legislation would support their growth while also creating good jobs right here in our communities.

We’re also tackling affordability – something that’s on everyone’s mind. The committee is looking at initiatives like a child tax credit to provide relief for working families. Soon, we’ll be debating the fiscal guardrails that shape our state’s budget policies. These were put in place to ensure financial stability, but we need to have a real conversation about how to balance fiscal responsibility with making strategic investments that actually help people.

As these bills move through the process, I’ll keep pushing for policies that support working families, small businesses and a sustainable future for Connecticut. If you have thoughts, concerns or ideas, I’d love to hear from you. You can reach me at mj.shannon@cga.ct.gov or call my office at 860-240-8585. I truly believe the best legislation is shaped by the voices of the people it serves, so don’t hesitate to reach out.

Looking forward to keeping you updated as we move through this session and work toward solutions that make Connecticut a better place for everyone.

Letters

(Continued From 4)

Diversity Is a Strength

To the Editor:

As a new resident of Orange who has a son entering kindergarten this fall, it is troubling to see so much misinformation about diversity, equity and inclusion in the letters here.

It’s like DEI is the scary thing right now. Not a legal, permanent resident being taken because he exercised his right to protest. Not money being cut from the Connecticut Foodbank to help feed those who need it. Not veterans losing their jobs. Not measles returning and killing people, including children. Not the White House being used as a car sales lot. Or how about out of control electricity rates hurting Connecticut residents? Anyone want to talk about any of these issues?

Nope. Let’s try to scare and divide people about DEI. So let’s talk about what DEI really is, beyond an acronym the right has tried to weaponize and demonize.

DEI policies can play an important role in fostering fair opportunities, creating inclusive environments and addressing historical disparities in schools, government and everyday life.

In schools, DEI policies can ensure all

students, regardless of their race, gender, disability or socioeconomic background, have access to the same education. These policies promote an environment where students feel valued and respected, which in turn improves academic outcomes. Every kid should feel safe and welcome at school.

In government, DEI policies are essential in ensuring public services are accessible to all citizens, regardless of their identity.

Governments that prioritize DEI are more likely to create laws and initiatives that reflect the needs of diverse populations. This includes everything from equitable health care to fair representation in leadership positions, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Diversity is strength and equality, equity and inclusion have never been bad things.

Empathy is what’s truly missing around here today. I would hope we have an inclusive, supportive environment in our school systems welcoming of all children and encouraging of our teachers.

This mom of three knows we all benefit from growing up in diversity and open communities and I’ll continue to raise my voice as an advocate and parent in support of inclusive policies. And lowering our electric bills.

Lauren Gray
Orange

Editor’s Note

A column by Theresa Rose DeGray in the March 13, 2025 issue (“Not All Debts Are Discharged In Bankruptcy”) named Tara Twomey as the director of the United States Trustee Program. Twomey was dismissed from her post as part of the Trump administration’s layoffs after the issue had gone to print, too late to correct the column.



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Orange Democratic Town Committee

It's About Community

Recently the Orange Democratic Town Committee held its annual O'Sullivan Award dinner. This annual dinner, in its 10th year, recognizes a local community member who exemplifies community service while honoring the O'Sullivan family who have given so much over the years to the Orange community as well as other area towns and cities.

This year, we honored Betty Hadlock. Hadlock's bio is on our website (OrangeCT-Dems.org/o-sullivan-award-recipients). If I included it here, it would exceed my allotted word count. Hadlock exemplifies what we define as an O'Sullivan honoree as have our past honorees: Paul Davis, the late Bob Shanley, Trish Pearson, Sue Cohen, Kevin Moffett, Judy Primavera, Kevin Hadlock, Mitch Goldblatt and Phil Smith.

Being part of the ODTC isn't just about

politics. Yes, our focus is to support democratic ideals and elect Democrats to local, state and national office. However, we are also about supporting our community. We do this in many different ways. Many of our members are also involved in other organizations in town.

Here are a few of the organizations and committees where ODTC members also serve: PTAs, the Lions Club of Orange, the Rotary Club of Orange, the Garden Club of Orange, Orange Community Women, the Orange Recycling Committee, OGAT, Orange Indivisible, the Case Memorial Library board, as well as our youth sports. The list goes on.

We are a diverse group of citizens rep-



JODY DIETCH

resenting many communities in Orange. We want to strive to be sure all members of the Orange community are represented on the ODTC. We have members from all three districts, from retirees to young professionals, from members with young children to the young at heart with grandchildren. We have lifelong Orange residents with historical knowledge and newer residents with their eyes to the future of our town. We have strong liberal

members and more moderate Democrats.

Our diversity allows us to be open to all perspectives on issues. Our community service provides the ability to meet others and hear their concerns, suggestions and perspectives while giving back to the town we

all love. So being part of the ODTC is not just about politics. As a matter of fact, being part of the ODTC is more about community than politics. We are a group of Orange Democratic voters working to improve our community.

We are also elected members. We welcome members throughout the year and welcome guests to our meetings. If you would like to learn more about the ODTC, please reach out to me at JLDOrange@yahoo.com.

Finally, we want to wish everyone a happy Passover and happy Easter to those who celebrate, and hope our friends who just celebrated Eid al-Fitr, Eid Saeed.

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

On Our Land

Unnatural Landscapes

Spring is here, and thoughts of many residents turn to golf. Orange has a number of golf courses within its boundaries, and several others are nearby in bordering towns. Collectively they comprise some of the largest open spaces in the region.

They are easy to identify on Google satellite images, as the patterns of fairways look like odd hieroglyphic symbols from above. The largest of these is the 27-hole Racebrook Country Club, purchased by Orange in 2021 with the intent to protect it for recreation and green space. From above though, the golf course looks nothing like the larger conservation area just to the north known as Racebrook Tract. What a difference a forest makes.

I am not a golfer but enjoy meals and events at area clubs. While there, however, my mind can drift to wondering how the site was picked and the course laid out and graded; how drainage might have been changed for water hazards; how much sand was imported for bunkers, etc. Geology and landscape architecture go hand in hand.

My favorite course in town for landscape consideration is Orange Hills Country Club. It straddles a bedrock ridge between Silver Brook and one of its tributaries. The hills here are more pronounced than at nearby clubs,

and water hazards more apparent. You will have to ask a golfer if it is considered a tougher course than others in Orange.

Other town courses are differentiated by features of the glacial and river deposits on which they were constructed. They are transected by floodplains of Indian River, Race Brook or the Wepawaug River, and the courses of these rivers follow older post-glacial streams and lake beds. From north to south, the landscape also has less local relief. So by the time one gets to Milford's Orchards Golf Course, the terrain is nearly flat and easily walkable.

The largest nearly contiguous area of open space near Orange is in the northeast corner of town where it abuts Woodbridge, New Haven and West Haven. This area between Routes 34 and 15 includes Racebrook Tract, the Regional Water Authority property surrounding Maltby Lakes and the Yale Nature Preserve and Golf Course. If the nearby Racebrook Country Club south of Route 34 and Woodbridge's Oak Lane Golf Course as well as the former country club north of Route 15 also are included, the total "green" area is over 2,000 acres.



DAN MAY

I often hike through Racebrook Tract and the adjacent RWA property. The tract is open to the public and access to the Maltby Lakes area can be obtained for a modest permit fee from RWA. Several weeks ago, I joined a group that hiked from the Maltby reservoirs into the Yale Nature Preserve that abuts the university's golf course along its western boundary.

We enjoyed good elevated views from the preserve across parts of this course, which is currently being renovated to reopen in 2026. It

is nestled in the headwaters of the Cove River, and the course layout and terrain make it one of the toughest collegiate courses in the nation. The juxtaposition of forested nature preserves with a manicured, open and sculpted golf course is perhaps more striking on the ground than from above.

Last fall, I also had the chance to walk through the abandoned Woodbridge Country Club just to the north across Route 15 with a group in search of song sparrows. This course closed to play in 2016 after Woodbridge bought it for conservation purposes. Barely 10 years later, it's nearly impossible to tell green

from fairway from rough, which now is about 8 feet tall. Ecological succession is underway and if left alone, it will look like Racebrook Tract in about a century.

After centuries of European-style usage, there is little if any old-growth forest in the town limits. Rock walls are ubiquitous and much of the landscape is "unnatural." However, Orange's diverse open spaces are one of its most attractive features for many residents. These range from actively maintained golf courses and parks as well as schoolyard and athletic fields, to conservation areas around water reservoirs or managed by the town or the land trust, to remnants of previously widespread farm operations.

These spaces are an important part of the Orange's character, and feature prominently in the ongoing revision of its plan of conservation and development. Public commentary is encouraged, with open spaces mapped and discussed in Chapter 7 at: www.orange-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5124/Chapter-7-Open-Space-Historic-and-Community-Facilities.

Dan May is a local geologist. He can be contacted at capemay2013@gmail.com.

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Orange Republican Town Committee

The ORTC View On DEI

Educational excellence has been the cornerstone of our community and one of the most defining characteristics of Orange. As a product of the Orange and Amity school systems, I can personally attest to our schools' exceptional education and nurturing environment. The teachers I learned from, some of whom I remain in contact with to this day, were among the finest in our state. They shaped not just what I knew, but who I became.

From this deep respect for our schools and their vital role in shaping our young people's lives, I recently sent a letter to the Amity Board of Education detailing some of our thoughts on the continuing implementation of DEI at Amity.

Let me be unequivocally clear: the purpose of that letter was not political – it was protective. Unfortunately, rather than engaging with the substance of our concerns, some chose to weaponize our letter to unnecessarily divide our town. Among the most offensive claims made was that I, or members of the Republican Town Committee, seek to defund special education. That is not only false – it is personally painful.

My younger brother was diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age, which falls under the individualized education program in special education. I've seen firsthand the struggles that students with disabilities face and the life-changing impact of effective special education. I don't just believe in special education – I champion it. I believe it should be fully funded, and that the educators who make it possible deserve our utmost respect and fair compensation. These baseless political attacks do nothing but harm the very fabric of our town. Orange deserves better.

Let's try to move forward together.

It is with the spirit of moving forward together that led us to take thoughtful action beyond our letter to Amity, and I want to take this opportunity to explain both our position and the responsible, inclusive process that led us here.

We began by assembling a working group of

Republican community leaders – individuals with experience in law, finance, education and municipal governance. Together, we crafted a policy framework that would reflect the values of our constituents and the needs of our students.

Next, I presented this framework to a group of over two dozen educators – some active, some retired. This group was diverse not only in professional experience but in political affiliation: 25 percent Republican, 25 percent Democrat, and 50 percent unaffiliated. All were either Orange residents or teachers and administrators in the Orange or Amity school systems. I presented our ideas and then did what too few politicians do: I listened.

Here's the truth: nobody understands the needs of our students better than our educators. They are the ones on the front lines. Regardless of ideology, they deserve a seat at the table.

The ORTC cares deeply about the academic success, emotional development and moral grounding of every student. We believe in a school system built not on ideology, but on merit and excellence. We believe in preparing students to think critically, act ethically and thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Republicans are not opposed to DEI. We support common sense DEI – a vision rooted in respect, merit and unity. Let me share what that looks like.

Diversity: Finding True Strength in Our Differences: Diversity is not limited to race or gender. True diversity includes a wide range of experiences, thoughts, perspectives, talents and backgrounds. It is about valuing individuals not for what box they check, but for what they contribute. We support policies that reflect this broader, more meaningful understanding of diversity. These are the direct policies and positions regarding diversity that Dr. Martin Luther



DOMINICK LOMBARDI

King Jr. fought for during the civil rights movement in the 60s. We do not judge by the color of our skin or by any other physical characteristics but by the content of one's character. For example, we support the Open Choice Grant program, which expands access to schools outside district lines, fostering genuine diversity and broader educational opportunities for all.

Equality: Equal Access to Opportunity, Not Equal Outcomes: We believe every student should have the same opportunities to succeed. That means fair access to quality education – not lowering standards in pursuit of uniform outcomes. Equality should be a ladder, not a ceiling. We support policies that reward effort, ability and achievement. We advocate for preserving leveled and advanced coursework, sex-based athletic competition and merit-based recognition – all of which encourage excellence and fairness, not political favoritism.

Inclusion: A Culture of Respect, Not Forced Compliance: Inclusion should mean creating a culture where everyone is respected – not one where everyone is expected to think the same. Real inclusion welcomes differing views, protects freedom of thought and builds unity through honest engagement, not forced groupthink.

We believe students with disabilities must be supported with proper accommodations, engaged parents and empowered educators. Inclusion means ensuring every student can thrive – not just those who fit a narrative.

Let us be clear about what DEI policy we stand for:

- We believe in leveled and honors coursework that challenges students.
- We believe in letting teachers teach, free of political agendas and full of knowledge and wisdom.
- We believe that parents deserve a seat at the

table in the education of their children and that there should be a partnership between parents, educators and administrators.

- We believe in equal opportunity for all, not equity which is the forced equality of outcome.
- We believe diversity is our strength – when it includes thought, background and perspective.
- We believe biological men should not compete in women's sports.
- We believe that students of all abilities deserve full access to our educational system.

We reject division and offer a path forward rooted in merit, opportunity and mutual respect. Diversity should enrich, not divide. Equality should empower, not diminish. Inclusion should unify, not conform. This issue should never divide us.

The problem isn't the policy – it's the politics. These values aren't Republican or Democratic, they reflect what the overwhelming majority of Orange residents believe.

This is our blueprint. This is our commitment. To serve people, not ideology. To protect education, not politicize it. To keep Orange strong, successful and united.

In times like these, it's easy to be pulled to the extremes. However, Orange has always been different. We are not governed by outrage or ideology, but by dialogue, respect and reason. That's how we'll get through this, not red or blue but one Orange.

So, I encourage you to reflect – personally and honestly – on where you stand. If you believe in merit, in fairness, in excellence and in real inclusion, then you are part of the great majority here in Orange. I invite you and welcome you into the Republican Party.

For more on our ORTC DEI Blue Ribbon Blueprint, I encourage you to go to our website at orangectrepublicans.com/.

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

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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Inventory Is Skyrocketing

The prices of homes for sale in Milford and Orange range from opportunities for first time home buyers to the dream home selection. This spring market already has exceeded realtors' expectations. Selections are good, prices are stable and the information you can get on a building is more accurate than it has ever been, educating the buyers before they even write an offer.

With complete paperwork displayed by the listing agents, a potential purchase can show what the bottom line is for cost, including commissions and the most current conditions of the home. Accuracy is on the front burner in the real estate market and competition is now picking up.

Before getting involved, for example, buyers want to know what the real history of the home is. Sharpen your pencil and

don't be afraid to ask questions, because with these updated prices everyone wants to know what they are looking at. The home inspection industry has ramped up specialty inspections designed to grow their business while assisting buyers with resources for repairs or to provide analysis on future repair costs. It could be a staircase that is off kilter or an underground city water source with a minor leak inside a foundation wall. Are they small repairs or pricey upgrades?

Inventory is always key to the real estate market. Supply and demand always dictate what a property is worth. Our area is hot and the buyer pool has been waiting for this scenario. Having more choices to purchase



BARBARA LEHRER

awakens the potential seller to jump into the market so they can find something new to buy also. They may have competition, but also choices to purchase that have not been possible in almost five years. This means the price of homes should be realistic and the buyers need to proceed with generous tactics regarding down payments, closing contingencies and commitment requirements if they want the home they fell in love with.

These strategies are tough because mortgage interest rates are not resting easy on the buyer's side. But it was 8 percent for over five years and the market was always hot. It is imperative that you sit with your

real estate agent and go over all the finances up front. The cost to sell and to buy on paper will relieve unknowns; knowing your budget is key to jumping into the market.

I am excited to see the cycle start moving as first-time homebuyers start, then the next level of second-time buyers spend more. As the economy gets busy with growing families purchasing homes, we start waking up some of the great Connecticut opportunities, where doors to jobs, such as industries with art and music and education start expanding again. We are part of this system, and we are so lucky to be here in this beautiful state where we can brag about our economy and bring up our children.

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

Rotary Club of Orange

Rotary Has A History Of Local Impact

As president of the Rotary Club of Orange, I am honored to share the impactful initiatives our club has undertaken to serve our community and beyond. Our commitment to "service above self" has driven numerous projects aimed at addressing local needs and fostering a spirit of unity and support.

Rotary Clubs across Connecticut have a long history of making a profound impact in our communities, coming together whenever needed to support each other in our shared mission of service. Whether it's funding local food pantries, supporting youth programs or responding to crises, our clubs exemplify the power of collective action.

A shining example of this was last year when Rotary clubs from across Connecticut organized a large-scale food drive and mobilized resources to send critical aid to the Carolinas following devastating floods. This effort demonstrated the strength and compassion of Rotarians, proving that our commitment to service extends far beyond our immediate communities. Annually, our club provides more than \$50,000 to area charities and organizations.

In collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Milford, Devon and West Haven, we have proudly supported the Purple Pantry

Boxes organization. Purple Pantry Boxes provides accessible food assistance to individuals facing food insecurity, with brightly painted pantries located throughout the region from East Haven to Bridgeport. Over the past two years, our combined efforts have resulted in a total of \$20,000 in grants to this vital cause, and we are committed to continuing this support into a third year.

Our club has a rich history of impactful projects. Starting in 2012, we expanded our coat donation program, distributing over 4,000 winter jackets per year over a number of years to students and individuals in Bridgeport, West Haven and New Haven. This initiative was made possible through partnerships with organizations like Operation Warm and the generous contributions of our members and supporters.

We have been instrumental in enhancing local school campuses with beautification and playground projects, collecting clothes and shoes for those in need, and joining with other clubs in the state to fund a vision and dental clinic for children. These efforts reflect our dedication to improving the quality of life for everyone.



WENDY BARRY

Our commitment to youth development is evident through initiatives such as providing scholarships for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award training camp, awarding scholarships to Amity high school students who are heading to college, hosting an annual speech contest and sponsoring local athletic events. Additionally, our members supervise satellite Rotary Interact clubs for students from

Orange and other area high schools as well as at Saint Martin de Porres, a tuition-free middle school for children of low-income families providing leadership training for their future.

Rotary clubs around Connecticut share a unified mission of community service and have implemented numerous programs to support their local areas. The Ridgefield Rotary Club has been a significant financial supporter of the Evelyn C. Peeler Children's Holiday Gift Fund, which provides new clothing, food certificates and gifts to less fortunate children and families in Ridgefield. In collaboration with the Westport Police Department and Stop & Shop, Westport Sunrise Rotary organized a

"Super Bowl" food drive to support local food pantries and individuals facing food insecurity. Demonstrating a commitment to children's welfare, the Branford Rotary Club distributed free winter coats to children in need, ensuring they remained warm during the colder months.

These examples highlight the collective impact Rotary clubs have across the state, addressing diverse community needs through dedicated service and collaboration.

At the Rotary Club of Orange, we remain steadfast in our dedication to serving our community, fostering partnerships, and upholding the values that guide our mission. We are grateful for the continued support of our members and the community, enabling us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

If you'd like to come to a meeting to meet the club and see what we do, please reach out to myself or Michael Lanza, our membership chairperson at 914-924-2449.

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

Orange Board of Finance

Trump Tariffs Could Have Big Impact On Economy

What's in store for the US economy in 2025? Will a recession materialize?

So far the Federal Reserve has held steady on rate cuts as core inflation stands at 3.1 percent. However, the markets will ultimately dictate whether future rate cuts will be needed in order to keep inflation in check.

The big question today is what will be the fiscal impact of President Donald Trump's tariffs? It appears that that 25 percent tariffs are being used as a tool in the "economic toolbox" being applied to China, Russia, India, Canada, Mexico, as well as our European allies to assert maximum pressure for US interests.

The tariffs will likely be the ceiling, with the ability to negotiate the tariffs downward as time goes on. The US economy is certain to feel some short-term pain before any medium- to long-term success can potentially be realized. The question is whether the US actually sees long-term results with respect to having manufacturing and global investment come back.

Today the US and global economies are bracing for impact on sweeping retaliatory

tariffs against countries that have been charging tariffs on the US for the better part of 50 years. The impact of the tariff war has yet to be determined, but could lead to an escalating trade war with some countries being harder hit than others. Overall, I believe there will be a drag on global trade, which could be a huge hit to US companies in the short term, resulting in higher production and labor costs and lower profit margins.

Whether the disruption will be short or protracted is unclear and depends on how long America's negotiations with its trading partners goes on. Trump's proposed tariffs includes tariffs on all incoming automobiles, groceries, steel, aluminum as well as many other commodities, all with the intended goal of forcing the hand of global countries to drop their tariffs on the US and pay their fair share. The end game for the US looks to be generating a renewal of manufacturing and investment back home rather than investment abroad that could



KEVIN MCNABOLA

drive a pro-growth economy for many years to come.

Another major drag to the US economy to keep our eye on is the current state of our national debt, which now stands at \$36.2 trillion. We have banks, domestic investors and global investors who are very concerned on how the national debt could drive the US economy into a recession.

It's hard to believe, but the national debt has increased by \$16 trillion in just the last three years. Debt growth continues to outpace economic growth (as measured by gross domestic product). In 2024, US debt-to-GDP ratio was 121 percent. Overall GDP growth was 2.5 percent, compared to India at 6.2 percent and China at 5.4 percent. However the US continues to outperform most of the European countries, with France and Italy at 0.6 percent, Switzerland at 1.5 percent and Germany at -0.2 percent.

The time is now for a bipartisan solution, starting with the president, Senate and

House, to address our longstanding national debt crisis. This lack of action in Washington led to a downgrade of the US credit rating by Fitch back in 2023 from AAA to AA+ for only the second time in our nation's history. The downgrade was largely driven by unsustainable spending, significant outstanding debt, inflation and interest rate hikes that weakened the overall economy.

It is imperative that Congress act now so that both the US economy and global economies are not adversely impacted by our national debt.

All Americans are feeling the effects of increased prices in all sectors of the economy, whether it be at the gas pump, grocery store or clothing store. Americans need some serious leadership in Washington to work together on developing and approving a solid economic policy that will ease the tax burden and address our national debt.

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

Foodie Foursome

A Culinary Excursion to Turkey In Our Own Backyard

Saray Turkish Restaurant, located in West Haven, is authentic and halal, open for both lunch and dinner. This family-owned and operated restaurant of over 19 years has 30 years of cooking experience. They have a second location in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Owner Saadettin “Sammy” Kuru and his brother, Halil, have created a wonderful dining experience. The comfortable dining area with tablecloths and cloth napkins is only surpassed by the high quality food at reasonable prices. Their menu and specialty items are prepared in a healthier way, using simple, fresh and organic meats, grains, vegetables, and fruits.

Saray specializes in gourmet soups, an abundance of traditional Turkish kebab choices, incredible house-made breads, sandwiches, and creative fresh salads made to order. All meals are served with freshly baked breads and pastries direct from their oven. Their service staff was on point and very friendly. Our server was Derya and was helpful as we navigated through the traditional fare. They are BYOB and do not charge a corking fee.

Our “Foodie Foursome” this night were friends Mike, Kevin and Steve. The atmosphere, aroma and friendly staff instantly let us know that we were into an experience that would tempt our taste buds. As soon as we were seated a basket of warm bread with butter on the side was presented to the table. The bread, Turkish pide, was incredibly simple, tasty with a beautifully golden crust with a soft, fluffy inside and a lightly crispy top, some with sesame seeds.

We started with a selection of hot and cold appetizers. The first was a perfect starter. The sigara boregi was a simple, tasty plate of rolled pastry tubes that appeared similar to a taquito but beyond shape was far from that. Filo dough was a delicately rolled wrapping encapsulating a nice helping of Turkish feta cheese and parsley deep-fried to a flakey and creamy treat.

Next up was the mixed small cold appetizer consisting of homemade humus, a deli-

icious spread made with chickpeas and brought to a thick, creamy consistency. The haydari, more of a dip, was a strained Turkish yogurt mixed with dill, olive oil and garlic. I am not much of a fan of yogurt, but this was so good that I used it on some other apps. The antep ezme was a combination of thinly sliced red onions, red and green peppers, tomatoes, walnuts and garlic mixed with olive oil creating a refreshing salad. The eggplant salad consisted of roasted eggplant, red and green bell peppers chopped together then drizzled with garlic and olive oil creating a scrumptious concoction that left us wanting more.

The last item in the mixed cold appetizer was the soslu. It had a delicate heat made by roasting eggplant in olive oil and then mixing it with onions, peppers, tomatoes, walnuts and garlic. Rounding off this pretty collection were cucumbers sliced thin on a bias, a refreshing bite with a fresh lemon squeeze.

An incredible surprise was presented with the dish: balloon bread. It looked like a small blimp that was baked until it had an ever so slight char, then completely inflated. Once we tore into it the air escaped, giving us a thin-walled bread that was perfect to spoon in (almost pita like) the cold apps on the plate.

Our first hot app was the mujver, which were amazing zucchini fritters, pan fried to perfection reminding me of a latke or potato pancake. This tasty Turkish delight was crispy on the outside and moist on the inside and a perfect vegetarian appetizer or side dish. It was served with a creamy dill dip.

Our first entrée was the patlican dolma (stuffed baby eggplant). These eggplants were carved out, making a boat that contained a stuffing consisting of small pieces of roasted lamb, mince, chopped onion, tomato, parsley and coriander, salt, pepper mint, lemon and tomato puree and then



STEVE COOPER

baked until the juice was reduced to a nice, thick consistency and the tomatoes and onions on top had browned and burned a bit. This was served over a large helping of pureed potato, alongside a mound of rice and small roasted red bell peppers with the natural juices strategically spooned over the vegetables and rice.

The last entrée was a show-stopper. Everyone in the restaurant watched as it arrived at our table. It was an oversized rustic, wooden, lazy-susan turntable with delicacies placed both horizontally and skewered vertically with flames flickering like a torch atop the food. The mix grill was stacked creatively with a perfect amount of “family style” servings of adana, doner, chicken shish kabob, beef and lamb chops. The adana is a Turkish creation of minced meat, pressed onto a skewer and cooked on skewers over an open flame.

The doner kebab featured thinly sliced top sirloin beef and lamb, marinated with a secret blend of seasonings. The meat was slowly cooked on a rotating spit, allowing it to tenderize and absorb all the rich flavors before being thinly sliced. It was tender and flavorful. Shish kebab and doner kebab have similar ingredients, but the taste and flavor profiles are completely different due to the restaurant’s proprietary use of spices. None of these spices are overpowering, just mouth-watering.

The chicken breast chunks were marinated in a special sauce and then grilled. The lamb chops were marinated and then fire grilled to tenderness. The veggies were grilled to perfection (halved tomatoes, hot and bell peppers). All selections were placed on a thin single layer style of pitta/

shawarma bread. This became even tastier as it absorbed all the juices of the meats and roasted veggies. Other pieces of the breads were placed around this culinary creation to use as a wrap as you placed a little of this and that on it.

The preparation and styles of preparation of meats, vegetables and sauces are dependent on classic herbs, spices and ingredients.

Our evening ended with a mixed dessert plate of baklava, kazandibi and sekerpare. All were delicious. Kazandibi is a Turkish milk pudding dessert with a burnt top layer. It comes from the Ottoman Palace centuries ago and is a popular dessert still today. It is richer than regular pudding, almost custard-like, with an amazing earthy, caramel-like topping. In addition to the delightfulness of a pudding, it’s like a cross between a flan and a crème brûlée.

Sekerpare is one of Turkey’s most popular treats. They are thick sponge-like semolina cookies, baked until golden-brown, then doused in a thick, lemon-infused syrup, which makes them particularly moist and sweet. The most popular dessert is the baklava, a deliciously sweet pastry made with layers of phyllo dough, nuts, and honey syrup.

Enjoy the secret family recipes and create your wonderful culinary trip to Turkey. Saray is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. They are located at 770 Campbell Ave. in West Haven. Call 203-937-0707 for reservations.

Steve Cooper is a local, national and international award-winning photographer, culinary influencer and executive director of the Milford Performance Center. Contact him at 203-723-3672.

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For Nature's Sake

Quotes That Inspire Connecticut Eco-Leaders

Ann Berman has set aside a placard to display at Milford's Earth Day on the Green that features one of her favorite quotes: "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

For Berman, an esteemed local leader with Milford's Environmental Concerns Coalition, a good quote can highlight an essential truth. And the one she's chosen for display, based on a statement by John Muir who helped found the Sierra Club in the late 1800s, is more relevant than ever.

Today, says Berman, "people think of climate change as sort of isolated – just one thing. It isn't; it's everything. No matter what it is you touch on the Earth, we're connected to it one way or another."

A survey of environmental leaders in our region suggests that those working for improved environmental protections can often recite at least one quotation that has served as a source of inspiration. In a time of unprecedented challenges to planetary health, it may be helpful to ponder these favorite sayings and even consider the power of quotations and slogans in environmental messaging.

Ken Elkins, director of the Connecticut Audubon's Coastal Center at Milford Point, favors a quote from the early conservationist, John Burroughs: "I go to nature to be soothed, healed and have my senses put in order."

The roots of that idea, observes Elkins, go back to early civilizations, including Hippocrates, who said, "Nature itself is the best physician."

Elkins' workplace is uniquely equipped

to prove the point; anyone who spends time, for instance, in front of the wall of windows looking out at the several-hundred-acre Wheeler Marsh, taking in the movements of dabbling ducks or the slant of light across the marsh grass, may get some sense of nature's literal, if subtle, healing potential.

Long Island Soundkeeper Bill Lucey is uniquely informed on the fate and status of animals and humans living in and adjacent to the Long Island Sound, spending part of his work schedule on a boat surrounded by the expansive waters of the sound and, on other days, lobbying officials to better protect it. His favorite quote, hanging over his office desk, is a reminder of time spent working in Hawaii. The message is "He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka," which translates, says Lucey, to "The land is a chief, man is its servant."

Laura Cahn, chairwoman of the New Haven Environment Advisory Council, studies issues with the council ranging from air, water and noise pollution to, more recently, pesticides on lawns and PFAS in astroturf. When she thinks of her favorite eco-quote, it comes down to a matter of personal responsibility: "I am a big fan of Chief Seattle's saying, 'Take only memories and leave only footprints.'"

It's a carryover from her days preparing a Girl Scout troop for camping trips. But it still resonates.



PATRICIA HOUSER

"Especially in today's throw-away world, we need reminders of how to be sustainable," she says. "I passed so much litter on the street this morning on my one-mile walk home from the auto mechanic, I am going back with bags to pick up all the discarded glass and plastic bottles, cans, and other debris."

Other quotes illuminate a key obstacle in any long-term struggle against pollution: the fact that some populations are bearing the costs and burden of pollution more than others. Sharon Lewis, executive director of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, picked a message that nudges the reader to awareness of individual behavior. The source is Ben Franklin: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

Lewis says that it speaks to the idea that real change only happens when people who are not directly suffering choose to stand up and fight alongside those who are.

Lewis, who was recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 2022 for her environmental leadership (see the column, "Eco-Heroes in our Midst," Dec. 17, 2022), also cites a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that can be used to emphasize a truth today, though the clarity comes from a strategic correction of the quote.

King once said, "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

"The truth is, we're not all in the same boat," Lewis says. "We have never been. Some are on luxury yachts, while others are clinging to rafts, fighting to survive. We won't see real justice until we all row in the same direction – until everyone has an oar and the tools and resources to move forward together."

In a recent online survey for local citizens, three environmental quotations were chosen as most worthy to memorize: "We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children," from environmentalist David Brower; "Buy less, choose well, make it last," by English fashion designer and businesswoman Vivienne Westwood; and "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water," from founding father, scientist, and diplomat Benjamin Franklin.

Mulling over the relevance of such sayings, Laura Cahn suggests that it may be time to bring back environmental slogans and sayings as a strategy for awareness.

"We need to counter all the examples of people behaving badly in ads, movies, tv shows and other media from manufacturers of every 'unsustainable practice,'" she says. "Maybe if we had more reminders – and more frequent reminders -- of how to behave in a civil society, life would be better for everyone."

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

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Time Management

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So I have accumulated some of the most offbeat time management tips for you to get twice as much done.

- Don't buy an address book and fill it out. Instead, get a copy of the white pages from your local telephone company and cross out the names you don't need.

- Support cloning.
- Watch the television program "60 Minutes" in half an hour.

- Always use twice as much grass seed as the directions call for and grow twice the grass.

- Always order a double martini.

- Use a large scrub brush to brush your teeth.

- Shower for twice as much time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and you can skip Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

- Go to bed dressed, ready to start your next day.

- Keep one eye closed during the day and you'll only have to sleep half as much time.

- Have twins.

- Ski downhill twice as fast as you are used to and get it over within half the time.

- Buy double-mint gum.

- Only go out on double dates.

- Listen to politicians and learn how to be better at double-talking.

- At the beach, roll across the sand to tan both your front and back at the same time.



DON WETMORE

- When angry, slam the door twice so you won't have to do it the next time you get angry.

- Only look at every other word and read twice as fast.

- Cookies should be baked at 350 degrees, but try cooking them at 700 degrees in half the time.

- Pack twice as much as you need when traveling.

- Play your CDs and DVDs in the fast forward mode.

- When writing, always use both hands at the same time.

- On rainy days, leave the umbrella home and then you can skip your shower the next day.

- If you are a golfer, hit two balls at the same time.

- When you make a big mistake, be sure

to have two excuses why you goofed, to get you out of trouble twice as fast.

- At a birthday party, leave off singing the second half of the "Happy Birthday" song.

- Fish with two poles.

- Cut off half the buttons on your shirts and blouses and you will be able to button what's left in half the time.

- Bet on the Daily Double.

- Use two bars of soap when you wash and get it done in half the time.

- Tip 30 percent rather than 15 percent at the restaurant and enjoy the service twice.

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 ctsem@msn.com.

Recycling Tip: What To Do With Shredded Paper

By Susan Wineland

To protect your privacy, you should shred anything with sensitive information on it, such as documents with your Social Security number, financial statements, and medical records. Some people have paper shredders at home and others bring their sensitive records to a free paper shredding day such as the one in Orange on Saturday, May 3rd at High Plains Community Center from 9:00 AM to Noon.

The reason why these events are so important is because shredded paper cannot be combined with our other recycling. In fact, shredded paper is a huge problem for recycling facilities. Shredded bits of paper are too small to be sorted by the recycling facility's machinery. And they can contaminate other materials and lead to equipment malfunctions. When households send their shredded paper for recycling in paper bags, the shredding machines rip the bags and tiny pieces fly everywhere. When people put the shredded paper in plastic bags,

not only do the shreds also fly everywhere but the plastic wrapped around the equipment, shutting down the facility for cleaning and repairs.

As a solution, many towns offer free paper shredding events such as the one being held in Orange on May 3rd. If you have sensitive documents that you need shredded, remove any clips and bring them to this event.

It's always best to avoid unnecessary shredding and recycle paper in a blue bin or by dropping it at the Orange Transfer Station with other mixed recyclables. Whole pieces of paper with their longer and stronger fibers can be made into new paper.

Another great alternative for shredded paper is to add it to your compost pile – with a few guidelines. The paper itself is carbon-rich and organic, meaning it is biodegradable and can break down into useful nutrients for the soil. The type of paper does matter when it comes to composting. Plain, uncoated paper, such as newspaper,

office paper, or brown paper bags, can be added to your compost pile without any issues. These types of paper are usually made from wood pulp, which

is a natural, biodegradable material that will break down well over time. The cellulose fibers in the paper are a great addition to the composting process, as they help to balance the carbon content in the pile. However, paper that has been heavily processed or treated with chemicals, like glossy magazines or colored paper, should be avoided. These materials may contain inks, dyes, and coatings that could potentially harm the compost pile or leach harmful chemicals into the soil. So stick to plain paper whenever possible.

Another important factor is the size of the shredded paper. The smaller the paper pieces, the quicker they'll break down in the compost pile – although too much at once can become compacted. To avoid this, try to shred the paper into strips rather than tiny pieces, and mix it well with other compostable materials like leaves,

grass clippings, or food scraps to ensure good aeration. Additionally, shredded paper can be used as a great bedding material in compost bins or worm composting systems, providing a comfortable and absorbent environment for your worms.

To summarize, shredded paper can certainly be composted, as long as it's the right type of paper, shredded appropriately, and added in moderation. By carefully incorporating shredded paper into your compost pile, you can recycle this common household waste into valuable, nutrient-rich compost for your garden. It's always best to avoid unnecessary shredding but if you need to, recycle shredded paper in a blue bin or, if it's the right type of paper, compost it. If you do have paper containing sensitive information, take advantage of free paper shredding events such as the one being held in Orange on May 3rd. That morning will also be offering a drop off for household chemical waste, mattress, box springs and electronics recycling, clothing and household items and food donations.

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Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

First Lobster Roll Festival To Celebrate Local Legacy

In a town steeped in coastal charm and culinary pride, something big – and buttery – is coming. This Sept. 20, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the inaugural Lobster Roll Festival at Walnut Beach, bringing together food lovers, families and local businesses for a celebration that's as meaningful as it is mouthwatering.



MICHAEL MOSES

With generous support from Xfinity as presenting sponsor, the Lobster Roll Festival is more than just another seafood event. It's a tribute to Milford's rich culinary history, particularly its unique claim to fame: the warm buttered lobster roll.

While Maine may lay claim to the cold, mayo-based version, it was Milford – specifically Perry's Restaurant in 1929 – that first introduced the warm, butter-drenched lobster roll that has since become a regional staple and beloved favorite nationwide.

This festival is not only a nod to our rich culinary history but also an opportunity to celebrate our local businesses, artists, and vibrant coastal community. We invite everyone to join us in experiencing the best of Milford's sea-

food, culture and hospitality.

The festival promises to be a feast for the senses. Visitors can expect lobster roll vendors serving up the best of Connecticut's signature roll; live music and entertainment from local bands and performers; artisan and craft vendors offering unique goods and handmade items; a lively beer and wine garden featuring craft brews and wine; and family-friendly activities, including games and face painting for all ages.

More information about the Lobster Roll Festival, including the event schedule, vendor list and entertainment lineup, will be announced in the coming months. For those interested in sponsorship opportunities or vendor participation, you're encouraged to reach out directly to Simon McDonald at 203-878-0681 or smdonald@milfordct.com.

This September, celebrate the dish that put Milford on the map – and the community that continues to make it shine.

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

Orange Garden Club Holding Plant Sale

The Garden Club of Orange is holding its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. There will be perennials, annuals and hanging baskets available to

purchase as gifts for Mother's Day, which is the following day. Many of plants were grown by members of the OGC. Members will be on hand to offer gardening advice and tips. The event will be held under the pavilion.

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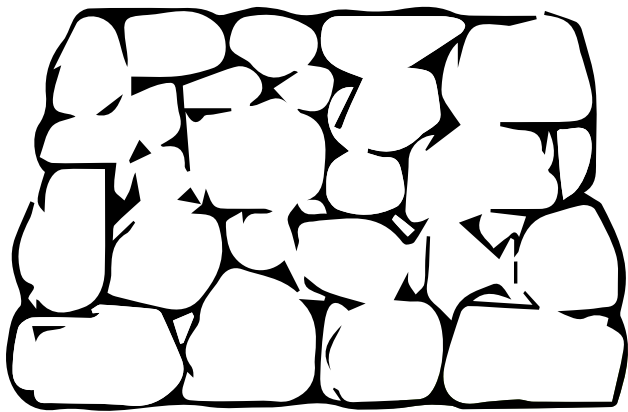
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Local Poets Share Their Musings

In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, the Milford-Orange Times invited area residents to submit their poetry for publication. A selection of those submissions is printed here.

Size Chart

Adria Boyle
Orange

My dad's hug
is a crush of the neck
a pat on the back
holding longer than I do.

I smother myself
in a jacket at Macy's
trying to find his size.

Wrapping myself
in many empty sleeves.

Finally,
medium.

March's Trick

Azka Amir
Orange

Step outside—cold bites your nose.
Step inside—sweat soaks your clothes.
Wear a jacket? You'll regret it.
Leave it home? You'll soon forget it.
March is cruel in small, odd ways,
trapping us in wardrobe games.
And by the time you pick just right,
April grins—spring takes its flight.

My Father's Garden

Matilda Dumbrill
Orange

I walked through the old iron gate Into the family garden Now fallow, untended, carpeted
by straggly weeds Where once seeds obeyed my father's eager tending to Brought forth
from earth the fruits of plants and vines
To feed and please his hungry children's mouths.
That cloudy day I sat there on my father's wooden bench Feelings wandering lightly
of doleful times long past When the rhubarb grew too slowly, or other plants went dry
When woodchucks gobbled newly ripe tomatoes
Or pulled beans from the vines.
Sadness turned to wonder as sun broke through the clouds And I heard gentle winds
whispering in the nearby trees
I didn't see my father but I'm sure I heard him say
Don't worry about the garden now be ready in the Spring To use your hands and body to
plant my garden again.
Can dreaming, hoping, wishing conjure up a soul
Who reads your inner yearnings without being told?
Had he come to see his garden, to wait and wish
For one of his fed children to bring earth back to life?
The answer waits for Spring.

Sea Creatures in Shells - It's What's Inside that Counts

By Victoria Butler
Orange

Words, wielded as weapons,
pierce the soul like the beak of a gull
pierces the soft flesh of the Sea creature
hiding in i's shell.
Do I leave the helpless shell-bound creatures
to lie upon the sand, fighting to hang on
while wave after wave dislodges and tumbles them?
Human after human pass, desiring their pretty shell,
all too ready to ignore the being inside.
As I walk the stormy beach in my own turmoil,
reeling from the piercing of sharp words to my soul,
I can take pity on these creatures.
Compassion, through my pain, wells up inside of me.
I can rise above the words and help others do the same.
I pick up the next shell creature.
It twists and turns as if reveling in pain trying to "right" itself.
I touch its flesh and it recoils quickly to the safety of it's shell.
"I am here to help, don't be afraid" I whisper, as I hurl him to the safety
of the deeper water.
I, too, desire the beauty of the creature's shell,
but I am determined to protect what's on the inside,
so I continue my walk... searching, finding and retrieving
those that are not able to defend themselves.
As I toss dozens beyond the crashing waves back into the sea, I am thinking
"Cease your striving, take your rest in the safety of deeper waters"
and then I hear God finish, "and I will give rest to your souls!"
And so it is with our lives.
We don't get out of the "sea of life".
We learn to go into the deeper water
(and sometimes we need help getting there),
to find safety and refuge and calm from the storm.
We dive deeper into the Ocean of God's love
and let His Peace flood us and wash over our souls.
He is our refuge and fortress, a present help in times of trouble.
Go deeper my friends and take some "sea creatures" with you.
(Matthew 11:28-29. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give
you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in
heart, and you will find rest for your souls.)

Mocked

Mary Heerema
Orange

Hearing unfamiliar bird song
I look eagerly for the exotic.
Where? Where?

Foiled again, I see
It is of course
A mockingbird.

Pencils in the Drawer

Blayze Germain Markoya
Orange

Numbered
sharpened
dulled
forgotten
pencils
in the drawer

left long past
the day they
cast their
final dot
or score

how they yearn
to live again
and settle in
warm hands

to sing as violins
with rosined strings and
fervent fingertips
upon their neck

to press upon the page anew
and give life to what once
lay still in deep
winter slumber

Beautiful Orange Flames

Alisa Levine
Orange

Beautiful orange flames
Hope, laughter and love
Dimming but never extinguishing
Shining through the sky at sunrise
Peaking through the grey and purple sunset
Love, laughter, and hope
Live forever in our hearts

Snowflakes

John Sieckhaus
Milford

When winter is long
and pristine snowfalls
give rise to soot-capped piles
of frozen inconvenience.
how difficult to envision
the finger of God
directing the formation
of each tiny flake,
different, one from another,
individuation in free-fall,
Nature's way of shaping
the created order,
a mirroring of life
in all its fullness
when we humans, bearing
the blows of a chaotic world,
choose to trust in some
eternal plan and emerge
as diamonds in the rough,
reflecting the light,
much as snowflakes glistening,
in the afternoon sun.

Collections

Michael Donadeo
Orange

The collections of a frustrated writer are as seeds
that have not been planted
He gropes for subjects to apply to his pen
but cannot complete a page
His mind is detached from reality
The frustrations of every day life
detract from the artistry that is his
The problem is insoluble
for the sacrifice is too big
So, the collections grow
and the writer grows old
The loss belongs to the world

Milford Holds St. Patrick's Day Parade



Milford held its annual St. Patrick's Day parade through downtown on March 15. Photos by Robert Creigh.

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Orange Town Budget 2025-2026

Town of Orange, Connecticut



FINANCE DIRECTOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

April 2025

On behalf of the Honorable James M. Zeoli - First Selectman, and the Orange Board of Finance, I submit our recommended Town of Orange General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. This document is the result of many hours of careful consideration by the Board of Finance, Department Heads, Town Boards, Commissions, Management and Staff. The focus of the 2026 budget is to continue to offer the level of services to which our citizens have become accustomed, tempered by the ability of our taxpayers to pay for those services.

Federal pass-through funds and State initiated funding have remained level. In the past, the State Legislature and Governor have proposed many pieces of tax legislation that if passed could have a very significant impact on the Town of Orange. The October 1, 2024, Grand List reflects an increase of 11.00% when compared to the 2023 net grand list mostly due to revaluation. However, in the past, increases in interest investment earnings, licenses, permits and fines and other revenues have helped to offset some of the budget increases and state funding losses. We have carefully designed this financial plan to balance the growing demand for municipal services, the needs of the Town's infrastructure, public safety, recreation and community health and welfare while maintaining our commitment to the education of our children: the leaders of tomorrow.

The Budget Process

The budget process begins in late September when each department prepares and then reviews with their Board or Commission, the department budget request for the new fiscal year. After Board or Commission approval, the department submits their budget to the Director of Finance. Each departmental request is reviewed and evaluated together with the First Selectman for submission of a recommended budget to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance then spends a day in the town hall conducting individual hearings and discussions with department management as required. The Town employees are members of six unions of which four contracts expire on June 30, 2025. The contracts for two of the unions (Public Works, Nurses) were settled in the last year. Salary budget lines carry the last wage contract salary for those union positions under negotiations. The town is under negotiations for new contracts with the Police, Dispatchers, Supervisors and Clerical unions currently. There are inevitably unanticipated costs that occur when projecting expenditures eighteen

months into the future. Toward that end, it is incumbent on the administration of any municipality to maintain a sufficient undesignated fund balance to provide for such unforeseen events and circumstances.

Fund Balance

The Town's Fund Balance is a measure of its capacity to withstand financial emergencies or to provide for unforeseen emergent projects and expenditures. I am projecting the undesignated portion of the fund balance on July 1, 2025 to be approximately 13.2 million dollars, or 15.35% of the 2025-2026 operating budget, which may be used to offset any revenue loss or unexpected expenses.

Revenue

The net taxable grand list for October 1, 2024, equaled \$2,717,485,900 which is compared to the October 1, 2023 net taxable grand list as below:

Category	2024 Net Grand List	2023 Net Grand List	\$ Change	% Change
Real Estate	\$2,241,960,116	2,016,442,943	225,517,173	11.18
Motor Vehicles	195,093,520	197,555,267	-2,461,747	-1.25
Business Personal Property	280,432,264	256,339,387	24,092,877	9.40
	\$2,717,485,900	\$2,470,337,597	247,148,303	10.00

Departmental Operating Expenditure:

The budget for general town operations has increased by 4.71% or \$1,354,339. Public Safety increased by 4.15% or \$295,936 mainly due to a \$200,000 increase in the Town's contribution to the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. Debt service contribution decreased by 2.62% or \$86,707 while our share of the Amity budget increased by \$34,493 or 0.20% due to an Orange student population decrease and a significant lowering of debt service in the coming year. The Orange Board of Education costs increased by 3.90%, or \$945,671. The aggregate increase in the budget for the fiscal year ended 6/30/2026 is \$2,267,796 or 2.71%. At this time of publication of the budget if no adjustments are made to this budget the mill rate will drop to \$29.10 from \$31.00. This is due to the revaluation now at 62.5% of your assessment.

Capital Replacements and Expenditure:

Several years ago, at the recommendation of the Town's auditors, the Board of Finance developed a Capital Fund Account to pay for future capital expenditures. The auditors recommended this fund for future capital purchases to avoid bonding and borrowing costs on some items. The funded items for the 2025-2026 fiscal year include \$190,940 for the Orange Board of Education for renovations to the Library Media Center at Peck Place School, pave the playground at Turkey Hill School, and refinish the Gym floors at all schools. The Town side includes \$140,000 funding to pay off the new bucket Truck, \$350,000 for the next state mandated revaluation, and \$750,000 for this current season paving program. The Board also allocated \$193,300 to the Police department for computer modems for vehicles, a new HVAC unit for the station, new portable radios for the officers, which is the first year of a four-year replacement schedule, and a new Microwave Repeater System for better communications. The Board may allocate funds for further Capital outlays in the coming months.

The annual budget development is an intensive task that requires a concerted and coordinated effort on the part of all. I want to express my personal gratitude for the support and cooperation from all our professional department managers and their dedicated staff. I would also like to thank my staff in the Town's Finance Department, specifically Karin Lewis, Sylvie Napoli, and Arthur Williams.

It takes a team effort to compile this budget. On behalf of First Selectman Zeoli, and the Board of Finance, I want to acknowledge the many committed professionals who selflessly serve on our Boards and Commissions without compensation. It is that kind of public spirit that makes Orange a unique and special community in which it is to live.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Cifarelli
John M. Cifarelli
Director of Finance and Administration

Karin Lewis
Karin Lewis
Assistant Finance Director

Members of the Orange Board of Finance

Kevin Houlihan, CPA - Chairman James Leahy - Vice Chairman
Dr. Ajeet Jain, Dr. Anna Mahon, Kevin McNabola, Joseph Nuzzo,
Charles Lombardi, Alternate
Deborah Satonick (Recording Secretary)

TOWN OF ORANGE NOTICE OF HEARING TOWN BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the statutes in such cases provided, the Orange Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:00pm in High Plains Community Center Cafeteria, 525 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT 06477 relative to the expenditures and proposed budget of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. Citizens may present oral and/or written comments. The proposed budget will be available for examination in the Office of the Town Clerk in the Orange Town Hall on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

Dated at Orange CT this 1st day of April 2025.

Orange Board of Finance

Kevin Houlihan
Kevin Houlihan
Chairman

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY 2025



Join us for an interactive experience into police work. This 8 week session program offers a hands-on approach that enables the attendees to better understand the role of the police in their community.



Wednesdays
Beginning 4/23
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
8 Sessions

REGISTER ONLINE:



REGISTER EMAIL:
Rachel Reyes
RReyes@orange-ct.gov

TOPICS COVERED

Administration, History of the Dept., Patrol & Detective Division, Traffic & Accident Investigations, DUI, Youth/SROs, Crime Prevention, K9, Firearm Safety, Medical Emergencies, Criminal Justice System, and concludes with a Ride Along with an Officer.

Orange Police Dept.
314 Lambert Road, Orange
203-891-2130 ext 8246

TOWN OF ORANGE, CONNECTICUT
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

GENERAL FUND REVENUE					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Property Taxes	74,449,480	75,823,941	78,493,621	2,669,680	3.52%
Property Taxes Prior Years	287,760	280,000	280,000	20,000	7.69%
Tax Interest & Liens	272,708	210,000	240,000	30,000	14.29%
Intergovernmental Revenue	2,230,906	1,751,275	1,756,391	5,116	0.29%
Licenses, Permits & Fines	1,126,697	967,300	1,311,800	344,500	35.61%
Investment Interest	1,440,242	1,360,600	1,320,300	-40,300	-2.96%
General Government Revenue	1,368,018	1,303,900	1,250,700	-53,200	-4.08%
Fund Balance & Amity Revenue	715,253	1,200,000	500,000	-700,000	-58.33%
Other	989,644	938,750	930,750	-8,000	-0.85%
Total General Fund Revenue	82,880,708	83,815,766	86,083,562	2,267,796	2.71%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
General Government					
21-100 Selectmen	189,255	195,680	198,450	2,770	1.42%
21-101 Assessor	261,990	285,089	285,404	315	0.11%
21-102 Board of Assessment Appeals	622	9,000	6,000	-3,000	-33.33%
21-103 Director of Finance & Accounting	431,537	419,875	428,075	8,200	1.95%
21-104 Board of Finance	6,195	7,700	7,800	100	1.30%
21-105 Building Inspection	245,751	255,119	256,619	1,500	0.59%
21-106 Conservation Commission	5,729	22,750	4,800	-17,950	-78.90%
21-107 Economic Development	88,629	96,450	102,450	6,000	6.22%
21-108 Director of Technology	603,979	617,795	630,017	12,222	1.98%
21-109 Legal	226,589	260,000	330,000	70,000	26.92%
21-110 Planning & Zoning/Wetlands	128,405	274,252	174,852	-99,400	-36.24%
21-112 Zoning Board of Appeals	1,125	3,340	2,840	-500	-14.97%
21-113 Pension	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
21-114 Probate Court	6,273	7,559	7,835	276	3.65%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
21-115 Tax Collector	168,267	186,511	174,106	-12,405	-6.65%
21-116 Town Clerk	222,936	259,751	259,951	200	0.08%
21-117 Town Hall	214,678	195,550	208,800	13,250	6.78%
21-118 Treasurer	124,068	133,046	124,000	-9,046	-6.80%
21-119 Voter Registrars	113,208	148,550	159,200	10,650	7.17%
Total General Government	3,039,256	3,378,017	3,361,199	-16,818	-0.50%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Public Safety					
21-200 Police: General Services	931,545	879,475	914,684	35,209	4.00%
21-201 Police: Uniformed Patrol	3,903,042	4,215,987	4,226,229	10,242	0.24%
21-202 Police: Investigative Services	522,855	581,598	581,598	0	0.00%
21-203 Police: Communication/Dispatch	417,338	468,038	473,623	5,585	1.19%
Sub Total: Police Services	5,774,780	6,145,098	6,196,134	51,036	0.83%
21-220 Fire Marshal	281,722	288,577	317,227	28,650	9.93%
21-221 Emergency Medical Service	302,046	315,450	325,000	9,550	3.03%
21-223 Physicals By Physician	7,128	14,000	14,000	0	0.00%
21-223 Volunteer Fire Department & Utilities	247,182	252,500	460,000	207,500	82.18%
21-230 Emergency Management (Civil Def.)	13,281	15,295	14,495	-800	-5.23%
21-235 Animal Control	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
Total Public Safety	6,726,139	7,130,920	7,426,856	295,936	4.15%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Public Works & Public Buildings					
21-250 Administration & Engineering	1,087,110	1,107,612	1,106,305	-1,307	-0.12%
21-255 Roadways	1,429,270	1,353,678	1,397,836	44,158	3.26%
21-257 Snow Removal	117,046	247,000	247,000	0	0.00%
21-258 Vehicle Maintenance	361,958	368,668	391,583	22,915	6.22%
21-261 Refuse	1,297,686	1,454,884	1,513,122	58,238	4.00%
Sub Total: Public Works	4,273,070	4,531,842	4,655,846	124,004	2.74%
21-271 Community Center	458,747	486,050	520,050	34,000	7.00%
21-272 Clark Building	37,596	64,075	62,600	-1,475	-2.30%
21-273 Case Library Building	134,840	158,000	162,000	4,000	2.53%
21-274 643 Orange Center Road	430	0	6,150	6,150	#DIV/0!
Sub Total: Public Buildings	631,613	708,125	750,800	42,675	6.03%
Total Public Works & Public Buildings	4,904,683	5,239,967	5,406,646	166,679	3.18%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Culture & Recreation					
21-280 Library	733,785	835,292	850,880	15,588	1.87%
21-300 Parks & Recreation - Admin	171,088	168,800	173,394	4,594	2.72%
21-301 Parks & Recreation - Maint	480,242	325,770	351,520	25,750	7.90%
21-302 Parks & Recreation - Pool	323,014	347,590	381,814	34,224	9.85%
21-303 Parks & Recreation - Programs	8,570	7,500	9,500	2,000	26.67%
21-320 Town Contributions	27,500	28,030	28,030	0	0.00%
Total Culture & Recreation	1,744,179	1,712,982	1,795,138	82,156	4.80%
Health & Welfare					
21-330 Environmental Health	154,506	231,084	225,584	-5,500	-2.38%
21-334 School Nursing	356,698	379,130	406,180	27,050	7.13%
21-335 Director of Health	50,054	33,075	33,781	706	2.13%
21-336 Board of Health	27	50	50	0	0.00%
Sub Total: Health Services	561,285	643,339	665,595	22,256	3.46%
Community Services					
25-341 Community Services-Administration	153,188	175,620	178,700	3,080	1.75%
21-346 Community Services-Counseling	105,264	120,000	120,000	0	0.00%
21-342 Community Services-Disabilities	1,549	6,830	5,000	-1,830	-26.79%
21-345 Community Services-Elderly	156,357	165,825	165,925	100	0.06%
21-344 Community Services-Transportation	81,050	87,300	96,300	9,000	10.31%
21-343 Community Services-Youth	20,586	48,250	48,450	200	0.41%
Sub Total: Community Services	518,004	603,825	614,375	10,550	1.75%
Total Health & Welfare	1,079,289	1,247,164	1,279,970	32,806	2.63%
Employee Benefits					
21-400 Employee Benefits	8,700,835	9,417,587	10,084,217	666,630	7.08%
Total Employee Benefits	8,700,835	9,417,587	10,084,217	666,630	7.08%
Town Services					
21-420 Property Insurance	432,580	463,500	617,500	154,000	33.23%
21-425 Government Access TV	74,155	79,750	48,000	-31,750	-39.81%
21-430 Town Services and other	178,912	85,750	90,450	4,700	5.48%
Total Town Services	685,647	629,000	755,950	126,950	20.18%
SUBTOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	26,880,028	28,755,637	30,109,976	1,354,339	4.71%

BUDGET SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENT					
Classification	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	FY 2025-26 Board of Finance	Increase/(Decrease) Amount	Percent
Capital Projects & Debt Service					
21-450 Capital Projects	24,670	0	0	0	
21-460 Debt Service	3,385,939	3,312,602	3,225,895	-86,707	-2.62%
Total Capital Projects & Debt Service	3,410,609	3,312,602	3,225,895	-86,707	-2.62%
Education					
21-410 Orange Public Schools	23,447,185	24,268,483	25,214,154	945,671	3.90%
21-415 Amity Regional Schools	26,103,744	27,479,044	27,533,537	54,493	0.20%
Total Education	49,550,929	51,747,527	52,747,691	1,000,164	1.93%
Total Budget	79,841,566	83,815,766	86,083,562	2,267,796	2.71%
control totals	79,841,566	83,815,766	86,083,562		

The Arts

Have Some Fun With The Arts

With spring upon us, we look forward to the sights and sounds of the season, awakening our senses to both the new and the familiar. We are fortunate to be minutes away from so many unique cultural, musical, artistic and theatrical offerings. Take a lovely spring drive to take part in a murder-mystery dinner at a local orchard. Take the back roads to enjoy the shoreline views on your way to see an all-abilities musical. Visit your local gallery for an exhibit featuring local artists. Don some 1940s garb and watch a ballet performance of a Broadway show, or dress as your favorite video game character as you listen to an orchestra. Discover a new appreciation of art, express your creativity at a poetry reading or paint class. Immerse yourself in classic dramatic works on a local stage. Take time to treat yourself to a fresh start in this new and beautiful season.

The Greater Hartford Arts Council has installed a **Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk** at Riverfront. Take a walk along the river and experience award-winning sculpture reflecting the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. His story is captured in unique artforms representing his early years through his presidency. A grant from Lincoln Financial in 2005 provided funds to the Greater Hartford Arts Council, in partnership with Riverfront Recapture, to design a sculpture walk along the Connecticut River in both Hartford and East Hartford. In a nationwide call for entries, a panel of local art aficionados, representatives from Lincoln Financial and Riverfront Recapture reviewed submissions from accomplished artists around the country and selected 16 works for this permanent public art exhibit. For more information visit goarts.org or call 860-713-3131.

The Milford Arts Council will host a **Poetry Open Mic**, presented by its Written Word Writer's Group, on Sunday, April 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the MAC, 40 Railroad Ave. S. in Milford. You are invited to share your work, or your favorite poet's work from the stage with an appreciative and supportive audience. There is no theme or special requirement. Performers enter for free with online registration. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Performers can register at milfordarts.org or call 203-878-6647 for further information.

The Milford Arts Council presents **"Sip and Paint with Kiko"** on three Wednesdays: April 16, May 21 and June 18, at 6 p.m. at the MAC, 40 Railroad Ave. S. in Milford. Join for a classy and fun bring-your-own beverage sip and paint event led by the MAC's award-winning artist, Kiko. Unleash your creativity as Kiko guides you step-by-step in crafting your own masterpiece while you sip on your favorite beverage of choice. Each date will feature a different iconic personality. This unique experience blends artistic expression with a relaxed, social atmosphere, perfect for a fun night out with friends or a creative date. A canvas, paint and brush will be provided. No prior painting experience required. Registration is \$35 per session for the general public and \$30 per session for MAC members at milfordarts.org or by calling 203-878-6647.

Lyman Orchards will host **"Bloodlines & Betrayal: A Murder Mystery Dinner,"** produced by Evidence of Evil, Haunted Attraction, April 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lyman Homestead, 3 Lyman Rd. in Middlefield. Step into the shadowy world of 1940s organized crime, where loyalty is everything and betrayal lurks in every corner. Tensions are high as two rival mafia families, long at odds, are meeting under a fragile truce to negotiate peace and secure their future. But as the families gather to seal the deal, one ambitious member has other plans. When a sudden murder disrupts the night, the truce shatters

and suspicions run wild. It's up to you to piece together the clues, interrogate your fellow partygoers and uncover the truth. Someone in the room is guilty, and it might be you. Once tickets are purchased, each person in your group will be assigned a mafia family member persona for the event. Specific character details will be emailed to each person two weeks prior to the event date. Tickets purchased after that two-week period will receive their character within three days. This is a role-playing, interactive event. Costumes are encouraged; think sharp suits, fedoras and vintage glamor. Dinner and dessert are included. Tickets are \$85 per person and include assorted soft drinks, dinner buffet and plenty of drama. A cash bar is available with beer, wine and hard cider. Awards will be given for best actor, best costume and best detective. This event is for adults ages 21 and older. Visit lymanorchards.com or call 860-349-6000 to purchase tickets and for more information.

The **"42nd Annual Fine Art & Flowers"** will be presented by the Friends of the Wadsworth Atheneum from April 25-27 at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 600 Main St. in Hartford. Celebrate spring with inspiring artwork, fun events and enjoy live entertainment throughout the weekend. Shop the artisan boutique for creative goods from local vendors in the Hartford Courant Room. Guided tours begin at 12:30 p.m., and enjoy live entertainment from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. An adult Lego build workshop will take place on Saturday, April 26 from 10:30 a.m. to noon where you can create a unique and beautiful floral arrangement. Coffee and refreshments will be available. Tickets for the Lego event are limited and include admission to Fine Art & Flowers with pricing at \$50 for adults and \$35 for members. At 1 p.m. see the designers challenge followed by a meet the designers event at 2 p.m. On Sunday, April 27 at 1 p.m., join the interactive lecture "Blooming Interpretations" with Sylvia P. Nichols. This will also be the last weekend to visit "Paper, Color, Line: European Master Drawings" before the exhibition closes on April 27. Admission prices reflect a \$5 fundraising surcharge added to all museum admissions during Fine Art & Flowers. All event proceeds support exhibitions and educational programs. General admission for adults is \$25, seniors \$20, students \$15, and children ages 17 and under are \$5. Visit thewadsworth.org or call 860-278-2670 for further information.

The Bushnell Broadway Series presents **"Some Like It Hot,"** a musical comedy with book by Matthew Lopez and Amber Ruffin, music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman. Matinee and evening performances run April 29 to May 4 at William H. Mortensen Hall, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. Set in Chicago when prohibition has everyone thirsty for a little excitement, this is the story of two musicians forced to flee the Windy City after witnessing a mob hit. With gangsters hot on their heels, they catch a cross-country train for the life-changing, life-changing trip of a lifetime. Tickets are \$36 to \$132 and can be purchased by visiting bushnell.org or calling the box office 860-987-5900.

The Mark Twain House, in collaboration with Sea Tea Comedy Theater, presents **"Get A Clue: Interactive Comedy Murder-Mystery Tours"** on April 26 at 7 p.m. at the Mark Twain House, 351 Farmington Ave. in Hartford. Based on the original game and the characters from Mark Twain's most famous novels, this interactive murder-mystery will have you play detective and help solve the



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case. These timed tours will be offered on special nights at the Mark Twain House and Museum, using the various rooms (secret passageway, conservatory, billiards room, and more) of the Twain house – and some of the author's favorite literary characters – as part of the game. Who killed that varmint Pap Finn? Was it Tom Sawyer in the library with the wrench? It is different every time. Tickets are \$21 to \$31. For more information visit marktwainhouse.org or call 860-247-0998.

Connecticut Ballet presents **"Family Matinee at the Ballet"** on May 3 at 11 a.m. in the Maxwell M. and Ruth R. Belding Theater located at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. Narrated by Artistic Director Brett Raphael, this 75-minute program will take its young audience "backstage at the ballet" to meet the ballerina and her partner, learn about pointe shoes and partnering between the male and female, and much more. Connecticut Ballet will perform classical ballet excerpts and rollicking New Orleans jazz music by Bix Beiderbecke. Audience members will have a chance to meet the dancers, take selfies, and sign autographs in the theater lobby immediately following the show. Tickets are \$25 to \$45 and can be purchased by visiting bushnell.org or calling the box office at 860-987-5900.

The John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts presents **"An Evening with Eric Darius"** on May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Lyman Center, 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. A dynamic saxophonist and electrifying performer, Eric Darius is redefining contemporary jazz with his high-energy blend of jazz, R&B and funk. Known for his chart-topping hits and magnetic stage presence, Darius captivates audiences with his soulful sound and innovative style. Tickets are \$55 for general admission and are available at lymancenter.org or by calling 203-392-6154.

Castle Craig Players presents **"How The Other Half Loves,"** a comedy written by Alan Ayckbourn. Matinee and evening performances run May 2 to 18 at the Almira F. Stephan Memorial Playhouse, 59 West Main St. in Meriden. Three couples. Two dining rooms. One big mess. This ingenious comedy is about three married couples: Frank and Fiona Foster, Bob and Teresa Phillips and William and Mary Featherstone. When Fiona and Bob try to cover up their adulterous love affair, hilarious complications result as all the couples get tangled in lies and misunderstandings, culminating in a dinner party where comedy is the main course. This show is presented with cabaret-style seating and bring-your-own food and beverages. Tickets are sold online only by visiting castlecraigplayers.org.

New Haven Symphony Orchestra is hosting **"Let's Play! Video Game Music Reimagined"** featuring DiscoCactus. Two dates are available at two venues: May 31 at 3 p.m. at Lyman Center for the Performing Arts, 501 Crescent St. in New Haven, and June 1 at 3 p.m. at Shelton High School, 120 Meadow St. in Shelton. Enjoy a unique and fun concert with video game music band DiscoCactus. These versatile, classically trained, funk fusion musicians tour the world playing video game soundtracks for live audiences and now debut their first-ever show with an orchestra featuring tunes from such gaming classics as The Legend of Zelda and Minecraft to beloved indie titles like Hollow Knight and CrossCode. There is something for everyone at this family-friendly video game concert. Costumes are encouraged. The show features

Chelsea Tipton, II, NHSO principal pops conductor. Tickets for 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 more information and to purchase tickets.

New Haven Symphony Orchestra presents **"Danzas Sinfónicas"** with conductor Perry So and featuring 2023 Latin Grammy triple-nominee Pacho Flores on May 4 at 3 p.m. at Woolsey Hall, 500 College St. in New Haven. Flores makes his NHSO debut with Daniel Freiberg's new Trumpet Concerto, and So leads the NHSO in music by Arturo Márquez, Gabriela Lena Frank and Silvestre Revueltas. Celebrating Latin America's rich musical and dance traditions, the concert will feature elegant Cuban danzón in Márquez's Danzón No. 2, energetic tango in Freiberg's Historias de Flores y Tangos, and Andean folk influences in Frank's Escaramuza. Revueltas's Sensemayá will pulse with Afro-Caribbean rhythms and Alberto Ginastera's Four Dances from Estancia will evoke the powerful malambo dance of Argentina's pampas. 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 203-693-1486 for more information and to purchase tickets.

World Ballet Company presents **"The Great Gatsby Ballet"** with four dates are available at four venues: May 15 at 7 p.m. at Mortensen Hall (The Bushnell), 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford; May 17 at 7 p.m. at Garde Arts Center, 325 State St. in New London; May 18 at 3 p.m. at Shubert Theatre, 247 College St. in New Haven; and Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Palace Stamford, 61 Atlantic St. in Stamford. Experience a sparkling new Broadway-style ballet. This visually stunning production by an all-star creative team features lavish sets and costumes, an original jazz-inspired score, a cast of 40 professional dancers, multimedia effects, acrobatics and more. Dress up, sip champagne, and immerse yourself in Gatsby's world for an unforgettable evening. Recommended for ages 8 and older. A young man named Nick Carraway, now older and wiser, sifts through the sands of memory, trying to piece together a tale that once consumed him. He begins to write, unearthing a series of events that were as thrilling as they were devastating – a kaleidoscope of wealth, love, betrayal and tragedy. Tickets are \$39 to \$105 and can be purchased by visiting worldballetcompany.com.

Vista Life Innovations and A Shared Stage Productions present **"Legally Blonde: The Musical"** with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, book by Heather Hach. The show is based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture. Matinee and evening performances run May 23 to 25 at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center at 300 Main St. in Old Saybrook. "Legally Blonde: The Musical" follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she defies stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Elle appears to have it all, but her world is turned upside down when her boyfriend, Warner, breaks up with her to attend Harvard Law. Determined to win him back, Elle ingeniously gains admission to the prestigious school. This musical is filled with high-energy dance numbers, unforgettable songs and an empowering message. Recommended for ages 13 and older. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased by visiting thekate.org or calling 860-510-0453.

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.

Bankruptcy

On Circuit: Connecticut Supreme Court At Yale

On a cold, grey day in early March, I drove into New Haven with a friend. We parked across the street from the Apple Store in the public parking lot designated for the Shops at Yale, walked down Broadway a few blocks and took a left onto the Yale campus. We meandered our way through, passing the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, to arrive at our destination: the Sterling Law Building.

We stopped in front to take a picture next to the "Yale Law School" sign and as we proceeded to the doorway, we saw another sign with a map directing us to the rear entrance for our intended activity. We headed for the back of the building, encountering a few judicial marshals patrolling along the way. When we turned onto Grove Street, the entrance to the cemetery was in front of us, and on the stone entryway, it eerily read "The Dead Shall Be Raised." On our left was the collegiate gothic edifice of the Yale Law School with an a-frame sandwich board reading "Court Entrance." As we entered the building, a school security guard greeted us and we proceeded to the temporary metal detector set up for the occasion. After clearing security, we were directed to enter the Levinson Auditorium.

Upon entering the lecture hall, we were asked if we were students by a judicial marshal who was acting like an usher. We identified ourselves as members of the public and were asked to sit in the seats behind the break in the aisle. When we sat down, we discovered that there were small lecture desks attached to each seat that folded up and rested right above our laps. It was convenient for taking notes on my yellow legal pad; I never leave home without one.

At the front of the room was a panel of six seats facing the audience; and facing the panel were two counsel tables, one on each side of a podium that had a microphone. There was a clerk seated to the side, and video cameras and other audiovisual equipment peppered around the large room.

A few moments later, another judicial marshal banged a gavel and asked everyone to rise as the justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut, robed in black, filed into the auditorium, passing under the stained-glass windows, and took their seats at their temporary bench. The marshal then called out "Oyez, oyez, oyez" and opened court.

Chief Justice Raheem L. Mullins gave his opening remarks welcoming the audience to a session of the Connecticut Supreme Court. He stated that the Supreme Court's visit to Yale is a continuation of the court's tradition of the On Circuit Educational Program that began in 1986. Mullins noted that this was the court's third visit to Yale, having been there before in 1990 and 2008. He emphasized that the cases are real, involving real people and real issues, and that the outcomes of the appeals are important to the parties and the development of Connecticut law.

The first case heard was State of Connecticut v. Sergio J. Correa, SC 20728.

While Correa was being questioned by the police in 2018, his cell phone was confiscated. Eventually he was convicted of a triple murder and appealed. The issues that were taken on appeal by Correa were "A. Whether the warrantless seizure of the defendant's cell phone was justified under the exigent circumstances exception to the warrant requirement, and B. Whether the search warrant for the entire contents of the defendant's cell phone violated the Fourth Amendment and Article I, § 7, of the Connecticut Constitution."

After the first case was heard, the justices filed out and the arguing attorneys took questions from the students in attendance. Moments later, the justices filed back in and took their seats on the panel again.

The second case heard was Gregory Johnson v. Superior Court, SC 21074.

Johnson made derogatory comments



Theresa Rose DeGray

that included racial epithets to a judge in 2020 after a habeas corpus hearing. He was later found in criminal contempt and appealed. The issues taken up on appeal by Johnson, the plaintiff in error, were "Whether the trial court erred when it failed to defer the plaintiff's contempt proceeding" and "Whether the trial court properly concluded that the conduct of the plaintiff in error constituted criminal contempt beyond a reasonable doubt."

After the second case was argued, the justices filed out for a final time and the judicial marshal who had opened court banged the gavel to close the session.

The appellate process is rather simple in its outlines. But if you dive into it, you will discover that it is governed by an intricate and very particular set of rules, right down to the font used in the briefs (which is currently Serif, 12 point, by the way). The first step in the process is getting a final judgment from a trial court with which you do not agree and filing an appeal in a timely fashion; in many instances you have 20 days.

In accordance with the Connecticut Practice Book Section 63-4, within 10 days after the filing of the appeal, the appellant must file a preliminary statement of the issues, a designation of the proposed contents of the clerk appendix, a court reporter's acknowledgment or certificate that no transcript is necessary, a docketing statement, a statement for a preargument conference, a constitutionality notice and a sealing order form, if any.

The appellant then files a brief, after which the appellee files a brief. Finally, the appellant may file a reply brief; it's optional, but most agree it should be done. The "briefs" are nothing but brief. In fact, they are allowed to contain several thousand words.

Once the briefing is done, oral arguments are scheduled and heard in most cases, at the discretion of the court. At

the appellate court level, each party gets 20 minutes to argue their side, and at the supreme court level, each party gets 30 minutes. Only the appellant may reserve time for rebuttal. The entire time the attorneys are arguing, the justices interrupt with questions. Therefore, the number one consideration is that you must be fully prepared and expect to have your flow broken and be able to get back on track with your argument with a sense of finesse. It's certainly not for the faint of heart.

The day we were there, the Connecticut Network taped and televised the proceedings. I later re-watched the arguments on their website and saw the emotions on the attorneys' faces for the first time, as I was sitting behind them on the day of the live arguments. The audio files of the arguments can be found on the Connecticut judicial branch website. I encourage you to watch and/or listen to them.

You can also look up the dockets for the cases and read the briefs and transcripts on the branch website and subscribe to the cases to receive an email when there is activity on a given case. I made sure to subscribe to both cases so when the decisions are issued, I will get them.

My friend and I left the law school that day with lots of questions and excitedly discussed the cases on the walk back to the car. It was truly an enjoyable experience to see the state Supreme Court in action.

You can follow the Connecticut judicial branch on X (formerly known as Twitter) to see when and where the appellate and Supreme Court will be on circuit next.

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.

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The Garden Spot

Welcome Back The Hummingbirds

I always look forward to the return of the hummingbirds, or “hummers,” in late April or early May. In reviewing my garden journal entries for the past four years, I see that there is very little variation regarding when I see the first one – the earliest I’ve seen one is April 27, and the latest has been May 2. That means it’s time to get the feeders ready and set out around mid-April. Here in Connecticut, we will be most likely to see the ruby throated hummingbird.

Hummingbirds are migratory birds that winter in South or Central America and begin their migration in early February. They travel during the day at a low altitude so that they can see the nectar sources that they require for the long journey. According to Hummingbird Central, these birds are expert at using tailwinds to save energy and have been found to travel up to 23 miles in

a single day. They are unique in that their hearts beat up to 1,260 times per minute and their wings flap between 15 and 80 times a second. They require a tremendous amount of energy to support this level of activity.

Although most of us think of hummers as consuming nectar, they also will eat small insects such as aphids and spiders as a protein source. Their favorite color is red, which is why so many commercial feeders are colored red. I find that the feeders that are shaped like a flying saucer are easier to maintain than those that are bottle-shaped, but either type works well.

You can make your own hummer food by dissolving one part sugar into four parts water. You can make the nectar either by



PAT DRAY

boiling the water or heating it in the microwave until the sugar is completely dissolved. Allow it to cool before filling the feeder. You should not add red food coloring, because some colorings have harmful chemicals. You should change the solution at least once a week.

I run my feeders through the dishwasher every few weeks to sterilize them. Remember that hummers are very territorial – we often see them chasing competition away from one feeder to another. If you want to hang more than one feeder, try to have them out of sight from each other.

Hummers also need a water source. If your bird bath is too deep for these tiny birds, you can put some flat rocks in the cen-

ter so that they have a place to land. As with all bird baths, clean them frequently with a stiff brush to prevent bacterial growth.

You can also plant specific plants that will attract the hummers – generally bright colors with tubular shapes. Some good choices are butterfly bush, lantana, milkweed and salvia. Many of these hummer favorites are also butterfly favorites, doubling your viewing pleasure.

I hope that you’ll be hearing the “hum” soon. You can get up-to-date information on their migration at hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration.htm. You can also enter data on when you see your first hummer to keep the map updated throughout the season.

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

Wine Talk

Entry-Level Wines

Some great inexpensive wines are available to all of us during to enjoy these nicer temperatures. One of my favorite wines is Wente Chardonnay Central Coast Morning Fog 2023. At \$18 it is a great value. The Wente family brought the chardonnay grape into California during the 1870s. No one thought that Chardonnay could be produced in California. They proved it could and has made some great Chads for many years. This is one of their best wines, and at this price it is a great bargain.

Bordeaux wines are always a favorite of American wine lovers. You should be aware that there are two areas where the wines are produced. The left side of the river grows more Cabernet grape and the great Bordeaux blend is more developed with Cabernet Sauvignon than the right side. The right side has much more Merlot and it grows more easily and with less expense. Since the Bordeaux blend consists of Cabernet, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Pitot Verdoeaux and Malbec, the left side is more heavy in Cabernet and is more

expensive than the right side.

As a result, some of the great inexpensive Bordeaux include Chateau Sirin Margaux 2022 at \$40 per bottle, Chateau Dalem at \$29 per bottle and Chateau De La Huste 2022 at \$22 per bottle. All are great and well-made wines with more Merlot than Cab.

Rhone Valley wines have some nice buys, also. Some of these include Cotes du Rhone-Villages Laundun Château de Board 2022 and 2023. Both are under \$20 per bottle and have a great finish. These are made by the Brotte winery. Famille Coulon makes a Vin de France Le Petit Renard 2022 and 2023 they sell for \$24 that are great entry-level wines for this region.

The state of Washington is a great region that has been getting a lot of attention for its quality and great price points. Gorman makes an Old Scratch Cabernet for \$35 that is outstanding. This intense red is full of



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

richness and great hints of blackberry, cherry and grilled herb. Chateau Saint Michelle makes a nice Riesling that sells for \$20. This one is refreshing and offers some nectarine, apricot and honeysuckle. Costco has a Kirkland Signature Cabernet that is a surprise at \$9. This wine has great black cherry and espresso flavors with some bittersweet chocolate on the finish. The Kirkland Signature wines are always well made, but this one is exceptional.

With spring upon us try some of these exceptional values that you may not be aware of. Try some West Coast wines as well. Mer-

lots, Cabernets and Mourvèdres abound on the West Coast. Look for bargains. Many are well priced. It may open up a new region for you.

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

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Jack Shlachter is a physicist who worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory for over 30 yrs, with briefer stints at Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Atomic Energy Agency, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. He is also an ordained rabbi serving as the leader of Ha Makom in Sante Fe and the Los Alamos Jewish Center.



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Travel Matters

Adventure Down Under

We just hosted 32 days in New Zealand, Australia and Fiji with a small group of 12 people. What started off with a two-week cruise on Oceania Regatta from Auckland to Sydney turned into a much larger adventure.

For starters, we knew we wanted to spend a couple of days in Auckland adjusting to the time change. When you fly to New Zealand, you cross the International Dateline and lose a day, so that was a good move. We spent a beautiful day taking a ferry to Waiheke Island with many wineries and the best oysters our group had ever tasted. After boarding Oceania Regatta (only 600 guests) right next door to the Hilton Auckland, we then went on to six ports in New Zealand. They included Tauranga (visiting a Maori village); Gisbourne (vintage train ride and seafood at the pier); Napier (art deco heaven and home of Hawk's Bay wineries); Marlborough Valley (Sauvignon Blanc capital of

New Zealand); Lyttleton (Christchurch), where we sailed a catamaran around Banks Peninsula; and finally Dunedin. With Scottish roots, the famous Dunedin Railroad station is picture perfect. Our train trip to the Taieri Gorge crossed several scenic viaducts and tunnels through the mountains – with a boxed picnic lunch onboard.

For the rest of the cruise, we sailed through the Tasman Sea to Melbourne, Australia for two days, then Burnie, Tasmania and disembarked in Sydney. Our highlight from Melbourne was our trip to Phillip Island – visiting koalas and wallabies in their natural habitat, and “the Nobbies,” home of Australia’s largest colony of fur seals. The highlight was the nightly penguin parade, where



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

the smallest penguins on Earth march out of the sea at sunset each night to find their home on the beach, in groups of 20 to 60 at a time. Truly spectacular.

Tasmania did not disappoint either. We chose an excursion including a botanical garden and wildlife – spotting the rare Tasmanian devil plus kangaroos and crocodiles.

When you go all that way to the other side of the world, you want to see more of Australia. So we spent four days in Sydney and four days in Cairns (gateway to the Great Barrier Reef).

Experiencing the largest reef in the world was special, with snorkeling, diving or the semi-submersible. We also visited the Kuranda Tropical Rainforest by train, and by

a World War II army amphibious duck and came down the mountain by cable car.

In Sydney, we started with a sunset cruise of Sydney Harbor with a Penfold wine tasting dinner. One day we took a private VIP tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House followed by dinner at their aboriginal chef restaurant Midden. We enjoyed a full day in Hunter Valley at three wineries, plus Small Mouth Vodka Distillery.

We completed this adventure with three nights in Fiji to chill out at the beach, since Fiji Airways offers a great price on business class flights from LAX to Australia/New Zealand.

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

Amity Chamber of Commerce

Welcome To Your Amity Chamber Of Commerce

I'm pleased to share that the Orange Chamber of Commerce is now the Amity Chamber of Commerce. The new name brings with it the responsibility and promise of increased coverage and optimum value for businesses and the communities we proudly serve.

This rebranding, which was officially announced on March 27, is more than a name change; it is a change for the better. Since becoming the executive director of the former Orange Chamber last July, the message has been loud and clear: members approve of the uptick in programs, communications and community outreach, and they want more. The board's commitment to a regional chamber provides the platform to achieve this.

I am honored to continue in an expanded role as the chief executive officer of the Amity Chamber of Commerce. The cham-

ber board of directors remains unchanged, with Board President Ted Novicki, Vice President Dr. Rob Rubino and Secretary Mary-Ann White. The 15-member board was unanimous in moving to the new name that best reflects the organization's membership, strategic plan and growth, as witnessed by the over 30 percent increase in membership since July 2024.

This move further strengthens the chamber's position as a leading voice for businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Amity region and surrounding communities. The Amity Chamber's mission to create distinctive value by providing meaningful programs, events, strategic marketing, advocacy, net-



BARRY COHEN

working and professional educational opportunities will be bolstered by the ability to introduce new initiatives, foster alliances, access new resources and increase engagement beyond the chamber's prior footprint.

To quote Novicki, “The towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge are logical strategic partners, forever linked by our amazing Amity School district. The new Amity Chamber will offer our business community even more opportunities to reach customers, share best practices and grow together.”

The Amity Chamber of Commerce logo was conceived and designed by Christopher Ritchie. Ritchie is a lecturer in the graphic and digital design program at the University of New Haven and a multidisciplinary designer and art director with over 20 years of in-house creative department and independent agency experience. Ritchie is also the owner of Coa Design. The University of New Haven is an Amity Chamber member; Brian T. Kench, dean of the Pompea College of Business at UNH, also serves on the chamber's board of directors.

The new brand identity has been launched on the chamber's website, amityctchamber.com, social media channels and is being phased in on documentation and other support materials.

Former Orange Chamber of Commerce members are now members of the new Amity Chamber of Commerce. The Amity Chamber will retain the same legal entity and not-for-profit 501(c)6 status.

The Amity Chamber of Commerce best reflects not just geography but also the regional synergies, strong bonds and opportunities that continue to propel businesses throughout Orange, Woodbridge, Bethany and the Boston Post Road corridor, which includes a significant number of members based in West Haven and Milford.

Thank you for your support and trust as we begin this exciting next chapter.

Joining us on this next chapter, the chamber welcomes new members Traveland, Foundation Vitamins and Sports Supplements, Toudaotang Herbal Head Spa, Comfort Keepers and Pump Room Fitness.

Barry Cohen is the chief executive officer of the Amity Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-645-2913 or director@amityctchamber.com.



'Ghost' Autograph Book Arises In Milford

By Marilyn May

Who doesn't love a ghost story? This one starts with a book where all the pages are blank.

“The Ghost of My Friends” is an autograph book that leaves a lasting, haunting impression on those who signed it, and on those who see it.

Signing such a book was a big fad in England and Northeast America around the early 20th century. It was “arranged” by Cecil Henritta Henland and used primarily as a parlor game at social gatherings. The first known book was printed in London in 1905. To set the tone, she added a line from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*: “The best in this kind are but shadows.”

These original books are rare, but one surfaced at the Milford Historical Society recently where inventories have been going on for almost a year.

There's really no mystery to finding the “ghost” of your friend. The blank pages were made of blotting paper with a bit of a glaze so that the ink ran a little. You select one page in the book and fold it in half by bringing the outside edge of the page to

line up with the binding and make a sharp fold vertically down the paper. Turn the book sideways and write your signature in cursive along the line where the paper has just been creased.

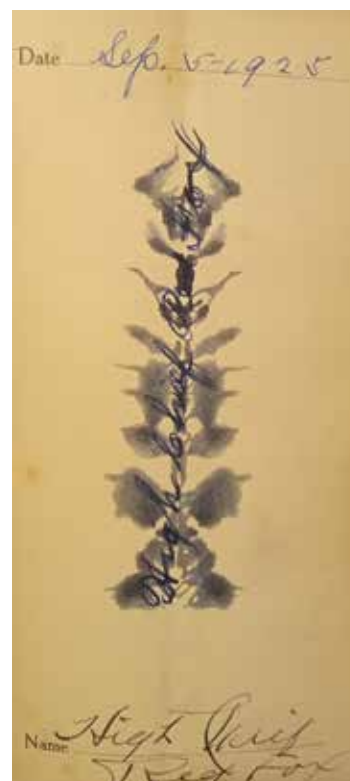
In the 1900s, names were written using very full fountain pens (or slow-drying Indian ink) that allowed the ink to bleed and avoid soaking in.

Now for the fun part. After you have signed it and the ink is still wet, fold the paper back again along the crease you have made, and rub your fingers up and down the crease. Opening it you will see that your signature has bled onto both sides of the paper. It's a surprise to see what your signature looks like now. When the ink dries, you have the cursive, well-inked swirls of an autograph with a very unusual look.

How or why this became a fad for a while no one knows. It is probably because it was novel, easy, fun, and a great parlor game. Anyone could – and can – do it.

Little is known about Henland, who also wrote *The Mind of a Friend* and *The Book of Butterflies*.

It seems that, forever, people have want-



A “ghost autograph” from the early 20th century. The autograph says “High Chief Red Fox.” Photo by Marilyn May.

ed to collect traditional autographs. Celebrities were tired of doing traditional autographs, but this type of autograph was a new idea that intrigued them. Winston Churchill, actress Sarah Bernhardt, American bass singer and Civil Rights activist Paul Robson, and Australian opera singer Dame Nellie Melba all left us their signature ink blots. So did Mark Twain, who wrote that the finished ink smears look like skeletons. Indeed, many autographs came out looking like smudges transformed into elegant, somewhat devilish inkblots. Twain wrote a letter in 1905 to his daughter, Clara, describing the ghost autograph fad and sending her one.

Now it's your turn. Fans of *The Ghost of My Friends* and *Reflections of my Friends* have made and sell replications of the book.

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

“Tiaras Over Teaneck” To Debut In Milford

Milford-based Pantochino theater company will debut “Tiaras Over Teaneck” on Friday, April 25 at the Milford Arts Council in Downtown Milford. The new musical comedy plays through May 11.

“Tiaras Over Teaneck,” featuring book and lyrics by Bert Bernardi and music by Justin Rugg, follows two beauty pageant contestants and their nagging mothers on their way to Atlantic City. But the merry journey comes to a grinding halt when they find themselves in a roadside motel room in Teaneck, New Jersey where everything that could possibly go wrong does, including the East Coast blackout of 1965. Slamming doors, mistaken identities, bloopers, blunders and a cast of colorful characters are all part of the ridiculously entertaining antics.

“Its fast, funny and full of laughs,” said writer/director Bernardi, “and I think that’s something we all need right now. The characters are so colorful, the situation completely unhinged and the action is just plain frantic.”

The cast includes Pantochino company

members Mary Mannix, Shelley Marsh Poggio, Maria Berte, Valerie Solli, Rachelle Ianniello, Jimmy Johansmeyer and Rugg. They are joined by Killian Meehan, Tracey Marble and Katie Durham. The two pageant contestants are played by Sydney Yargeau, who appeared in Pantochino’s “The Rocky Horror Show,” and Leanne Onofrio, who was seen in “Dorothy’s Christmas in Oz” and “Panto of the Opera.”

“Tiaras Over Teaneck” features setting by Von Del Mar, costumes by Johansmeyer, lighting by Jakob Kelsey, sound by Tyler Kittleman, musical direction by Rugg and stage management by T.M. Gadomski.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The show is recommended for adult audiences and those over 13. Seating is cabaret-style and audiences are invited to bring their own food and drink to enjoy during the performance. The MAC is located at 40 Railroad Ave. Parking is free at showtime in all train station lots. Tickets are available online at pantochino.com. Tickets are not available at the Milford Arts Council.

Rock The Dock Returning To Milford



Bridges Healthcare’s Rock the Dock for Mental Health event will return on Thursday, May 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Lisman Landing, located at 37 Helwig St. in Downtown Milford. In support of Mental Health Awareness Month, the event will feature a waterside performance by local band The Alpaca Gnomes, pictured here at their 2024 Rock the Dock performance, and include light fare and drinks. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at bit.ly/RocktheDock25. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Proceeds from the event will support the mental health, recovery and prevention services that Bridges Healthcare provides to more than 8,000 local people annually. Photo by Kelly Coble.

Orange Goddard School Gets Humanitarian Award



The Goddard Schools of Brookfield, Danbury, Fairfield, Farmington, Monroe, Orange, Westport and Wilton were named winners of The Goddard Humanitarian Award at the 2025 Goddard School Franchisee Convention in Las Vegas. The award honors franchisees who are devoted to the welfare of humanity by making the world a better place through early childhood education. In the summer of 2024, this group of Goddard schools partnered to raise money for Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation. Together, the schools raised more than \$18,000 to support ALSF’s mission to change the lives of children with cancer through funding impactful research, raising awareness, supporting families and empowering everyone to help cure childhood cancer. Included in the photo are the owners of the Connecticut schools with members of the Goddard executive committee. Photo courtesy of the Goddard School.

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May 3, 2025 9am-Noon

High Plains Community Center For Residential Use

Paper Shredding

- Secure shredding of confidential documents
- Tax and financial papers
- Medical records
- Sponsored by Orange Rotary Club (donations to scholarship fund appreciated)

Mattresses & Box Springs

- Any size; bring to event. Option: call Ken or Marianne at 203-795-3906 for Orange Lions Club members to pick up (\$15/item)
- NO futons, sofa beds, or water beds
- NO wet, soiled, or bed bug infested mattresses
- NO sleeping bags, mattress pads

E-waste/Electronics

- Secure disposal of e-waste
- Computer and laptop hard drives
- Cell phones and tablets
- Fee per item: \$5 phones, \$10 tablets, \$20 computers. Other items TBD.

Household Items, Clothing, Toys, Etc.

- Orange Community Women - bring toys, household goods, clothing, shoes, sporting goods, CDs/DVDs, etc.; they sell to fund charitable work
- Buy Nothing Orange - swap meet 9:00-11:00

Hazardous Household Waste

- Household cleaners
- Aerosols (with product in can)
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Paint thinner, paints, stains, etc.
- Gas, antifreeze, oil/fluid
- Pool chemicals

See full list and pre-register at rwater.com/hazwaste

Orange Recycling Committee

Event Details orangerecycles.com



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MAY 2 *Time* **6:00 PM**



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Orange Budget (Continued From 1)

real estate values that came to light during the town's revaluation process in late 2023. Residential real estate values had increased so dramatically, in fact, that in 2024 town leaders opted to phase the higher assessments in over four years. The phase-in muted the initial impact of higher assessments, but virtually guaranteed some rise in the amount of tax homeowners would pay each year.

The real estate portion of the grand list grew the most this year, increasing by more than \$225.5, or 11.18 percent. Business property also rose by 9.4 percent, while the value of motor vehicles dropped by 1.25 percent.

Homes are currently being taxed at an assessment rate of 62.5 percent; normally the assessed value would be 70 percent of the appraised market value.

There are three basic components to the Orange budget: town services; the Orange Public Schools, which covers all the elementary schools; and the Amity district, which includes the middle and high schools. The Amity budget is shared between Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge and divided between them based on a calculation that includes each town's relative student enrollment.

The town side of the budget went up 4.71 percent to a total of \$30,109,976. The Orange Public Schools budget also increased by 3.9 percent to \$25,214,154.

Amity's budget rose this year by 2.93 percent to \$58,108,999. However, Orange's portion of the contribution to the Amity budget is only expected to go up by \$54,497, or 0.2 percent. This is due in part to a decrease of nine students enrolled from Orange. Both Bethany and Woodbridge had their enrollment numbers go up this year.

One of the largest cost drivers on the town side of the budget was employee benefits, which rose the most of any line item, by \$666,630, or 7 percent.

For the elementary schools, more than half of the budget increase will go toward

insurance increases, which are rising by \$541,277.

While Amity saw substantial growth in expenditures for everything from salaries to equipment, that was offset significantly by a drop in more than \$1.3 million in debt service, thus blunting the overall budget increase.

There will be a public hearing on the budget with the Board of Finance on April 22 in the café at High Plains Community Center. The referendum on the Amity portion of the budget happens on Tuesday, May 6 at HPCC. The referendum for the town and Orange Public Schools portions of the budget will be on Wednesday, May 21, also at HPCC. Polls on both dates are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Milford Budget (Continued From 1)

\$80 million in market value since the 2021 revaluation. The city also took a hit on motor vehicle assessments.

The board largely left Mayor Tony Giannattasio's proposed budget for the city intact at \$150,886,178, making only minor adjustments. However, it cut the Board of Education's requested budget by more than \$1 million. The education budget had been set at \$115,304,923, a 4.87 percent increase over last year; the BOF lowered that to \$114,017,417 – a 3.7 percent increase.

Superintendent Anna Cutaia and other education officials had described their budget proposal as barely meeting contractual needs without proposing new programs. It intentionally underfunded facilities needs, which are being worked out through a long-range plan right now. Board of Education member Cindy Wolfe-Boynton, who supported the budget, had called the proposal "skeletal."

Unlike other sections of the budget that passed relatively quickly, the finance board took four votes on different versions of the education budget before a majority could support it.

Board member Lauren Ranges initially moved to approve the proposal without

changes.

"Underfunding this budget risks larger class sizes, program reductions and fewer opportunities," she said.

Board member Jeffrey Matchett, on the other hand, suggested lowering the increase by only 3.5 percent, noting that education in the city has on average received a 2.3 percent increase in the last 10 years, and that the student population continues to decline.

"We're also facing economic uncertainty locally and nationally, stock markets are declining, potential tariffs, talks of recessions," Matchett said. "Just a few weeks ago, the Board of Aldermen approved a \$1 million bond for an e-sports arena, which is exciting but only benefits a very small number of students. Pairing that with a 4.87 percent increase is a very heavy lift for the taxpayers right now."

Board member Ray Arnold, however, cited those same economic uncertainties as a reason why Matchett's number was too low. He put forward a 4 percent increase, which also failed.

This is the third year in a row that the finance board has trimmed millions of dollars from the BOE budget. In 2023, the Board of Aldermen restored the funding; in 2024 they left the cuts in place.

The budget is now before the Board of Aldermen, who are holding a series of hearings on different parts of the budget throughout April, including with Cutaia on April 17.

Motor Vehicle (Continued From 1)

the residents of Milford who live here," he said. "We had the highest tax increase in 20-something years in the city of Milford, with probably another pending increase coming, putting the burden on the residents of Milford."

"A tax increase like this hurts the most vulnerable people the most – the people who can afford it the least," said alderman Ward Willis.

The Board of Aldermen is already wrangling with a modest 0.44 increase in

the mill rate in the coming fiscal year under a plan proposed by the Board of Finance. Had the motor vehicle assessment option passed, city officials said the rate would only have risen 0.22 mills.

"At the end of the day, the city still has to raise the same amount of money to pay the same amount of bills," said alderwoman Jennifer Federico in explaining why she didn't find the mill rate argument convincing. "If we keep this as is with the new regulations from the state, we can provide property tax relief to at least the people who own cars, and it will shift a little bit of burden more onto the commercial property holders."

Mayor Tony Giannattasio had advocated for the board to adopt the option, pointing out that 70 other municipalities had already taken advantage of it, and that Milford's entire state legislative delegation had voted in favor of it.

"These property taxes fund our city, and people need relief. We have an opportunity to lower the mill rate by a significant amount," Giannattasio said. "There has not been one municipality or one town that has voted against this."


But alderman Win Smith responded that adopting the proposal would amount to enacting a regressive tax.

"The state of Connecticut actually did the taxpayers a favor by shifting us over to this new structure, and the taxpayers got a break. What we have in front of us the opportunity to reverse that tax break and to increase the burden on the taxpayers," he said. "I think it is bad policy. I think it is bad politics. And I think we would do well to reject it."

Mayoral candidate Rich Smith, who is expected to face off against Giannattasio in November, released a statement from his campaign criticizing the mayor after the vote went against him.

"Mayor Giannattasio's rushed attempt to raise taxes on Milford residents yet again was rejected by both Democrats and Republicans. This bipartisan vote shows that Mayor Giannattasio's proposal – which would have raised motor vehicle taxes – was seriously misguided," Smith said.

New City of Milford Municipal Website!
Making Your Government More Accessible Than Ever
Launched April 2, 2025 - www.milfordct.us




The City Clerk's Office, in collaboration with the Mayor's office and all city departments, is excited to announce Milford's new municipal website on **Wednesday, April 2nd**. This updated platform is designed to enhance **transparency, accessibility, and engagement** between the City of Milford and its residents.

- What's New?**
- Comprehensive Boards & Commissions Pages:**
 - Dedicated pages for all Milford Boards and Commissions.
 - Easy access to meeting agendas, minutes, video links, and member information.
- Enhanced City Department Information:**
 - Quick access to important updates and resources.
- Improved Resident Engagement:**
 - Email & Text Notifications:** Sign up to receive alerts for meeting agendas, minutes, and important city updates.
 - Increased Transparency:** Stay informed about the latest city decisions and events.

Get Involved & Stay Connected
 We believe that an **informed and engaged community** is essential for a thriving city. This new website offers the tools and information you need to **stay connected and involved**.

- Sign Up for Notifications:** Stay on top of city news and meeting updates.
- Participate in Public Meetings:** Share your voice and be part of the decision-making process.
- Share Your Feedback:** We welcome your input as we continue to improve our online services.

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Orange Senior Center

Depression In Older Adults

Melinda Battone from Masonicare leads a bereavement group for our seniors on the first Tuesday of the month. Some who participate are new widows or widowers. I see the grief and sadness that often comes from losing a spouse. Some exhibit signs and symptoms of depression.

Depression in older adults can be hard to recognize. For some, sadness is not their primary symptom. Many feel an emotional numbness or a lack of interest in activities, while others may not be as open to talking about their feelings. Depression may make itself known through physical symptoms. Some people experience dizziness, aches and pains, weight loss, difficulty sleeping or difficulty staying asleep (insomnia). Memory loss may also be a sign of depression; many people have noticed improved memory when they receive treatment for depression.

Some people experience behavioral changes. They do not leave the house. They

no longer enjoy the things they once enjoyed. Some stop eating or begin drinking more alcohol, while others hoard unimportant things. Others begin to think more about the end of life. They give away personal possessions, change their will or persistently talk about death. Suicidal thoughts should always be taken very seriously – no exceptions.

The research says that social isolation is a major cause of depression in older adults. Spending time with friends, family or in the community can help with depression. Seniors are more at risk of feeling socially isolated because their children may be grown, have moved away or are busy with the family they started. Seniors also may have suffered the loss of a pet, friends or a spouse. Additionally, health challenges, a reduced reaction time, declining eyesight and hearing loss can limit



DENNIS MARSH

driving. They find themselves at home alone more often. Being home alone often leads to a lack of activity. There is no one around and no need to get up.

Many people fall into negative thinking, such as “why bother?” The lack of a sense of purpose leads to a lack of motivation and things spiral from there.

What can the Orange Senior Center do about senior depression? We offer plenty of activities that help alleviate social isolation. Come on out and join one of our many fitness activities that will not only give you the opportunity to meet people and build friendships but will also grow your sense of community and belonging to something bigger than yourself. Exercise also gets your blood flowing, which will increase your overall health. We have musical entertainment, which can improve

your mood. Happy times lead to happy days, and happy days bring about happy weeks and build from there.

We have public speakers that stimulate the mind. A fulfilled life is one that includes growing and learning. Learning new things expands our horizons, provides new challenges, spark our minds and stimulates our interests. This gives us mental and physical stimulation, which give us something to look forward to, and for some, a reason to get out of bed.

Dennis Marsh is the senior services coordinator of Orange Community Services, which includes the Orange Senior Center. The center provides activities that promote independence, creativity, physical and emotional health, and lifelong learning for residents over the age of 55. For more information on the Orange Senior Center call 203-891-4788, visit orange-ct.gov/783/Orange-Senior-Center or email dmarsh@orange-ct.gov.

Orange Artisan Festival & Business Expo Approaching

The fifth annual Orange Artisan Fest and Business Expo is scheduled for Thursday, June 19 from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange.

This marks the fifth all-outdoor event and the 23rd business expo, as the artisan feature was added during COVID when the event was moved outside. Attendance is free and open to the public. It will go on rain or shine.

Visitors will find a mix of business and artisan vendors selling their products and services. There will be product

demonstrations, raffles, giveaways, food trucks, free activities, a dance performance and the first town concert night of the season.

Vendors will be available until 6:30 p.m., and the Sabb's Brothers will perform at the gazebo from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Food trucks will be on site for the duration or until their food runs out.

“We have a nice combination of businesses and artisans participating,” said Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annemarie Sliby. “Business vendors will be on hand in the areas of home improvement, finance,

realty, insurance, healthcare, senior care, sports, music and more. Artisan vendors will be selling their handmade items such as jewelry, sweets and baked goods, candles, framed art, etc. The event is a nice kick-off to the summer, and I would like to welcome the public and business population to stop by and shop, network, grab a bite, listen to the music and enjoy the day.”

There will be many activities for adults and children, including blood pressure checks provided by the Orange Visiting Nurse Association, a dance performance provided by the Brennan-Lucey Irish Dance Academy, touch a truck, bounce

house, slide and face painting.

Exhibitor space is available in both the artisan and business categories and registration is open. Space is limited and is expected to sell out by May. In addition to an exhibitor space, vendors receive their business information listed in the business directory, their business marketing materials included in event welcome bags and their business name on the OEDC website event page.

Anyone interested in participating can register online via the OEDC website at OrangeEDC.com/events_activities or call the OEDC office at 203-891-1045.



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فری ڈیلیوری

Here's To Your Health

The Benefits Of Magnesium

Have you ever heard of an unsung hero? It's a person who accomplishes great deeds but receives little or no recognition for their efforts. I could put magnesium in that same category.

Magnesium is an essential mineral and is required for the function of over 300 enzymes in our bodies. It plays a critical role for muscle and nerve function, blood sugar regulation and bone health. Many people are magnesium deficient, which has been tied to many health conditions such as osteoporosis, cardiovascular and metabolic disease, cognitive decline and dementia.

In a study published in the International Journal of Cardiology, men with highest dietary intake of magnesium had a 41 percent lower stroke risk compared to those with the

lowest intake. In another study published in the Journal of Cachexia, older women with highest dietary magnesium intake had a 14 percent reduced risk of frailty compared with those not meeting the recommended daily allowance. Several other studies show the tremendous benefits of having higher magnesium consumption.

However, magnesium alone is not the answer. Magnesium with vitamin D is key. Vitamin D supports the absorption of magnesium in your gut. Magnesium is actually required for vitamin D to be "activated." The combination is crucial.



MICHELE TENNEY

Your nutrition needs to be as fine-tuned as your vehicle. I recently saw my naturopath to make sure I am on target with my health requirements for my age. This consisted of blood work and several tests to see if I am deficient in any area. The good news is that even though I am above average for my age, I still needed to tweak a couple of things. Our bodies change often throughout a year, so it's important to remember that and be proactive about our health. You are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body. Reduce stress, exercise, get good sleep, hydrate and eat to optimize longevity.

If you're going to add more magnesium/

vitamin D to your to-do list, please make sure it's coming from a reputable source, and that the quality of your supplements comes from an excellent source.

Spring is here so put some bounce in your steps; be intentional about getting some fresh air and plant some lettuce. I believe in you, but it's more important for you to believe in yourself. Here's to your health. You got this.

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.

Book Reviews

The Revised Fundamentals Of Caregiving

As a reader I tend to gravitate to authors who make me feel something. It doesn't really matter what I'm feeling - anger, happiness, despair, joy - any emotion that a human can feel while reading is preferable to not feeling anything at all. Jonathan Evison, the author of The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving, is a master at making his readers feel all the feels.

Ben has lost it all: his wife, his children, his home and a good job. Briefly considering suicide, Ben realizes it's time to make a change and decides to take a caregiver course. His initial referrals don't work out, and then he's assigned to Trev, a 19-year-old with Duchenne muscular dystrophy who spends his days in a wheelchair watching weather reports.

Initially Trev's and Ben's relationship

starts off shakily. Trev has a bit of an attitude and Ben has difficulty adjusting to Trev's specific dress code when it comes to his vast collection of sneakers and going to the same movie theater every Thursday for a matinee. Trev's muscular dystrophy impacts his daily activities and requires assistance in toileting, dressing and eating. Ben handles these chores rather effortlessly, and thus begins the development of a closer bond between the two.

When Trev learns that his father is ailing, he beseeches, implores and begs his mother to allow Ben to take him on a road trip to visit his dad. His mom (who had earlier fired Ben) gives in to Trev's pleas and agrees to this trip. But there are certain conditions:



CARMELA DEVITO

frequent phone calls, and, if the trip becomes too much for Trev to handle physically, they are to return home immediately.

This trip turns out to be more than Trev could have hoped for. They visit national parks, become involved in a physical altercation resulting in Ben's being arrested, and Trev gets his first taste of love. While the arrest and altercation aren't

fun for either Ben or Trev, there are lots of pleasant surprises. The first surprise is Dot, a young runaway Ben agrees to help. Next comes a very pregnant Peaches and her ne'er-do-well boyfriend, Elton, who can't seem to stay out of jail. It is during this trip that Ben reveals his

own tragedy and how that impacted the crumbling of his already disintegrating marriage.

This is another of Evison's novels that reaches into your heart, plays around with it a bit and then leaves you in a place of hope and peace. There were several occasions when the intensity of the scene made me pause and reflect on what I just read. Evison writes characters who struggle with being human with strengths, weaknesses and everything in between. If you've never read any of his works, start off with this one. You won't be disappointed.

Carmela DeVito, a voracious reader with a journalism degree from Marquette University, is a retired social worker and a member of the Friends of the Milford Library.

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Coast Guard Auxiliary Offering Boating Courses

Boat America classes throughout the summer are held at the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Milford Flotilla, located at 1 Helwig St. in Milford on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. for April 12, May 10, June 7, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 6. The cost for these classes is \$70 per person.

All students must obtain a State of Connecticut conservation ID number before taking the class. To register for a free ID number, go to ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales.

Boat America will cover all the basic topics required for the safe operation of recreational boating and seamanship. It will also cover safe personal watercraft

operation and towing. Successful completion of this course satisfies the Connecticut licensing requirements for boats, personal watercraft and towing. Family participation is encouraged.

Navigation and GPS charting classes are set for April 26 and June 28, from 8 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. Cost for these classes is \$70 per person.

For additional information about US Coast Guard Auxiliary courses, call Dennis Belanger, public education officer, at 203-494-5219, email him at milfordflot073inc@gmail.com or visit <http://a0142403.uscgaux.info/>, where you can also register and pay for the offered classes.

Milford Elks Donate To Flotilla



The Milford Elks Lodge #1589 on April 1 donated \$1,025 to Milford Flotilla 73, the nonprofit that sponsors US Coast Guard Milford Flotilla 24-03, to further enhance the unit's boating and lifesaving public education classes held at their base throughout the boating season. From left: Patrick J. Jette, president of Milford Flotilla 73, Inc., and William Garfield, exalted ruler of Milford Elks Lodge #1589. Photo by Thomas R. Violante.

Lee Speaks At Milford Event



World-renowned forensic scientist Henry C. Lee was the key speaker during an event titled "Healthy Entertainment - Safeguarding Mental and Physical Balance" at the New England Asian American Cultural Center in Milford on March 14. The event was a collaboration between the NEAACCC, the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science. The event explored how individuals can maintain psychological well-being through healthy entertainment, avoid addiction and embrace a balanced and fulfilling lifestyle. Photo courtesy of the NEAACCC.

Stress Expert To Discuss Managing Loneliness

Nationally-recognized stress expert Dr. Wendy Hurwitz will give a presentation at the Milford Public Library on Tuesday, April 29 in which she will discuss managing loneliness.

When feelings of isolation or loneliness arise, how can we maintain or regain our balance? This program will provide information and tips to manage loneliness, followed by discussion with questions from audience members.

Hurwitz is a graduate of Yale University

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

The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public; no registration is required. The Milford Public Library is located at 57 New Haven Ave. in Milford. For more information, call the library at 203-783-3290 or go to <https://milford-pl.libcal.com/event/14275821>.



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Herbal Spa Opens In Orange



The Amity Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a Chinese lion dance to mark the official grand opening of Toudaotang Herbal Head Spa, located at 236 Boston Post Rd. Units 14-15 in Orange. The herbal head spa honors the principles of traditional Chinese medicine, creating treatments that integrate natural herbs and acupoint techniques. Included in the photo are Toudaotang team members, co-owners Cai Sun and Leia Cheng, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, Orange Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen and Chinese lion dancers. The lion dance is performed to bring good fortune, happiness and an auspicious start for a new business. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

SCHA Participating In School Meal Program

The Southern CT Hebrew Academy is participating in the Community Eligibility Program for the 2024-2025 school year. All students enrolled at the school on Derby Avenue in Orange may participate in the breakfast and lunch program at no charge. Household applications are not required to receive free meals, but alternate income

forms may be distributed by the school to collect household income data for other programs that require this information. The CEP is part of the federally funded National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

For more information, contact Hershey Hecht of the SCHA at 203-795-5261.

Artisan Market Coming To Milford

The Milford Artisan Market will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Milford Green at 168-176 Broad St. in downtown Milford.

Over 150 local artisans will be selling their handmade items including glasswork, woodwork, jewelry, natural products and

paintings. The event will also feature Mother's Day photo opportunities, dance demonstrations, free yoga classes, live music, food vendors and artist demonstrations. Admission is free.

The event is organized by Artisan Events by Ally. Learn more at facebook.com/milfordartisanmarket.



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Michele Tenney, Owner

Duck Donuts Opens In Orange



The Amity Chamber held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the grand opening Duck Donuts in Orange. The shop at 350 Boston Post Rd. is the first location in Connecticut for the specialty doughnut chain, and the second in New England. Connecticut and only the second in New England. Included in the photo are co-owners Robert El-Hage and Chris Cassese; Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen; Orange First Selectman James Zeoli; state Reps. Kathy Kennedy and MJ Shannon; Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annemarie Sliiby; Clifford Lynch and Stephen Francis, chair and vice chair of the Woodbridge Economic Development Commission; and Amity Chamber Board of Directors member Scot Prud'homme. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Tailor Shop Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on March 24 to celebrate the grand opening of Casablanca Tailor Shop's new location at 240 Broad St. in downtown Milford. Founded by master tailor Soumia Rossetti, the shop offers expert craftsmanship and haute couture expertise. From left: Mayor Tony Giannattasio, Rossetti, and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

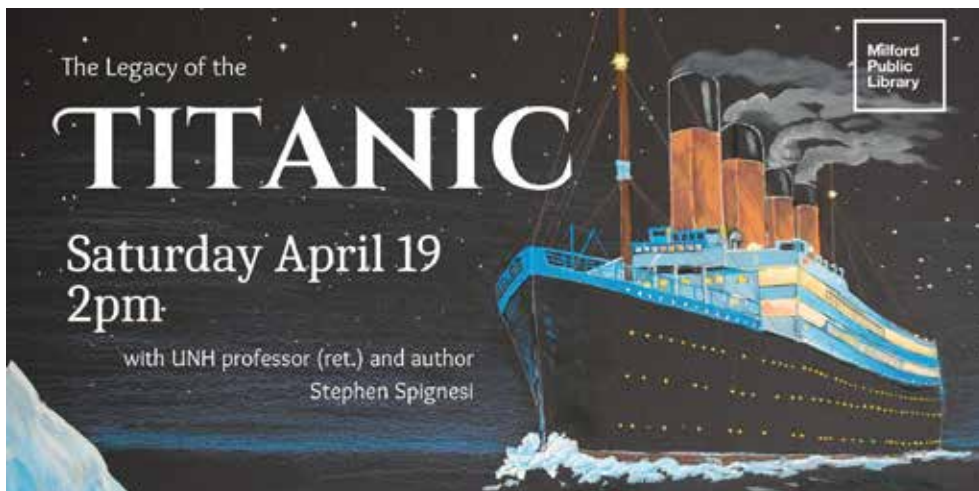
Fire Engine Pizza Opens In Milford






The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on March 26 to celebrate the grand opening of the Fire Engine Pizza Company at 204 Melba St. The pizza restaurant is housed in a former fire department station. Included in the photo are Mayor Tony Giannattasio, owners Segneri and Martin McCarthy, and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Student Art On Display At Case Memorial


Artwork created by Amity Middle School and Amity Regional High School students is on display in the meeting room at the Case Memorial Library in Orange throughout April. A reception will occur on Thursday, April 10 at 5 p.m. The library is located at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange.



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WHERE EVERY
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STORY



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.

Charles F. Barnes, Jr., age 67, of The Villages, FL and Milford, passed away peacefully on March 11, 2025 with his beloved wife, Denise M. Barnes by his side. (Shaughnessy Banks Funeral Home)



Philip D. Beach III, 82, of Oxford, longtime resident of Southbury, and originally from Milford, beloved husband of the late Susan Beach, passed away on March 20, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Florence G. Berrien, lifelong resident of Milford, passed away on March 28, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



The family of **Genevieve Kochanowski Bogucki** announces her death on February 25, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Susan D. Briggs, 83, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Richard Briggs, passed away on March 5, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gary Edward Burlock Jr. was born on December 28, 1969 and passed away on March 28, 2025 at age 55. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Virginia 'Georgette' Camp, 85, of Milford, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on March 14, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Vincent A. Capuano, 70, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at Cambridge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Fairfield. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Claude J. Champagne of Milford, CT passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at Cassena Care in Norwalk. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



James A. Clifford, 67, of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Linus J. Croffy, 68, of Milford, beloved husband of Marianne Winters-Croffy, passed away on March 6, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Jeffrey M. Curriere, age 44, of Milford, beloved son of Diane McQuillan Heche and the late Louis Curriere, passed away on Friday, March 21, 2025 after a long illness of cancer. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Mary Rose Daley, beloved mother and constant friend, 92, of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on March 12, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Alan Lee Dobyns, 82, of Milford, beloved husband of Haroula (Mihaelidou) Dobyns, passed away on April 2, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




Frank A. Downey, 91, of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 22, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)





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Obituaries

Fortunato "Fred" Favia was born December 20, 1969 in the Bronx, New York, and passed away April 1, 2025 leaving behind memories of love and kindness. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



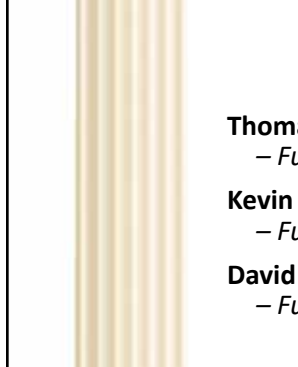
Thomas Gallo, age 74, of Milford, beloved husband of 50 years to Phyllis Reding Gallo, died on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at home. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



David Joseph Gerardi, 68, of Milford, CT, beloved husband of Maureen Oliver Gerardi, passed away unexpectedly on March 17, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Judith "Judy" Greene, a devoted community volunteer, loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away on March 11, 2025, at the age of 85. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Eugene J. Haeckel, U.S. Army retired, 94, of Orange, passed away on March 25, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ruth D. Hardy, 100, of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2025, while surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Dana Hendershott, age 75 of Milford, died peacefully after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



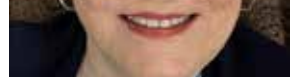
Dorothy M. Kalakay, age 89, beloved wife of Michael R. Kalakay, Jr. of Milford, entered peaceful rest on March 21, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



EChuan Ko Chi was born on January 2, 1935 and passed away on April 3, 2025 at age 90. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Elizabeth A. "Betty" Lane, 85, beloved wife of the late John T. Lane, of Milford for 30 years passed away peacefully on March 19, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Denise Maureen Lojko, 80 of Milford, passed away peacefully on March 19, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



On Saturday, March 22, 2025, **John Francis Maccone** passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family and friends. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Daniel Charles Mazzabufi, age 38, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on March 7, 2025 at his home. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



James "Jim" P. Patchell Jr., 74 of Milford, passed away peacefully on March 17, 2025, while surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



We are deeply saddened to announce that our beloved **Irene S. Perretta**, 80, of Milford, joined the love of her life in heaven on March 10, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Andre' Quinn, age 50, of Milford, CT, passed away on Sunday, March 23rd, 2025, at Yale New Haven-Bridgeport Hospital. (Brown and Hickey Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Alyce Mae White Richmond, 98, entered into eternal rest on March 23, 2025 at Yale New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael Campus, with family by her side. (Porto Funeral Home)



Roger A. Smith, 82 of Orange, CT, passed away on March 28, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Raymond A. Ross, age 66, passed away on March 7, 2025. He was born February 3, 1959, in Milford, Connecticut. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Barbara Stach, age 72, beloved wife of David Stach for 49 years, died unexpectedly on Thursday, March 20th, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



John Andrew Schwartz, affectionately known as Otto, passed away unexpectedly on Friday March 14, 2025 at his home. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Richard A. Stannard, 78, passed away peacefully at home, March 17, 2025. He was the dear husband of Debra Deyorio Stannard. (Celentano Funeral Home)



Shirley J. Silva, age 85, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Jack Silva, died on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Helene Myra Williams, 69, of Milford, beloved wife of Howard Williams, passed away on March 13, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**DATES FOR
TOWN OF ORANGE
BUDGET HEARING, TOWN MEETING,
AND REFERENDUM**

BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m. in the café at HPCC

BOARD OF SELECTMEN & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday May 14, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
in the HPCC Gym

Annual Town Meeting
Wednesday May 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m.
In the HPCC Gym

REFERENDUM
The Town of Orange Budget Referendum
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
From 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at HPCC (All Districts)

AMITY REGIONAL DISTRICT INFORMATION

Annual District Public Hearing on Amity Budget – 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, 2025
– Amity H.S.

Amity Annual Meeting - Monday, May 5, 2025 – Amity H.S.

Amity Referendum - Tuesday May 6, 2025, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at HPCC (All Districts)

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