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# Milford-Orange Times

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June 5, 2025

## Milford, Orange Mark Memorial Day With Parades, Memorials



Milford and Orange's annual Memorial Day parades marched through the municipalities' downtowns on Sunday, May 25. Additional photos on pages 12-13. Photos by Robert Creigh.

## Milford Budget Passes; Schools Make Cuts

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Aldermen on May 8 passed a \$264,664,181 budget that raised the mill rate for residents but cut more than \$1 million from the Board of Education's request.

The adopted budget raises the city's mill rate from 29.14 to 29.55, around a 1.5 percent increase.

The budget is nearly identical to that recommended in March by the Board of Finance. It was that body which cut the education funding. 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.

During the final Board of Aldermen vote, Democratic members failed twice to pass amendments that would restore some funding for the schools. In both cases, the vote was split along party lines and failed to meet the 10-vote majority needed.

"We have heard a public outcry for three years in a row for our Board of Education," Democratic member Holly Mulrenan said, referring to similar cuts made by the finance board during the previous two budget cycles. The aldermen restored the funds in 2023 but

*Continued on page*

## Milford Commercial Zone May Open To Housing

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Planning and Zoning Board at a May 28 special meeting considered the possibility of adding housing to the corridor design development-3 zone.

The zone runs through the center of Milford, down the Boston Post Road at exit 34 off I-95 over to Bridgeport Avenue, terminating shortly before Milford Hospital. It currently does not allow for housing. City Planner David Sulkis noted that the new location for the Beth-El Center homeless shelter is being constructed in that zone, and the former K-Mart building is also being converted into apartments within the zone.

"It was cleverly-designed spot zoning,"

Chair Jim Quish said of the K-Mart approval, which was granted under language that did not open housing to other parts of the zone. "I'm not sure we did the right thing, but we did what we did."

The zone primarily consists of commercial properties currently. Commercial properties have struggled in recent years between the rise of internet shopping and pandemic-era remote work.

At the same time, Connecticut is facing a major housing shortage, with the General Assembly perennially mulling legislation

*Continued on page*

## Fitzmaurice Dem Choice For First Selectman Candidate



Fitzmaurice

The Orange Democratic Town Committee presented their slate of candidates for November's election on May 20, including announcing that Orange resident Dan Fitzmaurice will challenge 10-term First Selectman Jim Zeoli.

Among a crowd gathered at High Plains Community Center, the municipal candidates spoke about why they are ready to serve the Orange community.

"Local government shapes our day-to-day lives more than almost anything else," said Fitzmaurice in his remarks to the group. "Our local boards and

*Continued on page*

## Orange, Amity Budgets Pass By Wide Margins

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Voters in Orange overwhelmingly endorsed the town and Amity budgets in two separate May referenda that asked residents to approve modestly higher spending in both cases.

The tally was 227 in favor to 35 against in the May 21 referendum for the town budget, which includes costs for the elementary schools. The Amity budget, which funds the middle schools and high schools, was approved by the three participating towns in a May 6 referendum by a margin of 943 to 346.

Orange's share of that total was 402 in favor to 113 opposed.

Voter turnout in both cases was low. Orange's total population is slightly over 14,000.

The \$86,083,562 town budget marks a rise of about \$2.3 million over last year's totals, or 2.71 percent. 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.

*Continued on page*





Adopt A Pet: Amber



Amber is a large female American Staffordshire Terrier. She's 4 years old. She has been spayed and has all of her shots. She can be adopted from Milford Animal Control, located at 664 East Broadway in Milford. For more information, call 203-783-3279. Photo courtesy of Milford Animal Control.

Giannattasio Holds Campaign Kickoff



Mayor Tony Giannattasio held a reelection campaign kickoff party on May 28 at Dockside Brewery. Giannattasio, a Republican, is serving his first term as the city's mayor. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Milford Duck Race Coming Up

The Milford United Way Duck Race is on for Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fowler Memorial Bridge in downtown Milford. During this annual event, up to 10,000 yellow rubber ducks will be released into Milford Harbor and race for prizes.

The Milford United Way organizes the fundraiser, where folks are able to “adopt” a small yellow duck for \$5. Each duck has a distinct number on the bottom. The duck drop takes place on race day at noon. As the ducks make their way to the finish line, they are retrieved for a variety of prizes. More than 50 prizes are on offer, including some high-ticket items as grand prizes.

A second part of the event involves \$100 “high stakes” tickets. Tickets are priced at

\$100 each – with only three prizes available. First place receives \$2,500; second place gets \$1,500; and third place gets \$1,000.

In addition, a vendors show will be located at the Fowler Rotary Pavilion, as well as a variety of children’s activities and several food trucks.

Proceeds from the event are redirected back into the Milford United Way’s community efforts to address food insecurity, unstable shelter, mental health and well-being, along with education and training.

To purchase Duck Race tickets, visit [unitedwayofmilford.org/2025-milford-united-way-duck-race/](http://unitedwayofmilford.org/2025-milford-united-way-duck-race/). For questions, contact Kathy Bonetti of the Milford United Way at [kathy@milfordunitedway.org](mailto:kathy@milfordunitedway.org).

Milford-Orange Times

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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 Lee Cohen, Orange Chamber   | Jennifer Ju, Facing Ourselves    | Jennifer Paradis, Homelessness     |
| Cyndi Consoli, Arts               | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate      | Trish Pearson, Insurance           |
| Steve Cooper, Restaurant Reviews  | Dominick Lombardi, ORTC          | Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel         |
| Rob Craft, Recovery               | Dan May, Local Geology           | Leonora Rodriguez, Milford Seniors |
| Theresa Rose DeGray, Bankruptcy   | Marilyn May, Milford History     | PJ Shanley, Financial Planning     |
| Carmela DeVito, Book Reviews      | Dennis Marsh, Orange Seniors     | Raymond Spaziani, Wine             |
| Jody Dietch, ODTG                 | Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances  | Michele Tenney, Wellness           |
| Pat Dray, Gardening               |                                  | Don Wetmore, Time Management       |

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## Wind Phone Installed In Milford



Milford is the location of a recently-installed wind phone at the upper duck pond on the North Street side of the pond. The phone was the work of Amy Bowman to honor her granddaughter, Brianna Rose Sabol, who died at age 26 in a car accident in November 2022. A wind phone is a disconnected telephone used by people to hold one-way conversations with deceased loved ones. The first wind phone came out of Japan in the early 2010s; hundreds have been built around the world since, including 17 around Connecticut, according to mywindphone.com. Photo by Amy Bowman.

## Milford Pride Coming To Green

Milford Pride will host its second annual “Pride on the Green” event to be held on Saturday, June 28 from noon to 4 p.m. on the Milford Green. The event will feature local food trucks, the band Sister Funk, local inspiring speakers, a DJ, entertainment, face painting, dozens of local vendors, LGBTQIA+ organizations and more. This all-ages community event is free and open to all.

More information on Milford Pride on the Green can be found at milfordctpride.org and through Milford Pride’s Facebook and Instagram pages @milfordctpride.

## Orange Gets State Grant For Paving

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange has been approved for a \$600,000 grant through the state’s Small Town Economic Assistance Program to repave several parking lots and replace guardrails, according to a release from Gov. Ned Lamont’s office.

The town sought the grant under the initiative of Town Engineer Bob Brinton, who said the funds would be used to repave the parking lots at the Case Memorial Library, the Clark building, and behind High Plains Community Center, as well as replace some guardrails.

The town will contribute \$150,000 of its

own money toward the projects.

The STEAP grant program is managed by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for economic development, community conservation and quality-of-life capital projects.

“Our small towns are an important part of what makes Connecticut such a special place to live and work,” Lamont said in a release. “By partnering with each town, we can help get these infrastructure projects completed so these towns can continue to thrive, remain competitive, attract businesses, and improve the quality of life for our residents.”

## “Back to Bacharach” Show Coming To Case Memorial

The Christine Spero Duo will perform in the musical show entitled “Back to Bacharach” at the Case Memorial Library in Orange on Saturday, June 21 at 2 p.m.

Winner of six Grammys and three Academy Awards, Bacharach, in collaboration with Hal David, wrote hundreds of pop songs from the 50s through the 80s. Over a thousand artists have recorded his music; also, in 2015, Rolling Stone ranked Bacharach and David at #32 on the list of 100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time.

This show pays tribute to some of their greatest inspirations. The audience will remember such iconic love songs as “What the World Needs Now Is Love” and “The Look of Love” as well as many others that

became interwoven into the mainstream culture of the time.

The two performers are singer, songwriter and pianist Christine Spero and her partner multi-instrumentalist Elliot Spero. They have been recording and playing live shows together for over 30 years. Their diverse repertoire includes jazz, Latin and Brazilian classics as well as Motown. They have also explored such famous songsters as James Taylor, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Steely Dan and The Beatles.

The event takes place in the library’s meeting room. It is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at casememorallibrary.org or call 203-891-2170. The library is located at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange.

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Opinion & Editorial

State Rep. District 117

# Pride Month Is About Protection, Progress, People

Pride Month is a time each June for celebration, reflection and recommitment. It's a moment to honor the trailblazers who came before us – those who stood up, spoke out and paved the way for a more inclusive world. It's also a reminder that our work is far from over.

As a young LGBTQ+ person serving in the Connecticut General Assembly, I know that visibility matters – and so does action.

We're witnessing a disturbing trend across the country: a coordinated effort to roll back the rights and recognition of LGBTQ+ people. Book bans are targeting queer stories. Laws are being passed to restrict gender-affirming care and censor inclusive education. These attacks aren't just political – they're personal, and they're dangerous. They send one message: that LGBTQ+ people

should be erased or made invisible.

Here in Connecticut, we are choosing a different path. We are saying loudly and clearly: you belong, you are safe and you are seen.

This legislative session, I had the honor of leading the passage of HB 6913 in the House of Representatives and working with Senate leadership to ensure its success in the Senate. HB 6913 protects LGBTQ+ seniors in nursing homes and long-term care facilities from discrimination and mistreatment.

Too often, LGBTQ+ elders – many of whom



STATE REP. (D-117)  
MJ SHANNON

spent their lives fighting for the rights we enjoy today – find themselves once again having to hide who they are just to receive respectful care. Some fear being misgendered, isolated or denied services in the places that should offer comfort and dignity.

HB 6913 addresses these harms head-on. It prohibits discrimination in long-term care based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and HIV status. It ensures LGBTQ+ residents can live authentically, with access to the care they need. And it requires staff training so providers can offer inclusive, respectful support.

This legislation is about more than policy –

it's about people. It's about ensuring that no one spends their final years afraid to be themselves. It's about dignity, safety and compassion.

I am proud that HB 6913 passed with strong support, and even prouder of the message it sends: that in Connecticut, LGBTQ+ people deserve respect and protection at every stage of life.

The fight for equality doesn't end when Pride Month does. We must keep showing up, speaking out and building a future where every person can thrive – no matter who they are or who they love.

To every LGBTQ+ person in Milford, Orange, West Haven and across our state: you matter. You are not alone. And I will never stop fighting to make sure Connecticut remains a safe, affirming place for all.

Happy Pride.

## Letters to the Editor:

Send us your letters to the editor with no more than 350 words to [editor@theorangetimes.com](mailto: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.

## Keep Milford's Two High Schools

To the Editor:

Every few years outside consultants are hired at great taxpayer expense to write long-range options for our schools.

Milford's neighborhood school system took decades to create by numerous wise superintendents with the support of many sophisticated Board of Education members.

Milford's geographically balanced high schools are ideally situated at opposite ends of our very large city. Our middle schools are situated in western Milford, central Milford and eastern Milford. Each has had significant additions and upgrading in recent years.

Our elementary schools are situated in places where Joe Foran and other prominent superintendents along with Board of Education input chose them to be.

We would caution the Milford Board of Education to think long and hard about breaking the system which was created by many who came before you. There are so many reasons why Milford's neighborhood schools are the envy of surrounding towns.

We urge you to vote against any long-range proposal calling for the closing of Jonathan Law High and Foran High School for so many reasons. Longer times on school buses is just one. One high school means fewer opportunities for cheerleaders, sports teams, newspaper, student council, drama, etc. is a second. Larger class size is a third. Greater anonymity, a fourth. Many towns such as Fairfield and Meriden had consolidated high schools only to find later that it had been a big mistake. They brought the two high schools back.

Please do not make the same mistake other towns have made in the past by voting for a plan calling for one new, costly, huge high school where none is needed.

Timothy Chaucer  
Kelley Cummings  
Co-Chairs, Milford Citizens for Our Neighborhood Schools

## Why I'm Running for First Selectman

To the Editor:

Orange is already a fantastic place to live. But that doesn't mean we can't make it even better.

That's why I'm running for first selectman

alongside a full team of committed Democratic candidates. Together, we're focused on lowering your taxes, improving essential town services that matter most to you and protecting what makes Orange so special.

I grew up right next door in Milford, and Orange has always been part of my life. As a kid, I swam countless laps at the community center pool with ARAC, spent long summer days at our Park and Rec camps, and picked out the best birthday presents at Jesse's Toys. When my wife, Sarah, and I were searching for the right home in the right town to raise our family, we chose Orange.

Since then, juggling work and parenting has kept me busy, and I know I'm not alone. It's hard enough to follow the national news, let alone stay on top of what's happening in Town Hall. But local government shapes our everyday lives in ways that really matter. Our boards and commissions decide how your tax dollars are spent and if our schools, parks and facilities get the attention they deserve. And as top-down decisions from Washington, DC drive up prices of everyday essentials and chip away at our sense of security, strong local leadership matters more than ever.

When you see me or any Orange Democrat out in the community, know that we're not here to talk at you like a politician. We're here to listen to you like a neighbor. After years of leading local, state and national organizations through their toughest challenges, I know that real progress happens when people come together, share their perspectives, and solve problems side-by-side.

So whether you've lived here for decades or just moved in, I hope you'll connect with us and help keep Orange strong. This is our chance to build a more welcoming, more responsive, and more effective Town Hall – together.

You can reach me any time at [daniel.fitzmaurice@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.fitzmaurice@gmail.com) or 203-710-2966. I'd love to hear from you.

Dan Fitzmaurice  
Orange

## Orange Is a Town Worth Investing In

To the Editor:

My family chose Orange because it's tight knit with a strong sense of community, just like the small town where four generations of my family lived. We're raising our three boys here, now in high school, eighth grade and second grade, and we've been actively involved every step of the way. I have served as co-vice president of the Peck Place PTO as well as co-president at Mary L. Tracy, chaired popular events like the Spooktacular, and volunteered with Cub Scouts and Orange Little League. My husband is a dedicated coach for our soccer, basketball and baseball leagues.

If you know me, you know I'm brutally honest. That's why I've spoken up loudly for

long-overdue renovations at Fred Wolfe Park. (Flushing toilets, anyone?) The committee is making great progress, but we shouldn't have to fight so hard for land that is already the town's land and leased out for \$375 per year to a local farmer, 14 acres we should be utilizing in ways that benefit the whole town. We shouldn't have to wait so long for basic upgrades in a community like ours.

I love living in Orange, but too many things have been neglected for too many years. Just look around and you'll see how many of our town buildings are aging and in disrepair. I can count on two hands the number of times the outdated boiler at the community center has broken during swim meets, leaving hundreds of kids, coaches and families in the cold. The longer we wait, the more costly these fixes become.

I'm running for the Board of Selectmen to be a leader who listens and delivers.

Let's start making smart investments that serve everyone, like energy-efficient upgrades that lower our town's utility bills. Amity High School paid nothing for its new solar canopy and is saving \$80,000 a year. Let's modernize our public facilities and fields to bring in more rental revenue and drive more customers to our local businesses. I could go on and on – and I'm sure you could, too.

I'm not running as a politician, but as a problem solver and a doer. I'll respond to your emails. I'll listen to your concerns. You can count on me to show up, follow through and take on the issues that matter most. Orange is full of potential, and I'm ready to get to work.

Erika Higgins  
Orange Board of Selectman Candidate

## Excitement About This Year's Democratic Slate

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express my excitement about this year's slate of Democratic candidates for the November municipal election. I served as chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee Nominating Committee this year. It was the first time I was involved in the process of candidate selection. Every candidate, current office holders and new prospective candidates alike, came for an interview with the six-member committee. Apart from having impressive credentials, I found the candidates' motivation, knowledge and desire to serve our town truly inspiring.

Most of this year's Democratic candidates are raising young families in Orange. They are willing to put in the time that it requires to serve on our boards and help make Orange stronger for all our families.

I couldn't be more pleased that the committee endorsed Dan Fitzmaurice for the nomination for first selectman. I first met Fitzmaurice 10 years ago when our eldest children attended Orange Community Nursery School together.

Like me, he also has children in both of our school systems, bringing a unique perspective. I am confident that the policy experience Fitzmaurice brings to the table, having worked on statewide initiatives and in collaboration with legislators, will be an amazing asset to Orange, helping us to maximize grant and state funding for our initiatives. Fitzmaurice is first and foremost a collaborator who knows how to get things done and cares deeply about our community.

It takes a lot of courage and commitment to step up and run for office. This slate of Democratic candidates brings fresh ideas about how we can create an additional sense of community in our town. They care about protecting the education of our children and will advocate for all our residents, not a select few.

One of the questions the Nominating Committee asked each candidate was, "How will you ensure that the voices of your constituents are heard?" While there were different answers about the methods, one thing is for sure: they want to listen. These 2025 candidates are ready to engage with you, hear what you have to say, and are enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve.

Melissa Johnston  
Orange

## Volunteerism Matters

To the Editor:

I want to thank the town of Orange and Orange Community Services for bestowing upon me the Living Treasure Award, along with recipients Robert Sigler and Patricia O'Leary Treat. The Pasta Festa event held on May 15 at St. Barbara's Church was overwhelmingly filled with love, laughter, friends and family. It is a true honor serving as an Orange Lion and president of The Orange Land Trust. Volunteerism is an integral part of Orange life and I hope it continues.

When my wife and our family moved to Orange in 1983, we were astonished at all of the organizations run by volunteer townspeople, and it shaped me into who I am today. I urge you to get involved, for it is better to give than to receive. As First Selectmen Jim Zeoli said that night, "we are all living treasures."

The families who welcomed us when we moved have been members of the community for many generations. I want to thank in particular the Ewen family and their daughter Chantelle, who was our babysitter for many years for our three daughters, who are now moms themselves, Sharon Ewan for her continued involvement with the Conservation Commission, and finally Jim Ewen for his incredible and untiring energy helping the Land Trust bridge projects, to connect and enhance our hiking trail system.

Dr. Lawrence Messina  
Orange Land Trust President and Lions Club member



For Nature’s Sake

What We Owe To Horseshoe Crabs

Anyone who’s had a vaccine in the last 30 years or needed a catheter, insulin shot or surgical implant might offer a nod of thanks, on their next beach walk, to the nearest horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*). News reporting has called the species “heroes of modern medicine,” and even as doctors were scrambling to offer a COVID vaccine, it was a mysterious element from horseshoe crab blood that drew attention for making those vaccines safer; a natural history museum called it the “miracle vaccine ingredient.”

The discovery goes back to the 1960s when scientists found an ingredient in the blue, copper-based blood of horseshoe crabs that has since helped doctors ensure the safety of medical devices and injectable liquids by detecting even minute amounts of contamination. It turns out that the curious helmet-like creatures that will be crawling onto local beaches for spawning season through the end of June have something in their blood that saves lives.

The medical product of horseshoe crab blood, called limulus amebocyte lysate, has been the gold standard for detecting bacterial toxins for decades – but not without a toll on the number of crabs. The Center for Biolog-

ical Diversity estimates that 1.1 million horseshoe crabs along the Atlantic coast are harvested by the biomedical industry each year, sending them to labs where as much as 30 percent of each animal’s blood is drained, while still alive, before returning them to the wild. A worrying recent study suggests that as many as 30 percent of horseshoe crabs do not ultimately survive the process.

At the same time, more than 700,000 horseshoe crabs are also being harvested along the Atlantic coast each year as bait for eel, conch and whelk fisheries. Research in 2022 out of Connecticut’s Sacred Heart University, an anchor institution for Project Limulus in our area, noted that a combination of overharvesting, pollution, climate change and habitat loss have all led to the depletion of the species in the Long Island Sound and decreased the role of the species in the region’s ecosystem to the point where they are “functionally extinct.”

There is hope in the supportive role that state and local policies are establishing for horseshoe crab survival, and even resto-

ration, in Connecticut. It may be that during this spawning season, though, the most directly helpful measures can be offered by those beachfront communities that can serve as hosts to this remarkable species.

For some starter trivia on the *Limulus polyphemus*, consider the following:



PATRICIA HOUSER

1. The horseshoe crab species is not technically a crab. According to scientists it is more closely related to:  
a) spiders  
b) armadillos  
c) turtles
2. True/False: Horseshoe crabs have existed on the Earth since before the first dinosaurs.
3. Choose the correct word: While helping an upended, still living, horseshoe crab back into the water, a person should (always/never) pick the animal up by its tail.
4. True/False: Horseshoe crabs outgrow their shells an average of 16 times before they reach maturity.
5. Which two of the following states have established a year-round ban on the capture of Horseshoe crabs for bait?  
a) Connecticut  
b) New York  
c) New Jersey
6. True/False: In its permits to beach organizations, Connecticut prohibits the mechanical raking of sand, deeper than two inches, between May 10 and July 15.
7. True/False: The biomedical companies that run labs for extracting horseshoe crab blood are strictly regulated to ensure humane practices.
8. True/False: The only substance that drug companies find acceptable for detecting bacterial endotoxins today is LAL (derived from horseshoe crab blood).

- Answers:
1. a. The horseshoe crab is most closely related to the arachnid family, which includes spiders, ticks and scorpions.
  2. True. Horseshoe crabs have been on the planet, with very little variation in appearance, more than 450 million years.

3. Never. Wildlife experts say a horseshoe crab can be injured if someone tries to pick it up by the tail. If the animal has been flipped over by a wave experts suggest gripping it at the widest part of the shell and gently carrying it to water or replacing it on the ground that way.
4. True. Beach walkers may fret over the strangely empty shells that can litter the shoreline, but horseshoe crabs, who live to an average of 20 years, grow out of their shells several times before reaching full growth at around 10. The process of shedding the old and growing new shells, in this case, is called molting.
5. a. and c. Connecticut banned all harvesting of horseshoe crabs for bait fishing as of October 2023, and New Jersey enacted a similar ban in 2008. New York restricts the capture of horseshoe crabs for bait only during certain spawning periods.
6. True. The goal of restricting machine raking of sand during this period, says the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is to protect spawning horseshoe crabs.
7. False. According to Larry Niles, biologist and co-creator of the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition, the bleeding industry is completely unregulated. Reformers urge closer attention to the animal’s welfare as part of more sustainable approaches to utilizing the “miracle vaccine ingredient.”
8. False. Happily for the future of horseshoe crabs, a few synthetic (lab-made) alternatives to LAL, including one made from cloning the element from crab blood, are gaining acceptance among pharmaceutical groups.

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



Horseshoe crabs. Photo by Gregory Breese/USFWS.

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Orange Democratic Town Committee

The Fresh Face Of The Orange Democrats

“All politics is local” is a famous quote generally attributed to by Tip O’Neill, the 47th Speaker of the House of Representatives. Many of us follow national politics more than what happens in our own backyard. Yet what happens in town hall actually affects your day-to-day life more than what happens in Washington, DC.

Despite political differences, we choose to live in Orange because we all love this town. The Orange Democratic Party is offering a slate of candidates with diverse backgrounds that best represent the residents of our town. I have been part of the nominating process for many years with the Orange Democratic Town Committee. This is by far the strongest slate of leaders that Orange has seen in many years. Special thanks go to ODTCC Vice Chair and Nominating Committee chair Melissa Johnston for running a fabulous nomination process and offering this opportunity to Orange for a slate that will listen to and strongly represent the residents of our town.

We are proud to introduce our proposed slate of candidates to you ahead of our July caucus. Leading the slate as our endorsed candidate for the nomination for first selectman is Dan Fitzmaurice. He and his wife, like so many of us, chose to live in Orange for the great school systems.

Fitzmaurice is currently the director of advocacy for the CT United Way. His vision for this campaign is to listen to what the residents of Orange have to say. This is an inclusive campaign where our candidates want to hear what the residents of Orange believe will make our town stronger and work for everyone.

Mark Moyher is running for tax collector. Moyher is a vice president senior trad-

er and brings a strong finance background to this position. He believes the tax collector is here to help residents with their tax issues and offer solutions. Paying taxes shouldn’t be a dreaded fact of life, but seen as an opportunity to support the town.

Mitch Goldblatt is running for re-election to the Board of Selectmen. Goldblatt has been serving Orange in one capacity or another for more than 30 years. He has always made himself available to residents and is a regular attendee at most town events, many times the only selectman in attendance.

PJ Shanley, like Goldblatt, grew up in Orange and began serving his town as a member of the Board of Finance before moving to the Board of Selectmen. Shanley is a financial advisor who brings not only a financial eye to the board, but also a deep understanding of the town.

Erika Higgins is making her first run for public office as a candidate for the Board of Selectmen. Her passion for making Orange a family-friendly town comes from raising her three boys here.

Kevin McNabola also has served our town for many years on the Board of Finance. He understands town finances and is the director of finance for Meriden. He has chaired the Board of Finance in the past and served as the business manager for the Orange Board of Education.

Kelly Billings also grew up in Orange. You may know her as Kelly Berwick. She is a public defender and brings her balanced view of the issues as a candidate for the Orange Board of Education.

Lauren Gray may be newer to Orange,



JODY  
DIETCH  
.....

but she is not a newcomer to serving. She has been involved in campaigns for many years, offering her background in communications. Gray and her family chose to live in Orange for the school system. She looks forward to bringing her understanding of how to get things done to the Orange Board of Education.

Josh Orlinsky is a teacher and has a master’s degree in educational leadership. He and his wife chose to raise their two young boys in Orange. As a teacher, Orlinsky will represent the interests of our students and teachers on the Orange Board of Education.

Erin Wilson is a nurse and nurse educator who recently received her doctorate. She and her husband chose to raise their two young children in Orange. She is ready to give back to the town by serving on the Orange Board of Education, helping make our school system the very best it can be.

GG Cabrera grew up in Bethany, went to Amity High School and now chose to settle in Orange. She is a candidate for Town Plan & Zoning because she finds the process of creating a community feel to be important to the interests of all residents.

Beth Marshea holds an MBA and is a literary agent. Her interest in running for the Town Plan & Zoning role is based on what she sees as opportunities for our town, ensuring that all residents have their needs met in terms of businesses, housing and green space.

Sean-Michael Green’s diverse background as a successful businessman, educator and attorney makes him an ideal candidate for the Amity Board of Education. A

board of education deals with curriculum, policy, facilities and budgets. Green looks forward to serving our town and strengthening the Amity board.

Jen Jacquet has a background in special education. She is currently the executive director of Safe from Online Sex Abuse, which protects children. She is uniquely qualified to bring her experience working with and for children to the Amity Board of Education and wants to see all children reach their full potential.

Ralph Marguy is a fire inspector with Yale and co-owner of Sugaree Acre Farms in Orange. Marguy has two children and would like to serve on the Amity Board of Education because he wants to see our students best prepared for the world, thriving in a strong, inclusive and fiscally sound school system.

Rounding out our current list of candidates are Byron Crosdale, Santo Galatioto Jr. and Randy Thomas for the position of constable.

All these candidates look forward to meeting you over the next few months and hearing what you would like to see them accomplish in their respective elected positions. To learn more about them, visit [OrangeCTDems.org](http://OrangeCTDems.org).

There are still a couple of slots on the ballot yet to be filled. If you’re interested in joining this dynamic team, reach out to Melissa Johnston at [msmelissajohnston@gmail.com](mailto:msmelissajohnston@gmail.com).

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

Book Sale Coming To Case Memorial

The Friends of Case Memorial Library will host its next community book sale on Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the basement of the library at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange.

There will be a wide variety for readers of all ages and all interests, including sports, grill cooking, US and British leaders, banned books, staff picks, vacations and

staycations, hikes and bike rides, crime, fiction and art books. CDs and DVDs will be \$0.25 each, and vinyl records are \$1 each or \$3 for a set.

Most books are \$2 for softcover and \$3 for hardcover. Some books may be priced higher. “Last call” books will be priced at \$0.25 and \$0.50. Cash or check are accepted; no credit cards.

Milford To Celebrate Juneteenth

Milford’s annual Juneteenth celebration and commemoration will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Milford Green. There will be food for sale, all-day entertainment featuring headliner Timmy Maia at noon and Magic Soul Drumline at 4 p.m., literacy Juneteenth activities including guest read-alouds for children and book giveaways, games, presentations, historical and educational materials and Juneteenth merchandise for sale.

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of Black Americans who had been enslaved. It was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, but has been celebrated by some as far back as the 1800s.

The event is free. All are welcome.

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Homelessness

Why Connecticut Must Fund Warming Centers

The line seemed never-ending. Walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen tanks – and people clutching both those items and their beloved pets and personal items, wrapped in layers, waiting outside. They came to the Beth-El Center’s no freeze program every night, seeking refuge from the biting cold.

We had planned for the season, which runs from November 15 to March 31, expecting to see numbers like last year, a record-breaking year when we served 99 individuals. But what we saw this winter was beyond anything we had imagined: 206 people – and 18 companion animals – turned to us for nightly shelter. Our oldest guest was 81. Several were just 18.

This is what homelessness looks like today, even in Milford.

Nearly 25 percent of our guests had been homeless for over a year. Over 27 percent live with chronic illnesses or physical disabilities. And more than half suffer from severe mental

health challenges. This crisis is not limited to urban centers. It’s here, in our towns, among our neighbors.

No-freeze programs are not traditional shelters. They are the emergency rooms of the shelter system – a vital, life-saving resource for people with nowhere else to go. As homelessness across Connecticut increased by 13 percent from 2023 to 2024, warming centers like ours have become the only line of defense for many. When emergency shelter beds fill up – and they always do – unsheltered homelessness rises. And when people are forced to sleep outside in the dead of winter, they die. When they have access to warming centers, they live.

At Beth-El, we see our no freeze program as a beacon of hope. For those who stay with



JENNIFER PARADIS

us nightly, we are their temporary home, their first step toward stability. And for our wider community, we’re part of the solution to one of our most difficult and pressing issues.

One donor dropped off socks and said, “I’m so glad you’re here. I feel like I can only do something small to help, but it was 11 degrees this morning – I couldn’t imagine being outside.”

What many don’t realize is that programs like ours not only save lives, they save money. Warming centers reduce the strain on police, fire and emergency medical services. They offer safety and dignity while creating pathways to housing. We don’t manage homelessness – we help solve it.

This year, one in every four people across Connecticut was turned away from a warming center due to a lack of space. But at Beth-El,

with appropriate funding levels, trained staff, faith leaders, volunteers and community champions, we turned no one away.

The results speak volumes: over 70 percent of our guests moved on to shelter or permanent housing. With the support of critical state funding, we did our jobs, and amid a growing homelessness crisis, we delivered results.

Now, all of this is at risk.

Funding for cold-weather programs like ours is under threat, as is the critical prevention work that helps people stay housed after they’ve been helped. Without continued support, programs like ours could disappear – just when they are needed most.

We are the last resort. We are the place where people turn when every other door has closed. Without us, there is no refuge.

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

Orange Senior Center

Learning Through Loneliness

When your significant other passes, you may be devastated. Not only do you lose your soulmate, your best friend, your confidant, your life partner, but you may have lost the person who took care of the outside of the house, the person who paid the bills, the person who made sure there was enough money. The kids may be a big help with the funeral, but then they go home.

These questions may be overwhelming all the while you are grieving. Your one persistent thought may be, “This is too much. It’s all happening too fast”. And then you may panic.

The first step is to breathe, forgive yourself for not knowing everything, and then start asking questions.

- Locate and gather important financial documents. Look for bank statements, investment accounts, insurance policies and wills or trusts. Finding these documents will give you a better picture of your finances. Watch for statements and bills in the mail. Be sure to check emails and past tax returns for clues on what to look for.
- Keep a journal of who you spoke to, their contact information, account numbers

and what was discussed.

- Notify financial institutions and creditors such as banks, credit card companies, and insurance providers about the death. Typically, you will need to supply each of them with an original copy of the death certificate.
- Go through the bills and accounts to ensure they are up to date and payments are made on time.
- Consult with professionals or seek guidance from financial advisors, estate attorneys or tax professionals for help with these matters. If accounts are in the deceased person’s name, contact the companies to adjust the account. Consider your long-term goals and make a plan on how to achieve them.
- File for survivor benefits such as Social Security benefits, pension benefits, or life insurance payouts. There will be paperwork to complete, and they will all want an original copy of the death certificate also.

You cannot rush this. You have to give it time to work itself out. Your financial



DENNIS MARSH

experts and attorney can be a great help in navigating this process.

You may find a great deal of support from other widows and widowers in the neighborhood. They can share contacts for handymen, lawn care and snow removal. They may support one another by going out for a monthly breakfast or lunch. They can check in on each other, encourage each other through the holidays.

They may ask one another to keep an eye on their house when they travel.

The Orange Senior Center can also be a support, with fitness classes, art classes and social events. You can take trips, watch movies and attend lectures. You may meet the Milford/Orange probate judge, or attorney Theresa Rose DeGray, who offers a free monthly legal clinic or learn about downsizing with Coldwell Banker. You can listen to Steven Archer, who discusses how to simplify your finances. You can attend cooking demonstrations from area assist-

ed living facilities and listen to home care agencies discuss how to stay in your own home longer with the right supports. You can hear lectures from various orthopedics, chiropractors and holistic health experts on how to stay fit and care for aches and pains.

When your loved one passes away, you may be devastated. You may feel lost and alone. But you can grow into a new person, proud of your independence and newfound self-confidence. You can attend the bereavement group, participate in chair exercise and share a lunch table with other people just like you. You do not have to be alone.

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 Fairgrounds

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Town of Orange Concert Nights

Performing 6 pm – 8 pm at Gazebo

Instrumentalists

At the Pavilion

Performing 5 pm – 7 pm

June 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Sabb's Brothers (at ArtisanFest)	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Foggy Otis
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Extras	August 28 <sup>th</sup>	PJ Boathwright
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Yesterday Today	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lainey Kidder
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Foggy Otis
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Boomers	Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Zach Andersen
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Gunn Street Revival	Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sal Grillo
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Badowski Blues Band		

Stress Expert To Discuss Explorations In Energy

Nationally-recognized stress expert Dr. Wendy Hurwitz will give a presentation at the Milford Public Library on Tuesday, June 17 in which she will discuss managing loneliness.

The presentation will discuss energy and its role in the body, ways of perceiving energy and ways of augmenting perception. There will be demonstration with audience volunteers and opportunities to learn and experience a technique to enhance your personal energy level and intuition.


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

The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. It is free and open to the public; no registration is required. The Milford Public Library is located at 57 New Haven Ave. in Milford. For more information, call the library at 203-783-3290 or go to milford-pl.libcal.com/event/14404083.

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Rotary Club of Orange

The Importance Of Service Above Self

As I step down as president of the Rotary Club of Orange, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members and the community for the opportunity to serve. Over the past three years, I have been honored to be part of this incredible group of individuals who embody the spirit of Rotary's motto, "service above self."

I've had the privilege of working alongside some of the most compassionate and dedicated individuals in our community, and I am proud of the work we've accomplished together. Typically, I would write about the past year, but I'd like to look ahead for this "goodbye" message to highlight a pressing need that our community will be facing in the coming years.

At our last club meeting, we were fortunate to have Dan Comenga, director of the

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Greater New Haven, share with us the vital work that his organization does. They provide essential services, including transportation for seniors to medical appointments, which can be a costly and logistical burden for many. Unfortunately, funding for these organizations is being drastically cut, with the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers facing a 57 percent cut for this service through the Older Americans Act. Their other programs are being cut as well.

This is a stark reminder that our greater community needs to come together to support organizations like the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers which are doing critical work



WENDY BARRY

to support our most vulnerable neighbors. As Rotarians, we are committed to service above self, and I urge everyone to think about how they can make a difference in the lives of those who need us the most.

Whether it's volunteering your time, donating to a cause you care about or simply being a good neighbor, every small action counts. I urge you to consider supporting organizations that are making a difference in our communities, like the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Purple Pantry Boxes, FISH of Greater New Haven, the Diaper Bank of Connecticut and so many more.

If you'd like to reach out to the Interfaith

Volunteer Caregivers of Greater New Haven, you can find them online at [carenewhaven.org](http://carenewhaven.org).

While my term as president may be coming to an end, my commitment to the Rotary Club and our community is not. I will continue to be an active member and look forward to working alongside you to make a positive impact.

Thank you again to the Rotary Club of Orange for the opportunity to serve, and to our community for their continued support.

Wendy Barry is the president of the Rotary Club of Orange. Contact her at [Wendy@wbarryrealtor.com](mailto:Wendy@wbarryrealtor.com).

Senior Life

Dehydration In Seniors

More and more seniors visit the emergency room each year due to dehydration. Being dehydrated can cause serious problems and happen to seniors any time of year. But as we enter the summer months, it is especially important to make sure we are all staying hydrated.

As you age, your body's fluid reserve becomes smaller and your ability to conserve water is reduced. Your thirst sense additionally becomes less acute. These problems are compounded by chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and dementia, and using certain medications. Older adults also may have mobility problems that limit their ability to obtain water for themselves. Many older adults are inconvenienced by needing to eliminate

frequently (prostate or overactive bladder issues) and avoid drinking enough for this reason.

Chronic illnesses such as diabetes also puts you at high risk of dehydration, as does kidney disease. Many medications increase urination and can contribute to dehydration. Even having a cold or sore throat makes you more susceptible to dehydration because you're less likely to feel like eating or drinking when you're sick.

In addition to challenges around drinking enough, many seniors living in older homes don't have air conditioning or loath to put it on because of the cost – or they just are not



SUSAN ODERWALD

feeling the heat. The lack of air conditioning is potentially very dangerous for older adults, especially during heat waves.

It may sound simple to just drink more, but this can be challenging. Encouraging plenty of fluids regularly throughout the day may not be enough for many seniors, especially people with dementia. Hydrating snacks often work better than pushing water. Bring on the watermelon, grapes, frozen juice pops or some Jello. Some of us will drink more if we add a little fizz – club soda in juices or on its own may be more tempting for some folks. Hot

liquids count, but anything with high caffeine content will aggravate an overactive bladder and may end up more dehydrating than hydrating.

Be aware of major symptoms of dehydration that may warrant immediate medical attention. These include not urinating or dark urine, confusion, rapid heartbeat and/or breathing, listlessness, shock or delirium.

As always, please check on elderly neighbors, friends and relatives during hot weather to ensure they are doing okay with the heat.

Susan Oderwald is care director at the Always Best Care Senior Services Milford Office. She can be reached at [Soderwald@abc-seniors.com](mailto:Soderwald@abc-seniors.com) or 203-877-1377.

Orange Congregational Church

Strawberry Festival

SATURDAY  
June 14, 2025  
RAIN DATE: JUNE 15

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Time Management

Five Errors Managers Should Avoid

Managers often experience the “time management crunch” as often, if not more often, than others in the workplace. In my 30 years of conducting time management seminars and individual executive coaching, I created this list of the five errors managers should avoid. It is a handy quick reference of what not to do.

As I have shared this list with executives throughout the world, many have told me that they already knew them but were not practicing some or all of what they knew. Knowing and not doing is no better than not knowing.

**1. Don’t delegate.** “This is too important. Better let me do it. By the time I show them how to do it, I could just as quickly get it done myself.” Some have this misconception about their indispensability. The graveyards are filled with indispensable people. If you are truly the only one who can do it, then how do you advance beyond where you are now? Taking the time to show someone how

to do something may well be more costly than what it would take for you to do it. But, if done correctly, it will pay repetitive dividends.

**2. Don’t spend your time on independent reading.** The rules just a few years ago were, “Learn a profession, and acquire the skills to do it, and then use that throughout your career.” Today, the rule is, “If you (and I) continue to do what we do, the way we have always done it, then, within the next few years, we could be obsolete.” The world is changing rapidly. There is no more standing on the knowledge of the past. We must take time currently and on a regular basis to stay ahead of the flood of ideas and information. There is no more standing still.

**3. Take the short-term view.** Do what makes you look good now, for this week or this quarter’s results. Ignore the impact of your current actions and decisions on the



DON WETMORE

long-term potential. Every action and every decision we take is like a stone thrown in the pond. The impact creates two results, the immediate splash and the ripple effects that reach all the shores. Be always conscious of the long-term effect caused by the actions and decisions that you are making or are failing to make.

**4. Get out of balance.** Our lives consist of seven vital areas including health, family, financial, intellectual, social, professional and spiritual areas. Like a seven-legged table, if one leg is too long or too short, it causes the entire table to wobble. As we advance in our careers, it is easy to get out of balance, then divorce, health problems and an empty lack of internal satisfaction rob us of the achievements we have made.

**5. Don’t be considerate of others.** More

than a “touchy-feely” good deed, better than 50 percent of one’s success in life is dependent upon the good cooperation of other people. If you do not have the good cooperation of other people, you can reach a level of success, for sure. But you will never know what you did not have. You will never know of the networking opportunities, the social opportunities and the business opportunities that were never shared with you, not because you should not have received them, but because those who might have shared them with you did not have a level of positive feeling toward you to go out of their way and give them to you.

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.

Book Reviews

Booktopia 2025: A Book Lover’s Dream

I adore books; always have, always will. I remember getting tons of books from Scholastic Books when I was in grade school. As an adult, book mail always gets me excited, especially when the blue box of happiness comes from the Book of the Month Club. It should come as no surprise that the annual Booktopia festival at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, Vermont is one of my favorite literary events of the year.

What is Booktopia? It’s a three-day lovefest between authors and readers. The authors talk about their books with questions from the participants. A side benefit is it gives the participants a chance to reconnect with old friends, make new ones and find out details about the authors that you won’t get from a book blurb.

Booktopia is run by the Northshire Bookstore with locations in Vermont and Saratoga Springs, New York. Its defining feature is a lovely archway designed from books. Not

only does it carry books, but it also carries gifts unique to the area. My particular favorite is Lake Champlain chocolate available in a wide selection of mouthwatering flavors. The store contains a cafe where a number of selections, including soups, sandwiches and baked goods as well as teas and coffee are available. It’s a perfect place for a respite from book browsing/shopping. I can’t say enough about the staff. They are kind, respectful, knowledgeable and resourceful.

Day one begins with registration, greetings by the staff and (this is my favorite part) “this \$50 gift card is burning a hole in my pocket,” a brief overview of what the gift card can purchase in the store or online. After a lunch break, the real fun begins. Author talks are held at either the bookstore or a local church directly across the street from the



CARMELA DEVITO

store. It’s up to the Booktopians themselves to figure out which author they want to see.

That night the bookstore hosts a buffet dinner with an author seated at each table. They participate in a trivia contest over dinner, with the winning teams selecting a variety of bookstore goodies. Alas, my team finished last, so we weren’t able to select anything.

Day two is a repetition of day one with more author discussions and a huge book signing event at the end of the day.

Sunday is the last event of the weekend, highlighted by a bestselling author presentation. This year the author was Julia Alvarez, whose books, including her latest, The Cemetery of Untold Stories, have landed on the bestseller lists. Alvarez gave a great talk on her writing process and where her ideas

come from. It’s a bittersweet ending to the event with many hugs, wishes for safe journeys home and to reconnect hopefully next year. It bears repeating that what makes Northshire so special are the people who run it. Starting from owner Nicole Ihasz and her sisters, to the booksellers and Director of Events Rachel Person, you are made to feel welcome as soon as you enter the store. I can’t wait to go back next year. While many of us have overwhelmed our bookcase and bought home more books than we can handle, the mantra of Booktopia is “what happens in Booktopia stays in Booktopia”

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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Smith Sworn In To Orange Board Of Selectmen



Orange resident Judy Smith, right, was unanimously appointed to the Board of Selectmen on May 15 to fill out the remainder of the term of Judy Wright Williams, who died recently. Smith, who has long served on the Town Plan & Zoning Board, was sworn in during the selectmen meeting. Photo by Ann Denny.



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Travel Matters

Eating Our Way Through Italy

We just enjoyed an authentic six-night culinary retreat in the Abruzzo region of Italy near the Adriatic. We stayed in a renovated palazzo (built in 1730) on a mountaintop in the Apennine Mountains with cooking classes in the morning and touring most afternoons. It was located in the small town of Carunchio – population less than 100.

It was amazing. The palazzo – which accommodates 21 people – is owned by a sommelier and his father who owns a local nearby winery. We hosted a group of 10 people, so we made up half of the diverse group from all over the US and Netherlands and Spain. By the end of the week, all 21 of us were great friends.

Chef Dino was both very skilled at cooking and baking, a great teacher, quite amus-

ing and spoke perfect English with Italian flair. We started each day with a perfect Italian breakfast of fruit, cheese, yogurt, sausage and a different pastry each day – homemade on the premises.

The croissants were delivered warm to the table, and divine. I am still coveting them.

We learned how to make homemade gnochietta pasta and sauce, cheese balls – with four kinds of local cheese, tiramisu, biscotti, Amaretto cookies and so much more.

Our tours included Vasto, a small city on the Adriatic coast, where we had a gourmet lunch in a trobacco, originally an old fish-



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

ing house turned into a seafood restaurant built on piers in the sea. The fresh seafood – including calamari, mussels and crayfish – just kept coming to our table accompanied by delicious local white wine.

In Agnone, we visited the Di Pasquo cheese factory and the Marinelli ancient bell foundry that is now the official provider of bells for the Vatican. The cities of Vasto and Agnone are quaint cities from medieval times with charming cafes and boutiques, and beautiful churches.

Our sommelier host and owner of the palazzo gave us an amazing wine tasting with incredible insight into what it takes to

become a sommelier in Italy, and how to determine quality and alcohol content.

The last evening we had a pizza extravaganza – making six kinds of pizza (possible only with their hearthstone pizza oven which cooks crust in two seconds). This culminated with an accordion player while the chef and staff serenaded us with Italian songs. Chef Dino is multi-talented as a performer as well.

We left a few pounds heavier, armed with our aprons and recipe books, and richer in delightful memories of cooking and eating with friends old and new.

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

Wine Talk

Time To Try Rosé

The Phoenicians brought grapes from Greece to the south of France about 500 BC. The wines they produced were blends of white and red grapes. They were light in color and easy drinking. They became popular. When the Romans took over, they had heard about the pink wines of southern France and used their trade networks to make them popular all around the Mediterranean. The south of France gained a reputation for making the best rosé. This reputation still exists today.

During the Middle Ages in the Bordeaux region, they made a violet-colored rosé. This was known as claret, which in Latin means “clarity.” This was popular in France, and when the English took over the region it became the wine of England. Claret stayed the most popular wine in England until the 20th

century.

Around the end of the Second World War, Mateus and Lancers were brought in from Portugal. These wines became a success in that they were easy drinking and slightly sweet. They were pink wines and Americans thought of this as rosé. They were inexpensive as well, and that helped. These wines stayed popular through the 1950s, and they continue to be in Europe today.

However, stateside the novelty wore off and sweet and cheap was no longer in vogue. Rosé was not considered to be a real wine and it lost its popularity.

Then in the middle 1970s, Bob Trinche-



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

ro of Sutter Home Winery had a problem. While making his Zinfandel he had a suck fermentation. This caused his zin to be light and sweet. He tried to fix it, but the wine would not continue to ferment. He had a lot of money tied up in his Zinfandel. He bottled it and called it White Zinfandel. He hoped someone would buy it. The results were fantastic. Trinchero had opened the floodgates. Over the next 15 years, White Zinfandel became one of the most popular wines in the country.

The greatest rosé is still made in the south of France. One of my favorites is Whispering Angel Côtes de Provence. At \$23 it is

wonderfully balanced with a great bouquet and a wonderful finish. All the rosés from Provence are good. Canada and the state of Washington are catching up too. Try some great rosé. It’s the wine of summer.

*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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# Orange Marks Memorial Day



Orange's annual Memorial Day parade marched down Orange Center Road on Sunday, May 25. Photos by Robert Creigh.



Milford Marks Memorial Day



Milford's annual Memorial Day parade marched through downtown on Sunday, May 25. Photos by Robert Creigh.



The Garden Spot

Time To Prune Your Spring Bloomers

Spring flowering shrubs, defined as those that bloom before mid-June, are ready to be pruned now. Spring bloomers, such as rhododendron, lilac, azalea and forsythia, form buds on last year's stems or what you'll hear called "old wood." If you prune these shrubs earlier in the year, you'll be removing this year's flower buds and therefore have no flowers. This explains the common question of "why didn't my hydrangea bloom?" since many cultivars of hydrangea bloom on the old wood.

There are two types of pruning – renewal versus rejuvenation. Your first consideration on pruning is to identify any wood that is dead, diseased, damaged or "double crossed" (branches crossed). That observation will determine whether to renew or rejuvenate the plant.

Of course, before you start any pruning,

make sure that you have sterilized your tools by cleaning them with rubbing alcohol so that you don't carry disease from one plant to the next. When you move to another shrub, sterilize your tool again. I find keeping a spray bottle with some rubbing alcohol in it makes this ongoing sterilization process quick and easy.

Renewal pruning involves cutting back about one third of the large stems of the plant all the way back to the ground. This allows the shrub to keep its current shape while opening up the interior of the plant to more light and air circulation, which will in turn reduce plant diseases.

Renewal pruning will also increase the number of blooms on a shrub, since older



PAT DRAY

stems will tend to produce fewer blooms than the newer stems that will grow from the base of the shrub. Just be sure not to remove more than one third of the old wood so that you maintain the natural shape of the plant.

Rejuvenation pruning should be used on older plants that are no longer blooming. If you, like me, lost a rhododendron this year, take out your loppers and cut the entire shrub down to about six inches from the ground. Your shrub won't be very attractive at first and won't bloom the first year, but by the second or third year you'll have a new shrub.

No matter whether you are renewing or rejuvenating a shrub, make your pruning cuts correctly at about a 45 degree angle. If

you are pruning off dead or diseased wood, make the cuts into the healthy wood. It's not necessary to use wound dressing or paint on the pruning cuts, since these products don't prevent decay or aid in healing.

Try to avoid shearing (or what I call giving your plants a haircut) since frequent shearing doesn't encourage new growth from the base of the plant. It will result in a plant that has thick outer foliage growth that shades out the interior and bottom of the plant, leading to more plant disease, and an unnatural looking shrub.

I hope these simple guidelines lead to healthier, more vigorously blooming spring shrubs.

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

Recycling Tip: Breaking Our Dependence On Paper Towels

By Susan Wineland

Interested in recycling more things? Here are some of the many opportunities to do so in Orange.

Curbside recycling in Orange is centered around the blue mixed recycling bin. Residents are encouraged to use these bins for a wide array of recyclables, including paper, cardboard, metal cans, plastic containers and glass bottles. Details on what can and cannot go in the bin, along with pickup schedules, are available through the town's recycling program. This single-stream approach makes it easy to recycle most everyday items.

Although the blue bin is convenient, there are some even better ways to recycle some of these items. Are you familiar with the Orange Transfer Station and Recycling Center? Sometimes called "the dump," it's located at 100 S. Orange Center Rd. and behind Home Depot. There we find containers for cardboard, glass, general recycling, plastic bags, metals, electronic devices, paint, good scraps, clothing, household items and more.

As you drive in and take a left, the first bin you'll see is for glass recycling. By recycling your food-grade glass jars and wine bottles there, we significantly reduce heavy waste and the contamination that occurs when broken glass mixes with other recyclables.

Urban Mining CT, located in Beacon Falls, picks up this glass and recycles old

bottles and jars into a product called Pozzotite, which is used to create concrete. Remember to remove corks and any kind of lids before recycling these.

Next to glass recycling is a large container for general recycling, such as that which goes into your blue bin. As with all recycling, the containers should be clean and not black. No plastic bags of any kind go into the blue bins or any general recycling. These go into the plastic bag shed located right next to general recycling. They should be clean and dry, not black and not mulch bags (which are too dirty to be recycled).

Across the driveway are two large hoppers for flattened cardboard boxes and corrugated cardboard. This cardboard is purchased by a local paper processing business and recycled into new paper products.

Continuing up the hill a bit, there is a hopper for garbage, otherwise known as municipal solid waste – all those things you can't recycle in some way.

Nearby, the Goodwill trailer accepts all kinds of household goods we no longer need. Toys, outdoor and indoor furniture, books and more can be donated, although they must be in good condition, so that they can be sold at a Goodwill store. Broken items or anything that is not functional will be thrown away and should be disposed of in the hopper.

To the left of Goodwill are four green bins for food composting, which is an effective solution for food loss and waste. You can put food waste in your home com-

post container and/or bring it to the Orange Transfer Station compost bins. A number of Orange residents compost at home, but don't include meat, dairy, bones, shells – all of which can be brought to the transfer station compost bins. Composting is a win-win because it keeps food waste out of the landfill, which reduces carting costs, while minimizing the methane gas this waste produces. Methane is the primary contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, a hazardous air pollutant and greenhouse gas.

How about those clothes and shoes you no longer need? They can be donated to charity, taken to some retail stores that have recycling bins, or you can put bagged textiles into one of the Bay State Textile recycling containers. They are located at the transfer station, at the Public Works Department and High Plains Community Center. Accepted items include clothing, shoes, boots, accessories, linens, blankets, pillows, towels, tablecloths, small rugs and stuffed animals. Not only does this program divert waste from landfills, but the town also earns money by the pound for every item donated.

For all other recycling, drive straight into the transfer station. Stop at the small shed and the attendant will direct you to the areas or containers for paints, metals, wood, brush, building materials and electronics.

In addition to town recycling, many local stores and facilities, including the

Regional Water Authority, accept specific items like batteries, plastic bags and light-bulbs. These convenient drop-off options help residents responsibly dispose of materials not accepted in standard recycling streams. Go to [rwater.com/](http://rwater.com/) for hazardous waste disposal information.

The Orange Recycling Committee continues to expand opportunities to reduce waste and promote responsible disposal. Regular shredding events, such as the upcoming shredding day on Oct. 25, will include paper shredding and mattress recycling. These events offer a safe and eco-friendly way to dispose of sensitive documents and bulky household items.

The Orange Recycling Committee is committed to simplifying and expanding recycling options for all residents. To stay up to date on the latest recycling news, upcoming events, and detailed disposal guidelines, visit the town's recycling website and follow the committee on Facebook at [facebook.com/ORCinCT/](https://facebook.com/ORCinCT/), or attend one of the monthly committee meetings.

To find out if an item can be recycled and where to recycle it, a helpful website where you can type an item and find out how to recycle it is [recyclect.com/](http://recyclect.com/).

Take advantage of the transfer station and make full use of these diverse recycling opportunities. Orange residents can take pride in reducing waste, supporting sustainability, protecting the environment in which we live and helping the town thrive – one recycled item at a time.

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Obviously, those most trained are trained on an ongoing basis to keep up to date on the rules and legal regulations that are constantly changing in real estate. Large companies with seasoned agents give the client the best advantage. They staff those who work successfully together. These true agents are always motivated by their experiences and the work ethic that grows with every deal. Each transaction is so important to the agent because each one builds referrals.

Let's dive into all the reasons to contract with a global company. A firm of this sort constantly uses the impact of digital recognition, keeping current with all technological

advancements. There is lot of information for your individual sale to rely on. Trust in the company you choose is a big part of why you contract with an agent in the first place. These firms offer exposure not only to the market and its ever-changing trends, but also for the protection of each homeowner or purchaser.

Your needs are fulfilled differently when working with a small brokerage that has a short reach in the market as compared to a global broker. Seasoned agents have experience buying and selling through good and weak markets over years. These agents with global companies are very successful because the complex techniques they have developed over years are implemented daily.

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BARBARA LEHRER

tate firms do, gives you the perfect scenario. On a local level the brokerage is made up of agents working together. These trained agents have simultaneously brought buyers and sellers to success for years. These professionals constantly revisit their clients to assure them that they will always be there. Homeowners have inquiries over time, and your agent is your best resource.

From your septic to boundary rules regarding the installation of a shed, use your representative. The deal may be closed, but the relationships never close and the education you rely on is always current.

Be wary of agents who ask you how much you want to market your home for. This is a red flag for inexperience. Many small brokerage agents are listing homes now that are

sitting because they are overpriced. They have not really helped the client. Pricing must always be up to date; this means using current sales data to keep up with appraisals and competition.

Be a smart seller and an even smarter buyer. You should depend on brand reputation, using premium real estate platforms.

Social media, global connections and influences on your neighborhood are all part of the process necessary for sales and profits. Your market needs this deep knowledge for faster selling times, stronger negotiating positions, higher sales prices and more qualified buyer inquiries. Be the educated client using educated agencies. Happy summer; happy hot market.

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

Insuring Your Future

Don't Believe Everything You Hear: When To Hang Up

Many of my clients have reached out concerning phone calls they received from people claiming to represent Medicare. They warn that there are changes coming to Medicare and you should be prepared. For what? It's not clear.

These are calls designed to get you to engage in a conversation which could result in a change to your current coverage. Unfortunately, this is the way that predatory agents can engage with Medicare beneficiaries. Let's be clear: there are no changes to Medicare or the Affordable Care Act that will impact 2025. The calls and emails may imply that changes are imminent, but this is not true. Never provide personal information over the phone. The purpose of the call is to collect information to use in the fall during

open enrollment.

There are other calls that imply that you are not benefiting from all the services from which you are entitled. These callers are "phishing" for potential clients. The benefits to which they refer are income restricted, for which most people do not qualify. However, again they want your contact information which they will store for future use.

Questions about extra benefits should be directed to your agent or the Connecticut Department of Social Services. They can advise as to what if any additional benefits you might be eligible for. The internet provides a large amount of de-



TRISH PEARSON

mographic information, so it is easy to be put on a list that companies purchase for marketing purposes.

There have also been many news reports about Medicaid being changed or reduced. Again, nothing has been approved that will impact 2025. It is up to the state legislature to fund a portion of the costs that Medicare does not cover through the Medicaid appropriation. That amount is based on the percentage that the federal government covers.

If this is of concern to you or a family member, now is the time to let your elected officials know. Do not hesitate to call or

email your state representative and let them know that these programs are important. At the end of the day, it is government's job to help taxpayers maintain a "reasonable" lifestyle. It is a partnership between the government and the private citizen.

What is the insurance company's role in all this? To make money. They are financial institutions like banks, only they make money on expectations as opposed to a bank that profits off of your money.

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

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Colleagues At Orange Town Hall Celebrate Employee

Town Hall employees give Assistant Finance Director Karin Lewis a special birthday present on the lawn at Town Hall on May 21. Photo by John Cifarelli.



Foodie Foursome

A High-Quality Find On Milford’s Pizza Scene

How often have you said, “Let’s go grab a quick bite out,” but you were not looking for fancy or expensive, and definitely not out of town? I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the New Haven Pizza Place.

The restaurant has a deceptively large dining area with a prohibition-themed bar area as well. It is family-friendly, yet a place where you can go with friends for a fun night out. Cindy and I went with friends Dan and Melissa, and their 1-year-old daughter, Mila, who was a delight. It was a Thursday night and there was a band playing cover tunes to the delight of a full room. I even ran into a couple friends who I had not seen in ages.

The New Haven Pizza Place is a true family effort that has historic roots in New Haven. It started in 1974 when owner Arsenio Bernardo’s dad, Luigi, opened his first pizza and bakery, Gigi’s, in New Haven. I first met Bernardo at his pizza truck at an event in Orange. The quality of those pies were akin to some of the best wood-fired apizza in New Haven. The staff is a well-oiled machine led by family.

We kicked off this Foodie Foursome with a variety of apps and pizzas. What arrived first were three small pizzas. The variety of classic and original-style toppings was amazing. The first was one of the best mashed potato, bacon and caramelized onion pizzas we have ever had. They featured

a wood fired thin crust that would stand with any of the New Haven classics.

The second pie was a perfectly done red sauce margherita, featuring thinly sliced tomatoes, basil and garlic. The thinner tomatoes helped the ingredients meld together and not get soggy, as you find in many pizzerias.

The last of our pizza choices was the clam and garlic. Similarly to the margarita, this pie was artistically designed for maximum flavor without being overpowering. There was an abundance of minced, rather than lump, clam and garlic, which made every bite perfect. The one thing we noticed was the consistent tasty, wood fired crust that had perfect structure and the char that enhanced the taste.

Our next selections were a combination of classic Italian and signature apps, along with an American classic – wings. The wings were a breaded style but done so well that even those who prefer “naked wings” would approve. The coating was a thin, emulsive-like coating giving a good crunch to the skin while allowing the interior meat to remain moist. The outer crunch also provided nooks and crannies to capture and hold our chosen sauces. We choose sweet chile and buffalo for two different tastes,



STEVE COOPER

and both were so good we forgot to use the accompanying dressings.

This was a great time to enjoy a couple of signature cocktails. We had an espresso martini, which had that classic taste, and a pineapple coconut mojito. The unique combination of rum, coconut puree and fresh pineapple juice was a perfect refreshment with the wings.

Next were the arancini rice balls, fresh mozzarella and tomato and zuppa di mussels. The rice balls, rolled in breadcrumbs, were exquisitely deep-fried to a golden crust encasing an ooey gooey rice, pecorino Romano, mozzarella, ground beef and pea filling. These were just a bit smaller than a baseball and served on a plate with marinara sauce for dipping. The layered plate of alternating slices of fresh mozzarella and tomato was drizzled with a balsamic glaze and was a nice cold plate between selections.

Lastly for our apps was the zuppa di mussels. This plating featured an abundance of fresh mussels that were opened perfectly revealing a tasty seafood dish that was served with an incredible, buttery broth that had the perfect balance of butter, wine, garlic and splash of lemon. This was served with awesome pieces of garlic bread. This was a

favorite appetizer; the bread dipped in the broth was wonderful.

We finished the evening with the eggplant casserole dinner, chicken parmigiana and stuffed shells. The shells were large, over-stuffed with cheese and engulfed in their balanced marinara sauce. The same can be said about the chicken parmigiana, which was a large breaded breast, fried and smothered in mozzarella and sauce. The eggplant casserole dinner had tender, thin slices of perfectly prepared eggplant stacked and baked with mozzarella and sauce. They seemed to melt in your mouth. This was one of my favorite entrees, while Dan and Melissa’s 1-year-old daughter, Mila, loved the pizza and chicken parm.

New Haven Pizza Place is not just pizza. On Thursdays, there is a great energy with the entertainment while the rest of the week has a nice vibe. The restaurant has a brisk takeout business, too, which is separated from the dining area. They open at 11 a.m. and serve lunch and dinner seven days a week. They are located at 1377 New Haven Ave. in Milford. Call for reservations or take out at 203-693-3500.

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.

Orange Board of Finance

Moody’s Downgrades US Credit Rating

Recently I had the opportunity to jump on a conference call with Moody’s Ratings, which recently downgraded its US credit rating outlook from Aaa negative to Aa1 stable. This decision was based on long-term increases in US government debt and interest payment ratios, which have been going up significantly over the past two decades at a higher rate than similar nations with similar credit profiles.

Specifically, Moody’s cited the increasing US deficit, which was \$1.8 trillion (6.4 percent of gross domestic product) in 2024 and is projected to rise to 9 percent of GDP by 2035, along with a debt-to-GDP ratio that is projected to reach 134 percent by 2035.

This downgrade reflects a shift in the perception of the US debt burden, with mounting pressure on US fiscal metrics and credit profile for years even prior to November 2023, when the US similarly downgraded and given a negative outlook by Fitch Ratings.

Moody’s also stated that mandatory government spending – which includes Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and interest payments on debt – now accounts for 75 percent of overall government spending.

It was noted in the report that successive US administrations and Congress have failed to agree on measures to reverse the trend of large annual fiscal deficits, growing interest costs and a \$36.9 trillion national debt. When federal government spending exceeds revenue, creating a budget deficit, the US covers the gap by selling securities such as treasury bonds. The national debt is the accumulation of all past deficits and the interest owed on the resulting debt.

Measuring the debt as a share of GDP allows for comparing the level of debt over time relative to the size of the US economy and for comparisons with other countries’ debt-to-GDP ratios.

One major credit strength the US has is its status as the world’s dominant reserve currency. This fact provides significant credit support to the economy. The credit benefits of the dollar are wide-ranging and provide the extraordinary funding capacity that helps the US government

finance large annual deficits and refinance its large debt burden at moderate and relatively predictable costs.

Another key reason why the US was downgraded is the lack of leadership and political polarization that exists in Washington. The federal government continues to deficit spend with no accountability, which has led to trillion-dollar deficits year in and year out over the past two decades. There has been little appetite by Congress to compromise or develop workable solutions. Many of our congresspeople have been in power for decades and have no intestinal fortitude to attempt to fix the fiscal crisis that has been developing for decades.

So what would the US need to do to enhance its credit rating? Some key steps would be to enact fiscal reform with sound fiscal and macroeconomic policy that will reverse debt; to develop plans to increase revenue by optimizing tax policy; to develop a plan for significant multi-year reductions in mandatory spending and deficits; and to continue to strengthen the US dollar and build liquidity into the market.

The Fiscal Stability Act which was passed in 2023 by the House and Senate established a statutory debt commission whose main objective was to find legislative solutions to stabilize and decrease the national debt and deficit spending. This was a great start to get Congress moving in the right direction and long overdue so that the next generation



KEVIN McNABOLA

of Americans aren’t left paying the price for decades of inaction from our presidents and Congress.

Both the president and Congress need to take immediate action within the coming months on fiscal reforms to reverse the course of future deficits and entitlement spending. The path forward is not easy. However, it is achievable by limiting future spending and borrowing, which would promote economic growth and reduce inflation.

tion.

It is hard to believe that in my lifetime the last time the US had a balanced budget was in 1998 under President Bill Clinton, who worked with Congress to obtain successful passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 with Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, one of the few Democrats with-in Congress who voted in favor passing the bill.

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

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# Bits And Pieces Of Milford History

By Marilyn May

It happens every time: when reading something about Milford history, there are often bits of interesting stories, but not enough information to write a whole column. So, here is a patchwork quilt of stories.

The accompanying photo is of a house on Prospect Street, and you can probably guess the picture was taken right after the 1938 hurricane blew through the town. The sign reads “Site of Home of Freelove Baldwin Stow.” The local Daughters of the American Republic chapter planned to move from its 1907 headquarters on Broad Street, and all along they intended to demolish what was left standing of the house. Then in the 1950s, they built a new headquarters on this spot. It’s the colonial-style red brick building we know of today at 55 Prospect St.. The cornerstone from the Broad Street building was

moved to the new building.

Not everyone hates potholes. An August 1916 edition of the Milford Citizen tells us the selectmen announced that the appropriations for fixing 150 miles of roads in Milford could not pay for all the road repairs needed and had to be put off until the following spring. Surprisingly, that was good news for the residents of Walnut Beach. They were said to be “desirous” of having Broadway stay in its present condition, full of holes. The bumpy road was a means of preventing “jittery drivers from driving at a reckless speed,” and putting the “lives of all in danger.”

This next story begins with a retelling of something most people know, but first you might need a reminder. In 1852, the Revolutionary War soldier’s monument in the Old Milford Cemetery was dedicated in remem-

brance of the American prisoners of war, many dying of smallpox, who were stranded on Milford shores after being taken off a British transport ship on a wintry night in January 1777. They were left to die or spread the disease. The town rallied to help the men, but a “hospital” was needed. Milford resident Capt. Stephen Stow, who had four sons in the armed forces, stepped in to ease the suffering of the men. But he died of smallpox about a month later, along with 46 soldiers who also died over time. Since that time, Stow has been called “Milford’s Martyr.”

Here is a question you probably do not know: where was the “hospital” located?

In Nathan Stowe’s 1917 book “Sixty Years’ Recollections of Milford,” he wrote, “The Baptist Society erected a new meeting house (in 1845 next to the Town House), and their old building (had been) moved to the corner of Daniel and River Streets, said old building having been erected in 1760... it was in this building that the 46 American soldiers died, along with their faithful nurse with them in 1777.”

It was decided in 1852 to construct a memorial to Stow and the soldiers. Volunteers acquired a heavy stone base that got stuck on the tracks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, according to Frank N. Platt, a fruit grower from North Street who learned the story from his grandmother.

“The monument was made of Portland sandstone...and was brought by boat to the Town Dock,” Platt recalled in a newspaper article. A large number of farmers contributed the use of their oxen to bring the base of the monument up to the cemetery. The stone was lifted and carried between two ox carts, but “it barely cleared the ground.” Their route took them up from the town dock, across the predecessor of Memorial Bridge

and then to the railroad tracks from a spot near today’s fire headquarters, which had not been built yet. The oxen moved the stone up an incline that had such a pitch that the stone was dragged onto the train tracks, but the oxen “were unable to move it.”

Someone rushed to the train station to tell the station master, Squire William Strong. Then Strong ran along the tracks and stopped an oncoming train in its tracks. The train engineer was angry at the farmers, and he let them know it. Nathan Smith of Woodmont, grandfather of Fred A. Smith of Darina Place, spoke up and said, “If you don’t stop your abuse, we will get some hay and feed our oxen right here on the track.” That settled everyone. Finally, the stone was pulled forward over rails, the train fired up again and the oxen got fed back in their own fields.

The stops on the Connecticut Freedom Trail highlight more than 170 documented sites you can visit and learn about enslaved Black people’s fight for freedom, education and equality while adding to Connecticut’s history. There are places such as the Prudence Crandall house in Canterbury, the Tapping Reeve Law School in Litchfield and the Amistad Memorial Statue that’s as close as New Haven. New sites are, after extensive documentation, added all the time.

Tammy Denease, outreach director of the Connecticut Freedom Trail, said that a house in Milford may prove to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad. Denese said that the investigation of a certain house is just beginning, and added, “But certain things already discovered look promising.”



Second location of the DAR chapter house on Prospect Street. Photo courtesy of Marilyn May.



# BUDGET

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### Fitzmaurice

#### (Continued From 1)

commissions decide how your tax dollars are spent and if our schools, parks, and public services get the attention they need. As a parent and in my career, I’ve learned that the best solutions come from getting people together, sharing perspectives and solving problems side by side. That’s why this campaign is not just about me. I’m honored to serve alongside a full team of committed Democratic candidates who also love this town.”

Fitzmaurice most recently served as the director of advocacy for the United Way of Connecticut, chief of staff for Americans for the Arts, and executive director of the Greater New Haven Arts Council.

“The Orange Democratic Town Committee Nominating Committee interviewed every candidate for office, and we’re so excited to present this slate,” said Jody Dietch, chair of the ODT. “These candidates are truly inspiring, are extremely qualified, bring a wealth of experience and perspectives, and they are ready to get out into our community to meet residents and talk about how we can make Orange even stronger, together.”

Candidates for boards and commissions announced include: Board of Selectman candidates Mitch Goldblatt, Erika Higgins and PJ Shanley; Board of Finance candidate Kevin McNabola; tax collector candidate Mark Moyher; Orange Board of Education candidates Kelly Billings, Lauren Gray, Josh Orlinsky and Erin Wilson; Amity Board of Education candidates Sean-Michael Green, Jennifer Blando Jacquet and Ralph Marguy; Town Plan & Zoning Commission candidates Beth Marsha and GG Cabrera; and constable candidates Byron Crosdale Jr., Santo Galatioto Jr. and Randy Thomas.

### Orange Budget Vote

#### (Continued From 1)

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.

Although the spending will increase, the town’s mill rate will drop from 31 mills to 29.1 mills. One mill is equal to \$1 of tax for each \$1,000 of assessed value.

For most residents, the amount paid in taxes is nevertheless likely to go up. That’s because a mandatory revaluation late 2023 showed a dramatic increase in residential real estate values. Town leaders opted in 2024 to phase the higher assessments in over several years, blunting the immediate shock of higher assessments, but virtually guaranteeing some rise in the amount of tax homeowners would pay each year.

### Milford Budget

#### (Continued From 1)

left the cuts in place in 2024.

“The offering of the budget by the Board of Education has exceeded what seems to be a reasonable tolerance for the citizens of Milford with regard to increasing the potential taxes,” Republican member Jason Jenkins countered.

The second attempt to restore \$400,000 to education was meant to represent a compromise. Democratic member Matt Arciuolo said the amount would raise taxes on home valued at \$475,000 by \$17 per year.

“This is our attempt at a little bit of an olive branch,” he said.

“It saddens me that the very folks who were so critical of test scores last year are now willing to support a change that could turn around and decrease those test scores,” member Jennifer Federico said. “It really seems like the Board of Education can’t win, no matter what it chooses.”

Superintendent Anna Cutaia and other education officials had described their budget proposal as skeletal, barely meeting contractual needs without proposing new programs. The week after the aldermen finalized the budget, the Board of Education voted to eliminate 14 staff positions, including nine teachers, an administrator, two secretaries and two custodians. The board also cut spending on capital equipment, technology and infrastructure upgrades and professional learning and development.

“These were not easy decisions to make, and it’s really disappointing that we have to be here at all,” said Board of Education member Cindy Wolfe-Boynton after she detailed the cuts.

“None of these [cuts] are suggesting that there was excess or waste anywhere,” said member Adam Scobie. “Continuously seeing these reductions to our budget and having to make these decisions is only going to continue to negatively impact our students.”



The American Heart Association recently announced Laura Terranova of Milford as the 2025 Healthy for Good Lifestyle Change Award winner. The New Haven Lifestyle Change Award recognizes an individual who has made positive changes to improve the quality of their health. Terranova was recognized during the recent New Haven Heart Walk at Light House Point Park in New Haven on May 4. Photo courtesy of the American Heart Association.

### Milford Zone

#### (Continued From 1)

to push municipalities to develop more housing of all types – especially denser affordable housing.

Milford has already been affected by this shift in property use beyond the K-Mart conversion. The city’s largest taxpayer, the Connecticut Post Mall, has been slowly losing commercial tenants and revenue, and dropped \$80 million in market value since the city’s last revaluation in 2021. The city in late 2023 allowed for up to 750 apartments at the mall as part of a plan to turn it into a more sustainable mixed-use development.

Quish noted that there are now a number of blighted and vacant properties in the CDD-3 zone. He said that he thought the whole area should be opened up to other kinds of economic development – especially mixed-use housing. He imagined the Stop & Shop that recently closed in the zone could be turned into something of a small neighborhood.

“Without knocking that building down you could add village-like housing in the parking lot, and the actual retail space could be converted into restaurants, or recreation or little boutiques,” he said.

“I don’t know that we necessarily want

to focus on any specific property,” City Planner David Sulkis said. “If we come up with the vision of what we want...we want to give them the tools to do something.”

“I think this is probably the most ripe for development. You have some really big properties,” Quish agreed.

The board members also discussed the possibility of creating bike lanes and other walkability features along the stretch of Bridgeport Avenue that falls in the zone. The state Department of Transportation would be involved in those decisions, but the DOT would be more likely to approve those features if there were residences along the road.

Another potential option would be to expand the Milford Center design district west to encompass more of Bridgeport Avenue past the hospital. That district includes the Milford Green and allows several types of housing already.

Not enough zoning board members joined the meeting to allow for a voting quorum, but those present agreed that they should add the matter to the agenda for a future meeting and invite public input.

“There’s really a huge amount of money that could be invested in this area,” Quish said. “Lots of jobs – local jobs. Anyway, I’m excited about it.”



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Sunday, June 15  
1:30 - 3 p.m.  
Turkey Hill Preserve

**Father's Day Walk / Hike**



Friday, June 20  
4:30 - 7 p.m.  
Fred Wolfe Park

**Popsicles in the Park**



Tuesday, June 25  
6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Saray Bakery

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The Arts

Celebrating Family Fun And History With The Arts

If you are looking for fun things to do and need a gift other than a tie for that father figure in your life, try something new with the arts. Go to an Edgar Allan Poe speakeasy, visit medieval times with a renaissance faire, have a lavish dinner while solving a crime, celebrate and learn the history of Juneteenth, take in a concert or a unique immersive art experience or play. Visit a local artisan fair in Orange and support local theater in Milford. Create a painting and spend some time outdoors with many interesting adventures and hands-on opportunities to keep everyone busy. With something for everyone, you are sure to enjoy the offerings of the arts during warm days and cool evenings.

The Amistad Center for Art & Culture will host the Juneteenth Gala 2025 on June 7 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, located at 600 Main St. in Hartford. The Amistad Center’s Juneteenth gala is a powerful evening of celebration, culture and community. This signature event features live music, curated dining experiences, a spirited awards presentation, exclusive auction items and dancing under the stars. This year’s theme honors the legacy of Juneteenth with a call to action in support of inclusive, impactful arts and education programs that amplify the voices of the African diaspora. Join the celebration for a night of elegance, empowerment and purpose. For a list of silent auction items and for more information, visit AmistadCenter.org or call 860-838-4122.

Orange Congregational Church will hold their annual **Orange Strawberry Festival** on Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as a fundraiser for the church to be held at High Plains Community Center fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. Join this annual fun and tasty community tradition with your family and friends. Stop by the fairgrounds grill to grab a hot dog or hamburger, pulled pork, sausage and peppers, grilled cheese, fries and more. Strawberry delights include strawberry shortcake, ice cream with strawberries, a strawberry slushie, strawberry or strawberry rhubarb pie, homemade strawberry jam, chocolate-covered strawberries and hand-picked strawberries. Enjoy live music and fun activities for kids. Browse and shop the booths of local vendors as they display their wares. Returning to the fair is the fabulous red car show to round out the day. Admission is free. For additional information, call 203-795-9749.

Goodspeed Opera House presents the musical “**Ragtime**,” with book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, based on the novel “Ragtime” by E.L. Doctorow. Matinee and evening performances run now through June 15 at the Goodspeed, located at 6 Main St. in East Haddam. Set in the volatile melting pot of turn-of-the-century New York, this play weaves together the stories of three fictional families striving for the American dream. As an affluent society woman, an imaginative Jewish immigrant, and an optimistic Harlem pianist navigate a changing world, they confront history’s timeless contradictions of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair. With a Tony Award-winning score which blends ragtime, blues, jazz and show tunes, it’s a powerful, sweeping saga of America. This production contains racist and offensive language, violence and murder. Sensitive topics including racism and social inequities are depicted. It is recommended for ages 15 and older. Tickets start at \$35 and can be purchased by visiting goodspeed.org or calling 860-873-8668.

Center Stage Theatre presents “**Avenue Q**” with music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and

Jeff Marx and book by Jeff Whitty. Matinee and evening performances run June 6-15 at Center Stage Theatre, located at 54 Grove St. Shelton. This musical comedy features puppets and human actors and contains adult-themed content. The laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that, although the residents seem nice, it’s clear that this is not your ordinary neighborhood. Together, Princeton and his new-found friends struggle to find jobs, dates and their ever-elusive purpose in life. Tickets are available by visiting centerstageshelton.org or calling 203-225-6079.

Golden Fox Theatre presents **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**, book by Rachel Sheinkin and score by William Finn. Performances run June 6–15 at Wallingford Grange, 586 Center St. in Wallingford. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of potentially made-up words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion. This performance offers audience participation. Tickets for row seating are \$30 and for table seating are \$35, and can be purchased by visiting goldenfoxtheatre.com or by calling 203-804-7671.

Fever is running the **Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy**, an immersive theater experience, with performances from June 12-15 with multiple matinee and evening showtime offerings. Sip on chilling cocktails as you explore the sinister tales of Poe at Lyric Hall Theatre, located at 827 Whalley Ave. in New Haven. Step back in time and immerse yourself in the dark and mysterious world of Poe. This exclusive speakeasy will transport you to a bygone era as you sip on expertly crafted cocktails inspired by four of Poe’s most beloved stories. Led by the speakeasy’s lead mixologist and Poe historians, this immersive evening promises to be a chillingly unforgettable experience. The performance is 90 minutes. The minimum age requirement is 21 with a valid ID. Tickets are \$55. Select your date and time preference directly in the ticket selector by visiting feverup.com.

The Milford Arts Council presents “**Sip and Paint with Kiko**” on June 18 at 6 p.m. at the MAC, 40 Railroad Ave. South 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 Hernandez. Unleash your creativity as Kiko guides you step-by-step in crafting your own masterpiece while you sip on your favorite beverage of choice. The event will feature an 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. Let Hernandez’s expertise inspire you to create something extraordinary. No prior painting experience is required. Registration is \$35 per session for the general public and \$30 per session for MAC members at milfordarts.org. Call 203-878-6647 for further information.

The **Orange Artisan Fest and Vendor Fair**, a craft fair and business expo, will take place on Thursday, June 19 at the Orange fairgrounds and pavilion at 525 Orange Center



CYNDI CONSOLI

Rd. from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., with live music and food trucks until 8 p.m. It will feature an all-outdoor business and community event with artisans, crafters, farmers, small business resources and vendors, and activities for all ages. Free event bags stuffed with goodies are available to all attendees and vendors while supplies last. Free all-day blood pressure screenings will be provided by the Orange Volunteer Nurse Association. Activities include a bee in the honeycomb game by LT Home Improvement, a bounce house, slide and face painting provided by KMG party rentals. Make a bracelet provided by Alexa and Mom Jewelry Design. Entertainment includes children’s music performed by Zach Anderson from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., a dance performance by Brennan-Lucey Irish Dance Academy from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and a concert in the gazebo with the Sabbs Brothers from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This family-friendly event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 203-891-1045.

Eastbound Theatre presents “**You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown**,” with book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner and John Gordon. The show is based on the Charles Schulz comic strip. Matinee and evening performances run June 6 to 21 at the Milford Arts Council, 40 Railroad Ave. South in Milford. The play is an average day in the life of Charlie Brown, made up of little moments picked from all the days of Charlie Brown, from Valentine’s Day to baseball season, and wild optimism to utter despair. All mixed in with the lives of his friends from the Peanuts gang, these moments are strung together from bright uncertain morning to hopeful starlit evening. Tickets are \$32 and can be purchased by visiting milfordarts.org or calling 203-878-6647.

Arts For Learning CT presents its **Family Arts Festival** on June 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Whitneyville Cultural Commons, 1953 Whitney Ave. in Hamden. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Workshops will run on a rotating schedule every 30 minutes, allowing attendees to experience multiple activities throughout the festival. Each 25-minute workshop is followed by a five-minute transition time to allow families to move to the next activity. Workshop experiences will allow engagement in music, visual arts, storytelling and movement. Children under the age of 18 are admitted free and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. It’s fun for all ages. Registration is required. See aflct.org for more information.

The Dinner Detective presents a **True Crime Murder Mystery Dinner Show** June 21 and every month year-round at Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, located at 155 Temple St. in New Haven. During North America’s largest interactive true crime murder mystery dinner show, witness a hilarious mystery while you feast on a fantastic dinner. Beware – the culprit is hiding in plain sight somewhere in the room, and you may find yourself as a prime suspect before you know it. The actors are not dressed in costume and are hidden in the audience, resulting in a fun, social and interactive evening suitable for all adults. Each admission includes dinner, murder mystery entertainment, waitstaff gratuity, prize package for top sleuth and much more. Shows are geared toward adults and include mild content, loud noises and adult humor. Teenagers with adult supervision may be permitted; check the ticket information page when purchasing. No infants, toddlers or young children are allowed to attend. Tickets are \$84.95 for regular admission and have an option of adding

a person in your group to become a surprise suspect. Show dates are posted for sale 8-12 weeks in advance. Shows vary throughout the year. Select your preferred date to purchase tickets by visiting thedinnerdetective.com or by calling 866-496-0535.

Playhouse On Park presents “**The Baroness**,” a new comedy by Jacques Lamarre, with performances through June 22 at 244 Park Rd. in West Hartford. Baroness Elsa Schraeder has arrived at the Von Trapp mansion to seal the deal: her engagement to Austria’s most eligible bachelor, Georg Von Trapp. What The Baroness doesn’t count on mucking up her plans: a yodeling and curtain-sewing failed nun. Refusing to let a dowdy governess get the better of her, the baroness takes to her room to plot her revenge, when a certain telegram delivery boy climbs through her window. Tickets start at \$28 and can be purchased by visiting playhouseonpark.org or calling 860-523-5900 ext. 10.

**Beyond Monet & Beyond Van Gogh**, an immersive walk-through art experience, is on display now through June 29 at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford. Featuring two iconic artists in one incredible installation, this newly enhanced experience combines the widely celebrated Beyond Van Gogh with the added Beyond Monet, offering audiences the unique opportunity to experience the masterpieces of both Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet. The show is approximately 90 minutes and is designed as a walk-through experience. Timed-entry tickets start at \$54.50 for ages 16+ and \$44.50 for ages 5–15; discounted tickets are available for students and seniors. Visit beyondvangogh.com or beyondmonet.com and select the Hartford venue to purchase tickets or call 1-800-441-0819.

TheaterWorks Hartford presents **Your Name Means Dream**, written and directed by José Rivera, with matinee and evening performances now through July 6 at TheaterWorks, 233 Pearl St. in Hartford. An evocative new look at humanity in the digital age, this play takes place in the not-too-distant future. Aislin is old and isolated in her messy New York City walk-up. She pines for a simpler, analog past when her son sends a sensational new caretaker who is not quite human...but she’s getting there. An evocative new play from Academy Award-nominee Rivera. Tickets are \$43 to \$63 and can be purchased by visiting twhartford.org or by calling 860-527-7838.

The **Midsummer Fantasy Renaissance Faire** will take place on three weekends: June 28-29, July 4-6, and July 12-13 at Warsaw Park, located at 119 Pulaski Highway in Ansonia. The faire will be open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. with a special afterhours pub sing and fire show on Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The faire is open rain or shine. Enjoy a fantasy world set in a time long ago where elves, fairies, orcs, goblins, animal-kin, dwarves and magic are real. Throughout the day and into the night you will enjoy comedy, action, stage shows, music, magic, live combat, eat delicious food and shop unique vendors selling handmade wares. Performers will be on five stages throughout the day. See magic, juggling, music, theater and more. Test your skills in archery and axe throwing. Ticket prices are \$18 for people 15 and up, \$9 for children 5 and over; younger children are admitted free. Tickets are available at the venue and at mfrenfaire.com.

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.



## Eye Care Center Opens In Orange



Visionaire Eye Care, located at 472 Boston Post Rd. in Orange, held a grand opening celebration on May 29 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception. Included in the picture are Dr. Xiuyang Guo, founder and owner of Visionaire Eye Care, holding scissors; Barry Lee Cohen, CEO of the Amity Chamber of Commerce; Orange Selectman Mitch Goldblatt; Annmarie Sliby, executive director of the Orange Economic Development Corporation; Amity Chamber member Marianne Miller; and family, friends and colleagues. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

## Food Truck Fest Parks In Milford



The Milford Food Truck Festival returned to the parking lot of the Connecticut Post Mall during the weekend of May 24-26. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*

## OLT Meeting Features Opossums



The May 7 annual meeting of the Orange Land Trust featured live opossums from the Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue organization located in Woodstock. Present in the photo are members of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue and the Land Trust Board. Ferncroft's mission is the rehabilitation and release of injured wildlife whenever possible; the land trust's goal is the preservation and maintenance of open space. *Photo by Pam Lefferts.*

## Speeders Car Wash Opens In Orange



The Amity Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on May 14 for the grand opening of Speeders Car Wash, located at 79 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. The location housed the former Sponge Brothers, which Speeders acquired in 2024. The newly-renovated car wash features two pay lanes, a 125-foot wash tunnel and 13 vacuum spaces. Included in the photo are Speeders Orange Regional Manager Julio Candiotti, General Manager Robert Meekins, Manager David Council, team members from throughout Connecticut, Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen and Chamber Board of Directors Secretary Mary-Ann White. *Photo by Robert Creigh.*




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## Peck Place Holds Prom



The Peck Place School student council held their annual senior prom on May 9. The senior prom is a tradition started at Peck Place by Erica Campbell, a fifth grade teacher and the student council advisor, over 14 years ago. It is held to honor the older generation of Orange and the surrounding community. The student council is composed of students who were elected by their classmates in grades 3-6. These students are in charge of the entertainment for the seniors who attend prom. Lunch was provided by Silver Sands Pizza in Milford, along with donations from student council parents. *Photo by Amy Ruggiero.*

## OHS Presents Scholarship



The Orange Historical Society presented Morgan Wilson of Orange and his family with the Chance Thompson Memorial Scholarship in recognition of his love of local history. The \$1,000 scholarship was awarded on May 20 at the Bryan-Andrew House in Orange with Chance Thompson's mom, Misty, Wilson's parents, grandparents, brother, Paula Vallie from Amity High School and OHS members in attendance. The scholarship honors Thompson, who was deeply involved in the OHS before her untimely death in 2022. *Photo by Michelle Stannard.*

## Auditions Open For MAC's East/West Playfest 2025

The Milford Arts Council's Eastbound Theatre will host auditions June 8-11 for East/West PlayFest 2025, a festival of short original plays. The auditions will be June 8 and 9 at Westport Community Theatre, 110 Myrtle Ave. in Westport, and June 10 and 11 at the Margaret Egan Center at 35 Matthews St. in Milford. Auditions begin at 7 p.m. at each location.

Co-produced by the MAC's Eastbound Theatre in Milford and Westport Community Theatre, the festival of five original works will be presented with two 4 p.m. matinee performances July 12 and 13 at the Milford Historical Society, and repeated the following weekend with two evening shows at 7:30 p.m. July 18 and 19 at Westport Community Theatre.

The short plays featured in this

year's festival are: "Candy Store" by James McLindon of Northampton, Massachusetts; "Timeshare" by Judy Klass of Nashville, Tennessee; "Letter to the Editor, 1971" by Brian Cox of Ypsilanti, Michigan; "The Actress" by Ryan Kaminski of Flemington, New Jersey; and "Hello" by Dana Leslie Goldstein of Brooklyn, New York.

Actors will be reading from the scripts which have male and female roles for performers from their 20s through their 70s. Resumes and headshots are preferred but not required.

For more information about the East/West PlayFest 2025, contact the Milford Arts Council/Eastbound Theatre at 203-878-6647 or visit [milfordarts.org/about-eastbound-theatre](http://milfordarts.org/about-eastbound-theatre).


### TOWN OF ORANGE LEGAL NOTICE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pursuant to Section 12-632 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Orange will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m. in the Lower-Level Meeting Room at the Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT, to receive comments on an application received for the 2025 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program which will be submitted to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Service for funding consideration. The application is on file in the First Selectman's Office and may be reviewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received at the First Selectman's Office until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Thereafter comments should be presented at the public hearing. The following application has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen:

New Haven Hebrew Day School - \$150,000

Dated at Orange, CT this 15th day of May 2025.

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Orange  
ATTEST: Mary Shaw, Town Clerk




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# Obituaries


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



**P. Constance "Connie" Agahigian** of Milford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully in her home on May 12 2025, surrounded by her family and friends. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Rachel Beaulieu** passed away peacefully on May 14, 2025, surrounded by family. She was 96. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Joseph A. Benefico**, age 85, beloved husband of the late Eleanor (Russo) Benefico entered peaceful rest on May 18, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




**Ellen Caputo**, age 76, cherished mom, beloved grandma and dear friend, passed away on Friday May 16, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




**Timothy Paul Cohen**, 60, of Woodbridge, beloved husband of Mary-Jane "MJ" San Souci, passed away peacefully in her loving arms on May 4, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Frederick Becton Condit** was born on May 30, 1946 and passed away on May 22, 2025 at age 78. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Gene A. (Pete) Dutchess**, 86, formerly of Milford, CT, passed away on May 23, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Charlotte A. Essex**, 82, of Milford, CT, was taken home by her Lord on May 15, 2025 while surrounded by all of her immediate family members. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Enid Bradbury Heyse**, 101, of Milford, beloved spouse of the late Cornelius D. Heyse, Jr., passed into heaven on May 8, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Eleanor A. Iannarone**, 82 of Milford, passed away peacefully on May 4th, 2025, while surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Robert "Bob" Kamm**, 85, of Milford, CT, formerly of Westport, CT, passed away peacefully on May 9th at his home. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Larry Kochiss**, 65, of Milford, beloved husband of Kathy (Curley) Kochiss, passed away on May 22, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paul Loux** passed away on May 24, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Joan E. Martinez**, 92, of Milford, passed away peacefully at home on May 5, 2025. Joan was born on April 11, 1933, in Taylor, PA. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Timothy Robert Mead**, a lifelong resident of Milford, passed away quietly on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at Yale New Haven Hospital St. Raphael Campus. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



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– Managing Partner

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<b>Kevin W. Cody</b> – Funeral Director	<b>Jessica Moscato</b> – Funeral Director
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# Obituaries




**James Anthony Moccia** was born on May 12, 1967 and passed away on May 25, 2025 at age 58. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




**Christopher Mullarkey**, 35, of Milford, beloved partner of Kimberly Giordano, passed away on May 23, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Evelyn P. Provost** passed away peacefully on May 10th, 2025 at the age of 82. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




**Frances Lynne Sullivan**, 59 of Milford, passed away on May 11, 2025. Frances was born on November 3rd, 1965. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the loss of our precious baby, **Danielle Mae Mooney**, who was born silent on May 2nd, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Jennifer Leigh Musante**, 52 of Milford, passed away on May 11, 2025, while surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Wayne O. Schwartz**, died peacefully in Bridgeport Hospital on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 after a brief illness. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




**Shirley Kasowitz Tufts**, age 82. Shirley was born in New Haven to Irving and Bella (Gitlitz) Kasowitz. She worked over 40 years for St Raphael's Hospital, taking patients to Radiology Services.



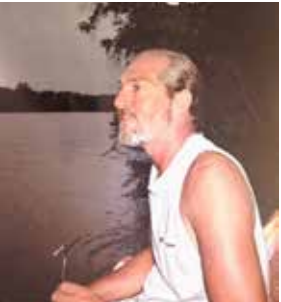
**Bonny Morrell**, 63, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 3, 2025 in East Hartford, CT. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)




**Virginia J. Nagy**, 87, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Frank Nagy Sr., passed away on May 12, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Allen J. Smith**, 77, of Milford, CT passed away on May 27, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Allen was born on May 24, 1948, in Miami, Florida. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Kenneth Paul Viera**, 66, beloved husband of Lisa Anne Viera, passed away on May 27, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)




**Catherine Kelly Muir**, age 65, of Milford passed away on May 17, 2025, surrounded by family and friends. She was born on June 20, 1959. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Gertrude B. Poquette**, age 91, of Milford passed away with her loving family by her side on May 17, 2025 at Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Elizabeth "Betty" Sprague** died peacefully at Orange Health Care Center on May 7, 2025, at the age of 95. She was born on March 4, 1930, the first child of Ralph and Ruth Duff.



**Dorothy M. Walsh**, 82, of Milford, beloved wife of Robert Walsh, passed away on May 5, 2025. Dorothy was born on July 4, 1942, to the late Fritz Gunnar Almgren and Dorothy Meason. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

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