



Milford-Orange Times

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July 10, 2025

Orange Celebrates Independence



Orange celebrated Independence Day with entertainment and fireworks at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds on July 5. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Pirates Descend On Milford



The Downtown Milford Business Association held its annual Pirate's Day event to celebrate its history with the seafaring bandits on June 8. Additional photos on page 13. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Milford To Build Downtown Health Center

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Aldermen voted 9-5 on June 2 to move forward with plans for a new three-story building at the Parsons Government Complex to house the city's health and human services department.

The city would use \$4.9 million left from pandemic-era American Rescue Plan Act funding to construct the building in the Wasson Field parking lot next to the complex. City Health Director Deepa Joseph estimated the total cost of the building to be between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Joseph acknowledged some urgency in proceeding with the plan; the ARPA funds must be spent by the end of 2026 or the city

will lose them.

"Right now we operate out of basically three sites comprising about 11,700 square feet," Smith said. "The space that we actually need for health and human services to run efficiently and effectively is 28,900 square feet – so two-and-a-half times the space that we have right now between our three spaces."

Joseph explained that during the coronavirus pandemic the department had to stage mini-vaccination sites around the city because it didn't have the capacity to bring people into its current location.

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Orange Makes Smoke Shop Ban Permanent

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Town Plan & Zoning Commission at its July 1 meeting voted to make its prohibition on new smoke and vape shops permanent.

The commission in January passed a six-month moratorium on such establishments. That moratorium would have expired in July without further action.

Under the new rules, stores that use more than 20 percent of their floor space for nicotine and tobacco products will be prohibited from coming into town. The language was meant to exempt other establishments that sell tobacco products as part of a larger suite of products, such as gas station convenience stores.

The moratorium came after a unanimous vote held by the Orange Board of Selectmen in November that recommended the TPZC limit the opening of additional smoke shops in town. The vote by the selectmen was not binding on the zoning commissioners, but sent a public signal about the direction they wanted the town to go.

Director of Community Services Stacey Johnson and Youth Services and Prevention Coordinator Chantelle Bunnell led the effort to limit the stores. They have argued that there has been an explosion of vaping among youth and of smoke shops that sell

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ORTC Chair Appointed To Trump Administration

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



Lombardi

Dominick Lombardi, the recent chair of the Orange Republican Town Committee, has been appointed to a position in the US Department of Agriculture under the administration of President Donald Trump.

Lombardi resigned his ORTC chairmanship on May 31 in order to take on the new role. His father, Chad Lombardi, is now serving as chair.

Lombardi said he will be working in the Rural Development department of the USDA, which focuses on economic

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Milford Townhouses Coming Near Eisenhower Park

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Planning & Zoning Board at its June 17 meeting voted 5-3 to approve a plan for a 44-unit apartment complex with an affordable housing component on North Street across from Eisenhower Park.

The townhouse-style development would consist of 18 duplexes and triplexes on approximately 2 acres of land about a quarter of a mile from the town line with Orange. Fourteen of the units will be deemed affordable. The area is largely residential, with several tracts of open


space in the neighborhood.

Milford's ability to deny developments with affordable housing components is limited under the state's 8-30g law, which only allows municipalities to refuse such projects for certain reasons, such as health and safety.

The city's inland wetlands board had earlier confirmed that the property does not contain any wetlands. There are, however, wetlands near the property.

The location of the complex is not served

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Nigel is a young adult male domestic medium hair cat. He is affectionate, curious, friendly and gentle. His vaccinations are up to date and he is neutered. The adoption fee is \$125. He can be adopted from Milford Animal Control, located at 664 East Broadway in Milford. For more information, call 203-783-3279. Photo courtesy of Milford Animal Control.

Private Gym Opens In Orange



The Amity Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 18 for private gym Transformation Strength and Wellness, located at 518 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. The gym offers personal training and coaching from certified training, conditioning, nutrition, weight loss and coaching professionals. Included in the photo are co-owners Stephen Coreano and Stacey Reilly, holding scissors; Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen; Orange Selectman Mitch Greenblatt; Annmarie Silby, Executive Director of the Orange Economic Development Corporation; and family, friends and clients. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Orange Democrats Honor Pride Month



The Orange Democratic Town Committee welcomed members of the community to join them in recognizing Pride Month in Orange during their June meeting. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Milford-Orange Times

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- Cathy Bradley, Running
- Barry Lee Cohen, Orange Chamber
- Cyndi Consoli, Arts
- Steve Cooper, Restaurant Reviews
- Rob Craft, Recovery
- Theresa Rose DeGray, Bankruptcy
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Goldblatt 'Valley Man Of The Year'



Orange Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, right, was named 2025 "Connecticut Valley Man of the Year" by the Federation of Jewish Clubs of America. FJMC President Alan Budman, left presented Goldblatt with the award at Ma'Asim Tovim International Convention in Chicago on July 3. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Or Shalom Hosting Blood Drive In Orange

Congregation Or Shalom will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on July 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 205 Old Grassy Hill Rd. in Orange.

Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative and A negative. According to the

Red Cross, type O negative is the universal blood type that can be safely transfused to anyone. It is often used to treat trauma patients.

For more information or to make an appointment to donate or sign up online at redcrossblood.org.

Boat Safety Courses On Offer In Milford

Boaters can take Boat America boating safety classes at the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Milford Flotilla on Saturday, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 6 at its training center located at 1 Helwig St. in Milford.

The course runs from 8 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$70 per person. For more information on U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary safe boating classes, visit cgaux.org/boating/.

Orange Garden Club Hosting Tour Of Stone-Otis House

The Garden Club of Orange will be hosting a tour of the historic Stone-Otis House and herb garden on Thursday, July 17 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Stone Otis House is located at 615 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. Admission and parking are free. Parking is available at the town hall and library. Refreshments

and a sampling of the Orange Historical Society's spice mix made from herbs from the garden named "Lovage" will served.

Afterwards, the Farmers Market at High Plains Community Center will be open to shop from local farmers and vendors. There will be a concert from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with food trucks.

AMSO Student Launches Epilepsy Awareness Campaign

Over the last few weeks of school, Amity Middle School Orange student Eynne Nichols took an open-ended assignment from eighth-grade social studies teacher Jennifer Marganski and forged it into a cause to raise awareness for epilepsy.

Marganski asked students to devise an idea for a monument to remember somebody or something they believe should be recognized for their significant influence on the world around them. Students were then assigned to write a letter to someone who could put their aspirations into action and help them take steps forward to achieve their monument.

Nichols said that Devin Howard was the first person she thought of when she was given the assignment. Howard was a 10-year-old boy who attended Racebrook





Elementary School who was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 2, having absence seizures at first and having up to 100 seizures a day by his 10th birthday.

"I wanted to do it because Devin was my friend, and I had known him for a long time, and this was a cathartic thing for me," Nichols.

She reached out to Assistant Superintendent Shannan Carlson and Superintendent Jennifer Byars to get approval for a fundraiser. Purple ribbons were sold during lunch waves to raise awareness. Eynne teamed up with the student council to include a "Purple Day" during Spirit Week to encourage students to participate in donating. She collected almost \$1,300 to donate to the Devin Howard Memorial Foundation.



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Opinion & Editorial

The WWII Parachute Wedding Gown

By Arlene DeGrand Painter

John Gambardella, who was born in New Haven on Sept. 14, 1921, was convinced that he led a charmed life.

When Peal Harbor was bombed, Gambardella was a sophomore in college in a pre-veterinary medical course. He could have been automatically deferred from the armed forces, but he wanted to serve his country with all his friends and fraternity brothers who were enlisting. Because of his short stature (only 5 feet 3 inches) he decided he could be most effective in

the Air Corps.

Gambardella learned that he was just 1 inch shy of the required height for pilot training. However, he did qualify for the Bombardier and Navigation Program. He completed his advanced training in 1943, receiving his wings and being commissioned as 2nd lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was soon assigned to the 373rd Squadron of the 308th Bomb Group in Yangki, China.

While on a mission in June 1944, the crew was forced to bail out of their aircraft over the border of French Indo-China (Vietnam). The pilot, John Bigelow, was killed in action. The bail-out occurred during the middle of the night. When daybreak came, Gambardella could see a walled village in the distance. One of his legs had a huge gash, into which he poured sulfa from his medical kit to avoid infection.

Gambardella hobbled across rice paddies to the village, hoping the natives would be friendly. He made the villagers comfortable with him by letting them listen to his watch and trying on his gloves. Within a day, his navigator arrived at the same village.

A couple of days later two members of the guerillas arrived at the village. They fashioned a litter for Gambardella out of two bamboo poles and his parachute; by this time his leg was so swollen he couldn't walk. The guerillas carried him on a treacherous path down the mountain. When they reached the bottom of the trail, they met up with the remainder of the crew. They were greeted by the dignitaries of the town, allowed to rest and treated to a late-night banquet. Within a few days the crew was able to board

a train to Kunming, China. Gambardella packed up his chute and mailed it back to his fiancé in the states, Nina Rose Ardito.

Gambardella continued with the 373rd, and on their seventh combat mission they had to crash land with a 5,200-pound bomb load.

"It blew the hell out of everything" and killed seven crew members, Gambardella later recalled. "I found myself in the well with four gunners standing on the catwalk behind me as we crashed. During impact I felt like I was in the spin cycle of a washing machine, twisting, turning and tumbling. Choking from the dust I recall participating in the screams coming from my crew members. When movement ceased and the dust settled, I could see daylight from a small hole created in the fuselage at the trailing edge of the wing. Being wedged in by all the debris I struggled to unbuckle my chute harness and belt, squeezing, crawling toward the hole. My small size, which disqualified me from pilot training, enabled me to squeeze through the small hole. As I freed myself, I landed on my belly. The detonation of the bomb lifted me off the ground. With a full gas load, fire set off bombs and 50 caliber bullets whizzed by as I crawled over the wing on the plane trying to clear myself from the area. Photographs of the remains of our plane, named the St. Michael, showed nothing more than debris."

Four of the crew and the pilot, Fred Harrison, escaped, but he would die a few days later. Gambardella received first degree burns of the face and hands and a contusion of the back which hospitalized him for three weeks. After rest and relaxation and weeks of menial duties,

Gambardella was assigned to accompany two of the badly burned crew members back home. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant, and on Jan. 1, 1945, flew the "hump" for the last time.

Gambardella married Ardito, his hometown sweetheart, on June 21, 1945. She fashioned her wedding gown from his parachute.

Gambardella returned to college and received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Connecticut and a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Oklahoma State University. He had a private practice and was a beloved veterinarian in Branford for many years. He and his wife went on to have seven children. Two daughters wore the parachute wedding gown, and all their children and grandchildren were baptized in a christening gown also made from the parachute.

Gambardella passed away on May 31, 2014, and his wife died on Jan. 15, 2025. Theirs is a love story that is remembered with an exhibit at the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center. Thanks to Nina Gambardella and the family, the beautiful wedding gown and her husband's uniform and Flying Tigers leather jacket are displayed to keep their memories alive for generations to come.

The West Haven Veterans Museum is located at 30 Hood Terrace in West Haven, across from the West Haven Train Station. Call 203-934-1111 for information on hours and tours.

Arlene DeGrand Painter is the manager of the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center in West Haven. She can be contacted at 860-335-7263.



The wedding dress worn by Nina Ardito when she married John Gambardella was fashioned from the parachute he used during World War II. At right is Gambardella's uniform. Photo by Arlene DeGrand Painter.

Placental Amniotic Allografts Transforming Wound Care

By Stephen Roth

Every day, millions of Americans struggle with chronic wounds – venous and diabetic foot ulcers, pressure sores and surgical wounds that resist healing despite weeks or months of care. These aren't just frustrating medical issues; they can lead to serious complications like infection, hospitalization and even amputation.

Traditionally, wound care has meant frequent trips to clinics or hospitals. But with advancements in regenerative medicine, some of the most promising treatments are now available in the comfort of home.

One such innovation is the use of placental amniotic allografts – a regenerative medicine treatment showing significant promise in supporting wound healing.

An allograft is a type of tissue transplant where the donor and recipient are different individuals. In this case, the graft is made from the amniotic membrane – the protective layer

surrounding a baby during pregnancy. With full consent from the mother, this tissue can be donated following a planned C-section. Once collected, the membrane is sterilized and processed into a form that can be applied to chronic wounds. This natural material contains growth factors and anti-inflammatory proteins that can signal the body to restart the healing process.

Chronic wounds often linger because the body's healing cycle is impaired, which is common in people with diabetes, vascular disease or immobility. Amniotic allografts provide a biologically active environment that promotes cell regeneration, reduces inflammation and encourages the formation of healthy new tissue. Clinical research has found these grafts can accelerate healing, reduce pain and decrease the risk of further complications.

These treatments are now accessible through in-home care services. Licensed medical teams

can evaluate and treat wounds directly in a patient's home under the guidance of a physician. This model helps patients avoid the strain of travel and allows for consistent follow-up in a familiar setting. For eligible patients, treatments may be covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

Receiving care at home also supports emotional and physical recovery. Patients often feel more at ease, family members can be present for support and clinicians can tailor care plans based on the home environment. This approach can also help prevent hospital readmissions by addressing infections or complications early.

One local example involved a veteran with a non-healing diabetic foot ulcer. After conventional treatments failed, his provider initiated allograft therapy at home. Within weeks, his wound began closing, and amputation was avoided. These kinds of outcomes are becoming more common as awareness grows.

Unfortunately, many people with chronic wounds are unaware of these options. If a wound has not improved after four weeks, it may be time to explore advanced treatment alternatives. A conversation with a health care provider can help determine eligibility and identify next steps.

Placental amniotic allografts represent a meaningful shift in wound care – one that emphasizes healing, dignity and access. With the right support, patients can regain independence and avoid unnecessary hospital stays.

Stephen Roth is a provider specialist at Roth Medical Consulting in Milford. This article is intended for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as medical advice. Always consult a qualified medical professional regarding any health concerns.

Letters to the Editor:

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

Celebrating Pride in Orange

To the Editor:

A Pride flag flying in Orange in June. I didn't think it would happen, but the town put up a Pride flag after first selectman candidate Dan Fitzmaurice brought it to the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 11. I teared up seeing the photo of the flag flying and thinking about the families like mine and the LGBTQ teens who would feel seen. My wife and I own a historic house in Orange built in 1830 and we fly a Pride flag year-round. We are very aware that when our house was built, women couldn't own prop-

erty, let alone get married and build a life together. We fly a Pride flag because it represents our family and we're proud to be able to live as our authentic selves.

Seeing the Pride flag felt like our town acknowledged us and said that we belonged here. So many other local towns have flown Pride flags in June and held flag-raising ceremonies. It's a way for towns to show their support of LGBTQ neighbors in their town. When I heard that a group was gathering for a photo with the flag at High Plains Community Center, I invited a few other queer friends and was so excited to be a part of a little mini-Pride event in Orange.

I later saw a comment online on one of the posted photos that said we shouldn't have had kids there. Most of those kids are children of LGBTQ Orange residents or they are friends with us and our kids. Our kids have every reason to be proud of their families. And how awesome it was that they also felt that their town supported them and celebrated them in June.

Sadly, the flag was stolen only a few days lat-

er and, as far as I know, hasn't been replaced at High Plains or elsewhere. This is very disappointing, and I hope that it represents only a small portion of our neighbors' opinions. But for now, I'd rather focus on this first Orange Pride flag and hope that it becomes a yearly event.

Jennifer Jacquet
Orange

Stealing Pride Flag Cowardly

To the Editor:

Now that the hater who stole Orange Pride flag has succeeded in pulling the heist of the century, I suppose you're feeling satisfied with yourself. But I can't imagine how you can be proud of what you did.

Do you not understand that stealing things is nothing to take pride in? You find fault with gay folks, but are you saying that it's better to be a thief than it is to love someone? Where is the

dignity in being a petty criminal?

And you're woefully deluded if you think that sneaking around when nobody can see you is more courageous than publicly celebrating a lawful and legitimate identity. If you're so manly, be brave and get out of your closet, or man cave or mommy's basement – wherever it is you're hiding – and explain yourself.

Maybe you think that your undercover thievery and homophobia are justified on religious principles. I'd have to wonder what church you belong to, as every major religion on the planet is based on our loving one another. You're spouting prejudice and hatred, but gay people, whose message is about the love they feel, are the sickos?

I'll bet you even think you're a true patriot. If you do, perhaps you can explain how depriving a major segment of our society of their First Amendment rights is a proper American virtue. American patriots don't steal flags (and lawn

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Opinion & Editorial

Highlights From The 2025 Session



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

And just like that, the 2025 legislative session is in the books. Did you catch all of the important proposals, conversations and new laws? Don't worry: below, I will dive in on some of the major highlights from this session including the new state budget and an update to energy costs.

This session was all about finalizing a new state budget. Although my House Republican colleagues and I were the only caucus to propose an alternative budget to the governor's plan, majority leaders still proceeded to disobey the fiscal guardrails and abandon a balanced budget.

I opposed the budget because it raises taxes through the hospital user fee, taxes businesses more and overfunds our higher education institutions, while many towns still suffer the costs of electricity, special education and housing. Despite our House Republican plan to lower utility prices and provide immediate relief to businesses and families, majority leaders had other priorities.

Apart from the budget, my Republican colleagues and I were successful in protecting residents from policies that would have negatively affected local values and our economic development. Some major wins for Republicans included defeating attempts to tax sweetened beverages, retail deliveries, mileage and car sharing. We also defended against gas-powered vehicle bans, legalizing homelessness and government-sanctioned illegal drug use sites.

Republicans also found success after the governor vetoed two pieces of legislation: one that would have diverted local control to build congested housing, and another which would have forced companies to pay workers who go on strike against them.

We passed a bill lowering the public benefits portion of our electric bills. Overall, however, this bill didn't reflect our hopes to eliminate the public benefits portion altogether.

We cracked down on street takeovers by increasing license penalties and allowing towns to destroy confiscated vehicles. Similarly, we proudly passed a law permitting law enforcement to investigate vehicles with drivers using marijuana, which will ease rising rates of intoxicated driving.

We passed legislation that addresses special education needs and school resources, ensures quality special education standards and diverts resources to the parents who require early childhood care assistance. Additionally, I was proud to support a bill on social media algorithms and youth targeting in response to Amity High School students Michael Audie and Daniel Mowerman. However, it failed to pass the Senate.

We made significant strides by passing the HERO Act, which establishes certain military awards and addresses nursing home waiting lists, as well as a provision to expand tuition for national guardsman and disabled-veteran loans. We made it easier for veterans to find housing and aid.

Other positive bills include PA 25-159 that implements a "yellow envelope" program in the Department of Motor Vehicles which provides necessary details for law enforcement when interacting with someone who has an intellectual disability or disease. I am grateful for all those who helped make this possible.

I encourage you to follow me on social media and visit repkennedy.com to subscribe to my brief newsletter. Please never hesitate to contact me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 860-240-8700 with your questions, ideas and concerns.

The End... For Now



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

I've learned that one of the more difficult aspects of legislative work is trying to predict the final result of proposed policies. Even the most supported proposal might not make it to the governor's desk, and some that seem like long shots go sailing through. Now that the session is over, let's look at some of this year's results.

First, what made it: after a lot of discussions, challenges and revisions, the special education bill (HB 5001) passed unanimously in the House and Senate and has been signed by the governor. While we couldn't do everything that I wanted, or our schools needed, we were able to make some significant changes that will improve the process of delivering special education services for everyone. I was proud to be part of that select committee.

As the chair of the Early Childhood Caucus, I was especially invested in bills addressing child care policies, namely HB 5003 and SB 1. Ultimately, the contents of those bills merged and shifted, but still resulted in transformative pieces of legislation. Over the next few years, the state will be creating more slots for child care, capping costs (free for families making under \$100,000 per year and maxing out payments at 7 percent per year for those making more than \$100,000), and supporting the child care profession through access to health care and business loans for infrastructure improvements.

Two of my own bills also became law: one protecting the identity of all gaming and lottery winners (an idea shared by a constituent), and another reforming the process of the appointment of the child advocate to be more transparent and have clearer communications between all parties involved.

We also passed broadly supported environmental reforms, benefits for veterans and first responders, reformed predatory towing practices, increased funding for nonprofits and strengthened supports for working families – all without raising taxes. These and many more wins resulted in good progress for Connecticut.

It's important to understand that our state constitution requires a set deadline for the session each year. Towards the end, the clock is in control. If a bill isn't called and voted on in both chambers by midnight on the deadline, usually it's done for the year and you start over next session.

Unfortunately – for reasons that were technical, or political, or simply unknowable – the clock ran out once again before some important bills could get through both chambers. Bills that addressed education and school safety, and children's mental health services were among them. I share the frustration and disappointment with everyone who spent time and effort advocating for these policies throughout the session. But there may be a path forward. We knew that the federal funding cuts would require a special session to address them; I am fighting for a handful of these good policies to be called during the special session so we can fulfill some of our responsibilities to our districts and the state.

I will continue to keep you updated on these outcomes and more. Please reach out any time with any questions or concerns at mary.welander@cga.ct.gov.

Letters (Continued From 4)

signs), especially in the dead of night. Patriots fly their colors openly and boldly, just like at a Pride event.

The truth is that nobody you are trying to convert to hatred respects you or your methods enough to adopt your loathsome nastiness. Only your own off-key choir takes your lousy singing seriously. Thank you for helping the Pride movement by shooting yourself in your own leg.

It's probably a waste of time trying to explain the irony of all this to you. I doubt you'd be receptive to the therapy that you need so badly. But you'd better check yourself – there are a lot of cameras where you are lurking and eventually you will be caught and exposed for the weaselly, cowardly, un-American hater and thief that you are delusional to believe sane folk could admire.

Gene Burshuliak
Orange

Why the BOE Matters

To the Editor:

I am running for the Orange Board of Education in this November's election. In 2020 my family moved to Orange after a long search of the towns in the area, in large part because of the community feel and the school system. Growing up in a shore town in central New Jersey, I was looking for a similar atmosphere for my boys that I grew up with. We have found that here in Orange. My concern is how frequently and deeply party politics has entered into our schools, and the decision-making process. Too often we are seeing that who a person voted for in the last election dictates how they vote on local issues that should be bipartisan or non-political.

I'm running in order to serve the members of the community, the children in our school system and their families in a way that utilizes a lifetime spent in education. I am running because experience matters. In the fall, I hope the members of our community elect people who care about both the short-term needs and the long-term vision that will keep our town thriving. I am running because far too often we see politics insert itself into education where common sense and collaboration used to live. Our two wonderful little boys will be at Mary L. Tracy and Peck in the fall, so this election is deeply personal. I am running for them, for their classmates, their teachers and everyone in our community who is directly or indirectly impacted by our school system. As a 23-year teacher, multiple sport coach, department chair and lifelong learner, I can see that Orange has done an amazing job of building a great place for our kids to learn. Let's keep that moving forward and growing, and not rest on our laurels.

Josh Orlinky
Orange

Ready to Get in the Zone

To the Editor:

I am proud to announce my candidacy for a position on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission in Orange. I am deeply committed to preserving the qualities that make Orange a unique and vibrant community while ensuring thoughtful planning for its future.

Orange is a town steeped in tradition, with its historic center and rolling landscapes. It's a place where families thrive, where we celebrate cherished events like the Orange Country Fair and the Memorial Day Parade, and where our schools are among the best in the state. However, maintaining this balance of history, commu-

nity and progress requires careful planning and a collaborative approach to zoning.

I am running for the TPZC because I believe Orange deserves a voice that combines respect for our town's traditions with a vision for sustainable growth. As we face increasing pressure for development, it is imperative that we protect our green spaces, maintain the character of our neighborhoods and ensure that any new initiatives align with the needs and values of our residents.

My goal is to ensure that future development respects the character of our town while allowing for thoughtful economic opportunities. Whether it's carefully reviewing applications for commercial expansion on the Boston Post Road or protecting open space along Turkey Hill and Grassy Hill roads, I will advocate for a balanced approach that serves both residents and local businesses. Your voice matters to me.

As a small business owner, and parent of two kids (happily attending Turkey Hill and a recent graduate of Amity Middle, heading to Amity High School), I am dedicated to fostering open communication and involving our residents in the decision-making process. The fabric of Orange is woven from the voices of those who live here, and I pledge to listen, engage and represent your interests.

I humbly ask for your support this upcoming election. Together, we can strike the right balance between honoring our past and building a future that reflects the best of Orange.

Beth Marshea
Orange

Guess Who's Paying the Bills?

To the Editor:

I take a lot of pride in our home here in Orange. When we bought it, we knew it needed work. But it was in our price range and a great neighborhood. Since then, we've put in not just money, but time, care and love to make it our home.

That's why this year's property tax bill was such a shock. It's not just how much it went up, it's the fact that homeowners like us are being asked to cover more and more of what the town needs to pay for.

So, I looked into it. During Orange's recent revaluation, which is when the town updates how much homes and buildings are worth, property values jumped. Our home's value went up 43 percent. But many commercial properties didn't change much. The plaza on the Post Road where Party City used to be? Its value only went up 5 percent.

The town did lower the mill rate, which is how much tax you pay for every \$1,000 of your property's assessed value. But since that plaza's value barely changed, this commercial property owner will actually pay less in taxes this year. Meanwhile, families like ours are paying more.

So guess who's paying the bills in Orange? Homeowners. And we're paying more than ever before.

There is a better way. The Firelight Plaza is a great example. After the owners fixed it up, its value went up 235 percent. Now they're paying more in taxes, which helps take pressure off homeowners.

Town Hall should aggressively support this kind of smart growth – improving our commercial areas, helping local farms and businesses grow and going after every grant out there. Other towns are doing it. We can too.

Families and retirees shouldn't have to keep covering more and more of the town's expenses, especially right now. With proactive leadership for economic development in Town Hall, we can protect what we love about Orange and build a better future for everyone.

Dan Fitzmaurice, Candidate for First Selectman
Orange

Orange Democratic Town Committee

A Busy Month For Orange Democrats

What a month it has been since my last column. Let me start with congratulating my former counterpart, Dominick Lombardi, immediate past chair of the Orange Republican Town Committee. Lombardi resigned as chair to accept a position at the US Department of Agriculture after being appointed by President Donald Trump. You may know Lombardi is a big supporter of Trump, as is his family. Lombardi's mother serves on the Amity Board of Education after being elected in 2023 along with two other Trump agenda supporters, and his father, Chad, is now the new chair of the ORTC. It seems the ORTC has strong support for, and is aligned with, the current president of the US.

Since my last column, the Orange Democratic candidates have been busy reaching out to constituents to hear what you have to say. We have held several events where you have been invited to join us, meet us and tell us your thoughts on the

future of Orange. Many of you have done so and we thank you for taking the time to let us hear you. We welcome your input.

Our candidates have also been attending various board meetings. These include the Board of Education, the Town Plan & Zoning Commission and, as you may have seen, the Board of Selectmen. First selectman candidate Dan Fitzmaurice offered encouraging words at the June BOS meeting in support of all members of the town of Orange focusing on the LGBTQ community as we celebrated Pride Month.

Fitzmaurice presented First Selectman Jim Zeoli and the Board of Selectmen with a Pride flag, asking it to be hung the next day to show our town's support for all residents. We thank Zeoli for having the flag flying proudly over the fairgrounds at



JODY DIETCH

High Plains Community Center. What better location than a place that clearly identifies as our community's gathering location. In fact, it hung proudly during the Orange Congregational Church's annual Strawberry Festival.

I couldn't help but think of my friend Marie Gesler, who was one of the original organizers of the Strawberry Festival. Gesler passed away last year, and I am sure she would have been proud to see that flag flying over the festival.

Unfortunately, someone removed the flag without permission sometime Sunday night after the festival. The Orange Democrats offered to replace the flag, and many residents reached out to Zeoli regarding this, but unfortunately no further action was taken by the first selectman's office.

While we appreciate the time the flag was up, we can't help but think how much more impactful it would have been had it been flying through June 30.

Our Democratic caucus to formally endorse our candidates is Tuesday, July 15. We encourage all registered Democrats to attend this caucus at High Plains Community Center. Remember, early voting starts Oct. 20 and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Local elections have an immediate impact on our lives, and we encourage all registered voters to take a few minutes this fall to vote early, by absentee ballot or in person on Nov. 4. For more information on the Democratic candidates, visit our Facebook page @OrangeCTDems or our website orangectdems.org. Feel free to reach out me at JLDOrange@yahoo.com or 203-314-9975.

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

Orange Senior Center

Be A 'Fred'

I'm reading a book called The Fred Factor by Mark Sanborn. Although the book is small in stature, it's mighty with its words. The author writes about his local postman who always seems to go the extra mile. When families are away, he holds their mail. He always asks how everyone is doing and is never without a kind word. The message is clear: we should all strive to be like Fred, or just be a "Fred."

At the Orange Senior Center, we have a lot of "Fred's." There is Jenny Hudson, our administrative assistant and transportation coordinator. If you've called the Senior Center, you've spoken to Hudson. She has the monumental task of scheduling all transportation requests and assigning the drivers. Hudson always goes above and beyond to make sure everyone gets to where they need to go safely and on time.

Carol Marini and Bonnie George share the job of senior center clerk. Marini works in the morning and George works in the

afternoon. They enroll people in the senior center, sign folks up for classes, trips and activities, take payments, and submit names for trips to the travel agencies. As people are streaming in with questions, need directions or looking for help in general, they provide assistance with a gleam in their eye, a smile on their face and with kind words.

Denise Stein is the elderly municipal agent/outreach worker for the town. Stein assists town residents aged 55 and over by providing information and referrals to local, state and federal services and benefit programs, and helps with applying for benefits. Stein is rarely in the office because she is often making home visits with residents who are unable to come to her. She is an incredible resource for the Orange community and has deep compassion for all her clients.



DENNIS MARSH

The transportation drivers, Charlie, Brian, Tim and Bob, day-in and day-out drive our seniors to their needed medical appointments, the weekly shopping trip and to the senior center with unending patience and care.

Ellen Davis, the kitchen manager, tackles the task of preparing and serving a hot lunch daily to our members.

Davis gets to know all the members by name and always shares her incredible smile to make everyone feel welcomed.

Let's not forget about the members themselves. The Orange Senior Center is filled with "Fred's." Our members are always checking in on one another, helping one another and welcoming new people by directing them on the flow of things. So many people come to the center not expecting to

form new friendships, but they do. Friendships and social connection are so important as we age. We may not be able to solve world hunger, end war or cure diseases, but we can spread joy. We can hold a hand. We can make people feel welcome.

Our members and staff all go the extra mile to help make the Orange Senior Center a great place to be and make sure people feel welcomed and connected. If you haven't stopped by to visit yet, don't wait.

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.

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For Nature's Sake

Three Reasons To Avoid Touching A Store Receipt

The sales receipts that we accumulate while shopping for groceries, prescriptions, gas, clothing and more can pose a significant enough health risk that some informed consumers avoid touching them altogether. Most receipts today are printed on thermal paper, coated with chemicals that turn into print when heated. The problem is that those chemicals are often toxic, easily shed and absorb into skin.

The issue isn't new. Connecticut became the first state, in 2011, to ban the use of an endocrine disruptor called bisphenol A as a coating in store receipts, which made residents safer (thanks to those state lawmakers) and contributed to a movement among retailers around the country to replace BPA. Unfortunately, the go-to replacement for bisphenol A in thermal receipts over the past 15 years has been its chemical cousin, bisphenol S, which, we now know, presents risks similar to BPA.

Why take the extra step to outright avoid touching receipts today? At least three points from research on the topic seem worth considering:

Toxicity: Bisphenol S, an endocrine disruptor like all bisphenols, has been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, reproductive harms and more. The Environmental Protection Agency has classified bisphenol S as a potentially high hazard for toxicity in human development, and in 2023 California added it to their list of chemicals known to cause reproductive issues.

Prevalence: According to a 2023 study

by the nonprofit Ecology Center, more than three quarters of cash register receipts from a broad sample of stores across the US contain bisphenol S. In that study, scientists tested 374 store receipts, collected from 144 major chain stores in 22 states and the District of Columbia, and found that 20 percent of the receipts had non-bisphenol (safe) developer chemicals, less than 1 percent were coated with BPA (the notoriously toxic one), and 79 percent were coated with BPS (which experts call an "unfortunate substitute" for BPA). The Washington State Department of Ecology estimates that 86 percent of thermal receipts in the US contain bisphenols of one kind or another.

Exposure level: It may seem a small thing, but experiments have shown that handling a single store receipt can be a far greater source of human exposure to bisphenol A, for instance, than eating food from several cans with BPA lining.

John Warner, the founder of the Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry, said "There's more BPA in a single thermal paper receipt than the total amount that would leach out from a polycarbonate water bottle used for many years."

It should be noted, according to some research, that bisphenol S does not permeate the skin quite as easily as BPA (which is now illegal in Connecticut receipts); how-



PATRICIA HOUSER

ever, scientists have also observed that bisphenol S also doesn't degrade as easily in the human body, which concerns health experts. A website for Green America notes that up to 81 percent of Americans have bisphenol S in their urine and, that organization asserts, 90 percent of that is from exposure to thermal receipts.

For those times at the cash register when it's difficult not to take a receipt from a source that has not been verified as safe, government and nonprofit groups have suggestions for minimizing exposure. The Ecology Center advises people not to handle receipts when hands are wet or after using sanitizer sprays because that makes the chemicals absorb more easily. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency suggests folding the printed side in (the non-printed side has a lower dose of chemicals) and washing hands as soon as possible afterwards. Keep receipts for meals away from food and drink, say experts, and if you must handle receipts for your job consider wearing nitrile gloves. Importantly, say all sources, one should never hand receipts to babies or toddlers.

In a recent interview for Business Insider, New York University researcher and pediatrics professor Dr. Leo Trasande noted that he avoids contact with paper receipts when he can by opting for digital or text receipts. Green America's "Skip the Slip" campaign advocates digitizing all store receipts among

other remedies. The website for that campaign is worth visiting for its comprehensive overview of harms, to human and environmental health, from bisphenol-soaked thermal receipts.

In an admirable gesture by an institution, the Yale Library Sustainability Advisory Group announced in 2018 a switch to a non-toxic (vitamin C-based) fully recyclable formula for their thermal receipts. Meanwhile, in commerce, a growing number of retailers have switched to safe alternatives and away from toxic bisphenols, including, among national chains represented locally, CVS, H&M, Target, Starbucks, Trader Joes and Whole Foods. Stores, like our local Petco, are also eco-friendly when they offer the option of a digital receipt.

Among state governments, Washington state is leading the way toward eliminating toxic receipts. They currently subsidize organizations wishing to replace unsafe thermal printing technology and are on track to implement a statewide ban on bisphenols in receipts, effective by 2026.

Until comparable protections reach our area, we can each be forgiven perhaps if occasionally we leave a receipt, literally, hanging.

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

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Bankruptcy

Unjust Debts

When the invitation arrived in my inbox, I was honored. It's not every day that a bankruptcy trustee reaches out to you about something other than a pending case you have together. But on this particular day, as I was busy toggling between screens working on this and that, I stopped in my tracks. The invitation was for the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation CT/New England Second Annual Dinner with Bankruptcy Judges.

The IWIRC was founded in 1993 by a female attorney and a female financial advisor for the purpose of empowering and encouraging women in the insolvency field worldwide "across the boardroom, courtroom and the continent."

I was so excited I almost jumped out of my office chair. The local bankruptcy judges are awesome, and to have an opportunity to be in the room with them, to converse with them off the record in an informal setting about the practice of law was – for this legal nerd – quite an exciting prospect. There are, in fact, three seats of the bankruptcy court in Connecticut. There is a male judge in Hartford and two female judges (one in New Haven and one in Bridgeport).

I immediately checked my calendar for conflicts and made sure I had childcare so I could register to attend. Once I confirmed everything and paid the fee, I put the date on my calendar, thanked the trustee who had invited me and started to count down the days until the event.

When the appointed evening arrived, I wore my best dress and my favorite high

heels, curled my hair and did my makeup, and drove up to Hartford to enjoy "an evening of fine dining and merriment with women bankruptcy judges from our region," as it was billed on the IWIRC website. The dinner was held at Gather55 on Bartholomew Avenue in the Parkville neighborhood of Hartford. The space was open and inviting, the food was delicious and the staff was very attentive.

Upon checking in and getting my name tag, I found the perfect seat to see the podium clearly. Then I grabbed a club soda with lime and mixed and mingled with many colleagues from across the state and region. I recognized some of the judges from the other states from a bankruptcy conference I had attended a few years ago, but I only saw one of the two female judges from Connecticut. I asked around and learned that the absent judge had come down with a cold and couldn't attend. It was a huge disappointment, as she is a terrific person and an incredible judge.

After the appetizers were passed, the attendees were asked to take their seats and the program started. There was a warm introduction from the vice chair, a few inspirational speeches from the various judges and a bit-sweet announcement of a retirement.

The best part of the night was the conversation with the ladies who sat at my table, including debtors' and creditors' attorneys, foreclosure attorneys, court clerks and the one female bankruptcy judge from Con-



.....
THERESA
ROSE DEGRAY

necticut who did attend. She sat directly across from me, and we chatted about many cool things, like the update to local Chapter 13 plan form and the intricacies of the most popular bankruptcy software. I hung on her every word.

As the evening progressed and the main course was served, the conversation was waning just a bit, so I turned to the woman next to me and spontaneously asked "Have you read any good books lately?"

Without hesitation, she exclaimed, "Yes, I just read Unjust Debts, and it was great!" Intrigued by the title, I asked a few follow-up questions and made a mental note to look up the book when I got home because it sounded right up my alley.

It was getting late, and I had a long drive home from Hartford to Orange, so I took my chocolate torte dessert to go and said my goodbyes to the lovely ladies at my table.

As soon as I got home, I googled the book and discovered it was published last year. I immediately went on Case Memorial Library's website and searched for the book. To my amazement, it was on the shelf, so I placed it on hold and picked it up the next day.

The book's full title is Unjust Debts: How Our Bankruptcy System Makes America More Unequal. It was written by Melissa B. Jacoby, who is an attorney and the Graham Kenan Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As NPR has described it, the book is a "critical analysis" of the bankruptcy system. Frankly, I was put off by the criticism. As a pro-bankruptcy practitioner, I felt that the book read more like a college thesis for a sociology class than an actual book about the bankruptcy system. The book focuses mostly on Chapter 9s (municipal bankruptcies), which are few and far between, and Chapter 11s (bankruptcies for companies and corporations). There was very little attention paid to Chapter 7s or 13s for individuals.

A lot of attention was paid to complaining about the system – a system that has, in fact, helped thousands and thousands of people get a second chance each year for over 200 years. It was clear that the author was never a practicing attorney and did not have a firm grasp on how people qualify for bankruptcy or why they choose a particular chapter. It was as if she had never had any real interaction with regular, everyday people who file for bankruptcy to seek relief from the pressures of their creditors.

Regardless, it was an interesting read, however disappointing, and will be returned to the Case Memorial Library if you want to go check it out.

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

TangoFest Returning To Milford

Milford will be one of the locations in Connecticut participating in this year's 16th TangoFest with a tango bootcamp for beginners at the Milford Arts Council on Saturday, July 12 and a tango workshop on Saturday, July 19.

Tango experts Dale Ellison and Gem

Duras, as well as Carolina Leonardelli and Gabriel Salvi, for events throughout the week in Milford, Norwalk, Greenwich and Middletown.

The boot camp in Milford will be geared towards beginners and less experienced dancers who want to review

the fundamentals. During their instruction from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Ellison and Duras will present the basic figures, turns and signature patterns of Argentine tango, such as "ochos" and "ganchos." Singles are welcome, enrollment is limited and pre-registration recommended. The cost is \$60.

The following Saturday will feature workshops with Leonardelli and Salvi from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$90.

Both events take place at the MAC building at 40 Railroad Ave. S. in Milford. For more information, visit CTTangoFest.org.

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Time Management

Why You Might Get A Business Coach

Top achievers in business get to the top of their game sooner or later. Those who have engaged professional coaches get there better.

There are three reasons why you might consider engaging a business coach.

Let us say the current state of your business is what you can label as "Point A," your current reality. And let us say you are not satisfied with that "Point A."

For example, your marketing is not working. Sales are low. Or you cannot hire and keep good employees. Perhaps you're spending too much time being an employee for your business rather than being a CEO of your business, and your work/life balance is suffering.

If these are important enough issues that you want to take your business to a better place, you need to take action that can solve and overcome these issues. Let us label this, "Point B."

Here are three reasons to retain an experienced business coach.

1. You do not know where Point B is. You are not comfortable where you are now and you cannot see what the solutions to your issues are. For example, your sales are not enough to produce a profit, and you do not know how to get it done.

A coach can help you clarify your goals, identify your blind spots and bring fresh, objective insight to your situation. They will ask you powerful questions that push you to rethink assumptions and define what success looks like for you.

2. You do know where Point B is. You know you must increase your sales by 50 percent, but you do not know how it can be done.

A coach brings experience, strategy and structure to your growth efforts. They have seen similar situations before and can help you build a specific roadmap. They will help you focus on the most effective ac-



DON WETMORE

tions, avoid costly mistakes and test ideas faster. Whether it is hiring better salespeople, revamping your marketing funnel or improving your pricing strategy, they help you develop a custom, executable plan.

3. You know where Point B is and you know what has to be done to fix the issue, and you know how to get there – but you can't do it alone. You need an accountability partner

to help you overcome your chronic procrastination. Many entrepreneurs know what needs to be done, but lack the consistency, discipline or time management to follow through.

A coach keeps you on track with regular check-ins, helps you overcome resistance and celebrates progress with you. This level of partnership can make the difference between spinning your wheels and moving

steadily forward.

In addition to these three main reasons, there are other benefits to collaborating with a coach. They can challenge your limiting beliefs, improve your decision-making, and function as a sounding board for new ideas. They are not emotionally invested in your day-to-day operations the way you are, and that distance allows them to provide clearer, more strategic guidance.

A coach is not a crutch; a coach is a catalyst. They will not do the work for you, but they will make you better at doing the work. If you are serious about improving results, reducing stress and building a business that serves your life (not the other way around), a business coach might be the best investment you can make.

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

The Road To Tender Hearts By Annie Hartnett

I seem to gravitate toward books that give you all the feels, whether it's laughter, sadness or anything in between. The Road to Tender Hearts does all of the above and does it magnificently.

One of the more interesting characters is Pancakes, a cat who seeks out and provides solace to those who will soon pass away.

Sixty-three-year-old millionaire PJ Clarke has a set routine. Each morning he goes out for a walk and inevitably winds up at his ex-wife Ivy's house, where she resides with her current boyfriend, Fred. Both Ivy and Fred are aware of PJ's sensitivity regarding child and animal abuse. They carefully clip out articles reporting on these types of stories before handing PJ the morning paper.

While perusing the paper he notices an obituary and learns that an old flame has become a widow. Hoping to rekindle an old love, PJ plans a trip to the Tender Hearts Retirement Community.

In an amazing turn of events, PJ (who had been drinking himself to oblivion since his daughter Kate died) learns he is now the legal guardian of his estranged brother's two children. With no alternative, PJ takes the kids on the trip with him. PJ's estranged daughter, Sophie, knows her father's alleged incompetence with the care of young children and dealing with romantic affairs. So she invites herself on the trip.



CARMELA DEVITO

PJ decides that even though it's summer, the trip should, to some degree, be educational. The kids are suitably impressed with Niagara Falls and enjoy the unique attractions Nashville has to offer. One of the side benefits of the trip is the unique characters PJ gives rides to on the road. Good-hearted PJ can't resist helping others trying to avoid difficult home situations or looking for a new start.

The trip takes a detour when one of the kids, obsessed with a soap opera star, decides one of the actors is her biological father and she needs to visit the fan club

in Sugarland. They make it in time for the celebrity meet and greet session. The meeting with the soap opera star does not go as planned.

Neither do the financial arrangements. The kids run off thinking Uncle PJ is abandoning them, but not understanding that in reality he will become their primary caretaker.

There are so many things I loved about this book. Its warmth, humor, interpersonal relationships and PJ himself made this a wonderful read.

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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Orange Resident Joins American Legion



Post 127 of the American Legion in Orange inducted its newest member, Bett DeSantis, at the group's June meeting. DeSantis is a US Navy veteran who moved to town two years ago. She is a member of the Garden Club of Orange and is active in her local church. Photo by Alan Scott.

Your Health

Uptick In Ticks: Tips For Prevention

Connecticut is experiencing a sharp rise in tick activity this season, prompting state health officials to issue renewed warnings about the risks of tick-borne diseases as residents head outdoors for summer activities.

We are not only seeing a spike in tick encounters, but also an increase in tick-borne illnesses such as anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Powassan virus.

While Lyme disease remains the most common tick-borne illness in the state – with over 2,000 confirmed cases in 2024 alone – health officials are increasingly concerned about other emerging threats.

“In addition to Lyme, we’re seeing more cases of babesiosis and Powassan virus, which can cause severe neurological compli-

cations,” said Dr. Manisha Juthani, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. “Some of these diseases are harder to diagnose and can be serious if not treated promptly.”

According to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, tick submissions from the public are up by nearly 30 percent compared to this time last year.

“Ticks are now active earlier in the year and for a longer duration,” said Dr. Goudarz Molaei, director of the CAES Tick Testing Program. He added, “This increases the likelihood of human contact, especially in suburban areas where wooded environ-



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

ments meet residential communities.”

In Orange, the first case of Lyme disease was reported back in April. So far, there have been four confirmed cases of Lyme disease and one case of babesiosis.

It’s important to note that ticks are no longer limited to deep woods or hiking trails. Many are now found in backyards, parks and school playgrounds. Experts recommend keeping grass trimmed, clearing leaf litter and creating barriers between lawns and wooded areas to reduce tick habitat.

Take basic precautions. Use insect repel-

ent containing DEET or permethrin. Wear light-colored clothing and tuck pants into socks when hiking or gardening. Conduct full-body tick checks after spending time outdoors. And remove ticks promptly with fine-tipped tweezers.

You can send ticks to the CAES by completing the tick submission form at portal.ct.gov/-/media/caes/documents/tick_testing/caes-tick-submission-form-2022.pdf. You can also bring your tick samples directly to the Jenkins-Waggoner Building at 123 Huntington St. in New Haven.

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

Here’s To Your Health

Protein: The Building Block Of Life

Protein – often referred to as the building block of life – is a macronutrient essential for the growth, repair and maintenance of tissues in the human body.

Most people think protein is simply for building muscle. However, from the moment of conception and throughout every stage of life, protein performs several critical functions that support our health and wellbeing. As society becomes more health-conscious, understanding the importance of protein has never been more vital.

Proteins are complex molecules made up of long chains of amino acids. There are 20 different amino acids, nine of which are considered essential because the body cannot synthesize them; they must be obtained through foods you eat. Each protein type in the body has a unique sequence and structure

and has a specific function.

Protein is vital for the growth of new tissue and for repairing damaged tissue. Children, adolescents and pregnant people require higher amounts of protein to support rapid growth. Adults rely on protein to replace or repair cells that are constantly being broken down and rebuilt.

Enzymes are proteins that drive nearly all the chemical processes in the body, including digestion, energy production, blood clotting and muscle contraction. Without enzymes, the body’s metabolic functions would slow to a complete stop. Proteins such as collagen, elastin and keratin give structure and strength to skin, bones, muscles and



MICHELE TENNEY

connective tissues.

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the tissues. And antibodies are proteins that help defend the body against bacteria, viruses and other foreign invaders. Without adequate protein intake, the immune system can be compromised.

You can find a protein calculator online to determine how much protein you should be consuming every day. Some foods that are high in protein are chicken, brown rice, Greek yogurt, cottage cheese and eggs. I also use a plant-based protein powder to make sure I get my daily intake of protein.

Keeping lean muscle mass on our bodies

is essential to longevity. As we age, that becomes harder, so we really need to be intentional about strength training. I recommend strength training at least twice a week. However, three times a week is optimal.

In addition to your strength training, I recommend that you not only get enough protein but that you also be deliberate about getting adequate nutrients as well. I believe in you. You got this. Here’s to your health.

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

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Foodie Foursome

Authentic Mexican Cuisine In Milford

When I moved to Milford in the late 1970s, there was a restaurant located on New Haven Avenue named Samos next to the Old Sundae House. After that, the restaurant became the new location of Jeffery's Restaurant. That was there for a couple of decades until the restaurant became the new home of The Kimberly Restaurant. Tim "Timmy" Tsoponides, owner of the Kimberly, was ready for a change and collaborated with head chef Carmelo Garcia to create a new restaurant. Complete with a new Mexican design, this restaurant is a legitimate Mexican restaurant – El Toro. The menu shows off authentic Mexican cuisine.

The restaurant features a wonderful bar area with dining tables in a separate room from the main and private dining rooms, which have large windows overlooking a picturesque natural water view. The outdoor deck area allows for an al fresco dining experience. They have live entertainment on Friday evenings.

Rose and Janet joined Cindy and me for what was a wonderful culinary adventure. Tsoponides greeted us. As with most of our Foodie Foursome adventures, we started with apps, a salad, entrees and dessert. Our server made sure that our dining experience was paced perfectly. After we were seated, she brought a bowl of freshly made chips and salsa.

Our first apps were 12 buffalo wings, which had a crunchy exterior and a tender meaty interior. We chose the mild sauce, which was tasty with just a bit of heat. Next up was the "Botana," which was a beautifully presented selection of nachos (large quartered and crisped tortillas smothered in cheese), cheese quesadillas and chicken flautas. These were served with sour cream and

fresh guacamole.

During our first two apps, we had a few drinks: the house special "Don Timmy margarita," a coconut mojito and mango mojito. While all were fresh, the mango mojito was our favorite.

Our last two appetizers were the ceviche and empanadas. Their take on the ceviche was refreshing, with a fresh combination of finely sliced vegetables adorned with cocktail shrimp, flawlessly prepared and butterflied, pre-cooked and marinated. These were placed atop large leaves of lettuce. The Mexican empanadas, El Toro's signature app, were some of the best we have ever had. We had both the chicken and beef. They were fried, providing a light, delicate and non-greasy crispness. Their homemade chipotle mayo sauce was the perfect accompaniment to the empanadas.

We had the taco salad. The crispy flour tortilla basket was filled with mixed greens, jack and cheddar cheese, red onion, tomato, sour cream and fresh avocado with shredded chicken. While the filling was a beautifully crafted salad, the shell disappeared just as quickly. Like the shell of the empanada, it was artfully fried to create a delicate and crispy vessel that when broken up was perfect with their salsa.

We started off our entrees with the carne con arroz. The marinated steak was cooked to medium rare, sliced and served on a bed of the best Mexican rice any of us have ever had. We could not get enough. It was topped with oozy, melted Monterey Jack and cheddar cheese, onion, peppers, fresh sliced tomato, olives, pico de gallo, avocado slices and cilantro.



STEVE COOPER

Next was their signature entrée, the sizzling fajita. One thing that sets good restaurants apart from others is their ability to be accommodating with special requests. As I wanted us to try the veggie, steak and chicken fajita, the chef prepared this magnificent dish in a way we could have each. The veggie fajita, on its own, was terrific. It arrived sizzling, which captivated our senses of sight, sound, smell and taste. The veggies were plentiful, and the restaurant's proprietary seasoning teased our taste buds. It was well balanced and made for a flavorful fajita plate. The grilled steak and chicken was served with rice, beans, guacamole and presented over the grilled vegetables. This was served with fresh tortillas. I am picky about my fajitas, but I would order any version of El Toro's fajitas on a regular basis.

The next entrée was a classic veggie burrito. The large flour tortilla was expertly stuffed and wrapped with sautéed broccoli, carrots, zucchini onions, tomatoes and peppers. It was then carefully griddled to give a nice crispiness to the tortilla without ruing its structure as you cut or bit into it. This allowed the veggies and shell to work together to create a great bite. It was topped with melted cheese and green tomatillo sauce and served with that great rice, refried beans, guacamole and sour cream. All of the hot selections came on heated platters, which kept the food warm.

Last up was the birria, a traditional stew originating from the state of Jalisco, Mexico. The shredded beef was incredibly tender, slow-cooked and marinated with a medley of spices, chilies and herbs. It was served in

an incredible broth-like gravy with a savory umami undertone that kept us going back for more. I almost wish there had been some bread to sop up the delectable remains.

We ended our evening with three different desserts. The creativity and visual presentation of the deep fried, chocolate stuffed burrito was as decadent as it gets. It was served with a scoop of chocolate ice cream, adorned with dollops of fresh whipped cream and drizzled with even more chocolate. Do not pass this one up. It was as good as it sounds.

Second up was the tres leches cake. It was made from a light sponge cake that had absorbed a mixture of evaporated milk, sweetened condensed milk and whole milk. The result was a moist and sweet cake that was topped with whipped cream.

Last up was an absolute classic: flan. It was definitely one of the best we had ever tried. It was a smooth traditional Mexican custard with caramelized sugar on top, plated in a shallow pool of caramel with flowered dollops of whipped cream.

El Toro serves rich, fresh and flavorful dishes that celebrate the depth and complexity of incredible Mexican cuisine.

Watch for Friday night entertainment and Sunday brunch coming soon. For reservations, call 203-878-1910. El Toro is located at 501 New Haven Ave. in Milford. They are open from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

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

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Milford Teams Make Flag Football Championships



The Northeast Toros travel flag football team from Milford had two teams make it to the championship in their divisions at the Connecticut Flag Nutmeg Classic in Windsor on June 14. 9U (top) captured the Nutmeg Classic championship and the 8U (bottom) Northeast Toro Dark Mode finished runner-up. The Northeast Toros compete in American Athletic Union flag football and are in their second season. They include players from Milford, Orange and Woodbridge. They play at UCONN's Rentschler stadium on July 12 for a chance to qualify for the AAU Junor Olympics and 2026 Flag Football World Championships at Disney. Photos by James Perella.

Orange Honors 'Living Treasures'



The Orange Senior Center celebrated its annual Pasta Festa night at St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox church on April 15. Three Orange residents were honored with the Living Treasure Award for outstanding contributions to the community. The recipients were Patricia O'Leary-Treat, Robert Sigler and Dr. Lawrence Messina. Photo by Stacey Johnson.

Townhouses (Continued From 1)

by any public transportation, according to Thomas Lynch, the developer's attorney. North Street is a relatively highly-trafficked state road, but no lights, traffic signs or crosswalks at the property had been confirmed in the plan. Any such improvements would require the blessing of the state Department of Transportation.

Only two residents spoke during the public comment period of the hearing, both in favor of the plan overall.

"I want to be able to share this beautiful

park that we have as an asset with more people," said resident Jesse Williams, who frequents Eisenhower Park with his 2-year-old.

The board required that the developers integrate some stipulations from the city engineer, including concrete curbs along the street frontage with Kozlowski Road and more information on how snow will be stored and removed.

"The project looks very good," said Vice Chair C. Robert Satti prior to voting for the plan. "I'd like to see more affordable housing, but this one comes at 30 percent, so I still think that's a good project."



My favorite thing about SMS is the **COMMUNITY**...students, parents, teachers, administrators & clergy. The children accept one another for their similarities as well as their differences. As parents, we have made lifelong friends who have the same beliefs as we do. With our small student body, the teachers and administrators know all the students and families by name. They get to know all of us immediately which accentuates the St. Mary School experience."

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Pirates Descend On Milford



The Downtown Milford Business Association held its annual Pirate's Day event to celebrate its history with the seafaring bandits on June 8. Photos by Robert Creigh.

Strawberry Fest Turns Orange Red



The Orange Congregational Church held its annual Strawberry Festival on the fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center on June 14. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

Smoke Shop Ban (Continued From 1)

vaping products.

"We do have a national health crisis among our teens regarding vaping," Bunnell had told the selectmen in November. "Prevention agencies like ours are trying to gage how to cope with this really fast-moving crisis."

In a memo to the TPZC, First Selectman Jim Zeoli used similarly dire language to describe the situation.

"Vaping has become a national health crisis, and the addiction it creates is much worse than cigarette nicotine," Zeoli wrote.

According to Bunnell, Orange currently has five smoke/vape shops, excluding old-fashioned cigar shops. Cigar shops are exempted from the prohibition under the

new regulation.

Several residents wrote letters to the commission in support of a permanent ban, including the chair of the Community Services Commission, Public Health Department, Orange Youth Services and the police department, which TPZC Chair Oscar Parente read into the record before the vote.

Milford changed its regulations in

September to permanently prevent any further smoke shops from opening. The city already has 15 such stores.

Under Milford's new rules, those stores can stay open where they are but would not be able to relocate elsewhere in the city. Orange would similarly not force existing stores to close. Some officials had argued that Milford's prohibition would push more of the market toward Orange.

The Garden Spot

Let's Talk Dirt

New homeowners often ask, "Where should I plant my garden?" Most of the time, they have noted where on the property are the sunniest and shadiest spots. Other common considerations are the topography and availability of a water source. But I rarely have anyone ask about the soil type.

Soil serves several purposes in the garden. One of course is to anchor the roots of the plant. Equally important is that the soil will be a big determinant of how much water and nutrients your plants receive. Soil has three properties that determine how successful your plants will grow: physical properties, chemical properties and biological properties. These can all be affected over time by human activity.

The physical property of most soil here in Connecticut is stony, sandy and acidic. The

large number of stones (and we do love our stone walls) are the result of cutting down forests which made rocks rise to the surface of the soil, while the sand is from the melting glaciers which also compacted the soil.

A simple way to determine the physical soil type of your property is to dig some up and feel it. Sandy soil will feel gritty, and you will feel the individual particles of sand. Clay soil has the smallest particles, and you won't generally feel individual particles. You can then choose plants that will do best with your soil type – plants that don't need a lot of water will thrive in sandy soil, where those that don't mind "wet feet"



PAT DRAY

will do better in clay soil.

The chemical properties of soil are related to the pH of the soil. This is important because the pH of the soil controls the microbial activity and root growth of the plant, as well as the ability of the plant to take up nutrients. Since we know our soil tends to be acidic (again because of the glacier activity), we may need to increase the alkalinity by adding lime,

wood ash or compost to bring the pH closer to a neutral 7. You can purchase a pH test kit at most of the big-box hardware stores.

The biological properties are related to the bacterial and fungal organisms that change the physical properties of the soil as these microorganisms break down organic matter.

An easy way to understand this is to walk in a woodland border and feel the soil versus that in a lawn.

We have a wonderful resource here in Connecticut called the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. CAES was the first experiment station in the country and continues to provide free soil testing to Connecticut residents. You can visit their website at portal.ct.gov/CAES.

Best of luck with your gardening this summer – but please, get your soil tested this year so that you're in great shape for next year.

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

Bamboo: Sustainable And Useful

By Susan Wineland

We hear the word bamboo and might picture pandas munching on it in China. Bamboo is a fast-growing grass that regenerates quickly from its roots, requiring minimal replanting. Compared to many other crops, bamboo requires significantly less water and doesn't need pesticides or fertilizers to grow. Bamboo forests are effective carbon sinks, which means they absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide and release more oxygen than trees.

When trees are cut down, the climate and ecosystem are upset. This deforestation contributes to plant disease, soil loss, erosion and problems with the water cycle. However, bamboo is a viable alternative as one of the fastest-growing plants on the planet. It can mature in just a couple of years, compared to fully matured hardwood, which takes 30 to 50 years. Some species of bamboo can grow a huge 35 inches in a day. Bamboo doesn't need as much water as trees to thrive, and this hardy plant is so tough it doesn't need chemi-

cal protection to discourage pests or boost growth. Plus, bamboo is antifungal, antibacterial, biodegradable and compostable, breaking down more quickly than plastic and not releasing harmful chemicals.

This beautiful grass with a hollow stem offers far more than just a source of sustenance for an endangered species like the panda. Bamboo is a sustainable, renewable, versatile material and vastly underused in the US.

Some ideal uses of bamboo are found in household and personal care products made of sustainable, eco-friendly bamboo. Most bamboo products sold in solid form haven't been chemically processed. Some of the many household and personal care products are: sustainable bamboo kitchen items, including utensils, bowls, straws, dish and vegetable brushes, dish drying racks, cutting boards, stainless steel and bamboo tea steepers, and water bottles. For personal hygiene there are bamboo makeup brushes, hair towels, dental floss, wooden hairbrushes with bamboo bristles, bandages, toilet paper, biodegradable

toothbrushes and their stands.

There are potential drawbacks and considerations. While bamboo itself is sustainable, the manufacturing processes for some bamboo products, like fabric, can involve the use of chemicals that may not be environmentally friendly. There may be a lack of standardized quality control in bamboo production, potentially leading to variations in the product's durability and composition. In some cases, bamboo products may contain traces of formaldehyde or other volatile organic compounds.

As with all things we purchase, it is important to consider where our bamboo products and household goods are sourced. Although bamboo cultivation offers a great opportunity for American farmers, the US imports most of the bamboo we consume. When bamboo is imported – pre- or post-production – it's authentic bamboo, but with a negative environmental impact. Shipping imported bamboo products creates air pollution and other environmental damage making it an important factor to weigh.

How bamboo is processed also makes a difference in its true sustainability. If a product hasn't been chemically processed, like most bamboo products sold in solid form, it's a great product. Bamboo fabrics, however, are different because bamboo is hard. Turning this plant into a soft fabric like viscose rayon takes chemical processing involving sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide. These chemicals are dangerous to a natural material, and they produce chemical runoff with adverse environmental results.

Nevertheless, there are greener bamboo fabrics, most notably bamboo lyocell, which is made using a closed-loop cycle so nothing toxic leaks into the environment. Just think twice: consider sourcing and manufacturing before buying bamboo towels, sheets, cleaning cloths or clothing.

Overall, bamboo has numerous advantages over. It's also very versatile and can be used in a wide range of products from furniture to home and personal care products.

First Selectman Names June 10 'Garden Club Of Orange Day'



The Garden Club of Orange came together on June 10 at the Racebrook Country Club for its annual luncheon. First Selectman James Zeoli proclaimed the date as Garden Club of Orange Day. The luncheon also served as a moment of transition between outgoing president Sandra Horling and incoming president Betty Hadlock. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Orange.

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A Trusted Name in Orange Real Estate for Over 40 Years

By Barbara Lehrer

Recently honored with the RealTrends Verified 2025 Award for Luxury Property Specialist, I'm proud to continue serving the Orange community with the same dedication and care that have guided my real estate career for over four decades.

In a town where community and consistency matter, it's been my privilege to help hundreds of families navigate the real estate market – whether buying, selling, downsizing or planning for the future. My approach has always been about more than just transactions; it's about trust, smart guidance and supporting clients through every stage of life.

As a longtime resident and full-time agent, I know Orange – not just the market, but the people, neighborhoods, services and local dynamics that truly shape the experience of homeownership. And as the author of the Real Talk column for over 10 years, I've enjoyed keeping readers informed on market trends, real estate tips, and community updates.

What sets my service apart is a hands-on, full-service approach. I offer carefully vetted referrals for staging, repairs, clean-outs, and moving support, along with honest advice about home values, renovations, and investment decisions. Whether you're moving across town or across the country, I'm here to help you make informed choices with confidence.

With Orange recently named the #1 most popular town in New Haven County, there's no doubt our local market is in high demand. And in times like these, having a trusted, experienced advisor can make all the difference.

There's never any pressure – just straightforward conversations, helpful tools and a real commitment to this community I love so much.

If you're thinking about making a move – or simply have questions – I'd be happy to connect. Sometimes, the best place to start is with a conversation over coffee.

Insuring Your Future

Some Good News For Small Employers

Connecticut recently rolled out a new health insurance program that could provide some financial relief for small business owners. It is an individual coverage health reimbursement account, and it is offered through the state's health exchange.

Businesses with fewer than 50 employees can participate and there is no minimum enrollment required to create a group. An ICHRA provides flexibility for both the employer and the employee. Unlike a group plan, where the employer has to cover at least 50 percent of the premium and generally only one plan is offered, an ICHRA plan allows the employer to determine the amount or percentage of premium to be allocated to each class of employee. Then the employee can choose from a menu of plans offered through Access Health CT.

Here's how it works: the employer decides on the dollar amount to allocate toward employee premiums. It can be a fixed amount or a percentage of the premium.

The employee can choose a plan at the bronze, silver or gold level and apply their benefit allowance toward the premium.

Bronze plans are generally high-deductible plans, with the lowest premium. Silver plans have a deductible that only applies to an inpatient hospital stay or outpatient surgery. All other care has a copay from day one. These are the plans that most resemble traditional health insurance. Gold plans have the lowest deductibles, but the deductible applies to all but a primary care physician visit. In addition to a broad premium range, it allows employees to choose a plan that suits their medical needs. Family coverage is also available and the employer can choose to contribute toward that portion of the premium or not.

Plans are offered by two insurance com-



TRISH PEARSON

panies: Anthem and Connecticare. Each offers a number of plans at each level. The premiums can also be paid in a variety of ways. The traditional approach is where the employer deducts the employee contribution from their paycheck and then combines the company match and pays the bill each month. A split billing/payment system is where the employer and employee pay their portions directly, or the employee can pay the entire premium each month and then be reimbursed by the employer. The number of people who enroll would determine which is the better route. As with current group plans, the employer can deduct their contribution as a business expense and the employee's contribution is on a pre-tax basis.

There are some limitations on plans

through the health exchange. First, while most providers accept plans from either insurance company, some only participate with one. It is important to check the provider directory before choosing a plan.

Second, plans on the exchange do not work well out of state unless it is an emergency. This is especially important if there are dependents who are on the plan but who are in college or live out of state.

Third, the application process can be tricky. Employers should not go it alone. Engage the assistance of a broker who is certified on the health exchange to navigate the process and make sure that employees choose the best plan to fit their needs.

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

Travel Matters

R&R In Barbados

We are packing to return home from a wonderful three-night site inspection at the new Apes Hill Villa and Golf Resort located on 475 acres in the Central Highlands area of Barbados called the Scotland Cliff - 1,000 feet above sea level with gorgeous golf course and sea views.

The word "luxury" takes on new meaning at these wonderful three- and four-bedroom villas where you have your own infinity pool, electric golf cart and up to 4,674 square feet of living space. In the three-bedroom villa, you get three individual rounds of golf included, breakfast each morning at the 20th hole, and a \$100 food/drink credit. You are welcomed into your fully-equipped designer kitchen with a pre-stocked hospitality package including coffee, eggs and rum punch. Mount Gay rum is the oldest rum distillery in the world, and the Barbadians know how to make rum punch that will

knock your socks off.

The indoor living space is only rivaled by the outdoor living space, which includes seating area, large dining table, Weber grill, espresso machine, blender and large-screen TV (to match the large-screen TV indoors). Private chef experiences are available; one is included with the four-bedroom villa with an eight-night stay.

Even if you don't golf or play paddleball or tennis (there are multiple courts), there is a shuttle to a beach club and 12.5 kilometers of biking and hiking trails - plus that private infinity pool (you may not want to leave your villa). Seasonal kid activities and large villas suggest a perfect family option for summer and holiday vacations. Pricing is reasonable since



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

it's a new property.

In addition to the Ron Kirby 18-hole championship course, there is a "Little Apes" par three short course also designed by Ron Kirby. Their Golf Performance and Teaching Centre is first of its kind in the Caribbean and offers opportunities for beginners or elite players, with every aspect of the game covered.

What to do in Barbados? In addition to beautiful beaches which are open to the public, there is a special place on the north shore called Animal Flower Cave with breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean smashing into cliffs and caves, while dining on local fish at a restaurant perched on the top of a cliff. Or, if you are adventurous, climb down into one of the caves. Ziplining adventure tours, cat-

amaran cruises, swimming with the turtles, horseback riding and hiking nature trails round out the attractions.

Barbados is in a tropical climate that is less humid than most. Barbados's most easterly location in the Caribbean makes it the first to receive refreshing trade winds. Apes Hill is based on the top of the submarine mountain range called the Barbados Ridge Accretionary Prism and is the only location in the Caribbean where this mountain range is above water. Barbados green monkeys roam the grounds, giving the origination of the catch phrase: "Apes Hill - Where the golf's on a higher level but life's always down-to-earth."

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

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Workforce Alliance Providing Health Care Job Training

The Workforce Alliance's Health Careers Advancement Program is currently providing tuition assistance to programs such as Yale New Haven Health's Pharmacy Technician Program, Harborview School's Certified Nurse Aide, and other health industry training programs at Gateway and Middlesex community colleges. HCAP also provides professional development and job placement to eligible job seekers.

The program not only helps people who do not yet have experience in the health care field, but also people who are looking for extra certification.

For more information, visit workforcealliance.biz/hcap/ or call 203-867-4030.

NHSO Announces Concert Season

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra has announced its 2025-2026 concert season, curated by Music Director Perry So and featuring programs that celebrate musical storytelling across continents, genres and centuries.

The season begins Sept. 28. Highlights include Grammy-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich performing Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto"; Dvořák's "New World Symphony" paired with music by Courtney Bryan and William Grant Still; a season-opening performance of Holst's "The Planets" featuring the Elm City Girls' Choir; the return of the NHSO's Holiday Extravaganza with performances in New Haven, Shelton and West Haven and candlelight concerts at St. Mary's Church; a cinematic celebration in A Galaxy Far, Far Away, with music from Star Wars, Star Trek, Dune, Interstellar and more; an orchestral tribute to Bob Marley in honor of his recent 80th birthday; free young people's concerts, free family concerts, and free tickets for youth under 18.

For tickets and more information, visit newhavensymphony.org.

Support Group Held In Milford For Parents Shunned By Adult Kids

Parents of estranged adult children are invited to attend "Parents Shunned by Adult Kids," a six-week summer support group to empower participants through learning, sharing and support. The sessions are held in Milford on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon beginning on July 13 and ending on August 17. The fee for the six sessions is \$50 per session, totaling \$300 for the entire series.

The "Parents Shunned by Adult Kids" series is facilitated by Arthur N. Gottlieb, who will reference case studies from his

years of professional experience working as a licensed clinical social worker and certified senior advisor. Each week, personal, interpersonal and interfamily dynamics will be explored, focusing on practical and relevant information that is useful for everyday life. Discussions will be interactive and presented in a non-clinical, easy-to-understand format.

For more information or to register, contact Theresa Waldron at 203-257-0483 or theresa.waldron@icloud.com.

Zeoli Visits Orange Ashram



Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli paid a visit on June 28 to the Chinmaya Saraswati Ashram on Derby Avenue in Orange as the guest of honor. He was welcomed with a silk shawl. From left: board member Srikanth Vasudevan, Zeoli, Prashanti Reddy and board member Teepi Reddy. Photo by Vani Anand.

AMSO Students Honored



Amity Middle School Orange students Isabella Gallipoli and Sabrina Feliconio (top) received the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents Award for 2025. Ammar Mirza and Kate Stoltenberg (middle) received the Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leader Award. Samantha Scheibel and Emily Fraizer (bottom) received the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Award. Photo courtesy of AMSO.

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3:30 - 7:00 pm

Symposium: 3:30 pm.
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Health Center (Continued From 1)

“Forget about mass clinics – just even sometimes our monthly clinics...we have no space,” Joseph said.

The department is also involved in providing social services to city residents, as well as helping residents with shelter and services during weather emergencies.

Several residents spoke during the public comment period with concerns about already-strained parking in that area and the effects that the building would have by occupying some of the existing parking lot. However, Public Works Director Chris Saley said they would be opening up additional parking by clearing a section near the field that is overgrown with invasive plants. He added that the configuration of the building would allow for queuing of cars during events like vaccination clinics.

“At the end of the day, the parking is actually going to increase with this layout,” Saley said.

Alderman Paul Healy questioned whether it might be prudent to build a parking garage to accommodate more vehicles for large-scale events, but Saley said he didn’t think it was necessary.

“I think there’s plenty of parking,” he said. “I hate to say it, we just have to learn to walk a little more.”

Joseph estimated that the department would typically occupy about 25 parking spaces between staff and visitors during the day. She noted that most of the events that bring lots of cars to the area happen after the department’s regular hours.

“I do like the motion to build a new building. I’m not really hot about where it’s set up to be,” said alderman Bill Bevan, though he ultimately voted for the plan.

Alderman Jason Jenkins was skeptical about the ultimate costs, noting that the full design had not yet been worked out.

Saley said that they were basing the numbers on an average cost per square foot, then factoring in additional items like equipment. He said they had discussed potentially leaving

the third floor unfinished initially and coming back before the board to request additional funds if necessary.

“We don’t know where costs truthfully are going to be. I don’t believe it’s going to be \$10 million; I think that all in it’s going to be somewhere around \$7 million. But right now we have \$4.9 million, and that’s what I want to make sure we spend,” Saley said.

Alderman Win Smith decried the process of approving plans without having a better handle on costs, and suggested the expiration of ARPA funds was not a good enough reason to rush through a decision.

“I am really horrified at the way this city considers spending money. We’ve heard numbers thrown around tonight – maybe it’s \$5 million, maybe it’s \$10 million, maybe it’s \$11 million. I’ve been involved in enough government contracts to know that it’s not going to come in on the low side – it’s likely to come in on the much higher side,” he said. “The city of Milford’s going to get stuck with the difference.”

Alderman Robert Pacelli pointed out, though, that the board’s approval would only allow the city to spend the soon-to-expire ARPA funds. Anything additional would have to come back before them for later consideration.

“It would be a foolish decision not to go forward with the understanding that we have an opportunity to fully fund this project. And if not, then we’d have an opportunity to talk about it again,” he said.

“This is the intent of what ARPA funds were meant for. This is a public health building,” said Mayor Tony Giannattasio. “I know a lot of ARPA funds were spent for other things – not necessarily the right things. But this is the right thing.”

Lombardi (Continued From 1)

development and prosperity in rural areas.

According to Rural Development’s website, the agency offers loans, grants and guarantees around housing, health care, first responder services and equipment and water,

electric and communications infrastructure, supports loans through banks and credit unions, provides technical assistance for “community empowerment programs,” and helps rural residents with home buying, rent and repairs.

Lombardi was the youngest ORTC chair in that body’s history when he was inducted in 2024 at 21 while still pursuing a finance degree at Fairfield University, which he completed this spring. He said his successes in growing the ORTC and helping Republicans win races in a town where they are outnumbered by registered Democrats started to get him noticed at the state and national levels.

He was invited to sit on the finance committee for Trump’s 2024 election campaign, helping to organize and fundraise. That effort gave him opportunities to spend time in the president’s orbit, including during the New Hampshire primaries in January 2024 and dinners with Trump at the president’s Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

When Trump won the election, Lombardi expressed his desire to join the administration in some capacity. In the spring, he received a phone call inviting him aboard.

“One thing about the president is that he recognizes people who do their job, and who do a good job,” Lombardi said.

The Department of Agriculture, Lombardi said, touches large swathes of the Trump administration’s priorities, including on energy, trade, manufacturing and health. He also said that part of his motivation was to be able to give back to Orange’s farming legacy.

“The hallmark of our community is our rural agricultural history, and I have been accepted in that community and was raised by many of the people in that community,” Lombardi said.

Lombardi described his own backyard farming efforts as something more akin to homesteading than commercial farming, with gardens and small amounts of poultry. He was president of the Future Farmers of America program and studied at the agricultural and biotechnology center in high school. He also served as a co-superintendent of the animal

barn at the Orange Country Fair.

The policies being undertaken by the Trump administration and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to rescind diversity, equity and inclusion policies, add work requirements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and promote “laboratories of innovation” to solve modern agricultural problems are among the efforts that Lombardi thinks will benefit farmers, and by extension, everyone else.

Ultimately, he said, it all comes down to lowering costs. He recalled buying chicken feed for \$13 during Trump’s first term and seeing it rise to \$23 by the end of former President Joe Biden’s term.

“I believe, similar to the president, that fuel prices because of the Biden administration’s war on energy really affected the cost of goods. When it cost more to make the product because the energy they were using went up, that affected the cost of making the goods. Then when the delivery trucks that deliver the chicken feed and drive it across the country – when it’s costing them to deliver because diesel and fuel is through the roof, that’s going to affect the consumer,” he said.

Lombardi said one stipulation of his appointment was that he will retain his residence in Orange. He said he expects his work in Washington, DC will have an expiration date.

“I love Orange. You’d have to pry me out by my cold, dead hands,” he said.

For the moment he is commuting back and forth on a semi-regular basis. He intends to be home for this year’s Country Fair – and he’s hoping to get some sort of national recognition for the fair, though he couldn’t provide details.

“I think that it truly shows the beauty of America and that she truly is a great country that a young boy from a small farming town in little Connecticut can be appointed by the most powerful man in the world to help lead the government of the United States. I think that it’s a testament to the American dream, how it’s alive and well,” Lombardi said. “But you’ve got to go out there and chase it. You can’t just wait for it to fall into your lap.”

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summer Concerts

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Music under the Stars

Come on out for 7 free Summer Concerts in the Gazebo at the High Plains Community Center. Be sure to bring your chairs and enjoy the music.

The Orange Youth Services Teen Representatives (OYSTR) is excited to be hosting a Free Face Painting Tent at this year’s Summer Concert Series. This is open to all Youth 10 and under.

July 10 ♪ *Yesterday Today*

July 17 ♪ *Happy Sally*

July 24 ♪ *The Boomers*

August 7 ♪ *Gunn Street Revival*

August 14 ♪ *Richard Badowski Blues Band*

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



The Arts

Enjoy The Arts Outdoors This July

With the summer season upon us, warm days and breezy evenings make for a perfect time to enjoy creativity. Enjoy the sand between your toes as you participate in, or view, a sand sculpture competition. Bask in the sun or relax under the shade as you watch an outdoor play. Grab a turkey leg and walk around a Renaissance faire. Too hot outside? Indoor events are great for warmer days and evenings. Support local artists, see a great musical or an original play, or visit a spooky paranormal convention. If you need to keep the kids creative, check out an arts learning program. Remember to stop and enjoy the sights and sounds of the summer on your way to your destination. Make some memories with the arts.

The Shaman & The Showman LLC presents **ParaConn V 2025**, a Connecticut paranormal convention, July 12-13 at Crosby High School, located at 300 Pierpont Rd. in Waterbury. From the producers of Salem ParaCon, CT Witch Fest and the CT Psychic Fairfests, this convention is the place to visit for all things paranormal. Now in its fifth year, this event will feature over 30 special guests including paranormal investigators, true crime experts and analysts, lectures, authors and entertainment. Vendors include psychics, tarot card readers, crafts, oddities, mediums, horror memorabilia, true crime topics, clothing, crystals, book sellers, healers, cryptids, movie merchandise and food trucks. Special guest Butch, best known as Eddie Munster in the TV show "The Munsters," will be on hand both days to meet fans, sign autographs, take photos and be part of the weekend event. The legacy special guest of honor for the weekend is John Zaffis, the "godfather of the paranormal." Zaffis, a resident of Connecticut and the nephew of Ed and Lorraine Warren, was the host of the television series, "The Haunted Collector." Live music will be provided by Painted Owls. The fun begins at noon for general admission of \$19.99 per ticket or a VIP early entrance option at 11 a.m. including first access to vendors, preferred parking and up-front seating for staged events. The fun continues through 6 p.m. on both dates. This event is open to all ages, and free parking is provided. For tickets, visit paraconn.org or call 203-795-4737.

The **Midsummer Fantasy Renaissance Faire** continues on 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.

Eastbound Theatre, a division of the Milford Arts Council, in partnership with Westport Community Theatre presents **East/West Play-Fest**, a program of original, short plays on two weekends at two locations: July 13 and 14 at 4 p.m. at the Milford Historical Society, 34 High St. in Milford; and July 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. at Westport Community Theatre, 110 Myrtle Ave. #109 in Westport. Returning to the beautiful setting behind the Milford Historical Society, the PlayFest presents five juried original one-act plays selected from over 500 submissions across the country. The Milford Historical Society is open for tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

before the show. Shows are performed outdoors with a short walk behind the MHS's three houses. Bring your own chair or blanket. Parking is limited to side streets. In case of inclement weather, the Saturday, July 13 show will be canceled; however, for bad weather on Sunday, the show will move into the MAC's main theater at 40 Railroad Ave. in Milford. This is a free community event. Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information visit milfordarts.org or call 203-878-6647.

Westville Philharmonic with Beck, a concert conducted by Edwin Outwater with support from Molly Lewis, will take place on July 15 from 7 p.m. at Westville Music Bowl, 46 Yale Ave. in New Haven. Eight-time Grammy-winner Beck's career has seen him utilize all manners and eras of music as a singer, songwriter, musician and record producer. Paired with the Westville Philharmonic, his unique ability to blend sounds of folk, funk, hip-hop and rock lend to a concert experience of unexpected enjoyment. Tickets are \$48 to \$178 and can be purchased by visiting westvillemusicbowl.com.

Saybrook Stage Company presents **Lend Me A Tenor** by Ken Ludwig, July 17-20 with matinee and evening performances at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, located at 300 Main St. in Old Saybrook. Chaos ensues at the Cleveland Grand Opera Guild when world-famous tenor Tito Merelli arrives for a guest performance and is suddenly unable to perform. After the manager concocts a plan to disguise his assistant as the singer in order to save the production, revolving doors of mistaken identities, romantic entanglements and frantic attempts to pull off the masquerade provide plenty of laughs guaranteed to bring down the house. Set in 1934, this hilarious and fast-paced farce was originally produced on the West End in 1986 and Broadway in 1989. It received nine Tony Award nominations. The celebrated revival opened on Broadway in 2010. Tickets are \$20-\$32 and are available by visiting saybrookstage.org.

New England Brewing Company will host **Meet the Artist of the Month: Samantha Hayslett** on July 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the taproom at New England Brewing Company, 175 Amity Rd. in Woodbridge. View their new art gallery, which will feature a new artist each month, beginning with local artist Samantha Hayslett, whose art will be on display throughout the month. Hayslett says she has made art for all her life but started painting in oils in college. As she paints, she is drawn to the traditionally overlooked, the broken and decaying surfaces, the objects that have experienced injury. She encourages the viewer to look at these instances and see more than the imperfections, and to spend time with her paintings. Her favorite artists include Artemisia Gentileschi, Frederic Edwin Church and Francisco Goya. Hayslett has also been in the New Haven Paint and Clay Club and the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts yearly and the members' exhibitions since 2021. View her stunning and creative artwork while enjoying some bar bites and a wide variety of brews. Her work is available to purchase. For more information visit newenglandbrewing.com or call 203-387-2222.

Center Stage Theatre presents **Sister Act**, music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Glenn Slater, book by Cheri Steinkellner and Bill Steinkellner, with additional book material by Douglas Carter Beane, with matinee and evening performances from July 18-27 at Center Stage Theatre, located at 54 Grove St. in Shelton. When disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witnesses



CYNDI
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a murder, she is put in protective custody in the one place the cops are sure she won't be a found: a convent. Disguised as a nun, she finds herself at odds with both the rigid lifestyle and uptight mother superior. Using her unique disco moves and singing talent to inspire the choir, Deloris breathes new life into the church and community but, in doing so, blows her cover. Soon, the gang is giving chase, only to find them up against Deloris and the power of her newly-found sisterhood. Tickets are \$29-\$39 and can be purchased by visiting centerstageshelton.org or calling 203-225-6079.

Musicals at Richter presents **Evita**, with book and lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with performances through July 19 at Richter Association, 100 Aunt Hack Rd. in Danbury. This moving and compelling musical is set in Argentina between 1934-1952 and follows Eva Duarte on her journey from poor illegitimate child to ambitious actress to the most powerful woman in Latin America as wife of military leader-turned-president Juan Peron, before her death from cancer at age 33. The events in Evita's life are presented in song and commented on by the show's narrator, Che. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$15 for children with special discounted rates on certain dates. They can be purchased by visiting musicalsrichter.org or by calling 203-748-6873.

East Haddam Stage Company presents **Sherlock Holmes...With A Twist**, with performances running now through July 20 with 30-minute plays on Saturdays and Sundays only at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Gillette Castle, 67 River Rd. in East Haddam. The outdoor performance takes place on a stage located just behind Grand Central Station where Gillette's miniature railroad would depart from for rides around the grounds. Near the stage by the seating lawn is also a section of track from the original trail line. Join in the mystery and mayhem during a 30-minute staged show that answers the questions, "Sherlock Holmes is missing? Where is Dr. Watson?" They have a story to tell. Will the show go on? This performance is free and open to the public and is wheelchair accessible. No tickets or reservations are required. Shows cancel only if rain is coming down onto the stage at showtime or if temperatures onstage go over 90 degrees. Bring a picnic, a comfy lawn chair and enjoy the show. For more information visit ehsco.org or call 860-873-3521.

Playhouse On Park presents **Singin' In The Rain**, screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green with songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed. The show is based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Performances run July 16-Aug. 17 at Playhouse On Park, located at 244 Park Rd. in West Hartford. This is a wildly inventive reimagining of "the greatest movie musical of all time" set at a screening of the iconic film that goes horribly wrong, until super fans swoop in and save the day. This performance has all the makings of a Tinseltown tabloid headline – the starlet, the leading man and a love affair that could change lives and make or break careers. In silent movies, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a hot item but, behind the scenes, things aren't always as they appear on the big screen. Meanwhile, Lina's squeaky voice might be the end of her career in "talking pictures" without the help of a talented young actress to do the talking and singing for her. Filled with unforgettable scenes, snappy dialogue and a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards including "Make 'Em Laugh," "Good Morning," and of course, the title song, this show is perfect entertainment for any fan

of golden age movie musicals – but with a twist. Tickets start at \$28 and can be purchased by visiting playhouseonpark.org or calling the box office at 860-523-5900 x 10.

The 20th **International Sea Glass Festival** will be held July 26-27 at Mystic Seaport Museum, 75 Greenmanville Ave. in Mystic. Shop and support International Sea Glass Association artists and over 50 vendors who will be selling their creations. Learn about sea and beach glass from experts, view collections and enter the sea glass contest. Vendors will be set up on the village green and talks will be held in the Clagett Boat Shed. The International Sea Glass Association is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005 to support sea and beach glass collectors around the world. This premier organization is unique as it aims to educate the collector, consumer and retailer about the properties, benefits and value of genuine, pure, unaltered sea and beach glass. This event is included in admission to the museum and is free for members. Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, and exhibitions open at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$33 for seniors and \$22 for youth, are good for both days of the event, and can be purchased by visiting mystic-seaport.org or calling 860-572-0711.

Castle Craig Players presents **Little Women: The Musical** with music by Jason Howland, lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, and book by Allan Knee. Matinee and evening performances run July 25-Aug. 10 at Almira F. Stephan Memorial Playhouse, 59 West Main St. in Meriden. Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott, the play follows the adventures of the four March sisters – traditional Meg, wild Jo, timid Beth and romantic Amy, and their beloved Marmee at home in Concord, Massachusetts, while their father is away serving in the Civil War. This timeless, captivating story promises an evening filled with laughter, tears and a lifting of the spirit. The powerful score soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache and hope – the sounds of a young America finding its voice. Presented with cabaret-style seating, patrons are invited to bring their own food and beverages. All tickets for Castle Craig productions are sold exclusively online. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by visiting castlecraigplayers.org.

The Bushnell presents **Artivity!** for kids aged 7-14 from July 14 to Aug. 1 at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. Don't miss the opportunity to have your child learn from some of the most skilled and highly acclaimed teaching artists that our area has to offer. This fun-filled and engaging, hands-on arts program features instruction in puppetry, sewing, visual artistry, textiles, drumming, jewelry-making, yoga, music-making and much more. Three consecutive weeks of artivity will be offered Monday through Friday. The enrollment fee is \$285 at bushnell.org or by calling the administrative offices for more information at 860-987-6000.

The Milford Arts Council will host their **48th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition** on Aug. 2 at Walnut Beach, 113 E. Broadway in Milford. This tradition draws people from up and down the East Coast and is a destination event for vacationing families. This event will be held rain or shine. However, it is recommended to check milfordarts.org if storms are predicted. Create anything from lobsters to mermaids to astronauts. New this year will be sand logos. Participants are encouraged to be as creative as they'd like. Come participate or view these sand sculptures. For more information contact milfordarts.org.

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.

Tax Collector's Legal Notice Town of Orange

Per CGS 12-145, the first installment of the town tax on the 2024 Grand List of 1 October 2024 is due and payable on 1 July 2025. Payments received after 1 August 2025 are considered delinquent and are subject to the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, \$2.00 minimum, dating back to the original due date [CGS 12-146]. Motor Vehicle bills are payable in one installment. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are payable in two installments with 1/2 due on 1 July 2025 and the second installment on 1 Jan 2026. All taxes may be paid in one installment. Bills were mailed on or about 13 June 2025. We DO NOT rebill for second installments. Your split tax bill has a January tax bill attached. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM PAYMENT OF ALL INTEREST CHARGES AND COLLECTION COSTS, per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130, 12-148. Payments may be processed in person at the Town Tax Window in Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Rd, Orange, CT, Monday-Friday except holidays from 8:30 a.m. -12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your entire three-part tax bill if you wish a receipt. A payment coupon or duplicate bill must accompany each payment. There is a \$2.00 fee charged for each duplicate bill requested. Payments by check or money order may be made by mail or at the tax window. The receipt date will be that of the USPS date on the envelope. Only USPS stamped dates or IRS approved private carrier delivery services dates are considered valid. If a receipt is desired a self-addressed stamped envelope and your three-part bill must be included with your payment. We do not accept CASH payments through the mail, only at the tax window! Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express branded Credit and Debit Card payments are accepted on-line or at the tax window or by telephone (Interactive Voice Response) 203-902-0387 or E-check (On-line only). Convenience fees apply. See the Town of Orange payment website for details.

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

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS: ORANGE

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Orange, CT. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 7 pm, at High Plains Community Center to endorse candidates for 2025 Municipal Election and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said Caucus.

Dated at : Date: June 13, 2025
Democratic Town/City/Borough Committee of Orange
Chair Jody Dietch

NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN CAUCUS: ORANGE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republicans electors of the Town of Orange, CT on July 16th 2025 at 7 PM at the High Plains Community Center to endorse candidates for the following positions: First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Zoning, Orange Board of Education, Amity Board of Education, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Constables.

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JULY 31 - AUGUST 3

**FIREWORKS
SATURDAY NIGHT
ORANGE FAIRGROUNDS**



Obituaries

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

Mary Esposito Apicella of Orange, formerly of Branford, and recently cared for at Carriage Green in Milford, passed away on June 23, 2025 at the age of 102. (W.S. Clancy Memorial Funeral Home)



Lawrence "Larry" Newman Argraves, 97 of Milford CT, passed away peacefully on June 21, 2025, while surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert V. Brett, Jr. age 94, of North Chesterfield, VA and formerly of Milford and Hamden, entered peaceful rest on March 31, 2023. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Dorothy R. Cipparrone, 82, of Milford CT, passed away on June 10, 2025. She was born and raised in Milford. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mr. David R. Clark, age 56, beloved husband of 3 years to Barbara A. (Horton) Clark of Milford, passed away Saturday, August 16, 2008. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Maria A. Collins, 91, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Robert Collins, passed away on June 4, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Alice Mary Cunningham (née Dooling), a lifelong resident of Milford, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 14, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was 92. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Michael Czubyj, age 52, of Milford, died on Saturday, June 7, 2025, after a brave battle with glioblastoma. (Pistey Funeral Home)



Barry B. Dana, 78, of Milford, beloved wife of Bruce Dana, passed away on June 18, 2025. Born on August 17, 1946, she was the daughter of the late Bob Bacon and Jo Maloney. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Patricia Ann Daniello of Milford, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at Bridgeport Hospital. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



James Michael Dean, age 81, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Sheila Rogers Dean for 50 years, passed away on Thursday June 19, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beautiful mother **Virginia DeGiacomo**, who died peacefully on June 27, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Edward Joseph Degnan, 80, of Milford, CT passed peacefully on June 3rd, 2025, after a brief illness with his family by his side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Patrick John DeLillo, 61, of Milford, passed away on June 12, 2025. Born on May 17, 1964 in Queens, NY, to the late Vincent and Helen (Caifa) DeLillo. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David DeLuca, age 100, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Jean Daley DeLuca, passed away surrounded by family on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Jeanine E. Diamond, age 95, of Woodmont, beloved wife of the late Jack Diamond, entered into peaceful rest on June 1, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Henry Frederick Geer, 92, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Gloria Geer, passed away on June 15, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Jeanette Rosalie Jamieson Heagy, 85, passed peacefully on May 15, 2025, at Connecticut Hospice, after a courageous four-year battle with kidney disease. (Celentano Funeral Home)



Mark Alan Leventhal, 78, of Orange, CT passed away suddenly, at home, on the morning of June 13, 2025. (Robert E. Shure & Son Funeral Home)



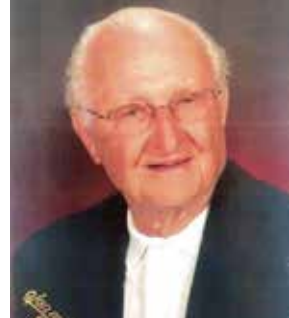
Edward Imro Dolny, 97, of Milford, CT, passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025. (Lesko Funeral Home)



Barbara Giambra, age 92 of Milford, beloved wife of Biagio (Benny) Giambra, died Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Giambra was born in Fairfield, February 3, 1933. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John R. Horvack, Sr., age 99, of Milford passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of the late Irene Horvack. (Abriola Parkview Funeral Home)



Silverio (Sal) Mazzella, 85, of West Haven, beloved husband of Dominica (Angelina) Mazzella for 58 years, passed away peacefully, with his family by his side, on June 12, 2025. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Paul A. Ferchau, age 59, beloved fiancé of Christina (Fearnley) Wing of Milford, entered eternal rest on May 31, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Louise Paylun Goorhigian, 97 of Milford CT, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025, while surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



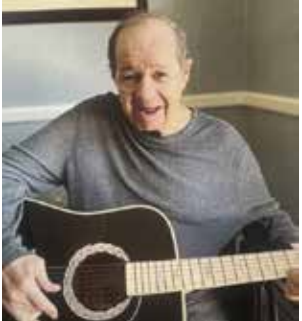
It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of **Lisa Keith Laudano**, 75, of Orange, who died peacefully on July 1, 2025, surrounded by her loving family and friends. (Porto Funeral Home)



Edward J. McCormick (US Navy Retired HMC), a devoted serviceman, cherished family man, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on June 12, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



It is with heavy hearts, yet in peaceful faith, that we announce the passing of **Luis Carmelo Garay** on June 5, 2025, in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Peter Barry Gorton, 79, of Milford, died peacefully on June 20, 2025 in his home surrounded by family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert "Bob" Lessard, 74, of Milford, beloved husband of Darlene (Yusko) Lessard, passed away on June 11, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Danilo M. Molina, 81, of Orange, Connecticut, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on June 11, 2025. (West Haven Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Joyce Francis Norman, 77, of Milford, passed peacefully on June 1st, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mary J. (Unwin) Previs, age 95, of Milford beloved wife of the late Charles J. Previs, entered peaceful rest on June 3, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Anna Elisabeth Schreiner, 94, of Shelton, formerly of Milford, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2025, surrounded by her family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Frank J. Tagliatela, 103, a longtime resident of Orange, entered into rest on June 28, 2025. He was the husband of the late Ann (Cassella) Tagliatela. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Robert Ervin Page, 76, of Milford, beloved husband of Janice Dooling Page and affectionately known as Bob or dad to his family, passed away on May 29, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Steven "Quincy" Price, 74, of West Haven, passed away peacefully with family by his side on June 24, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Lewis W. "Buddy" Shippy Sr., 71, of West Haven, entered into eternal rest on June 11, 2025. (West Haven Funeral Home)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Demaris Ann Trenchard**. She was the beautiful wife of 60 years to Richard David Trenchard. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Edward John Palmer, 82, husband of Jean Marie Palmer, of West Haven, passed away after a lengthy illness on March 20, 2025, with family by his side. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Edward John Quirk Jr. (Ed) peacefully passed away on April 12, 2025. He was predeceased by his son, Edward "Eddie" Frederick Quirk. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Winann Steinmetz, age 77, beloved wife of Dale H. Steinmetz, of Milford entered into peaceful rest on June 11, 2025 surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Robin "Tim" Tummins, age 78, of Milford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully at Bridgeport Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Henrietta H. Platt, age 95, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Richard S. Platt, died on Sunday, June 22, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Mrs. Patricia Pat (Kennedy) Quigley, age 94 of Orange, beloved wife, mother and friend passed away on May 30, 2025 with family by her side. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carole Nancy (Munck) Strobel, 83, of Orange, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 27, 2025 at the Connecticut Hospice with her family by her side. (North Haven Funeral Home)



Sheila Duffy Welsh passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on May 30, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gregory F. Doyle

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