



# Milford-Orange Times

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October 30, 2025



## Election 2025 Special Section: Voter Candidate Guide Pages 18-27



Milford mayoral candidate Rich Smith.



Milford Mayor Tony Giannattasio.



Orange first selectman candidate Dan Fitzmaurice.



Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli.

## Zeoli, Fitzmaurice Face Off In Debates

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Incumbent Republican Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli and Democratic challenger Dan Fitzmaurice clashed over the direction of the town before prospective voters in a series of debates in October.

The two laid out their cases – and criticized each others' policy goals – in three debates. The first, sponsored by the Amity Chamber of Commerce and held at the University of New Haven's Orange Campus, was on Oct. 7. The second was put on by the Or Shalom Men's Club and held at Congregation Or Shalom on Oct. 19. The third was sponsored by the Milford-Orange

Times and held at High Plains Community Center on Oct. 28. The third debate had not occurred by press time.

Fitzmaurice, who is currently the director of advocacy for the United Way of Connecticut, has fashioned his

*Continued on page 2*



Incumbent First Selectman Jim Zeoli, left, and challenger Dan Fitzmaurice, right, shake hands at the second of three debates on Oct. 19. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

## Clergy In Orange Discuss Politics In The Pulpit

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A group of religious leaders representing different faith traditions from around the region came together at St. Joseph of Arimathea church in Orange on Oct. 19 to mull over a perennial question: to what extent should politics be a part of their message?

The short answer: it's complicated.

The panel discussion, organized by the Congregations of Orange Collaborative, featured six panelists: Rev. James Simpson of Orange Congregational Church in Orange; Deacon John Hoffman of St. Mary Catholic Church in Milford; Rev.

*Continued on page 40*

## Milford Increases Wages For Police, Fire, But Not Mayor

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Aldermen at their Oct. 6 meeting approved wage increases for leadership positions in the fire and police departments, but narrowly denied increases for the mayor and city clerk.

The increases apply to the fire chief, the police chief, and their deputies.

Under the ordinance, the fire chief could

make up to \$156,339, while the deputies could make up to \$134,855. The police chief could make as much as \$162,809, and the deputy chief could make up to \$135,335.

City Attorney Jonathan Berchem said

*Continued on page 40*



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### Debates

#### (Continued From 1)

campaign around what he sees as the need for Orange to prepare itself for the future. Among his key campaign proposals are creating an economic development office within town government, pushing the development of Fred Wolfe Park forward and enabling a “see-click-fix” service to help residents more easily navigate town departments.

Fitzmaurice has lauded Zeoli for his decades of service to Orange, opening the debates by thanking the incumbent for his devotion to the town. However, he has argued, the town is missing out on opportunities under an administration that he claims is not proactive enough.

Zeoli has also leaned into his lifetime of involvement in Orange, noting that he has lived there his entire life and been in public service for much of it. He has been a member of the Board of Selectmen for 26 years and is seeking his 11th two-year term as first selectman.

Zeoli has argued that his stewardship of the town has helped it gain fiscal stability, with a AAA bond rating and several large businesses in the Post Road corridor. He has suggested that some of Fitzmaurice’s proposals would needlessly duplicate existing services and increase costs to the town.

Zeoli has been particularly dismissive of Fitzmaurice’s plan to create an in-house economic development department, saying that the nonprofit Orange Economic Development Corporation works closely with the town and does excellent work.

“The town of Orange pays \$100,000 towards that department. So to say that we don’t have it is insulting,” Zeoli said at the first debate.

Fitzmaurice praised the OEDC, but said he knew from his own experience working in the nonprofit sector that there were certain types of grants and awards that could only be brought in through a town office.

“There are an incredible amount of state and federal grants that a nonprofit organization is not eligible to receive,” he said.

Fitzmaurice has argued that an economic development department would be “an investment” that would help lower residential property taxes by helping to spur commercial and mixed-use development. Residents have been paying an increased proportion of taxes in recent years as their property values have shot up while commercial property values have stagnated.

Zeoli has countered that while his team has brought in plenty of commercial tenants, particularly on Edison Road, the opportunities for continued commercial development are limited.

“There’s only one piece of land left on there that’s not developed, and it’s owned by Pez. And they actually are submitting plans right now for an expansion there, which is the reason they chose not to sell it,” he said. “That’s the problem: we don’t have the amount of commercial/industrial land that you think.”

Zeoli was likewise unimpressed with Fitzmaurice’s proposal for a “see-click-fix” system that would allow residents to get services through a single entry point via the web or phone. Fitzmaurice has pointed out that other municipalities implemented the service years ago, and that Orange’s website already has the capability to run it – the town has just declined to do so.

“Right now what often happens is that people call and they get tossed around, and they don’t know what’s happening with the request they made. I think in 2025 we expect better customer service,” he said. “If we can fix small issues before they become big, expensive ones, that’s a smart use of all of our resources.”

“It’s going to have to be managed and overseen by somebody who directs it to the appropriate departments. It’s another layer of spending money,” Zeoli countered. “While a

lot of the younger people may be tech savvy, a lot of people are not.”

Fitzmaurice has also portrayed the years-long saga of redevelopment at Fred Wolfe Park as a symptom of inaction from Zeoli’s administration. The first master plan for the park was put together in 2013 but never came to fruition. A second master plan is now underway.

“It’s about time we develop this one,” he said. “It’s due for an upgrade.”

“The first engineering plan that was done some years ago was in some areas a dismal failure,” Zeoli said, citing problems with drainage under the plan that had ultimately killed it.

Early voting is going on now in Town Hall, with polls open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Oct. 30 and Nov. 2, when polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election Day is Nov. 4; voting will take place at High Plains Community Center from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Milford, Orange Honoring Veterans Day

Milford and Orange will host ceremonies and events in early November in recognition of Veterans Day.

Milford will hold its annual Veterans Day parade on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. The assembly begins at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Wasson Field at 70 W. River St. The city will hold a wreath-laying ceremony on Veterans Day itself, Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10:45 a.m. at City Hall.

Orange will also be honoring veterans on Nov. 11 at the Orange War Remembrance

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

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

### Milford-Orange Times

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Barry Lee Cohen, Amity Chamber

Cyndi Consoli, Arts

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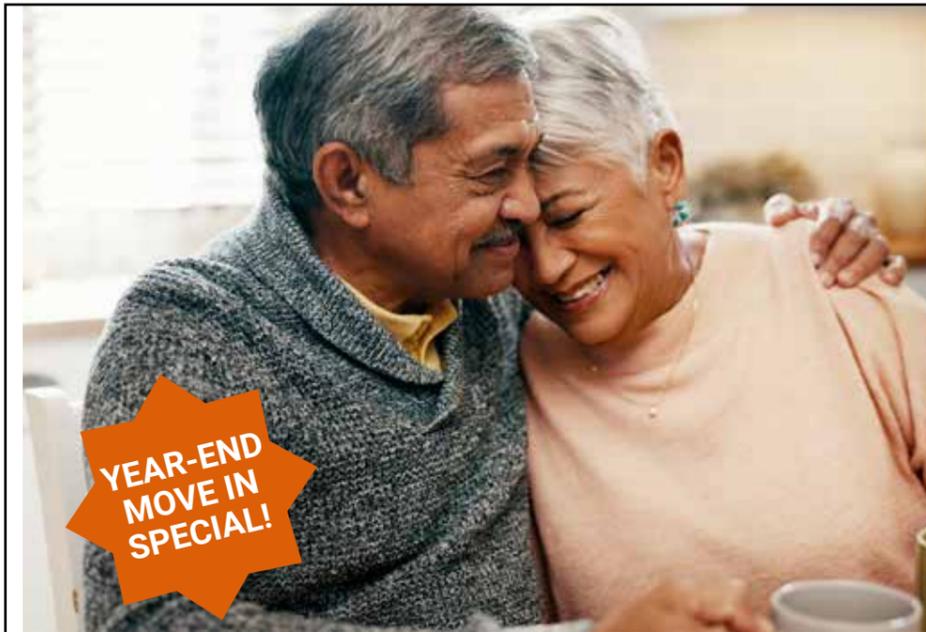
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Learn about their qualifications and our plans at [OrangeCTDems.org](http://OrangeCTDems.org).

### First Selectman



Dan Fitzmaurice

### Board of Selectmen



Mitch Goldblatt



PJ Shanley



Erika Higgins

### Town Clerk



James Carcano

### Tax Collector



Mark Moyher

### Board of Finance



Kevin McNabola



Byron Crosdale, Jr.



Albert Post

### Plan & Zoning Commission



GG Cabrera



Doug Fenichel



Beth Marshea

### Constables



Santo Galatioto, Jr.



Randy Thomas



Byron Crosdale, Jr.

### Orange Board of Education



Kelly Billings



Lauren Gray



Josh Orlinsky



Erin Wilson



Jennifer Jacquet



Sean-Michael Green



Ralph Marguy

### Amity Board of Education

[OrangeCTDems.org](http://OrangeCTDems.org)



**NEW! Early Voting:** Oct 20 to Nov 2 (every day) at Town Hall  
**Election Day:** Nov 4 at High Plains Community Center  
**Absentee Voting:** Apply online or contact Town Clerk



# Opinion & Editorial

## Letters to the Editor:

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

## Embracing Change for a Stronger Future

Change is never easy, especially when it comes after years of stability and familiarity. For two decades, our town has been led by a first selectman whose service and dedication have shaped much of what we value today. That commitment deserves recognition and gratitude. But as someone who has spent nearly 30 years in education, I've learned that even when something is working well, continuous improvement is essential if we want to keep growing.

In schools, we constantly reflect, adapt and refine what we do to meet the needs of students and families in an ever-changing world. That same principle applies to local leadership. New perspectives bring new ideas, energy and opportunities to strengthen our community. Growth requires both respect for the past and courage to embrace what comes next.

That is why, in this upcoming election, I am supporting Dan Fitzmaurice for first selectman. He represents the thoughtful change our town needs – someone ready to listen, collaborate and guide us forward while honoring the work that has come before.

Just as we ask our students to keep learning and improving, we too must be willing to evolve. Change may be hard, but it's also how we build a stronger, more vibrant future for our schools, our families and our town.

**Amy VanZandt**  
Orange

## Everything Isn't Perfect

Twice a year my children get a special treat: they get to come to Town Fair Tire with me to get my summer/winter tires swapped out. They look forward to this not because of their budding interest in car maintenance (to my dismay) but because we have made it a tradition to walk across the street to Chuck E. Cheese while we wait a couple of hours.

That street we have to cross is Route 1 in Orange. Take a minute to check this area out on the map app of your choice and try to plot a safe route for a father and two children to do something as simple as walk from one business to another.

There is no sidewalk, so we brave the car wash parking lot. There is no crosswalk; we go when the plaza across the street has the green and I have to try and make eye contact with the drivers turning right. Next we slide down the steep embankment to the parking lot below.

It is a harrowing adventure that I will get to repeat in reverse once my kids get their fill of Skee ball. I would love to see some level of investment by the town to make Route 1 just a little safer for pedestrians.

While we're at it, I wouldn't mind some investment in attracting independent local businesses rather than more chains and big box stores. Or perhaps look at ways to lower property taxes, or spend what they collect more efficiently.

Don't get me wrong, Orange is a great town, but that does not mean we should rest on our laurels. Citizens have concerns and from what I've been reading in this paper, it's the Democratic candidates who have been reaching out and proposing potential solutions. The Republican slogan may as well be "if it ain't broke."

I saw a large sign the other day for Jim Zecoli that read "Stay the Course." That doesn't give me the feeling that they're interested in

investing in any improvements or even admitting that some may be necessary.

**Bobby Vinson**  
Orange

## Inspired by Orange Democrats

Before moving to Orange, my family visited every year for the Country Fair and Fourth of July fireworks. After our son spent three wonderful years at Orange Community Nursery School, we knew this was where we wanted to plant roots for our family to grow. Not just for the outstanding schools, but also for the friendly community, beautiful open spaces and proximity to New Haven.

While Orange has so much to be proud of, it's clear that Town Hall is stuck in the past. Clinging to the status quo won't move us forward. We need leadership that embraces innovation and listens to residents. Outdated systems, including a town website that makes even basic information hard to find, and a lack of transparency have left many of us frustrated and wondering where our rising tax dollars are going. Our schools and parks need updates, yet too often our concerns go unanswered. It's time for change and that's why I'm inspired by the plan the Orange Democrats have put forward to lead our town into the future.

As a small business owner, I've worked with the Orange Economic Development Corporation and serve on the Board of the Amity Chamber of Commerce. Both do important work but imagine how much more could be accomplished with a dedicated economic development office within town government. Attracting new, vibrant businesses will strengthen our local economy, reduce the tax burden on residents and make Orange a destination where families and entrepreneurs alike want to be.

As a parent and Turkey Hill PTO board member, I see every day how special our schools are, as well as how they need support. Too many facility improvements are delayed or paid for by parents themselves. The Orange Democrats have a clear, realistic plan to prioritize our children's success while being fiscally responsible and taking the burden off parents and residents.

Orange is an incredible town. Let's make sure our leadership reflects that with those who are forward-thinking, transparent and committed to a brighter future. That's why I'm proudly supporting the Orange Democrats this election.

**Sarah McGovern**  
Orange

## The Big Ugly Shakedown

After the final arguments have been made and nothing more can be said about the candidates and their positions, there's one troubling incident that stands out for me and settles my vote in the November election: the letter the Orange Republican Town Committee sent to the Amity Board of Education this year demanding that its members eliminate anything that smacks of DEI from our classrooms (as decreed by "executive" order) or be reported to the US Department of Education to face the consequences of losing federal funds – taxes that we paid – for our schools.

Shocking as it was that the ORTC would leverage our locally derived curriculum with federal, MAGA-centric micromanagement, it was equally upsetting that our children would lose solid educational opportunities reflective of our values if we did not appease the president whose principles cost him the last election in Bethany, Woodbridge and Orange. To make the situation worse, nobody on the ORTC or running for office on that ticket re-

puddiated the letter or showed any inclination to publicly declare whether or not they believe that Donald Trump has any business telling us how to educate our own children here in town. The voters have the right to know where they stand. After all, what will the ORTC do when Trump intrudes in other matters that have long traditions of being managed locally? March in lockstep again?

Though the author of the letter has departed, reportedly for a position with the US Department of Agriculture, the prospect, once unimaginable, of similar future ultimatums remains here with us. I hope that the non-MAGA Republicans can take back their party and reestablish the cordial and respectful working relations with Democrats that Trump and his followers destroyed. Given their dynamic belligerence and take-no-prisoners attitude, this will take courage and possibly sacrifice. But their reward, I think, will be a lot of grateful support from voters who are fed up with MAGA excesses, especially on the local level.

**Gene Burshuliak**  
Orange

## A Vote Earned

Back in June, I wrote to share my excitement about this year's Democratic slate of candidates. I was involved in the nominating process to help select them, and since then, watching them in action has only deepened my admiration. I feel compelled to write again.

This year's slate is a diverse mix of experienced public servants and first-time candidates, all united by a genuine desire to serve the people of Orange. What's moved me most is how tirelessly they've worked, not just to earn votes, but to build real connections with residents. Together, they've reached out to voters over 10,000 times, knocking on doors, making phone calls, attending meet-and-greet events, answering questions and most importantly, listening. That kind of effort is rare, and it speaks volumes about their dedication.

A vote is something sacred. It should never be taken for granted. It must be earned through hard work, transparency and respect for the people you hope to represent. These candidates have shown that. Whether they're seasoned officials or stepping into public life for the first time, every one of them has shown up for us. They've listened to what matters on porches, at sports fields and during town hall-style meetings.

What inspires me most is their commitment not just to win your vote, but to keep earning your trust long after the election. They understand that real leadership means staying engaged, building two-way conversations and creating a lasting feedback loop that keeps residents informed and empowered. They want to work for you and with you to strengthen our community.

I'm grateful to all who have taken the time to consider these candidates and to share your own ideas for our town. Local government affects our daily lives more than we often realize, and this slate of candidates understands that. I am proud – truly proud – to cast my vote for the Democratic slate. With their dedication and their willingness to work alongside the people of Orange, I believe that they will help lead us into a stronger, more connected future.

**Melissa Johnston**  
Orange

## Vote 'C' for 'Common Sense'

I have been a proud resident of Orange for 10 years. My wife and I chose to raise our daughter here for many reasons – foremost among them being our exceptional, tier-one

schools. That success has been the result of decades of steady, common-sense leadership from our local government.

In recent years, however, I have grown increasingly concerned by a trend that seems to mirror the divisive national rhetoric seeping into our schools. I have watched with frustration as some leaders on the Amity Board of Education become caught up in partisan politics instead of focusing on the practical, student-first governance that built one of Connecticut's finest school systems.

I am running to restore common sense to the Amity Board of Education – to bridge the partisan divide and bring the focus back where it belongs: on students, teachers and parents. My vision is simple: refocus on the core pillars of education – reading, writing, arithmetic and STEM; strengthen support for all students, whether they plan to attend college or pursue trades and vocational careers; and ensure that every Amity graduate leaves with the skills, confidence and common-sense tools to succeed in the modern world.

As an educator with over 30 years of experience, I have seen firsthand how policy decisions affect teachers and students in the classroom. I will bring that real-world perspective to the board, ensuring that every decision is made not for political gain – but for the betterment of our students and schools.

If you believe, as I do, that Amity's strength lies in common-sense leadership – not party politics – I humbly ask for your support this November.

With your third Amity vote, please vote Row C – for common sense.

**Donald Farnen**  
Orange Amity Board of Education Candidate

## Good Is the Enemy of Great

It is with this thought that I write. In both Milford and Orange, we have good schools, very good schools. For both towns, however, and specifically for Orange, where I vote and my children go to school, I want great schools.

What does this mean? It means that we do not simply settle for being good. It means proper planning, it means posting job listings to replace a retiring teacher or administrator immediately. It means hiring the new person before a gap arises. It means making sure all students have facilities that are properly maintained, updated and expanded as our student body grows. It means ensuring that every employee of every school and the Board of Education is happy, which translates to them honestly being able to say, "I love my job."

How do we get there? I firmly believe that having the right people makes all the difference. There is no one in either party or amongst the unaffiliated who wants anything less than great schools. This is why, for my vote, I support the following candidates for the Orange Board of Education:

1. Josh Orlinsky, head of social studies at Platt High School in Meriden and parent of two in our schools.

2. Dr. Erin Wilson, assistant dean for graduate studies, Fairfield University and parent of two in our schools.

3. Kelly Berwick Billings, a public defender and parent of two in our schools.

4. Lauren Gray, communications expert and parent of three with the oldest just entering our schools.

While the above candidates are uniquely qualified to serve, what makes them exceptional and worthy of my vote is that they are inspired to take action to improve our schools. Education is a town issue, and we all care about it. I invite all other candidates and current board members to rise to the challenge. Let us focus on our children and vote to make

*Continued on page 5*

# Opinion & Editorial

## Our Property Tax Relief Plan



STATE REP. (R-119)  
KATHY KENNEDY

Did you know that Connecticut ranks in the five most taxed states in the country? As residents, we've all felt the burden, but what are our lawmakers doing to provide us with some relief?

Being a taxpayer and a legislator, I am always fighting hard to bring down the cost of living for our community. Just like you, I know what it means to readjust your personal budget to pay the bills, save for housing and raise a family. What residents across our state deserve the most is real and immediate relief, and that's exactly what Republicans are doing in Hartford.

Last month, I joined my House Republican colleagues in proposing a historic expansion of the Connecticut property tax exemption. Our proposal boosts the property tax credit from a \$300 maximum credit to a maximum \$1,000 credit for eligible filers; or a \$700 increase in the maximum credit amount. While the governor only proposed a \$50 increase in his most recent budget, we are expanding both the credit amount and eligibility requirements to receive the credit.

We propose increasing eligible income levels to qualify by approximately \$20,000 for single filers and \$30,000 for most joint filers. Unlike majority leaders, our unique approach provides more relief to currently eligible taxpayers and provides relief to taxpayers who did not previously qualify. With these new parameters, there is an estimated 800,000 filers who will receive real property tax relief.

What's important to note is that this credit in no way impacts municipal revenue but is instead a way to use current state surpluses to support our residents and lower the cost of living. For example, right now, the state's budget reserve fund, or "rainy day fund," is at its maximum capacity with over \$4.3 billion. This means that over the years, taxpayers like you and me, have contributed to this fund as a financial cushion in case of emergencies, such as a government shutdown. Why aren't we using it now?

While many of my Democratic colleagues commonly explore more taxes as a solution, we should instead be actively tapping into this fund, especially after unanimously voting to increase its threshold by an additional \$721 million in fiscal year 2025. This money has been placed in a reserve fund, not a lockbox. Our taxpayers deserve access to the funds they have been contributing to for years, and I am proud to propose an honest, simple and straightforward path toward tax relief.

Proposing tax relief is easy; passing it, however, has its challenges. If Democrats are open to including Republicans in a conversation about fiscal responsibility and taxes this upcoming session, Connecticut could take significant strides toward affordability. It's time to counteract the factors that are pushing families, businesses and residents out of our state at a record pace, and I believe this is a good start.

As always, please never hesitate to contact me with your questions, ideas and concerns at [Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov) or by calling me at 860-240-8700. Don't forget to follow me on Facebook and sign up for my brief email updates at [RepKennedy.com](mailto:RepKennedy.com).

## Keeping Our Kids Safe



STATE REP. (D-114)  
MARY WELANDER

Every legislative committee has an agency or governing body over which they have cognizance and work with directly to create or reform policies. For example, the Education Committee has oversight over the state Department of Education. As vice chair of the Children's Committee, it is our responsibility to oversee the Department of Children and Families.

With the multiple heartbreaking reports that have surfaced over the last 18 months or so, the latest being the tragic death of Jacqueline "Mimi" Torres-Garcia, it is clear that the state needs to take a serious look at DCF as a whole, as well as other systems in place that are intended to keep children safe.

When I say we need to look at DCF as a whole, I mean that very literally. As much as we may want to find one spot to place the blame to feel like we are closer to stopping these deaths and injuries from happening, the truth is that there is no one person, role or agency that shoulders all the blame. This is part of a larger systemic problem.

While we have recent federal and state level audits of DCF that can help pinpoint specific areas that need improvement, in my opinion we need to focus on the people. Again, I am being specific in my word choice. Yes, major changes are needed, but we also need to focus on the people who do this important work not just to find fault, but to find better ways to support them, and most importantly create better systems for them to work in.

More children and families are needing higher levels of support, which requires more people and resources. At the same time, the caseloads for every type of social worker and case worker are getting larger every year, exacerbating already high rates of staff turnover. Foster families are desperately needed, but existing foster families are not getting the support they need consistently, which leads to them exiting the system and the need growing even further. We need a better process of oversight and communication to ensure accountability for these children, but that can't be done without more staff and stronger supports for current employees.

Additionally, the state needs to develop better communication practices between agencies such as SDE, the Department of Public Health and DCF. This will be a delicate process as we must protect the privacies of our students and families. But without reform of certain policies there are too many weak spots that can lead to tragedy. I hope we can all agree that keeping our kids safe in all situations is a universal priority, and that we are ready to do this needed work together.

You can reach me at [mary.welander@cga.ct.gov](mailto:mary.welander@cga.ct.gov).

**MOT**  
Milford-Orange Times

## Letters

### (Continued From 4)

our schools great.

I also support Dan Fitzmaurice and team as I want lower taxes. Look him up and vote.

Robert Smith  
Orange

### Keep Orange Strong: Be Prepared for the Future

After attending the first two debates for first selectman, I am convinced that Dan Fitzmaurice is the thoughtful, effective and forward-looking leader Orange needs.

Both candidates showed a deep appreciation for Orange's heritage as a farming community. Each one committed to maintaining the town's unique character while encouraging appropriate economic growth. What set Fitzmaurice apart, though, was his ability to move beyond general promises. He offered clear, actionable plans and demonstrated an understanding of both the challenges we face and highlighted past opportunities that our town has missed.

One example that stood out during the second debate was the discussion about bringing efficient energy infrastructure to Orange. Each candidate supported initiatives like installing electric vehicle charging stations in central downtown areas and building solar canopies where feasible. But Fitzmaurice addressed a critical reality: while these ideas are worthwhile, the best time to act on them was years ago. He pointed out that other towns have already taken advantage of generous federal and state incentives – programs that are now expiring or being phased out. In other words, while these projects remain valuable, their implementation at this late stage means that our town will miss out on the maximal financial benefit of these programs. Unfortunately, Orange was too late to the party.

This may seem like a small example, but it reflects a much bigger issue. Orange simply cannot afford to settle for leadership that only reacts. We need leaders who anticipate, who plan and who are ready to move when opportunities arise, not after they've passed us by.

Fitzmaurice brings exactly that kind of leadership. He respects the traditions that make Orange special, but he also understands the importance of preparing for the future with smart, innovative and timely decisions that will benefit all residents.

On Election Day, I will put my trust in Dan Fitzmaurice for first selectman.

Abhi Seth  
Orange

### Trusted Leadership

I am writing in support of Dan Fitzmaurice, the candidate for first selectman of Orange, and his team of Orange town board member candidates, including the Democratic candidates for the Orange and Amity boards of education. I've lived in Orange for the past 19 years, and I believe this team provides our best chance to help Orange prosper and advance in efficiency, while maintaining the many characteristics of our town that we cherish.

As a parent of two children in the Orange and now Amity schools, I have watched, listened, and read attentively regarding community and board member discourse and decisions at Board of Education meetings. Who we choose to represent our children's best interests matters. I believe that the Democratic candidates for the school board positions will ensure that our children are getting the best possible education in Orange and Amity in the coming years. They will create and maintain appropriate policies, ensure schools have suffi-

cient resources, and work collaboratively with our expert educators and administrators while holding each other accountable.

With recent and ongoing/unpredictable changes to federal departments, the state and local representatives we elect are more important now than ever before in my recollection. Dan Fitzmaurice and the rest of the Democratic candidates for Orange and the school boards will serve our town and our students with a tenacious work ethic, open-mindedness and kindness, the kind of leadership that I trust and am happy to support.

Sara Wallace  
Orange

### A Troubling Narrative

In Orange, there's a troubling narrative: if you weren't born here, you don't belong here – at least not in leadership. I've lived in Orange for 15 years, and I still hear it: "You don't really understand this town unless you're from here."

That mindset is not only exclusionary – it holds us back.

I come from a town where my family has lived for four generations. I know what deep roots feel like. But even there, I'd never assume that where I come from makes me more qualified to lead. Because leadership isn't about where you started. It's about how you show up – with commitment, compassion and a willingness to serve.

At a recent debate, Jim Zeoli said of Dan Fitzmaurice: "Throwing his hat in the ring and being relatively new to town is admirable." Fitzmaurice has lived in Orange for 11 years. He's raising his family here. He grew up in the next town over and swam for our ARAC team. He's not new – he's invested. So how long is "long enough"?

When do we stop calling people outsiders and start seeing them as neighbors?

I'm proud to live in Orange. I volunteer, I engage and I care deeply about this community. That should count for more than the number of years my name has been on a mailbox.

We live in a country built on the freedom to move, to plant new roots and to lead when called. In fact, it's often those who come from elsewhere who bring fresh ideas and perspectives, qualities we need to meet today's challenges.

You don't have to be originally from Orange to belong and care about its future. We need to value all people who step up for our town.

Erika Higgins  
Orange Board of Selectmen Candidate

### The Kind of Leadership Orange Deserves

I'm writing as a proud Orange resident, mom, nurse and wife of a candidate who has spent the past year listening to neighbors at their doors, at town events, and yes, even in Facebook comment threads.

Dan Fitzmaurice's campaign for first selectman is about partnership. It's the same approach we take as two working parents raising our children. We balance responsibilities, solve problems together and make decisions that put family and community first. That's also how Fitzmaurice has led throughout his career: by listening, planning carefully and taking responsibility for results.

I've seen firsthand how deeply he cares about this town. When he talks about stabilizing property taxes, he means managing growth and planning ahead so it's easier to afford the growing cost of living. When he talks about modernizing town services, he's thinking about seniors who deserve systems that work

*Continued on page 6*

# Opinion & Editorial

## Letters

### (Continued From 5)

and families juggling work and school every day. And when he talks about investing in our economic development, schools and parks, he's focused on the long-term health, safety and quality of life of our community.

Fitzmaurice isn't running to tear anyone down. He's running to bring Orange together. Because what makes this town special isn't any single leader, it's all of us working together with respect and a shared purpose. Please reach out to him and share what your vision is for Orange if you haven't already.

I am proud of Fitzmaurice, and I know he will work tirelessly as our next first selectman. He's the kind of leader Orange deserves. It's time.

I hope you will consider voting for Dan Fitzmaurice and the full Democratic team on Row A. They're a selfless group of people who want to work hard to represent what matters to you.

**Sarah Golomb**  
Orange

## Check a Calendar

I haven't written a letter before but I was so outraged, I felt compelled to write.

The holiest day of the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur. As with all Jewish holidays, it starts the evening before. That service is called Kol Nidre, which literally means annulling vows. It begins our 24-plus hours of fasting and atoning for our sins of the past year and remembering those we have lost from our lives.

I was outraged to see the Orange Republicans chose this date to have a party, celebrating the opening of their headquarters. Does no one look at a calendar? No one did any checking? I find it disrespectful and inexcusable.

I can't support a group who shows complete disregard for members of the community they claim to serve.

**Harriet Barstein**  
Orange

## Sound Judgement on the Board of Finance

I would like to introduce myself and explain my interest in serving the town of Orange on the Board of Finance. I have been involved in roles supporting Democratic candidates for eight years, including three years as the Democratic Town Committee treasurer. This year, I am a candidate for the first time running for a seat on the Board of Finance. This issue includes my biography with those of the other candidates. I would like to address a question some residents have asked me.

I explain to residents that I'm a retired scientist, and they ask what qualifies me to be a member of the Board of Finance. Providing financial oversight requires an aptitude with numbers and the understanding to estimate income and expenses. My experience as a scientist for the global consumer products company Unilever required an aptitude with numbers and an ability to predict the effect of material costs, manufacturing methods and other factors on product profitability. I also received training from Unilever about profit and loss statements associated with consumer brands and companies.

Sound financial planning requires consideration of both ongoing expenses and capital expenses or other non-recurring expenses (redesigning a park, for example). Ideally, the town plans ahead to avoid the need for a tax hike to account for a significant one-time expense. Apart from making income and expense balance, I believe a budget for a town or any

organization should align spending with the values of that organization or the community it represents.

Service on any town board is as much about judgment as expertise. Any citizen possessing numerical aptitude and commitment to our community can understand town financial issues and contribute to decision making. In addition to endorsing my own candidacy, I also endorse my fellow Democratic candidates for the Board of Finance, Kevin McNabola and Byron Crosdale Jr. because they have the expertise, judgment and dedication required. We are committed to serving Orange with integrity, fiscal responsibility, and transparency.

**Albert Post**  
Orange Board of Finance Candidate

## Focused on Fiscal Stability

To the Editor:

PJ Shanley currently serves on the Board of Selectmen and previously served on the Board of Finance. In both roles, he has remained focused on maintaining fiscal responsibility – working to keep taxes low while still supporting the strong programs that make Orange such a great place to live.

He understands that responsible budgeting doesn't mean cutting corners. It means making smart investments in our schools, youth programs, services for seniors and people with disabilities – all without burdening taxpayers.

Shanley, along with his bipartisan committee, has led the development of a master plan for Fred Wolfe Park, and if re-elected, will continue to pursue grants and state funding to make that vision a reality for future generations. As an Orange soccer and lacrosse dad, he has spent a great deal of time at Fred Wolfe Park and is passionate about improving it. He listened to constituents and used their concerns and ideas to improve the traffic flow and make it safer for families. Now he would like to be reelected to continue to safely grow the park so it can benefit all members of the community.

Shanley is also a graduate of Orange public schools and Amity Regional High School. His Orange roots are strong – he is raising his family here, his mother still lives in town and his late father and in-laws were proud members of the Orange community.

He doesn't seek the spotlight. He listens, asks thoughtful questions and works behind the scenes to deliver results that you see all throughout the community.

PJ Shanley is a dedicated public servant, a loving father, husband, son, brother, nephew, and a true neighbor. He volunteers at the Orange Volunteer Firemen's Carnival and the Orange Country Fair and participates in Orange and Amity fundraisers – quietly stepping up wherever help is needed. He respects the foundation of this town and works every day to build on it the right way.

Please vote to re-elect PJ Shanley to the Orange Board of Selectmen.

**Whitney Shanley**  
Orange

## Voters Should Know Where We Stand

I am honored to run for the Amity Board of Education in Orange. I've truly enjoyed getting to know the other candidates on the Democratic slate, their families and our constituents. We've shown incredible energy and worked diligently to meet our neighbors, listen and share our priorities and ideas.

Recently, Amity Allies asked all of the Amity BOE candidates across all three towns to answer questions for a nonpartisan voter

guide. The questions were thought-provoking, asking us to share our perspectives and how we would approach our role on the board. We also shared our background and what expertise we would lend to the board.

Each Democratic candidate took time to thoroughly answer the questions, reflecting our commitment to transparency. The Republican candidates and the "third-party" candidate chose simply not to respond.

This is the second time in four years this has occurred. A simple non-participation by the Republican ticket. Voters should know where we stand. Each citizen of Orange deserves better. We should be earning your vote through our experience and because you trust us to represent your family and best interests.

Many vote along party lines without knowing much about the candidates. But I would ask you to think about why the Republican candidates and their endorsed candidates feel they don't need to communicate their commitments and strategies for making our town better. Why are they so afraid to share viewpoints and their supposed expertise? Could it be because they don't align with you and your families? That the party and national agendas are dictating their mandates? They have determined they are better to keep quiet than to communicate what they will do for you – what does that say to you?

My fellow Democratic candidates and I are committed to representing every family and student in the district and keeping their best interests at the center of every decision. I hope that our willingness to be open, answer tough questions and share what we believe, earns your vote.

**Jennifer Blando Jacquet**  
Orange Amity Board of Education Candidate

## Process Matters

Before Election Day, I wanted to share a few thoughts from my unique perspective as both an elected official and a proud resident of Orange.

While I had bumped into him at school functions (we are both "Race Brook families"), I really first met Dan Fitzmaurice when he was serving as the executive director of a large nonprofit organization in New Haven and I had just started my first term as state representative. Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with Fitzmaurice on a number of large scale policies, and have seen how he works with others. He means it when he says he works with everyone regardless of party affiliation. He is consistently prepared, leans into facts and data to solve hard problems, and is always respectful and kind. I have seen all of this at the Capitol and know it would continue at Town Hall.

I also know that campaigning – really getting out there and listening to your neighbors – is rewarding, but is a lot of work and it takes a lot of time. The Orange Democratic candidates have been doing that important work for months and months. Having the hard conversations and listening to positive and negative feedback gives you a better understanding of your community and how you can better serve it, if you make the time to do it. They've made over 10,000 points of contact because they care about our town and want to make a difference. From knocking on doors, phone calls, events and campaign literature we know these candidates are committed to transparency, our schools and all our students and responsible progress. No tricks, or backroom party switches, or vagary about certain policy stances.

I care about the process, and I value honest hard work and commitment, and I know that Orange is a town that cares about that, too. We should know that all of our candidates care enough to do the work and serve

us authentically. I hope you will join me in supporting Dan Fitzmaurice and all the Row A candidates.

**State Rep. Mary Welander**  
Orange

## Vote Lauren Gray

I'm supporting my wife, Lauren Gray, for the Orange Board of Education because I've seen firsthand how much she cares – not just about our three young kids, who will be in the Orange school system for the next several years, but about every child and family in our town.

She is a mom, a tireless advocate and someone who truly shows up. She's personally knocked on hundreds of doors here in Orange this year, not just to campaign, but to listen. She believes in strong public schools, in building bridges and in making sure every student – no matter their background – feels supported, safe and can achieve their best.

She's not doing this for politics. She's doing it because she cares. Because she's committed to making a real difference.

This election is important. If you want a board member who prioritizes kids, believes in transparency and values real community engagement, then Lauren Gray is exactly the kind of person we need.

I hope you'll join me in voting for my wife Lauren Gray for the Orange Board of Education and for all the Democrats on the ballot. Together, they'll bring the values and leadership our schools and our town deserve.

**Jarrett Frazier**  
Orange

## Orange Is Missing Out

I'm writing to express my dismay that nearby towns including Woodbridge, Milford, Bethany, and others have been actively securing millions in state and federal grants, while Orange has not received nor apparently applied for many of these grant opportunities.

Just this year, Woodbridge received an \$8 million economic development grant to enhance its business district and a \$500,000 STEAP grant to renovate the Woodbridge Center Gym. In neighboring towns and all across Connecticut grants are being awarded for open space preservation, agricultural growth, rural transportation infrastructure, recycling and sustainability and more. While other small towns are awarded funding for infrastructure, recreation and environmental projects, Orange has remained notably missing as a recipient of these awards. Grants like these bring major benefits without increasing our tax burden. These funds are our tax dollars that are not currently coming back to Orange.

Dan Fitzmaurice has stated that he will be proactive in identifying and applying for these funding opportunities. If we do the research, extend our efforts and take the time to apply, Orange will be competitive and successful in securing many of these grants. It's time for a leader who will look for opportunities beyond our borders. We need the vision, expertise and collaborative approach that Dan Fitzmaurice will provide as first selectman. He has my vote.

**Trish Pearson**  
Orange

## Supporting Giannattasio's Continued Leadership

To the Editor:

Every two years, as Milford residents we have the opportunity to choose the leaders who

*Continued on page 7*

# Opinion & Editorial

## Letters

### (Continued From 6)

shape our community. I'm personally grateful to continue serving the City of Milford and thankful to Mayor Tony Giannattasio for the opportunity to do so. While I typically reserve my public commentary, this year I feel compelled to share my perspective.

I first met Giannattasio when we served together on the Board of Aldermen in the late 2000s. We come from different political parties, and have sparred at times during meetings, but those exchanges were rooted in mutual respect and a shared desire to improve our city; no personal attacks or crossed lines, just two people with differing views working toward a common goal.

Giannattasio hasn't strayed from that common-sense approach to leadership. His presence in the community is constant and genuine. Whether he's celebrating local milestones or rallying people around a shared cause, he leads with humility and heart.

What impresses me most about Giannattasio is his unwavering commitment to doing what's right. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of working alongside him and have witnessed his decision-making firsthand. He consults experts, weighs fairness and always asks what's best for the community – not what's politically expedient. That kind of integrity is rare, especially today.

Giannattasio exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. The word "politician" has earned a negative reputation – fast talkers, spin artists, always working an angle. Public servants show up every day ready to serve. Giannattasio rolls up his sleeves and gets to work. If we're short a plow driver, he's not above jumping in and putting his CDL to use.

That's not a photo opportunity – it's leadership in action.

In just a few days, Milford will make a choice. I urge my fellow residents to join me in supporting Giannattasio on Election Day to secure two more years of thoughtful, community-centered leadership.

**Justin M. Rosen**  
Chief of Staff, Milford

### Giannattasio's Shell Game

In the past few days, new signs have popped up around Milford like mushrooms after rain – often accompanied by the disappearance of existing signs for Democratic candidates.

They claim that Democrats on the Board of Aldermen raised our taxes.

To call these signs misleading is an understatement.

I challenge Mayor Tony Giannattasio and his Republican colleagues to provide evidence for their claim, by showing us the budget lines where Democrats allegedly increased spending.

Spoiler alert: they can't. Because the mayor's proposed budget purported to keep taxes low through a series of politically motivated manipulations that would have placed Milford on a more precarious financial footing – particularly at a time when Republicans in Congress have slashed funding for programs people in Connecticut rely on.

Here's how Giannattasio's shell game worked: he increased spending by 14 percent, but attempted to cover that up by taking \$8.1 million from the city's health care reserves.

On the evening of the budget vote, Republicans attempted to cause additional damage by taking another \$1.3 million from the health

care reserve, in addition to using \$1 million from the general reserve. They also wanted to count \$1.7 million in revenue from a contract that is still being negotiated and might not happen.

The facts: Democratic alders didn't raise your taxes – they prevented the incumbent mayor from raiding the city's piggy bank, which would have left Milford in a weaker financial position going forward.

We should be thanking them, not blaming them.

**Sarah E Darer**  
Milford

### Democracy Dies in Darkness

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The biblical phrase invites interpretation, but its civic truth is clear: a government without vision is a government headed for failure.

Mayor Tony Giannattasio has refused to debate former Mayor Rich Smith or share any meaningful plan for Milford's future. Republican aldermen broke with decades of bipartisan tradition by voting no on allowing aldermanic candidate Toni Lombardi to fill the vacant Second District seat – without explanation. Republican Board of Education candidates declined to attend the PTA forum, leaving parents and voters wondering: what is their vision for Milford's schools?

This isn't leadership. It's a page torn from the national playbook: distract, delay, deny.

Plastering the city with misleading signs that blame the other side won't cut it. Neither will ribbon-cutting photo ops, tambourine-shaking appearances or ducking hard questions.

Milford deserves better. It deserves leaders

with ideas, courage and a willingness to engage.

Rich Smith has spent months meeting residents where they are – in their homes, schools and community forums. He's answered tough questions. He's asked for a debate. He's been met with silence.

Milford has a proud tradition of independent thinking. Whether your family has roots here going back generations or you've just arrived, you know when someone's dodging the issues – and you won't stand for it.

Democracy dies in silence. Don't let it happen here. Demand better.

**Charles Montalbano**  
Milford

### Spending Misinformation

As a Democratic member of the Milford Board of Aldermen, I would like to correct certain misinformation regarding taxes and spending. During Mayor Tony Giannattasio's term, taxes increased 8.8 percent; 7.3 percent in his first budget and 1.5 percent in his second. Spending in the mayor's budget actually increased 14 percent, while some of this was masked by taking \$8.1 million from health care reserves. The grand list, the total value of taxable property, also declined by \$57 million this year.

Despite these facts, the mayor's party has blamed Democrats on the Board of Aldermen for raising taxes. That is inaccurate. During the budget vote, Democrats acted to protect Milford taxpayers by rejecting reckless last-minute amendments that would have: taken another \$1.3 million from the healthcare reserve;

*Continued on page 8*

## JIM ZEOLI'S PROVEN LEADERSHIP AND STRONG TEAM



- ALLOWS US TO:
- KEEP TAXES REASONABLE
- SUPPORT EXCELLENT SCHOOLS
- IMPLEMENT SPENDING CONTROLS
- ACHIEVE STRONG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- CREATE PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE
- DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR OUR SENIORS AND VETERANS
- ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE TO PROTECT ORANGE'S NATURAL BEAUTY

**ELECT OUR TEAM**

**NOV 4 - VOTE B**

[OrangectRepublicans.com](http://OrangectRepublicans.com)  
[FaceBook.com/orangectrepublicans](https://Facebook.com/orangectrepublicans)

Orange Democratic Town Committee

It's Voting Time

Every fall is election season. This year voting for the local town elections has already begun, with absentee ballots and early voting underway. Every municipality sees a drop-off in voting during municipal elections.

It's interesting because the elected officials in local municipal elections truly affect your daily lives more than other elections. Yet some people don't pay attention to them nor take the time to vote. Your local taxes are affected by this vote. How development happens in town is decided by your vote.

Lately the ugly tone of national politics has been trying to rear its head into our local election. That is not what voters have been telling our candidates they want in Orange. The Orange Democrats pledge to protect our schools and our town from outside negative influences that align with a troubling national agenda.

If you haven't already voted, get to know all of the candidates. Read their social media, past and present. We like to think of Orange as an inclusive welcoming town, yet so many people we spoke to at the doors and on the phones have said they don't feel welcome because they haven't lived here their entire lives, or because they have a non-traditional family, or because they feel if you aren't part of the "good old boy network" you can't get attention from Town Hall.

We don't even know if the Republican Amity Board of Education candidates' children attend that school, because the entire Republican slate refused to complete the survey the non-partisan Amity Allies sends out each municipal election. They are staying the course by not telling you their plans.

This is what we mean when we say "get to know" the candidates. Have they reached out to you? Have they even asked for your vote, or do they just assume they will get it? Have they told you where they stand on the issues?

The current first selectman even called out Dan Fitzmaurice at the first debate for being "new to Orange" when, in fact (facts do matter), he and his family have lived here more than a decade and, as a child, Fitzmaurice swam for the town swim team.

I would bet that the number of "townies" is shrinking every year. And that's what makes Orange great: our diversity. Yet instead of embracing it, the current leadership mocks it, talking about where Germans, Polish, Italian people live in town.

The people of Orange don't need to know



JODY DIETCH

where Subway used to be in town or other nonsense historical references offered by the current first selectman during the debate. They want to know what leadership will do to improve their life here and what the priorities are to support our schools and protect them from the ugly national agenda by the federal government whose only goal is to destroy sound policies.

The Democrats have laid out their priorities from day one. The Republicans want to "stay the course" versus looking to the future and what the possibilities can be for our town. They don't have an economic plan, because despite all the high-profile vacancies, staying the course seems fine with the current administration.

The current administration spent tens of thousands of dollars on a plan for Fred Wolfe Park 13 years ago. It never came to fruition. What makes this time any different when they just want to stay the course?

Orange has excellent schools, but if you look at recent ratings, we could be doing better. "Stay the course" won't help our kids.

For years, the Democrats have been saying Town Hall needs to communicate better with

the residents of Orange. But Republicans want to "stay the course" when the Democrats have a plan to make communications better between Town Hall and residents.

Guiding these priorities is first selectman candidate Dan Fitzmaurice. Fitzmaurice is a contrast to our current leadership style. He is compassionate and empathetic. Fitzmaurice is asking for your vote. But if you don't vote for him, you will still get the same top-level, respectful response to your questions and needs when he is first selectman.

The Orange Democrats' slate of candidates offers a fresh view of our town which includes veterans as well as enthusiastic younger candidates. They have made more than 10,000 contacts in town at the doors and on the phones. They have listened to you and are ready to put your concerns at the top of their to-do lists. We ask for your vote and ask you to help us plan for the future of Orange together.

It's time to vote. Know who you are voting for and please vote. Let your voice be heard. Every vote really does matter. Early voting has begun in the lower level of Town Hall. Why wait for Nov. 4? The time to vote is now.

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

Letters

(Continued From 7)

used \$1 million from the general reserve; and counted \$1.7 million in revenue from a contract that is still under negotiation today.

The same critics have claimed that bond spending and pension funding from the previous administration caused the tax increase. This is not accurate. Bond payments have remained steady at \$20 million each year for the

last three years, and pensions were appropriately funded based on actuarial guidance before this administration took office.

These facts are public and can be found in the city's financial reports, budget documents and meeting minutes. The record is clear: Democrats did not add a dime of spending to the mayor's budget.

Jennifer Federico  
Member, Milford Board of Aldermen

Don't Eat the Lobsters

Imagine a Milford Dog Festival where puppies were cooked alive. Unthinkable? That's the grim reality for lobsters in Milford.

A festival should celebrate these remarkable animals, not eat them. Lobsters may look different from humans or dogs, but they are sensitive and intelligent, exploring their world and forming social bonds. And just like us, they feel pain. There is no humane way to kill

them – being boiled alive or torn apart causes agony.

Why not make next year's event about compassion instead – live music, vegan seafood trucks and education booths? Every lobster is a "me," not meat. And that's something truly worth celebrating.

Scott Miller  
Research Specialist, Fishing & Waterways, The PETA Foundation

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	<p><b>ORANGE 627 HIGH RIDGE ROAD</b> <b>SOLD! THINKING OF SELLING?</b> <b>NOW MAY BE THE PERFECT TIME!</b> <i>ORANGE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE MARKETS IN NEW HAVEN COUNTY! LET'S TALK!</i> <b>AUDRA DIGELLO ~ 203.506.4778</b></p>		<p><b>MILFORD 238 ZION HILL ROAD</b> <b>NEW LISTING! \$625,000</b> Welcome to this 9RM, 4BR, 2BA charming Col- style home on corner lot w/1.59 acres. Living Rm, Kitchen w/pantry, spacious Dining area + MORE! <b>LORI MIKO ~ 203.641.0486</b></p>	
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Orange Republican Town Committee

Moving Orange Forward Together

Local elections have a significant impact on each of us. Over the last few months we've listened to debates, reviewed candidates' materials and engaged in discussions with both sides. Orange is a town where most people know one another, and even our newest neighbors embrace the strong sense of community that Orange offers. We are truly fortunate to call this town our home.

As we approach the November municipal election, residents are already casting ballots to choose who will lead Orange for the next two years. Orange Republicans are confident that our entire slate of candidates – from first selectman to constables – embodies the values that have long defined our community. These values and our exceptional leadership continue to draw families back to Orange to raise their children.

Our team is exceptionally qualified, comprising lifelong residents, seasoned incum-

bents with decades of service and fresh faces representing the next generation of leadership. Our Board of Selectmen candidates bring extensive experience in town government – including prior service on the boards of selectmen, zoning and education – as well as deep roots as local business owners.

Our Board of Finance candidates, Ajeet Jain and Joe Nuzzo, offer extensive backgrounds in corporate finance and education, along with multiple terms of proven service on the board. Our Board of Education candidates for both Orange and Amity include educators, community leaders and parents who understand the needs of our schools firsthand. We are also proud to endorse Don Farnen, the Common Sense Party candidate for the Amity Board of Education, whose thoughtful,



JUDE TOOHEY

nonpartisan approach to restoring excellence in education aligns perfectly with our mission of reason and responsibility in local government.

Our Town Plan and Zoning Commission candidates bring years of expertise in land use and development, balancing the preservation of open space with smart economic growth. Our constables have long served our community with distinction. Mary Shaw, our town clerk, and Tom Hurley, our tax collector, are dedicated public servants who consistently demonstrate integrity and accessibility in every interaction.

Finally, our first selectman, Jim Zeoli, remains the right person for the job – and the evidence speaks for itself. With over 50 years of public service, including 20 as first select-

man, Zeoli has shaped Orange with steady, commonsense leadership rooted in his love for our town. From the earliest days of the Orange Country Fair to today, Zeoli has always led with reason, respect and results, and he will continue to do so in the future.

In Orange, we pride ourselves on rising above the partisan noise that consumes so many other towns. We are guided by practicality, unity and the belief that common sense should always come first. That's what Orange Republicans stand for – and what we will continue to champion. Neighbors, friends and family, the cornerstone of Orange today and always.

Early voting began Oct. 20 and runs through Nov. 4. Let's keep Orange moving forward – together.

*Jude Toohey is the vice chair of the Orange Republican Town Committee.*

Wine Talk

Some Deadly Zins

The origin of Zinfandel remained a mystery for many years. The Californians thought the grape was native to California. The Italians had a grape and made wine called Primitivo. This wine has characteristics very similar to Zinfandel. The Italians thought that the vines came from southern Italy. Articles went back and forth for some time and arguments persisted. Balkan winemakers joined the argument, saying the grape was native to their region. The issue went on for some time.

About four years ago I met a wine importer from Yugoslavia named India Bayer. We tasted her wines and they were terrific. Her company is called Wines of Illyria. She indicated the Italian and the California grapes were tested some time ago by researchers at the University of California Davis using

DNA profiling. They showed Zinfandel is a clone of the Croatian varietal Crljenak. Both the Italian and the California grapes came from these.

This goes back to Roman times. The Romans took the Croatian varietal and planted it in southern Italy, where it became popular for many years. At some point in the late 19th century, Italian immigrants planted the grape in southern California. During the Great Depression, however, wines could not be produced commercially. When it became legal to produce wine, Sutter Home Winery was producing some Zinfandel. They encountered what is referred to as



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

a stuck fermentation. The sugar did not turn to alcohol and the wine remained sweet. They did not know what to do with it, so they bottled it as a light and sweet wine and called it "vintner's blend." It became known as white Zinfandel, and it sells about 500,000 cases per year today. The Zinfandel grapes became profitable to grow, and regular red Zin made a comeback as well.

I highly recommend some of the Wines of Illyria. They are available at several stores in the area, including Silverbrook Wine and Liquors in Orange. They include white unoaked wine called Zilayka and Bena and red wines Bla-

tina, Vranac and Tmjak. See if any of these wines remind you of Zinfandel. Indra Bayer would appreciate it.

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

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**Orange Board of Finance**

**Could Connecticut Get A Boost With A Mamdani Victory?**

Connecticut should be keeping a close eye on the mayoral race in New York City, based on strong odds that Zohran Mamdani, a self-proclaimed democratic socialist, will win the election. Mamdani is running on a socialist platform that promises to lower New York's cost of living and lower cost by freezing rents on stabilized apartments; offering free bus fare and child care; investing \$70 billion in publicly subsidized housing; and launching city-owned grocery stores.

Mamdani, who is also advocating for a \$30 minimum wage, has pledged to pay for these and other government programs by placing higher taxes on corporations and individuals making more than \$1 million annually.

Do I agree with these policies? No. However, I do believe if elected his policies will present a potential danger to the wallet of the hard-working taxpayers of New York, and on the flip side an opportunity for economic growth in Connecticut. The state

could potentially see an increase in commercial corporate development based on a mass exodus of corporations, Wall Street firms and high-paying taxpayers.

Could Wall Street relocate to Stamford or Greenwich? The loss of corporate business within New York would over time significantly reduce the amount of revenue the city is able to collect, thus creating a structural imbalance and large shortfalls within their operating budget. That would ultimately result in significant tax increases for the residents of New York to plug the budget shortfalls.

Connecticut from 2013-2023 added 61,456 new residents from New York, according to the US Census Bureau. A Mamdani win in November will only accelerate that influx twofold, resulting in increased demand for additional housing. The influx would drive the value of residential homes



**KEVIN  
MCNABOLA**

up even higher than the 45 percent increase we have all experienced on home values within the last four years. Connecticut currently ranks 37th in cost of living and 44th in the cost of doing business, according to the Hartford Business Journal; this is coupled with already high electricity costs and a severe housing shortage.

How is Connecticut planning to address the need for more housing? The state will likely see an increase in commercial property growth with the exodus of corporations from New York. But will that growth be enough to cover the additional cost of providing city and town services such as education, public safety and capital investment for hundreds of thousands of new residents?

Connecticut's property taxes and the individual income tax are some of the highest in the nation, but lower than New York's.

How to make Connecticut more competitive has been discussed at length in the state legislature.

Despite the high tax burden, Connecticut is continuing to work hard attracting and retaining both capital and talent, and is often viewed as attractive place to live because of its quality of life, good schools and outdoor recreation.

History has a way of repeating itself. We need only to look back 50 years to the 1975 fiscal crisis in New York City. The city was on the verge of bankruptcy because of inexperienced and corrupt politicians, and had to be bailed out by the state and federal governments. Could it be happening again? Time will tell.

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

**Making Celebrations Joyful Without All The Waste**

*By Susan Wineland*

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, household trash skyrockets. In fact, Americans throw away nearly a quarter more garbage than at any other time of the year – that's about 5.8 million extra tons of wrapping paper, plastic packaging and even unused gifts ending up in the trash.

It seems many of us feel the same way about it, too. Surveys show that nine out of 10 Americans wish the holidays were less focused on "stuff." That means we have an opportunity, right here in our own community, to do things differently.

Choosing reusable gift bags, wrapping presents in newspaper or fabric, buying fewer but more meaningful gifts and recycling whenever possible are small steps that add up. Even simple changes, like skipping plastic bows or giving homemade treats, can help reduce the mountain of waste that piles up every December.

This holiday season, let's celebrate with a lighter footprint – and focus on what really matters: time with family, friends and neighbors.

And any time of year when you give a gift, consider some cost-effective and waste-friendly alternatives including for wrapping paper that look just as festive – and sometimes can even be more meaningful.

Fabric wraps and reusable bags: Cloth wraps, maybe like the Japanese art of furoshiki, or simple fabric gift bags can be reused again and again. They're colorful, practical and reduce single-use waste.

Brown craft paper: Butcher paper or craft paper is a rustic, versatile option. It's also the perfect blank canvas for decoration. Involve the kids, who can color or paint on it, or even try potato stamping. To do this, an adult cuts a potato in half, carves out a simple shape on the surface, then lets children use the stamp with paint or an ink pad to create their

own designs.

Newspaper and magazines: Old newspapers, especially the comics section, or colorful magazine pages make for eye-catching and unique wrapping.

Children's artwork: Kids' drawings and paintings bring a personal, heartfelt touch to any package. A simple paper grocery bag can be cut open and decorated, while gift bags can be reused many times before wearing out.

Maps: Those outdated road maps are stylish and conversation-worthy wrapping paper.

Beyond paper: Don't forget about non-traditional options too – a basket, jar or even a cozy blanket can hold a gift without needing wrap at all.

With a little creativity, wrapping a gift can be just as fun and thoughtful as choosing the gift itself – and it helps keep waste out of the landfill.

Holiday meals bring people together, but they don't have to bring mountains of waste. Everyday dishes and silverware

work beautifully – and cut down on the need for plastic cups and utensils. Studies show that after just a month of daily use, a simple glass cup is more sustainable than disposable plastics. Stainless steel utensils also quickly outpace single-use plastic forks and knives.

Even swapping out paper napkins for cloth makes a difference. One hundred disposable napkins add nearly 500 pounds of carbon emissions to the atmosphere. In comparison, a cloth napkin reused a hundred times produces just 7 pounds. That's a win for both the planet and your holiday budget.

By rethinking our traditions just a little – whether it's the way we wrap gifts, decorate our homes, or set the holiday table – we can make this season more joyful, less stressful, simpler and better for the environment.

*Susan Wineland is a member of the Orange Recycling Committee.*

**Milford Garden Club Donates 'Spooky' Flower Arrangements**



The Milford Garden Club held a hands-on workshop on Oct. 14 where members crafted their own spooky-themed floral designs. The program, "Whimsical Halloween Workshop," was presented by member B. Elmore at the DAR in Milford. The club donated "spooky" arrangements to the Beth-El Center, Carriage Green Assisted Living & Care Center and the Milford Public Library. Athena Doty of Carriage Green Assisted Living & Care Center is pictured with one donated arrangement. Photo courtesy of the Milford Garden Club.

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**Bankruptcy**

# The Annual Bankruptcy Conference

Every autumn for the past eight years, attorneys, judges, trustees and other bankruptcy professionals come together for the Annual Bankruptcy Conference presented by the Connecticut Bar Association. The CBA has been “advancing the legal profession and the principles of law and justice since 1875,” according to its promotional materials. The yearly event is “a critical overview of best practices and ethical considerations in both commercial and consumer bankruptcy.”

The first conference was held at Water’s Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook in 2018. The big topic that year was the then-new Local Bankruptcy Rules of Procedure. I vividly remember eagerly attending very clearly, and hanging on every word the guest speaker, Dr. Deborah Thorne of the University of Idaho, had to say in her presentation. Thorne, the co-principal investigator of the Consumer Bankruptcy Project, presented her “observations and ponderings” of a long-term study, which concluded with her “most compelling findings... (that) consistently the leading causes of bankruptcy are job loss (decline in income) and medical expenses.” She opined that “households typically struggle for years in the ‘sweatbox’ before they file bankruptcy.” She has gone on to co-author “Debt’s Grip,” which was published this year.

The conference moved to St. Clements Castle & Marina in 2019, a more centralized location in Portland. Topics that year included discharge of taxes, preserving the family business during the owner’s bankruptcy, representing the self-employed debtor engaged in business in Chapter 13, how to confirm a

contested Chapter 11 plan, ethical considerations in cybersecurity and the most interesting topic: the US Supreme Court and bankruptcy, which led me to read Ronald J. Mann’s book on the subject.

In 2020, the bankruptcy court didn’t miss a beat, pivoting extremely quickly to telephonic and remote proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the conference followed suit.

The conference was held virtually again in 2021, and topics included how to cure and maintain a mortgage after a foreclosure judgment, subchapter V issues, the assumption of personal and real property leases in Chapter 13 and the exercise of options to purchase and section 363 sales.

The conference returned to an in-person event in November 2022, and every year since has been held at St. Clements Castle. It is “attended by experienced bankruptcy professionals throughout the region,” notes the CBA on their website. Over the years, many bankruptcy judges from other states have come to the conference. It is interesting to hear their perspectives at the judges’ roundtable, which is the second plenary presentation after the three local Connecticut bankruptcy judges report the “state of the court.”

St. Clements Castle was built in 1898 for Howard Taylor, an attorney. Construction on the castle was completed on Nov. 23, which is the feast of St. Clement, a pope and martyr in the Catholic church, and that is how it received its name. It is located on a 90-acre site that includes a marina, stables and



**THERESA ROSE DEGRAY**

an art gallery. It is mostly used as a wedding venue and sometimes corporate event space.

During the conference we are given breakfast, lunch, desert, snacks (like a German pretzel bar), unlimited coffee and at the of the day, a cocktail reception. It’s quite a fun event at a beautiful location on the banks of the Connecticut River. It is especially stunning in the fall with all of the colorful foliage.

But the best part of all is commiserating with my fellow bankruptcy colleagues, especially since COVID, as most of our work now takes place in our individual offices and on Zoom. The conference offers a unique opportunity to actually see each other.

The conference in 2022 offered plenary and concurrent consumer and commercial sessions on topics such as the impact of bankruptcy on real estate transactions, value allocation in Chapter 11, non-consensual third-party releases, modern issues of diversity and bankruptcy court practice, appreciation and depreciation of bankruptcy assets, trial practice in bankruptcy court, collateralization of digital assets and what to do when you’ve been hacked.

The sixth annual conference in 2023 gave us a primer on the Department of Justice’s student loan bankruptcy litigation guidance, as well as sessions about good faith issues in consumer bankruptcies, stealth objections to exemptions, litigation funding, elder fraud and cannabis and insolvency.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the

conference in 2024 because I was on trial. But my colleagues attended and learned about such things as mediation and state tax claims in bankruptcy proceedings.

The eighth and most recent conference, was held on Oct. 9 at the castle once again. I was fortunate to attend. My favorite part was the judges’ roundtable and the conversation about the automatic stay.

Every year the conference offers plenary sessions where all attendees come together for presentations on general topics. Then they split off into two tracks: consumer and commercial. This year’s commercial track attendees learned about director and officer liability and insurance issues, and appellate issues in bankruptcy. The consumer track attendees learned about managing distressed clients and avoiding disputes with difficult litigants. I am a consumer (not commercial) bankruptcy attorney, and frankly, I was disappointed with the consumer track offerings this year. Hopefully, in the future it will return to more substantive topics such as how to defend clients in adversary proceedings or a line-by-line breakdown of the means test.

But overall, the conference is something I look forward to year after year.

*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.*

**For more local coverage, go to [milford-orangetimes.com](http://milford-orangetimes.com)**

## DAN FITZMAURICE *for* FIRST SELECTMAN



Dear Neighbor,

I’m running for First Selectman because I love Orange and want to strengthen its future. My wife and I are raising our kids here, and we care deeply about this community.

**The choices we make now will shape Orange for years to come.** We can’t afford to stand still. I’m committed to planning ahead, solving problems, and getting better results.

I’ve led and achieved success at every organization I’ve served by listening to everyone, taking concerns seriously, communicating openly, and following through. That’s how I’ll lead in Town Hall. Most of all, I’ll work hard to bring in new revenue, instead of just raising your property taxes year after year. That’s how we’ll take care of what we have and leverage our stability to make real progress together.

**We need a new type of leader to ensure our future is as strong as our past — and I’m ready to take on that responsibility.** I’d be honored to earn your vote.

With gratitude,

Dan Fitzmaurice

P.S. If we haven’t met yet, please call/text me anytime at 203-710-2966

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**The Garden Spot**

**Leaf It Be?**

I can always tell that it's fall by the daily sound of leaf blowers and wonder why someone is wasting time, energy and money to have a leaf-free lawn.

The leaves that fall onto the lawn can be managed by mowing over them until they are very small pieces. The pieces decay and become compost, releasing nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. They also improve the soil texture. What mulching your leaves into the lawn will not do is cause thatch.

Look at a bag of lawn fertilizer and you'll usually see the initials NPK. These are the specific elements that are in the leaf decay. To mulch the leaves into the lawn, just mow over the leaves until you see green grass among the pieces. If all you see is brown

leaves, the pieces are too large, and you'll smother your lawn. Keep mowing. You may want to wear a face mask while doing this since many of us have a reaction to the leaf mold.

The more controversial issue is whether to leave the leaves and debris on the garden beds. As with the lawn, the shredded leaves will add nutrients, improve the soil's water holding capacity and provide an effective insulation for your plants. They also provide a winter home for salamanders, box turtles, toads and those moths and butterflies which overwinter in the leaf litter.

Notice that I said shredded leaves, not



PAT DRAY

entire leaves. I don't recommend leaving deep layers of leaves on the beds or the lawn. When there is a pile of leaves covering your grass, it's impossible for sunlight to reach the turf. Too many leaves hinder airflow and smother your grass, stunting its growth. This leads to serious lawn issues, causing your grass to brown.

In the beds, the general rule of thumb is that if you can't see the plant, it's too deeply covered with leaves. The result will be fungal diseases, pests such as moles and voles, and dieback of the plants due to lack of sunlight. Keep the leaf mulch a few inches away from the stems of plants and trunks of trees to discourage crit-

ters from eating the roots and tender trunks.

The one absolute "no" regarding leaving leaf litter or pruned stems on the beds is if the plant has had any type of disease or insect infestation. Clean the area around infected plants and remove a layer of soil to reduce the chance of infestation.

Do not put this material in your compost pile. Many harmful insects (especially beetles) and fungi will overwinter in the soil and leaf debris and happily infect your new plants or emerging perennials.

But please remember those leaves are free compost and fertilizer.

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

**Time Management**

**Ask The Boss Question**

If you oversaw the marketing for customers in a company, you would be wise to poll your customers from time to time to determine why they chose to do business with your company.

We can always assume why customers do business with us, but this can be risky because we may be wrong. What we think we are providing may be opposite to what customers desire to receive. A good question then to ask our customers would be, "How do you know when we are doing an excellent job for you?"

The answers we receive may be all over the lot. Customers think we are doing an excellent job for them when we provide products and services at the lowest price, or that we are conveniently located, or that we have a friendly staff, or combinations of these and many other reasons.

If you know why your customers are doing business with your company, you can emphasize more of those reasons in your marketing efforts to attract more customers.

Give them what they want, not what you think they need.

Each of us is like being the president of a company: "Me, Inc." Your major customer is your boss, who has control over your future pay raises and promotions.

Ask the Boss Question: "Boss, how do you know when I am doing an excellent job for you?"

It is risky for us to assume what the answers might be. For example, you may assume your boss thinks you are doing an excellent job



DON WETMORE

when you are innovative and creative, producing innovative ideas. The boss, however, may be threatened by all that and feel more comfortable when you do not rock the boat.

You may assume that the boss is comfortable with your performance when there are no complaints. But the boss may measure your performance on the number of unsolicited compliments he receives from others about how well you are doing

your job.

Most employees seem uncomfortable raising the Boss Question. It will be addressed eventually, at an annual review, when they

discover that they did not get a pay raise or advancement that they thought they had earned because for the last year they had been going down a path opposite to the boss' expectations.

Your productivity and success can be diminished, not because you were not working hard enough, but because of miscommunication that kept you from delivering what your customer, your boss, really wanted.

It is a clever idea to ask the Boss Question a couple of times throughout the year as the boss's expectations can change and we need to always be moving forward together in harmony.

*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.*

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Foodie Foursome

Sushi Kingdom Raises The Bar On The Post Road

Almost anywhere you go that there is a huge influx of Asian restaurants. If you travel through Milford and Orange there are now Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese as well as poke bowls, dumplings and ramen or noodle houses. Our visit to Sushi Kingdom was witness to a different style of dining, with a Japanese fusion that takes you from sushi and sashimi through several Chinese and Thai choices.

This establishment, located in the old Eli's Orange location, helps set a new standard for all you can eat. Unlike most all-you-can-eat restaurants, Sushi Kingdom takes it to another level. It is not a buffet. It does not have paper checklists. What it does have is a wide variety of choices that you pick on a digital tablet at your table. It not only lists the dishes by category, but has photos so you can see what the dish looks like.

The service is what I would call "team style" and, like any good team, they work well together for a winning dining experience. I took this night's culinary journey with friends Dan, Mike and Mitch. We started with several different appetizers, as we always divide each dish into fours to create a tasting. The selections are prepared to order and come out in a timely manner. Since the selections are for an individual, and not family style, we had to order two of some of the dishes. But since it is all you can eat, it was not a problem. The tablet walks you through ordering additional items seamlessly.

First out was the gyoza - pan-fried crispy pork dumplings. These were simple yet tasty, with a nice chew to the thin dumpling skin and a delicate filling.

When we started our order, we asked for a selection of sauces so each of us could dip to our own tastes. The beef negimaki, thin slices of tender beef-wrapped green onions, were served with a teriyaki sauce. We would have ordered more if there was not so many

choices to come. The tatsuta, Japanese fried chicken tenders, were great. They were marinated in a flavorful mix of soy sauce, ginger, sake and mirin, coated with potato starch and deep-fried to a crispy goodness outside and juicy inside. These were served with a plum sauce.

Next we chose the chicken and beef yakitori. The skewered meats were beautifully seasoned and savory, grilled and presented with ichiban sauce (a creamy yum yum-style sauce).

Since we were in a Japanese restaurant, we had to try their tempura. We had both the vegetable and shrimp. They were delicately deep-fried for a crunch, providing a wonderful "dipable" light golden encasement for the veggies and shrimp.

A pleasant surprise was the calamari. The style was different from any calamari I had prior to this adventure. They were impeccably created using fresh, un-breaded squid barbecued and served with teriyaki sauce. They were a tender treat.

We followed the appetizers with soup and salad. The miso and wonton soups were both as expected, flavorful and well done. The seafood soup took soups to another level. It was an incredibly delicious vegetable soup chock full of fresh large vegetables, tender shrimp, scallops and crabmeat, worth the price of admission. The house salad was a crispy green salad with homemade ginger dressing and lightly flavored with fresh orange herbs. The ginger dressing was excellent. The mango salad was innovative, with expertly sliced large matchstick-style pieces of fresh mango in a subtle dressing which was very refreshing.

The smaller servings allowed us to try many different styles and types of food



STEVE COOPER

choices. Since we were in a "Sushi Kingdom," we started with a variety of obvious choices. The golden spider roll featured a fried softshell crab and also containing tempura shrimp. The golden dragon roll was made with tempura shrimp, avocado, cucumber and sliced mango and mango sauce on top. It was superb. The freshness of the seafood and vegetables make these a nice sampling to transport us to the next grouping of sushi, sashimi, maki and tamaki, where we had a nice variety of fresh rolls that featured red snapper, salmon, tuna, smoked salmon, yellow tail as well as a delicious green roll with avocado, cucumber and asparagus.

What arrived at our table next was the end of our sushi travels: a giant wooden boat adorned with a maki sampling consisting of six pieces each of California roll, spicy salmon roll and tuna roll. The rolls were as tasty and fresh as the presentation was artistic.

We ended the entrees with an array of classic Asian dishes that was like watching the final flourish of a fireworks display. They all had their place on the menu with a creative flare, display of freshness and culinary expertise. The lemongrass shrimp consisted of large tiger shrimp stir fried with fresh lemongrass, garlic, bell peppers, onions and mushrooms. This was delightful. The garlic sliced beef was stir fried with oyster sauce and mixed with garlic and green onions, while the ginger chicken breast with shredded ginger, red and green peppers, black mushroom, onions and green onions. The mango chicken was quickly deep-fried with mango, sweet peppers, onions combined in a rich mango sauce with cashew nuts. The tastes, spices and colors were like an explo-

sion of flavor in our mouths.

The grand finale was a tasty sampling of sake and then even more classic Asian food that most of us have loved. Sesame chicken (deep fried chicken smothered in sesame and sweet brown sauce) and chicken pad Thai (rice noodles stir-fried with egg tofu, bean sprouts, green onions, sprinkled with roasted peanuts, garnished with fresh bean sprouts and lime) are some of the go-to dishes for many families. These did not disappoint. Nor did the beef yaki udon (a stir-fry with thick noodles, thinly sliced beef and vegetables stir fried and served in a savory soy-based sauce). The mixed vegetables were stir-fried snow peas, black mushrooms, broccoli, carrots, tofu, baby corn and bell peppers.

And what would an Asian feast be without rice? While many dishes came with white rice, the pineapple fried rice was jasmine rice that was stir-fried with egg, shrimp, chicken, fresh pineapple, green onions, raisins and roasted cashews.

There is also a dessert bar with fresh fruit, cheesecake and ice cream. Sushi Kingdom features a diverse menu and delightful and attentive staff making for an enjoyable dining experience for families, friends or couples. Allow the Kingdom's skilled and passionate chefs to craft dishes for you. They open daily at 11 a.m. and close at 10 p.m. They are open until 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The address is 285 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. Call 203-836-8888 for reservations.

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

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# Running

## Starting Over

As many of you know, I had a slight incident in the spring that was for me a bump in the road. It's been about five months of frustration. The recovery has not been as fast as I would like.

Frustration because running is a passion of mine. I enjoy just getting out in the weather, early summer days, crisp fall days, even soft blankets of snow days. I enjoy the physical workouts, some longer than others. Some I enjoy while they're happening and others I enjoy because they are over. I enjoy the peace and solitude of running. I come back mentally refreshed and feel physically alive.

I enjoy local races, seeing lots of local friends and supporting local causes. I look forward to the annual Thanksgiving race given by Rotary at High Plains Community Center. If you haven't tried it, it is a 5K

(3.1-mile) run and or one-mile walk and a great family tradition. I look forward to the Chili Run on New Years Day at High Plains Community Center. These are all family traditions for us.

I enjoy half marathons – some local, some not so local, but always a good cause. If you have followed the column, some are my passion due to location, and others involve a course I love running.

I'm always raising money for a great cause. The causes have ranged from local charities, such as food banks, coats for kids and diapers for babies. The larger runs supported anything from the veterans to cancer research to organizations that support



CATHY BRADLEY

cancer patients like the Ronald McDonald House, prosthetics for children and more. I have run Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle, the Marine Corps and several others – all 26.2 miles.

Training required discipline. We train through the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter. We train through torrential rain and freezing snow. All are just with the attitude of a goal in mind. It's not that hard if you build one day, one race at a time.

Now, I am finally able to start my walking. What happened? I walk half a mile to a mile on flat surface, and I am out of breath and my muscles hurt. Over the last five months of barely doing anything, can your muscle

diminish in strength that much? I guess they can.

How can I be tired after one mile? I easily could pound out 13 miles and, with training, 26.2 without thinking about it. Now, a goal is walking two...three...four miles over the next months. My goal is to participate in the Thanksgiving road race, walking and with some great hope of a 5K in the future.

I'm keeping goals reasonable, which is hard for me. I continue striving for the next half and full marathon. I have done Boston the last 18 years, so don't count me out. Starting over or just starting – get out there and join me.

Cathy Bradley can be reached at [cathy@ccenterprises.com](mailto:cathy@ccenterprises.com).

# Your Health

## Staying Healthy This November

Public health systems in the US continue to face persistent challenges: chronic diseases account for the majority of illness burden and cost, lung and respiratory conditions remain leading causes of disability, and men's health outcomes often lag due to lower preventive care utilization.

As November begins, public health professionals, communities and health care systems have an important opportunity to bring attention to several major health issues that impact millions of Americans.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one in three US adults have prediabetes, and many are unaware of it. World Diabetes Day, observed on

Nov. 14, serves as a reminder to raise awareness, promote screening, and advance lifestyle and policy interventions that reduce risk. As we enter the winter season, when health systems often face additional strain, residents are encouraged to learn their diabetes risk, maintain healthy eating habits, stay active and follow up regularly with their health care providers.

November also features the global November campaign, which uses creative outreach – like mustache challenges, social media engagement and community events



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

– to raise awareness about men's health issues. These include prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. The broader public health goal is to promote preventive screening and encourage men to take an active role in managing their health.

Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November emphasizes the importance of prevention, early screening, research and advocacy for those affected by lung cancer.

US Antibiotic Awareness Week, observed Nov. 18-24, highlights the responsible use of antibiotics and the growing need to combat

antibiotic resistance.

Locally, the Orange Health Department, in partnership with the Orange Visiting Nurse Association, will continue to host flu vaccine clinics throughout November. If you or your loved ones have not yet received your flu shot, it's not too late. Call today to make an appointment. Flu is preventable, and getting vaccinated helps protect you and your community.

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

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### Orange Rotary Hosts Fallfest



The Rotary Club of Orange held its annual Fallfest event at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds in Orange on Oct. 11. The event included family activities, food, music and a cornhole tournament. Photo by Steve Cooper.

### Case Memorial Holding Holiday Book Sale

The Case Memorial Library will hold its "Just in Time for the Holidays" book sale on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The children's book section is well stocked for every age from toddlers to teens. Non-fiction book will include art books, automobile books, science books and books about religions; fiction includes both the latest authors and those well tested by time. There will also be a selection of both vintage and

contemporary cookbooks from which to choose.

The sale will include an extensive and curated selection of DVDs, CDs and vinyl records. Special display tables will feature banned books, staff picks, historical fiction, politics, art, games and a "one-of-a-kind" table.

Bring cash, checks and tote bags. Credit cards will not be accepted at the sale. The library is located at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange.

### AMSO Students Visit Town Offices For Government Day



Amity Middle School Orange students visited town offices on Oct. 22 for Government Day. From left: AJ Kaoroptham, Elizabeth Scates, Lauren Kennaugh, Carya Ewen, Lena Goodrum, Zoe Zanvettor, Madeline Cheng, Samanyu Garikapati, Evan Cruz, Olivia Burns, Connor Owens, Kelson Driend, Gabriella Liptak, Elise Johnson, Alana Hwang and Elaria Matozzo. Photo by Jennifer Marganski.

Amity Middle School Orange students had the opportunity on Oct. 22 to shadow local government officials in various departments during the school's Government Day activities. Town offices they visited included the first selectman's office, police, fire, parks and recreation and the community center, to learn more about the day-to-day operations that keep the town running.

Social Studies teachers Jennifer Marganski and Matthew Williams worked in collaboration with Orange town officials and Orange Youth Services to plan Government Day.

The day began with an overview

session led by former Town Clerk Pat O'Sullivan. He described government's purpose as "doing what collectively can't be done individually." He also emphasized the interconnection between local departments and the collaboration required to ensure effective operations within the government.

Students concluded their experience by meeting with First Selectman Jim Zeoli, who encouraged them to reflect on their Government Day experiences, noting that they could have long-lasting impacts. He also presented each student with an official town pin to commemorate the day.

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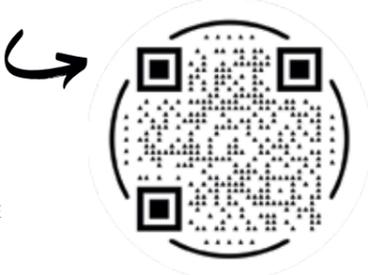
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# Special Section: Election 2025

The *Milford-Orange Times* is continuing its election-year tradition of asking the candidates to respond to questions about what they would do for the residents of Milford and Orange if voters elect them. This special section features the responses from the candidates. An asterisk next to a candidate's name indicates that they are the incumbent. Early voting is underway now. Election Day is Nov. 4.

## Milford Mayor

**Question: What do you think are the greatest challenges Milford will face over the next two years, and what specific steps will you take to address them?**

### Rich Smith (D)



Milford will face a number of challenges over the next two years, and I think Milford deserves to hear from both candidates about their plans to tackle these issues.

It all comes down to cost of living, and specifically – as it pertains to the mayor's office – that means taxes. Milford thrived for more than a decade of responsible budgeting under Mayor Ben Blake and my ad-

ministration. We kept the mill rate steady, and many years went even further and delivered tax cuts. That matters to families trying to make ends meet, to seniors living on fixed incomes and really anyone who needs to keep an eye on their finances. And, excitingly, it helped put Milford on the map. National media wrote us up as a great community to live in – that helped bring new families and businesses to town.

Unfortunately, under this administration, we've seen an abandonment of those principles of fiscal responsibility. Mayor Tony Giannattasio has raised local taxes by 9 percent, even while requesting a raise for himself. To me, that's just wrong.

To make matters worse, we're in the midst of a revaluation of residential and commercial property values that Mayor Giannattasio doesn't want to talk about. Commercial property values are flat, but home values are skyrocketing. That's good if you want to sell your house, but for those of us who love Milford and want to stay here, it means that our property taxes are about to explode. Milford deserves to hear how each candidate would handle this looming issue.

I offered to debate Mayor Giannattasio so we could compare our plans, but he has refused. I don't understand that. Don't voters deserve to hear from their officials?

Here's my plan. First of all, I would be transparent with Milford and release the new assessments as soon as possible, not hide them until after the election.

Second, there are tools in the mayor's toolbox to lessen the pain of these revaluations. We can, for instance, phase the revaluation in gradually, over a period of up to five years. This requires preparation on the part of the mayor, and the ability to get a vote through the Board of Aldermen. We successfully phased in the last reval under Mayor Blake, and I intend to do so again to lessen the burden on taxpayers.

Third, we need to bring some fiscal responsibility back to the mayor's office. I know how to do that. We need to modernize our systems and improve our processes. The city still runs on 1970s technology – think dot-matrix printers! There are real savings we can find by updating these systems. I know this sounds extremely dull to many people, but it's work that I am passionate about. I actually have a patent in

systems reengineering for just this kind of thing. When we go back to responsible budgeting, that lessens the amount of revenue that needs to be raised and, again, lowers the tax burden.

Finally, we need to build up our commercial tax base so that homeowners aren't footing the bill on their own. When I was mayor, we worked on plans to dramatically reimagine the Post Mall. We were going to bring new housing and revitalized retail and event spaces to contribute to the Milford economy. Sadly, that work has all stalled since I left office. I would immediately pick that back up.

So there are solutions that a mayor can embrace. We just need the right mayor – and the right team on the Boards of Aldermen and Education – to get the job done.

From my time as mayor, that sense of opportunity is what has stayed with me the most. Every day, you get to go to work and find new ways to help people. It's the best job I've ever had, and I would be honored to get back to work for Milford.

So, I'll speak now directly to Milford residents and ask – respectfully – for your vote and your support.

### Tony Giannattasio (R)\*



As mayor, I'm proud of the proactive steps we've taken to keep Milford residents safe, healthy and supported. From day one, public health and safety has been

a top priority, and I've worked closely with the police chief, health director and other city leaders to implement a comprehensive safety strategy that reflects both immediate needs and long-term goals.

Early in my term, we launched a four-point public safety plan focused on:

- Enhancing driver and pedestrian safety through improved signage, traffic calming measures and targeted enforcement in high-risk areas.

- Improving officer safety and support by investing in updated equipment, wellness resources and staffing levels that allow for safer, more effective policing.

- Expanding training for first responders, ensuring our police, fire and EMS personnel are equipped to handle a wide range of emergencies with professionalism and care.

- Protecting youth from harmful vape and smoke products by working with schools, parents and community organizations to

raise awareness and enforce regulations.

- Leveraging new technology to improve 911 response times, including upgrades to dispatch systems and data-sharing tools that help emergency services respond faster and more efficiently.

These efforts are part of a broader commitment to public health and safety infrastructure – from maintaining safe public spaces and roadways to supporting community policing and emergency preparedness. We will continue to invest in the tools, training and partnerships that allow our emergency services to protect and serve the City of Milford with excellence.

Public safety is not just a buzz word – it's a promise to every resident that we take the responsibility of public health and safety seriously.

As we build on the foundation of these public safety initiatives, the next steps in our plan focus on expanding community engagement. We will advance traffic and

pedestrian safety by conducting updated traffic studies, installing additional crosswalks and signage, and utilizing traffic calming measures. As mayor, I promise to continue making training for our first responders a priority and will work with our emergency management teams to ensure proper funding continues to be allocated. To protect youth, we'll strengthen anti-vaping efforts in the community, enforce regulations and support mentorship programs. We also plan to invest in public safety infrastructure by modernizing police and fire facilities and updating disaster preparedness plans – ensuring Milford remains a safe, responsive and resilient city for all.

My door is always open, and my phone is always on. I encourage residents to reach out any time – whether to share a concern, ask a question, offer an idea or to celebrate a milestone. I'm here to serve, and I'm committed to making Milford the best it can be.

**\* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \***

**Orange First Selectman**

**Question: What do you think are the greatest challenges Orange will face over the next two years, and what specific steps will you take to address them?**

**Dan Fitzmaurice (D)**



Orange is a very special community. Families move here for our excellent schools, beautiful open spaces, and that rare small-town spirit that's becoming harder to find. My wife Sarah and I are raising our two children here for the same reason. But loving this town means taking responsibility for its future.

Over the next two years, Orange will face the same financial pressures affecting your own household budget. Already, more than one in five households in town are struggling to pay their bills. Our leaders have a responsibility to navigate this uncertain economy without cutting the essential services we all depend on.

At the same time, the political polarization dividing so many communities has started to creep into ours. These forces can pull us apart, or they can remind us why respect and inclusion matter. Our leaders set the tone in how they listen, respond, and bring people together.

That's why I'm running for first select-

man. Not to make a name for myself or change everything about Orange, but to protect what we love about living here and make sure we keep improving it.

As an executive leader, I've managed budgets as large as \$100 million and led complex teams to turn good ideas into real results, even in difficult times. During the pandemic, I raised and distributed over \$1 million in emergency relief for local organizations and businesses, coordinating hundreds of donors and partners to get help where it was needed most. That same hands-on, transparent, problem-solving approach is what I'll bring to Town Hall.

The next two years are our chance to move from maintenance to momentum – to protect what works and fix what's been stalled for too long. Orange can stay the town we all know and become stronger than ever at the same time.

Here's how I'll do that:

**1. Double Down on Economic Development**

Property taxes are the backbone of every town budget. In Orange, homeowners now shoulder a growing share because residential property values have risen three times faster than commercial over the past 20 years.

To fix that imbalance, I'll create a municipal economic development department inside Town Hall. This new team will aggressively pursue grants, coordinate commercial development that fits our town's character, and strengthen partnerships with existing businesses.

Smart, responsible growth will stabilize property taxes while maintaining the investments that make Orange special.

**2. Deliver on Long-Discussed Projects**

We've talked about improvements to Fred Wolfe Park for well over a decade.

I think about this every time I bring my daughter to lacrosse practice. Families love the playground, but many residents – young and old – drive to other towns for walking loops, pickleball courts, or other amenities.

The longer we wait, the more expensive this project becomes. I'll prioritize phase 1 of the new master plan: repairing unsafe parking areas and building a new road around the park. A modest bond is the right financial tool to spread the cost of this investment over many years, just like a home mortgage. Then we'll aggressively pursue grants to fund later phases.

Fred Wolfe Park has the potential to be a true gathering place where residents of all ages connect. It's an overdue investment in our community.

**3. Modernize How Town Hall Serves You**

Today, reporting a pothole or getting information from Town Hall can be frustrating. You dig through outdated websites, get bounced between offices, or post on social media for help.

That's why I'll launch Orange Connect, a centralized hub for all non-emergency requests available by phone, website or app. If you spot a pothole on Lambert Road, you can upload a photo, get a confirmation, and track when it's fixed.

This small step lets us catch problems early, deliver results faster and create a safer, more respectful community.

**4. Strengthen the Partnerships that Make Orange Work**

Orange thrives because of the volunteers, nonprofits and civic groups that give their time and heart to serve our town. As first selectman, I'll be their biggest champion, making sure Town Hall supports their efforts and that everyone feels part of one team.

Our campaign has reached out to residents more than 10,000 times – a record by any measure. Those conversations revealed the best of Orange: practical ideas, shared pride and a willingness to get involved.

The more we empower our residents, the stronger our community will become.

**5. Communicate Clearly and Lead with Respect**

Transparency builds trust, and it starts with open communication. That's why our campaign hosted three town hall forums this year where anyone could ask questions and share ideas. As first selectman, I'll make sure you always know what decisions are being made, how money is being spent, and how to get involved.

Recently, a woman who's lived in Orange for 50 years told me she loves this town but wishes she heard more about what's happening beyond the Senior Center and Orange Government Access Television. She doesn't expect to know everything, just to feel informed and included. That conversation stuck with me.

Good government isn't about grand gestures or taking credit. It's about consistency, respect, and keeping residents informed.

Financial pressure and political polarization test every community, but they can also bring out our best. On day one, I'll get to work on these initial commitments to keep Orange strong over the next two years.

When we talk about the future of Orange, we're talking about whether our kids will want to come back after graduation, whether retirees can stay in the town they love, and whether everyone still feels they belong.

If you're ready for that kind of leadership, I'd be honored to earn your vote. Let's move Orange forward together.

**Jim Zeoli (R)\***



The biggest challenge facing the Town of Orange is remarkably like your own homes, providing services as needed within boundaries. Being able to provide those services requires planning that starts in the fall of the previous year, which then moves to the budget planning process. The budget cannot be calculated with the hope of receiving a grant or aid; it must be calculated on what is, not what may be. The town is in several purchasing groups for items like electricity, oil, gasoline and diesel and office supplies, to name a few. The town continues to bid for contracts and services both independently and by using the State of Connecticut Department of Adminis-

trative services. The Town of Orange will continue to use these programs to control purchasing costs.

The town has received grants while I have been in office and continues to find many opportunities to help the town. The Edison Road project, the bridge on Derby-Milford Road at Grassy Hill, the playground at Fred Wolfe Park, the current paving at the library and High Plains Community Center, roadwork on Lambert Road, bulletproof vests for our police officers, the smoke alarm program from the fire marshal's office, open space purchases, the refurbishment of the senior café at High Plains Community Center. These are just a small part of grant awards that have helped Orange. The Town of Orange has been proactive in searching, applying and receiving grants and will continue to do this. These grants help get projects done without asking for added tax dollars. If you hear that the town does not apply for grants, that comes from those who lack the knowledge to know what the team does on everyone's behalf.

One of the largest costs for the town is health insurance. This has been recognized, studied and discussed with most labor groups. The town will be offering the employees a health savings account type of insurance, which will save the employee on cost share payment and the Town of Orange versus a traditional plan. This will be optional for each employee, and it will go into effect July 1, 2026.

While some complain about the budget, I urge you to remember that 60+ percent is dedicated to education. This is the largest reason families choose to live in Orange, and I believe that educational costs must be checked, but must be funded to the level needed to keep us as the desirable town we are known to be. Every child deserves to get the education they deserve!

The Town of Orange is extremely fortunate to have the Orange Economic Development Commission to work on our behalf since 1999. The director is in constant contact with town departments to aid new and interested businesses with locating in Orange. The town is the envy of the area by communities that don't have an economic development office that works as seamlessly as Orange's. The OEDC office has been representing Orange since First Selectman Robert Sousa formed this in 1999. If you have heard that this doesn't exist, it is just the lack of knowledge of some. This department has assisted many businesses to choose Orange and continues to fill that role as the town needs.

The Town of Orange under my administration has been fortunate to attract United Illuminating, both corporate headquarters and operations, Aurora Products, Veterans Affairs outpatient services, Noble Gas, Hilton Garden Suites, 7 Brew Coffee, Self Stor-It, FedEx shipping, and Amazon distribution. These are some of the businesses that have come under my administration, and I will continue to work with a

possible good fit for Orange. New brick and mortar is new tax dollars, which helps all of us.

To spend money for another economic development department, to spend money on a software system to report a leaky faucet or bump in the road, are just a couple of ideas my opponent has mentioned that increase costs and are unnecessary.

The Town of Orange has certainly changed over its 200 years, but the core values have remained the same.

- 1) A strong school system.
- 2) Beautiful neighborhoods.
- 3) Open space to create an environment where not every piece of land is developed.
- 4) Programs for children and adults alike.
- 5) Convenient transportation.
- 6) Quality emergency services.
- 7) Sensible fiscal management of the town.
- 8) Strong resale value of your home.

These are just a few of the reasons that so many have considered when looking at Orange! Keeping the education system strong is not a new idea, as some would like you to think. I have benefited from the Orange schools and have supported them since long before 2005 when I became your first selectman.

I have and continue to love the Town of Orange today and will fiercely protect your quality of life in the future.

I ask for your support and confidence with your vote.

# \* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \*

## Milford Democratic Candidates

### MAYOR

#### Richard Smith



Smith served as Milford's 11th Mayor. He has a long history of civic service including acting Milford Conservation Commission, and chairman of Milford's Police Commission Chairman. Smith represents Milford on the Regional Water Authority Board and serves on the Board of Directors at Bridges Healthcare. Smith also served on the state's Judicial Review Counsel.

Smith served his term with dedication, vision, and heart, and will ensure a brighter and more fiscally responsible future for Milford families as Mayor, once again.

### CITY CLERK

#### Peter C. Smith



Smith is Milford's 43rd Town Clerk and the 8th City Clerk. He has a long history of service to our community. Appointed to the Board of Fire Commissioners at 23, then Assistant to the Mayor, Smith represented Milford as State Representative and has served on various boards and commissions throughout the years. Smith was unanimously selected by the Board of Aldermen to serve out the remaining term of Karen Fortunati. He is

committed to maintaining open and transparent government for all our citizens.

### MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 1ST DISTRICT (Northwestern part of Milford, bordering the Housatonic River and the town of Orange)

### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### Chris Hite



Christopher Hite is a Connecticut native, public school graduate and trial attorney. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2003, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics at the age of 20. He continued his studies at Syracuse University College of Law, where he won numerous awards in various national and interschool trial and appellate competitions. Additionally, he

was the recipient of an Equal Justice Works Summer Fellowship for his work at the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center.

Upon graduation, he entered the practice of law at the age of 24 and practiced for several years at a general practice firm in Tolland County. During this time, he gained extensive litigation experience and knowledge in many areas, specifically collections, personal injury, workers' compensation and bankruptcy matters. He is a co-founder, partner and trial attorney in the Stratford law firm of Rosenberg & Hite, LLC, where he has worked since 2011. He has been recognized for his achievements by selection in Super Lawyers' New England Rising Stars and Connecticut Magazine's Best Lawyers in Connecticut every year since 2011, as well as been featured in U.S. News & World Report's Best Lawyers in America for the past several years. In 2017, his entire firm was presented an award by Senator Richard Blumenthal for providing pro bono legal services to families in need.

Hite is actively involved in the Connecticut Bar Association, having previously served as an executive committee co-chair and chair for the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section and Consumer Law Sections of the Young Lawyers Section. He has regularly served as a continuing legal education seminar speaker and has actively planned and organized other seminars and events.

Hite currently resides in Milford with his wife, 3-year-old son, 5-month-old daughter and dog Pecan. He currently is a member of the Democratic Town Committee for the First District and serves the First District as a member of the Board of Aldermen.

#### Stu Zolty



Zolty is a first time candidate for public office. He brings over 24 years of private sector experience in project planning, budgeting, and financial planning, having managed over \$6B in government contracts. This is exactly the type of experience the Board of Aldermen needs in order to handle the budgetary pressures and decisions that will be faced in the coming years to keep high quality city

services and ensure taxes stay under control. Stu will work to develop smarter and more innovative solutions for our city, and create a purposeful and balanced plan to ensure a safe, vibrant, and prosperous future for our community.

Zolty brings both a common sense approach and imaginative ideas to problems that he faces, often developing simple yet creative solutions that would otherwise be missed.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Mary Claire Edmonds



A Milford native and the daughter of two former teachers, Mary Claire Edmonds understands the power of education to transform lives and is determined to give back to her hometown community. She and her husband, Clint, have chosen to raise their young daughter here, drawn by the strength of its schools and the community that surrounds them.

Edmonds currently serves as senior manager of program innovation at Playworks, where she designs, pilots, and scales play-based programs in school districts across the country. Previously, as director of program operations at Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster, she provided organizational leadership across five facilities, serving more than 3,000 students each year.

Her professional experience has given Edmonds a deep understanding of K-12 student needs, strong operational and leadership expertise, and a proven ability to leverage resources to directly support students, educators, and their families. Edmonds is ready to bring fresh energy, accountability, and innovative solutions to the Board of Education.

#### Nicole Wilhelm



Nicole Wilhelm is a lifelong Milford resident, proud to be raising her three children alongside her husband, James, and their family dogs. Deeply invested in the community, Wilhelm is an active PTO volunteer, where she works to support school events and strengthen collaboration between parents and teachers.

Professionally, Wilhelm brings extensive experience in healthcare financial operations and also runs her own small business, giving her valuable insight into budgeting, accountability, and problem-solving. She also serves as a co-administrator of the Milford Mamas Facebook page, a hub that connects and supports local families.

Beyond her work and community involvement, Wilhelm is passionate about animal rescue. Her family has adopted dogs and actively supports local rescue organizations, reflecting her commitment to compassion and care.

With her strong roots in Milford, dedication to education, and hands-on experience as both a parent and community leader, Nicole is committed to ensuring that every child in Milford has the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

### PLANNING & ZONING

#### Damon Ralph



- Focused on smart growth and maintaining Milford's character
- Commercial lender supporting family owned and cooperative grocery and hardware stores nationwide
- 15-year resident of Lexington Green
- BA from Stony Brook University in Political Science

### MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 2ND DISTRICT (Just west of downtown, and on either side of the Wilber Cross in the north.)

### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### Robert Pacelli, Jr.



- Majority Leader, Milford Board of Aldermen
- Third generation family business owner and supporter
- Proud parent of two children with wife, Mickel Montano-Pacelli
- Volunteer coach for St. Mary School, Milford Little League, Milford

#### Toni Lombardi



- Proud mom of two Milford Public School students and active PTA member
- Board Chair for the Valley YMCA, serving families across the Milford community
- B.A in Political Science with a concentration in Civic Engagement
- Brings real experience working in public education and government service
- Focused on strong schools, affordable living, and a local government that listens

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Meghan Doyle



Meghan Doyle was born and raised in Milford after her parents moved here from Brooklyn to provide a better life for their children. Doyle attended Mathewson and Harborside. After graduating from Jonathan Law High School, Doyle earned a biology degree from Northeastern University. She attended nursing school briefly before starting a career as a personal trainer, where she worked at

several different sized gyms before starting her own small business in 2020.

In 2020, Doyle decided to switch careers and started law school at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude with a concentration in health law. Simultaneously with her law degree, Doyle earned a master with distinction in food and agriculture law and policy from Vermont Law and Graduate School. She now works as an attorney for the state of Connecticut. Doyle was appointed to the Milford Board of Education in July of 2021 and has served since then. She is also a member of the Permanent School Facilities Committee, which oversees any building projects that are funded through money bonded by the city. Doyle's strength is policy development which addresses immediate needs while planning for the long term. She also advocates for providing opportunities for all of Milford's students.

#### Susan Glennon



Glennon has lived in Milford for almost 40 years, where she raised her three children, two of whom still live in town while raising their own families. She has had a lengthy career focused on young children, and fondly says, "Children are my life's work." Running her own small business brings her expertise in policy, budgeting, and problem-solving.

Glennon's involvement with Milford Public Schools spans over two decades, beginning when her oldest child entered kindergarten at Meadowside School. She immediately joined PTA, where she spearheaded a strong Parent Involvement Committee and subsequently served in various PTA leadership positions at both the local and state levels. In 2010, she was honored with the Connecticut PTA Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award. As a member of the CT PTA Board of Directors, she earned the Elaine Boulay Outstanding Service Award and was also named a Parent of the Year for the Milford School District.

Believing in the importance of community involvement, Glennon first ran for the Board of Education in 2011 and has served as its chair since 2013. She is proud of student and staff accomplishments and the board's work ensuring the school system continues to grow and thrive while advancing relevant 21st-century teaching and learning for all students.

Glennon wants children to be happy, to love school and to be their best selves so they are ready to learn. She believes a strong school system benefits everyone and is seeking another term with a commitment to continuing the collective efforts to further strengthen our schools.

### PLANNING & ZONING

#### John Mortimer



John Mortimer has served on Milford's Planning and Zoning Board for the past six years, offering steady leadership and a deep respect for the city's character. As Milford faces mounting pressure from overdevelopment and rising housing costs, Mortimer is committed to protecting what makes our community livable and unique: our established single-family neighborhoods, our affordability, and our historic charm.

A long-time Milford resident, Mortimer brings both practical experience and academic insight to the table. He earned a master's degree in American studies from Fairfield University, where he studied the intersection of civic values, history and community development.

Before entering public service, John spent 43 years at Sikorsky Aircraft as a skilled sheet metal worker and proud member of Teamsters Local 1150. His career reflects a lifelong commitment to hard work, union solidarity, and hands-on problem solving, all qualities Milford needs now more than ever.

Mortimer is running for re-election to continue fighting for responsible growth, transparent decision-making and a planning process that puts residents first. He believes Milford's future depends on smart policies that curb overdevelopment, protect affordability and reflect the values of the people who call it home.

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## Milford-Orange Times

# \* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \*

## Milford Democratic Candidates

### MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 3RD DISTRICT (Southwestern area of Milford, bordering on the Housatonic, including Devon and Walnut Beach)

#### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

##### Holly E. Mulrenan



- Member, Board of Aldermen
- Nurse, Health and Science College Educator
- BSN, SCSU, and MS, University of Connecticut
- Lifelong Milford Resident
- Sons: Rocco, Thomas, and Cheech, MPS graduates

##### Paul J. Healy



- Member, Board of Aldermen
- Education: ASCI, BSBM, MSBM, FBINA
- Career – Milford Police, CT State Police
- SHU Ex. Director – Public Safety, EM & Facilities
- Laurel Beach (LBA) – Board of Managers

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

##### Adam Scobie



Adam Scobie is a lifelong Milford native and proud graduate of Live Oaks, East Shore, and Foran High School. Appointed to the Milford Board of Education in February 2025, Scobie quickly became engaged in maintaining efficiency while upholding opportunities and equity for all students in our district. His experience as a college professor and director of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Department at CT State

Community College allows him to bring a unique perspective to the Board. From budget season to facilities planning to esports competitions and high school theater productions, Scobie's active participation across our schools has only deepened his commitment to ensuring a rigorous and supportive educational experience is available for every student, staff, and administrator in our small town with a big heart.

##### Jennifer Brown



Jennifer Brown was born in Milford where she first attended Meadowside Elementary School before her family moved to the Walnut Beach area. She attended Simon Lake Elementary and Jonathan Law High School. She lives in her childhood home with her mother, Shirley, son, Andrew, and their beloved dog, Abby.

Inspired by the educators responsible for her education, she has dedicated the last 10 years of her life to growing her students both academically and socially and emotionally. Passionate about literature, social justice and growing the whole person, Brown has written culturally responsive curriculum for Bridgeport Public School District, led her school's Student Governance Council, served on the School Improvement Committee, led training on the trauma informed classroom, mentored new teachers, built community partnerships that provided opportunities to students in underserved communities, and has been an advocate for students, teachers and parents. Brown believes schools are at the center of our communities and schools should be a safe space for all students.

When Brown is not in the classroom, she loves to spend time with her family, friends, reading, creative writing, and spending time at the beach. As a parent of a Milford Public School student, she enjoys watching her son learn, grow, and create new memories through the same education system that inspired her to be the educator she is today.

#### PLANNING & ZONING

##### Jim Quish



- P&Z member for 12 years – Current Chair
- Former BOE and Permanent School Facilities Committee Member
- Former Member of the South Central Regional Council of Governments
- Local Small Business Owner

### MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 4TH DISTRICT (Southeastern part of Milford, bordering West Haven. Includes Woodmont, Morningside, Point Beach, and Hillside.)

#### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

##### Philip Vetro



Phil Vetro is seeking his 12th term on the Board of Alderman and has served as its chairman since 2011. He and his wife Peggi have lived in Milford for the last 55 years. They have two sons: Philip Jr. and Thomas, two grandsons, Michael and Giovanni, and two granddaughters, Marissa and Marcella. A Marine Corps veteran, Vetro has owned and operated his own business as a home improvement contractor for over 50 years.

He served on the Planning & Zoning Board for two terms and was elected to serve as the vice chair and chairman. Vetro is a member of the Public Works Committee and also served as the chairman of that committee. Vetro was a member of the Milford Chamber of Commerce for over 30 years. The Point Beach Volunteer Engine Company #6 elected Vetro their captain in 1980 and he still serves in that position. Vetro has served as the mayor's appointment on the Library Renovation Committee, East Shore Fire House Committee, and the potential Police Department Building Committee. Lastly, Vetro was honored as The Italian-American of the year in 2014.

##### Jennifer Federico



Jen Federico brings over 30 years of experience in corporate finance, with extensive expertise in budgeting, financial planning, and analysis. She earned her undergraduate degree in accounting from UConn and her MBA from the University of New Haven. Brown served the City of Milford as a Board of Education member from 2014 to 2019, and as its majority leader from 2017 to 2019. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Aldermen.

A longtime Milford resident and mother of two—one a Jonathan Law graduate and one currently attending Foran—Federico has a thorough understanding of the community and its priorities. She combines her personal commitment to Milford with her professional expertise to navigate complex issues and deliver fair, effective solutions. Federico is dedicated to asking clarifying questions and ensuring transparency so that residents and city leaders can fully understand the issues before them, particularly those related to the city budget. Her focus remains on advancing the city through transparent leadership and sound decision-making.

If re-elected, Federico will continue working hard for the 4th District and would be extremely grateful for your support.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

##### Cindy Wolfe Boynton



- Current Milford BOE Majority Leader; BOE member since 2019
- Communications professional, author and college professor
- Lifelong Milford resident and Milford Public Schools graduate; mother of two Milford Public Schools graduates
- Passionate community leader and volunteer

##### Tom Koba



Tom Koba was born and raised in Middletown and has been a lifelong Connecticut resident calling Middletown, Windsor, New Haven and Milford as his homes. Koba graduated the University of Hartford with a BS in electrical engineering and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) with MS in electrical engineering. Koba has resided in the borough of Woodmont in Milford since 2020 with

his wife Nadine Padowicz; they share their home with their labrador retriever Annie, and cats Bonnie, Coral, George, and Edward. Koba is also the proud stepfather of two sons who live out of state. Koba has many hobbies, the most prominent being several fish-related ones: fishing, collecting fishing lures and fishkeeping. Koba is a long-time aquarium hobbyist who currently maintains a "fish room" and 40 aquariums and breeds several species of fish. Koba and his wife love Milford and its people, places, shopping, restaurants and picturesque shoreline. They particularly enjoy long walks along the beach and swimming with their dog Annie. They are both members of the Milford DTC.

Koba's career is engineering, and he has worked in the aerospace field for 40+ years supporting development of complex electronic and mechanical systems for commercial and military engines/aircraft.

Koba was elected to the Milford Board of Education in November 2023 and is proud to serve the students, parents, teachers and administration of the school district, and all residents of Milford, and hopes to continue doing so in the next term. The experience gained in his first term will be particularly valuable in addressing the challenging tasks of of budgeting and long-term facilities planning.

#### PLANNING & ZONING

##### Brian Kaligan



- Committed to local Milford Community
- Analytical; problem solver
- Strong Communication Skills
- Active in Milford Community
- Bipartisan and works across the aisle

### MILFORD DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES 5TH DISTRICT (Southcentral area of Milford, Includes downtown, Melba Beach, Gulf Beach, and most residences south of the Post Road.)

#### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

##### Alex Armstong



Alex Armstrong is running for Board of Alderman in Milford's 5th District, where he was raised and now lives with his wife and two daughters. A graduate of Georgetown University and Yale University, Armstrong brings extensive experience in public service and nonprofit leadership. He currently serves as vice chairman of the Milford Sewer Commission and works as vice president

of external affairs at a global nonprofit organization. His previous community service includes the Milford Pension Board, Friends of Milford Library and Milford Irish Heritage Society. Armstrong is committed to responsible budgeting, quality city services, addressing cost-of-living challenges, and preserving Milford's open spaces. His background in conservation and nonprofit management has taught him fiscal discipline and environmental stewardship - values he'll bring to city leadership for future generations.

##### Meghan Brennan



Brennan was born and raised in the 5th District, and after 15 years living in Boston, Washington, D.C., and Denver, she returned home four years ago - back to the same neighborhood and community that shaped her. She grew up in Milford as the youngest of three siblings, raised by her parents, Marsha and Danny - both proud Milford natives who graduated from Milford High and Jonathan Law.

From an early age, Milford wasn't just where she lived, it was where she learned the values of hard work, teamwork, and community.

As a kid, she played just about every sport she could - soccer, swimming, tennis, softball, and basketball - spending countless afternoons on our local fields and courts. She went through Harborside and Foran High School, where she built lifelong friendships and a deep appreciation for the opportunities Milford schools provide. Brennan began as an investment accountant, and after earning her law degree, she became a corporate attorney. Today she leads corporate governance for a public company, advises on complex transactions, and works closely with regulators and community organizations. Her civic engagement has included serving on the Denver Public Schools Bond and Mill Levy Committee, contributing to state-level working groups, and participating in one of Denver's premier civic leadership programs - an initiative that brings together leaders across the private, public and nonprofit sectors to address critical community challenges. She's also had the opportunity to help draft first-in-the-nation legislation, which was ultimately signed into law.

But Milford isn't just where she works to make a difference - it's home. You may see Brennan walking downtown or along Gulf Street with her senior rescue dog, Birdie, or out on the field coaching her niece's tee ball team. She loves being part of everything that makes Milford special.

##### Mike Smith



Mike Smith grew up in Milford, attending Meadowside, Orange Avenue, and Harborside schools before graduating from Foran High School. He went on to earn both his undergraduate degree and a master's in public administration from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

After graduation, Smith returned to Connecticut and began his career working in and around state government. He now serves as a government relations professional, helping nonprofits and businesses navigate the complexities of state policy and advocacy in Hartford.

For the past two years, Smith has served on the Milford Board of Education, where he has focused on strengthening community engagement and advancing the city's long-range facilities plan. He has also represented Milford on the ACES Board and previously served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

In addition to his public service, Mike is deeply involved in nonprofit and community organizations. A 17-year cancer survivor, he participates annually in charity bike rides and has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support cancer research and patient care. His daughter attends Calf Pen Meadow.

**\*\*\*\*\* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \*\*\*\*\***

**Milford Democratic Candidates**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Nicole Flowers**



Nicole Flowers was born and raised in San Diego, California but has lived in the Northeast for more than 15 years. In summer 2019, while on vacation in Milford with her family, she and her husband fell in love with the town and immediately began house-hunting. They found the perfect home for their growing family and, in a leap of faith, purchased it months later. The decision has brought

them new friends, better lives and a true sense of community. She is a wife as well as the mother of two daughters: a 7-year old who attends OAS and a 4-year old in preschool. She has worked in real estate since 2013.

Flowers and her husband are proud to raise their family in Milford. Flowers believes serving on the Board of Education is an opportunity to help pay forward the fellowship and civic pride her family has experienced since becoming residents. She is determined to be a strong voice for District 5.

Education and community are a central focus for her - both support a foundation that will serve individuals throughout their entire lives. As a Girl Scout leader she hopes to instill the importance of kindness, community service and self-confidence in young ladies. In January 2025, she spearheaded Milford's Chapter of Silent Book Club. They are an all-are-welcome book club, creating space to come together and read independently. They also rotate their monthly meetings at different Milford locations to support local businesses.

She is also a co-organizer of Milford's Chapter of Ok To Delay. Their mission is to help promote acceptance of the idea that it's okay to delay smartphones and social media usage for young kids—with no pressure implied, or judgment made, on what someone does or doesn't do. By sharing experiences and information, families can feel more empowered to make a decision that is right for their family.

In September 2025, Flowers was appointed and sworn into the Board of Education to complete the term for a former BOE member.

**Hanna Tedros**



- Foster and adoptive parent
- Learning & development professional focused on preparing students for the future
- Small business owner with a passion for local growth
- Proud mom of a 5th grader, 3rd grader, and preschooler

**PLANNING & ZONING**

**Bryan Anderson**



- Milford resident of 27 years and lives in Settlers Woods
- 5th district Alderman for four terms
- Planning and Zoning member since 2023
- Worked at East Shore Middle School after retiring from teaching
- Retired NYC public school teacher, Realtor, and JP

**CONSTABLES**

**Linda Hardiman**

**Theodore Boynton**

**Dominic Cotton**

**Michelle Cotton**

**Milford Republican Candidates**

**MAYOR**

**Tony Giannattasio**



Anthony S. Giannattasio became the City of Milford's 12th mayor on November 20, 2023. He was raised in Milford, the small city with a big heart, and raised his children, Francesca and Anthony here with his wife, Andrea. He has dedicated his life to public service, playing a pivotal role in various legislative and community initiatives.

**Milford Republican Candidates**

He was elected as a member to the Planning and Zoning Board, serving two terms, then became a 16-year member of the Board of Alderman in 2007, serving as minority leader for 12 of those years. As a proud business owner for nearly 36 years, he understands the value of hard work, collaboration, and having a consistent pragmatic approach.

His combined experience in government and business provides him with a unique and balanced approach to leadership. He has made a commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and responsiveness. Under his guidance, he aims to make the vibrant and welcoming City of Milford an even better place to live, work, and visit.

**MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 1ST DISTRICT (Northwestern part of Milford, bordering the Housatonic River and the town of Orange)**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**Walter Hagedorn**



- Served on the Milford Board of Education
- United States Navy Veteran
- Active member American Legion Post 196 Milford
- Current Board Member of multiple private organizations.

**Win Smith III**



- Partner at Milford Law Firm, Dey Smith Steel, LLC
- Current Member of Milford Fire Commission
- Former Member of Milford Board of Alderman
- Former Member of Milford Board of Assessment Appeals
- Devoted husband and father of two amazing daughters

**Andy Fowler**



- Board of Education Minority Leader 2019-2023
- Member of Board of Alderman since 2023
- Communications Specialist - Yankee Institute
- Award winning writer, CT Press Club, Catholic Press
- Active member; Milford Irish Club, Precious Blood Parish and Knights of Columbus.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Melissa Tranquilli**



- Lifelong Milford resident
- Surgical Technician at Milford Hospital 20 plus years
- Vice Chair of the Milford Human Services Board
- Animal rescuer for Trina Friends K9 Rescue

**Deb Abel**



- Certified Paraeducator - 13 Yrs - Paraeducator of the Yr. 2009
- Served as Board Member and Tutor at the Milford Literacy Center
- Early Childhood Development Studies; Academic Tutor
- Served as PTA Board Secretary - Pumpkin Delight School
- Former Milford Small Business Owner
- Served as Milford Wrestling Club

Co-Director 25 years  
- Has called Milford home for nearly 6 decades.

**PLANNING & ZONING**

**Scott Firmender**



- Served on Milford Board of Education 2017-2019;2023 -Current
- Resided in Milford Since 1992 with his wife and two sons
- Supporter of Milford's Camp Happiness
- Owner of Firmender & Company

**MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 2ND DISTRICT (Just west of downtown, and on either side of the Wilber Cross in the north.)**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**Pat Civitella**



- Host of WICC Real Estate Show
- Member of Columbus Committee
- Real Estate investor and business owner
- Co-founded Silver Sands Neighborhood Association

**Kal Ali**



- Resides in Milford with his wife and three children
- Owner: The Ali Law Firm - Milford
- 20 years
- Federal Fiduciary for Department of Veterans Affairs
- Proud Arab-American
- Youth basketball and football coach

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Kathy Mitas**



- Resides in Milford with her husband of 42 years
- Grandmother of 3 beautiful grandchildren who attend Milford Schools
- Director of Laboratory Services for Yale New Haven Health
- Worked in healthcare for 47 years

**Tracy Crutchfield**



- Lifelong Milford resident
- Supervisor of marketing company for 16 years
- Nursing School
- Licensed Manager : 2 retirement/assisted living communities -16 years
- CDP and other certifications in all areas of healthcare
- Supervisor/Community Liason of home care agency

**PLANNING & ZONING**

**Bob Tschilke**



- Milford resident since 1987
- Business Owner, Quality Systems Auditor
- BA in Psychology, Masters of Art Management
- Various involvement in community service organizations

**MILFORD REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 3RD DISTRICT (Southwestern area of Milford, bordering on the Housatonic, including Devon and Walnut Beach)**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**Michael S. Casey**



- Resides in Milford with his wife and son
- Member of Milford Kiwanis and Boys and Girls Club
- Board of Alderman 2013-2017; 2020-Current
- Zoning Board of Appeals 2018-2020
- Planning & Zoning 2011-2013

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Renee Casey**



- Milford resident for over 30 years
- Local pediatrician for over a decade
- Served on Stratford's Disability Review Board
- Proud mother of a 7-year-old



# \* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \*

## Orange Democratic Candidates

### FIRST SELECTMAN

#### Dan Fitzmaurice



Dan Fitzmaurice and his wife Sarah are raising two wonderful children who benefit firsthand from the outstanding education provided by Orange's elementary and middle schools. With a career spanning leadership in public policy, education, nonprofits, and the arts, Dan focuses on solving problems and helping people succeed and thrive.

Fitzmaurice is happy to chat, take a walk, or grab a coffee with you to discuss Orange - your concerns, ideas, or what you love about our town.

- United Way of Connecticut - Director of Advocacy (2024-)
- Orange Government Access Television - Committee Member (2024-)
- Americans for the Arts - Chief of Staff (2022-2023)
- Arts Council of Greater New Haven - Executive Director (2017-2022)
- Community Leadership Program - Participant & Fellow (2016-2022)
- Connecticut Arts Alliance - Board of Directors (2017-2020)
- NHV Innovation Collaborative - Board of Directors (2017-2020)
- Sustainable CT - Panelist (2017-2019)
- Creative Arts Workshop - Executive Director (2015-2017)
- Elm Shakespeare Company - Managing Director (2013-2015)
- University of Massachusetts Amherst - Arts Management (2013-2014)
- Pianist & Music Teacher (2004-2013)
- Music Studio on Harrison Hill - Founder (2010-2013)
- Bike and Build - Participant (2009)
- Audubon Arts - Counselor (2006-2008)
- Temple University - Bachelor of Music (2004-2008)
- Bayview Beach - Lifeguard (2003-2006)

### TOWN CLERK

#### James Carcano



James Carcano is a recent graduate of McGill University where he studied environmental sciences with a concentration in renewable resource management. He is running for town clerk because he enjoys interacting with and assisting others.

Carcano will make it his mission to ensure all residents of Orange are aware of and have access to services, and he pledges to make sure all residents' voices are represented equally in our town government, regardless of their age, gender, income, or citizenship status. At McGill, Carcano was no stranger to taking on leadership and volunteer roles, serving as an officer in student groups, and taking on key internships.

- Environmental Sciences, Renewable Resource Management, McGill University
- McGill Baja SAE Assembly Crew
- Vice President, External Affairs, Alpha Delta Phi Memorial Chapter
- Internships as an Assistant Project Engineer and Technology Manager
- Graduate of Fordham Preparatory School where he received awards for Distinguished Academic Achievement, was a member of the National Honor Society and AP Scholar, as recognized by the College Board in 2018 and 2019
- Experienced Lifeguard
- Past Volunteer for Ecology Project International

### TAX COLLECTOR

#### Mark Moyher



Mark Moyher is a 27-year Orange resident who loves living in this community. You can often find him volunteering for the Orange Recycling Committee, Orange Lions Club, Orange Democratic Town Committee, or even performing with the Orange Players.

With more than 40 years as a financial services professional, Moyher will bring strong business acumen, professionalism, and financial expertise as tax collector. Moyher pledges to offer guidance, patience and time to all residents who are in need of the office's assistance. In his spare time, Moyher and his wife Ilene enjoy working on DIY projects, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.

- Vice President and Senior Trader at an investment firm
- Studied Accounting and Finance at Fairfield University
- Series 7, 24, and 66 Securities Licenses
- Long-time member of the Orange Recycling Committee
- Member of the Orange Lions Club
- Member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee
- Long-standing member of Grassy Hill Country Club

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Mitch Goldblatt



Mitch Goldblatt has served the Town of Orange in many capacities from first selectman to member of the Town Plan & Zoning Commission. He currently serves as chair of the Orange Recycling Committee along with his long-standing tenure as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Goldblatt is running for his 17th term on the Board of Selectmen so he can continue to help lead the town that he grew up in,

raised his family in, and that he cares about immensely. Goldblatt is always accessible to everyone and doesn't hesitate to take the tough stands when necessary to help ensure the Board is led with integrity.

- Director of Human Resources - Town of Guilford
- MBA in Management, University of New Haven
- BA in Political Science, Muhlenberg College
- Orange Board of Selectmen since 1993
- Orange Recycling Committee Chair
- Orange Pension Committee
- Connecticut Public Employer Labor Relations Association Board Member
- Amity High School Class of 1975 Reunion Chair
- Muhlenberg College Class of 1979 Reunion Chair
- Or Shalom Men's Club President and Yellow Candle Chair
- O'Sullivan Award - Orange Democratic Town Committee
- Paul Harris Fellowship - Orange Rotary Club
- Volunteer of the Year - Orange Times
- Keeper of the Flame - Or Shalom Men's Club
- Ma'asim Tovim Award - Connecticut Valley Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs

#### P.J. Shanley



PJ Shanley has a background in corporate finance and 20+ years of experience as a financial advisor. He is a fiscally conservative Democrat who has worked hard to help implement budgets that make sense for the entire town.

Shanley served on the Orange Board of Finance for 8 years before joining the Board of Selectmen. The town of Orange holds a special place in Shanley's heart.

He grew up here, met his wife and most of his close friends here, and is raising a family here.

- More than 20 Years as a Financial Advisor
- BS in Finance, University of Rhode Island
- Current Member of the Orange Board of Selectmen
- Licensed to sell Life, Health, Accident & Disability, Property & Casualty Insurance in CT
- Series 7 and 66 Securities Licenses
- Chartered Advisor Senior Living (CASL) Designation
- Knights of St. Patrick, Former Officer
- Orange Democratic Town Committee, Former Officer
- Amity High School-Class of 1990

#### Erika Higgins



Erika Higgins is running for the Board of Selectmen to be a leader who delivers. She considers herself a problem solver and a doer. She's committed to being responsive and taking on the issues that matter most to Orange residents.

Higgins has a history of volunteering and providing leadership in our community through serving as an officer of multiple PTO's and volunteering for her three kids activities. Having served for more than

23 years in the health care field, she considers herself to be a near professional listener.

- Director Payer Contracts for Amerita Home Infusion
- BA in Communication Sciences, University of Connecticut
- Active mom of children in the Orange and Amity School Systems
- Past Co-Vice President of Peck Place PTO
- Past Co-President of MLT PTO
- Current and past volunteer for numerous activities including Cub Scouts, Orange Little League, and many more
- 15 Year Orange Resident
- Executive Leadership Award 2018, BioScrip Home Infusion
- National Leadership Council Award Winner 2005 & 2006, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care
- National Employee Recognition Award Winner "Bringing New Brand to New Markets" 2005
- Sales Award for Nursing Home Patient Advocacy 2015 Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care

### BOARD OF FINANCE

#### Kevin McNabola



Kevin McNabola is the chief financial officer for the City of Meriden and currently serves on the Orange Board of Finance. He is a former senior finance manager for General Electric and Bayer Pharmaceutical.

McNabola has previously served as chair of the Board of Finance and in numerous other roles such as finance director for the Orange Board of Education, and was an

active member of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. McNabola and his wife Angela have enjoyed raising their two children Caroline and John in the town of Orange.

- Chief Financial Officer for the City of Meriden
- Current serving member of the Orange Board of Finance
- MBA, University of New Haven
- MPA, University of New Haven
- BS in Economics, Southern CT State University
- Orange Board of Finance, Member and Chairman 2005-2009
- Connecticut Public Pension Forum, President
- Government Financial Officers Association, Executive Board Member
- Orange Board of Education, Former Finance Director
- Orange Volunteer Fire Department, Associate Member
- Six Sigma Certified

#### Byron Crosdale Jr.



Byron Crosdale Jr. is running for both the Board of Finance and Constable this year. Crosdale is an experienced educator and views public service as not just a responsibility, but a calling.

Crosdale is running for office because he cares deeply about our community, and wants to be more involved, especially in advocating for people who may feel unheard.

- 22-Year Educator
- Current 5th Grade Math/Science Teacher
- Parent of children in the Amity School System
- Member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee
- Member of the ODTN Nominating Committee
- 15 Years as Coordinator of Lighthouse Afterschool Program
- 2 Years as an Assistant Manager at Amity Stop and Shop

#### Albert Post



Albert Post is running for the Board of Finance to help Orange remain on a prudent fiscal path, recognizing the strengths that make Orange such a desirable place to live, raise a family, and reside in retirement.

Post and his wife moved to Orange in 1999 with two daughters, ages 5 and 3, who were educated in the Orange and Amity school systems. He retired last

year after 32 years as a scientist with the consumer products company Unilever. Throughout his career, Post worked with team members to create product formulas, develop manufacturing strategies, and manage projects. He has extensive training and experience managing budgets and understanding financial statements associated with brands and companies. Prior to Unilever, Post taught chemical engineering, directed research, and managed grant budgets at the University of Pittsburgh.

Post's volunteer work relevant to serving on the Board of Finance includes terms as treasurer or finance chair for local organizations.

- Product Scientist for Unilever, 1992-2024
- Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering Department, University of Pittsburgh, 1987-1992
- Treasurer, Orange Democratic Town Committee, 2019-2022, member since 2017
- Treasurer or Finance Chair, Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Bridgeport, Stratford, many years 2005-present

### PLAN AND ZONING

#### GG Cabrera



GG Cabrera (nee Gonzalez) is an Amity "boomerang." She grew up in Bethany, spent 10 years in NYC, and is now back in the 203 as a proud (new) homeowner in Orange. She is a graduate of the Amity school system, the Educational Center for the Arts (drums), and the University of Connecticut.

Cabrera has worked in technology for over 10 years, first gaining valuable organizational experience in administration,

and is now a sales engineer for an adTech company. With a geoscience degree from UConn, she channels her passion for sustainability as co-chair of her company's Environmental Sustainability Employee Resource Group, serving a global workforce of 2,000+ employees.

Cabrera is eager to serve on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission to dedicate her time and energy toward making a positive impact and strengthening the sense of community in Orange. Her varied interests include being a drummer, a member of the Beyhive and an avid dog enthusiast. Please reach out with any thoughts/concerns/ideas for the town, or if you'd like to start a band.

- 10 Years working in technology
- 4 Years in administration
- BS in Geoscience, University of Connecticut

#### Beth Marshea



Elizabeth "Beth" Marshea loves that Orange is a town steeped in tradition, with historic character and rolling landscapes - a place where families thrive. She would like to be a voice for Orange on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission who combines respect for our town's traditions with a vision for sustainable growth.

Marshea's goal is to ensure that future development in our town respects its

character while allowing for thoughtful economic opportunities. Beth is a small business owner and parent of two children who attend school in the Orange and Amity districts. In her spare time, Beth is a JiuJitsu and Pickleball enthusiast.

- Literary Agent, Small Business Owner
- MBA, University of Portland
- BA in English, Worcester State University

# \* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \*

## Orange Democratic Candidates

**Doug Fenichel**



Doug Fenichel and his wife Karen chose Orange as their home to be close to family. A retired public relations professional, Fenichel counseled business executives about the importance of listening to stakeholders and acting with integrity. Much of his work was in the homebuilding industry.

Fenichel is currently a firefighter with the Orange Volunteer Fire Department and a paramedic working in a local hospital ER. Aside from volunteer work and doting on his grandchildren, Fenichel is an avid pickleball player. Fenichel is excited about the opportunity to serve on the Plan & Zoning Commission because he has first-hand understanding of the importance of wisely using the town's most finite resource – land – to keep Orange beautiful and thriving.

- Bachelor's degree in journalism, University of Missouri-Columbia
- Multiskilled Technician – Griffin Hospital
- Accredited in Public Relations (APR) by the Universal Accreditation Board
- Past Chapter President, Regional Director, other offices – Public Relations Society of America
- Former newspaper editor and radio/TV newscaster
- Worked in Public Relations in corporate and agency settings
- Executive officer of builders' association in Northern New Jersey
- Numerous awards in Public Relations
- Firefighter since 1974
- Paramedic since 1989
- CPR, Stop-the-Bleed Instructor
- Board member – Temple Emanuel of Orange
- Past Communications Director, current Instructor - Institute for Learning in Retirement of Greater New Haven

**ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Kelly Berwick Billings**



Kelly Berwick Billings is a public defender and a parent raising a young family in Orange. She would like to serve on the Orange Board of Education because she believes that every child deserves to have access to a top notch education in a safe environment.

Berwick Billings is committed to making sure our teachers feel supported and that they have the resources needed to help every child reach their potential.

- Attorney, Public Defender for 13 years
- Law school - Quinnipiac University School of Law
- Undergraduate - The George Washington University
- Mom of young children in the Orange school system
- Co-chaired Mary L Tracy's Art Goes to School, 2024-25 school year
- Volunteered as a room parent for daughter's MLT pre-school class for 2 years
- Coached 2 seasons of Orange Little League tee ball.

**Lauren Gray**



Lauren Gray wants to help ensure that every child in Orange gets the best possible start in life. She believes that when our children succeed, we all succeed, and when our schools thrive, Orange thrives.

As a parent of three young children, a community volunteer and a communications professional, she's learned how important it is to listen, stay informed, and work collaboratively. Gray believes there is a real sense of pride and connection in our town that makes Orange feel like home. She cares deeply about maintaining high standards in our schools while supporting our teachers and students every step of the way.

- Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
- BA in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations, Western Carolina University
- Mom of three young children with her eldest entering Kindergarten

**Josh Orlinsky**



Josh Orlinsky is a 23-year teacher, social studies department chair, coach of multiple Orange sports teams, and describes himself as a lifelong learner. He is running for the Orange Board of Education to serve the members of the community, the children in our school system and their families in a way that utilizes his experience to benefit everyone.

Orlinsky loves the community feel of Orange and will consider both the short term needs and the long term vision that will keep our town and schools thriving. He and his wife are raising two young children who will attend MLT and Peck Place School in the fall.

- Social Studies Department Chair & Teacher
- MS in Social Studies Education, Syracuse University
- MA in Education Leadership, Montclair State University
- BS in Accounting, Minor in History, Minor in Criminal Justice, The College of New Jersey
- Certifications: Social Studies Education, Business Education, Athletics and Coaching, CPR & First Aid
- Currently serves on OGAT Committee (Orange Government Access Television)
- Volunteer coach for Orange Soccer, Orange Little League and Amity Youth Lacrosse

**Erin Wilson**



Erin Wilson is a nurse and nurse educator who recently received her doctorate. Wilson decided to run for the Orange Board of Education this year because serving her community has always been important to her.

Wilson and her husband are raising two young children in Orange. As a mom with kids in the Orange school system, combined with her long history of listening to and advocating for others, she feels she is well-suited to represent the people in town.

- Assistant Dean, Fairfield University
- Former Adjunct Professor, Southern CT State University
- RN at Yale New Haven Hospital
- DNP (Doctor of Nursing), Sacred Heart University
- MS & BS in Nursing, Fairfield University
- Gold Medal of Excellence, Sacred Heart University

**AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Sean-Michael Green**



Sean-Michael Green is an entrepreneur, attorney, educator and veteran. He is the chief executive officer of several companies, and his law practice is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs to develop their ideas. He teaches leadership, strategy, and entrepreneurship courses at UConn and Southern CT State University.

Green decided to step up to run for the Amity Board of Education this year because he wants to help make sure that every student has the opportunity to pursue their goals.

- Entrepreneur, Professor & Attorney
- JD and LLM, Cornell Law School
- DBA, Franklin University
- MBA, Marist College
- MLA, University of Pennsylvania
- BPhil, University of Pittsburgh
- Past President and Board Member, CT's Beardsley Zoo
- Vice President and Board Member, Mind Over Land
- Board Member, Women's Refugee Center in Hartford
- Volunteer, Wharton's Business Plan Competition
- Pro Bono Attorney, CT Veteran Legal Center
- U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
- City of Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40
- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2DMARDIV Marine of the Year
- 10+ Unit and personal military citations

**Jennifer Blando Jacquet**



Jennifer Blando Jacquet hopes to bring her knowledge of special education and students' holistic health needs to the Amity Board of Education. Her work at a nonprofit that helps to keep kids and teens safer online guides her motivation to do more to help our students who face new challenges in the digital world. She is committed to the Amity administration and teachers, and to helping prepare Amity students for college and their successful futures.

Blando Jacquet and her wife are raising a son who is a student at Amity Middle School Orange. She has worked with our schools on her son's IEP and medical 504 plan, and has seen firsthand how that process works. Her diplomatic working style helps build teams that achieve important goals.

- Director of Development at the nonprofit SOSA - Safe from Online Sex Abuse
- MA in Music Therapy, New York University
- BS in Special Education, New York University
- NYS Special Education K-12 permanent teacher certification
- Former board member, President, and program coordinator at NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness), Westchester
- Former preschool special educator and music teacher
- Former Race Brook PTA and Talent Show organizer

**Ralph Marguy**



Ralph Marguy is a proud dad of children in both the Orange and Amity school systems. Marguy and his wife chose to raise their family in Orange because of our top-ranked schools, agricultural history (he co-owns a chicken and apiary farm in town), and shared values. He's been an active participant in his children's educational experience, volunteering for programs like "Art Goes to School," helping in the Race Brook School library, and assisting with field days.

Marguy believes it's important for students to feel supported by their whole community. He also believes that students' voices matter, and that they should be involved in the conversation around education. He holds that when students are part of the conversation, we create schools that challenge them academically while strengthening their sense of community and belonging.

- Fire Inspector at Yale University
- Co-owner of Sugaree Acre Farms, hosting chickens and an apiary
- BS in Criminal Justice, University of New Haven
- BS in Computer Science, Southern New Hampshire University
- 24 year career in the fire service
- Frequent school volunteer
- Member of NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), IAAI (In-

ternational Association of Arson Investigators), Connecticut Farm Bureau, Connecticut Beekeepers Association, and Delta Chi Fraternity

**CONSTABLES**

**Santo Galatioto Jr.**



Santo Galatioto has served as an Orange Constable since 2009. He is a lifelong Orange resident and graduate of Amity High School, and has spent his career as an educator. Galatioto and his wife are proud parents of three young children, including a set of active pre-schoolers.

- School Teacher
- MA, Quinnipiac University
- BA, Quinnipiac University
- Justice of the Peace
- Eagle Scout
- Orange Foundation Scholarship Foundation Member
- Orange Youth Services Advisory Board Member

**Randy Thomas**



Randy Thomas has served as an Orange Constable since 2003. Thomas is a former member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, is a certified firefighter, and has a financial background as a mortgage broker.

Thomas and his wife have enjoyed raising their four children in Orange.

- MBA, Management with Honors, University of New Haven
- Certified Firefighter
- Retired Mortgage Broker & Residential Loan Officer.

**Byron Crosdale Jr.**



Byron Crosdale Jr. is running for both the Board of Finance and Constable this year. Crosdale is an experienced educator and views public service as not just a responsibility, but a calling.

Crosdale is running for office because he cares deeply about our community, and wants to be more involved, especially in advocating for people who may feel unheard.

- 22-Year Educator
- Current 5th Grade Math/Science Teacher
- Parent of children in the Amity School System
- Member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee
- Member of the ODTN Nominating Committee
- 15 Years as Coordinator of Lighthouse Afterschool Program
- 2 Years as an Assistant Manager at Amity Stop and Shop

# Orange Republican Candidates

**FIRST SELECTMAN**

**James Zeoli**



Jim Zeoli has served 10 terms as first selectman and has been an active member of the Orange Board of Selectmen since 1999. He has shown the necessary experience in municipal management to effectively continue to lead our town as first selectman.

Zeoli is no stranger to hard work. His commitment to the people of Orange is undeniable. Zeoli has always given freely of his time for Orange, serving as a volunteer fireman for over 20 years, past assistant treasurer of the Volunteer Fire Association and co-chairman of the Orange Agricultural Fair. Zeoli knows the people of Orange. He listens to them and identifies with them and their problems. He is always genuinely interested in offering his advice and help. Zeoli tackles issues head-on and goes out of his way to find win-win solutions. He is the type of leader that considers the feelings of all residents from the very young to our growing senior population. Zeoli is ready to continue his leadership of Orange as our First Selectman. His honest straightforward leadership style is right for Orange. It is right for seniors. It is right for children. It is right for education. It is right for economic development. It is right for business. It is right for open space. It is right for all taxpayers. AND...Zeoli's straightforward, honest leadership style needs to continue!

# \* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \*

## Orange Republican Candidates

### TOWN CLERK

#### Mary Shaw



- B.S. Industrial Technology, CCSU
- M.S. Counseling in Higher Education, SCSU
- Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Town of Orange 2012-2019
- Orange Board of Education - Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent 2019 - present

As a result of her extensive experience working closely with all Orange municipal offices, Mary is uniquely qualified to serve

as Town Clerk.

### TAX COLLECTOR

#### Tom Hurley



- B.S. Michigan State University
- M.S. Economics, Wayne State University
- PMI—Project Management
- APBM, Certified Business Manager
- USAF Veteran (Captain)
- Sr Vice Commander, American Legion Post 127

Tom Hurley been dedicated the people of Orange for many years. As a member of the Amity Board of Education for over 13 years Tom served as chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. Hurley is a financial professional, owner of Thomas Hurley Consulting LLC and a APBM certified business manager. He is uniquely qualified to serve as tax collector.

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### John Carangelo



- Orange Board of Selectmen - 8 years
- B.A. Syracuse University
- J.D. Quinnipiac College School of Law
- Former Judge of Probate for Orange
- Practicing attorney with over 28 years of legal experience

John Carangelo has been a lifelong resident of Orange and resides with his wife Kathrine and sons Michael and Joey.

“As a member of the Board of Selectmen I will continue my efforts to keep taxes under control for our residents, and continue to improve our town’s infrastructure and schools.”

#### Bill Kraut



- Board of Selectman 9/2024 to present.
- Chairman, Orange Board of Education 11/2011 to 9/2024.
- Bond Committee 6/2012 – 4/2013
- Bond Construction Oversight Committee 4/2013 to present.
- Chairman, Bond Construction Oversight Committee since 6/2018 to present.
- B.S. University of Rhode Island
- Owner Newport Tennis, Inc.

Kraut has been a resident of Orange for 35 years. He and his wife Phyllis have a daughter Michaela who attended the Orange public schools and Amity.

As Chairman of the OBOE, Kraut worked with our school superintendent, teachers, and the board to safely provide both remote and in-person learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli, working with our Board of Finance and Board of Education, made sure that funds were allocated to meet state mandates, allowing our schools to remain open. The Orange school system was one of less than 3% of school systems statewide to have in school learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instituted security guards in all our schools with cooperation of First Selectman Zeoli, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

“As a Selectman, I will continue to work collaboratively in a bipartisan manner. Orange has been and is a wonderful town. I will do my best to preserve what has made it so special and work to make sure the Town’s future is just as great.”

#### Judy Smith



- M.B.A. in Restaurant & Hotel Management, University of New Haven
- B.S. in Marketing, University of Connecticut
- General Manager Orange Hills Country Club
- Instructor, University of New Haven, 1986-1988
- Member of the Orange Town Planning and Zoning Board: 1995, 1999, 2003,

2011-2019

- Elected Vice Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission, January 2006 to 2025

### BOARD OF FINANCE

#### Joseph Nuzzo



- B.S. in accounting, University of Rhode Island
- B.S. Degree in Business Administration/Management, Southern Connecticut State University
- M.B.A. Degree in Finance, University of New Haven

Nuzzo’s community service includes Orange Soccer Association youth soccer coach, Orange Little League baseball coach, current board member of the Amity Club, a civic and philanthropic organization in New Haven, and past president and board member of the Boys’/Girls’ Club of New Haven

“I ask the townspeople of Orange for your vote to provide the opportunity to apply my extensive financial experience and expertise to continue the recent tradition of fiscal responsibility and straightforward leadership.”

#### Ajeet Jain



- Associate Professor of Finance, Central Connecticut State University
- Former Director of the MBA program, Alabama A&M University
- Ph.D. in Finance, Florida International University
- MBA from Alabama A&M University
- B.S. University of Delhi
- Orange Board of Finance 4 years

- Drs. Ajeet and Preti Jain, and their daughter, Simran are proud residents of Orange.

“As an Associate Professor of Finance at Central Connecticut State University and the former Director of the MBA program at Alabama A&M University, I have gained extensive experience in the field of finance.”

“I am committed to keeping taxes low while providing the highest support possible for community services, infrastructure improvements and excellent schools.”

### PLAN AND ZONING

#### Oscar Parente



- Town of Orange Planning and Zoning Commission 15 years
- B.A. Villanova University
- J.D. University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac College School of Law)

Parente is an attorney engaged in the private practice of law, focusing in the areas of real estate law, corporate finance, commercial law and contracting, and in the representation of buyers and sellers of various types of business organizations.

#### Kevin Cornell



- Currently Serving on the Zoning Commission
- B.E. Mechanical Engineering Stevens Institute of Technology
- J.D. University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac College School of Law)
- Professional Certification: Professional Engineer, New York State

Kevin Cornell is a Real Estate Development professional with over 30 years of experience in all facets of commercial and residential real estate development and construction.

- Current Employer Midwood Investment and Development  
 “As a resident of Orange for 32 years I feel an obligation to give back to the community that helped raise and educate my children and allow my family to enjoy the wonderful quality of life that Orange offers. My work experience aligns precisely with the demands of the Planning and Zoning Commission.”

#### Jay McGuire



- Currently Serving on the Zoning Commission
- B.S. Math, Computer Science, Roger Williams University
- Chief Technology Officer, Ivy Biomedical Systems

Living in Orange for 35 years Jay McGuire has deep roots in our community. His longtime involvement in the Orange Country Fair, was sparked by his father-in-law, William Sperry. He was appointed to serve on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission in 2025.

McGuire was a business owner in Orange operating Iron Boot, Inc., before becoming the Chief Technology Officer at Ivy Biomedical Systems, a company that specializes in cardiac and respiratory gating monitors for medical imaging.

### ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Jeff Cap



- Chairman, Orange Board of Education
- Chief Information Officer
- Former Technology Teacher
- Boy Scout Leader & Trainer
- Knights of Columbus Member (Third Degree)
- Cap has served as a community volunteer for many organizations in Orange including the Orange Country Fair, Holy Infant Church, and Website Administrator for non-profit groups.

“It is important for children to receive the highest quality of education from Orange Elementary Schools. Not only is education a top priority but having safe and secure school buildings is equally as important. Having modern technology access will set students, faculty, and staff up for continued success.”

#### Ronnette James



- Orange Board of Education Member 2021 to 2025
- B.S. Elementary Education, SCSU
- M.S. in Reading, SCSU
- Certified Elementary School Teacher/Reading Specialist
- President of Peck Place School PTO from 2016-2021

James has been active in the Orange community for 20 years. As a mom, she served as PTO president at Peck Place School and worked on several town committees with passion and enthusiasm.

“I care deeply about our students and community. My experience, dedication, and vision will help us continue building strong schools and a bright future for our children.”

“As a board member, I know we can take our excellent schools to the next level, ensuring our students have greater opportunities and our teachers have the support they need.”

#### Tatiana Messina Mullen



- Vice Chair, Orange Board of Education
- B.A. Villanova University
- J.D. New York Law School
- Senior Assistant State’s Attorney

Messina Mullen grew up in Orange and is a product of the excellent orange school system. After continuing her education and starting her own family, she moved back to Orange, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

“As both a candidate and the mother of a 9-year-old daughter who is enjoying her journey through the Orange Public Schools, it is important that we all work together to make sure that all students obtain the best possible educational experience that will benefit them throughout the years.”

“By working collaboratively, we can foster a safe and welcoming school environment so the children of our close-knit community feel comfortable.”

#### Amanda Vargo Zapatka



- Current member of the Orange Board of Education
- B.S. Fairfield University
- M.S. Elementary Education, SCSU
- Reading Aide Peck Place School
- Pre-K Teacher, St. Mary School Milford
- Coordinator in the Children’s Ministry at Kingdom Life Christian Church

“I am passionate about education and deeply invested in our community. As a lifelong resident, I attended the Orange and Amity school systems and was honored as a Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete.

I credit my experience here for providing a strong academic foundation and preparation for college and beyond.

On the Board of Education, I remain committed to preserving the high standards of traditional education, ensuring our schools stay among the top in the state and continue to prepare our children for bright futures.”

### AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Meghan Rabuse



- BBA, Finance and Business Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2004
- 7 years Wall Street Investment Management
- Co-President, Turkey Hill School PTO, 2019-present
- Mother of 3

“I was raised in a classroom. My mother is a retired public school teacher, and both my husband and I were public school graduates. When we had our own children, we moved to Orange specifically for its strong public school systems.

Our great public schools are no accident. They are a direct result of excellent teachers and administrators who work together with engaged students and parents to keep sound academics at the forefront of our children’s educational experience. I look forward to serving on the Amity Board of Education to preserve that tradition, while also maintaining fiscally responsible budgets for our community.”

# MOT

## Milford-Orange Times

# \* \* \* \* \* Election 2025 Candidate Guide \* \* \* \* \*

## Orange Republican Candidates

**Christian Young**



- Former Orange Board of Education Member  
 - Attorney practicing law in Connecticut for 15 years  
 - J.D., Quinnipiac University School of Law, 1998  
 - B.A, Calvin College  
 - State of Connecticut Judicial Branch  
 "I am a Turkey Hill parent of two boys, both of whom started school in our town at MLT. Over the years, I have been consistently impressed with the quality of our school administrators, teachers and support staff, and the resulting growth of our children in their care.  
 It is no mystery why our town enjoys such acclaim for its educational system – involved parents who encourage and are encouraged by exceptional education professionals working together for the education, safety, and future of our children.  
 I look forward to moving on to serve on the Amity Board of Education."

**CONSTABLES**

**Jody Daymon**



**Jeff Vargo**



**Mike Donadeo**



**Gary Palermo**



### Sample Ballot Information For Orange

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Orange, Connecticut      Municipal Election      November 4, 2025

Voting District 1

Office	1	3				5	6	8			11			13
	First Selectman Vote for One	Selectmen Vote for Up to Three				Town Clerk Vote for One	Tax Collector Vote for One	Board of Finance Vote for Up to Three			Board of Education Full Term Vote for Up to Three			Board of Education To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One
Party														
Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/> 1A Daniel Fitzmaurice	<input type="radio"/> 2A Erika Higgins	<input type="radio"/> 3A Mitchell R. Goldblatt	<input type="radio"/> 4A PJ Shanley	<input type="radio"/> 5A James Carcano	<input type="radio"/> 6A Mark Moyher	<input type="radio"/> 7A Albert Post	<input type="radio"/> 8A Kevin McNabola	<input type="radio"/> 9A Byron Crosdale Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 10A Lauren Gray	<input type="radio"/> 11A Erin Wilson	<input type="radio"/> 12A Joshua Orlinsky	<input type="radio"/> 13A Kelly Berwick Billings	
Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> 1B James M. Zeoli	<input type="radio"/> 2B William J. Kraut	<input type="radio"/> 3B John J. Carangelo	<input type="radio"/> 4B Judy Smith	<input type="radio"/> 5B Mary Shaw	<input type="radio"/> 6B Thomas P. Hurley	<input type="radio"/> 7B Joseph P. Nuzzo	<input type="radio"/> 8B Ajeet Jain	<input type="radio"/> 9B	<input type="radio"/> 10B Tatiana Messina Mullen	<input type="radio"/> 11B Ronnelle Pompano James	<input type="radio"/> 12B Jeff Cap	<input type="radio"/> 13B Amanda Vargo Zapatka	
Common Sense Orange Party	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C	<input type="radio"/> 13C	
Write-in Votes	<input type="radio"/> 1D	<input type="radio"/> 2D	<input type="radio"/> 3D	<input type="radio"/> 4D	<input type="radio"/> 5D	<input type="radio"/> 6D	<input type="radio"/> 7D	<input type="radio"/> 8D	<input type="radio"/> 9D	<input type="radio"/> 10D	<input type="radio"/> 11D	<input type="radio"/> 12D	<input type="radio"/> 13D	

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Orange, Connecticut      Municipal Election      November 4, 2025

Office	14		15		16		18			21		
	Town Plan and Zoning Commission Full Term Vote for Up to Two		Town Plan and Zoning Commission To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One		Constables Vote for Up to Four			Amity Regional Board of Education Vote for Up to Three				
Party												
Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/> 14A G.G. Cabrera	<input type="radio"/> 15A Elizabeth Marsha	<input type="radio"/> 16A Doug Fenichel	<input type="radio"/> 17A Byron Crosdale Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 18A Santo Galatioto Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 19A Randy Thomas	<input type="radio"/> 20A	<input type="radio"/> 21A Ralph Marguy	<input type="radio"/> 22A Sean-Michael Green	<input type="radio"/> 23A Jennifer Blando Jacquet		
Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> 14B Kevin G. Cornell	<input type="radio"/> 15B Ozzie Parente	<input type="radio"/> 16B Jay McGuire	<input type="radio"/> 17B Gary Palermo	<input type="radio"/> 18B Jody Daymon	<input type="radio"/> 19B Michael P. Donadeo	<input type="radio"/> 20B Jeff Vargo	<input type="radio"/> 21B Meghan Rabuse	<input type="radio"/> 22B Christian Young	<input type="radio"/> 23B		
Common Sense Orange Party	<input type="radio"/> 14C	<input type="radio"/> 15C	<input type="radio"/> 16C	<input type="radio"/> 17C	<input type="radio"/> 18C	<input type="radio"/> 19C	<input type="radio"/> 20C	<input type="radio"/> 21C Donald D. Farnen Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 22C	<input type="radio"/> 23C		
Write-in Votes	<input type="radio"/> 14D	<input type="radio"/> 15D	<input type="radio"/> 16D	<input type="radio"/> 17D	<input type="radio"/> 18D	<input type="radio"/> 19D	<input type="radio"/> 20D	<input type="radio"/> 21D	<input type="radio"/> 22D	<input type="radio"/> 23D		

Note: Orange has three voting districts. The ballots for all three districts are the same.

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## Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

# Handholding In The Real Estate Market

Every transaction to buy or sell a property requires hundreds of man hours. Know-how and diligence are top priorities when working with huge funds, such as those in home sales. Each deal begins with a buyer broker contract or a listing agreement, and many times includes both. These contractual obligations between client and agent start immediately and result in exclusive commitments to successfully complete a real estate transaction. When selling your home or purchasing a property, you do not have to use the same agent on both contracts, but both these separate commitments are legally binding.

From price points to inspections, through to loans and on to emptying the house, your agent knows his or her place and strives to complete the process as your listing agent when you are selling.

When buying a property, especially if you are new at searching, the leverage you receive by working directly with the contracted listing agent of your choice is valuable. As you search for the right property, identifying the pros and cons above emotional attraction, you benefit from realistic input

from your agent. As you go under contract, that agent can assure the prospective buyer that you are secure and stable in your sale.

Researching the comparative sales carefully can make the difference between a great or a complicated contingency in the process. From location and topography to a septic education or the loan process for your individual needs, the help list goes on. Any cost for repairs or environmental issues can, without good representation, result in unnecessary expenses in the long run. All the deadlines, your legal rights and the suggested upgrades can be overwhelming; and each step, in order, should be orchestrated by your representative.

Protocol must be explained to the client up front each day. The process can be lengthy, and it is not the job of an attorney to follow up on each contingency.

As your representative when searching for that special home, it is the obligation of your agent to contact prospective properties



**BARBARA  
LEHRER**

that you may find. Your position as the client is just to pick up the phone and call your agent and let him or her do the research. Is it new? Not on the multiple listing service yet? For sale by an owner? Each of these questions will assist the agent in asking more questions.

Getting you in the door is your desire, but you should not call an agent directly when you are in contract. If you do call, the listing agent should ask you immediately if you are represented. Professionals would rather speak to other professionals to explain the situation. At that point, especially with a private sale, a market evaluation from your agent is imperative to be sure the price is right. For example, some homeowners overprice their properties when trying to sell on their own. But price is determined by most recent sales.

It is important that the client start out on the right foot. If you want a home, be honest with the listing agent, tell them you are represented, you have interest and your agent

will call them directly. A buyer broker contract has many commitments to it, but your agent may also represent more than one client on the same desired property. They may have two buyers who are looking for a colonial in the same price range, in the same town at the same time, but always remaining private.

An active agent who knows the inventory is a valuable asset to any buyer, first time out or not. Real estate has become a tight ship: there is a form for everything and your protection as a buyer has never been better. Just think: for years, realtors got their license to bring the best buyer and price to the sellers. Back then, we all just represented sellers. But the industry revised this process, and now it is time to put your trust in the buyer agent. This contract is just as important as the listing contract is.

*If you need more information on these issues, email [Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com](mailto:Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com).*

## Financial Planning

# Protecting Against The Rising Costs Of Care

The cost of care for our elders is rising at an alarming rate, especially here in the Northeast. Most people know they need to do something, but they don't know what to do or where to begin. Maybe your neighbor did one thing, and your brother-in-law did something completely different. What should you do?

Let's start with the facts. The estimated annual median cost of a private room in a Connecticut nursing home in 2025 is \$192,568, far exceeding the national median. Connecticut is consistently one of the most expensive states for long-term care, a staggering figure by any standard. Assisted living facilities can be \$7,500 per month and up depending on the level of care needed.

Who pays? In most cases, you do. Medicare very rarely covers nursing home and assisted living situations. If a patient is receiving "skilled services" in a nursing facility after a qualifying three-day hospital stay, Medicare will help pay for up to 100 days of care.

What will happen? Individuals (and their families) who require long term care must look to other sources of payment, i.e., their own resources, long term care insurance or Medicaid.

Medicaid is the joint state/federal program that pays for, among other things, convalescent care for eligible individuals. The institutionalized spouse's assets cannot exceed \$1,600, while the non-applicant spouse (called the "community spouse") can keep a portion of the couple's combined assets. The

specific amount is determined on the date of institutionalization and ranges from a minimum of \$50,000 up to a maximum of \$157,920.

Several assets are typically not counted towards the asset limit. For long-term care, the home is exempt if the applicant, their spouse or a disabled or minor child lives there. There is a home equity limit of \$1,097,000 for 2025 that applies in certain situations. Other excluded assets include one vehicle, personal belongings and household goods and burial funds and plots. Term life insurance with no cash value is also exempt, as are other policies if their total face value is below \$1,500. Connecticut Partnership-approved long-term care policies allow individuals to protect additional assets.

Qualified plans and IRAs are not exempt in Connecticut, though they are in some states. The average stay in a nursing home is about three years: \$16,000 a month for 12 months is \$193,000. Over three years that comes to \$576,000. Think about how financially catastrophic just an average stay could be and the adverse effects it could have on your retirement nest egg.

Now that everybody is depressed, let's talk about what can be done. For people who have the chance to plan ahead, the simplest solution may be long term care insurance, which has several variations.



**PJ  
SHANLEY**

A partnership policy allows a Medicaid applicant to shelter assets equal to the amount that the policy has paid out for their care. Here's how it works. If you have a Connecticut partnership policy that has a benefit covering \$750,000, then the policy would pay the facility until the policy ran out. Then you would be responsible to pay until your assets are depleted down to \$750,000, at which time, you would be eligible for Medicaid.

As the industry has evolved, the future of long-term care insurance will be a hybrid policy that functions as both a life insurance and long-term care insurance, so that if the owner never needs long-term care, their heirs receive a valuable death benefit. Some annuities come with a long-term care component that increases the amount of income if the annuitant needs long-term care.

People with a shorter time horizon may want to simply gift assets to their family, but keep in mind that there is a five-year lookback period, so that presents some risk. Caregiver contracts between family members allow the parent to transfer assets gradually to the children in the form of compensation, not gifts.

Or a parent can purchase a life estate in a child's house, meaning that the parent has purchased the right to occupy a share of the child's house for the rest of his or her life. As

long as the parent lives with the child for at least a year before requiring care, this will not be considered a disqualifying transfer. This strategy might work well if a parent is no longer able to live alone and is thinking of selling his or her own home and moving in with a child. Further, parents can rent room from a child or contribute funds to build an in-law apartment in child's house or make other improvements to the house more conducive to senior living.

Another strategy is the Medicaid income-only trust, where an individual places assets in an irrevocable trust that gives him or her all the trust income but no principal. There is a five-year lookback on the funding of the trust, but if the trust is properly drafted and administered, after the five years the principal of the trust is off the table for the purposes of Medicaid.

There are many options out there. The hardest part is usually getting started. The first thing you need to do is begin the process by sitting with your financial advisor and estate planning attorney to come up with the plan that will be best for you and for your family.

*PJ Shanley is a financial advisor with Barnum Financial Group and is a former member of the Orange Board of Finance. He can be reached at 203-513-6282 or [pshanley@barnumfg.com](mailto:pshanley@barnumfg.com). Securities and investment advisory services are offered through qualified registered representatives of MML Investors Services, LLC.*

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# Seafaring Stories From A Milford Captain

By Marilyn May

Most people know about Captain Kidd, and even more know about the fictional Captain Jack Sparrow of “Pirates of the Caribbean” fame. But how many people know about Captain George Coggeshall?

Coggeshall was a highly successful sea captain who kept detailed logs on all his voyages from the time he was a 15-year-old cabin boy up to when he was captain of all kinds of ships and sailed “every ocean.”

He was born in 1748 in Milford and grew up on Gulf Street, not far from the harbor. His grandfather and father were both sea captains, so life at sea was in his blood. In all, he made 80 voyages. In later life, he selected 36 for a book he called “Thirty-Six Voyages to Various Parts of the World, Made Between the Years 1799 and 1841.”

In his early days, many of his voyages from Milford, New Haven and New York were to the West Indies.

Trade schooners, he sometimes found out too late, were often in poor shape and leaked so badly that the crew had to man the pumps – four hours on, four off – around the clock. Almost no schooners had coppered hulls, so they became covered with barnacles and sea grass that impeded speed and caused the wooden hulls to rot. Those vessels were derisively called “horse jockeys,” because they often transported horses, but many died in transit.

On a voyage to the Guianas in South America, Coggeshall had made the “rank” of seaman, and was joined onboard by seaman Stephen Trowbridge, also of Milford. A typical cargo from New England was lumber and live animals – oxen, hogs, sheep, poultry and horses. Schooners returning to American ports were filled with such things as sugar, coffee, oranges, coconuts, molasses and rum.

Coggeshall’s personal logs contained notes on navigation, weather and sea conditions, along with stories about the people he met, including their history and culture. He learned enough of their language to sell his cargo and perhaps buy more.

On a crossing to Europe, the motion of the ship caused a new crewmember to become wretchedly seasick, and the man said, “Well, Mr. C, this is a miserable life; what fools men are to let pride and ambition drive them to sea and thus suffer and endure sickness and every kind of discomfort.”

Coggeshall remarked, “My young friend, your feelings on the subject are perfectly natural; I have heard the same resolves a thousand times from the uninitiated in the mysteries of a sea life. Just wait until you see foreign lands and (have) felt the excitement which the dangers and vicissitudes of such a life are sure to produce, and then after having made a good voyage and got safe back, only think how delightful it is to meet one’s friends and find everyone glad to see you. Depend upon it, sir, you will not willingly remain two months on shore, before you will sign for another voyage.”

During his time in New York and Connecticut ports, he used every chance he could to visit his mother, brothers and sister in Milford. (His father had died in 1800.)

Coggeshall was lucky to have made 80 voyages and lived to tell his story, considering the fate of his six brothers, all born in Milford. Robert and Charles were “lost at sea,” and William and Francis “died at sea.” The deaths of two other brothers, John and James, are listed respectively as “died abroad” and “died in Porto Rico.”

During his travels, the seas were awash with pirates who boarded ships and brutally fought for advantage. At stake were cargos worth as much as tens of thousands of dollars and the lives of the crew. Pirates would either sink a ship or take it as a prize.

In one encounter when boarded by a gang

of pirates, Coggeshall recalls, the fighting raged and then suddenly stopped. It happened that Masonic signs, meant to serve as symbols of brotherhood and shared values, actually won the battle. Most of the cargo was left untouched and all the officers sat down to a congenial supper of cold ham and cheese. Then each ship sailed on its way.

By the time of the War of 1812, Coggeshall was a commercial vessel captain.

There were many reasons why the US declared war on the British Empire, but one was the restrictions put in force by Britain to impede American trade with France, which was at war with Britain.

Coggeshall also recounts many sea battles with, and the capture of, privateers from 1812 to 1815. Unlike pirates, privateers piloted privately owned ships commissioned by their governments with “letters of marque” allowing them to capture and confiscate merchant ships of enemy nations. During the war, American privateers did more to capture enemy ships than the US Navy, which was relatively small at the time.

He writes that with the War of 1812-1815, “British invincibility and British supremacy were at an end. The stars and stripes were no longer a theme of ridicule – our commerce was no longer at the mercy and conducted by the permission and sufferance of England.”

He was hired in 1825 by the New York owners of the “Gov. Clinton” to take the 380-ton vessel around Cape Horn while carrying cargo worth almost \$100,000 to Chile, Peru and Columbia. Before sailing, it was agreed that Captain David Hepburn, also of Milford, be made master of the ship, and Coggeshall would be responsible for selling the cargo at a profit.

As Coggeshall started this trip, he wrote, “Now being assured that I had the entire confidence of my enterprising employers and satisfied that they had allowed me a liberal compensation for my anticipated services, I felt that they were entitled to my utmost exertions and untiring industry to promote their interest in every honorable way in my power.”

The trip down the east coast of South America was routine (except for almost bumping into the coast of Brazil). Rounding Cape Horn was also routine, but in a vastly different way. When they reached the lower latitudes, Coggeshall wrote in his log about mountainous seas, shrieking and contrary winds that whipped the tops of waves into white foam. There were violent squalls, frequent snow and hail, lightning and strong currents running against their progress. There were sunless days making it impossible to “shoot the sun” to calculate the ship’s position. And when the sun did break through the clouds, they sometimes found they had made little to no progress since their last calculations.

“The weather was cold and dreary with much ice and snow about the decks, so that the ship was completely cased in ice,” he wrote, adding that “When water splashed on the deck it froze almost instantly.”

“I made a moderate cal-

culatation that we have on deck and about the sides of the ship at least 15 tons of ice and snow,” he recalled. The thermometer in his cabin showed him what he suspected: the temperature was 24 degrees Fahrenheit.

As if all that wasn’t enough, Coggeshall and crew saw sea creatures: “This day at eleven o’clock in the morning, we saw four strange fish. They were but a short distance from the ship, and appeared to be twenty or thirty feet long, with heads – say about the size of a barrel – which, in swimming, they held above the water. They seemed to be in pairs, and were a great curiosity, as no one on board had ever seen fish of this description.” That was the last said about these serpents of the sea.

Back in New York in between commands, he married his first wife, Sarah Breck Pierpont in Brooklyn in 1816. Their first daughter died at the age of 6 months, and a second girl died before she was 2 years old. Then Pierpont succumbed in 1822, and the three are buried together in Brooklyn. In 1831, Coggeshall married Elizabeth Cottrill, and they had three daughters and two sons. She died in 1851.

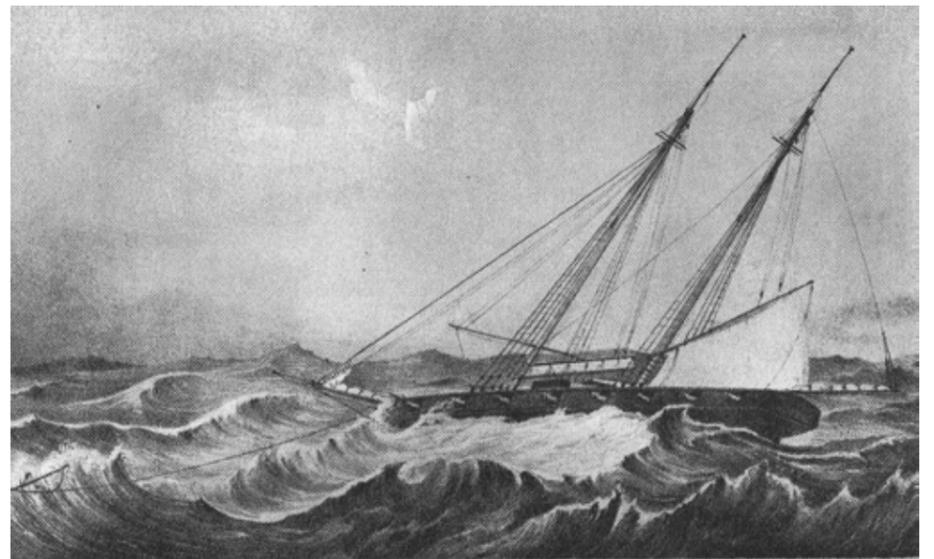
At the end of his 40 years at sea, he writes, “I now began to feel that I was growing old, and that it was about time for me to withdraw from active life. I purpose hereafter to attend to the education of my children, and to spend the residue of life in quiet repose.”

His repose was quiet but productive. He wrote four books based on his time at sea. One was on the “History of the American Privateers and Letters of Mark, Etc.” published in 1856 and reprinted at a later date. In his day, the second printing was considered the authoritative voice on the subject.

Coggeshall died in 1861 and is buried in the old Milford Cemetery where many of his relatives are interred, but there is no stone to mark his grave. It was broken sometime after 1938.

It is sad that this man who faced down the cruelest weather on earth, traded fairly in every port, acted shrewdly with pirates and privateers has no place for his epitaph.

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



The schooner David Porter, built in Milford and shown here in 1814, was first commanded by Captain Adam Pond and later by Captain George Coggeshall, both of this town. Pond was lost at sea in 1823 at age 39. Lithograph by A. Weingartner. Original in Cornell University Library.

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Giving Back

Celebrating Businesses That Give Back

Our small businesses are so much more than the shops and services we pass each day – they are the heartbeat of our towns. They sponsor our fundraisers, donate to our causes and show up quietly, time and again, when someone in our community needs help.

As a lifelong resident and realtor who's deeply involved in local volunteer work, I've seen firsthand how much these business owners give – often without recognition or fanfare.

Through this regular series, I want to shine a light on the people and businesses who make Milford and Orange stronger, kinder and more connected. My hope is to inspire all of us to support those who continually support us – and to discover new ways we can give back together.

Uncle Rufus Media Pro: Where Music Meets Community

For Jeff Iwanicki, founder of Uncle Rufus Media Pro, giving back has always been part of the rhythm of his life. What began as a passion for performing with his band Shot Down grew into something much larger: a

full-fledged event production company that blends sound, media and music with a deep commitment to community.

"I've owned in Milford since 2001, but I've been coming here my whole life," Iwanicki said. "Growing up on Fort Trumbull and Silver Sands beaches, I always felt a strong connection to this town. Once I moved here full time and started raising my family, I saw so many ways to give back and support the community that's given me so much."

That giving spirit took shape with Jeff's Dog Days of Summer series, an event that combined local live music with animal rescue. Partnering with area shelters, the events helped connect dogs in need of homes with loving families across Milford, Orange, West Haven and beyond.

"It started with animal rescue," Iwanicki explained, "and it's been amazing to see how many dogs have found homes through these events."



WENDY BARRY

Over the years, Iwanicki and Uncle Rufus Media Pro have worked alongside countless organizations, including the Junior Woman's Club of Milford, Devon Rotary, Homes for Heroes, Toby's Dream Dog Rescue, the Norma Pfriem Breast Center and local school programs. Through these collaborations, Uncle Rufus has helped raise and donate over \$60,000 to area causes in just the past five years.

I had the pleasure of being one of the many sponsors of and attending Iwanicki's Fall Fest event at Stonebridge restaurant on a recent weekend. The event featured local bands and raffles, with proceeds going directly to the Norma Pfriem Breast Center with the goal of raising \$10,000.

"I'm surrounded by people doing great work," Iwanicki said. "Seeing how much they care – from teachers and volunteers to local business owners – motivates me to stay

involved. We all play a part in the fabric of our community."

Uncle Rufus Media Pro continues to host popular events that bring people together for a purpose. In addition to Fall Fest, they run a Veterans Day celebration at Tribus Brewery, a Toys for Tots drive each December and the Spring Fling fundraiser every spring.

"Supporting local means more than shopping nearby," Iwanicki said. "It's about showing up for our musicians, our small businesses, our neighbors. When you give back, you end up

receiving so much more in return."

Iwanicki's example is powerful: get out to the events, meet your neighbors and be part of what makes our towns special. Because when local businesses, artists and residents come together, everyone wins.

Know a local business that deserves to be recognized? Email [wendy@wbarryrealtor.com](mailto:wendy@wbarryrealtor.com) to nominate a business for an upcoming column. Let's keep celebrating the people who keep Milford and Orange strong.

Case Memorial Celebrating Jane Austen's 250th Birthday

The Friends of Case Memorial Library will commemorate Jane Austen's 250 birthday on Saturday, Nov. 15 with tea and a presentation.

The Friends will offer an array of assorted refreshments to enjoy with tea. Patrons are asked to bring along their teacup of choice in which to savor a brew.

Following the tea, patrons can stay for a presentation about the Regency era, the time in which Austen lived and which enlivened her imagination. Presenter Christina Volpe is well versed in this time period. Volpe is curator and site administrator of the Barnes Museum in Southington.

For her talk, Volpe will have on hand artifacts from the Barnes Museum collection that will help illustrate Austen's world.

Volpe also wears a period costume to further enhance her discussion. In order to give her audience perspective, Volpe will give a glimpse into what life looked like in America during the same period.

Austen completed only six novels during her brief lifetime; she never married, and she died at the relatively young age of 41. Yet she has captured the hearts and minds of millions of people around the world for the past 250 years.

This is the first of several events being offered by the library that lead up to Austen's birthday anniversary on Dec. 16. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at [casememoriallibrary.org](http://casememoriallibrary.org) or call 203-891-2170.

Mermaid Books Opens In Milford



Local bookstore Mermaid Books held a ribbon-cutting with the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 14 to celebrate its grand opening at 22 Broad St. near the Milford Green. From left: Mayor Tony Giannattasio, owner Kristen Mascia and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Advertisement for Saint Mary School PreKindergarten Open House on December 6th, 11:00AM - 12:00PM at 72 Gulf Street, Milford.

Advertisement for Amity EATS Week! Chamber of Commerce event from November 7-15, 2025, featuring various food and beverage sponsors.

Here's To Your Health

# Taking Care Of Your Central Nervous System

Our central nervous system, made up of the brain and spinal cord, is the command center of our body. It controls every heartbeat, breath, thought and movement sending messages between our brain and body at lightning speed. Yet in our busy lives, we often take this extraordinary system for granted. Supporting brain and nervous system health isn't just about avoiding disease, though that is very important. It's about nurturing the very core of who we are: our energy, focus, emotions and balance in our lives.

The central nervous system functions like a high-speed computer. The brain interprets information from our senses, while the spinal cord acts like the highway delivering signals to and from the rest of the body. Billions of nerve cells called neurons send messages through electrical and chemical signals. These signals refer to everything from muscle movement to memory storage and emotional response.

When this system is working well, we feel alert, focused and calm. But when it's overloaded by stress, poor nutrition, lack of sleep or toxins, our communication system becomes sluggish or overstimulated, so the result is brain fog, mood swings, fatigue and chronic health issues.

What we eat directly affects how our brain and nervous system functions. Think of food as fuel for your "wiring." Omega fatty acids like those found in fish such as salmon, sardines and mackerel, as well as flax and chia seeds help maintain flexible cell membranes which allow signals to pass efficiently. B vitamins are crucial for producing neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine, which regulate mood and mental clarity. Antioxidants from fruits and vegeta-



MICHELE TENNEY

bles – especially berries, green leafy vegetables, broccoli and cauliflower – help protect the brain from oxidative stress, a key factor in aging and neurodegenerative disease.

Hydration is also a key component to brain health. The brain is nearly 75 percent water, and even mild dehydration can affect concentration and memory. I cannot stress enough the importance of drinking water all throughout the day.

Exercise is one of the most powerful tools for brain health, especially as we age. Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, delivering oxygen to the brain. You don't need to run marathons: even brisk walking, yoga and gentle stretching can help enhance clarity and reduce stress and anxiety by regulating cortisol and adrenaline levels. Exercise also encourages the brain to release

endorphins, the "happy" chemical which naturally can put you in a better mood. When you move your body, you are strengthening your mind.

We really need to address stress management. Most of us are running on a high cortisol lifestyle. Work, family, children, sports and so much more are things that keep us on the cortisol treadmill. We have to be intentional about reducing stress. Sleep is when the brain performs its most critical state. During sleep your body clears away toxins that build up during the day. Chronic sleep deprivation interferes with this process, leading to cognitive decline.

*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](http://www.elevatePTW.com). She can be reached at 203-668-2969 or email at [Hmgbrd3@gmail.com](mailto:Hmgbrd3@gmail.com).*

## Milford Garden Club To Feature Flowers You Can Use

The Milford Garden Club will hold a program titled "Flowers to Grow and Use" on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. The event will feature edible flowers and easily-dried flowers that can be grown in the garden. Learn about seed sourcing, seed starting,

when to harvest and how to use the plants.

The event will be presented by Maria Macri of Rivercrest Farm, at the DAR building, located at 55 Prospect St. in Milford. There is a guest fee of \$5. For more information, contact [milfordgardenclubct@gmail.com](mailto:milfordgardenclubct@gmail.com).

## MAC Presenting Original Holocaust-Themed Plays

Eastbound Theatre, a division of Milford Arts Council will present "Remembrance," four original Holocaust-themed short plays on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. at the MAC, 40 Railroad Ave. South in Milford.

The staged readings, presented as part of Eastbound's "Plays in Development" series, commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration camps.

The program features short plays by Mark Lambeck and is directed by Lucy Babbitt, both of Stratford. They include: "The Barracks Chief," "Chance," "The Registrar," and "Ben's Story." Two of the plays take place in concentration camps during World War II, while the remaining ones are set some 60 years later in the early 2000s.

In "The Barracks Chief," a concentration camp prisoner refuses food rations on the eve of Yom Kippur. "Chance" is the story

of a minister's wife who visits a psychiatrist after experiencing disturbing visions of the Holocaust. In "The Registrar," a young Jewish woman is forced to register new internment camp arrivals. "Ben's Story" focuses on a graduate student who decides to tell his grandfather's personal story of Holocaust survival as the basis for his thesis only to uncover a family secret.

Actors in the program are Joan Barere of New Haven, Jack DeLorenzo of Milford, Mark Frattaroli of Stratford, Alicia James of Guilford, Jack E. Levine of Beacon Falls and Lynnette Victoria of Bridgeport. Nancy A. Herman of Milford, co-chairman of the MAC's Eastbound Theatre, will read stage directions and lead a Q&A discussion following the performance.

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

## Milford Historical Society To Host Magician, Mentalist



Sisti.

The event, which starts at 7 p.m., is free and open to the public at the Mary Taylor Memorial Methodist Church at 168-176 South Broad St. in Milford.

Sisti has been performing magic full-time for more than 30 years. His brand of comedy magic and mentalism has taken him from local nightspots and comedy clubs to the off-Broadway stage. His list of clients includes numerous Fortune 500 companies, actor Richard Dreyfuss and many others.

Sisti is also a mentalist – a performing art in which he appears to demonstrate highly developed mental or intuitive abilities. As a performance art, mentalism involves using observation, subtle techniques and psychological principles to create the illusion of superhuman mental abilities like mind-reading or prediction.

For questions, contact Katie Murphy of the Milford Historical Society at 203-640-2397 or [katiekmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:katiekmurphy@gmail.com).

The Milford Historical Society will present an evening of "Magic, Mystery and Mind-Reading" on Monday, Nov. 17 with Jim Sisti, a well-known Connecticut magician and mentalist.

## Seminar To Discuss Medicare Plan Options

Trish Pearson Insurance will host a free seminar on Tuesday, Nov. 18 to help people understand Medicare health insurance plan options. Learn everything you need to know about Medicare including the enrollment process and how to choose the

plan that's best for you.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, located at 360 Amity Rd. in Woodbridge.

The seminar is open to all. RSVP by calling 203-799-2327.

6th Annual

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## Orange Highway Department Gets Three New Vehicles



Orange's Highway Department has received three new vehicles. A new bucket truck will be used for traffic light repair, hanging banners at High Plains Community Center, the Orange Country Fair and the Orange Volunteer Fireman's Carnival, as well as for tree trimming. The bucket truck replaces a 25-year-old truck which had reached the end of its days. Two new mason dumps were also acquired to replace two 21-year-old vehicles. Their new stainless-steel bodies should last much longer with continued exposure to the corrosive properties of the rock salt used in winter. These two dump trucks were purchased under the state Department of Transportation's bid process. Photo courtesy of the Orange Highway Department.

# Please join us for Kristallnacht Commemoration 2025:

## *“We’ve Started Something Here We Can’t Stop...”* The Remarkable Rescue Work of Varian Fry

In the spring of 1940, France was invaded by German Forces. Within a month, the French army was overwhelmed and defeated. As a result, many thousands of Jews and anti-Nazis fled to southern France, seeking safety there, as that region of the country was not ruled directly by Germany, but by a puppet French regime.

The French police, however, soon began combing southern France for “Undesirables,” turning them over to Nazi authorities for deportation to concentration camps.

In August, 1940, an American named Varian Fry, aged 33, began running an underground rescue network in southern France. His work ultimately enabled nearly 2,000 refugees to escape persecution and death at the hands of Nazi Germany. Among them, was famed artist Marc Chagall. In August, 1941, Varian Fry was arrested by the French police for his activities and expelled from France.

**Who was Varian Fry? What motivated him to do this? How did he accomplish it? Why did Connecticut just designate Fry’s birthday as “Varian Fry Day?” COME AND LEARN!**

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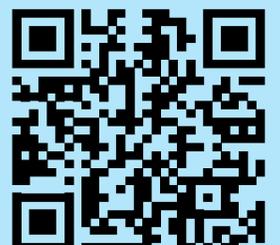
IMAGE CREDIT: IRC

***“We’ve started something here we can’t stop... Hundreds are depending on us; we can’t just tell them ‘we’re leaving’. I could no more abandon them than I could abandon my own children!”***

—From a letter by Varian Fry to his wife

### PROGRAM’S EVENTS:

- Bella Meyer will recall how her grandparents, Marc Chagall & Bella Chagall, were rescued by Varian Fry.
- Danielle Kinstlinger, a member of our community who was rescued by Varian Fry, will reflect on Fry’s life-saving courage.
- David Pettigrew, CSU Professor & Chairperson of the Philosophy Dept. at Southern CT State University, will speak on Connecticut’s newest date of observance: October 15, Varian Fry’s birthday.
- U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal will present a Senate Certificate of Special Recognition to the family of Varian Fry, to be accepted by Linda Stillman, Varian’s niece.
- State Representative Matt Blumenthal will present a State of Connecticut Citation to Varian Fry’s family.



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**Insuring Your Future**

# Halloween Is Not The Only Scary Event In October

With the onset of open enrollment, I have spoken with many people over the past two weeks and heard several concerns about the future of Medicare.

To put it simply: the reports of its demise are greatly exaggerated. Medicare is still intact as we know it. Part A will still cover hospital stays, with no premium; Part B will cover 80 percent of all other medical expenses, and the standard monthly premium will be \$206. Part D prescription plans will still cover medications with a \$2,100 out-of-pocket maximum. Part C (Medicare Advantage plans) will still be available.

However, some insurance companies will no longer offer \$0 premium plans in Connecticut, which means some people will have to seek alternatives. There are still plenty of good and affordable options available with a variety of carriers. Some added benefits such as dental, eyewear al-

lowance, over-the-counter benefits and hearing aids may be reduced. However, the core medical benefits will still be, some with slightly higher copays. This is the most important part of a Medicare Advantage plan because it protects us from the greatest potential expenses.

This is also the time of year when the scary, predatory phone calls, texts and emails begin. Be prepared to ignore all of them. Never speak to someone over the phone about health insurance unless you know them. Make an appointment to speak with a licensed insurance agent or attend a presentation at the area library or senior center. The phone calls come from paid telemarketers who get you on the phone, engage in conversation and then



**TRISH PEARSON**

connect you with an insurance agent who may be in Wisconsin, Wyoming or Washington. You will never speak with them again if you have a problem or a follow-up question.

There is no joy in Mudville, also known as renewal and open enrollment for those who get their health insurance through the Access Health CT exchange. Renewal letters began going out from Anthem and ConnectiCare last week. Premiums have increased 10 percent on average, and advanced premium tax credits have decreased to pre-2021 levels. This means the net cost for many households for health insurance has increased dramatically.

There is no magic bullet solution. The hope is that Congress will realize the sever-

ity of the situation and extend the current tax credits using current income eligibility rules, which will reduce the net premium cost. The best advice is to wait on renewing current coverage in the hope that adjustments will be made. Open enrollment for individual plans is Nov. 1 to Dec. 15. Waiting until Dec. 1 is a good idea.

Many people believe that health insurance is a right, not a privilege. We expect people to make health insurance a priority to protect themselves against a mountain of medical debt and to pay something for it. At the same time, we should expect elected leaders in this country to make it a priority to keep health insurance affordable. Perhaps ballrooms and private jets could wait?

*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**

# Disney Dream – Cruise Or Land?

We recently returned from a four-night cruise on Disney Dream out of Fort Lauderdale, to Nassau and Lighthouse Cay private island on the southern tip of Eleuthera in the Bahamas.

Based on my experience, the Disney cruise option may outweigh a parks visit for certain families with kids from 4-8, especially for multigenerational family vacations.

Here's why. First, it's easy to enjoy everything Disney has to offer: visits with characters are plentiful; kids clubs span every age group, from 6 months to teenagers; multiple pools exist for every age group; and there are activities throughout the day and night. This latter includes a shorter Broadway version of "Beauty and the Beast" and "Pirates of the Caribbean" pool party complete with fireworks. Plus, there's no dragging tired kids (and parents) all over the Disney parks

in the heat.

Everything is included on the cruise: food and non-alcoholic drinks in three different restaurants, with your dining room rotating each night (along with your waitstaff). Convenient DIY restaurants for quick breakfasts and lunches are also included.

There's a great aqua duck ride onboard the Disney Dream, the cruise version of the traditional log flume ride, plus multiple activities at the various pools, customized to different age groups.

Then there's the new private island – Lighthouse Cay – which is an elevated experience compared to any other private island I've ever been to (six and counting). It all starts with a cool walkway to the island from the ship (imagine a curving half-mile



**KAREN QUINN-PANZER**

walkway across the water), tram rides to different parts of the island, family games area, nature and biking trails, free lunch, and included lounge chairs, bean bags and umbrellas. There are adult-only areas on the island for grandparents (or parents who are getting an afternoon off).

Speaking of adults-only areas on the ship, there are two sun-decks with pools, including Cove Café and a swim-up bar. At night, there is an adults-only area with some beautiful lounges, such as Pink Champagne and Wine Bar and Skyline Bar. This bar features digital skylines of world-class cities, which change into the next skyline every 10 minutes or so, preceded by a little fairy dust. There are three craft cocktails featured for each of these cities.

If you want the best views on the ship, there is the Meridian Bar on deck 12, which is located right between the two adults-only specialty restaurants – Palo for exceptional northern Italian cuisine, and Remy, a French restaurant with wine pairings.

Last, but definitely not least, is the family balcony cabins with two bathrooms perfectly suited for families. One has a sink/toilet, while the other has a sink/shower, making for easy mornings and evening bedtimes. The shower is round and doubles as a bath for young kids.

The only concern is that your kids may not want to leave the ship.

*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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## Orange Rotary Hosts Bingo Night



The Rotary Club of Orange hosted its second community bingo night on Oct. 23 in the High Plains Community Center cafeteria. Photo by Steve Cooper.

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# Orange Veteran Honored By Yankees



Mulston.

The New York Yankees honored Warren Mulston, a 102-year-old World War II combat veteran, as the "Veteran of the Game" on Sept. 28 during the Yankees-Baltimore Orioles game. Mulston lives in Orange after being a long-time Milford

resident.

Mulston was a B-26 bomber radar navigator in the Air Offensive Europe in northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe and undertook 48 missions with the Ninth Air Force. While serving, Mulston earned numerous commendations: the Campaign Ribbon with five Bronze Service Stars, American Theater Campaign Ribbon, Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He was a staff sergeant before being honorably discharged in September 1945.

Mulston was born in Brooklyn in 1923 and raised in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. He is a lifelong Yankees fan. After working two and a half years as an errand boy and attending evening classes at City College of New York, he enlisted in the Aviation Cadet Program in July 1942.

Mulston received his doctorate from the University of New Haven in 2024.

# Porchfest Raises \$2,000 For Purple Pantry Boxes



Milford Porchfest on Oct. 4 raised \$2,000 for local charity Purple Pantry Boxes. From left: the individuals pictured are: Jim Pino, Jr., Douglas Edo, and Johnny Mamone of Rum Runners, Joseph Tramuta (their host from Porchfest), and Susan Brown of Purple Pantry Boxes. Photo courtesy of Minnella & Tramuta.

It started with a simple ask from Johnny Mamone, lead singer of local band Rum Runners: let's see if we can raise awareness for local charity Purple Pantry Boxes. From Joe and Meg Tramuta's porch, the band struck a chord, Meg Tramuta passed a donation jar, and neighbors and attendees responded.

Milford Porchfest filled neighborhoods with music on Oct. 4 as fans strolled, biked and scootered from stoop to stoop. From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Rum Runners performed at the home of the Tramutas. Knowing they would draw a large crowd, Rum Runners wanted to see if their performance could make a difference.

By day's end, Rum Runners and the Tramutas helped raise \$2,000 for Purple Pantry Boxes.

Founded in Milford in 2020, Purple Pantry Boxes is a 100 percent volunteer-run pantry. Their barrier-free model is take what you need, donate what you can.

The donations will support Purple Pantry Boxes' network of 13 wooden pantry boxes in Milford, restocked daily with factory-sealed, nutrient-dense foods such as tuna, chicken, beans, pasta, cereal, nuts and protein snacks. They also do home deliveries and have food-sharing partnerships with local shelters such as the Beth-El Center in Milford.

# American Legion Auxiliary Memorializes Past President



The American Legion Auxiliary of Orange Unit 127 recently dedicated a brick at the High Plains Community Center gazebo in honor of Anna May Pieger. Pieger was president of the auxiliary for more than 12 years and a member since she was a young girl. She passed away in December 2024. Photo courtesy of the American Legion Auxiliary of Orange.

MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL

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### 'Lazy' Race Coming To Milford

The Lazy .5K "Race" to benefit Bridges Healthcare is set for Sunday, Nov. 2 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Dockside Brewery, located at 40 Bridgeport Ave. in Milford.

The Lazy .5K "Race" is a playful half-kilometer event filled with games and challenges to raise funds for Bridges Healthcare's community mental health

services and awareness around the mental health challenges faced in the restaurant industry.

Join in for games, food and a leisurely stroll to the finish line. Tickets are \$23.18 per person (with fees) and includes two select beverages and pizza.

Buy tickets at [tinyurl.com/yymn5y2zd](http://tinyurl.com/yymn5y2zd) or learn more at [bridgesct.org](http://bridgesct.org).

### Amity Volleyball Team Raises Funds At Winning Game



Amity Girls Volleyball defeated Sacred Heart Academy 3-1 and raised \$650 in donations for the Smilow Cancer Center in New Haven at their "Dig Pink" home game on Oct. 6. Captains Lily Simons and Nina Nardechhia delivered the donation check. Team photo by Eric Hackett.

### MAC Holding Halloween Dance Party

The Milford Arts Council will host a Halloween dance party on Thursday, Oct. 30 at the MAC, located at 40 Railroad Ave. South in Milford.

DJ Sonja, from Milford, will spin music. There will be a costume contest, though costumes are not required.

The speakeasy will be open for those

21 and older.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the party starts at 8 p.m. The party is free for MAC members, \$12 for non-members in advance, and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at [milfordarts.org/event/mac-halloween-dance-party-with-dj-sonja/](http://milfordarts.org/event/mac-halloween-dance-party-with-dj-sonja/).

### Thanksgiving Dinner To Honor Vets

The Rotary Club of Orange will host a free Thanksgiving dinner celebration for Milford and Orange US military veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at American

Legion Post 127 in Orange. There will be a free turkey dinner with all the fixings at 6 p.m. for former service members. RSVP by Nov. 14 to [post127orange@gmail.com](mailto:post127orange@gmail.com).

### Amity Chamber Hosting 'Amity EATS Week'

The Amity Chamber of Commerce will launch Amity EATS Week over a nine-day, two-weekend timeframe from Friday, Nov. 7 to Saturday, Nov. 15.

Over 17 Amity Chamber members are participating, representing a wide variety of food and beverages for free or at a significant discount.

To redeem offers from each participating business, visitors and patrons simply show the Amity EATS Week webpage, [amityctchamber.com/event/amity-eats-week](http://amityctchamber.com/event/amity-eats-week), an Amity EATS Week social media posting or advertisement on their mobile device.

Specific details on specials, discounts and the time period for each promotion are listed on the site. A printout of the Amity EATS Week advertisement is also acceptable to redeem all offers.

For questions or further information about Amity EATS Week, contact Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen at [director@amityctchamber.com](mailto:director@amityctchamber.com).

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### 'No Kings' Protesters Rally In Milford



Protesters came out to the Milford Green as part of the nationwide 'No Kings' protests on Oct. 18 to voice their opposition to the policies of President Donald Trump. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

### Garden Club Of Orange Holds Flower Design Workshop



The Garden Club of Orange held its first public flower design workshop on Oct. 18. Photo by Ginny Proestakes.

The Garden Club of Orange on Oct. 18 hosted its first flower design workshop and demonstration open to the public, marking a new milestone in the club's longstanding mission to share the joy of horticulture and design with the wider community.

The workshop welcomed participants of all skill levels to explore the art of floral arrangement. Attendees received a ceramic container, floral mechanics and a selection of fresh flowers, setting the stage for a hands-on creative experience.

The session was led by Violet Nastri, the club's chair of design and a co-chair

of the event, who is also a professional interior designer and artist. Nastri guided participants step-by-step through the process of crafting a balanced and beautiful floral arrangement, sharing expert tips on color harmony, proportion and texture.

Following the workshop, guests were provided home-baked treats prepared by club members.

The event also featured a raffle. Co-chair Ginny Proestakes said that the proceeds will benefit the Garden Club of Orange's ongoing beautification projects throughout the town.

### Or Shalom Resuming Discussion Series

Congregation Or Shalom will resume its perennial "Coffee &...Learn" discussion series on Dec. 3 at the synagogue in Orange.

The group consists of people of all persuasions who come together to explore the ancient texts of Jewish heritage, and the light they shed on the issues of the day. It takes place on Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon from late fall to late spring. Every weekly gathering is a self-contained event: one need not attend an entire series.

Past topics have included "Ideas that Changed the World;" "Bible Stories Your Hebrew School Teachers Hoped You Wouldn't Notice;" "The Tower of Babel and Modern-day America;" "The Real David;" "Superman's Biblical Roots;" and "What Does the Bible Say about Extremism?"

All are welcome to attend. Congregation Or Shalom is located at 205 Old Grassy Hill Rd.

### Milford Bank Holds 'Thank You' Party



Milford Bank held a "thank you" celebration on Oct. 15 at its Roses Mill Road location in Milford after being named Business of the Year by the Amity Chamber of Commerce in Orange. Photo by Steve Cooper.

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## Milford Pets Parade In Halloween Attire



The Walnut Beach Association held a Halloween pet parade and costume contest on Oct. 19 at the Walnut Beach arch in Milford. Photos by Robert Creigh.

## Temple Members Clean Woodmont Beach

By Doug Fenichel

About 50 members of an Orange synagogue picked up a watch, a hotel key, a paring knife, sunglasses and even a pair of shorts as they scoured Woodmont Beach in Milford on Sept. 28 as part of their fourth annual beach cleanup.

“We call it reverse tashlich,” said Dr. Karen Fenichel, who organized the event for Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven. “Jews have a tradition called tashlich of throwing crumbs into the water to get rid of their sins. The water is supposed to carry their transgressions away. In reverse tashlich, we take mankind’s sins – all the pollution people create – out of the water. It’s a great time for entire families to spend some quality time on the beach doing something good for the community.”

Fenichel works with the religious school at Temple Emanuel to assure that students as well as the adults are involved. This year, about 50

congregants and friends came together for the event.

“It’s amazing to think Jews all over the world this week are cleaning up beaches and celebrating the Jewish New Year by literally saving the world,” Fenichel said. “The best part is that the kids are deeply involved.”

Kids and adults moved up and down the beach in five groups, picking up trash, putting it in bags and documenting what was found. They looked for all sorts of trash. Cigarette butts were deemed particularly dangerous to wildlife because of the materials used to make them. About 183 cigarette butts were dropped into the plastic bags. In addition, polystyrene cups, syringes, paper, fishing tackle scraps, pieces of glass, rubber material and other trash filled seven bags totalling almost 50 pounds.

“The animals don’t deserve to have so much trash in their habitat,” said Ben Carmelli, 11,

who tallied the trash for one group.

“This is a season when we are thinking about our actions and their impact,” said Rabbi Michael Farbman. “This is a wonderful oppor-

tunity to combine our traditions with those of the rest of the world. It also makes you think about your own actions the next time you walk on the beach.”



Members of Temple Emanuel in Orange organized a cleanup of Woodmont Beach in Milford on Sept. 28. Photo by Doug Fenichel.

### Coffee Chain Opens In Orange



7 Brew Drive Thru Coffee and the Amity Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 15 to mark the grand opening of the coffee chain's new stand at 212 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. 7 Brew started with a Rogers, Arizona location in 2017 and has since expanded with franchises around the country. There are currently two other locations in Connecticut, in Vernon and Wallingford. Included in the photo are Stand Manager Eva Familia holding scissors, Regional Manager Garrett Wilmonth, Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen, Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annmarie Sliby, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, and members of the 7 Brew team. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Perfect Playdate Opens In Milford



Children's indoor play space Perfect Playdate held a ribbon-cutting sponsored by the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 21 to celebrate the business's grand opening at 143 Cherry St. in Milford. From left: Mayor Tony Giannattasio, owner Jennifer Close and her children, and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Burrito Bar Opens In Orange



Barrio Burrito Bar, a fast-casual Mexican restaurant brand, held a grand opening on Oct. 8 of its first Connecticut location at 263 Boston Post Rd. Suite 2 in Orange. The Orange restaurant is owned and operated by Jack Laroche and Marie Amestale. A ribbon-cutting organized by the Amity Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening, which was preceded by a "friends and neighbors" community reception that offered up free Tex-Mex samples the prior week. Included in the photo are Laroche and Amestale holding scissors, Amity Chamber CEO Barry Lee Cohen, Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Annmarie Sliby, chamber members and restaurant staff. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Custom Apparel Shop Opens In Orange



Midnight Creations USA, a screen-printed apparel, embroidery and promotional items shop located at 200 Boston Post Rd. in Orange, held a ribbon-cutting with the Amity Chamber of Commerce to celebrate its grand opening on Sept. 27. Owner Nicole Papadopoulos, pictured holding scissors, and her husband, Alex, were joined by family, friends and customers. An open house followed, featuring pumpkin painting for kids, refreshments and a tour of the company's embroidery and screen printing capabilities. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Wonder Opens In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of food delivery service Wonder's new Milford location on Oct. 2. The company offers curated menus from a selection of over 20 restaurants that can be ordered for delivery or to dine in. The location at 1680 Boston Post Rd. is Wonder's third in Connecticut; the others are in Fairfield and Stamford. The company has other locations throughout the Northeast. Photo by Robert Creigh.

### Raising Cane's Opens In Milford



National fast-food chicken restaurant Raising Cane's opened its latest location at 1455 Boston Post Rd. in Milford on Oct. 2 with a ribbon-cutting sponsored by the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. Included in the photo are Mayor Tony Giannattasio, MRCC Director Simon McDonald, state Rep. Kathy Kennedy and Raising Cane's Area Leader Coryn Princevalley. Photo by Robert Creigh.

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## The Arts

# Falling For The Arts

Fall marks the season of colored leaves, changing daylight hours and brisk air. While it can be exciting to anticipate the start of the holiday season and all the joys and wonderment that brings, it can also be a time of reflection, remembrance and quiet introspection. This month, the arts offer everyone an option to participate in the season's journey. Be invigorated by a West African drum concerto or reflect on the sounds of a cello concert. Rediscover staged classics or spend some time with meaningful new works. Enjoy outdoor sculpture gardens and walk the grounds and trails of a classic home to see the inspirations for stunning impressionist paintings. Take the family for a hands-on crafting and learning community day event. For those who find this time of year difficult, attend a workshop that offers a safe space to explore the emotions of loss through the power of poetry writing. Whether indoors or out, be sure to take in the offerings of the arts this season.

The Shubert Theatre, in collaboration with local high schools, presents **Once Upon a One More Time: High School Edition** with music from Britney Spears' biggest hits. Matinee and evening performances run Nov. 7 and 8 at the Shubert Theatre, 247 College St. in New Haven. This musical production turns favorite fairytales such as Cinderella, Snow White and Prince Charming upside down with a clever twist. Family friendly, this show will be performed by the theater students of Sacred Heart Academy and male actors from many high schools. Tickets are \$23-\$47 and can be purchased by visiting shubert.com or calling 203-562-5666.

Norwalk Public Library in collaboration with Connecticut Book Festivals will hold their **19th Annual Norwalk Author Celebration** on Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Norwalk Public Library's main library first floor, 1 Belden Ave. in Norwalk. Meet and chat with over 70 Connecticut authors, listen to author talks, take part in a raffle and enjoy a "buy a book" – pick a book surprise book giveaway. The event is perfect for those who like to read, support local artists and mingle with fellow writers. For more information visit norwalkpl.org or call 203-899-2780.

Written Word Writer's Group, part of the Milford Arts Council, will host a **Literary Open Mic** session on Sunday, Nov. 9 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the MAC, 40 Railroad Ave. South in Milford. Participants are invited to share their work of poetry, prose, essay, memoir or other literary form from the stage with an appreciative and supportive audience. There are no themes or special requirements. Performers are free, and audience members pay \$5 at the door. Online registration is available at milfordarts.org or by calling 203-878-6647.

Cabaret On Main presents **Mary Poppins: The Musical** by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, with matinee and evening performances from Nov. 7-13, at the New Haven Academy of Performing Arts, 597 Main St. in East Haven. The show is based on the P.L. Travers books and the 1964 film. This immersive production, complete with 360° projections, puts you amid Cherry Tree Lane where the Banks family children are out of control until a nanny named Mary Poppins arrives to take them on magical adventures. Enjoy familiar songs and outstanding choreography with cabaret-style seating offered. Tickets are \$37-\$45 and can be purchased

by visiting cabaret-on-main.com or calling 203-208-9592.

The Bushnell presents **Hamilton** with book, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, direction by Thomas Kail, choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, and musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire. The play is based on the biography by Ron Chernow. Matinee and evening performances run Nov. 4-16 at William H. Mortensen Hall, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. This powerful musical is a revolutionary story of passion, unstoppable ambition and the dawn of a new nation. The story follows the rise of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as he fights for honor, love and a legacy that would shape the course of a nation. Set to a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway, this musical has had a profound impact on culture, politics and education. Tickets start at \$112 and can be purchased by visiting bushnell.org or calling the box office at 860-987-5900.

The Mark Twain House & Museum will offer a **Grief Poetry Workshop** guided by poet and master teaching artist Victoria Nordlund on Nov. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at 351 Farmington Ave. in Hartford. This workshop offers a safe space to explore the emotions of loss through the power of poetry. Welcoming writers of all levels, this workshop offers a nurturing environment to craft verses that reflect the participant's unique journey, to find solace and connection with others and to discover the profound impact of poetry in navigating grief. Tickets are \$40 per person; \$35 for museum members. Register by visiting marktwainhouse.org or calling 860-247-0998.

Hartford Symphony Orchestra presents **Masterworks Series: Dvorák and Rachmaninoff** with conductor and musical director Adam Kerry Boyles, with matinee and evening performances running from Nov. 14 to 16 at the Maxwell M. and Ruth R. Belding Theater, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. This program offers the emotionally rich and introspective melodies of Dvorák's Cello Concerto in B Minor, showcasing the soaring romantic sounds and moments of deep expression that the cello brings to the ear, performed by cellist Tommy Mesa. Enjoy the sounds of Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2, a dramatic and intense work brought to life with a compelling orchestral approach by Boyle. From Dvorák's heartfelt lyricism to Rachmaninoff's grandeur, this program is a journey through two of the most deeply expressive works in classical music. Tickets start at \$42.50 and can be purchased by visiting hartfordsymphony.org or calling the box office 860-987-5900.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will hold a **Community Day in the Sculpture Garden** on Nov. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 258 Main St. in Ridgefield. This free, family-friendly day of art and community will explore outdoor works, guided tours of current exhibitions, and arts and craft events. Families can start the day with a story time with Ridgefield Library inspired by the work of Uman. Create art at the studio inspired by the current exhibitions and the eastern box turtle in hands-on activities led by Aldrich educators. Meet animals from Woodcock Nature Center along with their turtle friends, feel the luscious textures of a moss petting zoo and investigate animal



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artifacts like furs and skulls. Bring seeds to swap or pick up something new for your garden at the native plant seeds exchange table with Caudatowa Garden Club. Take part in a nature-inspired scavenger hunt, and a guided tour of the sculpture garden with members of the Caudatowa Garden Club, the Ridgefield Conservation Commission and The Aldrich's team for a collaborative tour exploring the native plantings and outdoor artworks featured in A Garden of Promise and Dissent and 2025 Aldrich Box. Guided indoor tours of current exhibitions are also offered. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. Food and drink vendors will be on site throughout the day. This event is free. Pre-registration is encouraged by visiting thealdrich.org or calling 203-438-4519.

Eastbound Theatre presents **Remembrance** by Mark Lombeck on Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. at the MAC, 40 Railroad Ave. South in Milford. Comprised of four original Holocaust-themed short plays, this staged reading commemorates the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration camps. Two of the plays take place in concentration camps during World War II and two are set in the early 2000s. In *The Barracks Chief*, a concentration camp prisoner refuses food rations on the eve of Yom Kippur. *Chance* is the story of a minister's wife who visits a psychiatrist after experiencing disturbing visions of the Holocaust. In *The Registrar*, a multi-lingual Jewish woman is forced to register new internment camp arrivals. *Ben's Story* focuses on a graduate student who decides to tell his grandfather's personal story of Holocaust survival as the basis for his thesis only to uncover a family secret. This performance is part of the Plays in Development series and is free to attend. Donations are accepted. For more information visit milfordarts.org or call 203-878-6647.

The Orange Community Farmer's Market will hold their **Orange Holiday Market and Craft Fair** on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the gyn at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. Free and open to the public, this indoor holiday craft fair will host an array of crafters displaying and selling their unique wares and holiday gifts, along with a visit from Santa. For more information call 203-891-1045.

Hartford Stage presents **A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas** by Charles Dickens, adapted and directed by Michael Wilson. Matinee and evening performances run Nov. 22 to Dec. 28 at Hartford Stage, 50 Church St. in Hartford. On a bleak and snowy Christmas Eve, Ebenezer Scrooge wants nothing more than to collect his debts. But when he is visited by a ghostly old friend, Scrooge must confront his own selfish ways and discover the true meaning of Christmas. Join Scrooge and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future on this journey of redemption in a mesmerizing display of theatrical magic and wonder. Tickets start at \$15 and can be purchased by visiting hartfordstage.org or calling the box office at 860-527-5151.

New Haven Symphony Orchestra presents **Feel The Beat**, highlighting Derrick Skye's *Between Suns*, a West African drum concerto with Perry So, conductor

and music director featuring drummers Brian Jarawa Gray and Michael Mills, along with the Southern Connecticut State University Blue Steel Drumline on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. The performance will take place at the SCSU Lyman Center for the Performing Arts at 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. This powerful, rhythm-driven program exemplifies how African rhythms give shape and pulse through classical, jazz and Latin traditions, and will also deliver the vibrant energy of Revueltas' "La Noche de los Mayas" and Gershwin's "An American in Paris." Tickets range from \$10 to \$49 and can be purchased by visiting newhavensymphony.org or calling the box office at 203-693-1486.

The Shubert Theatre presents **Miracle on 34th Street - The Musical** based on the movie of the same name, with book and musical score by Meredith Willson, with matinee and evening performances on Nov. 29 and 30 at Shubert Theatre, 247 College St. in New Haven. In this classic tale, single mother Doris Walker doesn't want her 6-year-old Susan's head filled with romantic notions. Their neighbor, Fred Gailey, tries to woo Doris by charming Susan and taking her to see Santa Claus at Macy's, where Doris works. Doris is not impressed, but when it turns out that Macy's Santa may, in fact, be the real Kris Kringle, a wave of love spreads across New York City that melts even the most cynical hearts. Tickets range from \$42-\$101 and can be purchased by visiting shubert.com or calling 203-562-5666.

The Nutmeg Ballet presents **The Nutcracker** by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, with matinee and evening performances on Nov. 29 and 30 with a two-hour runtime. The show is at the Maxwell M. and Ruth R. Belding Theater, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. This timeless and magical ballet performance tells the story of a young girl and her nutcracker doll that comes to life on Christmas Eve. Tickets start at \$55 and can be purchased by visiting bushnell.org or calling the box office at 860-987-5900.

The Florence Griswold Museum presents **Fall Into Impressionism**, a collection of artworks by American impressionists. This installation runs now through Jan. 4. A collective of American impressionists took to the various states of the nation, capturing the essences of each season. After a hot and humid August, painters looked forward to the cooler climate of Connecticut to paint outside in the drier air, particularly in locales like Old Lyme. Selected artworks from the permanent collection celebrate the appeal of fall to the impressionists, whose flecks of pigment capture the textures and colors of autumn transition, capturing the season's exhilarating vibrance and subsequent muted hues and freshly uncovered landscapes, revealing the essence of light and shadow to bring these fall moods together in one collection. Enjoy the museum's gardens, grounds and trails, the inspirations of these paintings. The Florence Griswold Museum is located at 96 Lyme St. in Old Lyme. For further information visit florencegriswoldmuseum.org or call 860-434-5542.

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

**Pulpit**

**(Continued From 1)**

Mother Cheryl Smith of St. Joseph of Arimathea; Rabbi Lindsey Healey-Pollack of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange; Father Peter Orfanakos of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange; and Imam Endrit Himaj of the Albanian American Muslim Community in Waterbury. Rabbi Emeritus Alvin Wainhaus of Congregation Or Shalom moderated the discussion and contributed his own perspectives.

All of the panelists agreed that they would avoid endorsing individual candidates or parties. But Healey-Pollack struck a chord with her fellow panelists by distinguishing between partisan politics and what she called “the messy business of figuring out how to live together.”

“I would say it’s impossible to talk about Torah without talking about politics,” she said, explaining that every sentence of the text has been the subject of thousands of years of scholarly debate.

The discussion among faith leaders comes at a time when religion and party politics have become increasingly enmeshed, particularly on the right. The stage appears to be set for even more entanglements between faith and the ballot box after the IRS in July reversed course on a decades-old legal rule called the Johnson Amendment that stripped churches of their tax-exempt status if they endorsed candidates for office.

Separation of church and state is a principle that Simpson said the early Congregationalist Puritans who settled New England found important – in order to protect the church from the government. It was precisely the state-led Church of England that drove these groups to flee to America.

“They wanted to escape from the king, and from the church that was headed by the king,” he said. “They had a favorite phrase... ‘No bishop, no king.’”

Wainhaus in his preface to the discussion noted that the same religious texts had often been used to justify opposite stances, such as slavery in the South and emancipation in the North prior to the Civil War.

He said, however, there are a few central sacred values that all religious traditions tend to agree on, such as love, justice, compassion, truth and peace.

“It is these moral values that express the true will of god,” he said, “and I’ve tried to broadcast these values from the pulpit during the 44 years of my career at Congregation Or Shalom.”

Some of the panelists varied in their willingness to touch on hot-button topics of the day. Orfanakos said his tradition was generally apolitical. Himaj said that Islam encouraged social engagement without pushing a particular political ideology. Smith, on the other hand, said her offshoot of Catholicism was explicitly steeped in a call to social justice.

“We don’t tell you who to vote for, but we will share that if someone’s feelings or policies are born of hate, we are not going to adopt those or preach that they’re okay,” she said. “You know where we stand in terms of social justice. And it doesn’t always speak to every person sitting in the pew. But it does speak to our love and our compassion, and the truth that we feel speaks to us through scripture.”

Several of the panelists agreed that there were times when it was very clear which side of an issue religious leaders should fall on, citing such evils as Nazism and Jim Crow laws.

More important than political stances, they said, was the role that houses of worship play in offering comfort. Wainhaus recalled the days after the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting in Newtown, when he and Orfanakos got together – not to organize for gun control, but to offer St. Barbara as an open space for discussion and healing to those who needed

it. “If religion is silent after Newtown, then religion is irrelevant,” Wainhaus said.

**Wages**

**(Continued From 1)**

that the raises for the police chiefs came on the heels of a just-approved contract with the police union that had raised wages among the ranks. The chief and deputies are not covered by union contracts.

“What’s before you is in line with what the union received for both positions,” he said.

He added that the new salaries are close to the median salaries for police chiefs around the state.

The raise for the fire chiefs came out of a recommendation from the city’s Fire Commission, after they determined that compensation for leadership in that department was below market rates.

The fire department’s union contract is not set to be approved until mid-2026, but Alderman Paul Healy pointed out that Fire Chief Anthony Fabrizi also holds a second role as the emergency management director for the city.

“It is an awesome responsibility. The all-hazard approach to emergency management rests on his shoulders and under the administration of his senior officers, and they do an outstanding job,” Healy said.

Alderman Win Smith Jr. amended the fire department raise to make it retroactive to 2024 based on discussion about the fire department being passed over during a general review of department pay the year earlier. Human Resources Director Tania Barnes estimated the retroactive pay would cost the city approximately \$35,000.

The board expressed misgivings about raising the pay for the mayor and city clerk, which are both elected positions up for grabs in the November municipal elections.

The proposal would have raised the mayor’s salary to \$126,710, and the city clerk’s to \$96,812.

Neither the candidates nor incumbents in those offices have requested an increase.

Pay raises for the mayor and city clerk generally go to the board before elections every two years, with the increase scheduled to take effect once the officeholders are installed. This avoids running afoul of state laws and city ordinances that prevent elected officials from giving themselves raises during their term.

“I believe that it’s really not in the best interests of the residents of Milford to go forward with this recommendation, given the increase of costs that we’ve just gone through for police and fire, which of course we support,” said Alderwoman Holly Mulrenan.

The raises for mayor and city clerk failed along party lines, with all Democrats opposed and all Republicans on the board in favor.

**Unspent Amity Funds Go Toward Library Media Centers**

The Amity Board of Education has approved the transfer of \$1,129,132 in unspent 2024-2025 funds to the Educational Reserve Fund. In accordance with board bylaws, these funds were designated for specific capital improvements: replacing the fire pump at Amity Middle School

Bethany, upgrading the district’s technology infrastructure that was last updated in 2019, and renovating the library media centers at the high school and both middle schools.

This transfer is contingent upon the finalization of the 2024-2025 audit, expected in December 2025.



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### Orange Community Women Craft Fair Returning

Orange Community Women will host its third annual craft fair at High Plains Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be more than 50 vendors, food trucks and a raffle. HPCC is located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange.

OCW is a chapter of Connecticut Junior Women that participates in community service projects as well as providing enrichment, leadership and social interaction. For more information, contact [Orangecommunityw@gmail.com](mailto:Orangecommunityw@gmail.com) or visit [facebook.com/orangecommunitywomen/](https://facebook.com/orangecommunitywomen/).

### NOTICE OF LIMITED REGISTRATION SESSION: ORANGE

Monday, November 3, 2025  
Hours: 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Registrar of Voters office, 2nd floor  
Orange Town Hall  
617 Orange Center Road  
Orange, CT

Session of Registrar of Voters to admit those seeking to vote in election whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence were attained after October 17, 2025.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF ORANGE

Notice is hereby given to the residents and taxpayers of the Town of Orange, that in accordance with Section 3.4 of the charter of the Town of Orange, that the Orange Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Wednesday November 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower-Level Meeting Room at the Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT, on the proposed set forth below:

*On the purpose of amending the Code of the Town of Orange to delete Section 5 and 6 of Chapter 307 and to establish a new ordinance to add Article IV Illegal Use of Motorized Recreational Vehicles and Article V Street Takeovers to Chapter 366*

Written comments will be received at the First Selectman's Office until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday November 12, 2025. Thereafter comments should be presented at the public hearing.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut this 30th day of October 2025.

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Orange

### NOTICE OF LIMITED REGISTRATION SESSION: MILFORD

Milford Registrars of Voters will conduct a Limited Voter Registration Session on Monday, November 3, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Registrars of Voters office, Parsons Municipal Office, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT.

This Limited Registration Session is ONLY for those seeking to vote in the November 4, 2025, election that have met the qualifications by turning 18 years old, have become a United States citizen or have become a Milford resident on or after October 17, 2025.

Registrars of Voters

Kerri Rowland  
Debra Fellenbaum

### We Regret The Error

A photo caption and headline on page 24 in the Oct. 2, 2025 issue inaccurately named the organizers of an Italian dinner on Sept. 17 at American Legion Post 127 in Orange. The dinner was solely organized by the American Legion.

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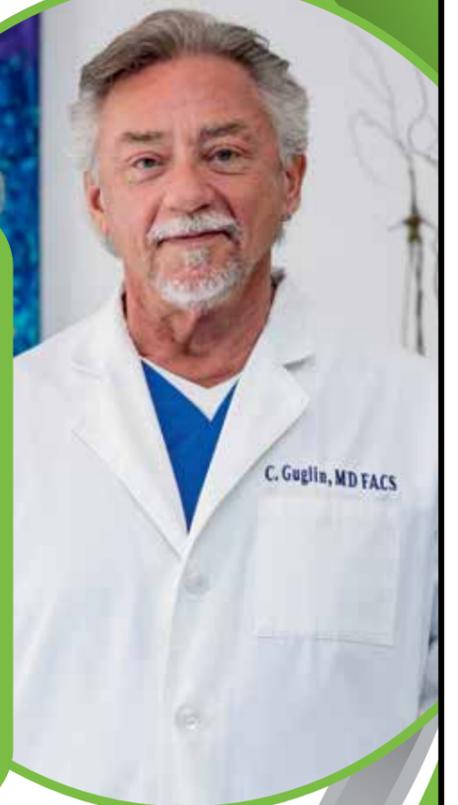
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# Obituaries

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

**Brian J Banas**, 54, of Milford, passed away on October 8, 2025. Born on September 25, 1971, he was the son of Joseph Banas and the late Dolores (Zaledonis) Banas. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Florence H. Bennett**, age 86, of Wallingford and formerly of Milford, beloved wife of the late Richard Bennett, died on Monday, October 13, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Sherri-Lynn Cuny Braccio**, 64, of Milford died suddenly on September 9, 2025. A devoted wife, mother and sister. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**William Robert Brown Sr.**, age 83, beloved husband of 63 years to Linda (Rosenbaum) Brown, entered peaceful rest surrounded by his family on 9/27/25. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Ralph C. Call**, 73 of Milford, passed away peacefully on September 26, 2025 while surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Paula Clark**, 73 of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 13, 2025 while surrounded by her loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Donald Currie, Sr.**, 85, of Milford, passed away on October 1, 2025. Born on July 17, 1940, he was the son of the late Charles Douglas and Dorathea (Everle) Currie. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Angelo "Hank" Thomas Fallanca**, 96, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Isabelle Fallanca, passed away on October 16, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Thomas W. Frigo** of Milford, passed away Friday, October 10, 2025 peacefully at his home with his devoted sister, Karen, by his side. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**William J. Hawes Sr. (Bill)**, 80, of Milford, CT and Ellenton, FL was called home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on October 16, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



It is with great love and sadness that we announce the passing of **Marvin Allen Jamron**, 95, who passed away on September 28, 2025, surrounded by his family. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



**Frank A. Juliano Jr.**, 69, of Morganton, NC and formerly of Milford, died October 09, 2025. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Garrett John Konstantino**, 32, of Astoria, NY, beloved fiancé of Cassandra Bello, passed away on October 19, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Geraldine "Gerry" Alice MacAulay**, 86, of Orange, beloved wife of the late Craig MacAulay, passed away in Milford on September 26, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**George Malishchak Jr.** age 78 of Milford passed away on Oct. 2, 2025. Born in Bridgeport he was the son of the late George Malishchak Sr. and Frances Sudvoy Malishchak. (Dennis and D'Arcy Funeral Home)




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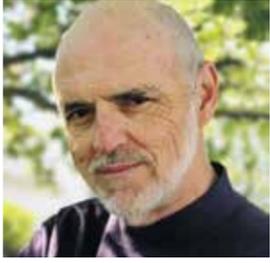
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# Obituaries

**Russell James McCreven**, 86, of West Haven, CT, passed away peacefully, after a long battle with Parkinson's, surrounded by love, on October 18, 2025. (Keenan Funeral Home)



**Lillian C. Potter**, age 88, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Robert C. Potter, Sr. entered peaceful rest on September 9, 2025 at her home surrounded by her loving family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Vincent Sabatino**, 84 of Orange CT, passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness on October 18, 2025 while surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**John Patrick Sullivan**, 75, of Milford, passed away on September 19, 2025. Born on August 19, 1950, he was the son of the late Donald and Gayla Sullivan. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Richard Lawrence Mitchell**, 70, formerly of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 18, 2025. He was born April 14, 1955, in Milford. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Sophie C. Rasile**, 81, of West Haven, entered into rest on October 8, 2025. For the past 59 years, she was married to her beloved husband, Frank A. Rasile. (West Haven Funeral Home)



**Robert Sandmann**, long time resident of Milford, passed away surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness on October 4, 2025 and earned his second set of wings. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Wendy A. Wojczak**, 57 of Branford, passed away peacefully on October 15, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



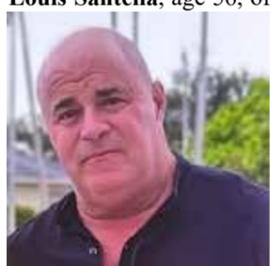
**Anthony "Tony" J. Orsini, Sr.**, 92, of West Haven passed away October 13, 2025 at his home surrounded by his loving family. (Porto Funeral Home)



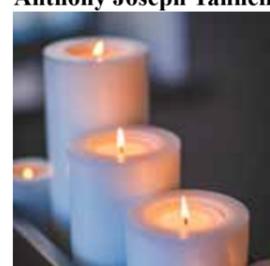
**Glenn E. Renzulli**, age 77 of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025, at home surrounded by his loving family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Louis Santella**, age 56, of West Haven, entered into rest on October 9th, 2025, at Yale New Haven Hospital, with his loving wife, Rose Dinice, by his side. (Riverview Funeral Home)



**Anthony Joseph Yannella**, 22, of Milford, beloved son of James and Pamela (Eyler) Yannella, passed away after a brief and unexpected illness on October 7, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



**Victor C. Pomawski, Jr.**, age 62, of Milford, passed away surrounded by family on October 16, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Irene Elizabeth Brown Riles-Jordan** passed away Fri. Oct. 17, 2025. She was born to the late Allen Brown and Pearl McKinney-Brown on Nov. 10, 1933. (Howard K. Hill Funeral Services)



**Martha Anne Sharpe**, age 88, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Ralph D. Sharpe, Sr. entered peaceful rest on October 10, 2025 surrounded by her loving family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



**Marion B. Yazdzik** of Milford passed away peacefully on September 30, 2025 in her home surrounded by her family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



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- FULLY FUNDED OUR SCHOOLS.
- PROTECTED ORANGE'S NATURAL BEAUTY.
- FULLY FUNDED COMMUNITY SERVICES.
- ACHIEVED STRONG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- CONTINUED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.
- CONTINUED PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS & VETERANS.

Important economic development that Jim Zeoli and his team have brought to Orange over many years plays a major role in mitigating your tax burden.

**ELECT OUR TEAM**

## Experience & Dedication

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John Carangelo



Bill Kraut



Judy Smith

### BOARD OF FINANCE



Ajeet Jain



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