

Milford-Orange Times

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November 22, 2021

Blake Wins In Milford; Zeoli Wins In Orange



Milford mayor Ben Blake.



Orange first selectman Jim Zeoli.

raking in 69.43 percent of the vote total, with 10,504 votes to Republican challenger Peter Berube's 4,625, according to the Secretary of the State's office.

Democrats broadly swept the election in Milford, capturing higher vote totals in each of all five aldermanic districts except the first, where

Minority Leader Tony Giannattasio edged out Michelle Parente for the second-highest total. Because each district seats three members and each party ran two candidates,

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By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Election day was a status quo affair for Milford and Orange.

In Milford, Democratic mayor Ben Blake easily won reelection to a sixth term,

Milford, Orange Mark Veterans Day



Orange held its Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 at High Plains Community Center. Photo by Lexi Crocco.



Milford held a Veterans Day parade on Nov. 7, followed by a wreath layign ceremony on Nov. 11. Photo by Robert Creigh.



Mary Shaw is sworn in as Orange's town clerk in a Nov. 12 ceremony at High Plains Community Center. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Orange Places Moratorium On Retail Pot

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Town Plan & Zoning Commission unanimously voted at its Nov. 3 meeting to place a one-year moratorium on the establishment of retail recreational marijuana businesses in town.

The commission made its decision after the state earlier this year legalized the use and sale of recreational cannabis. Under the state law, towns can choose to ban retail sales in their borders, but those that allow retail dispensaries can add up to a 3 percent surtax to the sales, with the revenue going directly to the municipality.

Only two members of the public spoke

during the public hearing portion of the meeting, but they epitomized the sometimes diametrically opposite perspectives on the drug.

Resident Patrick O'Neil said that he believes marijuana is a "gateway" drug, drawing parallels to the opioid crisis.

O'Neil said that bringing cannabis retailers to town would pose a danger "in creating an environment where there's another potential pathway for addiction."

The other resident to speak was Mitch Goldblatt, who is also a member of the

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Milford Condo Owner Claims Repairs Not Getting Done

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A resident of a condominium in Milford has gotten so fed up with the state of disrepair at his complex that he got US Sen. Richard Blumenthal to write a letter to the Board of Directors.

Robert A. Fiore claims that some of the units at Longmeadow Condos on Jackson Drive in Milford are not getting the attention they need from the management company or the condominium association's Board of Directors.

He cites numerous problems with the buildings, including water that goes into basements or subcellars; leaky and damaged windows and patio doors; damaged bricks, mortar and concrete steps; light fixtures that need replacing; and cracked patios and window

well covers.

"Every time a work order goes in, it takes months to have the work done, many times it is never done," Fiore said in an email. "On two other units as well as my own, I had to put gorilla tape to cover the openings on two patio door frames and one window well cover to keep water and air out."

The complex boasts 215 colonial and ranch-style units in total over 29.1 acres, running along Merwin Avenue and bordering New Haven Avenue and Woodmont. According to the association's webpage, it was the first condo complex in Milford and the second in Connecticut. The units are on the older side for condos, having been built in the late 1960s.

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Volunteer for Orange Bicentennial

The Orange Bicentennial Committee is looking for volunteers to help in all aspects of the town's 200-year celebration. To volunteer, email adenny@orange-ct.gov.

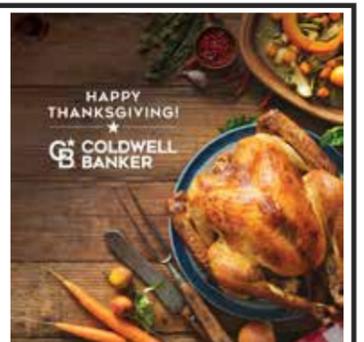


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Election

(Continued From 1)

minority representation is assured.

Democrat Ellen Russell Beatty, running for reelection in the fifth district, garnered the most votes of all the aldermanic candidates. Beatty is also a columnist for the Milford-Orange Times.

Likewise, Democrats edged out Republicans on the Board of Education except in the first district, where Republican Andy Fowler captured the highest vote total, 1,665.

Republicans did not run candidates for Planning and Zoning in the first and fourth districts, ensuring Democratic wins there. But Democrats also pulled out wins in the three other districts.

The reverse trend was seen in Orange, where Republican incumbent Jim Zeoli sailed to a ninth term as the town's first selectman. He received 3,039 votes to Democratic challenger Connor Deane's 2,003, for a total of 60.27 percent of the vote.

Republicans outperformed Democrats for the Board of Selectmen as well, with every Republican garnering a higher total than any Democrat. Because of minority representation rules, the six-member body can have no more than four members from a given party, ensuring Democrats Mitch Goldblatt and Rosanna Cappetta a place on the decision-making body.

One of the most-watched races was for town clerk, a position long held by Pat O'Sullivan, who retired this year. Republican Mary Shaw took the position with 59.04 percent of the vote over Democrat Margaret Novicki, who gave up her seat on the Board of Selectmen to run for the office.

In the race for tax collector, which also involved two newcomers, Republican Thomas P. Hurley won out over Democrat

Mark Moyher. Hurley is also a columnist for the Milford-Orange Times.

Republicans also beat Democrats for seats on the Board of Finance, the Orange Board of Education, the Amity Regional Board of Education and the Town Plan & Zoning Commission.

Milford officials held an inauguration ceremony for the election winners on Nov. 15; Orange swore in its new officeholders on Nov. 12.

In the one regional race to replace the judge in the Milford-Orange Probate Court, Democrat Ben Gettinger beat out Republican opponent Win Smith and will begin his term starting Jan. 1.

"I am honored and humbled to have been chosen by the residents of Milford and Orange to serve as their next Probate Judge. I appreciate the trust and confidence they have placed in me, and I am eager to start working on their behalf," Gettinger said in a statement after the election.

Moratorium

(Continued From 1)

Board of Selectmen. He argued in favor of allowing a retail location with restrictions similar to those currently in place for things like liquor stores. He pointed out that there are people who don't like guns, pornography, alcohol and cigarettes – all of which are allowed to be sold in town.

"By prohibiting this in our town, we are therefore not being business-friendly, and we are not being a town that is welcoming of all types of business," he said.

After the public hearing, commissioner Judy Smith said it might have been a good idea to reach out to police chief Robert Gagne, though commissioner Paul Kaplan noted that Gagne likely would have approached the TPZC or the Board of Selectmen if he had a strong position on the

matter. Smith noted that Gagne and other relevant players could still be sought for their opinions as needed.

The TPZC could have gone several directions: prohibit sales entirely, allow businesses to come in by special permit, or do nothing and allow retail establishments to be treated like any other businesses.

Commissioner Kevin Cornell said that he was personally ambivalent about whether Orange got a dispensary and expected sales would come to the area regardless of what action they took. But, he offered, a moratorium would allow them to observe the rollout and learn from surrounding municipalities.

"I think that a prudent move for us might be to go for a moratorium and observe how this rollout actually occurs around us and in the state to see if it is relatively benign," he said, "or it turns into some crazy storm of this person pointing at that person and 'You gave the permit to this person – I deserve the permit' type of crazy nonsense."

Cornell added that a moratorium would also allow the town to better tailor its regulations for when it was ready to allow sales.

Kaplan said that he was in Goldblatt's camp of favoring businesses to come in, but that he liked the idea of learning from other towns.

"I hadn't really considered that as one of the reasonable alternatives, but it seems to me to make some sense," Kaplan said.

Chairman Oscar Parente said that he felt comfortable with the regulations to allow sales that town attorney Vincent Marino drafted for review, but pointed out that the commission would retain the ability to cut the moratorium short at any time.

"If a couple months from now we see things that prompt us to feel like the coast is clear and we're not concerned about any issues in terms of approving an application, we can act then to regulate," he said.

Condo

(Continued From 1)

Fiore says that management company Levey Miller Maretz has been slow to respond to requests and that the Board of Directors for the association refuses to do mandated work.

"They forget, ignore, dismiss and disregard all their responsibility, because to them it is a burden," he said. "They love the title; however, they just don't know how to work, represent or protect the residents here."

Board president Thomas Ciarleglio agreed that there is work that needs to be done on some of the units, but said that some of that work has been delayed because of supply chain problems, the rising cost of building materials and other pandemic-related issues.

The condo association was recently asked by the board to agree to a \$25 increase in their association fees, in part to pay for that work, but that fee hike was rejected.

Fiore said he had reached out to Milford's planning and zoning and the health department about the needed repairs, but had been told that their ability to intervene was limited. Condominium associations have a degree of autonomy that differs from those of single-family homes and even apartment complexes in some respects.

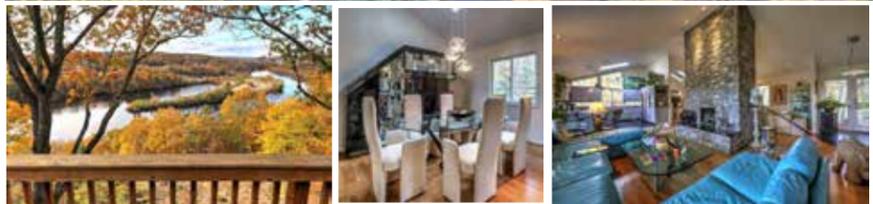
They are, however, responsible for ensuring safety and livability standards – a responsibility that was highlighted starkly by the collapse in June of the Champlain Towers South condominium building in Surfside, Florida. That disaster claimed the lives of 98 people.

Fiore reached out to Blumenthal's office, which provided a letter on Nov. 5 urging the association to address the concerns of the condo owners and provide greater transparency.

"Housing associations have a legal responsibility to act in the best interests of the unit owners and tenants in order to maintain and protect the integrity and marketability of the property," Blumenthal wrote.

A MILLION DOLLAR VIEW!

650 HIGH RIDGE ROAD, ORANGE



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Opinion & Editorial

Gratitude For Our Veterans



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

As I write this column I am reflecting on a day that was full of community pride. It's Veteran's Day, and I had the honor of attending the 10:30 a.m. ceremony in Derby and then doing my very best to make it to the 11 a.m. ceremony in Orange before it ended. Unfortunately, I arrived just as it was concluding. But what I heard repeatedly was what a nice ceremony it was and how good it felt to be able to be around neighbors from all over town to mark the event. Derby residents shared the same sentiments.

I went to Race Brook School after to help run the book fair; they had held their own Veteran's Day parade (with an accompanying slideshow) which gave the students the opportunity to connect the idea of military service with the real people in their community who served.

Coming from a military family, I have an understanding about the sacrifices that our service members make when they take the oath to protect our country. I am the oldest of four children, with three younger brothers, all of whom are combat veterans. In fact, one is still on active duty. Sam, Steve and Adam have made our family prouder than we can ever articulate, but there have also been some very hard deployments and more worry than we could ever account for.

This experience is something shared less and less within our country. According to a 2021 report from the Pew Research Center and Department of Veterans Affairs, there are around 19 million US veterans as of this year representing less than 10 percent of the total US adult population.

With that in mind, I invited students from Amity Middle Schools Orange and Woodbridge/Bethany and Derby Middle School to participate in a Veteran's Day challenge to create an essay, poem, drawing or photograph that illustrated what a veteran means to them and why we should honor and value the contributions of those who have served. I look forward to sharing more information on the outstanding work that was submitted.

I also wanted to echo a challenge that I heard in Derby this morning: reach out to veterans. Check with your local veterans groups, such as the American Legion, VFW, Catholic War Veterans, or House of Heroes to see how you can support them. Contact the VA hospital in West Haven and see if they need volunteers. There may be ways to help that don't take much time or money but could be invaluable to these important members of our community.

Winston Churchill once said that "Never was so much owed by so many to so few" of those who fought to defend his country in his time. I hope we all take the time to give thanks and truly be grateful to the honorable men and women who made the choice to put country above self. Thank you to all of our veterans, with a special thanks and a lot of love going to my brothers.

Keeping Our Kids In School, Safely



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Last week, parents and students heard welcome news from the governor when he announced that Connecticut will loosen mandatory quarantine requirements for unvaccinated students exposed to the COVID-19 virus and give school districts the option of keeping students in classrooms if they do not develop symptoms.

I have heard from many parents this school year that the mandatory quarantining of their children from school due to possible COVID exposure was harming their children's education, causing them to miss days of school instruction and making parents face difficult stay-at-home work situations to due to a lack of child care.

The "screen and stay" program allows students and staff identified as close contacts to a known COVID-19 case to remain in school, even if they are unvaccinated, as long as they complete and submit a screening form to school each day for 10 calendar days indicating that they are symptom-free.

Unfortunately, the former 10-day quarantine which has been in place since the beginning of the school year suggested that when a person was not fully vaccinated and had not tested positive for COVID-19 in the 90 days prior to a new exposure that they remain home in self-isolation for the recommended 10 days from the new exposure or after seven days with a documented negative test result at day five or later, consistent with school district policy.

Children in Milford and Orange were being prohibited from attending school with their peers due to quarantine protocols. Not only is this extremely detrimental to our children's education, but it also puts a significant burden on working families in Connecticut who must find arrangements for their young children staying unexpectedly home for an extended period. The extra burden on our school staff and the emotional toll – specifically on our school nurses, who are constantly sending kids home in tears when they just want to be in school – can no longer be ignored.

As the state representative and member of the legislative committees on education and public health, I have been in constant contact with the area school districts during the pandemic. On this issue and just since the governor's announcement last week, Milford plans to adopt the screen and stay policy, while Orange is looking into the change in policy.

As always, please contact me should you have any questions about this important issue or concerns on any other topics relating to state government at Kathy.Kennedy@house-gov.ct.gov or at 800-842-1423.

Utility Prices Rising



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

A wave of inflation and rising utility costs has stricken many residents in 2021. Unfortunately, these increases come as families, businesses and residents are attempting to rebound from the COVID pandemic. Our local economies have suffered from supply shortages, and now many of the costs of increased demand are being levied on consumers. Paying for utilities is not a luxury, and with the winter approaching, costs for gas, electricity and oil are on the rise.

Both of Connecticut's main electric companies, Eversource and United Illuminating, are increasing standard service rates effective Jan. 1. The year-to-year increase in electricity prices has residents, especially our seniors, concerned for their financial future.

What will the increases look like? For UI, which services Milford and Orange, there will be a 14 percent increase in cost from the effective rate from January-July 2021. This will be reflected on the "generation service charge" section of the bill.

Connecticut residents will be affected by these price increases in numerous ways, but there is no doubt that it will impact certain members of our communities more than others. Many seniors rely on fixed incomes in retirement that do not adjust for inflation, increases in utility rates or other factors.

Energy costs have been higher in the past; in 2015 they surpassed the expected increased rates of 2022. But the rate at which they have increased over the past year is alarming and will send a shock to residents and families who are worried they cannot bear another increase on their bills.

Certain increases in costs can be attributed to natural changes in any service's value over time. The hike in utilities in particular, though, shows a clear causation of mismanagement from leaders in Hartford and Washington. Many of the "green" initiatives and repressive taxes proposed by our state and federal governments are especially damaging to working families and seniors because of their impact on the affordability of necessities like electricity and fuel for their cars.

Hardworking families in my district are looking for relief in their paychecks, at the gas pump, and on their bills. Years of "green" proposals and legislation have left many residents and communities experimenting with alternative energy sources like solar panels, wind farms and electric vehicles. The reality is that none of these has translated to financial relief for my constituents. As a ranking member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I will always continue to advocate for responsible energy policy that prioritizes affordable utility costs for residents with an emphasis on protecting our environment. I do not believe that one must come at the cost of the other.

If you or someone you know is facing utility insecurity, please share this information and reach out for assistance. Please continue to reach me at my legislative office with your questions, concerns and input on legislation and state issues at Charle.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov or by phone at 800-842-1423.

Educating For Future Success



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

As a legislator I have tried to focus my legislative efforts around innovation and opportunity. One of the most important opportunities we can provide our students with is a strong education. I have fought to include computer coding in our curriculum and advance the coding opportunities available to our students. Offering computer coding will provide them with the skills they need to succeed in the economy of today and tomorrow. It is critical for both our students and our companies to develop an advanced workforce.

Why is it so critical that students study computer science? As we move to the internet of things, computer science knowledge will touch everything. Even careers that in the past might not have required tech knowledge will require that knowledge going forward.

For instance, cars have become rolling computers. According to the Association of Computing Machinery, computing drives innovation in the sciences, including vaccine research and environmental monitoring and protection, and also in engineering, business, entertainment and education. Computing jobs are among the highest paid and have the highest job satisfaction. Computing is often associated with innovation. The possibilities for future developments are expected to be even greater than they have been in the past.

Recently, I attended a code.org conference. Code.org is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. Their mission is to give students in K-12 the opportunity to implement computer science as part of their schoolwork. The conference was a great opportunity to be with policymakers and experts on computer science as well as experts on cybersecurity from around the country. It gave me great ideas that I can bring back to Connecticut.

There is currently one plan in place in our state that allows districts to make computer science a graduation requirement. Although it is not mandated, it is a good option should districts want to implement computer science in the curriculum.

I am working on legislation right now that will allow state colleges to accept computer science as an admission requirement. I am also working on acquiring funding for computer science courses. Women only make up 24 percent of those who practice coding in Connecticut. With funding in place, we will be able to ensure that we are giving all students the ability to access computer science courses.

According to computerscience.org, by 2026 computer science research jobs are projected to increase by 19 percent. By 2030, 75 percent of new jobs being created will require computer science. Giving children the opportunity to learn about computer science during school allows them another choice for something they can study following high school graduation. If a student doesn't know about computer science, they may not know of the opportunities that come along with it.

Opinion & Editorial

Commentary:

Billionaires Tax Would Cause Some Problems

Wealth taxes, which have been under consideration as part of Democrats' negotiations over major social spending legislation, would be considered a direct tax and therefore have to adhere to prior precedents of the US Supreme Court.

An 1895 Supreme Court decision in *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co.* gave an expansive meaning to direct taxes. This ruling required what became the 16th Amendment to the Constitution to allow the income tax. This created an exception in the federal tax code that cleared the way for income taxes, but it didn't change the definition of direct taxes, which must be apportioned according to the population of the states.

All states don't have billionaires, so this would be very difficult for Congress to fashion

a way around. While some may want to question what the heck a direct tax is, it is pretty clear that the so-called billionaires tax on unrealized capital gains would clearly fall into the bucket of direct taxes, especially since it is not yet income.

The 16th Amendment didn't repeal the direct tax clauses. It was expected to only apply to income earned by the extremely wealthy when it was passed by the states. No percentage of income or dollar limitations were in the amendment limiting Congress's ability to tax income. Congratulations to the 50.1 percent of you that Congress says are now extremely wealthy and have the



THOMAS P. HURLEY

privilege of paying income taxes. Seeing today what happened after ratification of the 16th Amendment, ask yourself whether future Congresses will limit the new wealth taxes to only 700 people when they can get their hands on more? Start with the value of your home and apply a tax to it as it grows in value. This would be a direct tax. Landowners would be defined as wealthy even if the land produced no income to tax or pay the bill with. Farmers with lots of acreage and retirees who thought they were safe in their homes better watch out. Paying off a mortgage wouldn't look so encouraging anymore.

Congress is playing an envy game: you

don't deserve what you worked hard to get. This is how socialist governments begin to take over their countries. When, in this country, did it seem all right to apply a second tax on what you have saved or never realized? Are we so desperate for cash that now we are even talking about taxing it before you have actually made any money on it?

These dangerous thoughts put everybody's retirement plans in jeopardy. It is always easy to justify spending other peoples' money. These crazy proposals are an intentional way to redistribute your money to select others who have not earned it. Were you just born yesterday?

Thomas P. Hurley is the tax collector for Orange.

Republicans Spend A Lot Too – On The Rich

By Roger Tausig

In his commentary in the Oct. 28 issue, columnist Thomas P. Hurley chose to cite the \$3.5 trillion spending package (now closer to \$2 trillion) put forward by the current administration as a baseline for his analysis of the impact of the national deficit on ordinary taxpayers. As is customary in Republican commentary on this subject, the writer conveniently neglects to mention the impact of the prior administration's contribution to the national debt and instead attempts to create the illusion that the current spending package is the sole culprit for our ballooning deficit that we face in this country.

This is right out of the playbook employed by the GOP, running up the deficit when they are in office without so much as a peep about doing so and then pointing the finger at Democrats, screaming from the rooftops that they are profligate tax and spenders when the other side takes power.

For some balance, consider the following. During the previous administration, \$7.8 trillion was added to the deficit, \$2 trillion of which was the unfunded tax cut that by far benefited corporations and high-income earners (20.5 percent went to the top 1 percent and 65.3 percent to the top 20 percent) in 2018. It was marginally helpful to the lowest earners, the people who needed it the most. According to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, over the 10-year period following the 2017 tax cut, almost 83 percent of the total tax savings will benefit the top 1 percent of taxpayers.

But take a wild guess who is going to pay that bill. Answer: our children and grandchildren. Those who really need a tax cut will receive a pittance while rich people and corporations will receive the lion's share of the benefit.

The rationale given by the authors of the cut was that the tax savings realized by corporations and wealthy individuals would trickle down to the economy through increased hiring and investments by businesses. (Remember

trickle-down economics? That never worked.)

Instead, a huge portion of the tax saving windfall for corporations was used to buy back their stock, which increases their stock price but contributes zilch to the economy. The corporations, which have been reporting record profits year in and year out, didn't need government welfare in the form of a tax cut to operate and grow their businesses. So they just took the tax cut and put it right into their pockets. They're who funds campaigns, so they're who gets paid off.

Conversely, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure actually puts money into the economy by driving employment and production and purchases of goods and services to build bridges, roads, high speed internet and modernized transportation systems. Providing a social safety net strengthens our society and affords low-paid workers the ability to have a decent life where they don't have to work multiple jobs just to make ends meet.

Then there was the perfunctory reference

in the piece to Venezuela and socialism that Republicans rail against except – of course – when their leadership elects to employ a socialist program to satisfy their base. I am referring to the horribly ill-advised tariffs on Chinese goods that served no useful purpose but to reinforce the then-president's tough guy image with his base.

As a result of that foolish gambit, American taxpayers had to bail out farmers to the tune of \$28 billion. That, my friends, is socialism. Still, no outrage or cries of "socialism" about it.

So, please spare us the "gee whiz" faux outrage that only surfaces when it is a convenient distraction from the failings of your party's leaders. Our country desperately needs this \$2 trillion infrastructure bill and all the benefits it provides. It is vastly more cost beneficial to taxpayers than the \$2 trillion corporate welfare given by the previous administration.

Roger Tausig is a resident of Orange.

Everything Is Possible

By Pat Sanders Romano

She's 17 now, but she still has the stuffed toy we gave her so many years ago. She is Sara, the daughter of the owner of a small grocery in a small village high in the Tuscan hills. My husband and I have been going there periodically for 20 years, and each time the town comes to life for us again like Brigadoon rising from the mist.

Sara crystallizes what the town is for the people who live there, and what the town means to us. As a child she played in the piazza, happy and carefree because everyone tended to her. It takes a village. Of course, everyone

knows everyone else's business, and there are competitions and disagreements. Yet an unusual harmony abides.

Franco and Alberto work on opposite sides of the piazza. They haven't spoken to each other in years, but Alberto will cross over to the bench on Franco's side to catch the morning sun. A truce, perhaps? Accepting and helping each other is the way of life and remains a cultural imperative. How residents value their culture underlies how they value their friends and neighbors. It's community. We've learned from them, and they have given us their trust as we, though outsiders, bring a unifying love that binds our culture to theirs.

As if meant to be, I serendipitously came across a piece by Malcolm Gladwell that mirrored the feelings aroused by our friends in the village. It's about a small town in the hills of eastern Pennsylvania called Roseto. Originally an enclave of Italian immigrants, the town grew but maintains a self-sufficient and protective social structure adapted from the old country – one that fosters sharing and giving aid and comfort to each other.

But Roseto is even more remarkable for one particular feature. Residents exhibit a 30-35 percent lower death rate from all causes than that of the general US population. Why was a mystery. Analysis concluded that diet, exer-

cise, genetics and environment were not determining factors.

What accounts for the town's good health is its aforementioned culture, or, in a word: community.

It is the community of Orange and Fieldstone Village I return to, celebrating 10 years here with a commitment to the values made fresh in the Tuscan hills about trust, communication and mutual respect. Brigadoon exists, Sara is now a beautiful young girl, and Franco and Alberto might go for coffee soon. Everything is possible.

Pat Sanders Romano is a resident of Orange.

Letters to the Editor:

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

Thanks for Support

To the Editor:

Thank you to my family, friends, neighbors and the residents of Orange who encouraged, donated and voted for me in this year's race for tax collector. Those who know me say I'm friendly and always smiling, but I'm also quite private and shy among strangers. Life is short, full of surprises and opportunities sometimes happen when least expected. One day Mitch Goldblatt asked me if I would consider running for tax collector on the Democratic ticket. I immediately said yes as I love the town

of Orange and volunteering at events as a member of the Orange Recycling Committee. I have the qualifications and experience for the position so I thought this would be a great way to further serve our community. Even though I didn't get elected, I succeeded in meeting many people and forging new friendships. I'm grateful for the support provided by Jody Dietch and the Orange Democratic Town Committee and thank my fellow candidates for welcoming and sharing their experiences and support along the way. You'll see me around town at events like Paper Shredding & Mattress Recycling Day, the Orange Country Fair and other Orange Recycling Committee initiatives. Please say hello as I may run again in 2023 if called upon and will appreciate your support.

Mark Moyher
Orange

Milford-Orange Times

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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

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Annamarie Amore, Flooring	Matt Gallagher, Finances	Hlene Moyher, Recycling
Carolina Amore, Personal Experiences	Patricia Houser, Environment	Susan Oderwald, Senior Care
Ellen Russell Beatty, Ponder This	Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary	Trish Pearson, Insurance
Cathy Bradley, Running	Jennifer Ju, Bias	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel
Kathy Charbonneau, Orange Chamber	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Priscilla Searles, Orange History
Steve Cooper, Food	Dan May, Earth Science	PJ Shanley, Life Insurance
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For Nature's Sake

The Trouble With PFAS

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, is a group of manufactured chemicals (there are more than 9,000 PFAS according to the Environmental Protection Agency), several of which have been found to pose significant threats to human health. This issue affects air, water and soil quality as well as human health.

Consider some PFAS basics: nearly all Americans have been exposed to dangerous versions of PFAS at various times in their life, including before they were born. In fact, according to a study from the Centers for Disease Control, PFAS can be found in the blood of 97 percent of Americans.

This ghoulish experiment in human chemistry has happened for several reasons. PFAS, while widely produced and allowed into the marketplace, have been under-regulated and insufficiently vetted for safety for more than half a century. PFAS have attractive properties (waterproof and grease resistance) that have led to widespread use in a variety of consumer products and industries. They don't degrade easily (they're sometimes called "forever chemicals" for that reason). And because of their pervasive use and persistence, they now can be found in air, water, soil, fish and wildlife as well as our homes.

But how can we avoid exposure to PFAS? What are the risks, and what are governments doing about the problem? The quiz and answers that follow offer further explanations.

1. Which of the following categories of consumer products can be sources of human exposure to PFAS?

- a) Nonstick cookware
- b) Stain-proof rugs and furniture

c) Waterproof and stain resistant clothing

d) Microwave popcorn bags

e) Takeout food containers and wrappers

f) Dental floss

g) All of the above

2. Which one of the following problems has not been linked to PFAS?

a) Certain types of cancer

b) Thyroid disease

c) High cholesterol

d) Bone spurs

e) Immunosuppression

f) Reduced fertility and birth weight

3. True or false: All take-out food packaging contains PFAS.

4. True or false: The federal government currently does not set enforceable limits on PFAS in public water supplies.

5. Of the following states that have decided to create their own rules about PFAS in drinking water, which has the strictest standard?

a) New York

b) New Hampshire

c) Massachusetts

d) Vermont

e) Connecticut

The answer to question one is "all of the above." These sources of PFAS exposure, and more, can be found on the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and federal CDC websites. PFAS, which among other things is a common ingredient in waterproofing (including Gore-Tex) and stain resistant treatments, not only coat the carpets and clothing with which they are treated – they also enter the air of the places where these items are sold and used. A Sept. 1 article in the Pro-



PATRICIA
HOUSER

vidence Journal cites a University of Rhode Island study that found high concentrations of PFAS in the air of outdoor clothing stores but also kindergarten classrooms with stain resistant carpets and, highest of all, carpet stores.

While not all brands of dental floss contain PFAS (stores do carry PFAS-free dental floss), a study of middle-aged women and PFAS exposure related in a 2019 issue of the Journal of Environmental Exposure & Environmental Epidemiology found that flossing with Oral-B Glide, for instance, was associated with 24.9 percent higher blood levels of a particular PFAS chemical.

In question two, the only health risk not associated with PFAS in human blood of those listed here is bone spurs. The links with cancer, endocrine and immune system problems and more are well-documented and cited by public health resources including the National Cancer Institute, the CDC, and the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Statement three is false. However, research shows this is still a significant source of human exposure and water contamination (when these materials accumulate in landfills). For instance, a 2017 study by the Silent Spring Institute found grease-proof PFAS coatings on 46 percent of food-contact papers (such as hamburger wrappers) and 20 percent of paperboard samples (including French fry boxes) from samples around the country.

Happily, for Connecticut residents, Gov. Ned Lamont signed a law this past July to ban PFAS in food packaging, effective in 2023. As of October of this year, there

are seven states that have banned PFAS in food packaging: California, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington.

Statement four is true. The federal government currently offers an advisory guideline of 70 parts per trillion for water supplies, but that is not the same as an outright restriction. Meanwhile, a Harvard University study has suggested a better number to ensure "safe" levels of PFAS would be only one part per trillion.

In the absence of current federally enforceable limits on PFAS in water, several states across the country have stepped in to better protect their public water supplies. Of those listed in question five, New York now has the strictest standard for PFAS, with an enforceable limit (more than an advisory) of 10 parts per trillion for two PFAS chemicals.

Much of what governments are doing now to protect the public amounts to damage control for a situation that must ultimately be addressed by banning the manufacture and sale of the most dangerous forms of PFAS. While consumers can switch out their old dental floss, Teflon pans and rain jackets for safer models, we all, for our health and the sake of future generations, should support state and federal representatives (from both parties) who are leading efforts to shut off the stream of these chemicals at their source and require safe replacements.

Patricia Houser, PhD, AICP, shares her exploration of local and regional environmental issues in this column as a member of the nonpartisan Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition.

Super Lawyers

We are pleased to announce that our partners, Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd (left), Attorney Nicole Camporale (center), and Attorney Trevor Doyon (right), have been selected to the 2021 Connecticut Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists.

Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd was named to the Super Lawyers list for her work in Estate Planning and Probate. Allison has previously been named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list from 2015-2018.

Attorney Nicole Camporeale was named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for her work in Elder Law. This is the 5th year that Nicole has been named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list since her first recognition in 2017.

Attorney Trevor Doyon was named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in Plaintiff's Civil Litigation. This is the 5th year that Trevor has been named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list since his first recognition in 2017.

Super Lawyers is an exclusive list, recognizing no more than 5% of attorneys in Connecticut. Super Lawyers Rising Stars is also exclusive, recognizing no more than 2.5% of attorneys in Connecticut.

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Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

Hiring Biggest Challenge Facing Businesses

The most critical and widespread challenge facing our local businesses right now is the inability to hire the qualified workers they need. When businesses do not have enough employees, they are forced to turn down job opportunities, reduce hours, scale down their operations and in the worst cases permanently close.



MICHAEL MOSES

The Worker Shortage Index (formerly the Worker Availability Ratio) measures the number of available workers divided by job openings. More specifically, it calculates “available workers,” – defined as people who want a job and are available to work now, a metric that has fallen precipitously in recent months. The latest data reflect that there are half as many available workers for every open job as there have been on average over the past 20 years.

While nearly all states and sectors are facing worker shortages, the data suggest that the challenge is particularly acute in several industries, including hard-hit sectors like education and health services as well as professional and business services. There are far fewer job seekers than the total number of jobs open.

Earlier this year, the US Chamber of Commerce surveyed state and local chamber of commerce leaders about workforce challenges in their area, and the results are striking.

Ninety percent reported “lack of available workers” as the main factor slowing the economy in their area, with two thirds reporting it was “very difficult” for employers in their community or state to hire workers. Respondents were twice as likely to say that lack of workers is holding back the economy

as they are to say that COVID is holding it back. Less than 1 percent said it was easy to fill open jobs.

The US Chamber also surveyed economists at some of the nation’s top trade associations to ask about the workforce challenges in their industry. Across the nation, in industries as diverse as agriculture and construction, health care and hospitality, manufacturing and computer software, the feedback mirrored the findings in the WSI

data analysis: not enough qualified workers to fill jobs.

Seventy-six percent of the respondents reported that businesses in their industries find it “difficult” (52 percent) or “very difficult” (24 percent) to hire workers right now.

When asked how businesses in their industry are doing finding workers now compared to five years ago, the results showed hiring is getting more difficult. An overwhelming 83 percent of respondents saying it was “harder” or “significantly harder” to hire.

While the pandemic has certainly impacted the labor market, the lack of workers to fill open jobs isn’t a new problem. In late 2019, there were more open jobs than unemployed individuals. Keeping our economy growing requires that we fill these jobs. To do so, we need to remove barriers that prevent people from entering the workforce and get individuals the skills they need for the open positions.

I’m confident that with the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, local business and local government working together to grow our workforce, we will build a vibrant and prosperous regional economy.

Orange Chamber of Commerce

A New Chamber For Today’s World

The US Chamber of Commerce came into existence more than 100 years ago, long before the internet and social media changed the face of small business forever. You may wonder how chambers can survive and stay relevant in today’s world.

The Orange Chamber believes that staying relevant requires thinking outside of the box, being in touch with the true needs of local businesses and offering solutions that have measurable value and impact.

The chamber is striving to create a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, community organizations and town administration. This approach makes sense because we serve many of the same constituents and share common goals. It also strengthens the entire community.

Here is a look at some of the chamber’s innovative new initiatives developed to help our community continue to thrive:

Shop Local Club: The Shop Local Club is a free program designed to encourage residents to shop locally. Club members receive exclusive savings when they show their card to participating chamber members. This holiday season could make or break some of our valued local businesses. Joining the Shop Local Club is a fantastic way to support them and bolster our local economy.

Anyone can sign up for a Shop Local Club card by visiting orangetchamber.com/shop-local-club. New offers are added monthly. Avangrid, the premier sponsor of this program, is putting the power of their employees behind it by distributing over 1,200 cards



KATHY CONVERSE CHARBONNEAU

to those who live and work in the greater Orange area. We are also reaching out to other large employers asking them to do the same, with a big push for the upcoming holidays.

Bicentennial Bricks: Did you know that 2022 is the 200th anniversary of Orange? What better way to commemorate Orange businesses and residents past and present than an engraved brick that will remain a part of Orange history. It’s a unique and touching gift idea for loved ones. The bricks will be installed around the gazebo at High Plains Community Center. You will also help the chamber raise funds so that we can continue our work as an essential thread in the fabric of our community character. To order a brick visit bricksrus.com/donorsite/orangetchamberbricks.

Bucks for Bricks: The Bicentennial Bricks program gets even better. The chamber is helping local nonprofits and community organizations raise funds through our Bucks for Bricks program. Bucks for Bricks asks organizations to spread the word about Bicentennial Bricks to their constituents and in return receive \$5 for each brick they sell, plus a chance to win \$500 by selling the most bricks. If your organization would like to take part in this simple, easy-to-implement program, contact the chamber as soon as possible for details.

Stay tuned for more exciting developments in the months ahead. Follow the chamber on Facebook for updates and contact me if you would like to partner with us or get involved in supporting the chamber’s endeavors. Email director@orangetchamber.com or call 203-795-3328. I would love to hear from you.

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Foodie Foursome

Unique Bistro In The Heart Of Devon

The Devon section of Milford on Bridgeport Avenue has been quickly transformed into a foodie destination featuring upscale and casual restaurants.

We visited Hair of the Dog on their first anniversary, and we were in for a real treat, with no begging necessary.

This unique bistro has a whimsical flair and a casual neighborhood vibe. There is a dining room decorated with that flair, a spacious bar area and – weather permitting – a great enclosed patio that has a courtyard feel. On this night, Cindy and I were joined by friends Carol and Steve in the dining room. Owners Sandra DeRosa-Briggs and Crystal Arditio-Meyer have created a fun place to eat really delicious food that is well sourced for the finest and freshest seafood, meats and fowl.

We started out with an amazing round of espresso martinis and appetizers. The four choices were all done perfectly, starting with the “on a wing and a prayer,” plentiful serving of wings and a choice of 10 house-made sauc-

es: hot, sticky or sweet. The jumbo shrimp were poached to be juicy and firm. The French onion soup topped with melted Swiss, cheddar and parmesan was delicious and savory with a hint of sweetness from the caramelized onions. The last app was a unique plating of roasted cauliflower with an abundance of three-cheese sauce. We added lobster to it, making it a decadent “no pasta” version of mac and cheese.

The second course, huge house salads, was a selection of mixed greens, tomato, cucumbers, red cabbage, carrots and red onion with a choice of six house-made dressings. Our second choice was chicken Caesar, which was served with grilled chicken and their own very tasty house-made dressing.

For our entrees, we started off with a lobster roll featuring generous meat pieces poached in butter, packed in roll and served



STEVE COOPER

with fresh seasonal vegetables and coleslaw. Next up was the “fish you were here.” This fish taco of Cajun spiced mahi was well balanced and tasty. It was served in a flour tortilla with pineapple salsa, chipotle lime slaw, avocado crema and great fresh onion rings. People always ask me where to go for fish and chips. You can add Hair of the Dog to the list. The large serving of lightly battered and fried haddock was crispy and tender, with waffle fries on the side.

We completed our third course tasting with two special treats. The first was an incredibly fresh, tender and perfectly seared ahi tuna steak served with rice pilaf and seasonal vegetables. Last was a righteous feast by itself that could feed several people with something for everyone. “Billy’s choir” is designed for low-carb appetites. It includes a 12-ounce grilled New York strip, marinated grilled

chicken and your choice of grilled jumbo shrimp or salmon steak, served with grilled veggies, horseradish sauce, smokey remoulade and house barbeque sauces.

Although we were more than adequately satisfied by the chef’s preparations, it was time for dessert. All were a wonderful ending to a great night. The four choices on this night were the Oreo pie, carrot cake, peanut butter pie and chocolate pie. Their signature dessert, a gelato from Micalizzi’s in Milford, was designed by owner Jay Piccorello in coordination with DeRosa-Briggs. Tonight’s offering was the perfect seasonal choice: pumpkin pie gelato.

Whether you’re looking for a casual yet creative place to meet friends or a night out for a great meal, add Hair of the Dog to your go-to list. They are open most days for lunch through afterhours and have plenty of off-street private parking. They are located at 128 Bridgeport Ave. You can make reservations at 203-301-4455.

Getting To Know You

Calling Balls And Strikes

Some of you know I have an alter-ego. I’m a lawyer by trade and that’s where I spend my work hours, but I also have a side hustle. In my spare time I umpire youth baseball in the New Haven Area.

Three years ago, I joined the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association. That is the organization that provides umpires to high school baseball and many other youth baseball organizations in the New Haven area. I went through their training program and was certified by the state as a baseball umpire.

I’ve really enjoyed my time as a baseball umpire and look forward to doing more of it in the future. I’d encourage anyone who has ever thought of becoming an official in any sport to step right up and give it a go. Right now, youth sports officials of all stripes are in short supply.

I won’t lie to you: officiating in general, and umpiring specifically, requires some commitment and dedication. Any official worth their salt is always trying to improve their craft.

First, you’re going to have to study a bit. During the off seasons, all officials spend time getting to know the rules. While the rules of all sports are pretty standardized, every year brings

a few changes. Also, each association, age group and level of the sport has its own twists and nuances on those rules. There are also on-field mechanics to work out, both individually and with your fellow officials. These are necessary to ensure that at least one pair of an official’s eyes are on every situation occurring on the field of play.

In baseball that can mean learning four or five different rule sets depending upon the levels and age groups for which you umpire. You’ll also have to learn and practice rotations with other members of an umpiring crew to cover the whole field of play.

Second, being an official requires a little mental toughness. During any game officials make decisions based on the rules, and any time an official decides something there are at least 50 percent of the people on the field and in the stands who don’t agree with that decision. A very small minority of people is not shy about letting an official know that it doesn’t like that decision. Add that to the fact that you’re going to just flat



DAVID CROW

get it wrong sometimes. Blown calls happen, so you have to deal with it and push on.

For example, an umpire working behind home plate makes between 200 to 300 split-second decisions every game calling balls and strikes alone. That number doesn’t include fair/foul calls, out/safe calls or any other calls they might make based on the more esoteric rules of the game. That’s a lot of decisions, and therefore a lot of potential disagreements and mistakes in a standard baseball game. Then there’s always the potential for extra innings.

However, I will tell you that officiating youth sports is very rewarding. All of the players I’ve met have been respectful and appreciative. While a few of the coaches and parents have forgotten themselves and maybe lost their cool for a moment, the vast majority of my interactions with parents and coaches has been positive as well. Most coaches and parents remember that one call doesn’t make a game.

As my first soccer coach, Art Labonte, used to remind his players, “We don’t ever lose a game

because of a referee or their calls. We lost because we had a whole game full of opportunities and we didn’t take care of business.”

If you’re consistent, hustling to get into a good position and making strong, decisive calls based on the rules, people almost always will give you the benefit of the doubt. In three years of officiating, I’ve only had one ejection (a coach). I’m proud of that.

If you’ve ever had an inkling or urge to get involved as any kind of official, I strongly suggest you give it a try. This is a chance for you to make a positive impact in a lot of young lives by allowing them to participate in youth sports and stay involved in the sports you love. Without officials it just won’t happen. That’s worth a little extra study time and enduring a few hoots and hollers.

Until next time, y’all come out!

David Crow lives in Orange with his wife and three children. He practices law and he asks everyone to call him “Dave.” Only his mother and his wife call him “David,” and only when they’re mad at him. You can contact Dave at Sit.a.Spell.and.Visit@gmail.com. He’ll always find a half hour for a good chat.

Orange Firefighters Run “Live Burn” Exercise



Screenshot from a contributed video of the recent “live burn” exercise conducted by Orange volunteer firefighters.

No practice scenario can prepare a firefighter to face the intense heat and stress of a real fire. With that in mind, Orange firefighters recently participated in a day of “live-burn” exercises at the Fairfield Regional Fire School.

The firefighters, all volunteers, participated in several scenarios involving real flames, but in a controlled environment with instructors observing and providing guidance. Practice situations involved containing fire, putting fires out under

different circumstances, and rescuing people from fire.

“This training focuses on enhancing the skills of the volunteer men and women who provide life safety and property conservation for residents and visitors of Orange,” said Lt. Dan Abrams, who oversees training for the department. “By practicing and reviewing these skills under harsh, live-fire conditions, we sharpen our competencies and stand ready for the real thing.”

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The Woman Behind One Of Milford's Great Mansions

By Marilyn May

Who hasn't, when going by the Villa Rosa in Woodmont, stood up a little taller to peak at anything that can be seen of the fantastic Poli mansion? Or lingered by the main gate for the briefest glimpse of how the enormously rich once lived?

Who knows how many bright lights of the theater world visited there with Sylvester Zeffe-rino Poli, the theater magnate who in 1916 at the height of his business life owned 30 theaters in various parts of the Northeast?

The Villa Rosa mansion on Abigail Street was a summer home he built and named for his wife, Rosa. Then he built 10 more "cottages" next to the mansion, along an area referred to as the Villa Rosa Terrace, for his children and other relatives.

Most people know Sylvester's story, but little has been written about Rosa.

Rosa Leverone was born in Genoa, Italy and came to America with her family when she was 10. Sylvester came to America in 1881. Years later, Sylvester and Rosa were introduced at a party in New York given by mutual friends. Rosa had been quoted as saying "It was love at first sight."

They were married three months later. Sylvester was 27 and his bride was 16. That was the start of a lifelong journey where they worked together to build a multimillion-dollar theater empire.

Sylvester's story started when as a boy in Italy he liked to sketch and modeled figures, eventually becoming an apprentice to a sculpture artist in Paris. He mastered the art of wax sculpting and moved on to help setting up dime museums with eccentric curios and wax tableaux of royalty, actors, historic scenes or infamous criminals. The dime admission price was set so that most people could afford to go. Meanwhile, he listened in on conversations and learned about the business of museums.

In the beginning, Sylvester made wax sculptures and invited the public in to wherever he found a place to display them. Rosa worked

along with him. She had learned the intricate process of needling hairs on the heads of wax figures and adding beards to some.

This was about the time the couple's first child, Adelina, was born in 1889. A second child, Edward Joseph, was born in 1891.

Looking for a location to begin his business, Sylvester set his sights on New Haven and moved the family there. He rented the second floor in what was then the Hoadley Building at Church and Crown streets for a wax museum. It was so successful that he rented another floor and built a small stage for vaudeville shows.

Eventually, he built his own theater where he could stage "high class vaudeville" shows. He and Rosa cleaned and moved all the curios and wax figures to the new quarters. Out went the bawdy acts and in came clean vaudeville shows that could be enjoyed by the whole family, "especially the ladies."

This was his key to amassing a fortune. He found that the public would pay a dime for wholesome entertainment. That was just the beginning for him.

It was said of Sylvester that he never let grass grow under his feet unless he owned it.

Along the way he produced vaudeville shows and variety shows. He booked performers and sent them out on road shows. He always kept up with the times and built ornate movie "palaces" that he was regularly renovating – more stained glass, more marble statuary, more columns. In the summer of 1894, he closed his Wonderland Theater in New Haven just to have 300 seats added.

Another child, Juliette, was born in 1897, followed by Laurina in 1889. By this time Rosa had already decided to devote her time to caring for their son and three daughters. And then there was one more addition to the family. In 1903 a fourth daughter, Lillian – Lily – was born.

Rosa had a growing family, a loving husband and a beautiful home where she lived in luxury.

Tragedy, however, finds every family. Edward, the only son, died at age 22 after an appendectomy caused an embolism. Both parents were grief stricken. It had been planned that when Edward turned 23 he would take over the business, but that was never to be.

When the US entered World War I in 1917, Rosa took on the task of organizing the Poli theaters to sell liberty bonds and do benefit performances. She was tireless in raising funds for hospitals.

Rosa's great grandson, Walter Poli Sheahan, Jr., who is the last blood relative living on the property today in one of the cottages, was 7 when Rosa died. But he recalls that when he visited "the big house, I always had to be announced."

He remembers that "she lived lavishly but was always frugal," although "she was big on charities." She supported many philanthropic causes, especially the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For all Rosa's charitable works for the disabled and the homeless, Queen Elena of Italy awarded her the Italian Cross of Honor, complete with a tiara and ceremonial ribbon. After that, Sheahan said, "she wore her tiara all the time."

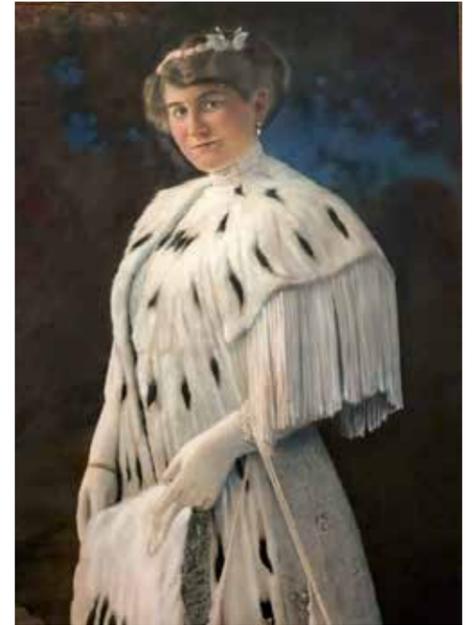
Sylvester spent his final years at the Villa Rosa and died of pneumonia in 1937 at the age of 79.

In the years after his death, Rosa spent winters with her daughter, Juliette, and granddaughter Patsy, on Forest Road in New Haven. In those days, the summer residents left the shoreline at the end of the season, and Rosa's family did not want her to spend winters alone.

Patsy, now in her 90s, said "Grammy Poli was warm, very giving, understanding and thoughtful," adding, "she was beautiful and very, very bright. I loved her."

"She did a lot for the disabled. She had wonderful parties out on the landing for vets and their families," Patsy recalled.

Of the winter visits, Patsy said, "I was very close to Grammy Poli. We had dinner in our din-



Rosa Poli dressed in the finest ermine. She lived in the Villa Rosa that was named for her. Photo courtesy of Walter Sheahan.

ing room every night, and we let Grammy sit at the head of the table."

Patsy also remembered that Rosa Poli always said, "You can marry more money in a minute than you can earn in a lifetime."

"After Grampy died," Patsy said, "Rosa gave every grandchild two houses" along the terrace.

Rosa lived on another 23 years and died in 1960 shortly before she turned 92.

After that, there were years when the mansion was empty or sometimes rented, but slowly it fell into disrepair. At one time the Poli heirs considered selling the entire estate for use as a school, sanitarium or religious order. Today, however, the mansion and all the cottages along the terrace are privately owned.

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

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Your Health

Questions Answered On COVID Vaccines For Children

More than 100 children between birth and 12 have been reportedly infected with COVID-19 in Orange. The long-term complications from this viral infection are still not fully known. However, the good news is that recently a safe and effective vaccine has been approved for children 5 years old and older. Vaccinating our children will decrease the risk of acquiring and spreading the COVID-19 infection in our community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can be infected with the virus, get very sick, have both short and long-term health complications and spread COVID-19 to others.

If your child has a medical risk factor for COVID-19 (including obesity) or lives with someone who does, the vaccine's benefits outweigh the risk.

To provide further guidance I asked my friend and neighbor, Dr. Emily Kovar, a board-certified pediatrician and Orange resident, to address some common questions.

1. Where can I schedule my child for the COVID-19 vaccine?

We encourage you to call your local pediatrician since some offices are offering the vaccine. Pharmacies have begun vaccinating, as well as Yale, CT Children's Medical Center, Griffin Hospital, and Cornell Scott Hill Health Center in New Haven. The Quinnipiac Valley Health District is also offering a pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Sunday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Amity High School.

2. What is the COVID-19 vaccine dose for 5-11-year-olds and how does it compare to the adult dose?

The pediatric dose for ages 5-11 years old is 10 micrograms given in two doses three

weeks apart. The dose for those 12 years old and older is 30 micrograms.

3. If the local incidence of COVID-19 in our area is 1-2 percent, why do I need to vaccinate my child?

Although children can have asymptomatic and mild cases of COVID, one pediatric COVID death is one too many. Children are at risk of getting MIS-C, multisystem inflammatory syndrome, after COVID. There have been over 600 pediatric deaths in the US, and COVID-19 is currently the eighth leading cause of death among children. Children are known vectors for spreading disease. By vaccinating your child, not only are you protecting them, but you are also protecting those around him/her, including elderly friends and family, the immunocompromised and individuals who cannot get vaccinated.

4. What is myocarditis and what are the symptoms? What is the concern with myocarditis after the vaccine?

Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle. Symptoms may include chest pain, shortness of breath and the feeling of having an abnormal heartbeat. In the Pfizer study of kids ages 5-11, there were no cases of myocarditis. However, there were only a couple thousand kids in the initial study. There have been reported cases of post-vaccine myocarditis, most commonly in adolescent and young males, and typically after the second dose. Most cases of myocarditis after the vaccine were mild and self-limited. That being said, if your child is experiencing any of the above symptoms, contact your child's physician immediately.

5. If my child already had COVID-19, should I bother with the vaccine?



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

Yes. The vaccine provides additional protection and would reduce the risk of re-infection from COVID-19 variants.

6. Is there any truth to the concern that the COVID-19 vaccine may affect fertility?

As with all the routine childhood vaccines, there is currently no evidence to suggest that the COVID-19 vaccines impact fertility.

7. What are the common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in kids ages 5-11?

The most common side effects reported were mild/moderate local reactions which included pain, swelling or redness at the site of the vaccine, and/or systemic symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, fatigue, and body aches.

8. If my child is fully vaccinated and is exposed to COVID, will he/she have to quarantine?

If your child has no symptoms, and they are fully vaccinated (two weeks after the second dose) your child will not need to quarantine.

9. How does the pediatric dose compare to the adult dose? If my child is adult-sized, why should he get the pediatric dose?

For children, the dosage is not weight-based. A 150-pound 10-year-old is immunologically different from a 150-pound adult.

10. Can't I just wait and see how vaccinations go before I vaccinate my child?

We recommend getting your child vaccinated as soon as possible. The delta variant is highly contagious and vaccination as well as social distancing and masking are important mitigating factors to curb the spread of COVID and any future variants.

11. If my child is 11, should I wait to get him/her the higher dose at age 12?

No, we recommend getting your child vaccinated as soon as possible. The lower dose still generates a robust immune response to the vaccine.

12. How effective is the vaccine?

The Pfizer data report an efficacy of greater than 90 percent among 5-11-year-old children.

13. Will a booster be needed for kids?

We don't know yet.

14. Are there any circumstances where you would not recommend the vaccine?

There are very few absolute contraindications to the COVID vaccine. If your child is severely allergic to a component of the mRNA vaccine, such as polyethylene glycol, your child should not get the vaccine, or if your child had an allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine.

15. Can my child get both the flu vaccine and the COVID vaccine, or do they have to be spaced apart?

The COVID-19 vaccine can be given safely at the same time as any other routine vaccines, including the flu vaccine.

16. As a parent, do you plan on vaccinating your children?

Yes, absolutely. I am grateful to all those who made this vaccine possible and was eager to protect my children in any way.

Now let's shift gears and review difference between infection versus vaccine-induced immunity. The CDC continues to recommend that all eligible people get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, including unvaccinated people who have already had COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should get vaccinated once they have recovered from their illness.

17. How much is infection and vaccination ultimately helping to achieve herd immunity?

There is no known percentage of people with COVID-19 antibodies, which, when reached, will stop community spread of the virus. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19

helps fulfill urgent public health goals of reducing the risk of infection, severe illness, and death.

18. Are antibodies from infection better than antibodies from vaccination?

No. Vaccination can provide a higher, more robust, and more consistent level of immunity for at least six months to protect people from hospitalization for COVID-19 than infection alone. People who are eligible for a COVID-19 booster should get one. People who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection can increase their antibody response and protection from reinfection by getting vaccinated. Vaccination is the safest way to protect yourself from COVID-19 illness, severe disease and death.

19. Are people who have had COVID-19 prior to circulation of the delta variant at high risk for infection with delta?

There is evidence that people who had an infection with the original strain of the virus that causes COVID-19 early in the pandemic and remain unvaccinated may have reduced protection against infection with the delta variant and other circulating variants being monitored.

The delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than early forms of the virus. The COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the delta variant.

20. Should people get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 on purpose to get infection-induced immunity?

No. No one should expose themselves or others to COVID-19 on purpose. COVID-19 can be serious and can lead to severe complications and death. Also, even people who did not have COVID-19 symptoms in the days or weeks after they were infected can have post-COVID conditions. Vaccination is the safest way to protect yourself from COVID-19 illness, severe disease and death. No one should take the risk of getting infected and facing possible severe outcomes or death when we have highly effective and safe vaccines available.

21. If a person has had COVID-19, are they protected from future infection? What should people who have already had COVID-19 do based on this information?

While people may get some level of protection from a prior infection, we don't know how strong, how uniform, or how durable that protection could be. People's antibody response after infection can vary widely. Vaccination provides a higher, more robust, and more consistent level of immunity to protect people from COVID-19 than infection. People who have already had COVID-19 and have fully recovered should get vaccinated.

22. Should I get an antibody tests to check my antibody levels before receiving a booster shot?

No. According to the Food and Drug Administration, results from currently authorized SARS-CoV-2 antibody tests should not be used to evaluate a person's level of immunity or protection from COVID-19 at any time.

We hope that the readers will find this general information helpful. However, for any specific questions related to your individual situation that are not addressed, please consult your medical provider. We urge you all to follow the recommended guidelines and take the initiative to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection in your household and the community.

Emily Kovar, MD, contributed to this column.

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



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Buyer Beware Of Non-Traditional Health Insurance

Among the many ads for insurance plans currently playing on the radio and TV, by far the most concerning are those touting “alternative insurance plans” or “medi-share.” The announcer claims that these plans will save you money and still provide good, comprehensive coverage. The premise is that everyone “shares” in the medical expenses of the group by pooling their premium dollars.

Sound too good to be true? These plans are not offered through insurance carriers with which you are familiar, and they do not have to follow the standards established by the Affordable Care Act. Excluded benefits can include coverage for annual physicals; no rate adjustment and/or exclusion for preexisting conditions; and no coverage for maternity expenses. The list goes on.

These plans are in fact underwritten by a faith-based organization called Christian Health Care. They offer “biblical health-

care, prayer and encouragement.”

While we can all use prayer and encouragement, that will not pay the doctor or hospital bills. Each month your premium is matched with another’s eligible medical bills. You will know every month whose bills you are paying, and when you have “eligible” bills others in the plan will be sharing and paying for you.

Did they not hear of HIPAA? That does not apply to them either. Eligibility for medical bill sharing is determined after medical services are rendered. Guess who pays if the claim is denied? There is also a 36-month lookback to determine if there are preexisting conditions, and refusal to grant them access to those records means “no sharing of medical bills” – in other words, no coverage.



TRISH PEARSON

Every insurance carrier encourages clients to lead a healthy lifestyle. However, if the insured chooses not to do so, they still have insurance and their rate is not adjusted in any way. The medi-share plans require members to follow a set of faith principles and can be canceled if they smoke, use illegal drugs, participate in activities that represent a willful disregard for personal safety (it’s not clear who decides that) or become pregnant out of wedlock. These plans also do not cover any kind of behavioral or mental health care, including counseling, except on the phone with one of the plan’s “telemental” counselors.

The good news is that there are several individual and family health insurance plans available through the state health exchange,

Access Health CT. There are three insurance carriers for 2022 who are offering a variety of plans at all metal levels. Also, the broader income ranges for qualifying for an advanced premium tax credit will again be in effect for 2022.

Unlike the medi-share plans, these are true health insurance plans that provide comprehensive coverage with no judgement. Open enrollment is currently underway through Dec. 15. If you have questions about your current coverage or currently do not have health insurance, contact a broker who is certified to sell plans through the Access Health CT. They can assist with choosing the right plan at an affordable cost.

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

The Rotary Club of Orange

On Declining Volunteerism

By Roger Tausig



Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Long before I sold my company in 2013, people who knew that

I would eventually make an exit from the business world asked what I would do once I was no longer working. My answer was always that I wanted to travel and, more importantly, participate in activities that benefit those in need and who are less fortunate than I am. After attending a membership recruiting event and learning about Rotary’s philosophy of “Service Above Self,” it was clear to me that this was exactly the type of organization that I wanted to be a part of.

I learned that Rotary International has and continues to play a crucial role in the eradication of polio outside the United States, to the point where total cases are now down to just double digits. Our own Rotary Club in Orange, along with several others in our district, created a program known as “Gift of Life” whose mission, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Santo Domingo, was to organize the creation of a surgical hospital to provide life-saving heart surgeries to hundreds of children in the Dominican Republic.

Domestically, Rotary either funds or executes numerous service projects that supply food, heating fuel, winter clothing and other basic human needs to those who are underserved in our community and the surrounding areas. Most of these projects involved hands-on participation, not simply writing checks.

We currently have a dedicated group of Rotarians who roll up their sleeves and work on multiple service projects annually. But it

is critically important that we bring in new, civic-minded people to continue this important work as time goes on and our membership numbers decline by attrition.

However, as the club’s co-director of membership, I have noticed a disturbing trend in my efforts to recruit new members into our Rotary Club in Orange. Unfortunately, we live in a time when the need for volunteer service is increasing, but volunteerism is decreasing. The space constraints of writing this column preclude me from discussing the reasons for this decline in detail, but it is nonetheless a fact that community service is more vital than ever. The forces at work behind the decline in volunteerism are many, varied and nuanced.

But, in the true spirit of Rotary, I am determined to do everything I can to expand our membership and continue Orange Rotary’s tradition of service to others over a period of more than 50 years.

Perhaps you are a person who has recently become an “empty nester” whose last child has departed for college. Or maybe you have recently retired after a career in the workplace. Rotary offers you the opportunity to perform valuable, enjoyable and personally fulfilling work, side-by-side with like-minded people who feel motivated to help those less fortunate than themselves. It is also worth noting that there is a significant social component to the club, with numerous activities designed to simply enjoy some time together.

If you are interested in joining an organization that makes Orange and the greater community a better place to live and have fun doing it, please reach out to me at rogetausig@yahoo.com or 203-605-5151 and I’d be happy to provide you with more insights on Rotary and the benefits of belonging to this truly great organization.

GCC Foundation Honors DeLauro With Inaugural ‘Lion’ Award



US Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, left with Gateway CEO Dr. William “Terry” Brown. Photo by Amie Sawajing.

The Gateway Community College Foundation recently inaugurated a new “Gateway Lion Award for Outstanding Activism on Behalf of Students,” which was presented to US Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro on Oct. 29 “for her unwavering dedication to Gateway students, for community colleges and for residents throughout her congressional district and beyond.”

The new award has been established as Gateway marks 30 years in the New Haven community and 10 years in downtown New Haven this year. DeLauro was celebrated during a

reception in her honor as part of the Gateway Community College Annual Hall of Fame event, which honors local heroes for their community service.

“As we thought about the criteria, and those who have been relentless advocates for our students, Rosa’s name immediately came to mind,” said GCC Foundation Board Chair Helene A. Augustine. “She is someone who year in and year out, for the entirety of her career, has been an effective ally and advocate for our students, for our college and for higher education.”

DeLauro represents Connecticut’s 3rd Congressional District, which includes Milford and Orange. She was touted for her support of college students through increased Pell grants and child care initiatives that support parents seeking to complete a college degree to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

“It is entirely fitting that the ‘Lion’ award is inaugurated in her honor,” said Gateway CEO William “Terry” Brown. “She is the leader of the pack when it comes to her constituents, and I can say with full confidence that we are proud to be in her pride.”

The Gateway Community College Foundation’s annual Hall of Fame event is the largest source of academic and technology scholarship dollars raised each year to support Gateway students. Many Gateway students, in addition to pursuing academic credentials, are frontline workers who have been directly impacted by the past year and a half. Co-chaired by Ruby H. Melton and LaKisha Jordan, the 2021 Hall of Fame continued with virtual activities through mid-November.



From left, Kevin Dougherty, foundation co-chair Thomas Beirne III, Hall of Fame co-chair Ruby H. Melton, Ena Williams, US Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, foundation board chair Helene A. Augustine, Hall of Fame co-chair LaKisha Jordan, Susan Stone and Paul A. McCraven. Photo by Amie Sawajing.

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The Garden Spot

Time To Clean Up The Garden

With the warm October weather we've had, it's hard to believe that it's time to clean up our gardens and put them to bed for the winter. There are several other important projects besides getting the leaves off the lawn – some involving your plants, others involving your tools and equipment.

This is the perfect time to test your soil so that you'll be prepared for spring growing and planting. The sample should be representative of your lawn and/or garden (you may want to have two different samples tested). Using a small shovel take thin samples of soil from various spots, mix them together, and put about half a pint into a plastic bag. You can either bring a sample to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven or pick up a test kit at a local nursery.

Here's To Your Health

The soil test will give you information about the pH and nutrients in your soil and the type of soil that you have. The pH is very important, since if the pH is "off," the plants have difficulty using the nutrients you apply in the spring. Turf grasses grow best in a slightly acidic soil (5.5-6.5 pH), but the soil in Connecticut is typically more acidic and needs to have limestone added to adjust the pH. Limestone should not be applied within two weeks of fertilization, so now is a great time to add lime. Hold the fertilizer until spring, since it doesn't do anything when the grass is dormant.

Once we have a heavy, killing frost, it's



PAT DRAY

time to toss or take clippings of the annuals and bring any non-weather-proof pots and containers indoors. If your annuals are disease free you can toss them into the compost pile along with the soil. Any plants that seem to have diseases should be disposed of in other ways. Pots and containers should then be brushed clean using a solution of 10 parts water to one part bleach. This will kill any pests, molds and funguses that can infect your plants next spring. Pots should be dried out and then stored in a protected area to prevent cracking due to freezing.

Most perennials can also be cut back at this time, though don't forget that many of the pe-

rennial grasses create great winter interest in the garden while providing shelter for beneficial insects. They can be cut back in early spring. If any of your shrubs or woody perennials are too large for their spots, you can either transplant or, if they are late summer bloomers, prune back now.

Don't forget to clean and sterilize your pruners, spades, shovels and other tools. You can do this by putting some rubbing alcohol on a towel and wiping down the tool. Then oil and sharpen your tools before you put them away for the season.

If you do a little work now, you'll save yourself a lot of work in the spring.

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

Health From A Different Vantage Point

You've heard me say you are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body. I'd like to share with you a conversation I had with a woman of deep faith.

Sharon Bolan runs a ministry that I became familiar with during our lockdown season, and I have followed her ever since. She is a beautiful woman inside and out and speaks boldly about her faith and the importance of a surrendered life. She incorporates health and wellness into the core of it all.

Bolan grew up in a spiritual family and had a modeling career. We spoke about the industry and how many models fall ill to anorexia or bulimia. I explained my own battle with both during high school.

Bolan said she was blessed with a high metabolism and didn't fall into that type of behavior. It was during her early 20s, at the height of her modeling career, when she got

sick.

The doctors could not give her a diagnosis. She suffered from heart palpitations, her equilibrium was off and she was losing weight. This went on for two years, until she decided to surrender her health to God and utilize her faith. She said it was then that she learned what to eat and how to really live. Bolan believes strongly in discipline and also believes it's a choice we should learn to master.

We spoke about living in a world where we glamorize overly thin women, and how even the younger generation is struggling with body image issues. She believes this to be about identity crisis, but says that God created us in his image to express ourselves



MICHELE TENNEY

in many different ways.

Bolan and I both believe our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, so I asked her what she would say to people who may not believe the same. She asked me this question: "Why are homes built? For someone to come in and live. You prepare a place for the real you to live so what do you want your house to look like?"

I too have told my clients if an important person was coming to stay a week at their house they'd have it immaculate, with the best linens and China pulled out and a feast of the best foods.

I asked Bolan to offer some words of encouragement to those who would like to line up their health with their spiritual walk.

"Prayer is key," she said. "God will al-

ways turn things around for his good. Surrender your cares upon him. Let the lord live his life through you. You were made in his image and likeness."

It was such an honor and privilege to have had this Zoom meeting with Bolan. It truly is the passion of not only my heart but hers as well to inspire people to live their lives to the fullest potential. I would encourage you to check her out at SharonBolan.com.

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

Ponder This

Reflections On Relaxation And Conflict Management

Perhaps it is an understatement to say that collectively we all need a reprieve from the election cycle and social media.

A few days ago, I enjoyed a rather pleasant and calming experience within a meeting of a small group of like-minded people. We were gathered outdoors on a beautiful late autumn day with a shared interest in nature and conservation that felt heartwarming. All ages, abilities, races and creeds gathered without conflict or negativity.

Initially, I attributed the lasting feeling of wellbeing to the spirits of the earth. I came to realize on further reflection that what was so soothing was the focus on working toward common goals.

Author Garrison Keillor has recently mused about liking the smaller life of the pandemic. Absent the restrictions, social isolation and confinement, there is much to be said for (and much has been written about) the comfort of a more relaxed daily life. Was this what I was experiencing in my recent pleasant outing – the comfort found in a relaxed daily life outdoors?

I have had the good fortune to be raised by armchair philosophers who knew that quality of life must be measured, in part, by how often and how readily we laugh. This is perhaps why I have the flaw to laugh particularly at my own situation and, of course, my own stories and jokes.

Perhaps due to the election cycle, this pleasure of finding joy and laughter in simple things has been less pronounced.

Since I am hardwired for reflection, I steadfastly continue the search for equanimity that escapes me. With long-standing advantages of home, health, education, employment and opportunity, shouldn't one's restless spirit be calmed? I should be immersed in contentment, yet the relentless quest for peace remains unresolved and my soul remains unassuaged. This, however, is not a bad thing if it is tapped properly and turned in the right direction.

How then to combine these competing



ELLEN RUSSELL BEATTY

experiences of finding joy in common living while working effectively together on complex problems before us becomes something worth pondering. Can we capture the joy of simple pleasures and laughter with the quest and responsibility to make life better for now and the future?

During my pleasant afternoon my heart and mind remained open to the gifts of friendship and wisdom. Can we savor this same sense of good will and determination to more serious political, governmental and public challenges? Can we embrace our full selves, the strength residing in each of us while engaging in necessary conflict over real challenges facing us?

I believe so, but it will require repairing what we have done badly and completing what has been left undone. I write this not as a judgement of others but out of a disciplined inventory of my own actions. Channeling my father, my optimism thinks that

we can work together to solve problems among divergent views. The hard work begins with taking stock within one's own self as to what is left undone and to repair what has been done poorly. This is no easy task.

Can we find wisdom in conflict? I believe the answer is yes. Additional exploration of the emerging literature on conflict management can inform our work and help us to find solutions to pressing problems.

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

Recycling Tip

By Ilene Moyher

Many of us toss items in recycling bins even though we're unsure if those items are indeed recyclable. We think they're recyclable for various reasons, including that the item has a recycling triangle on it, it's plastic or it has only some food residue on it.

However, if unacceptable items are mixed in with acceptable items, it may cause the entire load to get rejected and thrown in the trash – exactly what we're trying to avoid.

If, for example, the mixed recyclables bin at the transfer station gets unacceptable items such as plastic bags, the wrong kinds of con-

tainers or unrinsed food containers, the whole load may be rejected and thrown away (which costs the town extra money). If we really want items to be recycled, we must do more than "wish" they're recyclable; we must follow guidelines established by recycling companies.

Luckily there's an easy website and app where you can simply type in the item and you'll learn if it goes in recycling or the trash.

Go to recyclect.com and enter an item. Example: "black plastic container." The website says, "Put this item in your trash" and gives additional information: "Initially the range of black plastic containers we generate were acceptable in CT's mixed recycling program,

but due to market conditions, CT Material Recovery Facilities have removed these items from our "IN" list. Thanks for adjusting to this change."

One thing to keep in mind for all recyclables is that containers must be empty and free of food residue. Partly filled beverage containers can soak or contaminate a load, which wastes resources at the recycling center and nullifies good intentions. Pet food cans, peanut butter jars and other containers with food stuck inside are also problematic, so it's important to take a few minutes to clean these out.

Plastic bags have unique requirements. They can never be put in with mixed recyclables,

even if they're filled with cans and bottles. Luckily, grocery stores and big box stores (Target, Lowe's, etc.) have receptacles for plastic bags near their entrances or exits. Just collect bags, films and packaging, and drop them in the bin when you go shopping.

Recyclect.com provides easy-to-use materials that people can reference for household use and education. See "what's in" and more at recyclect.com/resources.html. For more on what can be disposed of or recycled at the Orange Transfer Station & Recycling Center, visit orangerecycles.com/transfer-station or follow the Orange Recycling Committee at [facebook.com/ORCinCT](https://www.facebook.com/ORCinCT).

Travel Matters

'Rockstar' Cruise Promises 'Epic Sea Change'

I just got off a very enjoyable four-night voyage on Virgin Voyages' Scarlet Lady, and as anticipated, Richard Branson's new cruise ship is "not your father's cruise ship." Adults only, with 20 restaurants all included, hammocks on each deck, design-forward intimate public spaces and a pink champagne are welcome.

To quote from the Virgin Voyages website, "We're seeking to redefine what you should expect from a holiday at sea and create an Epic Sea Change for all. Scarlet Lady is unlike any other ship you've ever met. With RockStar Quarters, champagne on demand and amazing food, this is cruising but not as you know it."

Let's talk about those RockStar quarters. Our "Seriously Suite" – one of 12 suites ranging from 416 to 2,147 square feet – gives you "rockstar" status, Branson-style, including a record player, a selection of vinyls, a full

bar with the first supply free and access to "Richard's Rooftop." The rooftop is a sanctuary on deck 16 with VIP access featuring sunbeds, jacuzzi and private bar, with food and drinks delivered on demand to your sunbed. You also get your own "rockstar agent" who acts as a concierge to arrange your dining and entertainment reservations. The marble bathrooms are massive with a great rainforest shower.

The food at the onboard restaurants is certainly fit for foodies. One of our favorites was The Wake, a retro steakhouse with a modern twist. Offering dinner and brunch each day, they have three styles of eggs benedict and the best clam chowder ever. You won't be disappointed.

Another favorite was Gunbae, a Korean



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

barbeque restaurant that offers really fun interactive dining, complete with drinking games and barbeque in the middle of your table, bringing you into the action of grilling your meal.

There is a wide assortment of fitness classes, including yoga, spinning, HIIT and cardio workshops – all included – to work off all that delicious food.

Bimini Islands was a favorite port stop. It features the Bimini Beach Club, a beautiful beach and pools with plenty of private lounge chairs. Food is included and drink can be put on your shipboard bar tab.

One of the best things about Scarlet Lady is discovering all her funky and fun public spaces. There are virtual bubbles in all elevators, which was a nice atmospheric touch.

It's great for both first-time cruisers and cruise mavens open to shaking it up a bit.

Speaking of shaking it up, if you have the Virgin app open, you can shake it. Bubbles appear on your phone, and they will bring Moet Chandon to wherever you are on the ship. You can use your "sailor loot" (you prepaid bar tab) to pay for it.

Entertainment on board is different. Duel Reality featured an acrobatic twist on Romeo and Juliet. I have to give a huge shout-out to their house band from Toronto, Free Label. They brought the house down with an R&B set on the last night.

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

Woodmont Church Gets New Pastor



Olds

Woodmont United Church of Christ in Milford has called Rev. Jill E. Olds of Fairfield to be its new settled pastor.

Olds began her ministry at the church on Nov. 1. She is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and has a master's degree in youth ministry. She previously has served as an associate pastor, in children and youth ministries, hospital chaplaincy, end-of-life care and in missionary work. She's currently the director of the Youth Ministry Institute at Yale Divinity School in New Haven.

Woodmont United Church of Christ is located at 1000 New Haven Ave. For more information, call the church at 203-878-3885.

Milford Chamber Holds After Hours



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a business after hours event on Oct. 14 at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. Photo by Gregory Geiger.

KMW Leisure's Future Trips

Nov. 30th NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS & TRAIN SHOW

This beloved tradition returns for its 30th year with a miniature wonderland in the warmth of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Marvel at model trains zipping through an enchanting display of more than 175 famous New York landmarks—imagine the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Rockefeller Center, and other favorites—each delightfully re-created from natural materials such as pinecones, acorns, and seeds

Dec. 2nd Ivoryton Playhouse: CHRISTMAS SURVIVAL GUIDE

This intimate revie takes a dry and knowing look at a stressful season. Armed with a copy of A Christmas Survival Guide and an optimistic attitude, the characters charge into an urban holiday landscape searching for the true essence of Christmas.

Dec. 7th A NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS – WHAT A HOLIDAY SHOW

Come and hear some of your favorite Christmas songs country style with A Nashville Christmas. With some great traditional country music sprinkled in and a few special guest appearances by some folks you might know!

Dec. 8th AQUA TURF PRESENTS: The Edwards Twins

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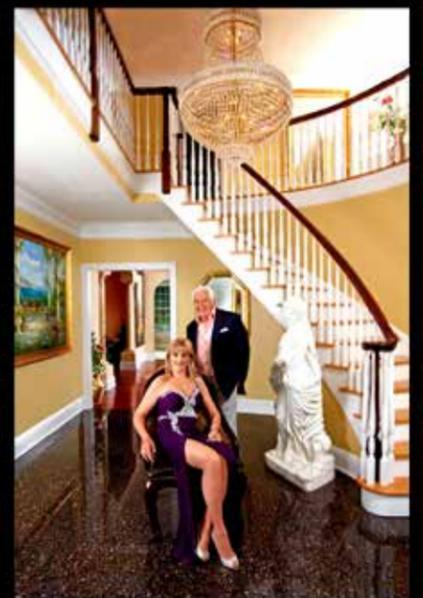
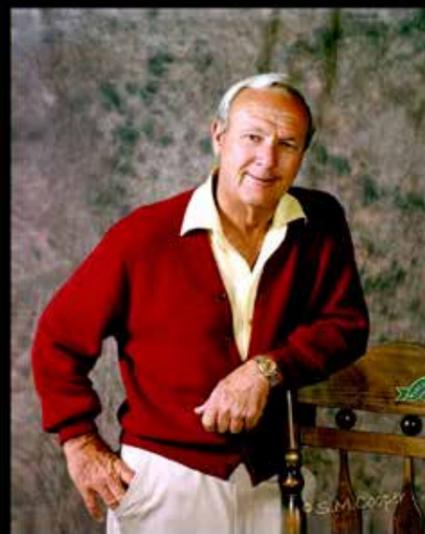
Set in New Mexico, a place diverse in culture and scenic beauty, the Fiesta is simply one of the most spectacular displays of sound and color you are ever to witness. This exciting journey also includes !me in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, two culturally rich cities. Visit the unique shops and restaurants of Old Town Albuquerque. Windthrough the stunning Turquoise Trail. Set out on an open-air tram tour of Santa Fe with a local guide. Experience the Santa Fe School of Cooking.

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Facing Ourselves

The Legacy Of Racism In Health Care

Since the fifth century BCE, physicians have sworn to uphold the Hippocratic oath, a pledge to honor ethical standards in the treatment of patients. The modern-day Hippocratic oath specifically acknowledges a special obligation “to all my fellow human beings.” But how faithfully has the field of medicine upheld its promise? How prevalent is racial injustice in the health care system?

The roots of racism run deep. J. Marion Sims was a physician in Alabama who carried out numerous surgical experiments on enslaved women in the 19th century in a quest to discover a treatment for vesico-vaginal fistula, a condition in which there is uncontrollable leakage of urine and stool. These women were subjected to multiple painful experimental operations, even up to 30 times within three years for one of the women.

Although Sims eventually discovered the surgical technique that enabled the closure of a vesico-vaginal fistula, he did so at the cost of inflicting numerous experimental surgeries on people against their will.

Another example of racial injustice is the Tuskegee experiment, which ran for 40 years until 1972. The US Public Health Service

(precursor to the Centers for Disease Control) withheld information from African American men about their syphilis diagnosis and, in some cases, prevented them from getting treatment for it in order to study the diffuse long-term effects wrought by the untreated disease, including neurologic disorders. Even after penicillin, an inexpensive and safe drug, was discovered as an effective treatment for syphilis in the mid-1940s, the Tuskegee experiment continued for three decades more.

Additional bioethical issues are raised in the case of Henrietta Lacks, a Black woman whose cells were harvested at Johns Hopkins in 1951. Henrietta Lacks’s cells were exceptional in that, for the first time ever, they had the ability to reproduce and survive in laboratories indefinitely. The unique quality of HeLa cells (named after HENrietta LACKs) has enabled crucial cell research throughout the world, even to the present day.

Although Lacks’s cells have played a crucial role in science, including genetic mapping



JENNIFER JU

and the development of vaccines for diseases such as polio, consent was not obtained from Lacks when her cells were procured and used for research and other purposes. Decades after she passed away, the manner in which her cells were obtained remains shrouded in controversy and litigation.

These stories of racial injustice are important to know, as they provide historical context for the mistrust that Black people and other minorities continue to have when it comes to the health care system, an example of which is the disproportionately lower number of minorities who opt to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

However, we must not assume that the inequities that exist in the access and delivery of health care are merely sequelae of the past. Racism, both overt and unconscious, continues to impact health care outcomes in the present, every single day. Numerous studies document disparities in health care which are linked to race, as well as socioeconomic issues.

This does not mean that we should disparage our hardworking health care workers, who have sacrificed so much to care for their patients. Instead, we should increase our awareness of the faults within the system itself and examine the implicit biases that each of us have, even if unintentional or well-meaning.

It is paramount for us to know where we’ve been, where we are and where we would like to go. The same holds true as we try to navigate a path to a more just and equitable future for all, starting today. Let’s not be discouraged by our past, but instead learn from it and put in the hard work charting a new course, with hope for a better future.

Jennifer Ju, MD is a physician who is a graduate of the Brown University family medicine residency program. She is also an actor and writer who has performed in various theatres across the state and whose plays have been produced locally. Ju has also presented numerous online and in-person workshops on mindfulness, health and wellness for parents and children, as well as for pre-K-12 educators in New Haven and Fairfield counties.

Orange Holding Holiday Festivities

Orange is hosting its annual Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 5 with festivities on and around the town green beginning at 3 p.m. There will be an ice carving demonstration by Ice Matters in front of the Clark Building. Inside the Clark Building patrons can guess how many candies are in the jar, and gingerbread house creations may be dropped off between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winner of the gingerbread house contest; all entries must be picked up between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Children can mail letters to Santa at

the Case Memorial Library and bring home a “take and make: craft. The Connecticut Yuletide Carolers will be strolling and caroling. The Stone-Otis House will be open to visitors as well as the Academy Building; masks will be required in the buildings. The Orange Congregational Church will be doing a carol sing on the steps of the church from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be providing cocoa and coffee. The lighted tractor parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. Santa arrives at the end of the parade, and the lighting of the tree will follow.

Hartford Healthcare Opens Milford HealthCenter

Patients in the Milford/Orange area will now have another option for specialty care. Located right off I-95 at 205 Sub Way, the Hartford Healthcare has opened the Milford HealthCenter at 205 Sub Way in Milford with a range of specialists and services.

According to a release, the center has

experts specializing in cardiology, urology, neurosurgery, sleep disorders, medical and surgical weight loss, breast surgery and reconstruction, cosmetic surgery and pain management services.

More information is available at HartfordHealthCare.org/Milford or by calling 1-855-442-4373.

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Personal Experiences

The Goal Of Inner Peace

Sunday mornings are what I like to call my slice of heaven. The world seems quiet, and you awaken to a world feeling of something I can only describe as home. Sunday mornings are my favorite time of the week. They were my favorite part of my childhood.

Growing up in an Italian household, the end of the week meant two things: a sauce was simmering, and a football game was on the television.

As a young girl, I would wake up to the radiant smell of a tomato sauce cooking in the kitchen. While walking down the stairs, the fumes would wash over me, as well as the sound of a football game coming from the living room.

I remember this time fondly; a time of peace and wonder with none of the worries

that I now bear as an adult.

Can you think back to a time of such bliss? A moment in your life where the world just made sense? I believe it is crucial to remember and appreciate memories or moments where you may have felt understood, loved or content.

Whether that time was 10 years ago or last week, recalling those memories is how we think of ourselves in our happiest moments.

Happiness comes and goes. Maintaining it is a choice you must make each day. Remembering happy moments is an exercise in understanding that emotions are fleeting, but a state of peace or contentment is a decision.



CAROLINA AMORE

My happiest moment is rooted in traditions on Sundays. I carry those traditions to re-explore that happiness and exercise it in my daily living in my present life.

Connecting to a past self through a positive memory is an example of how happiness is subjective. It relies on the event, the person and a combination of the senses.

Walking by the beach and seeing the light hit the waves a certain way, at a particular time, you are suddenly brought back to a memory that radiates joy. That feeling was triggered by something happening in the present and lasted only a short while. That is what happiness should be like.

Society today makes people feel that if

they are not constantly happy, they are doing something wrong. The goal should not be constant happiness; it should be peace within oneself.

Strive for peace, for self-love. Those are states of being rather than moments of feeling. Happiness is a beautiful feeling that everyone deserves to experience, but self-love and peace of mind are states of being that should be worked towards.

Enjoy your cherished memories, bask in your long-lived traditions, remember that happiness is a fleeting moment that will always return and try each day to live a life that welcomes the possibility of inner peace.

Carolina Amore is a resident of Orange.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Still Managing Multiple Offers

The real estate market is still hot in Orange and Milford. The competition is still going strong.

Real estate agents, representing sellers with listings and buyers with offers, know they have an obligation to make clear the process where everyone has a chance to compete for a home purchase in a fair and ethical way. The code of ethics for all agents is specific, with the important idea that the homeowner chooses the contract based on all the facts at hand. The agent simply presents all the information working closely with each buyer agent. Too often, buyers get discouraged and frustrated, as this scenario can play out multiple times for them.

The clients, sellers and buyers, are working hard to complete transactions and they need clear-cut explanations before they begin the process on what is to come. Counseling meetings with a realtor is so important because they can prevent any potential misunderstandings before they occur.

Buyers want the chance to make their best

offers, but they can just hope that their information, situation and financing is enough to get the deal on the home they have their eye on. Of course, proper preapprovals and good advice from buyer's agent can sometimes prevent disappointments. Unfortunately, the supply and demand crunch weighs heavily on the number of listings available to the buyer pool.

The seller gets the blame, of course, as he can only accept one contract. The listing agent presents all the offers, giving a deadline for presentations to all potential buyers. The seller can pick a few ways to continue; he can choose one he likes then, or he can instruct his agent to inform all the buyer agents that there are offers on the table and a new deadline to bring their final and best is now in the works.

Keep in mind that choosing the best contract is a personal decision for a seller. It



BARBARA LEHRER

could include a longer or shorter closing date or a smaller mortgage, for example. It does not mean the highest purchase price necessarily gets the deal.

These multiple offers are hard on everyone. The seller does not want to disappoint anyone and is usually quite grateful that more than one family is ready to buy his home. Unfortunately, someone is always disappointed. It is the responsibility of the listing agent to assure everyone that a chance was given for all, and the seller chose what was best for them.

The pros and cons of negotiating strategies are many. It can include a buyer canceling their good offer because they do not want to compete. In this case, sometimes the seller loses out.

My recommendation is for the seller to get complete explanations from their agent representative on each contract and then make

a decision. The seller's agent also needs a close working relationship with the buyer agent presenting each offer in order to get all the facts. I am always confident at the decision-making point that the complete team of seller and buyer and representatives has done its due diligence, leaving nothing out and paving the way for a successful transaction.

This is a careful and caring process completed with up-to-date knowledge and facts. This is the beginning of a transaction and it paves the way for all the contingencies it generates, such as inspections, attorney reviews, title searches and deadlines. The total process must have a strong and trusting basis; it is choosing the right contract for the seller and its matching buyer.

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

Happy Holidays!

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Funtober Comes To Orange



The Orange Community Services department, Youth Services and Orange Park & Recreation held a "Funtober" event on Oct. 23 at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds. The event included a Trunk or Treat, Park & Rec games, DJ Lucas, hayrides with Kriz Farm and ice cream, hot dogs, hot chocolate and cider. Photo courtesy of Orange Community Services.

Your Finances

Financial Considerations For Business Owners

The work you do is much more than work. It's your passion and your livelihood. There's no doubt that COVID-19 has rattled the US economy and left small business owners to face a particularly difficult choice: adjust to the shifting business landscape to ride out the wave of pandemic-related shutdowns or close their doors forever.

Recent research shows that 34 percent of small business owners don't have retirement savings plans in place, a fact that's not entirely surprising. Between figuring out how to keep your doors open, supporting the employees on your payroll and providing a salary for yourself, most of your focus is on the day-to-day needs of your business. But overlooking critical personal financial considerations is risky. Here's why:

- **Unforeseen expenses:** Having a robust savings account means you'll be less likely to dip into your personal accounts to cover costs incurred by your business in the event of an emergency.

- **An unexpected transition:** Having a retirement plan in place means having control over what happens to your business and finances even if that transition happens before you expected.

- **A reliable advisor:** During difficult times, things can happen quickly. So it's important to have an advisor you can trust and rely on

to help guide you through the big decisions.

Many small business owners, especially in the beginning, funnel much of their profits back into their business. From propping up payroll and maintaining their workspace to paying back early investors, owners aren't always able to focus on their personal finances.

But the health of your business's finances and the health of your personal finances are undeniably linked. That's where a financial advisor can help.

Providing advice on important cashflow and savings strategies, an experienced financial professional can help you avoid common money management mistakes that could inhibit your business's growth or jeopardize your personal financial security. They can also help you build a safety net that provides income to you or your employees should your experience an unexpected period of difficulty.

When it comes to retirement, an advisor can help you choose the best option for yourself and create a plan for employees as well. In fact, 94 percent of small business owners report that offering 401(k) plans to employ-



MATT GALLAGHER

ees drives both recruitment and retention.

While you're driven by a passion to serve your customers, your advisor is motivated to protect your financial interests. That includes advice and execution on the ideal tax and investment strategies to help you optimize your return while minimizing what you owe.

Despite the many benefits of working with a financial advisor, only 40 percent of small business owners have consulted one. That means even fewer are likely to have a team of other important advisors, like a business attorney, bookkeeper, accountant, insurance broker and estate attorney collaborating to ensure the full range of their needs are covered and plans are well-coordinated.

Planning ahead can feel overwhelming, but with a trusted financial advisor in your corner you can rest assured that no matter how tough your decisions might be, you have a professional helping to look out for your best interests.

The COVID-19 pandemic has inspired many small business owners to take control of their futures and prepare for success, no matter what. In fact, 30 percent of small busi-

ness owners have tapped into their personal savings accounts to save their businesses.

While pulling from your retirement to add capital to your operations can have serious long-term consequences, the decision to shutter your business can be equally as painful. But there will come a time when you make the decision to move on. Whether you're choosing to retire, sell your business to a new owner or simply close your doors due to circumstance, closing that chapter of your life can be made less difficult if you have a transition plan in place.

A financial advisor can help you figure out how to transition out of your business. Whether it's selling your business, closing up shop completely or passing it down to the next generation, your advisor can help you determine what makes the most sense financially.

Small business owners know how complicated the relationship between their business and personal lives can be. However, with the help of a financial advisor you can learn how to prioritize your needs, create a plan and protect your legacy, no matter what happens.

Matt Gallagher is a partner and head of business development at TrinityPoint Wealth. He can be reached at 203-693-8519 or by email mgallagher@trinitypointwealth.com.

Leaf Pickup Continuing In Milford

The annual Milford citywide leaf pickup program is currently running through Wednesday, Dec. 15. During this time leaf pickup will occur on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

As in past years, only leaves placed in paper bags will be collected. Leaves in paper bags – which are biodegradable and can be mixed with composted material – should be left at the curb away from regular

weekly garbage and recycling bins. The city will not accept plastic bags, and if leaves are put out in plastic, they will be left at curbside.

City crews will pick up leaves on a weekly basis until Dec. 15. If you choose not to bag leaves for pickup, you may bring them directly to the transfer station on Oronoque Road. The transfer station is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Christmas Treats Coming To Treat Farm

The Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary is hosting a Christmas bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Treat Farm, located at 361 Old

Tavern Rd. in Orange. All kinds of Christmas treats will be available, as well as hot chocolate and hot spiced cider. All proceeds will support the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

Local Artist Featured At Milford Cafe

Local artist Lucyna Perpek is having her third solo art exhibit displayed at Café Atlantique through Nov. 30. The

works include abstracts and florals. Café Atlantique is located at 33 River St. in Milford.

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Just Floored

Using Tiles To Spice Up The Kitchen

Whether your goal is to boost the value of your home or you are looking for a change of scenery, a bathroom renovation may be the right choice for you.

The hardest part of any renovation is finding inspiration and tying it all together to create something magnificent. Inspiration can be hard to come by when working alone, but when you seek the help of a professional, an outside opinion and vision for your space can make a great difference.

There are a wide variety of designs available. That can make it seem overwhelming. But white tile design can be cost-efficient and looks phenomenal for just about any bathroom renovation.

When tackling a renovation, consider the functionality as well as the longevity of your design. White tile is sleek and classic and can be a great option for bathrooms because of its elegant appeal. When working with white tile, accent pieces and design factors are also easier to incorporate.

White tiles are beautiful and they leave room for creativity. Arley Wholesale tile products are a great example of adding dimension to your design. Arley has beautiful black and white tile selections that are fabulous for creating a statement wall.



ANNAMARIE AMORE

Adding simple white tiles for the flooring as well as a white countertop for the sink will complement the dynamic design of the statement wall.

Thinking about how to design a shower can be tricky. It can seem like the obvious choice is to go simple. But when working with a crisp white background you have the opportunity to draw the eye to smart composition tile.

The wide array of options is indeed exciting, but it is important to remember that simplicity is elegant

and should not be underestimated. Trying a new layout in the bathroom can create a modern touch. With simplicity, it is easy to create a timeless look.

The subtle details are what transform the entire space from something that is beautiful to a space that is exquisite. Tile collections such as Arley's feature a variety of lovely subtle details, and when placed together, the finished product is unique and glorious.

Annamarie Amore is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialist. She can be reached at amoreinteriorsllc@gmail.com.

Life Insurance

Do You Need An Estate Conservation Strategy?

Many people think estate conservation is for rich old people. Nothing can be further from the truth. Everybody needs some form of estate strategy, especially if you own assets such as real estate or other investments. If you have children, it is absolutely essential that you have a plan in place that details your wishes for their care and support if you should pass away while they are still minors.

An estate strategy can be a simple will if you don't own much property. However, if you have substantial assets or you have some complex situations, more detailed documents may need to be drawn up. Either way, your estate plan should be part of a holistic financial plan that addresses your insurance needs, retirement goals and other economic and investment issues.

While reducing or eliminating estate and other taxes is often seen as the main reason to have an estate plan, perhaps its greatest

value is the guidance it provides those you leave behind. Without a plan to guide them, families and loved ones may have to make complicated and sometimes heart-wrenching decisions in the midst of their grief.

The best way to start the process is to take an inventory of all your assets, including real estate holdings, bank accounts, investment accounts, retirement assets (such as 401(k)s and IRAs), collectibles, jewelry, motor vehicles, life insurance policies and other personal property. This is a good time to work with a financial planner to take a holistic look at all your assets and help ensure that your insurance protection needs are being met and that your long-term wealth accumulation plan is on track.



PJ SHANLEY

The next step is to work with an estate planning attorney to draft a will. If you die intestate, meaning without a will, the laws of your state of residence will determine how your estate is distributed and who gets custody of any minor children. Those laws may not align with your wishes and may cause considerable hardship and trauma to the family you have left behind.

The main purpose of a will is to name a guardian for your minor children, if any, name an executor for your estate and specify which beneficiaries should get which assets. The executor has several important responsibilities, including submitting your will to probate, paying your creditors and distributing assets according to the will. Your executor should be some-

one you can trust to carry out your wishes. Once you have decided who your executor should be, talk with them ahead of time to make sure they understand your wishes and are comfortable taking on the role.

Once you have a legal will and other estate planning documents in place, it is important that you periodically review it, especially if you have a major life event, like a marriage, divorce or a new child, or if you have a significant change in the amount or type of assets you own.

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

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Wine Talk

Italian Wine Grapes For The Upcoming Holidays

The Italian peninsula is inundated by agriculture. It is loaded with fig trees and lemon trees and every possible fruit and vegetable you can conceive, everywhere you look. There are naturally growing strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes and mushrooms. There are bitter greens for upscale salads – the kinds Americans spend a fortune keeping off of their lawns.

The predominant fruit in Italy is the grape. Italy is a sea of grapes. Everywhere you look, on every mountaintop and in every valley there are grapes. Everyone's grandfather is a winemaker in Italy. Every home has a grape arbor in its backyard. The families proudly gather under the arbor and have weekly meals together. Every religious holiday is celebrated in this manner. They consume homemade pasta and sauces, wonderful pork, veal and fish dishes and always enjoy their wonderful homemade wines. This tradition was brought to the New World but

has unfortunately faded out in the greater New Haven area.

The tradition of grape growing and winemaking has continued in Italy. With our holidays emerging, it is time we consider some of the great Italian grapes we can love.

Aglianico is a wonderful grape varietal which produces wines that are big and tannin and match wonderfully with game meats and meat pasta. Nebbiolo is the first grape to bud and the last grape to ripen. It is picked in late October and makes several wonderful wines. The best of these is called barolo. Barolo is a special treat. It is not inexpensive, but is worth every nickel.

Sangiovese is one of the most popular Italian wine grapes. This grape is responsible for the production of Chianti, Chianti Classico and Chianti Classico Riserva as well as Brunello de Montalcino. These are special



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

wines that match well with tomato dishes as well as just about anything else. If you like to grill, Nero d'Avola matches wonderfully with grilled pork chops, steaks and anything off the grill. It is a smokey red with a big flavor and matches well with anything off the grill, even hotdogs and burgers.

Primitivo is the Italian Zinfandel. It is made in Apulia, which is at the heel of boot of Italy. It is great with any meat

dish and anything with jam or fruit. I love it. Italian whites are spectacular and not well known. Fiano is grape that makes a spicy wine that matches well with Chinese food. When the Italians are not having pasta they have Chinese. Grillo is a Sicilian grape that makes wines that go well with Thanksgiving. It stands up to sauces and sides and

would make a great choice.

Tebbiano Toscano makes a great light Italian white that matches well with light dishes and grilled fish. Verdicchio is a big white wine that will get better with age. It is very complex and aromatic. It has an almond flavor that is great. It is a wine that at first you will hate and then you will learn to love.

Try some of these great Italian wines for your holiday dinners. You will be glad you did.

Ray Spaziani is the chapter director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is on the wine tasting panel of Amenti del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award-winning home wine maker and a certified wine educator. His fall classes were sold out but have been canceled due the coronavirus. He hopes to return to them in the spring. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

Literacy Volunteers Of Southern CT Names New Director



Solensky

Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut has named Suzanne Solensky as its next Executive Director. The nonprofit provides free tutoring to adult English language learners in the greater Milford and Stratford communities.

Solensky is an educator, writer and administrator with a longstanding commitment to mission-driven institutions. After working as a writer, researcher and editor specializing in science and health, she made a career in higher education and most recently pivoted into consulting and volunteering with nonprofit organizations.

"In some ways being at Literacy Volunteers is like a homecoming," said Solensky. "After being trained by LVSC

as an ESL tutor in the mid-1990s, I helped a woman from Afghanistan learn English as her children were learning it in school. Seeing the transformation in her life as she became more comfortable with her new country was deeply moving for me."

Along with experience as a college instructor and academic advisor, Solensky has expertise in team leadership, strategic planning and project management. She is also a public speaker who has presented at state, regional and national conferences in higher education.

Rose Rodrigues, interim president of the Board of Directors, said, "We are thrilled that Suzanne is here to lead Literacy Volunteers in its next chapter.

Tami Jackson, our former director, made Literacy Volunteers a well-respected organization in Milford and extended its reach to neighboring communities. We are now eager for Suzanne to build on that foundation."

For more than 25 years, Literacy Volunteers has promoted literacy for children and especially for immigrant adults, who seek to learn English to contribute to their new communities.

More information about Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut, as well as applications to become a tutor or to receive tutoring, can be found at lvsc.org.



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Barton Gillman Cuts Ribbon In Milford



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 29 for Barton Gillman in Milford. Longtime Milford fixture Milford Law has merged with the company. In the front row are mayor Ben Blake, Paul Otzel, Rep. Kathy Kennedy, Vinnie Averaimo and Sen. James Maroney. Photo by Gregory Geiger.

St. Mary School Supports Breast Cancer Efforts



Students and staff at St. Mary School in Milford wore pink and teal on Oct. 22 to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In exchange for a small donation, everyone wore the colors for metastatic breast cancer and raised \$468. The money will be donated to the nonprofit Barbells for Boobs, which provides mental and physical support after diagnosis. Presenting the check is St. Mary School principal Deacon Dominic Corrado to the Yeater family, who brought the idea to the school community. Deirdre Yeater is a breast cancer "warrior." Photo courtesy of St. Mary School. Photos courtesy of St. Mary School.

Milford Skin Clinic Cuts Ribbon



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting in October for MySkin Paramedical Face & Body Clinic, located at 50 Broad St. in Milford. From left: Milford Chamber Membership Chair Simon McDonald, Karen Studer, Christa Casal, Elle Powell and Milford mayor Ben Blake. Photo by Gregory Geiger.



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Obituaries

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

Pauline Anderson Boyum age 100 of Milford and formally Trumbull died Sunday October 24, 2021 in Milford Hospital. (Larson Funeral Home)



Kathleen Ellen Drenzek, 66, of Orange, beloved wife of Robert M. Drenzek, passed away peacefully/entered into eternal rest on November 1, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nadine Halapin, 50, of Milford, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on November 5, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Phyllis Ann Antonini, age 95, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Samuel Kelley and Anthony Antonini, passed away Nov. 4, 2021. (William R. McDonald Funeral Home)



June (LaBarba) Capoccitti, 87, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert John Elliott, 72, passed away on October 19, 2021. He was born on January 3, 1949, and was a life-long resident of Milford, Connecticut. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



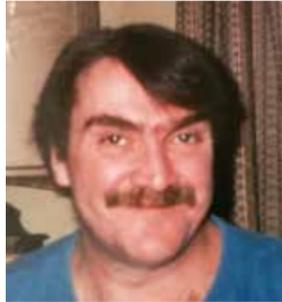
Stacy Ann Hanks, 65 of Milford, CT passed away November 2, 2021 in the comfort of her daughter's arms. (Colonial Funerals)



Heather Elizabeth Beach, 36, of Milford, beloved wife of Joel Beach V, passed away on October 26, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



William "Bill" Stephen Cuff Jr., age 68, of Milford, died on Saturday, October 30, 2021, surrounded by his family. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



David Michael Flanagan, age 61, of Milford, beloved husband of Maria Paternoster Flanagan for 35 years, died on November 9, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



George Healey, 78, of Hudson, FL and formerly of Milford, passed away unexpectedly on November 7, 2021 in Falmouth, MA. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Danny F. Bereza, age 59, of Milford, beloved husband of Michelle Giordano Bereza passed away, Nov. 3, 2021. (Redgate-Hennessy Funeral Directors)



Anne Marie C. Dellamarggio, age 58, of Milford, passed away on October 27, 2021, at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Adzima Funeral Home)



Rita Grannonio, age 95, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Nov. 5, 2021, at St. Vincent's Medical Center. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Jeffrey Held, 57, a lifelong resident of Milford, passed away suddenly on October 28th, 2021 at Yale New Haven Hospital.



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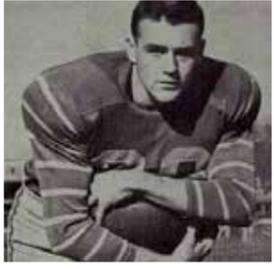
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Obituaries

David G. Johnston, Jr., 80, of Milford, beloved husband of 58 years to Nancy Elizabeth Johnston, passed away peacefully at home on October 29, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



James L. Marena, 79, of Woodbridge passed away peacefully at home October 25, 2021. (Celantano Funeral Home)



Frances Angelina Posta, 85, of Milford, passed away on November 1, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gayle Rita Wosleger, age 80, died on Wednesday November 10th 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Annabelle Errico Kelly, formerly Orange, CT and South Dennis, MA, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 31, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Denise Comeau Mirto, 71, passed away peacefully on Nov. 2, 2021 at her home in Orange, surrounded by her family and friends after a battle with cancer. (West Haven Funeral Home)



It is with great sadness that the family of **Erich D. Russbach** announce his passing on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at Yale-New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael Campus. (Washington Memorial Funeral Home)



Robert J. Young, 83, of Milford, beloved husband (43 years) of Janice (Onze) Young, passed away on November 8, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Regina Ann Lomme, age 78, of Milford, the beloved widow of Conrad J. Lomme Jr., passed away on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, surrounded by her loving family. (Adzima Funeral Home)



Marie Theresa Montemarano passed peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021 at Milford Health & Rehabilitation Center in Connecticut. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Walter George Shimchick entered into eternal life on Sunday, October 31, 2021, joining his bride Louise and daughter Debra. (Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home)



Jane Marie Youngblood (Geddes), 56, of Milford, CT, cherished mother of Joseph Youngblood, passed away peacefully on October 28, 2021. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ada Lajoie Wellock Lucke, age 102, formerly of Milford for many years, beloved wife of the late Arthur R. Lucke, died on Sunday Oct. 31, 2021. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



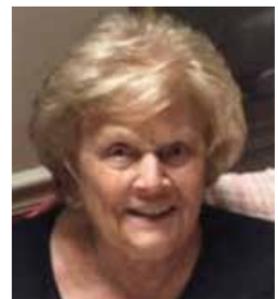
Rosemarie O'Connor, 66, of Orange, passed away in her home after a courageous battle with cancer on October 22, 2021, surrounded by her family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mike T-bone Tanych was born December 16, 1970 and passed away on November 9, 2021 at age 50. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Carmela Zanes of Orange, Connecticut passed to eternal peace on November 6, 2021. (West Haven Funeral Home)



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Milford Nov. 2, 2021 Municipal Election Results

Mayor
 Ben Blake: 10,504
 Peter Berube: 4,625
Board of Aldermen 1st District
 Michelle Parente: 1,644
 Matt Arciuolo, II: 1,660
 Tony Giannattasio: 1,654
 Jay Tranquilli: 1,581
Board of Aldermen 2nd District
 Ward Willis: 1,440
 Robert Pacelli, Jr.: 1,490
 Scott Marlow: 1,292
 Chris Goulden: 1,235
Board of Aldermen 3rd District
 Brett Broesder: 1,365
 Marty B. Hardiman: 1,475
 Erik Smith: 1,226
 Michael S. Casey: 1,254
Board of Aldermen 4th District

John Moffitt: 1,773
 Phil Vetro: 1,852
 Tara Galbo: 1,403
 Dan German: 1,523
Board of Aldermen 5th District
 Greg Harla: 1,833
 Ellen Beatty: 1,906
 Suzanne DiBiase: 1,608
 Ray Vitali: 1,721
City Clerk
 Karen Fortunati: 10,574
Board of Education 1st District
 Gary Peluchette: 1,430
 Betsy Ratner: 1,545
 Wally Hauck: 1,517
 Andy Fowler: 1,665
Board of Education 2nd District
 Susan Glennon: 1,506
 Meghan Doyle: 1,563

Mark Macchio: 1,212
Board of Education 3rd District
 Holly E. Mulrenan: 1,432
 Una Petroske: 1,308
 William Legere: 1,042
 Renee Casey: 1,212
Board of Education 4th District
 Rita Hennessey: 1,583
 Cindy Wolfe Boynton: 1,682
 Raquel Hernandez Bonessi: 1,453
 Dolores Rieth Hannon: 1,409
Board of Education 5th District
 Adam DeYoung: 1,710
 Emily McDonough Souza: 1,882
 Bill Bevan: 1,532
 Terri Smith: 1,409
Planning and Zoning Board 1st District
 Etan Hirsch: 1,995
Planning and Zoning Board 2nd District

James Kader: 1,419
 Bob Tschilke: 1,191
Planning and Zoning Board 3rd District
 Jim Quish: 1,409
 Steve Visconti: 1,155
Planning and Zoning Board 4th District
 Brian E. Kaligian: 2,198
Planning and Zoning Board 5th District
 Carl Moore: 1,790
 Rick Vizziello: 1,500
Constables
 Sarah S. Ferrante: 7,767
 Linda J. Hardiman: 8,023
 Shaun Liebskind: 6,861
 Theodore O. Boynton: 7,834
 Shirley Serrano: 6,364
 Frank Musante: 6,318
 Steven T. Visconti: 6,598
 Ray Kirmaier: 5,883

Orange Nov. 2, 2021 Municipal Election Results

First Selectman
 Connir Deane: 2,003
 Jim Zeoli: 3,039
Board of Selectmen
 Mitchell R. Goldblatt: 2,416
 Rosanna Cappetta: 1,867
 Charles Flynn: 1,857
 Judy Wright Williams: 2,866
 Ralph G. Okenquist: 2,830
 John Carangelo: 2,887
Town Clerk
 Margaret Novicki: 2,038
 Mary Shaw: 2,937
Tax Collector
 Mark Moyher: 2,043
 Thomas Hurley: 2,858
Board of Finance
 Kevin McNabola: 2,461
 P.J. Shanley: 2,351

Pat Sanders Romano: 2,244
 Ajeet Jain: 2,595
 Joseph Nuzzo: 2,914
Board of Education
 Carmen A. Rodrigues: 1,994
 Jared Millbrandt: 1,914
 Liz Tremper: 1,993
 Jeffery Cap: 2,878
 Tatiana Messina-Mullen: 2,804
 Ronnette James: 2,745
Town Plan & Zoning Commission Full Term
 Daniel Fitzmaurice: 1,876
 Michael S. Muttitt: 1,871
 Ozzie Parente: 3,004
 Kevin Cornell: 2,963
Town Plan & Zoning Commission To Fill Vacancy for Two Years
 Thomas Torrenti: 3,328

Amity Regional Board of Education
 Patricia C.-Post: 2,074
 Carla Eichler: 2,219
 Craig Lennon: 2,202
 Sean Hartshorn: 2,766
 Christina Levere-D'Addio: 2,779
Constables
 Santo Galatioto, Jr.: 2,242
 Randy Thomas: 2,281
 Jay Carrier: 1,775
 Glenn Papelo: 2,538
 Jody Daymon: 2,781
 Dan Zapatka: 2,549
 Michael Donadeo: 2,674



A child checks out one of the voting machines in Orange on election day. Photo by Lexi Crocco.



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