

Milford-Orange Times

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Orange First Selectman Candidates Make Their Case In First Debate

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The candidates for first selectman in Orange had their first chance to make their case in person before an audience in the gym of the High Plains Community Center Sept. 12 at a debate sponsored by the *Milford-Orange Times*.

Republican incumbent Jim Zeoli, who is seeking an eighth term in office, and Democratic challenger Jody Dietch responded to questions on a wide range of topics solicited in advance from Orange residents.

Dietch used her opening statements to introduce herself to the audience and establish her family's history of service to the town and to draw distinctions between herself and her opponent.

"It's time to move Orange into the future while respecting our past. But our farming past is not the basis for our future," she said, making an oblique reference to Zeoli, who

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Canceled Public Hearing Angers Opponents Of Development In Orange

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The lower level meeting room of Orange Town Hall was standing room only for a promised public hearing at the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission Sept. 10 that would allow residents to speak out about a controversial development off Turkey Hill Road.

There was just one problem: the hearing had to be cancelled at the last minute.

The meeting was the first at which residents would have been able to weigh in on a development proposed by a team representing town resident Richard Meisenheimer, who wants to build 10 multifamily residential buildings and a single community building on a compilation of parcels on the 22.5-acre property that he owns.

A different proposal for the same property was the subject of vociferous opposition in 2018. That first plan was eventually denied by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission.



A crowd filled the lower level meeting room at Orange Town Hall Sept. 10 just minutes prior to being told the public hearing on a controversial housing development off Turkey Hill Road was canceled. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

This time around, neighbors and others who opposed the plan organized far in advance, posting signs around town urging

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Milford, Orange Candidates Have Their Say

With the November 5 municipal elections just around the bend, the *Milford-Orange Times* is continuing its tradition of featuring the candidates' responses to a series of questions about how they would serve their communities if elected. This is the second of a three-part series. In Milford, incumbent Democratic Mayor Ben Blake is being challenged by Republican Dan German. In Orange, incumbent Republican First Selectman Jim Zeoli is being challenged by Democrat Jody Dietch.

The General Assembly has created incentives to encourage municipalities to join regional organizations. What are views on regionalization, and how would you work to encourage or prevent regionalizing services in your municipality?



Benjamin G. Blake
 Milford Mayor – Democrat

Given the shared aspirations for our region, we are always looking for appropriate partnerships and collaborations with neighboring towns. In the greater Milford region, there is little disagreement on the resources we aspire to achieve and

maintain for our residents. We all want successful schools, reliable roads, and safe sidewalks. We want a superb senior center and a

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Dan German
 Milford Mayor, Republican

Typically a smaller business does not have the equivalent purchasing capacity as a large organization in term of purchasing supplies and/or equipment. However, if a smaller company has the assets and ability to be part of a larger regional organization,

it typically would have greater buying power because of the alliance. It is understandable that the financial benefits of regionalization favor

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Jim Zeoli
 Orange First Selectman - Republican

I have always looked at ways that we could work with others in a regional manner to get things done to benefit all involved. I was instrumental in leaving the long-standing BOW animal control service and joining with

Milford for a savings of over \$40,000 for Orange. The sharing of both manpower and equipment with Woodbridge and Bethany has been

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Jody Dietch
 Orange First Selectman - Democrat

The very word "regionalization" makes people nervous. The ill-conceived plan our legislators threw out concerning school regionalization would have split up the Amity district. This resulted in significant

backlash from many communities, including ours. Even though such a proposal had little traction this past legislative session, there is no

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Audubon Society Holding Butterfly Program In Milford

By Brandon T. Bisceglia



The Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center at Milford Point will hold a program Sept. 22 about monarch butterflies. Photo courtesy of CAS.

Monarch butterflies are on the move to their overwintering grounds in Mexico. Learn about their long journey and much more on Sunday, Sept. 22 at the Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center at Milford Point.

The class begins indoors with a discovery

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News & Events

Orange Town Clerk Urges Voter Registration, Absentee Ballots

Orange Town Clerk Patrick O'Sullivan is urging all students to register to vote prior to leaving for school or college and to complete an application for an absentee ballot if needed.

"One of the greatest ways we can demonstrate our commitment to our democracy is to exercise our right to a free and secret vote," O'Sullivan said. "When you look at other countries you immediately recognize it is not something that we should ever take for granted."

Any U.S. citizen who is at least 17 years old may apply for admission as an elector by preregistering and will become an elector on the day of their 18th birthday.

People who wish to register may complete the voter registration application at Town Hall on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30p.m. Voter registration application and applications for absentee ballots can also be downloaded from the town of Orange website at orange-ct.gov.

Election day this year is Tuesday, Nov. 5. Voters in Orange will be choosing their first selectman, members of the Board of

Selectmen, members of the Board of Finance, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, members of the Board of Education, members of the Town Plan & Zoning Commission, the Town Constable, Orange members for the Amity Regional Board of Education and to fill a two-year vacancy on the Amity Regional Board of Education.

Those voting by absentee ballot must first submit a completed application for absentee ballot, which can be done now. Upon receipt of the completed application, the Town Clerk will mail the actual absentee ballot to you; please be sure to have an accurate address. Absentee ballots may be issued by the Town Clerk starting Oct. 4.

The completed absentee ballot must be received by the Town Clerk by election day.

A new election law also allows U.S. citizens to register and vote on election day. Those who wish to do so must register and vote in the registrars' office in Town Hall.

For further information, call the Registrar of Voters Office at 203-891-4715/4716 or the Town Clerk's Office.

Women's Business Group Meeting In Orange

The Network of Executive Women will hold a "Network at Night" event on Thursday, Sept. 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Coromandel Cuisine of India at 185 Boston Post Rd. in Orange.

The event is open to women in business. Guest attendance is limited to two Network

of Executive Women events; thereafter an application for membership is required. The price is \$5 per person for those who register in advance, and \$10 at the door. There will be a cash bar.

Register at networkofexecutivewomen.org/upcoming-events.

A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles

4-H was a brilliant idea begun in 1902. Principally an agricultural organization in the beginning, its purpose was to teach and expand rural youth's knowledge of farming. Programs were added for girls, teaching them how to handle various household tasks efficiently, such as sewing and canning. Looking at the founders of the Orange Country Fair, you'll find a lot of former 4-H participants. My husband, one of those Orange 4-H participants, raised sheep as one of his projects and hatched baby chicks in his mother's oven. He even managed to hang on to his ribbons, carefully packing them away in the attic. His mother taught various

classes in our kitchen. It was memories of the 4-H Fairs in Orange that gave the Bspudas, the Ewens and others the idea that Orange needed a fair. Today's 4-H has expanded its objectives, focusing on citizenship, healthy living, science, engineering, and technology programs. The 4 Hs on the official emblem stand for head, heart, hands and health.

If you have a vintage photo of Orange and are willing to loan it to Town Historian Priscilla Searles, contact her at orangect200@gmail.com. All photos on loan will be scanned, with the scan becoming the property of the Orange Historical Society. Originals will be returned to the owner.



A 4-H fair on the Orange Town Green, circa 1947. Photo courtesy of Marge Menze.



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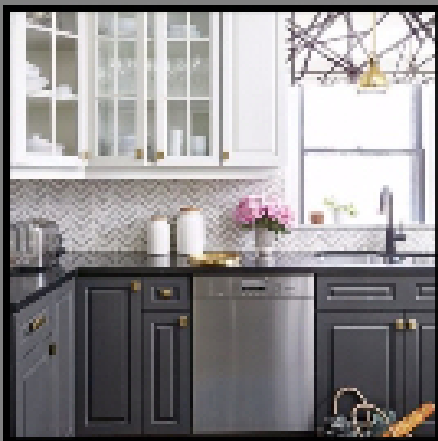
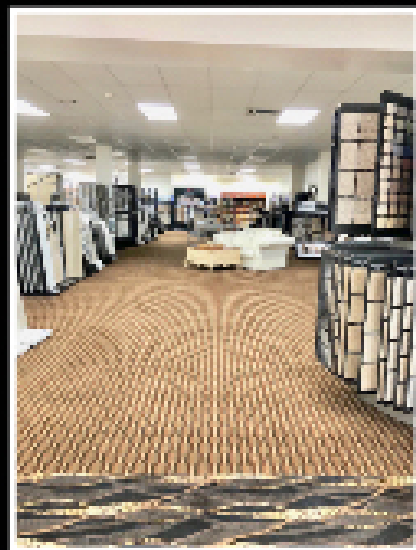
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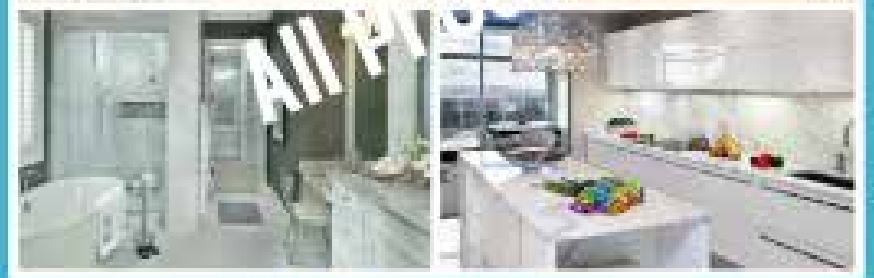
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Opinion & Editorial

Computer Coding Positions State Youth For Success



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time. Another exciting development this school year is the addition of computer coding curricula at all of our state's public schools. This is legislation I authored and led passage of this session, and I am confident it best positions our students for success.

According to TechNet Northeast, a bipartisan network of over 80 technology companies, computer science is a foundational skill for 21st century jobs and impacts almost every industry in the U.S. Possessing this knowledge is a necessity for the modern employee.

I started working on this legislation in November 2018. I enlisted the opinions and expertise of industry experts, education experts, and other stakeholders to piece together a bill which enables our students to thrive in an ever-changing economy growing more reliant on computer science. I also wrote this bill with the intention to provide educators with the tools to prepare our students.

This law makes Connecticut the first state in the country to require that teacher preparation programs offer instruction in how to teach programming and coding to their existing computer and information technology skills curricula. Additionally, it requires the State Department of Education to create an endorsement and eventually a certification in teaching computer science. Through this law the Office of Higher Education, in collaboration and consultation with the State Department of Education, will also develop an alternate route to certification program for computer science teachers. The program must include mentored apprenticeships and program admission criteria.

For students, this law includes discussion of science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, and computer coding jobs in student success plans. It also requires the state Department of Economic Community Development to help facilitate internships for college students with companies in our state, and to perform an analysis of the workforce needs in our state, working with other relevant agencies to develop a plan to prepare our workforce.

This legislation is advantageous for our state's youth, and also our economy. Back in 2017, Connecticut's tech industry contributed \$16.2 billion to our state's economy, according to computerscience.org. As the tech trade continues to flourish, tech companies flood our state, and computer science skills become even more coveted by businesses, job opportunities requiring this expertise will grow in Connecticut. In fact, in early September a New Jersey-based IT services firm announced it has plans to hire hundreds of employees to work in its new innovation center in Hartford. Computer science knowledge and skills are essential.

Seeing this legislation through to passage was incredibly rewarding due to the positive impact it will have on our schools, students, teachers and economy.

This law bolsters our youth's chances of achieving their dreams by providing them with the tools to prosper in a 21st century economy.

The Cost Of Doing Business In Connecticut



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

Recently, the Orange and Milford chambers of commerce hosted a legislative breakfast which was attended by local area business owners and employees. I had the opportunity to discuss the recent budget and the 2019 legislative session ups and downs. But most importantly, I heard their concerns for the business community of Connecticut.

Their concerns ranged from the expansion of the sales tax and the cost of goods rising to the mandated minimum wage increase and paid family and medical leave and how these mandates will impact their ability to afford employing their existing staff.

Not long after this chamber breakfast took place, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association held its annual Connecticut Economy conference. They discussed the results of their recent survey of 350 Connecticut business executives. The results of the survey are in line with the feedback I heard from the business members at the chamber breakfast. CBIA's overall findings concluded that "smaller employers feel unfairly targeted by those two mandates, which are expected to further increase business costs in the state." The survey goes on to say much of what is being reported by national media outlets and business leaders – that Connecticut is too expensive in which to do business – so they are pursuing opportunities in other states. CNBC ranks Connecticut the fifth most expensive state in the U.S. to do business and ranks our state's economy 43rd in the nation.

The concerns of our local businesses echo CBIA's survey. Their feedback directly reflects what is said about business in Connecticut on a national level: the state has become too expensive and anti-business.

You have to wonder if the governor is actually going to start listening. The entire business community in our state is concerned, and rightfully so. I have said multiple times that this past session was the most anti-business session I have seen in all my years, and it gives me great concern.

CBIA's survey found that 81 percent of the 350 participants view Connecticut's business climate as "declining." In 2018 that percentage was 61 percent.

Whether you can afford to conduct business or not becomes irrelevant when you see no future for business as a whole in your state. The climate and the costs to business is what drives companies away, and they take their jobs with them. The most recent announcement of a company leaving is by McKesson, a medical company out of Farmington. They are taking 150 jobs with them to Florida and Virginia.

Unfortunately, these announcements are becoming all too common.

Working To Make Schools Safer



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

To better address bullying in schools across the state, I strongly supported a bipartisan proposal that works to evaluate, improve and strengthen bullying laws this past legislative session.

The legislation, called An Act Concerning Safe School Climate Policies, establishes a 33-member Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative tasked with monitoring school climate improvement efforts in the state. Additionally, the bill modifies the definition of bullying by, among other things, eliminating the requirement that the action occur between students. It also extends the bullying reporting requirements that apply to school employees to also apply to school volunteers.

When an opening appeared on the new Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative, I asked House Republican Minority Leader Themis Klarides to sit me on the task force. I hope to add a constructive voice to the group to ensure a safe school environment for all students.

The goal of the new law was to not hand down another unfunded mandate on local school districts but to instead work to foster a voluntary and unpaid collaborative.

The new law was born out of a recent tragic case of bullying which led to an 11-year-old girl to take her own life in Cheshire.

In today's world bullying on social media is prevalent due to the ease with which one can type a cruel message to someone. Bullying on social media is just as harmful as other bullying – and sometimes it's even worse. That's because it's hard to get away from and it can reach people no matter where they are or what they're doing.

I, like most reasonable people, agree that bullying of any kind, by children or by adults, is unacceptable and needs to be discouraged. We need to make sure Connecticut is doing everything it can to prevent this behavior and get at the root cause of bullying. Finding best practices for schools and what strategies work and don't work to curb bullying will only improve the overall school climate.

The collaborative will collect information concerning the school climate improvement efforts of local and regional boards of education, identify best practices for promoting positive school climates, develop an assessment for screening students in grades three to twelve, as well as perform other functions concerning social and emotional learning and fostering positive school climates.

As always, if you have questions about this issue or any other concern about our state government, please contact me by phone 1-800-842-1423 or email me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegov.ct.gov.

Editorial: Milford And Orange Are Apples And...

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange seems to have a Milford complex.

If you attend enough government meetings and events, you'll notice that people compare the town to its southern neighbor almost every chance they get.

Orange has other neighbors: Woodbridge, West Haven, Derby, New Haven. They do get mentioned from time to time, too. Yet Milford is the inevitable foil in the drama of town self-assessment.

It happened again several times throughout the Sept. 12 first selectman debate, with mentions of Milford's success fostering the arts and Milford's new dog park.

These comparisons can have some utility. But they can also be misleading, because Milford and Orange are two different places with distinct characteristics.

Take the arts. Yes, Milford has a flourishing arts scene that many around the state would love to emulate. It has multiple spaces devoted to the arts and culture, and is actively building new ones.

But consider this: Milford had a population of 53,120 residents in 2010, when the last U.S. Census was taken. The population has certainly risen since then.

Orange, by contrast, had a population of 13,956 – about one quarter of Milford's.

There's a reason Milford is called a city and Orange is not. When you have a city's worth of people you also get more creativity, more diversity – more art. If anything, Orange punches above its weight on this front, as groups like the Orange Players and the Orange Arts and Culture Council have exposed some phenomenal talents.

Orange has worked hard over the generations to preserve its rural roots. There may not be as many farms as there once were. But there are still a few notable ones, including Field View Farm, one of the oldest continuously run businesses in the country.

And though many of the farms have been replaced with single-family homes, what has brought those families into town are those large lots on verdant, rolling hills. Orange's attractiveness is part of what has kept property values up and made it one of the so-called "wealthy" towns in the state.

Milford has its own beauty, with a bustling yet quaint downtown and a thriving commercial corridor, especially around the Connecticut Post Mall. There is always something to do there.

But Milford has also paid the price for that activity with higher density and, well, more unpalatable activity in some spots. It is one of the safest cities around, but the inevitable consequence of more people is more people doing things you might not like.

Milford also has beach shores. Orange does not, unless you count the Housatonic River.

Orange, on the other hand, has a more

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Opinion & Editorial

Editorial

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tightly knit community. Families that have lived there for generations are still prominent. New families have an easy time getting to know their neighbors and getting involved.

High Plains Community Center may not be ornate, but it is the de facto center of town activity. Milford's center is more diffuse. Though it has plenty of community space, it would be difficult to identify any one location that serves as the focal point for town activity.

It's understandable that Orange feels some kinship with Milford. They were, after all, birthed from the same founding, with Orange originally serving as the borough of North Milford.

But there's also a reason Orange eventually broke away. Its founders recognized that the two places were distinct enough to need their own, separate identities. We would do well to remember that before drawing too many conclusions based on any comparison between them.

Letters To The Editor:

Speak Your Mind -The *Milford-Orange Times* encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should be limited to no more than 350 words. Submit letters to publisher@theorangetimes.com. Letters may be edited for clarity or content. See theorangetimes.com/print-schedule for submission deadlines.

To the Editor:

For many years, there have been two voting locations in our town – Mary L. Tracy School and High Plains Community Center. Recently I became aware that voting in this year's election will be limited to only a single location – High Plains Community Center. Apparently, because there was a rainy day last election and some cars got stuck in the mud, the number of locations to vote has been reduced to one. Although High Plains is a central location in our town, given the criticality of voting and elections in our country, I believe that more locations make it easier for everyone to vote.

An over-crowded, single location will result

in lines that could discourage voters. Since election day is not a national holiday, many people who work cannot take off a few hours to wait in line to vote. Furthermore, people may arrive at their former voting location, resulting in much confusion. I hope I'm wrong, but I suspect that many people will chose to leave and not exercise their right to vote.

If the intent is to reduce some expense, that is a poor excuse for compromising our democracy by potentially suppressing voters' participation. I sincerely hope that those who thought this was a good idea will quickly reconsider!

Beverly Propen
Orange



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Milford-Orange Times

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Milford-Orange Times

Stephen Hechtman, Publisher: publisher@theorangetimes.com
Patricia Miller, Entertainment Editor: patmiller605@sbcglobal.net
Brandon T. Bisceglia, Editor: editorinchief@theorangetimes.com

Creative Director: Wendy Macomber Photographers: Steve Cooper • Lexi Crocco

In The House: Rep. Themis Klarides (R-114) Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117) Kathy Kennedy (R-119)

Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

Columnists:

Cathy Bradley, Running	Shaileen Landsberg, Profiles	Carol Smullen, Orange Chamber
Joanne Byrne, Retirement	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
David Crow, Conversations	Annamarie Mastrangelo, Flooring	Pam Staneski, Milford Chamber
Thyia V. Catapano, Local Wildlife	John Moffitt, Life Online	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate
Pat Dray, Gardening	Amir Mohammad, MD, MPH, Health	Eric Tashlein, Finances
Richard Dumbrell, Rotary Club	Trish Pearson, Insurance	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Steven P. Floman, Legal	Karen Quinn Panzer, Travel	Roger Tausig, Rotary Club
Peter Hechtman, Books	Tedra Schneider, Interior Design	Michele Tenney, Health
Thomas P. Hurley, Commentary	Priscilla Searless, Town Historian	Trish O'Leary Treat, Profiles

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Arts Matters

Art washes away the dust of everyday life. – Pablo Picasso

by Patricia Miller

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) will feature in the month of October “A Celebration of Life” that will display the work of two well-known residents of Orange: Joanne and David Byrne. Before his retirement, David was a family dentist in Milford and an occasional performer with the Orange Players. Joanne was the director of the Orange Senior Center and currently writes a column for the *Milford-Orange Times* on successful aging. David’s acrylics capture some of the quintessential moments of life and Joanne’s quilts reflect the beauty and brilliance of nature. An artists’ reception will be held on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For the rest of September, the work of Eugene Zanri, another person well-known as a long-time teacher and administrator in the Orange Schools, will continue to be displayed.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) welcomes chef Kashia Cove back to Case Memorial Library on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Cove made her first visit as a program presenter for the Friends about a year ago, and she enchanted the people attending with her warmth, her smile and her food. At this month’s demonstration she will present “Farm to Table Cooking with Produce from Local Farmers’ Markets.”

Cove was born in Trinidad and now lives in Meriden, where she is active in community affairs. She serves as director of My City Kitchen, extending her passion for cooking to her role as a community leader. In this program, she uses hands-on training to teach children ages 6 to 11, as well as adults, the process of preparing nutritious and delicious meals.

Through her tireless efforts, My City Kitchen and her Junior Chefs programs have developed into a successful nonprofit organization. She emphasizes the importance of culinary education and has been the recipient of several local and international awards for her work in this field.

Cove started cooking at age 12 in Trinidad, where it is customary for girls as young as 12 to learn how to prepare a meal. She found satisfaction and joy in cooking and in bringing people together, forming bonds between family and friends. This discovery led her to her culinary career.

Attendees will not only learn about new, fresh and delicious dishes; they will also find Cove to be a charming and engaging presenter. To reserve a space, call the library at 203-891-2170 or go to casememoriallibrary.org/events.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) is also presenting “A Musical Mosaic,” featuring the Lost Acres String Band on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m.

The Lost Acres String Band features a trio of bass, violin and guitar. A typical show might include jazz, blues, gypsy, Mexican or a romantic waltz, old time and contemporary fiddle music, a Hispanic ballad, a classical selection, swing music or original compositions.

The three professional musicians, all from Connecticut, bring a variety of cultural music to audiences. Gordon Swift, violinist, has a degree in ethnomusicology, and plays in jazz-rock fusion, reggae and country western bands. His original compositions blend musical influences from around the world. Jon Swift, bassist and Gordon’s brother, lays down a solid beat for the group. He also plays acoustic guitar with several other bluegrass groups, and recently appeared in the Bluegrass Duo at the Case Memorial



“La Comparists Tango,” an acrylic by David Byrne, whose work will be on display at the Case Memorial Library in Orange during October. Image courtesy of David Byrne.

Library. Master guitarist Paul Howard brings a mix of old time, bluegrass and folk-rock to the group. He is also a talented vocalist.

The Lost Acres String band has an eclectic style and repertoire with music for everyone. To make a reservation, call the Library at 203-891-2170 or go to casememoriallibrary.org/events.

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange), with the support of the Orange Foundation, will again sponsor a free bus to the New Haven Symphony Orchestra classic series at Woolsey Hall in New Haven. The opening night concert is Thursday, Sept. 26. The bus will leave High Plains Community Center at 6:45 p.m. and will return there after the concert. To reserve a seat on the bus, call Pat Miller at 203-397-8915.

Alasdair Neale’s debut concert with the NHSO celebrates the classical musical legacy while ushering in the next generation. The soaring melodies of Rachmaninoff’s *Second Symphony* will pair with Michael Abel’s *Concerto for Strings and Orchestra, Delights and Dances*. The concert will open with *The Star Spangled Banner*, along with Jessie Montgomery’s *Banner*, her tribute to the traditions and the contradictions of the U.S. national anthem. The Catalyst Quartet, combining a serious commitment to diversity and education with a passion for contemporary music, is featured along with the NHSO, conducted by Neale. For tickets to the concert, go to newhavensymphony.org or call 203-865-0831.

THE CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange), in partnership with the Orange Arts and Culture Council, is bringing New Haven Symphony Orchestra conductor Alasdair Neale to the library on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. As the new music director and conductor of the NHSO, Neale will outline the symphony season, possibly giving insight into how a season is

crafted, share his passion for music and tell the audience something about himself. This is sure to be a popular program and a good opportunity to get to know the conductor off the podium. Call the Library at 203-891-2170 to reserve a seat.

MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL (40 S. Railroad Ave., Milford) presents the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Proof* by David Auburn from Sept. 20 to Oct. 5 at the Eastbound Theatre. The play involves Catherine, who has inherited her father’s brilliant mind but fears she may also have also inherited his debilitating mental illness. She develops her own consciousness when a relationship begins between her and Hal, one of her father’s students. But then her older sister, Clare, capable, organized and successful, arrives to assess the “situation” of their father’s increasing instability. The resulting interactions cause Catherine to feel that her own mind and life are becoming far less stable. For tickets, call 203-878-5547 or go to milfordarts.org.

JLB PRODUCTIONS presents “Play with Your Food,” attracting sell-out crowds in Fairfield (70 Sanford St.), Westport (53 Post Rd.), and Greenwich (299 Greenwich Rd.). Each month, from January to April, JLB Productions presents this event. There is a buffet luncheon at noon catered by a local gourmet restaurant, followed by a program of one-act plays (usually two) and a talk-back with directors, actors and sometimes a playwright. The plays performed are written by award-winning as well as emerging playwrights. For more information, call 203-293-8729. The box office opens Sept. 25.

GOODSPEED OPERAHOUSE (8 Main St., East Haddam) presents *Billy Elliot* until Nov. 24. Young Billy Elliot is pulled between his family’s coal mining roots and his newly discovered passion to dance. It’s a question of boxing gloves (favored by his father) or

ballet shoes (definitely not favored by his father). These are hardscrabble times in a changing England – reaching high requires an act of faith. This play is about following a dream and overcoming obstacles. It’s a 10-time Tony Award-winner. For tickets go to goodspeed.org or call 860-873-8666.

YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC (470 College St., New Haven) presents the Ignacio Berroa Trio on Friday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Morse Recital Hall in Sprague Memorial Hall. Dizzy Gillespie had this to say about Berroa: “The only drummer in the world in the history of American music who intimately knows both worlds: his native Afro-Cuban music as well as jazz.” The well-known musician and jazz icon is Willie Ruff. For tickets, go to music.yale.edu or call 203-432-4158.

CENTER STAGE (54 Grove St., Shelton) presents *My Life As Billy Joel*, a cabaret by Jon Abrams on Friday, Sept. 20 and Saturday, Sept. 21 at 8 p.m.

Abrams toured with the Billy Joel/Twyla Tharp award-winning show *Movin’ Out*, playing the lead role as the piano man. Abrams has performed, rehearsed or toured with Richie Canata, Mark Rivera, Dave Rosenthal, Ted Baker and Steely Dan. He has toured extensively in the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. Call the box office for reservations at 203-225-6079. Cabarets at Center Stage are “bring your own refreshments” events.

RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE (80 E. Ridge Rd, Ridgefield) has a string of performers in September.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, the Bacon Brothers return. On Sunday, Sept. 22, Rich Springfield will perform. Graham Nash will be there with songs and stories on Tuesday, Sept. 24, and Tim O’Rourke and Friends will be performing on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Call the box office at 203-438-5795 for more information and tickets or go to ridgefieldplayhouse.org.

THE FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM (96 Lyme St., Old Lyme) has an exhibit opening on Sept. 28 and running to May 24 that should prove to be both timely and thought provoking called “Nothing More American: Immigration, Sanctuary and Community.” The exhibition is by Matthew Leifeit, whose photos will be shown in conjunction with images painted of the Old Lyme Church and other such church/meetinghouses drawn from the museum’s permanent collection, as well as some selected loans.

The title of the exhibit comes from artist Lorraine Taft’s description of Childe Hassam’s painting of the Church at Old Lyme, “Nothing More American in All the Continent.” This sentiment resonates both with the historical importance of the church/meetinghouse and the relationship of immigration to the American Dream. The meetinghouse merged religion, government and community into a powerful civic ideal that has prevailed for over two centuries.

The white clapboard structure with its towering steeple is an icon of New England architecture and art. It appears in paintings and photographs in this exhibit where the images depict it as the heart of the region’s small towns. The contemporary photos of Leifeit are juxtaposed with pieces of works from early America through the twentieth century by artists such as Childe Hassam.

For more information, call 860-434-5542.

Have an event, announcement or idea? Send it to patmiller605@sbcglobal.net.

World Peace Day Event Planned In Milford

Milford Speaks Out, in partnership with the Milford Public Library, will host a World Peace Day event on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. at Lisman's Landing, located at 37 Helwig St. in Milford. The event will focus on rededicating a peace pole that was donated to the city a number of years ago by the Montessori School.

World Peace Day is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually around the world. This year's theme is "Climate Action for Peace." The theme draws attention to the importance of combating climate change to protect and

promote peace throughout the world.

Participants are encouraged to paint rocks with inspirational messages of peace and hope to place at the base of the pole during the rededication ceremony. The Children's Library will set up an area starting at 10 a.m. for children to make peace.

Representatives from various places of worship have been invited to speak at the event along with other community groups, Milford Poet Laureate Mick Theebs, Mayor Ben Blake and members of the Milford congressional delegation.

Grave Matters:

In Living Memory: The Family Named Pardee

It's not hard to find Orange residents whose families have lived here for generations. In some cases, though, all the descendants of old Orange families have died or moved away.

One such family is Pardee. (Spelling did not become standardized until around 1800. Before that, many names were spelled differently than they are today. As a result, what had been a Trot or Trott or Treat became Treat, and what had been Pardee became Pardee).

John Pardee, together with other Revolutionary War soldiers, is buried in the old section of the Orange cemetery. His family came from Pitminster, England in 1644. In 1822, one of his sons, Samuel L., was appointed "Tythingman." His duties included enforcing such community rules as "no work on Sunday" and "no lewd remarks." When such rules were broken, the tythingman was charged with collecting the fines from violators.

Silas Pardee, who died in 1858, was an Orange selectman. A century later, in 1944, William D. Pardee was buried in the cemetery. He was a Congregational minister as well as a farmer, musician and member of the Anti-Saloon League. Next to his gravestone is that of his wife, Catherine Eames Pardee. Known to everyone as "Kay," she was Connecticut's first female tax assessor. After working at Orange Town Hall for 21 years, she had a fatal heart attack in 1965 the day after she moderated an Orange town meeting.

One of Kay's sons, Joseph Merritt Pardee, was buried in the family plot in 2010. At his funeral service, his brothers Bill and Scott recalled their family's roots in Orange. The Pardee family had a farm near the intersection of Orange Center Road and the street now called Mapledale. Pardee Manor was named



TRISH
O'LEARY TREAT

in their memory. Bill Pardee said his brother Joe was born two years after the stock market crash of 1929. As the Great Depression deepened, Joe and his friends Howard Treat and John Monks were growing up. Like the other boys whose families had farms, the Pardee boys would take turns feeding and watering their pigs and horses, milking the cows and collecting eggs. Bill said they were not allowed to eat until they had first fed and tended the

animals that relied on them.

Kay's husband Bill was a musician, and music was part of their family's activities. His son Bill said he would search secondhand stores, buy one musical instrument or another, teach himself to play it, and then pass it on to one of his boys. Their mother Kay, a New Haven girl, played the one instrument her husband never mastered – the piano – as well as the cello. Bill said that on Thursday evenings, their parents' musical friends would come to their house. As other musical friends joined them, they dubbed themselves the "Orange Symphony Orchestra." Joe was given a violin, but the instrument he took to was the trumpet. He and his brother Bill would play at dances in Orange and nearby towns. Their younger brother Scott, now a retired professor at Middlebury College, was given a mellophone (the marching band's equivalent to a French horn), but by the time he could play well, Bill had already moved on to college and graduate school at Cornell. That ended their dance gigs.

When Bill and Joe were growing up, the only school in town was Orange Center School, across from the Orange cemetery. The year Joe started first grade, a new teacher named Mary L. Tracy began a long and fruitful teaching career there. Howard Treat, who started school the same year as

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PERFORMING LIVE- THE LEGENDARY ALICE'S RESTAURANT

December 7th.... Holiday Jazz Spectacular

January 18th.... The Doo Wap Revue & Orbison Tribute

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Joe, said their music master, Mr. Goodale, could be frightening – especially when he would shout "Sit down, you cabbage head!" after a student stumbled over the notes he'd been given to sing. As far as Joe was concerned, though, even Goodale couldn't take away his love of music.

During World War II, Joe and his friends went to the old Orange Town Hall to watch slides of different types of aircraft so they could learn to spot enemy planes and help the war effort. A service tower was built near the intersection of Russell and Race Brook Road, and the boys were usually far more accurate in their plane spotting than the adults with whom they were paired.

In 1944, when Joe was 12, he was called home from Boy Scout Camp Sequassen and learned his father had died of a brain tumor. It was then up to Kay Pardee, a Mount Holyoke graduate, to raise and support her three sons. An athletic woman who was 5-foot-11, she taught her sons baseball and basketball.

After her husband's death, she was elected town assessor. In her 21 years there, she authored a guide used nationwide to teach new assessors their duties and served on state committees under governors Raymond Baldwin and Abraham Ribicoff.

Joe was the last Pardee to make his home in Orange. He went on to graduate from Dartmouth and work for SNET, learning software along the way. His love of music and performing never left him, and after singing for years in men's choruses, he began singing bass roles in opera, sometimes in duets with his second wife, Mary Ellen, a soprano.

The Pardees are still remembered by a few whose roots are sunk here as deeply as were his: Clarks, Rogers and Monks, among others. The family tombstone remains in the Orange Cemetery marking the graves of Pardees who preceded him.

Getting To Know You:

It Is Quiet Tonight

I heard something in my home for the first time in years. Last Wednesday night as I sat down in the kitchen to read (Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman) I heard the grandfather clock in the family room strike 8 p.m.

I swear to you I hadn't noticed that sound in years. The house was quiet, and into that quiet came the dulcet tones of Westminster chimes and eight clear, resonating bongs denoting the time of eight o'clock in the evening. It was just like I'd heard them for the first time.

After the last bong faded, I put my book down and took a good listen. I heard the kitchen clock ticking. I heard my cat breathing on another chair. I heard a circulator pump kick on. Outside I could hear the crickets serenading and the night breeze stealing through the leaves.

Then the ringer of my phone went off. It sounded jarringly loud. I didn't recognize the number, so I sent it to voicemail. (Oh, like you don't do that too.) I noticed that the caller didn't leave a voicemail as I heard my wife come down the stairs and enter the kitchen. She smiled at me as she sat down across the table to do a crossword puzzle.

"It is quiet tonight," I said to her.

My wife nodded. You could hear a pin drop as we spent an hour reading and puzzling at the kitchen table.

Later that night, I saw the picture of my kids from the first Halloween we spent in our home in Orange hanging on the wall of my bedroom. That night after trick-or-treating my daughter told me, "I love this house. I



DAVID CROW

wish we can stay here forever."

My oldest son and my daughter are both off to university now. Their absence has left a quiet in my home. When my youngest son goes out or goes off to bed that quiet can become almost deafening. I can sit in my kitchen, which was always the center of activity in our home, for an hour at a time and not see anyone except my cats. And in that quiet that memory of that long-ago Halloween leaves a bittersweet taste in my mouth.

I guess I always knew that the kids in the Halloween costume picture would grow into the young adults in the drop-off-at-college picture. I guess I always knew that having their own rooms would turn into having their

own lives. I guess I always knew that if my wife and I did our parenting properly then we would watch our children spread their wings and start their own lives. Neither the house nor Orange, Connecticut were ever meant to hold them, and I am glad my kids continue to grow beyond them.

But that doesn't mean that my heart doesn't ache a bit because that little girl's wish didn't come true.

It sure is quiet around here. You know what I mean?

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.

Lifestyle

On Your Mind:

What Defines You?

Take a moment and think about this question. Do you define yourself by your job, by your title? Maybe you're a manager or doctor or a salesclerk. Do you define yourself as a liberal, conservative or independent? Do you define yourself by your gender, religion or race?

Some people define themselves by their emotional state – miserable or happy. Others define themselves by their past experiences.

I have often heard my clients say, "I was brought up to believe...." I have worked with others who have said, "I was always the one who got blamed for everything." The most disturbing to me is when people define themselves as, "just not good enough."

Many of my weight management clients define themselves as fat or addicted to carbohydrates. I remind them, "You are not your fat!"

One of my young clients who had been sexually abused defined herself as a victim: empty, dirty and unworthy. We were able to let go of the past and she was able to redefine herself by her strengths and her goals.

What does it mean when you "define" yourself as something negative? It is often an indication of beliefs about yourself that someone else imposed on you. By choosing to define yourself as something negative you set the tone for your life and your outlook on the world.

When you feel negative things about yourself it informs your attitudes and behavior. It becomes your expectation of how you think others see you. You find it



FERN
TAUSIG

difficult to accept compliments or feel worthy of happiness and success.

What if you could choose to define yourself differently? What if you found your most positive qualities and defined yourself by those?

Identify the things you care most about and define yourself by those. For example, maybe you care about the environment or about equal rights. You could define yourself as an environmentalist or an activist. If you like nature or animals, you could define yourself as a nature or animal lover.

Remember, a belief is just a thought you repeat over and over again. You can change your beliefs if the ones you're focusing on are

negative. It doesn't mean the negative things go away; they just become less important. It's like focusing on the roses instead of the thorns. Everyone knows roses have thorns, just like we all have parts of us that are prickly. But it doesn't have to be what we focus on. It doesn't have to define us.

The two most powerful words in the English language are, "I am." Use your power to find the positive things about yourself to focus on, to define you.

You have the power and wisdom you need to make the changes you need to make. It's simple, even though it's not always easy. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

Fern is a certified hypnotist, lifecoach and health educator. She can be reached at www.myhealinghypnosis.com.

Travel Matters

An Adventure In Sicily

We were excited to land in Palermo to start our Sicilian private land tour. Leaving the airport, our entry was initiated by passing Capaci, the monument dedicated to Judge Giovanni Falcone, who dared to investigate the mafia in the early 90s. The hillside was punctuated by the hand-painted sign, "No Mafia." Our tour guide assured us that times have changed.

Visiting the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel with thousands of gold mosaics was a great place to start in Palermo. I was impressed with this beautiful island state where the Arab, Greek and Roman cultures weave a colorful tapestry of influence. Sicily has its own parliament, but with high unemployment, it also relies on the Italian government for benefits.

In nearby Monreale, we were fortunate to experience a beautiful Sicilian wedding at the cathedral there. Magical.

The next day, we went to the medieval hillside town of Erice with its winding stone streets, beautiful castle and vistas – on one side, the Tyrranian Sea, the other looking out to Africa only 150 meters across the Mediterranean. The ride up to Erice was not for the faint of heart.

We then drove to Menfi, stopping at the Trapani salt flats and learned how the sea salt is processed by techniques perfected over the last 100 years. In Menfi, we had a fabulous wine tasting dinner at Cantina Barbera. This vineyard has won a number of impressive awards and now exports 50 percent of its wine to America, including Connecticut. Its Lu Cori Nero D'Avola is top notch.

Visiting the Valley of the Temples



KAREN
QUINN-PANZER

in Agrigento was a special experience, especially the Temple of Concordia, one of the best-preserved examples of Greek architecture in the world. On the way to our next destination, Taormina, we visited Villa del Casale, the Sicilian version of Pompeii, with 3,500 square meters of floor mosaics.

Waking up to a gorgeous sunrise from our hotel on the Mediterranean, we proceeded to Mount Etna, the only continuously active volcano in the world. We stopped at a town in the path of the lava flow, Zeferana, which has been rebuilt 54 times. A cable car and jeep takes you within 500 meters of the top, where you can see blue smoke and hear the gases escaping.

We then went to charming Taormina with

its Greek theatre where Andrea Bocelli performed last week.

Siracusa, founded by the Greeks in the eighth century, is arguably the most important city in Sicily. We visited the "Ear of Dionysius," the Greek theatre, and dined and shopped on the Ortigia peninsula, stopping to see the Caravaggio at the Church of Saint Lucia.

The last day of our trip was delightful as we went to the quaint hillside villages of Savoca and Forza D'Agro, where part of The Godfather films were shot – Bar Vitelli and the wedding church. The crowning glory was the view from Castelmola, 500 meters high, and a wine tasting of the local almond wine, Vino Alla Mandorla. Bellissima!

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

Wine Talk:

Why Should I Care Where My Wine Grapes Came From?

Generally speaking, wines from warmer climates are bigger and bolder than the wine made from grapes grown in cooler climates. Warm climate wines have more tannins, a higher alcohol content and a more substantial mouth feel and aftertaste. However, wines made from grapes grown in cooler climates have more acid, and are lighter and more delicate.

With the temperatures in Connecticut becoming cooler and fall just around the corner, it's time to think in terms of red wines.

Pinot Noir is a favorite cool climate wine and can be grown in areas with temperatures ranging from 55 to 59 degrees and 59 to 63 degrees. The lower range is considered a cool climate and the higher range an

intermediate climate. Cabernet Franc is grown in areas where the temperatures are intermediate and areas were the temperature ranges from 64 to 67 degrees, classified as a warmer location. A four or five-degree difference makes it a much different wine.

Here is a list of wines, from meek to wild. The bigger the wine, the warmer the growing region.

Gamay, Pinot Noir and Grenache are considered to be lighter reds. They are generally higher in acid and lower in alcohol. Next is Carménère, Valpolicella and Cabernet Franc. These are bigger and bolder. Going up the boldness chart is Sangiovese,



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

Barbera, Merlot, Montepulciano and Zinfandel. The next group is Tempranillo, Nebbiolo, Nero d'Avola, Aglianico, Malbec, Bordeaux Blend and Cabernet Sauvignon. The biggest wines would include Syrah, Pinotage, Petite Verdot, Mourvèdre and Petite Sirah.

Invariably, the warmer the growing region the bigger the wine as you can see from the list.

A great experiment would be to try a Malbec from France and a Malbec from Argentina. Malbec in France is acclaimed as part of Bordeaux blend, which consists of Cabernet, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petite Verdot and Malbec. A Malbec from

Argentina stands by itself very well.

The big trick on matching food and wine is to remember warmer location is bolder and the cooler location is lighter. Delicate fare, lighter wine. Heavy dishes, big wines. For further information concerning these issues refer to the website Wine Folly, which has some great graphs and wonderful illustration concerning these issues.

Ray Spaziani is the chapter director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is a certified wine educator who teaches wine classes for the Milford Board of Education, Gateway Community College, Maltose wine and Beer Suppliers and Veracious Brewery. He is an award-winning winemaker. Email Ray with your questions and comments at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

Running Naked And Loving It

Lately I have been running naked.

Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not naked naked, not streaking. That, at my age would not be a pretty sight. I refer to technology-naked. No smart phone, no watch, no fitness band, no virtual coach app or headphones or music.

Nothing. Just me, my two feet and the open road. It's the 21st century and I am running like people did in the dark ages. And I love it.

I am not anti-technology. I am as addicted as the next guy or gal. But running with all

that stuff has made me anxious. I would get out the door, glance at my fitness band, sync up my GPS, worry about my headphones and if I had enough charge for my longer runs. I was disconnected from nothing except the beauty and peace I used to enjoy in my running.

I reached a point where I would look down and read an email or a text. The running police should arrest for that.



CATHY
BRADLEY

My tranquil, peaceful hobby was not my experience. All the noise I wanted to get away from for an hour or more I was taking with me. So I dropped it all for a return to the experience that got me hooked.

I leave the house with a \$10 bill in case I need an emergency Starbucks. I leave a note on the route for whoever would need to realize I was gone at dinner time.

My running now feels better,

sharper, and more peaceful and grounded to the earth. I notice my breathing, the landscape around me and the birds on their way south. I now know less is more.

I encourage you walkers and runners to sign up for the second annual Rotary Thanksgiving day two-mile walk and five-kilometer run. It takes place at High Plains Community Center in Orange on Nov. 28 at 8 a.m. It's a good way to get ready for that big meal. Register at runsignup.com/Race/Orange/Run/2019/11/28/2019-Thanksgiving-Run-5K-2M.

Home & Garden

The Garden Spot:

Fall Plantings For Spring Beauty

Early fall is the perfect time to take care of projects that will improve your landscape next year. The time between the end of the summer heat and the frost of late fall allows new plantings the time to grow roots with minimal extra care. The trick is to plant the right specimen in the right spot.

Many times I see beautiful foundation plants and trees planted in the wrong spots. We all want instant landscapes, but site planning should begin by understanding the mature size of any plants. Specimens planted too close to the house means that they will not be watered by Mother Nature and will need extensive pruning to keep them away from windows and outer walls.

Trees and shrubs should be planted understanding the root spread as well as the mature height so that roots don't grow into

walkways, driveways or the buried water and sewer lines and create expensive problems in the future.

A general rule of thumb is that the root zone of a tree will be twice the area of the foliage canopy. However, pruning can lead to underestimation of the root zone. A more accurate method is to measure the diameter of the trunk and multiply by 38. For example, a tree with a 6-inch diameter trunk can have a root zone of 19 feet. Even those trees or shrubs labeled dwarf will eventually grow taller and have a greater spread than labeled.

It also makes good sense to plant native plants and trees since they will be better suited to your site and support more pollinators than non-



PAT DRAY

natives. Don't mulch in "mounds" around your trees – this encourages the voles to come and nibble.

Fall is also a good time to assess your current plantings and hard prune your summer bloomers. Prune about a third of the branches at the base of the plant so that more air gets to the remaining branches. There have been times I've pruned a sickly shrub entirely to the ground in the fall and had a completely new shrubby late spring. If you must prune any spring blooming shrubs or trees understand that the specimen will have few or no blooms in the spring.

Fall is also when you want to plant any of your spring blooming bulbs. The soil

temperature should be below 55 degrees for optimal planting, which is generally the case from October through November. In our area, it's best to consider tulips as annuals since they don't tend to re-bloom as well as other bulbs like daffodils and are also favorite foods for voles and chipmunks. Many bulbs are labeled deer and rodent resistant, although in a severe enough winter all bets are off.

Just as with trees and shrubs, be aware of the recommended depth and spacing for bulbs.

One of my favorite places to purchase bulbs is Colorblends, a wholesaler in Bridgeport. You're able to preorder your bulbs and have them shipped or picked up when they're ready for planting.

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

Just Floored:

Things You Should Know About Waterproof Flooring

Waterproof floors are very effective at standing up to spills and many offer warranties that cover surface spills that sit for up to as much as 72 hours. The protection is so good that several extend that protection to cover pet accidents as well. Even a waterproof floor may not hold up against flooding, but some actually have. Rest assured that for day-to-day activities, your waterproof floor will hold up against almost all spills and accidents.

Easy-click installations have rigid cores and click locking systems that provide protection against spills and also makes them a favorite amount the crowd. They literally fit with a snap. You can walk on the new floor immediately after installation, which means faster installation times with less disruption.

Luxury vinyl tile, or LVT, has more realistic visuals than ever: high-definition printing, in-register embossing, longer board lengths and wider planks. These features make today's waterproof floors practically indistinguishable

from the natural products they emulate. With better styling also comes greater design flexibility throughout more rooms, in the home or in commercial settings.

LVT can be installed over existing floors. Most waterproof floors are approved for installation over existing flooring, though it cannot be installed over carpeting. That's because the rigid cores do not telegraph subfloor imperfections. Less subfloor prep also means quicker installation times.

There are two different kinds of waterproof floors. Today's waterproof floors are made primarily of vinyl but in distinct construction methods – solid polymer core or rigid core and wood plastic composite. WPC's foamed polymer core allows for deeper embossing that can often result in more realistic visuals. SPC's claim to fame is outstanding performance and



ANNAMARIE
MASTRANGELO

its ability to withstand dents and heavy loads, even in commercial settings.

Both WPC and SPC floors offer lots of other benefits besides waterproofing: enhanced style and design allows them to be used throughout the home, including in signature spaces: they are perfect for wet environments like bathrooms, kitchens entryways and more. Increased dimensional stability eliminates the need to have moldings to break up large installations. Sound abatement and moisture mitigation underlays are also available.

Waterproof flooring manufacturers have recently formed an industry association to establish and ensure safety, quality, performance and sustainability standards for these products.

Initially limited mostly to residential settings,

waterproof flooring has gotten so good that it is now being developed for high-demand commercial spaces. SPC in particular, because of its ability to bear heavier loads, has found its way into retail and hospitality settings. Multifamily housing and healthcare facilities are two other markets where waterproof flooring is growing.

SPC and WPC both already provide better sound absorption qualities than many other hard surface flooring, but they are also warmer and more comfortable underfoot than ceramic tile or hardwood floors.

Waterproof floors have one more distinct advantage over most other floors: ease of maintenance. They're so easy to clean, in fact, that a damp mop is about all it takes.

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

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Get The Design Right The First Time

Moving? Are you typically so jammed up with finances, clutter and schedules that you don't have the dedicated time needed to plan the new space? Think of all the money and aggravation you could save in the end if the new property was properly prepared.

I recently sold a property to a couple who hired an interior designer, which I thought was over the top until I saw what a difference it made in the move.

The buyers were not stressed out with worrying about what goes where, whether it fit or how it was going to look. The new look in my client's new home was unbelievable.

The professional went to the home they were leaving and interviewed my clients and got to know them. The plan was to document

and photograph their furnishings in terms of color, dimensions and style. The designer could then design the layout, the paint schemes and the overall décor to take advantage of the great space.

"What a pleasure," my homebuyers told me.

There are so many things to consider that it can be overwhelming, but an interior designer can isolate and identify issues beforehand. In this particular home, all the wood finishes were different, from the floor to the cabinets to the trim. The furniture they planned on using from their other home also had different finishes.



BARBARA
LEHRER

can play a huge part in relieving the stress of choices.

Perhaps you have your eye on a property. Bringing in a licensed professional to study

the space is priceless. The designer can help you prioritize and budget to avoid costly mistakes. It actually saves you money.

"You can spend more on the things that matter, and less on the things that don't," the designer explained to my homebuyers. This designer educated my clients with suggestions on how to repurpose or renovate to achieve the fresh look they were hoping for.

Realtors try to be designers, but there are so many time-consuming and technical aspects of good design. So whether you are preparing your home for sale, or moving, don't discount the power of the professional interior designer.

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

Room 911:

Wall Thoughts Revisited

In my last article, "What's on your Walls?" I barely scratched the surface as to what can be attached to walls. Thinking back to the last 30-plus years I have been in business, I realized that there were some unusual challenges and innovative objects to make a wall look unique.

Below are some of my clients' ideas based on their interests that led to a one-of-a-kind look.

New York City has always held a magnetic attraction for Mr. and Mrs. A. If they could have lived there, they would have. While that was not feasible, they spent any and all recreational time availing themselves of the delights of the Big Apple. They had tickets to the opera, to Broadway shows, traveling by subways, taxis and buses, en route to great dining establishments and the like.

When they wanted to update their family room, we achieved that with more contemporary furniture, lighting and area rugs. Not content to have the room be nondescript or not especially creative looking, we decided to collect all their playbills, ticket stubs, menus and match collections and make either a collage or individual framed pieces of artwork for the walls.

Because of their extensive collection, they had to weed down the most meaningful items from each category. In the end, we decided to put the playbills and ticket stubs "floating" in a large contemporary muted red frame. It measured three feet by five feet and took up nearly the entire wall.



TEDRA
SCHNEIDER

The matches and menus went into a shadowbox frame that also had the same measurements and – to keep a sense of balance – was also in the same muted red framing. It went on the other side of the wall. Sitting in that room on a daily basis provided them with great memories and a chance to reminisce on their experiences.

Clients who lived in a beach community had nautical maps and different nautical rope knots framed in a grey-blue color. It was joined by a seashell collection that not only had jars of seashells and large shells on display on several shelves, but a lamp made by the owner covered in seashells. While this was not the most

unique wall decoration ever, the patterns we established on the walls brought it to life.

An actor who had a fairly successful career collected all the hats he had worn in plays in which he acted. The debate was where to hang them. In this instance we agreed that his bedroom and attached dressing room/closet could display a beret, a tam o' shanter, a derby, a fedora, a cowboy hat, a king's crown, a Greek sailor's hat and an English boy's cap he wore in a grade school play.

Let your interests and your imagination dictate what you will hang on your walls.

Quilts? Taxidermy? Car magazine covers? Marilyn Monroe paraphernalia?

Tedra Schneider can be reached at: restagebytedra@gmail.com

Senior Living

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Never Too Late To Reach Your Potential

The last of the Tennis Grand Slam tournaments just ended with the U.S. Open. There will be a long draught until the Australia Open.

Many of you know how much I love tennis. I love playing it, practicing it and watching it.

The players in the Open possess astonishing skills, hitting the ball with incredible velocity and power. The winner of the women's finals is only 19 and the men's finalist is 23. The "older" players in their thirties are still working on reaching their greatest potential.

Watching these young players made me recall what I have heard a number of times at funerals of people who have passed away in their eighties or nineties. "But he/she was 83 years old." This "but he was" sentiment suggests that a person is too old to contribute any more anyway. It seems to insinuate that an older person can't have dreams for their future and that they should be satisfied with what they have done so far.



JOANNE BYRNE

I wonder if this kind of mentality means that there is some cutoff point when an individual's ability to create, excel, and contribute is over. Kaput. Done for.

I hope not.

I know many people who are still striving to be at the "top of their game" while in their eighties and nineties. Clayton, a good friend and a cancer survivor himself, at age 80 just completed a 40-mile ride in the Yale New Haven Hospital "Closer to Free" bike ride. This was right after he had completed six months of treatment for his own cancer. He plans to move up next year and do the 60-mile ride.

My friend Lois, who is in her nineties, still goes to the gym three times a week to work out. Alyce, who I play Mah Jong with, still does intricate needlepoint and is an avid follower of many sports. A few weeks ago, white-haired Alyce was stopped in her Lexis SUV by a policeman for speeding. She was going 40 miles per hour in a 25 mile-per-hour speed zone. I was so excited, I gave her a high-five and said "you go girl!" Shame on me. It was an infringement of the law, after

all, but it just seemed so cool. She did not get a ticket.

Ray and Arnie, both in their nineties, still play tennis several times a week with the younger guys in their sixties and seventies.

There are other examples of more well-known figures, such as John Glenn – the first astronaut to orbit the earth who went on to become a U.S. senator from Ohio. He wanted to return

to space at age 77 to contribute to a study of space's effects on aging. He was told he was too old to go up again. His response was, "Just because I am 77 doesn't mean I still don't have dreams."

Pablo Picasso was still producing drawings and engravings into his nineties. George Burns won an Oscar at age 80. Grandma Moses painted masterpieces at 100.

Otto Von Bismarck was the one who came up with the magic number of 65 as the actuarial date for retirement in the 1860s because at that time the average life span was about 45.

That number just does not fit these days. Many 60, 70, 80 and even 90-year-olds are out there still reaching their potential, learning new skills, and perfecting the ones they already have. Just go to Eisenhower Park any day of the week and see them all out there on the pickleball courts.

Joanne Byrne served as Senior Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. She is now actively and happily retired. Email her at joannebyrne41@gmail.com to share your thoughts on retirement.

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Canceled Public Hearing

Continued from pg 1

residents to speak out against the proposal at the Inland Wetlands meeting. They circulated fliers. They held informal meetings in neighborhood homes.

Their effort brought dozens of people to the meeting. But a failure on the part of the town to issue proper paperwork led the Inland Wetlands to delay the hearing with no notice.

It was not immediately clear what had caused the lapse, though several sources told the *Milford-Orange Times* that the town had neglected to send notification to the abutting

property owners of the meeting via certified mail.

Murmurs ran through the crowd as commission chairman Rick Mangione told them what had happened. He wasn't entirely clear on the cause himself, saying that he only heard about it when he arrived for the meeting.

Many of those opposed to the development gathered outside Town Hall after the announcement to vent and discuss next steps.

"I think the postponement and the reason for the postponement are very interesting, and point to an underlying opportunity to delay the public hearing, to buy time to try to diffuse the public's interest," said Orange resident Ron Michaels, who has been active in the opposition. "It's absolutely not going to work. This is only going to push us harder to get the message out."

Lisa Jurzyk, who lives in the neighborhood that would be impacted, said she was upset at the way the town had handled the cancellation.

"It seems like there were ulterior motives regarding why this conveniently didn't happen tonight," she said.

Angela McNabola, who is running as a Democratic candidate for the Board of Selectmen, said she came to the meeting to hear about the proposal and what her fellow residents had to say.

"It's too bad that people arranged their schedules and came here to hear what had to be said and to speak their voice, and we want clarification on next steps," she said.

McNabola said she wasn't ready to point any fingers for the delay until she had all the facts.

"But we're entitled to know what they are," she added.

Information on when a future public hearing might be scheduled was not immediately available, though the Inland Wetlands Commission confirmed it will still be held.

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The Milford Chamber of Commerce

The Secret To Success

The secret to success is just around the corner, or in our case, on the corner at 5 Broad St. in Milford. That's where the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce is located.

Our local business climate is flourishing from the ground up. At the Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to partner in this success, ensuring that Milford is the foremost location for economic development and business prosperity. The chamber is a place where you can meet business leaders in the city and have access to a multitude of opportunities to

network, further your career, hear success stories, stay up to date on community and industry news and socialize. The Milford Chamber of Commerce is a catalyst for achievement between business and community.

For over 60 years, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce has diligently fulfilled its mission as the advocate for business excellence. We create, enhance, and promote the thriving economic environment in which we work



PAM STANESKI

and live. Whether it is through networking events, committee work, government relations or community resources, we bring value to our members.

Key to this effort is building strong relationships with our businesses, nonprofits, government and community leaders.

As a Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce member, this is a just a snapshot of what you have access to, all right here in one of

Connecticut's most dynamic cities, where success is just around/on the corner. Not a member? Stop by to hear our member success stories (or check them out on our Facebook page). We would love to help you make the right connections to grow your business, because business is our business.



The Orange Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Membership Can Pay Off

Businesses often aren't sure how to best use their chamber of commerce memberships. They understand that chambers are an advocate for business, but what do they do?

You just might be surprised at some of the ways the chamber is able to help improve and grow your business. Even in the virtual world, people do business with others they know, like, and trust. Networking at the Orange Chamber's events can help you start to establish important relationships to building business.

Attend the Orange Chamber's monthly "Morning Jolt" Coffee and Conversation gathering, where business professionals meet other professionals, share information, concerns and promote their business. The activity lasts one hour and is held at Eli's Orange or at chamber member locations.

Attendees give a 30-second commercial highlighting their business, and members who host a "jolt" have the opportunity to highlight their business with a presentation.

To be successful you need to get involved. Being associated with the chamber is a good thing. Getting involved will help you become more than just a face at a networking function. The chamber is always looking for volunteers for short-term and long-term projects.

Chambers are always asked for referrals. The Orange Chamber has a fabulous online directory that ensures your name gets in front of people looking for your services.



CAROL SMULLEN

The chamber website is one of the first places the broader public goes to look for local businesses. At the Orange Chamber members administer their own information on the website.

Chambers look for information concerning the business arena. If you have knowledge that benefits the business community, chambers could be looking for your expertise. Your chamber may need knowledgeable professionals to speak at events. This kind of opportunity is a resource for others and promotes your business at the same time.

The Orange Chamber is well-regarded, and positive associations with the chamber

will lend your business credibility. A business that joins the chamber cares about the community in which it operates. Sponsoring chamber events and programs increases the public's awareness of what you do.

The public does business with people they know, like and trust. Helping the chamber may open doors to you and present new opportunities. The Orange Chamber represents all businesses in the community. Membership and involvement can be highly valuable.



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Beautiful 4BR, 4.1BA, 4808 sf home nestled on 1.75 private acres. This property is said to be the highest point in Orange with views as far as the LI Sound. Open floor plan. 3 fireplaces. 5 car garage.
FRAN MORROW ~ 203.605.7733



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Move Right In! Beautiful, well maintained 3 Bdrm, 2.1 BA cul-de-sac! Thinking of Selling? Inventory is Low! I Have Buyers! Call me about my new Listing Concierge Service!
AUDRA DIGELLO ~ 203.506.4778



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From The Bar:

Keep Your Estate Planning Up To Date

In the Aug. 8, 2019 edition we wrote about Abby, Frank and their children. In particular, we wrote about the difficulty the children had obtaining needed financial information about their parents because they didn't have a durable power of attorney instrument signed by a parent.

This month, we thought it would be helpful to give you more information about the pros and cons of a durable power of attorney instrument.

The important "pro" of a durable power of attorney instrument is that it allows another person to engage in financial decisions on your behalf if you can't do so for some reason (illness, injury, loss of capacity). As you read, without a legally binding durable power of attorney instrument in place, Abby's children were denied access to her financial information unless they went through a probate

court proceeding to become the conservator of Abby's estate.

Although probate court judges and staff members are helpful and user friendly, getting the job done will take time, create a public record, and involve costs for filing fees, a bond and, in most instances, attorney's fees. Using a durable power of attorney instrument avoids all of that. In most cases, it is the preferred way to assure your assets are properly managed during any period of time you are incapacitated, either short-term or long-term.

Be aware, however, that a durable power of attorney instrument almost always is a "live" document when you sign it. You trust your agent not to use it unless necessary, but it is "live" when it is signed unless you specifically



STEVEN
FLOMAN

state otherwise in the durable power of attorney. Recent changes to the Connecticut Uniform Power of Attorney Act state that a copy of a durable power of attorney instrument needs to be recognized by financial institutions to the same extent as the original. So, if you give your agent a copy of what you signed, as many people do, be aware that the copy is as "live" as the original.

Should you worry about this? Probably not. The essential premise of naming an agent to act for you is that you trust the person you chose. Safeguards exist if things change and the trust no longer is warranted. You can revoke the durable power of attorney instrument or the authority of the agent. If you have lost the capacity to do that,

other family members and certain third parties can ask the probate court to intervene.

Weighing the pros and cons almost always leads a family to conclude that using a durable power of attorney is the best option. However, reviewing what you have, how it's titled, and your family's unique dynamics with an estate planning attorney always is advisable before you decide what is right for you.

Steven P. Floman of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC is the author of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

Your Finances:

Women Feeling Less Positive About Finances

Women generally worry more about money than men. Multiple studies have shown this to be true, including a 2016 survey that revealed women are more likely to lose sleep over issues of personal finance. As a certified financial planner, I have seen this dynamic play out among my own clients.

And while the economy and the stock market are hitting on most cylinders, a new survey shows that women are worrying more, not less, about money. According to the 2019 Women, Money and Power Study, a survey carried out every three years by Allianz Life:

- Fewer women say they feel financially secure (62 percent in 2019 compared with 68 percent in 2016).

- Fewer women say they are the breadwinner in their household (38 percent in 2019 versus 47 percent in 2016 and 60 percent in 2013).

- Fewer women report having more earning

power (42 percent in 2019, 50 percent in 2016, and 57 percent in 2013).

- Fewer women say they are the CFO of their household (47 percent in 2019, 51 percent in 2016, and 53 percent in 2013).

- Fewer women say they have asked for a promotion or a raise at work (27 percent in 2019 compared with 44 percent in 2016).

Nearly six in 10 women (57 percent) wish they were more confident in their financial decision making, according to the April 2019 online survey of 900 women nationwide.

Women face well-known obstacles on the road to financial security: they live longer than men, earn less and therefore save less, are more likely to spend money and time



ERIC
TASHLEIN

on caregiving, and often are harmed financially by divorce or widowhood. But it's unclear why women should have lost ground over the past six years.

Among the survey respondents, 25 percent were working with a financial advisor, down from 30 percent in 2016. Of those, 60 percent said the advisor treats their spouse/partner as the decision maker. I believe it's important

to treat couples as equals in managing their financial lives. Women, married or single, can enhance their financial confidence and independence by seeking out education on the topics of investing and financial planning. In addition, numerous studies have shown that people who create and follow a comprehensive

financial plan feel more positive about their financial future.

A final thought. While women are less likely than men to feel confident about their investing skills, multiple studies show that women are better than men at investing. Both married and single women consistently achieve higher returns, primarily because they hold onto their investments longer. How's that for a confidence booster?

Eric Tashlein is a Certified Financial Planner professional™ and founding Principal of Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC, 2 Schooner Lane, Suite 1-12, in Milford. He can be reached at 203-877-1520 or through connecticutcapital.com. This is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as personalized investment advice or legal/tax advice. Please consult your advisor/attorney/tax advisor.

Insuring Your Future:

HIPAA Does Not Protect Everything

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, is a U.S. law designed to provide privacy standards that protect patients' medical records and other health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers. However, there is a great deal of information that "lives" on the internet, so health information can be more broadly available.

HIPAA laws require that safeguards be implemented to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of protected health information, and places limits on the uses and disclosures of PHI. Medical facilities and insurance companies or any entity that has access to an individual's health information is subject to these rules. If they violate any of the provisions in HIPAA's privacy and security regulations, they could face financial and/or criminal penalties. Claiming ignorance of HIPAA law is not a valid defense. This is the reason that your doctor's office is so careful about sharing medical records.

What information is protected? Any document that can reveal information relating to the health status of an individual, whether past, present or future that is kept by any medical or other organization related to healthcare services. It also includes the financial entities involved, such as insurance companies. Both financial and medical records are protected. It also extends to information that identifies an individual: name, address, Social Security numbers, birth dates, gender, ethnicity and so on.

The law draws a distinction between records that are physically maintained and information that is stored, transmitted or received electronically. Only information on patients or health plan members qualifies as PHI. It does not include information contained in educational and employment records.

Information is only considered PHI when



TRISH
PEARSON

an individual could be identified by it. If all identifiers are stripped from health data, it ceases to be protected health information and the HIPAA privacy restrictions on uses and disclosures no longer apply. This is particularly relevant to patients who participate in health studies, of which there are a large number in our area. People who participate in such studies should know how their personal information will be protected.

HIPAA and PHI also apply to your insurance agents. They are required to protect your privacy as they collect and maintain a great deal of information about you. This includes not only universal identifiers such as name, Social Security number, and address, but also medical information that you may reveal during an appointment as it relates to doctors and prescription medications. Make sure that your agent has adequate safeguards in place to protect your information. If you're

not sure, ask.

Insurance companies and other entities are not allowed to share your demographic information with any marketing or other organization. However, there are many records that are considered public information and are available through government and other organizations not subject to HIPAA rules. Hence the postcards and other mail that those over 65 will begin to receive this time of year.

If you respond to a request for "more information" you have provided the sender with permission to contact you regarding their insurance product. This includes both email and telephone solicitations. So be careful what you fill out as it could open the floodgates of mail and phone calls. However, under no circumstances can an agent knock on your door without being given previous permission to do so.

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

Audubon Society Holding Butterfly Program In Milford

Continued from pg 1

talk about the importance of milkweed to the monarch's life cycle, the challenges it faces in an ever-changing world, and what you can do to help. Then the group will head outdoors to search for monarchs in the pollinator garden and around the center grounds.

This program runs rain or shine from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the center, located at 1 Milford Point Rd. in Milford. In the event

of inclement weather, alternate indoor activities are planned. It's appropriate for adults and families with children ages 5 and up. No strollers.

The cost is \$7 per person for CAS members and \$10 per person for non-members. Pre-registration is required. For more information visit ctaudubon.org/coastal-center-programs-events/. To reserve a spot, call 203-878-7440, x502.

Orange Land Trust Holding Several Events

The Orange Land Trust will be hosting a birds of prey demonstration given by Wingmaster Julie Anne Collier at the Orange Agricultural Fairgrounds located at 525 Orange Center Rd., on Sept. 21 and 22. Presentations featuring North American birds of prey will be at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The trust will also be hosting its annual fall hike on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Housatonic Overlook and Tuckers Ridge, which is located at the end of High Ridge Road in Orange. This walk allows for some incredible views of the

Housatonic River. Hiking boots or sneakers with good tread are recommended. The hike begins at 9 a.m. and is free and open to the public.

The trust is commemorating the passing of its past president of 35 years, Dr. Edmund Tucker, with a memorial bench. It is accepting donations of all sizes. Donations can be made at orangelandtrust.org, or checks can be mailed to The Orange Land Trust, PO Box 785 Orange Ct 06477. Note if the donation is for the memorial bench.

Orange Lions Announce Stand-Up Comedy Fundraiser

The Orange Lions are hosting a standup comedy show on Saturday, Oct. 19 in the social hall of St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church.

Featured will be three professional comedians from New York City, with headliner Craig "The Fig" Figueiredo, Jo-Jo Collins, and Jimmy Parrente.

At the comedy show, the Lions will also conduct a raffle with several baskets. All net proceeds raised at the show will go to the Orange Lions Charities, which includes aid for the blind and low vision, children with cancer, disaster relief and local community causes.

Doors for the event will open at 7 p.m., with the comedy show starting at 8 p.m. This is an event for mature audiences. Seats are on a first-come-first-seated basis. Guests may bring their own beverages and food. The Lions will provide snacks, ice and set-ups, with desserts and coffee being served at the end of the event.

Tickets are \$35, and are available from any Orange Lion's Club member, or online at bpt.me/4316597 with a small service fee.

The church is located at 480 Racebrook Rd. in Orange. For tickets or questions, call Ken Lenz at 203-795-3906 or Mike Muttitt at 203-799-7818.

Amity To Induct Academic, Athletic Honorees

The Amity Academic Hall of Honor and Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its 2019-2020 induction ceremony Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange.

The honorees include: Gabrielle L. Corradino, class of 2007, Academic Hall of Honor, marine scientist, plankton ecologist, oceanographer, National Geographic; Edward "Ted" Czepiga, class of 2004, Athletic Hall of Fame, football and boys lacrosse; Michael Effley, class of 1988, Academic Hall of Honor, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Patricia Mascia, Athletic Hall of Fame, field hockey coach, girls basketball coach and educator; Jack Santucci, class of 2001, Academic Hall of Honor, assistant teaching professor at Drexel University; Dawn Stanton, class of 1986, Athletic Hall of Fame, girls indoor and outdoor track and field; Chris Diette, Class of 2004, Athletic Hall of Fame, boys swimming and boys lacrosse; Susanne M. Duffy, Academic Hall

of Honor, educator; Gary Lindgren, Athletic Hall of Fame, boys ice hockey coach and educator; Nic Novicki, class of 2001, Academic Hall of Honor, actor, comedian, public speaker; Esther Pan Sloane, class of 1993, Academic Hall of Honor, United Nations Capital Development Fund; and Amanda (Vargo) Zapatka, Class of 2004, Athletic Hall of Fame, girls soccer, girls basketball.

Dinner tickets are \$50 in advance with a purchase deadline of Oct. 1. There will be no tickets for purchase at the door.

For Athletic Hall of Fame tickets, make checks made payable to Amity Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame, Amity High School Athletic Department, Attn. Lori Bonney 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

For Academic Hall of Honor tickets make checks made payable to the Amity Hall of Honor, Amity District Office, Attn. Carol Lange, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

Audubon Center Holding Early Fall Bird Walk



Piping plovers are a common sight on Milford's shores. Photo by Patrick Comins.

along the marsh, beach and upland areas of the Coastal Center in Milford. Now is the time to view the land and shore birds that are passing through or living here this time of year.

The walk, from noon to 2 p.m., is appropriate for adults and teens 16 and up, and all levels of birders are welcome. Registrants will be notified if the program is cancelled due to inclement weather.

Participants will meet at the Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center at 1 Milford Point Rd. in Milford. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$7 per person for CAS members and \$10 per person for non-members. To sign up, call 203-878-7440.

More information about this, and other upcoming programs and events at the center can be viewed at ctaudubon.org/coastal-center-programs-events/.

Join Miley Bull, Connecticut Audubon's senior director of science and conservation, for an early fall bird walk Saturday, Sept. 28

Children Win Big In Milford Snapper Derby



Milford's annual Children's Snapper Derby was held Sept. 14 at Lisman Landing. First, second, and third place prizes were awarded to three children based on a total of their five heaviest fish, with a ten-fish maximum. From left: Ken Gabianelli of the Milford Sports Fishermen Association, first place winner Jack Friedman, third place winner Elena Magliochetti, second place winner Logan West and mayor Ben Blake. Photo by James Wasilewski.

Orange First Selectman Candidates Make Their Case In First Debate

Continued from pg 1

owns Shamrock Farm.

Zeoli, who needed little introduction, spent his opening remarks detailing some of the things he's helped accomplish in Orange over his decade and a half in office.

"I think that the town is in a very good place. I think that there have been many projects accomplished, and many more to go," he said.

The candidates clashed almost immediately on the issue of school regionalization. One of Dietch's main campaign planks has been to wrap kindergarten through sixth grade into a regional district, as already exists for the other grades in the Amity school system, which Orange shares with Bethany and Woodbridge.

"We have three towns and four superintendents, four directors of curriculum, four business managers, etc.," she said, adding that she personally experienced the difficulty of transitioning from the Orange school system to the Amity system as a child.

Zeoli said he is always looking for ways to share services but is not in favor of doing so with the elementary schools. He said he had met with officials from the other Amity towns on this subject and had realized that it would raise special education costs.

"They'd be thrilled if we merged with them," he said of Woodbridge, "because they'd only be paying 30 percent of their special needs bill, we'd be paying 50 percent-plus of it, and Bethany would be paying 20 percent."

Dietch pointed out that although there is economic development in the town, it has not been enough to keep taxes from going up year after year. She claimed that the development on Edison Road for which Zeoli had taken credit was actually initiated by his Democratic

predecessor, Mitch Goldblatt, with a deal to bring the United Illuminating headquarters there.

"Let's remember where this all started," she said, adding that she would resurrect the Post Road Study Committee to better understand how to help small businesses to grow.

Zeoli disputed that narrative, saying that whether or not Goldblatt had conversations with UI, he had been the one to land the actual commitment.

"Fortunately for all of you," he said, "my relationship with the Foyer family is what brought [UI's] corporate headquarters to their farm property here in town, which is now generating three and a half million dollars in property taxes to you."

Dietch also criticized Zeoli for not pursuing outside sources of revenues through grants.

"To me, it's a no-brainer that you have to apply for grants, because you can't keep paying for everything out of our tax dollars," she said. She suggested working with other towns in the region to collectively seek grants.

Zeoli responded by arguing that he thought he had done well with grants and pointing to several projects that were funded through them, including the recent replacement of the bridge on Derby-Milford Road.

The candidates did agree on some points. They both, for instance, said they would enthusiastically support building a Metro North station in Orange, a decades-long effort that nearly came to fruition before being scrapped by the state a year ago.

"Jody," Zeoli joked, "I hope before your hair turns the color of mine that if you are elected first selectman you can get that train in."



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Candidates Have Their Say

Continued from pg 1 - Benjamin G. Blake, Milford Mayor – Democrat

sound and balanced budget. We all want the best bond ratings and our operations to be more effective and efficient than ever. Whenever and wherever possible, we look to generate real revenue to help offset the cost of city and town operations. We want the character of our neighborhoods protected and our downtowns vibrant and bustling. We want a safe and secure place to raise our children and grandchildren with beautiful green open spaces and stellar parks and beaches. What we really want here in the greater Milford region are communities that we are proud to share with visiting family and friends who are so wowed by all that we have to offer that they consider moving here too.

With such a common interest in what we all want for the greater Milford region, our local budget debates focus on how to realize our goals and prioritize our resources. There is a balance that must be struck between the need to provide quality services and the cost of those same services.

Each year, we must ask ourselves: how we will maintain and invest in our infrastructure, our schools, our police, our fire and our senior center without placing an undue tax

burden on our residents? Do we really need a particular product or service and what is it truly worth? What can we afford and how can we be sure we are getting the most out of our tax dollars? Are there better models in other municipalities? Or will a regional partnership bring efficiency and value? Will partnering with a neighboring town help us to maximize the efficiency of local Milford government? These are the questions that will challenge us as we plan for the future and contemplate regional opportunities.

As we consider the possibility of regionalizing, we know that Milford, which stands on the footing of a fiscally firm foundation, is a desirable community with which to collaborate. Milford has an enviable mill rate – far less than any of our neighboring communities. Our prestigious AAA bond rating, prudently managed fund balance, and sound pension fund make Milford an attractive partner. Ultimately, it is through purposeful planning strategies (which always include the possibility of regionalization) that we will continue to enhance the services we provide our citizens and further reduce taxes for our residents and businesses.

Candidates Have Their Say

Continued from pg 1 - Dan German, Milford Mayor, Republican

the smaller participant. A similar concept would be that of purchasing health insurance, where the benefit of being part of a larger organization would result in lower cost of health insurance compared to an individual buying health insurance on their own, and assuming there are no subsidies.

I have heard much discussion regarding smaller towns such as Orange/Woodbridge/Bethany where regionalizing fits well. That school system is ranked among one of the highest in the state.

I personally feel regionalization is a consideration local school districts need to carefully assess and if feasible and practical, then develop a long-term plan. Sometimes the relationship between regionalization and cost savings is complicated.

On the other hand, if a school district is managed well, is efficient, and highly rated, would they want to consider merging with

another local district? I feel municipalities should have that discussion and look at all options.

With regard to other city services such as police, fire and public works, a feasible option would be to work with neighboring towns for big budget items such purchasing supplies/equipment, road maintenance and construction equipment to name a few. In emergency situations involving a major fire, disaster or criminal activity, a coordination of efforts is definitely beneficial. In this case regionalization can provide better services at a better cost to taxpayers.

Regionalization can be a tangible way to save money and better serve citizens, but it also can be difficult.

When considering Milford's population, logistics and resources I would be opposed to regionalization but would be open to the discussion and welcome all options.

Candidates Have Their Say

Continued from pg 1 - Jim Zeoli, Orange First Selectman - Republican

a positive for all three towns. I would also welcome the opportunity to work with our other neighbors to benefit the communities.

The Town of Orange entered into a regional partnership with the Amity system in 1954 and continues to thrive today. I think as children grow a single high school would not support all the diverse needs that a three-town system has been able to provide as they prepare for the future. I do not however support the regionalizing of our elementary system as has been proposed by the Democratic leaders in Hartford! The residents of the communities affected should have the complete responsibility of making that decision, not those that sit in the thrones in Hartford! I received many calls, messages and emails when that was being discussed and all but two were to leave our schools alone!

The Town of Orange purchases our insurance through the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Association, or CIRMA, which is a membership of over 120 communities within the state of Connecticut. The Town of Orange is in a fuel bid consortium for the purchase of heating oil, diesel fuel, and gasoline with three other communities. The Town of Orange uses the state of Connecticut-approved bids for winter salt, road paving, asphalt to purchase as a few more examples.

The town also posts projects on the state of Connecticut website where contractors and vendors are able to see work available, read the bid documents and follow the prescribed requirements without burdening our staff

with questions that can be answered in the documents. This is a relatively new process for Orange that has proven itself repeatedly.

The town also is a member of South Central Regional Council of Governments, or SCROG, a regional membership of 15 communities that started with emphasis on transportation issues within the region and has expanded into many other support services for the member communities.

The town is also a member of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, or CCM, which is an organization that covers most communities in the entire state of Connecticut. This organization offers the towns strong lobbying power in Hartford and also has programs of community management, purchasing, research and data collection service to offer a few examples.

The state of Connecticut has not created incentives for regionalization; they have created yet another task force to do a study and make recommendations by Feb. 5, 2020. Then the Office of Policy and Management is supposed to implement the findings created by those in the thrones in Hartford beginning in July of 2020.

I am supportive of many regional activities to help our community and residents, but I very definitely have very strong opinions of some that I don't feel are a good fit for Orange. I and town departments will continue to work with the regional programs we have and will continue to look at and consider other opportunities we can create or be invited to join.

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Serving The Community Through Rotary

By Richard Dumbrill



Rotary is an international organization known for its efforts to improve the lives and welfare of adults and children in communities in over 200 countries

on all continents.

Rotary's lead in a public-private partnership in the eradication of polio has been perhaps its signature national and international project. Others include efforts to stop HIV/AIDS and malaria, also life-threatening diseases. It has also helped communities survive the displacement caused by coastal flooding and other effects of climate change.

The Rotary Club of Orange is part of a network of business and professional leaders in Connecticut who have a shared responsibility to take action on our most persistent and intractable problems. In an ever-changing environment, we recommit each year to past projects and add new ones that require our attention.

In North America and most parts of the world, Rotarians volunteer their time, talent and money to fight disease, provide irrigation and clean water, build schoolhouses and libraries, assist women in developing entrepreneurial skills to sustain their familiar economically, expand access to quality healthcare and support elementary and secondary education.

In Orange, we cast our net far and wide in similar endeavors. Rotary supports a variety of projects locally and regionally. These include providing winter coats for disadvantaged kids, procuring equipment for fire and police departments, getting books for reading enrichment programs, donating to hurricane victims, volunteering at inner city meal locations and delivering food to shut-ins and poor families. We organize paper shredding days, deliver roses on Mother's Day, serve lunches at senior centers, visit veterans' hospitals, arrange for young people to obtain an ID in case of emergencies and serve food at county fairs.

Rotary is the oldest and one of the most respected nonprofit organizations in the world. Rotarians work with people everywhere on projects. Volunteering our energy and assistance is a badge of honor and a commitment to filling our "service above self" creed.

We have many members and friends in New England, the U.S. and overseas, but Orange remains at the heart of who we are and what we do. Together we connect, helping to grow our communities.

As president of Orange Rotary, I invite you to reach out to me at richard@dumbrill.net or drop in at one of our regular lunch meetings at Race Brook Country Club in Orange on the first and third Fridays of each month. You can also attend our breakfasts at Chip's on the second Tuesday of each month. There you will learn about our activities, the rewarding experience of Rotary membership and the building of new friendships. You will be most welcome.

Candidates Have Their Say

Continued from pg 1 - Jody Dietch, Orange First Selectman - Democrat

doubt this concept will be back. We should be prepared. But regardless of the state's efforts to force small communities to combine their resources, there are sound reasons for us to explore this concept on our own.

Sharing of resources is something we already do in Orange. We share animal control with Milford. We are part of a fuel purchase consortium with Bethany, Woodbridge and Amity District. We share school bus services as well, and our police and fire services participate in mutual aid. So, this is not a new concept for Orange. But there is more we can and should be doing. I have already been in touch with the leaders of our neighboring towns to further pursue opportunities.

We have two wonderful school systems in Orange and Amity, as do Woodbridge and Bethany. Three towns, four school systems. What does that mean? Four superintendents, four curriculum directors, four business managers, etc. Are we being wise and/or efficient by having four of these positions as well as other central office positions?

What would it mean to our residents if we became a K-12 Amity district? It would mean consolidating these positions. For our elementary school students, nothing changes. They have the same school, the same teachers, the same principals, the same bus and bus drivers.

It would mean a better education system for our children. My two sons and I are products of Orange elementary schools, as well as Amity. I know first-hand the challenge of the transition from sixth grade to the middle school. We have worked for years trying to improve that transition from one school system to another, yet I still hear the same concerns and issues today that happened when my 26-year-old made that transition. So clearly improvement is needed.

Currently, Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge each select and buy their own curricula for their elementary schools. This means when our students get to Amity, they have had different learning experiences. As an

Amity K-12 district, we would benefit from a unified curriculum. That would allow us greater buying power, but more importantly, it would have all of our students learning together so when they get to the middle school and high school, everyone is on the same page.

The state is going to pursue this concept and we need to be ahead of this. Do we want to be in control of our future or have someone else dictate it? Are we prepared to lose state funding by not considering this option?

The Amity Board of Education is currently pursuing a K-12 study. I have thought long and hard about this and spoken to many people. I support this study. My opponent does not. He was quoted as saying he won't support this because he doesn't want to lose control. Let me be clear: the first selectman does not have control over a Board of Education. By statute, they are autonomous. His statement makes me wonder how much influence he is imposing. Additionally, this is about what is best for our taxpayers and our students. Even in a K-12 district, Orange would have the majority of students and thus the majority representation, as we do now, on the Board of Education. So what control is actually lost?

Our friends in Woodbridge and Bethany have both publicly supported this proposal. Our Amity Board of Education has supported pursuing this concept as well. This shows bipartisan support because it isn't about politics when it comes to our kids.

School system aside, what other resources can we share with our neighbors? This isn't limited to Bethany and Woodbridge. Milford? West Haven? We all have resources to share and we need to consider those options. Economic development in Orange has been strong and yet our taxes go up every year. Sharing resources is a way for us to increase revenue and control expenses. We must pursue these opportunities and do what is best for the taxpayers of our town.

Orange, are you ready?

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News & Events

Integrative Medical Center Opens in Milford



Wave Integrative Medical Center, a functional and holistic medicine practice, recently held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its relocation to Milford. Photo courtesy of Vincent Giandurco.

Wave Integrative Medical Center, a functional and holistic medicine practice, recently held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its relocation to Milford.

Wave treats complex chronic or inflammatory illnesses, which are often difficult to diagnose and treat with conventional medical approaches.

Founder Krista Hewlett Keegan, said, "Our

whole team is excited to bring a new approach to health and healing to Fairfield County. Our vision of integrative medicine combines functional, naturopathic and conventional methods, leading-edge technology, and personalized genomics to design a precision treatment for each patient."

Wave is located at 326 West Main St., Suite 108.

Milford Trick Or Trot To Benefit Beth-El

The 8th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Beth-El Center will take place on Saturday, Oct. 26, beginning at Lisman Landing at 37 Helwig St. in Milford at 9 a.m. Run or walk a 3.2-mile scenic route through Milford. The Kids Fun Run starts at 8:45 a.m. There will also be a pet costume

contest.

The fee is \$27 per person for advanced registration, and \$35 for same-day registration. The price includes a bib, t-shirt and post-race breakfast and entertainment. Register at milfordtrickortrot.com.

Orange Recycling Committee Announces Shredding Day

The Orange Recycling Committee has announced the next paper shredding and mattress recycling event for Saturday, Oct. 19 at the front parking lot of High Plains Community Center. The committee will once again be joined by the Mattress Recycling Council collecting used mattresses and box springs.

The secure, on-site paper shredding service will once again be handled by Affordable Solutions, owned and operated by Orange resident Joe Johnston. Residents may bring bags or boxes filled with documents for shredding and volunteers from the Orange Recycling Committee will deposit them into the shredding truck. This service is funded by the Rotary Club of Orange. Residents may show their appreciation by donating to the Orange Rotary Scholarship Fund. Rotarians will be on hand to collect donations.

Papers that will be accepted for shredding include tax papers, bills, receipts, statements, and documents that contain personal, financial and/or medical information. There is no need to remove staples or elastic bands, but clips should be removed for reuse. Paper that is already shredded, newspapers, notebooks, folders and other papers that can go in regular residential recycling bins will not be accepted.

Residents may also bring mattresses and box springs for recycling. This free service is made possible through a partnership with the Mattress Recycling Council's Bye Bye Mattress Program. Dry mattresses of all sizes and box springs will be accepted. Mattresses from futons/sofa beds or waterbeds, mattresses infested with bed bugs, wet,

damaged or excessively soiled mattresses, sleeping bags or mattress pads/toppers are not part of the program.

For residents who need assistance getting mattresses and box springs to the event, members of the Orange Lions Club will pick these items up from residences, as long as the items are outside and dry or in a garage for easy access. Volunteers will not enter homes. Anyone interested in this pickup service should contact Ken Lenz at 203-795-3906. The fee for pick-up is \$10 per mattress or box spring. Payment is by cash or check made out to Orange Lions Charities, and all proceeds are considered a charitable donation.

Orange Recycling Committee Chair Mitch Goldblatt said he is excited about this opportunity for residents to dispose of items at no cost.

"Saturday, October 19 will be a great morning for cleaning out before the winter sets in," Goldblatt said. "I'm encouraging all residents to bring their personal documents, papers, and even mattresses for the ultimate Orange recycling event."

"We are thrilled to partner with the Rotary Club of Orange and the Orange Lions Club to offer these important environmental services to residents," he said. "Purging homes of these items and keeping them out of landfills helps our environment as well as our tax dollars. This is a fun event that gives volunteers and residents an opportunity to work together for a cleaner and more sustainable planet."

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to noon rain or shine. High Plains Community Center is located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange.

Milford Therapist Holds Ribbon-Cutting



Women's Wellness, which offers therapy and other services for mothers, held a ribbon cutting Sept. 7 for its location at 4 Oxford Rd. in Milford. Photo by G. Gregory Geiger.

Colonial Properties Completes Two Sales Worth \$900,000

Orange-based real estate firm Colonial Properties completed two recent sales totaling about \$900,000, including one in Milford.

Tony Vitti of Colonial was the sole broker in the sale of 393 Bridgeport Ave. in Milford, a 2,200 square foot building on 0.22 acres. The property sold for \$275,000 and was previously used as an auto repair facility. The City of Milford was the seller. The buyer, Comfortable Investments, LLC, is planning to renovate the property and relocate their HVAC business there.

Senior vice president Fred A. Messoro represented the estate of John LaViola in the sale of an assemblage that consisted of three commercial buildings totaling 10,300 square

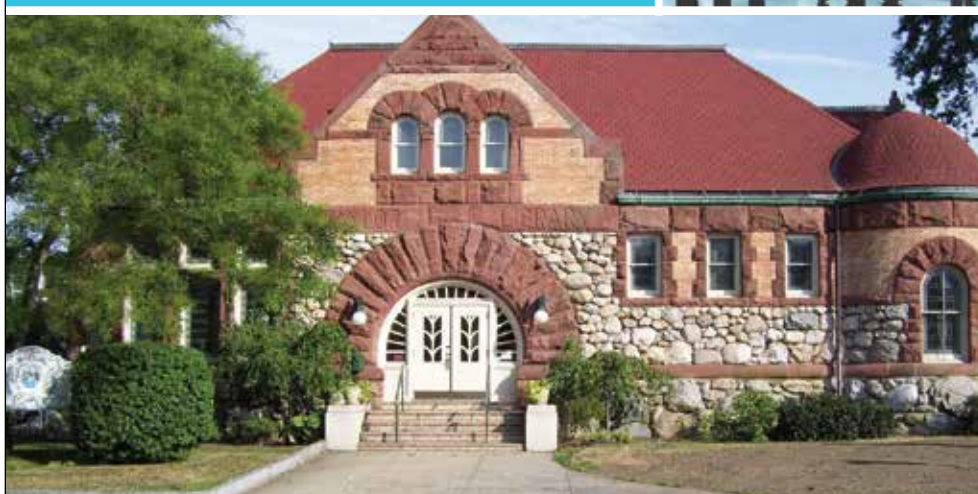
feet on about one acre. The parcels, located at 345 and 355 Forbes Ave., 208 and 220 Hoover St., 226 Stratford St. and 131 Kendall St. in New Haven, sold for \$618,000. The buyer, Daniel Sunderland, was also the co-brokering agent and will relocate his electrical contracting business to the property. He was represented by attorney Lawrence Levinson in New Haven. The seller's attorney was R. Eugene Torrenti of Hamden.

"These two properties were sold to buyers who intend to use the property for their businesses. These sales represent the strong demand for owner/user properties in the greater New Haven market," said Colonial president Michael Richetelli.



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Veteran's Corner:

Unintended Consequences In Zoning

The Orange Town Plan & Zoning Commission is contemplating changes to the Orange zoning regulations that will apply to the Local Shopping District zone regulation for the Firelite Shopping Center. As envisioned by the developer, mixed residential and commercial establishments would be placed on the site.

The developer is contemplating a three-story building with 15 apartments per acre – up to 90 apartments on the site with commercial stores on the lower level.

Residents of Racebrook Road have expressed traffic concerns with this density, as this five-street intersection is the most congested in town already.

The Town Plan & Zoning Commission would consider a traffic study to investigate this issue if the zone regulation change is granted and the developer presents such a building plan. The public hearing has been extended several times on proposed changes

to the regulations. The TPZC is being careful to make changes to the zoning regulations, as the decisions they make now will affect the future character of the town.

For instance, these changes could impact how future Town Plan & Zoning commissions will have to consider proposed developments. Trying to limit the changes to just one site may not be possible.

This leads us to a document most of the town residents have not seen, the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development, or POCD. This plan gives a glimpse of what Orange could look like if mixed residential and commercial development zones were to take effect at other locations such as the Route 34 corridor, from Grassy Hill Road to the Derby line to the west. The biggest stopping point



THOMAS P. HURLEY

for such development at this point is the lack of sanitary sewers.

Let us envision a future where we create the Northwest Orange Sewer District, a territory roughly bounded by Route 34 to the north, Route 121 to the water tank, Fernbrook Road, Garden Road to the Tennessee Gas pipeline, Beechlawn Terrace, Willard Road to the Patricia Court intersection, and Opekun Road. This is a dense single-family housing area today,

with small lots and limited septic space on those lots.

This sewer district could certainly be justifiable in the future for mixed housing with its proximity to the Derby sanitary sewer system. Now envision six-acre groupings along Route 34 or the farm area along Grassy Hill (Route 121) across from Fieldstone Village, with mixed residential and commercial

development with up to 15 apartments per acre times six for each development, and now a commercial component being introduced into the neighborhood.

Since this is a residential zone, the 2015 POCD envisions this possibility at least along Route 34. This would totally change the character of this area of town, not to mention school population implications.

The TPZC needs to remove the Route 34 corridor from the mixed residential and commercial area envisioned in the 2015 POCD. This mixed development concept has been mentioned at the recent public hearing as not working out too well for other Connecticut communities.

Decisions made today will have unintended consequences tomorrow. The commission will have to tread carefully with great deliberation and have well-defined rules as we experiment with the new-to-Orange mixed residential concept.

Orange Fire Department Warns Against False Fundraisers

Orange residents are being warned not to respond to solicitation letters from the "Volunteer Firefighters Association." Those letters are not from the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas said he has received reports of people receiving the official-looking letters that include the resident's name and a "Pledge Reminder Payment Coupon." He warned that the letters are untrue.

"We didn't send the letters and we don't get anything from them," said Dumas. "We've asked them to stop soliciting our residents,

but they continue to ask for money. None of those funds come back to Orange."

The letters are emblazoned with "Volunteer Firefighters Association" across the top. After a personalized greeting, the letter says, "Our records indicate that we have had no response from you" and urges the recipient to mail their pledge. The coupon includes a confirmation number, a pledge date and an address in Milwaukee.

"It all looks very legitimate, but it isn't," said Dumas.

Dumas said donations are very important to the Orange Volunteer Fire Department

because the department runs on donations. Its largest fundraiser is the Fireman's Carnival during the first weekend in August, but other contributions are appreciated – and needed.

Any solicitation letter from the Orange Volunteer Fire Department will have the department's name on it and will include an Orange address, Dumas said. People who want to contribute can mail donations directly to the department at P.O. Box 878, Orange, Connecticut, 06744.

Two Milford Businesses Close

Two businesses in Milford, CADO Modern Furniture and Rainbow Gardens, recently closed. CADO was located on the Boston Post Road. Rainbow Gardens, a restaurant located near the Milford Green, had been rumored to be closing for several months.



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News & Events

Maroney's Military To Machinist Program Signed Into Law



Gov. Ned Lamont signed three bills into law Aug. 29 to help Connecticut veterans, one of which was authored by Sen. James Maroney. Photo courtesy of James Maroney.

Joined by military veterans, legislators and advocates, state Sen. James Maroney's (D-Milford) legislation to establish the Military to Machinist program was signed into law by Gov. Ned Lamont Aug. 29 at the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center.

Maroney's bill was one of three new laws adopted with the intention of expanding the ability of veterans to access certain state services and provide assistance after they have returned to civilian life.

The Military to Machinist program, which Maroney authored and led passage of, will establish certain job training programs to assist veterans with the skills needed to obtain jobs in advanced manufacturing and other related positions. The other pieces of legislation signed into law expand eligibility for veterans to receive certain state benefits and provide greater property tax relief for veterans.

Maroney, who is also co-chair of the

Veterans' Affairs Committee, said these pieces of legislation are a show of gratitude for what Connecticut's veterans have sacrificed and will greatly improve their quality of life.

"As co-chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am pleased to see these important bills be signed into law," he said. "The Military to Machinist program is a piece of legislation I authored, led passage of and am incredibly excited about. This law will assist veterans in making the oftentimes challenging transition from military to civilian life easier and rewarding. In addition to helping our state's courageous heroes, we are also strengthening the advanced manufacturing industry with committed, hard-working and intelligent veterans to join their strong and successful workforce. I am eager to see all the ways in which this will benefit our state's heroes, who have sacrificed so much for our state and our country."

Maroney's bill requires the workforce development board for Connecticut's southwest region to develop and operate a Military to Machinists pilot program that will assist veterans in earning an advanced manufacturing certificate from a qualifying program and secure employment in the field upon certificate completion.

In addition, the board must develop and operate a Veterans Platform to Employment pilot program, which will provide training and subsidized employment for veterans who have experienced long-term unemployment, including skills assessments, career readiness workshops, and other tools.

Finally, it requires the board to identify appropriate written materials on mental health conditions common to veterans that will be distributed to employers.

Lamont thanked the co-chairs and ranking members of the committee, who played integral roles in advocating for the bills

throughout the legislative process and getting them approved so that he could sign them into law. State Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-West Haven), who is co-chair of the committee with Maroney, agreed with the senator that these laws will have a positive effect on the lives of veterans and their families.

"Connecticut service members deserve support from the communities they worked so hard to protect," Borer said. "The passage of these measures, which provide economic relief for our veterans, have been a long time coming and I am honored to have helped lead the charge in turning these ideas into policy."

The other two bills extend certain state war service benefits to injured veterans who have served less than 90 days in a period of war and increase the base property tax exemption for certain disabled service members and veterans by \$500.

All three of the bills go into effect Oct. 1.

My Closer To Free Ride

By Clayton Curtiss

Special to the Milford-Orange Times

Editor's note: Clayton Curtiss is an 80-year-old Orange resident who biked 40 miles on Sept. 7 as part of the Closer to Free Ride, an annual fundraiser to benefit the Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center.

The omens could not have been more ominous.

When my alarm went off at 5 a.m. I looked into the darkness and listened for the sound of the rain that had been predicted. It was dark but there seemed to be no rain. My thermometer told me to bundle up, so a layer of winter underwear went on first before my bicycling shorts and my ride day jersey – the one with the photo of Mary and Carolyn.

The parking lots at Yale Bowl were quickly filling up, one of my favorite moments as the string of headlights fanned across the fields. I joined the parade of riders, most of whom were as wrapped up as I was.

It was cold, with a heavy layer of clouds close above and a biting wind reminding us that this year would not be a ride in the park.

We stood with our bikes, our faithful steeds, for the opening ceremony and learned that there were 2,150 of us, a record number that grows every year. Just as Kevin Walsh took the microphone a narrow break opened in the clouds over the Bowl and a band of sunlight briefly appeared.

Then we were off, heading into New Haven for our stop at the Smilow Cancer Center. This year we survivors were asked

to wear a large pin that identified those of us who have completed our cancer treatment. I made a point of stopping and pointing out my status to all the patients and supporters along the sidewalk. Some were in wheelchairs. Some were on ventilators. All were calling encouragement and thanks to us.

There is nothing like this moment.

Riding through New Haven, we were buffeted by the cold wind whipping down the streets, a wind that continued as we climbed East Rock. I was leery of the climb despite my training and my special bike, but at the top of the climb I wasn't even breathing hard. I have learned in past rides that the energy expended on the hills doesn't magically come back later in the ride.

A few miles out on Ridge Road we 40-milers split off onto the old college highway, the beginning of my personal magical mystery tour. A few miles along I was jolted by the realization we were passing the facility where Mary and I went every three weeks for her treatments. I got an even stronger hit later when we rode past hospice. But passing her treatment center reminded me again, as if I needed reminding, of the others we have lost: Billy, Herby, Dick and all those who succumbed to cancer before we were allowed to mention the word.

On we rode into North Haven, at one point passing the home of Paul and Mary Cervoni. Once we had crossed Washington Avenue heading east, I realized I had no idea where I was. We were on relatively lightly traveled suburban and country roads. On we rode,

having no idea what lay around the next corner. At one point I learned to anticipate those corners as I lay back and watched the riders in front of me go around a corner in a line. What a beautiful sight.

By this time the skies had cleared to a cloudless blue and the wind had become negligible. Riding alone or with small clusters I could really enjoy the ride, especially as we climbed the many hills.

I had no idea where we were until we suddenly came upon our first rest stop at the North Branford Town Hall. It was on Route 80, the road my family frequently took when I was a boy when we went to New Haven. I saw many familiar faces, including Justin Schecter, who had interviewed me for Channel 30 last year. Sandwiches, bananas, Gatorade. An army of volunteers who provided us with sustenance and support.

This was the halfway point. More unfamiliar roads took us across Route 1 and down to Pine Orchard on a very twisting and turning route to East Haven and our final rest stop. As we passed Tweed New Haven airport an incoming plane flew directly over us.

New Haven itself was a maze of turns and traffic lights, but then we were alongside Edgewood Park, the Bowl in view. As I rode under the arch of balloons a voice announced my name and told the crowd I was riding for Mary and Carolyn. Can you even imagine the mixed emotions that stirred in me?

I realized as I dismounted that I could have easily gone another 10 miles, maybe more. I

felt that good. I know it was a combination of training and my e-bike and I also know that next year I will do the 65-mile route. Could there be 100 miles in my future?

A nice surprise was having my name called out by Joanne Byrne, who had come to greet me. After our visit I let myself loose on the food trucks. A stuffed baked potato, three scoops of Ben and Jerry's ice cream, and a glass of hard seltzer later, I was a happy guy. As I wandered the grounds people would come up to remind me of something I said or did last year. The man who produces the ride video thanked me for what I had said in an interview last year. So maybe I am doing a little good beyond just the ride.

As I was leaving, I stopped to sign up for next year's ride and for my choice of a distance. I put down the 65-mile ride. And I meant it.

But the minute I got home all the air went out of me. It was a problem getting out of the car and even getting the mail. Janet Finneran explained that my adrenalin had worn off. I know it will come back, but at this moment, Sunday morning, I am still pretty deflated.

/Being in a community of people all dedicated to the same goal is reward enough. Kevin Walsh, who emceed the opening ceremony, called us the Closer to Free Family. He is absolutely right. As I stood shivering in the dark and the wet and the wind I knew I was exactly where I should be.

And I will be there again next year.

An exhausted but tranquil Clayton/Jimmy/PopPop.

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.

MaryAnn Ucci Antonino, 84 of Milford, CT, passed peacefully on Monday August 26, 2019.

Barbara Ann Burrows, 79, of Milford, passed away on September 4, 2019.

Sally Stowe Clemence, passed away on August 31, 2019.

Beverly Ann Coria, 69, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on September 8, 2019.

Georgia Lillian Davis, 82, passed away August 28, 2019.

June Dolinski passed away on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

Carlos A. Ferreira (Charlie), passed away on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

Penny Lynn Ferraro passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

James Jaworski, 85, of Orange, passed away on August 11, 2019.

John "Jack" L. Katrick, 82, passed away on September 3, 2019.

George F. Kempton Sr. was laid to rest on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

Helen R. Kroesser passed away on September 12, 2019.

Clifford R. Lydixsen, Jr., 61 of Milford, passed away August 26, 2019.

Marie A. Aldieri McCarthy, 83, of Orange, died Sept. 3, 2019.

Thomas Patrick O'Malley, 75, of Milford, CT, entered into eternal rest on August 27, 2019.

Virginia "Jean" G. Maurath, 99, of Milford, passed away on September 12, 2019.

Charles Palmer passed away on Monday, August 19, 2019.

Lora J. Roberts, 50, formerly of Milford, passed away on August 21, 2019.

Glen T. Rosengrant, Sr., 68, of Milford, passed away on Sunday, August 25, 2019.

Michael W. Schaus of Milford, passed away on August 22, 2019.

Richard Charles Smith, Sr., 82, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 24, 2019.

Gerald M. Socha passed away on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Helen M. Sopchak of Milford passed away on Aug. 26, 2019.

Marianne Farrell Sullivan, 61, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 12, 2019

James Stephen Tarczali, 72, of Milford, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2019.

Veronica (Vera) Tiernan, 92, of Orange entered into rest on September 13, 2019.

Mary Lou Varnum, age 80, of Milford, passed away on August 30, 2019.

Michael W. Zancewicz of Milford, passed away on August 25, 2019.

Victoria Shery, of Orange, passed away on Thursday August 22, 2019.

Send obituaries to editor@theorangetimes.com



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THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER, SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1972

Seedsmen To The World



Frank Woodruff Rogers, on horse (muzzled so it won't eat profits) and his brother, Maurice Rogers Jr., de-tasseling a crop for hybrid seed corn.

By HAROLD HORNSTEIN

After it had taken root, the Town of Orange spread seeds all over America and throughout the world. Agricultural history was literally shaped by enlightened and shrewd-trading farmers from the little town, who developed seeds that produced sturdy and prolific crops.

This milestone year in Orange, —its 150th anniversary — is tinged with sadness because the last and largest of the town's famous seed companies, Asgrow, soon will be departing. The 117-year-old company, whose handsome headquarters building and monogram of dwarf yew trees are a familiar sight to Wilbur Cross Parkway motorists, will be relocated to Michigan by the Upjohn Co. It has been a subsidiary of Upjohn, a huge pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturer, since 1968, when it was acquired through a \$20 million exchange of stock.

Asgrow (Associated Seed Growers) traces back to the company developed by Everett B. Clark, who started it all when he carted a load of cabbage seed to the front door of his home in Orange. The modern Asgrow headquarters building is located at the site of the Clark homestead.

When Clark's seed enterprise was just sprouting, there was another Orange company that was becoming prominent in the field, the S. D. Woodruff firm, formed in 1865 by Stiles D. Woodruff. These two enterprises, together with Wethersfield and Pennsylvania outfits

constituted the nation's leading seed companies in the 1860s.

Descendants of Clark and Woodruff live in and around Orange today. Although the original Clark Seed Co. gradually assimilated other concerns under the Asgrow banner, a full complement of Clarks has remained on its official rosters. A. Bryan Clark of Woodbridge, former Asgrow president, retires this month as chairman of the board. His cousin, Donald N. Clark of Orange, is a senior vice president.

A repository for Woodruff memorabilia is the Frank Woodruff Rogers Insurance and Real Estate Agency in Orange Center. The concern bears the name of its operator, the rangy great grandson of Stiles Woodruff. We met Rogers and his father, Maurice Rogers, in his office, the walls of which bear framed 19th Century correspondence of the Woodruff seed company.

Maurice Rogers went to work for S.-D. Woodruff and Sons after he had been graduated from Princeton with a degree in chemical engineering. His wife Harriet was the daughter of Frank Woodruff, who was taken into the business in 1888 upon being graduated from Yale's Sheffield School of Science. Frank Woodruff quickly impressed his father. The first year after he had joined the firm, profits shot up to \$30,000. "That was a helluva lot of money in those days," said the gray-haired, colorful-talking Rogers, who has been known to express himself emphatically at Orange town meetings. west.

Frank Woodruff showed his father that employing others, instead of doing everything himself, paid off. Later on, Frank's younger brother, Watson, became part owner of the company, which then was named S.D. Woodruff & Sons.

At the turn of the century, said Rogers, "everybody bought their seed corn in Connecticut. The corn was bought on the ear, packed in barrels. Connecticut never had a complete failure in its corn crop. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven had a great deal to do with this. Dr. Donald Jones of the station pioneered hybrid corn."

In those days, said Rogers, the quality of the corn was based on the premise, "The best ears produced the best plant. But we found out later that the size of the ear actually didn't determine the worth of the corn. There were many other factors."

Around 1900, Frank Woodruff found an ear of corn that he called "Shoe Peg" or "Country Gentlemen."

"There were no regular rows at all, that's why they called it 'Shoe Peg,'" said Rogers. "The kernels were scattered helter skelter — very deep kernels. He increased that ear of corn and he sold most of the crop to a New York City firm, Peter Henderson. Burpee of Philadelphia heard about it and bought some of it. And for years he supplied Burpee and Henderson with Country Gentlemen Seed Corn."

His eyes twinkling, Rogers recalled how Frank Woodruff pulled a coup in Long Island — one of the biggest farming areas early in the 20th century — on a day when it looked like he had met defeat. Frustrated all day, unable to make a sale, Woodruff ran into a Van Sicklen, one of the leading farmers in Jamaica, at dinner. The two men hit it off. Van Sicklen then drove him around the Island, introduced him to Dutch farmers, to whom he sold seed potatoes and vegetables for many years.

Woodruff had three potato warehouses in Caribou, Maine. "That was big business," said Rogers. "He'd buy the seed potatoes in Maine, store them in Caribou and ship certified seed potatoes in the spring all over Long Island."

S. D. Woodruff & Sons had a tremendous business during World War I as a result of the potato deals in Long Island. "He used to supply all the jails, hospitals and other places in New York City with potatoes and onions — and he exported potatoes to Puerto Rico," said Rogers. "I've shipped as high as 40 carloads of potatoes a week to Puerto Rico."

Watson Woodruff had the Connecticut and New England retail trade, while Frank Woodruff did business with wholesalers, dealers and canners as far south as Florida and in the mid-



An open trade secret in the seed growing business, said Rogers, is that no company can raise its product on its own land. "The volume of business is beyond the average comprehension," he said. "Pea seed is shipped in 80,000 pound carload lots. Each carload would require more than 100 acres to be grown. We'd supply the seeds to the farmers and buy the finished crop. Then, if disease got in a certain area, you'd move on to another place."

Asgrow became the largest vegetable seed producer in the world. Its plants have been located in 18 states. More than 54,000 acres are planted to provide Asgrow seed. The seed from this acreage, when planted, puts a vegetable crop on more than 2.5 million acres, an area almost as big as all of Connecticut.

About 1910, noted Rogers, the center of the seed production business shifted from the eastern seaboard to New York state and Michigan. A factor was disease that was spread by rainfall. Later on production moved

farther west to California, the state of Washington and Idaho. Land was cheap there, the irrigation was good and there was no trouble from rainfall.

Rogers chortled at the thought of a Frank Woodruff longshot that paid off. It happened during the 1930s after a Fourth of July frost that wiped out the bean seed crop of Stringless Refugee Thousand To One — a variety all the canners used for packing canned string beans.

"Frank Woodruff planted extra seed in Adam Center, N.Y. on July 5 — way late. But it made a crop! And that year he was the only seedman with Thousand To One Refugee stringless bean seed. And he sold them at the canners convention in Chicago for a dollar a pound — cash in advance or \$120 cash a bag of two bushels of bean seed — compared to the usual price of 10 cents a pound. He had a monopoly — you had to pay his price."

Still shaking his head in disbelief, Rogers remembered Woodruff saying: "Rogers, you'll never see this again as long as you live—you have to have a killing one in a while."

After Frank Woodruff died in 1944, S. D. Woodruff and Sons was sold to Hugh Laird of Orange and then to C. C. Hart, of Wethersfield.



The S. D. Woodruff and Sons Warehouse, at right burned down in 1946. At the site now is the only apartment in Orange, Park Apartments at Old Grassy Road. At left is a 15-room residence now occupied by the family of Frank Woodruff Rogers, great-grandson of the founder of the seed-growing concern.

Rogers left Woodruff in 1941 and started Sleeping Giant Seed Farms, producing hybrid corn seed. When the Wilbur Cross Parkway was built, drainage was dumped onto Woodruff land next to the road for four years straight, Rogers said. This forced him out of the seed business. He tore down the old Woodruff barn on Orange Center Road and turned it into the Orange Shopping Center — "which beats work," he grinned.

In the window of the office where Rogers was interviewed, there hangs a symbol of Frank

Woodruff's gumption. It is a weathervane in the shape of 1882 — the year Stiles Woodruff went to California to inspect some of his seed crops. He left Frank in charge of the Orange farm, telling him to go down and call on Uncle Everett B. Clark if he should be confronted with any difficulties.

"But Frank said, 'the hell, I'll do it myself,' that's the way those guys were," said Rogers. "So the old man put up the weathervane on top of the big old S. D. Woodruff and Sons barn — a gold plated one — in

1882 — to celebrate the year he'd gone to California and his son had taken care of the barn."

In 1946 Rogers took the weathervane down to have it replaced. The weathervane was never to be caught in the wind again. Before Rogers could put it back, the huge barn burned down. The flames from 100 tons of hay lit up the night sky so brightly that reporters from as far as Waterbury and Bridgeport rushed to the scene, which remain vivid in the memory of townspeople today.