



Milford-Orange Times

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October 10, 2019

Blake, German Debate In Milford

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Incumbent Democratic mayor Benjamin Blake and Republican challenger Dan German squared off Sept. 17 in their first debate over who should hold Milford's top elected position.

The event, staged in the First United Church of Christ near downtown, offered Blake a chance to boost Milford's standout performance among Connecticut

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Second Edition Of Orange Town Guide Coming

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford-Orange Times, in collaboration with Derby-based Valley Publishing, is releasing a second edition of its town guide for Orange residents and visitors this autumn.

The guide provides information on who's who in town government, as well

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Neighbors Assail Turkey Hill Development As Public Hearings Get Underway

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The cafeteria at High Plains Community Center in Orange wasn't big enough.

That was where the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission decided to hold the first in a series of public hearings on a proposed housing development off Turkey Hill Road that has drawn intense scrutiny from residents. The hearings had originally been set to begin in September in the lower lever meeting room of Town Hall but had to be canceled with no notice because of a procedural error by the town.

The cafeteria was chosen for the new hearing because of its larger capacity. Even so, over 100 people filled the room, with many standing in the back for what became a three-hour point-counterpoint between representatives of the developer and skeptical neighbors.

At the heart of the controversy is 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.

The Inland Wetlands meeting was tense from the start. Landscape architect and site planner Jeff Gordon of Codespoti & Associates began his presentation to the commission by delving into a history of Orange's founding and development from its time as a rural spur

of Milford, until a member of the crowd cut him short, saying, "What's this got to do with anything?"

"As you know, these things are not decided on popularity or politics, but the preservation and protection of our natural resources determined by science, engineering, and by statutes," Gordon told the commission.

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Orange resident Missy Hackett addressed the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission during the Oct. 3 public hearing over a controversial housing development off Turkey Hill Road. Image courtesy of Orange Government Access Television.

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 third 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 cost of housing throughout Connecticut has continued to rise. At the same time, the number of seniors, who may not want or be able to stay in their homes, is growing. Also growing is the number of young people struggling with college debts and other expenses who are looking for housing options that fit their needs. What will you do to help these populations while maintaining the quality and character of housing in your community?



Benjamin G. Blake
Milford Mayor – Democrat

Milford is a world-class city with a universal attractiveness that appeals to people across all generations. Over the past several months, newspapers, magazines and preeminent news organizations have published articles celebrating the

extraordinarily rich and vibrant community that is Milford.

An April 25 Bloomberg News article, "Where US Millennials

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Dan German
Milford Mayor, Republican

There is a shortage of affordable senior housing in Milford, and in Connecticut, and there has been for years. The waiting list is long, and it takes five-plus years before a qualified senior gets into an affordable housing unit. Experts say there is an

affordable senior housing crisis, one that is expected to grow worse in the coming years.

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Jim Zeoli
Orange First Selectman - Republican

I think to say the cost of housing has continued to rise and how that affects both seniors and younger singles and families is a fractured thought. The overall cost of living and ability

to sustain and advance is the challenge all people face.

There are many of the 60+ group that would like to stay in Orange, but don't want all the upkeep required to maintain a property. We have

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Jody Dietch
Orange First Selectman - Democrat

Housing costs are an issue I am keenly aware of. My parents moved in with me and I have a newly engaged son who would like to be able to be buy a home. As a homeowner, I, like everyone else, watched

our home values plummet in the early 2000s and now Orange is behind other communities in seeing our values bounce back.

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Orange TPZC Denies Mixed Housing Proposal

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Density kills.

It killed a proposal for a text change to the Orange zoning regulations that would have allowed a mixed housing development at the long-struggling Firelite Plaza.

The Town Plan & Zoning Commission denied the regulation change brought by Marjorie F. Shansky, the lawyer representing 35 Old Tavern Road LLC at its Sept. 17 meeting. The amendment, first opened before the commission at its July 2 meeting, would have allowed the building of some residential units in areas currently zoned as local shopping center districts.

Shansky's client is a developer who wants to revitalize the plaza near Route 1. The property is located in one of two areas in town that fall under the local shopping center district zone. Firelite would have become a series of mixed-use buildings with commercial spaces on the ground floor and apartments above.

The original proposal would have also allowed mixed housing in the other area too, which is located near the historic center of town. Shansky since revised the amendment

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News & Events

Orange TPZC Denies Mixed Housing Proposal (Continued from Page 1)

to effectively disqualify that section of town from consideration.

Over the last few months, the commission and Shansky had gone back and forth over the details of the proposal, with each iteration bringing it closer to each party's interpretation of the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development's call for greater housing diversity in Orange.

TPZC members had expressed their desire, in general, to allow for housing opportunities of the type before them. But they were never wholly convinced that the particular facility envisioned by Shansky's client was right for the town.

The commission had earlier brought in planning consultant Glenn Chalder, who had offered revisions that would create a planned development district, thus giving the commission greater control over the eventual development.

Once the public hearing was closed, the entire board reaffirmed their support for allowing opportunities of this type over the course of their deliberations.

Commissioner Kevin Cornell said the decision was a difficult one.

However, he said, "I don't necessarily think that a town as small as Orange needs to be all things to all people."

Commissioner Ralph Aschettino commented that his vision for a "town center" was much different from what had been presented.

"A town center, to me, is a place where you have multiple businesses where people

A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles

For many decades Scobie's, a general store, did business on Orange Center Road. Located across the street from the railroad station, the building still exists and is privately owned. William and George Scobie, two brothers from New Haven, purchased the building from George White in 1883. William, who ultimately took over running the store, was appointed postmaster in 1888. The post office was moved into the store, with home delivery service for Orange residents beginning in 1902. Rural Free Delivery originated out of the Scobie's store. William's son, Elbert, joined his father, eventually succeeding him and later replacing his father as postmaster. Elbert also produced and sold many Orange postcards, including the one pictured here.

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.



Scobie's, a popular general store on Orange Center Road. Postcard courtesy of the Orange Historical Society.

gather – hair shops and bars and boutiques," he said. "Turning this into apartment buildings and faking it with some 25 percent commercial underneath – it sort of defeats the intent of what the whole thing was about."

Commissioner Judy Smith, meanwhile, said the proposal was much more dense than what she believed the Plan of Conservation and Development had called for.

"I never would have supported a village with 15 units an acre," she said. "I think that's too intense, especially for a small town like Orange."

Chairman Oscar Parente pointed out that the TPZC would still have a say in the density of any eventual plan that was brought under the new regulations.

"That's a cap," he said.

"I see this as an opportunity," he later added, "and it seems like everybody else does, too, except for the density question."

He then turned to Smith.

"I guess you and I don't disagree, really, because I'm okay with 15 as long as it doesn't present other problems. You're not okay with 15 right out of the box."

"Because I'm anticipating," Smith said.

"I'm anticipating that we're going to see a site plan that's going to solve all the problems for me," Parente replied. "If I don't, I could just as easily vote no that night."

Smith responded that she couldn't recall the commission ever voting no to a special use permit.

Commissioner Paul Kaplan called for a vote to grant the application, but it failed with only him and Parente supporting the motion.

Cornell then moved to deny the application. Smith and Aschettino joined him in voting for the denial.



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Opinion & Editorial

New Laws That Will Save You Money



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

In September you may have heard my Republican colleagues talk about a so-called grocery tax. Connecticut has never taxed groceries and never will. After saying “no” to the governor when this tax was originally proposed, keeping it out of the budget and stopping the Department of Revenue Services from incorrectly implementing it, I am pleased to inform you that this tax will never exist in Connecticut.

For clarity’s sake, it is important to note the nonexistent tax as the budget and several important laws went into effect Oct. 1. I’m going to highlight laws which will help seniors and families thrive, keep our children safe and create jobs in Milford, Orange and the surrounding towns and cities in the 14th state Senate District.

Starting Oct. 1, tax breaks to Social Security and pensions went into effect. Individuals earning \$75,000 or less and couples earning \$100,000 or less will be fully exempted from state income tax on Social Security. Additionally, we are phasing out income tax on pensions until all pensions are completely exempt in 2025 for individuals earning \$75,000 or less and couples earning up to \$100,000.

A new law that will stimulate job growth is the Military to Machinist Program. You may have heard me talk about this exciting new program I wrote and led passage of during the legislative session. The Workplace will run the program and help veterans find funding to obtain a certificate in advanced manufacturing and eventually land advanced manufacturing jobs. This law bolsters an important trade in our state while helping veterans make a seamless transition from military to civilian life.

Several laws went into effect on Oct. 1 that will save lives. Safe storage laws in vehicles are now in effect, as well as Ethan’s Law. The legislation, named after Ethan Song, who was tragically killed by an improperly stored gun, expands the criminally negligent storage of a firearm language to include the unsafe storage of a loaded or unloaded firearm in a home with a minor under age 18. The previous age was 16. I am proud our legislature is choosing to lead on gun safety.

Staying with the theme of keeping our children safe, the age one can legally purchase tobacco products has increased from 18 to 21 and penalties for selling to minors have increased as well. The law also requires individuals who sell e-cigarettes through online sales to obtain the signature and proof of age of a person aged 21 or older at the shipping address before delivery.

Youth vaping poses severe health risks. According to the Connecticut Department of Health, it is the most common form of tobacco used by our state’s youth. We must keep these harmful products out of the hands of our youth, and thanks to this law, I believe we have taken a step in the right direction.

Another positive development is that the minimum budget requirement has been revised to ensure municipalities

October Brings Taxes



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

Life is now going to cost everyone just a little bit more.

An increase will apply to the food we eat, the movies we enjoy with our families and even the car we are trading in to the auto dealer.

It’s a game of inch by inch with the ever-encroaching tax system of Connecticut steadily creeping into the everyday life and homes of our taxpayers. The Digital Goods Tax now increases from 1 percent to 6.35 percent. This tax will be applied to downloading movies, music, stock photography, magazines, e-greeting cards, e-books, audiobooks, podcasts, video games and more.

Next, we have the Motor Vehicle Trade-In Fee increasing from \$35 to \$100. There has been no clear rhyme or reason for more than doubling the fee, just that the administration saw it as an opportunity for more revenue.

The excise tax on alcohol will increase 10 percent. Liquor and package stores will pass this increase on to their customers.

There is still a grocery tax on the books here in Connecticut. The language of the law has not been changed. The language must be changed and to do so, the governor needs to call us in to a special session. The governor knew about this language and stated that he was fine with the tax because “we need the revenue.”

If the language stays the same, grocery stores and markets will have no choice but to tax our groceries to avoid being audited by the Department of Revenue Services. The governor reserves the right to immediately call the legislature back in for a special session so the language can be officially changed. House and Senate Republicans have requested a special session in the hope of changing the language and safeguarding our constituents from further uncertainty and frustration.

All of this makes for an even more unaffordable Connecticut. Increased and expanded taxes for the sake of closing a budget gap will have serious repercussions on the lives of our neighbors and families.

(Maroney Continued)

aren’t penalized for finding efficiencies, or if they have a shrinking enrollment, they are no longer expected to spend more. This provides much-needed relief to towns. It applies to towns with public school districts not in the top tenth percentile of performing districts. Education in many cases determines a person’s future. Closing necessary gaps to ensure all children have a chance is not only fair, but imperative to maintain a strong community and economy.

I am confident these laws will have a positive effect on our community. I remain open to feedback and ideas and encourage you to meet with me for a cup of coffee on the third Thursday of each month from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Starbucks at 538 Boston Post Rd. in Orange.

Hike In Digital Tax Affects Many



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

Connecticut users of the music streaming service Spotify received emails last week that state sales taxes will be going up starting next month.

Effective Oct. 1, sales of “digital goods” that are electronically accessed or transferred, which includes audio works, visual works, audio-visual works, reading materials or ring tones, will be subject to sales and use taxes at the standard 6.35 percent rate.

The new tax rate also applies to a purchased product like Adobe on which you pay a monthly subscription fee.

Currently the tax on digital goods is 1 percent.

An increased percentage of digital consumers are streaming and downloading their content (music, movies or smartphone apps) as opposed to watching on traditional cable television or listening on the radio. The majority party and the governor hiked these taxes on countless residents. This is an effort to capture a new revenue stream as people flee cable for lower-cost options.

If you are a user/subscriber of Netflix, Hulu, iTunes or Amazon Prime, your taxes will increase. Even if you want to download a new book on your Kindle or movie on your iPad, you also will have to pay the increased tax.

It’s just another in a long line of tax and fee increases imposed by the state budget adopted this session by the majority party, most of which impact working families here in Milford and Orange and throughout Connecticut. It is a shame that the leaders in Hartford have chosen not to control spending and costs but to rely on yet another tax increase.

Read the Department of Revenue Services’ Sales and Use Taxes on Digital Goods and Canned or Prewritten Software policy statement at cthousegop.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DigitalTaxUpdate.pdf.

As always, please contact me should you have any questions or concerns relating to state government at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 800-842-1423.

October Brings New Laws, New Taxes



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

Many new laws and taxes went into effect Oct. 1. I supported many of these new laws, but I didn’t support the new taxes that came with a state budget that continued to spend more money instead of reigning in wasteful spending.

The new taxes are probably some of the most regressive taxes residents will have to pay. You will now have to pay more to trade in your vehicle and to watch Netflix or to listen to your newest podcast.

In addition, there has been much debate about the new grocery tax that was adopted in the state budget. I would like to make it clear that the Democrats did put a grocery tax in the state budget, but after receiving backlash from the public they decided to walk back this tax increase. However, unless we fix the language the grocery tax is very much alive and will cause headaches for business owners and residents.

I believe we can do much better and we shouldn’t be crafting state budgets that hurt the hardworking taxpayers of Connecticut.

Even though I disagree with almost all of the tax increases in the state budget, I was proud to support new laws that will protect our children, women, and help us battle the opioid epidemic.

These laws include: An Act Concerning Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault, An Act Addressing Opioid Use, and An Act Concerning School Security.

These three bills are just a small example of what we did accomplish by working together. For a full list of the bills that took effect on Oct. 1, you can visit cga.ct.gov.

I am always one to sit down and try to work with my colleagues on the other side. We need to do more of it when it comes to fixing the state’s finances. It is unacceptable that we continue to ask taxpayers to pay more.

As always, please feel free to contact me at Charles.Ferraro@cga.ct.gov.

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Joanne Byrne, Retirement

Cynthia V. Catapano, Local Wildlife

David Crow, Conversations

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Editorial: Impeachment Serious Business

By *Brandon T. Bisceglia*

Shortly after Democrats in the House of Representatives announced that they would be moving forward with an impeachment inquiry into president Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine, Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse called for everyone involved to "slow down."

"Democrats ought not to be using the word 'impeach' before they had the whistleblower complaint or read any of the transcript," Sasse said. "Republicans ought not to be rushing to circle the wagons and say there's no there there when there's obviously a lot that's very troubling there. The administration ought not to be attacking the whistleblower as some talking points suggest they plan to do. The media, humbly, should not pretend this story is, you know, about something that's going to be resolved in the next two hours."

We couldn't agree more with Sasse's remarks. In a Washington riven by partisan polarization not seen in our lifetimes, it's easy for people on all sides to dig their heels in on their preferred perspective. The upcoming presidential election only hardens battle lines to a greater degree.

There are Democrats who already believe Trump is guilty. But we don't have all the facts.

To be clear, what is already known about Trump's phone call with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, while not quite rising to a

direct quid pro quo, does appear to be a form of self-dealing: using the power of the presidency to pressure a weaker foreign ally to do his personal bidding by going after a political rival.

Ukraine, in this case, was particularly beholden to the U.S. because it is under threat in an ongoing conflict with neighbor Russia, and because the country was counting on receiving \$391 million in military aid from the U.S. that had been approved but was, for reasons that still aren't entirely clear, delayed.

Some administration officials themselves evidently had misgivings about the call, as they placed the transcript on a classified server not normally used for such records.

Still, there is plenty more to learn, and Democrats – who would need to convince at least some Republicans that the president's actions warrant removal from office – must be extremely careful to do their due diligence and not step beyond the bounds of what can be concretely determined.

They are already taking an enormous political risk in launching this impeachment investigation. It would be the job of the Republican-led Senate to hold a trial and reach a final conclusion. If the Senate gave Trump a pass, he could easily play that into his "witch hunt" narrative and claim "full exoneration."

Regardless of how that might help or hurt
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Opinion & Editorial Commentary:

K-12 Regionalization Is A Mixed Bag

Possible regionalization of Orange's elementary schools was a hot topic at the September Orange first selectman debate. Some assumptions were made that bear further examination.

One of the statements made is that this would save a lot of money because we would eliminate duplicate superintendents and front office staff. Well, yes and no. The Amity Region No. 5 district, which currently only encompasses



THOMAS P.
HURLEY

the middle and high schools, will need added staffing to handle the elementary schools. The system would probably need an assistant superintendent due to its added size. The Amity system would also need an elementary assistant curriculum director. The finance department would probably need an additional assistant finance director.

So yes, we would still have a reduction in these senior-level positions, but it is not as large a savings as it would appear at first. Long-term savings are here, but not in the short run.

In the first year, any administrative staff with contracts (the administrator group) would have to have their remaining contracts bought out if they were not moved

up to the Amity district. This might have to be done for all the individually contracted staff anyway, as Amity would be under no obligation to hire the existing administrators.

Union contracts would likely be reopened, and teacher union representation would likely be centralized under one group. This means some costs for union representation elections should be expected. Dealing

with multiple teacher unions or groups would be a nightmare for the Amity district to manage. Other pension and employee benefit expenses would likely mean a one-time payout from each town on their outstanding unfinanced obligations. If this was not done, then other towns could end up paying another town's obligations as the Amity budget would base payouts on the student population from each town – not what each town actually owes.

If the towns should decide to keep this obligation instead of transferring it to Amity, then savings are not likely on this front, as each town would still have to administer

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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 editor@theorangetimes.com. Letters may be edited for clarity or content. See theorangetimes.com/print-schedule for submission deadlines.

To the Editor:

Once again our beautiful town has a proposal for a multifamily housing complex. This will encompass 10 buildings with 60 bedrooms in a neighborhood of single-family homes. This will affect all of us in the future. If this project is allowed, it will open the door to other similar proposals, with the potential to place this type of housing anywhere land is available or not. Case in point, a developer buying multiple homes, then using that property for multifamily housing. We have all labored for many years to buy our homes in Orange away from overdevelopment that rests on our borders.

Though the proposal may possibly be age restricted, the future I feel will be very different for our schools, Volunteer Fire Department, and the character of our town. I urge you all to come to the remaining Wetlands meetings on Oct. 17 and Nov. 12, High Plains Community Center, 6:30 p.m. to listen to what is being said and voice your opinion. The health, safety, and welfare of you and your family depend on it.

Dr. Lawrence Messina, Orange

To the Editor:

As Election Day, Nov. 5, approaches, I want to see a strong future for our town of Orange. I want to see my taxes go down instead of up. I would like to see more options for the seniors in our town to be able to remain in their homes if they so choose. I want to see Orange turn greener. I believe that voting for Jody Dietch for first selectman will make that vision a reality.

Jody has grown up in Orange, gone through our wonderful school system, and raised her own family here in Orange, with her two sons also going through our incredible schools. She is a past PTA president of Race

Brook School. Jody has been an integral part of our town's government for many years, holding positions that contribute to the growth and wellbeing of our town. She is a strong supporter of diversity and her slate is 50 percent women. She was on the Board of Education and currently heads the Democratic Town Committee.

I know Jody personally and we can be certain that she will work her hardest for Orange.

Beverly Propen, Orange

To the Editor:

The Meisenheimer Team is up to it again! The Inland Wetlands public hearing on Oct. 3 regarding the Turkey Hill Crossing Proposal was quite a show. Full of hypotheticals and false promises of how this development will enhance the town. For starters, it was very telling that Rich Meisenheimer was not present for the public hearing. This is because he knows the entire town is against this proposal.

Let's be clear, the town filled the room in opposition on Thursday night. This proposal is not an attempt to make the town better, it's an attempt to maximize profits on a plot of land that is mostly unbuildable. By clustering multifamily homes he's able to maximize his profits whereas he could only get a handful of single-family homes. There are other areas in town much better suited for higher density developments. As a town we won't stop fighting this proposal which has detrimental impacts on the future of Orange!

First Selectman Jim Zeoli was quoted in the New Haven Register recently, saying he was "disappointed" in the direction of the project. He went on to say, "While I recognize we do need varied housing types in our town and region, this to me is a questionable fit for this location."

Additionally, Jeff Gordon of Meisenheimer's team bashed the town's current zoning for larger lots and their impact on the environment, while he lives on approximately one acre himself. Money makes you say things, I guess. Should this proposal get through to planning and zoning, this is effectively the exact same

proposal as they came with last year and for the same reasons I expect it to get denied. Meisenheimer and team's threats of 8-30g won't be used to scare the town into submission. It could take years to get through a painful legal battle and we all know they don't want to wait for their big payday.

Hot off the press, these will be rental units, not owned units. Last year there was a restaurant in the proposal at one point. I'm confused, is anyone else? Let's put an end to this proposal and the greed that is behind it!

Ron Michaels, Orange

To the Editor:

As a resident on Turkey Hill Road maybe a quarter-mile from the proposed Turkey Hill Crossing development, I and my neighbors share a unique perspective on the viability of an additional 60 bedrooms worth of people using a single ingress/egress access road, positioned directly across from the existing Turkey Hill School exit.

Here's the undeniable truth: there couldn't be a worse road, and a worse location, to allow the potential for children to migrate on bicycles or skateboards onto it, and to introduce 30 families' worth of vehicle traffic. Aside from the compliance to all wetlands statutes, health codes, building codes, etc., that the developers may have met, the town of Orange needs to consider foremost the safety of the current residents, the safety of the thousands of commuters on this cut-through road, and be forward-thinking enough to consider the safety of the children (who will no doubt make their way out to this road from their contained development) and families who will be using this single access point.

In the absence of a commitment from the town to completely upgrade the road and create a regulated intersection (stop sign minimum; stop light at the extreme, plus widening), this is a disaster waiting to happen and there will be problems, beyond the reduction in property values of the adjacent residents.

**Ted Bordeleau
Orange**

To the Editor:

Here is a viable alternative to tolls: a combination of red-light cameras and increased police safety patrols (both on the highways and in the cities) will increase revenue and significantly improve public safety.

Some people will present the following "why we can't" comments: Tolls will generate more revenue. We can't fill open state police positions now. Adding more people to payrolls is an ongoing expense.

But studies have shown that when law enforcement has their annual crackdown on distracted driving, the revenue impact is significant. A single \$150 ticket is the equivalent of 300 50-cent tolls.

During the 2017 Labor Day weekend, troopers issued 1,189 tickets for speeding, 46 for seat belt violations and 2,764 tickets for moving violations. They arrested 47 motorists for driving under the influence. At an average of \$150 per speeding ticket and \$137 for the remainder, the revenue generated from that weekend alone would be about \$563,000 plus about \$10,000 for each DUI arrest.

In April, when police cracked down on distracted driving statewide, more than 10,000 citations were issued across Connecticut. Those infractions would have brought in about \$1.5 million.

Since 2015, nearly 30,000 crashes in Connecticut have involved a distraction, with 41 of those fatal.

The greatest number of violations would come from failure to drive a reasonable distance apart by motor vehicles.

The increased presence would not only generate revenue and pay for the officers' salaries, but would also reduce the incidences of texting while driving, applying eye shadow while driving and so on.

There would be a significant ongoing expense to maintaining the electronic tolling system, with no positive impact on public safety.

The citizens of Connecticut have been overtaxed for long enough, and tolls would just be an additional tax. Improving public safety and generating revenue seems to be a viable alternative.

Keith Indec, Orange

Arts Matters

Creativity is contagious. Pass it on! – Albert Einstein

by Patricia Miller



The Orange Arts and Culture Council had the most successful "Build a Better Bird House" event ever at the Orange Agricultural Fair in September. Photo by Pat Miller.

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) reminds the music-loving public that The Orange Foundation is supporting the OACC's Hop the Bus program for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's 2019-2020 Classic Series season. OACC has sufficient funding to provide free transportation for the entire eight-concert Classic Series.

The Classic Series includes *Tchaikovsky's Fifth* on Oct. 17, *Beethoven and Adams* on Nov. 14, *Holiday Extravaganza* on Dec. 19, *Mozart and Part* on Feb. 5, *Dvorak and Price* on March 5, *Mendelssohn and Brahms* on April 17 and *La Mer/Liquid Interface* on May 14.

The Oct. 17 concert will feature international violin star Jennifer Koh, known not only for her musical talent but also for her powerful lectures on diversity in the arts. Koh mesmerizes audiences with playing that combines intense changes of temperament with poise and elegance. She will play Mazolli's *The Worlds within Us*, an ode to military veterans' experience and barber's *Violin Concerto* as well as the bombastic and sumptuous *Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony*.

For tickets to the concerts, call 203-787-4282 or go online to newhavensymphony.org. To reserve a seat on the bus, call 203-387-8915.

Rush passes are on sale now. These are a flexible, affordable way to attend the NHSO concerts. The \$150 rush pass gives patrons access to six NHSO concerts. Use all six at one concert, one at six concerts, or any combination between for families and/or friends.

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) had the most successful "Build a Better Bird House" event ever at the Orange Agricultural Fair in September. There were entries of all shapes, sizes, materials and themes from artisans of all ages. There was one entry that was a class project of Teri Alves' third grade class at Race Brook School (and a separate entry from Alves herself). There were also several entries from The School of the 21st Century, the before and after-school day care program in Orange. And, of course, there were many others from a wide variety of entrants. Two years ago, the state committee that evaluates fairs in Connecticut cited the Build a Better Bird House exhibit in Orange as the most unusual and creative exhibit of that year's Connecticut fairs. It remains popular. Thanks go to Liz Gesler for organizing it and

OACC for presenting it.

PANTOCHINO PRODUCTIONS (Eastbound Theatre, 40 S. Railroad Ave., Milford) opens its season with a Wicked Witch Oz spoof, *The Wicked Witch of the West: Kansas or Bust*, on Friday, Oct. 18. The play is an imaginative sequel to Dorothy's journey to Oz. This time, the Wicked Witch is back, intent on finding broomstick, slippers and Dorothy in Kansas.

Featured in the cast are company members Mary Mannis as Dorothy, Johans Meyer as Scarecrow, Rugg as the Tin Man and Rachel Lamiello as Glinda. The title role is played by Pantochino's own Shelley Marsh. Also in the cast is Cadence Castro as Lion and young actors Nora Simeone of Killingworth, Keira Citarella of Trumbull and Connor Rizzo of Milford.

Performances are Friday, Oct. 18, Saturday, Oct. 19, Sunday, Oct. 20, Friday, Oct. 25, Saturday, Oct. 26, and Sunday, Oct. 27. Go to pantochino.com for full details.

IRISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF MILFORD (131 Bridgeport Ave., Milford) will present traditional Irish music by the Ashley Davis Band on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.

Davis is an internationally known musician, having collaborated with The Chieftains, Paddy Maloney, fiddler Eileen Ivers, singer/songwriter Hohn Doyle and Moya Brennan, the "first lady" of Irish music.

Davis will be joined by renowned fiddle player Colin Farrell, who has played and recorded throughout Europe and the U.S. Dave Curley, a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer, rounds out the trio. He also has played with Brennan and has played and recorded with Grammy winners Ron Block, Jeff Taylor and Buddy Greene.

The P.V. O'Connell Comhaltas is a cosponsor of the show. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door if space allows. Contact Amy Lacy at 203-258-2634 or email amylacey2@gmail.com to reserve tickets in advance.

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) presents its 10th Annual Youth Concert, celebrating the talents of young artists from Orange and surrounding communities. The roster of performers is in the process of being finalized, and it promises to be a diverse array of talented artists. There will both singers and instrumentalists, some of them from Amity's ACT Theatre Program. OACC has present these concerts for ten years at the Milford Arts Council's Eastbound Theatre (40 S. Railroad Ave., Milford), an intimate performing space with a grand piano, a stage and seating for 100. It formerly was the eastbound railroad station in Milford. Tickets are \$20 and can be bought at the door or reserved by phone at 203 397-8915 or 203-795-5133.

THE ORANGE PLAYERS (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) was a presence at the Agricultural Fair this year, with a booth in the Community Tent where Madame Zor, a fortune teller puppet of OP member Thomas Homas, conversed with visitors. Homas, with assistant Brittany Homa, also conducted puppet-making sessions and presented a puppet show in a tent in the lower field. Each day there was a drawing for two free tickets to ACTING UP!, the Orange Players' one-act play festival to be presented Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26 at High Plains Community Center.

ACTING UP! is an evening of ten one-act, 10-minute plays from unpublished works by authors from far-flung places. One of the authors of a play to be produced is from New Zealand. Four hundred and seventy-one plays were submitted for consideration, which the Reading Committee narrowed down to 10. This process was one that required hours and

hours of reading, charting and discussing. Last year there were 30 plays submitted. This year's submissions show how popular this kind of festival has become. Many community theaters across the U.S. sponsor these competitions annually. The seating is cabaret-style, and patrons are encouraged to bring food and beverages of their choice to enjoy. Tables seat eight to 10 people. For tickets, call the OP box office at 475-227-7547.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) presents the paintings of David Byrne and the quilts of Joanne Byrne in "A Celebration of Life," the art show scheduled for the month of October. The artists' reception will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Case Memorial Library.

David is a retired family dentist and his wife, Joanne, was the director of the Senior Center in Orange. David's acrylics reflect the exuberance and movement of life, and Joanne's quilts reflect the beauty and colors of nature. The exhibit is available for viewing during regular library hours.

ARTSPACE NEW HAVEN (50 Orange St., New Haven) is sponsoring Citywide Open Studios, the annual exploration of the breadth and depth of New Haven's art scene, during three weekends in October. It is dedicated to communal art. Artists' work is showcased, reflecting artistic excellence as well as the influences of the intellectual and social questions of our time.

On Oct. 12 to 13, Westville artists will open their studios to the public. Artspace will organize bike tours and routes to maximize the experience of touring studios. On Oct. 19 to 20, Erector Square is the focus of artistic experience, with open studios there. During alternative space weekend on Nov. 2 and 3, artists from throughout the state take over the space at Yale West Campus (40 West Campbell Ave., West Haven). These events present unique opportunities to view art, to meet artists and to discuss their work. For more information, go to artspaceneewhaven.org.

LONG WHARF THEATRE (222 Sargent Dr., New Haven) presents *On the Grounds of Belonging*, set in the time of Jim Crow in Houston, when segregation was in full force. A chance meeting between Russell, a patron of the blacks-only Gold Room, and Tom, a patron from the whites-only Red Room, results in a forbidden romance that threatens to destroy them both. This spellbinding play signals the arrival of a powerful new voice in American theatre, Ricardo Perez Gonzalez. The play is directed by David Mendizabal. This story is universal in its telling of star-crossed lovers, and promises to be compelling. Tickets are available by calling 203-787-4282 or by going to longwharf.org.

SHUBERT THEATRE (247 College St., New Haven) has some popular shows coming to its fabled stage. *Jersey Boys* is scheduled for Oct. 11, 12 and 13. This award-winning show tells the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Next is *Dreamgirls*, the backstage story of the 1960s Motown group. This is also an award-winning play and comes to the Shubert on Nov. 1, 2 and 3. *The Play That Goes Wrong* is a riotous look at a production in which everything that could possibly go wrong does go wrong. Sets collapse, pictures fall – myriad catastrophes occur. This show plays Nov. 9 and 10. For tickets, call 203-562-5666 or go online to shubert.com.

YALE REPERTORY THEATRE (1120 Chapel St., New Haven) presents *The Girls*, a contemporary spin on The Bacchae by Euripides, from Oct. 4 to Oct. 26. Written by Brenden Jacobs-Jenkins, this new version is directed by Lileana Blaken-Cruz and choreographed by Raja Feather Kelly.

Dean has been exiled to boarding schools all his life. He returns to his birthplace with a vengeance, luring the girls of the town to the

woods for a night of uninhibited partying. Meanwhile, a young reactionary with a big social media following vows to end the debauchery and to restore order. The play has a killer DJ, pulses with a dangerous and seductive beat and has bumping dance and live-stream video. For tickets, call 203-432-1234 or go to yalerep.org.

THE SHORE LINE TROLLEY MUSEUM (17 River St., East Haven) calls "All aboooooard" for two seasonal rides: The Haunted Isle and Trolley and The Pumpkin Patch Trolley. These are rides for all ages through October. For the schedule, check their website at shorelinetrolley.org or call 203-467-6927. You can also charter a trolley car for your next party.

JOHN LYMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (501 Crescent St., New Haven) of Southern Connecticut State University presents the United States Navy Commodores Jazz Ensemble in a concert on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. The tickets are free and can be obtained by calling 203-392-6154 or at tickets.southernct.edu.

YALE PHILHARMONIA (500 College St., New Haven) will play at Woolsey Hall on Oct. 25. The guest conductor is Ludovic Morlot of the Seattle Symphony, winner of *Gramophone's* 2018 Orchestra of the Year Award. He will conduct Prokofiev's *Fifth Symphony*, Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Fawn*, and Szymanowski's *Violin Concerto No. 1* with Woolsey Hall concerto competition winner Jung Eun Kang. Tickets start at \$12. For tickets and more information, visit music.yale.edu.

THE PUMPKIN PLACE (1650 Hartford-New London Tpke., Montville) is coming for all weekends in October, from Friday to Sunday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. It's a family-friendly Halloween celebration featuring a Candy Corn Corral, Mythical Mysteries, and Nightmare on Raptor Bay. For full details, call 860-442-4367 or go to naturesartvillage.com.

SEVEN ANGELS THEATRE (1 Plank Rd., Waterbury) presents *Honky Tonk Laundry* through Oct. 20.

When Mae Hopkins hires Katie to help out in her laundromat, they find themselves up to their elbows in soap, water and cheatin' hearts. The show features the familiar music of Carrie Underwood, Trisha Yearwood, Reba McEntyre, Dolly Parton, Patsy Kline and other female country legends. There is free parking available. For tickets, call 203-757-4676 or go to sevenangelstheatre.org.

MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL (40 S. Railroad Ave., Milford) is hosting its first "MAClive" on Saturday, Oct. 12, featuring Antje Duvokot from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Duvokot has won some of the top songwriting awards, including the grand prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Competition, the prestigious, Kerrville "Best New Folk Award," and the Boston Music Award for "Outstanding Folk Act."

She has played some of the top festivals, including the Newport Folk Festival, the Mountain Stage, and the Philadelphia and Kerrville festivals. Internationally, she's headlined the the Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland and the Tonder Festival in Denmark.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. so guests can relax around a candlelit table and enjoy a cocktail. These performances are "bring your own everything except the entertainment." Concessions are also available in the Speakeasy Lounge.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, call 203-878-6647 Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or go to www.milfordarts.org.

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

Volunteering – The Essence Of Rotary

By Richard Dumbrill



You've heard the phrase "It takes a village." To a Rotarian, the appropriate phrase is "It takes a community."

From east to west, north to south, you'll find a Rotary club in nearly every town and city in America. In Connecticut, there are 60 Rotary clubs serving the people of the Constitution state.

Rotarians are neighbors, friends, business and professional leaders, and problem-solvers who, with their knowledge, talent, and energy, work together on projects and programs that help their communities. We also look for groups with which to partner. These are ideal platforms for people to learn what Rotary is all about.

A special report prepared for Rotary International by John Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies has demonstrated how valuable the many hours were that Rotarians contribute to these endeavors in the lives of local communities like ours and around the world.

This report found that Rotary members volunteered a total of 5.8 million hours within a four-week survey period. That's nearly 47 million hours of volunteer effort generated by Rotary members in a typical year. The economic impact of all those hours is estimated at \$850 million a year, were communities to pay for the services Rotary volunteers provide.

Rotary, with the help of John Hopkins University, is the first global service organization to conduct an empirical analysis of its volunteer impact using an

internationally sanctioned definition of volunteer work. The study was conducted using the most conservative estimates.

"This makes the results reported here all the more remarkable," the study authors noted. "Translated into economic terms, Rotary is annually generating a scale of social and economic problem-solving effort that is worth nearly nine times more than it costs the organization to produce."

If the volunteer work of the many relatives and friends of Rotary that members often involve in projects were included in the study, as well as members of our youth service programs, such as those in our student Interact and Rotaract clubs, this number would easily double the estimate of Rotary's economic impact.

Volunteering is the essence of Rotary. It is our enduring contribution to improve the

lives of people everywhere. We do so in the spirit of friendship and profound humanity. As president of the Rotary Club of Orange, I am immensely proud of our members who day in and day out contribute their time, talent and money for the betterment of the greater Orange community.

I invite you to reach out to me at richard@dumbrill.net or to your Rotary friends. Or just drop in at one of our regular lunch meetings at Race Brook Country Club on the first and third Fridays of each month. You can also attend our breakfast meetings at Chip's on the second Tuesday of each month. You may also come to our Rotary social hour at 5:30 p.m. on the last Friday of every month. There you will learn about our projects and programs and experience what it means to be a Rotarian. You will be most welcome.

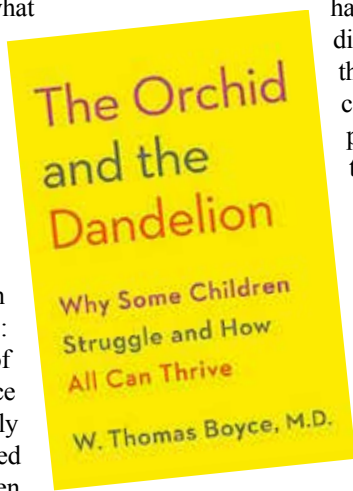
The Book Club:

Let Many Flowers Bloom

W. Thomas Boyce, *The Orchid and the Dandelion*, Alfred Knopf, 2019

"There has not been a single instance," according to the author, "in which a parent said of a second child 'Oh, this one's just like the last one.'" And what parents always seem to remember most vividly is that children differ greatly in their susceptibility to illness, childhood traumas and social challenges.

Boyce has made a systematic study of such differences. His findings can be summarized as follows: 1) Most of the problems of childhood and adolescence are distributed non-randomly and appear to be concentrated within 20 percent of children. The remaining 80 percent are far less vulnerable. The vulnerability embraces a wide arc which includes respiratory illness, teenage pregnancy, drug addiction, incarceration, schizophrenia – the



list is virtually endless. 2) By lab measurements under conditions of mild stress, he claims to have shown that the differences between these two groups correlates with performance of the body's main stress-response pathways, which includes release by the adrenal gland of cortisol. The vulnerable children, whom he calls "orchids," respond to stress by massively releasing cortisol, whereas the less vulnerable "dandelions,"

appear to both take the stress in their stride and show barely any changes in levels of cortisol.

And now "the good news." Orchids show higher biological response to the stresses of



PETER HECHTMAN

life, but with good parenting, based on nurturing, encouragement and TLC, the cortisol levels of these orchids can be brought down even below the levels found in dandelion children. Such children are uniquely capable of going on not merely to high levels of achievement in adulthood but also to becoming fully aware, sensitive and caring people. Sound good?

I have much trouble with the ideas in this book, but that does not mean they aren't challenging and thought-provoking. In the first instance, common sense defies the notion that Boyce's extraordinary list of medical and social pathologies could be clustered in the same group of children/adolescents. And common sense rebels at the idea that all of these vulnerabilities could have a single unifying explanation. But common sense can be wrong. Remember Galileo?

A second problem is that this book, although cloaked in the robes of science, is

one of many that locate parental guilt at the heart of childhood storm and stress. Some problems are intractable and unresolvable. Some adolescents and young adults will not be reclaimed from self-destructive behavior or disease no matter how valiant parental efforts are.

The book's title is not the only occasion in which the botanical metaphor is employed. Indeed, the orchid-dandelion binary appears to define Boyce's entire view of childhood. The orchid term is well-chosen. Orchids are prized, above all, for their individuality and variety. These are admired, even adored plants, but they thrive only under hothouse conditions. By contrast, what is the fate of a dandelion? One pass of the lawnmower and hundreds of them are destroyed. If I were a child, I know which flower I would sign up to be.

Peter Hechtman is the founder and owner of The Book Maven. Peter can be reached at thebookmaven@sympatico.ca.

Getting To Know You:

Beyond Words

I spend a lot of time on words. I like to chat and write, after all. However, there are some things that are difficult to put into words.

Maybe some things are beyond words. Yes, the quality of a few things lifts them beyond any quantity of words, and maybe that's for the best. To describe them in words would be to somehow limit and diminish them. And because those things are beyond words, we don't acknowledge them as frequently as we should. If we're not careful they get lost in the sea of words.

I direct your attention to cheeseburgers. I can't describe how wonderful a cheeseburger tastes to me. Even if cheeseburgers aren't your thing, I'll bet there is a food that makes you feel warm and full all over. You know what I mean.

Because I'm old I've got a favorite chair. I can't describe how soothing that chair is after a long day. If it's not a chair I'm certain you have a spot where you leave your troubles and you get your smile back. You know what I mean.

Or maybe it's bluegrass music. I can't describe how the riparian flow of a three finger roll floats me back to a place where I smell hay fields and a blonde woman with smiling eyes calls me "Big Neph" and pours me sweet tea. You've probably never been there, but I'm sure if you hear the right music you have fond memories too. You know what I mean.



DAVID CROW

Yet some things are even harder to put into words. The hardest thing to put into words is all of those things rolled into one. It's as filling as my favorite food, it's my sanctuary like my favorite chair and the memories of it are honeysuckle sweet. It's flannel sheets in the winter. It's when nothing is ever where I left it because it belongs there and not here. It's white roses on no particular Tuesday. It's when I forget something on my to-do list.

It's tickles and giggle-snorts by the kitchen sink. It's a cute little snore just over there when I get up in the morning, the laughter of children during the day and the warm lights of home in

the evening.

But mostly, as of Sept. 28, it's been 23 years of green-eyed smiles that brighten my every day. I know y'all have been there too, so if that ain't worth a few words now and again just so you and I don't seem like we take it for granted, I don't know what is.

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.

Orange Resident Turns 103

Orange resident Helen Koziel recently celebrated her 103rd birthday.

Koziel grew up in Old Lyme and has lived in Orange for almost 40 years. She is a communicant of St. Stanislaus Church and Precious Blood Parish.

Koziel is an avid reader and considers time as well-spent at the Case Memorial Library where "every book is a treasure" and every

craft class a fun learning experience. She also enjoys exercise and swim-fit classes with her friends at both the Woodruff YMCA and at the High Plains Community Center. She volunteers at the Beth-El Center in Milford, helping to prepare meals at the soup kitchen. She says she sees helping others as both an obligation and a privilege.

Koziel is the mother of Joseph and Joan

Koziel of Middletown and Barbara and Vincent Schmidt, with whom she resides. She has four grandchildren and five "greats." "She is proud of her entire family and gets her greatest enjoyment from spending time with them.

When asked to what she attributes her longevity, Koziel often responds that it is her faith, her family and her friends.



Orange resident Helen Koziel recently celebrated turning 103 with her family. Photo courtesy of Barbara Schmidt.

Lifestyle

On Your Mind:

Tapping Has Gone Mainstream

Although I've written about meridian yapping, (also known as the emotional freedom technique, or EFT) before, I am compelled to revisit it now.

A few weeks ago while watching "Jane the Virgin" on TV, I saw tapping being used to calm her down and handle a stressful situation. I was very excited and pleasantly surprised that tapping has made it to TV. It had gone mainstream in the world. This is very exciting.

Tapping on the body's meridians that are also used in acupuncture is an effective way to release unnecessary negative feelings and anxieties that get easily trapped inside of us. Tapping is easy to learn and easy to do. It combines the physical action of tapping with your fingers while communicating verbally with your own subconscious mind. The only time it doesn't work is when you tap on the wrong thing.

For example: if you tap on anger but you're really feeling neglected or betrayed, the process is ineffective. It's important to be in touch with and be honest about what you're feeling in order for it to be effective. It works on cravings, on physical discomfort, on stress and too many other things to list. If you search for "tapping on" on YouTube, you will find hundreds of thousands of videos to guide you.

I often include tapping before a hypnosis session if the client is nervous or anxious when they arrive. I like it because it works 100 percent of the time and it works immediately.

Recently I had a young man who came to me to stop vaping. He became aware of the health threats of vaping and experienced a



FERN
TAUSIG

burning in his chest when he did it. He knew he needed help to get off of it, but he still had a craving for the nicotine when he arrived. I used tapping with him and in a few minutes it was gone. Then the hypnosis began and now the habit is gone.

I had another client who was suffering from a migraine when she arrived for her appointment. After a few minutes of tapping the headache subsided and we were able to begin our session.

When a person suffers from guilt or carries anger and grudges around for years, it interferes with their quality of life. Sometimes a person suffers from betrayal or heartbreak and feels helpless to release their painful feelings. Tapping will always help,

as the emotions are "stuck" in various places in their body. Tapping makes them unstuck. It doesn't change anything – just the way you feel about it. And that's all that matters.

Recently a client told me they went to a practitioner for tapping and it didn't work. This person has deeply rooted issues from childhood abuse, and that's not going to go away with tapping. Tapping is appropriate when used with other modalities if the issues are complicated. It is only part of the solution, not the whole solution.

Consider learning more about how you can use tapping to release negative thoughts and emotions. And definitely use it with your children.

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

Travel Matters

Bahamas: Open For Business

With Hurricane Dorian hitting the Bahamas last month, many people assume that it will be a long time before the country recovers for tourism. Not true for the majority of the Bahamas, which represents over 700 islands. The islands that were devastated, with restoration efforts underway, are Grand Bahama Island and the Abaco islands. On these islands, the many small boutique hotels and guest houses are closed. But together, these islands represent only 19 percent of the 16,000 rooms available in the Bahamas.

Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, is ready for business along with islands such as Bimini and CocoCay – the new private island owned by Royal Caribbean Cruises. Royal Caribbean just opened this private island paradise this year, a stop called Perfect Day at CocoCay, on many Eastern Caribbean and Bahamas itineraries.

Some of the most popular resorts in the Bahamas, like Atlantis, Paradise Island and Baha Mar (which includes Grand Hyatt, SLS and Rosewood properties) – were untouched by the storm. All-inclusive hotels Warwick Paradise Island and Sandals Royal Bahamian, and boutique hotels in the out islands like Cat Island and Bimini, were also unaffected. In total, there are 14 islands that are open. In fact, there is no better time to book a winter getaway to the Bahamas because there are a lot of great discounted rates at Bahamas resorts right now.

"One of the best ways that people around the world can show their support and solidarity...is to visit our other islands by air or by cruise ship," Bahamas Prime Minister



KAREN
QUINN-PANZER

Hubert Minnis said.

Many of the major cruise lines that rely on the Bahamas for their business – including Royal Caribbean, Norwegian and Carnival – brought supplies and rescue efforts to the islands that were affected immediately following Hurricane Dorian.

Carnival Corporation – owner of Princess, Cunard, Holland America and Seabourn, in addition to Carnival Cruises – and the government of the Bahamas have signed an agreement to develop two major projects representing a \$180 million investment in Grand Bahama and Little San Salvador. The projects are expected to play an important role in the Bahamas recovery from the impact of the hurricane. The projects planned to

start by mid-2020 include a new cruise port for Carnival Cruise Line on Grand Bahama Island and the construction of a new addition on the Bahamian island of Little San Salvador, home to Holland America Line's Half Moon Cay port.

The two developments will allow Grand Bahama and Little San Salvador to handle larger cruise ships, such as Carnival Cruise Line's Mardi Gras, which will debut in August 2020 as the largest ship in the Carnival fleet.

Many Hurricane Dorian Bahamas relief efforts are underway for those who were affected. For information on how to help, go to bahamas.com/relief.

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

Wine Talk:

German Wines Worth A Try

Central European wines mainly come from West Germany, along the Rhine River and the tributaries to it. One quarter of a million acres is associated with vineyards in Germany. It is in the top 10 of wine producing countries, producing 1.2 billion bottles annually. White wines account for two thirds of German wine production. The history of this wine region goes back to Roman times.

Germany's reputation internationally is mixed at best. On the plus side, German wines are considered some of the finest and most pure white wines in the world. They are elegant and aromatic with superior fruit. These wines are primarily made from the Riesling grape. On the minus side, Germany is associated with cheap, sweet, low-quality wines. Liebfrauenmilch comes to mind.

German wines are primarily white. However, in the late 20th century red wine production grew markedly. One third of the wine produced in Germany is a dark-skinned wine called Spatburgunder. We know this wine as pinot noir. This grape grows well in the Rhine area, which is surrounded by mountains. The soil

there absorbs the warmth of the sun reflected off the mountains and stays warmer overnight than other areas. Pinot noir flourishes.

German wine labels give a good deal of information about the wine, and various wine classifications can be helpful in determining which wine one might prefer. The ripeness classifications of German wines indicate the sugar content in the grape at the time the grape is harvested. This does not indicate the sweetness of the wine after it's fermented. This is a common mistake made about German wines.

Deutscher Tafelwein and Deutscher Landwein are consumed locally and are not exported. These are, respectively, German table wine and German country wine. These are not Qualitätswein, or "quality wine."

Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete, or QbA, are wines from a definite region or appellation. The exception is Liebfraumilch, which is blend of grapes from any region but



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

still has a QbA classification. The next classification is Pradikatswein, or QmP. These are wines made from grapes that are riper. The riper the grape, the more fruit becomes evident, the higher quality of wine results, and the higher the price can be set. These categories include Kabinett, Spatlese, Auslese, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese and Eiswein.

These categories indicate the sweetness at the time of harvest, not the sweetness of the wine. The last three categories are generally sweeter wines, though – especially Eiswein. This wine is a late-harvest wine that is frozen on the vine and is hand-picked with thick gloves so as not to thaw out the grape until crushing. It is high in alcohol, a very sweet dessert wine, and very expensive.

The wines are usually classified by the amount of residual sugar. Because they are high in acid, the residual sugar may be higher than other wine and still produce a

dry or off-dry wine.

Trocken is dry wine. Halbtrocken is an off-dry wine that's crisp and clean and may fall into the internationally acceptable dry category due to the high acid content. Feinherb wines are a little sweeter. Lieblich is a category of wines that are noticeably sweet. Since the 1980s, however, this category has dropped off in production due to the popularity of drier wines.

Give German wines a taste. Stay with Trocken or Halbtrocken. They are mostly Rieslings that are crisp and clean and have a big floral nose. You will be glad you did.

Ray Spaziani is the chapter director of the New Haven chapter of the American Wine Society. He teaches wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College and for the Milford Board of Education, as well as Moltose wine and beer making suppliers. He is a member of the International tasting Panel of Amenti del Vino and WineMaker Magazine. He is an award-winning home winemaker. Email Ray with your wine questions and wine events at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

Milford Garden Club Promotes Pollinators

The Milford Garden Club is recommending residents help support local pollinators with bee and butterfly-friendly plants in their own backyards.

According to beekeeper Cathy Wolcott, owner of the Humble Bee Honey Co. in Watertown, bees and butterflies are in

serious danger of extinction. In 2003 there were 29,000 monarch butterflies. In 2015 there were only a minimal number. These pollinators are essential for the growth of vegetables and flowers along with honeybees.

Honeybees will travel two to five miles and make 500 to 600 trips to get nectar, food

and water. Each bee in a lifetime (four to six weeks in summer, 10 to 12 weeks in winter) will make 11 pounds of honey. Foraging is labor-intensive and dangerous because it exposes bees to predators.

To support bees and butterflies, make your backyard pollinator-friendly by including

plants that provide good habitats for them as well as birds. Milkweed plants are excellent for attracting butterflies and skunk cabbage is important to honeybees. If they can't get back to the hive after foraging, they sleep on the stalks and their nectar makes sweet honey. Don't use pesticides as they poison these pollinators.

Home & Garden

The Garden Spot:

Concerned About Eastern Equine Encephalitis?

There's been a lot in the media recently about Eastern equine encephalitis. According to the Connecticut Department of Health, EEE is a rare but serious viral disease spread by the bite of an infected adult mosquito. The virus grows in birds that live in freshwater swamps and wetlands and is transmitted to three main types of mosquitoes: *Coquillettidia perturbans*, *Aedes sollicitans* and *Ochlerotatus Canadensis*, which can then infect humans through their bites.

These mosquitoes bite until the first heavy frost, which in our USDA plant hardiness zone is generally between Nov. 16 and Nov. 30. Approximately 5 percent of people infected with the virus will develop EEE. Symptoms appear three to 10 days after a bite and include high fevers, stiff neck and severe headaches. It does not spread by contact with an infected person or horse.

Although it is a very rare disease, it has a high fatality rate with approximately one third of those infected dying. Survivors frequently have some permanent neurological impairment.

There is no treatment for EEE other than supportive care. Several Connecticut residents have died from the disease this year. Unfortunately, antiviral medications are not effective against it.

Since there is no treatment for EEE, prevention is extremely important. For this reason, I'm going to highlight some precautions regarding mosquito bites from an earlier column and add some new ones. The mosquitoes that carry the EEE virus live in freshwater areas, so avoid these areas,



PAT DRAY

especially around dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active. If you are a camper, do not camp in freshwater areas and use mosquito netting on tents at all times. It's also a good idea to use mosquito netting on a baby carriage or stroller, since most repellents are not recommended for use on infants.

Don't let fresh water accumulate in areas around your home, such as in wading pools or bird baths. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that once a week you empty and scrub, turn over, cover or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers or trash containers. Avoid using scented products if you are going to be

outside, and wear light colored clothes, long sleeves and long pants.

There are also a number of repellents available containing DEET, most of which can be sprayed on clothing. If you prefer to use an organic botanical, oil of lemon eucalyptus (not to be confused with lemon eucalyptus essential oil, which is mainly citronella) is the only organic repellent that has been found to be effective by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Remember that this is a rare disease, spread only by certain types of mosquitoes. Most people infected with the virus do not develop EEE. However, due to the extremely serious consequences of contracting it, precaution is key.

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

Here's To Your Health:

A Better Way To Fall

I recently had a client fall on her walk to the gym for an appointment she had with me. When she arrived she was quite shaken, bruised and a little bloody. However, the injuries she suffered were benign in comparison to what could have happened had she not practiced the "art" of falling. Her injuries healed very quickly and did not keep her from proceeding with her future workouts.

There are some very important techniques that everyone young and aging should know about.

Here are some alarming facts regarding falling from the World Health Organization:

- Falls are the second leading cause of accidental or unintentional injury deaths worldwide.

- Each year an estimated 646,000 individuals die from falls globally, of which over 80 percent are in low- and middle-

income countries.

- Adults older than 65 years old suffer the greatest number of fatal falls.

- 37.3 million falls that are severe enough to require medical attention occur each year.

I thought it would be prudent of me to bring some awareness to the art of falling. Obviously, people of all ages can fall; however, age is one of the key risk factors and children are just as much at risk. Other risk factors

include occupationally hazardous working conditions, poor mobility, cognition and vision, and underlying medical conditions.

Let's talk about prevention. Learning how to fall should be a high priority for everyone because an ounce of prevention goes a long way. My 96-year-old client tells me she always



MICHELE TENNEY

has a plan in place because she lives at home alone. For example, she makes sure the floor isn't wet either in her kitchen or her bathroom and she doesn't rush to answer the door or phone. She also comes into the gym three times a week for core, balance and strength training.

If you find yourself in a situation where you are falling, here are your techniques to remember how to do it for a safer outcome:

1. Stay bent, keeping your elbows and knees bent at all cost. When you become rigid and tighten up is when you run the risk of breaking bones.
2. Protect your head. If you're falling forward, turn your head to the side. If you're falling backward, tuck your chin towards your chest so your head doesn't hit the ground.
3. Land on the meaty part of your body –

if you keep your knees and elbows bent and make landing on your muscle intentional you'll be less likely to crack a hip or tailbone.

4. Keep falling. Your instinct will tell you to stop falling, but your best bet is to try and roll with the fall. The more you succumb to the fall, the safer the fall will be.

I hope you never have to use these techniques and that today finds you well, happy and balanced. It's a great time of year to go out for a walk, a hike or a bike ride. We should take advantage of it while we still can.

Here's to your health.

Michele Tenney is a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist & Wellness Coach. She is the Chair of the Healthy Lifestyles Committee for the Orange Elementary School System and is a member of the Orange Board of Health. She can be reached at 203 668 2969 or email of Hmgbrd3@gmail.com.

Room 911:

Mix Up Your Room

Sometimes our greatest "creations" come from moving something to a different place in a room. Such was the case recently when I was asked by a client to come breathe some new life into her living room.

This room had every object and every piece of furniture placed exactly how it was when they moved in 20 years ago. The client was bored with the room, but she really didn't want to invest too much money into this endeavor.

This living room was only used on state occasions. The furniture was in excellent condition, as was the carpeting (although I would have preferred wood floors). The chairs that framed the sofa were covered in plastic. (Don't get me started on plastic.) Plants were placed around the room. The artwork was hung at the appropriate height. It was nothing exciting. It would be

what one might see in a doctor's waiting room. The room overall, including the bookcases, looked like no one had ever been in it. It was only used when company came over for holidays or an occasional cocktail party.

The first task was to assess the paint color. The walls were white, as was the crown and baseboard molding. Nothing popped out. What was needed was some contrast. My suggestions was a Benjamin Moore paint from the Timeless Neutral Collection called Barren Plain. Its soft gray was inviting on the walls. The moldings were repainted a fresh, crisp white.

The sofa and chairs were a charcoal gray, and we needed an accent color for the pillows. Teal was one option and a



TEDRA SCHNEIDER

muted purple was another. The client wanted the purple. It was refreshing and blended well with the soft gray walls and white trim.

The photographs on the bookshelves were also replaced. While the nostalgia of a wedding photo and ancestors from Eastern Europe were important, we sorted through more action-oriented photos like those from a whale watching trip, whitewater rafting with the family and a dynamic sports photo on a ski slope.

A collection of Navajo and Native American Indian ceramics were on the lowest shelf of the bookcase. We moved them on top of the bookcase. That truly gave a boost to the previously staid-looking bookcase.

All the plants in the room were gathered in one corner. We created depth in the room by starting out with the tallest plants and then building into the room with the medium-sized plants down to the smallest plants. It was fortunate that they each did well in a medium-lit area.

While the artwork would not have reflected my taste, I was able to use one wall and hang eight paintings, lithographs or woodcuts in an interesting pattern that took up one entire wall. It gave the nondescript artwork more importance.

The cost: paint, a painter, three pillows, art wall hooks, and some new photo frames. The client got a big bang for her buck.

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

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Renovation Loans Can Be Worth It

If you have been passing on properties to purchase because they need too much work, you just might want to read further. Once you have found a neighborhood and the yard you like, why not roll the renovation costs into your mortgage and make the upgrades right after the closing? Take a blank canvass and design your own space.

There are many benefits to using a rehab loan. First, you get to hold onto your savings and get a good interest rate. Next, you will have instant equity as you finish the project. Voila – the sum of the purchase price plus the renovations is now complete, giving your

home more value right away.

Many first-time home buyers or empty nesters view homes that require roofs, kitchens, septic systems, heating systems or windows. They may decide it is not worth the long-term effort to customize. In reality, if they wait a month to move in after the closing and get the quotes firmed up with your professionals, they can move into a renovated home that they designed, fast.

We all know that you cannot get a greater value after completion and get a



BARBARA LEHRER

conventional loan if a heating system is not working. Imagine working out the details and ending up with a conventional loan and having all new mechanics. Just start with a well-priced, good quality property and move forward. Pay now or pay later, as they say.

You could wait years to make the upgrades that you make allowances for each year, or you can make that list, see if the property will be worth a much

bank appraiser in to assess if all is right. Not all lenders do this, but it is becoming more and more popular as buyers do not have the necessary extra funds after closing to finish a home the way they envision it.

Whether it needs super rehab or just a new kitchen, why wait? Why wait when there are easily accessible programs out there from reliable lenders. Review these options. Whether buying or selling, a realtor can help you use these great tools.

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

Two More Debates Coming For Orange First Selectman

Two more debates are scheduled between the candidates for Orange first selectman in October.

Incumbent Republican Jim Zeoli, who has held the position for 14 years, is facing Democratic challenger Jodi Dietch, a former Board of Education member who currently serves as Chair of the Democratic Town Committee.

The first debate between Zeoli and Dietch, sponsored by the Milford-Orange Times, was held Sept. 12.

Congregation Or Shalom will host the

second debate on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. at the temple. Former Rotary president Roger Tausig will be the moderator.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce will host the third debate Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grassy Hill Country Club, located at 411 Clark Lane, Orange.

Daniel May, Provost and Senior Vice President at the University of New Haven will be moderating that debate. The public may submit their questions to director@orangetchamber.com.

Both events is free and open to the public.

Senior Living

Retired and Rejuvenated:

What Can We Expect From Our Bodies At 70

Yes, we still have many great adventures ahead. The quality of our life, for the most part, is in our own hands. That is, unless we are unfortunate enough to be suffering from a debilitating disease that is taking that control away from us.

But let's be optimistic. Sixty-six percent of people in their 70s feel good about growing older and they expect plenty of good years to come. We are 26 percent less likely to die of cancer than those in our parent's generation, thanks to powerful treatments and a drop in smoking. We can stack the deck in our favor even further by getting regular recommended cancer screenings like those for colon cancer. The American Cancer Society reported that the number of colon cancer deaths fell 52 percent between 1970 and 2015 because of these screenings.

Medicine has also made tremendous advances in heart disease. Diabetes, the third serious health threat after cancer and heart disease, can double your risk for a silent heart attack and raises your odds for a stroke. But fortunately older adults can benefit from healthy lifestyle changes to a greater degree than any other population group. If you don't have a fitness and diet program designed to attack this threat, now is the time to get one.

Studies show we make better decisions than we did when we were younger. In fact, older folks lead the pack when it comes to wisdom. We have a greater ability to compromise and maintain perspective than people in their 20s to 50s, according to a University of Michigan study. Though most of our brain has been slowly shrinking for decades, the hippocampus (the memory center) has mostly stayed the same. As we age, the hippocampus can begin to lose volume, especially if we have been subjected to a lifetime of stress, poor sleep, and less-than-stellar nutrition. To prevent this, we should be making an extra effort to eat dark, leafy greens such as kale and spinach, which deliver protectors to the brain.

Sleep is definitely more elusive. Up to 50 percent of adults in their 70s have trouble falling asleep and staying asleep. We wake up more easily and spend less time in deep, restorative sleep. One in three adults in their 70s take sleep aids, even though some of these



JOANNE BYRNE

can boost your risk for falls and drowsy, disoriented thinking during the day. A better plan is to cut back on sleep robbers such as caffeine in the afternoon or alcohol at bedtime and drink less water after 7 p.m. to prevent extra trips to the bathroom at night. Exercise during the day can help. Experts say if you don't fall asleep in 10 minutes or so, it's better to get up, go to another room and read until you feel sleepy.

Saving your hearing and eyesight are key to protecting your brain. More than two thirds of adult in their 70s have hearing loss in one or both ears due to decades of noise exposure. Both hearing and vision have been linked to a higher risk for cognitive and memory problems. It is important to schedule those annual vision screenings for glaucoma and cataracts. If hearing loss is a problem, there are many new, less cumbersome and highly effective hearing devices available on the market.

What are the other things we can expect from our bodies in our 70s? Our hair grows more slowly as we age, and it may look thinner as some follicles quit working and others produce finer strands. The color fades, causing about 56 percent of women to color their hair at age 70. Overall growth in our fingernails slows down, allowing for less frequent trips to the nail salon. Our skin craves more moisture and we may have fewer sweat and oil glands. Taking shorter showers and using a daily moisturizer can help. We bruise more easily because we have less collagen in our skin, leaving the skin thinner and more fragile. Our joints are stiffer, especially in the morning. And to top it all off, we are getting shorter.

I did say we should be optimistic. If we know what to expect, and what is normal for our 70-year-old bodies, we can accept it, smile, and believe we still have adventures in life to look forward to.

Joanne Byrne served as the 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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Editorial (from pg 5)

Trump's reelection chances, we must also consider the fact that every time he gets away with violating a norm, legal or not, it has an impact on the future strength and character of American institutions.

That's also why Democrats may not have had much of a choice but to move forward regardless of the outcome. Some things should transcend the political calculation.

That brings us to the other node of Sasse's admonishment. Republicans, too, need to look beyond the next election cycle and consider the fragile nature of government institutions. The U.S. system is built on a flexible, but not unbreakable, system of checks and balances. Is the fleeting gain of four years of political power worth the potential long-term damage that might be wrought on this system? Would they want a Democrat, who will one day hold the presidency, to have this as a precedent to buttress his or her own actions?

Everyone in the country – perhaps the world – has a stake in the outcome of these proceedings. For all our sake, we need to investigate and deliberate as dispassionately and cautiously as possible. That may be a tall order, but the gravity of this situation calls for nothing less.



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The Milford Chamber of Commerce

Milford Chamber Week Coming

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce works hard each day to promote economic and community development by providing services and addressing issues important to business.

The week of Oct. 21–25 is being proclaimed as Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce week in Milford.

During the week we will spotlight connections between our community, our businesses, and the chamber. We would like you to celebrate with us. We have a variety of events planned for where you can connect with us, not to mention a few surprises and other things along the way.

Here's how you can participate:

Monday, Oct. 21, 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the chamber, 5 Broad St.: Join us as we kick off Chamber Week with our Member Appreciation Breakfast. Enjoy a morning of networking,

meeting your Board of Directors and a proclamation by mayor Benjamin G. Blake on the front steps of the chamber as we honor our chamber members. Thinking about joining the chamber? Stop by to chat about things going on around Milford and our chamber offerings. Our breakfast will be sponsored by Cracker Barrel.

Join us for a lunch and learn "Simple Steps: How to Start Your Own Business" presented by Score from noon to 1 p.m. at the chamber.

Later in the afternoon we will be welcoming Lights Camera DJ's to Milford with a ribbon cutting at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 22: Join us for a lunch and learn "How to Use Facebook Ads to Drive Business," presented by Jocelyn Murray of



PAM STANESKI

Marketing & Event Resources, LLC from noon to 1 p.m. at the chamber.

We will be hosting an event with the Network of Executive Women from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bin100 restaurant called, "We've Come a Long Way, Baby," featuring guest speaker Carolyn Finch.

Wednesday, Oct. 23: Join us for a special Business After Hours event, "Kegs & Conversation" at Milford Point Brewing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., sponsored by Pop's Family Restaurant.

Thursday, Oct. 24: Join us for a lunch and learn presented by Tanya Wallace of Dream Catcher, LLC, titled "Your Guide to Successful Networking" from noon to 1 p.m. at the chamber.

Friday, Oct. 25: The chamber is partnering with Milford Economic Development and Milford Photo to offer a LinkedIn photo event. Need a new photo? Want an opportunity to update your LinkedIn profile? Drop in to Milford Photo between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Join us for a lunch and learn presented by Dewey Forbes of Strategy 1st Marketing titled "B2B Lead Generation: Targeted Content First!" from noon to 1 p.m. at the chamber.

In addition to these events, we are also very busy with the events that we plan for membership each month. For more information and registration for many of these events, please call 203-878-0681.

Our door is open as always. Stop in for a visit.



The Orange Chamber of Commerce

Chamber A Good Way To Get Recognized

Your business will never bring in enough revenue if people don't know about you. Most businesses don't fail because their service or product is inferior. They fail because no one knows about them or they don't differentiate themselves from the competition.

It doesn't matter how good your offerings are or how loved they could be. If people don't know about them, your business will never succeed.

Enter Chamber of Commerce membership, the absolute best way for the community to know that you exist. First you have a ribbon-cutting and grand opening orchestrated by the chamber. The chamber sends out press releases before and after the opening. You

are listed as a business on the chamber's website. When people move to the town or are searching for a local business they go to the chamber's website and find you there.

Some businesses think that social media has replaced traditional advertising. But it takes a comprehensive marketing strategy that combines social media with face-to-face interaction with other business professionals to get the word out about you. Ninety-five percent of people say that face-to-face meetings are essential for building



CAROL SMULLEN

long-term business relationships.

The Orange Chamber offers morning, noon and evening opportunities to expand your contact base and promote your business. We offer "Morning Jolt" coffee and conversations at Eli's Orange and chamber member businesses from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The most recent one was at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, and the next one is at 8:45 a.m. on Oct. 15 at CT Pest Elimination, located at 273 Indian River Rd. with the Orange, Milford and West Haven chambers.

Our West Haven and Orange Women in

Business group meets for lunch every month. The Oct. 15 meeting is at Lorenzo's in West Haven. Our next Connections, Cocktails and Cuisine evening event will be on Oct. 17 at BarCode at 501 Boston Post Rd.

Registration for all the Orange Chamber events can be made at orangectchamber.com. Just go to the calendar, select the event and register.

Customers are looking for businesses they know, like and trust. As an active member of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, the public will come to now, like and trust you.



The Milford Library

Milford Library: A Community Space

I'm very pleased to write this inaugural column on news and events happening at the two libraries in the *Milford-Orange Times* readership circle. This month I will be giving news from the Milford Public Library, and next month my colleague Kathy Giotsas will share news from the Case Memorial Library in Orange.

Through the statewide BorrowIt program, Connecticut residents can use their hometown library card at public libraries throughout the state, and through this column I hope Milford and Orange residents can learn about the wonderful resources available to them at either library.

Both our libraries receive support from our Friends of the Libraries groups. In Milford, this amazing volunteer group supports library programming through an ongoing book sale and other fundraising events, manages four

Little Libraries where readers can "take a book, leave a book," awards high school book awards, provides welcome bags to new residents and so much more.

On Oct. 19 they will host their biggest fundraiser of the year, Party in the Stacks!, an adults-only, costume-optional event held after hours at the library. Party in the Stacks! features music and dancing, an extensive silent auction, games and delicious themed food and beverages. The theme for this year's event is "POP Culture: From Superheroes, Movies, Comics, and Everything in Between." More information and tickets can be found on the library website, milfordlibrary.org.

The other big news is that we are renovating.



CHRISTINE ANGELI

In November 2017, the library was the recipient of a construction grant from the Connecticut State Library to make some much-needed updates to our building. With matching funds from the city and much support from our municipal leaders and other city departments, we are poised to get started.

The renovations will include an expansion of our Children's Department to make it more ADA accessible, added space for different age levels with appropriate technology centers, and a more comfortable layout so that families can stay, mingle and meet others – so necessary to building the community relationships we cherish here in Milford, the Small City with a Big Heart. The second phase of the project will add two

small, public meeting spaces on our adult floor and require the relocation of the Local History Room.

The project began on Oct. 1 and will last approximately six months. During construction, the Children's Department will be relocated to our adult Program Room, easily accessible from the lower-level entrance. During this time, please check our website for renovation and event updates as some of our regular programs may be suspended or held at other venues.

We are excited for this adventure to start and can't wait to share our improved space with you once completed. In the meantime, we hope to see you in the library.

Christine Angeli is the director of the Milford Public Library. She can be reached at 203-783-3399 or cangeli@ci.milford.ct.us.

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Insuring Your Future:

Medicare Outlook For 2020 – Steady As She Goes

The annual enrollment period for Medicare is just around the corner. This is the time to assess your health insurance needs to determine if any changes are necessary. You may have already received some information about changes to your current plan as well as general information on other options. The open enrollment period runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7.

The AEP is an opportunity to review your current coverage and determine if it is still the best fit or if a change is indicated. The theme for this year is “stability.” Many of the carriers have retained or expanded their plan offerings and still include some benefits such as dental, hearing and vision. In addition, there are more \$0 premium plans.

There are some items you want to review, such as: changes to your current plan – it is good to compare with other plans that might offer more or better benefits; adjustments in the drug formularies that could impact

prescription costs; changes in your health that could impact your out of pocket expenses, such as copays, deductibles or coinsurance; changes in prescription medications, and; changes to whether all your doctors are still in your plan’s network.

One major carrier has recently eliminated some providers. If you have seen a provider who falls in this category within the past six months, the insurer will notify you of the change, but if it is over six months you would not be informed. A little research now will avoid an unhappy surprise in the future.

If your current plan is still the best fit and no changes are needed, your coverage will automatically renew in January. However, if something should change in the first quarter of the year, you will have an opportunity to make



TRISH
PEARSON

a change until March 31.

If you are not sure about how to navigate the system, it is worth the time to consult with an insurance professional who is knowledgeable and certified. They can assist with assessing options and advise on which plan would be best. Generally, there is no fee as the insurance company compensates the agent.

The other option is to attend the seminars that are offered by many of the insurance companies.

This approach is much more time-consuming and requires more logistical preparation.

Some people receive “extra help” from the State of Connecticut. These are called Medical Savings Programs. Qualification is based on income and there are three levels:

QMB, SLMB and ALMB. QMB and SLMB recipients do not pay a Medicare B premium and those on QMB receive help with copays and prescription costs. ALMB is an optional program based on state funding.

For 2020 the income levels are as follows: QMB – individual monthly income below \$2,196, couple \$2,972; SLMB – individual monthly income below \$2,404, couple \$3,254; ALMB – \$2560 individual monthly income, \$3,466 couple.

To apply for benefits, visit the Department of Social Services website or the community services office in your town. The application is simple, and assets are not included in determining eligibility.

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

Your Finances:

Retirement Dos and Don'ts

Retirement is one thing you want to get right. Whether you're a highly compensated corporate executive or a hard-working employee, you are likely to retire only once. Following are some dos and don'ts for effective retirement planning:

- **Do maximize your retirement accounts.** For many people, a 401(k) plan with a company match is the greatest savings opportunity they will ever have. Once you maximize your contributions there, look to other options depending on your income levels. For example, you may also be eligible to open a Roth IRA. If you're an executive, you need to be vigilant and stay on top of stock option planning decisions. With so many factors that can enhance or detract from your retirement accounts, establishing a wealth management plan with a financial planner is a smart idea.

- **Do focus on boosting your income and savings.** Earn as much money as you can early in your career and save as much

as you can. Write out how much you spend vs. how you save for at least three months, to get a handle on where your money is going. Make changes as required to get your savings rate up to at least 15 percent of your income.

- **Do create a comprehensive financial plan.** A solid financial plan provides a roadmap not only for long-term decisions but for daily decisions as well. Start by thinking about your life goals, then establish a plan that includes budgeting, investments, tax planning and retirement planning. A financial planner can help with this process.

- **Don't carry unnecessary debt.** Debt is the natural enemy of retirement savings, because every dollar you spend today to settle past debt should be going toward investment in your future. Make sure you assume mortgage and car debt levels that are appropriate to your income level. Avoid



ERIC
TASHLEIN

building credit card debt. Most millionaires got wealthy by living below, not beyond, their means.

- **Don't skimp on insurance.** Among the biggest threats to your retirement years are high healthcare costs. You can offset much of that risk by purchasing adequate health insurance, disability, life and long-term care insurance. Also, have your

property and casualty agent do a thorough review of your home and auto policies to eliminate holes and possible areas of liability. For example, your agent may suggest upping the amount of your umbrella policy.

- **Don't overpay taxes.** Capital gains and income taxes cut into investment returns. To combat this retirement threat, make sure your taxable retirement accounts utilize tax-efficient investments, especially if your tax bracket is over 20 percent.

- **Don't ignore your financial plan.** Human nature can upset the most carefully laid plans. Just because you say you are going on a diet doesn't mean the pounds will come off. You have to actually change your eating and lifestyle habits day to day and hour by hour. It's the same with a financial plan: you can create a wonderful plan and write it up in great detail, but if you don't follow the plan it won't do you a lot of good. Follow your plan, and your future retired self will be much better off.

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.

Turkey Hill Development (Continued from page 1)

The developers continued over the course of the first hour to give a detailed presentation, including all the things one would normally expect a wetlands commission to be concerned about: drainage, disturbance of wildlife, the design of piping and septic systems.

Once they had finished, a parade of residents took to the microphone to voice their concerns.

They began with Missy Hackett, who presented a thorough list of questions that she and residents of eight other neighboring properties had created. The questions were tailored for the wetlands commission, though she qualified that some might have been addressed by the developers already that night.

Among other things, the questions asked that the public be informed of and invited to a site walk of the property; that a wetlands agent be hired to oversee the project; how a proposed retaining wall would be built without disturbing a wetland identified in the vicinity; and who would be responsible in the event that the septic system fails.

The audience broke into applause as Hackett finished.

After her, numerous other residents came up to speak, sometimes more than once. Some of the harshest remarks came from Amir Mohammed, director of the town's health department and an area resident.

“I just want everybody to be considerate

about the fact that we all, as the town residents, are not going to be accepting this type of construction, and we will come in in gatherings to make sure that our voice gets heard,” he said.

At one point, murmurs ran through the crowd as it became clear that the properties would likely be rentals, not owned. Several speakers argued that renters would not treat their units with the same care as owners would.

Toward the end, of the meeting, Gordon – who himself is a town resident – became agitated with the residents' characterizations of the proposal.

“That's the problem that we have here,” he said. You've heard of NIMBY, but now we're talking about the drawbridge mentality of I've got mine and nobody else gets to come in here too,” he said.

After the meeting, Turkey Hill resident Ron Michaels, who also was active in the opposition against the earlier, defeated proposal for the site, said it was telling that Meisenheimer declined to attend the public hearing in person.

“I think he's aware of how the public feels about this,” Michaels said. “He could have put six nice houses on this land. But this is designed to maximize his profits.”

The commission has two more public hearings on the proposal scheduled for Oct. 17 and Nov. 12.

Pro Football Player Kicks Off United Way Of Milford Campaign



Retired pro football player Sean Landeta was the guest speaker Oct. 3 at the United Way of Milford's annual campaign kickoff. Photo courtesy of the United Way of Milford.

The United Way of Milford kicked off its 2019-2020 campaign Oct. 3 with five-time all pro retired football player Sean Landeta as its guest speaker at Subway World Headquarters in Milford. Landeta finished his 25-year career with the second most punting yards of all time. After starting in the United States Football League, Landeta was a punter for 22 seasons with the National Football League from 1985-2006. He brought home championship titles with the New York Giants in Superbowl XXI and XXV. He played with six teams total, including the St. Louis/Los Angeles Rams and the Philadelphia Eagles. He was the first punter in NFL history to earn a \$1 million annual salary.

Landeta is considered the most prolific punter in NFL history. He has been considered for the Pro

Football Hall of Fame and is one of ESPN's 50 Greatest NY Giants players. Since officially retiring from football in 2008, Landeta continues to work with the Eagles and Giants organizations and is active in the media, working for FOX Television and CBS Radio.

“We're thrilled to have Sean Landeta with us for the annual campaign kickoff,” said Gary Johnson, President of United Way. “We are so thankful to our gracious friends at Subway for hosting this exciting event as well as our Milford community for their continued support of our mission.”

At the event, United Way also showcased its 2019/20 campaign video, which features individuals and families helped by United Way and its partner agencies.

The United Way of Milford provides resources for 21 local nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to helping Milford's most vulnerable community members.

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News & Events

Orange Students Making Fire Prevention Posters

The Orange Fire Marshal's Office is participating in the 2019 Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest, a statewide competition for fourth and fifth graders that falls in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 6 to Oct. 12.

The contest is a cooperative effort of elementary school teachers and the sponsors, including the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, the Office of The State Fire Marshal, the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, the Connecticut Board of Education, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and the Connecticut FAIR Plan, representing the insurance industry.

The theme is "Fire Prevention – Everyone Every Day." A winning poster will be chosen from each county, and that student will receive a cash award of \$150. Posters

will be exhibited in locations throughout Connecticut, including the State Capitol. From these, one poster will be chosen to be reproduced and distributed as Connecticut's 2019 Fire Prevention Poster. The statewide winner will be awarded an additional \$750 and his or her school will receive \$500.

A luncheon will be held for county winners, parents, teachers, principals, local fire marshals and other guests, at which the state winner will be announced.

Orange Fire Marshal Tim Smith thanked the students, administrators and teachers from the Peck Place, Race Brook and Turkey Hill schools for their support and participation.

For more information about fire safety or Fire Prevention Week, contact the Orange Fire Marshal's Office at 203-981-4711 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit orangefiremarshal.com.

Milford Tennis Tournament Raises \$10,000 For Genetic Condition



Lobs of Love committee members gather at Milford Indoor Tennis, where its second annual event to raise funds for Mowat-Wilson Syndrome was held Sept. 14. Photo courtesy of Milford Indoor Tennis.

The second annual Lobs of Love Tennis Tournament and fundraiser at Milford Indoor Tennis on Sept. 14 brought in nearly \$10,000 to benefit the Mowat-Wilson Syndrome Foundation.

Over 55 players gathered in addition to scores of friends and family members. The evening included tennis, camaraderie, food and beverages, a silent auction and lots of high spirits.

"We are so grateful to all those who were involved with the event, especially our players, sponsors and silent auction contributors," said Laura Chrysostomo, the event organizer.

Mowat-Wilson Syndrome is a rare but

extremely serious genetic condition found in many countries and across ethnic groups. In Connecticut, five children – two of whom live in Milford – are known to be affected by the disorder. Significant signs of the syndrome include distinctive facial features, intellectual disability, delayed development and other birth defects.

Experts estimate that hundreds of U.S. children are affected by Mowat-Wilson. The foundation is raising funds to hold a medical conference on the syndrome in 2020.

The fastest serve winner, Andrew Parr, served at 99 miles per hour. The slowest serve winner brought home a stuffed toy sloth.

Beth-El Center Receives \$5,500 Donation

Beth-El Center homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Milford recently received a \$5,500 donation from the 2019 Archbishop's Annual Appeal through its Vicariate Outreach Program. The appeal is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Hartford and its parishes.

The funding will be used to support the operation of the Beth-El Center's emergency homeless shelter, food programs and support services for men, women, veterans and families in the Milford area.

"Beth-El Center is very appreciative

to receive funding from the Archdiocese of Hartford," said Jennifer Paradis, the center's executive director. "We're grateful for their continued support, which allows us to respond to those experiencing homelessness, hunger and food insecurity. Their donation is also vital in helping us reduce barriers for our residents so they can regain their self-sufficiency."

For more information about Beth-El Center and its services, visit bethelmilford.org or call 203.876.0747.

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Candidates Have Their Say

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

Are Moving Most,” reports that “Younger Americans voting with their feet are most heavily favoring moves to Milford,” while the New York Times May 29 piece entitled “Milford, Conn.: A Pretty New England City That’s ‘Just Big Enough’” explains how “Milford is especially appealing to second-home buyers, retirees and empty-nesters.”

On July 5 Wallethub named Milford to its 2019 best beach towns to live in, while Connecticut Magazine’s June 24 write-up countered with “Milford’s Many Charms Make It More Than Just a Beach Town” and detailed “why it’s such a wonderful place to live, and a great place to spend a spectacular Saturday. Walking on the beach, appreciating nature and history, eating great food, enjoying a drink in a bar full of regulars – if it’s not home to you, it can start to feel that way in no time.”

While the April 4 SafeHome.org report ranks Milford as one of the safest cities to raise a child – and, U.S. News & World Report lists Foran and Law amongst the nation’s best high schools for 2019, it was Homesnacks’ May 19 evaluation that named Milford the number one place to live in Connecticut based on low crime and solid schools, as well as factors such as low unemployment and an abundance of things to do.

True to the headline-hype, Milford works very hard to offer quality services and affordable living. Milford’s secret to success: low taxes. Taxpayers in Milford have now experienced back-to-back-to-back-to-back tax cuts – four consecutive decreases in the amount of local taxes due. No other town in the state can boast this experience. Our sound financial decisions and responsible management have been recognized by the nation’s premier rating agency, Fitch Ratings, which upgraded Milford’s bond rating to AAA – the highest possible credit grade a city can receive. This credit score demonstrates our city’s fiscal health. More importantly, this notable evaluation broadcasts the

city’s continued trajectory as an affordable community with a low tax rate.

In addition to lowering taxes for all residents, we have also done much to expand Milford’s Senior Tax Relief Program. The improvements to the program help ensure that those seniors who have made our city great are not driven from their homes.

With respect to maintaining affordable housing options, Milford has a record of accomplishment. In August, the State of Connecticut credited our diverse housing stock, recognizing that the city had met all the requirements for a moratorium allowed under Section 8-30g of the Connecticut General Statutes. This was a huge win for Milford! No longer are we subject to the harshest elements of the state’s affordable housing law. The moratorium returns our control of planning and development by allowing us to push back against over-development and stop predatory development. In order to qualify for this moratorium, the city conducted an exhaustive canvass of housing units across Milford; we worked non-stop to prepare, to document, and to submit the city’s Certificate of Affordable Housing Project Completion.

The moratorium demonstrates the great lengths Milford has gone to create affordable housing for young professionals, working families and our senior population. And while the city supports the original intent of CGS § 8-30g – to provide housing to those wishing to reside in, and be part of a community otherwise not affordable, Milford had been impacted by the unintended consequences of the well-intentioned legislation. Developers had been able to circumvent our carefully crafted zoning regulations. With this moratorium, developers will no longer be able to ignore the sound planning principles so important to the success of Milford. The Small City with a Big Heart will continue to be a world-class community, with lots of New England charm, where every citizen has the opportunity to live and prosper.

Candidates Have Their Say

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

many residents in the 75+ group that want either to stay in the home they have known or downsize to something with minimal or no upkeep. The problem here is that both private home expenses or fees paid to an association can be cost prohibitive for those on a fixed income. The selling of one’s home can be a very traumatic event in their lives, but this opens the door for a younger person or family to gain entry level living in the town that we have all come to love. I have met with several developers trying to get more age restricted housing in town, and as soon as the age restriction is mentioned conversations have ended. They want to target the younger group where they can make more money.

The younger people do face financial challenges also. They may be carrying college debt or other costs and want to move to a new home to start or raise a family. While this may sound harsh to some, those young people at least have an opportunity to work a job or two and climb the ladder while dealing with education debt or home expenses; the seniors don’t have that option. The town does offer many possibilities with homes from \$200,000 to over \$1 million, so generally there is some fit for most. The town has held good value and young people will see appreciation of their purchase and seniors will also benefit from the strong sales in Orange when they decide to look at other options.

I think the town will be facing a few new types of housing as the calendar clicks forward. There will be more applications for apartments and condo types of space. Some will contain an affordable component, also sometimes referred as an 830-g application. This is a tool used by developers often to get what they want when they can’t get what they want. That was not the intent of the law,

but what it has become. The town has zones where varied housing will fit, but since most of Orange does not have sewers, high density housing in generally residential zones will not function properly

I am very proud of one of my first big projects back in 2006: Fieldstone Village. There were many naysayers in the beginning, but as it developed many residents of Orange have chosen to make their home there. I have met with several developers for similar projects to serve the needs of others, but so far no luck in appropriate zones.

I believe those who feel Orange is the right fit for them like the way our community has evolved. They believe in Orange’s independent pre-K through sixth grade school system, which I have heard over and over again as a main reason why Orange was their choice. They like the continuous upgrades made to town buildings that were left unattended for many years and became maintenance challenges. Over 115 miles of Orange’s roadways face repaving and sometimes reconstruction has become a yearly process. Yes, everyone thinks their road is the worst, I know.

I have proven that I know this town and continue to serve you daily! I am always open to your thoughts and I hope that you are open to mine also. I am very excited about our next big project: by the time you read this I believe the clearing will have begun for a new playground at Fred Wolfe Park. The completion of the south wing renovations at High Plains are beautiful and the locker rooms at the pool are in use and serving a very happy public also!

I do not stop and still have plenty to do. Thank you!



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Candidates Have Their Say

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

But the problem is far greater than growing demand. People are living longer, into their 80s and 90s, meaning housing is needed for longer than it once was. At the same time, the number of older, low-income households is growing as well.

So what can we do? To offer more affordable senior housing there may be a way to work a public/private partnership for building affordable housing, efficiency units, on existing public property. This partnership for developing and building affordable senior housing may be the answer. And sometimes federal dollars are available for financing such projects.

With the cost of construction and financing at a lower price point, the units can then be rented out at a much lower rate. Profit is not the goal in this model, but generating just enough income to maintain the property would be the driving force. Other towns and cities have done this. The process would be to calculate the costs to build and estimate the revenue generated and if the numbers work, the next step is to implement.

As far as young people, it's best to stay home! Or house share, where three or four people share in renting a house. Seniors can do this as well! To rent on your own is expensive and a waste of money in my opinion, unless you have a well-paying job or find a cheap rental. And many young folks are opting not to buy because they don't want to be tied down in one spot, or they don't think it's the best investment, especially in Connecticut, where taxes are high and the future for real estate is uncertain. Property values in some areas have continued to decline, while others have increased in value slightly, depending on the area and the tax rates.

So, shopping around for the best deals, house sharing, staying home or moving in with family, or getting on some long waiting list for affordable senior housing may be some options. But towns should be seriously looking at options to provide affordable housing. The demand will continue to grow into the foreseeable future, and some experts consider it a crisis.

Candidates Have Their Say

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

Orange has a strong asset in our location. Not only do we have Route 1, we are also between Route 15 and Interstate 95. We are close to Fairfield County and offer easy access to New Haven. It is unfortunate that the Orange train station has not become reality. Transportation is a major economic draw for millennials.

As I have been meeting people of varying ages around our town door knocking, at the Country Fair, or just out and about, I hear the concerns. A woman in her 80s on Racebrook Road said she would love to move to Fieldstone Village, but for what her house would sell for she can't afford to make that move. A gentleman on Grassy Hill Road is caring for his wife and hasn't had time to put his snowblower away. Here we have two examples, among many, of what Orange is facing with its senior population. One woman who would like an affordable place to move, another man who would like to stay in his home but needs a hand.

We do need affordable rental space for our seniors. We talk about building affordable senior housing but always in the context of property they can purchase. We have less than 200 senior rental units and they are almost always full or have a waiting list. That shows a need that we have in our town for our seniors.

Additionally, let's do more to help those who want to remain in their homes. OrangeLive reported in the spring that our first selectman put out a plea for help in planting some of his crop because he hadn't had a chance to do it. People showed up to help him plant a crop he profits from. Then they showed up again when he asked for help weeding. What if we apply this same volunteer attitude to our seniors? An adopt-a-neighbor program where we check on each other regularly and help put away a snowblower, change a light

bulb because going on a step stool may not be wise for someone in their 80s, or even a couple hours of weeding? What a sense of community we would be building, not to mention the pride in helping a neighbor.

Our children and their contemporaries are dealing with college debt, which is an issue that is hurting our economy nationwide. Families have not been able to save the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to fund a four-year college education. This has led to more college debt than ever before. When our young people need to pay back these large college loans, they can't afford to buy their first home. Therefore, they are looking for rentals that offer the amenities they crave. Pairing retail and residential helps fulfill this need and our Route 1 corridor offers us the opportunity to provide it. We need to find a way to work with developers and solicit ideas and opportunities.

As I drive down Route 1 in Westport, I see the mix of residential and retail. And yes, it works. Other communities have also found ways to mix the housing and retail markets to the advantage of the town. There is no reason Orange can't do the same.

The key, as they say, is location, location, location for all of these. Not every proposed development is a good fit for Orange. Our residential neighborhoods are important to the character of our town. We certainly don't want to see the spot zoning that we see in other towns nor have developers turn to the affordable housing statutes to force development on the town. But we do need to realize that our future is not necessarily in all retail development, including on Route 1 but in corporate and residential housing.

Let's move Orange forward with sound development that works for everyone. Orange, are you ready?

Voting Locations Changed In Orange

The Town of Orange has changed the locations where residents will vote in the Nov. 5 municipal elections.

All three districts will vote at High Plains Community Center. The town cited weather-related parking problems at Mary L Tracy School during the previous election as the reason for the change. The school had been the location for District 1 residents to cast their vote.

This year, District 1 will vote in the gym at HPCC, District 2 will vote in Room 3 in the south wing, and District 3 will vote in the senior cafeteria.

High Plains Community Center is located at 525 Orange Center Rd. Residents can find their voting district on the Orange town website at orange-ct.gov. For more information contact the Democratic Registrar of Voters Janice Casey at 203-891-4715 or the Republican Registrar of Voters Frederick Kendrick at 203-891-4716.

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News & Events



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Come laugh at our annual Comedy Night with three outstanding stand-up comedians. Bring your own refreshments (set-ups provided) and snacks. It's all happening to benefit the Orange Lions Charities at the social hall at St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church, 480 Racebrook Road Orange. Tickets are \$35, available from any Lions Club member or online at <https://fbpt.me/4316597>

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"Fig" "Jo Jo" "Jimmy"



Orange Town Guide (Continued from page 1)

as town services, schools, parks, clubs and organizations. It also contains information about many local businesses.

The updated version includes new pictures, stories about the town and information about town resources.

The guide is meant to be a one-stop source for what's available to residents and visitors. It will be available in local public

buildings and some businesses. Readers of the *Milford-Orange Times* will receive complimentary copies.

A portion of the money raised for the guide is being donated to Give Something Back, which provides college scholarships and mentoring to students who have faced economic hardship and other adversities.

Colonial Properties Makes Two Sales Worth \$5.75 Million

Orange-based Colonial Properties, Inc. recently completed two investment sales totaling \$5.75 million.

Colonial President and Designated Broker Michael Richetelli along with Gary Bellard represented the seller, Simone Development of Orange, LLC, in the sale of Orange Town Center, a 38,000 square-foot two-story retail, office and medical facility located at 109 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. The building sold for \$3.25 million to CKS Realty, LLC. Colonial had been the dedicated leasing company for the property for many years.

Attorney John Tesei of Gilbride, Tusa, Last & Spellane LLC in Greenwich represented the seller and attorney Francis Donnarumma of the Donnarumma Law Firm in Woodbury represented the buyer.

Richetelli and Bellard were also the sole brokers in the sale of the Edmor Industrial Park, an 89,000 square-foot light industrial, office and flex park located at 2664-2666 State St. in Hamden. The park consisted of three buildings on six acres and sold

for \$2.5 million to Acul Holdings, LLC. Colonial handled the leasing at the property for the last two years and negotiated a lease for 6,000 square feet of office space, which was instrumental in facilitating the sale.

Attorney Steven Ciardiello of Hamden represented the seller; the buyer was represented by the law firm of Rogin Nassau, LLC of Hartford.

"These two sales represent the strong demand in the market for 'value add' investment properties," Richetelli said. "Both of these assets are well located, high quality buildings offering an excellent, stable tenant base with the opportunity to add value by leasing up vacancy. These sales truly were a win-win, as the sellers are focusing their efforts on other markets and both purchasers are motivated to improve the properties, fill the vacant space and realize the potential added income streams."

Colonial Properties is a full service commercial and residential real estate brokerage.

Orange Resident Honored

Orange Rotarian Hilda Salerno is being honored with a "Good Scout" award by the Connecticut Yankee Council and the Boy Scouts of America for her leadership in the

community at the 31 annual Coastal Fairfield County 'Good Scout' Award Breakfast on Oct. 17 in Bridgeport. Salerno is Connecticut Team Leader for Get Beyond, Inc.

Milford Trick Or Trot Run/Walk To Help Homeless, Hungry



Runners and walkers dress up in costume for the Milford Trick or Trot 5K to support the Beth-El Center's mission to alleviate homeless and hunger in the greater Milford community. Photo by M. Winkel.

The 8th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Lisman Landing in downtown Milford. The event's proceeds will be donated to the Beth-El Center to support its mission of alleviating homelessness and hunger in the Milford area through shelter, outreach, support services and food programs.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the event starts with shotgun at 9 a.m. Fees are \$27 per person for advanced registration and \$35 for same-day registration, which includes a bib and t-shirt as available.

Children 18 and under pay \$20 per person.

This is a family friendly event with a Kids Fun Run at 8:45 a.m. and a new pet costume contest. All participants are encouraged to wear costumes and bring a non-perishable donation for Beth-El Center's food pantry.

After the 5K, festivities will include food donated by Subway, Chip's and Rita's Italian Ice, plus entertainment by rock and blues band The Elwoods.

To register for the 5K or to become a sponsor, visit milfordtrickortrot.com.

AMSO Students Send Over 100 Birthday Cards To Veteran



Students from Amity Middle School in Orange sent Texas veteran James South over 100 cards to celebrate his 100th birthday. Photo by Jennifer Marganski.

Orange Amity Middle School students heard that Texas-based veteran James South was hoping to receive 100 cards for his Oct. 7 birthday, when he will turn 100 years old. So they got to work and sent him 117 cards.

South is a World War II veteran who

joined the Army in 1940 and was deployed to Normandy just days after D-Day. His family has a three-day celebration planned for him, which includes playing golf and eating chicken fried steak and catfish.

Executive Women's Network To Discuss Issues Working Women Face

The Network of Executive Women and Milford Chamber of Commerce will be hosting "We've Come a Long Way Baby," a networking celebration of the success of local women in business, on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Bin 100 Restaurant in Milford. Speaker Carolyn Finch will discuss her 50-year career as a working mom and the changes she's experienced in the workplace. Her talk

will be followed by an open discussion of the issues facing working women today.

The event is open to women in business and runs from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The restaurant is located at 100 Lansdale Ave. The cost is \$20 for advanced online registration and \$30 at the door. Appetizers are included. There will be a cash bar. Register at networkofexecutivewomen.org.

Your Health

What You Should Know About PFAS

I recently attended a meeting on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, organized by the Regional Water Authority to learn more about these chemicals and what RWA is doing in meeting the current standards. PFAS contamination in water supply is a leading environmental concern in Connecticut and around the U.S. Both Milford and Orange residents are served by RWA, and during this meeting I was reassured that the RWA is closely working with other utilities and the state's PFAS task force.



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

firefighting foam and variety of consumer products including but not limited to stain-resistant carpets, non-stick cookware, food packaging like pizza boxes and microwave popcorn bags, raincoats and household cleaning products.

According to the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, some studies in humans with PFAS exposure have shown that certain PFAS may affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children; lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant; interfere with natural hormones (thyroid hormone disruption); increase cholesterol levels; affect the immune system; and increase the risk of some types of cancer (kidney, testicular).

As a background, various news sites reported that the issues related to PFAS were not widely known in Connecticut until the accidental activation on June 9 of a fire-suppression system at a hangar owned by a flight services company, Signature Flight. It released about 40,000 gallons of firefighting foam with PFAS substances.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS are a group of manmade chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many others. PFAS have been manufactured and used in the U.S. since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are persistent in the environment and in the human body.

Connecticut health officials have adopted the EPA's 70 parts-per-trillion measurement for PFOA and PFOS and included three additional versions of these compounds known as PFNA, PFHxS and PFHpA. Under the Connecticut recommendation, if any combination of these five different chemicals adds up to more than 70 parts per trillion, people should not drink that water.

PFAS has been used for decades in

The PFAS action plan report was due to Gov. Ned Lamont on Oct. 1 and outlines steps that the state should take to address human health, pollution prevention, and cleanup. It prioritizes actions and considers resource investments and legislative changes.

I was informed that RWA is measuring these chemicals in the drinking water supply. However, let's not wait and start minimizing the use of the above-listed products containing these harmful chemicals. I strongly believe that prevention is better than cure.

Dr. Amir Mohammad is a practicing internist and preventive medicine physician. He greatly enjoys teaching and doing public health work. He is serving as the Director of Health for the Town of Orange. Zeb Kayani, a graduate of Amity Regional High School, and a first-year medical student at the Yale School of Medicine, contributed to this article.

K-12 Regionalization (from pg 1)

these benefits well into the future.

What about elementary school bonding? Town bonding debts for their schools would have to be accounted for. The underlying assets used to justify the bonds were based on an individual town's tax base. Would the Amity district's taxing authority now take that obligation? Probably not. The towns would likely have to keep paying this down and keep including it in their tax calculations.

Regionalization of services is an area where savings could be found. Each town would be billed for the services it uses and would not be a shared expense. Information technology would be a leading candidate here. But if the town can get a better deal elsewhere, they will go elsewhere. Amity

would be just another vendor in these transactions.

All three towns would have to independently vote to approval any changes. It's not one town's prerogative to consolidate the elementary schools.

A bipartisan multi-town committee needs to be formed to make suitable recommendations for any consolidation of the elementary schools, as is currently happening between nearby Derby and Ansonia.

Make sure you understand – and the candidates offer – the details of any proposed school regionalization. The devil, as they say, is in the details.

Ribbon Cutting Held For New Realtor In Milford



The Milford Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 2 to celebrate the opening of real estate company Total Realty Services at its location at 56 Broad St. in Milford. Photo by Gregory Geiger.

Big Y Hiring In Milford For 200 Jobs

Big Y Foods, Inc. has opened a hiring site to fill over 200 full and part-time positions available at two new World Class Markets in Milford and Derby. These openings remain after transfers of all requesting Ansonia Big Y employees once that store is moved to either of these more up-to-date facilities.

Additional positions are also available at surrounding Big Y locations. The hiring site for these new markets is at the new store located at 150 Boston Post Rd. in Milford.

All interested applicants should apply at bigy.com/Careers.

The site is open Oct. 8 through Nov. 2 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Big Y offers flexible shifts and many scheduling options. Employee benefits include competitive wages, paid holidays, paid time off, tuition assistance, scholarships, a 401(k) plan and a work/life care program.



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News & Events

Debate In Milford

(Continued from Page 1)

municipalities, and gave German an opportunity to questions Blake's handling of the city's affairs.

From the start, Blake proclaimed Milford to be a city on the rise.

"Over the course of the last eight years, we have seen tremendous successes," he said, adding that Milford has the largest grand list in all of New Haven County with a AAA bond rating – the highest possible – all while cutting taxes four years in a row.

Differences emerged between the candidates from the first question, which focused on controlling expenses. German suggested the city could save a lot of money just by shifting to a focus on preventative healthcare.

"Private companies do this, and they've been doing it for years, and they save millions a year," he said. "But municipalities don't seem to put the time into it."

He then argued that Milford's pension costs are being underfunded, going from 125 percent a few years ago to 85 percent in the current year.

"They're going the wrong direction," he said. Blake countered that the credit rating agencies themselves had determined Milford's fund balances were healthy, and that was why they had awarded it such high marks.

He then shot back at German, saying that one of three budget amendments German had introduced during his 10 years as an alderman had been to reduce the pension contribution.

"I thought this was a terrible mistake," Blake said. "When I asked him, when the finance director asked him, 'Why would we reduce our pension contribution by millions of dollars,' there was really no response."

German also questioned Blake's efforts at road paving, particularly in the shoreline areas.

"We really need to put a schedule together that people can kind of take a look at and see where they are on the schedule as far as what



The Orange County Fair took place at the Orange Fairgrounds on Sept. 19 and 20. Photos above left by Lexi Crocco. Photos above right by Ian Greene.

gets done when and where," he said, "so that they have an idea, instead of saying, 'Yeah, you're on the list,' and then years go by."

Blake replied that the city has a plan, and that the schedule is available on the Public Works website.

"We are doing that already," he said. "But nobody, no matter if you live in Milford or Kalamazoo, nobody has ever been satisfied with the condition of the roads in their town."

German also painted a picture of a downtown where businesses are having trouble coming in and staying open.

Orange County Fair



Milford Senior Center Gets New Executive Director



Leonora C. Rodriguez. Photo courtesy of the Milford Senior Center.

The Milford Council on Aging recently hired Leonora C. Rodriguez as the new executive director of the Milford Senior Center. The position was previously held by Janice Jackson, who recently retired after a 48-year career at the center.

Council on Aging board members said they were impressed with Rodriguez's 15 years of experience in serving older adults and seniors in healthcare, coupled with her caring and compassionate nature and technology savvy.

Rodriguez is a Meriden native and currently lives in West Haven. A graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, her interest in working with seniors began with a chance employment at a New Haven nursing home where she discovered her passion for

working with older adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's or related dementias. Her career led her from nursing homes and short-term rehabilitation to adult day programs, assisted living and memory care communities.

Rodriguez is completing her master's in gerontology, which she says helps her understand the process of aging throughout life.

"I have an opportunity at the Milford Senior Center to continue my work helping people. I look forward to meeting the social and wellness needs of the community by engaging them in conversation. The center currently offers many diverse programs, events and opportunities for people to get out and get involved. It's a fantastic center," Rodriguez said.

"Because our membership starts at age 55, we will be welcoming the first Generation X cohort born in 1965 to the center next year," she added. "With that, we look forward to new views of what 'seniors' like to do in terms of programs and activities."

"People are also living longer, stronger and want to stay connected to their community. And that is what the senior center is all about," Rodriguez said.

"There's a lot of empty storefronts, a lot more than there were five, six, eight years ago" he said. He suggested the permitting process could be sped up and made less costly for those looking to come in.

Blake cast the business climate in a much different light, claiming that the city had a 96 percent occupancy rate the previous year.

"The city of Milford is going through an economic renaissance," he said. "We have more business moving in right now, the last couple of years, than we've ever had before."

German disagreed with Blake's

characterization, based on his own observations.

"I question where that number comes from," he said.

"That, ladies and gentlemen, may be the difference between Dan and I," Blake responded. "When I drive through downtown, I don't see gloom and doom. I see neighbors. I see friends. I see a bubbling, vibrant downtown that really is the hub of our city."

The mayoral election will take place Nov. 5.

Orange Coldwell Banker Agent Named To Best Real Estate Professionals List



Wayne Hugendubel. Photo courtesy of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

A real estate agent affiliated with the Orange office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage was named to the 2019 REAL Trends America's Best Real Estate Professionals list for the fifth year.

Real estate agent Wayne Hugendubel affiliated was listed on the ranking report, which identifies the most productive real estate agents by state and metropolitan area based on closed transaction sides and sales volume. He has consistently received this honor since 2015.

More than 14,000 real estate professionals from every state are featured. To qualify for inclusion, an individual agent must have closed at least 50 transaction sides or \$20 million in sales volume in 2018. For real

estate agent teams, the minimum is 75 transaction sides or \$30 million in closed sales volume.

"Those individual agents and teams who make up the 2019 America's Best Real Estate Professionals represent less than 1.5 percent of all realtors in the country yet account for over 12 percent of the closed transactions and more than 22 percent of all the sales volume closed last year," said Steve Murray, president of REAL Trends.

"This is an exciting honor and recognition for Wayne. He deserves this honor for all his hard work and dedication," said Aileen DeFeo, vice president and brokerage manager for Coldwell Orange and Woodbridge.

"With this release of the 2019 America's Best Real Estate Professionals list, Wayne and an elite group of real estate agents across the country are receiving well-deserved recognition. These sales associates are far above average and have built enormously successful small businesses in an extremely competitive field," said Murray.

Hugendubel can be reached at 203-605-2946 or at his office located at 236 Boston Post Rd. in Orange.

Milford, Orange Hosting Flu Clinics

Milford and Orange are both hosting flu clinics for the public.

The Milford Senior Center is offering two flu shot clinics Wednesday, Oct. 23 and Wednesday, Oct. 30. The clinics run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To pre-register, contact the center's insurance specialists Laura Daneault or John Cornelius at 203 877-5131 from

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please have your insurance information available when you call. The Milford Senior Center is located at 9 Jepson Dr. in Milford.

The Orange Visiting Nurse Association will hold several flu clinics for the public throughout the fall. No appointments are necessary. The clinics will be: Monday,

Oct. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd; Monday, Oct. 21, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd; Wednesday, Oct. 23, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Orange VNA, 605A Orange Center Rd; and Thursday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at High Plains Community Center,

525 Orange Center Rd.

Participants should bring their insurance cards with them. The OVNA accepts Aetna, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Medicare. It will not accept Cigna, Connecticut, United Healthcare or Medicaid.

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.

Florine Jane Ambrisco, passed away Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the age of 88.

Carmela Neclerio Apuzzo passed away September 24th.

Jerome A. Becker, age 81, of Milford, died on Monday, September 30th

Eleanor "Joyce" Love Bradley, 81, of Orange, passed away on Thursday, September 26, 2019.

Robert J. Broadley, age 80, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Sept. 21, 2019.

Catherine Sterback Bruno, 71, of Stratford, passed away suddenly on October 1, 2019.

Anna Perrotti Caccavale of Orange, entered into rest on Saturday, September 21, 2019.

Donald Campbell 79, of Milford CT, passed away on August 3,

Mary Clare DiBattista, a longtime resident of Milford, CT, passed away on September 27, 2019.

Matthew Bane Dallachie, 51, of Milford, passed away on September 29, 2019.

Anne V. Davis, 60, of Orange, passed away on Monday, September 23, 2019.

Robert Emmet Gannon, Jr. age 83, passed away on August 14, 2019.

Clinton Leo Hennessey, Jr., age 85 of Milford, died on September 25, 2019.

Heather B. Hulford, age 52, of Milford, passed away on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

Ronald Edward Kauffman, of Milford, passed away on September 10, 2019.

Rosaria Macci, 94, of Orange, passed away on October 1, 2019.

Frances Mazzacane, 96, passed away on September 27, 2019.

Robert David McCabe, 88, of Milford, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2019.

Peter T., Naiman M.D. died on Wednesday, October 2nd.

Joseph A. Novak, age 61, of Milford, passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2019.

Dorothy Owens, age 95, of Milford, passed away on September 21, 2019

Michael J. Petrucelli, 94, passed away Monday, September 2, 2019.

Thomas R. Quinn, age 70, of Milford, died on Monday, September 30, 2019.

Mary Ellen Rainaud, 92, of Milford, passed away on September 27, 2019.

Robert J. Romano, 94, of Orange passed away September 20, 2019.

Mary Lou (McCormick) Vitelli, age 82, of Milford, CT passed away on October 4, 2019.

Graham Lair Willoughby was born on June 12, 1942 and passed away on Monday, September 16, 2019.

John Vincent Zampedri Jr. (Milford, Connecticut), passed away at the age of 79, on September 21, 2019.

Mr. Richard Zekala, age 81, of New Milford, CT, passed away on September 28, 2019.

Bereavement Support In Milford

Precious Blood Parish in Milford is offering a bereavement support group that gathers to help those coping with the loss of a loved one. The 10-week fall/winter session began Oct. 3. It meets every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the hall at St. Agnes

Church, located at 400 Merwin Ave. in Milford. Whether your loss is recent or years ago, all are welcome. To register call Ellen S. at 203-283-1934 or Ellen R. at 203-671-3414. More information is available at preciousbloodparishmilford.org.

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CAROL MURPHY ~ 203.215.6021



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Benvenuto!

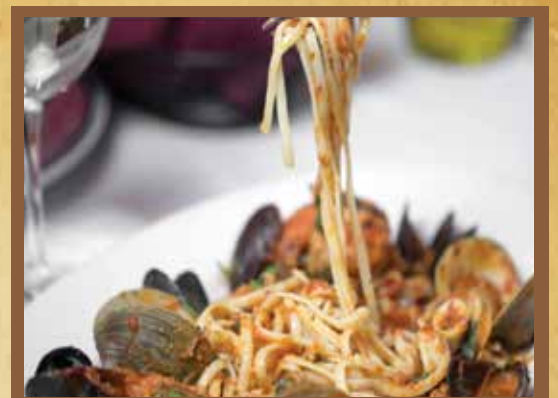
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