

Milford-Orange Times

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Experts Cite Concerns With Turkey Hill Development

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Experts brought in by the Town of Orange to review a controversial housing development off Turkey Hill Road laid out their concerns during a Nov. 12 special meeting of the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission.

The development was 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. It has faced withering scrutiny from neighbors, who have argued the proposal is too dense for the area.

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 public hearings have been held in the cafeteria at High Plains Community Center to accommodate the large crowds that have been attending. Even First Selectman Jim Zeoli has spoken in opposition during the hearings, saying there are better locations in town for a high-density project of this nature that would be less detrimental to the environment.

Steve Benben, an engineer with Guilford-based Triton Environmental, was first to take the stand. He has been hired by the commission to review the site plan to make sure it adheres to state and local regulations.

Benben said he had submitted a ten-page review to the commission citing items of concern and points on which they would request clarification from the applicants.

"Overall," Benben told those gathered, "I would say the applicant has provided a comprehensive application that does attempt to limit disturbance to the site's natural resources." He added that most of the items flagged in his review letter related to "minor

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SCSU Gymnastics Student From Milford Dies In Accident

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

A Southern Connecticut State University student gymnast from Milford died Nov. 10 during a training accident, according to the university and news reports.

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Maren Sanchez Home Foundation Expanding Empowerment Efforts

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Mixed martial arts champion "Notorious" Nick Newell stood pinned against the wall of his recently-opened gym in Milford on Nov. 17, surrounded by a crowd of nearly 30 girls.

Newell had invited them into his Fighting Arts Academy on Quarry Road to help them learn self-defense techniques and build self-confidence as part of an event organized by the Maren Sanchez Home Foundation, a Milford-based nonprofit.

"What I want to do is turn sideways here, like this," Newell told his audience as he demonstrated how to retake control from his against-the-wall predicament. "Then I'm going to take these two fingers and shove them in - there's a little spot right here in the throat - and I'm going to clamp down."

Newell has offered lessons of this type before for MSHF, which is dedicated to educating and empowering girls and young women to defend themselves against emotional, psychological and verbal

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Girls practice self-defense techniques at a Nov. 17 event sponsored by Milford-based Maren Sanchez Home Foundation, while Storm, the Bridgeport Sound Tigers mascot, looks on. The foundation is partnering with the Sound Tigers as part of a fundraising push to expand nationally. Photo by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

Orange Rotarians Feed Vets



Orange Rotarians served dinner to veterans Nov. 20 at the American Legion Post 127 in Orange. Harry Garafalo, owner of the Milford ShopRite, cooked and delivered the food. The Post holds a dinner every Wednesday that is open to the public. Photos by Steve Cooper.

Zeoli Sworn In



Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli was sworn in to his eighth term by Superior Court Judge Richard Arnold Nov. 15 at High Plains Community Center after winning reelection Nov. 5. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Milford/Orange Election Results Inside Page 15



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News & Events

A Look Back

By Priscilla Searles

It's hard to believe that the present-day Derby Avenue once looked like this. This postcard image looks east towards New Haven. The hill on the right in the far distance is Chestnut Ridge Road. Note the trolley tracks on the right side of the photo. The line ran from New Haven, past the Yale Bowl to Derby.

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



A postcard image of Derby Avenue when it was still traversed by trolley. Postcard courtesy of the Orange Historical Society.

Milford Pub Opens



Milford Sports Pub held a ribbon-cutting Nov. 13 that included mayor Ben Blake to celebrate its grand opening at 290 Old Gate Ln. in Milford. Photo by Nell Moll.

Recycling Tip

This holiday season think about a sustainable gift: one the recipient will appreciate for a long time, that is made of safe materials, that does not contain plastic, or that can be recycled. The website earthhero.com is worth reading because it addresses these issues. It also suggests and sells some earth-friendly gifts that might give you some ideas. (The Orange Recycling Committee does not necessarily endorse the gifts.)

A gift that's easy to give and is ecological is a donation to a non-profit charity in honor of the gift-receiver. Such a gift can benefit children, the poor and needy, domestic and wild animals, the oceans and the planet. Such a gift has boxing materials, no wrapping paper and it does not go into landfills but can be "recycled" over and over through continuous donation. For more on what can be recycled, visit orangerecycles.com.



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News & Events

Campbell Named Minister At Orange Congregational



Rev. Jennifer Campbell. Photo courtesy of Orange Congregational Church.

Orange Congregational Church has called a new senior minister, Rev. Jennifer Campbell.

Campbell studied anthropology at SUNY Purchase, received a master of divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and studied faith formation at Fordham University. She was ordained in 2007 and has served churches in Fairfield and Portland, Oregon.

Campbell is married and has two adult children. She cofounded The Loft Community in Fairfield, a community of love, support and resources for LGBTQ+ teens and young adults. She teaches yoga and meditation and says she is passionate about building community and working toward peace and justice for all people.

Orange Congregational Church welcomes all people who are seeking a spiritual home and a Christian community in which to grow in faith and serve. The church, located at 205 Meeting House Ln., hosts worship on Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Advent season begins on Sunday, Dec. 1 with a morning worship, the church's annual Cookie Walk after worship services (where for \$8 you can fill a box with assorted cookies), and the Christmas Handbell Concert and Carol Sing in the sanctuary at 4 p.m., which is free to the public.

Find out more about OCC at orangecongregationalchurch.org. You can reach Campbell by email at revjenoc@gmail.com or by phone at 203-795-9749.

Job Network In Orange To Host Networking Specialist

The Housatonic River Job Network will be hosting author and networking specialist Rob Thomas as its guest speaker on Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Case Memorial Library in Orange.

Networking is the cornerstone of finding profitable business connections. Why do even the most seasoned professionals hate it? They don't know how to find the right contacts – or how to turn them into profitable and enjoyable relationships.

In his presentation, which begins at 7 p.m., Thomas divulges his underlying networking mindset, breaking down the simple and strategic rules for going beyond the business card exchange that will ensure you find and foster profitable business connections.

Thomas is the creator of the Rob Thomas Method of Networking, which is the basis of his new book, *Who Do You Need to Meet?*

Thomas's three-step strategy gives professionals a new perspective on how to use the who, what and where of networking

to cultivate business. First it's about identifying your best prospects. Second is having warm, strategically focused conversations. Third involves holding meetings in places that represent the heartbeat of America.

Thomas will share the backbone principles of his method – plus his most successful secrets and success stories. Learn how to better connect with those both inside and outside of your business network and build stronger relationships.

"It's always who you know. I can teach you the secret to uncovering the hidden value in your network," Thomas says.

The Housatonic River Job Network is an open group dedicated to those underemployed or in transition to meet, share leads, hear guest speakers and obtain information for their job search. Case Memorial Library is located at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange. For more information, contact Alex Yaworowski at alexy56@hotmail.com.

Orange Firm Makes \$1.9 Million Real Estate Sale

Orange-based Fischer Commercial Real Estate represented seller Research Development at West Rock, LLC in the \$1.9 million sale of a 14,771 square-foot multi-tenanted flex building on 2.3 acres at 15 Research in Woodbridge to Bryan Nesteriak.

Four of the five rental units were leased at the time of the sale. The buyer will relocate its engineering and land surveying business

from Seymour into the vacant unit.

"This buyer went from being a tenant to an owner because, in addition to the quality of the building and its first-class location, he realized the revenue stream generated by the four existing tenants would help pay the mortgage while he built equity for the future," said Alan Fischer.

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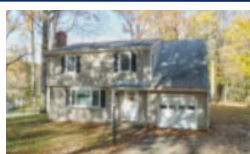
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Opinion & Editorial

Small Businesses Need Local Support



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

As a small business owner, I know the difficulties that many business owners face daily. With the growing popularity of online shopping, many of us forget sometimes that a local shop down the road may have a product that we just purchased online.

Small and large businesses in our area have difficulties competing with online merchants and thriving in Connecticut's business climate.

Earlier this month we learned that Connecticut's economic growth ranks 47th out of 50 states. In addition, Connecticut has been ranked the 47th worst business tax climate in the nation.

This isn't the first year that Connecticut has received these low rankings. The reason we continue to see Connecticut at the bottom of every business ranking is due to anti-business bills being passed by the majority party in the legislature.

In the past legislative session, lawmakers on the other side of the aisle continued to pass legislation that will hurt businesses. Businesses will now be forced to pay a \$15 minimum wage and will have to pay more when it comes to business filings. In addition, everyone will be forced to pay a payroll tax and there will be a reduction in the pass-through entity tax credit, which will go from 93.01 percent to 87.5 percent.

Joseph F. Brennan, president of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, said in an article in the CT Mirror on Sept. 6 that "small businesses were particularly frustrated with the 2019 state legislative session, adding they felt they were unfairly targeted by new mandates and tax changes."

I couldn't agree with Brennan more. Businesses are being targeted by the majority party. Businesses are being asked to pay more to cover the wasteful spending in Hartford.

It is time for the majority to rethink their stance on businesses. We need to support our small businesses, especially with the growth of online shopping. It's not easy owning a small business and we need to make it easier.

During this holiday season, I ask residents to remember to shop local and support our small businesses that will be paying more because of the policies being passed in Hartford.

Remember, Small Business Saturday is Nov. 30.

We Can Make Transportation Plans Happen Without Tolls



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

After months of Republican opposition to the installation of tolls on our highways and roads, Democrats and the governor have concluded that they cannot get the initiative through the legislature.

That is good news for state motorists and all of Connecticut. Republicans have alternatives to fund a robust and comprehensive transportation plan that we believe will address our transit system needs well into the future. Both the governor and Republican plans involve enhancing our rails, bridges and roadways and substantial investments in our infrastructure.

We have just disagreed on how to finance much of it. Gov. Ned Lamont's idea was to do it through a combination of borrowing and nearly \$400 million in annual toll revenue from 14 gantries on various bridges and highways throughout Connecticut. When tolls were removed from our highways in 1985 in response to the horrific accident at the Stratford toll plaza, there were 16 tolls in use.

The initial proposal developed earlier this year involved as many as 82 gantries that would have produced more than \$800 million a year. Republican lawmakers hosted dozens of town hall events to educate the public and public opinion polls reflected public opposition to the tolls.

That proposal never got to the starting gate.

By fully funding the Special Transportation Fund and not raiding it as the Democrats' current budget does and accessing low interest rate loans from the federal government, we obviate the need for tolls.

We leave the details of just which projects to undertake and when up to the professionals at the Department of Transportation. Most of the debate has been about tolls, but a significant portion of any comprehensive plan must include rails and mass transit. Metro North is the busiest rail line in the country and requires significant improvements in order to get commuters to their destinations on time and enhance their productivity.

The Link Between Tolls And Local Bonding



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

When the legislative session ended on June 5, legislative Democrats and the governor promised a special session on tolls due to the lack of time, which really meant lack of votes. Gov. Lamont's 50-gantry plan just did not have the support or votes in the General Assembly, whether it was in regular or a special session.

After taking the summer to huddle, the governor finally unveiled his new toll plan on Nov. 7.

The plan would implement so-called "temporary tolls" on state highway bridges. Tolls would be collected through 14 electronic gantries and fees would range from 50 cents to \$1 for cars, \$1.25 to \$2.50 for medium-sized trucks, and \$3.50 to \$7 for heavy trucks.

The new \$256 million temporary toll tax for in-state commuters, in addition to the \$140 million collected from out-of-state commuters, would generate revenue collected that would go toward paying off loans for transportation projects. Of course, this assumes the toll rates would stay the same and not be hiked for more revenue in the future.

According to the plan, the borrowing term is 27 years, and because the plan calls for borrowing in the plan's tenth year, that means we'd have tolls for a minimum of 37 years. I do not view 37 years as temporary.

Overall, this plan calls for \$14.2 billion to be spent on roads and bridges and \$7.1 billion on public transportation systems, including \$6.2 billion on rail.

The communities I represent encompass both I-95 and the Merritt Parkway, and while I firmly believe Connecticut needs a state transportation plan and vision for the future with project priorities, I oppose any plan that calls for the establishment of tolls on Connecticut roads.

The message I get every day in Milford and Orange is that people do not trust government. What they say it will cost taxpayers today will only be the tip of the iceberg. No one believes in temporary tolls, no one believes it will be just 14 toll gantries and no one believes the fares will stay at one level.

This leads me to the annual state bonding package, which has been delayed for months as the governor continues to push for tolls. There is speculation the governor is holding back bonding, including local town/road aid for road repair, tree trimming and winter snow removal, in an effort to win more votes for tolls. The state borrows the \$60 million annually, giving towns half in July and half in January.

The City of Milford and the Town of Orange rely on receiving these state bond dollars each year. This state funding should have been received by July 1.

Milford is owed a promise of over \$2.3 million in bonding and Orange is waiting for state funds to the tune of almost \$500,000. To date, not a single cent of this promised revenue has made its way to our communities.

This is inexcusable! No municipality's state funding should be held hostage.

I call on the governor and legislature

Keep The Spirit Of Giving Alive



STATE SEN. (D-14)
JAMES MARONEY

The rush of the holiday season can be overwhelming and distract us from what really matters. It's important to take time to reflect on all we have to be grateful for and give back to those who may not be as fortunate.

One of the best things about our community is how hospitable we are, how caring we are and how willing we are to give back. That is why with this column, I'd like to highlight some of the amazing opportunities to help someone in need this Thanksgiving holiday.

In Milford, there are several food pantries you can visit to make a donation. The Storehouse Project on 349 Wheelers Farm Rd. provided 900 families with a Thanksgiving dinner in 2018 and is a great option for you to make your donation. The city's Department of Human Services community outreach workers accept gifts during the holiday season and work with local organizations to get these goods to families.

The Milford Senior Center is collecting donations to stock the shelves of the city's food bank. Drop-off times at the 9 Jepson Dr. location are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are also taking gift cards. Sharon Brown is the food bank's manager and can be reached at 203-877-5131. They are doing great work and are putting smiles on the faces of families across our community.

The Beth-El Center Homeless Shelter and Soup Kitchen at 90 New Haven Ave. accepts donations and is doing amazing work helping people in need.

If you want to donate a coat or sweater, First Baptist Church at 28 North St. runs The Closet, a clothing drive to collect and distribute clothing.

Live in Orange? The Orange Food Bank, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. at the High Plains Community Center, will gladly take your turkeys and nonperishables to distribute to families. The town's Community Services is also running their annual holiday programs. Turkey Hill School on 441 Turkey Hill Rd. is running a food and personal items drive from Nov. 18 to 22, accepting nonperishable food items and paper plates and utensils.

The food pantry in Woodbridge is in need of canned goods, potatoes, chicken, turkey, salmon, beef, stew and more. You can contact them at 203-389-3429 and visit them on 11 Meetinghouse Ln. West Haven also has a number of food pantries. One, the West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce, has been running food drives through local businesses.

Being there for others in their time of need is what makes our community such an amazing place to live. As another Thanksgiving comes and goes, feel free to contact the various food pantries in Milford, Orange, Woodbridge and West Haven. Happy Thanksgiving!

Milford-Orange Times

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Senator's Seat: Sen. James Maroney

Columnists:

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Cathy Bradley, Running	Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
Joanne Byrne, Retirement	Annmarie Mastrangelo, Flooring	Pam Staneski, Milford Chamber
Cynthia V. Catapano, Local Wildlife	John Moffitt, Life Online	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate
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Milford-Orange Times

Opinion & Editorial

Editorial: Stores Should Close On Thanksgiving

By **Brandon T. Bisceglia**

Black Friday has crept inexorably into Thanksgiving Thursday in recent years, a trend that speaks poorly of our values.

Americans are one of the most over-worked societies in the world. The time we get off from work for vacation, sick or family leave is paltry compared with our European counterparts. This leaves precious little time for us with our families and friends to celebrate and relax together.

Thanksgiving is one of the few national holidays that can be celebrated by everyone in the country. Unlike Christmas, Yom Kippur or Eid, Thanksgiving isn't explicitly tied to a religious tradition.

It's understandable, for instance, that a Jewish family might want to go to the movie theater or get Chinese takeout on Christmas.

Thanksgiving is different, though. No matter our background, we can all participate in the tradition of coming together with loved ones, enjoying food and expressing our gratitude for the good things life has brought us.

There are some jobs, of course, that must continue on any holiday. Our streets still need policing. Fires must still be put out. Our electric grid still needs servicing.

No one needs to go shopping, on the other hand.

Yet some retailers, in an apparent bid to gain a competitive advantage by being open for a handful of hours before the calendar flips over to Black Friday, have inserted an undeniable note of consumerism into this holiday. Walmart plans to open at 4 p.m.; Target at 5 p.m. JCPenney is opening this year at 2 p.m., well before one would expect Thanksgiving "dinner" to be finished.

Retailers, to be sure, are divided on this tactic. A number of stores plan to remain closed, including Costco, Barnes and Noble, Staples and Marshalls. P.C. Richard & Son, which has a location in Milford, has been vocal against opening on Thanksgiving in the past.

Employees of stores that open on Thanksgiving are often given extra compensation for coming in on a holiday. But many of these employees are also given no choice; everyone is required to take a shift.

It might be nice to earn a little extra money right before the holidays. But are a few bucks really worth the loss of a chance to connect with our family and with ourselves?

We are not alone in believing that stores should remain closed. It may be the case that consumerism is as American as apple pie, but most Americans still think Thanksgiving

should be sacrosanct. A poll conducted by BestBlackFriday.com this year found that 72 percent of respondents thought stores should be closed on the holiday. Only 14 percent said they thought stores should be open and that they planned to shop.

There are, as that poll indicates, those who have turned the Thanksgiving shopping spree into a family tradition of sorts. They might be a little disappointed to have to wait – but then, they got along just fine prior to 2011, when this early opening trend first took off.

We have more than enough days to make purchases after Thanksgiving, from Black Friday to Small Business Saturday to Cyber Monday to Giving Tuesday. We should keep one day during this season on which we focus on something more important than buying stuff.

(Kennedy Continued from 4)

to release the money promised to our local communities by calling the legislature into a special session and to have the legislature vote on a state bond package for our towns as quickly as possible.

Our residents and businesses rely on state government to fulfill its promise in providing financial funding for local projects. It is critical that our towns receive this necessary

funding, as they work hard to maintain balanced budgets and provide critical services to residents without any additional hikes in property taxes.

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

Commentary:

Some Amity Upgrades Shouldn't Be Approved

The Amity Board of Education is asking us for real money and a lot of it on Dec. 4. Bonding is the correct way to ask, and the school facility needs should be separated from the athletic facility needs.

The second question was soundly rejected the first time around in a district-wide referendum, and this time significant bells and whistles have been added to the request that have tripled it. Question 2 is the one that really needs to be looked at most closely.

\$3,194,300 for Question 1 isn't exactly chicken feed, but it should be approved. The air conditioning of Gym 3 has been a "hot" topic for many years on the Amity board. Keeping our budgetary house in order and other upgrades to auditoriums and the Black Box Theater for our arts community were deemed higher priorities. The board did a good job of meeting these needs while placing Gym 3 on the backburner. This will also increase the use of this facility for class scheduling needs and during hot spells, as well as reduce the chances for molds and mildews due to an uncontrolled air environment, which is a current risk with the uneven temperatures between Gym 3 and the rest of the high school.

Our middle schools have multiuse issues with their gyms due to their current acoustic characteristics, and these problems are readily evident if you ever attend school activities.

Parking lot maintenance is important and normally a part of the facility maintenance budget, but this work will correct years of patchwork fixes and should provide many years of problem-free service. Refurbishing the air conditioning chillers must be done on a regular timetable to maintain the physical efficiency of the system and maintain the energy efficiency of the complex. Since these refurbishments are also considered long-term needs, it makes sense to bond when they come up.

Question 2 is another matter. If you listen to the presentation on the website, some of



THOMAS P.
HURLEY

the reasons for this upgrade are emotionally charged. For instance, every other member of our DRG has an all-weather field so that means we should have one. "No one wants to play on our turf field for the playoffs." Really? These are reasons to spend over \$3.5 million?

There is a lack of transparency in the documentation provided on the district's website. The two proposed LED scoreboards, while looking sharp, come at a steep price. ADA-compliant walkways for field 3? Let's put this in the normal budget or carve out a separate bonding item. Nobody wants our ADA community put at a disadvantage. So let's address practice field 3 becoming a fully operational all-weather playing field separately. The stadium's current grassy field can be stripped down to below base and rebuilt properly for a lot less money and address the drainage issues on the field without the eventual environmental issues all-weather fields have when they are finally decommissioned or upgraded.

An all-weather surface need is questionable. It is clearly a want item. The pros and cons of grass as opposed to rubber particles have been thrown back and forth for over a decade and not much has changed. Some like grass, some like rubber particles.

The current field has severe zoning restrictions on nighttime use. If we really want to invest in these types of facility upgrades at this dollar amount, why not take it before zoning and eliminate as many restrictions as possible first? The requested LED lights should make usage limitations moot for the neighbors and free up the nighttime restrictions.

Let's go before the Woodbridge TPZ before making changes and rebuilding everything, so we don't miss anything, like a noise barrier.

This question isn't ready yet. Let's cook it properly with all the ingredients factored in. For \$3.5 million, we could build a pool and/or a high school planetarium. Do we "need" or just "want" to spend this kind of money?

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:

We wish to thank voters of Orange for their support in the election last Tuesday, reelecting us to the Orange Board of Finance. The goal of balancing town needs with taxpayer affordability is a challenging

one. Over the years, one way to achieve that balance is to communicate a message of "doing more with less," an approach that is both consistent with the town's heritage and with what we all do in our personal lives.

Going forward for the next four years, we plan to provide the same leadership as we have in the past. And we thank you again for your vote and your confidence in the work that we do for the town.

Kevin Houlihan
Chairman, Orange Board of Finance
Jim Leahy
Vice-Chairman, Orange Board of Finance



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Arts Matters

Drawing is not what you see but what you must make others see. – Edgar Degas



Nic Novicki, Amity Academic Hall of Fame inductee, with Amity Creative Theater students. Photo by Pat Miller.

By Patricia Miller

SHAYLEN HARGER, an Orange native and recent graduate of Western Connecticut State University, has been very busy. After graduation in June, she returned to the Connecticut Repertory in Storrs, appearing in *Mama Mia*. In July, she played the part of Kat, a rebellious teenager in *Killing Mom* at the ACT Playhouse in Ridgefield. Next, she went on to New York City to rehearse for *Disney on Classics*, currently touring Japan. Harger is one of a company of eight singers and dancers who are performing with a 60 piece orchestra. She not only performs in the show, but also choreographed segments as well. After performing 50 shows in major cities in Japan, the company will return to the United States in January.

GARY HARGER, veteran performer and Shaylen's father, is in the development phase of a new musical, which he says is "kooky and spooky." Entitled *Confessions of a Retired Witch*, it will star Broadway's Djinan Bartlett (*A Little Night Music*). Harger will play five character roles opposite Bartlett. There have been backer's auditions and demos with more to come.

NIC NOVICKI, a Turkey Hill and Amity graduate, was recently inducted into the Amity Academic Hall of Honor at a ceremony at Grassy Hill Country Club. Novicki is an actor, comedian and producer who has performed on six continents. His television credits include *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Sopranos*, *Alone Together*, *The Neighbors* and *Private Practice*. He also has appeared in several movies, including *Life Happens*, *November Rules*, *The Last 5 Year*, *Boston Girls*, and will soon be seen in the upcoming *Dead Ant*.

Novicki has produced several feature films, television pilots and web series for companies such as SONY, CBS and Universal. He is an active member of the Producers Guild of America's Diversity Committee. He wrote for the CBS diversity film station, Shorts HD (now the DISH network).

Novicki is a board member of the Easterseals Southern California and the founder and director of the Easterseals Diversity Film Challenge. He founded the challenge in 2013 in response to the under-representation of talent with disabilities both in front of and behind the cameras. This was done in the hope that it would provide aspiring filmmakers the opportunity to showcase their work and to provide them with meaningful exposure. In 2017 he joined forces with Easterseals to expand the event.

As if this wasn't enough, Novicki has traveled the world as a standup comedian with Armed Forces Entertainment, performing for troops in Kosovo, England, Belgium,

Germany, The Netherlands, France, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Portugal and Spain.

CHRISTIAN SANDS, another Amity graduate and now an internationally known jazz pianist, was recently featured in the *New York Times* arts section, which said of him, "Barely 30, Sands is known as one of the most commanding pianists of Jazz's younger generation."

His latest album, *Facing Dragons*, features eight original compositions, ranging from muscly post bob to dreamy extras.

Sands performs from the Errol Garner repertoire as well and serves as the creative ambassador for the Erroll Garner Jazz Project. He is actively involved in reviving Garner's repertoire and is contemplating producing some of Garner's work that was not released publicly during his lifetime.

Sands performs and teaches all over the world. He was the protégé of the legendary performer and educator, Dr. Billy Taylor. Sands is the son of Stephanie and Sylvester Sands of Orange.

AMITY CREATIVE THEATER (25 Newton Rd., Woodbridge) has announced its fall/winter production, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7 at the John Brady Center at Amity High School. Winner of the 1992 Tony Award for best play, it was also chosen by Time Magazine as one of the best plays of the 1990s, saying, "It is the most elegant memory play since *The Glass Menagerie*. The *New York Times* said, "This play does exactly what theater was born to do, bearing characters and audience aloft on those waves of distant music and ecstatic release that is defiance of all language and logic – let us dance and dream just before night falls."

This promises to be a memorable theatrical performance and should not be missed. For tickets go to amitytheaterdepartment.com or call 203-392-2019.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) have announced a winter concert at the library. As part of Orange's holiday celebration, a concert with Patty Carver Songbook Trio will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. Patty Carver is a professional actress, singer and writer of over 40 musicals for young audiences, as well as many critically acclaimed one-woman shows. She delighted the members of Friends of the Library in the spring with her program, "This Old Hat – Leading Ladies." For this concert she will be backed by Ken Coakley on keyboard and Jim Goodwin on bass.

Register by calling the library at 203-891-2170 or going to orange.lioninc.org.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) continues showing the photography of Alexandra Crocco in

November. December's exhibit will feature the work of students of Audrey Galer. There will be a reception on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Artists interested in displaying artwork should call Audrey Galer, chair of Art in the Library, at 203-795-3695.

MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL (40 S. Railroad Ave., Milford) presents the Second Annual Arts and Artisan Holiday Bazaar from Nov. 30 to Dec. 8, running from noon to 5 p.m. at the Firehouse Gallery (81 Naugatuck Ave.).

MAC has a Nite Spot Night featuring Paige Turner in her "Christmas Show" on Dec. 5 and Pantochino Productions' GLITZ, *The Little Miss Christmas Pageant Musical* on Nov. 30.

The MAC Student Show will be exhibited from Nov. 14 through Jan. 10. The artists' ending reception will be held Jan. 10.

ORCHESTRA NEW ENGLAND (70 Audubon St., New Haven) will present "Colonial Concert XL" at the United Church on the Green in New Haven on Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. ONE rings in the holiday season with this family-friendly concert tradition celebrating their 40th annual performance. This flagship, flash-back entertainment features wigs, waistcoats and candlelight. This year, ONE welcomes Gov. Benjamin Franklin and his newfangled glass harmonica. Tickets are on sale at orchestranewengland.org.

NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (4 Hamilton St., New Haven) is bringing a Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*, back this year. Inspired by spoken, on-air performances of the early 20th century, this new and intimate reimagining features Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe winner Kathleen Turner in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tony Award winner James Naughton as the

Ghost and an original soundtrack performed by New Haven Symphony Orchestra musicians. *A Christmas Carol* was written by Arthur Yorlks, based on the story by Charles Dickens. The music was composed by John Forster and the play was directed by Elliott Forrest. *A Christmas Carol* will be performed at Ivoryton Playhouse on Dec. 5 and 9, at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven on Dec. 13, at First Congregational Church in Madison on Dec. 14 and at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield on Dec. 15. For more information and tickets, go to newhavensymphony.org.

LONG WHARF THEATRE (222 Sargent Dr., New Haven) presents the classic, *Pride and Prejudice*, adapted from Jane Austen's original by Kate Hamill, the play is a screwball farce, a feminist twist on a beloved classic. The mother of the Bennet sisters is determined to arrange suitable marriages for their daughters. The sisters find themselves caught up in the politics of love in the Hertfordshire green landscape of England. When a handsome, wealthy bachelor shows up, the world the Bennet sisters knew turns upside down. For tickets go to longwharf.org.

THE SHUBERT THEATER (247 College St., New Haven) brings Rudolph to the stage in *Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer* on Nov. 29 and 30. The timeless TV classic comes to life on stage.

Also coming to the Shubert is humorist and writer David Sedaris on Sunday, Dec. 8. WNPR sponsors the authors appearance, featuring new stories, audience questions and answers, and a book signing. Get tickets by calling 203-624-1825 or going to shubert.com.

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

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Your Health

Now Is The Time To Get Vaccinated Against Flu

It is not too late to receive the influenza vaccine. By now you must have heard via multiple news channels and outlets about the current flu season. The seasonal flu activity generally begins as early as October or November and can continue through late May.



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

In Connecticut, the Department of Public Health uses multiple surveillance systems to monitor circulating influenza viruses. As of this writing, the DPH reported 43 influenza-related hospitalizations and the first influenza deaths of the 2019-2020 season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate during the 2017-2018 season there were total of 79,000 influenza-associated deaths reported. These numbers are alarming, as complications due to influenza can be fatal.

The best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated every year. The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the most effective strategy in protecting against influenza and its serious complications.

The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, especially among young children, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease. It is also recommended that people 65 years and older get a flu shot instead of a nasal spray vaccine.

The CDC also recommends the following

preventive actions to stop the spread of this contagious virus.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick, stay at home and avoid contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

- Always cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

- Frequently wash your hands with water, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like flu.

To receive the flu vaccination, contact your regular health care provider or pharmacy. You can also find a flu clinic near you by visiting the HealthMap Vaccine Finder at vaccinefinder.org.

For more information on influenza and vaccination, visit the CDC website at cdc.gov/flu.

Dr. Amir Mohammad is a practicing Internist & 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.

Milford Club Hosting Theater Fundraiser



CT Shoreline Rotaract Club officers, from left: Chris Kelly, Laura Campbell, Morgan Kuehnle, Ashley Volkens and Clark Law. Photo courtesy of the CT Shoreline Rotaract Club.

Milford has a new club for young professionals. The CT Shoreline Rotaract Club is a Rotary sponsored, volunteer run club for people between the ages of 18-30 who believe in providing service to others both in their local communities and around the world.

The club will be hosting its first fundraising event, "A Night at the Cabaret," on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7p.m. The event will feature a live theatrical performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* produced and hosted at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre, located at 263 Golden Hill St. in Bridgeport. Guests are welcomed to bring their own beer and picnic.

"Theater has a way of bringing people together," said Ashley Volkens, the club's director of fundraising. "We look forward to bringing people together while raising funds and club awareness to local businesses, professionals and community leaders."

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online by visiting the CT Shoreline Rotaract Club's Facebook page or tickets.mycabaret.org/Joseph-RotaractClub. Proceeds from the

evening will go towards the club's Interact Scholarship fund and Farm Aid, a nonprofit focused on supporting local farmers.

"CT Shoreline Rotaract has brought together an incredible group of people who are focused on giving back to the community," said Morgan Kuehnle, club president. "Starting this club has been one of the most humbling experiences and we are excited for the club to continue to grow and make a difference."

Past community volunteer opportunities the club has participated in include the Walnut Beach cleanup, Devon Rotary's Oktoberfest, ice cream socials with local Interact clubs, serving meals at the Milford Beth-El Shelter, the Stratford Arts and Culture Festival, the Walnut Beach Creamery 5k and the 13th Annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

The CT Shoreline Rotaract Club is sponsored by the Devon Rotary, Milford Rotary and Stratford Rotary. If you are interested in learning more about or joining the club, email ctshorerotaract@gmail.com.



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Home & Garden

Room 911:

'Tis The Night Before Thanksgiving

There is something about the holidays, hosting and house that are forever joined.

We want our homes to look perfect, with a tablescape that could be featured in *Better Homes and Gardens*, a house so clean that you could eat off the floor and “a place for everything and everything in its place.”

Any joy left to the holidays may no longer be felt after the amount of effort you expend making sure the house is decorated just so.

You dread that your place settings for 12 may have chips and scratches in them or that you have only nine matching wine glasses but need three more.

Should you buy a new set of wineglasses or are you willing to mix and match? Where is the vase that goes on the table and the matching napkins and tablecloth? Now you

remember: six of the napkins were stained beyond repair and you threw them out. The tablecloth got mixed up with your summer whites that you have put somewhere for next year.

You try and add a bit of the season to your living room with dried autumn leaves in a vase. Sitting on the coffee table is a lovely bowl with assorted nuts in their shells, as well as a basket of potpourri filled with the essence of cloves, nutmeg and long cinnamon sticks. What could be easier than that?

Well, do you remember last year when your little grandchild tried to stuff in the round hard-shelled nuts into his mouth?



TEDRA SCHNEIDER

..... warm notes of vanilla and roasted almonds or one that has hints of pinecones and the forest floor?

Here's the answer. Mix and match plates, silverware, wineglasses, napkins and the like

Surely you can't forget when Buster, your dog, decided that the long cinnamon sticks were actually a chewy treat and nearly consumed all of them?

Last but not least is the guest bathroom. Should you use the ugly hand towels that aunt Betty got you for Christmas (she will be attending the Thanksgiving Day feast) or opt for disposable ones? What about the hand soap?

as long as you have a solid color tablecloth anchoring this all down. You will have an imaginative, interesting table with various pieces bringing back family memories. Throw all your extraneous items into boxes and off they go into the basement.

After all, what is Thanksgiving if not a time to celebrate family and friends being together? Don't focus on your house looking perfect. Instead, take in the delicious aromas of the food and live in the moment of peace and harmony – at least until someone brings up next year's presidential race.

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

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Where Do The Pipes In Your Basement Go?

Each home has a history, made up of the whys and the why nots. A builder from the start designs the base of a building, the basement, around current needs and trends. When a specific home was being built it might have been popular to finish basements or consider the terrain in the front and back yard in order to accommodate items such as septic systems, oil tanks or washing machine backwash.

Of course, the process of what was put in the basement when the house was built began with heat and hot water, perhaps a BILCO door and some other necessary connection access points. These hookups are unique; each one has a special function. Some homes have city sewer while others have septic pipes, which can exit into the back yard as well as the side or front yard.

My objective is to make you aware of the different pipes in your basement. Perhaps

the laundry pipes are obvious to you. However, if you are in the country, does it empty into a dry well or a septic system? The town hall has a file on each property, but sometimes information is not completely recorded. Walk around the basement. Hire a professional if you have questions or do not know what to look for. It is important to know all drains, cleanouts and where each pipe goes.

Perhaps a French drain system was installed in the basement way before you owned the home. This drainage process leads somewhere, and you need to know if it is still active or clogged or abandoned. Don't wait until there are signs of moisture that were not there for years before giving your drain attention.



BARBARA LEHRER

..... in anticipation of needs for venting or draining. They are all positive and you should make sure they are in good shape. The only time you need look at a hole in the wall and worry is if it leads to an abandoned oil tank. For years, property owners simply pulled out the tanks and added new ones in the basement. It is only bad if those little metal tubes hanging behind your new oil

There are many pipes in the floor of the basement. A newer home may have a small pipe jutting out of the floor which is there in case you have radon at some point. The hole in the foundation is part of the remediation setup. Many builders now add them in new homes. Contractors also add pipes for a bathroom in the lower level, just for future planning.

tank are still connected to an oil tank that was left in the ground. A home inspector always looks for this kind of telltale sign of oil tank abandonment.

So do your due diligence. Do not wait until you are marketing your home to study the basement. Possibly there was maintenance and permits pulled on some of these items. You can hire a plumber if you are investigating something. A sump pump needs maintenance, and so does a pump-up system if you have a basement bathroom.

Finally, at this time of year make sure your water valves in the basement are shut off to those outside spigots, since they will freeze in the winter.

Take care of that basement. Know it well; it is yours.

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

The Garden Spot:

Rake Them Or Leave Them?

There is always a controversy about “leaving the leaves” or raking them up. Like most stories, there are two sides.

It is true that a very heavy layer of leaves left on turf grass can cause problems such as snow mold, but it's not necessary to have the leaf blower out on a daily basis. If you're waiting to do the yard cleanup until all the leaves have dropped, just remember that certain trees such as oaks, sycamore and some beeches don't drop their leaves until spring.

Leaves are organic matter and will decay over time, releasing nutrients back into the soil. When leaves break down, they store some of their carbon in the soil, allowing your yard to become a carbon sink and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Rather than getting out the rake and leaf

blower, the easiest way to manage leaves on turf areas is to mow them, which will reduce the time needed for them to decay into compost. If you have a mulching lawnmower, you can do this with a single pass; if not, just run over the leaves several times to cut them into small pieces. The leaves will not just nourish your lawn but help to increase biodiversity by leaving a place for insects and small animals to overwinter. In the spring when the birds begin to return, they'll have an easy time finding plenty of food.

Leave the leaves on your garden beds and they'll act as an additional layer of mulch, protecting your plants from freezing. If using



PAT DRAY

..... interest of the tall, decorative grasses intact so won't cut those back until spring. It is a good time to remove any spent annuals or diseased plants. But remember, anything diseased does not go in the compost pile. While you're out working, it's a good idea to give the compost pile a good turn over.

the leaf blower is your hobby, blow the leaves off the turf and on to the beds. Anything that hasn't decomposed by spring can be removed then or mulched over.

Whatever you decide, be careful not to blow leaves into the street where they can be a slipping hazard or into drains where they will impede street drainage.

Depending on how deep a freeze there has been, it may also be time to dig up, divide and replant perennials. They'll do much better in the spring if their roots aren't crowded, resulting in larger blooms. You'll also find discounted shrubs and trees at your local garden center, so it's a good time to see what needs replacing.

Once your fall cleanup is finished, don't forget to clean and sterilize any of your cutting tools and send the mower off for its annual tune-up and blade sharpening. Then you can sit back with a good seed and plant catalog and enjoy the winter.

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

Local Wildlife

Thanksgiving Is For The (Wild) Turkeys

By Cynthia V. Catapano

Thanksgiving always means turkey.

Living in Connecticut, we've all seen large flocks of turkeys in the middle of the road at some point in our lives. They are robust and impressive birds; males, called toms, are about 15–25 pounds and stand up to four feet tall. Females, or hens, are a bit smaller, and look different from the males. Hens have a blue head, while the toms head can be red, blue, white, or a combination of all three, according to the state Department of Energy

and Environmental Protection. Toms also sport 1.5-inch spurs on their legs indicative of their age and beards on their breasts, while hens lack spurs and rarely have beards.

Along with a myriad of other native animal populations throughout the 19th century, the wild turkey was wiped out from Connecticut by human activity. Widespread hunting, forest loss for farmland and severe winters extirpated the wild turkey by 1813. Propagation attempts throughout the 1950s and 70s were a series of failures; hand-reared populations were unequipped to survive life

in the wild once released.

However, by 1975, the state's forests were beginning to recover from the prolific damage thanks to the shift away from farming. Apex predators like wolves and cougars had unfortunately been extirpated from the state. DEEP introduced 25 wild turkeys from New York, and by the 90s, turkey populations were forming in every part of Connecticut. Geoffrey A. Hammerson, in his book *Connecticut Wildlife: Biodiversity, Natural History, and Conservation*, notes that by 2000, around 30,000 turkeys lived in the

state, and in 2002 over 2,000 turkeys were killed during the spring season.

Today, the wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) inhabits every US state except for Alaska, and has developed into five different subspecies; the eastern wild turkey or “forest turkey” (*M. gallopavo silvestris*) is the species native to Connecticut. Adult turkeys are omnivorous, feeding on everything from acorns, fruit, seeds, and invertebrates. Juveniles, called poults, are mostly insectivorous. Both toms and hens are

(Continued On Page 9)

On Your Mind:

Hypnosis Can Curb The Vaping Problem

The older I get the more jaded I become about the role of the Food and Drug Administration in protecting the health and wellness of our country from unscrupulous business opportunists who will sell anything that can make them a buck, regardless of the effect on the users.

Cigarettes have warnings on them, as do diet soda and many other products, but because they are legal, people believe somehow that they are safe. How does something that transports foreign microscopic substances into the lungs get to be acceptable to sell to the public?

Many health professionals have touted Juul and other e-cigarettes as a safer alternative to smoking, but the evidence suggests something very different. It reminds me of the phrase, "Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know." Smoking kills, but it takes many years and for some reason they are still legal.

Vaping can cause popcorn lung, respiratory illness, seizures and death. E-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce doses of vaporized substances that the users inhale. There have already been many hospitalizations and deaths attributed to vaping. This article is not just more doom and gloom about the vaping problem, but a real answer to how to stop the habit if there is a desire to stop.

I have already treated a number of clients for this vaping issue and the success rate so far is 100 percent. Each person was motivated, and recently the fear of death has increased this motivation. Peer pressure is powerful, and young people are particularly vulnerable. In one nearby town, it was reported to me that an entire sports team was vaping



FERN
TAUSIG

and the pressure to new members to do it was so intense that this young person quit the team. He didn't want to feel alienated from his team members, so it was easier to quit.

Hypnosis is the fastest and most reliable way to eliminate the vaping habit. Teens are afraid and embarrassed to admit when they get sick that the cause of their illness is vaping. One teen I know of died because when he was sick and would not inform the doctors or his

parents that he was vaping. E-cigarettes are also used with THC and marijuana. Dab sticks are a form of e-cigarette that are used with THC and can cause psychotic breaks in the brain and anxious feelings before the actual break. Kids believe if they smoke more, it will relieve their anxiety when in fact

it actually makes it worse.

Hypnosis is highly effective in stopping this habit as long as the participant is willing to stop. People come to me after trying all the other prescription drugs, patches or gum and feel desperate as nothing worked for them.

In all the reports I've heard about vaping it is getting more serious as more people are doing it. It is as addictive as smoking, and hypnosis is the most effective way to eliminate the smoking craving also. Knowing that it's not hopeless, knowing that hypnosis can help to eliminate the desire or craving for vaping can bring peace of mind. It is not always done in one session, but it is the most effective method in my experience.

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

Travel Matters

Sailing On The Largest Ship At Sea

Every year our parent company holds our annual conference onboard the latest and greatest new ship at sea. This year it was Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas, with no less than 6,000 passengers.

My husband and I wondered how the check-in process would work with so many people boarding. We were simply amazed at the fastest check-in we have ever experienced – clocked at six minutes at the new Royal Caribbean pier in Miami.

Symphony of the Seas is a destination unto itself, truly a floating resort. Offering entertainment for multiple generations, it is perfect for a family reunion.

Let me paint the picture. First for the kids, they have Splashaway Bay and a protected climbing area for the little ones, where kids climb from level to level within a protective netting. For older kids (and kids at heart), there is FlowRider, Perfect Storm Slides,

the Ultimate Abyss Slide which spans ten decks, mini golf, rock climbing walls and an ice-skating rink. Adults get two of their own pools, including the adults-only solarium indoors, Vitality Fitness Center, sports court, bionic bar (with robot bartenders), the casino, comedy club and Bolero's Salsa and Jazz on 4.

There are three neighborhoods, including the Royal Promenade with shops and boutiques; the Boardwalk area with a carousel, ice cream cones and Coney-island style hot dogs; and Central Park, where most of the specialty restaurants are located. This last is a peaceful area for adults with trees and plants and calming musical acts like classical guitarists. Our favorite specialty restaurant was Jamie's Italian, a Jamie English restaurant.



KAREN
QUINN-PANZER

And then there's the entertainment with a capital "E." Royal Caribbean is the only cruise line that offers entertainment in the air, in the water, on ice and on land. Their aqua show is the single most impressive show I have ever seen, anywhere. There is a hydraulic floor in the pool which is used for some of the most impressive acrobatics and high dives anywhere. Their new show, "Flight," is an homage to the Wright Brothers and the invention of flight, including a recreation of their airplane which actually flies over your head in the theater. Their Broadway show, *Hairspray*, is the real deal, and they have ice shows that give Disney on Ice a run for its money.

When my friends asked me "Where did you go?" my response was "It almost

doesn't matter." But this ship alternates between Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries. Ours included St. Maarten, San Juan and Royal Caribbean's new "Perfect Day at CocoCay." When a company brands something as "perfect," they certainly set high expectations. And "Perfect Day at CocoCay" did not disappoint.

Boasting the highest waterslide in North America, Thrill Waterpark is one of four main areas of the island, plus CocoBeach Club with over-the-water cabanas (new in January), Chill Island for tropical waters, white sand and water activities and Oasis Lagoon for a lively swim-up bar scene.

Royal Caribbean has outdone itself with Symphony of the Seas.

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

Here's To Your Health:

Creating A Long-Lasting Change

It's been the passion of my heart to see the town I love and live in take steps toward living a healthier life, especially in the lives of our children.

I have served the Orange elementary school system as the Healthy Lifestyle Committee chair for the last five years and have seen some improvements. Yet we have so much farther to go.

The most significant change was removing food celebrations from the classrooms. While this decision was made primarily to protect children with allergies, it carried a much larger weight than most know. This one decision lowered the body mass index of each school by 11 percent, permanently.

Though this is significant, it's such a small piece of the pie (no pun intended). We need to press forward. The Healthy Lifestyles Committee has worked with our superintendent, who fully supports our efforts. The committee has been trying to raise funds to get balance

balls in the classrooms to replace seats so children can work on their core while working at their desks. Many other great ideas are in the works, but so much more needs to be done.

Over the years I have asked myself: Why is it that we have a town with eight working farms and yet our children know little or nothing at all about the farmers who live and work in our town? Why is our farmer's market one of the smaller ones compared to surrounding towns? Why are parents so apprehensive about healthier changes in our schools? Why don't we have healthier restaurant options? Why isn't our Senior Center thriving? Why aren't more of our children walking and biking to school?

The answer is simple: it's just not our culture. We are not a bound community when



MICHELE
TENNEY

it comes to health and exercise. In a conversation with a friend, I was encouraged to investigate the five "blue zones," areas of the world where people live the longest and are healthiest. I watched several YouTube videos of Dan Buettner, a National Geographic journalist and longevity and happiness expert who at last gave me the answers I was desperately seeking. We need to make this a community affair in order to create long-lasting changes in our town and extend the lives of not only our children, but our elderly population and everyone in between.

One example of how we can make a significant change is by adding sidewalks to our town. I serve on the Orange Board of Health and before the summer began, we had a gentleman from American Medical Response give us a presentation on the emergency calls

in our town. The majority of these calls were from elderly people falling in their homes.

According to Buettner, the main reason the elderly population doesn't get out is because they don't feel safe and are afraid of falling. Not only does this prohibit the elderly population from getting out for a stroll, it puts the children who do ride bikes or walk to a friend's house at risk of being injured by a distracted or speeding driver.

I believe we have the power to change our community. It can be done. As Neil Armstrong said, it's "One small step for a man, one giant step for mankind."

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.

(Thanksgiving Is For The (Wild) Turkeys Continued from 8)

polygamous, and hens will lay a clutch of up to 14 eggs. Breeding begins in late March, and the poults will stay with their mother throughout the following months until winter. While turkeys roost in trees at night, the hens and their brood must nest on the ground, increasing their susceptibility to predation. However, wild turkeys have fantastic hearing and eyesight, meaning they only face a few potential predators: bobcats, coyotes and cars.

Although it seems the wild turkey population in Connecticut is thriving, the results from DEEP's 2018 Wild Turkey Brood Survey show wild populations are stable but slightly declining. Population numbers are found by using the productivity index, dividing the observed number of poults by the number of hens. Although numbers appear stable, the average population size is far less than it was in the early 2000s, according to

the 2018 survey.

Annual fluctuations in the productivity index are normal. However, as of 2012, numbers have plateaued and began to decline in 2017, according to DEEP.

Spring conditions are a pivotal factor in poult survival; many babies succumb to the cold. Biologists suggest considering human activity and habitat loss when examining wild turkey population dynamics. Hammerson

writes that some even hypothesize that wild turkeys have reached their peak population size and exhausted their resources, forcing them to lower their numbers to something the state can support.

Still, with over 40,000 turkeys living in Connecticut, these large, proud birds are certainly taking back the range that was once theirs throughout New England.

Senior Living

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Thanksgiving Thoughts

It is that time of year when we pause and give thanks with our friends, our family and our community for all the gracious gifts that have been bestowed on us. We should be doing this every day of our lives, but it is good that at least for one day a year, the whole country pauses to give thanks.

Here are some thoughts for this Thanksgiving.

Let's share our bounty with those with less. Consider the gift of one week's grocery bill donated to a community food bank, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, United Way or your favorite charity as a token of appreciation for what we have.

Express gratitude to those who care for others as a profession or as a volunteer. Write a note to someone who is caring for a frail elder or teaching our grandchildren. Respect elected officials for their service. We don't have to agree with all their policies, but we

should respect their service, while still holding them accountable for their actions...or lack of action.

Give time to a worthy cause. Our volunteer investments for the benefit of others build community and provide a great example for our children. Whether we choose to sing in a chorus, serve on a committee, read to a toddler, mentor a youth or visit a lonely elder, our time is a priceless gift which appreciates in value.

Conserve resources by consuming less, reusing and recycling. Preserving our environment is self-preservation and a life-saving gift to wildlife, plant life, and generations to come.

Slow down. Whether behind the steering wheel or in conversations with people, speed is not a good thing. Being in a perpetual



JOANNE
BYRNE

hurry endangers lives on the road and cuts short our relationships with others. Actively listening and showing others positive attention is a gift worth giving.

Advocate with assertion, not aggression. Free speech is not an invitation to be offensive. Responsible advocacy requires thoughtful strategy, practical solutions, and effective conversation.

Health is a form of wealth. Making sure we eat right, exercise, and take time to rest and relax are the keys to clear thinking and long-term effectiveness. Our bodies cannot support us unless our minds resolve to take care and be careful.

Last and probably most importantly, take optimism pills every morning – the time-

released kind. Negativity is contagious. Those who believe they will make a difference can achieve their goals. Pessimism is the mind's way of giving up before the first step is taken. The power of one, multiplied and magnified, is the only correct formula for progress.

As we enter the holiday season, let's realize that there are neighbors, young and old, whose weeks ahead are not brimming with joy. For whatever reason, in whatever circumstances, we know that people in need can be helped if we choose to do so.

As the Talmud says, "If not you, who? If not now, when?"

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Orange Senior Center Events

Holiday Door Decorating

Clubs, community groups, civic organizations, schools and town departments are invited to decorate one of the hallway doors at the Senior Center for the annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. Stop by the Community Services office and pick up an entry form. The entry deadline is Nov. 27. All doors need to be decorated by Dec. 2. Voting will take place between Dec. 2 and 13. The winner will be announced at Monday with Maplewood on Dec. 16.

Christmas Holiday Cabaret

Join the Orange Senior Center on Dec. 9 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. with Michael Rea. There will be no cost this year as the Orange Foundation covered it with a donation. There will be appetizers, coffee and dessert from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., then Rea will perform from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Contact the Senior Center to register in advance at 203-891-4784.

Orange Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling

The Orange Lions Club will be collecting, cleaning, packaging and shipping used glasses to their recycling center in New Jersey on Dec. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at High Plains Community Center. Donations of glasses and volunteers are needed. If you wish to help or donate used eyeglasses, contact the Orange Senior Center at 203-

891-4784. The refurbished eyewear will be distributed to organizations and doctors in developing nations.

Mind Fit from Home Care Assistance

Just like the body, the brain will show signs of aging over time. While this is a natural result of growing older, there are positive lifestyle changes you can make to keep your mind sharper for longer. In the Mind Fit series, participants will learn about the various factors that contribute to brain health while engaging in group activities based on the Cognitive Therapeutic Method offered by Home Care Assistance. The six-part series is led by Home Care Assistance brain fitness experts. Part two will be on Dec. 17 at 12:30 p.m. There will be a brain and heart healthy snack. Call to say you are coming at 203-891-4784.

Classic Movie Friday

Join the Senior Center for the classic movie of the month, *Heaven is for Real*, on Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. A small-town father must find the courage and conviction to share his son's extraordinary, life-changing experience with the world. Popcorn and soda to be served. Call for a seat at 203-891-4784.

Movie of the Month

Join the Senior Center on Dec. 13 for "Mary Poppins Returns" at 1 p.m. Starring

Emily Blunt. Decades after her original visit, the magical nanny returns to help the Banks siblings and Michael's children through a difficult time in their lives. Orange's own On the Border Mexican Restaurant will donate their chips and salsa. Call to reserve a seat at 203-891-4784.

Living Treasure Nominations

Nominations are being accepted through March 2 for the 2020 Living Treasure Awards. The three individuals chosen will be honored at Pasta Festa in May 2020 at the High Plains Community Center.

Maplewood Monday

Join the Senior Center for a holiday Maplewood Monday when Chef Leif returns with his culinary delights for you to sample on Dec. 16 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call 203-891-4784.

Miracle of Christmas Trip

Miracle of Christmas, held at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre, showcases the touching nativity story and offers an impressive show for the season. Be part of a Christmas celebration unlike any other at the Sight & Sound Theatre. The trip will also visit the Amish Country Christmas Tour. Enjoy a Pennsylvania Dutch holiday feast by candlelight at Plain & Fancy Restaurant. The cost is \$355 double per person. Full payment

is due at registration. The trip includes baggage handling, tax and service and tour director. There is considerable walking.

In the Mood Christmas Trip

At the Aqua Turf on Dec. 12. This world-famous orchestra is the most popular and sought-after swing band in the world. The family-style lunch menu includes garden salad, pasta, roast turkey and broiled scrod with cracker crumb topping, vegetable, potato, rolls, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$99 per person. The trip includes transportation, lunch, admission and driver gratuities. Full payment is due at registration. There is minimal walking.

Christmas by Candlelight Trip

At Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts on Dec. 14. A celebration of favorite holiday traditions, music and food. Victorian carolers, Father Christmas, Santa Claus, and join in a Christmas carol sing-along. Enjoy a holiday buffet. The cost is \$159 per person and includes lunch, transportation, admission and driver's gratuity. There is considerable walking.

Westchester Theater Trip

See the play *It Happened One Christmas Eve* on Dec. 19. Enjoy lunch and a show. There is a choice of entrée upon arrival. After lunch, enjoy the heartfelt story of an infant left on a Brooklyn doorstep. The cost is \$111 per person and includes transportation, lunch, admission and driver gratuities. Full payment is due at registration. There is some walking.

(Gymnastics Student Continued from 1)

Melanie Coleman, 20, was a junior at the university who planned to major in nursing, according to her SCSU athletics profile.

Coleman attended Jonathan Law High School in Milford, where she was a team captain, the program's most valuable player and all-state selection, according to a statement from SCSU.

Coleman suffered a spinal injury on Nov. 8 while training at New Era Gymnastics in Hamden, where she also served as a youth instructor. She was taken to Yale New Haven hospital, where she died two days later.

"We are heartbroken and stunned by Melanie's passing," SCSU head coach Mary Fredericks said. "She was an incredibly hard worker and a sweet-spirited young woman. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to her family at this time. The SCSU Gymnastics team will miss her greatly though she will always be with us."

Coleman's family has set up a GoFundMe page and a page at MealTrain.com to coordinate meal donations to the family.

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The Milford Library

Let's Talk About E-Books

As the holidays approach, many may receive the wonderful gift of a tablet or e-reader. Library staff have seen firsthand the excitement of patrons coming in with their new devices, asking for assistance in setting them up. Then comes the next question: how do I check out an e-book?



**CHRISTINE
ANGELI**

E-book lending has greatly improved over the years and the process of checking out a title from one of our vendors, Overdrive or rbDigital, has become much simpler. What our patrons are most surprised about is how the partnership between libraries and publishers works.

Libraries do not purchase the e-books we loan the same way you would. We are bound by policies, set by each publisher, on the amount we pay and how we can give access to our patrons. Our costs are significantly higher than retail – sometimes two to three times what is charged to an individual customer. For example, the latest Lee Child or David Baldacci title will cost a library about \$55 to \$65 to purchase a digital copy; through Amazon, a retail customer can purchase it for their Kindle for about \$15.

Libraries are also bound by varying loan agreements. Our purchase of an e-book includes permission to lend the book – usually to one person at a time, despite the digital nature of the files. Many publishers also have policies that include metered access, meaning that after the book is either borrowed a certain number of times or a certain length of time passes, libraries must repurchase the title. The Lee Child or Baldacci book mentioned earlier – both have a metered access model of 24 months, which means the library will need to repurchase the file at that time if we would like it available for our patrons.

The latest hurdle for library e-book lending

was put in place by one of the largest publishers, Macmillan. They have instituted a purchase embargo, through which a library can only purchase one copy of a new title for the first eight weeks of its release. This one copy limit applies whether the library is in a large metro area serving hundreds of thousands of patrons or a relatively small library like Milford. Additionally, their titles are metered access – we will have to repurchase after 24 months or 52 circulations, whichever comes first.

Why are these restrictions important to discuss? E-books are here to stay. With increased usage of mobile devices, patrons expect to find these resources at their library. High purchase costs and loan restrictions make it difficult for libraries to accommodate the demand. So those users that can afford to purchase titles on their own will, and those who can't afford it won't. And they may find titles difficult to obtain from their library.

A library's central mission is to ensure access to information to all, and with limited financial resources we can get spread thin. But these unreasonable lending practices put us, and our users, at a disadvantage. Libraries support having a sustained, robust publishing industry – after all, libraries and library patrons are some of their best customers.

Despite the restrictive publisher policies, e-book loans are one of our fastest growing circulation statistics. I encourage you to use our service, and while you are waiting for the hot titles to be available, browse through the older titles; just as when you walk through our library stacks, you may discover a new favorite.

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:

Confusion Reigns Over Open Enrollment

My observations on next year's insurance outlook can be summed up by the following categories: the good, the bad and the ugly.

The Good: Those over 65 have many low-cost options that offer strong coverage, with low premiums and some added benefits such as dental, eyewear allowances and over-the-counter medication credits. The over 65 population is exploding, making this an ever-expanding market. Insurers are competing heavily for your business – a buyer's market. Make sure you research your options thoroughly.

The Bad: Individual insurance plans are only available through the Connecticut exchange. My best advice is don't go it alone. Premiums have increased by 5 percent to 10 percent, but the deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums have increased dramatically. The

exchange is tricky, but it is the only game in town. So if you need to purchase insurance and are under 65, contact a certified agent who is willing to help.

The Ugly: Small business owners will see an increase in premiums without better benefits. However, there is room for creativity that might provide some tax relief to offset the higher premiums. It is worth the time to work with an agent who knows small group plans and can work with the business owner to create a feasible and affordable plan.

After seeing over 100 clients as we near the end of open enrollment for Medicare and individual insurance renewals, I have a few



TRISH PEARSON

thoughts to share. Insurance is complicated and it isn't getting easier. Insurance companies and the exchange are not making it any easier to understand. People recognize and want to have health insurance, but they need help finding the right plan. Many people, especially those on Medicare, are paying more than they should for insurance.

It is not too late to get help, even past December. Seniors will have an opportunity to make changes during the first three months of

2020. If something unexpected occurs you can change from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Medicare with a supplement and a prescription drug plan or to a different MAPD plan.

For individuals, in order to change after Dec. 31, you need to meet special criteria – "I forgot" is not one of them. Act now to avoid being left out. Small group employers can still sign up for a new plan after Jan. 1, but it will mean a plan for a "short" year (less than 12 months). This can still be advantageous and worth the time exploring options.

As we near the end of 2019 I am thankful for the many people I have had the opportunity to advise and assist over the past year. I treasure you all and hope that you are blessed with good health and happiness this Thanksgiving and beyond.

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:

Check Your Finances For The New Year

As 2019 rolls to a close, it's a good time to review the results of your financial plan over the past year and make adjustments in anticipation of 2020.

Retrieve your written 2019 financial goals from your desk drawer and determine whether you met those goals. Perhaps you planned to save \$20,000 but you only put away \$15,000. Maybe you planned to rebalance and diversify your investment portfolio but never got around to it.

Ask yourself what happened. Did you experience a major change this year such as a reduction of income or unexpected expenses? Or did you just get busy with other things?

If you decide that your financial plan/goals need to be revised in light of your 2019 experience, now is the time to make those revisions, before you get busy after the new year.

Here are some items to consider before New Year's Eve comes around:

Take advantage of year-end tax-saving strategies. Offset capital gains by taking losses on under-performing assets in taxable brokerage accounts. (It's best to seek help from a financial planner with this type of strategy, since there are IRS rules such as the wash-sale rule to take into account.) This is also the time to plan next year's taxes by reviewing your deductions.

Maximize your retirement accounts. Make the most of any employee match you are offered through a 401(k) plan, and contribute as much as you can to IRAs and other tax-advantaged accounts.

Tune up your portfolio. Check your asset allocation and rebalance as needed. Look at the mutual funds or other investments you have and decide if you need to make any revisions in light of changes in your life or in the economy.



ERIC TASHLEIN

Review insurance and health-care coverage. Make sure you have the insurance coverage that is right for your family and business situation. Ensure that you still have the proper health-care coverage and maximize contributions to your health savings account.

Clean up spending. Look at your credit card bills and identify and cancel automatic payments for products or services you are no longer using, such as streaming TV services or magazines.

Review debt. If you carry debt, it's important to evaluate whether you reduced your debts this year. If not, I would suggest making this a major priority for 2020. Nothing eats away at your future financial security as much. Not only are you paying interest on past purchases, you are also

missing the potential gains from investing the money now going to pay your debts.

Rededicate yourself. If you set up a budget and a financial plan last year but fell short of implementing them, don't beat yourself up. Use your experience from this year to improve your performance next year. Revisit your goals, draw up a budget and revise your financial plan, and rededicate yourself to following these guidelines in 2020. A certified financial planner can help you with any or all of these financial best practices.

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.

Milford Smarthome Company Designs Unique TV Mount

A Milford company came up with a unique solution to install a TV in a client's kitchen.

Motorized TV mounts are a common solution to the problem of finding a place to put a TV.

With a touch of a button the TV will hide away into the ceiling when not being used. The TV and the mount mechanism are operated by the same remote control.

Smarthome & Theater Systems came

up with a custom solution to install a motorized TV lift for the client, executing it along with an expert carpenter.

"Motorized TV lifts are a hot trend we are seeing more clients requesting to incorporate into the design of their home," said Chris Barre, technology design expert at Smarthome.

Prices for motorized TV mounts range between \$1,000 and \$5,000 depending on the project.





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News & Events

Maroney, Rose Hold Winter Heating Forum



State Sen. James Maroney and state Rep. Kim Rose held a forum on heating assistance programs Nov. 4 at the Milford Senior Center. Contributed photo.

State Sen. James Maroney (D-Milford) hosted a winter heating informational forum with state Rep. Kim Rose (D-Milford) Nov. 4 at the Milford Senior Center. The two lawmakers were joined by TEAM Inc., which provided information on programs to assist lower income individuals with heating costs this winter.

"This forum provided people in our community with the opportunity to learn more about important programs to assist them in heating their homes at an affordable price," Maroney said. "Programs like the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program not only keep the homes of Connecticut families warm, but also it does so in a manner that enables them to budget for other household essentials and bills."

The lawmakers took questions from seniors regarding affordable heating options and went into detail about the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). This program is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households

whose income falls at or below 60 percent of the state median income.

"These events are a great opportunity to connect with residents and remind them of the many resources our state offers," Rose said. "For seniors who live on a fixed income, the state's heating assistance program can make all the difference through affordable renovations that can protect families from harsh Connecticut winters and cut monthly electric bills."

According to CT.gov, winter heating assistance pays for a household's primary heating source such as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets on behalf of eligible households. Interested individuals can apply for CEAP at TEAM Inc., a community action agency helping sign people up for the program. Eligible households may also be eligible for weatherization assistance, which can help in energy conservation and may lead to lower heating bills. For more information, call TEAM Inc. at 203-736-5420.



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Milford Running Annual Leaf Pickup

Milford's annual citywide leaf pickup program has begun and will run through Wednesday, Dec. 18. During this time leaf pickup will occur on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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

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

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

CBRE Completes \$35 Million Sale Of Grand Reserve Orange

CBRE has announced the \$35 million sale of Grand Reserve Orange, a 168-unit apartment community located at 45-75 Prindle Hill Rd. in Orange. The CBRE team of Jeffrey Dunne, Gene Pride, and Eric Apfel along with Simon Butler and Biria St. John represented the owner, Fairfield Grand Reserve LLC while also procuring the buyer, a private New Jersey investment firm.

Built in 2005, the Grand Reserve Orange will undergo renovations to kitchens, baths and flooring as residents in the Connecticut market continue to seek luxury apartments. The community includes a resident clubhouse/lounge with fitness center, leasing office and pool. Homes have open floorplans, gas heat and cooking, walk-in closets, full size in-home washers and dryers and 9-foot

ceilings or loft apartments.

"We are pleased to have represented Fairfield Grand Reserve LLC in this sale," Dunne said. "There was strong competition for the property as the community offers a boutique feel in a quiet setting with a strong school system. The seller managed and maintained the asset to institutional standards while the experienced buyer should do very well with the property as they can grow revenue by renovating apartments."

"There was strong interest in this offering from both local and national investment firms creating a highly competitive sales process," Pride said. "There is abundant capital actively pursuing high quality value add offerings throughout the I-95 corridor between New Haven and Stamford."

Colonial Properties In Orange Makes \$1.4 Million In Sales

Orange-based Colonial Properties, Inc., recently completed two investment sales worth \$1.4 million in Milford and West Haven.

Tony Vitti represented the buyer in the purchase of 31 Cherry St. in Milford, an approximately 8,600 square-foot mixed use investment property. The multi-tenanted building sold for \$985,000. It consists mostly of small office spaces and includes two residential units. The seller, 31 Cherry Street LLC, was represented by Carl Russell of H Pearce Commercial. The buyer's attorney was Dawn Pearson of Parks and Pearson in Branford; the attorney for the seller was Jane Holler of Holler Marecki, Inc. in Milford.

Senior vice president Fred A. Messore

represented the seller, Green Olive Property Management, in the sale of a 3,000 square-foot, four-family building, located at 117 Noble St. in West Haven. The multi-family property sold for \$357,500 to Roy and Robin Ferreira, who were represented by Property World. The seller's attorney was Jerome Lababelle of West Haven.

"These two sales reinforce the strong demand for stabilized investment properties. Both of these assets were fully leased, providing a strong CAP rate for the sellers as well as a very secure, stable income stream for the buyers," said Michael Richetelli, president and designated broker for Colonial Properties.

Orange Seafood Restaurant Holds Ribbon-Cutting



Cajun-style seafood restaurant Hook & Reel held a ribbon-cutting Oct. 29 for the grand opening of its new Orange location. Friends, family and the Milford and Orange chambers of commerce attended the event. Pictured are Orange chamber members. The restaurant, located at 385 Boston Post Road and owned and operated by franchise owner David Chen, opened Oct. 10. It is open Sunday through Thursday from noon to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from noon to midnight. Photo courtesy of the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

Milford-Orange Times Columnist Partners With Milford Spa



Milford-Orange Times columnist Michele Tenney has partnered with B beautiful Day Spa to offer her services as owner of Elevate Personal Training and Wellness. From left: Bonnie Richetelli, Olivia Hill, Ivette Russo, Marcia Rueda and Michele Tenney. Photo courtesy of Michele Tenney.

OFVD Welcomes Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts To Fire Station



Firefighter Angela Bachman addresses a group of Girl Scouts about being a firefighter. Photo courtesy of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.



Firefighter Lisa Kaplan gets a little extra love as she leads Scouts on a hose maze designed to encourage kids to stay low if they must ever crawl out of a smoke-filled house. Photo courtesy of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

The normally tranquil Orange Volunteer Fire Department station on Boston Post Road was filled with laughter and excited voices

from groups of young Scouts recently as they learned about fire safety and performed tasks that firefighters often do.

Firefighters welcomed members of different Orange-based Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and packs on Nov. 4 to the fire station. Firefighters talked about fire safety and then helped the children try skills ranging from handling a hose line to searching a smoke-filled room with a thermal imaging camera. Firefighter Angela Bachman also talked with the girls, telling them becoming a firefighter isn't just for boys.

"Helping Scouts earn their merit badges is one of the fun things we get to do," said firefighter Robert Panapada, who oversaw the evening. "By having all the Scouts come on one night, we can set up more exercises, have more people here to help and give them a more exciting experience. And while they're having fun, they're also learning."

In addition to using a thermal imaging camera in a room filled with nontoxic fog that imitated smoke, Scouts moved a bucket using a charged hose line, followed a firefighter through an obstacle course and practiced staying low to get out of house filled with smoke. Parents looked on.

"Preventing fires and teaching people how to escape injury in case of a fire is as important to us as fire suppression," said Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas, who was also at the event. "This is a great way for the kids to get to know us, know our equipment and not be afraid of us if they ever have to meet a firefighter during an emergency."

Perhaps the biggest thrill for the kids, however, was when the evening ended with back-to-back fire alarms, sending apparatus out of the station with lights flashing and sirens wailing.

Fire prevention and public education programs are available to groups and organizations. For more information, call 203-891-4703, contact the Fire Department at orangevfd.org or find it on Facebook.

Registration Open For Orange Little League Challenger Division

Registration is open for the 2020 Orange Little League Challenger Baseball program.

The Challenger division of Little League is focused on encouraging students ages 4 to 18 with intellectual, developmental and physical challenges to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment structured to various abilities.

More than the skills of baseball learned through the experience, the value of the Orange Little League Challenger Division is found in the therapeutic and socialization benefits of participating in sports, the strengthening of athletes' self-esteem, the opportunities to mainstream into other divisions of play and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play – all hallmarks of the Little League program.

Teams don't keep score and there are no outs. The sole purpose is to have fun while being physically active.

The cost of the program is \$50 per player, which includes a uniform shirt and hat. Orange Little League will defray the cost for any athlete that is unable to afford the registration fee.

Students from Orange as well as any surrounding towns are welcome to participate.

Practices and games will be held in the spring of 2020 at Old Tavern #2, a fully accessible field under ADA guidelines. Dates and times are to be determined.

For registration and accommodation information, contact Kate Palumbo by emailing OLLChallenger2020@gmail.com or calling 203-435-0972.

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Milford 2019 Municipal Election Results

Mayor

Benjamin Blake (D) – 9,771 (66.47%)
 Dan German (R) – 4,928 (33.53%)

Aldermen District #1

Jay Zammiello (D) – 1,552 (24.23%)
 Michelle Parente (D) – 1,644 (25.66%)
 James Tranquilli, Jr. (R) – 1,562 (24.38%)
 Tony Giannattasio (R) – 1,648 (25.73%)

Aldermen District #2

Ward Willis (D) – 1,468 (25.80%)
 Janet Golden (D) – 1,612 (28.34%)
 Scott Marlow (R) – 1,287 (22.62%)
 Jeremy Grant (R) – 1,322 (23.24%)

Aldermen District #3

Frank Smith (D) – 1,478 (26.82%)
 Marty Hardiman (D) – 1,442 (26.17%)
 Connie Gaynor (R) – 1,320 (23.95%)
 Michael S. Casey (R) – 1,271 (23.06%)

Aldermen District #4

Tony Sutton (D) – 1,614 (25.84%)
 Philip J. Vetro (D) – 1,786 (28.60%)
 Win Smith (R) – 1,493 (23.91%)
 Dan German (R) – 1,352 (21.65%)

Aldermen District #5

Greg Harla (D) – 1,765 (25.24%)
 Ellen Beatty (D) – 1,938 (27.71%)
 Bill Bevan (R) – 1,555 (22.24%)
 Raymond Vitali (R) – 1,735 (24.81%)

Town Clerk

Karen Fortunati (D) – 7,559 (52.1%)
 Joanne Lasse Rohrig (R) – 6,944 (47.88%)

Constables

Theodore O. Boynton (D) – 8,048 (16.30%)
 Dominic Cotton (D) – 6,716 (13.60%)
 Sarah Ferrante (D) – 7,772 (15.74%)
 Linda Hardiman (D) – 8,366 (16.94%)
 Shirley Serrano (R) – 6,049 (12.25%)
 Steven T. Visconti (R) – 6,576 (13.32%)
 Raymond Kirmaier (R) – 5,674 (11.49%)
 George Marshall (R) – 185 (0.37%)

Board of Education District #1

Ray Arnold (D) – 1,403 (24.27%)
 Betsy Ratner (D) – 1,470 (25.43%)
 Andy Fowler (R) – 1,528 (26.44%)
 Scott M. Firmender (R) – 1,379 (23.86%)

Board of Education District #2

Susan Glennon (D) – 1,596 (36.05%)
 Nicole Wasson (D) – 1,635 (36.93%)
 Mark Macchio (R) – 1,196 (27.02%)

Board of Education District #3

Warren Pawlowski (D) – 1,313 (27.20%)
 Una Petroske (D) – 1,272 (26.35%)
 Erik Smith (R) – 1,087 (22.51%)
 Tom Jagodzinski (R) – 1,156 (23.94%)

Board of Education District #4

Cindy Wolfe Boynton (D) – 1,667 (30.31%)
 Rita Hennessey (D) – 1,443 (26.24%)
 Daniel Spicer (R) – 1,161 (21.11%)
 Katie Martino (R) – 1,228 (22.33%)

Board of Education District #5

Adam De Young (D) – 1,800 (33.80%)
 Cynthia Twiss (D) – 2,013 (37.80%)
 Rich LoPresti (R) – 1,513 (28.41%)

Planning & Zoning Board District #1

Joe Castignoli (D) – 1,512 (50.84%)
 Thomas Panzella (R) – 1,462 (49.16%)

Planning & Zoning Board District #2

John Mortimer (D) – 1,380 (52.77%)
 Frank Musante (R) – 1,235 (47.23%)

Planning & Zoning Board District #3

C. Robert Satti, Jr. (D) – 1,439 (57.22%)
 Peter Berube (R) – 1,076 (42.78%)

Planning & Zoning Board District #4

Nancy Austin (D) – 1,636 (57.65%)
 Chris Goulden (R) – 1,202 (42.35%)

Planning & Zoning Board District #5

Brett Broesder (D) – 1,735 (55.57%)
 Rick Vizziello (R) – 1,400 (44.43%)

Orange 2019 Municipal Election Results

First Selectman

Jody Dietch (D) – 1,795 (34.73%)
 James M. Zeoli (R) – 3,374 (65.27%)

Selectmen

Mitchell R. Goldblatt (D) – 2,460 (16.44%)
 Margaret Novicki (D) – 1,838 (12.28%)
 Angela McNabola (D) – 1,813 (12.12%)
 Judy W. Williams (R) – 2,863 (19.13%)
 Ralph Okenquist (R) – 2,975 (19.88%)
 John Carangelo (R) – 3,014 (20.14%)

Town Clerk

Patrick B. OSullivan (D) – 3,539 (100.00%)

Tax Collector

Sandra D. Pierson (R) – 3,959 (100.00%)

Board of Finance

Kevin Moffett (D) – 2,665 (20.53%)
 Elliot A. Dubin (D) – 1,761 (13.56%)
 Edina Oestreicher (D) – 2,256 (17.38%)
 James Leahy (R) – 3,076 (23.69%)
 Kevin Houlihan (R) – 3,224 (24.83%)

Board of Education

Jared Millbrandt (D) – 1,742 (11.93%)
 Susan Riccio (D) – 2,301 (15.76%)
 Betty Hadlock (D) – 2,105 (14.42%)
 Kenneth M. Vitelli (R) – 3,010 (20.62%)
 Ken Ziman (R) – 2,778 (19.03%)
 William Kraut (R) – 2,661 (18.23%)

Town Planning and Zoning Commission, Four-Year-Term Begins 2019

Patty Compagnone-Post (D) – 1,739 (17.59%)
 Santo J. Galatioto Jr. (D) – 1,968 (19.91%)
 Judy Smith (R) – 3,220 (32.58%)
 Ralph Aschettino (R) – 2,957 (29.92%)

Town Planning and Zoning Commission, Four-Year-Term Begins 2020

Paul M. Kaplan (D) – 3,309 (100.00%)

Constables

Santo J. Galatioto Jr. (D) – 2,109 (11.15%)
 Robert C. Shanley (D) – 2,120 (11.21%)
 Randy Thomas (D) – 2,231 (11.80%)
 Jay Carrier (D) – 1,759 (9.30%)
 Jeff Vargo (R) – 2,848 (15.06%)
 Jody Daymon (R) – 2,775 (14.86%)
 Glen Papelo (R) – 2,489 (13.16%)
 Mike Donadeo (R) – 2,577 (13.63%)

Amity Regional Board of Education Full Term

Polly Demirjian (D) – 1,893 (10.89%)
 Amy Esposito (D) – 2,234 (12.86%)
 Paul Davis (D) – 2,570 (14.79%)
 Gail Chotiner (D) – 2,022 (11.64%)
 Christopher Browe (R) – 2,822 (16.24%)
 Shannan Carlson (R) – 2,962 (17.05%)
 John C. Belfonti (R) – 2,873 (16.53%)

Amity Regional Board of Education To Fill Vacancy for Two Years

Lubna Pal (D) – 1,854 (38.92%)
 George Howard (R) – 2,910 (61.08%)

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News & Events

Race Brook School Organizes Food Drive



The Race Brook School Student Council under the leadership of third grade teacher Janet Greenspan organized a food and personal items drive this fall to benefit the Pizza People and the Orange Food Pantry, which serves residents of Orange. The Pizza People is a group of citizens who volunteer their time to work together and help provide food, necessities, care and clothing to those who are homeless and needy in New Haven.

The entire Race Brook School student body, with the help of their families, participated in donating food and personal items to the two organizations. Donated items included shampoo, conditioner, lotion, powder, soap, deodorant, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, cereal, crackers, chips, applesauce, tuna, chicken, chili and Spam.

Student Council members collected and organized the donated food and personal items for the drive.

The Race Brook School Student Council recently spearheaded a food and personal items drive for those in need. From left: Riannie D., Telmo I., Ethan P. and Brennan W. Xavier J. and Nate R. are also on the Student Council but not pictured. Photo courtesy of Race Brook School.

Wreaths To Be Laid For Veterans At Orange Cemetery

The Orange Cemetery has been selected for the Civil Air Patrol's Wreaths Across America program for this year in New Haven County.

The CT Minuteman Composite Squadron, CAP based at Tweed New Haven Airport, in association with the Orange Cemetery Association, the New Haven Rotary and American Legion Orange Post 127, selected the cemetery for the veterans wreath-laying ceremony. Wreaths will be placed on veteran grave sites in the cemetery on Dec. 14.

There will be a ceremony in the High Plains Community Center cafeteria from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If you have a veteran in the cemetery and would like to make sure your veteran's grave has a wreath placed on it, contact first Lt. Jerald Barber, CAP at 203-671-7848. A \$15 donation is requested.

Wreaths may also be picked up at the Orange Cemetery across from Mary L Tracy School on Dec. 14 if you wish to pick one up for another location. Let Barber know in advance so that there will be enough wreaths available to accommodate your recognition request.

The ceremony is a December CAP holiday tradition observed by all 52 CAP wings and abroad. Thousands of CAP officers and cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances to honor the nation's fallen. They present the colors, deliver orations and place veterans' wreaths on headstones at national and local cemeteries and war memorials.

Last year, more than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veterans' graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad.

Turkey Hill School Hosting Reunion Concert

The Turkey Hill School Drama Club is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a reunion concert featuring performers from the last 10 years. Tickets go on sale Dec. 1 for this one-night show on Friday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at Turkey Hill School, located at 441 Turkey Hill Road in Orange.

"We are excited to celebrate ten years of drama performances," said principal Denise Arterbery. "The concert will feature musical performances from all of our amazing shows, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Peter Pan*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *One Man's Dream*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Cinderella*, *Toy Town* and *Halloween, Again*."

Many Turkey Hill School alumni are

returning for the reunion concert, including popular singers Audrey Jurzyk, Marty Gnidula, Michaela Kraut, Ava DiVincenzo, Maria DalleAve, Ledgm Washington, Nili Chetrit, Maya Patel, Kasey Smith, Elizabeth Bodie, Raegan French, Anna Laganovska and many more.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors or students and can be purchased at dramaclub-ct.com. Tickets are limited, but will be available at the door if seats are still available. A snow date of Saturday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. is scheduled. All proceeds go to the THS Drama Club. For any questions about the show or tickets, contact thsdramaclub@gmail.com.

Orange Coldwell Office Drop-Off For Toy Closet



Staff from the Orange Coldwell Banker office with donated toys for the Yale Toy Closet in 2018. Photo courtesy of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orange has been designated as a local drop site for the Yale Toy Closet program again this year.

Founded in 1993 by Ann Nyberg, WTNH News 8 anchorwoman, the Toy Closet helps ensure that pediatric patients come away from their hospitalization with a pleasant memory. In addition, the toys serve as gifts for special occasions such as birthdays and holiday celebrations for hospitalized children. Toys, gifts and financial contributions are needed throughout the year. The success of the

Toy Closet program is directly related to community involvement.

The Orange office, located at 236 Boston Post Rd., will be accepting donated toys through Dec. 13. Once the reception area of the office is full of toys, Coldwell staff and sales associates will deliver the toys to the Yale Toy Closet.

For more information about the Yale Toy Closet collection, contact Aileen DeFeo at 203-795-6000. A list of toy suggestions is also available upon request.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday January 18th



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February 8th - "Dizzy fish" Sounds of the 70's

February 15th - "Dirty Deeds" Tribute to AC/DC

February 21st - "Gold Rush" Ultimate Neil Young

February 29th - "The Eagles Experience"

March 28th - "Motley 2"

April 3rd - "Lords of 52nd Street"

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Orange Public Schools Title IX Statement

Title IX is a federal law that was passed in 1972 to ensure that male and female employees and students in educational settings are treated equally and fairly. The law protects against discrimination based on gender. Title IX requires that each school district have at least one person designated as the Title IX officer.

Director of Special Services Mary Edo is the Title IX officer for the Orange school district. Should you feel you have been discriminated against, you should contact Edo either by email at medo@orange-ed.org or by phone at 203-891-8023 ext. 1204. Edo's office is located in the central office.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistant program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the department. If you wish to file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint form found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html.

Subway Subsidizes Beth-El's Winter Shelter Meal Program



Subway presents a check and gift cards to the Beth-El Center in Milford to subsidize the center's new No Freeze winter shelter breakfast program. From left: Victor Lamberti, Subway manager of Community Engagement, Jenn Paradis, Beth-El Center executive director, Shannon McMahon, Subway public relations specialist, Michele DiNello, Subway vice president of Public Relations, Communications, and Events, and Camille Franchi, Beth-El Center soup kitchen manager. Photo courtesy of the Beth-El Center.

Beth-El Center homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Milford recently received a \$2,000 donation plus \$2,000 in food gift cards from Subway World Headquarters, also based in Milford.

The donations will allow Beth-El to launch a new breakfast meal program for unsheltered individuals, families, youth and veterans who stay in their No Freeze winter shelter.

"Giving back to those in need is at the core of our brand and we understand that to build stronger communities, we must take care of our neighbors. We take great pride in being a committed partner to local organizations," says Victor Lamberti, Subway's manager of Community Engagement. "Through our partnership with the Beth-El Center, Subway remains fully dedicated in our efforts to raise awareness and fight against hunger and homelessness. No person should be without food or a place to stay."

Beth-El's No Freeze shelter program, a temporary winter shelter, is open nightly from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. during the coldest months. The No Freeze shelter program provides warm shelter, cots and blankets as well as access to case management

services to anyone experiencing unsheltered homelessness through the winter season.

In response to last year's 70 percent increase in need at the No Freeze shelter, Beth-El is expanding the program, including the addition of the new breakfast meal offering.

Beth-El Executive Director Jenn Paradis said, "The generosity of Subway's donation goes far beyond the impact of a breakfast program, although serving breakfast will fulfill a great need. This investment provides us with an opportunity to engage the vulnerable individuals and families who utilize our No Freeze program with the case management and support services necessary to relieve their housing and food needs and ensure they are connected to the resources necessary for long term success. We are so thankful to Subway for making this program a reality."

Subway's donation will support the cost of breakfast food and beverages plus associated food supplies for the 2019-2020 No Freeze shelter program.

For more information about Beth-El Center and its services, visit bethelmilford.org or call 203-876-0747.

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Source: *Forbes* "Best-in-State Next-Generation Wealth Advisors" list, September 4, 2019. *Forbes* "Best-in-State Next-Generation Wealth Advisors" list was developed by SHOOK Research. Advisors considered for this ranking were born in 1980 or later with a minimum 4 years relevant experience; advisors have: built their own practices and lead their teams; joined teams and are viewed as future leadership; or a combination of both. Ranking algorithm is based on qualitative measures: telephone and in-person interviews, client retention, industry experience, credentials, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, such as: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criteria because client objectives and risk tolerances vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research, LLC and not representative nor indicative of any one client's experience, future performance, or investment outcome. Neither *Forbes* nor SHOOK Research receives compensation in exchange for placement on the ranking. *Forbes* is a trademark of Forbes Media LLC. All rights reserved. Rankings and recognition from *Forbes* are no guarantee of future investment success and do not ensure that a current or prospective client will experience a higher level of performance results and such rankings should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor.

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Orange Holiday Festival Approaching

The Town of Orange is hosting its annual Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 1. Festivities on and around the Orange Town Green will begin at 3 p.m.

Visitors may tour the Stone-Otis House to learn what a Victorian Christmas was like.

The Academy Building and the antique shop will be open for visitors to view the Historical Society's antique collections and Emily Prudden watercolors, as well as the New Haven to Derby line model railroad in the lower level from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Orange Congregational Church will hold a cookie sale, hand bell concert and caroling featuring the Amity Chamber Singers in the church sanctuary from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Case Memorial Library will be decorated and will host a performance from Al deCant of Half Moon Music, who will perform a children's musical program in the library meeting room from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Guess how many candies are in the jar at the

library and win a prize, write a letter to Santa Claus and make a craft in the craft room. The library will be open from 3 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The annual gingerbread contest will be featured in the Clark Building. Friends of all ages are invited to enter a gingerbread creation. Entries must be dropped off at the Clark Building from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 1 and must be picked up between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winner of the contest.

An ice carving demonstration will take place in front of the Clark Building from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Hot chocolate will be available from Starbucks in Orange.

A lighted tractor parade will take place down Orange Center Road at 5 p.m.

Santa Claus will arrive at the conclusion of the parade and the lighting of the tree will follow. Children can visit with Santa on the Green after the tree is lit. The Holiday Festival will end at 6 p.m.

Virtual Golf Lounge Opens In Orange



Golf Lounge 18, a 5,500 square-foot indoor virtual golf facility, held a ribbon-cutting for its new Orange location on Nov. 14. The lounge is located at 200 Indian River Rd. Photo by Don Lewis.

Milford's Festival Of Lights Coming

Milford's annual Festival of Lights and Tree Lighting will be on Friday, Nov. 29 on the Milford Green. The event, sponsored by Trinity Point Wealth, begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs to 7:30 p.m.

The city and the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce are jointly presenting the festivities.

The Festival of Lights starts with a gathering on the green at 5:30 p.m. featuring live holiday music at the gazebo by the Milford Concert Band and DJ Shelia.

The Milford Bank will be hosting its 4th Annual Winter Wonderland at the bank's main office on the Green from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The event will feature various winter-

themed activities for children and adults of all ages. Attendees will be treated to costumed characters for a meet and greet as well as photos, a train ride, games, prizes, carolers and crafts.

The Tree Lighting takes place at 6:30 p.m. at the gazebo with the arrival of a firetruck from Milford Firefighters Union IAFF Local 944 carrying Santa Claus.

Mayor Ben Blake and representatives from the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce will pull the switch to set the trees on the green alight.

Once lit, Santa will sit with all the boys and girls. A line for children to meet Santa will be set up outside the gazebo.

The event is free to attend.

Maren Sanchez (Continued From Page 1)

manipulation and physical violence. This event was a little different than usual, though, because it was open to anyone from the public. Until now, most of the three-year-old organization's events have been held for distinct groups, such as businesses, high schools and universities around Connecticut. This autumn, MHSF has launched a campaign to raise money to expand its offerings across the nation. It is hoping to bring in \$25,000 on Giving Tuesday so

that it can take its lectures and self-defense programs to girls around the country. The organization got its start in the wake of a local tragedy. Maren Sanchez, a 16-year-old student at Jonathan Law High School in Milford, was stabbed to death by a fellow student in the school's hallway on April 25, 2014. She was attacked by a friend in retaliation for turning down his invitation to the junior prom. Maren's mother, Donna Cimarelli, said

that she formed MSHF to make sure that what happened to her daughter would be less likely to happen to others. "A few days after Maren was taken from us, I realized that the tragedy happened for a reason, and that she may not physically be here, but I still was," she said. "I really felt that I was given a job to do." Cimarelli said she wanted from the beginning to focus on safety for young women, especially psychologically. "If you understand how to keep yourself psychologically and mentally sound, then there's a good chance that you may not get physically harmed," she said. She began with a series of "HER-Self Awareness" lectures to call attention to red flags and other signals of danger that she had come to understand through her experience with own daughter. Brian Bannon, who sits on the MHSF Board of Directors, became involved with the foundation because his own daughter was good friends with Maren. Bannon said he joined to help keep Maren's name alive and to help make sure no other girl goes through what she did. "Donna has done a great job of tying in self-awareness and self-defense, because you can always be aware and not have the physical capabilities, or you can have the physical capabilities and not be aware," he said. "So I think these are to critical points to teach these girls self-confidence." Board treasurer Lisa Perschino Smith said many young girls don't realize that some conduct, such as being texted, called or contacted on social media constantly, isn't appropriate. "It might not hit them right away that this behavior is not okay – the obsessiveness and possessiveness," she said. "It's all aspects of communicating healthy relationship behavior." Perschino Smith came on board in 2016 and

said the MSHF's growth has been incredible. The foundation hosted its first workshop over the summer during which a group of speakers came in to speak to the participating girls about different topics. It has also launched "Maren's Magical Moments," spending afternoons doing activities with the seniors at the Atria assisted living community in Shelton. "It is growing very, very quickly, which I'm thrilled to be a part of," she said. The current fundraising campaign will culminate on Nov. 29 with "Maren Sanchez Home Foundation Night" at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, where the Bridgeport Sound Tigers will play the Springfield Thunderbirds. A portion of ticket revenue from the game will be donated to the MSHF. Newell will lead another self-defense demonstration during the game. There will also be an opportunity to sing along with Maren during the first intermission, and MSHF-themed Sound Tigers swag available for purchase. The team is proud to be partnering with local organizations like MSHF, said Tarah Kelly, who works in group sales for the Sound Tigers. Kelly herself is a Milford resident who attended Jonathan Law two years ahead of Sanchez. "This is something that means a lot to me personally," she said, "and it's good that the Sound Tigers are able to do something like this for a local organization that benefits young girls everywhere." Cimarelli said she hopes that the growth of MSHF can help more young women to realize their own strength. "When young women say 'no,' the majority of the time they are not heard. So we want make sure that they understand that their voice is powerful, and that when they say 'no' it's a complete sentence, just like when a boy says it."

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 High Plains Community Center, Orange, CT
www.rotarycluboforange.org

that she formed MSHF to make sure that what happened to her daughter would be less likely to happen to others. "A few days after Maren was taken from us, I realized that the tragedy happened for a reason, and that she may not physically be here, but I still was," she said. "I really felt that I was given a job to do." Cimarelli said she wanted from the beginning to focus on safety for young women, especially psychologically. "If you understand how to keep yourself psychologically and mentally sound, then there's a good chance that you may not get physically harmed," she said. She began with a series of "HER-Self Awareness" lectures to call attention to red flags and other signals of danger that she had come to understand through her experience with own daughter. Brian Bannon, who sits on the MHSF Board of Directors, became involved with the foundation because his own daughter was good friends with Maren. Bannon said he joined to help keep Maren's name alive and to help make sure no other girl goes through what she did. "Donna has done a great job of tying in self-awareness and self-defense, because you can always be aware and not have the physical capabilities, or you can have the physical capabilities and not be aware," he said. "So I think these are to critical points to teach these girls self-confidence." Board treasurer Lisa Perschino Smith said many young girls don't realize that some conduct, such as being texted, called or contacted on social media constantly, isn't appropriate. "It might not hit them right away that this behavior is not okay – the obsessiveness and possessiveness," she said. "It's all aspects of communicating healthy relationship behavior." Perschino Smith came on board in 2016 and

Turkey Hill Development (Continued From Page 1)

details." He did highlight a few concerns, though. To start with, he said that although the applicants had claimed there would be no direct impact to the wetlands, there would in fact be a small impact. "Just the fact that they say there is zero disturbance – there actually isn't," he said. He also noted that although the final project would stay clear of the wetlands, it's less apparent how the construction itself could avoid them – especially for a retaining wall along part of the road that will lead into the housing development. "There's no allowance for sidewalks" on the roadway, Benben pointed out. "If that's something that comes up, they can't just put in sidewalks because everything is so narrow." The same narrowness issues exist, he said, on the internal streets between the housing units and the community building. Benben criticized the design regarding stormwater management, saying that there were no vegetative strips between the roadbeds and the filtration strips. Vegetation normally provides pretreatment and some filtering for stormwater. Without it, the strips could

overflow or, in the long term, fail. "At this point I think there is still a lot of information missing as far as stormwater management is concerned," he said. Soil scientist George Logan of REMA Ecological Services was also hired by the town to review the site. He too had some concerns that he brought before the commission. He said there was not enough information for certain test pits on the site, raising concerns about how the stacked septic systems would operate. He said that although the amount of nitrogen produced by a septic system might pass health code standards, it could still exceed the amount of nitrogen produced naturally "by an order of magnitude," thus changing the wetland environment. "You have one on top of the other," he said. "So what happens is you have a whole bunch of gallons per day go to the top system, and they're then fed into the plume of the second system, which feeds into the plume of the third system. So you get a super-concentration of nitrogen at the end." The stacking, he added, has a tendency to make the second and third systems less efficient. He also pointed out that some of the test pits had failed. Logan said another concern involved the lack of adequate buffers to some of the wetland areas. He asked that the developers take note of large trees within 40 feet of wetlands that are in the path of the proposed construction, because they are usually integral to the ecological makeup of any given wetland. "Lose those, and it changes the dynamics, changes the hydrology, possibly even the chemistry of the wetland that's nearby," he said. He did say that all of the items he had raised were could potentially be resolved. The commission made no decision by the end of the evening and did not set a date for its next meeting, when consideration of the application will continue.

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Obituaries

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

Marie Altieri, was born April 8, 1930 and passed peacefully on October 19, 2019.

Michael Patrick Bowen, "Mikey," 37, of Wallingford, (formerly of West Haven and Milford), passed away Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019.

Virginia "Ginger" J. Burrows, age 90 of Milford, passed away October 16, 2019.

Pasquale R. Cariglio (Pat, Patsy), 59, of Milford, passed away on October 19, 2019.

Melanie Amber Coleman, 20, of Milford, passed away on November 10, 2019.

Louise A. Costanzo Cavallaro, age 90, passed away on Monday, November 4, 2019.

John Joseph Cusmano, 79, of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2019.

Kevin Richard Daley, age 59, of Milford, died on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

Domenick D'Aurelio, of Milford, passed away on Monday, November 11, 2019.

Mary E. Donovan, 98, of Milford, passed away on November 14, 2019.

Mary Ellen Durso, 64, of Milford, died Oct. 26, 2019.

Vera Garcia, age 94 of Orange, passed away November 17, 2019.

Rhoda Gorenberg passed away in November 2019.

Anna B. Honek, 87, of Milford, died on Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

John T. Jaser, 97, passed away on Friday, November 15, 2019.

Carl Vernon "Vern" Johnson, age 78, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on October 19, 2019.

Michael Kapareiko, 91, of Milford, passed away on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Sharon Ann Kluchnick, 66, of Milford, passed away on Saturday, October 19, 2019.

Michael Kapareiko, 91, of Milford, passed away on November 5, 2019.

Robert Kapusta, 88, passed away on October 29, 2019.

Jean H. Klink, 84, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on Nov. 8, 2019.

San Shun Lee, 90, of Milford, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

Patricia O'Sullivan Lucey, 93 of Orange, passed away on November 6, 2019.

George Arthur Marshall, 76, of Milford, passed away on October 22, 2019.

Carl J. Miller Jr., 75, of Orange entered into rest on November 15, 2019.

William W. Miskella, 87, of Milford, passed away on October 25, 2019.

Serena Marie Mulligan of Milford passed away on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Robert "Bob" Navin, 93 of Milford, formerly of Westport, passed away on October 4, 2019.

Carolyn Nisita, 70, of Milford, died on Thursday, October 31, 2019.

Ernest J. Peschell, 93, of Madison and formerly of Milford, died on Monday, November 4, 2019.

John D. Poole, age 59 of Milford, passed away on October 26, 2019.

Winifred Mary (Whyte) Regnier, 73, of Milford, passed away family on November 13, 2019.

Scott Socquet, 53, of Milford, passed away on October 23, 2019.

Theodore A. Solovie, age 96 of East Berlin, CT, formerly of Milford passed away on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

Marie L. Trevethan, 98, of Milford, passed away on October 31, 2019.

Pamela Jane Tweedie, 68, previously of Milford, passed away on Friday November 1st.

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