

# Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021



## Orange Budget Hearing to Take Place At High Plains Gym

BY BETTINA THIEL

ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Orange Board of Finance will present its 2021-22 budget on April 21 at 7 p.m. at a hearing that is open to the public for comment. In order to allow enough room for social distancing, the hearing will take place in the High Plains Center gym.

As of press time, the board had not finalized its budget, with questions remaining in particular as to what the town can expect in income. Given the anticipated new debt payment for the Race Brook Country Club purchase, and an increase in employee benefits, the Board of Finance on March 15 was looking at a 3.7% budget increase. But the board was still working on reducing that number, said Finance Director John Cifarelli.

Cifarelli also had combed through the town department budgets and suggested certain cuts to the board, after consultation with First Selectman Jim Zeoli. Those suggestions included a number of smaller cuts — such as for furniture and “repair and maintenance”

line items — but also removing larger positions which had been carried over from previous budgets, such as the salary for an unfilled position in the Public Works Department. It all added up to a total of \$607,175 in savings that the finance board agreed to remove from the budget.

**Country Club Purchase:** One major budget driver for the town this year is the anticipated debt payment for the Race Brook Country Club purchase. The estimated cost used as a placeholder until the town has actual numbers is \$563,000 for the '22 fiscal year.

Finance Board member Joe Nuzzo pointed out that if the annual debt payment comes in at \$522,000; and the town loses \$125,000 in property tax revenue because the club is no longer in private hands, the total cost to the town for the next 20 years is \$647,000. Even with the anticipated lease income from the club, which is not to start until the fall of 2022, the town will pay about \$400,000 a year

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## Even Less-Travelled Roads Need Occasional Upkeep

HIGHWAY CREW CHIEF IS LOOKING FOR FUNDING

BY BETTINA THIEL

ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Highway Department Crew Chief Don Foyer has submitted to the town a list of roads in dire need of repair. He is hoping to get at least some of the work done this spring, starting in the month of May, provided funding can be obtained.

Topping the list are Broadview Road, Windy Hill Lane, Wagon Trail and Wolcott Lane; also the Glenbrook Road area, with Brookside Drive, Donna Drive, Dennis Drive and Richard

Lane. Those projects would add up to about 8 miles of paving, he said. The price estimate attached to these projects is about \$850,000.

In his memo, Foyer said these roads are in “deplorable condition.” In fact, the condition of most of these roads is so deteriorated that a simple “overlay” of asphalt would not solve the problem. Instead, they need to be “reclaimed,” meaning the old asphalt removed and ground up, and

See “Roads” On Page 3



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“Budget” From Page 1

more than it takes in. “It is a unique opportunity,” Nuzzo agreed, saying that he supported the purchase. “But it’s not inexpensive,” he added.

Another budget driver on the town side is for employee benefits, which looks at an increase of \$694,000.

**Capital Fund:** In order to reduce the burden on the taxpayers, the finance board can decide to move certain capital items out of the operating budget and allocate funding from the General Fund to pay for them. Currently the account balance in the capital fund is more than \$2 million. Cifarelli suggested the town pay for police car replacements as well as a recording system for the police department from that pot. He said Orange School Supt. Vince Scarpetti also had identified some \$300,000 in capital projects in the school budget. The town has already earmarked \$200,000 to replace pipes at High Plains Community Center.

At this point Orange is flush with savings. It has a very healthy Fund Balance of \$14.7 million, which constitutes about 20% of its \$73.7 million budget. Even if the Fund Balance were to be reduced to \$14.4 million at the end of this Fiscal Year, it would still constitute 19.62% of its budget.

The town can reasonably expect some extra cash flow into its General Fund. There is the 2020 Amity surplus, which to a large part has been paid back to the member towns, and from which Orange received over \$1 million. The town decided to keep \$300,000 of that available in its operating budget.

There are potential FEMA reimbursements for damage caused by Storm Isaias last summer. The town allocated \$250,000 from Fund Balance for the storm cleanup. So far it is unclear when the federal money will be disbursed and how much.

The town as well as the school system can expect financial support from the most recent federal CARES Act, which aims to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. As of last week, the town had not received an official notice when or how much it can expect. A Hartford Courant listing quoted Orange as receiving \$1.3 million and the

school system \$303,000; Amity would be receiving \$536,000.

The money was allocated to the 169 municipalities based on population; the funds are meant to help the public sector with its response to the COVID-19 emergency; help provide premium pay to essential employees and provide funding for government services which were affected by loss of revenue during the pandemic.

“It’s certainly helpful in the year we’re in,” Finance Board Chairman Kevin Houlihan said.

**Grand List:** The next taxable Grand List — the listing of all taxable property, which includes real estate, motor vehicles and business personal property — as measured on October 1, 2020, overall increased slightly. The Grand List is one factor that determines what will be taxed, and is an integral part of the budget for the next year.

Real estate values increased by 0.007%, according to the figures supplied by the Assessor’s office. Motor vehicle values, on the other hand, increased by almost \$6 million, or 4.2% compared to the 2019 Grand List. “The cumulative value of newly registered current-model year passenger cars was more than enough to offset the accrued depreciation from recurring vehicles,” wrote Assessor Mark Branchesi in his report.

Business personal property, however, dropped by \$2.7 million, or 1.8% from October 1, 2019 to 2020. “This is the first time since 2010 that this section of the Grand List decreased,” the assessor wrote, attributing the decrease to United Illuminating and its affiliates reallocating assets to various locations outside of Orange; and to “the chilling effect of COVID 19 on the local business community.”

Although the town has been able to attract several large businesses in recent years, the trend regarding UI and its parent company seems to be continuing, as the Southern Connecticut Gas building is up for sale. The offices are said to be moving into the UI building, while the vehicles will be moved to a West Haven site. The gas company is the third largest taxpayer in town, after UI and Fairfield Grand Reserve, which owns an apartment complex on Prindle Hill Road.

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“Roads” From Page 1

the foundation stabilized before new asphalt is applied. Only Donna Drive and Dennis Drive and Richard Lane are slated for an overlay of asphalt.

“I personally would be glad to drive any member of the Board of Finance around town so they may witness first-hand the condition of these roads,” Foyer wrote in his memo.

“I know it’s needed,” said Board of Finance Chairman Kevin Houlihan at the March 15 meeting. “I know some of the residents are complaining. But some of these are not high-traffic roads,” he added.

Foyer’s list is extensive. In addition to those mentioned above, his memo lists:

- ✓ Garden Road (reclaim);
- ✓ Wellington Drive (reclaim);
- ✓ Rolling Ridge (reclaim);
- ✓ Woodland Lane (overlay);
- ✓ Manley Heights Road (reclaim);
- ✓ Bear Den Road (overlay);
- ✓ Dogburn and Spring Streets (overlay);
- ✓ Prudden Lane (reclaim);
- ✓ North Greenbrier Drive (mill 1 ½”);
- ✓ Arrowhead Drive (overlay);
- ✓ Sportsman Road (overlay); and
- ✓ Squire Lane (overlay).

OHS Receives Merit Award From Preservation Connecticut

The Orange Historical Society wishes to announce the receipt of the prestigious Merit Award from Preservation Connecticut for the restoration of the Bryan-Andrew house. This group was founded in 1975 to help Connecticut save and protect its historical homes and barns. The house has been in restoration since 2001 with experts in the field, laymen, OHS members, Bryan-Andrew house staff members, volunteers, donors, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Junioresettes, the list is long indeed. The house, once owned by 19 families was purchased by the town in 2000. Walking into the home is like walking into history and those of us that work and play there, do just that.

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# ‘All Weather’ Stadium Is Under Construction While Town Considers Ordinance

**BY BETTINA THIEL**  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

“We are officially under construction as of today,” announced Amity School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars at the March 8 Amity Board of Education meeting. She said the crews had started digging, working on the pole vault pit area, which is separate from the football field, and has a separate permit.

But crews apparently also started removing sod from the football field, and the town’s land use office intervened, saying the town had not received the required warranty from the manufacturer of the materials to be installed that guarantee that the materials they use do not contain any PFAS chemicals. That warranty was a condition of the Zoning Commission’s special exception permit for “excavation, removal, filling, grading, and processing of earth products.”

The school district is planning to replace the football stadium with a crumb-rubber based surface, that will allow them to use the field year-round.

“The Board of Education is committed to providing the students of Amity with an exceptional comprehensive education in Academics, the Arts, and Athletics,” Dr. Byars said when the district applied for the permit. “This process began because the athletic facilities –particularly the stadium which includes the track and field have not been upgraded or improved for over 30 years. The playing surfaces

of both areas are significantly below the standards of other high schools throughout the state of Connecticut.”

A district-wide referendum in December 2019 provided the funding for the project, with residents in Bethany and Orange voting in favor, but Woodbridge residents did not. In fact, a group of them — who preferred not to be identified — sought a moratorium to allow both the state and the federal authorities to pass their own PFAS regulations before the project is allowed to go forward. In December they withdrew the lawsuit, reportedly for a lack of money.

Last July, the Zoning Commission had granted the district the permit “subject to the condition that any existing warranty between the Amity Regional School District #5 Board of Education and Field Turf shall memorialize the guarantee in the letter dated October 25, 2019, from Darren Gill, senior vice president of Marketing & Innovation of Field Turf that states, ‘We are aware of media reports around the potential presence of trace amounts of PFAS chemicals in some artificial turf fields. In light of these reports, we have worked closely with our supplier of artificial turf filaments to verify that our products do not contain those chemicals. Our supplier has confirmed that their products are free of PFAS, PFOs and fluorine. We care deeply about the safety of our surfaces and those who use them and we will continue to vigilantly monitor our

products to ensure that they remain free of these substances.”

Zoning Enforcement Officer Kristine Sullivan has since confirmed that she has received the warranty, and will present it to the Zoning Commission at its regular meeting April 5 to determine that it meets the condition of the permit.

When asked about the issue of groundwater protection, and whether it had been considered for this permit, Sullivan said groundwater protection is under the purview of the Zoning Commission, while the Inland-Wetlands Agency’s concern is surface water. When the application was presented to Inland-Wetlands last spring, they found the stadium field to be outside the 100-foot upland review area, and hence outside its purview.

In a letter to the athletic community, Dr. Byars said the district was determined to advance the construction timeline “in an effort to complete the project prior to the TPZ approval expiration in July 2021 and to further ensure that the facility will be ready for school sports in the fall.” She said although the district could request an extension on the TPZ approval, if necessary, “we cannot be certain about such a result.”

The Woodbridge Conservation Commission, meanwhile, has expressed its own concerns regarding the installation of a crumb rubber field. The commission sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen and the

Amity district, asking them to halt construction until the Environmental Protection Agency completes its research on PFAS chemicals. Commission Chairman Jason Morrill used DEEP maps which show the area as an endangered species habitat. The map did not identify which species, and he submitted a request for clarification to DEEP.

Morrill also expressed frustration over the fact that the Conservation Commission was not informed of the pending application when the town was first approached. He only became aware of it when construction vehicles started showing up near the high school track.

Opponents of artificial turf meanwhile have asked the town to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use of such materials. The Ordinance Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen, has looked at two potential ordinances, one prohibiting only man-made materials, while the other also prohibits some organic alternatives such as cork. They kicked the issue back to the Board of Selectmen for discussion at its regular meeting April 14.

Town Counsel Jerry Weiner stated at a meeting of the Ordinance Committee that any such ordinance, if adopted, would not be retroactive and would not affect the construction under way. If the selectmen want to proceed with any one of the proposed ordinances, they will schedule a hearing for the public to weigh in.

Orange Town News

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## The Civil War Through Women’s Eyes

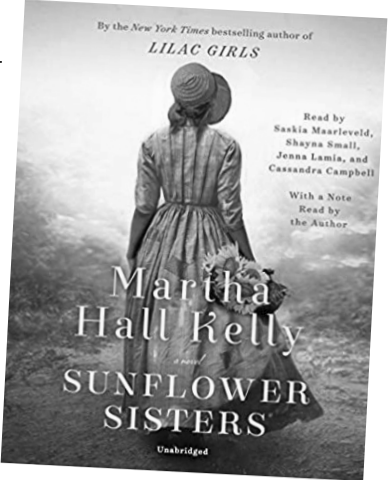
The Friends of the Case Memorial Library is sponsoring a book talk with Martha Hall Kelly, author of “Sunflower Sisters” on Monday, April 19 at 7pm via Zoom.

“Sunflower Sisters” is a story of the Civil War, told through the experiences of three women: a Northern upper class abolitionist, who joins the war effort, serving as a nurse in a male profession; a young girl, enslaved on a Maryland plantation; and a cruel plantation mistress, who is drawn into a secret Southern spy network, while her husband joins the Union Army and her cherished brother enlists in the Confederacy.

It’s a story with lingering relevance today: women’s rights, racism, conspiracy, and families fractured by political ideology in a divided nation.

The author, a native New Englander, lives in Litchfield. “Sunflower Sisters” is the third novel in a series based on the letters of her female ancestors in the Woolsey/Ferriday families. Her novels tell stories about the lives and contributions made by the family women during noteworthy historical eras. Her first novel, “Lilac Girls” takes place during World War II, extending into the 1950s. Her second novel, “Lost Roses,” is set in 1914 in New York City. As such, each novel can stand alone.

Go to the Library’s website to register for this program. The Library will send a confirmation. On the day of the program, the Library will forward an e-mail with the Zoom link to the program.







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Below are the next three issue dates & deadlines of the Orange Town News.  
Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
April 30   Mother’s Day Issue .....	April 23
May 28   Memorial Day Issue .....	May 21
June 25   Independence Day Issue .....	June 18

Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.

FROM OUR READERS

**Mind Your Plastic Bags**  
I am distressed that some of our citizens have chosen not to adhere to the regulations for the recycle bin at the transfer station. The plastic bag signs have been in place for a long time and with or without them, folks need to know the facts behind “NO PLASTIC BAGS!” The plastic bags going through the recycle process get caught in the processing machines. At some point, the bags have to be torn apart before hitting the machines, causing delays. If too many plastic bags are shipped out of Orange, as much as a ton can be rejected and disposed of, contaminating the environment. It seems that 1.2 tons of recycled items were indeed rejected recently. For all the time spent in washing our recyclables and taking them to the transfer station, they were disposed of without ever going into another recycled product. Our efforts were rejected. Could it be that there were just too many plastic bags in that shipment? Empty your plastic bags into the bin and until a new shed for the empty bags can be in place either take them home or bring them to the top of the hill to the hopper.  
Let’s keep our environment clean.  
Ginny Reinhard

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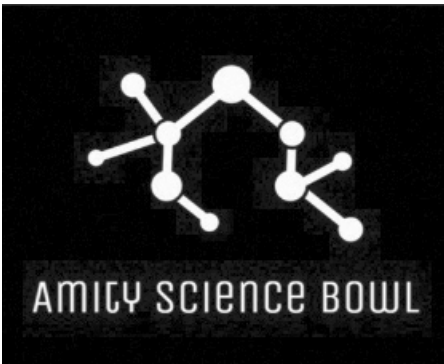


ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



# Amity Science Bowl Comes in First in Statewide Competition

On Saturday March 13, the Amity Science Bowl team qualified for nationals by winning the statewide competition. The team was made up of five seniors: Peter Scully (co-captain), Arnav Paliwal (co-captain), Eugene Chang, Andy Kim, and Adarsh Kongani. Science Bowl is a Jeopardy-style team competition run by the US Department of Energy since 1991. Questions test students' knowledge of the STEM fields (biology, physics, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, and math) in a fast-paced format. Amity's Science Bowl team is a relatively new club at Amity founded by Arnav and Peter at the end of their freshman year. If an-



yone is interested in joining, they can email either paliwal21@amityschools.org or scullype21@amityschools.org. Amity Science Bowl Advisor/Coach is Deborah Best (Science Teacher) deborah.best@amityregion5.org.

## STUDENT NEWS

### Achievements Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT - The varsity baseball and softball teams at Eastern Connecticut State University are amid their spring 2021 seasons of competition. Among the student athletes is junior Brooke Matyasovsky of Orange, who plays utility on the softball team and majors in Communication and Business Administration. For the softball team's schedule and news, visit <https://gowarriorathletics.com/sports/softball?path=softball>. For the baseball team's schedule and news, visit <https://gowarriorathletics.com/sports/baseball?path=baseball>. Eastern offers a broad-based, Division III athletic program aimed at safeguarding the amateur aspects of the various sports and maintaining the proper perspective of athletics within Eastern's academic mission. By placing emphasis on the values of equity, diversity, sportsman-

ship, health and well-being, Eastern's athletic program encourages students to contribute more effectively to our society and live richer, fuller lives.

### Dean's List Emerson College

Boston, MA - Jaden Esse, a native of Orange, CT, has been named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Esse is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2022. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

### Middlebury College

Middlebury College is pleased to announce the Fall 2020 Dean's List. Gina Driscoll of Orange has qualified for the Dean's List. To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed at least 12 credits and achieve at least a 3.40 quality point average.

# AFSCME Union Files Labor Complaint Against Orange BoE

The union representing security officers of the Orange Board of Education is claiming the employer violated municipal labor law by laying off employees and refusing to bargain in good faith. Council 4 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) recently filed a municipal prohibited practice (MPP) complaint against the Board of Education on behalf of AFSCME Local 1303-486. (Link to the complaint can be found on the second page of this release).

In the complaint, which Council 4 filed with the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations in Wethersfield, the union alleged that the Orange Board of Education acted illegally by eliminating bargaining unit jobs and failed to bargain with the union. In the layoff notice, Orange Board of Education claims revenue to pay the security guards salaries has declined due to a drop in afterschool enrollment this year.

"I was shocked to get my pink slip," said John Winchell, a security officer who started out volunteering at his daughter's school before becoming a full-time security officer in 2018. "I know these kids, it's like an extended family. The parents know I have a vested interest. I've never done this for the money, it was always about my love of being there and around the kids."

The complaint filed by Council 4 also alleges employees were discharged because they signed a union petition. On January 28, 2021, the bargaining unit won its union election and was certified by the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations. Previously, they were the only Board of Education employees to not have union representation. Part of their motivation to organize stemmed from demands to perform

other work outside of their duties as security officers, such as custodial duties.

"We wouldn't mind helping out and keeping our environment clean," explained Winchell, "but it was taking us away from our desks and monitors where we're keeping an eye on things and doing what we're supposed to. It just seems that we organize a union and suddenly we're let go. They didn't even wait until we could sit down at the table and work out a contract."

"It feels like retaliation and retribution," said AFSCME Field Representative, Alex Guzman, who assisted the member organizing campaign. "These workers want fair treatment, respect, and dignity. The actions of the Orange Board of Education are shameful, especially in a global pandemic, and proves why they need a contract."

Despite the assertion that Orange Board of Education lost funding due to a decline in afterschool enrollment, those enrollment figures have not yet been shared with the Board. "If they had the money from September until now, but the only thing that has changed is that we are union, then it boggles my mind how they can justify doing this," said Winchell.

The AFSCME bargaining unit maintains that laying off dedicated public servants in the middle of a global pandemic, in addition to being illegal, is a demonstration of bad faith by the Orange Board of Education. In its February 9<sup>th</sup> budget meeting, a Board of Education member discussed hiring retired police officers to replace currently employed security monitors.

"How can they lay us off with the possibility of replacing us with others?" asked Winchell. "Where's that money coming from if they can't afford to pay us?"



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Orange Town News

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"The Passover story is a reminder that our unity is our strength, and that there is nothing we cannot overcome, together." — LUCY MCBATH



ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

# Towns Welcome Amity Budget Reductions

By Bettina Thiel  
Orange Town News Correspondent

The Amity School District managed to avoid a confrontation with its member towns regarding its 2022 budget by lowering anticipated expenses by close to \$1 million. Over the course of the past three months the district administration, which started with an increase of just under 6%, managed to shave that increase back to 3.72% and, eventually, 1.8%.

“The biggest [surprise] was Amity,” said Woodbridge Finance Board Chairman Matt Giglietti, when he was meeting with his board on March 4. Giglietti said he went into the Amity Finance Committee meeting expecting a tough negotiation, but it turned out “a very pleasant meeting,” he said.

Even members of the Orange Board of Finance did not insist on the .49% increase cap the board had insisted on back in January after delving into the yearly Amity surpluses. This year, in fact, the surplus returned to the towns by Amity was quite welcome, given the steep income declines towns have seen due to the lockdown and low interest rates.

If approved, Amity’s total budget of \$51.7 million represents a \$913,698 increase over the current year’s budget. The contribution of each member town is based on the number of students attending, and would break down as follows:

	2020-21	2021-22	variance	%variance
Bethany	\$ 9,000,731	\$ 8,983,608	(\$17,123)	(-.19%)
Orange	\$25,003,802	\$25,236,005	232,203	.93%
Woodbridge	\$15,756,256	\$16,275,624	\$519,368	3.3%
Other revenue	\$1,023,720	\$1,202, 9702	\$179,250	17.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,784,509</b>	<b>\$51,698,207</b>	<b>\$913,698</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

### Amity Public Hearing

The public hearing regarding the Amity budget will be held at the Orange Middle School Large Group Instruction Room, Monday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. The referendum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the three member towns. People can request an absentee ballot ahead of time.

### Budget Drivers

The primary budget drivers for 2021-2022 are the number of special education students and their needs; contracted salaries; capital improvements; and providing instructional resources/textbooks for student learning.

School Supt. Jennifer Byars introduced the last round of cuts at the March 8 Board of Education meeting. They included:

- reduction in health insurance reserve from 25% to 22% (\$386K savings);
- updated health insurance rate (\$125,748 savings);
- updated savings in benefits (\$30,178);
- eliminate two student outplacements (\$184,396 savings);
- staff position adjustments (\$117,513 in savings);
- purchase of items in the current fiscal year (musical instrument lease/student agenda books/ sidewalk repair – (\$66,046 savings);
- devices for remote work (+\$23,250);
- Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) for new programs/items (\$93,037 savings).



Total additional reductions: \$973,738.

This latest round of cuts includes a staff reduction by attrition, which will impact primarily the middle schools. The plan is to maintain two of currently 4 reading teachers as part of the middle schools’ Life Arts rotations. Instead, a Literacy Coach could be shared between the two middle schools and they will teach literacy as part of Reader’s Workshop in English. To make up for the reduced literacy rotation, they will add general music as a rotation.

Dr. Byars assured the board that this program adjustment had been planned for the near future anyways, and that it did not represent a programmatical loss for the students. What may hit the middle school harder than the reconfigured rotations is the elimination of a 10-month secretary. Instead, Byars proposed that the two middle schools share a “floater secretary.”

The cuts also include the elimination of a support services team leader at the middle school, with the responsibilities shifting to the middle school Pupil Services coordinator.

The budget helps maintain health/PE instruction at the middle schools as well as Mandarin Chinese. It also maintains ten paid summer work days for the department chairs to prepare for the new school year.

The district has a history of responsible budgeting, the superintendent assures the reader in the explanatory materials that were posted on the District website, at <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1616003193/amityregion5org/tux-jbe2rbvjdgppxrm8h/2021-2022BoardApprovedBudget.pdf>.

By looking for cost savings and efficiencies, the school administration “reassures the taxpayers that we are using their money wisely – Our prudent financial management has kept budget increases as low as possible; provided year-end fund balances, which have been returned to the member towns or used for high-priority needs; and our sound financial operations, transparent fiscal reporting, and prudent spending have played a key role in 13 consecutive years of the budget passing on the first try.”

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DID YOU KNOW?

April 16<sup>th</sup> is National Health Care Decisions Day

Who will make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so yourself?

National Health Care Decisions Day exists to educate and empower the public to proactively think about the importance of advance health care planning. There may come a time when you are unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to injury, illness, or disease. It is important that you sign a document called "Health Care Instructions". **Anyone over the age of eighteen (18) should have Health Care Instructions.**

To recognize the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Health Care Decisions Day, we want to remind you that:

- You have the right to make decisions about the medical care you receive.
- You have the right to tell your physician that you do not want certain medical treatments.
  - You have the right to name the person (or people) who will make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so for yourself.
  - You have the right to pre-direct specific instructions about any aspect of your health care.
  - You have the right to have your wishes communicated in the event you no longer are able to express your own medical wishes.

Your rights can be protected by signing Health Care Instructions. Health Care Instructions are legal instructions to your physicians and family members that express your wishes pertaining to your medical care. These instructions will govern if you are unable to actively participate in your medical decision making or communicate your medical wishes.

- Health Care Instructions allow you to:**
- Designate one or more individuals ("Health Care Representatives") to make medical decisions on your behalf, in accordance with your wishes.
  - Authorize your Health Care Representatives to discuss your medical history and current medical status with your physicians.
  - Direct the withholding or withdrawing of mechanical life support systems if you are in a persistent vegetative state or the final stages of a terminal illness.
  - Name a person to serve as your Conservator (someone to manage your personal or financial matters) if you should ever be deemed incapable by the Probate Court.
  - Donate all or part of your body, following your death, for transplantation, therapy, education, or research if you wish to do so.

If you change your mind about any of the decisions you have made, you have the right to change or revoke your Health Care Instructions at any time while you are alive and mentally capable.

We encourage you to take a few moments to consider your health care wishes in observance of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Health Care Decisions Day. If you are interested in learning more about how to protect your medical rights and medical wishes, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Attorney Steven Floman and Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd are responsible for this advertisement. This advertisement has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.



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LOCAL BUSINESS

Buddy Degennaro Affiliates With Coldwell Banker Realty

Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut is pleased to announce that Woodbridge native and resident Buddy DeGennaro has affiliated with the Woodbridge office. As an affiliated real estate agent, DeGennaro will provide residential real estate services in New Haven County as well as the surrounding communities. DeGennaro brings with him 30+ years of experience in the real estate industry.

"We are thrilled that Buddy has joined our amazing Coldwell Banker family. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team" said Aileen DeFeo, Branch Vice President of the Woodbridge and Orange offices. "It's our #1 market share, technology, senior leadership, and great agents that attracted Buddy to join us, and he is going to make a great team even better!"

DeGennaro has earned many awards for his sales success. He constantly strives to build his professional skill set to provide exceptional service to clients. DeGennaro is a member of National Association of Realtors, the Connecticut Association of Realtors, as well as the New Haven Middlesex


Board of Realtors and the SMARTMLS. He is active in his community as a former member of the Woodbridge Town Planning and Zoning Commission, a member and past president of the Woodbridge Rotary Club and a former member and coach of Bethwood Baseball. A parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, DeGennaro enjoys golf, skiing and fishing. DeGennaro and his wife Mary live in Woodbridge with their three children, Louis, Jackie and Claire.

"Nothing is more exciting to me," says Buddy, "than the gratifying feeling I get from helping people meet their real estate needs. You can always count on me to do what is in my client's best interest. I pride myself on being honest, trustworthy and knowledgeable in the current real estate trends. I know how important it is to find your dream home or get the most money for your property. It is my responsibility to help you achieve your goals. Let my experience work for you."

Buddy DeGennaro can be reached at 203-710-2548 or at [buddy.degennaro@cbrealty.com](mailto:buddy.degennaro@cbrealty.com). Welcome!

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WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mariah Azoti and Nathan Wright Wed

Mariah Petra Azoti and Nathan Charles Wright were married on September 12, 2020, in Watertown, Massachusetts. The wedding was held with immediate family and a few friends in attendance. The ceremony was intimate and live streamed on the internet.

Mariah graduated from Amity Regional High School, received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Art History from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, and graduated with Distinction from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London, UK with a Master of Arts in Art Business. Nathan graduated from Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School in Sudbury, Massachusetts, and received a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Visualization and Animation with Honors from Ravensbourne University in London.

The bride is the daughter of Peter and Mary Azoti of Orange and the



granddaughter of Joseph and Theresa Azoti, also of Orange. Nathan is the son of Raymond and Penelope Wright of Jedburgh, Scotland.

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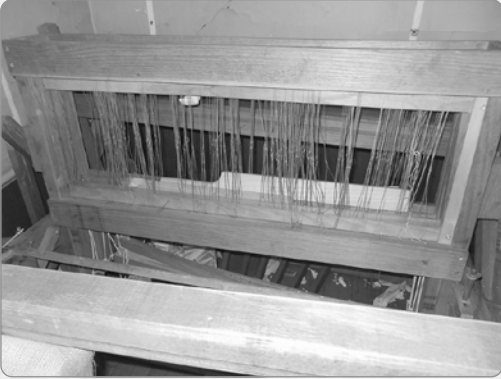
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The Orange Historical Society

Below are just a few of the wonderful things for sale that can be seen Saturdays from 10-3 at 605 Orange Center Road.

Come browse in the museum and the "furniture barn" out back.



For information call 203-795-3106



# LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## CHFA Awards \$14.6 Million In Federal Tax Credits

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) announced the awarding of \$14,676,217 in Federal 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). The tax credits are estimated to generate more than \$135 million in equity from private investors for 10 proposed affordable multifamily housing developments in Connecticut. Federal tax credit allocations are based on population, and CHFA generally receives about \$10 million in credits each year. “CHFA is focused on bringing more units on line as soon as possible, especially during COVID-19. To that end, we are allocating nearly 50% of next years’ credits to developments in 2021,” said Nandini Natarajan, CHFA’s Chief Executive Officer – Executive Director. The developments receiving credits will create 692 rental units, 569 designated as affordable and 123 market rate units.

### Lascana Homes of Orange, \$1,080,016 in tax credits

Developed by Gyroscope Development Group, LLC this new 46-unit property will be constructed in a town that is an Opportunity Area with less than 10% affordable housing. The units will have individual entrances and include a home office to facilitate “work from home” initiatives. Included are 10 units of supportive housing for individuals with intellectual disabilities referred by the Department of Developmental Services. The new buildings will be pursuing sustainability measures to meet National Green Building Standard Emerald and Energy Star. Lascana Homes will have 9 units for households with incomes up to 30% AMI, 19 units for households up to 50% AMI, 8 units for households up to 80% AMI and 10 market rate units.

## Colonial Properties Completes Five Regional Leases

Michael Richetelli, President and Designated Broker of Colonial Properties, Inc., is pleased to announce the completion of the following transactions.

Fred A. Messore, SVP, represented the Tenant, A to Z PetShop, LLC, in the leasing of 4,200 +/- SF of retail space located at 41 Monroe Turnpike, Trumbull, CT for a five (5) year term. The Landlord, 41 Monroe Turnpike, LLC, was represented by Jason Wuchiski of True Commercial Real Estate, LLC.

Messore also represented the Tenant, Empire Tattoo, in the leasing of 1,250 +/- SF of retail space located at 521-547 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT for a three (3) year term. The Landlord, Elm Street Partners, LLC, was represented by Mark Glassman of Arnold Peck’s Commercial World.

Tony Vitti represented the Landlord, MNBD, LLC, in the leasing of 1,500 +/- SF of office space, 5,000 +/- SF warehouse, and 7,500 +/- SF fenced in yard area located at 252 Depot Road, Milford, CT for a two (2) year term. The Tenant, SLM Services DBA Northeast Horticultural Services, was represented by Bruce Wettenstein of Vidal/Wettenstein. The attorney for the Landlord was Brian Lema of Berchem and Moses in Milford, CT; the Tenant’s attorney was Benjamin Proto, Jr. in Stratford, CT.

Vitti also represented the Landlord, Scarcella Realty, in the leasing of 5,700 +/- SF of retail space located at 392 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT for a five (5) year term. The Tenant, Fabric and Upholstery Depot, LLC, was represented



by Michael Debiase of Higgins Group Real Estate. The Landlord’s attorney was Thomas Lynch of Lynch, Trembicki, & Boynton in Milford, CT; the attorney for the Tenant was Michael Burdo in New Haven, CT.

Kosta Eliopoulos, represented the Landlord, Ruotolo Realty, in the leasing of 1,600 +/- SF of newly remodeled warehouse/office space located at 199 Terminal Lane, New Haven, CT for a five (5) year term to Sebastian Uribe, who is operating a print shop and vinyl car wrapping business.

“The volume of commercial leasing transactions we are conducting is very encouraging, considering we are still emerging from the Pandemic and State of CT ordered restrictions on businesses are still in place. The business climate is very vibrant, with only certain sectors lagging,” said Richetelli.

*Colonial Properties, Inc., founded in 1978, is a full service Commercial and Residential Real Estate Brokerage, located in Orange, CT. The firm handles all types of real estate transactions including the sale and leasing of retail, industrial, office, investment properties, and residential properties, as well as brokering land and business sales.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Orange Artisan Fest & Vendor Fair Scheduled

Save the date for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Orange Artisan Fest & Vendor Fair scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange. The all-outdoor event is free and open to the public. The event replaces the 17-year run Orange Business & Community Expo. Annemarie Sliby, Executive Director says, “We are excited to present this new community-oriented event, giving business owners and artisans a chance to mingle with visitors outside. People are looking forward to outdoor events and it will be a great start to the summer.”

Small business owners, artisans, and farm market vendors will be participating and visitors can look forward to product demonstrations, activities, shopping, raffles, food trucks and live music. The event opens at 2:30 pm and over 60 vendors will be participating. Sliby says, “Network with business vendors, visit Artisan Row and shop for that unique Father’s Day gift, grab a bite from our food trucks, and listen to the sounds of the The Sabb’s Brothers, who will be performing under the Gazebo from 6 pm – 8 pm.”

Exhibitor space is still available and registration is open. Showcase your business, products or service, sell your products on site, and network with

vendors and attendees. Vendor space is limited and it is expected to sell out by May. Space includes a 6-foot table, tablecloth, and chair. In addition, all vendors receive their business information listed in the Business Directory, their business marketing materials included in Event Welcome Bags, and

their company name listed in the Artisan Fest ad in OrangeLife Magazine. Anyone interested in becoming a vendor, can register online via the OEDC website:

OrangeEDC.com/events\_activities, or call the OEDC office at (203) 891-1045.

If you are unable to participate as a vendor, your business can still have a presence. For just \$75, your marketing materials will be included in the Event Welcome Bags, which go to all attendees and vendors. Please call our office for information.

Many thanks to our sponsors: American Job Center, Beltone, The Eagle Leasing Company, Economic Development Commission, Northeast Electronics Corporation, Senior Insurance Consultants, StateFarm Insurance, Sue Ianniello – New York Life, Taylor Rental, TrinityPoint Wealth, and UIL Holdings Corporation.

For more information, call the Orange Economic Development Corporation at (203) 891-1045 or visit the website at OrangeEDC.com/events\_activities.



## Orange Legislators Hail New Business Opening

State Reps. Charles Ferraro (R-117) and Kathy Kennedy (R-119) welcomed a brand-new business to Orange and presented Empire Tattoo with an Official State Citation at its ribbon cutting ceremony. The General Assembly state

citation presented by Reps. Ferraro and Kennedy wished Empire Tattoo and their tattoo artists a lot of success with their new tattoo business on the Boston Post Road location and welcomed them to the Orange community.



# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



## Girl Scouts Hold Successful Event

Orange Girl Scout Troop 60274 braved the winds on March 21<sup>st</sup> and held a successful drive-up food drive and cookie booth to support the town

food pantry and Orange food2Kids. The girls have been meeting virtually since November and enjoyed being together in person for this event.

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1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

# ORANGE & Artisan Fest Vendor Fair

*Presented by the Orange Economic Development Corporation (OEDC)*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Orange Fairgrounds at High Plains Community Center**  
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*This all-outdoor event replaces the OEDC's 17-year run Orange Business & Community Expo!*

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Small Businesses, Artisans, and Farmers are Invited to Participate

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# Spring Drive-In Movie

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**Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Rain Date, Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

**7:00pm Parking**  
**7:30pm Movie Time**

**\$15.00 per car**  
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**No drive-up payment the day of the event**

**For more information go to Orange Park & Recreation website under What's New or visit us on Facebook.**



# TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



Left to right: Leo Moran & Chief Vaughn Dumas; John Hudson & Chief Vaughn Dumas; Chief Vaughn Dumas, Jesse Bartha, Deputy Chief Sherwood

## Orange Fire Department Lays Out Goals for 2021

Volunteer firefighters in Orange responded to 674 calls for help during 2020, a record number of responses in one year. The number of calls was announced during the Orange Volunteer Fire Department’s annual meeting, via Zoom, during which Chief Vaughan Dumas reported on accomplishments for 2020 and the outlook for 2021. In addition, firefighters heard from First Selectman James Zeoli, Fire Marshal James Vincent and several other reports.

Also, during the meeting, several firefighters were recognized for work they did during 2020 and two citizens were made honorary members in recognition of their work on behalf of the Fire Department.

Marking the unique nature of these times, the annual meeting was broadcast over Zoom with minimal in-person participation. In the past, the meeting was part of an annual dinner meeting and celebration. First Selectman Zeoli appeared on Zoom, talking to the firefighters.

“The town is truly thankful” for the services provided by the Fire Department, the first selectman told them. Zeoli talked about the benefits of shared services within the town. He also talked about continuing work on projects from which the Fire Department would benefit, including discussion of a new firehouse in the distant future.

A written report from Fire Marshal James Vincent addressed personnel changes after 2020 started with the tragic death of Fire Marshal Tim Smith. Vincent praised the cooperation that

the Fire Marshal’s Office and the Fire Department have been enjoying. The two entities are working on a new fire-reporting system and doing other work together. “You are a progressive fire department and you’re not afraid to put in the work,” he told the firefighters.

Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary President Jillian Gagel reported that despite the obstacles presented by 2020 and COVID-19, the group would be donating \$2,020 to the department. She also reported that the Auxiliary would be running its Egg My Yard fundraiser for the third year. With almost 100 people signed up already, they are enjoying a great response. The public can get more information about the program by contacting (203) 907-9054 or emailing OVFDAuxiliary@hotmail.com.

In his annual report, Chief Dumas acknowledged the challenges of 2020. He recognized two members who succumbed to COVID-19 as well as the fundraising challenges.

He announced that firefighters responded to a record 674 calls including 84 fires. It’s the most calls and the most fires in one year since the organization’s creation 96 years ago. “Even though we had the challenges we had, we still responded,” he said. “We answered the calls and met the challenges.”

Dumas thanked James Leahy, vice chair of the Board of Finance, and town resident Rich Roberts for creating the 50K Fire Truck Challenge. The effort not only raised funds but raised awareness. “Their efforts did so much more

than provide us with a fundraising solution,” said Dumas. “We created such an awareness in the community that we’re here and we do all this for free. It would be very challenging for anyone to say they didn’t know we had a volunteer fire department.”

Other accomplishments included the establishment of a Junior Firefighters program for people 16 to 18 years old.

Moving forward, Dumas cited plans to return to in-person training now that many firefighters have been vaccinated against COVID-19. The department also is beginning to plan its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, discussing the replacement of a 25-year-old pumper and continuing to improve fire response techniques and plans.

“I want to continue to make the department progressive with new technology and new techniques,” he said. “But I’m not going to forget where we came from.” He announced an effort to gather the history of the department and honor its older members.

In addition to his report, Dumas honored Firefighter & Assistant Treasurer Art Williams for 45 years of service and Firefighter George Geane for 25 years of service. The chief demonstrated the department’s appreciation by making Leahy and Roberts honorary members. He announced that Lt. Eric Demeraski, Lt. Mitch Volta, Firefighters Noah Clark, Christian Haupt, Drew Panapada and Dave Gagel were being awarded a unit citation for their actions at a fire on Ridgeview Road last March. Their fire engine was first on the scene.

“The fire was challenging and hard to find,” said Dumas. “Had it not been for the swift action of those members, we would not have had the positive outcome we had.”

Firefighter Jesse Bartha also was recognized for his actions at a fire on Chippendale Road in July. On arrival, firefighters could smell smoke, but had to search for the fire. Bartha, using a water can, located the fire and knocked it down.

Firefighter Leo Moran was awarded for constant promotion of good will in the department. Firefighter John Hudson was recognized as firefighter of the year.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection for residents and businesses in Orange and, through mutual aid, surrounding towns. Members receive training in fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials response, homeland security issues and other emergency services.

Operating strictly with revenues from fundraisers and donations, the Orange Volunteer Fire Department is one of the few remaining all-volunteer incorporated fire departments in Connecticut. Active members are on-call to serve the community on a 24-hour/seven-day basis, responding from stations on Orange Center Road and Boston Post Road.

In addition, the fire company offers public education services including lectures, demonstrations and training. For information about membership, donations or public education, call (203) 891-4703, click on <https://www.orangevfd.org/> or find us on Facebook.



# HAPPY PASSOVER



# TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

## Federal Aid to 169 Connecticut Towns

Analysis of Money Distributed

BY JIM LEAHY  
VICE-CHAIRMAN, ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE

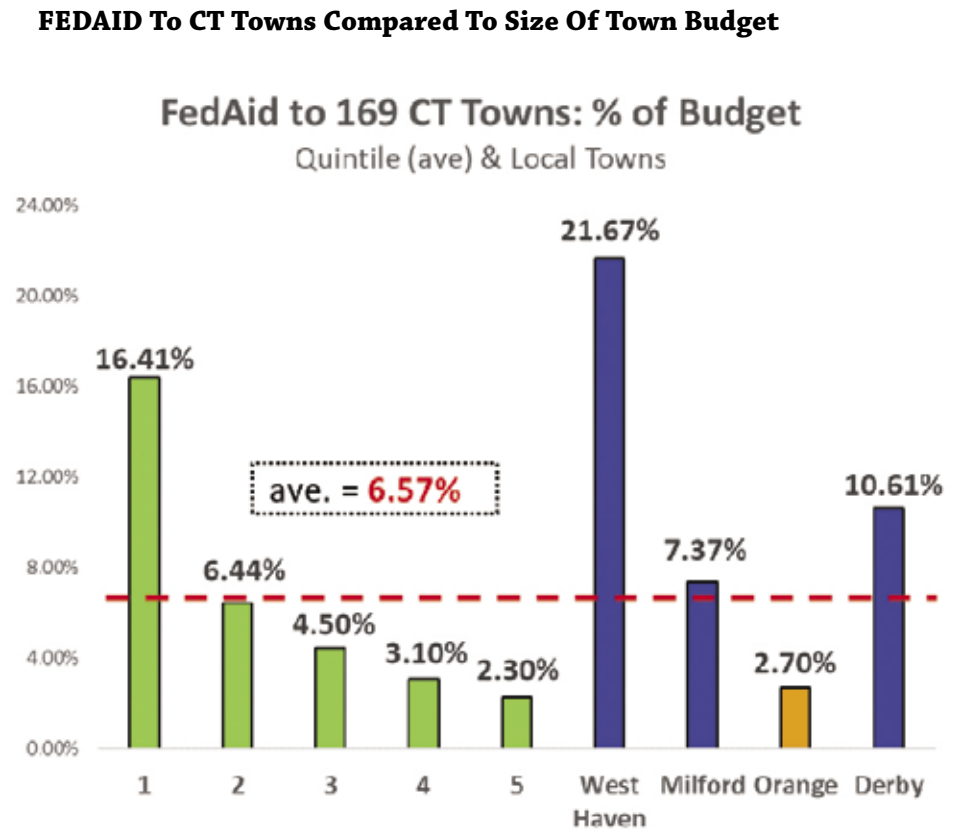
Perhaps you have noticed the Hartford Courant (03-11-21) headline? “Federal stimulus bill will bring billions to Connecticut cities and towns.” I certainly did. And after digging into it, I found estimates of federal money coming to all 169 CT Towns. The Federal money – “FedAid” I call it – comes in two usage categories: (1) Local aid (non-Education) and (2) Education funding.

Purpose of this Article: The Orange Board of Finance wishes to ensure that all taxpayers in Town have a solid understanding of financial matters that can impact the Town financial position and the taxes residents pay. To that end, the following analysis summarizes data across all 169 CT Cities & Towns. My goal is to provide a “snapshot view” of what Orange received from the OVERALL view and how it compares across the State and to other local Towns.

**Current Estimates:** Orange will receive a total \$1,677,954; Local aid of \$1,374,954 and Education funding of \$303,000. In addition, Amity, our regional school, will receive \$528,000. And naturally, there is administrative guidance on both HOW and WHEN this money can be spent.

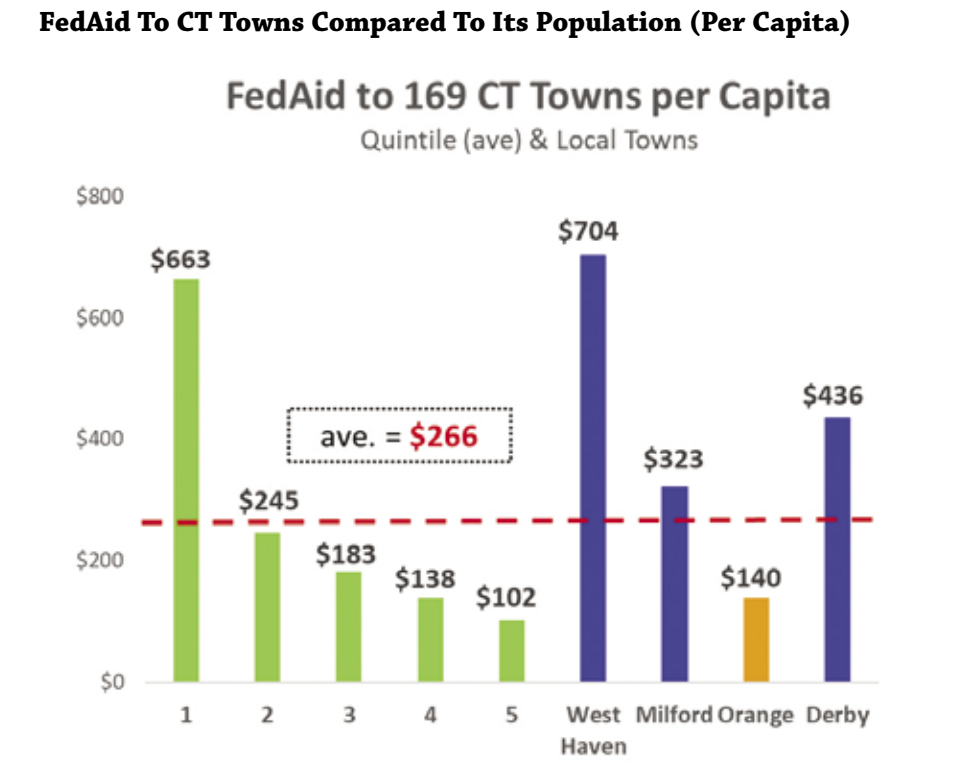
**Restrictions of Use of FedAid:** At the moment, there are three areas that towns might spend the Local aid money they’re receiving; responding to the COVID-19 emergency; providing premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers; and funding government services affected by loss of revenue during the pandemic. And this money is spread out over a few years.

- Analytic Process:**
- ✓ Combined both Local aid and Education funds received into a Total “FedAid” for each Town. [Note: For Orange, I added 50% of the funding that Amity received to the Orange Total as we pay ~ 50% of that budget; and I did not do that for other Towns.];
  - ✓ Compared each Town’s FedAid Total to the Town budget, using the latest State of CT data available (2018);
  - ✓ Compared each Town’s FedAid Total to # Town population, using the latest State of CT data available (2018);
  - ✓ Ranked the Towns (1 to 169) on the above variables, from High to Low;
  - ✓ Split the 169 CT Towns into 5 Quintiles: 1 = Highest; 5 Lowest. Each Quintile has 34 Towns; Quintile #5 has 33 Towns;
  - ✓ Calculated the Average within each Quintile for each variable.



**Reading the Chart:** In the above chart, Quintile #1 had the HIGHEST ratio of FedAid compared to their Town budget. The 34 Towns in Quintile #1 received AVERAGE FedAid of 16.41% of their Town budget. Similarly, for the other Quintiles. Locally, West Haven received FedAid that was 21.67% of their budget. Milford received 7.37%. Orange received 2.70%. Derby received 10.61%.

**Observations:** Much could be said or discussed. Regardless, we can surely all agree there is a SIGNIFICANT difference in the amount of FedAid that each Town received when compared to the Town’s budget. By the way, New London was #1 in CT at 41.47%, with FedAid covering over 2/5ths of its budget; the lowest was Wilton at 1.89%. So, the ratio of highest to lowest of FedAid money received compared to that Town’s budget was a factor of nearly 22.



**Reading the Chart:** In the above chart, Quintile #1 had the HIGHEST ratio of FedAid compared to their Town population (“per capita”). The 34 Towns in Quintile #1 received an AVERAGE of \$663 per person. Similarly, for the other Quintiles. Locally, West Haven received FedAid of \$773 per resident. Milford received \$323 per resident. Orange received \$140 per resident. Derby received \$436 per resident.

**Observations:** Once again, we can all see there is a SIGNIFICANT difference in the amount of FedAid that each Town received when compared to the Town’s population. Hartford was #1 in CT at \$11,794 per resident; the lowest was Lyme at \$98 per resident. So, the ratio of highest to lowest of FedAid money received by a Town compared to its population was a factor of over 18.

**SUMMING UP**

If a Town has 10,000 residents, and its FedAid increases by \$10 per person, then that Town would receive an additional \$100,000 in FedAid. That could pay for two police cars in a Town’s budget. Or an additional teacher. A replacement for a worn-out Truck. Or something else. Or reduce taxes by that amount.

If a Town has 10,000 residents, and its FedAid increases by \$50 per person, then that Town would receive an additional \$500,000 in FedAid. As you can see, that is a substantial amount.

In my view of the analyses presented, the variation of FedAid coming to all 169 CT Towns is significant, Highly Significant in my view. In addition, Towns seemingly close by each other – and similar in character – receive far different treatment. For example: if Orange received the Milford \$323 per capita rate instead of the \$140 Orange rate then Orange – were it treated like Milford -- would have received an additional \$2,555,463 in FedAid. Something to think about.

“For the religious, Passover is the grateful remembrance of a homeward journey after years of suffering.” — ANDRE ACIMAN

# TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

From the Fire Marshal



## Outdoor Entertaining Fire Safety

Warm weather is coming, and outdoor parties and celebrations are in the planning stage. While spending time with friends and family, enjoying food cooked on the grill and the ambience of firelight are pleasant activities, there is also the increased risk of home fires. The Orange Fire Marshal's Office offers some safety tips and guidelines to ensure that you and your guests stay safe. Please consider the following when you host your next event. Tour your yard for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions and correct the problems. Keep children and pets, as well as flammable objects, at least three feet from a heat source. Always have an adult present when a fire is burning, or a grill is in use. Five of six grills involved in home fires were gas fueled while the others used charcoal or other solid fuel. Each year clean the grill and check the gas cylinder hose for leaks or breaks before using it for the first time.

Outside fire pits and fireplaces cause thousands of grass and brush fires each year. Open burning of brush and vegetation for the sole purpose of disposal is not permitted in the Town of Orange except under special conditions and permits from the Fire Marshal's Office. Only clean, seasoned hardwood shall be permitted for use in an Open Burn fire. No other materials such as construction debris, packaging, or other materials shall be used as fuel. Larger diameter season hardwood is permitted to be burned for the purposes of a campfire or cooking only. Agricultural burning for vegetation management is not permitted within the Town of Orange. If the permitted Open Burning is creating a condition deemed a health hazard or nuisance to others, the burning shall cease, and the permit revoked. An application, instructions and fee information for an open burn permit may be obtained at the Orange Fire Marshal's Office website [www.orangefiremarshal.com](http://www.orangefiremarshal.com). This ordinance does not apply to char-

coal, wood, propane or natural gas appliances or barbeques used for food preparation. Also, recreational fire appliances such as commercially or privately manufactured firepits where the intent is to contain or control a fire are exempt. Reasonable safety precautions must be taken, including clearing of overgrown vegetation and trees in the burning area, providing a means of extinguishment, and having no other combustible material within twenty (20') feet of the location permitted for burning. The permit issued to the Permittee by the Town of Orange Fire Marshal or his designee shall be present at all times that a fire is kindled until such time that the fire is completely extinguished and all open burning shall be constantly attended by the Permittee or his/her designee, provided that said person is at least eighteen (18) years of age, capable of extinguishing the fire with the provided extinguishing source, and able to contact the Fire Department in the event of an emergency. Burning shall not take place during an advisory of threatening weather, or wind conditions that exceed ten (10 mph) miles per hour, sustained winds or gusts, when the Fire Danger Rating for the day in which a permit is issued is listed as "HIGH" or greater or when the Air Quality Rating is rated at "75" or higher by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

When using candles, place them in sturdy holders that will not tip over easily. More than half of all candle fires are caused by flammable objects being too close to the candle flame. Consider using battery operated or solar-powered flameless candles and tiki torches in place of an open flame.

For any questions or concerns about fire safety, fire prevention, or Open Burn permits please contact the Orange Fire Marshal's Office at 203-891-4711 or visit the office, Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 pm.

From the Elderly Outreach Director

BY DENISE STEIN




It's that wonderful time of the year when people are either doing or have just completed their taxes. However, I want to point out that with the knowledge of what your income is, there may be assistance programs that you can apply for and get financial help. The renter's rebate is one such program that can help the elderly or disabled. The phone number at the state to call for more questions is 860.418.6377 or locally call the assessor's office. Also,

something new this year, in response to the pandemic, DSS has changed some of the rules for the energy assistance program. There is no longer an asset test for the program so, if you qualify by income, then you can apply for help with the cost of fuel or electricity. For this latter program, please call Orange Community Services and ask for me, Denise Stein. There are other programs and if you call me, we can discuss them. Good Luck!

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### Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of April 2021



(Subject to Change, Check with Town Clerk's Office, 203-891-4730)

4/5	Zoning Board of Appeals .....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
4/6	Economic Development Comm .....	5:30 PM	Town Hall
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm .....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
	Country Fair Cmte .....	7:30 PM	HPCC
4/7	Conservation Commission.....	7:00 PM	HPCC
4/8	Elderly Housing Liaison Comm.....	12 noon	Silverbrook Estates
	Community Services Comm .....	7:00 PM	HPCC
	OGAT .....	7:30 PM	via Zoom
4/12	Traffic Authority .....	4:30 PM	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm.....	4:30 PM	Police Dept.
4/13	Inland Wetlands Comm.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall
4/14	Board of Selectmen.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
4/15	Case Memorial Library Comm .....	7:00 PM	Case Mem Library
4/19	Family Counseling .....	9:00 AM	HPCC
	Amity Board of Education .....	6:30 PM	Woodbridge
	Orange Board of Education .....	7:00 PM	Mary L. Tracy
	Board of Health .....	7:00 PM	HPCC
	Board of Finance.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
4/20	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....	7:00 PM	Town Hall
4/21	CERT .....	7:00 PM	HPCC
	Recycling Cmte .....	7:00 PM	HPCC
4/22	Water Pollution Control Authority .....	6:00 PM	Town Hall
4/23	Emergency Management.....	8:00 AM	Police Dept.
4/26	Youth Services.....	7:30 PM	HPCC
4/28	Park & Recreation Comm.....	7:30 PM	Town Hall





Orange Community Nursery School 3s class built a dinosaur mountain as part of their dinosaur learning unit.



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Email: [edit@orangenews.com](mailto:edit@orangenews.com)

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# What is the ‘Good News’?

The term “good news” is often used by Christians in reference to their faith. Good news is at the heart of Christianity, and it has both symbolic and literal meaning in reference to the New Testament.

According to the online biblical reference Bible Odyssey, “good news” is the literal translation of the Greek word “euangelion.” It also can be interchanged with gospel, which is “good spiel” or “godspel,” which means good news. New Testament authors offer that the good news means the salvation and liberation from sin and estrangement from God.

The Apostle Paul summarized the gospel, and in turn the good news, in this way:

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to

the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

Christians believe Christ’s death symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice and paved the way for Jesus’ resurrection. The death and resurrection — proving that their would be life after death for the faithful — became the core tenet of the Christian faith. Everyone who accepts the gospel and has faith in God will receive salvation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Easter celebrations are important to Christians because this holiday is the most meaningful on the liturgical calendar. Easter highlights the good news in its most potent form.



# Easter Centerpiece Ideas To Beautify The Table

Easter is a springtime holiday that marks a prime opportunity to cast off the remnants of winter weather and dress a home in bright, colorful hues.

Come Easter, tulips and daffodils may be sprouting, lilies are on display in churches and many other spring touches are incorporated into home decor. Celebrants who will be hosting their families or more intimate Easter gatherings can extend the eye-catching improvements to the dining table. Easter centerpieces are a prime way to add color and ambiance to interior designs.

Here’s a look at various ways to decorate the table for Easter celebrations.

**Carrot-filled container:** Embrace an Easter bunny theme by hanging a bundle of carrots inside a glass vase or bowl and topping with orange, yellow and other spring-themed flowers and greenery.

**Pussy willow basket:** Weave pussy willow stems into a basket shape or braid them together to make a ring. Then fill with colored Easter eggs or flower petals.

**Nested flowers:** Purchase a wooden or wicker basket and weave or glue small twigs onto it. This will give it the look of a natural bird’s nest, which is one of the markers of the spring season. The nest can cradle spring blooms, such as tulips, or hold Easter eggs.

**Easter bunny garden:** Fill a shallow ceramic bowl with floral design moss or another green filler. Place a

gold-foil chocolate bunny or a ceramic rabbit in the center and put small tea-light candles and a small glass canister of pastel-colored candy eggs to complete the picture.

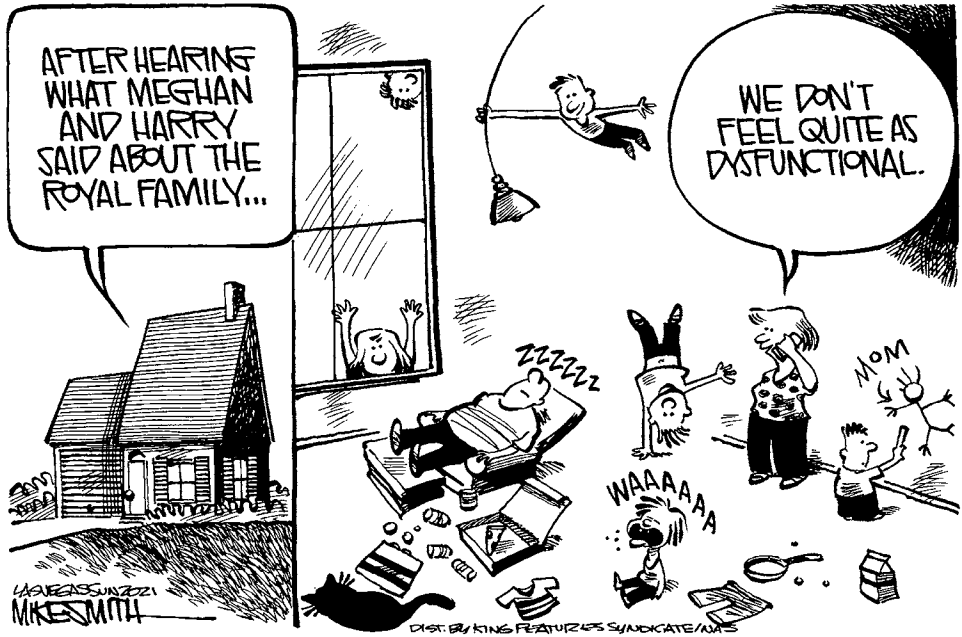
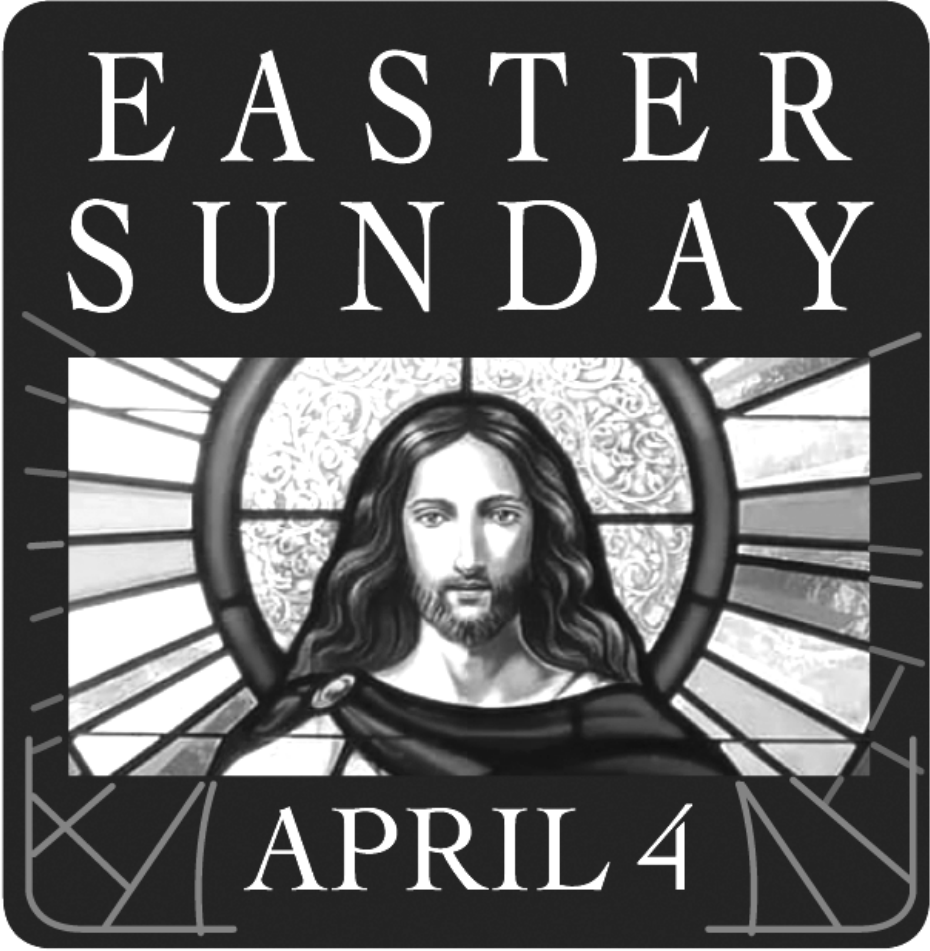
**Take a ‘peep’:** Marshmallow Peeps® are an Easter staple and they can have a place outside of Easter baskets. Line a small vase with Peeps. Place cut flowers inside for a festive centerpiece.

**Rainy day decor:** April showers bring May flowers. Put that sentiment on display by purchasing an inexpensive pair of brightly colored rubber rain boots. Place cut fresh tulips into narrow glass vases and then slip the vases inside of the boots for a festive and funny table conversation piece.

**Floating flowers:** Poke the stem of a flower into a square of bubble wrap. Place into a small fishbowl filled with water and watch the flowers float on top. Tint the water a pastel hue if desired.

**Painted pinecone bouquet:** If you have pine cones left over from Christmas decorations or a pile that the kids may have collected from the yard, paint them in bright colors for an Easter makeover. Place in the container of your choice and add some faux or real greenery to complete the bouquet picture.

Dining tables can be incorporated into Easter decor. There are many different creative options for crafting centerpieces guests will adore.







# Make Your Own Chocolate Easter Bunnies

The Easter bunny is a tradition that has been passed down for centuries. Symbolizing fertility and wealth, the Easter bunny became a holiday standard in Germany during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The custom of chocolate eggs came along centuries after the Easter bunny, originating in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in France and Germany. As Easter celebrations evolved, chocolate eggs were not the only delicacy; chocolate Easter bunnies also were shared and enjoyed.

While there are scores of mass-produced chocolate bunnies available for purchase, and many local chocolatiers also make Easter bunnies and other sweet treats, families may want to try making their own chocolate Easter bunnies this year. This can be a family-friendly activity that favors togetherness with the promise of a sweet reward.

1. The first step to creating chocolate Easter bunnies is to select the type of chocolate you prefer. Bunnies can be made from white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or even a combination for a marbled effect. Chocolate melts, chips or chocolate couverture are widely available at specialty chocolate and food shops or craft supply stores, according to DoItYourself.com. This simplifies the bunny-making process. Some retailers also may sell bunny-making kits that pair the chocolate melts with the mold in one box for ultimate convenience.

2. Craft stores also have aisles devoted to culinary crafts. Browse to find an Easter bunny mold. Some may sell solid chocolate bunnies or hollow varieties. Choose molds in the desired size, as bunny molds may be large or small.

3. Follow directions to melt chocolate successfully. Some chocolates can be slowly melted in the microwave. A double-boiler method, in which the chocolate is melted in a bowl placed above a pan with boiling water, can help the chocolate melt consistently and prevent it from burning.

4. Pour the chocolate into the mold and gently tap the mold so that it displaces air bubbles and helps the chocolate settle evenly into the design. Allow the chocolate to set up in the refrigerator. If your mold is hollow, you can seal the two halves of the bunny with a little melted chocolate on the seam.

Creativity can be unleashed when making homemade chocolate bunnies. Experiment with adding a few drops of peppermint oil or orange liqueur to customize the flavor. Before sealing hollow bunnies, place peanut butter or raspberry jam inside for a tasty surprise. Use colored candy melts to add colorful eyes or cheeks or to tint the inside of the bunny ears.

For an even more festive effect, seal a lollipop stick in a chocolate bunny and use it to secure the Easter bunny to the top of a cake.

# Holy Week Celebrates The Origins Of The Eucharist

The Eucharist is a central component of the Christian faith. During the Eucharistic celebration, the sharing of bread and wine, which many Christians believe symbolizes the actual body and blood of Christ after the process of transubstantiation, takes place.

The Easter season is a key time to reflect on the origins of sharing communion and the Eucharist. Church teaching and Biblical study says the origin of the Eucharist occurred at the Last Supper of Jesus, which is commemorated on Holy Thursday. According to the religious resource The Catholic Tradition, the Last Supper in the New Testament set the course for the tenets of the Christian faith. Christian liturgies exist because Jesus Christ told people to do what he had done, in memory of him.

The most detailed account of the first sharing of the Eucharist is found in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, which predates the Gospels. St. Paul 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, offers nearly verbatim the terminology used in today's Apostolic liturgy. St. Paul's words read:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, broke, and said: Take ye, and eat: This is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me.

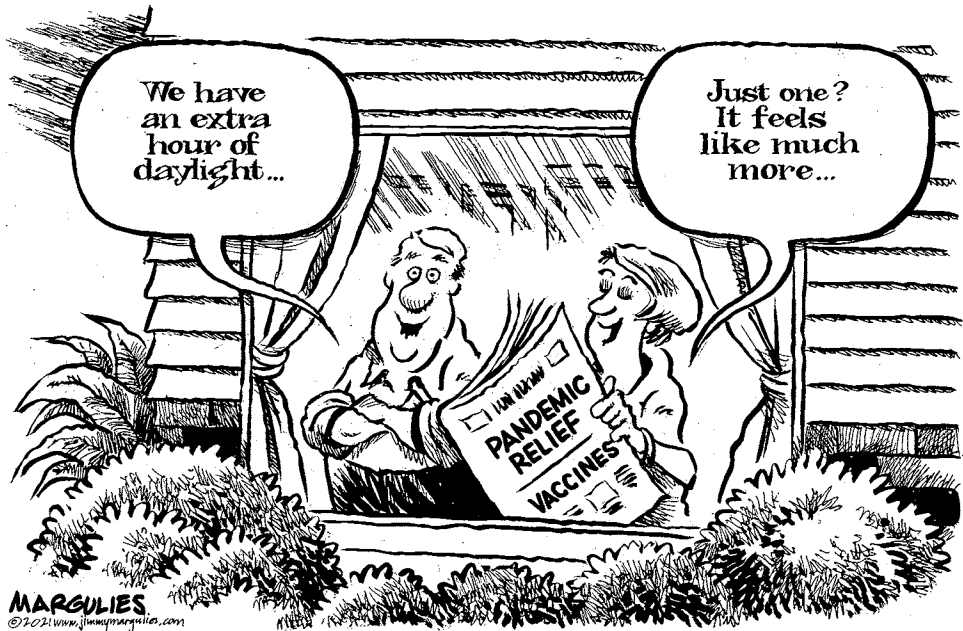
In like manner also the chalice, after He had supped, saying: This chalice is the new testament in My Blood: this do ye, as often as you shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as you shall eat this Bread, and drink the Chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.

Jesus and his disciples gathered on the first day of Passover for the Last Supper. In addition to sharing food and wine, Jesus explained that one in their midst would betray Him and another would deny knowing Him.

Jesus also explained to the disciples how the bread was a symbol of his body and would be broken for them. In addition, the wine was a symbol for his blood and would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven, indicates Bible Study Tools. Additional Christian traditions which emerged during the Last Supper include the washing of feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example to be servants to all.

From the Last Supper on, faithful Christians follow the guidance of Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist is the central component of masses within many Christian churches. Keeping this feast renews repentance and people's faith in Jesus' blood and sacrifice.

Easter is an opportunity to dive deeper into the Christian faith and the meanings behind the tenets of Christianity.



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

### Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm\*\*

### Outdoor Services (weather permitting)

- › Saturdays 9:30 am
- › Sundays 9:00 am\*\*
- › Mondays 5:45 pm\*\*

\*\* also available via Zoom, like all weekday services

In the weeks ahead, BEKI hopes to offer in-person services on more weekdays. For updates, email bekitefilla@gmail.com.

### Children's Services

Children's outdoor services are held on Saturday mornings, weather permitting. To receive the weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

### Passover Services

- › Friday, April 2 Yizkor memorial prayers in the sanctuary and Zoom, 9:30am, following 8:45 am morning service.
- › Saturday, April 3 outside (weather permitting) 9:30 am.
- › Sunday, April 4 outside (weather permitting) 9:30 am. Also including Yizkor memorial prayers.

### Kadima Youth Group Events

BEKI Kadima, the youth group for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders, will go to the Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport on Sunday, April 11. RSVP to anormanschiff@beki.org.

The Kadima Book Club will discuss *The Way Back* by Gavriel Savit, a fantastical story of demons and adventure, inspired by Jewish folklore, on Sunday, April 25.

### Yom HaShoah Book Talk

On Wednesday, April 7 at 8:00 pm, John. W. Weiser will speak about his book, *A Thousand Kisses: A Family's Escape from the Nazis to a New Life*, based on the letters his parents wrote when they were in Vienna

and Hungary, trying to escape from Europe. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

### Yom HaAtzmaut Gala

BEKI will join congregations across the U.S. on Wednesday, April 14 at



8:00 pm for a celebration of Israel Independence Day. The online program will include music, dancing, and interviews. American singer songwriter Craig Taubman, whose extensive musical catalog consists of over 50 recordings, will perform, as will Israeli singer Dganit Daddo. To request the link, email office@beki.org.



### Earth Day Program

Rabbi Ellen Bernstein will speak Wednesday, April 21 at 8:00 pm on



Judaism and Ecology. Known as "the birth mother of the Jewish environmental movement," Rabbi Bernstein in 1988 founded Shomrei Adamah, Keepers of the Earth, the first national Jewish environmental organization. The author of several books, she most recently published an ecologically oriented Passover haggadah called *The Promise of the Land*, which is available at the BEKI Gift Shop. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

### Lag BaOmer Kumsitz

Thursday evening April 29 is Lag BaOmer, the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer. The folk-custom is to sing around a campfire at a "kumsitz," meaning "come" and "sit." The kumsitz will start at 7 pm in the BEKI courtyard with nigunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and Hebrew songs. Please bring your own folding chair. Song sheets will be provided. Details at beki.org.

Located at 85 Harrison Street (corner of Whalley Avenue - Route 63 - in Westville)

## The First Church of Christ Woodbridge

The First Church of Christ is overjoyed to announce that the doors to the Meetinghouse will be opened!

The FCCW Music Committee has put together a "Special Musical Easter Service", featuring pianists, vocalists, and violinists from our parish and community. Come to hear your favorite Easter hymns!

Our celebration will conclude outdoors as we join to sing "Christ The Lord Has Risen Today". All our welcome to join us for our first official, in-person service.

### Easter Worship Service

Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

inside the Meetinghouse!

PLEASE NOTE: Windows and doors will be open so wear warm coats. MASKS ARE MANDATORY. People will be asked to sit socially distanced.

\*If you are unable to attend the service in the Sanctuary, you are welcome to request a Zoom invitation to be emailed to you on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*\*You can also view our Easter Sunday Service live streamed from our website at [www.uccw.org](http://www.uccw.org).

**Future Sunday Services** will continue to run via Zoom for an indeterminate amount of time. For an invite to our Zoom Meetings, please email the office or log on to our website and add your name to our church email list. We invite all people in the community to join us.

**Live Stream Services** can be viewed on our website every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. A video recording of the live stream is featured for the entire week following the service.

To view previous Sunday Services, visit us on YouTube using the link provided on all pages of our website. (Links, contact info, and a schedule of upcoming Services are listed at the bottom of this article.)

\*If you would like assistance in gaining access to Sunday Service, please call us by Friday morning, at 203-389-2119, or email us at office@uccw.org.

**Plans for our Church School and Youth Program** are underway for the spring season. Now is the perfect time



The First Church of Christ

to inquire about what our Christian Education department can do for your families. Please contact JoAnna Rubino at [growfirstchurch@gmail.com](mailto:growfirstchurch@gmail.com) or visit the Sunday School page of our website for more information.

**The Church Office** is open by appointment only, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Please call or email to schedule a visit.

Weekly Bible Study sessions are now being held in-person at the Parish House. Join us for meetings each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**Boy Scout Troop #907** continues to meet weekly at 7:00 p.m. New members are invited to attend. For information, visit their website at [www.troop907.org](http://www.troop907.org).

For more information regarding First Church activities and/or events, please contact us. We are eager to hear from you!

Phone: 203-389-2119

Email us at [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org)

Website: [www.uccw.org](http://www.uccw.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ucwoodbridge](https://www.facebook.com/ucwoodbridge)

### FCCW Sunday Service Schedule

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunday, a special musical service celebration (in-person)

**April 11<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Anya Powers

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Karl Duetzmann, from the Devon UCC Church (in-person)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Anya Powers

Please Note: For any and all meetings and events being attended at First Church a facemask must be worn upon entering the building(s) and all Covid-19 safely protocols and standards followed.



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



## Explaining Holy Week

Easter is a significant holiday for Christians across the globe. Though Easter Sunday is when faithful Christians gather to celebrate their faith, the week preceding Easter Sunday is full of significant events as well.

Known as Holy Week, the week preceding Easter begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Holy Saturday, the day preceding Easter Sunday. Holy Week commemorates different events that unfolded over the final days of Jesus Christ's life.

**Palm Sunday:** According to Catholic Online, Palm Sunday celebrates the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. On the day of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, residents laid palms before him, which is why palms are distributed to the Christian faithful each year during Palm Sunday Mass. Palms are blessed at Mass, and many Christians turn their palms into crosses upon arriving home. The palms are eventually returned to the church, where they are burned, and the ashes of the palms are then used during the following year's Ash Wednesday services.

**Holy Thursday:** Holy Thursday

commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with his disciples. In the story of Jesus Christ, the night of the Last Supper was the same night that Jesus was betrayed by his disciple, Judas.

**Good Friday:** Good Friday commemorates the trial, punishment and crucifixion of Christ. Though the official presiding over the trial of Jesus, Pontius Pilate, found no evidence of Jesus's guilt in relation to the charges filed against him, he ultimately agreed to Christ's crucifixion anyway in an effort to appease the crowd and avoid a riot. As a result, Christ was stripped, flogged and crowned with thorns before being made to carry his cross through the streets to the place where he was ultimately crucified. On Good Friday, the tabernacle inside Catholic churches is left empty to symbolize that Christ is departed.

**Holy Saturday:** The final day of Holy Week, Holy Saturday is a day to remember that Christ descended into hell, where he preached the gospel and opened the way to heaven for all those who were worthy.

## B’Nai Jacob Events

### Happening This Shabbat Friday

- › 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat - on zoom and live stream

### Saturday

- › 9:00 AM Bread and Torah
- › 10:00 AM Shabbat service - on zoom and live stream



### PASSOVER Shabbat and conclusion of Passover

- › Friday, April 2, 6:00pm Service
- › Saturday, April 3, 9:30am Service, 6:00pm Service
- › Sunday, April 4, 9:30am Service 11:00am Yizkor (no early minyan)

### Upcoming Events CBJ Book Club Discussion

Sunday, April 11, 11:00 am on Zoom

**Invisible Years: A Family's Collected Account of Separation and Survival during the Holocaust in the Netherlands; Presented by author Daphne Geismar and co-presenter Sharon Strauss**

The book, *Invisible Years*, is an intimate portrait of an extended Jewish family living in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands who, when faced with imminent deportation, refused to comply. As the Nazis tightened their grip on the Jewish population, Daphne Geismar's family was slowly restricted from public life. Sensing the murderous consequences of deportation, they decided to separate and go into hiding. Through interwoven letters, diaries, and interviews, Geismar presents the story of nine family members—her parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles—in their own words, alongside a trove of photographs and artifacts. This family's detailed account of one of history's most horrific chapters challenges us to follow their example of resistance to inhumanity.

Sharon Strauss works as an embryologist in an IVF unit. She makes babies every day. Sharon worked as a neurosurgical nurse and as a genetic researcher. She served as a commander of the electronic intelligent course in the IDF Intelligence Corps.

Daphne Geismar designs books on art and history for major museums. Her involvement in publications that use art and literature to educate

began with her thesis at Yale on DIRECTION magazine (1937–1945), in which artists and writers speak out against fascism. Geismar developed a photography and writing program for teenage mothers; and teaches design at universities.

### Ladino Culture from Yesterday to Today: A Musical Journey

Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 10am on Zoom

**Sarah Aroeste**

International performer, Sarah Aroeste, will lead us on this journey of history, visual storytelling, and song. She will demonstrate the evolution of Ladino music over the centuries as Jews migrated East-in terms of content, melody, and rhythm. It is an interactive experience for the audience—watching, listening, even singing along.

### Cantor's Corner

Our very own Cantor Barbara is in the Cantors Assembly's Spring 2021 edition of their Sacred Sounds newsletter.

Thank you to all who contributed coats to Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. CBJ's winter coat drive was a huge success! We collected over 150 coats and 45 winter gear items, and donated them to DESK for distribution to homeless clients. We greatly appreciate your support.

We are pleased to be partnering with the JCC to promote its annual Beckerman Jewish Film Series, which is going virtual this year. Five diverse categories of films will be streamed for you to watch from home, followed by zoom discussions for each category. The series will run through May and there is something for everyone. Tickets may be purchased per movie, category, or the whole series.

The current category is Family & Relationships, streaming the film *In Search of Israeli Cuisine* the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>. The next category is Activism, streaming the film *Fig Tree* the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ZOOM SCHEDULE of weekly services and classes:

- › Morning Minyan at 7:45am (Monday-Friday), 9:00am (Sunday)
- › Evening Minyan at 6:00pm (Sunday-Thursday)
- › Shabbat Shmooze at 6:00pm Friday
- › Kaballat Shabbat at 6:30pm Friday
- › Bread & Torah at 9:00am Saturday
- › Shabbat Morning at 10:00am Saturday

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DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

A Starter Guide to Selling Your House

PRESENTED BY ROBERTA L. NESTOR

From the moment you decide to sell to the day you hand over the keys, selling a home is often unpredictable and time consuming. By being as prepared as possible, you can keep the process moving and achieve the optimal price in the current market.

**1) Decide when to sell.** In a perfect world, you will want to try to sell your house at the ideal time. Typically, homes sell quicker and at higher prices when the real estate market favors sellers (i.e., when homebuyers are plentiful, and homes are scarce). When you put your home on the market can also make a difference. Sales usually heat up in late winter and early spring because many homebuyers prefer to move in the spring and summer.

**2) Declutter and spruce up.** Take time to get your home in top condition before trying to sell it—but don't get carried away. You will want to hold off on any major home improvements (e.g., renovating the kitchen) because you probably won't be able to recoup the money and prospective buyers might not share your taste. Focus instead on minor, cosmetic improvements, such as applying a fresh coat of paint, trimming back overgrowth in your landscape, and repairing issues that wouldn't pass inspection, such as fixing a leaky kitchen faucet or replacing loose bathroom tiles. Also, undertake a thorough cleaning—you may want to hire a professional cleaning service to do it for you.

**3) Weigh the pros and cons of using a real estate broker versus selling yourself.** Most people hire a real estate broker to help them sell their home, which can be particularly helpful if you don't have the time or expertise to correctly price your home, market it, and bring in potential buyers. More important, a broker will focus on buyers who have prequalified for a mortgage, which can save time and money.

This expertise does come at a price—6 percent of a home's sale amount, on average. If you decide to hire a broker to help you sell your home, here are suggestions on how to find one:

- Ask friends and relatives who have recently sold homes for recommendations.
- Ask other types of real estate professionals (e.g., lawyers and mortgage brokers) for the names of brokers they recommend.

Although doing it yourself (commonly referred to as a FSBO, or "for sale by owner") saves on broker's fees and commissions, it requires more legwork. You will need to advertise that

your home is for sale (e.g., lawn signs and online listings), show it to prospective buyers (e.g., hold an open house and make appointments for showings), and deal with the buyer during negotiations. You will also need to supply the necessary forms and/or contracts (though you can hire a real estate attorney to draw these up).

**4) Do your research before pricing your home.** Setting the right price matters; it shouldn't be so high that your house won't sell or so low that you'll miss out on profit. A real estate broker can help determine the right price. To have confidence in the price attached to your listing, research the sale prices of comparable homes in your area by visiting popular home search sites. You may even want to hire a professional appraiser to help determine your asking price.

**5) Prepare to negotiate.** If you hire a broker, all offers and counteroffers are presented through your agent, so you'll probably avoid face-to-face negotiations with potential buyers. If you're selling your home on your own, you'll be in charge of negotiating. Be flexible as you review offers, but don't jump to accept the first offer you get—especially if it's below your asking price.

**6) Factor in your financial situation before signing anything.** Accommodations can be made if you're buying another home and need to come up with a down payment before receiving the proceeds from the sale of your current home. Ask your lender about a bridge loan, which is a short-term mortgage that is paid off once the sale of your home is complete. If necessary, include a closing-on-sale contingency clause in your contract, which allows you to delay the closing on your new home for a certain period of time while you find a buyer for your current home. If you can't find a buyer within the allotted time frame, the purchase contract is canceled, and any deposits are returned to you (unless you and the seller agree to extend the agreement).

In addition, be sure to consider the tax implications of selling your home. Most sellers can exclude from taxation some or all of the capital gains they realize (up to \$250,000 for single filers and up to \$500,000 for married couples filing jointly) upon selling their primary residence. See IRS Publication 523, Selling Your Home for details.

Finalizing the Deal

After agreeing to terms with the buyer and deciding how to handle the proceeds, closing is the final step. Your

See "Dollars & Sense" On Page 21

DEATH NOTICES

Shirley G. Brinley

Shirley Graham Brinley, 95, of Orange, passed away on March 14, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia. She was a past PTA President at High Plains School in Orange. She coached numerous sports teams and actively supported the town Park and Recreation Department while her husband was Orange's Park and Recreation Director.

Shirley was born in New Haven to parents G. Harris Graham and Olive Plante Graham on January 17, 1926. She was married to Robert D. Brinley on July 31, 1948 in New Haven. Shirley was a 1943 graduate of Hamden H.S. in Hamden, CT. She was employed by Schick/Warner Lambert Co. for many years as an administrative assistant. Shirley continued to be active in sports and could be found golfing at Orange Hills CC into her 80s. She loved to bowl and was an avid fan of the UCONN girls' basketball team. She was also a longtime member of the Orange Congregational Church. She was preceded

in death by her husband Robert Brinley, father G. Harris Graham, mother Olive Plante Graham, stepmother Helen Thomson Graham, and brother Gordon Graham. Shirley is survived by sons Robert D. Brinley Jr. of Atlanta, GA, David G. Brinley, Hamden, Robert's significant other Lena Baron, David's wife Jennifer Brinley, sister Jean Tate and husband Jim Tate of Satellite Beach, FL, nephew Scott Tate of Houston, TX, niece Diana Tate Arrington of Fort Meyers, FL and niece Susan Graham Lunsford of Federal Way, WA.

A private service took place in Milford, with Rev. Joseph Miller, father of Jennifer Brinley, officiating. Burial was at Orange Center Cemetery. Arrangements are by HM Patterson in Atlanta and The Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home in Milford. In lieu of flowers, please donate to The Animal Haven in North Haven, CT; the Connecticut Humane Society; or the American Heart Association. To share a memory, visit [www.gregoryfdoylefuneralhome.com](http://www.gregoryfdoylefuneralhome.com).

Orange Town News

DEATH NOTICES

The Orange Town News will publish Death Notices for Orange families free of charge as a service to our readers. Family members please email notice (limit 250 words, please) to: [edit@orangetownnews.com](mailto:edit@orangetownnews.com)

Orange Town News

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“Dollars & Sense” From Page 20

main responsibility will be to make sure that any agreed-upon repairs have been made and that the buyer is getting clear title to the home. Make sure that all of the paperwork is in order—your attorney, who should attend the closing with you, can handle this for you. Then, it is time to celebrate a done deal!

This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate

and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer. Adapted with permission from Broadridge Advisor Solutions.

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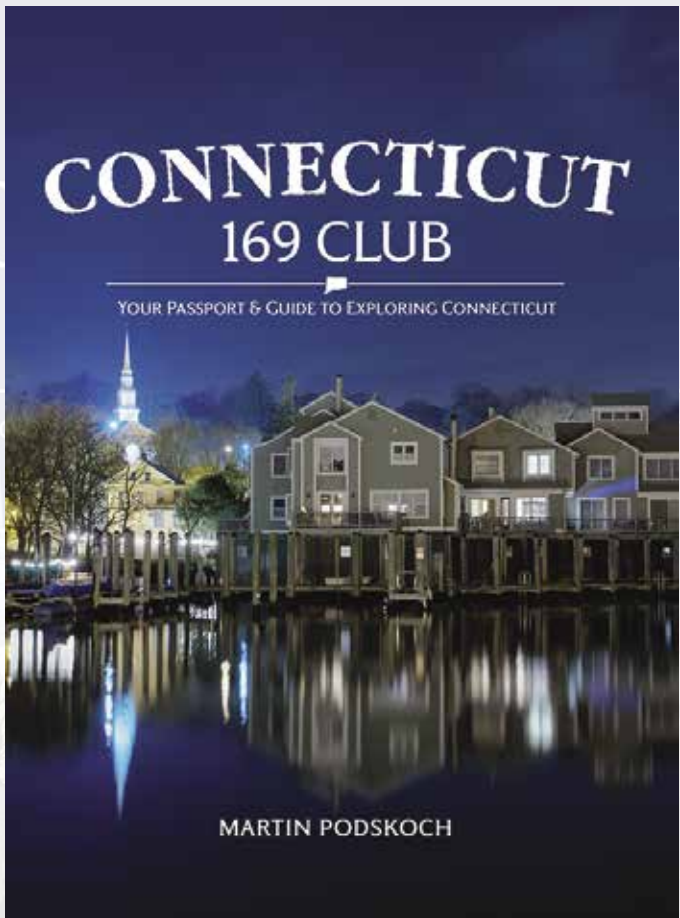
“Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.”  
— JANINE DI GIOVANNI

Americanisms



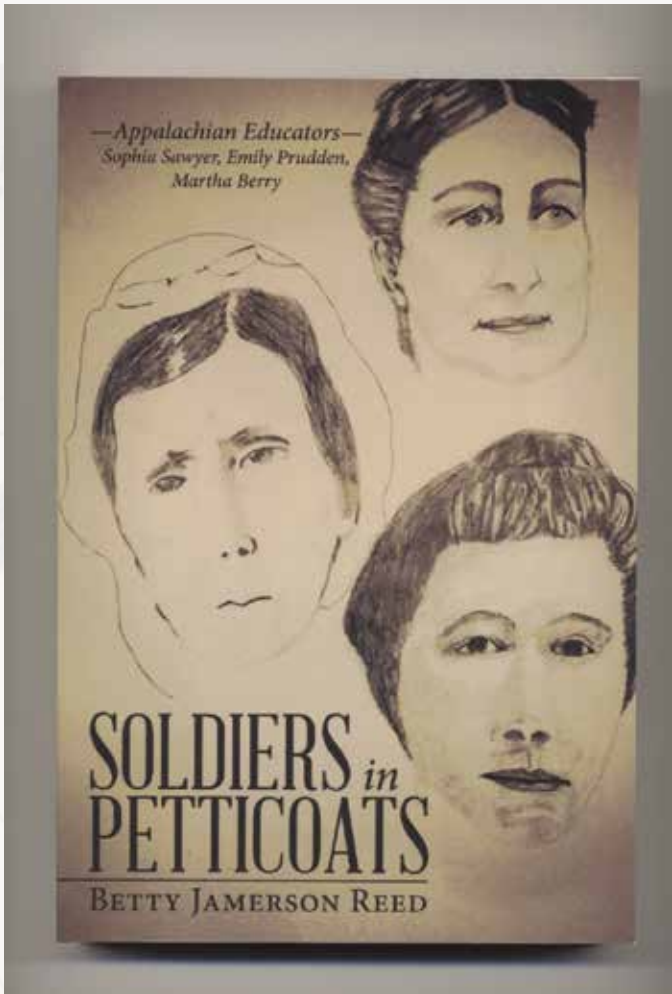
“It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.”  
— Judith Martin



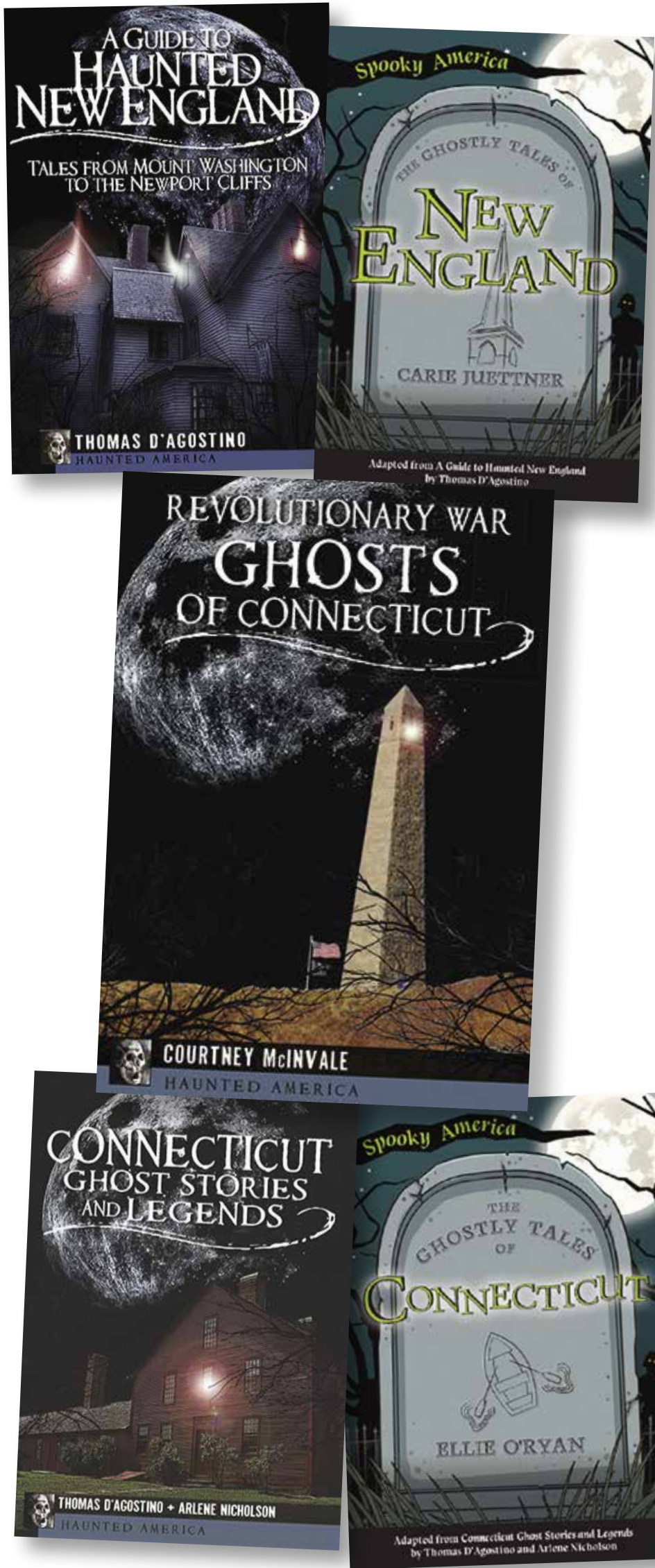


The 169 Club book is available at the Academy Museum at 605 Orange Center Road on Saturdays from 10-3.

Ask the author of the Orange page to sign it for you.



This is a book about 3 courageous women in the Appalachian Mountains, one of whom is our own Emily Prudden. Each woman, in their own way, paved the path to education, overcoming obstacles against teaching southern, poor children in the 19th century while defying the odds against women leaders in the south. Available at the Academy.



# They're Here...

## GHOSTLY TALES OF CT & NEW ENGLAND

Tales of mysteries and legends of colonial times will greet you as you read about Connecticut's haunted history. Once called the Nutmeg state, Connecticut's mysterious legends come to life even though the main players are dead. If the Connecticut book isn't enough to scare you, be sure to read the ghostly Tales of New England. So, dive into these chapter books but be

sure to leave a light on... The Orange Historical Society has these books for sale at \$12.99 at its antique shop in the Academy Building at 605 Orange Center Road. The shop's hours are: Saturdays, 10am-3pm. For information, call 203-795-3106, visit our website: [www.orangehistory.org](http://www.orangehistory.org) or email us at [orangehistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:orangehistorical@yahoo.com).



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# HISTORY CORNER



BY GINNY REINHARD

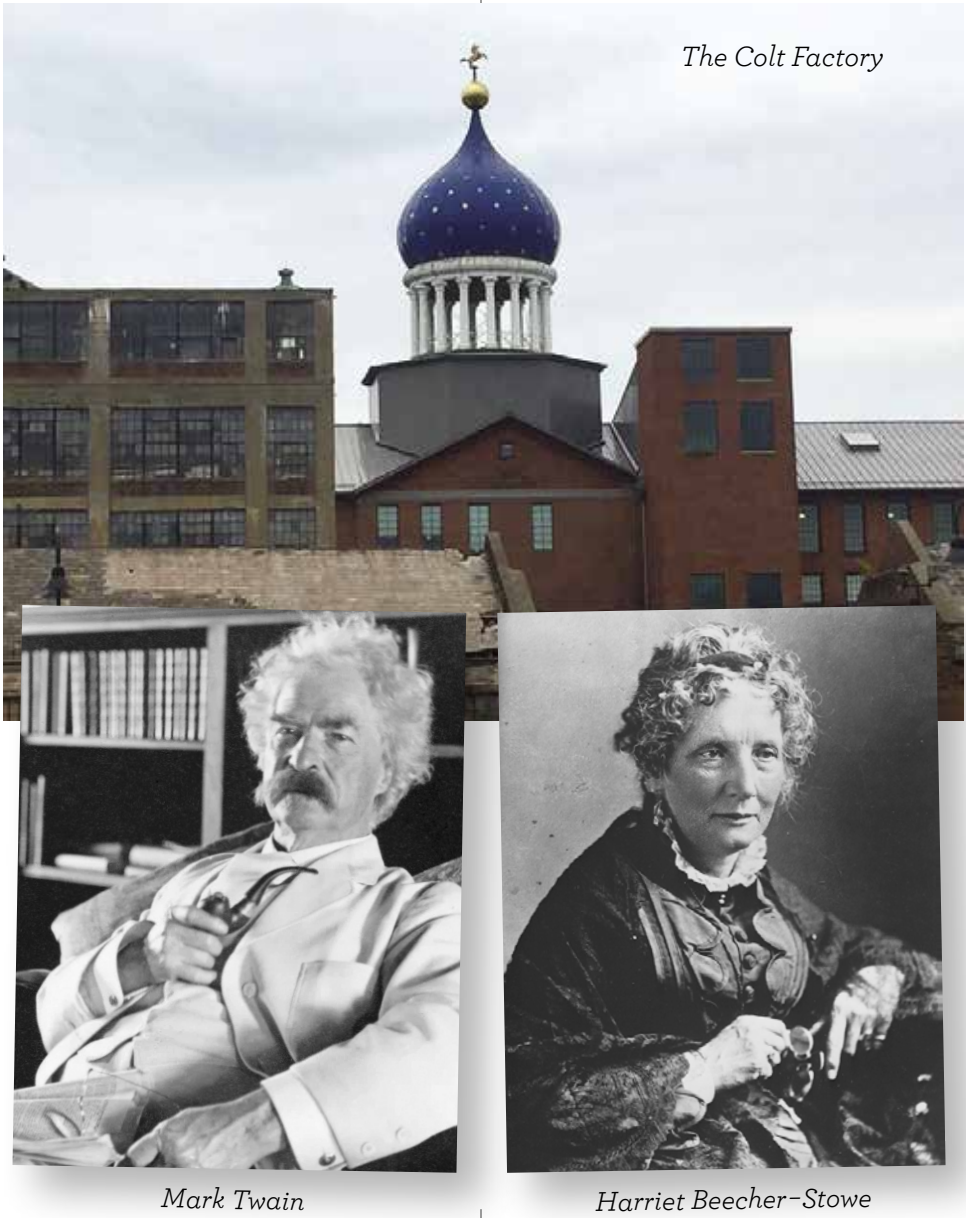
## Did You Miss the Bus?...

If you missed my last story, you will have to read it on line through The Orange Town News. We took the bus to Hartford but that county is huge and has lots to see so we on our way again. Sit back and enjoy the ride. You may remember from 5<sup>th</sup> grade that you learned about the Massachusetts Bay Colony, right? That was the beginnings of colonization in the “new world.” Enfield, our first stop, seems to have been in Massachusetts in 1642 due to a surveyor’s error. Its first European settlers had arrived in 1679 from Salem, Massachusetts and in incorporating the town found that they were part of the Bay Colony! Oops. A 1695 survey corrected the problem but it wasn’t until 1750 that they actually seceded from Massachusetts.

Some of you may have heard of Mother Ann Lee, the leader of the Shaking Quakers. With 3 visits to Enfield, she was able to form the Enfield Shaker Community growing to 250 members which encompassed 3000 acres. This little town attracted another religious leader, Jonathan Edwards of Northampton, Massachusetts whose religious revival known as the Great Awakening presented one of the most intense fire and brimstone sermons of all time, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.

As with other Connecticut towns, Enfield’s 60 square miles began with farming and turned to factories, using the brooks and rivers providing power for industry. The first carpet mill was established in 1828 expanding Thompsonville with thousands of workers by the early 1900s. Since the gunpower industry surged in Enfield’s history you might think that the village of Hazardville got its name from the use of this powerful explosive but you would be mistaken. Allen Loomis built his mill in 1837 with Colonel Augustus Hazard joining the operation, the driving force behind that industry naming the town after him.

I mentioned the Farmington Canal in several of my stories and Farmington indeed is the town to have lent its name to this famous Connecticut waterway. The year was 1640 when the English settled along the river and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Industrial Revolution led to the Construction of the Farmington Canal. Opening in 1828, goods from the interior of Connecticut were sent to New Haven’s harbor but not being commercially a success, it closed in 1848. At a drop in the river in Unionville, a nuts and bolt factory opened, several paper mills and shops manufacturing hardware, cutlery, muskets, hooks and eyes and flutes. Flutes? How incongruous. Lambert Hitchcock, known for quality furniture opened his



shop there as well.

Farmington was a strong abolitionist town and in 1841 became involved in the Amistad case when the rebellious Mendi blacks, freed by the Supreme Court lived there for nine months. That became a sensational event in New Haven but that story is for another time. This town of over 6000 saw the founding of Sarah Porter’s Farmington Female Seminary, a serious academic school in 1843. Farmington can boast the saving of its historical homes with 14 from the 1600s, and 51 from the 1700s. History abounds in Farmington.

So now we go into Hartford, a city with its share of history. There are at least 4 books about Hartford available from the Arcadia Publishing Co. with many titles available at Barnes & Noble stores. Hartford was settled by the Dutch in 1633 at the confluence of Little River, (now underground) and the Long River. Any guess to its name? Yup, the Connecticut River. In 1635, Thomas Hooker established residence there bringing in English settlers who built public buildings and divided the land into farms and roadways. After a series of land incidents, the Dutch were ushered out of scene one and enter scene two with the English.

The well-known “Fundamental Orders” of 1638-1639 helped to gain importance for Hartford with its lead

in creating “The Foundation of Authority” citing the “free consent of the people.” It is considered to be the first written constitution marking the beginning of American Democracy. We are known as the Constitution State seen on automotive license plates. Just an aside.... our vehicle license plates used to say “Nutmeg State” but that too is another story.

After 1638, Hartford grew, emerging as the center of manufacturing, finance, trade and politics. A list of notables includes Samuel and Elizabeth Colt, Francis Pratt and A m o s Whitney, Katherine Hepburn, and J.P. Morgan, once America’s richest and most ruthless man in industry. Since we are on a “tour” bus, let me list some of the sights you will see as we travel through the city. Keep a sharp eye for the ancient burying ground on Gold Street, the oldest historic site and the only one surviving from the 1600s. As we pass Capitol Street you will see the famous Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. Along the river, look for the bright, blue dome atop the Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company which was erected after the Colts travels through Europe and Russia.

The dome, with its shining stars,

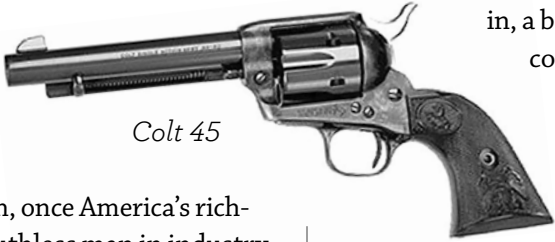
was a significant addition to the factory as Mr. Colt was a business man and knew it would be a sure way to advertise his business. As folks whiz by on I-91, they may not notice that atop the gold globe is a colt rearing back, the symbol of Colt’s firearms. Two years after Mr. Colt passed away, the factory burned to the ground with the colt and ball tumbling with it. The colt has been replaced by one made of fiberglass with the original in the Museum of Connecticut History and the entire domed structure has been restored.

Coltsville, once owned by the Colt family included the factory, worker housing, Church of the Good Shepherd, Colt Park and Potsdam Village built for the Willow Furniture makers. Continuing to Columbus Blvd., we reach the Connecticut Convention Center and onto Elizabeth Street to the Connecticut Historical Society Museum, one of the oldest historical societies in the country, established in 1825. We’ll stop at the Science Center with its 9 stories of interactive exhibits but you’ll have to plan a day trip to this site another day.

One cannot bypass two of America’s famous authors, Harriet Beecher Stowe, who penned the controversial Uncle Tom’s Cabin and Mark Twain with his unabashed opinions of non-conventional thought and refusal to acquiesce to conventional writing. Phew, he was some character. His museum contains a permanent collection on his life and work. His birth name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens but in his travels as a young man, he was introduced to a riverboat term. Mark twain means to watch for the 2<sup>nd</sup> mark on a line that measures the depth of the water signifying 12 feet which was the safe depth for riverboats. Harriet Beecher Stowe made her own “waves” as an ardent abolitionist writing Uncle Tom’s Cabin, a book about the harsh conditions of African Americans. Through her own observations while living in Ohio and Kentucky, Stowe wrote with passion and the book was an immediate success in the North but vehemently denounced in the South. Some say it was one piece of the puzzle that lead to the Civil War. Her home is located adjacent to Mark Twain’s home, he on Farmington Ave. and she on Forest Street.

Once again, you have reached your destination. You may get out now but I am not going to help carry your bags. From now on, you’re on your own. \*

\*John Cleese Tom Tom GPS





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