

# Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free To Every Home & Business in Orange

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CIRCULATION 6009

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020



## Orange Adapts to Coronavirus Guidelines

BY LAURA FANTARELLA  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Town Hall is open for business as usual, but the place is unusually quiet. As residents heed government warnings to stay at home to help slow the spread of the coronavirus, town departments and facilities are adjusting to a new, and decidedly slower paced normal.

"There's not much going on," First Selectman Jim Zeoli reported. "Phones aren't ringing, no one is coming in – people are really paying attention to the state's guidelines."

All town departments remain open and staff is reporting for work, but all town boards and commission meetings have been suspended and Case Memorial Library is closed. Several offices that have amped up activity are the Health Department and Community Services which are fielding more emails and calls from residents con-

cerned about coronavirus. "Despite limited staffing in community services, our elderly services and outreach department is doing an excellent job of reaching out to our seniors that need help," Zeoli said. "They continue to meet the needs of any residents that need assistance with transportation or access to food and/or medications."

One pressing issue is the town's budget which is typically being developed at this time of year and put to vote by May. "That's most likely going to be postponed," Zeoli said. Instead of the budget being voted upon at a town meeting, it will probably be approved by the town's selectmen and finance boards. Zeoli isn't sure yet whether residents' tax payments will be put off. "We can't have any discussion about tax bills until the budget is done," he said.

Orange is faring better than many

See "Coronavirus" On Page 15



## Orange Schools Take Unprecedented Measures

BY MELISSA NICEFARO  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Schools in Orange may be closed as a result of the COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic, but that doesn't mean learning has stopped. With no clear plan in place for an abrupt and indefinite closure, administrators and educators were left to come up with a strategy – and fast.

If it weren't challenging enough for one district to make decisions and put a plan into place for distance learning, the effort involved four districts. Superintendent of Orange Schools Vince Scarpetti is no stranger to collaboration, as the leaders from the BOWA schools work together on a regular basis. When preparing for the implications of this pandemic, the frequency of their meetings increased and they relied on input from their district leadership team, state and local officials and the town health director/

consultants.

"Our primary concern was and has always been the safety and health of all our students, families and staff. Once we make a decision that requires a unified decision such as this one, we work together to draft up a BOWA communication which is then shared at the district levels to all stakeholders," Scarpetti says.

Remote learning experiences need to be quickly designed to accommodate specific phases and stages. "This plan is designed to provide an intentional gradual transition into this process. I want to stress the word gradual due to these unprecedented times. This is important to keep in mind as each family has unique situations" he says, adding, "There are different student learning needs, challenges for families working from home, and different lev-

See "Schools" On Page 11



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# Orange Fire Department Swears In 2020 Officers, Decorates Firefighters

*NEW FIRE MARSHAL AMONG THOSE SWORN IN AS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE DISCUSSED*

With friends, families and officials from area departments looking on, officers of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department were sworn in Tuesday night by First Selectman James Zeoli. The department's annual dinner, attended by about 180 firefighters, families and representatives of other departments, kicked off a year-long celebration of the department's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to celebrating new officers and future goals, guests

remembered three people important to the Orange Volunteer Fire Department who died during 2019. Zeoli also administered the oath of office to the town's new fire marshal, James Vincent. Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas recognized three firefighters for outstanding service and Auxiliary President Jillian Gagel acknowledged the service of several auxiliary members. In addition to Zeoli and other members of town government, state leg-

islators joined the celebration. State Rep. Kathy Kennedy, R-119; State Rep. Themis Klarides, R-114; and State Sen. James Maroney, D-14; thanked the firefighters for their service. "You make our lives safe and you keep our families together," said Klarides, who also got loud applause when she promised to continue fighting for a regional fire school. Zeoli swore in the new Orange fire officers after expressing his apprecia-

tion for the work done by the department. "Every person here has someone who is concerned about you when you leave the house," he said. "We appreciate what you do for this town each and every day. I'm behind you 110 percent." A former firefighter, Zeoli promised to support the needs of the fire department. Firefighters cheered when he said preliminary discussions about a  
  
**See "Firefighters" On Page 13**



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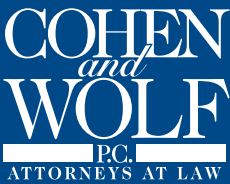
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A NOTE FROM  
OUR PUBLISHER



To Our Loyal Readers,

The Orange Town News has proudly been the source for community news and information to Orange residents for the past 15 years. While economic times are challenging and uncertain for community newspapers, we realize the need to provide town residents a local news resource during this trying time; in particular for parents and our senior community.

While we make some changes to adapt to the current pandemic, we will continue with our publication schedule in order to provide the community with vital information regarding town departments, community health programs and school resources.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Orange Community during these tough times.

Be well,  
*Rocky Salpento*  
Publisher

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Contributing Writers Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

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Contact us:

Rocky Salperto .....[Rocky@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Rocky@orangetownnews.com)

Marlene Silverstein .....[Marlene@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Marlene@orangetownnews.com)

J. Michael Kriz .....[Mike@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Mike@orangetownnews.com)

Laura Fantarella .....[Laura@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Laura@orangetownnews.com)

Melissa Nicefaro .....[Melissa@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Melissa@orangetownnews.com)

Bettina Theil .....[Bettina@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Bettina@orangetownnews.com)

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Orange Town News

Below are the next three issue dates and deadlines of the Orange Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

May 1 | Mother's Day Issue.....April 24

May 29 | Wedding Issue.....May 22

June 26 | Independence Day Issue.....June 19

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

## FROM OUR READERS

### Amity Musical Production Rescheduled

I am writing to inform you that due to recommendations from the State of Connecticut our production of the musical “The Drowsy Chaperone” has been rescheduled until the last week of April and the first week of May. We will be honoring all tickets previously purchased on the new scheduled dates. You will have the same seats and same tickets that you have already purchased for these new dates. The new dates will correspond as follows:

Previous Performance .....	New Rescheduled Performance
Friday March 27 <sup>th</sup> 2020 8pm.....	Friday April 24 <sup>th</sup> 2020 8pm
Saturday March 28 <sup>th</sup> 2020 8pm.....	Saturday April 25 <sup>th</sup> 2020 8pm
Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2020 8pm.....	Thursday April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2020 8pm
Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2020 8pm .....	Friday May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020 8pm
Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup> 2020 8pm .....	Saturday May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2020 8pm

We will be posting regular updates on our Facebook and twitter pages. Our volunteer parent box office can be reached at [amityboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:amityboxoffice@gmail.com) or at (203) 392-2019. We will do our best to assist you.

There are still great seats available for all 5 performances of “The Drowsy Chaperone!” You can still purchase tickets at [www.amitytheaterdepartment.com](http://www.amitytheaterdepartment.com). This hilarious Broadway musical will be a welcome respite from our daily lives. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

We thank you for your patience and understating during this difficult situation.  
Warmest Regards,

Robert Kennedy, Director - Amity High School

Orange Town News

OTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:

Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477

or email: [letters@orangetownnews.com](mailto:letters@orangetownnews.com).

Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Orange Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

## From Amity Regional School District No. 5

Amity Regional High School will be providing breakfast and lunch to all BOWA students in grades pre-Kinder-garten through 12 during this time of school closures. Please note the follow-ing about the emergency meal service:

- › Meals will be provided to ALL children in the household, if at least one child is enrolled in a school in Bethany, Orange, Wood-bridge, or Amity;
- › Meal service will begin March 18, 2020;
- › Meals will be provided daily Mon-day through Friday;
- › Meal pick-up will be 10:00 am-12:00 noon;
- › The daily meal that will be pro-vided will include both breakfast and lunch;
- › The meals will be provided free of

charge. Families did not have to previously qualify for free/reduced lunch in order to participate in this program.

Please follow these directions for meal pick-up:

- › Families should enter the BACK GATE to Amity Regional High School from North Pease Road;
- › Proceed past the stadium and field house to the loading dock;
- › Pick-up will be at the loading dock;
- › Do not exit the car;
- › Provide the first and last name of the registered student and the number of children in the house-hold who are eligible for a meal;
- › Exit the pick-up zone, and leave the Amity Regional High School property using the Newton Road exit.

## Orange Scholarship Fund Association Extends Deadline

The Orange Scholarship Fund Asso-ciation has extended its deadline for ap-plications. Applications will now be ac-cepted until May 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope this gives all high school seniors from Orange an opportunity to complete their ap-

plications. You can find an application online at: [orangescholarshipfund.com](http://orangescholarshipfund.com). Criteria for receiving scholarships are financial need, academic achievement, community service, and leadership roles in organizations and activities.

## STUDENT NEWS

### Dean's List Roger Williams University

Bristol, RI - Select students have been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester. The following Orange stu-dents have been recognized for this achievement: Anne Marie Allen and Catherine Dunleavy.

### Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, Mo. - Erin Barillier of Or-ange, CT, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Washing-ton University in St. Louis. Barillier is currently enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To quali-fy for the dean's list in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and complete at least 14 graded units.

## Bridges Healthcare Accepting Kasdan Scholarship Applications

Bridges Healthcare, Inc. announced that applications are now being accept-ed for The Barry Kasdan Scholarship for the Pursuit of a Graduate or Under-graduate Degree in Human Services. Eligible applicants must reside in one of the towns located in Bridges' service region, or be employed or related to a Bridges employee.

Bridges will award two \$1,500 scholarships in 2020. The successful candidates must meet the follow-ing criteria:

1. Must be a Bridges employee, or spouse, child or grandchild of a Bridges employee, or a resident of Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Mil-ford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven, or Woodbridge Connecticut;
2. Must be pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in Human Services; and
3. Must have completed at least two semesters of college.

Completed applications are due no later than Monday, June 1, 2020.

Please contact [scholarship@bridge-smilford.org](mailto:scholarship@bridge-smilford.org) to request an application or visit <http://tinyurl.com/bridgess->

cholarship to complete an online ap-plication. Hard copy applications with requested additional materials can be mailed to:

Barry Kasdan Scholarship Committee  
c/o Michelle LeMere, Board Chair  
PO Box 74  
Durham, CT 06422

This scholarship was established by Bridges' Board of Directors, the Board Endowment Fund Committee, and the Board Scholarship Committee in honor of Barry Kasdan's 30+ years of leadership and service to Bridges Healthcare, Inc.

Bridges offers a comprehensive range of mental health, substance abuse and primary care programs and services. With its headquarters in Milford, CT, Bridges is the state des-ignated Local Mental Health Authority for Milford, Orange and West Haven and provides services to residents of several other area towns. Bridges is licensed by the State Dept. of Children and Families and the Dept. of Public Health. Nationally accredited by the Joint Commission, Bridges has been providing services to families, children and adults since 1957.

## Elmer F. Manley Memorial College Scholarships Available

Ansantawae Masonic Lodge #89, is offering two "Medical Scholarships" for \$1,000 each to a college student stud-ying counseling, social services, psy-chology, psychiatry, nursing, medicine, social work, gerontology or pharmacol-ogy and having completed a minimum of two semesters in their chosen field, and maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.75 are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Candidates must be a res-ident of the town of Orange or family member of Ansantawae Lodge.

Also being offered are two "Lodge Family Scholarships" for \$1,000 each. Candidates must be a daughter, son, granddaughter, or grandson, of a mem-ber of Ansantawae Lodge #89. Appli-cants must have completed a minimum

of two semesters in their chosen field, and maintained a minimum GPA of 2.75. Qualified students are encour-aged to apply.

Interested students should send a synopsis of their credentials and cur-rent social interests within their cho-sen field, along with a current official school transcript [transcripts must be sent directly from your school] to: Lodge Scholarship Committee, Mrs. Elmer F. Manley, 1014 Fernbrook Road, Orange, CT 06477-1011. All requests must be received by May 22, 2020. Your full name, address, email and phone where you can be reached must also be included. For further information call (203) 799-2651 or email [hcbyolly@yahoo.com](mailto:hcbyolly@yahoo.com) Subject: Scholarship.

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# ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Pictured left to right: Sheryl Wilder, Vishwa Balamurugan, Nicholas Tice, Matthew Muravnik, Dr. Jennifer Byars (Amity Regional School District No. 5 Superintendent of Schools) [Photographer: Kathy Burke]

## Local Student Named GeoBee State Competition Semifinalist

The results are in! The National Geographic Society named Vishwa Balamurugan, an eighth grader at Amity Middle School in Orange, as one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2020 National Geographic GeoBee State Competition. The contest was held at Central Connecticut State University on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. This is the second level of the National Geographic GeoBee competition, which is now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year. GeoBee competitions were held in schools throughout the state with students in the fourth through eighth grades to determine each school champion. State champions will receive a medal, \$1,000 in cash, and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Championship where they will compete for additional cash, awards, and

college scholarships. The second and third place State GeoBee winners will receive cash awards of \$300 and \$100, respectively. The 2020 National Championship will take place May 18<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup> at National Geographic headquarters. The National Champion will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, \$1,000 in cash, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour II. The second-place finisher will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash. The student finishing in third place will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash. Seven runners-up will each receive \$1,000 in cash. Visit [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org) for more information on the National Geographic GeoBee.

## Amity's Sophia Wang Named 2020 Coke Scholar

Amity Regional High School is pleased to announce that senior Sophia Wang is a 2020 Coke Scholar! Sophia is one of only 150 students nationwide to win this \$20,000 college scholarship. The Coca-Cola scholarship is, according to its website, "the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based

scholarship program in the United States." The 150 winners were chosen from a pool of 93,075 applicants from across the country. The scholarship awards the winners based on academics, leadership, and service. This year Sophia is one of only eight students in New England to win this honor.



Congratulations to the following students from Amity Middle School in Orange on their outstanding performance: Front Row, Left to Right: Annika Yun, Ian Stoltzenberg, Yousef Hasan, Suhail Mohammed, Matthew Muravnik, Alexander Cuzio; Back Row, Left to Right: Grace Cavallaro, James Liu, Reamon Curis, Aarav Patel, Haseeb Chaudhry, Aditi Bhattamishra, Edward Han

## Outstanding Performers In New England Math League Contest

Seventh and eighth grade students from Amity Middle School in Orange participated in the New England Math League Contest on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The New England Math League Contest consists of participating schools from

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. Contest questions are designed to cover a range of mathematical knowledge for each grade level.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair Results

The Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF) — the oldest and most prestigious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) event in the state — hosted its 72<sup>nd</sup> annual fair in an unprecedented way: virtually. Because of the state's recommendation to restrict large group events to help deter the spread of COVID-19, the CSEF board, along with its director Frank LaBanca, made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person event, but instead to host a digital platform for participants. Despite the shift in format, the fair received online submissions from 578 middle and high school students. The projects were then evaluated by some 200 fair officials, culminating in an online awards ceremony hosted by LaBanca on Saturday, March 14. More than 400 awards, totaling more than \$200,000, were presented to middle and high school participants, with the seven top high school projects earning the opportunity to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Anaheim, California in May. In addition, high

school finalists and one eighth-grade project will get the chance to compete at the GENIUS Olympiad, Oswego, N.Y., in June. Below is a listing of the top award-winners from Amity. To see the full results from the fair visit the CSEF online: [ctsciencefair.org/2020/2020-fair-results](http://ctsciencefair.org/2020/2020-fair-results). **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Awards** Abigail Slanski from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge received the CSEF Physical Sciences award for her project "Using an Automated Coating System to Optimize Nitric Oxide Release Patterns of Antibacterial Catheters." **Top Category Winner** The High School Physical Sciences Award went to Abigail Slanski from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge for her project "Using an Automated Coating System to Optimize Nitric Oxide Release Patterns of Antibacterial Catheters."

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

# Amity Students Adjust to “Distance Learning”

By Bettina Thiel  
Orange Town News Correspondent

With school buildings closed for the foreseeable future, the state’s teachers, students and administrators are embarking on a novel instructional journey: distance learning. Teachers working from home “beam” up their lessons, while students log in, from their home, to download the materials or connect with their teachers. The lessons may consist of taped presentations or videos from educational sites or straight up assignments. “We seem to be figuring it out,” Amity School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars said cautiously on Day 4 of the journey.

The first step was to make sure that everybody, teachers included, had access to a computer. The middle school students already had their designated laptops, but the policy at the high school up until recently had been “bring your own” device. Now it was imperative to make sure that everybody had the tools they needed.

Even though most households have a computer, with more and more people working from home, not all families had a designated device for each member of the family, she said. Another problem that some families ran into was that with everyone connecting at the same time, the network connections became fickle. The technology department asked for patience. “We are working very hard to get this working,” they wrote.

“While we’ve tried to keep spirits up with funny memes and sharing here, I know it’s been tougher than we’d all like to admit,” posted one mother on Facebook. “I marvel at how much teachers/staff are in contact with our kids. This is all uncharted territory.”

Some parent frustration was reflected in online sites, such as the BOWA Distance Learning Support Group on Facebook. “What is CTE?” posted one

mother, signing off with “confused.” “Keeping my 6-year-old from bothering his older sisters and not losing interest is my biggest issue,” shared another. “PowerSchool just isn’t working today,” posted one parent. “I finally told mine to forget it and go outside.”

One teacher pointed out how many teachers are torn between care for their students and care for their families. “We are all learning this new life together,” she wrote. “Keep in mind, teachers are people too—many of us are teaching, helping our own children with their online school, or taking care of small children while meeting students on Zoom or recording lessons on Screencastify. Some of our students are caring for siblings in addition to working hard on online school. Some have sick family members they care for. Some are watching their parents figure out how to pay bills or make rent. Some are depressed that sports have ended for the year.”

Byars acknowledged the stress that these recent changes can bring to families. It is one reason, she said, they decided to keep the April vacation intact, giving everyone a breather between April 10 to 17.

School calendar: Governor Ned Lamont in mid-March signed an executive order extending public school closures through April 20, but he also went on record saying that schools likely will not reopen until the fall. Even so, Byars said the decision to cancel future events has not been taken yet, such as whether or not the Bermuda trip will happen in June and whether or not there will be prom or a graduation ceremony.

They did cancel the senior internship program, partly because the school year has been shortened significantly as it is. Also canceled were the traditional middle school trips to Nature’s Classroom (AMSB) and Wash-

ington DC (AMSO).

School musical: The musical, “The Drowsy Chaperone,” which was scheduled to open last week, has been postponed. The hope is that they may be able to stage the production in the summer for the community to enjoy. Students have been practicing their roles online, via YouTube and Facebook, Byars said.

Spring sports: As of the printing of this paper, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) of which Amity is a part, has not made a determination as to the spring sports season. “Following an online meeting with nearly 70 school, athletic and governmental leaders CIAC reached a consensus that canceling the entirety of the spring sports season is premature at this time,” it posted on March 18. “There is a strong desire to provide student athletes some spring athletic experience if possible.” In the meantime, Amity coaches are reaching out to students who have signed up, in an effort to provide ongoing training. “We’ll have to wait and see,” Byars said.

Testing: The state Department of Education has granted districts a waiver from all testing requirements, which includes The Smarter Balance Assessment, which 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students take. The College Board also has agreed to administer AP tests online, and will only cover content up to March, Byars said.

Lunch: The four BOWA districts coordinated a school lunch and breakfast program, which is open to any student 18 or younger in the district. That means a two-year-old sibling will not qualify, but students at the elementary level will, Byars said. Families can sign up for the number of meals they need and then drive up between 10 a.m. and noon. They are asked to display an 8x11 sheet of paper with the name of the student and how many lunches they

need, Byars said. Aides will place the lunches in the trunk.

They started with a drive-through lunch distribution at the high school, and had about 150 meal requests, Byars said. However, for some parents it was inconvenient to drive to Woodbridge for the pickup, so they added the middle schools in Bethany and Orange as pickup points. By the end of the week, they had handed out over 300 meals in one day. The program is supported by a federal grant, she said, and is free to the district as well as to local families.

Support: School administrators are available by phone or email. They are working at the office during staggered hours, to adhere to social distancing. School counselors also are available to help with technical issues or stress and anxiety related to the new learning environment.

School nurses are available for students and their families. Families are asked to call in and report student illnesses, Byars said. It will help the school keep track of the severity of the outbreak in this area. Should numbers spike, it would give officials an idea how the general population is affected. “We are encouraging parents to call in if their kids are not feeling well or have a temperature,” she said.

School budget: Byars said the Governor extended the period for budgeting by 30 days. If no referendum takes place, the Board of Education would be authorized to adopt the budget. Byars said she was planning to have a “virtual” meeting of the Amity Finance Committee, and work with the town representatives of the three member towns.

She also was planning to offer a virtual “hearing” for residents to voice their opinions and ask questions in some shape or form before the board takes a vote. Details have not been worked out yet.

## Association of CT Fairs Scholarships

The Orange Country Fair has announced that applications for The CT Association of Fairs scholarship program are available at CT AgFairs.org and at The Orange Town Hall.

One \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or college student pursuing a course of study in agriculture, home economics or a related field during the next school year. One \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or college student pursuing a course

of study in any field during the next school year. One \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating senior or college student to be chosen at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

All applications must be received and returned to the fair secretary by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please mail to: Marianne Bauer  
Secretary - Orange Country Fair  
1041 Beechlawn Terrace  
Orange, CT 06477  
(203) 641-5429

## SHA Celebrates Sister Signorelli, ASCJ and Clelian Scholars

Each year, incoming freshmen with the highest entrance exam scores who demonstrate outstanding academic potential are selected to receive merit scholarships as Sister Antonine Signorelli and Clelian Scholars. The scholarships honor the life, philosophy, and achievements of Sister Antonine Signorelli, the Academy’s founding principal, and Blessed Clelia Merloni, foundress of the Congregation of

the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These students display strong academic success with promise of future accomplishment and truly affirm the Academy’s motto, Excelsior.

This year Sacred Heart welcomed 19 new scholars including Meghan Kirck of Orange.

Sacred Heart is proud of these young women and all members of the incoming Class of 2024.



# Two Developers File Lawsuits

BY LAURA FANTARELLA  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The developers of two separate proposed zoning applications that were turned down by town boards have both filed lawsuits against the town.

Attorney Kevin J. Curseaden filed suit on behalf of developers, Miland LLC, and Genvest LLC for their application to build a cluster housing project off Turkey Hill Road. The proposed development, Turkey Hill Crossing, called for 10 multi-family buildings with up to 60 bedrooms and a single community building on more than 22.5 acres. The parcel, which contains nearly two acres of wetlands, adjoins the Wilbur Cross parkway which fronts on Turkey Hill Road and includes an undeveloped portion of Cranberry Lane.

The suit, filed last month in Milford Superior Court, claims the Inland Wetland Commission’s decision to deny the project was “unreasonable, improper, illegal, arbitrary and constitutes an abuse of the discretion, responsibilities and duties vested in it by law as an administrative agency.” The suit cites among its claims against the commission that it failed to state any lawful or valid reason to deny the application; ignored its own experts’ opinions that the plaintiffs satisfied their concerns; improperly interpreted its own regulations; deprives the plaintiffs of their property rights; and ignores substantial evidence there will not be a significant adverse effect upon a wetland or watercourse.

The proposal was met with fierce opposition from surrounding homeowners and other residents in town who opposed the scale of the project and feared it would change the character of their neighborhoods and create a myriad of safety and traffic issues.

Jeff Gordon, president, Codespoti Associates; and a representative for the developer, said his clients complied with the commission’s request they provide and pay for expert testimony about the project’s possible effects to wetlands in the area. “My clients paid thousands of dollars to experts who reported the project met all necessary standards yet the commission chose

not to listen to them,” Gordon said. “They ignored what they said because it didn’t line up with what they wanted to hear.”

First Selectman Jim Zeoli supported the Commission’s decision saying, “Occasionally the town has to stand up for its zones as they’ve been prescribed. The developer needs to consider the application and decide whether this is the best thing for his or her community. It depends on the location. This proposal is high density, with no public sewers, potential water runoff and congestion in a pocketed area which is not acceptable. Sometimes developers, engineers and lawyers assume the affordable housing act is in their favor and they are going to win but they don’t win every time.”

Another lawsuit against the Town Plan & Zoning Commission was filed on behalf of 35 Old Tavern Road LLC, owner of the six-acre Firelite Shopping Center for his application proposing a text change to allow residential units in the town’s shopping center districts. The zone change would have opened the door to permit up to 15 units per acre, possibly as many as 90 one and two-bedroom apartments at the Firelite site. The amended regulations would have required the ground floor, or 25 percent of the center to be dedicated commercial space and the two upper levels to be residential. Though the applicants’ representatives maintained amending the regulations was in keeping with the updated Town Plan of Conservation and Development to include more affordable and senior housing in town, the board voted 3-2 against the plan. Although two Town Plan and Zoning Commissioners saw amending the zoning regulations to invite a mixed-use development as an opportunity to revitalize the struggling Firelite Shopping Center, three commissioners feared the use could be too intense for the area.

Town Attorney Vin Marino said the coronavirus has caused the courts to put most pending matters on hold. “We are exploring a resolution on the Firelite matter, but I cannot comment beyond that,” he said.

# Orange Residents Named To Sacred Heart Honor Roll

Sacred Heart Academy Principal Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, ASCJ has announced the Honor Roll for the FIRST SEMESTER of the 2019 – 20 academic year. The following students from Orange have been named to the Honor Roll:

**HIGH HONORS:** Jisu Kang, Emma

Kirck, Kathryn Marquis, Yiran Wang;  
**HONORS:** Emma Quaranta.


Academic honors are awarded at the end of each semester to students attaining an average of 3.5 or better. Those students achieving a grade point average of 3.8 or greater are awarded high honors.

Did You Know?

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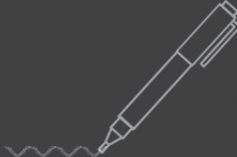
1.) OUTDOOR SIGNINGS

We are taking advantage of the Spring weather and conducting signings outdoors on our picnic table whenever possible. The open air and sunlight will ensure that we are all breathing fresh air!




2.) SOCIAL DISTANCING

We are ensuring that each party in a signing (witnesses, notary, attorney, and clients) maintain a recommended six (6) feet from each other.



3.) BYOP (BRING YOUR OWN PEN)

We normally provide our clients with blue pens for signing, but to limit exposure we're asking that clients bring their own pens from home.




4.) WE ARE WEARING GLOVES


In order to limit the amount of people touching your legal documents the attorney meeting with you to review and execute your documents will be wearing gloves. We are asking our clients to wear gloves too, if possible.

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

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BY DENNIS MARSH

All senior center activities, classes and trips are canceled indefinitely. Please check the senior center website at [www.orange-ct.gov/782/community-services](http://www.orange-ct.gov/782/community-services) for further information or feel free to call the senior center office at (203) 891-4784.

**Pasta Festa**


This year's Living Treasures are Donald Clark, Marianne Miller, and Lori Swatt. Presently Pasta Festa is postponed indefinitely. Once things return to normal, we will look for a date next fall to host Pasta Festa and celebrate our Living Treasures.

**Trips**

**THE CHINESE LADY** - CANCELED.  
**ALL SHOOK UP** at the Westchester Theater – April 23, 2020. Still on at the time of writing.  
**HUDSON VALLEY ELEGANCE** – Postponed to a yet to be determined date in the Fall.  
**BROOKLYN NOOSHING TOUR** – Postponed until September 12, 2020.  
**ABBA TRIBUTE** at the AQUA TURF – Postponed until August 13, 2020.  
**HIDDEN GARDENS OF BEACON HILLS** – CANCELED.  
**EDWARD TWINS** at the AQUA TURF – Postponed until October 7, 2020.

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“Schools” From Page 1

els of expertise regarding technology.”  
The first phase of the three-phase plan was rolled the next day after schools suddenly shut down. Students were provided with familiar resources to support previously taught skills.

In Phase 2, students were provided differentiated grade-specific learning opportunities and staff worked on collaborating and preparing resources in parent and student friendly learning target language that is aligned to the Common Core. In Phase 3, teachers launched the Google classroom as well as other communication platforms where teachers can support learning through office hours in an effort to reconnect with children and families.

“It is important to know, special education students’ needs, as is the case during a traditional school day, are being addressed at each phase first and foremost based on core instruction,” Scarpetti says. “We must ensure equal access to the same opportunities as typical peers. Staff is working collaboratively to address modification and accommodations needs based on instruction provided through general education.”

Simultaneously, special education staff are working to support goals and objectives as outlined in the IEP to the greatest extent possible based on the family situation and the current state of education.

Phase 3, Scarpetti says, is a work in progress as teachers (as of 3/27) had just wrapped up their first full week of online teaching. “Despite the challenges we are faced with, staff have without a doubt, risen to the occasion of thinking creatively and using our resources to engage children outside the traditional school setting,” he says. “They are developing and beginning to implement interim learning plans to facilitate the work of providing remote instruction and learning opportunities outside of our school buildings.”

He says that without the community’s support, we may be in a different situation. “We are fortunate that the town and Board of Education support our school district every year including providing technology which has now positioned us to support our students under these current situations,” he

says. The district had already begun to engage in curriculum mapping experiences that included organizing resources that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards. These resources are located on an electronic platform that can be accessed remotely and work so far in this area has greatly assisted staff in developing their remote learning plans.

“I cannot say enough about the dedication of the entire staff during these difficult times,” Scarpetti says.

And as for parents who may be struggling with the notion of home-schooling their children while trying to balance work, Scarpetti acknowledges that this is a challenging time for everyone. “The safety and well-being of our students, families and staff is our primary concern. Our goal is to do our part, as best as we can, to create a sense of normalcy for our children and families,” he says. “My advice is to establish a routine, take time to have fun with your children, and find day-to-day methods to engage your child in experiencing life.”

As a more comprehensive district plan is rolled out, he recommends parents take it slow, breathe, and know that administrators and staff are here for support. “Communicate with your child’s teachers, school psychologist, social worker, special education teacher, speech and language pathologist, and principals if you or your child are feeling overwhelmed or even if you just have a question. Also, the Orange Public Schools Information Technology (IT) team is here to support you if you need assistance. IT support can be reached at techservices@orange-ed.org,” Scarpetti says.

All correspondence to families, including that about meal services, is being posted to the district website (oess.org).

The superintendent anticipates that many more families than usual may be in need of general community resources. Information about services, which include utility assistance, food for families, housing support, crisis intervention resources and more are available. Dial 2-1-1, search online or dial 1-800-203-1234. In addition to the district-provided lunches, the Orange Community Center Food bank is located at High Plains Community Center.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Covid-19 Travel Update

As a professional travel advisor, I fully understand that the ever-changing situation with covid-19 has created a lot of uncertainty when it comes to travel plans. I thought it might be beneficial to give you a quick summary of the current situation.

The continuing focus and commitment of the travel industry is “safety first.” Given the severity of the situation, travel companies have continued to monitor all CDC and WHO updates and have adjusted accordingly. To date, cruise lines, tour companies, resorts and hotels have suspended service through mid-April, and are now beginning to extend that suspension into May. The cruise lines have issued special cancellation policies that provide freedom to cancel up to 48-hours prior to the departure date and are working with guests to postpone trips to a future date. Those guests with cancelled sailings or stays are being offered the choice of generous future travel credits of over 100% of the price paid or complete refunds.

For trips scheduled to depart in the summer and fall, there is plenty of time to review options and see how this unfolds globally. The relaxed cancellation policies are giving guests the opportunity to wait before having to make a decision without fear of losing

their vacation investment. Of course, no one has a crystal ball, but the industry is hopeful that the U.S. and the rest of the world will be able to contain and combat the virus so that people can indeed go on their well-deserved vacations.

I would also implore you to use the services of a local travel professional when booking your next vacation. With all the recent cancellations, several people have reached out to me for assistance with a vacation that they booked online or at a big box discount store (you know who I mean). They are frustrated with hours-long hold times, dropped calls and unanswered emails as they try to navigate through the process of getting a refund. I’m unable to help them because I’m not their agent of record. The truth is, the cost of using a travel advisor is built into the price of the vacation. When you book direct or online, you’re essentially paying for something you aren’t getting: personal service and peace of mind from a highly trained professional who will advocate for you and protect your valuable vacation investment.

Leslie Marsh, ECC has owned and operated Cruise Planners in the Amity area for 17 years. You can reach her at 203-387-7245 or leslie@getready-tocruise.com.



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# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



L to R : Larry Huzi, Gail Nixon

## Garden Club of Orange Plans 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Garden Club of Orange is in the process of planning a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The Club began in 1930 with a group of 23 women from Orange who had a love of gardening and promoting the beautification of the town’s gardens. Today, The Garden Club of Orange continues to plant and maintain annual flowers on the Town Green, conducts an annual May Market, conducts educational demonstrations at the Orange Country Fair, maintains the Herb Garden at the Stone Otis House, decorates wreaths

for town buildings in December and the bi-annual Holiday House Tours. Under the direction of Larry Huzi and Gail Nixon the club is planning a 90<sup>th</sup> Celebration Showcase which will occur on June 6 at the Holy Infant Gym. The Showcase will hold a Small Standard Flower Show, demonstrations, a Master Gardener, boutique, children’s activities and a raffle. The entire club is working hard to make this event a memorable celebration of the Garden Club of Orange’s history. Save the date!!

## MDA Fundraiser 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golden Oldies Review

The 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the Golden Oldies Review is scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2020 from 8p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Cielo Ballroom 85 Chase Lane, West Haven. Michael Hoover presents “Memories of Elvis” at 9:30. DJ Charles

Rosenay!! will provide music. Also featured is Carla Gemma. Tickets are \$30 per person with Door Prizes and Raffle Proceeds to benefit MDA. Call Geri Caccavale (203)795-5473 or Lucy Prokop (203)468-2528 for tickets.

## Orange Lions Club Annual Wine Tasting Event

The Orange Lions Club is pleased to announce a new date for our annual wine tasting event. “Get Uncorked” will take place on Friday, June 5,



at St. Barbara’s Church Hall on Racebrook Road from 6:30pm – 9:30pm. We look forward to seeing all of our friends and supporters at this great event.

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L to R: Betty Hadlock, Radhika Malhotra, Marion Rizzo, Pat Dray



Gail Nixon and Maryellen Bepuda work on their designs [Photos by Linda Bradford]

## Garden Club Members Learn Floral and Leaf Manipulation

The Garden Club of Orange recently met for its March meeting at High Plains and enjoyed a demonstration by fellow member and Accredited Flower Show Judge, Pat Dray. Members were taught how to create fun, interactive, floral, leaf and grass manipulation in

their designs. The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the FGCCT, NEGC and the NGC. For membership information, contact Joanne Eisenman at (203) 878-9597.

## Orange Strawberry Festival Vendors

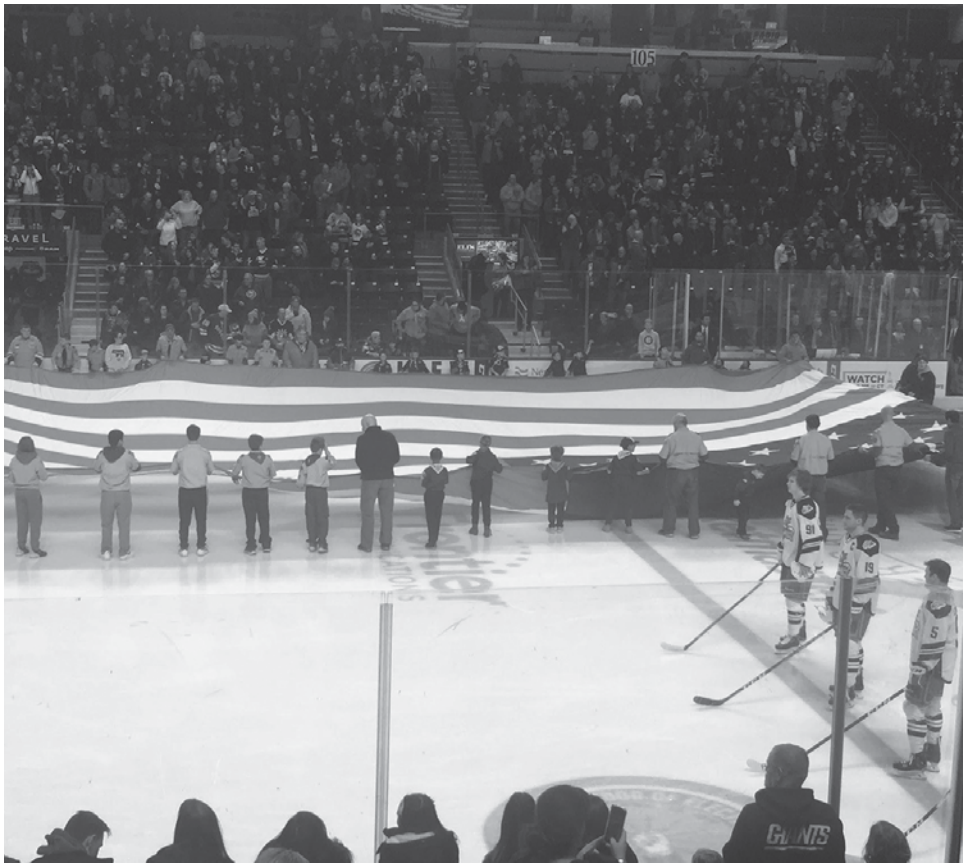
Vendors are wanted for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival sponsored by the Orange Congregational Church to be held on Saturday, June 13 from 9AM-5PM (Rain date June 14). Artists, artisans, handcrafters, local business owners, and antique dealers are welcomed to display at the Festival on

the Orange Fairgrounds. More than 3,000 visit the annual Festival for a day of family fun. Vendor information is available by calling (203)795-9749, at the church website [www.orangecongregationalchurch.org](http://www.orangecongregationalchurch.org), or at [Ss\\_cassidy@yahoo.com](mailto:Ss_cassidy@yahoo.com).

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# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Along with a few other packs, Orange Pack 922 held the flag on the ice for the National Anthem during the opening ceremonies at the annual Bridgeport Sound Tigers Scout Night on February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.



The Annual Pinewood Derby was held in the gymnasium of High Plains Community Center on February 7<sup>th</sup>. We had over 50 racers from the pack and their families in attendance. The racers were invited to attend the Quinnipiac District Pinewood Derby Finals held on March 28<sup>th</sup> in North Haven.



Mad Science visited the March pack meeting to lead the scouts through science experiments and fun to help them earn their science requirements so they can advance in the ranks.

## “Firefighters” From Page 2

- new firehouse were under way.
- Fire officers sworn in were:
- › Vaughan Dumas, fire chief;
  - › Charles Sherwood, deputy fire chief;
  - › Dan Cole, assistant fire chief;
  - › Eric Auscavitch, assistant fire chief;
  - › Joe Duplinsky, captain;
  - › David Tufano, captain;
  - › Dan Abrams, lieutenant;
  - › John Gagel, lieutenant;
  - › Leo Moran, executive board representative;
  - › Charles William Laudenslager, executive board representative;
  - › Peter Daniels, recording secretary;
  - › Lisa Kaplan, corresponding secretary;
  - › Burt Gallant, treasurer;
  - › Art Williams, assistant treasurer.

Each officer took the oath of office and had their badge pinned on their uniform coat. John Gagel, a third-generation Orange firefighter, received his grandfather’s lieutenant badge.

Firefighter Tom Astram received an award for responding to the most calls. Firefighter Drew Panapada was recognized for his leadership and Eric Auscavitch was named firefighter of the year.

The mood shifted as Zeoli again rose to the podium to swear in James Vincent as the town’s new fire marshal. Although the fire marshal is a town employee, the venue for the ceremony recognized the close relationship between the Fire Department and the marshal’s office. It was an emotional few minutes as first Zeoli, then Vincent, spoke fondly about Tim Smith, Vincent’s predecessor and close friend, who died earlier this year. Vincent took the oath as Orange officers rose to attention and his wife and two children stood by his side.

In addition to Smith, Dumas also remembered Associate Firefighter Andrew Pol and OVFD Auxiliary Member Annie Davis, both of whom died suddenly during 2019. Dumas then turned his thoughts to 2020 and beyond.

Dumas said the department responded to 634 calls during 2019, its highest call volume ever. Active firefighters put in 325 hours of service each at fire calls. Adding in clean-up from calls, training, fundraising, work around the firehouses and other duties, brings that figure to more than

500 hours of service by each active firefighter.

Accomplishments during 2019 included taking delivery of a new truck, improving the radio system, exceeding the department’s financial goals and completing some station renovations.

For 2020, goals include celebrating the department’s 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary and beginning work on other long-range plans including replacing its 85-year-old station on Orange Center Road and replacing a ladder truck. Dumas also talked about continuing to build close relationships with the police department and fire marshal’s office. “Information sharing is growing, and we appreciate the positive impact of working cohesively with the police and other town agencies,” he said.

The OVFD Auxiliary announced it would be donating money it has raised from its fundraising efforts to the department for station upgrades and new air packs. Auxiliary President Jillian Gagel talked about the success of new events the group had held and reminded members to attend the Pancake Supper on April 27 at Chips on the Boston Post Road.

Several members were honored for the length of service in the Auxiliary. Those included Barbara Boppert, Linda Gagel and Mary Gagel, 25 years; Victoria Arms, Gloria Capecelatro, Bert Gallant and Bette Goodwin, 20 years; and Elaine Capecelatro, 15 years.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to 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 remaining few 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.





# TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

## OVFD Response Procedures During COVID-19 Crisis

NEW PROCEDURES WILL PROTECT FIREFIGHTERS FROM VIRUS AS THEY PROTECT RESIDENTS

Members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department will modify their response plans and procedures to protect themselves during the COVID-19 outbreak.

“The most important thing residents should know is that if you call 9-1-1, we’re going to respond with the same efficiency we always have,” said Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas. “Depending on the type of alarm, you may see our firefighters take a few extra precautions as we work to avoid being exposed to the virus while providing service.”

Dumas said residents will see firefighters and fire apparatus arrive quickly at their home or business. But for many calls, a single firefighter, often an officer, will come to the door and ask about the health of those in the home. If anyone in the home has a fever, flu-like symptoms or has traveled to certain areas, that firefighter will take an extra minute to take precautions, such as putting on an air mask. He or she will then attempt to resolve the problem without having other firefighters enter the building. “Obviously, those other firefighters will help if needed,” said Dumas. “And if we see an immediate life hazard, such as fire, we’re ready to go right into action as usual.”

Firefighters also have been issued instructions for additional cleaning of fire stations, equipment including their protective clothing, and apparatus.

“We are in touch with local, state and federal experts on a daily – in fact, hourly – basis, and we are following their advice,” said Dumas.

The chief also asked residents not to hesitate to call 9-1-1 if they need help, but also to let the call-taker know if anyone in the home is under mandatory or self-imposed quarantine due to possible or confirmed COVID-19 exposure. The dispatcher can then relay that information to first-responders so they can take steps to avoid exposure.

He also suggested placing a sign or note on the front door of your home to notify police, fire and EMS personnel to take infection-prevention precautions. “These steps will protect our crews so they can continue to meet the emergency needs of our community,” said Dumas. “You’re not only helping our crews by complying with these requests, you’re helping your neighbor because we’ll be able to stay healthy and respond to the next call for help.”

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to 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.

For information about membership, donations or public education, call (203) 891-4703, click on <https://www.orangevfd.org/> or find us on Facebook.

### From the Fire Marshal



## Spring Fire Safety Tips

As the warm weather approaches, families are turning their attention to outdoor projects. This is the ideal time to tour the yard for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions and to correct problem areas. The Orange Fire Marshal’s Office suggests these important fire safety guidelines to help ensure a pleasant season.

Please remember: OPEN BURNING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE TOWN OF ORANGE as there are numerous fire and safety concerns such as smoke, flying embers and the possibility of the fire spreading out of control. In addition, open burning is a violation of the Connecticut Clean Air Act. This ordinance does not apply to charcoal, wood, propane or natural gas in appliances or barbecues used for food preparation. Also, recreational fire appliances such as commercially or privately manufactured firepits, where the intent is to contain or control a recreation type fire, are exempt. Our office understands that this may be an inconvenience and appreciates your cooperation.

Prior to starting outside chores, walk around the area and remove sticks, glass, stones and debris that could damage your lawn equipment or cause injury. Clean leaves and needles from gutters and cellar windows. Keep a fire safe zone around the house. Prune limbs and trees along the driveway that could prevent easy access for fire trucks or ambulances.

Know how to operate outdoor equipment properly. Extension cords must be in good condition and rated for outdoor use. Always unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plugs on gasoline-powered tools before making any adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts. Never work with electrical tools in wet or damp conditions. To prevent electrocution, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If you leave your tools unattended, always make sure they are turned off and inoperable. This helps to avoid unauthorized use, accidents and injuries. NEVER FILL GAS TANKS WHILE EQUIPMENT IS OPERATING OR IT IS STILL HOT or inside of a garage, shed or other enclosed area. Quickly wipe up any spills and store gasoline in approved containers away from your home - never inside. Do not smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline or use it as a cleaning solvent. Because its vapors can readily ignite, gasoline can present a serious fire home hazard and is too dangerous to use for any purpose other than as a motor fuel. USE GAS AND CHARCOAL GRILLS

OUTDOORS ONLY. They pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation, if used indoors or in any enclosed space. Position the grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic. Declare a three-foot “kid-free zone” around the grill and keep children and pets away from this area. Periodically, remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited. Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call 911. Do not attempt to move the grill. Never store propane gas cylinders in buildings or garages.

Indoors, it is important to HAVE AND PRACTICE A home escape plan. Know two ways out of every room and make sure doors and windows can be opened easily. Designate a place for family members to meet outside. Call 911 after exiting the home.

REPLACE SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE alarm batteries, if it was not done at the beginning of daylight savings time. This is a simple step that takes only a few minutes and can save lives. The alarm will alert occupants and allow time for an escape. Test alarms every month by using the test button or an approved smoke substitute. Do not use an open flame device. Even though the alarms may work when tested, install a new smoke alarm after 10 years and a CO detector in accordance with the manufacturer’s suggestion, to protect against failure, as older models may be less reliable. If an alarm “chirps” to indicate a low battery, immediately replace the batteries. Some smoke alarms have ten-year batteries that do not need replacing; however, a new alarm should be purchased at the end of the ten years.

For assistance with changing the batteries in an existing alarm, or if you have any questions or need further information about any fire prevention and/or safety matter, please call the Orange Fire Marshal’s Office at (203) 891-4711, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or visit the website at [www.orangefiremarshal.com](http://www.orangefiremarshal.com).

## Note From Public Works Department

Unfortunately, our Pink Bag Recycling Curbside Collection Program has fallen victim to the decree concerning Non-Essential businesses in Connecticut that must suspend work due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Please continue to separate and hold onto your clothing and other textiles and we

will let you know when this program resumes. Also remember plastic bags are not a recyclable item and blue bins containing any type of plastic bag or wrap will not be picked up.

If you should have any questions, please call Public Works Department at 203-891-4712.

### ATTENTION ORANGE RESIDENTS!

Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement, Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding?

Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE.

Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477  
Email: [edit@orangetownnews.com](mailto:edit@orangetownnews.com)



“Coronavirus” From Page 1

towns and cities with six reported cases of the virus being reported as of press time. Director of Health Dr. Amir Mohammad expects that number will increase as more people are tested.

Dr. Mohammad stresses the importance of following the recommended Center of Disease Control guidelines to practice good hygiene, maintain social distance, to stay home except to purchase essentials like food and medications and postpone any elective medical procedures. He also recommends residents call their medical providers to secure three months of medication during this pandemic. “The virus is in the community, that’s how it’s spread so the public needs to minimize any exposure,” he said. “It is very inconvenient for all but it should be time limited. Let’s keep our hopes high and keep praying that we overcome this situation. Rather to be inconvenienced than to compromise safety.” He also advised that you should be checking in regularly with senior parents and neighbors and staying sensitive to their needs.

Mohammad is in daily contact with public health officials from surrounding towns as well as the town’s emergency management team that includes representatives from the town’s police, fire, school and emergency response team. “The state did a remarkable job listening to local health directors and

being proactive,” he said. “We have a strong team of directors around the state who communicate and share ideas constantly and we are able to play a key role in getting information to the public in a timely manner.”

This is not the first time Mohammad has been on the frontlines of an infectious disease outbreak. He was in medical training in the mid 2000s during the Ebola and Swine Flu epidemics. “The coronavirus is unfolding on a much larger scale and no one in my generation has seen something like this,” he said. “We are all learning but hopefully this is a once in a lifetime event and we won’t have to face it again.” For the moment he urges “caution, not panic.” “When you are panicked you don’t think coherently. Follow the directions and guidelines of the experts and don’t do something they’ve advised against,” he said.

At Maplewood Senior Living, where outside visitors are restricted to medical and caregiving personnel, staff is using technology to keep families and residents connected. Using video apps like FaceTime and Skype, residents are able to share “virtual meals” with loved ones who are no longer permitted to visit. According to Executive Director Liz Castilline-Gannon, while all group and communal activities are currently curtailed, technology is being used to offer online exercise and meditation classes, a variety of courses and lectures, and museum tours.

If residents are outside of their own rooms, they are practicing strict social distancing. Along with delivering care packages to their loved ones, residents’ families have also been reaching out to the Maplewood staff, sending letters of gratitude and even dropping off food. “It’s been really inspiring the way families are demonstrating their appreciation and support for all we are doing to keep their loved ones safe during this difficult time,” Castilline-Gannon said. “The residents seem to be in high spirits and making the best of it just as the rest of the world is.”

While the Orange Police Department is quieter than usual with decreased motor vehicle accidents, DUI stops, and retail-related crime like larceny and shoplifting, medical calls are on the upswing. Though, so far, Orange has been spared, Assistant Police Chief Max Martens noted there’s been a handful of bank robberies and convenience store hold-ups in surrounding towns that could be attributed indirectly to these unusual times. “It’s sad because before this coronavirus, a person wearing a surgical mask into an establishment would have looked suspicious, and someone might have reported it, but now it is the norm. So when a criminal wears a mask at night and walks into a convenience store, no one thinks twice,” he said.

There have been a few silver linings to the pandemic. Martens points out

more people are outside walking dogs and the town’s tracts of open space have been busy with people enjoying the weather. “I saw people outside at Racebrook School playing Frisbee and it’s nice to see people are going along with social distancing,” he said. At headquarters, police have taken to doing roll call outside. “It’s a good way to keep a distance apart while relaying information,” he said. “Little changes are happening as we adapt to this day-to-day.” He points out it’s a good time to handle projects that have been put off, like car and home repairs and to keep local small businesses in mind during these hard times. “We’ve been trying to order take-out from local restaurants like Chip’s and Mr. Kold Kuts,” he said.

The department has also experienced random acts of kindness and much appreciated gifts of food, gloves, masks and even hand sanitizers from local residents, nail salons and other businesses. Litchfield Distillery, better known for making bourbon, vodka and gin are now manufacturing hand sanitizer. The company donated two gallons of its new product to the Orange Police Department.

“With bad times come these little happenings where people get along and you feel good about humanity,” Martens said. “Unfortunately it takes little tragedies for people to start helping each other but it brings a smile to my face and it makes me happy.”

# Finding Faith During Easter Celebrations

For many Christians, modern Easter celebrations would not be complete without bonnets, bunnies and colored eggs. As fun as those components can be, Christianity is at the heart of Easter, which is the most important date on the Christian religious calendar. Easter Sunday marks the culmination of events that shaped the beliefs and teachings of an entire faith.

Easter marks the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which Christians believe occurred within days of his crucifixion and burial. The New Testament indicates that the Resurrection of Jesus is one of the chief tenets of the Christian faith and established Jesus as the Son of God. Easter is an example that God will righteously judge the world by sacrificing His son for the sins of others. And any person who chooses to follow Jesus receives everlasting life thanks to Christ’s Resurrection.

Easter is linked to the Jewish celebration of Passover due to its proximity on the calendar and the fact that Jesus was Jewish. The Bible states that Jesus participated in the Passover meal during The Last Supper. At The Last Supper, Jesus identified the matzo (bread) and wine as his body and blood, soon to be sacrificed and shed. Christians believe The Last Supper marked the first transubstantiation, or the turning of bread and wine into the actual substance of Christ’s body and blood. This also was

the first celebration of the Eucharist and Holy Mass that would become another core component of the Christian faith.

Easter is a time of great celebration that is preceded by Lent, a weeklong period of reflection, prayer and repentance. The days immediately prior to Easter are commonly referred to as Holy Week. This encompasses Palm Sunday and lasts through Holy Thursday (the day of The Last Supper), Good Friday (when Jesus was crucified and placed in the tomb), and Holy Saturday (the 40-hour-long vigil that the followers of Jesus Christ held after his death and burial).

On Easter Sunday, four women, including Mary Magdalene, went to Christ’s tomb to anoint his body with spices and oils. They found the tomb was empty and were met with an angel who told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead. A biblical account in John 20:14-16 indicates that Mary Magdalene was the first to speak with the risen Jesus. She mistakes Jesus for a gardener and says to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him, “Rabboni!” In regard to his apostles, Simon Peter was the first to see the risen Christ.

Easter is a time of joy and celebration, and a great opportunity for Christians to immerse themselves in their faith.



## Meet The Birds of Orange

The Orange Conservation Commission (OCC) is hosting a Bird Walk at 7:30 am at the Turkey Hill Preserve in Orange (GPS Address: 700 Derby-Milford Road, Orange) on May 30, 2020 (Rain Date June 6, 2020).

The walk will be led by Frank Gallo, a leading expert on where to find birds in Connecticut. Frank is a tour leader for Sunrise Birding, LLC, an international birding tour company, is a member of the Connecticut Avian Rare Records Committee, and a federally licensed master bird bander. Frank is also the author of two children’s nature books,

Bird Calls and Night Sounds, and is a published freelance photographer. Frank’s new book, “Birding in Connecticut,” is a guide to where, when, and how to find birds in the state. He will have copies available to sign at the walk. Frank has led the OCC’s highly acclaimed “Owl Prowl” in the Fall for the last 4 years.

The Orange Conservation Commission can be found on Facebook and our website at <http://www.orangectconservationcommission.com> or <https://www.orange-ct.gov/441/Conservation-Commission>.



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Updates


Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, in doing our part to slow the spread of COVID-19, has sadly had to suspend all in-person services. We don't know how long this virus will remain in our land, but we pray daily that it will pass away from us. This likely means that we will not hold in-person services for Holy Week or Easter.

However, in 2020 there's no need for church fellowship, community, and learning to fall by the wayside! Visit our website [www.zion-orange.com](http://www.zion-orange.com) to stay in touch with our congregation. You can learn more about "Who we are" by clicking on "What is a Lutheran" and asking a question about our faith identity. You can also click on our "Virtual Worship" page to find links to video meditations by Pastor Benson, and


devotional guides published weekly for use in the home. We are on YouTube as Zion Orange, and on Facebook at [fb.com/ZELCorange](https://fb.com/ZELCorange).

Zion will continue to be a drop-off site for Food2Kids, a local organization dedicated to providing food for children of Orange who face hunger when school is not in session. You may make a donation by dropping off non-perishable items in the secure building at the back of our parking lot at 780 Grassy Hill Road in Orange from 9A-6P. Food should be in individual serving sizes with only water or no preparation needed. See complete information on Facebook at Food2Kids Orange.

Please join us in praying that this pandemic would soon become a part of the past.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. So are the paths of all who forget God...

 JOB 8:11-13

Orange Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest. We will publish them for free.

Orange Town News – P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477  
[edit@orangetownnews.com](mailto:edit@orangetownnews.com)



BEKI stained glass windows

## Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

### Daily Services via Zoom

- › Monday 5:45 pm
- › Tuesday 7:00 am
- › Tuesday 5:45pm
- › Wednesday 7:00 am
- › Wednesday 5:45 pm
- › Thursday 8:15 am
- › Thursday 5:45 pm
- › Friday 7:00 am
- › Friday 6:00 pm



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

### Daily Services via Zoom Meeting

Anyone wishing to participate in BEKI daily minyanim via Zoom should email Ritual Committee Chair Rachel Wiseman Gerber at [bekitefilla@gmail.com](mailto:bekitefilla@gmail.com) to request a Zoom invitation. The daily minyan, led by BEKI volunteers, also includes time to check in with one another and offer support. For updates on when services will resume in the building, check [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org).

### BEKI on Facebook

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the BEKI Facebook page has kept congregants informed about community resources, volunteer opportunities, online cultural events, classes, and much more. If you would like to join this Facebook group, please ask the

moderator online or call the BEKI office, 203-389-2108.

### Elm City Kallah postponed

The talk by Rabbi Ethan Tucker scheduled for Saturday afternoon April 25<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. Rabbi Tucker, who was selected by The Jewish Week in 2009 as an outstanding young Jewish innovator in New York, is known for his ability to transcend the affiliation boundaries of Judaism. The co-founder of Kehilat Hadar, an independent prayer community in New York's Upper West Side, he is now President and Rosh Yeshiva at an observant, egalitarian yeshiva, also called Hadar.

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

## Virtual Events At Temple Emanuel

Stay connected with our community. Keep your physical distance while maintaining your social connections. Check out the on-line options at Temple Emanuel:

- › Friday nights at 7:30 – virtual Kabbalat Shabbat;
- › Saturday mornings at 10:00 – virtual Torah Study;
- › Thursday night, April 9 at 6:30 – join our virtual second night seder!

Details about these events and all other events and services at TE are on the Temple Emanuel website, [www.tegnh.org](http://www.tegnh.org).



Temple Emanuel

[tegnh.org](http://tegnh.org). You can also call the temple office at 203-397-3000. Hope to "see" you soon!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Tell them you saw their ad in the Orange Town News.



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Congregation B’nai Jacob Happenings

OUR BUILDING IS CLOSED, BUT OUR COMMUNITY IS OPEN!

Our clergy, staff, and lay leaders are working to keep our B’nai Jacob community connected and cared for. Here are some of the things we have set in place and continue to develop.

### Ways to stay connected

Live Stream Services - All services in the Chapel, including Shabbat and daily Minyan, are live streamed and easily accessible on our website. Look for the LIVE STREAM link on the right panel of the B’nai Jacob homepage.

#### Live Stream Schedule:

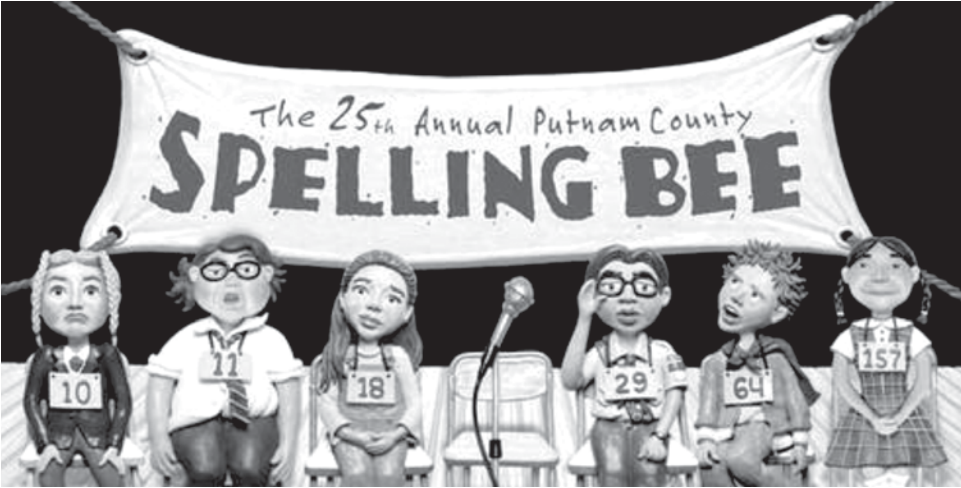
- Morning Minyan at 7:45am daily (Mon-Fri);
- Evening Minyan at 6:00pm daily (Sun-Thur);
- Kaballat Shabbat at 6:30pm Fridays;
- Shabbat Morning Service at 9:45am Saturdays.

### Guest Speaker Series, postponed to a later date Hearing Loss: Listening and Communication Tools and Tips

Date: TBD, Debra Sachs, M.A.

Do you have a hearing loss or do you know someone who does? Are you ever frustrated in your efforts to relay or receive a spoken message in an acoustically challenging environment? 10.6% of Americans have hearing loss.

CBJ member Debra Sachs, an award-winning teacher of students with hearing loss, will lead an interactive program about hearing loss where you will be given the opportunity to listen as if you had one. It will consider the impact of hearing loss on individuals, particularly aging adults, and identify listening strategies and spoken language techniques to max-



imize communication.

### Climate Change: A New Perspective

Date: TBD, Daniel Headrick, Ph.D.

CBJ member, scholar, and author of the new book, “Humans Versus Nature: A Global Environmental History,” Headrick will speak with us about the state of our planet.

Almost all scientists, most political leaders (outside the US), and much of the people, especially young people, agree that climate change is real, that it is caused by anthropogenic greenhouse-gas emissions, and that we must start doing something soon to reverse it. Yet the amount of emissions continues to grow.

Headrick argues that two powerful forces - developmentalism and consumerism - stand in the way of meaningful action.

### Special Events, date to be determined 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Elm City Kallah

Date: TBD, Rabbi Ethan Tucker, President and Rosh Yeshiva at Hadar and chair in Jewish Law  
Navigating the World as a Jew and

as a Human Being - A weekend of Learning and Exploration

### BJ Players presents

Date: TBD

Winner of the Tony and The Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, “The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” has charmed audiences with its effortless wit and humor. A group of quirky kids with a passion for spelling and wildly entertaining back-stories have flocked to Putnam Valley Middle School to compete (and sing!) in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

### Congregation B’nai Jacob Book Group

Join in a discussion of “A Pigeon and a Boy” by Israeli author Meir Shalev, Winner of the Brenner Prize, Israel’s highest literary recognition

During the 1948 War of Independence—a time when pigeons are still used to deliver battlefield messages—a gifted young pigeon handler is mortally wounded. In the moments before his death, he dispatches one last pigeon. The bird is carrying his extraordinary gift to the girl he has loved since adolescence. Intertwined



Congregation B’nai Jacob

with this story is the contemporary tale of Yair Mendelsohn, who has his own legacy from the 1948 war. Yair is a tour guide specializing in bird-watching trips who, in middle age, falls in love again with a childhood girlfriend. His growing passion for her, along with a gift from his mother on her deathbed, becomes the key to a life he thought no longer possible.

Unforgettable in both its particulars and its sweep, “A Pigeon and A Boy” is a tale of lovers then and now—of how deeply we love, of what home is, and why we, like pigeons trained to fly in one direction only, must eventually return to it. In a voice that is at once playful, wise, and altogether beguiling, Meir Shalev tells a story as universal as war and as intimate as a winged declaration of love.

“Stunning...This gem of a story about the power of love...brims with luminous originality.” — *Publishers Weekly*

Discussion will be led by Kinneret Chiel, MA, MALS~ Kinneret Chiel has been an educator for over 40 years. She served as school principal at B’nai Jacob and at Mishkan Israel in Hamden and was director of Gan Hayered Nursery School. At Southern Connecticut State University, she was Assistant Professor in the Education Department and ran its Child Development Center.

## The Meaning Of Palm Sunday

Easter Sunday is the most sacred day on the Christian calendar. A celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion on Good Friday, Easter Sunday marks the culmination of the Lenten season, a 40-day period when Christians across the globe reflect on their faith and make sacrifices to honor the ultimate sacrifices made by their God.

The final week of Lent is known as Holy Week, and the week begins with Palm Sunday, the final Sunday before Easter. According to Catholic Online, Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphant arrival of Jesus Christ in

Jerusalem. Upon Christ’s arrival in Jerusalem, the townspeople who revered him showered him with praise, and some may even have thrown palm at his feet in front of him to pay homage.

Palms remain a meaningful symbol for Christians. Upon arriving at church on Palm Sunday, Christians are given palms before proceeding to their seats. These palms are blessed at the beginning of Palm Sunday Mass, and many Christians ultimately fashion their palms into small crosses.

Palms can be kept in a home for the year, though Christians who cannot do that can return them to their



church. That’s important to note, as Catholic Online indicates that, because palms are blessed, they cannot simply be discarded as trash. In fact, palms are sometimes collected by churches and incinerated. The resulting ashes are then used to create the ashes that will be used on Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. If returning palms to church is not feasible, CatholicCulture.org notes that it is acceptable to bury the palms.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. And like many other days on the Christian calendar, Palm Sunday is steeped in meaningful tradition.

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



# LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



## Orange Rehabilitation & Health Care Center Recognized

Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center has received a Center of Distinction Certificate, awarded by Wound Care Specialists, LLC, Connecticut’s largest provider of post-acute and long-term care wound management services. Leaders, physicians and clinicians from Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and Wound Care Specialists gathered to celebrate the Center of Distinction award. The Center of Distinction Certificate is given to skilled nursing facilities in the Wound Care Specialists network that have demonstrated continued superiority in wound healing for a minimum of twelve consecutive months.

Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center is a member of the Wound Care Specialists network of over 100 client skilled nursing facilities, with access to benchmarking data and proven experience. Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center offers highly specialized wound care to patients with acute and chronic wounds.

The Center of Distinction Certificate is awarded to skilled nursing facilities that meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Average days to heal of less than 30 over a one-year period;
- ✓ Dedicated facility wound nurse

- who conducts rounds led by a Wound Care Specialists provider;
- ✓ PT/OT department providing one or more adjuvant wound healing modalities;
- ✓ Registered dietician on staff;
- ✓ Quarterly review of wound healing outcome data; and
- ✓ Facility acquired pressure ulcer rate at or less than state average during reporting period.

“We are honored to award Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center with a Center of Distinction Certificate for their continued superiority in wound healing, said Jonathan Brenes, COO of Wound Care Specialists. “Our partnership with Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center has demonstrated a commitment to advancing the treatment, healing and prevention of acute and chronic wounds.”

Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center is a 60-bed skilled nursing center located conveniently on the Boston Post Road in Orange. It provides subacute rehabilitative and long-term care services, and has been family-owned and operated since its founding. Please visit [orange-health-care.com](http://orange-health-care.com) for more information.

## SBA Offers Disaster Assistance

*Aid for Connecticut Small Businesses Economically Impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Connecticut small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza announced on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

SBA acted under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, to declare a disaster following a request received from Gov. Ned Lamont on March 15, 2020.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in the entire state of Connecticut; and the contiguous counties of Berkshire, Hampden, and Worcester in Massachusetts; and Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester in New York; and Kent, Providence and Washington in Rhode Island.

## UI, SCG and CNG Release Mobile App

UI, SCG and CNG announced the launch of their mobile application, available for both Apple and Android devices. The release of the application comes after more than a year of development by parent company AVANGRID, Inc. and was designed completely with the customer in mind.

To download the application, customers should search “AVANGRID” in the Apple or Android app stores and select “United Illuminating”, “Southern Connecticut Gas” or “Connecticut Natural Gas”. The application is free to download, though users must have a valid company account.

Customers using the application will be able to accomplish the following, all from their mobile device:

- › View account information
- › Make payments
- › Report outages (UI only)
- › Check on an outage status (UI Only)

In addition to this launch, AVANGRID announced it has also released similar products for its gas and electric companies in New York and Massachusetts. To learn more about the app, visit our websites: [uinet.com](http://uinet.com) (UI); [soconn-gas.com](http://soconn-gas.com) (SCG) and [cngcorp.com](http://cngcorp.com) (SCG)

## Meanings Behind The Easter Lily

Easter symbols and traditions help make the holiday familiar and special. Eggs, hot cross buns and frilly church dresses help paint the picture, and so does a delicate and beautiful white flower.

The Easter lily plant is native to both Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. The plant’s flowering season begins in April and ends in June. The plant produces pure white flowers on top of long stems. Easter lilies often adorn homes and church altars during this time of year.

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden. These were believed to be tears of repentance.

Historians and biblical scholars say that the lily has always been highly regarded in the Christian Church. Jesus even references the flower in Luke 12:27, stating “Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Legend has it that, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is said to have prayed before his crucifixion. They were believed to have sprung up from a drop of sweat from his brow when his head was bent in prayer.

In Easter celebrations, the lily represents Christ’s Resurrection, and thusly new birth and new life. The delicate, white blooms can be viewed as pure, innocent and untainted by the world.

The flower itself is used in various ways to tell the resurrection story. The bulb is buried in the ground as a representation of Christ’s tomb. The trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers also announce life after death, since bulbed flowers often regrow year after year, according to the religious resource All About Jesus. And the trumpet shape signifies the angel Gabriel’s trumpet call.

It’s common for Easter lilies to decorate homes, churches, gardens, and more throughout the Easter season.





# What Can And Cannot Be Composted

Avid gardeners know that compost can add vital nutrients to soil used in gardens, container plants and lawns. The fact that compost is so versatile and nutrient-dense may not even be its most admirable quality. Made from items used in and around the house, compost costs just about nothing to produce.

The raw materials that make up compost come from organic waste. These can be disposables from the garden and kitchen, as well as other areas around the house. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, yard trimmings and food scraps add up to 20 to 30 percent of the municipal solid waste in the United States. Turning waste into compost not only helps the landscape, but also the planet.

Compost is relatively easy to make, and there are scores of materials that can be put into compost. But it is just as essential to know which ingredients cannot be used in compost.

### Okay for compost

Most organic materials, or items that were once living, can be used in compost. Plant-based items used in cooking, such as potato peelings, carrot skins, banana peels, cocoa hulls, coffee grounds and filters, corn cobs, apple cores, egg shells, fruit peels, kelp, and nut shells, can be added to compost.

Other items from around the house, like unused kitty litter, hair, shredded newspapers and cardboard, leaves, flowers, paper, pine needles, ashes, and sawdust, can be successfully added to compost. Stick to items that are not treated heavily with chemicals.

### Should not be used in compost

Inorganic and non-biodegradable materials cannot go into compost. These are items like plastic, glass, aluminum foil, and metal. Pressure-treated lumber, although a natural material, is treated with preservatives and often pesticides that can be harmful if they leech into the garden.

The small-gardening resource Balcony Garden Web indicates coated or glossy printed papers, such as those from catalogs, magazines, wrapping paper, marketing materials, and business cards, should not be added to compost piles because of the chemicals and inks used in these pages.

Planet Natural Research Center says to avoid pet droppings from dogs and cats. Animal products like bones, butter, milk, fish skins, and meat, may decompose and start to smell foul. Maggots, parasites, pathogens, and other microorganisms can form in the compost. These materials also may attract flies and scavenger animals. Plus, they decompose very slowly.

Any personal hygiene products should be avoided because they are tainted by human fluids and that can pose a health risk.

While weeds are not harmful in compost piles, there is the risk that seeds can germinate and then infiltrate garden beds when the compost is used. The same can be said for tomato plants and some other hardy fruits and vegetables.

Compost is a winner in the garden and around the landscape. Learning which ingredients can and can't be added to compost piles is useful for any gardener.

# Why Good Friday Is “Good”

Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday, which is the Friday before Easter Sunday. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was flogged and abused in other ways en route to his crucifixion, which ultimately ended with his death. So why would such a day ever be commemorated with the word “good”?

There are different theories as to how the word “good” came to be used in connection with the day that commemorates the crucifixion of Christ. In a 2014 article for the BBC, a senior editor with the Oxford English Dictionary, Fiona MacPherson, noted that the adjective “good” has traditionally been used to designate day or season in which religious observance is held.

So in that context, “good” is not used in the way many people use it today.

According to Christianity.com, the word “good” might be the result of an older name once used to commemorate Good Friday, which Christians believe is one of the holiest days of the year. Christianity.com notes that Good Friday was once referred to as “God’s Friday.” That name, the theory suggests, gradually evolved into “Good Friday.”

Many practicing Christians do not question the name Good Friday, feeling that the day, while one of solemn commemoration, also marks the beginning of the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, a celebration that culminates two days later on Easter Sunday.

## DEATH NOTICES



### DEATH NOTICES

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## Unique Easter Traditions From Across The Globe

Easter is the most important day of the year on the Christian calendar. A celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter commemorates the very core of the Christian faith. So it comes as no surprise that such an important day is steeped in tradition.

Easter traditions such as Easter Sunday Mass are widely known. But there are many unique Easter traditions across the globe that, while they may not be as widely known, illustrate the power of this very special day in the Christian community.

**India:** India may not be the first nation to come to mind when think-

ing of countries in which Christianity has a strong foothold. And while only a small percentage of people in India identify as Christian, Easter celebrations in the country are elaborate. For example, in the small state of Goa, Easter celebrants host carnivals and exchange gifts with fellow Christians. Those gifts include the Holy Cross, which is exchanged after Easter church services have ended. Such services are then followed by Easter parties, where families and friends gather and break bread together, much like Christian celebrants do in other parts of the world.

**Italy:** Residents of Florence celebrate Easter Sunday with a genuine flash. In a tradition that dates back several centuries, Florentines load a cart with fireworks before exploding it outside the famed Florence Cathedral.

**Europe:** Many European Christian communities burn an effigy of Judas Iscariot as part of their Easter celebrations. Christians believe the apostle Judas betrayed Jesus Christ, a betrayal that led to Christ's crucifixion. Despite some groups denouncing the burning of Judas as anti-Semitic, the practice continues in many countries.

**Spain:** Holy Week commemorates the entire week preceding Easter Sunday, including Holy Thursday and Good Friday. In the Spanish town of Verges, Christians commemorate Holy Thursday by reenacting scenes from the Passion, which refers to the short period at the end of Christ's life. The "Dansa de la Mort (Death Dance)" is part of that commemoration, and during this dance, participants dress up like skeletons.

Easter celebrations across the globe are steeped in tradition, including some that might surprise even the most devout Christians.

“The symbolic language of the crucifixion is the death of the old paradigm; resurrection is a leap into a whole new way of thinking.” — DEEPAK CHOPRA

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# Let Kites Soar: A Lenten Tradition Takes Flight

The Christian season of Lent and the Easter holiday are laden with time-honored traditions that are both secular and religious. Many such traditions are universal, but people still find ways to celebrate their Christian faith in their own unique ways.

Each Good Friday, residents of Bermuda take to the beach to fly kites. The tradition began from a legend that says a local teacher was attempting to explain to Sunday school students about Jesus’ ascension to heaven. The students were not grasping the concept, so the teacher purportedly launched a kite in the shape of a cross into the air to explain the matter. The students followed the teacher to a hilltop, set the kite flying, and then the teacher cut the string and the students watched it sail. In Bermuda, kite-flying remains a much-anticipated Good Friday

tradition.

Good Friday can be a solemn day, but it also is a day of joy in which the faithful give thanks for Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice for his people. Launching beautiful kites into the air toward heaven can transform the sky into an awe-inspiring mosaic of shapes and colors. Traditional Bermudian kites are crafted from colorful tissue paper and white pine wood, with rattan or bamboo used as the headstick bender. Great care and artistry is put into the crafting of these kites. Those who are short on time purchase pre-made kites for convenience.

The kite-flying extravaganza in Bermuda is followed by a meal of codfish cakes and hot cross buns.


Families looking for a special way to honor Christ during Lent may want to incorporate this vivid tradition of kite-flying into their celebrations.



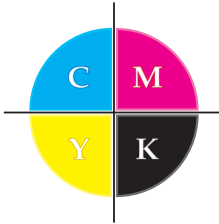
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# LOCAL SPORTS



The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade boys, Orange/Woodbridge Wolverines basketball team won the championship of the Fairfield County Basketball League on March 7, 2020

Left to right: Coach Ken Burns, Cam Wilkins, Brody Burns, Dylan Spark, Colby Crane, Tyler Wethington, Brennan Camus, Lance Mahon and Coach Sean Mahon (missing from the picture Daniel Matthew)



The Holy Infant Lady Orange Grade 8 Girls Basketball team recently competed in the FCBL Post Season Tourney capturing the Grade 8 Championship. The Lady O defeated Ridgefield in the Championship 39-34. Players on the team include: Mackenzie Martin, Vivian Cain, Jillian Barnes, Bridget Lowder, Grace Cavallaro, Tatiana Bell, Lucci Dottori, Grace Launder, Kylee McLain, and Meghan Kirck.

## 3 Herons Honored

William Smith College first-year forward Julianna Gong (Hingham, Mass./St. Mark's) was named the United College Hockey Conference's Rookie of the Year in a vote by the conference's coaches. This is the second straight year that a Heron has been voted the conference's top rookie.

Senior forward Gina Scibetta (Brewerton, N.Y./Central Square) was voted to the first team while junior defender Emily Martino (Orange, Conn./Canterbury) received honorable mention honors for the second straight year.

The trio led William Smith to an 18-8-0 overall record with a 13-3-0 record in UCHC play. The Herons' 18 wins this season match the program record for wins in a season. William Smith is the North Division's No. 3 seed in the conference tournament and knocked

off Nazareth 3-1 in the quarterfinals. William Smith was back on the ice Saturday, March 7, when it headed to Pine Valley, N.Y., for the semifinals. The Herons took on Manhattanville, the South Division top seed.

A captain, Martino has played in all 26 games for William Smith this season. She has 18 points on five goals and 13 assists. Martino notched a career-high three points in an 8-0 win over King's on November 9. She added two points in wins over Alvernia, Chatham and Wilkes. On the defensive end of the ice, Martino has blocked 35 shots, second on the team.

In 80 career games, Martino has recorded 54 points on 16 goals and 38 assists. She is sixth on William Smith's all-time list in assists, seventh in points and ninth in goals.



The Holy Infant Lady Orange Grade 6 Girls Basketball team recently competed in the FCBL Post Season Tourney capturing the Grade 6 Championship. The Lady O defeated Monroe in the Championship 36-33. Players on the team include: Fiona Curis, Mackenzie Smith, Lily Simons, Addy Pivovar, Ava Storz, Sarah Donegan, Sienna Murphy, Nina Nardecchia, Marlee Lyons and JJ Kirck.

Orange Town News

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# ARTS & LEISURE



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Concert Performers



Michaela Kraut, Sophomore at URI



Marty Gnidula Interviews Alumnae Joey Sansone & Nick Clark

## Turkey Hill School Holds 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Concert

The curtain opened on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Turkey Hill School Drama Club’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Concert and more than thirty alumni actors took the stage singing, dancing and reminiscing. Alumni included Master of Ceremonies, Marty Gnidula, Elizabeth Bodie, Mitchell Bronson, Luke Chang, Nick Clark, Maria Dalle Ave, Claire DeRosa, Ava DiVincenzo, Raegan French, Brigitte Gagnon, Mar-

celle Gagnon, Dana Jossick, Audrey Jurzyk, Hannah Hayes, Michaela Kraut, Anna Laganovska, Maya Patel, Thomas Sampson, James Sansone, Joseph Sansone, Sydney Sherrick, Kasey Smith, Molly Stratford and Ledgym Washington.

The THS Drama Club thanks the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation for sponsoring the drama club and making the performance possible.

## “PICTURE THIS” A Photo Contest Postponed

The Orange Arts and Culture Council has announced that it is postponing the “Picture This” Photo Contest. Open to Orange residents, the annual event is for students in grades four through twelve.

“Because of recent events, we will reschedule this contest,” said Liz Gesler, chairman of the event. “In the meantime, budding photographers can experiment with interesting and creative photos by looking around their own home.”

Once the event has been rescheduled, prizes will be awarded in three age categories: grades four through six, grades seven and eight and grades nine through twelve.

For more information contact:  
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