

Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper
Mailed Free To Every Home & Business in Orange

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Orange Schools Slowly and Intentionally Return to Normalcy

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Orange Schools are slowly looking a bit more like they did pre-COVID in a variety of ways. On February 28, Orange Schools made mask-wearing optional for students, staff and visitors.

"The transition has gone quite well as reported by our building administrators," Superintendent of Schools Vince Scarpetti said. "In addition, positive COVID cases have been minimal."

He refers parents to the COVID-19 dashboard on the district's website for continued weekly status updates which includes the most current number of staff and students who are quarantining due to being COVID positive or having had a close contact. This data is compiled by information that families and staff share with school nurses.

"If you were to look tonight, we've had one case this past week," Scarpetti said. Since mask-wearing has become

optional, administration has received many questions and inquiries regarding events at the schools.

"We have developed a procedure," he explained. "Any member of the PTA or PTO would go to the building principal with a request form detailing what the event would look like. The form will then be reviewed with the principal and myself before it is reviewed by the health department."

Parents are receiving information about events with details on any guidelines.

"Slowly we are going back to the way things used to be and there is a lot of excitement in the schools because of that," he said. "However, even though things are looking like they used to, we are moving slowly and intentionally. Today was a perfect day to open the windows and get fresh air circu-

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Planners To Work on Affordable Housing Plan

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCROG) has submitted a draft affordable housing plan to the Orange Plan and Zoning Commission for its review. Zoning Enforcement Officer Jack Demirjian said he posted the document on the town's website for residents to review. Members of P&Z will have a chance to make comments, prioritize strategies and suggest changes at the commission's April 19 meeting.

Demirjian said no public hearing is required to adopt the plan, but the town has the chance to weigh in and make it its own. The commission can vote on the revised document in May. The final plan has to be submitted to the state by June 1.

All municipalities are required to submit a plan, in an effort to revive efforts to increase affordable housing.

SCROG has contracted with RKG Associates to work with the respective land use offices in its member towns to come up with a plan. It sponsored a survey last fall to give residents a chance for direct input. Several towns had informational meetings. From Orange, about 100 people responded to the survey. Demirjian had posted it on the town's website and circulated the link to the different departments and even the political parties, to get people's input.

According to its website, SCROG provides a platform for intermunicipal coordination, cooperation, and decision making. It has 15 member towns in the Greater New Haven region, stretching from Milford to Madison, and includes all three Amity towns. Over the years, SCROG has addressed numerous issues, such as

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“Housing Plan” From Page 1

those related to housing, transportation, land use planning, municipal services and operations, and economic development.

Back in the 1990s the state introduced an affordable housing statute to increase housing opportunities. The law aims to make the towns an active player in the creation of housing by overriding local zoning. If a town with less than 10% of affordable housing stock rejects a proposed development that contains some affordable units, and the project lands in court, that town has the burden of proof to show how the proposed project impacts the health and security of its neighbors.

About 1.2% of Orange’s housing stock is deemed affordable, according to the analysis. There is currently a 46-

unit development under construction at 325 Smith Farm Road, off of Boston Post Road, the majority of which will be deed restricted.

The data in the report shows, with the help of graphs and pie charts and maps, things like the distribution of housing stock, the number of building permits in the last 10 years; the income distribution and age distribution in the population. SCROG pulled the data from the 2020 census, the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development, the survey and the building permits of the last five years. The report also includes a number of “strategies” that lay out different ways to create incentives for more affordable housing.

“A lot of it is informational,” Demirian said in a phone conversation. “It is not taking a hard stance; rather, it promotes all sorts of housing.”

“Schools” From Page 1

lating through the schools and we are continuing to improve our systems in the school.”

As schools are returning to normal, certified staff had its first district-wide professional development program in over two years. ‘Improving School Climate to Support Student Achievement’ was highly interactive and gave teachers the opportunity to explore the

impact of school climate on student success and engagement, according to district Director of Curriculum/Instruction & Personnel Evelyn Russo.

“We discussed various strength-based models and examined the impact of adult responsibility and role-modeling on the development of a safe, respectful and culturally competent professional learning community,” she said. “It was very well received, especially after how everybody has been feeling.”

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

April 16th is National Healthcare Decisions Day

There may come a time when you are unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to injury, illness, or disease. For that reason, it is important that you sign a document called "Healthcare Instructions". Anyone over the age of eighteen (18) should have Health Care Instructions.

To recognize the 8th Annual National Healthcare Decisions Day, we want to remind you that:

- You have the right to make decisions about the medical care you receive.
- You have the right to tell your physician that you do not want certain medical treatments.
- You have the right to name the person (or people) who will make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so for yourself.
- You have the right to pre-direct specific instructions about any aspect of your health care.
- You have the right to have your wishes communicated in the event you no longer are able to express your own medical wishes.
- Your rights can be preserved by signing Health Care Instructions. Health Care Instructions are legal instructions to your physicians and family members that express your wishes pertaining to your medical care. These instructions will govern if you are unable to actively participate in your medical decision making or communicate your medical wishes.
- Health Care Instructions allow you to:
 - Designate one or more individuals ("Health Care Representatives") to make medical decisions on your behalf, in accordance with your wishes.
 - Authorize your Health Care Representatives to discuss your medical history and current medical status with your physicians.
 - Direct the withholding or withdrawing of mechanical life support systems if you are in a persistent vegetative state or the final stages of a terminal illness.
 - Name a person to serve as your Conservator (someone to manage your personal or financial matters) if you should ever be deemed incapable by the Probate Court.
 - Donate all or part of your body, following your death, for transplantation, therapy, education, or research if you wish to do so.
 - If you change your mind about any of the decisions you have made, you have the right to change or revoke your Health Care Instructions at any time while you are alive and mentally capable.

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



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



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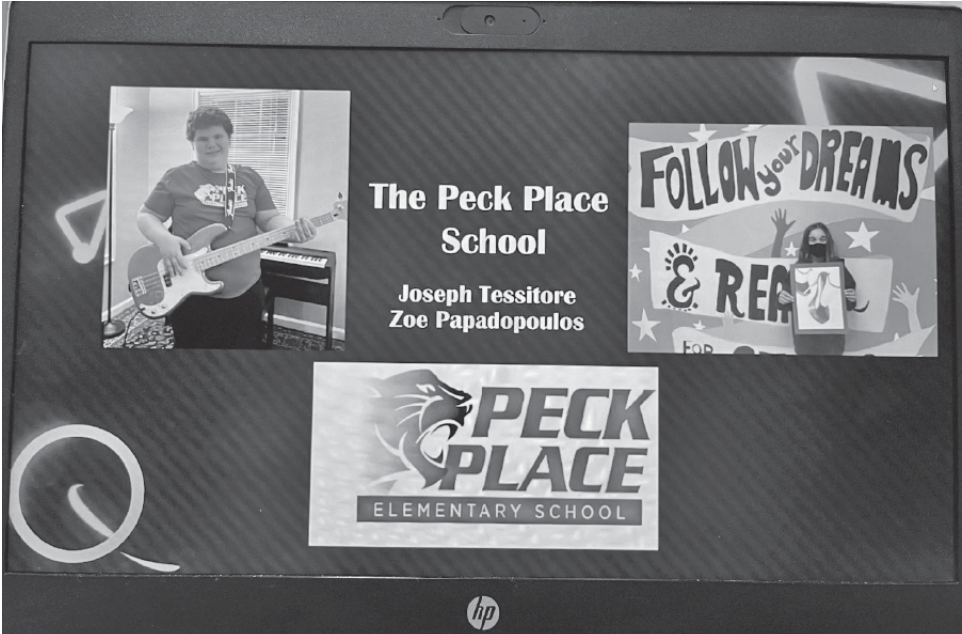
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EDUCATION



Artistic Students Honored Virtually

On Tuesday, March 15, The Connecticut Association of Schools held the 23rd Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts. Students, parents, Music and Art teachers, and administrators joined the virtual event to celebrate our students.

This program is designed to recognize students with outstanding citi-

zenship, cooperative skills, and artistic ability in performing or visual arts at the elementary level. Each elementary school in Connecticut is invited to select two students to be honored.

Congratulations to Joseph Tessitore and Zoe Papadopoulos who were selected to represent The Peck Place School by Mr. Trapp and Dr. Jalil.

STUDENT NEWS

Achievements Hailey Benedetto Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Baton Rouge, LA - Hailey Benedetto of Orange, CT, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Benedetto was initiated at Pennsylvania State University.

Emerson College Student Jaden Esse Earns Purple Key Leadership Society Membership

Boston, MA - Jaden Esse of Orange, CT earned membership into the 2022 Purple Key Leadership Society at Emerson College. Participants were honored during the annual Emerson Recognition & Achievement (ERA) Awards on Friday, April 8 in the Robert J. Orchard Stage in the Paramount Center. The Purple Key Leadership Society recognizes a select group of seniors who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service, solid

academic achievement, and a commitment to civic engagement. Jaden Esse is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2022.

Shayna Goldblatt Initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Shayna Goldblatt, a native of Orange, was recently initiated into the Elon University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 342 new initiates from 11 universities during February 2022.

Dean's List Loyola University Maryland

Baltimore, MD - Kelly Shaw, a member of the class of 2023 from Orange, has been named to the fall 2021 Dean's List at Loyola University Maryland. In order to qualify for the Dean's List at Loyola, a student must achieve a minimum QPA of at least 3.500 for the term, provided that, in the term they have successfully completed courses totaling a minimum of 15 credits.

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

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
May 6 Mother’s Day Issue.....	April 29
May 27 Memorial Day Issue	May 20
June 24 Independence Day Issue	June 17

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

FROM OUR READERS

Reader Appreciates Information Provided on Amity Budget

After reading and then re-reading all three of Jim Leahy’s articles in the Orange Town News concerning the Amity budgets over the past years, I felt compelled to write and urge all town residents to do the same. Regardless of whether or not one has children in the school system, the Amity budget affects everyone’s wallet – and I would think that those without children in the system would be even more concerned as they are paying just as much as those who do.

In his articles, Jim provides hard facts in his effort to demonstrate that the yearly Amity budget increases are both unnecessary and unwarranted. While he spells it all out very well, a few things truly jumped out at me that I’d like to relate here.

Over the last 16 years, the average budget increase has been about 2.35%, yet this year’s proposal is 4.92%. This is despite the fact that enrollment has been following a steady downward trend and the average yearly budget surplus for the last four years has been almost \$3 million!

He makes the point that if over the last four years we hadn’t increased the budget at all, we would still have had an ample surplus every year. Instead, the individual cost to each Orange taxpayer for just the surplus portion of the budget is \$684 over the past 4 years.

There is much more significant data included in his articles, but based on these facts alone I can’t imagine why, in a referendum, we as taxpayers would vote yes on any budget that included an increase at all. I would urge everyone to do their homework on this issue – at the very least read Jim’s articles in

the recent issues of this paper – and show up to vote on May 3rd.
Anthony P. Scarinzi

Amity Board of Education Budget... Just say NO!

For months I felt uncomfortable speaking with respect to the Amity Board of Education. My thoughts were that without children in the school system, I did not have a right to speak. I kept my thoughts to myself. However, in listening to other parents I realized I was not helping the situation. More so, I wondered how many more people are silent for the same reasons? It doesn’t matter if we have children or not, our voices should be heard.

For Amity to ask for an increase of more than \$2,000,000, when their annual budget has reflected a surplus of nearly 3 million dollars per year over the past 4 years is insane. Over the years, our schools have seen a major decrease in the number of students. The Amity school board, however, is not only asking for a huge increase in the budget, but they are also asking for additional central office employees.

To be honest, every taxpayer – not only in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge, but also in the surrounding towns/cities in the region – are seeing daily life costs increase almost overnight. Essentially, Amity High School is asking for a budget increase that would raise spending significantly. In a normal year, this increase might be reasonable. However, this year it’s anything but reasonable. Now is not the time.

Saying no to a school board budget that is over-budgeting does not hurt the students. I ask each resident to

See “Letters” On Page 9



OTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
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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



Pep Rally at Peck Place School

The Peck Place School hosted a school-wide Pep Rally on March 11, with special guests from The Walter Camp Foundation. The Denver Bronco Cheerleaders and past and present All-American team players spoke to the students about the importance of focusing on their dreams and believing in themselves. The students were also entertained with fun games and each received a mini football as a gift from

the Walter Camp Foundation which the players signed. Walter Camp’s lessons in honesty, integrity, self-denial, cooperation and teamwork go well beyond the world of sports and are a foundation for success in education and other endeavors to benefit oneself and his/her community. A special thank you to Peck Place dad, Mario Coppola, for organizing such a fun, community event.



Students Excel in Wharton’s Investing Competition

Using newly acquired finance knowledge, strategic thinking, and creativity, local high school team beats out hundreds of other student teams from around the world

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania has announced the Semifinalists for the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, an annual contest for high school teachers and students run by the School’s Wharton Global Youth Program. Unlike other competitions, winners are selected on the strength and creativity of their team investment strategies, not on the growth of their stock portfolios.

Recently, a team of students from Amity Regional High School were notified that they were among the 50 global semifinalists in the Wharton Global Investment Competition. The students who are representing Amity in this competition are co-captain Pi-yush Bahel ‘23, co-captain Aarav Patel ‘24, Eydan Lavi ‘24, Henry Ranani ‘24, and Edwin Sweeney ‘23.

The Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, launched in 2012, is a 12-week challenge in which students compete in teams of four to seven, led by an advisor, to win the chance to manage the wealth of a potential client. Presented with a case study of this client, teams must create a compelling and creative long-term strategy that addresses the client’s investment goals. (This year’s case study features Nichole Jordan, Senior Vice President, Global Partner Success at Via, a TransitTech company that provides the digital infrastructure for public mobility systems to meet the needs of large cities and smaller communities around the world.) Along the way, students learn investing concepts with the help of Wharton Global Youth Program resources, conduct in-depth analysis, and buy stocks for their portfolio using an online simulator that is a tool for trading and portfolio-management education.

Following the end of 10 weeks

of trading, each team is required to submit a report detailing its recommended investment strategy, analytical approach and competition journey. A unique aspect of this competition was that judging was not based on how much their portfolio grew, but rather their creativity. Judges review these final investment reports and select the top 50, which then compete against each other in the Semifinals round. The top 10 Semifinalists advance to the Global Finale, which will be held in person on April 23, 2022.

This 12-week international competition consisted of teams from over 60 countries and close to 7,000 participants. The competition states that this is one step towards their “mission to connect high school students and educators around the world with the Wharton School’s many businesses, finance, and leadership opportunities.”

By utilizing fundamental as well as technical investment strategies, the Amity Spartans were able to create a unique strategy tailored to the prospective client. Over the course of the competition, they utilized quantitative models alongside qualitative frameworks to systematically evaluate the top investments across all sectors. By integrating technology, this limited emotional risk while optimizing the portfolio to ensure mid-term and long-term success. This unique approach allowed the team to stand out and ultimately be chosen as part of the 50 teams to move on.

Throughout the competition, the team gained numerous skills and learned valuable lessons, perhaps the most important being how to remain patient and emotionally controlled.

The Amity Spartans explained, “Understanding how to properly handle

See “Investing” On Page 8

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what’s going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.
You can also send us your pictures.
(Parental consent required)

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CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Visit our website casememoriallibrary.org and sign up for our weekly email newsletter for updates on events at the library.

Hours: The Library's hours are as follows:

- › Monday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- › Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Holiday Closings: The Library will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 and will be closed on Friday, April 15 in observance of Good Friday.

Program Fees: Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free, except as noted for materials charges, and open to the public.

Registration: Registration is required for all library programs, unless otherwise noted. Register for events at casememoriallibrary.org/events.

Zoom Programs: For online security reasons you must register with the Library to attend virtual programs. Registered attendees will receive a Zoom link via email before the event. The registrant's name as displayed on Zoom must match the name used for registration in order to guarantee admission.

Take & Make Programs: Please check the full event listing for age restrictions, deadlines to sign up, and instructions on pickup of supplies.

Story Times

Story times will take place in person at the library. Registration is required. Non-registrants will not be admitted. Masks are recommended.

3-5-Year Old Story Time

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

No story time on May 30

Preschoolers are invited to join Ms. Michelle for stories, music, and movement!

Lapsit Story Time

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.



176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477
203-891-2170 • www.casememoriallibrary.org

Little ones and their caregivers are invited to this high-energy story time with Ms. Michelle! We'll practice nursery rhymes, sing and move together, plus explore touch-and-feel books.

2-Year-Old Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

No story time on May 4

Experience music and movement, dive into picture books, and sing your favorite songs with Ms. Michelle! This program will take place in person at the library.

Events for Children

Take & Make: Homemade Sachets

Pickup Dates: May 2-9

For children and tweens ages 6 and up.

Give Mom (or another special someone who loves you) a homemade sachet full of soothing lavender or chamomile. Registration is required.

Take & Make: Tea-rrific Mother's Day Craft

Pickup Dates: May 2-9

For children ages 3-5.

Give Mom (or another special someone who loves you) a special craft made with love. Registration is required. Please select your preferred kit pickup date on the registration form.

tration form.

Take & Make: Cherry Blossom Art

Pickup Dates: May 9-14

For tweens in grades 4-6.

Create a piece of art based on the beautiful spring cherry blossoms! Participants will need scissors and glue. Registration is required.

Family Take & Make: Paper Plate Kites

Pickup Dates: May 23-31

For children up to age 12 and their families.

Let's all fly a kite! Make your own kite using a paper plate, a popsicle stick, and some string! Participants will need scissors and ribbon/scrap fabric for the tail decorations. Alternative instructions for a hand-held 'kite' will be provided for toddlers and preschoolers.

Events for Teens & Adults

Teen Break-In Bags

Pickup dates: May 9-14

For teens in grades 7-12.

Think escape room except instead of trying to break out you're trying to break in. Solve the puzzles to find the numeric code that will open the lock and free the loot inside! Registration is required.

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group

Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m.

Join Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a Zoom discussion of *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President* by Candice Millard. This program will be held via Zoom. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Outdoor Concert: Irish Music with Tom O'Carroll

Saturday, May 21, 2 p.m.

Join Dublin born folklorist, folk-singer and instrumentalist Tom O'Carroll for a lively concert of Irish music. This program will be held outside on the library's back lawn. Registration is required. Please bring your own chair. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Tiny Art Show

For teens in grades 7-12.

Visit the teen department in the Case Memorial Library throughout the month of May to see our Teen Tiny Art Show. Original works created by local teens will be on display for viewing. There's still time to join this Tiny Art Show! Stop by the Library to pick up a kit.

Tapping Into the Past

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library is featuring a Zoom program, "Tapping into the Past: Tavern Life in Early Connecticut", on April 12 at 7:00pm. This program is presented in conjunction with Orange Bicentennial Celebrations.

Taverns in colonial Connecticut were pubs that served as social hubs. Men from all walks of life met to transact business, discuss politics, gamble and gossip over drinks of brandy, whiskey or rum. Taverns were the first town halls, post offices, news centers, general stores, and also used as impromptu courtrooms, and military recruitment stations. Large taverns, known as inns, provided food and lodging for travelers arriving on

horseback or stagecoach with news from other colonies.

Taverns' most important role in society was the spread of new ideas which generated debate and political discussion. The rallying cry for independence and freedom was roused in taverns over drinks.

Presenter Taylor McClure is a Museum Educator at the Connecticut Historical Society. A former social studies teacher. Ms. McClure has a B.A. degree in History and an M.A. degree in Teaching from the University of Washington.

Make your reservation at www.casememoriallibrary.org to join this spirited gathering on Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00pm via Zoom.



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In honor of Our Town's 200th Anniversary we are offering this family keepsake heirloom displaying the historic and contemporary town seals.

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“Investing” From Page 6

our emotions in times of unprecedented market volatility taught us how to stay patient and have faith in our disciplined strategy. This proved to be imperative in becoming a successful portfolio manager. At certain junctures, we felt compelled to close our positions at a loss, despite believing that the stock is a strong pick. But our conviction ultimately prevailed and prevented us from making such decisions. Experiencing this market volatility firsthand allowed us to clearly understand how patience and discipline are defining traits of successful investing.”

Through their participation in the

competition, the students started the Amity Investment Club at their school. To date there are around 100 members that are a part of the club. Meeting biweekly, they go over current market conditions and upcoming catalysts. They then move to a discussion of various strategies, provide examples, and analyze price action of the most traded and popular stocks each week.

Unfortunately, while the team was not able to move onto the Global Finals, the Amity Spartans hope to bounce back next year using their newfound knowledge. Still, the competition was a great experience, and the team hopes it can inspire others to start investing and taking hold of their financial futures early on.



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Rain date: Sunday, June 26th

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Send completed order form and checks no later than Friday, June 17th -
payable to: Town of Orange – Bicentennial Dinner

Adults: \$20 per person
Children, Ages 4-12: \$10 per child
Advance Ticket Sales Only

Names of Attendees: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children (4 -12): _____

Telephone number: _____

Mail or Hand Deliver NO LATER THAN Friday, June 17th to:
Orange Town Hall, c/o Ann Denny 617 Orange Center Road, Orange OR Orange Park and Rec c/o Lynn Plaskowitz 525 Orange Center Road, Orange

Questions? Contact:
Polly Demirjian - orenstein@laflegal.com
Ginny Proestakes - vproestakes@sbcglobal.net

“Letters” From Page 5

vote. Moms, dads, grandparents, or empty nesters, our votes are important, our voices must be heard.

All our votes matter. So, please get out. Vote “NO” to turn down this unacceptable budget increase.

Jude Toohey

Orange Fred Wolfe Park Playground, The Two Best Kept Secrets in Orange!

First best kept secret: The Town of Orange will soon be building a half million-dollar playground at Fred Wolfe Park as the awardee of two grants from the State of Connecticut. I am totally in favor of this playground and think this will be a wonderful benefit for our children. We especially need this playground for daytime use as the current playgrounds in Orange are not accessible while schools are in session. I will be the first in line to volunteer to help to build it. In fact, I organized all the volunteers for the original playground built at Mary L. Tracy.

However, I do have concern for the location chosen by the First Selectman. As of this date, the Orange Park & Recreation commissioners have not reviewed or approved this location. This playground is being squeezed in at the entrance of Fred Wolfe Park and the end of Hollow Road – inexplicably considering the 15-plus acres of flat land available at the park.

Even under the current circumstances, parking at Fred Wolfe Park is inadequate for the soccer and lacrosse teams that are scheduled. The parking area is often completely full, with no additional space to park. Cars are backed up on Hollow Road waiting to get into the park. The driveway does not safely allow two-way traffic, nor is there a walkway for pedestrians or bicycles...let alone carriages!

If we build a playground at this entrance location, I’m concerned we will have to close the playground or cancel games every time the parking lot is full, which I anticipate will happen every weekend.

I have personally experienced this while organizing soccer for 22 years at Fred Wolfe. I spend all day Saturday

and Sunday at both Mary L. Tracy and Fred Wolfe Park and many times have not found a parking spot. I have not seen our First Selectman visit the park to personally see the parking/traffic nightmare on Sundays.

I have been organizing Orange Youth Soccer Association for 36 years in Orange. All children are treated like they are my own. I hope my reputation proceeds me on safety concerns for your children.

Second best kept secret: For the last 21 years a large part of Fred Wolfe Park has been farmed for corn. The park has 15 plus acres of flat land. The farming has been done by a local resident. The land is leased out for two years by the Selectmen. The town receives \$150 for two years. The original master plan approved and dated on January 2013 showed a phase 6 for field development. All of Fred Wolfe Park was purchased as passive recreation. The plan below shows the phase 6 location for a playground. This location would allow a separate entrance and parking for the playground. This layout will allow for playground expansion and access for all, including the young Lacrosse and Soccer players at Fred Wolf Park to enjoy after their games.

Please see the Phase 6 layout of Fred Wolfe Park. This is where the playground belongs. Please let me and the Town Selectmen know your opinion on the location for the playground. Feel free to call my cell number at 203 609-1392 or email tompisanotrane@gmail.com.

Tom Pisano, Orange Soccer Association Co-President

Former Bethany Leader No Longer Supports Amity Budget

I have lived most of my life in the Amity Regional School District and

graduated from the original building. As former First Selectman of Bethany, I, along with other taxpayers, have supported the Amity District. In fact, my current home in Orange has not had a student at Amity since 1967, while paying taxes each year to support it.

I have two reasons to vote NO for the current Amity budget.

Reason #1: Amity has on-going large surpluses of about \$3,000,000. I wonder how much fluff is buried in the details of the budget? How much was spent in the last 90 days of the fiscal years to bring the surplus down to 5%? Is there still a 10% surplus built into the budget we are faced with voting on?

Reason #2: Included in the curriculum and the training of staff is one new line item that includes: “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Instructional Coach.” This is just another name for “Critical Race Theory” or CRT. CRT is a philosophy founded by law professors who used Marxist analysis to claim that America is “systemically racist.”

Why should we be spending our tax dollars to support the teaching of racism and that America is bad to our children and grandchildren? As Martin Luther King said, Success should be based on our individual abilities not by the color of your skin. I will NEVER support an Amity Budget that includes CRT and ask that it be removed from any curriculum and training.

For both reasons, I urge the taxpayers of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge to Vote NO to the Amity budget on May 3rd.

Craig A Stahl

Resident Concerned with FWP Status

As a resident of Hollow Road, I am writing to share my concerns regarding the status of Fred Wolfe Park (FWP) –

and to make sure all Orange residents are aware of some of the future issues with FWP and the playground. I can confidently say that the vast majority of the Hollow Road residents would agree with the points I am to make.

1. The current entrance to FWP is inadequate even without the future playground. The entrance is a one lane road built through wetlands. If you are driving on the road and a car comes in the opposite direction, you literally have to pull over into wetlands to allow that car to pass. This happens all the time on busy Saturdays/Sundays. On those busy days, you probably have about 200 cars per hour going through that tiny entrance.
2. The parking lot is insufficient even without the future playground. On a busy game day, there has to be at least 100 cars parked (see attached aerial photo taken in October 2021). You have only two soccer games going on in the photo – and the lot is about 2/3rds full. How can this parking lot accommodate a busy game day? How could it accommodate many games AND a playground? The answer is – it can’t.
3. The entrance – and parking lot – are safety hazards. With the increased traffic flow through such a constricted entrance and onto an unpaved parking lot, it is only a question of WHEN there will be an injury/incident. It could be two cars colliding on the entrance road. Or a car striking a child in the parking lot. Or an emergency vehicle unable to get to the park in time due to 30+ cars backed up on Hollow Road.

Unfortunately, no one on the Playground committee nor with the First Selectman’s office appears to be taking these concerns seriously.

We need, at a minimum:

1. A second entrance with a width sufficient enough to accommodate two cars driving in opposite directions simultaneously;
2. An expanded parking lot that is designed by a professional.

And lastly, we could/should consider the expansion of the park and/or playground and/or entrance into the cornfields located adjacent to FWP. This is land owned by the town.

Nick Calcaterra

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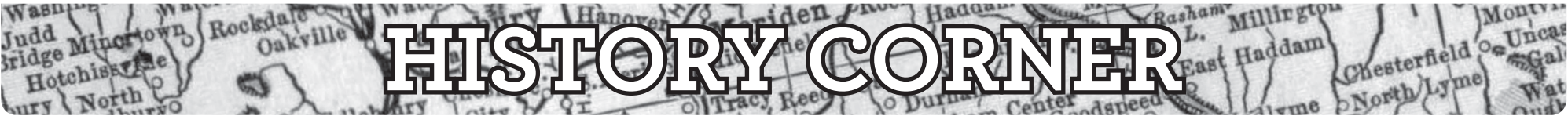
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Ron & Ree



Telecommunications in Orange...



BY GINNY REINHARD

This is the History Corner, right? So, you may be wondering about the title... well, just sit back and see just what the title means. The word telecommunication is a compound of Greek and Latin with “tell” meaning distant and “communicare” meaning to share. Its written use goes back to 1904, yup 1904. Communication as a word was first used as an English word in the late 14th century!

As a word with today’s understanding, it’s the transmission of information by all types of technology, not exclusive to the 21st century. No indeed. It has its origin in the hope of humans to be able to communicate over a distance greater than their voice. However, many kids of my generation know that our mom could shout the longest distance possible to get you to come home when it was getting dark.

To get you thinking in the history of this article, let’s go out west, to the midwest, down south and surely into New England and watch the smoke rise into the air with special patterns. Communication across miles of land. How about ships at sea with flags moving in patterns, telling important information. For a moment think about the light houses that used to dot the eastern coast...communication.

Close your eyes for a minute and listen to the drums, the beat communicating information, horns blown in celebration and whistles...all of it letting us know what people want us to know... in a way we would have understood, so many centuries ago and in many countries, still used today. Homing pigeons have been used throughout

history and little did they know they were communicating too.

The 20th century was led in by electrical and electromagnetic technology such as the telegraph, telephone, radio, optic fiber and, of course, communication satellites. The revolution of this wonderment began in 1909 with Guglielmo Marconi, winner of the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics, but he wasn’t alone. There were others who saw the future such as Samuel Morse with the telegraph and Alexander Graham Bell with the telephone. Although the first electrical telegraph was demonstrated by English inventor Sir William Fothergill Cooke, Samuel Morse introduced his telegraph a bit later in 1837 which was considered to be more effective in its transmission.

The conventional telephone, as we know history, was patented by Alexander Bell in 1876 but Elisha Gray also filed for it in 1876, but abandoned it so Bell’s patent was approved. Gray had the timing right, but Bell had written it down and the first to test his variable resistance telephone. The first commercial telephone services were set up by the Bell Telephone Company in 1878 and 1879 in London and...are you ready? New Haven. Yes, New Haven was the first town in the United States to have commercial telephone service.

The telegraph, as the folks out west experienced, was set by wires strung across the land, used by railroads and commercial business as well, but it was a wire-based system. If you watch old movies on television, you have seen the telegraphers, tapping away, making clicking sounds, which was a code of dots and dashes, communicating. Starting in 1894 our man



Marconi began developing a wireless communication using radio waves and by 1902 he was able to transmit a signal across the Atlantic Ocean. This was the start of wireless telegraphy by radio. By 1904 a commercial service was established to transmit nightly news summaries to subscribing ships, which could then be incorporated into their on-board newspapers.

The saying goes that time flies... well it seems to have flown in telecommunications as seen by WW I with the development of radio for military communications and after the war, commercial radio, AM broadcasting which began in the 1920s for entertainment. With the onset of WW II, there was an explosion of international broadcasting propaganda. Countries and their government, insurgents and terrorists have all used telecommunication to promote propaganda. Seoul City Sue was North Korea’s answer to propaganda. She was not just a voice on episodes of M.A.S.H.

The Orange Historical Society is launching a telephone exhibit based on the history of S.N.E.T., a New Haven based telecommunication. In a telephone network, the caller is connected to the person they wish to talk to by switches at various telephone exchanges. On Orange Center Road, we have such an exchange where our landlines are connected in and out as we call and answer our landlines. The

switches form an electric connection and dialing each number brings the caller closer to its destination. Once the connection is made the voice of the caller is transformed into an electrical signal using the microphone in the handset.

The signal then goes to the receiver of the handset of the person called... did you get all that? It’s not that simple, of course. The first communication system in our town was a telegraph line, privately owned and installed between the homes of Edward Clark and his brother Elias who lived just over the town line in Woodbridge. This line started in 1880 using the dots and dashes of the Morse Code system. In about 1895, the first telephone system was undertaken as a single, private, party line from the homes of Sylvester Colburn, Charles Clark and Arthur Clark extending to Scobie’s store, the grocery store with a switchboard. You know, the little white building across from the shopping center on Orange Center Road.

When the number of subscribers increased to forty-eight, the town system was taken over by the Southern New England Telephone Company (S.N.E.T.) on October 13, 1908 becoming known as the Orange Telephone Exchange. We have some wonderful photographs of the operators who worked out of a small part of a home on Orange Center Road, then owned by Alpheus Merwin. You can still see the small section on the right side of the home at 669.

By 1938, the Orange Exchange was incorporated with the New Haven Exchange with 288 telephones here in town. Soon the dial system was added, doing away with the central office and alas our operators who would say, “number please” were no longer needed. Our exhibit starts out with the telegraph and goes up to a 1994 Linx car phone with many examples Western Electric /Southern New England Telephone phones in between. If you watch a lineman working on a phone line with a bucket in the air, come see what the linemen used to wear to climb the poles to fix your phone. Did I say climb? We have a great selection of S.N.E.T. publicity photos, one of which shows a group of men being trained to climb a telephone pole and if they were successful, they would retrieve their check at the top.

We will be open soon so watch for the sign outside the Academy. With 2022, the Academy Museum will be open with historical displays every Saturday from 10-3 and you can see the phone exhibit as well as browse through the historical exhibits. See you soon.



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

18th	Family Counseling Advisory Council.....9:00 am	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education7:00 pm	Mary L Tracy
	Board of Finance.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Library Commission7:00 pm	Case Mem. Library
19th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
20th	Recycling Cmte.....7:00 pm	HPCC
25th	Youth Services Advisory Board.....7:30 pm	HPCC
27th	Park & Recreation Comm.....7:30 pm	Town Hall
28th	Water Pollution Authority6:00 pm	Town Hall



happy
Easter



Town of Orange
Commemorative
Bicentennial Flags for Sale

In honor of the 200th Anniversary of The Town of Orange, The Bicentennial Committee will be selling flags. The flags are 3' x 5' and will have the above logo on them. Flags will be sold at the First Selectman's Office, or you may order by completing and sending in this form to:
Town of Orange 617 Orange Center Road Orange CT 06477 Attn: Ann Denny.
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OVNA Nurses Bring the Care Into The Home

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After John McCarthy of Orange had ankle surgery last year, he couldn't put weight on his foot for a long time. He couldn't drive; he couldn't get up and down the stairs of his house. That's when the nurses and therapists from the Orange Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) came in and slowly, deliberately, nursed him back to a measure of independence. He "graduated" from one cast to the next, then a boot with a wheelchair, and finally, to crutches. They taught him how to get in and out of the shower safely and how to navigate the stairs.

"The last test was to get out of the house," the 74-year-old said. He wrote them a letter, thanking "his team" for the care they provided, and that letter is now hanging on a dedicated wall, along with many other letters and cards from grateful patients.

The OVNA is the official home health agency of the Town of Orange, and its nurses and therapists are em-

ployees of the town, not contracted from outside companies. They have three full time, and one part-time nurse, also two full-time physical therapists; two occupational therapists, a speech therapist and a home health aide.

When patients are discharged from the hospital, they are given a choice of three agencies, said Lisa Pimenta, the administrative director. Sometimes they don't realize that the OVNA is not the same organization as any other Visiting Nurse agency. One of their patients was discharged and was given another agency, but that agency never showed up.

When she called the OVNA, "we were out there within a few hours," she said. "Only a small agency can do that."

Another patient needed a commode,

but didn't have the funds for it. The staff member arranged for a donation from a charity, went to pick it up and brought it to the patient's house.

"That's the heart of OVNA," Pimenta said. "That's what this is all about."

In order to qualify for home health-care, patients need a doctor's order, and the services the OVNA offers are closely aligned with those directives. When a patient is home-bound, Medicare will cover homecare. But even if a patient doesn't qualify, the OVNA will try to help them, "walk them through steps on how to get the help they need," Pimenta said, such as how to initiate grocery deliveries, or connect them with the community center.

Sometimes they get calls from family members who are worried about

mom or dad's safety at home.

When Covid hit, hospitals stopped performing elective surgeries, and their numbers dropped. "We took Covid-positive cases when we got them," Pimenta said. Staff had to go in wearing full PPE – protective gowns, gloves and masks. If a patient tested positive, they had to wear respirator masks. Even so, some nurses got sick or had to quarantine for 10 days.

As a result, the department has had substantial income deficits these past two years. In 2021, patient numbers have rebounded, but not to the same extent as in the past. Though based in Orange, they do take patients from neighboring towns, namely Milford, West Haven and Woodbridge.

Medicare patients receive a survey after they've been under OVNA care, Pimenta said, and the agency receives feedback from it. The overall rating shows 100% client satisfaction (national average is 84, in Connecticut 73%).

"We're proud of that, she said. "The majority want to come back to us."



“The message of Passover remains as powerful as ever. Freedom is won not on the battlefield but in the classroom and the home. Teach your children the history of freedom if you want them never to lose it.” — RABBI SHIMON RAICHIK

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ARTS & LEISURE

Poet Emanuel Xavier Visits Amity

Spoken-word artist and poet Emanuel Xavier visited Amity Regional High School on Friday, April 8th to speak to students in English Language Arts classes.

Mr. Xavier has published several collections of poetry, including *Pier Queen*, *Americano*, *Nefarious*, *Radiance*, and *Selected Poems of Emanuel Xavier*, as well as the novel *Christ Like*. He also edited and contributed to the poetry collection *Me No Habla With Acento*. He has been honored for his community activism on behalf of gay and homeless youth, and his writing has garnered praise and awards from several organizations. Two of his books were named to the American Library Association’s “Over the Rainbow” book list.

Emanuel Xavier’s poetry can be transgressive, gritty, and streetwise, yet remains lyrical, expressing both the pain of emotional and physical violence, as well as a hopefulness that life can still be beautiful. As writer and teacher Rigoberto Gonzalez observed



Emanuel Xavier

in his forward to *Pier Queen*, Xavier has “claimed his troubled past and crafted it into...art.”

The event was hosted by Amity librarians Robert Musco and Victoria Hulse and is made possible by the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation. More information about the Foundation’s mission of bringing professionals in the arts to work with young people can be found at jamiehulleyartsfund.org.

Creative Hobbies Can Lead To Personal, Professional Growth

Much has been made of the value of hobbies in providing a distraction from the daily grind. The value of escapism is hard to define, but many successful professionals find that having a hobby that has nothing to do with their profession provides a much-needed respite during those times when work becomes overwhelming.

Hobbies might provide an invaluable escape for busy professionals, but those professionals should know that creative hobbies also could benefit their careers. A 2014 study published in the *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology* found that non-work creative activity was positively associated with performance-related professional outcomes, including job creativity.

With so much to gain from engaging in creative hobbies, individuals looking for valuable ways to spend their time away from the office can take up



activities such as painting, writing, sculpting, dancing, and/or knitting, among others. It's worth nothing that the value of taking up such activities goes beyond personal and professional growth. According to the experts at Solara Mental Health, creative pursuits such as art increase brain plasticity, which is the brain's ability to grow and change over time. Increased brain plasticity can make it easier to learn new skills and maintain flexibility of thinking into old age. Increased brain plasticity also has been linked to a greater ability to maintain a high IQ.

Creative hobbies are often characterized as a valuable way to blow off steam and reduce stress associated with the many responsibilities of adulthood. Though such characterizations are accurate, the value of creative hobbies extends much further and can positively affect individuals' careers and long-term health.



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My wife Fran’s health was declining and even with daily support, it got to be too much. Maplewood was the best community in the area and I don’t say that lightly. I researched 12 other communities but they didn’t measure up. Here, Fran and I are treated with the utmost respect and dignity. The people are amazing. The staff is very attentive and caring. We have everything we could possibly need – loving friends, diverse activities, and exceptional care. We couldn’t be happier or more in love!

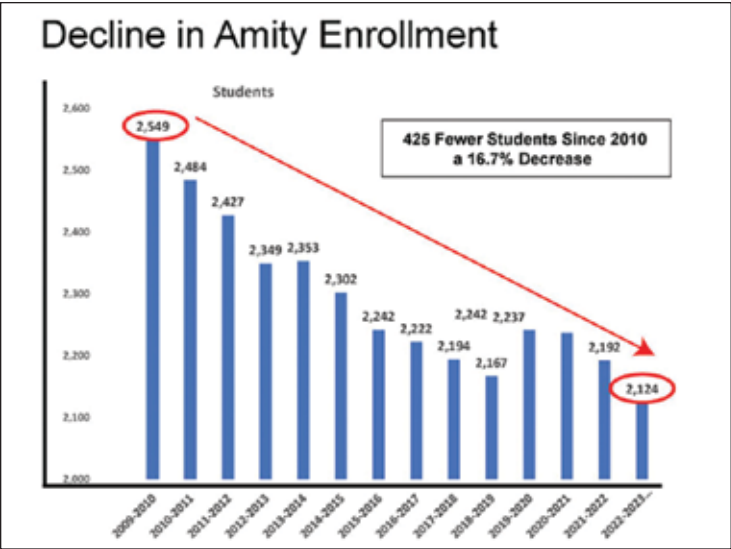
— Joe & Fran, Maplewood Senior Living Residents

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Vote May 3 – Amity Budget Referendum

Facts to Consider regarding the Amity Budget Request

BY JIM LEAHY
VICE-CHAIRMAN, ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE



Student Enrollment and Staffing

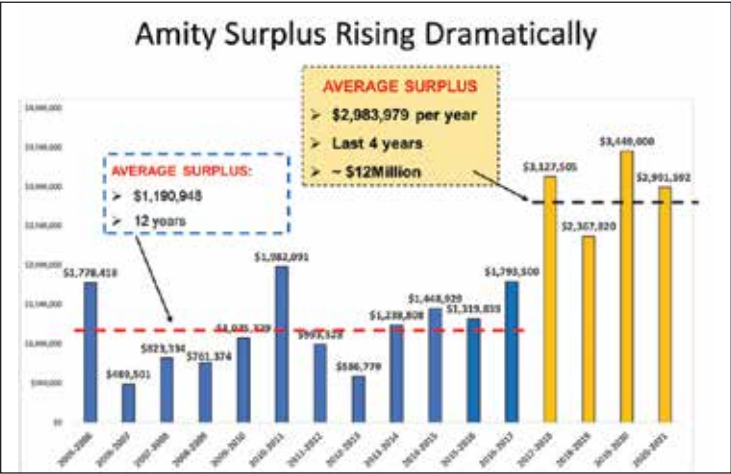
Student enrollment at Amity has in fact dropped by 425 students since 2009 - 2010.

Despite this fact staff has increased dramatically **over the past 4 years** by over 16 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs).

Over the past 5 years the Amity spending has increased by over **\$8.4 million**.

Impact of Repeated Surpluses

Amity has realized budget surpluses over the past 4 years averaging close to \$3 million per year. So why should you care? These large surpluses force our hand



when it comes to overall spending & taxes.

Taxes in Orange may not have had to increase at all except to cover the Amity budget increase, which as it turns out Amity did not need. **In fact, in each of the last 4 years, the Amity school system provided excellent educational services for its students without a need for ANY INCREASE! The result of a 0% budget increase would just have been a smaller surplus.**

This inaccurate over-budgeting also robs resources from other needs like the Orange Elementary Schools or other town departments or projects.

ACTIONS TAKEN

The Orange Board of Finance unanimously – both Democrats & Republicans -- supports a 0.41% increase, noting that a more modest increase, or in fact a ZERO increase, would not hurt Amity at all.

The Amity Board of Education REJECTED that recommendation opting for a 3.99% hike which results in an increase from estimated actual expenditures to budget of over **\$4-5 million**, even as **student enrollment declines rapidly**.

Your vote on MAY 3 counts

- ✓ With a YES vote: You Approve of the way Budgeting is being managed at Amity.
 - ✓ With a NO vote: You Disapprove of the way Budgeting is being managed at Amity.
- If the Amity budget is rejected, the budget would go back to Amity to be reduced. After that, there would be a new vote on a revised budget.



BICENTENNIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Bicentennial Committee proudly announces that it will hold a Bicentennial Golf Tournament on Monday June 27th at Race Brook Country Club. Registration and payment must be received by May 13, 2022. Please send checks (payable to Town of Orange) to:

Town of Orange
Attn: P O'Sullivan
617 Orange Center Road
Orange, CT 06477

TOURNAMENT INCLUDES:

- › Registration - Warm-up - Continental Breakfast at 8:00 am;
- › Shotgun Scramble start at 9:00am followed by a Lunch Reception;
- › \$200 Tournament Fee per player.

Patrick O'Sullivan, Bicentennial Chair stated, "The golf tournament is quickly filling up, so please submit your registration as soon as possible". The registration form is located on the Town of Orange website at: www.orange-ct.gov.

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

8th Grade Bow Party

Save the date!!! Orange Youth Services, Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany are hosting an 8th Grade BOW Party on April 22nd from 7-9pm at Amity High School (25 Newton Road, Woodbridge). Pizza, dessert, DJ, games and amazing raffle prizes! To register, email jsimone@orange-ct.gov.

Scholarship Opportunity

Amity High School/Orange SEN-IORS: Youth Services will choose (3) seniors, who live in Orange, to be rewarded with \$1,000 each toward their college education. Each applicant must fill out an application, provide a resume, a transcript of their grades & a brief essay. Students will be chosen based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, volunteer involvement & future endeavors. The deadline is 5/13/22. Contact Jessica Simone at jsimone@orange-ct.gov for an application.

BOWDAAC

BOWDAAC is the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee. BOWDAAC is a grant-funded Local Prevention Council serving the communities of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. Our mission is to reduce underage drinking and substance use by promoting awareness through educational programs and community collaborations. For more information or to join our committee, email info.bowdaac@gmail.com or check out our website www.bowdaac.org.

National Drug Take Back Day

Drug Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 30th at High Plains Community Center from 10:00am-2:00pm (525 Orange Center Road, Orange CT). This event aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Orange Firefighters Ran Record Number of Calls During 2021

Fire Department Recognizes Service Anniversaries, Looks to The Future

The Connecticut General Assembly recognized the work of three Orange Volunteer Fire Department members who have given a total of 140 years of work to the department. Firefighters also learned they had responded to a record number of calls during 2021.

The honors were announced at the Orange Volunteer Fire Association's Annual Dinner on March 8th at the Grassy Hill Country Club, during which Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas thanked the members and their families for sacrificing and volunteering their time to the department.

The members recognized for their service were: Keith Anderson and Charles Gagel, 45 years, and John Knight, 50 years. John Knight and Charles Gagel are past Chiefs and Keith Anderson is a past Deputy Chief. All were presented with individual proclamations. Anderson received his recognition from State Rep. Mary Welander, D-114; Gagel his from State Rep. Kathy Kennedy, R-119; and Knight received his proclamation from State Rep. Charles J. Ferraro, R-119.

Ferraro, Kennedy, and Welander, along with State Sen. James Maroney, D-14, spoke to the 160 people in attendance, paying tribute to the firefighters for their service and commitment to the Town of Orange. In addition to the state officials, First Selectman James Zeoli and Selectwoman Judy Williams attended the dinner.

Zeoli said the town was continuing its search for a location for a new firehouse and praised the firefighters for their responses during the year.

Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas said the department responded to a record 685 calls for service during 2021. He also said the department had a "robust" roster of firefighters and attributed that to the junior firefighter program established during the year, the department's program for University of

New Haven students and the Personnel Recruitment Committee.

In addition, Dumas talked about growing relationships with town departments. He cited the working relationships with Fire Marshal's Office, the Police Department, Health Department, and the Economic Development Committee. "We strive to work with our community," he said.

Dumas announced that the 2021 carnival was the most successful in the department's history. He also said the department was working with the town on its 200th anniversary parade while preparing for the fire department's own centennial in 2025.

Other milestones achieved during 2021 included the transfer of two junior firefighters to active membership, ordering a new fire engine to replace a 1996 engine, improved radio technology and a new command vehicle.

During 2022, Dumas said the department will review and revise all standard operating procedures and guidelines. New portable radios are being ordered to replace out-of-date radios.

The chief also announced that the department was exploring fixing the clock on the Orange Center Road firehouse. In addition, he hoped the clock would be moved to the new firehouse now being planned. "That clock was donated by one of the original fire department families, the Knight family," he said. "We must keep that tradition going."

Treasurer Bert Gallant said the department had a good year financially due to successful boot drives, a successful carnival, sound investments, the annual town contribution, and the continuing generous response of citizens and businesses to fundraising appeals.

In other announcements, Assistant Fire Chief Dan Cole was awarded for

his work motivating other firefighters. Fire Department Auxiliary President Jill Gagel said the auxiliary was donating money to the department to be used to repair the clock. She said the annual holiday program that brings Santa to town homes helped raise the money.

The 2022 Orange Fire Department officers were sworn in. With First Selectman Zeoli administering the oath of office, the new officers sworn in were: Vaughan Dumas, fire chief; Charles Sherwood, deputy fire chief; Dan Cole and Eric Auscavitch, assistant fire chiefs; Joseph Duplinsky and David Tufano, captains; Dan Abrams, Eric Demeraski and Vaughan Dumas Jr., lieutenants; and Leo Moran and John Hudson, executive board members.

Administrative Officers include: Peter Daniel, recording secretary; Lisa Kaplan, corresponding secretary; Bert Gallant, treasurer; and Art Williams, assistant treasurer.

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.





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LOCAL SPORTS



Orange Native Selected for National Soccer Team

Emma Gonzalez born and raised in the Town of Orange and was selected to play for the Puerto Rico Women's Soccer National Team. Emma will be representing her grandfather's home town. She is currently playing for the CONCACAF Women's U-20 Cham-

pionships. Emma is #19 at the Center Back position. Emma is one of the youngest members on the national team. She is currently a senior at Orange Lutheran HS where she has lettered in varsity soccer for the last three years.

Emma Tirollo Named Pitcher of the Week

Emma Tirollo made Pitcher of the Week at Scranton University for the week of March 21, 2022. Tirollo allowed just three earned runs in 12 innings on the week and put together a pair of complete-game efforts. Following a win over Wisconsin-Lutheran on March 15th, Tirollo gave up just two hits over five shutout innings in the Royals' game two victory over Elizabethtown on March 20th. She tallied six strikeouts over the two games for an ERA of 1.75.



James Denton of Amity with parents James and Tina and coach Craig Bruno



Eze Iheanacho of Hopkins with parents Joy and Ted and coach Tim Phipps

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE HALL OF FAME

The 2021-2022 Scholar-Athletes

After a two-year hiatus the Casey-O'Brien Chapter of the National Football Foundation will once again have a dinner honoring graduating seniors from area high schools and private schools with the chapter's scholar athlete awards. The past two years the chapter recognized scholar athletes from member schools, but did not have an awards dinner. This year's dinner will be held at Aqua Turf on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:00 pm.

"We are very pleased to bring back our annual dinner to recognize scholar athletes that played football this past fall for their academic excellence, leadership and citizenship", said Bill O'Brien chapter president. "We are pleased to recognize another group of young men before their parents, grandparents and friends".

Twenty-six scholar athletes will be honored along with four other award winners including 35-year football official, Craig Dolyak, a member of the New Haven Football Officials Association from Cheshire who will receive the Official Recognition Award, John Limone of Branford who will receive the Coach of the Year Award. Branford won the SCC Tier 3 title under Limone. He then led the Hornets to the semifinals of the CIAC Class M playoffs where they were edged out by Killingly the eventual champion 13-12. The Hornets finished with a 9-3 record. The Chapter Award of Merit will be

presented to former chapter scholar athlete Sean Desai originally from Shelton and a former member of three-time chapter Coach of the Year Joe Benanto's 2001 LL State Champion Gaels. From those days he has gone on to distinguish himself in the professional football coaching ranks. He was with the Chicago Bears from 2007 thru this past season as defensive coordinator. He is now with the Seattle Seahawks as the team's Associate Head Coach for Defense.

This year's Distinguished American Award honoree is George Grande of Hamden. Grande is best known as a play-by-play baseball broadcaster with the Yankees, Cardinals and for the past 17 years with the Cincinnati Reds. George graduated from USC where he played baseball on its 1968 NCAA championship team and from 1980 to 2010, he served each year as Master of Ceremonies at the Baseball Hall of Fame ceremonies in Cooperstown, New York.

For tickets for the dinner call Donna Limone at 203-481-8375.

The final recipients for the 2021-2022 scholar-athlete award have been selected. The selection committee has determined that the following scholar athletes have significantly met the criteria of scholastic achievement, leadership, extra-curricular activities and excellence in football: Orange residents: James Denton (Amity HS) and Eze Iheanacho (Hopkins School).

Orange Town News

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Orange Town News

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Do I Need Surgery for My Rotator Cuff Tear?

BY KYLE BRANDAY, MSPT
One of the most commonly injured areas of the body is the shoulder. It is a dynamic joint, allowing us the greatest mobility of any articulating joint. But with great mobility, comes great potential for injury.

If you're like most people, you have likely injured your shoulder a handful of times before. Tweaked it. Strained it. Slept on it the wrong way. Maybe it got better, or maybe, just maybe, it's still bothering you to this day.

When patients seek out physical therapy services for their injured shoulder, the most frequently impacted area is the rotator cuff. The rotator cuff is made up of four separate muscles (no, it is not one big muscle!): Supraspinatus, Infraspinatus, Teres Minor, and Subscapularis. Each of the four rotator cuff muscles has its own motion to create. However, the common responsibility is to support the humerus (long bone of the upper arm) while it articulates/moves on the glenoid fossa, creating stability. This joint looks much like if you put a golf ball on a tee and tipped it sideways. Without the rotator cuff, the joint would have little support to hold it in position or to create the tremendous motion we have become accustomed to.

While a teenager who injures their rotator cuff may end up dealing with a muscle strain or tendinitis, there is great concern among many adults who injure their shoulder that they may have torn their rotator cuff.

Typically, a rotator cuff tear is accompanied by substantial pain, weakness and limited movement. Most rotator cuff tears occur later in life as we age as a normal part of wear and tear on the shoulder. However, traumatic tears from falls or accidents, as well as repetitive overuse injuries can occur commonly.

Most rotator cuff tears do not re-



Kyle Branday

quire surgery and are much better treated conservatively with physical therapy. Strengthening the musculature around the torn tendon can reduce strain on the injured area and decrease pain while improving stability and mobility. Seeing your physical therapist in the early onset of injury can help expediate your healing and reduce medical expenses.

Surgery is looked at as a last resort to improve a rotator cuff tear. Typically, if conservative measures such as Physical Therapy, cortisone injections, and other medications have not allowed for substantial improvement to restore function and decrease pain, then surgery will be a likely next step. Imaging such as MRI will be performed to assess the tear and the Orthopedic Surgeon will create the best approach to correct the tear.

After surgery, most patients are sent home post-op with a sling they will wear for several weeks to allow the repaired tendon to fully heal. However, most patients begin PT shortly after surgery to restore range of motion and begin strengthening muscles that will support the repaired area. A protocol will be followed to maximize your results and protect the repair. Most patients regain full range of mo-

HDSA Connecticut Chapter to Host Team Hope Walk

The Huntington's Disease Society of America's (HDSA) Connecticut Chapter will be hosting the Connecticut Team Hope Walk on Saturday, May 22nd @ 9:00 AM at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth.

Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$20 million for Huntington's disease since its inception in 2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and communities walk together each year to support HDSA's

mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington's disease and their families.

Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain that is described as having ALS, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease all at once. Today, there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease.

For more information about the event, go to <https://connecticut.hdsa.org/events/connecticut-team-hope-walk>.

tion within 2-4 months after surgery. Strength and stability of the shoulder will progress over this time as well. Full return to sports and high-level activities typically occurs by 6-9 months following surgery.

If surgery is the preferred option, one should seriously consider "PreHab" short for "Preoperative Rehabilitation". This allows a patient to maximize their range of motion and strength while reducing as much pain as possible before surgery. By going into a rotator cuff repair, as well as any other orthopedic or neurological procedure, with the best possible mobility, strength, and pain control, you will enhance your post operative results dramatically. Typically, PREHAB not only reduces post operative pain, but also improves the rate at which you achieve full range of motion and strength. For patients, friends, and family, PREHAB is a no-brainer before surgery.

The question of whether or not to have surgery is a complex one and should not be taken lightly. There are pros and cons as well as risks and benefits to both conservative and surgical treatment of a rotator cuff tear. The important thing is to consult with your team of experts to help you explore all

your options and make the right choice for yourself.

If you need help determining what choice is best for you, our team is here to help. You can schedule an evaluation by reaching us at (203) 389-4593 or visit amitypt.com.

Kyle Branday MSPT, C-PS is a licensed Physical Therapist and is the supervisor of the Woodbridge office. He is a graduate of Quinnipiac University where he earned his Master's degree in Physical Therapy. In addition, Kyle is Level 2 Certified by the Institute of Advanced Musculoskeletal Treatment for Dry Needling. He enjoys treating patients with a wide range of orthopedic and neurological conditions. Kyle has extensive training in the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic orthopedic and sports injuries, neurological rehabilitation, manual therapy, sports specific training, Selective Functional Movement Assessment (SFMA) and works with patients ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics. Recently, he has completed course work to earn designation as a Champion Performance Specialist (C-PS) to enhance his work with elite athletes and weekend warriors alike. Kyle is an avid sports fan and works with our patients in our Sports Performance Programs.

Ray's Box of Sox Fundraiser

Thank you so much for your generous support of our Ray's Box of Sox Fundraiser. Between all three Amity schools, and Racebrook Elementary and High Plains Community Center, we were able to reach beyond our goal and collect over 1400 pairs of socks! Because of you, we will be able to bring

sizable donations to The Hamden Children's Center, the Birmingham Domestic Violence Center in Ansonia, the Beth-El Center in Milford, and the West Haven Veterans.

Thank you for helping us honor Ray Heenie's memory with good works for others.



Pictured from L to R: Front Row: Miranda Vuolo, Daxton Feuerstein, Andrew Jacob, Tristan Zhang; Back Row: Jack Glaser, Amanda Giachino, Michael Anderson, Owen Higgins; Picture taken by: Jennifer Marganski

DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

What’s in Your Bond Basket?

BY ROBERTA L NESTOR

As investors, we are more concerned about headline news concerning the overall stock market than that of its vanilla like counterpart, the overall bond market. Generally, investors do not worry themselves with the bond market. Bonds are considered “safe” and historically, do not have the type of volatility that exists with equities. It would be easy for investors to attribute any negative year-to-date returns to be a result of the recent downturns in the stock market. This time, investors may have to dig a little deeper into their investment statements than just the bottom line. The most important measure of the overall investment grade bond market is the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index and, as of 04/06/2022, this index is down 7.23% for the year. According to a New York Times article dated April 1st, “This is the worst bond market since 1980.” Simply stated, bonds have three areas of risk. Default risk, inflation risk and interest rate risk. It’s safe to say that presently we are hitting 2 of the 3 risk parameters.

Interest rate risk happens to be on the forefront for bond holders. When interest rates go up, the value of bonds goes down. Here is an example: If you owned a 20-year bond that pays 5% and, if you wanted to sell that bond before it matured, and interest rates were higher (say 8%), no one would want to buy the bond from you. Your lower interest rate bonds are not attractive in a market that is offering higher rates. The opposite occurs if you wanted to sell your 5% bond at a time when interest rates are lower – your 5% bond would be more valuable in a lowered interest rate environment.

Bond markets are hurting right now. As of March 18th, investors have been pulling out of bond funds to the tune of billions each week for the past 10 weeks. This also impacts returns. The bond managers are being forced to sell their bonds in an environment when interest rates are higher.

The second bond risk we are deal-

ing with is inflation. Inflation is the rise in the aggregate price of goods and services across the United States. As inflation rises, it diminishes the purchasing power each dollar can buy. When an investor owns a bond, they expect a stream of future payments from the bond issuer in the form of interest payments. The interest rate determines the amount each year the investor will receive from the issuer. When the bond matures, the investor receives the principal amount or the face value of the bond. Bond holders are concerned with inflation because as prices go up, the relative value of their interest payments and principal paid at maturity goes down.

A word of caution – do not panic if you own bonds. All bonds are not created equal. There is a differential in how certain bonds respond to inflation and rising rates. We have high-quality corporate bonds, high-yield (lower quality) corporate bonds, AAA-rated US Government bonds, municipals and even convertible bonds. Talk to your financial professional. Understand what you own and how it may be affected with rising rates. Remember why you are investing in bonds in the first place and the importance of not having all of your eggs in one basket.

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor practicing at 759 Boston Post Road in Milford, CT offering retirement, long term care, investment, and tax planning services. She offers securities and advisory services as a Registered Representative and Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network – a member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products offered through Nestor Financial Network are separate and unrelated to Commonwealth. Commonwealth Financial Network or Nestor Financial Network does not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation. Roberta can be reached at Nestor Financial Network, 203-876-8066 or roberta@nestorfinancial.com.



Amity Referendum Set for May 3

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

People who have questions about the Amity budget for the 2022-23 school year can follow the presentation at the District Annual Meeting on Monday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the presentation room at the District offices in Woodbridge. School Supt., Dr. Jennifer Byars, will present the budget, but there will be no vote taken at that time. As is customary, the vote will be by referendum the next day, on Tuesday, May 3, in the three member towns. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the regular voting locations.

The district, which includes Amity High School and the two middle schools, one in Bethany, the other in Orange, is requesting a \$53.7 million budget, which represents a 3.99 percent increase over this year’s, an increase of just over \$2 million. According to the superintendent, the increase is due in large part to increases in salaries and benefits (+\$1 million and \$622,000, respectively); a \$278,500 increase in transportation costs; \$183,500 in special education increases and a \$32,500 increase in liability insurance.

The budget adds 7.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the three schools, namely a special education teacher and a mental health clinician; two digital media teachers at the middle schools; a new position to facilitate diversity, equity and inclusion into the curriculum; one cybertechnology specialist and one additional security guard at the high school.

Broken down per member town, based on their respective number of students, Orange will see a \$1.3 million increase (\$26,575,116 total); Woodbridge will see a \$921,000 increase (\$17,197,401 total) while Bethany’s allocation will barely change at all (\$8,988,339 total).

The Amity Board of Education, after initially entertaining a 4.9% increase, agreed with the recommendation of the Amity Finance Committee (AFC) to cut back the Medical Reserve and thereby arrive at an overall budget increase of 3.99 percent. The AFC consists of two representatives of each member town – one typically from the town’s Board of Finance, the other a member of the ABOE.

The total number of students that this budget is based on is 2,166, a decrease of 68 students from this year. The budget document posted on the District website (<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1648047146/amityregion5org/ntmshdlmqz2z-jzplsuoy/BoardofEducationApproved-Budget2022-2023.pdf>) provides an explanation for staff increases in spite of an overall smaller student body. Total staff went from 318.7 to 329 FTE positions, or a net increase of 10.3 over

the past five-year period. The increase came primarily to increase security, pupil services, special education and technology.

In response to questions from the Board of Education members, the district spelled out considerations when it comes to staffing levels. Those factors include:

1. The courses students need to fulfill the state graduation requirements;
2. Electives - The eight-period schedule provides students with the opportunity to take more courses;
3. Class sizes are specified in teachers’ contracts. A drop of 30 students will be spread between the three schools, and does not mean a teacher position can be eliminated;
4. Program enhancements - The District has added Acting and Directing for Film; Advanced Technical Theater, pottery and ceramics, Expository Writing changed to Writing College, and Career Readiness;
5. Security - The District has added 2 full-time guards and 3 part-time guards to cover evenings and increase middle school coverage;
6. Special Education/Pupil Services - Students may need one-on-one learning assistance to meet their special needs. The District has added social workers to all the schools since 2020-21, two positions at the high school and one at each middle school.

Capital Plan: At the high school: asphalt sealing and crack repair (\$15,000); sidewalk repair (\$10,000); replace pipe insulation (\$5,000); and install protective window film (\$5,000). replace chilled underground water lines (\$45,000) for a total of \$80,000.

At the Bethany Middle School: asphalt sealing and crack repair (\$14,000); replace pipe insulation (\$2,000); concrete repair (\$5,000); protective window film (\$5,000); and repair the courtyard (\$30,000).

At the Orange Middle School: install protective window film (\$2,000), concrete repair (\$5,000) and asphalt sealing (\$10,000); also, a contingency fund of \$100,000.

In a separate chart, the document shows additional building-related capital items, some of which have separate funding sources, and some of which are already underway.

At the High School the capital plan includes a remodel of the Lecture Hall (\$110,000), and two items related to the new stadium field, namely a culvert cleanout at \$35,000 and “chiller refurbishes-adaptive frequency drive” (\$97,000) which could be paid for with money left over from the installation of the new track and field installation.

The relocation of the record room from the District offices to the Or-

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

“Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Door”

Staying Connected

Attend religious services and most other events in person or by Zoom. To register for a Zoom link, please see the information below.

Join Us For Weekly Services Morning Minyan

- › Sunday 9:00 AM – In person and Zoom’d
- › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoom’d
- › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoom’d

Shabbat Services

- › Friday 7:30 PM – In person and Zoom’d
- › Saturday 9:30 AM – In person and Zoom’d

Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 or email coshalom@sbcglobal.net for more information).

Virtual Learning This Month COFFEE &..LEARN! (And Zoom)

There will be no class in April. Class will return May 4,11 &18.

JOIN A NEW BOOK GROUP IN 2022!

Thursday April 28th from 7-8 pm

The Last Watchman of Old Cairo by Michael David Lukas

Discussion led by Fern Tausig

In this “wonderfully rich” (San Francisco Chronicle) novel from the author of the internationally bestselling The Oracle of Stamboul, a young man journeys from California to Cairo to unravel centuries-old family secrets. Joseph, a literature student at Berkeley, is the son of a Jewish mother and a Muslim father. One day, a mysterious package arrives on his doorstep, pulling him into a mesmerizing adventure to uncover the centuries-old history that binds the two sides of his family. Moving and richly textured, The Last Watchman of Old Cairo is a poignant portrait of the intricate relationship between fathers and sons, and an unforgettable testament to the stories we inherit and the places we are from.



Congregation Or Shalom

Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.

Passover Services In-Person and Zoom

- › Fri. morning, April 15th, Annual Fast of Firstborn, service 8:30 a.m.
- › Fri. evening, April 15th Passover begins (1st Seder night, no service)
- › Sat. morning, April 16th service 9:30 a.m.
- › Sun. morning, April 17th service 9:30 a.m.
- › Thurs. evening, April 21st, Latter days of Passover 7:00 p.m.
- › Fri. morning, April 22nd, service 9:30 a.m.
- › Fri. evening, April 22nd, service 7:30 p.m.
- › Sat. morning, April 23rd, service 9:30 a.m. YIZKOR at AP-PROX. 10:30a.m.

Social Action

For April we are collecting toiletries and will donate them to the Downtown Soup Kitchen for distribution. If you would like to donate, please contact the office 203-799-2341.

Entertainment

Milford Performance Center at Or Shalom hosts, Destination Motown, featuring the Sensational Soul Cruisers. Sunday, April 10th @ 7:00 pm 203.723.3672 Tickets available at MilfordPerformanceCenter.org or at the door.

Golf Tournament

Save the date, August 1, 2022, for our annual Golf Tournament at Orange Hills. Please call the office for more details at 203.799.2341.

Book Group Talk Led by Author Rachel Kaufman

Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 pm on Zoom

Rachel Kaufman’s first poetry collection, Many to Remember, enters the archive’s unconscious to reveal the melodies hidden within the language of the past. The collection unravels Kaufman’s historical research of New Mexican crypto-Jews and the Mexican Inquisition alongside the poet’s own family histories. The book navigates questions of memory, transmission, media, and translation and asks, “How can poetry translate history and the rhythms and form of the archive?”

Rachel Kaufman is currently pursuing a PhD in Latin American and Jewish History at UCLA. Her poetry has appeared on poets.org and in the Harvard Review, Southwestern American Literature, Western Humanities Review, Juxtapose, and elsewhere, and her prose has appeared in the Yale Historical Review and Rethinking History. She received a BA in English and History from Yale University.

In the archive, the poet calls to the past, and the past responds. Her family narrative intertwines with remote

chapters of her people’s chronicle; the struggles of grandparents and great-grandparents are juxtaposed with the struggles of the Marranos in the southwest of the seventeenth century which she devotedly studies. Histories overlap, life stories resonate, unexpected parallels emerge. Translation is the key: “At the edge of words,”

she tells her ghosts, “I accompany you, seeing.” From poem to poem in this deeply moving first book, Rachel Kaufman keeps the commandment: Zakhor! Remember! - Norman Finkelstein

History’s pieces do not arrive to us whole. But in poems, they are set afloat, as the poet puts it in “Me’am Lo’ez”, “We’re told/our souls will grow/accustomed to hearing echoes/of our

customs—these chantings/set apart from myth to keep/some holiness adrift.” To receive these pieces is to experience some of this holiness. - Jake Marmer in Tablet Magazine

For more information, please contact Congregation B’nai Jacob at 203-389-2111, info@bnaijacob.org or BnaiJacob.org.



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@orangenews.com

Sunday Mass: 5:00pm

Contact us: 203-795-5076

ourladyofsorrowsct@yahoo.com

Facebook: @OurLadyOfSorrowsTraditional

378 Spring St., Orange (off of Racebrook Rd)



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Passover Services
On the night of the First Seder, April 15, BEKI will have no evening service. Yizkor will be included at Shabbat festival services on Saturday morning, April 23, which is the final day of Passover. For the full schedule of Passover services, consult beki.org.

Yom HaShoah
Janet R. Kirchheimer, a Teaching Fellow at Clal-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, will speak at BEKI's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) program on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 pm. The author of *How to Spot One of Us*, a collection of poems about her family, being the daughter of survivors, and the nature of memory, Kirchheimer currently is producing "AFTER: Bringing the Dead Back to Life," in which contemporary poets perform and discuss the responsibility of art to respond to the Shoah. She will talk about her family, read from her book, and show an excerpt of AFTER. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.



Artist Talk
Suzanne Neusner, whose Fiber Arts exhibition is on display in the upstairs BEKI gallery, will speak about her work Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 pm. For over 35 years, Neusner has focused on abstract imagery through a variety of weaving and quilting techniques. Her work includes playful reinventions of traditional Jewish themes such as matzoh covers. For inspiration, she draws from her natural surroundings in the Hudson Valley as well as from her prior explorations in other media. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org. Her exhibition will run through June 4, and some of her work is on sale at the BEKI Gift Shop.

Courtyard Campfire
Wednesday evening, May 18 is Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the Omer. The folk-custom is to sing around a camp-



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
fire at a "kumsitz," meaning "come" and "sit." BEKI's program in the courtyard will feature niggunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and Hebrew songs, all led by Max DuBoff. Song sheets will be provided. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until May 19. Details at beki.org.

Social Action
BEKI's Social Action Tikkun Olam Committee is collecting medical and non-medical supplies for Ukraine. Everyone is invited to help fill the donation box in the coatroom with over-the-counter cold and flu remedies, acetaminophen, aspirin, allergy medications, and digestion medicines. Please donate only tablets, capsules, or gel tablets—no bottled liquids. Band aids, bandages, diapers, menstrual pads or tampons are also welcome. To arrange a time to leave off donations, call the office at 203.389.2108 x114.

Children's Programs
Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation meet in person each Saturday mornings. On the First Friday of the month, May 6, the Kabbalat Shabbat service is moved to an earlier time for a kid-friendly, though not specifically kids' service. To receive her weekly newsletter, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anorman-schiff@beki.org.

In Person and Online
BEKI offers In-Person services twice daily. Details at beki.org. Weekday morning and evening services also are available on Zoom. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

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

Weekly Services at Temple Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom offers daily morning and evening minyans, and Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. All services are in-person and on Zoom.
Morning Minyan is held Monday-Friday at 7:15 a.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. On Rosh Chodesh, Minyan begins at 7:15 a.m., and on Yom Tov Minyan begins at 9:30 a.m. Evening (and afternoon, when appropriate) Minyan is held Monday-Friday at 6:45 p.m.
Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service begins at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. More information can be found on <https://>



Temple Beth Shalom
tbshamden.com/worship.
Temple Beth Shalom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

Orange Congregational Church Events

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, invites you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship, or on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC for our livestreamed services. Our regular in-person Sunday worship is at 10:00am in our Sanctuary.
On April 17, 2022 we will offer three Easter services: 6am sunrise worship on Hannah's Hill near the church; 9am worship in-person in the Sanctuary; and 11am worship in-person in the Sanctuary and online.
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. Anyone interested in joining our church school, youth group, faith formation groups, choirs, or other events can email occhurch@snet.net or visit our website at orange-congregationalchurch.org for more information. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are



Orange Congregational Church
welcome here!
Orange Congregational Church's annual Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the Orange Town Green. This tag sale is a fundraiser which benefits our Pilgrim Fellowship youth program. Spaces are available to rent for \$25 (table and chairs provided upon request). Please email or call the church office (occhurch@snet.net or 203-795-9749) to rent a space.

Holy Infant Church Scholarships

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild is offering two \$1,000 scholarships this year. The scholarships are open to female high school students who are active parishioners of Holy Infant parish. The applicant must provide proof that she has been accepted to a 4-year college/university for Septem-

ber immediately following this year's graduation. Applications are available on the Holy Infant Church website, www.holyinfantorangect.com and at the doors of the church. The deadline for the application is April 18 by 1:30 pm. For more information contact Sue D'Orso at 203-874-1739.

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY. CALL US AT 203-298-4399.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge Happenings

The First Church of Christ (FCCW) welcomes you to our Worship Service every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse.

Zoom Option: The option to attend Sunday Service via Zoom continues to be available. To receive an invite, please email the office or log onto our website and add your name to our church email list. All people in the community are welcome in person or via Zoom.

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

Office Hours: The Church office in the Parish House is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Our 65th Annual Strawberry Festival: First Church of Christ Woodbridge and Boy Scout Troop # 907 (who has been meeting at the church since October 31, 1968) will be sponsoring our town-wide 65th Strawberry Festival to be held on the Church Green on Friday, June 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We invite Woodbridge and our neighboring towns to enjoy a picnic dinner and homemade strawberry shortcake. There will be a lively musical group to entertain you and our sanctuary will be open to show our community what a beautiful historic church we have! The menu includes hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, chips, and drinks. Dessert will be our famous homemade strawberry shortcake. Bring a blanket for an old-fashioned picnic dinner on the Green! All profits will be donated to Ukrainian Relief.

Sanctuary Décor Restoration: The John Canning Company has completed the Phase One sanctuary restoration. Please attend a Sunday service and see the restored ceiling, rosette, cornices, and the north wall. The new décor is glorious.

Interim Minister: The Rev. Susan Murtha has been the new Interim Minister at FCCW for just a couple of months now, and already has made quite an impact. Worship has been filled with God's Holy Spirit in music and prayer, in God's Word and sacrament. Plan a visit to see what is "happening." You can also read about



The First Church of Christ

her on our website. We are honored to welcome such an extraordinary individual!

*The Rev. Janice Touloukian has graciously offered to provide Pastoral Care, helping with visitations and congregational needs when Rev. Murtha is not available.

Weekly Bible Study: Bible Study meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. All are invited!

Join the FCCW Choir! New members are always welcome. Join us for rehearsals each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop #907: Regular scout meetings are held every Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House. Stop by with the young man in your family (ages 11-17 years old) and meet our great scouts! New members are always welcome. For more information go to www.troop907.org.

Pre-school space is available: Pre-school/day care space is available in the Parish House at 5 Meetinghouse Lane. Three rooms, 1,200 sq. ft., and an outside fenced playground.

For More Information: Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with parish happenings, including memorials and baptism announcements.

Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

First Church of Christ; 5 Meetinghouse Lane; Woodbridge, CT 06525; Phone: 203-389-2119; Email: office@uccw.org; Website: www.uccw.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge



SPRING CONCERT

Featuring prizewinning pianist Nenad Iovic, along with guest accompanists, on Saturday, May 14th at 4:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge. Reception to follow. There will be a free will offering. For more information, please contact 203-389-2119.

Document Shredding Event at Temple Beth Sholom

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022
Time: 9am-12pm
Location: Temple Beth Sholom, 1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden (in the parking lot)
Cost: Small Copy Boxes (18 x 12 x 12 inches or smaller) - \$10 per box
Large Banker Boxes (18 x 18 x 24 inches or larger) - \$20 per box
Also Available:
Hard Drive Destruction & Computer Recycling - \$20 each
CRT Computer Monitors - \$20 each
Hard Drive Only - \$10 each
All items should be in a box that can easily be picked up. Paper items only.
No trash bags, paper bags, etc. No trash or non-paper items. No CDs, X-Rays, etc. Paper clips and staples CAN be shredded.
On-site shredding truck provided by Affordable Solutions, LLC. Questions? Email fundraising@tbshamden.com.
Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

James M. Shure to be Honored at Spring Celebration Event

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFSGNH) will honor James M. (Jimmy) Shure at its 2022 Spring Celebration fundraiser being held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at Congregation B’nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut, 6:30 pm. – 8:00 pm. The tented event, providing wine, dinner, coffee & dessert, will recognize Mr. Shure’s invaluable contributions to JFSGNH and the Greater New Haven community. Funds raised will benefit social service programs provided by Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven Programs.

Music at the event will be provided by New Haven’s Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School Music Messengers, along with music by the Nu Haven Kapelye All Stars. Additional details, along with Ticket and Sponsorship information may be found at <https://conta.cc/3KdkJez> or by contacting Robbin Seipold, Director of Development, at rseipold@jfsnh.org or 203-389-5599 ext. 105.

James “Jimmy” Shure was born and raised in the Westville section of New Haven and currently lives in the Arts District. After graduating with advanced degrees in the Literature of England, Jimmy decided that he wanted to serve a community rather than a classroom. Joined by a caring and supportive staff, Jimmy has been in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Robert E. Shure Funeral home since 1975. More importantly, our community has been blessed to have someone who exemplifies compassion, understanding and humility in such a vital role for so long.

Jimmy has always tried to put the needs of our community first. With boundless generosity, he has participated in, and has led, many philanthropic initiatives. He has a profound understanding of the life-affirming work not-for-profit agencies, like JFS, do for the people they serve. And he’s made it a personal mission to ensure they have the resources necessary to do this work.

Jimmy once said, “JFS is the quiet relative that works diligently with great understanding and compassion – that goes about its work without fan-



James M. Shure

fare, that doesn’t look for headlines in Shalom New Haven, that takes each client and works with them to make them better, healthier, and able to enter the real world.” We couldn’t agree more. And we couldn’t be more appreciative of his support.

For Jimmy, soliciting a gift for a charity is only the beginning. His ultimate goal is to inspire others to become actively involved, to become a difference-maker like him in the lives of those in need and to begin creating a legacy of meaningful deeds.

JFSGNH programs include the JFS Food Pantry offering food assistance to those who face hunger; Counseling/ Mental Health Services for families and individuals; Food4Kids which provides weekend snacks for elementary school students in several New Haven Public Schools; Aging Adult Services, which just launched its Care Navigators program providing assistance to elderly members of our community; Holocaust Survivors Services which helps survivors in the Greater New Haven area and Fairfield County who needs support services to continue to live at home; and/or need help to meet basic needs; Social Work Outreach Services (SOS) for individuals and families in crisis struggling to meet their own basic needs by providing short term case management and referrals; and The Shalom Group, which provides support through educational enrichment and social activities to those with developmental disabilities.

Congregation B’nai Jacob Events

Weekly Services & Classes

Daily Minyan Services

- › Monday - Friday: 7:45am
- › Monday – Thursday:6:00pm (on ZOOM only)
- › Sunday: 9:00am, 6:00pm
- › National Holidays: Times vary

Weekly Shabbat Services

Friday

- › Schmooze 6:00pm
- › Services6:30pm

Saturday

- › Bread & Torah9:00am
- › Services10:00am

Passover 2022 Service Schedule

Friday, April 15

No evening service - 1st seder

Saturday, April 16

1st Day of Pesach; No evening service – 2nd seder

10:00 am Service

Sunday, April 17

2nd Day of Pesach

9:30 am Service

Thursday, April 21

6:00 pm Service

Friday, April 22

7th Day of Pesach

9:30 am Service

6:30 pm Service

Saturday, April 23

8th Day of Pesach

10:00 am Service w/ Yizkor

Bread & Torah

Saturday Mornings 9:00am-9:45am – Meet in the B’nai Jacob Library (or join us on Zoom) to explore the weekly Torah portion and the way in which its story relates to our own. Be prepared for a lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary. Taught by Rabbi Rona Shapiro.

Shir Hadash

April 23 at 9:00am - Join us for a songful, prayerful, soulful service led by the Rabbi and the Cantor. Our intent is to use the power of our music and the kavanah of our words and hearts to make God’s presence manifest.



Congregation B'nai Jacob

Shabbat Lunch & Learn

Saturday, April 23 at 1:00 pm - Jewish Pluralism in Action: A Conversation with Rabbinic Intern Sara Blumen-



thal. Pluralism is being explored in a variety of ways in today’s Jewish world. How does it work at rabbinical school? What are the opportunities,

challenges, and implications of a pluralistic approach to training clergy? Join this conversation about Hebrew College in Newton, MA, as well as about the larger place of pluralism in today’s Jewish community.

Upcoming Family Programming

SAVE THESE DATES! VISIT OUR WEBSITE for more details and information.

Sunday, May 15 - Special Family Fun Event - BBQ, w/ outdoor games and activities.

Sunday, June 5 - Family Shavuot Program and ice cream social.

Sunday, June 12 – BJ Players presents:

After two postponements, three times the charm for B’nai Jacob Players: Sunday, June 12, is our new performance date for the production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The Players are so excited to return to live theatre! Ticket Information coming soon.

For more information about any of these events, or becoming a member of B’nai Jacob: Call 203-389-2111, Email office@bnaijacob.org, Visit our website, bnaijacob.org. ALL ARE WELCOME!

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY. CALL US AT 203-298-4399.

“This is true freedom: Our ability to shape reality. We have the power to initiate, create and change reality rather than only react and survive it. How can we all educate our children to true freedom? Teach them not to look at reality as defining their acts but to look at their acts as defining reality.” — YAACOV COHEN

DEATH NOTICES



Daniel J. Holland

Daniel J. Holland, 83, of Orange, beloved husband of Liv Holland, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2022. Born on October 6, 1938, a life-long resident of Orange, he was the son of the late Herbert and Edith (Hanlon) Holland.

Dan lived a wonderful life. A graduate of Hopkins, he went into the family tack business in Shelton and worked many years selling fasteners. Dan met the love of his life, Liv at a neighborhood party, while she was here on a visa from Norway. He was a leader in the Church of the Good Shepard and enjoyed singing in the choir for many years. He made many close friends there, many of which he kept in close contact with for most of his life. The simplest pleasures in life brought the greatest joy to Dan. He loved a family dinner with a glass of wine in his hand or a lunch with ‘the guys’. He had a way with people, he was funny, had the worst Dad jokes but people adored him. He always had time for his family. Family get togethers were always at Nana and Papa’s house. He was an avid chess player and went to tournaments with his son Dan. He spent a few years working with his son Eric in his contractor business where he picked up the nickname Rambo. His last years were devoted to the care of his beloved wife Liv; with much help from his daughter Lisa; and spending time with his kids. We will all miss him dearly.

In addition to his loving wife of 61 years Liv, survivors include three loving children, Dan R. Holland and wife Roberta of Woodbridge, Lisa Holland and fiancé Mark Coppolella of West Haven, and Eric Holland and

fiancé Kris DePalma of West Haven, and his brother David Holland and wife Susan; 3 cherished grandchildren, Michael, Steven and wife Zoe, Alexander; and great granddaughter, Olivia. He was predeceased by his brother, John Holland.

The Family is being compassionately cared for by the staff of the Cody-White Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St Jude’s hospital or the Alzheimer’s Association.



Robert J. McKay

Robert James McKay PE, of Orange, beloved husband of Bettyejane Esposito McKay, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2022. Born on August 29, 1923 in Tillicoultry, Scotland, he was the son of the late David and Millicent (Geary) McKay.

Mr. McKay was attached to an Elite Army Engineering Training Program. He served as a Corporal in the Army 104th Infantry, 103rd Combat Army Corp of Engineers. He landed in France prior to the invasion of Normandy, clearing the way for the troops. He made his way through Belgium and Luxembourg into Germany where he liberated a concentration camp.

Upon returning from WWII, he finished his education at night while working for a firm in the Financial District of New York. Mr. McKay finished his degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from NYU and Princeton.

He contracted with Pan-American Airlines as an Engineer doing their Hotels in European and Middle Eastern countries in the cities where the airline flew. In 1967, Robert and Mary McKay moved their family from Seaford, Long Island to Orange Connecticut. A year

later, he started his own firm, Mechanical Associates and worked until receiving his last 1099 from the Town of Orange when he was 91 years old. By the end of his career, Mr. McKay had traveled to every continent and over 52 countries doing the work he loved. In his spare time, Mr. McKay loved the game of golf, but his number one interest was the theater. He enjoyed Broadway or local productions and was a proud member of the Orange Players for 45 years. He also played for the farm team of the New York Giants.

In addition to his wife, Robert is survived by his children, Douglas (Roxane) McKay, and Donna McKay (John Bird) O’Connor; step-daughter, Cindy Breen; grandchildren, Sheehan, Kyle, Adam, Alexander; step-grandchildren, Cathy, Sheri, Brian, and Samantha; great-grandchild Kennedy O’Connor; nieces Maureen, Colleen, Teashe, and Kathleen, nephew Thomas, and extended family members. Robert was predeceased by his wife, Mary Sheehan McKay; his son Dennis McKay; his brother, David McKay; and his stepson-in-law, Donald Breen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 14, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at Holy Infant Church, Orange, CT. Military Honors followed immediately after the church service. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Veterans Connecticut Fallen Hero’s foundation @ www.ctfallenheroes.org/donate.html. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.



Marilyn R. Stern

Marilyn R. Stern, of Orange, CT, and for 50 years prior to that from

Wantagh, NY, died in the comfort of her home on March 16, 2022. Her husband Ralph Stern and their children were at her side. Marilyn and Ralph were together for 66 years. She was born in New York City, on May 1, 1938. Marilyn is survived by her daughter Donna, son Robert, daughter-in-law Amparo, and grandson Shane. She is also survived by her brother Josh Brand, and sister Ruth Eisenberg. Her brother, Sol Brand, passed away in September 2021.

Marilyn graduated from City College in NYC, went on to get her Master’s Degree from CW Post – Palmer School of Library & Information Science, and then was certified as a Medical Librarian. She was the Library Director at the Chiropractic College on Long Island until the college moved to Seneca Falls, NY. For the next 24 years, she ran Technical Services for the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, until her retirement in 2016.

After her retirement, Marilyn and Ralph moved to Fieldstone Village in Orange, CT, where they made new friends and became active in many community activities. Marilyn continued with her passion for reading, playing bridge, and was part of several book discussion groups along with her husband.

For over 40 years, summer weekends were spent at their home in the Berkshires, where they entertained friends and enjoyed live performances of theatre and music.

Marilyn’s untimely death was brought on by a serious fall outside of a Yale New Haven Hospital outpatient facility on December 22, 2021. As a result of the fall, she lost vision in one eye, and sustained brain trauma that ultimately proved fatal.

Marilyn will be remembered for her independent spirit, kindness and compassion, attention to detail, enjoyment of craft fairs along with the personal relationships built with the artists, and most of all - devotion to her family.

No funeral or memorial service will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.


DEATH NOTICES

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

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“Referendum” From Page 19

ange Middle School basement was scheduled to take place during April Break. The records include personnel files, special ed files and general documents such as meeting minutes and more. The space in the Middle School is available, it is big enough to accommodate the file cabinets and has room to grow, Dr. Byars said at the March 28 Facilities meeting.

Capital items also include security cameras, for which they hope to get a grant (\$69,075).

Surplus: The Amity Board of Education has been getting a lot of pushback for its large budget surpluses. James Leahy, Vice Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance, has taken every opportunity to bring his message to the voting public, including addressing

the Amity Board of Education directly before it was slated to vote on the budget; and, most recently, at the March Orange Board of Selectmen meeting, which is broadcast via OGAT on YouTube.

“Over the past five years, the sources of unspent fund balance at year-end have been from financial management (i.e. efficiencies); special education (e.g., previously outplaced students returning to the District); and other circumstances (e.g., higher staff turnover than projected; more unpaid leaves-of-absence than anticipated; lower medical and dental claims than expected). We have used aggressive negotiations, energy conservation measures, refinanced existing debt, and many other initiatives to find and implement cost savings and efficiencies over the years,” the budget document states.

Savings in medical costs often contributed to the surpluses. “The District switched to a self-insured plan in fiscal year 2012-2013. We saved about one-half million dollars each year in administration costs and over 3 million lower than expected claims. Actual claims were lower than expected claims by almost 1 million dollars in fiscal year 2019 and 2020. The claims in 2020 and 2021 were significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Routine medical treatments, procedures and hospitalizations were deferred for patients to limit exposure to COVID-19 and to reserve medical resources to those infected with the virus.”

The five-year average unspent fund balance was \$2,489,893, most of which the board has returned to the member towns. Despite the legal authority to spend all of the budgeted expendi-

tures, the Amity Board of Education has returned to the member towns, or designated for the subsequent budget (thus, reducing the member towns’ allocations) 82.8 percent, or a five-year average of \$1,929,181.

The money that was not returned to the towns has been used to pay for large facility repairs, to build-up the reserves in the Self-Insurance Reserve Fund, as well as capital reserve and technology purchases.

At the end of the 2018-19 year the district returned over \$2 million to the three member towns; in 2019-20 it was just under \$2 million; and in 2020-21 it returned \$2.4 million. “This is savings of taxpayer dollars, and were returned to the member towns,” it states. “This is savings of taxpayer dollars, and were returned to the member towns,” it states.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Orange Little League Turns 50!

Orange had a lot to celebrate in 1972, its 150th birthday as a town and its Little League all-star team who won the State Championship in its first year of participation. We went 8-0 in a single elimination format culminating with a thrilling 6-5 victory over Hartford. The schedulers gave us a tough road with only one home game, probably a welcome to the all-star tournament Orange. 2022 will be the 50th year since that

historic event as well as the town's 200th birthday. Orange Little League is going to have a ceremony on opening day, April 23rd at 11:30 am to recognize our achievement. If anyone would like any more information, my (Scott Finley) email address is sfinley@stny.rr.com and phone number is 607-223-4526. I am still looking for Jeff Harmon who was on our team but haven't been able to contact yet.



Neighborhood Birds of Orange

The Orange Conservation Commission (OCC) is hosting a Bird Walk at 8:00 am at the Turkey Hill Preserve in Orange (GPS Address: 700 Derby-Milford Road, Orange) on April 23, 2022. Heavy rain will cancel this event. The walk will be led by Anthony Zemba, Certified Ecologist. Specialties: NEPA compliance, wildlife biology, avian ecology, marine and oceanic island ecology, wetland science, habitat restoration, conservation biology and planning. Mr. Zemba has served as Field

Ornithologist for the U.S. Geological Survey (American Eagle counts), Connecticut Dept of Environmental Protection point counts of breeding birds, and other bird counts. Anthony is very familiar with the Turkey Hill Preserve as he authored the Conservation and Management Plan for the preserve. The Orange Conservation Commission can be found on Facebook and our website at www.orangectconservation-commission.com or www.orange-ct.gov/441/Conservation-Commission.



Bryan-Andrew House Event on June 2nd & 7th

In the article entitled, "Bicentennial Committee Has Us Booked for the Summer" in the March 11, 2022 edition of the Orange Town News, a submission error was made as to the date of the second luncheon planned at the Bryan-Andrew House under the

Orange Historical Society activities. There will be lunch at the historic Bryan-Andrew House on Thursday, June 2 and again Tuesday, July 7 should read: There will be lunch at the historic Bryan-Andrew House on Thursday, June 2 and again Tuesday, June 7.

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LOCAL BUSINESS



New Arts Center with Therapeutic Approach Opens

A brand-new arts center with a distinctive mission has opened in Orange. Founded by two board-certified, registered art therapists, Art People provides hands-on creative arts-based services through art therapy, diverse art workshops, gallery exhibits, community involvement, and private events. While programming is available to a wide variety of clients, Art People (291 South Lambert Road) specializes in working with individuals with intellectual disabilities.

“We firmly believe what we do is for everybody,” says Kathryn Kelly, co-founder. “We consistently take the steps to make it accessible for all.”

Kelly and co-founder Jennifer Narcisco have a combined 20 years of experience working with people with disabilities and diverse populations through art therapy. An alternative or complement to talk therapy, art therapy can give people a way to express feelings without needing to find the words. Kelly and Narcisco discovered a need for this type of therapy in a population often underserved by traditional psychotherapy services.

Current group art therapy offerings cover a range of focuses, including social, life and workplace skills, coping mechanisms and sensory experiences. Art People also offers after-school art therapy, a neurodiversity-affirming group session for autistic artists and limited individual art therapy sessions.

Another unique Art People offering is the center’s proprietary, customizable Inclusive Arts training, which teaches skills and knowledge needed to provide elevated arts programming inclusive of all people. The training can be tailored to art therapists, educators, social workers, mental health practitioners, human services agencies and

community groups – any organization that wishes to learn how to incorporate the arts into its operations.

“This training teaches participants to think about art programming in a different way: the possibilities of working with someone, instead of the limitations,” says Narcisco.

In addition to art therapy groups and training, Art People offers an array of arts services to give anyone and everyone the opportunity to heal, grow, explore and be witnessed through the power of art. These offerings may be held in New Haven and Fairfield counties and include:

- › Paint nights (which include a custom design of the participant’s choosing);
- › Art workshops such as silk scarf painting and silk screening;
- › Private art events for special occasions like birthday parties and bachelorette festivities;
- › Team-building workshops for corporate organizations;
- › Art activities for local events like fairs and festivals;
- › Visiting artist workshops, gallery exhibits and more.

To learn more about Art People, go to www.artpeoplect.com.

Art People (291 South Lambert Road, Orange, CT 06477, (475) 414-6307) offers hands-on creative arts-based services through art therapy, diverse art workshops, gallery exhibits, community involvement, private events and a proprietary Inclusive Arts training program. Founded in 2021 by two art therapists with a combined experience of over 20 years of working with people with disabilities, Art People provides programs for a wide variety of clients but specializes in working with individuals who have intellectual disabilities.



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