

# Orange Town News



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

VOL. 18 – ISSUE 4

CIRCULATION 6070

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023



## Independence Day Concert & Fireworks Show Set for July 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Town of Orange Annual Independence Day Concert & Fireworks Show will take place on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> (rain date: Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>) on the Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road.

For this year's concert, AM GOLD YACHT ROCK has been scheduled to perform before the fireworks show. AM GOLD YACHT ROCK, is a yacht rock tribute band based out of the NY area performing all the #1 hits from 1975 - 1985 including Hall and Oates, Michael McDonald, Toto, Christopher Cross, Steely Dan, Kenny Loggins and all the one hit wonders of that era, such as Brandy, Escape (Pina Colada song), Dancing in the Moonlight and more. AM GOLD YACHT ROCK performs music for all ages and is family friendly.

The festivities will begin promptly at 6:30 pm with welcoming comments from Orange First Selectman Jim Zoli. The concert will be followed by fireworks at 9:30 pm.

Orange Town News publisher and event producer Rocky Salpento said,

"We are excited to be a part of the Town's Independence Day Celebration. We hope everyone continues to enjoy this great community event. Many thanks go out to our sponsors, our first selectman and town officials for their continued support."

The event is made possible through area sponsors including Major Sponsors: Yale University, The Orange Foundation, The Law Firm of Marino, Zabel & Schellenberg, PLLC, The Law Offices of Debra B. Marino, LLC & the Town of Orange. Gold, Silver, Bronze and Patron sponsorships are still available. A sponsorship form is available on page 15 of this issue and on the Orange Town News website.

Popular Food Trucks are being lined up, and novelty items will also be available for purchase at the fairgrounds beginning at 6:00 pm. A WPLR radio personality will also be on location. Come early and get a good seat. Admission is free. There will be a suggested parking donation of \$5 that will benefit the Orange Little League.

## Growing Grand List Helps Town Hold the Line on Tax Rate

BY BETTINA THIEL  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Orange Board of Finance introduced an \$80.2 million budget for 2023-24, a budget that will slightly lower the mill rate for a second year in a row, all while absorbing higher expenses by both the schools and the town. Due to increased revenues from a growing Grand List the mill rate, if approved, will drop from the current 32.71 to 32.31 next fiscal year.

That represents a 1.22% mill rate decrease, said Board of Finance Vice Chairman Jim Leahy at the budget hearing held April 20 at the High Plains cafeteria. If approved, a homeowner with an average home valued at \$355,500 would see a decrease in their tax bill of about \$100. The referendum for the Orange budget is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Grand List in October 2022 showed a \$16 million increase over the previous year for real estate alone. That represents a .9% increase. Apart from real estate, the town also taxes for Business Personal Property and motor vehicles. Business personal property, which includes things such as furniture, inventory, etc., went up by \$33.4 million, or 16%, largely due to UI and its subsidiaries. Motor vehicle values went up by 7.12%, in part due to people purchasing new vehicles. In all, the town is seeing an increase of just under \$1.4 million in revenue from the growth in the Grand List.

The town budget, if approved, is seeing a 5.5% expenditure increase, from \$25.6 million this year to \$27

million in 2023-24. A big portion of the increased expenditures for the town as well as the schools is due to negotiated salary increases. For the town, the overall increase was 3% for the fiscal year we are in and 2.75% for the proposed 2023-24 budget. However, because the new contracts were not settled when this year's budget went into effect, the 2023-24 proposed budget reflects salary increases for both years, explained town Finance Director John Cifarelli.

Other increases that were highlighted during the budget hearing:

- › Data processing cost for assessor's office (\$48K) and the town clerk's office (\$15K);
- › Utility increases, for example at town buildings \$15K;
- › Police salaries up \$336K;
- › Increased contribution to the Volunteer Fire Association - by \$38,300 – out of a total of \$264,500;
- › Public works sees increases of \$78K in salaries, \$27K in electricity and \$35K for water for fire hydrants; another large increase is seen for recycling, which increased by \$170K. Vehicle repair and maintenance is up by \$25K;
- › Town property insurance up by 46K.

Out of the Capital fund, the Board of Finance recommends to spend a total of \$513,000 for the following projects:

- › Computer accounting software;
- › Communications tower at the

See "Grand List" On Page 11

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# Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE  
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

## Drug Take Back Day

On National Drug Take Back Day, which was held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, BOWDAAC collected 215/5lbs of unused, unwanted and/or expired medications. Thank you to all who helped with this effort, including the Orange Policed Department, CERT, and the CT Pharmacy Association.

## Ride For Hope

Last year, more than 108,000 people were lost to overdose in the United States. We need your help to break the cycle and change the narrative! HELPING BREAK THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION STARTS WITH OUR YOUTH! BOWDAAC (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug & Alcohol Action Committee) along with the Milford &

West Haven Prevention Councils, will hold our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride For Hope charity motorcycle ride on Sunday, June 11, 2023, \$30 PER BIKE (includes rider/passenger). Link to register on our FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/bowdaac](http://www.facebook.com/bowdaac).

## Drive-In Movie

Orange Youth Services, in combination with Orange Parks & Recreation, will be hosting our Spring Drive-In Movie Night. It will be held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> with the rain date being the following day. Parking will begin at 7:30pm and the movie will begin at 8:00pm. The spring movie will be 'Hop'. \$15 per car, which will include a family snack bag. Registration is required: 203-891-4790.



## Spring Clean Your Finances

The Spring season is in full swing, and it's time to wipe away the dust and grime from winter. But this physical and mental refresh doesn't just apply to your home. Use these seven steps to clean up your finances!

- ✓ Refresh your budget
- ✓ Review your credit report
- ✓ Take inventory of your debt
- ✓ Bolster your emergency fund
- ✓ Boost your retirement investing
- ✓ Maximize your credit card rewards
- ✓ Revisit your financial goals

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TOWN OF ORANGE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters and those persons qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Orange, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will be held on Wednesday,

May 10, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT for the purpose of taking action at that time upon the following matters:

1. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey land acquired by the Town through foreclosure of tax liens or by deed in lieu of foreclosure of tax liens.

2. To determine in accordance with Sections 12-142 and 12-144(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the installment due dates for all property tax including the property tax on motor vehicles.

3. To receive and discuss the report of the budget prepared by the Board of Finance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

By virtue of Town Charter, Section 2.6(c)1., Item 3 shall be voted on by machine ballot at an adjourned Town Meeting-Referendum to be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (E.S.T.) at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut this 21st day of April 2023.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OF ORANGE

ATTEST: Mary Shaw

Town Clerk

Orange Town News

Orange's Exclusive Newspaper

Mailed Free to Every Home & Business in Orange

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Contributing Writer Ginny Reinhard

To Submit News Articles/Local Events contact 203-298-4399

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All articles, photographs and letters must include your name, address and daytime telephone number for confirmation. The Orange Town News reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article, photograph or letter. Letters to the Editor must be unique to the Orange Town News.

Contact us:

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

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

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

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Orange Town News

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 26 | Memorial Day Issue .....

May 19

June 23 | Independence Day Issue .....

June 16

September 1 | Labor Day & Back to School Issue.....

August 25

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

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](mailto:coshalom@sbcglobal.net) for more information).

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Join in for the last three sessions of this year. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 11-noon. The topic is "THE PROPHETIC REVOLUTION: How a Handful of Eccentric Visionaries Revised God's Message to the World". We gather to explore the ancient texts of our tradition and the light they shed on the issues of our own day. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend, in person or via zoom. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend, in person or via zoom - either the entire series or specific the topics. Please call 203.799.2341 for more information.

Book Club

Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
"The Last Flight" by Julie Clark

Discussion led by Ileana Kaczynski

Two women. Two flights. One last chance to disappear. For fans of Lisa Jewell and Liv Constantine, "The Last Flight" is the story of two women—both alone, both scared—and one agonizing decision that will change the trajectory of both of their lives. Claire Cook has a perfect life. Married to the scion of a political dynasty, with a Manhattan townhouse and a staff of ten, her surroundings are elegant, her days flawlessly choreographed, and her future auspicious. But behind closed doors, nothing is quite as it seems. But a chance meeting in the airport bar brings her together with a woman whose circumstances seem equally dire. Together they make a last-minute decision. The two women switch tick-

ets, with Claire taking Eva's flight to Oakland, and Eva traveling to Puerto Rico as Claire. They believe the swap will give each of them the head start they need to begin again somewhere far away. But when the flight to Puerto Rico crashes, Claire realizes it's no longer a head start but a new life. Cut off, out of options, with the news of her death about to explode in the media, Claire will assume Eva's identity, and along with it, the secrets Eva fought so hard to keep hidden. All are welcome. Please call the office 203.799.2341 for Zoom Link.

Come back to Mah Jong.....'Cause Mah Jong's back!

Thursday's 1:30-3:30pm. All levels of players, including beginners! Please call the office 203.799.2341 and let her know you are playing. If you have a 2023 Mah Jong card, please bring it with you.

Expecting Expo at the Jewish Community Center, Woodbridge

Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 10-2  
Come visit our Or Shalom table!!

This community-wide event is a wonderful way for families to learn about all the local support available to help them as they embark on this journey from pregnancy to pre-K. Featuring: expert presentations, breakout sessions, a Bump Booth (for photos), giveaways, a "Shalom Baby Café" and more! We are excited to showcase local OBGYNs, Cord Blood Registry, childbirth educators, doulas, lactation consultants, support groups, toy companies and much more. Bring your bump, baby and the grandparents, there will be something for everyone. While this event is free to attend, pre-registration is encouraged and the first 100 guests to arrive will enjoy a complimentary gift bag. Visit [jccnh.org](http://jccnh.org) to register.

Shavuot Services and Learning

Friday evening, May 26<sup>th</sup> BRIEF SHABBAT-SHAVUOT SERVICE at 7pm ~ followed by a ~ Blintz Shavuot Din-

See "Or Shalom" On Page 12



# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



# The Garden Club of Orange Holds May Market

The Garden Club of Orange will be holding it's annual May Market at the High Plains Community Center Pavilion on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 2pm. The May Market will be selling perennials grown by Garden Club members, and colorful annuals from Shamrock Farm. Expert gardeners are available for any questions you might have about planting and taking care of the plants. Also, a bake sale and a tag sale will be taking place.

The profits from the fundraiser help the Garden Club provide the flowers planted on the Town Green, upkeep the gardens at The Stone Otis House, the plantings around Town Hall, and holiday decorations for public buildings in Orange. Your support is much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact Nancy at 203-795-9425. We are a member of the FGCCT, NEG, NEC.

# Post 127 Announces 2023 Boys State Selectees

The CT Boys State Selection Committee of Post 127 is proud to announce the Post Selectees for the 2023 Boys State Program. Randy Liu and Adam Liu both from Amity High School in Woodbridge and Peter Ivanov of Hopkins School and resident of Orange, CT are this year's Selectees to this prestigious Leadership Program.

Thomas Hurley, Post 127 Boys State Chair, said, "This year the program will run from June 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> at the

University of New Haven. This program is for Male High School Juniors. Sophomore candidates for next year should begin now to work on qualifying for next year's Program." (American Legion Programs | Connecticut - The American Legion (ctlegion.org) <https://ctlegion.org/programs/>)

Information for CT Girls State, (a program of the Legion Auxiliary) for Female High School Juniors can be found at <https://www.alalgs.org/home>.



# 2023 Pinewood Derby

*On March 31<sup>st</sup> Pack 922 held its annual Pinewood Derby. Over sixty custom cars competed for prizes ranging from fastest actual to car that doesn't actually look like a car.*

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### **FAMILY DINNER**

**Wednesday, May 10<sup>TH</sup> | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

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# LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Square Peg Pizzeria to Join in Bakes for Breast Cancer CT

Square Peg Pizzeria of Orange is proud to announce its participation in the inaugural Bakes for Breast Cancer Connecticut, which helps raise funds, exposure and awareness for breast cancer research. Bakeries, cafés, pastry shops and restaurants throughout Connecticut will participate during this year’s fundraiser from Friday, May 5 through Thursday, May 11, 2023. Square Peg will dedicate 50% of its sales from all of their dessert items back to Bakes for Breast Cancer Connecticut.

“We are on a mission to end breast cancer for good, one sweet treat at a time,” said Bakes for Breast Cancer Founder Carol Sneider. “We continue to expand into different states and regions, and we felt that Connecticut was the next best location to join our other signature events in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and the Cape & Islands of Massachusetts as well. There’s a robust culinary scene there, and we hope to welcome some of those venues that pride themselves

on their desserts to join our mission this year and for years to come.”

There are two ways for venues to participate in Bakes for Breast Cancer Connecticut– by offering one designated dessert throughout the week where 100% of the proceeds go towards the organization, or by offering its entire dessert roster from May 5 – 11 where 50% of the proceeds goes back to Bakes for Breast Cancer. Those funds will then support the research of Dr. Veda Giri of Yale School of Medicine and Yale Cancer Center and Dr. Rachel Freedman of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Following Bakes for Breast Cancer Connecticut will be Bakes Massachusetts and Bakes Rhode Island from Friday, May 12 through Thursday, May 18, 2023; Bakes for Breast Cancer New Hampshire and Bakes for Breast Cancer Vermont from Friday, July 21 through Thursday, July 27; and Bakes for Breast Cancer Maine and Bakes for Breast Cancer Cape & Islands from Friday, July 28 through Thursday, August 3, 2023.

## Maplewood Chefs Take Home Top Prizes at CALA Challenge

Chefs from Four Maplewood Senior Living Communities in CT Recognized for their Culinary Skills; Maplewood at Orange Chef Receives an Unprecedented Perfect Score

Maplewood Senior Living has announced that four chefs at its Connecticut residences took home top prizes at the 2023 CALA Chef Challenge, which recognizes excellence in senior living culinary experiences. This also marks Maplewood Senior Living’s eighth consecutive year that one of its chefs has won.

The chefs being honored this year are Walter Parks, Jr. at Maplewood at Orange, who won first place in the seafood category with an exceptionally rare perfect score; Adam Liotta at Maplewood at Newtown, who took home second place prize in the seafood category; Cameron Matthews at Maplewood at Southport, who was awarded second place in the meat category; and Picasso Petion at Maplewood at Strawberry Hill, who placed third in the meat category. The competing teams are judged by a panel of professional chef judges for first, second and third place prizes. Judging is based on a combination of recipe quality, variety and creative use of products, as well as presentation and kitchen protocols.

and service to our residents and their families,” said Gregory D. Smith, president and CEO of Maplewood Senior Living. “Our mission is to redefine the concept of luxury senior living by creating environments that contribute to resident wellness, which includes offering an exceptional culinary experience.”

Mr. Parks’ winning dish at Maplewood at Orange was cast iron seared diver sea scallops on a bed of applewood, smoked bacon, sautéed leeks and potatoes topped with porcini mushrooms, asparagus tips and white wine truffle butter. “This dish was something that came together organically as a result of the competition’s time constraints,” said Mr. Parks. “I love to cook seafood and have asked the residents for feedback about what they would like to see on the menu and that’s almost universally one of their favorite food requests. This recipe is something that I can now share with our community at Maplewood at Orange. I’ve been here for a little over a year and have loved every minute and look forward to many more years.”

For more information, please call 203-557-4777 or visit, <http://www.maplewoodseniorliving.com>.

Maplewood Senior Living is known for its upscale senior living residences, offering a broad range of premier services, amenities and care to its residents. Based in Westport, CT, Maplewood Senior Living operates 16 senior living communities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Ohio is an Upper East Side location in Manhattan, NY, within the company’s newest brand, Inspir. This new, senior living offering was launched to provide a luxurious option for seniors looking to join a residential community in major metropolitan areas. A second Inspir location is under development in Washington D.C.’s vibrant Dupont Circle neighborhood.



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# ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



*The Goddard School of Orange recently hosted its Pre-K Recycled Runway Fashion Show to celebrate Earth Day. Students upcycled different projects made from discarded materials as well as other eco-friendly projects inspired by science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). These projects foster creativity and imagination while giving children the opportunity to learn about recycling, going green and preserving the world around them.*

## STUDENT NEWS

### Achievements Sara Cable Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Baton Rouge, LA - Sara Cable 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. Cable was initiated at The University of Tampa.

Cable is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Phil-

ippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

### Dean's List Stonehill College

Easton, MA - Colton Varholak of Orange, CT, was recently honored at Stonehill College's 2023 Student Life Awards. This ceremony celebrates students, faculty and staff who have made outstanding contributions to student life at Stonehill and to the communities surrounding the College. For more information about the 2023 Student Life Awards, visit <https://www.stonehill.edu/offices-and-services/student-affairs/student-life-award>.

### Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO - Monish Kumar, of Orange, CT is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

## Junior Scholastic Mapman Contest

Congratulations to Monica Chen who was the grand-prize winner in Junior Scholastic's "Can you Find Mapman?" Contest! Monica is an eighth grade student at Amity Middle School Orange. There were approximately 2,000 entries in the contest. Monica was runner-up last year and was encouraged by family and teachers to enter again this year. She participated in this yearly contest by figuring out Mapman's destination which was Barbados then had to create a map of that Caribbean nation. Each year a different location is chosen then submitted to Junior Scholastic in New York City.

Congratulations to Monica and her social studies teacher, Jennifer Marganski. They will each receive \$250.



Monica Chen

## CAC Area 2 Announces Three New Scholarships

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2 (CAC) will bestow three new \$1000 scholarships in memory of former longtime Chairperson Howard Jacobson. In order to apply, you must be a high school or college student studying film, mass communications, television or media studies. The selected students will each receive these scholarships to help further their studies.

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2, which serves the towns of Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange and Woodbridge promotes quality Community Access Television. The Council is an ongoing asset for CAC 2 with the support of Altice/Cablevision.

Scholarship Qualifications & Criteria - Applicants must be able to prove:

They currently reside, and/or are students attending high school, community college, college, or university in

one of the six CAC area towns: Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange or Woodbridge.

They have a declared a major in the mass communications, or media studies. Along with pursuing a career in this field, they are taking classes or engaged in independent studies.

They are in good standing with their academic institution.

Entry rules: Entrants must submit a short essay under 500 words describing their creative coursework, portfolio or project and how it relates to this scholarship award. Supplemental links to media projects are welcome. Winners will be selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, portfolio and their personal statement.

Deadline to apply is September 15, 2023. To apply, please email: [info@cacarea2.com](mailto:info@cacarea2.com).

## Notice To Former Amity Students

Amity Regional School District #5, as per state guidelines, is properly disposing of student special education records. The records of any student who has received special services are maintained for six years after their class graduates.

Former Amity students who were born between 1998-2000 and/or having graduated in 2017 who have received special services at the Amity Middle School, Orange; Amity Middle School, Bethany; or Amity Regional

High School may obtain their special education records. You must call 203-397-4820 prior to claiming records in order to allow sufficient time to retrieve your records from our archives and schedule a time for pick up.

If you wish to obtain records, please call 203-397-4820 and leave a detailed message with student name, date of birth and a phone number.

If records are not claimed by June 30, 2023, they will be destroyed.



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A photograph of a white, two-story house with a brown roof and red shutters. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a white signpost with a green sign that reads 'Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE'.

A portrait of Rita Matozzo, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing glasses, a patterned scarf, and a green jacket. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

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## WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



# Spencer-Bunnell Wed

The marriage of Dr. Lisa Marie Spencer and Mr. Justin Anthony Bunnell took place on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Henry Ford's Lovett Hall in Dearborn, MI. The ceremony was officiated by the bride's brother, Mr. Christopher Spencer of Trenton, MI. Lisa is the daughter of Michael and Kathleen Spencer of Riverview, MI. Justin is the son of Jay and Audra Bunnell of Orange, CT.

The ceremony and reception were both held in historic Lovett Hall on a lovely snow-covered evening. In attendance were many cherished family members and friends. The groom's beloved grandmother, Barbara Cannaverde of Wallingford, CT, was also present to celebrate the happy couple. The best man was the groom's brother, Alex Bunnell of Raleigh, NC. The matron of honor was the bride's best friend, Mrs. Emily

Morrow of Beverly Hills, MI.

Lisa graduated from the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. She works in Royal Oak, MI and specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Justin is an Amity High School graduate and holds both Bachelors and Masters' Degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He is employed by General Motors as a Propulsion Systems Engineer specializing in electric vehicle propulsion.

Justin and Lisa began dating at the onset of the pandemic and bonded over their shared love of the outdoors. Their early dates involved hiking, biking, and visiting the vineyards of Traverse City, MI.

The newlyweds, who reside in Farmington Hills, MI, will honeymoon in Hawaii.

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“Grand List” From Page 1

police station;

- › HVAC repair and upgrades at High Plains Community Center and Post Road Fire Station;
- › For the Board of Education, it has \$155,00 for building repairs and furniture replacement.

Roadwork is underway this spring. The amount allocated for this season is \$1 million, according to the budget book published by the town finance department. On the list to be reclaimed are Wilson Road and Prudden Lane. The driveway at Wolf Park is shown on the list, but for now is “on hold,” according to Crew Chief Donald Foyer, since there is other work to be done first. He wasn’t sure whether the allocated money would cover the planned driveway extension at the park.

A simple overlay is planned for Kennedy Drive, Alpom Drive, Drummond Road, Fairlea Road, Lincoln Road, Rustic Lane, Hawthorne Lane and Petrose Circle. Roads to be milled include New England Lane, Highfield Drive, Overland Drive, Karen Drive, Argyle Road, Currier Drive and David Court.

The Highway Department also has a list of roads to be improved in the fall, but funding for those has not yet been allocated. That list includes milling and resurfacing of South Greenbrier and Burning Tree; and resurfacing of Cart Lane, Clearbrook Road, Longmeadow Drive, Hollyhock Lane, Bayberry Lane, Wildwood Drive, Ox Yoke Road, Fawn Drive and Douglas Drive.

Selectman Mitch Goldblatt during the Q&A portion of the budget hearing commented on the conditions of roads in Orange, and requested that the Board of Finance increase the amount for road maintenance by \$500,000, which would bring it in line with average expenditures for road maintenance in the past. “We should not have to wait until the roads crumble,” he said, pointing out that a total reclaim costs

a lot more than regular maintenance.

**OBOE budget:** Orange School Supt. Vince Scarpetti presented his board’s budget, which is looking for a 3.37% increase. Much like the town’s budget, the major drivers for this are salary increases, utilities, technology and curriculum software, also transportation and gasoline. The district had conversations with Police Chief Gagne about school security, Dr. Scarpetti said, and the Chief guided the board to hire security officers – often retired troopers or police officers who are allowed to carry a gun in the schools. Another increase is for building maintenance, due to the requirement to conduct an HVAC audit.

**Amity budget:** Dr. Jennifer Byars presented the Amity budget, which is looking for a 2.25% increase, about half of what most other districts are looking for. She started her presentation by pointing out academic successes, team athletic team successes, as well as highlights in the performing arts, such as the spring musical. She mentioned that Amity students had the highest math SAT scores in its reference group (DRG), and tied for second place in English, which made it one of the top scoring schools in the DRG.

The total budget increases by \$1.2 million, from \$53.3 million this fiscal year to \$54.5 million proposed for 2023-24. The referendum for the Amity budget was scheduled for May 2 in the three member towns. Results of the referendum were not available before press time.

The budget supports:

- › 1 Middle School math interventionist who will be shared between the two middle schools, supported by a paraeducator who will continue the work when the interventionist is at the other building;
- › 0.6 Chinese teacher – due to student interest;
- › 1.3 support staff (5 positions) for social-emotional support;

- › 1 Special ed paraeducator reassigned from math intervention;
- › 1 Special ed paraeducator;
- › 0.7 special ed tutor at Middle School;
- › 1 District in-school suspension tutor (grant funded) – currently there is no supervision for in-school suspension at the middle schools;
- › 1 administrative assistant for maintaining special ed records;
- › the district would reduce one English teacher position and restructure class offerings. Some classes may have more students than they do currently, but they will all still be within contractual limits, Byars said;
- › \*Similarly, the district would reduce the position of a visual arts teacher at the high school.

Dr. Byars pointed out that the district’s efforts to educate special ed students within the local district is now paying off, with reduced special Ed costs in the 2023-24 budget. “It took multiple years to get the programs established,” she said.

Technology, which has become an integral part of instruction, will need maintenance and software updates to support the 1:1 environment; Instructional Display boards, which replaced the blackboards of old, will need to be replaced after 10 years or so; also, some labs need high quality software. Dr. Byars mentioned the work by some Amity students who helped restore photographs lost as a result of a Florida hurricane, work which requires special software, but also offers the students special experiences.

As for its technology program, “we anticipate upgrades, and are trying to set aside money to save for that,” Byars said.

**Capital projects:** She said per state statute the district is allowed to put 2% of leftover funds into a capital reserve account. Unlike the local school districts, the regional district is responsible for its building upkeep. Past surplus funds have been used to refurbish roof leaks at the high school, which may buy them another 20 years without having to bond for roof replacement. Currently Amity is working to renovate the lecture hall at the high school, which had not been renovated since 1996. Next on its list of projects is roof repairs at both middle schools, in particular over the gyms.

The Board of Education also authorized the long-delayed purchase of musical instruments (such as tubas and tympani).

Dr. Byars said the Amity Finance Committee and the Board of Education agreed to the budget “right out of the gate.” Due to fewer Orange students, the budget impact of the proposed budget to Orange is \$264K less than this year.

**Reactions:** As opposed to last year, which brought out a number of critics of Amity initiatives, and ultimately led to a double defeat of the Amity budget, the speakers this year came out in support of the district, asking fellow townspeople to vote in favor of the Amity budget.

Selectman Mitch Goldblatt called out the critics of the Amity surplus for stating “alternative facts,” and pointed out that the town, too, had a surplus. “Unreasonable? I don’t think so,” he said. “It is time to stop the crusade against Amity,” he said. “For the sake of our town, our region, Stop!”

Similarly, Mary Welander said in her role as state representative she gets to see how a lot of school districts are struggling. “We should be so proud (of the local school system),” she said, adding that people want to move to BOWA towns because of the schools, and she finished by “implore the residents to support the budget.”

Anna Mahon, former Amity high school principal and a resident of Orange, also asked for people’s support for the Amity budget, calling it an investment in our children’s education. “It makes no sense not to support a budget out of spite,” she said.

Chris Browe, a member of the Orange delegation to the Amity Board of Education, and the chairman of the Amity Finance Committee, also spoke in favor of the Amity budget. He pointed out how the town’s Board of Finance is looking to “do more with less,” and the school district is doing the same. By putting a portion of its surplus into a capital and non-recurring fund, the Amity district is actually saving the towns money, since that practice allows them to take care of the buildings and grounds without bonding, he said.

A newcomer to the Orange budget hearing, and a recent arrival in Orange, Ron Kaye, said he moved here two years ago, and found it to be a “wonderful town.”



## Vintage & Collectibles

The Orange Historical Society will be holding a Vintage & Collectibles sale on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Academy, 605 Orange Center Road from 10am-3pm.

For more information, email [orangehistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:orangehistorical@yahoo.com) or call 203-795-3106. Check out our website, [www.orangehistory.org](http://www.orangehistory.org); follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/OrangeCTHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/OrangeCTHistoricalSociety).





HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Chabad of Orange  
Woodbridge News

Real People Real Talk

Join Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge for a Shabbat together with Scholar in Residence, Professor David Imbo.

Dovid Yehuda Imbo was born and raised on the Near West Side of Chicago. He received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988, and did his post-doctoral work at Harvard University as a member of the Harvard Society of Fellows. He has been a professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1992, where he is also the Director of the newly formed "Laboratory for Quantum Theory at the Extremes". His research focuses on the connections between quantum physics, pure mathematics, formal logic, and pure philosophy. He converted to Judaism in March 2017.

Hear his fascinating story from Ghetto to Quantum Physics to Judaism on May 12/13 at Chabad! For more information, [www.chabad.org/realpeople](http://www.chabad.org/realpeople).

Pre Shavuot Family Fun!

Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge invites all families to join us for Pre-Shavuot Family Fun! Featuring the Torah Unwrapped Workshop! Watch how a Torah is written from start to finish! Stuff your own Torah! Create a Shavuot food craft!

If you have been to our past kid's events, you know you are in for a good time! If you haven't yet, we welcome

you to join in the fun together with other young Jewish families! [www.chabad.org/shavuotkids](http://www.chabad.org/shavuotkids)

Shavuot with Chabad

Services. Lavish garden kiddush. Reading of the 10 Commandments. Yizkor. Shavuot falls out on Friday, May 26 & Saturday, May 27.

Jewish Women's Circle  
Cheese Board Creations

Design and create a show-stopping delicious cheese board! Wednesday, May 21 @ Chabad, [www.chabad.org/jwc](http://www.chabad.org/jwc). Bring a friend or meet some new ones!

Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge's Jewish Women's Circle is a vibrant, ever-growing group designed for the contemporary Jewish woman. It provides innovative and enriching events, including various hands-on activities, discussions, and workshops.

Our Women's Circle events and classes are open to all. No affiliation or background is necessary, so feel free to stop by at any event that may interest you.

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*Chabad of Orange Woodbridge is located at 261 Derby Avenue, Orange, CT 06477*

Orange Congregational  
Church Events

Orange Congregational Church invites you to join us for worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in our Sanctuary on the corner of 205 Meeting House Lane and Orange Center Road. You can also view our livestreamed services online at our "Orange Congregational Church, UCC" YouTube page.

On Saturday, May 6 from 12-1 p.m. the Congregations of Orange Collective invites you to an educational and historical tour of Orange Congregational Church. You may contact the church office at [occhurch@snet.net](mailto:occhurch@snet.net) to register.

Our annual Tag Sale will take place on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the Town Green. The Youth Group sponsors this sale as a fundraiser for their Appalachia Service Project summer trip. Donations to the Tag Sale are very welcome and can be dropped off in the church Dining Room beginning May 1. Spaces are available to rent for \$25 with a table and chairs provided on request. To sign up, con-



Orange Congregational Church

tact the church office.

Another opportunity to support our youth group comes on Sunday, May 21 with our Pilgrim Fellowship Car Wash taking place at 11:15 a.m. in the church parking lot. Please note that Memorial Day Sunday Worship will take place on May 28 at 9:30 a.m. due to the town parade.

The church office can be reached at 203-795-9749 and is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

The Holy Infant Church Women's  
Guild Holds Outdoor Rosary

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild is having an outdoor rosary on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. It will be on the lawn of Holy Infant Church. It is a celebration of the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the children of Fatima. Please bring your own lawn chair. In the event of rain, it will be held inside the lower level of the school.

Document Shredding Event  
at Temple Beth Sholom

**Date:** Sunday, May 21, 2023  
**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](mailto:fundraising@tbshamden.com).  
Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350 member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

"Or Shalom" From Page 5

ner ~ as we engage in a discussion on: ~ "WHAT CAN WE DO TO HEAL OUR POLARIZED SOCIETY?" Led by our Landwirth Memorial Shavuot Teacher Sarah Darer. Author Sarah Darer is the acclaimed author of 19 middle grade and young adult novels. Her latest book, "Some Kind of Hate," set against the rise of white nationalism, is, in the words of a distinguished critic, an

"unflinching exploration of the power of fear, and the hope of redemption." Sarah teaches at Western CT State University, and the Yale Writers' Workshop. She is also an award-winning columnist. A member of Congregation Or Shalom, Sarah recently celebrated her "belated" Bat Mitzvah with us. For more information about Sarah Darer's work, please visit her website: [Sarah-darerlittman.com](http://Sarah-darerlittman.com). You must register to attend, 203.799.2341.

Orange Town News

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CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Crochet Club  
Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.  
All skill levels are welcome. Please bring your own supplies. The Hooked on the Sound (HOTS) Crochet Guild is a non-profit group of enthusiastic crocheters in New Haven county. HOTS meets monthly to share stitch successes, assist with pattern problems, education, and generally having a great time crocheting! Bring any crochet project you are working on or one you may need help with. No registration is necessary.  
Concert: Yale Citations  
Saturday, May 6, 2 p.m.  
An amalgamation of future scientists, doctors, nurses, artists, lawyers (and more!), The Citations is the a cappella group of the graduate and professional schools at Yale University. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Go to [sqr.co/yalecitations](https://sqr.co/yalecitations) to register.

Take and Make: Rocket Launchers  
Monday, May 8-Saturday, May 13  
Launch your paper cup rocket straight up to the sky! Registration is required; this kit can be picked up in the Children's Room between Monday, May 8 and Saturday, May 13. Go to <https://sqr.co/rocketlaunchers> to register.  
Take and Make: Space Shuttles  
Monday, May 8-Saturday, May 13  
Decorate and assemble a cardboard space shuttle, and let your imagination take you to outer space! Registration is required. Kits can be picked up in the Children's Room between Monday, May 8 and Saturday, May 13. Go to <https://sqr.co/spaceshuttles> to register.  
Oscar Film: All Quiet on the Western Front  
Monday, May 8, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 10, 1 p.m.

A young German soldier's terrifying experiences and distress on the western front during World War I. 2 hr. 28 min. R. Registration is required. Go to <https://sqr.co/OscarFilmMay8> to register for Monday, May 8, 7 p.m. Go to <https://sqr.co/OscarFilmMay10> to register for Wednesday, May 10, 1 p.m.  
Sculpt a Wind-up Walker  
Thursday, May 11, 3:45 p.m.  
Use special clay and a mechanical base to create walking robots! Registration is required. For ages 5 to 12. Go to <https://sqr.co/walkingrobot> to register.  
Bookcase Discussion: Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow  
Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m.  
Join Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin on Zoom. Go to <https://sqr.co/tomorrow> to register.

Preschool Playtime  
Saturday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.  
Come play at our homemade obstacle course designed just for preschoolers! We'll build with blocks, go through tunnels, and jump in and out of hula hoops while going around and around. This event will be held on the back lawn if weather permits; otherwise it will be in the Meeting Room. Go to <https://sqr.co/preschoolplaytime> to register.  
Tween Craft: Shaving Cream Journals  
Tuesday, May 16, 3:45 p.m.  
Make your own journal and learn how to dye paper with shaving cream! Registration is required. For ages 9 to 12. Go to <https://sqr.co/shavingcream-journals> to register.  
Events are free and open to the public, except as noted.  
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# HISTORY CORNER



BY GINNY REINHARD

## There's a lot to Learn About Them...

In May, the Stratford Historical Society is hosting a ball in honor of Goody Bassett, a woman whose life was cut short by the lack of understanding of life, differences in people and perhaps jealousy. Connecticut colony is credited with 11 hangings of women who chose to wear their clothes differently or were more assertive than others whose pious lives were “stepped” upon by women who were just being themselves, a little different than the norm of the times.

In March of 2023, the State Judiciary Committee met with a House Joint Resolution to exonerate those hanged between 1647 and 1697, spearheaded by State Rep. Jane Garibay from Windsor. The committee is not putting it into a judicial statement, just a statement of regret...not a law. While dozens supported the resolution, the resistance comes from the fact that those hanged lived under British rule, before the establishment of the United States. Obviously, the descendants of the 11 Connecticut victims would like their ancestors to have a positive recognition of their innocence.

It has been almost 372 years since Mary Paine Bassett was sentenced to death, in May of 1651, for a crime of witchcraft. In addition to the State’s efforts, Stratford’s Town Council is considering a resolution that would officially exonerate her of conspiring with the devil. Little is known of her history or her accusers but we see the charge of witchcraft fell to outspoken women of lower social standing and the title Goodwife is an example of that.

As noted in the writings of Stratford’s town historian, David Wright, the women chosen as witches were often healers and midwives and in some cases widows. The charge was often used to settle property disputes

or to attack with vengeance against an outspoken person. Such a person was Monroe’s Hanna Cranna whose actions upon her neighbors were noted but by the 18<sup>th</sup> century witchcraft trials were seen as government running amok and an embarrassment. Hanna was greedy and expected her neighbors to do her favors.

Once, when she asked for one of the pies, cooling on a neighbor’s window she was given the smallest one and leaving with disgust, the woman was never able to make pies again. As two men, driving an ox-cart full of hay, thought it smart to mock her as they drove by found out the error of their ways as the wheels of the cart fell off, tumbling the hay to the ground.

As to Goody Bassett, she has been noted as being invisible by, David Wright, but she has not been forgotten, not at all. A walk to the hanging was arranged in April and May to honor her and certainly the ball will be a lavish testimony to her life as brief as it was. The Connecticut

Witch Trial Exoneration Project, made up of descendants of accused witches and researchers are eager to see the victims cleared of wrongdoing. “We want the State to acknowledge the injustice of the witchcraft accusations and trials, recognize the innocence of all who were accused of witchcraft, rec-



Mary Paine Bassett



Salem Witch Museum

ognize the suffering of the accused and their families and to clear the names of those who were accused, apologize for all actions taken by colonial officials against the accused, their families and their descendants.” According to the group’s research, Goody Bassett was one of the 11 people so indicted, “a relatively powerless scapegoat who fell victim to a community panic that had likely been whipped up by a baseless rumor,” says

Mary Ann Vlahac, a Housatonic Community professor, “an example of what can happen to a person who is unable to defend themselves.” Mary Paine Bassett moved to Stratford from New Haven with her husband Thomas Bassett. This first name has come into question as to whether it was actually a Robert Bassett, but Fairfield records note a Thomas Bassett moved there shortly after his wife was hanged.

A portrait of Goody hangs in the ice cream shop in the center of town, named for her and her eyes, as painted, don’t give that “look” of what a witch

was like as portrayed throughout history. It’s noted that she didn’t make many friends and was very loud and opinionated. Soon after she arrived in Stratford, people began suffering from hallucinations, sickness and death and witchcraft became the source of these scourges. One might note here that illnesses of such, prior to 1600 seemed not to be recorded and thus plunked at the doorstep of women such as Mary Paine Bassett.

On May 15, 1651, governor Mr. Cullick and Mr. Clark, went to Stratford for her trial. She was found guilty and no doubt, through duress, common at that time, confessed and she was hanged, 40 years before the infamous Salem witch trials. I found a thought on Mary from one of her great granddaughters where she states, “She was my 12<sup>th</sup> great grandmother and my family consists of loud and opinionated women...so we know where we got it from.”

It is obvious that the Town of Stratford has taken Goody into the fold and the ice cream shop, in her name, is a bustling gathering place for the pictorial history of Stratford. The walls covering the shop are historically interesting and Goody’s portrait stands out to greet the visitors. Just behind the shop is a desolate looking culvert which is said to be the remnants of Gallows Brook which appears on an old map to have been located at the I-95 exit. A comment has been made that her home was located in Stratford Center near the shop...could that be?



Gallows Brook



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