

# Orange Town News



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

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On Tuesday October 3rd, 1st grade students in Troop 60562 from the Amity New Haven Girl Scout Service Unit participated in a discussion and guided tour of the Orange Police Department hosted by Officer Ali Esposito. These 2nd year Daisies learned about how to keep safe and who to reach out to for help. The girls were able to express their appreciation by gifting the department an assortment of cookies donated by the Girl Scouts Cookies for Heroes program. The troop co-leaders, Rachel Bespuda and Kristin Hildenbrandt are so proud of the girls commitment to the girl scout law and promise.



Jim Zeoli



Mark Moyher

## 'The Town is in Good Hands' vs 'The World is Changing'

Zeoli & Moyher Face Off at Debate

BY BETTINA THIEL  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Incumbent First Selectman Jim Zeoli and his challenger, Democrat Mark Moyher faced off in the first of three debates at High Plains Community Center on October 18, a debate, which at times turned philosophical, at other times allowed the challenger to needle the incumbent about his record. Responding to questions submitted by the public ahead of time, the candidates talked about leadership qualities, about education, economic development and Fred Wolfe Park.

On some issues – such as the value of open space and the need for affordable places to live – the two candidates did not disagree. But when it comes to education and the question whether or not the town should spend more of its fund balance for infrastructure improvements, they expressed very

different views.

As far as education is concerned, Zeoli took the stance widely held in conservative circles that the schools don't teach enough of the basics, reading, writing and arithmetic - or history, for that matter. "The focus in our education system is a little out of whack," Zeoli said, adding how some high school students have a hard time doing mental math or writing cursive. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and questions of sexual identity were never mentioned, but the background upon which these battles are fought nationally. "There is such a thing as parenting," Zeoli said, cautiously treading a fine line.

Moyher on the other hand embraced a more liberal stance. "We can't just go back 50 years – the world is

See "Debate" On Page 19

## ELECTION COVERAGE PAGES 4-11



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# Amity Allies Releases Voter Guide

Board candidates respond to questions relating to the board and district operations, including budget, curriculum, school libraries

Amity Allies, an independent group of local parents and caregivers, has released its voter guide for the candidates running to serve on the Amity Board of Education in 2023. The guide provides candidate responses to ten questions regarding matters that relate to the board and district operations, including budgeting, curriculum, the selection of materials in the schools' libraries, and creating a welcoming climate in the schools.

Co-founder of Amity Allies. "We are excited to be able to share in-depth perspectives from candidates on matters of substance. An educated citizenry is foundational to American democracy, and we're glad to help voters make an informed choice that will have a meaningful influence on the future direction of our schools and our children."

The voter guide is available online at <https://www.amityallies.org/voter-guide>. Amity Allies is an independent group of parents and caregivers from the Amity district of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge working to improve voter awareness within their community.

"The voter guide is the next milestone in our mission to provide voter education regarding public education in the three towns of the Amity district," says Robert Lim, Chairperson and

# THE AMITY BOARD OF ED VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

MAKE AN EDUCATED CHOICE ABOUT OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE



Learn what Orange, Woodbridge, and Bethany's candidates for the ABoE think about important issues at Amity schools

Discover which candidates chose to say nothing at all

Visit [amityallies.org](https://amityallies.org) or scan the QR code below

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# *The Best Choice for Orange*

## *RE-ELECT* **FIRST SELECTMAN JIM ZEOLI**

### Moyher Wish List

**More** retail development and a pickleball business.

**More** engagement. Our town's leader should strive to continually improve the quality of life for all residents.

**More** communications and transparency.

**More** spending down of the Town's fund balance ("Rainy Day Fund").

### Jim Zeoli's Proven Results



**Jim's team has built an environment that attracts dynamic economic growth.** Numerous new businesses, including but not limited to retail, have come to Orange. And a new indoor pickleball company is locating here.



**A cutting-edge playground has been finished** at Fred Wolfe Park, and additional renovations are in the works. There have been many projects that enhance our quality of life, including improvements to our community center, tennis/pickleball courts, pool, and more.

With input from the public, improvements will continue.



**Town meetings are open to residents, with time for public comment, and are broadcast on OGAT.** The town's website has been upgraded to allow residents to view meetings and updates on all town business. Jim remains available; his door is always open.



**We prudently use our fund balance** ("Rainy Day Fund") for capital projects like school upgrades, road paving, and unexpected emergencies.

We help secure our AAA bond rating by protecting our fund balance. Our top rating lowers our cost of financing.

NOV 7  
**VOTE ROW B**

FIRST SELECTMAN  
**Jim Zeoli**

Paid for by Friends of Zeoli, Kevin Houlihan Treasurer, approved by Jim Zeoli



# ELECTION 2023 - SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Orange, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 7, 2023

Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE PARTY	1 FIRST SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	2	3 SELECTMAN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	4	5 TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	6 TAX COLLECTOR VOTE FOR ONE	7	8 BOARD OF FINANCE VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	9	10	11 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	12	13 TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION, FOUR YEAR TERM BEGINS 2023 VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	14	15 TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION, FOUR YEAR TERM BEGINS 2024 VOTE FOR ONE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A MARK MOYHER	<input type="radio"/> 2A MELISSA JOHNSTON	<input type="radio"/> 3A PJ SHANLEY	<input type="radio"/> 4A MITCHELL R. GOLDBLATT	5A	6A	<input type="radio"/> 7A JEN ALFARO	<input type="radio"/> 8A ANNA MAHON	9A	<input type="radio"/> 10A SUSAN RICCIO	<input type="radio"/> 11A BETTY HADLOCK	<input type="radio"/> 12A RALPH MARGUY	<input type="radio"/> 13A SCOTT ROGALSKI	<input type="radio"/> 14A KEN LENZ	<input type="radio"/> 15A PAUL KAPLAN
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B JAMES M. ZEOLI	<input type="radio"/> 2B JOHN J. CARANGELO	<input type="radio"/> 3B RALPH G. OKENQUIST	<input type="radio"/> 4B JUDY WRIGHT WILLIAMS	<input type="radio"/> 5B MARY SHAW	<input type="radio"/> 6B THOMAS P. HURLEY	<input type="radio"/> 7B JAMES A. LEAHY	<input type="radio"/> 8B KEVIN HOULIHAN	9B	<input type="radio"/> 10B WILLIAM J. KRAUT	<input type="radio"/> 11B ANTHONY SCARINZI	<input type="radio"/> 12B KEN ZIMAN	<input type="radio"/> 13B TOM TORRENTI	<input type="radio"/> 14B JUDY SMITH	15B
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C	<input type="radio"/> 13C	<input type="radio"/> 14C	<input type="radio"/> 15C

OFFICE PARTY	16	17 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR	18	19	20	21 AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR	22	23
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 16A JODY DIETCH	<input type="radio"/> 17A SANTO J. GALATIOTO JR.	<input type="radio"/> 18A RANDY THOMAS	19A	<input type="radio"/> 20A JOSH ORLINSKY	<input type="radio"/> 21A PAUL DAVIS	<input type="radio"/> 22A KEN BRIODAGH	<input type="radio"/> 23A JENNIFER JACQUET
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 16B GARY PALERMO	<input type="radio"/> 17B JODY DAYMON	<input type="radio"/> 18B GLEN P. PAPELO	<input type="radio"/> 19B MICHAEL DONADEO	<input type="radio"/> 20B CATHY BRADLEY	<input type="radio"/> 21B MICHAEL McDONOUGH	<input type="radio"/> 22B DANA LOMBARDI	23B
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 16C	<input type="radio"/> 17C	<input type="radio"/> 18C	<input type="radio"/> 19C	<input type="radio"/> 20C	<input type="radio"/> 21C	<input type="radio"/> 22C	<input type="radio"/> 23C



Orange Democrats presented some of their candidates at the first selectman debate October 18 at High Plains Community Center. From right, Jody Dietch (Constable), Josh Orlinsky (ABOE), Paul Davis (ABOE), Ken Briodagh (ABOE), Mitch Goldblatt (BOS), Melissa Johnston (partially hidden, BOS), Randy Thomas (constable), Ralph Marguy (OBOE), Ken Lenz (BOF) and Jen Alfaro (BOF); behind Randy Thomas are Betty Hadlock (OBOE) and Susan Riccio (OBOE).



Some of the Orange Republican candidates assemble for a picture during the break at the first selectman debate October 18. They are, front, from left, Bill Kraut (OBOE), Ken Ziman (OBOE), Mary Shaw (Town Clerk), Dana Lombardi (ABOE), Judy Williams (BOS) and Cathy Bradley (ABOE); back, from left, Jim Leahy (BOF), Anthony Scarinzi (OBOE), Mike McDonough (ABOE), and First Selectman Jim Zeoli

# ELECTION 2023 - FROM OUR READERS

## Orange Deserves Better Communication

Effective communication is the cornerstone of a thriving community, fostering trust and ensuring residents are informed. Unfortunately, our current First Selectman consistently leaves us in the dark on issues, decisions, and even exciting news in Orange.

The “First Selectman’s Updates” section of the town website has only a single post, and it’s from 2021. No matter where you stand on the renovations at Fred Wolfe Park or the

purchase of Race Brook Country Club, the lack of transparency caused unnecessary confusion. For example, the new playground at Fred Wolfe Park is open, but without any promotion to inform the community. While I appreciate that our current First Selectman shares updates on his personal Facebook page, this is not a substitute for the town having official social media channels and updating its website regularly.

This lack of communication is unacceptable and it’s time for change.

This is one of many reasons why I am voting for Mark Moyher to become our next First Selectman. Transparency and engagement are central to his platform, which is easily accessible at [MoreWithMoyher.com](#). I have personally witnessed this commitment in my interactions with Mark - he’s always approachable and an attentive listener. Regardless of how long you’ve lived here, your political affiliation, or whether you agree with him, Mark will proactively bring you to the table, which will strengthen our community.

If you agree that Orange deserves consistent and open communication, vote for Mark Moyher in person or by absentee ballot on November 7.

Daniel Fitzmaurice

## Achieving Equity in Schools: Budgets and Policies for Student Needs

In today’s society, pursuing equity in schools remains a crucial goal. However, achieving equity does not

See “Election Letters” On Page 9



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Orange Town News

Below are the next two issue dates & deadlines of the Orange Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

November 17 | Thanksgiving Issue ..... November 10

December 15 | Holiday Issue ..... December 8

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

FROM OUR READERS

Thank You Orange Fair Committee & Volunteers

This year as I enjoyed the fair with my family, I could not stop thinking about all of the countless volunteers that dedicate multiple weekends to helping organize and execute the fair. From the families that run the civics tents and the food tents, to the community members who donate their time running activities for the children. There are hundreds of hands that go into making the fair such a success year after year. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making the weekend such a wonderful event for our community. Thank you for the memories year after year.

Santo Galatioto

Orange Town News

OTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:  
Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477  
or email: [letters@orangetownnews.com](mailto:letters@orangetownnews.com).

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

The Story of Count Dracula

The image of a menacing yet somewhat alluring man with canines piercing the neck of an unsuspecting victim has been circulating for more than 100 years, and is believed to have evolved from ancient Romanian folklore.

Count Dracula, a mythical, blood-sucking undead creature, is based on a very real individual who has a unique place in Romanian history. Vlad Dracula, nicknamed "Vlad Tepes" ("Vlad the Impaler"), was the ruler of Wallachia in the mid-1400s. He hailed from Sighisoara in Transylvania, but spent most of his adult life in southern Romania, according to Romania Tourism.

"Dracula" translates to "Son of Dracul," meaning "dragon" or "devil." Vlad the Impaler was the second legitimate son of Dracul and is one of the most important rulers in Wallachian history as well as a national hero in Romania. Vlad plundered Transylvanian Saxon villages who supported his opponents, and took captured people back to his home where he had them impaled.

Despite his brutal military strategy, there is no evidence that Vlad the Impaler had any ties to the supernatural. That connection is due in large part to the 1897 novel "Dracula" penned by Irish author Bram Stoker, which inspired the vampire trope. Having never traveled to Romania himself, Stoker

evoked authority by including many real locations in the country in his work. The book's narrative was built around letters, diary entries and newspaper articles, so that readers could very well believe that Vlad the Impaler truly was condemned to live off the blood of the living for all eternity.

"Dracula" helped pave the way for more Dracula adaptations, including the 1922 film "Nosferatu," which is the Romanian word for vampire. This, combined with the dense, dark ancient forests of Transylvania, and the fact that Romania Tourism says that Transylvania sits on one of the Earth's strongest magnetic fields, help add to the mystery surrounding this area of the world — and the possibility that there really could be an undead predator feeding on the living.

Depending on the account, Dracula can shift his shape to a vampire bat or even mist. Additional accounts say that he will be burned by sunlight, although in Stoker's version he is able to move about during the day despite typically being nocturnal. Hollywood films helped solidify the persistent myths about Dracula over the years.

Count Dracula is a famed character that often inspires Halloween costumes. The fictional count is based on a Romanian ruler who may have killed, but not by sucking anyone's blood.



# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: First Selectman Mark Moyher

I am a financial professional currently serving as Vice President and Head Trader for a local investment management and financial advisory firm. Orange has been my home for over 25 years. My educational background includes studying Accounting and Finance at Fairfield University and I hold several financial certifications and licenses.



well past time that Orange revamps the town website, adds current content and starts using popular digital communications tools.

The Orange Recycling Committee provided a terrific opportunity for me to help with a cause I care deeply about – improving the environment

by reducing landfill waste. In addition to serving as Secretary and Treasurer for the past five years, I have been instrumental in bringing several new recycling programs to Orange. My favorite events include working at the semi-annual Paper Shredding & Mattress Recycling event and running the recycling committee booth at the Orange Country Fair. I am proud to be one of the many volunteers in Orange who contribute their time and talents to provide a wide variety of services to events that improve our community.

It is a leader's responsibility to publicly support those folks who enrich the lives of our residents by attending their events. I am an active supporter of the Amity Theater Department, Orange Players, and Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation; the OVFD Carnival and Chamber of Commerce Fun Day; the Rotary, Lions, and Knights of Pythias organizations; the annual Kristallnacht Commemoration at Congregation Or Shalom; and the Orange Democratic Town Committee. Orange has arts and cultural programs that tireless volunteers bring to life yet get little support from the town's current leadership. Two such entities are the Orange Players, who have brought live theater to Orange for almost 50 years, and the Orange Historical Society, who collects artifacts that preserve our town's storied history. I will make sure they have the appreciation and cooperation they deserve.

Together with my wife Ilene, I have built a life of involvement in this community. Volunteering as a member and officer of community organizations has inspired me to seek the role of First Selectman. It is time to move Orange forward. During the 2021 campaign while running for Tax Collector, I gained insight into our local government while meeting residents and discussing issues they care about.

As First Selectman, I will bring new energy and ideas to propel our town forward while embracing its rich history. With nearly 40 years' experience as a financial services professional, I'll bring my strong business acumen, professionalism, financial expertise, and enthusiasm for innovation and business development to town hall. I will focus on updating town facilities and services to move Orange forward.

I strongly believe that communicating and engaging with residents of all backgrounds and viewpoints is necessary to maximize our town culture and environment. I look forward to collaborating with the many volunteers who comprise our town committees as well as the professional staff to create the best vision for improving life and to meet the many challenges ahead. We need to modernize town buildings and schools and maintain open lines of communication and transparency from the First Selectman's office. It's

## Candidate: Selectman Mitch Goldblatt

I am excited to be running for my sixteenth term on the Orange Board of Selectmen, which includes the six years that I served as First Selectman from 1999-2005.

My desire to continue to represent the citizens of Orange, comes from a lifetime of dedication to our town, which has been

recognized in the last two years by being honored by the Orange Democratic Town Committee with the O'Sullivan Award and awarded the Orange Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship, after serving as an elected official, all in the Town of Orange, for 44 consecutive years.

I began my elected service as a Constable in 1979 serving 2 years, which was followed by 12 years on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. I then served 3 terms on the Board of Selectmen, before 3 more terms on the Board as the First Selectman, and have been a Selectman ever since.

In addition to my elected positions, I currently serve as the Chair of the Orange Recycling Committee and as a member of the town's Pension Board. I have also served on the Bicentennial Committee and the Bond Oversight Committee. I am an Associate Member of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department and always volunteer at its annual Carnival. I am a Lifetime Member of both the Orange Land Trust and the Orange Historical Society and frequently attend events and programs sponsored by the Orange Lions Club, the Orange Rotary Club, the Orange Players, and the Jamie Hulley Foundation.

Some of the many positions I have held include being involved in the Veteran's Walkway at the Community Center, chairing both the Library Building Committee and the Fire House Building Committee, and serving ten years as a member and chair of the Orange Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission.

While occasionally on the minority



side of decisions on the Board of Selectmen, I have always voted for what I feel is in the best interest of our town and its taxpayers. Whether it is to support an open space purchase, a bond referendum, a resolution of support for a group or cause, support for our schools, or a new recycling initiative, I will

weigh the pros and cons to make an informed decision.

I have been outspoken over the years, in advocating against smoking in public places, objecting to the former discriminatory actions against gay boy scouts, supporting larger recycling bins, and asserting the need to stop overtaxing our residents with a bloated undesignated fund balance, that should be used to fix our roads and maintain our buildings.

More recently, I have supported the legalized cannabis distribution center in town, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in our schools, and full development of Fred Wolfe Park to become a first-class comprehensive recreational facility.

My full-time position is Director of Human Resources for the Town of Guilford and I am also an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at the University of New Haven, where I teach Personnel Management and Labor Relations in the Public Sector.

A proud graduate of the Orange and Amity School Systems, I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Business Administration in Management from the University of New Haven.

My wife Abby and I are the proud parents of two Amity graduates, Carl and Shayna.

I am always accessible to the public by phone, email, text, or in person. I value being a public servant. I love the town I have grown up and raised a family in, and with your support, I look forward to serving another two years on the Board of Selectmen.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Town of Orange**  
**2023 Election**  
**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**



# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: Selectman Melissa Johnston

Melissa Johnston is a business professional with 20 years of experience in roles spanning marketing, communications, project management and product development. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Sacred Heart University where she graduated with honors after completing her undergraduate studies at American University in Washington, D.C. Melissa currently works as the Director of Marketing for a Connecticut medical device manufacturer.



identifies and attracts the businesses Orange residents want. She thinks we need to take a similar approach to recreation. When it comes to Fred Wolfe Park, she would like to see a data-driven effort to determine what members of the community would like to see there in the future and a plan developed accordingly.

Melissa knows that the residents of Orange would benefit from more communication and transparency. She favors developing official and active communication channels to keep members of the community connected and informed. Official Orange social media pages and an updated, mobile-friendly, easy-to-navigate website would be a great place to start.

As a working parent, Melissa understands how busy life can be. To engage families, town officials need to proactively “meet families where they are.” Melissa believes that being more communicative, open, and transparent about how decisions are made will make us a stronger community.

Melissa is an active member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee. In addition, you will surely see her and her husband all around town as her children are involved in sports, scouts and many town and school activities.

Melissa loves living in Orange and will be a representative who listens to all perspectives, helps to engage different audiences, understands big-picture financial challenges, uses sound judgement, and draws on her extensive business experience to help move our town forward.

## Candidate: Selectman P.J. Shanley

Serving on the Board of Selectman has been an honor and a privilege. I am asking for your consideration to allow me to represent you for another term. The reason that I want to continue to be on the Orange Board of Selectmen is twofold. I serve because I share the same concerns as the rest



I served on the Board of Finance for 8 years prior to my appointment to the Board of Selectmen. I am a fiscally conservative Democrat, who has worked hard to help implement budgets that make sense for the entire town.

I volunteered to join the Fred Wolfe Park committee because I saw an

opportunity to participate in a committee that could create a multi-use “facility” that can make a lasting impact for generations. A place for people of all ages to enjoy. I have been an active member of the Orange Democratic Town Committee since 2007, many of those years working in a leadership capacity (secretary, vice-Chair). In my spare time, I coach my children’s teams. When they were younger, I volunteered to help coach their soccer and t-ball teams. As their dreams changed, I supported them. I am currently an assistant coach on my daughter’s hockey team. Coaching not only allows me to spend quality time with my children, but provides me with the opportunity to talk with and listen to parents. I feel that taking the time to listen to peoples’ concerns and ideas is very valuable. It is important to have people on the Board of Selectmen who are in touch with the wants and needs of the community.

As I stated before, I love this town and am committed to ensuring that this community continues to flourish while maintaining appropriate class sizes and the small town feel that we all know and appreciate. My hope is that my children and their friends will continue to love this town and eventually will come back to raise their children here.

For those that are not familiar with my background, I am a financial advisor with 23 years of industry experience. I have been with Barnum Financial Group since 2008. I have my Series 7 and 66 Securities Licenses and Chartered Advisor Senior Living (CASL). Additionally, I am licensed to sell life, health, accident & disability, property & casualty insurance. I graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a BS Finance

As I stated before, I love this town and am committed to ensuring that this community continues to flourish while maintaining appropriate class sizes and the small town feel that we all know and appreciate. My hope is that my children and their friends will continue to love this town and eventually will come back to raise their children here.

## Candidate: Board of Finance Jen Alfaro

“I am running for the Board of Finance because I would like to see more done financially for our schools and the children of Orange. I would also like to work to find affordable options for Seniors who have aged out of their homes. As a member of the Board of Finance, I can work towards these goals.”

*Experience/Background*  
› Business owner - Alafogiannis

Plumbing & Heating Inc. and Dafnos Realty Management LLC);  
› Former Peck Place PTO Treasurer (4 Years);  
› Former ODTG Secretary;  
› Board Member of SHAREing and CAREing;  
› Breast Cancer Organization;  
› 22 Year resident of Orange.  
› Contact Jen at alfarofamily2001@gmail.com



## Candidate: Board of Finance Anna Mahon

“I am very excited to be running for the Orange Board of Finance and to have the opportunity to give back to the town that has been my home for nearly a quarter of a century. I am passionate about our community and believe my professional experience, fiscal acumen, and capacity for building positive relationships will help lead Orange into a bright future.”

*Experience/Background*  
› Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Brookfield, CT;

› Former Amity Principal, First Year Principal of the Year, 2016;  
› Member, Team USA in 2004 Olympics;  
› Amity Regional High School Teacher and Administrator, 2000-2022.  
› Amity Parent;  
› BA, English and Psychology, University of Vermont;  
› MA, Teaching, Boston University;  
› EdD, University of Bridgeport.  
› Contact Anna at annamahon@gmail.com



# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Ken Briodagh

“I am excited to be running for Amity Board of Education because I want to make sure Amity students get the most well-rounded and complete education we can offer. I believe it is critical to avoid the influence of backward, conservative, anti-progressive political rhetoric, especially in education, and instead focus on evidence-based science and history curricula, on the arts, and on leading-edge technology.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Writer
- › Educational Background: University of Maine at Machias
- › Winner of awards for writing and editing from AFCP, ASPBE, NEPA, SIPA and TABPI
- › Author of “Stories & Sins” a book of poetry, and “IoT Time: Evolving Trends in the Internet of Things”
- › Contact Ken at Ken@WriteMe.com

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Paul Davis

“As a teacher, coach, elected official, and community volunteer, I have worked with and for young people most of my life. In running for, and serving on the Amity Regional Board of Education, I believe my professional background and civic contributions give me the tools and experience to continue to provide an outstanding secondary education experience for our young people. I appreciate and thank you for your support.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Amity Board of Education 2019-Present;
- › Current ABOE Chair;
- › State Representative 117<sup>th</sup> District,
- 2005-2015;
- › Orange Board of Selectmen 2015-2019;
- › West Haven Science Teacher-34 years;
- › Founder/Coach: Orange Swim Team Program;
- › Swim Coach-Amity High School -27 years;
- › CT High School Coaches Assoc. Hall of Fame;
- › Amity Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame;
- › Orange Conservation Commission;
- › Orange Foundation.
- › Contact Paul at paul.davis.ct@gmail.com

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Jennifer Jacquet

“I’ve always been focused on children, education, and mental health throughout my schooling and career. I hope to bring my knowledge of student’s holistic health needs and of special education to the Amity Board of Education. I am diplomatic and capable of discussing difficult topics through respect and making sure to be well read on the subject. I am committed to the Amity administration and teachers to help prepare students for college and their successful futures.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Director of Operations at the nonprofit SOSA (Safe from Online Sex Abuse);
- › Former board member, President, and program coordinator at NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness), Westchester;
- › Former preschool special educator and music teacher;
- › BS, New York University, Special Education;
- › MA, New York University, Music Therapy.
- › Contact Jennifer at jenniferbjacquet@gmail.com

## Candidate: Amity Board of Education Josh Orlinsky

“I am running for Amity Board of Education because I believe in high standards, accountability, collaboration and community. As a teacher, coach, volunteer and organizer, I bring a wealth of experience to the table and I am excited to get the chance to serve my community. My family moved to Orange because of the quality of the school systems here and we are looking forward to helping Amity continue to thrive for years to come.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Social Studies Department Chair & Teacher, Platt HS (Meriden)
- entering 5<sup>th</sup> year, 21<sup>st</sup> overall in education;
- › Former member of the Human Relations Council of Freehold, New Jersey;
- › BS Accounting, Minor History, Minor Criminal;
- › Justice, The College of New Jersey;
- › MS, Social Studies Education, Syracuse University;
- › MA: Education Leadership, Montclair State University.
- › Contact Josh at Joshuaorlinsky@gmail.com

## Candidate: Orange Board of Education Betty Hadlock

“I am promoting Schools of Excellence, a positive school culture and climate, strong and joyful learning communities and a fiscally responsible budget.”

*Experience/Background*

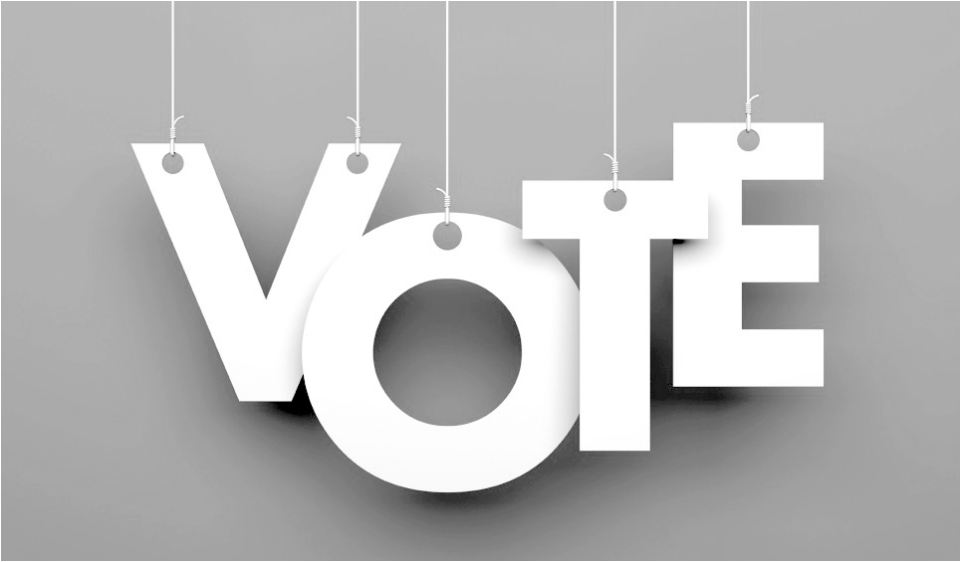
- › Orange Board of Education 2015-present;
- › HOT (Higher Order Thinking) Schools Coach and Facilitator 2013-present;
- › Elementary School Teacher (retired) 1985-2013, Durham/Middlefield;
- › Teacher of the Year 1992, Team Leader 1991-2013, Head Teacher
- 2000-2013;
- › PIMMS Fellow (Project to Increase Mastery of Math & Science), Wesleyan University-Summers 1996–1998;
- › Orange Lions Club, Chair of Pediatric Eye Screenings;
- › Garden Club of Orange 2015 - present, past Secretary and current Vice-President;
- › Orange Historical Society Board of Directors;
- › BS/MS, Southern CT State University.
- › Contact Betty at bhadlock@sbcglobal.net

## Candidate: Orange Board of Education Ralph Marguy

“As a parent with children in the education system, I understand the importance of accessible and equitable education for all students. I am running for the Orange Board of Education to advocate for policies and initiatives that promote equal opportunities and ensure that every child receives a quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. Together, we can work towards creating a fair and inclusive learning environment for all students in our community.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Fire Inspector, Yale University;
- › Firefighter 1 and EMT-B Certifications;
- › CT Certified Fire Marshal;
- › Mary L. Tracy PTA;
- › Race Brook School PTA;
- › Bachelor’s degree, Criminal Justice;
- › University of New Haven Bachelor’s Degree (in progress)
- › Computer Science, Southern New Hampshire University.
- › Contact Ralph at rmarguy@gmail.com





# ELECTION 2023 - DEMOCRATS

## Candidate: Orange Board of Education Susan Riccio

“I am running for re-election to the Orange Board of Education (OBOE) to continue to improve the Orange school system and be proactive with strategic decisions in a fiscally sound manner. My background in education, finance, and strategic change consulting provides me with the right skills to positively contribute to the Board.”

*Experience/Background*

- › College Mathematics Professor;
- › Orange Board of Education Executive Board;
- › Member, Secretary of the Board,

- and Finance Committee Chair;
- › ACES Governing Board Chair and former Finance Chair;
- › Orange and Amity school graduate;
- › Retired Accenture Executive;
- › Shubert Theatre Volunteer;
- › BA, Business Management, Gettysburg College;
- › BS, Math and Education, Univ. of Nebraska;
- › MA, Math and Analytics, Wesleyan University.
- › Contact Susan at [susan.e.riccio@gmail.com](mailto:susan.e.riccio@gmail.com)

## Candidate: Town Plan and Zoning Ken Lenz

“I’m running to preserve and improve Orange’s Post Road retail corridor, and to support quality affordable housing.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Retired 46-year career, Attorney at Law;
- › Former U.S. Army enlistee and U.S. Air Force Academy cadet;
- › Former Executive Committee member, Connecticut Bar Association’s commercial law and bankruptcy section;
- › Former Trial Referee for CT Superior Court;

- › Justice of the Peace;
- › Former Orange Board of Selectmen member;
- › Orange Lions Club Member & former President, Secretary and Treasurer;
- › Orange Soccer Association-former president, coach and referee;
- › BA, American International College;
- › Juris Doctor, Western New England University School of Law.
- › Contact Ken at [lenzlawfirm@gmail.com](mailto:lenzlawfirm@gmail.com)

## Candidate: Town Plan and Zoning Paul Kaplan

“I intend to continue to serve Orange to the best of my ability as I have for the past 17years.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Town Plan and Zoning Commission – Current Member (18 years);
- › Zoning Board of Appeals - Former Five-Year Member;

- › Attorney at Law - General Commercial/Real Estate;
- › Norwalk Community College, Part-Time Professor of Real Estate (20 years);
- › BA, Boston University’
- › Juris Doctor (JD), Albany Law School.

## Candidate: Town Plan and Zoning Scott Rogalski

“I am running for the Town Plan and Zoning Commission to ensure that we create a business-friendly environment that will continue to attract new and diverse businesses, while preserving and maintaining the charm and small town appeal that makes Orange one of the best towns to live in Connecticut.”

*Experience/Background*

- › Attorney (self-employed);

- › BS, Finance, Bryant College (University);
- › Juris Doctor, Honors Program Graduate from Roger Williams University School of Law;
- › Member, Rotary Club of Orange;
- › Member, Orange Chamber of Commerce;
- › 12 Year Orange Resident.
- › Contact Scott at [scott.rogalski@yahoo.com](mailto:scott.rogalski@yahoo.com)

## Candidate: Constable Jody Dietch Santo J. Galatioto, Jr. Randy Thomas

# ELECTION 2023 - FROM OUR READERS

**“Election Letters” From Page 4**

require taking from specific individuals to make others equal. Instead, it involves implementing fair budget allocations and policies that reflect the diverse needs of all students. By doing so, we can ensure that our educational institutions align with the principles and intentions of critical historical milestones such as the Voting Rights Act, Declaration of Independence, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments, Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Equity in education goes beyond a simplistic approach of redistribution. Accurate equity acknowledges students’ unique challenges and seeks to address them without disadvantaging any particular group. It’s about

dismantling barriers and providing targeted support. Achieving fairness doesn’t necessitate sacrificing the opportunities of one group for the benefit of another. Instead, it strives to create an environment where all students have an equal chance to thrive, fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.

One metric used to rank schools is underserved student performance. Eliminating programs that promote equity, such as CRT and DEI, can further disadvantage students. These teachings are considered essential knowledge in the outside world and are required in many colleges and businesses. By eliminating these teachings, schools compromise other ranking markers such as college readiness and curriculum breadth. To improve rank-

ings, instead of eliminating programs, implementing policies that mandate transparent and equitable distribution of resources is key. Monitoring mechanisms should be established to track the effectiveness of these allocations and make timely adjustments to address the unique challenges faced by each school and its students. By integrating these comprehensive budgetary measures and policies, we can pave the way toward a more equitable educational system that adequately prepares each student for life beyond high school.

Accurate equity requires a just and balanced allocation of resources tailored to address the unique challenges faced by different student demographics. It is a commitment to dismantling barriers, providing targeted support,

and fostering an inclusive and harmonious society. Equitable policies tackle systemic biases and discrimination, striving to ensure equal opportunities for all students. They are also the cornerstone of an inclusive and empowering educational environment that promotes diversity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness within the curriculum, affirming the unique perspectives of each student. The pursuit of equity in education echoes the principles embedded in pivotal historical milestones, transcending political divides and speaking to the core of our shared humanity.

Together, we can forge a path where every child has the opportunity to flourish, embodying the true spirit of our nation.  
*Ralph Marguy*

**“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” — FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT**

ELECTION 2023 - REPUBLICANS

Candidate: Selectman

John Carangelo

- › Orange Board of Selectmen - 8 years
- › B.A. Syracuse University
- › J.D. Quinnipiac College School of Law
- › Former Judge of Probate for Orange
- › Practicing attorney with over 28 years of legal experience
- › John Carangelo



has been a lifelong resident of Orange and resides with his wife Kathrine and his sons Michael and Joey

*"As a member of the Board of Selectmen I will continue my efforts to keep taxes under control for our residents, and continue to improve our town's infrastructure and schools."*

Candidate: Selectman

Ralph Okenquist

- › B.S. Fairfield University
- › M.B.A. University of New Haven
- › Fred Wolfe Park Committee 1995-98
- › Park & Rec Commission 9 years, 5 years as Chairman
- › Capital Planning Committee
- › Allied Signal - Manager
- › Advanced Business



Program Planning

- › Chandler Evans - Senior Program Administrator

*"As a selectman, I will continue utilizing my business, management, municipal, and capital planning expertise to cost effectively plan and implement continuing improvements in our School and Town facilities."*

Candidate: Selectman

Judy Wright Williams

- › Board of Selectmen - 12 years
- › B.S. Southern Connecticut State University
- › M.S. Special Education
- › Southern Connecticut State University
- › Graduate of the Orange and Amity School Systems
- › Teacher 33 years, Orange School System
- › Human Services Commission
- › Historic District Commission



- › Orange Cemetery Association

*"My special interests in serving on the Board of Selectmen are to promote educational excellence in our schools and to preserve the rural character and the historic core values of Orange. This includes open space preservation and effective cost management to improve the quality of life for both families with children and seniors who want to remain in Orange close to their children and grandchildren."*

Candidate: Board of Finance

Kevin Houlihan

- › B.S. in Accounting, University of Rhode Island
- › Certified Public Accountant
- › Chairman Board of Finance since 2009
- › Board of Finance Member
- › since 1999
- › Orange Capital Planning Committee
- › American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- › Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accounts

Candidate: Board of Finance

Jim Leahy

- › B.A. in Mathematics, Bates College
- › M.B.A. Harvard Business School
- › Vice Chairman Board of Finance, 2009
- › Board of Finance, 2005 - present
- › Amity Finance Committee, 2005 - 2009
- › Orange Man of the Year Award, 2000
- › Chairman, OVFD Firetruck \$50K Challenge raising \$165K
- › Jim brings over 39 years of experience and a proven track record of accomplishment with Fortune 100 organizations. He has consistently communicated

his overarching theme of "Doing More with Less" and shown how to utilize those principles in town budgeting and government. During his 18-year tenure, Orange has reduced its spending by 57% annually while maintaining town services and educational excellence.

*"When I first came in 1983, I considered the Town of Orange a 'hidden gem', a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Since then, it has been my pleasure to volunteer and contribute to our town. I respectfully ask for your support to continue in my role on the Board of Finance. Thank you."*

Candidate: Town Plan and Zoning

Judy Smith

- › M.B.A in Restaurant & Hotel Management, University of New Haven
- › B.S. in Marketing, University of Connecticut
- › General Manager Orange Hills Country Club
- › Instructor - University of New Haven, 1986-1988
- › Member of the Orange Town Planning and Zoning Board: 1995, 1999, 2003, 2011-2019
- › Elected Vice Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission, January

2006 to Present

*"I pledge to promote the economic development of Orange by striking a balance between the quality of life of the residential districts and our vibrant commercial and light industrial zones; implement zoning regulations which promote coordinated development of the town and general welfare of residents. I will utilize my many years of zoning experience to address the future zoning challenges facing Orange infrastructure, open space, housing and commercial development."*

Candidate: Town Plan and Zoning

Tom Torrenti

- › M.B.A in Restaurant & Hotel Management, University of New Haven
- › B.S. in Marketing, University of Connecticut
- › General Manager Orange Hills Country Club
- › Instructor - University of New Haven, 1986-1988
- › Member of the Orange Town Planning and Zoning Board: 1995, 1999, 2003, 2011-2019
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Candidate: Town Clerk

Mary Shaw

- › B. S. Industrial Technology, CCSU
- › M. S. Counseling in Higher Education, SCSU
- › Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Town of Orange 2012-2019
- › Orange Board of Education -
- › Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent 2019 - present
- › As a result of her extensive experience working closely with all Orange municipal offices, Mary is uniquely qualified to serve as Town Clerk.



ELECTION 2023 - REPUBLICANS

Candidate: Amity Board of Education

Cathy Bradley

- › B.A. & B.S. in Business Economics, UCONN
  - › M.B.A. University of New Haven
  - › Advisory Board for Dean of Business School, UNH
  - › Board of Directors Orange Chamber of Commerce
  - › Member of Zoning Board of Appeals
  - › Network of Executive Women member
  - › President-at-Large Rotary of Orange
- › Cathy Bradley has lived in Orange for 40 years. She and her husband raised two sons who benefited from the Orange school system. They competed academically and athletically.
  - › *"We have an amazing town and excellent schools. After attending several board meetings, I decided to run for the Amity Board of education."*
  - › *"Transparency is key. Parents and students have a right to understand and, in some cases, choose what's appropriate for their children."*

Candidate: Amity Board of Education

Dana Lombardi

- › B.S. Southern CT State University
  - › Television Production and Management
  - › Dick Clark Productions 1995-97, Viacom 1997-2000
  - › Yale University Financial Assistant, 2000- present
  - › Turkey Hill School & Amity Middle School PTA
  - › Dana lives in Orange with her husband Chad, sons Dominick and Carlo, and her dogs Buck and
- › Mocha. She is a proud mother of two wonderful children who thrived within the Orange/Amity school system.
  - › *"My passion for serving has been uniquely shaped by one of my sons, who has bravely faced and triumphed over a learning disability. As a board member I will advocate for this often-overlooked group. I will support a truly inclusive and nurturing learning environment for every student."*

Candidate: Amity Board of Education

Mike McDonough

- › B.S. in Business, Albertus Magnus
  - › CT Paramedic Licensure, Norwalk Community College
  - › Massage Therapy Licensure, Galen Institute
  - › Little Engineering Services Outside Sales and Service
  - › President/Owner, Sage Ave,-K&M Property Mgmt.
  - › American Medical Response Paramedic, 1994-2005
  - › Member of Orange Inlands Wetlands Commission
  - › Peck Place & Amity Middle School PTA
- › Orange Little League Softball Coach, 2015- 2021
  - › *"A proud single father of a wonderful daughter who has benefited from the incredible school system and all it has to offer, especially our faculty, I look forward to representing the town and working to keep Orange schools the excellent institutions we have been proud of and are known for. My daughter has five more years until graduation, and I want to ensure that she and all incoming families are guaranteed the best possible education and experience while enrolled in our school system."*

Candidate: Tax Collector

Tom Hurley

- › B. S. Michigan State University
  - › M.S. Economics, Wayne State University
  - › PMI—Project Management
  - › APBM, Certified Business Manager
  - › USAF Veteran (Captain)
  - › Senior Vice-Commander American Legion Post 127
  - › *Tom Hurley has been dedicated to the*
- › *people of Orange for many years. As a member of the Amity Board of Education for over 13 years Tom served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary.*
  - › *Tom is a Financial Professional, owner of Thomas Hurley Consulting LLC and a APBM Certified Business Manager. He is uniquely qualified to serve as Tax Collector.*

Candidate: Orange Board of Education

Bill Kraut

- › Chairman, Board of Education 2011 to present
  - › Bond Committee 2012 – 2013
  - › Bond Construction Oversight Committee 2013 to present
  - › Chairman of Construction Oversight Committee 2018 to present
  - › B.S. University of Rhode Island
  - › Owner Newport Tennis, Inc.
  - › Bill and Phyllis Kraut have lived
- › in Orange for 35 years. Their daughter, Michaela, attended Orange public schools and Amity Regional and graduated from the University of Rhode Island.
  - › *"We have a responsibility to give all the children of Orange a safe and secure learning environment and provide the best education possible. I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to do my best for all Orange children."*

Candidate: Orange Board of Education

Anthony Scarinzi

- › B.A. in Computer Science and Business
  - › Southern Connecticut State University
  - › Graduate Amity Regional High School, Class of 1996
  - › Computer Programmer, Aquarion Water Company, Shelton - 1999 to present
  - › Anthony is a lifelong Orange
- › resident and lives here with his wife Amanda and their two children.
  - › *"As a third-generation Orange resident, I understand the value of our excellent schools. I now have two children and a nephew in the Orange School System. As a board member I will work to ensure that the best education possible for them and their classmates continues."*

Candidate: Orange Board of Education

Ken Ziman

- › B. S. in marketing, University of Bridgeport
  - › M. S. in education, University of Bridgeport
  - › Classroom Teacher Specialist
  - › Southern Connecticut State University
  - › Elementary School Teacher K – Grade 6 Bridgeport CT 36 Years
  - › Ken Ziman is a 37-year resident of Orange with his wife Pat. Ken
- › is the father of 2 children who attended Orange Schools and graduated from Amity.
  - › *"For me, teaching was always a calling, never a job."*
  - › *"I will continue to use what I know about how people learn, and combine it with what I have experienced as a parent and citizen to serve the children of Orange on the Board of Education."*

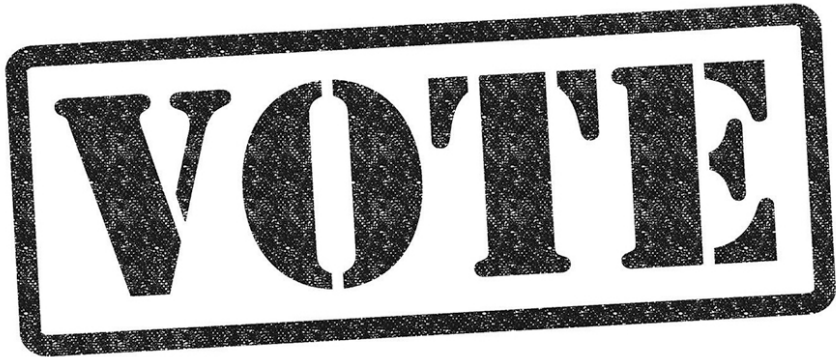
Candidate: Constable

Gary Palermo

Jody Daymon

Glen P. Papelo

Michael Donadeo



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## 795-FUEL(3835)

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*Dear Pete,*

*I came home from vacation Saturday night about 11 o'clock & the first thing I did was turn up the heat. Guess what? No heat - the furnace was off & a big pool of water surrounded it. I immediately called Tamaro Oil and you were here to rescue me in 20 MINUTES! No one can get better service than that and I just want to say "Thank You" for being there for me when I really needed you.*



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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Orange Fire Department Visit Holly Hill Childcare

The children of Holly Hill Childcare & Learning Center enjoyed a firsthand experience on fire safety thanks to the wonderful Orange Volunteer Fire Department members.

The firefighters demonstrated fire equipment as our eager students climbed up on the fire engine and manned the heavy water hoses! They

learned that firefighters are real people who want to help and never to be afraid of them and never, ever panic and hide!

We wish to thank all the volunteers for visiting our students during October Fire Safety Awareness month. Bright red fire hats were given to each child at the end of this awesome event!



Students from Orange Congregational Church Nursery School visited Holly (the winter cow) at town hall and had a scavenger hunt. Their teacher, Lindsay Marieb, was one of the artists who painted the bicentennial cows.



Peck Place School Fun Run Raises Over \$19K for Students

The students at The Peck Place School came together to celebrate the end of the PTO-sponsored Fun Run.

The Fun Run was a fundraiser and character-building event that took place over a week in which goals were achieved, the school community was strengthened, ideas for improving the world around us were shared, and a

good time was had by all.

Thanks to the generosity of the families (in Orange and relatives around the world), The Peck Place School Fun Run raised over \$19,000 in donations for curriculum enrichment, outdoor classroom development, and other exciting events for the students.



Ben and Jerry Visit Students at Holly Hill Childcare

As the children anxiously waited outside their school the clip-clop sounds of hooves could be heard coming down Peck Lane! Ben and Jerry, driven by Farmer Brian of Maple View Farm arrived at Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center to the squeals and cheers of the eager students.

An annual event here at Holly Hill, the beautiful black horses led the hayride through the neighborhood with children, staff, parents and grandparents aboard.

This annual event is one of the children's favorites and a wonderful time was had by all!

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)

Orange Town News

P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@OrangeTownNews.com





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### Achievements

#### Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT - More than 900 new students are in their first semester at Eastern Connecticut State University this fall 2023. The new admits include 696 first-time students and 254 transfer students who are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate-level programs. Among them are: Natalie Garcia of Orange, a first-year student who majors in Social Work; and Jack Hawes of Orange, a first-year student who majors in Business Administration.

### Dean's/President's List

#### Goodwin University

East Hartford, CT - Carolyn Push, from Orange, CT, has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean's List and Goodwin University's President's List for Summer 2023. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. President's List inclusion requires a 4.0 GPA. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify. Goodwin University congratulates Carolyn on making the Dean's and President's Lists and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

### Graduations

#### University of Hartford

West Hartford, CT - Richard Fagan of Orange graduated from the University of Hartford in May of 2023 with a BS in Architectural Design. Congratulations to Richard and the entire UHart Class of 2023!





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# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

## Orange Community Women Craft Fair

Orange Community Women is (OCW) happy to announce its first annual craft fair to be held at High Plains Community Center on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. With more than 50 vendors, food trucks and a raffle, there will be something there for everyone! OCW is a chapter of Connecticut Junior Women, Inc., uniting the women of Orange and surrounding areas by participating in community service and providing enrichment, leadership and social interaction. Our projects include scholarships to Amity students, donations to the library, fire department, youth services, Food-

2Kids and Orange Community Services, collecting for veterans, working with the Tracy Bunch (sponsored by Orange Community Services) and on-going activities with the seniors at Silverbrook. Additionally, OCW hosts a family-friendly community show each January.

Orange Community Women welcomes new members. Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at High Plains Community Center. For more information, please contact [Orangecommunityw@gmail.com](mailto:Orangecommunityw@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/orangecommunitywomen/>.



## Orange Lions Club Hosts Thanksgiving

Every year, the members of the Lions Club of Orange provide a Thanksgiving Dinner at High Plains Community Center, their 35<sup>th</sup> annual. Join them the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 26, 2023 at 12 PM. Doors to open at 11:30AM.

The dinner is open to everyone free of charge, but their target guests are the town's elders, shut-ins, and all those in need of good food and fellowship. Dinner will include salad, rolls, turkey, stuffing, green beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Entertainment is provided, featuring the musical styles of Craig Calistro for your enjoyment.

If you plan to attend, please call Orange Community services at (203) 891-4788 to get your name on the list by Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. This will let the Lions know how many guests to expect, so they will have enough food for everyone.

Transportation can be provided by the Community Services Transportation program. Call the Transportation Coordinator Jenny Hudson at (203) 891-4788 to arrange a ride.

## Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup>

The American Legion Auxiliary and Post 127 of Orange invites the public to a Veteran's Ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Ceremony will commence at 11am at the High Plains Community Center. Veteran's Day is a United States federal holiday that honors all military veterans who have served in

the US military. It is observed annually on November 11. The day coincides with Remembrance Day and Armistice Day which marks the end of World I. The War ended on November 11 at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

Please join us as we remember the brave men and women who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.

## EDUCATION



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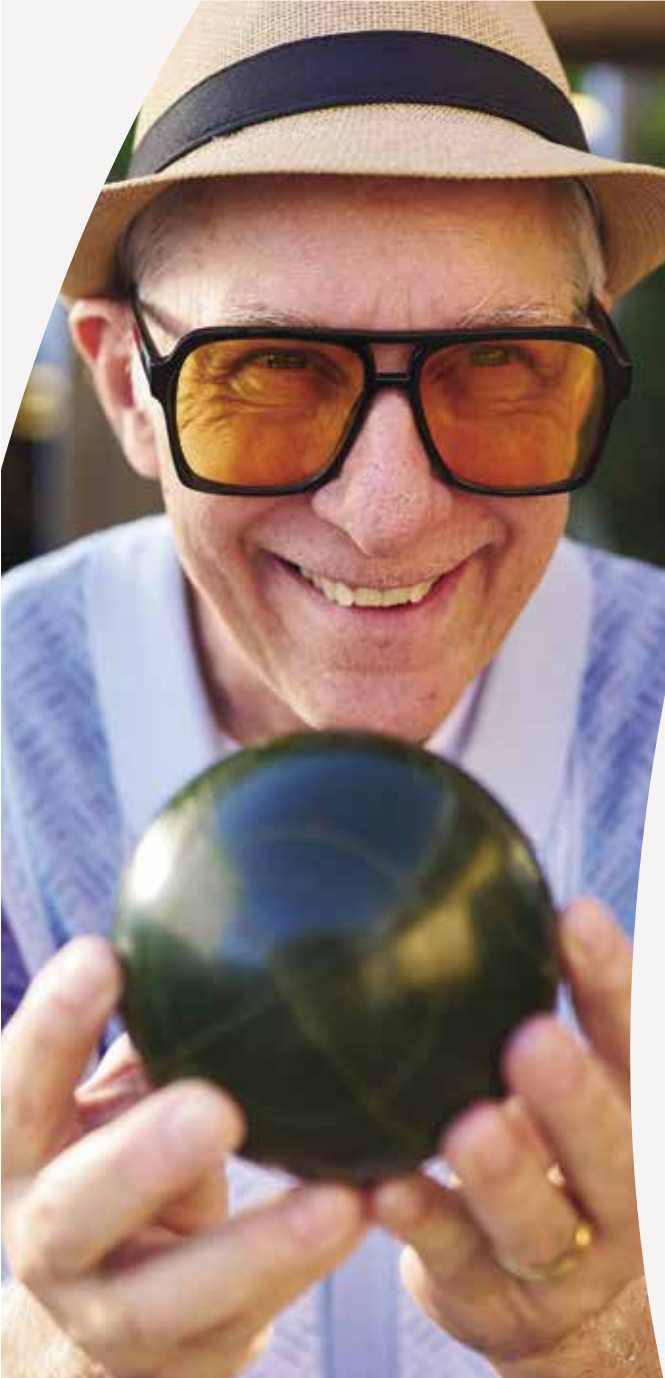
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# Transform Your Home into a Haunted House

Many transformations occur during the month of October. Leaves begin to turn various shades of orange and red, while the weather gets decidedly cooler. In the meantime, neighborhoods across the country begin to look quite different, with many homes decked out in the garish garb of Halloween.

The National Retail Federation together with Prosper Insights & Analytics reports that decorating one's home for Halloween is the second most popular way to celebrate the holiday. Only purchasing and sharing candy beats out home decor. Individuals spend billions collectively on Halloween each year, and one of the ways they can have some frightening fun is by transforming a regular, unassuming home into a haunted house. There are certain necessities to turn an otherwise typical home into a suddenly spooky abode.

See "Haunted House" On Page 19

## TOWN DEPARTMENTS

# Orange To Honor Veterans

Orange will be honoring Veterans on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at the Orange War Remembrance Memorial at High Plains Community Center at 11:00 AM. The American Legion welcomes the public and any veterans that wish to attend.

Applications are also available to purchase commemorative bricks for the Remembrance Memorial at High Plains. Bricks are \$100 each and can be purchased by veterans themselves or by families in honor of their beloved veterans, either living or deceased.

For further information, please contact the First Selectman's office at 203-891-4737 or [adenny@orange-ct.gov](mailto:adenny@orange-ct.gov).

# Ghouls and Goblins Haunt Firehouse For Second Year

ORANGE FIREFIGHTERS, ORANGE PLAYERS ENTERTAIN LOCAL KIDS FOR HALLOWEEN

Orange firefighters are again using their firehouse to tell a Halloween ghost story, but this year the Orange Players will deliver mutual aid, adding to the frightening fun.

For the second year, members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, with the help of some friends, will welcome kids over 11 into their station, where ghosts, ghouls, goblins and others will set up camp from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. October 27 and 28. Firefighters will be joined by the actors and actresses from the Orange Players to bring the frights to a new level.

"We're very excited to welcome the Orange Players into our firehouse for our Haunted House spectacular," said Dag Anderson, firefighter and co-chair of the program. "After the resounding success of last year's event, we wanted to gear up for an even spookier experience. The Orange Players will certainly help us do that!"

Those who dare to enter the haunted firehouse on Orange Center Road can look forward to exploring sinister corridors, prowling past bone-chilling characters and experiencing some scary moments. Of course, it wouldn't be a fall event without some apple cider donuts.

"We are thrilled to bring back the Haunted House for the second year," said Rob Panapada, firefighter and co-chair of the event. "We've embraced the spirit of Halloween while providing some fun for the community."

Firefighters, with help from the Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, Orange Youth Services and the Orange Players, have been decorating the firehouse appropriately and preparing an experience that is immersive and fun.

"Collaborating with the Orange Volunteer Fire Department is a fantastic opportunity to provide an unforgettable experience," said Cyndi Consoli, president of the Orange Players. "We are looking forward to delivering a night of spine-tingling terror."

Meanwhile, of course, Orange firefighters remain ready to respond to any emergencies in town.

"The challenge has been to create a route through the firehouse for those participating, and still be able to put the fire apparatus back in the station at the end of the night," said Panapada. "We still need to be ready to respond to real emergencies at any moment."

Children 11 and up are welcome at the Haunted House, although children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The firehouse is located 625 Orange Center Road. A donation of \$5 or more is suggested.

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“Debate” From Page 1

changing,” he said. “You have to teach kids about things they encounter in the real world,” namely using calculators and electronic signatures. He said the first selectman needs to be supportive of the schools and make sure they have the equipment they need.

As for budgeting, Moyher criticized the town for having a fund balance of some 20%. He pointed out that the town criticizes Amity for its surpluses, but runs its own surplus, and suggested using some of that money to make infrastructure investments which will serve the town without raising taxes. For example, the town could be allocating more money for road repair and upkeep of town-owned buildings. Or the money could be used to build out Fred Wolfe Park with more amenities. He did agree with Zeoli that the town should not spend the rainy-day fund down to a level where it would lose its AAA bond rating. The bond rating determines the interest to be paid when the town borrows money for projects.

In his opening statement, Moyher pointed to his background in the financial sector. “I am confident I will be able to handle the fiscal responsibility that this town expects, while judiciously using our overfunded balance to address the needs of the community.”

Asked about the effect of the revaluation, which is under way, Zeoli pointed out that the value of houses and property may go up, but that does not necessarily mean that taxes will go up commensurately. If the value increases, the mill rate will decrease, so that the income for the town stays about the same.

Moyher pointed out that Orange chose to delay revaluation, which per state statute was due last year. But the state offered deferment as an option, and the town chose to defer. “We took a gamble,” Moyher said. In the end, home prices continued to increase.

As for providing housing opportunities, Zeoli had a leg up. Developers have been adding condos, apartments and even most recently some affordable units on Smith Farm Road. Zeoli

welcomed all those new developments. He admitted that the new apartment buildings, which are not age restricted, may put some strain on the schools, but there is a need for housing, particularly for young people and seniors.

Similarly, there was a need for active adult housing, which contributed to the success of Fieldstone Village, he said. At the same time the town is offering “excellent services” to help seniors stay in their homes as long as possible.

One question asked the candidates how they would balance economic development with environmental impact, which gave both candidates the chance to lay out their environmental credentials.

“The environment is pretty important to all of us,” said Zeoli. He brought up the fact that he recently helped institute a food scrap recycling program in Orange. Residents can now bring their food scraps to the transfer station where they can dump them in designated toters. Recycling food waste costs half as much as disposing of it as part of the municipal trash.

Moyher has been a member of the town’s recycling committee for many years, and was actively involved in shredding day and similar events. He pointed out that Orange had not signed up to participate in the Sustainable CT program. Participating towns are presented with an array of ways to reduce their carbon footprint, and in return can get grants.

One issue that Zeoli has been criticized for is the lack of a systematic approach when planning uses at Fred Wolfe Park. Most recently a beautiful, inclusive playground went up close to where cars enter the park. When asked about further development, he referred to the ad-hoc committee working on the plans. A traffic safety study has been commissioned. However, Zeoli at the debate ruled out two things – developing more playing fields would require the purchase of additional mowing equipment, which he did not agree with; and no splash pad. Water parks are “a maintenance nightmare,” he said.

Moyher agreed that the playground

is a great addition. But he questioned why Zeoli is resisting efforts to include the town-owned 14 acres that are currently farmed for corn. He also wondered why Orange was not on the list of communities receiving STEAP grants this year. And finally, he was wondering why Orange Soccer Association co-chair Tom Pisano, who has been getting into numerous arguments with Zeoli over the lack of planning for the park, was not appointed to the committee. Nobody knows the facility like Pisano does, Moyher said, and he could have brought perspective to the process.

Zeoli explained that the town hadn’t received the grant funds for the playground yet, which made them ineligible to apply for another STEAP grant. Zeoli pointed out that the petition circulated by Pisano, and announced repeatedly at the Board of Selectmen, was not a valid petition.

The petition is to cancel the lease of the 14 acres of cornfields, which are leased to the Hine Family, and to incorporate the area into the park for the benefit of the people. The petition, authored by resident Erika Higgins, was signed by 568 people on Change.org. The issue for the online petition is that people add their email addresses instead of the personal address. But according to the Orange charter, signers must identify their local street address.

When it comes to catching up with the electronic age, Moyher criticized that the town has no reliable vehicle of communication. The town’s website is woefully out of date, and people need to follow Zeoli’s personal Facebook page to find out what’s going on. Moyher suggested email blasts that are used in other towns to keep residents in the loop.

Zeoli said his communication method was through announcements at the Board of Selectmen meetings. He said he expects the town’s groups to do their own announcements. “I don’t micromanage the departments,” he said. And “I don’t believe in 30-second news.”

In his closing statement Zeoli defended his record of being approachable for anyone, irrespective of party or

other affiliation. He said his method of talking to people directly gets fast results, such as most recently when he heard that the playground equipment at the fairgrounds was in bad shape. He immediately brought it to the attention of the selectmen and is in talks with a playground equipment company.

“I think I have proven to the town of Orange fiscal responsibility, management responsibility, and being able to deal with big problems, small problems,” he said. “The town of Orange is in good hands,” he added, and promised to move forward with economic development and housing progress.

Moyher stressed that the community needs to have a say in shaping the future of the town. “I am not – and do not wish to be – a one-man-show,” he said. “To be an effective leader you need to demonstrate confidence, compassion and character to be successful. It’s counterproductive if you deflect responsibility, lose your temper or come off as unapproachable,” he said.

Change can make people feel anxious, Moyher said, closing with a quote from Socrates, “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

Zeoli reminded the audience that another debate open to the public will be hosted by Or Shalom Men’s Club, and is scheduled for Sunday, October 29 at 7 p.m. He also made mention of a potential debate on November 2 hosted by the Amity Mock Trial Club. At the time it was not clear whether that event would take place. High School Principal Andre Hauser explained that the debate would only take place if the candidates of both parties were available. It was his understanding that the students had invited the candidates of all three member towns.

“We love hearing from civic leaders,” Hauser said. “But during an election we don’t want to give the appearance of preferencing one candidate over another.”

The October 18 debate was recorded by OGAT and can be viewed on Optimum TV Channel 79, Frontier TV Channel 6063, or the OGAT YouTube channel.

“Haunted House” From Page 18

**Scene setter:** Start with a scene setter if you would like to decorate both inside and out. Scene setters are plastic or paper backdrops that can be tacked up on walls to make a house look completely different, particularly under low light. A scene setter is an investment of time and money, but it can be reused each year and really make a room take on a new look quickly.

**Lawn graveyard:** Visitors to the home who have to step through a

graveyard will know there are more scares ahead. It’s relatively easy to make your own grave markers from wood or foam. If you’re not handy, you can purchase them from a Halloween supply store. Disturb the earth by the markers to make visitors believe each grave is fresh. A bony hand sticking out of the dirt or some wilted flowers placed by the graves also can set the scene.

**Floating candles:** Simulate the look of levitating candles with an easy craft. Take toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tubes and use hot glue on

the top to make it look like beads of dripping wax. Paint the tubes with white chalk paint, as this type of paint is thick and covers easily. Glue a battery-powered tea light to the top for the wick. Poke a hole through both sides of the tube and thread some fishing line through. Use your mounting device of choice to attach the fishing line to the ceiling indoors or outside to hang each candle. When the lights are dim, it’s very difficult to see the fishing line and the candles will appear to be floating.

**Haunted archway:** Make an arch

using PVC pipes, and thread jack-o’-lanterns or papier mâché heads or masks through to create an ominous arch that greets visitors.

**Handprints:** Use window-safe paint to create bloody handprints on the inside of windows. This is a design touch that will enhance both the interior and exterior of the windows.

**Fog machine:** Use a fog machine to spread a creepy mist where you need it, whether on a front porch or indoors.

Haunted houses come together with various design touches that are easy to execute.

“Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender.” — KEITH ELLISON



# Graven Images

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will be presenting a talk on “Graven Images: Colonial New England Gravestones as Art and History” on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Library Program Room.

Early New England gravestones are unique expressions of the culture and beliefs of their time and place in our history. Crafted by hand by itinerant stone carvers, the symbols and epitaphs provide a unique window into the fears and concerns, hopes and ambitions of generations long past. Their origins and purpose in a rapidly evolving society will be presented by cultural historian and Wesleyan University Visiting Scholar, Richard J. Friswell.

Richard Friswell co-directs the Wesleyan Wasch Center Seminars, the university’s adult education program. He has published three books of historical fiction dealing with topics of cultural history through the imagined eye of a historian and storyteller. He speaks and lectures widely on topics related to the ‘Modern Era,’ a time during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when Western civilization was experiencing rapid change in the face of the Industrial Revolution and widespread political upheaval.

Please join us for this program which is free and open to the public. Reservations are required via [www.casememoriallibrary.org](http://www.casememoriallibrary.org) or by phone 203-891-2170.



# Decorating Homes for Halloween

Drive through a suburban neighborhood in October and it's likely you will find yards filled with inflatable witches, animatronic grim reapers and makeshift graveyards bearing witty sayings on tombstone and bony hands reaching out from the soil. Decorating for Halloween has become big business, with consumers spending a collective \$10.6 billion in this category in the United States in 2022, according to a survey conducted by Prosper Insights & Analytics and the National Retail Federation. In fact, decorations, particularly outdoor decorations, were the second most popular way to celebrate Halloween (candy still reigns supreme).

According to research by LombardoHome.com, which looked at Google searches across the country, Las Vegas, Denver, Baltimore, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle were the top five states that searched the most for Halloween decorations on average per capita. Carved pumpkins, skeletons and witch cauldrons topped the list of preferred Halloween decorations in America.

Halloween is an opportunity to pull out all the stops for this fun fall celebration. The following tips can help to turn any home into a Halloween haunt to remember.

Decide on a theme. Most people fall into one of two camps when decorating for Halloween. There are those who want their homes to be frightening and full of horrific details, and others who prefer more of a fall harvest look. Identify your preferences and then gather decorative items accordingly.

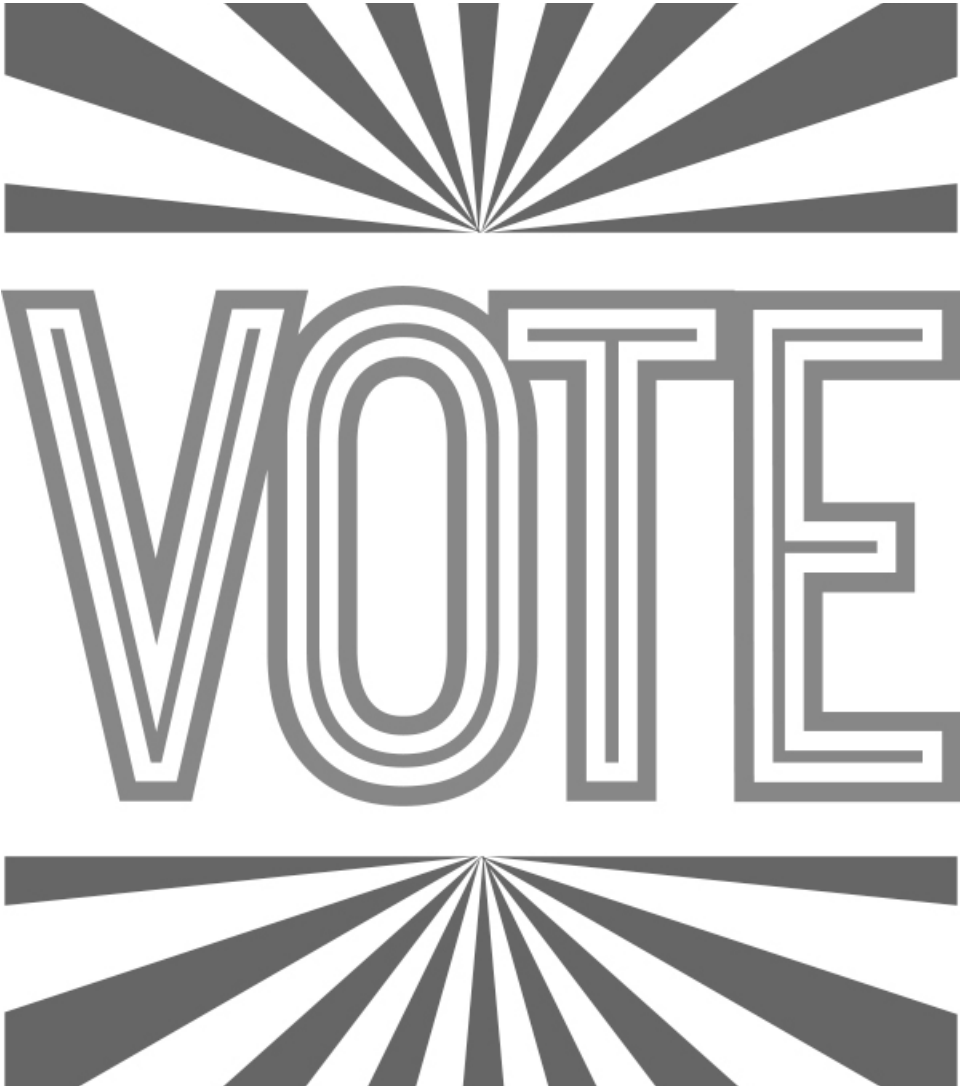
Shop early/late. Ideally, the best time to buy Halloween decorations is

the day after the holiday when prices get slashed (pun intended). This is the time to stock up on items for next year. You can save anywhere from 50 to 70 percent when buying late in the season. For those who need new items for this year's Halloween, close-out retailers like HomeGoods and TJ Maxx start putting out Halloween products in the middle of summer. Stock up as soon as you see items, as they're not likely to remain on shelves for long. By the time October rolls around, decorations may be gone.

Subtle touches can work. Though some people just love covering every square foot of a property with all things Halloween, it's also possible to make a big impact with minimal effort. Lighting, or lack thereof, can create a spooky atmosphere. Swap existing porch lights with yellow or even black lights so everything glows. Candles flickering can add mystery. Place some battery-powered or electric candles in windows for an eerie feel. Swap out your typical curtains with purple or black ones to drape the house in even more spooky appeal.

Wait on the carved pumpkins. Halloween seldom is complete without jack-o'-lanterns. But pumpkins often begin to degrade shortly after they're first carved. Use artificial pumpkins if you plan to decorate early; otherwise, wait until a day or two before Halloween to add freshly carved pumpkins to the Halloween scape. Children can come up with the design, but ensure only adults cut into the pumpkins.

Homeowners can quickly and easily transform their homes into spooky haunts this Halloween.





# CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Visit our website [casememoriallibrary.org](http://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 be closed on Saturday, November 11 in observance of observance of Veterans Day.

### 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](http://casememoriallibrary.org/events).

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### STORYTIMES Preschool Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Music, movement, and literacy for our preschool friends! Join us as we get ready for the school years. There will be a craft after the storytime session. Registration is required.

### Lapsit Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Little ones and their caregivers are invited to explore books, sing songs, and practice interactive nursery rhymes with Ms. Angela! Registration is required.

### Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Get the wiggles out with Ms. Angela! Stories, music, dancing, and more fill this high-energy storytime for toddlers and their grownups. Registration is required.

### EVENTS FOR CHILDREN Halloween Storytime

Thursday, October 26, 6:30 p.m.

For children and families.

Put on your costume and come down to the library for a special nighttime edition of storytime! Registration is required.

### Preschool Playtime

Saturday, November 4, 10:30 a.m.

For children ages 2-5.

Come enjoy our mini obstacle course for a morning of fun and peer



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socialization! Registration is required.

### Take and Make: Leaf Hedgehogs

Pick up dates: November 6-11  
For children up to age 12.

Turn autumn leaves into a cute hedgehog family! Take and makes are available while supplies last, no registration required.

### Lotus Flower Light

Wednesday, November 8, 4 p.m.  
For children in grades 1-6.

Get ready for Diwali with a 3D paper lotus that lights up in the center! Registration is required.

### Ozobot Bowling

Thursday, November 16, 4 p.m.  
For children in grades 1-6.

Tiny robots? Check. Coding with Markers? Check. Now, see if you can use an Ozobot to bowl a strike! Registration is required.

### EVENTS FOR TEENS & ADULTS 2023 Fall Film: Glass Onion

Wednesday, November 1, 1 p.m.

Tech billionaire Miles Bron invites his friends for a getaway on his private Greek island. When someone turns up dead, Detective Benoit Blanc is put on the case. 2 hr. 19 min. Registration is recommended; drop-ins are welcome if space permits.

### Bookcase Discussion

Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m.

Join Bookcase discussion leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom. This discussion will be held on Zoom. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

### Dungeons & Dragons

Thursday, November 9, 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 18, 2:30 p.m.  
For students in grades 7-12.

Dungeons & Dragons is a cooperative, storytelling tabletop roleplaying

game where you and other players take on the roles of different characters within a fantasy story. Registration is recommended; drop-ins are welcome if space permits. Please register for only one session per month. This program is generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

### 10 Tips to Manage Stress

Monday, November 13, 7 p.m.

Stress happens to all of us. Up to 90% of all visits to the doctor's office are stress-related, according to Harvard. Stress can be considered as much a risk factor for disease as smoking. Why can two people be in the same situation and respond to stress differently? Can going through stressful times without stress be a learned skill? Whatever your age or situation, this presentation will provide 10 tips to manage stress. Everyone will learn a technique to minimize stress and maximize vitality. Registration is recommended, drop-ins are welcome if space permits.

### 2023 Fall Film: Good Luck to You Leo Grande

Wednesday, November 15, 1 p.m.

Nancy Stokes, a retired school teacher, is yearning for some adventure, and some sex. And she has a plan, which involves hiring a young sex worker named Leo Grande. 1 hr. 37 min. R. Registration is recommended; drop-ins are welcome if space permits.

### Book Boxes

November pickup dates:  
November 20-30  
For adults and students in grades 7-12.

Our free book box service! Each month that you register you will pick up a box containing two books selected by our librarians based on your reading preferences for you to borrow as well as some treats and others surprises for you to keep. Space is limited. Registration is required and begins on the first of each month. Please remem-

ber to register and complete a form each month you wish to participate.

### Ban This Book! Club

Monday, November 27, 7 p.m.

This month we're discussing two books! Let's Talk About It is a graphic nonfiction book that has been formally challenged in at least three public libraries in the LION consortium (of which Case Memorial Library is a member). When Aidan Became a Brother is a picture book that received attention in a letter to the editor that appeared in the Labor Day issue of Orange Town News. Join Librarian Rebecca Harlow and co-leader Elizabeth Ewen as we discuss these books as works of literature as well as an object of censorship. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk. Registration is required.

### Fall Film: The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent

Wednesday, November 29, 1 p.m.

Movie star Nick Cage is channeling his iconic characters as he's caught between a superfan and a CIA agent. 1 hr. 47 min. R. Registration is recommended; drop-ins are welcome if space permits.

### Quilting Club

Wednesdays, November 1,  
December 6, 10 a.m.

The Quilting Club is a monthly meetup of quilters from the CT Piece-makers Guild who work on their quilting projects. Please bring your own supplies. No registration is necessary.

### Crochet Club

Saturdays, November 4,  
December 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
For adults and teens.

The Hooked on the Sound Crochet Guild meets monthly to share stitch successes, assist with pattern problems, education, and generally have a great time crocheting. All skill levels are welcome. Bring any crochet project you are working on or one you may need help with. Please bring your own supplies. No registration is necessary.

### Mystery Book Discussion Group

Thursday, December 7, 1 p.m.

Join Librarian Samantha Jasulavic for a discussion of *Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart.

### Art in the Library

Visit the Library to view a display of artwork by veterans on display November 3-29. A reception will be held in the artists' honor on Thursday, November 16 from 5-7 p.m.

OPINION

Amity Board of Education News – October

By PAUL DAVIS  
AMITY BOE CHAIR

Amity Supports Rigorous and Challenging Academic Classes: The Milford-Orange Times and the Orange Town News recently published an editorial from a local resident that contained damaging misinformation about the Amity Regional School District – information that is harmful to our students, our teachers, our schools, and our community. It is regrettable to have to continuously correct such misinformation, however the Board finds it necessary to provide the unequivocal correct facts. At no point has the Superintendent of the Amity Regional School District made a recommendation to eliminate Honors level classes. At no point has the Board of Education voted to eliminate Honors level classes. The 2023-2024 Amity Regional High School “College Admissions Profile” reports that Amity offers 39 Honors level classes in addition to 27 Advance Placement courses. In fact, the Strategic School Plan developed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education includes goals to expand the number of advanced classes by increasing dual-enrollment courses through partnerships with Connecticut colleges. These dual-enrollment courses will not only be academically rigorous but will also allow Amity students to earn more college credits for classes taken in high school. The district applied for and received a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education to support this exact goal. The Board is committed to ensuring students have access to opportunities and resources necessary to develop to their full academic potential – including Honors, AP, and dual-enrollment courses.

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and Commended Scholars: Congratulations to the seven Seniors who have been selected as Semi-Finalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship

Program: Aditi Bhattamishra, Haseeb Chaudhry, Edward Han, Deborah Luo, Jack Morrison, Alice Xu, and Annika Yun. They are among the top 16,000 scorers nationwide out of the more than 1.3 million students who took the PSAT-NMSQT test during their Junior year. Amity is tied for the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of Semi-Finalists among all public high schools in Connecticut this year. All seven recipients were recognized at the October 16, 2023 Board of Education meeting and are now in the competition to become National Merit Finalists later this year. Additionally, that evening, the Board recognized another sixteen Amity students as Commended Scholars for having been named among the top three percent in the country.

Pass Demonstration: The Board of Education received a demonstration of “Pass” (formerly E-Hall Pass) during its October meeting. Mathematics teacher Michelle Shoop and Library Media Specialist Vicki Hulse demonstrated how students or teachers can create virtual hall passes; how hall passes are approved and ended by teachers; and the information available in the teacher’s dashboard. They discussed how Pass is used to schedule intervention support, use of the library, and how Pass has reduced student traffic in the halls. Principal Andre Hauser shared how Pass is used during emergency situations to improve student safety and accountability. Technology Director Shaun DeRosa answered several questions on data privacy and collectively the presentation clarified concerns and misinformation identified during the September Board of Education meeting, including the following – 1) Students do not need to download the Pass application onto their phone. Students may access Pass through their school issued device; 2) Students do not need to carry their phone or device with them when using Pass; 3) Pass does not track a student’s location – it

is a record of where a student is coming from and where they are going; 4) Pass does not download data from a student’s phone or device; and 4) Pass is FERPA compliant, CT Student Data Privacy Act compliant, encrypted with minimum 256 encryption on its servers, and by contract, the data is owned by the District and may not be used by Pass or sold to a third party.

PSAT Administration: Students in Grades 9 and 10 took the PSAT on October 12, 2023. During the test administration, students in grades 11 and 12 were involved in a variety of activities, including a grade-wide team-building activity, information sessions on senior internships, Spartan Seminar lessons on academic integrity and a powerful presentation from the “For Cameron” organization – a local non-profit dedicated to education of the risks of self-medication and recreational drug use and lessening the stigma and shame of addiction. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, juniors will take the PSAT, seniors will have the opportunity to spend the day off-campus working on their post-secondary plans, and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in grade level activities, including their opportunity to see the presentation from “For Cameron.”

Senior Planning: The Counseling Department hosted its annual Senior Parent Night (September 20, 2023) and Financial Aid Night (September 27, 2023) to provide families the information they will need to assist their children in researching, applying to, and financing their college educations. School Counselors have spent the last month conducting small group “College Application Process” meetings with seniors to ensure that all of our students have the information and support they need to successfully develop and carry out their post-secondary plans.

Frozen Jr. Coming to Amity Middle School Bethany: The date(s) for the

Amity Middle School Bethany fall musical, Frozen Jr. have been announced and tickets are on sale now! Actors and crew are hard at work to bring this heartwarming story to life on the AMSB Stage on Friday, November 10, 2023, 6:30 pm; Saturday, November 11, 2023, 6:30 pm; and a final matinee performance on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 2:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased through the AMSB PTSO Board. Also, any families with an aspiring Anna, Elsa, or Olaf at home, are encouraged to send their future actor/actress in costumes to the musical; the cast will be available during intermission and after each show for photo ops.

Hispanic Heritage Month: The Board of Education received a presentation from Middle School World Language Content Leaders Elaine Hashemian and Theresa Garrity during the “3A’s and POG” item on the October Board agenda. Middle school Spanish teachers shared how they integrate cultural instruction with direct teaching and acquisition of a new language. Through a grant from the Jaime Hulley Foundation, they shared how 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from both middle schools participated in an interactive presentation centered on the music and culture of various Hispanic countries. Additionally, students participated in advisory activities to broaden students’ understanding of the contributions and influence of Hispanic culture in their lives. At the high school, students in Amity’s National Spanish Honor Society started the month off with a special message during morning announcements followed by a curated playlist of music that was broadcast between classes throughout the day. Throughout the month Amity students and the National Spanish Honor Society presented information on Hispanic culture and history with announcements, videos, and displays around the school.

Halloween Party Ideas for Adults

Halloween may seem like child’s play, but many adults participate in Halloween hijinks. According to the National Retail Federation, \$1.7 billion was spent on adult Halloween costumes in 2022, while \$1.2 billion was spent on kids’ costumes. Witches, vampires, ghosts, and pirates top the list of popular costume categories.

When all dressed up, adults will need some place to have fun, and parties with friends typically are events that fill not only Halloween itself but the days leading up to it. Those who will be planning Halloween parties for adults may be inspired by these frighteningly fun ideas.

Hallowine Time

Make a Halloween party even more spirited with a wine-themed party. Guests will enjoy a wine tasting with various offerings. Party hosts can try to find wines with macabre-sounding names.

Classy gathering

While Halloween may be about ghastly and ghostly decorations in many cases, some party hosts may want to have parties that offer subtle nods to Halloween instead. Black-and-white-striped plates on orange or purple chargers can set the tone for a fancy Halloween fête.

Murder Mystery Party

Murder can be the name of the game for a Halloween party when guests have to follow a script and figure out “Who done it?” Some of the biggest challenges with this type of party is creating the characters and writing the storyline. Free printable scripts make it easier for event planning. Murder Mystery themes also can be included in office parties for team-building activities.

Ghouls Night Out

Girlfriends can get together and plan a coordinated costume theme and then have a girls night out by

visiting various bars or restaurants around town.

Scary Surgeon

Plan a party around a mad scientist or scary surgeon concept. Decorations and foods can be geared around the idea. Instead of Jello™ shots, for example, there can be syringe shooters filled with a similarly spiked mixture. Replicate the look of body parts with various foods, like hot dogs made to look like cut fingers or toes.

Halloween party ideas for adults abound. A little inspiration can ensure such parties are frighteningly festive.



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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## 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 for more information).

**JOIN A NEW BOOK GROUP IN 2023!**  
*No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister  
Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Discussion led by Ileana Kaczynski

One book. Nine readers. Ten changed lives. New York Times best-selling author Erica Bauermeister's *No Two Persons* is "a gloriously original celebration of fiction, and the ways it deepens our lives. That was the beauty of books, wasn't it? They took you places you didn't know you needed to go..."

Alice has always wanted to be a writer. Her talent is innate, but her stories remain safe and detached, until a devastating event breaks her heart open, and she creates a stunning debut novel. Her words, in turn, find their way to readers, from a teenager hiding her homelessness, to a free diver pushing himself beyond endurance, an artist furious at the world around her, a bookseller in search of love, a wid-

ower rent by grief. Each one is drawn into Alice's novel; each one discovers something different that alters their perspective, and presents new pathways forward for their lives. Together, their stories reveal how books can affect us in the most beautiful and unexpected of ways—and how we are all more closely connected to one another than we might think.

All are welcome. Please call the office @ 203-799-2341 for Zoom Link

**COFFEE & LEARN RETURNS**

Wednesdays, 11-noon. A weekly gathering to explore the ancient texts of our tradition and the light they shed on the issues of our day. You may attend in person or via zoom - either the entire series or specific topics. Call the office for details. 203.799.2341. Classes start November 29 and run through the spring. Please check our website for exact schedule. The first three classes will be, **THREE TIMELESS MESSAGES WITHIN THE BOOK OF GENESIS:**

- › November 29: THE POWER OF KINDNESS
- › December 6: THE POWER OF GOING HOME
- › December 13: THE POWER OF ACTIVE HOPE

**YAHAD HEBREW SCHOOL**

Yahad is a community Hebrew school, a joint project of Congregations Or Shalom and B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge. At Yahad, meaning "together," students form their Jewish identities through amazing experi-

ential programming, while building foundational skills in prayer, Hebrew, Bible and much more. Together, as students, parents, teachers, and as a community, we will create our Jewish future! Please call Rachel @ Or Shalom if you are interested 203.799.2341.

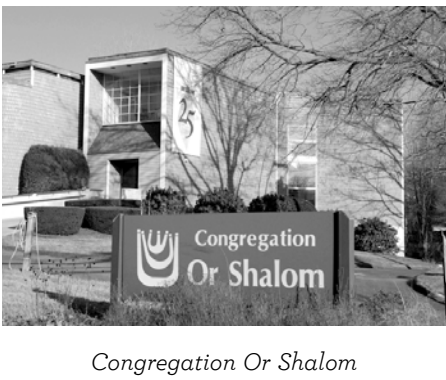
**ANNUAL KRISTALLNACHT EVENT**

Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-11:00am On the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nazi invasion of Rome we will hold our 17<sup>th</sup> annual Kristallnacht program. We will honor the late Dr. Adriano Ossicini. Ossicini, a Catholic doctor and anti-fascist activist, invented a fake, allegedly highly infectious disease he called "Syndrome K" to protect Jews seeking shelter at Rome's Fatebenefratelli Hospital. In a 2016 interview with the Italian newspaper La Stampa, Dr. Ossicini, then 96 years-old, said "The lesson of my experience was that we have to act not for the sake of self-interest, but for principles. Anything else is a shame." "It's an inspiring story for people of all ages," said Sarah Darer, Adult Education chair at Or Shalom. "How during one of the darkest times in human history, courageous individuals made a difference and saved lives."

Congregation Or Shalom and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, with substantial support from the Or Shalom Men's Club, are proud to honor Dr. Ossicini's legacy.

**EVENT DETAILS**

Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 9:00 am-11:00 am



Congregation Or Shalom

Congregation Or Shalom, 205 Old Grassy Hill Rd, Orange, CT, 06477

The event is free to all, but kindly RSVP at: [jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht](http://jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht)

**Community Pull Tabs**

Our Social Action Committee collects pull tabs from soda cans for the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. The house hosts families of children who are being cared for at Yale New Haven Hospital and allows families to stay close to their children during hospitalization. The pull tabs can come from cans of soda, beer, cat or dog food, sardines, soup, beans, fruit, etc. - any size tabs, any color, any metal. You can drop them to the Synagogue M-Th from 10-4 and Friday 10-3. Collect them from family and friends, too!

**Entertainment**

Save the Date- Are you a Fanilow? "Can't Smile Without You", A musical tribute to Barry Manilow. (Vocal impressionist Anthony Singer) November 4<sup>th</sup> doors open at 7:15 pm, show starts at 8:00pm. Call the office for ticket information at 203.799.2341.



## Music on the Green

The first offering in the Music on the Green concert series at the Orange Congregational Church on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 4:00 will feature Grace Cloutier, harp and David Enlow, organ. Together they are known as "Duo Celeste." Enlow is an internationally acclaimed organist based in New York City, and Cloutier

is a Grammy nominated harpist and friend of our congregation. The performance will feature the Pipe Organ in the sanctuary.

The Church is located at 205 Meeting House Lane at Orange Center Road on the Town Green. Tickets are \$10 for adults, children are free, available at the door.

## ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

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# HISTORY CORNER



BY GINNY REINHARD

## The Cemetery Has Stories...

The Orange cemetery started out with a half-acre when the Orange Congregational Church was approved by the General Assembly to combine the two Milford churches into one at Bryan's Farms. A portion of the petition reads "that they are deeply impressed with the importance of a constant attendance for themselves and families on public worship and while their attendance is always accompanied with inconvenience, it is sometimes rendered impossible."

A former petition had been denied because of the opposition from the southern part of town (Milford) but a charter was granted and the society was organized in 1804. This brings us to our first story with Joseph Treat, age 4 months and 4 days being the first person to be buried in the cemetery keeping in mind that Orange was not incorporated until 1822 so the cemetery was actually Bryan's Farms/ North Milford. Joseph's birthday was June 29, 1805, baptized on August 18, 1805 and he passed away on November 2, 1805. Although the stone does not read his initial, from research records we have, he bore his mother's maiden name, Newton. Joseph's father was Joseph Treat, a family well-known in early Bryan's Farms.

Our records mention Bryan's Farms and North Milford many times, sometimes overlapping so when North Milford used that name is most likely when folks moved into the interior towards the area of the Green so below that would be Bryan's Farm and above, North Milford. For accuracy in the recent cemetery tours, the stone restoration team of the Orange Historical Society used a variety of resources including what is referred to as the Hale Collection, a most valuable listing of the cemetery stones in the older section. Between the years 1932 and 1935, Charles Hale and his staff



Tenty and her daughters

identified each stone so that proper research could be done to tell their story, throughout Connecticut.

One of my favorite people is William T. Grant, 1807-1882. I say this because I was able to procure one of his journals which outlines the many repairs he made on the shoes in his neighborhood. Yes, he was a shoemaker with his house having once stood on the ground of the

white house nearest the front parking lot of the Orange church. This lot had been set aside by Samuel Treat when he gave the church the property upon which it stands today. There he lived with his wife Esther Treat Grant whose Bible is also part of the OHS collection.

He came to New Haven as a young man to work for Andrew Smith about 1823. He moved into Orange several years later so 1832 is

most likely the year he built his modest home and shop. His church activities were varied but the most interesting of his positions in town was that of Justice of the Peace. His signature appears on many documents held by the Orange Historical Society in their research center. William and Esther had 3 sons all enlisting in the Union army in 1861 was alas, their daughter Matilda, buried next to her parents, passed away in 1837.

Moving a little toward the left, in the first row, is a lovely carved stone for Tenty Treat. The stone was initially cleaner than the others in the row, because it

is probably 20 years old since the original one was destroyed when a pick-up truck plowed through the front row and her stone and several others were replaced. What we found interesting about her stone is her husband's name, inscribed as Everett BUT his name was Leverett which is on his stone nearby. Tenty is a nickname for Content which was her mom's name who was married

to Robert Treat, also in row one. Who we don't have in our cemetery is Tente (different spelling), her older sister, who was a baby, born in 1792 having died in 1794 and buried in Milford. To make it a bit easier to follow: Robert Treat married Content Bryan: children Robert, Charlotte, Tente, and Content (Tenty).

Leverett and Tenty had three children Lucy, Sarah and Leverett. The two girls passed away 4 years apart and their stones are next to each other with the inscription on Sarah's that reads;

Here sleep two sisters. Loving and pleasant in their lives, in death they were not divided. Lucy's epitaph is a bit too sad to write here because it appears that her marriage to Leverett Clark lasted a mere 7 months when she died of consumption which we know as tuberculosis.

You might have guessed that the cemetery has become of great interest for the Orange Historical Society cemetery staff as we clean each stone with care having proper instruction

from experts in the field. Nothing abrasive or chemical is used; soft brushes, tooth brushes and the like with a hand-held spray bottle will reveal the names, dates and in some cases an epitaph. These epitaphs are a history in themselves that isn't necessarily written where the average reader can find them.

One such case is Enoch Clark 1747-1807. Enoch was a farmer, 59 years old at his death and diligent to the success of his crops. Now

you say, how do we know this? His epitaph tells all.

As seen on the stone; "who was instantly killed by lightning whilst harvesting his grain and found dead at midnight in his field". Obviously, a storm was expected and as we know, any extensive rain, when a crop is due to be harvested can be damaged and

rendered useless. As a side note, if you have seen any Little House on the Prairie episodes, it deals with that.

Enoch was not only a farmer but a patriot as well. As a member of the Connecticut Colonial Militia, he served as a private in the Revolutionary war. What we found when reading a part of his will, on FindaGrave, is the change of spelling from Clark without an "e" to his two

sons listed in his will with the "e". We have seen this in several of the stones already cleaned.

We use many resources to write this column and with the project of cleaning the headstones, more resources and information have been discovered and just using the names and dates after cleaning, we are finding their history, buried in books, ledgers and on line that we never knew existed. It is a fabulous way to look into the history of Bryan's Farms/ North Milford and Orange and bring these citizens to our readers. We are not finished yet. Stay with me.



Tenty's stone before cleaning



William Grant before cleaning





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