

# Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

## First Selectman Debates: Boomer and Millennial Share Their Visions for the Town

BY BETTINA THIEL  
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Come November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Orange voters have the choice between two distinct generational approaches when it comes to the top job in town; Long-time Republican First Selectman Jim Zeoli is running on a platform of experience and fiscal prudence. He is being challenged by Millennial Connor Deane, a Democrat, who emphasizes better planning and a more broad-based outreach from Town Hall to keep residents informed. Their differences as well as similarities came to the fore during public debates between the two candidates.

"You can vote for the same stagnant leadership or vote to catapult the town into the future, move Orange forward," said Deane for a closing statement on October 14.

"With me you know what you're getting," said Zeoli. "People want to be in Orange, where Mr. Zeoli has been the first selectman for the past 16 years."

The first of the debates, on October 7, was sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce. It took place at High Plains Community Center gym, where the crowd filled most of the seats, and showed the interest people take in the leadership of their town. The tone was for the most part cordial and respectful. There was a fair amount of agreement between the two candidates.



First Selectman Jim Zeoli and challenger Connor Deane talk about their vision for the town.

Both are native to Orange, and both like to point out their local roots. As is to be expected in a relatively small town, those roots crossed on occasion.

In fact, Deane brought a picture of himself riding the bus in second grade, when that bus was driven by none other than Zeoli, before he was elected first selectman. But as much as mutual respect was palpable, Deane also pointed out where he would do things differently than the current first selectman.

When asked about their priorities,

Deane mentioned support for the health department ("We need to make sure we make it through the pandemic," he said); support for education ("it's the number one revenue driver"); and to take a look at the commercial district ("We need to take the tax burden off the residents").

Zeoli's priorities involved sound fiscal management (which was attested by Standard and Poor's AAA bond rating); new outdoor and indoor programs; and being proactive to support the commercial district.

On this last point, Zeoli mentioned several projects under way along the Boston Post Road. He said the owner of the Burlington Coat Plaza is thinking of subdividing a part of it, and repurposing it with uses such as warehousing and possibly a cannabis grower. They also are looking to put a solar array on the roof. He also mentioned the Sam's Club and Lowe's plaza, which is now occupied by Amazon. "I just wish they would register their vehicles in the state," he said, since the town would then have extra revenue from vehicle taxes. But the impetus for that has to come from the state lawmakers.

Connor Deane thinks more attention needs to be placed on revitalization of the Boston Post Road. "I would like to see more niche businesses and more restaurants," he said, pointing to some successful revitalization efforts just up the road, such as the Whole Foods Plaza and REI. "Maybe we need to resurrect the Post Road Study Committee to figure out where people are shopping," he said.

The purchase of the Race Brook Country Club, a project that was brought forward by Zeoli earlier this year and passed at referendum with wide approval rating, also came up during the debates. Zeoli pointed out that the creation of open space doubled

See "Debates" On Page 21

## ELECTION 2021 COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 6

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\* Orange Chamber of Commerce debate 10/7/2021



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## TOWN DEPARTMENTS



*A Retirement Party for long time Town Clerk, Pat O'Sullivan's Retirement Party was held on Friday October 8th at Race Brook Country Club. State Reps Kathy Kennedy and Mary Welander attended and presented him with a citation thanking him for his long service to the Town of Orange.*

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



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

1st	Zoning Board of Appeals .....7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Country Fair Cmte .....7:30 pm	HPCC
3rd	Conservation Comm .....7:00 pm	HPCC
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm .....7:00 pm	Town Hall
4th	OGAT .....7:30 pm	Town Hall
8th	Traffic Authority .....4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm .....4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Amity Board of Education .....6:30 pm	Woodbridge
9th	Economic Development Comm .....5:30 pm	Town Hall
	Inland Wetlands Comm .....7:30 pm	HPCC
10th	Board of Selectmen .....7:00 pm	Town Hall
15th	Orange Family Counseling .....9:00 am	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education .....7:00 pm	Mary L Tracy
School	Board of Finance .....7:00 pm	Town Hall
16th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm .....7:00 pm	Town Hall
17th	Recycling Cmte .....7:00 pm	HPCC
	CERT .....7:00 pm	HPCC
	Park & Recreation Comm .....7:30 pm	Town Hall
18th	Community Services .....7:00 pm	HPCC
	Library Commission .....7:00 pm	Case Memorial
Library	Pension Board .....7:00 pm	Town Hall
19th	Emergency Management Cmte .....8:00 am	Police Station
22nd	Orange Youth Services .....7:30 pm	HPCC





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**Contributing Writers** Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

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**Contact us:**  
Rocky Salperto .....[Rocky@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Rocky@orangetownnews.com)  
Marlene Silverstein .....[Marlene@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Marlene@orangetownnews.com)  
J. Michael Kriz .....[Mike@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Mike@orangetownnews.com)  
Melissa Nicefaro .....[Melissa@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Melissa@orangetownnews.com)  
Bettina Theil .....[Bettina@orangetownnews.com](mailto:Bettina@orangetownnews.com)

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

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
November 19   Thanksgiving Issue.....	November 12
December 17   Holiday Issue .....	December 10
January 14   New Year's Issue .....	January 7

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

FROM OUR READERS

Thank You to All of Our Town Leaders

My family and I moved to the Town of Orange in 1983 and have felt blessed ever since. I consider our town an oasis that has nurtured our children, given them an incredible education, created a safe and wholesome environment, and allowed us to continue as residents of this town.

A 2019 article in the New York Times has touted Orange as a wonderful place to raise a family, and I couldn't agree more. There is a spirit that I hold dear to my heart, with so many organizations and a desire by my fellow townspeople to give back to our community and beyond. Our town is packed with so many activities to partake in, beginning with the High Plains Community Center pool, tennis courts, and walking/running track that there is no reason to sit idle. How many other towns could also boast a Fireman's Carnival, Country Fair, Concerts, movie night, Owl Prowl, Tree lighting ceremony and tractor light show, Strawberry Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, Lobster Bake, Recycling Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Thanksgiving Day Road Race and the upcoming 200-year anniversary celebration of the town just to name a few.

With over 1000 acres of open space, and 18 miles of hiking trails, there is so much to explore or find solitude and quiet after a long and hectic work day.

I want to thank all of the leaders of our town, and my fellow Orange citizens for being the forward thinkers that have made our town the gem that it is.

Dr. Lawrence Messina  
President of the Orange Land Trust

Wreaths Across America Program

Connecticut Minuteman Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol announces its Wreaths Across America Cemetery for this year for the Wreaths Across

America Program. The CT Minuteman Composite Squadron, CAP based at Tweed New Haven Airport, in association with the Orange Cemetery Association, the New Haven Rotary and American Legion Orange Post 127 has selected the Orange Cemetery in Orange, CT for the Veterans Wreath laying Ceremony this year. Wreaths will be placed on veteran grave sites in the cemetery on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If you have a Veteran in the cemetery and would like to make sure your veteran's grave has a wreath placed on it, please contact 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Jerald Barber, CAP at 203-671-7848. A \$15 donation is requested. Wreaths may also be picked up at the Orange Cemetery on the 18<sup>th</sup> across from the Orange Fire Department next to Orange Town Hall if you wish to pick one up for another location. Please let Lieutenant Barber know in advance so that we have enough wreaths available to accommodate your recognition request.

This year's National CAP Wreaths Across America campaign is to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. Every December, it is a Civil Air Patrol holiday tradition observed by all 52 CAP wings and even abroad. Thousands of CAP officers and cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances to honor our nation's fallen. They present the colors, deliver orations and place veteran's wreaths on headstones at national and local cemeteries and war memorials. Last year, more than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veteran's graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad. Members of Civil Air Patrol's CT Minuteman Squadron, located at Tweed New Haven Airport are proud to partner once more with Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America culminates this year on Saturday, December 18,

See "Letters" On Page 12



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.



# ELECTION 2021 - DEMOCRATS

## Board of Selectman Mitch Goldblatt

Mitch Goldblatt has served as an elected official in the Town of Orange for over 40 years. His love for serving his community has spanned the positions of Constable, Town Plan and Zoning Commission, Board of Selectmen and First Selectman.

Now seeking his 15<sup>th</sup> term as a member of the Board of Selectmen, Mitch is also currently the chair of the Orange Recycling Committee and a member of the Pension Board. A volunteer at many events, Mitch helps out at the Orange Country Fair, the Firemen's Carnival, Shredding Day, and the Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner to name a few.

He currently works for the Town of Guilford as the Director of Human Resources and is an adjunct professor of Public Administration at the University of New Haven where he teaches Personnel Management and Labor Relation in the Public Sector.

Mitch has always been outspoken, but also a great listener to others with ideas. He was an early advocate of an Orange Train Station, supported Stew Leonard's coming to town, and began the path for a surge of economic development, including working to bring Target and Kohl's to town, while initiating discussions with United Illuminating and sparking the resurgence of the Edison Road extension which



has opened up our light industrial district to new development.

As a Selectman, Mitch advocated for larger Recycling Bins, stood up against the Boy Scouts and their former discriminatory actions against gay scouts, and is concerned about our residents being overtaxed, which has led

to an excessive undesignated fund balance. While being an advocate of not allowing any smoking in the outdoor seating of restaurants, he is in favor of allowing a cannabis dispensary in Orange now that it is legalized and may bring much needed revenue to the town. A member of the Bond Oversight Committee, he is concerned about proper maintenance for our roads and town facilities. As an active participant in the Orange Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1972, Mitch is excited to be part of our 2022 Bicentennial Committee.

Mitch earned a BA in Political Science from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania and an MBA in Management from The University of New Haven. An Orange resident for over 60 years, Mitch lives on Drummond Road with his wife Abby and has two children, Carl and Shayna.

He loves serving our town and respectfully asks for your vote for another term as your Selectman.

## Board of Selectman Charles Flynn IV

Why am I running for the Orange Board of Selectmen? I believe the business of Orange is education, which must once again become our Town's Priority. No matter your ethnicity, religion, age or background I have heard from you loud and clear: it is far past time that prioritizing education return to Orange.

Currently, I serve as Chairman for the Orange Elementary School district's Buildings, Grounds and Security subcommittee, where I contributed to the schools opening fully in person during the 2020/2021 year, one of the few in the country to do so. In this capacity, I have watched years of modest, appropriate OESS budgets, yet a majority of OESS modest capital requests to support our infrastructure were denied by the Board of Selectmen's Capital planning committee. As a Selectman, rather than ignore, I would PRIORITIZE proper capital funding of our aging OESS schools. Procrastination of regularly funded projects leads to catastrophic financial consequences in the future. I have an extended history of supporting responsible budgets that bring value to our town.

I opposed the devastating \$500,000 budget cut to the Orange Elementary Budget in 2020, as well as calls for increasing class sizes during the



pandemic. A town that can find millions for a private golf course needs to rediscover its priority: our children's future. As subcommittee Chairman, I have overseen the development of a preventative maintenance plan to maintain our schools for the future in a fiscally responsible manner. This

only works with regular contributions from our Town Resources. As a Selectman, I won't ignore smart, reasonable, cost saving investments in Orange's infrastructure.

Additionally, I continue working hard with my talented colleagues on the Orange Playground Committee to bring a full-time Playground to Fred Wolfe Park. My wife Erin and I have three children in the Orange and Amity schools. I have volunteered for the Orange Country Fair, coached for Orange Little League & Orange Youth Soccer, and currently serve on the Board of Ryan's Rebels, a charity supporting children and their families who are battling neuroblastoma.

Maybe you fished next to me as a child on Opening day of Trout Season at Cedarcrest. Maybe you sat next to me in the waiting room at Dr. Zelson's. We may have cheered our children together playing soccer, lacrosse, golf or in the pool. With your vote, we can redefine Orange's future. Let's go.

## Board of Selectman Rosanna Cappetta

My name is Rosanna Cappetta, and I am running for Board of Selectman. I was raised in Orange, and I attended Turkey Hill School, Amity Middle School and Amity High School. My husband, Jared Millbrandt (running for BOE), and I have two young children. We are looking forward to raising them in this great town while sending them to the Orange/Amity schools. I received my BA in International Studies from Fairfield University. I then attended Quinnipiac University School of Law



where I received my Juris Doctor in May of 2014. I was admitted to the practice of law that same year. I am a criminal defense attorney with the Public Defender's Office. I am also an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Haven where I teach undergraduate criminal law.

I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to give back to a town that has given me so much. I, along with all of the other members of the Democratic team, ask for your vote on November 2.

## Town Clerk Margaret Novicki

Margaret Novicki has an extensive background in public service and communications over a 30-year career.

She has been active in Orange politics since her retirement from the United Nations. She was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Selectmen in 2019 and also ran for First Selectman in 2017. As Selectman, she serves on the Emergency Management Advisory Council and



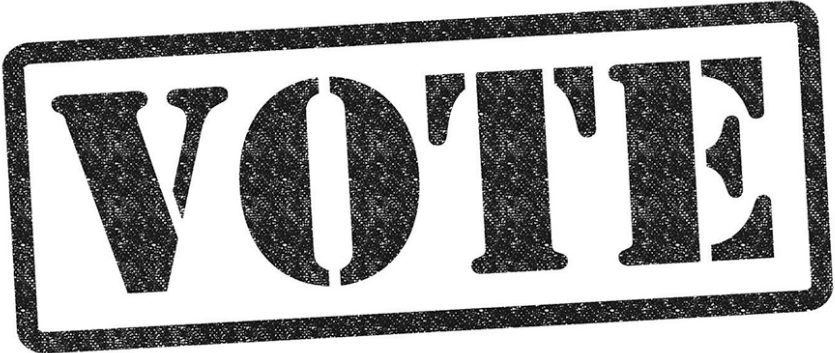
its COVID subcommittee, and the Personnel Committee. From 2018-19, she was a member of the Community Services Commission.

Her last position at the UN was Director of Strategic Communications, leading its global communications campaigns and crisis communications. She worked for the United Nations at Headquarters in New York and in four African countries.

SAVE THE DATE

Town of Orange 2021 Election

Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>





# ELECTION 2021 - DEMOCRATS

## Tax Collector Mark Moyher

Mark Moyher will bring 35+ years of experience in the financial industry to the role of Tax Collector. His extensive knowledge of financial software systems and compliance requirements has helped him earn several industry licenses. Currently Vice President and Head Trader for Wright Investors' Service, Mark's decades with the company have included implementing systems for trading, portfolio management, and back-office operations. Previously, he attended Fairfield University, studying Accounting and Finance.

As Tax Collector, Mark will strive to make paying taxes as simple as possible for residents and businesses. His commitment to continuing educa-



tion and ability to adapt to new systems will help him stay current on tax policies and procedures. Mark's a genial guy who's looking forward to working with residents and town officials.

Mark is an active member of the Orange Recycling Committee, serving as Secretary and Treasurer. He enjoys volunteering at community events such as Paper Shredding & Mattress Recycling Days and the Orange Country Fair. A lifelong CT resident, Mark has lived in Orange since 1998 with his wife Ilene. He likes traveling, bowling, reading, and spending time with family & friends. An avid golfer, Mark's a member of the Grassy Hill Men's Golf Association.

## Board of Finance Patricia Romano

Pat Sanders Romano has been an Orange Board of Finance Member since 2015. A skilled executive in financial and personnel management, complemented by her experience at all levels of government, she provides Orange a fresh, practical, and community-focused perspective in fiscal control and budget development.

Pat relocated to Orange in 2011 from Rye Brook (NY) where she was an elected Village Trustee, Police Commissioner, Planning Board member. She has 40+ years of experience in Healthcare Administration. She oversaw an annual budget of \$50+ million, and faculty and staff of 650 as the Executive Director of a Medical School Psychiatry Department. Pat consults on leadership, compliance, policy/program de-



velopment; teaches Graduate Medical Education; is the Community Member on the VA (CT) Research Subcommittee: Human Subjects Protection.

Pat is a Board Member and Past President of Orange Lions; honored as a Melvin Jones Fellow and a Knight of the Blind. As an Orange Senior Leadership Program participant, she received the Garvey/Plancher Award: Exemplifying the True Spirit of Leadership.

Pat, and husband Jim, live in Fieldstone where they are active homeowners. Their daughter Alisa lives in Shelton.

Reelect Pat Sanders Romano. She is devoted to providing experienced, diverse, diligent, and energetic leadership to Orange.

## Board of Finance PJ Shanley

For PJ Shanley, serving on the Board of Finance for the past 8 years has been an honor and a privilege. He has a background in corporate finance and 20+ years of experience as a financial advisor.

He is a fiscally conservative Democrat, who has worked hard to help implement budgets



that make sense for the entire town.

The Town of Orange holds a special place in his heart. He grew up here, met his wife and most of his close friends in Orange. He and his wife are raising a family here. His mother and mother-in-law still reside in this town.

## Town Plan & Zoning Commission Dan Fitzmaurice

Dan was born and raised in Milford and, after a few years living on the west coast, relocated to Orange with his young family in 2014. He supports local artists and cultural organizations as Executive Director at the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, loves hiking at Racebrook Tract, and is always will-



ing to meet over a good cup of coffee. As a member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, he will prioritize policies that welcome racially diverse residents, support agriculture and open spaces, and meaningfully engage everyone in planning processes to shape the future of our community.

## Board of Finance Kevin McNabola

Kevin looks forward to bringing a unique skillset of 19 years corporate and over 10 years of municipal Finance experience to the Board of Finance. Kevin is currently the Chief Financial Officer in the City of Meriden. He also worked as a Senior Finance Executive for both Bayer Pharmaceutical and General Electric before



becoming the Business Manager for the Orange School District in 2010. Kevin received his B.S. in Economics from Southern Connecticut State University and MBA/MPA from the University of New Haven. He is also a member of the Orange Fire Department and former Orange Little League Manager.

## Town Plan & Zoning Commission Mike Muttitt

Mike Muttitt was raised in Orange. He serves as President of the Interservice Clubs Committee of New Haven (Camp Cedarcrest), is a member of the Orange Government Access Television (OGAT), and New Haven Kiwanis. Mike served as a student member on OGAT and camera person.

A graduate of Amity, Mike has a BS, Information Technology from RIT and



is currently the Manager of Network Operations for Securitas Security Services USA.

While a resident of Monroe, Mike served on the Inland Wetlands Commission, including as chair and on the Charter Communications Cable Advisory Council Area 19 and as its Vice Chair.

Mike is married with two children and is a parishioner at Holy Infant Church.





# ELECTION 2021 - DEMOCRATS

## Orange Board of Education Jared Millbrandt

Jared Millbrandt is a Criminal Defense Attorney and Public Defender, State of Connecticut. He earned a JD, Western New England University School of Law and a BA, History, Nazareth College.

Jared is a member of the Orange Soccer Association and the Or-



ange Democratic Town Committee serving as its Nominating Committee chair.

Jared is married with two children. His oldest just began at Mary L. Tracy and he looks forward to being able to serve the town as a Board of Education member.

## Orange Board of Education Carmen Anna Rodriguez

Carmen Ana Rodriguez, has lived in Orange for more than 29 years and is the proud parent of two adult children both graduates from Amity High School. She is a veteran educator with more than 37 years of experience in New Haven Public Schools where she served the families and their children with passion and commitment until her retirement in



June 2020. Mrs. Rodriguez's career includes her experiences as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and a Supervisor for the English Learners. She graduated from American International College with a BS Degree in Teaching and completed her graduate degree at Fairfield University and Teachers College, Columbia University.

## Orange Board of Education Liz Tremper

Liz Tremper is a teacher in Hamden Public Schools K-8, as well as the point person for Leadership and Community Engagement, and the Hamden Education Association Union Representative, Human Relations Club Advisor, Diversity and Inclusion Grant Recipient, Rainbow Library Founder, Volunteer Tutor,



and a PTA Member. Liz holds a 6<sup>th</sup> Year Diploma, Educational Leadership, SCSU; MA, English, CT Teaching Certificate, SCSU; BA, English, University of Connecticut and a Cross Endorsement Library Media. Liz is married with three children and a proud Orange Elementary School Parent.

Constables  
Santo Galatioto Jr.  
Randy Thomas  
Jay Carrier

## Amity Board of Education Carla Eichler

Carla is a lifelong Orange resident, Amity graduate, and been a member of the Amity Board of Education since 2017. Carla earned a Master of Art Education at SCSU and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UConn. On the Amity Board of Education, she served on the Policy, Facilities and Curriculum Committees. Carla now chairs the Personnel Commit-



tee. During her first term, she is proud to be part of the completion of the all-weather field and stadium project, improved building security, including an increase of security personnel, and the addition of social work services at the middle schools.

Carla and her husband, Jim, have two daughters who attend Amity and Orange schools.

## Amity Board of Education Craig Lennon

Craig Lennon and his wife have two sons in the Amity/Orange school system. He is the Dean of Students at the University of Bridgeport. Craig earned his BA at Stonehill College and MS at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has served on the Junior



Achievement Bridgeport Community Board since 2018 and has served as a youth soccer coach for several years. With over 20 years of experience in working in educational settings, Craig will work hard to support and grow the excellent school system in Amity.

## Amity Board of Education Patricia (Patty) Post

Patty Com-pagnone-Post is a retired Professor of Biology, Albertus Magnus College. She managed a \$650,000 National Science Foundation grant, was a finalist for the CT Technology Council's Women of Innovation Award, a mentor with the Amity High School Science Research Program, and for the Senior Service Learning Program. Patty holds a PhD, Biochemistry



from University of Pittsburgh, an MS, Molecular Biology from University of Pennsylvania, and a BS, Chemistry from Emmanuel College. A resident of Orange for 20 years, Patty is a former member of the Orange Historical Society Board of Directors. She is married and her two children are both graduates of Orange and Amity Schools.

VOTE  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2





# ELECTION 2021 - REPUBLICANS

## Board of Selectmen 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 Chair
- › 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."*

## Board of Selectmen Judy Wright Williams

- › Board of Selectmen - 10 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 Service 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."*

## Board of Selectmen John Carangelo

- › Orange Board of Selectmen - 6 years
- › B.A. Syracuse University
- › J.D. Quinnipiac College School of Law
- › Former Judge of Probate for Orange
- › Practicing attorney with over 22 years of legal experience
- › John Carangelo has



- › been a lifelong resident of Orange and resides with his wife Katharine 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."*

## 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
- › Mary's extensive experience working closely with all of Orange's municipal offices makes her uniquely qualified to serve as your Town Clerk.



*opportunity to support the Orange Board of Education, the leadership team, teachers, staff and families of our outstanding school system.*

*Both positions have allowed me to exercise my strong interpersonal skills. My dedication and passion for our community is evident with my involvement on several boards, committees and town events throughout the years. Amity Middle School, Race Brook and Mary L. Tracy PTAs, ACS Relay for Life, Amity Girls Lacrosse Association, Town of Orange Holiday Festival and Veterans Day Ceremony to name a few. The Town Clerk position is all about providing knowledgeable customer service in a welcoming, approachable and transparent environment. If given the opportunity to serve as the keeper of accurate records while complying with local and state regulations, provide election oversight and maintain a general overall informational epicenter for the Town, I am committed to do my very best, with great pride, to meet and exceed the expectations of our residents in every aspect that the position requires."*

*"As a candidate for the position of Town Clerk, my role as the previous Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman for seven years provided valuable hands on experience.*

*Working closely with all municipal offices within the Town of Orange, I supported the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen while attending to the needs of our residents.*

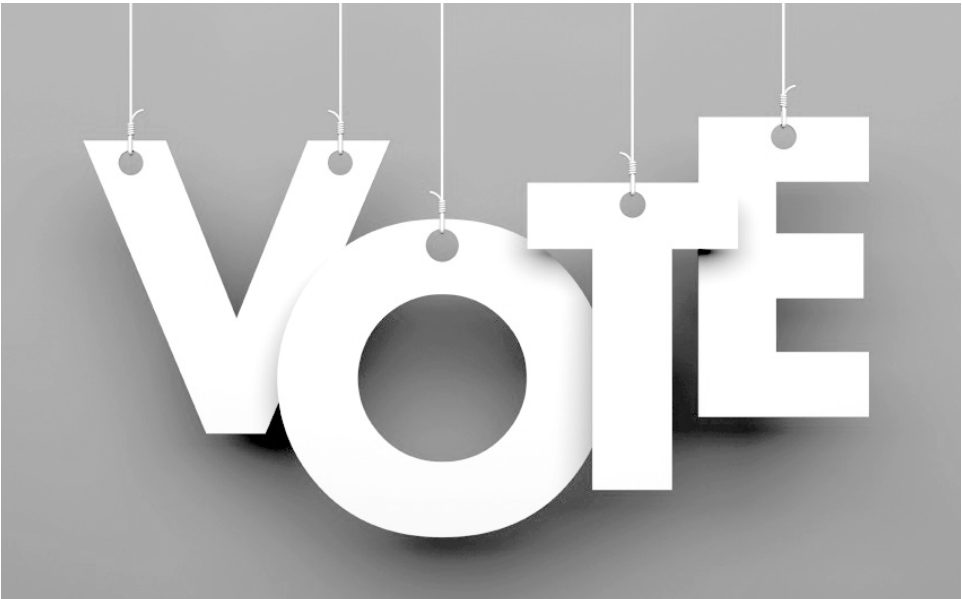
*As the current Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, I have the unique*

## 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



- › Tom Hurley has been dedicated to the people of Orange for over 20 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 and is well prepared to serve as our Tax Collector.



# ELECTION 2021 - REPUBLICANS

## Board of Finance Joseph Nuzzo

- › B.S. Business Administration/Management, Southern Connecticut State University
- › M.B.A. Degree in Finance, University of New Haven
- › Twenty Years in Commercial Banking
- › Business Owner Commercial Finance
- › Joe's community service includes Orange Soccer Association youth soccer coach, Orange Little League



baseball coach, current Board Member of the Amity Club, a civic and philanthropic organization in New Haven, and Past President and Board Member of the Boys'/Girls' Club of New Haven.

*"I ask the townspeople of Orange for your vote to allow me to continue to apply my extensive financial experience and expertise to our policy of fiscal responsibility and straightforward leadership."*

## Town Plan & Zoning Commission Ozzie Parente

- › Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman
- › B.A. Villanova University
- › J. D. University of Bridgeport School of Law, (Now Quinnipiac College School of Law)
- › Ozzie is an attorney focusing in the areas of real estate law, corporate finance, commercial law and contracting. Ozzie is a member of



the New Haven County, Connecticut and American Bar Associations.

- › He is past Vice-President and General Counsel of a large Connecticut manufacturer.
- › Ozzie has also served in a leadership capacity for the Quinnipiac Club Board of Governors, The Hopkins School Alumni Board and Board of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.

## Board of Finance Ajeet Jain

- › Associate Professor of Finance, Central Connecticut State University
- › Former Director of the MBA program, Alabama A&M University
- › Ph.D. in Finance, Florida International University
- › MBA from Alabama A&M University
- › B.S. University of Delhi
- › Drs. Ajeet and Preti Jain, and



their daughter, Simran are proud residents of Orange.

*"As an Associate Professor of Finance at Central Connecticut State University and the former Director of the MBA program at Alabama A&M University, I have gained extensive experience in the field of finance."*

*"I am committed to keeping taxes low while providing the highest support possible for community services, infrastructure improvements and excellent schools."*

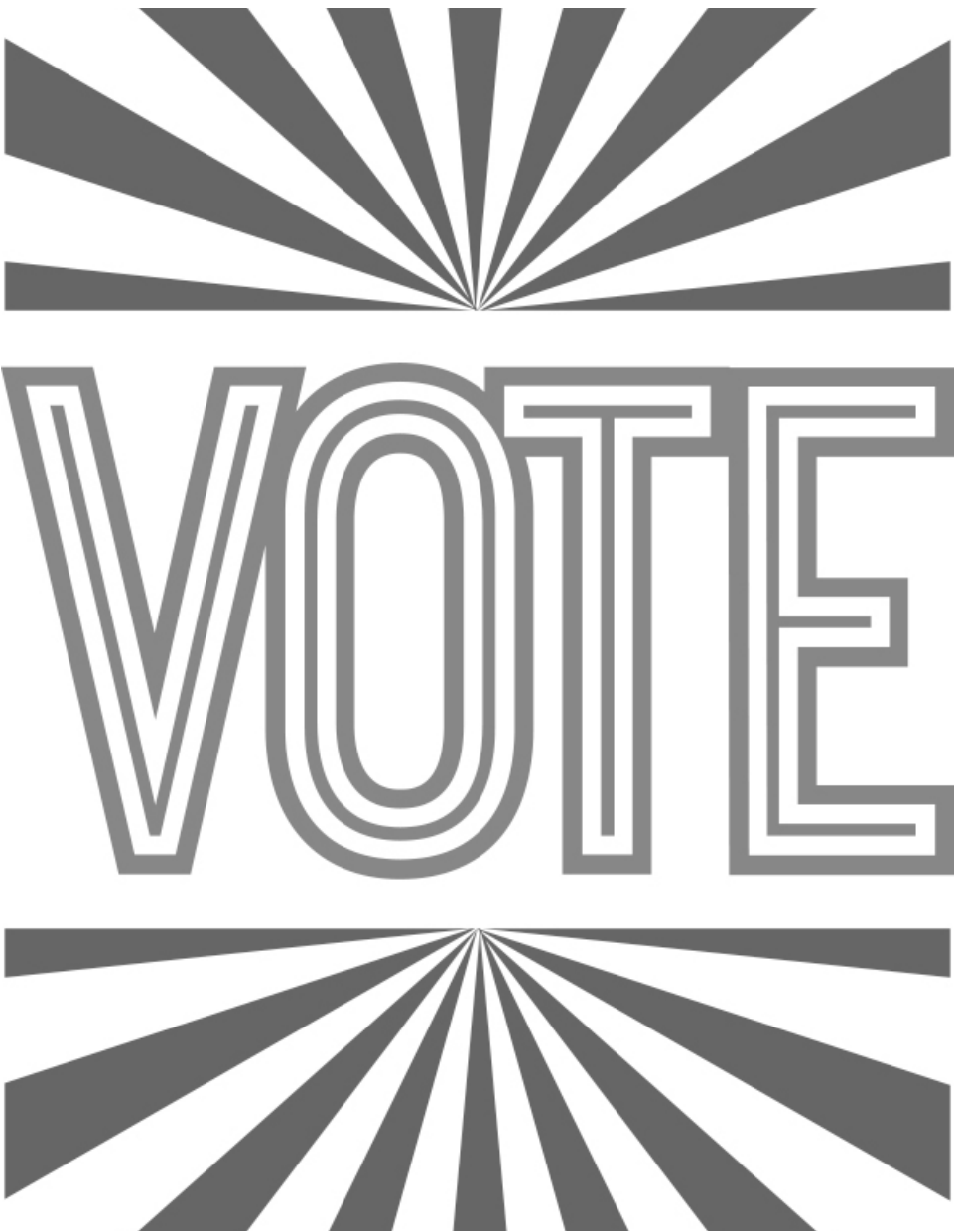
## Town Plan & Zoning Commission Kevin Cornell

- › Planning and Zoning Commission member
- › B.E. Mechanical Engineering, Stevens Institute of Technology
- › J. D. University of Bridgeport School of Law, (Now Quinnipiac College School of Law)
- › Professional Certification: Professional Engineer, New York State
- › Kevin is a Real Estate Development professional with over 30



years of experience in all facets of commercial and residential real estate development and construction.

*"As a resident of Orange for 32 years, I feel an obligation to give back to the community that helped raise and educate my children and allow my family to enjoy the wonderful quality of life that Orange offers. My work experience aligns precisely with the demands of the Planning and Zoning Commission."*



## Constables

### Dan Zapatka



### Glen Papelo



### Jody Daymon



### Mike Donadeo





# ELECTION 2021 - REPUBLICANS

## Orange Board of Education Jeffrey Cap

- › Vice-Chair, Board of Education
- › Chief Information Officer, Newman Architects
- › Former Technology Teacher
- › Boy Scout Leader & Trainer
- › Knights of Columbus Member (Third Degree)
- › Jeff has served as a community volunteer for many organizations in Orange including the Orange Country Fair, Holy Infant Church, and Website Ad-



ministrator for various non-profit groups

*"It is important for children to receive the highest quality of education from Orange Elementary Schools. Not only is education a top priority but having safe and secure school buildings is equally as important. Having modern technology access will set students, faculty, and staff up for continued success. Your vote will provide me the opportunity to remain committed to the goal of investing in our children's future."*

## Orange Board of Education Ronnelle Pompano James

- › B.S. in Elementary Education, SCSU
  - › M.S. in Reading, SCSU
  - › Certified Elementary School Teacher/Reading Specialist
  - › President of Peck Place School PTO from 2016-2021
- "My husband and I moved to Orange 16 years ago, attracted by its close knit community and top notch school system."*



*"I wanted our children to receive the highest quality public education possible."*

*"In my years as a volunteer in our schools, I have been impressed by the outstanding education my sons have received."*

*"When elected, I will continue the work of building on our tradition of excellence on behalf of every child we have the privilege to educate."*

## Orange Board of Education Tatiana Messina Mullen

- › B.A. Villanova University
- › J.D. New York Law School
- › Senior Assistant State's Attorney
- › CT State Division of Criminal Justice - 15 years
- › Tatiana grew up in Orange and is a product of the excellent Orange school system. After continuing her education and starting her own family, she moved back to Orange, where she lives with her



husband and daughter.

*"As both a candidate and the mother of a child who will be starting her journey through the Orange Public Schools, it is important that we all work together to make sure that all students obtain the best possible educational experience that will benefit them throughout the years."*

*"By working collaboratively, we can foster a safe and welcoming school environment so the children of our close knit community feel comfortable."*

## Amity Board of Education Christina Levere D'Addio

- › Assistant Director of Public Affairs, SCSU
  - › M.F.A. in Writing, Vermont College of Fine Arts
  - › B.S. in Journalism, Ithaca College
  - › Co-Corresponding Secretary
  - › Race Brook Elementary School PTA
- "As the parent of three school-aged children in both the Orange and Amity school systems, I have a personal interest in preserving and enhancing the quality of our*



*top-rated schools."*

*"I will bring 20 years of experience in higher education to the position, as well as a desire to introduce reasonable, appropriate solutions to the ever-changing landscape that is unique to our community."*

*"I also will strive to maintain respectful, thoughtful dialogue as we address how best to maintain the reputation of Amity's school district, one that is known for excellence and innovation."*

## Amity Board of Education Sean Hartshorn

- › Assistant Director of Public Affairs, SCSU
  - › M.F.A. in Writing, Vermont College of Fine Arts
  - › B.S. in Journalism, Ithaca College
  - › Co-Corresponding Secretary
  - › Race Brook Elementary School PTA
- "As a member of the Amity Board of Education I will support traditional academic edu-*



*cation which is vital. Training in the trades is also an important alternative that I will support."*

*"Programs that encourage a strong work ethic, teach the joy and value of hard work and the ability to work with others is a key component of our students' future success."*

*"I will also encourage our youth and their parents to become involved in the community."*

MORE ELECTION  
COVERAGE ON  
PAGES 18-19

★

YOUR  
VOTE  
MATTERS

★



# Happy Veterans Day

“Letters” From Page 5

2021 with an estimated 90,000+ volunteers placing 244,700 wreaths on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery and many of Arlington’s memorials, including the Tomb of the Unknowns. Simultaneous ceremonies will be held throughout the day at over 1,400 veterans’ cemeteries, other cemeteries and war memorial sites in all 50 states, as well as over 20 foreign locations.

Thomas P. Hurley, Lt COL, CAP

Value Your Freedom to Choose What’s Best for Your Children

Several Orange and Woodbridge residents met with State Sen. (D-14) James Maroney and State Rep. (D-114) Mary Welander and voiced their concerns about the vaccine mandates being forced upon us and our children or face the prospect of being excluded from work, sports, and school functions and submit to weekly testing. We reminded our good representatives that in America there used to be freedom of choice and if the vaccines work so well why do you care if others choose not to and why is there such a push by the Biden regime and His Excellency Lamont and minion Mohammad, Orange health director, to coerce everyone into getting the shot or else!!

Well, Mary Welander schooled us again that “we do have a choice, get

the shot or be excluded.” She also repeated the mantra several times that it’s “for the greater good!” Now where have I heard that slogan before? It is a socialist idea and doctrine by those who believe in the greater good and feel compelled to impose their ideas and standards on those who disagree with them.

The collectivist mind-set is foundational to communism, fascism and socialism. The common good before the individual good. I’m not buying what they’re selling and neither should you if you value your freedom to choose what’s best for you and your children.

Bonnie Pelaccia

Events Like the Orange Country Fair Make Our Town Special

I would like to congratulate the Orange Country Fair Committee on one of the most successful fairs ever. This fair was fantastic. I would like to thank everyone who helped organize the weekend events, had a stand, or volunteered their time. It is amazing to see members of the community get up at the crack of dawn to make pancakes for their fellow townspeople. It is amazing that there are volunteers who spend the whole weekend running the food tents and civic tents. Events like the country fair are what make our town so special. I am proud to be an Orange Resident.

Santo Galatioto Jr.

[www.OrangeTownNews.com](http://www.OrangeTownNews.com)



## CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Hosted by the Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

10 AM – 4 PM

Treat Farm, 361 Old Tavern Road, Orange

All kinds of Christmas goodies are available, as well as hot chocolate and hot spiced cider.

All proceeds support the Orange Volunteer Fire Department



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The 4s and 5s classes at OCNS enjoyed a beautiful day at Buttermilk Lane Farm.



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# Bencos Celebrate 60 Years Together

Robert and Jean Benco celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a renewal of their vows. Bobby Benco, their grandson, officiated the ceremony on a beautiful Sunday afternoon surrounded by family and friends. They were married on June 17, 1961, in Shelton and moved to Orange in 1971. They were set up on a blind date as teenagers and have been together ever since – spending time with fam-

ily, enjoying trips to the Cape and to their second home in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. They were blessed with 2 daughters, Debbie Benco and Donna Benco Chervenak, son-in-law, John Chervenak, and six grandchildren, Bobby Benco, Carly Chervenak, Tommy Garcia, Michael Chervenak, Jessica Clemmenson, and Alex Chervenak. They are proud to live in Orange for over 50 years.

## LOCAL BUSINESS

# Tudino Recognized as Top 1,000 Real Estate Agent Nationwide

Joe Valvano, president of Coldwell Banker Realty in Connecticut and Westchester County, N.Y., is pleased to announce that Orange resident Sharon Tudino, a real estate agent affiliated with the company's Orange office, has been recognized as a Top 1,000 real estate agent nationally by Realty Brokerage Group for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. Realty Brokerage Group is the parent company of Coldwell Banker Realty with more than 50,000 affiliated real estate salespersons in the United States.

"Sharon's achievement demonstrates her commitment to providing unparalleled service to both her buyers and sellers. She is a valuable asset to her clients," said Valvano. "I am very proud of Sharon and confident that she will continue to achieve great success in the coming months and years. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work."

With more than 20 years of experience, Tudino has been successfully meeting the needs of homebuyers and sellers in Greater New Haven and Fairfield counties, including the towns of



Person Name

Orange, Woodbridge, Milford, Stratford, Bethany, Hamden, Wallingford, West Haven and all of Connecticut!

Tudino has also received the awards for the Coldwell Banker Realty International President's Circle Award for 2020, the Quarterly Awards for the Greater New Haven Middlesex Board of Realtors this year and the CT Magazine Five Star Realtor Award for the past six years.

Sharon Tudino can be reached at (203) 257-9601 or by email at [sharon.tudino@cbmoves.com](mailto:sharon.tudino@cbmoves.com).

Call Shelly to schedule your furnace tune up today!

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Sam Livieri – **Woodbridge** (Owner) • Tony Ferranti – **Orange** (GM)  
Ken Crepeau – **Milford** (Service Mgr)  
Bob Gambardella – **Orange** (Sales Mgr) call direct at 203-530-6439

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# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Scout Day at Lyme Rock Speedway



Pack 922 scouts at the Pack Hike at Southford Falls



At the pack meeting scouts made custom paper airplanes and performed distance and accuracy stunts

## Wreaths, Poinsettias and Pies!

It's that time of year again and Pack 922 will be out looking for those of you who would like a decorated wreath, poinsettia and Oronoque Pies for the Holidays. Starting the first week of November we will be preselling Oronoque pies, Poinsettias and Decorated Wreaths so contact Jessica.Zamachaj@gmail.com for the ordering link. Besides the presales we will be at High Plains Community Center selling decorated wreaths on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10-3pm, this is also the date of pick up for your presales. Also keep a lookout

for our scouting for food flyers. We will be out in the neighborhoods in the coming weeks to collect food for the Orange Food Bank. For the last month the Pack has been busy at Lyme Rock Speedway, Hiking at Southford Falls, launching our trebuchet at the Pumpkin Chunkin in Pennsylvania and hosting various den and pack meetings. For information on joining our pack, please email our Cubmaster Brian Cleveland at bcleveland@hotmail.com. See you on November 20<sup>th</sup>.



Parents can weigh the risk/reward of dining out with unvaccinated children and take as many precautions as possible to keep them healthy.

## Dining Out with Unvaccinated Children

Dining out safely and confidently has long been a coveted component of getting back to normal life after the pandemic. In spring of 2021, mask mandates were lifted in most areas and it seemed like dining out and other activities were returning. However, new variants of the virus and breakthrough infections have added to uncertainty and raised some familiar questions about the safety of dining out, particularly with unvaccinated children. Though COVID-19 vaccines are now available to people ages 12 and older, children younger than 12 remain ineligible for vaccination. As a result, families may once again be wondering how to navigate going out. Epidemiologists and other public health experts agree that there is no such thing as zero risk when dining out. Families must conduct their own risk assessment before venturing out with unvaccinated individuals. The following tips can help parents assess that risk so they can make the safest, most informed decisions possible. Check virus infection rates. Study the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention risk levels for areas where you intend to dine out. This information is free and can provide valuable insight as to the safety of a given area. Opt for outdoor seating. It's generally safer to dine outdoors than indoors. According to Saskia Popescu, an infectious disease epidemiologist and assistant professor at George Mason University, when dining indoors people are eating and drinking without masks on. They don't know other people's vaccine status and they are there

for prolonged periods of time, during which virus particles could be circulating through the air. Virus particles are dispersed outdoors more easily than in a crowded interior space. Dine at off-peak hours. If you must eat indoors due to weather or other circumstances, it may be better to dine during off-peak hours when the restaurant is largely unoccupied. This reduces the risk of contact with other people. Consider restaurants that require proof of vaccination status. A growing number of restaurants are not only requiring their staff to be fully vaccinated, but also their customers. New York City mayor Bill DeBlasio announced in late August 2021 that visitors to gyms and indoor dining establishments would have to be vaccinated beginning in September — showing proof of at least one vaccine dose. While requiring vaccinations is a hot-button issue across the globe, diners concerned about unvaccinated individuals should contact local restaurants requiring vaccinations to determine if ineligible persons can still dine there. If so, those restaurants may be safer bets than establishments with no such requirements. Wear masks as much as possible. Have unvaccinated children wear masks while walking through the restaurant and other crowded areas. They can pull down masks to eat and then put them back on when they finish eating. Dining out with unvaccinated children requires parents to carefully assess risk and make decisions that keep their children as safe as possible.



# ELECTION 2021 – FROM OUR READERS

## Mary Shaw is the Right Fit for Town Clerk

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to have published The Orange Town News for the past 16 years. During that time, our community newspaper has covered many municipal elections, and while I have never felt strongly enough to write a personal letter of endorsement for a candidate, I must make an exception for this year's election cycle.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mary Shaw in her position as Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman for 8 years. I have found Mary to be courteous, caring and most importantly competent in all my dealings with that office. In addition, Mary has been of great help to me in organizing the Independence Day Concert and Fireworks festival held each year on the fairgrounds. She is one of the sincerest, community minded individuals I have dealt with in municipal government.

Mary has the proven skills, experience and personal attributes necessary for the position she seeks. I cannot think of a better fit for that position than Mary Shaw. I am confident that she, when elected, will continue to carry out her duties with her usual grace, and the same commitment that she has brought to the many community events she has been involved with.

Please consider Mary Shaw (6B) on this year's ballot for the office of Town Clerk,

Sincerely,  
*Rocky Salpento*

*Publisher – Orange Town News*

## Connor Deane for Fresh Leadership

Fiscal responsibility is one of the most important roles a first selectman must fulfill in running a municipal government. Many would argue that our town, sporting an AAA bond rating, is currently in a favorable fiscal position. However, I would argue that the enviable rating comes at an unnecessary price for Orange taxpayers who have seen their tax bills increase over the past decade.

To achieve a Triple A bond rating, Moody's, one of the leading bond credit firms, looks for a municipal fund balance (known to most of us laypeople as a "Rainy Day Fund") to range between 12 to 15 percent. Yet, in the opening comments of our town budget report issued before this past May's budget referendum, it was projected that Orange's undesignated fund balance would be 17 percent of the current \$76.114 million town budget. The first selectman said it now stands a shade over 18 percent. Others involved in tracking town budgetary matters estimate the fund balance could be nearly 20 percent.

What does that mean to us, the average Orange taxpayer? It means

that we are being overtaxed and the revenues from what seems to be coming almost annual tax increases are largely being used to stockpile a town fund balance that's beyond the required range.

It also means that many delayed small projects throughout the town that residents grouse about such as a long-range plan for some neighborhoods for improvements such as speed bumps and sidewalks or just a new layer of gravel at the widely utilized but deteriorated High Plains Community Center track go undone.

We need a first selectman who will take a collaborative planning approach with town residents to see that tax dollars are expended correctly and with an eye toward even a possible tax cut in the near future. I urge you to vote for Connor Deane for fresh leadership that builds to a brighter future for Orange.  
*Stephen J. Winters*

## Town Needs Mark Moyher for Tax Collector

I've known Orange Tax Collector candidate, Mark Moyher for over 12 years. I met Mark through my neighbor/his wife, Ilene. During Covid, I had many opportunities to talk with Mark at our daily neighborhood walks. He always expressed an interest in what others had to say and listened with the intent of understanding. We had some really great conversations. One particular day he and I discussed the finance industry. Since Mark works in the finance sector, he talked about the stock market and the economy with ease and how Covid was affecting companies in different ways. He clearly gets it.

Mark demonstrates clear, thoughtful ideas and has an extensive knowledge of financial software systems and back-office operations, which is just what our town needs to move us into the future. I support Mark Moyher for Orange Tax Collector.

Thank you,  
*Sheila Millea*

## No Better Person for Town Clerk Position than Mary Shaw

It is with tremendous enthusiasm that we offer our support to Mary Shaw in her bid for the position of Town Clerk of Orange. We have known Mary for more than 30 years and recognize her as among our town's most caring and community minded individuals. We can think of no one better to assume the role so long held by the highly regarded and bipartisan supported Pat O'Sullivan.

Whether you know Mary from her years of amazing service to Race Brook School and the PTA, her ongoing contributions to the Paugusset Club, her dedicated administrative service at the Orange Town Hall or the Orange Board

of Education, or as a giving neighbor or friend, you know that Mary is an outstanding human being. As Town Clerk, we have no doubt that she will proudly serve all Orange residents, with the passion and commitment she brings to everything she does.

Though Mary may not have worked for the U.N., she has always worked on behalf of so many of us right here in Orange. We hope that you will join us in supporting Mary Shaw, Jim Zeoli, and the entire Republican Party this November.

Sincerely,  
*Nick and Nancy Bencivengo*

## Town Needs New Set of Eyes

How long is too long? I always hear about term limits. There should be term limits. Maybe so. I am not writing to debate this. The voter has the control. When someone has reached the top of their field and there is nowhere else to move up, how long before your ideas and leadership become stale?

How long before views become myopic? How long does it take for a sense of comfort to overtake a sense of service and dedication? How many years is a town leader in office before they become so comfortable that they don't give their constituents the respect and ear they deserve?

I believe we are seeing this in Orange, right in front of our eyes. This town needs fresh eyes to look at how our town is run, find efficiencies and progress.

Where are our tax dollars really going? Does our current First Selectman really care about the average residents' concerns, no matter how small? Or does he dismiss them?

Connor Deane has already shown he has the temperament to lead. The way he addressed residents at the Fred Wolfe Playground meeting was a clear look into what the future of Orange should be.

Please vote for Connor Deane for First Selectman and the entire Democratic team on November 2.

*Gail R. Chotiner*

## O'Sullivan Endorses Novicki for Town Clerk

After many years in public service and 20 as your Town Clerk, I have decided my next chapter is retirement and spending more time with my wife and family. I can't thank all of you enough for your support. Whereas I won't be living in town anymore, my heart will always be in Orange.

As I prepare to leave office, it gives me great pleasure to endorse Margaret Novicki as the next Town Clerk of Orange. Margaret's experience on the Board of Selectmen as well as her career at the United Nations for 20 years, makes her the ideal candidate to carry on the work of the Town Clerk. With

Margaret at the helm of this office, I am confident the town would be in good hands.

Thank you again for all your support and don't forget to vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Patrick O'Sullivan*

## Experience Matters

I am writing in regards to Connor Deane running for the highest office in the town. Can someone please tell me what he has done for this town? What boards has he served on? What PTA meetings or school events has he participated in? What food drives has he helped with? What committees has he volunteered for in town? Has he helped out with the Carnival or Fair? Ok so he has a business...ok great but so do many citizens of Orange. His is in Fairfield? What covid things has he helped Orange to improve on? Did he participate in vaccination day signing people up in town or making phone calls? I mean, when I look at a candidate, I think to myself...ok this person has done a lot or participated in a lot...something...anything???? Connor Deane has done absolutely nothing. While I appreciate the thought of him thinking he is running for office he may want to participate in some town committees or perhaps volunteer before he assumes a leadership role running for Selectman of Orange. It's so easy to sit back and think you can judge what others have done especially when you have zero experience in doing anything in this town. We have an amazing town with great things including our Triple A rating; our schools, and the many diverse groups of people that move to Orange. Let's keep it that way and not destroy it by voting for someone who has zero experience.

*Chantelle Bunnell*

## Jim Zeoli Has Served Our Town Well

I am trying to understand the criticism of our current town administration by Connor Deane.

Deane repeatedly states that taxes have gone up 10% since Jim Zeoli has been in office. That's 10% over 16 years, or .06% average per year. Nobody, myself included likes to pay taxes but a .06% per year average increase, we could be doing a lot worse. Where would he cut, schools, senior services, employee benefits? We seem to be doing ok for those taxes we pay with excellent schools and town services. The value of my house has gone up quite nicely, partly because people want to live here, send their kids to our schools, and enjoy our community.

Deane also complains about "local priorities going unaddressed" but never tells us what those local priorities are. I was just out enjoying the

See "Election Letters" On Page 19



ELECTION 2021 – SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Orange, Connecticut

Special and Municipal Election

November 2, 2021

OFFICE PARTY	1 JUDGE OF PROBATE TO FILL VACANCY VOTE FOR ONE	2 FIRST SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	3	4 SELECTMEN VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	5	6 TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	7 TAX COLLECTOR VOTE FOR ONE	8	9 BOARD OF FINANCE VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	10	11	12 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	13	14 TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION FULL TERM VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	15
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A BEN GETTINGER	<input type="radio"/> 2A CONNOR DEANE	<input type="radio"/> 3A MITCHELL R. GOLDBLATT	<input type="radio"/> 4A ROSANNA CAPPETTA	<input type="radio"/> 5A CHARLES FLYNN	<input type="radio"/> 6A MARGARET NOVICKI	<input type="radio"/> 7A MARK MOYHER	<input type="radio"/> 8A KEVIN McNABOLA	<input type="radio"/> 9A P.J. SHANLEY	<input type="radio"/> 10A PAT SANDERS ROMANO	<input type="radio"/> 11A CARMEN A. RODRIGUES	<input type="radio"/> 12A JARED MILLBRANDT	<input type="radio"/> 13A LIZ TREMPER	<input type="radio"/> 14A DANIEL FITZMAURICE	<input type="radio"/> 15A MICHAEL S. MUTTITT
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B WIN SMITH	<input type="radio"/> 2B JAMES ZEOLI	<input type="radio"/> 3B JUDY WRIGHT WILLIAMS	<input type="radio"/> 4B RALPH G. OKENQUIST	<input type="radio"/> 5B JOHN CARANGELO	<input type="radio"/> 6B MARY SHAW	<input type="radio"/> 7B THOMAS HURLEY	<input type="radio"/> 8B AJEET JAIN	<input type="radio"/> 9B JOSEPH NUZZO	<input type="radio"/> 10B	<input type="radio"/> 11B JEFFERY CAP	<input type="radio"/> 12B TATIANA MESSINA-MULLEN	<input type="radio"/> 13B RONNETTE JAMES	<input type="radio"/> 14B OZZIE PARENTE	<input type="radio"/> 15B KEVIN CORNELL
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 TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION TO FILL VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	17	18 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR	19	20	21 AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	22	23
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 16A	<input type="radio"/> 17A SANTO GALATIOTO JR.	<input type="radio"/> 18A RANDY THOMAS	<input type="radio"/> 19A JAY CARRIER	<input type="radio"/> 20A	<input type="radio"/> 21A PATRICIA C. POST	<input type="radio"/> 22A CARLA EICHLER	<input type="radio"/> 23A CRAIG LENNON
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 16B THOMAS TORRENTI	<input type="radio"/> 17B GLENN PAPELO	<input type="radio"/> 18B JODY DAYMON	<input type="radio"/> 19B DAN ZAPATKA	<input type="radio"/> 20B MICHAEL DONADEO	<input type="radio"/> 21B SEAN HARTSHORN	<input type="radio"/> 22B CHRISTINA LEVERE-D'ADDIO	<input type="radio"/> 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

MAKE IT COUNT

“Election Letters” From Page 18

day with many others and happened to notice the new tennis/pickle ball courts at High Plains. Renovations to the Community Center and pool were completed. There is new work going on at Fred Wolfe Park. It seems to me a lot has been done.

It’s in our best interest to re-elect Jim Zeoli.

Liz Nucifora

**Zeoli Doesn't Make False Promises**

“Read my lips, no new taxes” or in this case no tax increases.

Unrealistic promises made by aspiring politicians are now being heard in Orange from the Democratic candidate for First Selectman. His plan: Spend down our rainy day fund to address town issues and projects while not raising taxes.

You have to be living under a rock not to see the impact that the sudden rise in inflation is having everywhere,

including Orange. I filled up at the gas station and paid \$3.46 a gal. This time last year it was around \$2.00 gal. The price of home heating oil has nearly doubled from a year ago. The price for most everything has gone up.

So don’t tell me that you will be able to properly support our schools and town services, continue work on improving infrastructure and other “town issues” without raising taxes. Is this his inexperience showing or just a new politician saying anything to get elected?

I support Jim Zeoli for many reasons but one important reason is that he is straight with us. He doesn’t promise that taxes won’t increase even if he takes a political hit for it. Maybe taxes won’t have to be increased, but Jim won’t make that promise just to get elected.

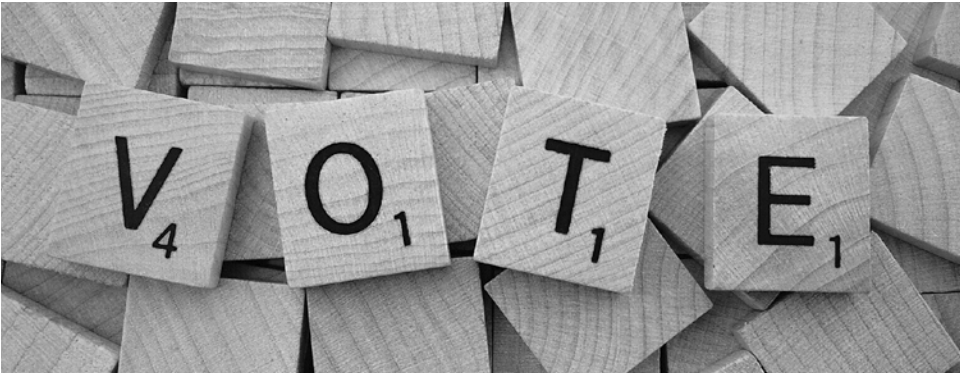
Jim and his Board of Finance have done a great job keeping our taxes as low as they can. Jim and his team have my vote.

Debbie Esposito

The Link Between Volunteering And Academic Performance

There are many reasons for parents to encourage children who express an interest in volunteering. Volunteering is a social activity that can help children develop their social and networking skills, and many parents credit volunteering with instilling a sense of perspective in their children that they might not have gained had they not been exposed to people from different backgrounds. Volunteering also has been linked to stronger academic performance. The Corporation for National and Community Service reports that students who indicate they’re doing better in school are more likely to be volunteers than students who report doing less well. The broadened exposure to people and places that students may otherwise not encounter without volunteering also can benefit them in the classroom, helping

them more readily identify with cultures and societies they’re studying. College applicants with volunteering experience also may set themselves apart in the increasingly competitive application process. Though a 2019 Pew Research study reported that most schools admit more than two-thirds of their applicants, that figure is significantly lower at many of the more highly rated institutions in the United States. For example, Stanford University (4.3 percent) and Harvard University (4.9 percent) recently reported acceptance rates below 5 percent. Though volunteering alone won’t help applicants gain acceptance to such competitive institutions, it can serve as a strong résumé builder and be even more effective if it also produces the previously noted improvements in academic performance.



VOTE

Tuesday, November 2

WILEY ETTER DOYON ATTORNEYS  
Named to the 2021 CT Super  
Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists



We are pleased to announce that our partners, Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd (left), Attorney Nicole Camporale (center), and Attorney Trevor Doyon (right), have been selected to the 2021 Connecticut Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists.

Attorney Allison DePaola Drozd was named to the Super Lawyers list for her work in Estate Planning and Probate. Allison has previously been named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list from 2015-2018.

Attorney Nicole Camporeale was named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for her work in Elder Law. This is the 5th year that Nicole has been named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list since her first recognition in 2017.

Attorney Trevor Doyon was named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in Plaintiff's Civil Litigation. This is the 5th year that Trevor has been named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list since his first recognition in 2017.

Super Lawyers is an exclusive list, recognizing no more than 5% of attorneys in Connecticut. Super Lawyers Rising Stars is also exclusive, recognizing no more than 2.5% of attorneys in Connecticut.

Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters, is a research-driven, peer-influenced rating service of outstanding lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Attorneys are selected from more than 70 practice areas and all firm sizes, assuring a credible and relevant annual list. The annual selections are made using a patented multiphase process that includes: peer nomination; independent research by Super Lawyers; evaluations from a highly credentialed panel of attorneys.

The objective of Super Lawyers is to create a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys to be used as a resource for both referring attorneys and consumers seeking legal counsel. The Super Lawyers lists are published nationwide in Super Lawyers Magazines and in leading city and regional magazines and newspapers across the country, as well as the Connecticut Super Lawyers Digital Magazine. Please join us in congratulating Trevor, Nicole, and Allison on their selections.

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



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HEALTH & FITNESS

Beware the Pitfalls of Fall  
and Winter Activities

By KYLE BRANDAY, MSPT, CDN

When the falling snowflakes tell you to grab a shovel, consider how easy it is to make the wrong moves and hurt yourself. Snow shoveling requires upper body strength and endurance. Warm up to any yard work by exercising your primary muscles that include biceps, deltoids, rotator cuff, forearm and parascapular muscles. Do it before and after shoveling.

Simple exercises like arm circles, pendulums, forearm and upper trap stretching will help loosen these muscle groups. Proper posture while shoveling is a must. Stay upright, head up, shoulders back and don't hunch forward. Good postural habits will prevent rotator cuff impingement, strain on neck and upper back and puts the upper body in position for the greatest mechanical advantage to create force and leverage. You'll also use less energy.

Once you've got that snow shoveled off the porch, now comes the real trial: moving the heavy snow from the driveway or walkway. The body's trunk and core are being tested, requiring the lumbar spine and hips to generate force to move piles of snow. The strain is on your obliques, glutes, and hip rotators along with the lumbar extensor muscles. What that means is there's a lot of muscle groups interacting to get that snow off the ground.

Never bend from the waist when shoveling. It is vital to squat and bend your knees with each shovel of snow you pick up. Keep a flat back while you lift. This takes the stress off the lower lumbar spine eliminating the possibility of strains and sprains or worse injuries such as herniated discs and sciatica. Helpful, also, are warm up and cool down exercises such as hamstring, knee to chest, and trunk rotation stretches.

Winterize your body. For you anxious snowbirds with skis already racked up on the roof, prepare yourself with proper exercise. Knees, hamstrings, calves, back, shoulders, biceps and triceps all come into play on the slopes. Many of the exercises used in preparation for yard work, apply to winter sports. Trunk rotation stretches, hamstring stretches, light weight workouts with dumbbells for biceps, triceps and deltoids are important in preventing serious injury. Squats with light barbells for your quads, hamstrings, and



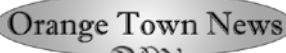
Kyle Brandy, MSPT, CDN

glutes strengthen these important stress absorbing muscles.

The spine and lower back also take a heavy shock, absorbing a beating during both skiing and snowboarding. Prepare yourself with warm-up knee to chest exercises, trunk rotations and quad and hamstrings stretches.

The physical torque on the hips is another skier's stress moment. Whether you're maneuvering moguls or into competitive downhill events, hips can take a beating in twists and turns. One of the most overlooked muscle groups which play a dramatic role in performance is your hip rotators. The same potential injuries pertain to snowboarders who perform more like gymnasts than skiers. Torso twists, hip movement, high impact landing all combine to test even a professional's performance. So, warm up on the carpet, floor, or exercise pad before you take on the powder. Proper exercise techniques, either at home or with a professional physical therapist or trainer, can keep you fit and in action throughout the winter.

Kyle Brandy, MSPT/CDN is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy, founded seventeen years ago by Michel Dow MSPT and CEO/Director. The practice has offices in Woodbridge, Hamden, Branford and Milford. Brandy is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with his Masters in Physical Therapy. He works with patients of all ages and ability levels, treating high level athletes with fractures and sprains to gait and balance dysfunction in the elderly. He can be reached at 203-389-4593, or visit www.amitypt.com.



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“Debates” From Page 1

under his leadership. He was proud of the innovative financing that was proposed for the project – with the town bonding for \$8.6 million, and then being paid back over 40 years. “This is the first time that the town bought open space and is being paid back for it,” he said. He also announced that there was some movement on contract specifics, and that the town is moving closer to an agreement. [The Board of Selectmen has since met in executive session to receive proposed terms of the agreement, according to Town Attorney Vince Marino.]

Deane meanwhile said he had voted against the Country Club purchase. “If we are footing the bill – we voted to bond for \$.8.6 million – what are we getting for it? Open space,” he said. “I am not sure we see enough return on our investment.”

One question that was put to the candidates was in regards to the pot of money that is expected to flow to Orange from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). Orange received just over \$2 million last June and stands to receive the same amount in 2022. How would they use it?

Deane said he would make sure the public health department is funded adequately, to make sure that the town is ready to provide for the residents

through the pandemic. Even if the number of infections seems to decline, “we’re not there yet,” Deane said. “And we need to be ready for the next thing,” he added.

He also mentioned the repeated flooding issues residents experienced in the area of Old Country Road and Coachman’s Lane. He was touched by the testimony of one young woman at the September Board of Selectmen meeting, who spoke of carrying her infant son through the flood waters to get to her car, but the flood was too high. Even the fire truck could not get to her street, Deane said. “I would consider that a public health emergency,” he said. “I want to investigate and figure out how we can help these residents,” he said.

Zeoli agreed that the flooding deserves mitigation, if possible, and has since instructed the town engineer to hire a professional engineering firm to work out a plan to remedy the flooding. He said the town had a number of Covid-related expenses, including vaccination clinics and testing; expenses to prepare the schools for in-person learning; possibly booster shots going forward. In an ironic twist of fate, the Orange Visiting Nurses Association has experienced a significant budget shortfall, as many of their services had to be curtailed due to Covid restrictions.

Deane, who owns an acting and coaching studio in Fairfield, pointed out how the Board of Selectmen in that town discussed different potential projects of how the federal ARPA funds should be spent. The issue had him circling back to the need for consistent communication from Town Hall.

Similarly, he brought up the lack of a Master Plan for the Fred Wolfe Park development, saying residents should be informed about what is planned. “I feel we are haphazardly putting things together,” he said.

Zeoli pushed back on that point, saying there was a Master Plan, but it was poorly done, as it failed to take into account extensive wetlands in the area where the park was to be accessible to Peck Lane. He said the playground committee is working on its plan, and the Park and Rec Committee has been involved as well, all in public meetings.

It was the question of mask wearing that got the strongest reactions from the audience. The question posed to the candidates was “what is your position on masks in schools for both students and teachers in the Orange school system, given the current metrics in New Haven County?”

Zeoli said most of the staff has been vaccinated; “I feel if you are working in close proximity with other people – especially children under 12 who are not vaccinated – remember that.” As

for the children, they cannot wear a mask all the time, he said. “They are like little heat engines.”

Deane took a different tack. “Do [masks] help slow the spread? Yes!” he asked, while some “nos” could be heard from the audience. He said the administration and the health department did an admirable job and kept the kids in school even during the pandemic. “Kids not being in the classroom is so detrimental,” he added. “If we get worked up about masks, maybe we should have a debate just about that,” he said. “This is my belief, based on science, and I stand by that.”

At the October 14 debate, which included some questions from the audience, Deane was asked about his lack of municipal experience.

“I’m a business owner,” he said. I balance my budget every year. I have leadership skills and strong ties to the community. You’re right, I don’t have municipal experience, and that’s a valid question, but I don’t think it’s disqualifying for me to want to be involved in the town.

“My leadership skills as a business owner and my understanding of the town make me more than qualified to be running for this office,” he said. If elected, he would delegate more responsibility to the staff at the Academy and “give the Town of Orange my full and undivided attention.”

# 3 Ways To Get Involved In Local Politics

Towns and cities often benefit greatly from residents' desire to give back to their communities. Some residents may donate to their favorite charities, while others may coach youth sports teams. Involving oneself in local politics is another way individuals can strengthen their communities.

Politicians may be the faces of local politics, but volunteers are often the engines that make political operations run smoothly. The following are three simple ways people with a passion for politics can get involved in their local governments.

1. Volunteer with a campaign. Local politicians may be your neighbor, your children's youth sports coach or a friend you've known since childhood. All political campaigns rely on the efforts of volunteers to get their messages out, and that's especially so in local elections. Local candidates likely don't have the financial war chest that's available to statewide or national politicians. As a result, local politicians often must stretch every dollar, and that becomes easier with each additional volunteer who joins their staff. If there's a candidate you feel strongly about, don't hesitate to volunteer with his or her campaign.

2. Work with a nonprofit organization. Many nonprofit organizations are involved with local politics. Some may support a candidate who's supported their missions, while others' missions may be rooted in politics. For example, a local nonprofit may be centered around getting more young people to vote. Individuals who don't want to get involved in the partisan side of local politics can still lend a hand by working with nonprofit organizations that are not affiliated with a party or candidate.

3. Work with local election boards. Local election boards rely on volunteers come Election Day. Such volunteers work in polling stations, which typically open in early morning and may remain so until 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. The more volunteers who can pitch in on Election Day, the more smoothly voting can go. That may translate to shorter lines and a more enjoyable voting experience for local residents. Local governments also may need volunteers throughout the year to work during city council meetings.

Individuals need not run for office to get involved in local politics, which provides a great way for residents to give back to their communities.

# Try Positivity When Addressing Pets' Behavioral Issues

What can pet owners do when their pets exhibit unwanted behaviors, such as damaging furniture or jumping up on people? The first instinct may be to yell or punish the pet by being cross with him or her. However, many animal behaviorists believe that positive reinforcement training is the most effective way to address pets' behavioral issues.

Positive reinforcement training, according to The Humane Society of the United States, utilizes rewards for desired behaviors. The reward, whether it is a treat, praise, toys, or anything the pet finds rewarding, will eventually get the pet to repeat the behavior that earned him or her that reward. Rather than punishing a bad behavior, pet owners who utilize positive reinforcement reward good behaviors.

Positive reinforcement also is known as operant conditioning. It is a similar concept studied by famed Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov. When the dinner bell rang, Pavlov's dogs salivated. The American Kennel Club says that was classical conditioning because the dogs salivated involuntarily. However, operant training conditioning is when dogs learn to associate their behavior with certain results, all the while learning there are good and bad

outcomes. The goal is to increase behaviors with pleasant consequences, such as receiving a reward. Experts say that by focusing on the positive, pet owners will see fewer side effects than negative punishment training, such as aggression, fear, anxiety, and avoidance.

Timing is the key to positive reinforcement training. The reward must occur immediately after the desired behavior or the pet may not associate it with the proper action. So if the dog sits, then the reward has to come as soon as it gets on the floor. If the reward comes when he has stood back up, then the pooch may think the reward is for standing.

When practicing positive reinforcement, keep commands short and training sessions brief so that dogs can understand before they get restless. Dogs don't understand sentences, says HSUS, and they will lose interest if sessions are too long. Consistency also is essential. Each person interacting with the pet should use the same commands and cues to achieve the desired result, which is a well-behaved pet.

It may take time for a pet to acclimate to commands and training. But with patience, positive reinforcement can be effective.



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Kristallnacht Commemoration Honors Archbishop Damaskinos

All are invited to a community-wide Kristallnacht Commemoration to be held 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> via “ZOOM.” This year’s Commemoration, presented by Congregation Or Shalom in Orange in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, and with support by the American Society for Yad Vashem, will honor the heroism of Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens. The program is free of charge. Kindly register for the ZOOM link at [www.jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht](http://www.jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht).

**What was Kristallnacht?** The horrific event known as Kristallnacht, which took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1938, is regarded by historians as the prelude to the Holocaust. In the course of 48 hours, mobs rampaged across Nazi Germany, Austria, and German-occupied Czechoslovakia, murdering and maiming Jews. During those two days, hundreds of synagogues were destroyed and thousands of Jewish-owned businesses were plundered. The violence of those days would be infamously called “The Nights of Broken Glass” - “Kristallnacht” - referring to the shattered windowpanes that littered the streets in the aftermath of the nightmare. Tragically, in the face of all this, the world was largely silent; almost no countries reached out to the Jews living under Nazism. “That widespread inaction in the face of evil,” according to Rabbi Wainhaus of Congregation Or Shalom, “is all the more reason to highlight the moral courage shown by a few. At our community’s Kristallnacht Commemoration, we focus on the unsung heroes whose life-saving acts were beacons that defied the darkness of the Holocaust.”

**Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens:** Our annual gathering takes place during the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Nazi Germany’s occupation of Greece. After Greece fell to the Nazis, Archbishop Damaskinos, spiritual leader of Athens and all of Greece, worked hard to protect Greek citizens from the German authorities, and comforted

those awaiting execution for resisting Nazism. When the Nazi regime began deporting and killing Greek Jews in 1943, Damaskinos openly protested. He published public letters denouncing the Nazis’ actions, writing, “the Greek people must be willing to vouch for their Jewish brothers and sisters without hesitation.” When the Nazi authorities threatened him with execution by firing squad, Archbishop Damaskinos responded defiantly, “According to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church, our leaders are hanged, not shot; respect our traditions!”

Notably, the churches under Archbishop Damaskinos’ authority were ordered to issue Christian baptismal certificates to Jews, and he advised priests to do their best to hide those to whom they could not issue certificates. In addition, the Archbishop convinced Athens’ Chief of Police to issue a false identification card to any Jew who asked for one.

**The Special Commemoration on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. on Zoom:** The event will begin with the lighting of a yellow Holocaust Memorial candle and brief remarks on the significance of Kristallnacht by Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America will offer a prayer, followed by comments from Father Peter Orfanakos of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. A United States Senate Citation will be presented by Sen. Richard Blumenthal to the family of Archbishop Damaskinos. Comments by Dr. Marlene W. Yahalom, Director of Education of the American Society for Yad Vashem and by Lea Micha of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, will follow. Holocaust survivors who were rescued, directly or indirectly, by Archbishop Damaskinos will share their unique perspectives as well. Finally, a Q&A session led by Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven will take place. The program is free of charge. Kindly register at [www.jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht](http://www.jewishnewhaven.org/kristallnacht).

## Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

*Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors – Staying Connected While We Keep Our Distance*

To register for a Zoom event, please see the event information below.

### Join Us For Weekly Services Morning Minyan

- › Sunday 9:00 AM – Zoomed
- › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoomed
- › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoomed

### Shabbat Services

- › Friday 7:30 PM – Zoomed & in person
- › Saturday 9:30 AM – Zoomed & in person

(Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 for more information).

### Virtual Learning This Month: ZOOM & LEARN! 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration

November 14 @ 9am- 11am on Zoom  
ALL WELCOME! Please join us for our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community-Wide Kristallnacht Commemoration. This year, we will honor the heroism of Archbishop Damaskinos of Greece, who openly defied the Nazi regime by ordering the churches under his authority to distribute baptismal certificates to Jews, thus saving thousands from certain death. For his courageous, life-saving deeds, Archbishop Damaskinos was named “Righteous Among the Nations” by Israel’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center. You can register online at [jewishnewhaven.org/RSVP](http://jewishnewhaven.org/RSVP).

### The Rabbi’s Wednesday Morning “Coffee &.. Learn” Class

IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM  
Will begin on December 1, 11am-Noon  
TOPIC: THE BIBLE’S TOP TEN MOST IMPORTANT VERSES

In this course, Rabbi Wainhaus will explore Judaism’s most important ideological contributions to human civilization. The course is based on the idea that the essence of the Bible’s message can be discovered in 10 key verses. All Welcome! Current masking and social distancing will be in place if you attend in person. Email [coshalom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coshalom@sbcglobal.net) or call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 to receive the ZOOM link.



Congregation Or Shalom

### JOIN A NEW BOOK GROUP IN 2021!

Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
**The Night She Disappeared**  
**Led by Rachel Ranis**

“Absorbing, delightful, hilarious, breathtaking and the best and most relevant novel I’ve read in what feels like forever.” —Taffy Brodesser-Akner, The New York Times Book Review

Corbin College, not quite upstate New York, winter 1959–1960: Ruben Blum, a Jewish historian—but not an historian of the Jews—is co-opted onto a hiring committee to review the application of an exiled Israeli scholar specializing in the Spanish Inquisition. When Benzion Netanyahu shows up for an interview, family unexpectedly in tow, Blum plays the reluctant host to guests who proceed to lay waste to his American complacencies. Mixing fiction with nonfiction, the campus novel with the lecture, The Netanyahus is a wildly inventive, genre-bending comedy of blending, identity, and politics that finds Joshua Cohen at the height of his powers.

To receive the link to register in advance for the Book Discussion, please email the synagogue at [coshalom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coshalom@sbcglobal.net).

### Social Action MITZVAH OF THE MONTH

Our monthly mitzvah for November is collecting non-perishable food items. Some suggestions: dried black beans, rice, Canola or olive oil, garlic, potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, pasta, whole grains, oatmeal, low sodium soup or broth. You can drop of these items off at the Synagogue.

Congregation Or Shalom is located at 205 Old Grassy Hill Road in Orange. For more information call 203.799.2341 or visit [www.orshalomct.org](http://www.orshalomct.org).

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

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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Congregation B'nai Jacob Adult Ed Book Group Discussion

Join us Saturday, November 6 at 12:30 pm for our next Congregation B'nai Jacob Adult Education Book Group Discussion led by author Roya Hakakian.

At a time when America seems more divided than ever, Roya Hakakian, a naturalized immigrant shares her American experience, and tells others what it took to fall in love with America, despite its flaws. This is a stirring, witty, and poignant glimpse into the bewildering American immigrant experience from someone who has lived it. Her tenderly perceptive and surprisingly humorous account invites us to see ourselves as we appear to others, making it possible for us to rediscover our many American gifts through the perspective of the outsider. In shattering myths and embracing painful contradictions that are unique to this place, *"A Beginner's Guide to America"* is Hakakian's candid love letter to America.

*"A Beginner's Guide to America"* is a striking and beautiful work; both a genuinely practical primer for newcomers to America, and a deeply personal account of Arrival—an event that underlies nearly every American life. Roya Hakakian provides a timely, entertaining, historically rich reminder of the hope and opportunity this country has offered to so many, for so long, and the rewards it has reaped in return."—Jennifer Egan, author, *Manhattan Beach*.  
For more information contact Congregation B'nai Jacob at 203-389-2111



*"A Beginner's Guide to America: For the Immigrant and the Curious" by Roya Hakakian*

or info@bnaijacob.org; BnaiJacob.org.  
Writer and journalist, Roya Hakakian, works in film and print. Her opinions and essays appear in the *New York Times* and *NPR's weekend Edition*, and the *Washington Post* among others. Her poetry in Persian has been included in many anthologies, including the *PEN* anthology of contemporary Iranian literature. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in nonfiction and a founding member of Iran Human Rights Documentation Center. Her most recent book, *A Beginner's Guide to America for the Immigrant and the Curious*, was *The Wall Street Journal's* best books of March 2021. Born and raised in a Jewish family in Tehran, Roya came to the United States in May 1985 on political asylum.

## Join the Archbishop for All Souls Mass

Please Join Archbishop Blair for a Memorial Mass offered for our dearly Departed loved ones on All Souls Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the Mausoleum located at All Saints Cemetery in North Haven at 700 Middletown Avenue.  
For info, contact our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Gode at (203) 780-8418 or email her at bgode@cccacem.org.



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## Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

### Ethan Tucker Saturday

On Saturday, October 30 at 1 pm, Rabbi Ethan Tucker will speak in the BEKI sanctuary as part of the Elm City Kallah. Known for his ability to transcend the affiliation boundaries of Judaism, Rabbi Tucker is President and Rosh Yeshiva at Hadar, an observant egalitarian yeshiva. He will speak about "Navigating Relationships in a World of Difference." The event is free of charge. Reservations are not required, but masks are.



### Book and Gift Fair

The BEKI lobby will become a pre-Hanukkah shopping fair on Sunday, November 21 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. A wide array of books for adults and children will be available as well as jewelry, toys, games, ritual items, and novelty items from the gift shop. "Our gift shop has more Jewish children's books than any other bookstore in CT, and the most interesting and affordable Judaica around," says Karen Kassap, one of the shop's managers.

### Mark Oppenheimer

On Sunday, November 21 at 11:00 am, Mark Oppenheimer will speak about his latest book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*. Rather than focusing on the shooting itself, his book instead explores the struggles and triumphs of the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. Oppenheimer is the author of five books, the director of the Yale Journalism Initiative, and a host of the podcast *Unorthodox*. Autographed copies of books by BEKI authors like Oppenheimer will be available for purchase that day.



### Kosher Pareve Pies

The youth group is baking its annual Kosher Pareve apple and pumpkin pies. If you are interested in purchasing Thanksgiving pies, orders are due by Friday, November 5.  
Proceeds benefit the group's tzedakah projects. Call 203.389.2108 x114 for details.

### Thanksgivukkah

Hanukkah arrives on Thanksgiving weekend this year, specifically Sunday evening, November 28. The community is welcome to join the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah in the BEKI lobby every evening (except Shabbat) at 5:30 pm.

### Hanukkah Parties

A Hanukkah celebration for children will be held on December 1 and for pre-teens and teens on December 5. For more information, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anorman-schiff@beki.org.

### Contemporary Antisemitism

On Wednesday, November 3 at 7:30 pm, the Zoom Schmooze will feature Professor Corinne Blackmer, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at Southern Connecticut State University, to discuss her new book, *Poisoning the Wells: Antisemitism in Contemporary America*. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.



### Christian Kabbalists

The Schmooze on Wednesday, November 10 at 7:30 pm is about Christian Kabbalists of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Europe, presented by Max DuBoff, a PhD student in Classics and Philosophy at Yale University. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.



### Exhibit Extended

Because of popular demand, BEKI's Ancestors exhibit has been extended until November 28. Visitors have found that the accompanying text for every image—written by the donor of the image—makes every photo come alive with emotion and draws the viewer into that time and place. The galleries are open to the public by appointment; email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x114.  
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DEATH NOTICES



**Joan E. Carney Somers**

Joan Elizabeth Carney Somers died at her Orange home under Hospice care on October 2, 2021, at the age of 92. Joan was born on November 11, 1928, in New Haven, Connecticut, to Joseph Carney and Grace (Rennison) Carney. She was raised in Orange and graduated from Commercial High School.

In 1946, she married Harris Davis, with whom she had five sons, one of whom died in infancy. After they divorced, she raised her four surviving children as a single mom. She found work as a night switchboard operator at the Southern New England Telephone Company, gradually working her way up to be a Graphic Illustrator, thanks to an artistic talent that she also used, in concert with her humorous rhymed poems, to entertain her children, friends, and co-workers. Of particular note among her art projects was the life-sized cardboard Santa she painted for her boys, which, to their

delight, survived many Christmases.

In 1971, she married Henry L. Somers Jr., with whom she shared nearly fifty years of her life, camping in Connecticut’s parks and boating the lakes. Together they bought and renovated the Carney family home in Orange, where Joan had spent her youth. Here, they hosted weekly gatherings with family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph Carney and Grace (Rennison) Carney; her sons, Keith Davis, James Davis, Wayne Davis, and Stephen Davis; her stepson Randy Somers; her sister-in-law, Patricia (Mingley) Carney; and her brother-in-law, Thomas Burns. She is survived by her husband, Henry L. Somers, Jr.; her sister, Marilyn (Carney) Burns; her brothers, David Carney and Joseph Carney and Joseph’s wife, Diane Boteler; her son Jon Davis and his wife, Teresa White; her stepson Jeffrey Somers; her grandchildren Andrew Davis and Grayce (Davis) Zayas and Grayce’s husband Mike Zayas; her step-grandchildren Gregory White, Matthew White, and Briana White and Briana’s husband Evan Ripley; her great-granddaughter Maxine Zayas; the mothers of her grandchildren, Terry (Layton) Davis and Sarah (Yonkman) Davis; as well as an extended family of nieces and nephews, in-laws, friends, and neighbors.

At Joan’s request there will be no viewing or funeral. For those who wish to honor her memory, the family asks that you donate to The Connecticut Hospice at <https://www.hospice.com/donate/>.

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DEATH NOTICES

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





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Characteristics of Effective Mentors

There are many ways for people to give back to their communities. Some people may volunteer with a local nonprofit organization, while others may donate to a favorite charity. Established professionals who want to lend a hand can consider becoming a mentor.

Mentors play invaluable roles in the lives of millions of young people across the globe. The most successful mentors tend to have certain characteristics that lend themselves to this significant yet rewarding challenge.

**Enthusiasm:** Enthusiasm is essential when mentoring young people. Young people will quickly realize if a mentor is enthusiastic or simply going through the motions. In the latter

instance, mentors can quickly alienate the people they're trying to help if they appear disinterested or give the impression that they're there because they have to be and not because they want to be. No one has to become a mentor, so professionals who lack the enthusiasm necessary to be a successful mentor can look for other ways to lend a hand.

**Listening skills:** Though it's not uncommon for mentors to give advice, it's also imperative that mentors learn to listen to the people they're trying to help. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association notes that a willingness to serve as a sounding board is one of the many characteristics displayed by excellent mentors.

Though mentors can share their own perspective, it's important that they also listen to what their mentees have to say.

**Availability/accessibility:** A successful mentor has enough time to make the mentor-mentee relationship worthwhile for both parties. Professionals with especially hectic schedules may not be as available or accessible as they need to be to become successful mentors. Professionals who are flexible and able to routinely meet with their mentees can utilize that accessibility to build strong relationships.

**Nonjudgmental:** The AHSA notes that an ability to listen without judging is also a characteristic of an excel-

lent mentor. Mentees may be reluctant to open up if they think their mentor is judging, and that reluctance could make it difficult for the relationship to be successful.

**Diversity of experience:** Successful mentors tend to have a diversity of experiences or a recognition of the value of such diversity. A diversity of experience increases the likelihood that mentors can relate to whatever situations their mentees are in. That can be a useful attribute that mentors use to build strong bonds with their mentees.

Mentoring is a great way to give back. Though no two mentors are the same, successful mentors often share the same qualities.





# Fall Fun at Holly Hill Childcare

The children were all smiles while mixing and mingling with all of the visiting hand-made scarecrow friends on the lawn of Holly Hill Childcare. Each one of our classrooms designed

their own “child scarecrow” for all to see...some riding in a wagon, while others rode tricycles. Drive slowly by our center at 308 Peck Lane and take a look for yourself!



# How To Help Kids Find Suitable Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way for people to give back to their communities. Many people give back out of a desire to help others, but those same individuals may acknowledge that volunteering benefits volunteers most of all.

Various studies examining the benefits of volunteering on volunteers have been conducted in recent years. Seniors and retirees who volunteer often cite the sense of purpose that giving back provides. But it's not just adults who benefit from volunteering. In fact, a report from the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension noted that volunteerism promotes positive citizenship among youth, contributes to youths' identity development and increases their self-esteem. The authors of the report also note that volunteering helps youth develop empathy for others.

Parents who want their children to reap the rewards of volunteering can try various strategies to help youngsters find an opportunity to lend a hand.

Utilize the internet. The internet is a great resource for aspiring volunteers. VolunteerMatch.org partners with more than 130,000 nonprofit organizations to help them find the volunteers they rely on to meet their missions. Volunteering opportunities listed on VolunteerMatch are broken into categories such as Animals, Arts & Culture and even Children & Youth,

making this an ideal place for aspiring do-gooders to start their volunteering journey.

Speak with school officials. A child's school is another great place to discover volunteering organizations. Extracurricular activities like school-sponsored clubs may organize volunteering excursions throughout the school year. Educators, including school principals, teachers and guidance counselors, also can help parents find the right volunteering opportunities for their children.

Speak with local church officials. Like schools, local churches often sponsor youth-based volunteering activities. Many churches encourage all youths to join in their efforts, including those who are not members of their congregations.

Speak with children. Parents can encourage youngsters to offer their input in regard to volunteering. Some youngsters may already have strong ideas on the types of volunteering activities that interest them. For example, avid surfers and nature enthusiasts may want to volunteer with their local parks system to help keep beaches and parks clean. The more enthusiastic children are about a volunteering opportunity, the more likely they are to stick with it for the long haul.

Volunteering benefits young people in myriad ways, especially when kids find an opportunity they can be passionate about.

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