

Orange Town News



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

VOL. 15 – ISSUE 10 CIRCULATION 6009 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020



Mary Welander



Dan DeBarba



Mike Southworth



James Maroney

Candidates In 114th Vow Advocacy For Local Communities

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the 114th House district this fall have a choice to fill the seat long held by Republican Themis Klarides, who is stepping aside after 20 years in the House, rising through the ranks to the position of minority leader. Vying to replace her are Republican Dan DeBarba, a healthcare executive, and Democrat Mary Welander, both Orange residents. The district encompasses Orange, Woodbridge, and Derby.

"I want to make sure our community has an advocate on the state level," Welander said in a phone conversation. "I want to work in partnership with the state, so that our town will get the funding we need."

For DeBarba, the ultimate goal is to make sure the state is attractive enough for people to want to stay because they see job- and business opportunities, especially for young families like his children's. "Regard-

less of how we got here we can't come back [from the pandemic] in a bubble," he said, adding that the state needs to be competitive in order to thrive. "We need to make sure the economy is growing," he said. Like most Republican candidates, he advocates for lower taxes, less wasteful spending and less burdensome regulations, although the latter does not include environmental regulation, which he supports.

For instance, he proposes to reinstate tax credits for research and development; he supports tax credits for manufacturers who offer apprenticeships. Growth should be the overriding goal. "The state needs to set a target growth," he said, and "then we need to determine what changes would have to be made to reach that target." For example, given the pandemic, the state should consider deferring implementation of the minimum wage raises,

See "State Rep" On Page 9

Maroney Touts His Voting Record

SOUTHWORTH SAYS MARONEY HAS "TURNED HIS BACK ON LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS"

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With a substantial voting record to point to, state Senator James Maroney, D-14, is seeking a second term representing the 14th Senate District in Hartford. The district consists of Milford and Orange and parts of West Haven and southern Woodbridge.

One issue that his opponent, Republican Mike Southworth, has been calling him out for is his support for the Police Accountability Act. "Senator James Maroney turned his back on our local police officers," reads one mailer Southworth sent out recently.

But Maroney disputes that notion. "Everyone agrees on 85% of the provisions of that bill," he said. People for the most part support the funding included in the act, including \$4 million for body cameras for many police

departments, including West Haven, Southworth's hometown. Providing more training in de-escalation and bias is generally accepted, as is the ban of chokeholds, Maroney said.

The act makes it a crime for officers not to intervene if they see someone commit a crime. What police departments objected to was changes to qualified immunity that protects police from lawsuits. Critics maintain that the act opens the door to frivolous lawsuits and exposes the municipalities to unnecessary legal expenses.

In a phone conversation with this reporter, Maroney explained his support for the bill, saying the law sets a high bar by requiring courts to prove "willful," "wanton" and "malicious" acts

See "State Senator" On Page 9

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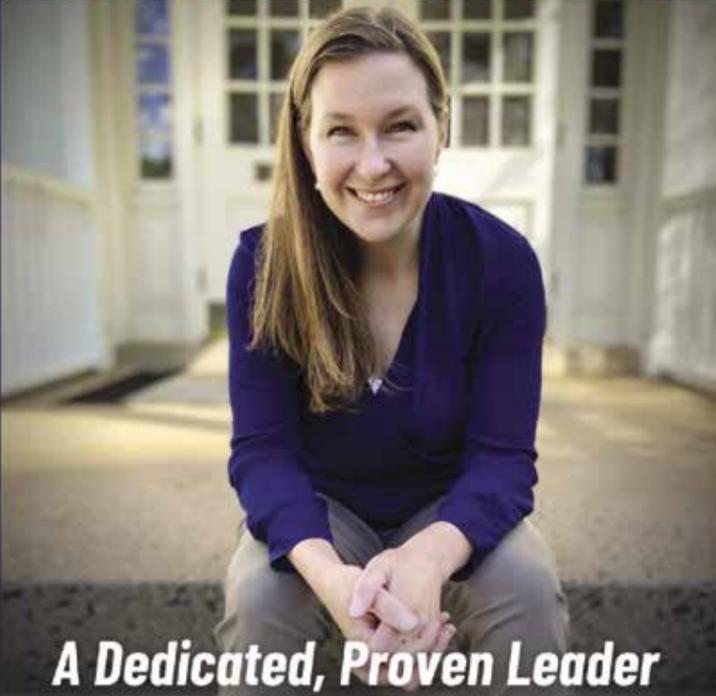
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Last Chance: Join The "Fire Truck \$50K Challenge"

Jim Leahy, project chairman of the Fire Truck \$50K Challenge & Vice-Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance, sat down with Orange Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) Leaders Charlie Sherwood & Bert Gallant to get their thoughts on the Orange Community, what the Fire Truck \$50K Challenge project means to them, and why they serve on the OVFD. Here are their thoughts.

The Orange Community

Charlie Sherwood: It comes down to our slogan 'Neighbors helping Neighbors.' It's a mindset. We are fortunate. In our Town, we do not act like people living within a geographic boundary. We DO things for each other & we feel for each other. It's been a Town tradition, built on the history of people like Frank Knight, Chris Winkle, John Capacelatro, Ken Mitchell. And many others. They cared for their community. They volunteered their time. And the culture took hold. It became institutionalized into the Community.

Volunteering is an enriching experience in Life. People volunteer their time in this community on things that they are passionate about. OVFD is a good example of Volunteerism in Or-



OVFD Leaders: Charlie Sherwood, Deputy Fire Chief (50+ years) & Bert Gallant, Treasurer (40+ years).

ange. Yet like "Stars in the Sky" - there are many places people can volunteer: Schools, Church work, reading books to children, spending time with a person with a disability. What I think separates the OVFD is being on call.

Bert Gallant: When People call on us, it's for a safety need. And it's 24-7-365. People ask me all the time, "what are your hours?" I tell them "We are

on call. All day. Every day. 365 days a Year." It's amazing the number of people in Town who don't know that we are 100% volunteer.

Charlie Sherwood: The OVFD Way: Giving back to the community. Comparing the costs to the benefits, the OVFD is the most cost-effective organization/department in the Town. "Fire Truck \$50k Challenge" Project:

Special Moment/What It Means To Me

Charlie Sherwood: Overall, this project meant income. We at the OVFD needed it, given not only the Carnival being cancelled but the cancellation of 4-5 of our major fundraising events due to COVID. The Financial support provided in the \$50K Challenge is an example of the Community providing a service back to the OVFD. A little role reversal. In that way, the \$50K Challenge is itself a 2020 example of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Bert Gallant: I was going through the checks submitted & I came across this \$10 check. And I had this feeling, a 6th sense. I thought to myself "This person - that \$10 check -- means a very lot to that person."

So many people contributed, all various sizes of contributions. All these people coming together to support the OVFD. All - each one of them -- wanted to be part of the effort. Or people would not have sent a check in.

So that \$10 check meant something very special to that person. And as I looked at that check, it felt very real and that \$10 check meant as much to me as the very big ones did.

See "\$50K Challenge" On Page 23

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Orange Town News

Below are the remaining 2020 issue dates & deadlines of the Orange Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date Issue Deadline

November 20 | Thanksgiving Issue..... November 13

December 11 | Holiday Issue December 4

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

FROM OUR READERS

Respect Your Neighbors' Property

Every election season, we have issues with signs being destroyed or stolen. This year seems particularly excessive. Destroying, degrading or stealing of signs or personal property is punishable by law. Neither party condones nor encourages this behavior and, we believe, many of the culprits are just out to do mischievous.

As chairs of the respective main parties in the Town of Orange, we are asking everyone to respect their neighbors' property and right to display political signs for the candidates they support. If you see anyone defacing or vandalizing signs, please call the local police and check your security cameras for any tape, so these people can be apprehended.

In the end, we are all neighbors who live together, whose kids go to school and engage in extra-curricular activities together. Let's all get along.

Thank you,
Jody Dietch, chair Orange Democratic Town Committee
Pio Imperati, chair, Orange Republican Town Committee

Fire Chief Dumas Extends Gratitude

In the spring of 2020, the administration of the Orange Volunteer Fire Association was faced with an especially important and difficult decision to cancel the annual carnival. Each year the carnival generates about 1/3 of our annual budget, cancelling the carnival was a must for the safety of the public and our members but it brought about another crisis, funding.

In early June, Jim Leahy of the Orange Board of Finance reached out to me to discuss an idea they had to help address the financial predicament that

the Orange Volunteer Fire Association was facing. In the initial meeting, it was conveyed that they are representing a committee of people who wanted to help us conquer our impending financial crisis. Together we worked and came up with the idea of the "Fire Truck 50K Challenge". This slogan was used to coin the effort to help the fire department make a payment on the loan we have for a recently purchased fire truck (Quint 32). I am delighted to report that the success of this effort not only generated the \$50,000 to make the fire truck loan payment, but to cover some of the costs we incur annually for mandated inspection of our apparatus, firefighting, and rescue equipment.

It is important to talk about the unexpected bonus because of this collaborative effort. Through the marketing process to solicit support, the residents and the business community in the Town of Orange learned about our organization and the valuable contributions we make to the Town. Professional relationships were strengthened, and new relationships were developed both professionally and personally. This accomplishment is all because a committee of elected community members saw a problem and proactively tackled it.

On behalf of the men and women of the Orange Volunteer Fire Association, I extend our gratitude to the many residents and businesses who contributed to our venture and especially to Jim Leahy, Rick Roberts, and the members of the Board of Finance for their commitment to the success of this endeavor.

Sincerely,
Vaughan Dumas
Fire Chief, Orange Volunteer Fire Department

Orange Town News

OTN LETTERS POLICY

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

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.

www.OrangeTownNews.com

EDUCATION

More Orange Students Attending School In-Person

By MELISSA NICEFARO

ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After eight weeks of Orange elementary school children being back in school full-time, the number of remote learners is dropping. At the end of September, 10.4% of students were learning remotely and at the end of October, 8.9% of students were remote.

"We want to continue this success because we believe teaching and learning happens best when students, specifically at the elementary level, attend school in person," Superintendent Vince Scarpetti said at the Board of Education's recent monthly meeting. "Many health officials have stated that the safest place for our students is in our schools," he says.

The district's focus on facilities continues to be of top priority, as is providing a safe environment for students and staff. "Recently you may have heard terms such as 'COVID fatigue' or 'complacency' through the recent rise in COVID cases. Even at our recent emergency management meeting, concerns of complacency were discussed and we have had to address many situations on a weekly basis," he explains. "We all want things back to normal, but we can't do it too quickly."

Reminders about mitigating risk have been sent to families, urging them to practice the same safety measures at home that are practiced in school, especially when it comes to large gatherings. "We hope to continue the rest of the year in-person and we welcome our remote learners back at any time," Scarpetti says. However,

with a rising number of positive virus cases, the district is preparing for a shift to distance learning, should it be necessary.

The district, working with Orange Health Director Amir Mohammad, has developed a trial run during the week of Thanksgiving and possibly a few days into the next week, where there would be a combination of hybrid and remote learning. Parents will be notified in early November about any potential change.

"This would give our students the practice to bring their computers back and forth and it would give our teachers a trial run to teach hybrid and also remote," Scarpetti says. "We don't wait to do a fire drill until there's a fire or a crisis drill until there's a situation, we practice and prepare."

He is also discussing with Mohammad his concerns about families congregating in large gatherings over the Thanksgiving weekend and the impact that may have on the school system should students return after Thanksgiving. "I don't want to be complacent or comfortable," Scarpetti says. "We want to address manners slowly, but steadily and that has had an impact on what the typical school day looks like this year." This has forced everyone to be creative and flexible in their approach. For example, schools celebrated Halloween quite differently from the traditional celebratory parades and classroom parties with a reverse parade. Students lined up and parents drove by the students in their cars. "A very creative and a nice event for our students," Scarpetti says.

STUDENT NEWS

Graduations Stonehill College

Easton, MA - Members of the Class of 2020 joined together for a virtual Commencement ceremony this past August, including: Collin Kuchachik and Mary Farace of Orange. Initially sched-

uled for Sunday, May 17 with a traditional in-person format but knocked off course by COVID-19, Stonehill's 69th Commencement finally took place on Saturday, August 8 making history as the College's first virtual Commencement and the first ever held in August.

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ELECTION 2020

Information Concerning Voting On November 3, 2020

1. Town Of Orange voting on November 3rd will be from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. All voting will take place at High Plains community center.
2. District #1 votes in the GYM.
District #2 votes in the South Wing Room #3.
District #3 votes in the Cafeteria.
3. To locate your voting district please go to Town Of Orange website: **Street List - voting district:** <http://ct-orange.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/1576/Street-List---Voting-Districts>.
4. All voters must wear masks upon entering the building.
5. ABSENTEE BALLOTS: if not turned in already all **absentee ballots** must be turned in at the Orange Town Hall Ballot Box (back door) by 8:00 PM November 3rd. **Do not bring them to High Plains Community Center.**
6. No food or beverage is allowed in the voting area.
7. Identification is required to vote.

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Orange Connecticut State Election November 3, 2020

Congressional District 3
Senatorial District 14

OFFICE PARTY	1 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS FOR VOTE FOR ONE	2 REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS VOTE FOR ONE	3 STATE SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE	4 STATE REPRESENTATIVE VOTE FOR ONE Assembly District 114	4 STATE REPRESENTATIVE VOTE FOR ONE Assembly District 117	4 STATE REPRESENTATIVE VOTE FOR ONE Assembly District 119	5 REGISTRAR OF VOTERS VOTE FOR ONE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A BIDEN AND HARRIS	<input type="radio"/> 2A ROSA L. DeLAURO	<input type="radio"/> 3A JAMES MARONEY	<input type="radio"/> 4A MARY WELANDER	<input type="radio"/> 4A TONY SUTTON	<input type="radio"/> 4A BRYAN ANDERSON	<input type="radio"/> 5A JANICE CASEY
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B TRUMP AND PENCE	<input type="radio"/> 2B MARGARET STREICKER	<input type="radio"/> 3B MICHAEL SOUTHWORTH	<input type="radio"/> 4B DAN DeBARBA	<input type="radio"/> 4B CHARLES FERRARO	<input type="radio"/> 4B KATHY KENNEDY	<input type="radio"/> 5B VALERIE SPINACI
INDEPENDENT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C MARGARET STREICKER	<input type="radio"/> 3C JAMES MARONEY	<input type="radio"/> 4C DAN DeBARBA	<input type="radio"/> 4C TONY SUTTON	<input type="radio"/> 4C BRYAN ANDERSON	<input type="radio"/> 5C
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1D	<input type="radio"/> 2D ROSA L. DeLAURO	<input type="radio"/> 3D JAMES MARONEY	<input type="radio"/> 4D MARY WELANDER	<input type="radio"/> 4D TONY SUTTON	<input type="radio"/> 4D BRYAN ANDERSON	<input type="radio"/> 5D
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1E JORGENSEN AND COHEN	<input type="radio"/> 2E	<input type="radio"/> 3E	<input type="radio"/> 4E	<input type="radio"/> 4E	<input type="radio"/> 4E	<input type="radio"/> 5E
GREEN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1F HAWKINS AND WALKER	<input type="radio"/> 2F JUSTIN C. PAGLINO	<input type="radio"/> 3F	<input type="radio"/> 4F	<input type="radio"/> 4F	<input type="radio"/> 4F	<input type="radio"/> 5F
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1G	<input type="radio"/> 2G	<input type="radio"/> 3G	<input type="radio"/> 4G	<input type="radio"/> 4G	<input type="radio"/> 4G	<input type="radio"/> 5G

114

117

119

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

ELECTION 2020

FROM OUR READERS

Maroney Has Shown Courage

It was once said by John F. Kennedy that, "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." Throughout his public service James Maroney has shown courage and effort while consistently being straight with his constituents regarding purpose and direction. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic he has provided over 100 different updates across phone calls, emails, web announcements, and town hall style conferences. Through all means of communication James has always helped his constituents in Milford, West Haven, Woodbridge, and Orange. His leadership has helped business owners get access to State and Federal aid while they struggled to remain open.

Before the pandemic took over almost every facet of our lives James was promoting Connecticut as a great place to grow a business with the development of opportunity zones. His legislation (Bill 570) incentivizes developers to invest in distressed municipalities and makes it easier for them to do so. For instance, in West Haven the bill seeks to increase job opportunities by tasking the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development to host a series of events to attract private development. The bill supports the rehabilitation of historic structures in opportunity zone. Westies are proud hard-working people, and you can see it in their large strong looking brick buildings. This bill helps breathe new life back into them. More than 400 companies have looked to invest in Connecticut.

While we cherish our history, we do need to look forward. James is not just looking to the future; he is working to prepare us for it. For example, he has promoted the development of next generation skills through his legislation to make computer science curriculum a requirement in the state's public schools. Bill 957 passed with bipartisan support and unanimously in the Senate, a testament to James' ability to bring different groups together.

His ability to work with anyone to support and promote West Haven, Milford, Orange, and Woodbridge is central to our continued growth and prosperity. For this reason, I support James and strongly suggest we re-elect him as State Senator for the 14th District.

Joe Honcz

Welander Has Remained Silent on School Regionalization

In Connecticut right now, one very serious challenge our communities face is the threat of forced school regionalization. Hartford politicians have used events of the last few months including the pandemic of COVID 19 to advocate

for schools to be regionalized based on their probate court district lines. This poses a significant threat to the Amity School System and our other fine local schools as it would dissolve our great school district that has already regionalized. The intent of this proposal is clear, the goal is to wrest control from communities, towns, and school boards that are tied to parents and students, and instead grant sweeping power to paternalistic bureaucrats in Hartford to make decisions for them.

Democrat, Mary Welander, has remained silent on this issue, as she also has on other vital issues concerning public education in the state of Connecticut, including the utilization of resource officers in our public schools. Welander's silence raises concerns on how responsive she would be to her constituents were she to be elected. The residents of these towns who are concerned about maintaining their influence over the education their children receive deserve to know how Welander stands on such an important issue. Welander's seeming inability to take a solid stance on issues expands beyond education and she has been unable to clarify to Connecticut voters if she would support the radical policy of defunding the police either.

Sixty percent of businesses have closed in Connecticut due to the recent pandemic; this has greatly impacted small businesses, their owners, and employees. Despite the importance of this toward our local economy and the numerous local residents whose livelihood depends upon these businesses reopening, Mary Welander has offered no opinions on these matters.

Welander's opponent, Dan DeBarba, has been candid on his feelings about the issues. He supports continuing the use of school resource officers and while he understands there are advantages to school districts collaborating, he supports educational decisions to be made locally, by communities most impacted, not by distant authorities in Hartford with minimal ties to the community as a whole. Dan DeBarba supports public safety by opposing the defunding of the police and believes that smarter solutions exist to build a more just and equitable Connecticut. DeBarba is a small business owner and carries the endorsement of the NFIB, who are confident that he will be friendly to our small businesses and help them through these trying times.

If Welander wants to earn the support of her prospective constituents she must be more open on such issues. As of now, we know where DeBarba stands, while Welander obfuscates her positions to the voters and appears to stand for very little, and would likely

be yet another rubber stamp for power elites in Hartford at the expense of our local community.

Deb Brutsche

Mary Welander for House – Derby, Orange, Woodbridge

Mary Welander is running for State Representative for the 114th District which serves Derby, Orange and Woodbridge. Mary brings a commitment to improving the quality of life to all citizens and small businesses of these communities. As a member of the Orange Board of Education and Sandy Hook Promise, her commitment to quality education and a safe school environment is unprecedented. Her experience is even more critical during this time of Covid-19 when parents, school administrators and teachers are striving to balance education and safety in uncharted waters.

Mary is married and the mother of three children. All her children attend school in Orange. She is the daughter of an educator and small business owner; and the sister of three combat veterans. Mary understands the importance of public service firsthand. Her sole goal is to service the people and businesses of Derby, Orange and Woodbridge. She will not be blinded by political ambition which have left the 114th district without proper representation in the past.

Mary's goals are to rebuild the economy of our three towns beyond the pre-pandemic level safely; protect our residents and workers in our nursing homes/assisted living centers; ensure everyone has access to quality and affordable health care; work to lower prescription drug costs; protect our environment; and provide the support needed by our Healthcare and Public Safety Professionals.

Mary has received many endorsements due to her proven track record and work ethic for the community. Some of these endorsements include: Senator Chris Murphy; the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of CT; Working Families; and Moms Demand Action, just to name a few.

I am a former elected official of Orange and community service volunteer that strongly endorses Mary and I hope you will support her on November 3rd.

Joseph Marulli

Former WBOE Chairman Endorses DeBarba

As a physician in the Woodbridge community, former Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education and someone who has been extensively involved in our community, I am asking the residents of the 114th district to support

Dan DeBarba for State Representative.

Dan is a longtime resident of Orange and lifetime resident of our state. He has more than three decades of experience as a certified public accountant and hospital administrator. Dan served as President of both Norwalk Hospital and Danbury Hospital before becoming the Chief Financial Officer of a large New York multi-hospital health system. With the State of Connecticut facing an unprecedented health care crisis and budget shortfall, we need people of Dan's caliber who are willing to commit to public service.

Dan is a family man who understands the Woodbridge community. His wife of thirty-one years and three children all attended Amity High and his two sons played on the JCC travel basketball team. Through the JCC, his oldest son represented the US on the National Maccabi Soccer Team and his daughter is currently attending graduate school in Israel after travelling there through the Birthright program.

Dan is not a career politician and he is willing to reach across party lines to help make Connecticut a better and more competitive state. Connecticut needs to find balance in its approach to the major challenges we face and we need knowledgeable people who are willing to develop reasoned solutions. I truly believe Dan is the right person for the job.

Please join me in supporting Dan DeBarba and help make Connecticut the best it can be.

Steven Fleischman, MD, FACOG, GF

Klarides Endorses DeBarba

After 22 years of service as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, you may know that I've decided not to run for reelection in 2020. While I will greatly miss representing the great people of Woodbridge, Orange and Derby, I am very excited to support Dan DeBarba as your next State Representative. A longtime resident of Orange and lifetime resident of our state, Dan is well-acquainted with the struggles facing middle class families in Connecticut. If elected, I know he will put petty politics aside and do what is right for the residents of our district and the entire state of Connecticut.

Connecticut's economic difficulties were apparent prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been exasperated by the pandemic shutdown. More than ever, Connecticut needs lawmakers with the financial experience to make sound economic decisions and the leadership experience to find balance between state competitiveness and an appropriate safety net. Dan's record of accomplishments as a certified public accountant and health care executive

See "Election Letters" On Page 9



ELECTION 2020

“Election Letters” From Page 8

make him eminently qualified to help Connecticut at this time of crisis.

In many ways, Dan’s humble beginnings shaped him into the industrious man he is today. He joined the Connecticut Army National Guard and worked as a medic to serve his country and to afford the cost of attending UCONN. He took a year off before college to save money and worked two jobs throughout his college years. While at UCONN, Dan met his wife Lynn, a nursing student from Orange at the time. Like so many, they both worked hard to pay the rent, save for a house, pay the mortgage and raise three children.

Before he served as Chief Financial Officer of a New York multi-hospital organization, Dan was the President of both Norwalk Hospital and Danbury

Hospital. These qualifications give him a unique perspective on the challenges faced by healthcare professionals and their families. With these qualifications, Dan’s readiness to serve Connecticut is plain to see.

Dan was resilient as a young man in the face of financial hardship. He collected a decade’s worth of financial experience as a certified public accountant and achieved much success as a healthcare executive advocating for patients, physicians and frontline staff. Dan is committed to public service and wants to bring these experiences to bear upon Connecticut’s problems at this critical time in our state’s history. It is for these reasons that I am proud to endorse Dan DeBarba for State Representative in the 114th District, and I urge my supporters to join me in voting for Dan on November 3rd.

State Representative Themis Klarides

“State Senator” From Page 1

on the part of the officer before they can be sued. If found guilty, they need to refund the municipalities.

Opportunity Zones:

Yale educated, Maroney is a small business owner who runs a college consulting business in Milford. Even though this year’s legislative session was cut short by the pandemic, Maroney authored and co-authored a number of bills during his first term, in an effort to broaden educational opportunities; and to help generate investor interest for the recently named “Opportunity Zones” in under-performing areas.

Opportunity zones were created as part of the recent federal tax reform act, he explained. Investors can realize significant capital gains tax relief by investing in these projects, he said. The opportunity zones are designated by the Internal Revenue Service, based on considerations such as income level and unemployment. There are 72 of them in Connecticut, including two in West Haven. Maroney supported that concept by creating a website and a point person for Opportunity Zones in Connecticut, providing potential investors easy access to information; he also arranged a seminar a year ago, which was attended by some 400 investors.

“We were one of the first states to do this,” he said in a phone conversation. The act he authored passed the Senate with unanimous support.

As a co-chair of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, he authored a bill establishing the Military to Machinist Program, which helps veterans gain the skills they need out of The Workplace

in Bridgeport, which assists them in making the transition to civilian jobs. At the same time it helps the manufacturing industry with access to a highly trained work force, he said.

As co-chair of the Aging Committee, he helped create an elder abuse registry; also an act that requires healthcare professionals treating adults to have proper training to recognize the signs of Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Maroney is cross-endorsed by both the Working Families Party and the Independent Party. His three legislative priorities, if elected on Nov. 3, would be workforce development; access to childcare and suicide prevention education, he said.

His opponent, Mike Southworth, a Republican, is a professional firefighter in West Haven where he recently served as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1198. He also is an active member and former leader of Elks Lodge 1537 in West Haven and helps coach a Milford Babe Ruth Fall Softball Team.

Having seen the effects of the pandemic first hand, and the strain it has put on the supply chain and healthcare systems, Southworth pledged to “work with healthcare experts to develop a long-term response plan for future outbreaks.” He also pledged to put people over politics and parties.

Southworth wants the state to leave public education in the hands of local school boards to determine their own plans. “Every community is different and a general plan from Hartford could hinder education or put some of our kids at undue risks,” he wrote on his website.

“State Rep” From Page 1

he suggested, even though he is not principally opposed to increase wages.

Having grown up in Wolcott, DeBarba served as a medic in the Connecticut Army National Guard. He served as president of Norwalk and Danbury hospitals before taking the position of chief financial officer of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. He was recently appointed to the Orange Visiting Nurse Association Board of Directors.

Mary Welander serves on the Orange Board of Education and is also PTA co-president of Racebrook School. As a member of the local Board of Education she participated in the recent school reopening committee, which met almost weekly this summer to ensure students and teachers could return safely to school.

Education is high on her list of priorities, especially education funding. The way the state reimburses communities for special education costs needs to be re-evaluated, she said. Special education costs are difficult to predict for school districts and notoriously difficult to budget for. “We want to make sure we can take care of all our students,” she said.

Health care will be a big issue in Hartford going forward, she said, given that the long-term health impact from COVID is hard to predict. The House was working on allowing prescription drugs to be ordered from Canada, which would lower drug costs overall. Another area that needs to be looked at is how nursing homes and assisted living centers are regulated and overseen, to avoid a scenario similar to last spring, when COVID hit them unexpectedly.

As for taxes, she pledged to advocate for her constituents. Since she lost her job as strategic planning and marketing expert for an architectural firm last spring, due to COVID, she has come to learn what it means to be a one-income family.

She is dismayed by claims made by some that she does not support School Resource Officers or local law enforcement. “Those claims are totally unfounded,” she said. As a Board of Education member, she has voted in support of SROs and also supported the police budget – all while advocating for violence prevention programs, she said.

She testified in Washington on school safety before Congress. She was one of two Connecticut ambassadors for the Sandy Hook Promise, an organization that works on violence prevention programs in the wake of the Sandy Hook disaster. “We try to address problems before a weapon even enters the scene,” she said.

If elected, she would work to make sure that small businesses get the sup-

port they need, she said. She also feels that funding for Personal Protective Equipment needs to be re-evaluated.

Another issue close to her heart is the treatment of veterans after they leave the service. “We need to make sure vets get the support they need, such as through re-entry training. “They have such amazing skills,” she said. Three of her brothers are combat veterans, with one being deployed.

She wants to make sure that the communities she represents would have an advocate on the state level. She also mentioned the protection of open space as an important issue to champion in Hartford.

Two years ago Welander ran for the same position, and came within 1,000 votes or so of the incumbent, the closest anyone ever came to beating Themis Klarides.

Endorsements: Welander is being cross-endorsed by the Working Families Party. She also received endorsements by the Connecticut Education Association, CSEA SEIU Local 2001, the AFL CIO Connecticut., Moms Demand Action, The American Federation of Teachers, Connecticut; SEIU Connecticut State Council; by Planned Parenthood CT; CT Against Gun Violence, and the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter; and by the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association.

Dan DeBarba meanwhile is cross-endorsed by the Independent Party. In addition to Themis Klarides, he is endorsed by the Mayor of Derby, Rich Dziekan; Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli, the Amity Republican Club, the National Federation of Independent Business; Connecticut Police Union and the Derby Police Union.

His position as CFO allows him to work remotely to a large extent, which will give him the flexibility to take on the extra duties in Hartford, he said. Until recently, his life was dedicated mostly to work and family, but he would like to diversify, and his outreach into the political realm is part of that diversifying. His wife Lynn and he have started a growing franchise business, Tropical Smoothie Café, an enterprise that makes him a small business owner in addition to a healthcare CFO.

Mary Welander grew up in South Deerfield, Mass. She made a career as a theatrical electrician, which is how she met her husband, Matt Welander, at The Juilliard School. She was Master Electrician of the Drama Theater and he was Head Carpenter of the main stage. Matt went on to become faculty technical director for the Yale School of Drama in 2013. He also works as a consultant in theater design, and experienced first-hand the effect of the pandemic on the arts community. “It is heartbreaking what the pandemic does to them” she said.

VOTE

ELECTION 2020

DeBarba Outlines Challenges of Next Legislative Session

Three or potentially four (if the ACA is struck down) colliding challenges will make the next legislative session an extraordinarily difficult one. They are as follows:

1. the weakness of Connecticut's pre-COVID structural finances – we have overtaxed, overspent and overborrowed, leaving our state in a very difficult position;
 2. the horrible impact that COVID-19 has had upon our state's economy leading to significant unemployment and business closure and interruption;
 3. the severe lack of Connecticut's competitiveness with other states – the stark reality is that Connecticut's attempt to recover economically will not be in a vacuum – we will need to compete with other states and Connecticut performed terribly in the post Great Recession recovery (2009 to 2019); and
 4. the health care challenges that our state will face if the Affordable Care Act is struck down and a replacement plan isn't passed that reasonably preserves Medicaid eligibility levels, pre-existing conditions protection, up to age 26 health insurance protection, and functioning health exchanges and marketplaces.
- In order to seriously face these challenges, the Connecticut legislature will need to be aggressive and bold. It must not do what it has done for the four decades under one party control – mainly presiding over Connecticut's economic deterioration. Our state senators and representatives must do the following:
1. Understand that this a battle with other states that can be won or lost;
 2. Refrain from tax increases as they make our state less competitive and drive out job creators;
 3. Make sweeping reforms and eliminate regulations that hamper business growth and much needed investment in our cities and towns;
 4. Aggressively reduce spending in all non-essential areas without regard to special interests;
 5. Collaborate with the state's workforce and its representation to identify and eliminate waste and reduce costs;
 6. Expand the use of nonprofit organizations to deliver state services, implementing broad based technology solutions, cutting duplicative state functions, eliminating overtime and ending the running up of pension calculations;
 7. Stop passing the buck to local municipalities further burdening the residents of Connecticut who are already paying too much in property taxes;
 8. Select an agreed upon economic growth target and take all the necessary steps to achieve this target; and
 9. Form a bipartisan health taskforce to deal with the uninsured patient population that Connecticut's hospitals and physicians will likely encounter if the Affordable Care Act is struck down without an appropriate replacement.
- We must all remember that these are unprecedented times and they require unprecedented action to achieve success and prosperity. The status quo will not work and many of those residents who can leave Connecticut will do so if we don't change our ways. It is not too late if we make the right choices.

Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli Supports Kennedy

On October 17th Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli endorsed State Rep. Kathy Kennedy (Milford & Orange) in her re-election effort this November.

First Selectman Zeoli said, "In today's world, we talk a lot about community and working together and no one does that better for the Town of Orange than our current State Representative Kathy Kennedy. Kathy serves the 119th House District. In her first term, Kathy has done a great job in reaching out to local officials asking important questions, listening to what

we have to say and using that input in her decision-making process to represent the residents of Orange.

As someone who grew up in Orange, Kathy understands our town, its unique qualities of small town Connecticut. She is a tireless advocate for Orange regardless of the issue. That is why I support Kathy Kennedy in her run for a second term as our state Representative for the 119th. I am confident that you will agree that she is the best person to represent our interests at the State Capitol."



Kennedy Earns Key Small Business Endorsement

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), which is the premier small business organization in Connecticut, has announced its endorsement of State Rep. Kathy Kennedy for re-election this November for her pro-small business record the last two years. The national small business advocacy group announced that Kennedy has worked both locally and in Hartford to advocate for small businesses.

Andy Markowski, State Director of NFIB-Connecticut, is supporting Rep. Kennedy's candidacy because of her "voting record over the last two legislative sessions on key issues important to small business. Kathy is committed to the needs of thousands of Main Street small businesses and their employees in Milford and Orange and across Connecticut."

"I am honored to receive the support of NFIB," said Representative Kathy Kennedy. "Small businesses are without question the backbone of our economy, as they are leaders in innovation, enterprise and job creation. As a decision maker for one of these businesses, I understand firsthand the challenges they face. Over the past 2 years I've worked closely with small businesses in Milford and Orange and will continue to champion policies that help spur economic growth by supporting those who own and operate small businesses in Connecticut."

NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small business association, with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitals. NFIB gives small and independent business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business.

CT State Police Union Endorses DeBarba for State Rep.

The Connecticut State Police Union has endorsed Dan DeBarba for State Representative of the 114th district. In its endorsement letter, the State Police Union credited both DeBarba's "support for public safety" and his "support of the safety of our police officers" as the most significant factors driving their decision to back his campaign.

Not many candidates running for office have received an endorsement from the Connecticut State Police Union. Upon receiving the endorsement, DeBarba said, "I am honored to be one of the few candidates for State Representative to receive the endorsement

of the Connecticut State Police Union. We must never forget to support those who risk their lives each and every day to keep us safe and secure. Thank you to the State Police for placing their trust in me just as my family and I place our trust in them."

DeBarba is a longtime resident of Orange and has three children who have all graduated from Amity High School. DeBarba is the former president of Norwalk and Danbury Hospitals and is currently the Chief Financial Officer of a large health system in New York. Additionally, he and his wife, Lynn, own a small business in the area.

ELECTION 2020

Candidates Vie For Seats In 117th & 119th District

BY BETTINA THIEL

ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Orange shares its representation in the Connecticut Legislature to a large degree with the City of Milford, and several of the candidates running for office this year are Milford residents. That includes in the 117th district incumbent Republican Kathy Kennedy, as well as her challenger, Democrat Bryan Anderson; and in the 119th district Democrat Tony Sutton is challenging incumbent Republican Charles Ferraro.

Kathy Kennedy, R-119

Kennedy is running for her second term. The Amity graduate with a degree in social relations is working for the City of Milford. She has served as administrative assistant in the law department for the past 15 years. Prior to that she worked for the fire department. In 2015 she was elected president of the Connecticut PTA where she served until 2017.

In the legislature she was assigned to the Education, the Environment and the Public Health committees. She did not support the police accountability act, and published a letter stating that though she wanted to “fully support a true reform bill that would address some of the racial injustices of our past and present,” this bill did not meet that goal. Removing qualified immunity for police officers would permit law enforcement to be sued. “I spoke with many police officers from both Orange and Milford and they told me this bill would leave our officers disheartened, possibly making it harder to do their already tough and dangerous job,” she wrote in her letter.

Similarly, she joined her Republican colleagues in voting no to establishing an inspector general to investigate police shootings and illegal uses of force; and to the release of police camera videos. She also voted no to the minimum wage increase to \$15/hour, saying it didn’t address people who already made \$15. It also could backfire for young people with disabilities, who may have to reduce their hours in order not to exceed a certain income cap. She also voted no to the paid family and medical leave act, saying people should have the choice to opt in.

However, she voted to support statewide absentee voting; she voted to establish a cap on Insulin prices; and to prohibit the storage of firearms in an unlocked vehicle.

Kennedy said the last legislative pe-

riod didn’t actually get off the ground before the pandemic cut it short. In fact, during the first year of her freshman term, she made a perfect voting record, meaning she took every vote that came up.

She also joined the bipartisan Women’s Caucus, which is an important forum for co-operation. “We need to put people over party,” she said. When the pandemic first hit, “so many people had such a hard time,” she said, for instance getting unemployment benefits. Many constituents turned to her for help – some of them Democrats – and she was happy to help them out when she could. “Whatever happens on November 3, I am happy I could help the people in my district,” she said.

Bryan Anderson, D-119

Democrat Bryan Anderson also lives in Milford, where he served on the Board of Aldermen up until two years ago. He is a small business owner, and heavily involved with the Land Trust, according to his press representative Adam DeYoung. Anderson also is involved with the Irish Heritage Society.

When asked about his legislative agenda, Young submitted a lengthy list of issues and legislative actions Anderson would support. They include:

- ✓ Strengthening domestic violence victims’ witness statements;
- ✓ Support for early voting and voting by mail;
- ✓ The Use Of Emails to Request Absentee Ballot Applications;
- ✓ Municipal Planning Boards Site Plan Public Hearings;
- ✓ Public Broadband Pilot Projects;
- ✓ Naming of Marine Corporal Jordan C. Pierson Memorial;
- ✓ Access to Original Birth Certificates By Adult Adopted Persons;
- ✓ The Inclusion Of Climate Change Instruction In The Public School Curriculum;
- ✓ The Modernization Of The Connecticut Bottle Redemption Program;
- ✓ The Use Of Perfluoroalkyl Or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances In Class B Firefighting Foam;
- ✓ The Use and Distribution of Polystyrene Products;
- ✓ Resolution Urging Congress to Adopt the ERA as a Constitutional Amendment;
- ✓ CT Legacy Farmland Preservation;
- ✓ The Sale and Marketing of CT Grown and Made Products Along Public Highways, and in State-

Owned and Leased Facilities;

- ✓ Support for Wineries, Distilleries, and Breweries;
- ✓ Workforce Development Apprenticeships;
- ✓ Restore Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee;
- ✓ Restore Legislative Regulations Review Committee.

Charles Ferraro, R-117

Charles Ferraro is serving his third term in the Connecticut General Assembly, proudly representing the 117th Assembly District comprised of portions of Orange, Milford and West Haven. He currently serves as the highest ranking House Republican on the legislature’s Energy and Technology Committee and also serves on the Public Safety & Security and Veterans’ Affairs Committees.



Anthony Sutton, D-117

Ferraro’s challenger, Attorney Anthony Sutton is a member of the Milford Board of Aldermen. He is proud of Milford’s record of lowering the mill rate in recent years and plans to apply those same skills to the government in Hartford, namely fiscal responsibility and innovation. The money saved can then be plowed back into essential services, he said.



“The demographics in this district is diverse,” he acknowledged, but “they all need funding for education.” As for Orange, he would make sure it would receive the economic development funds that help the town thrive.

As for West Haven, the situation is more pressing, he said. “I would work with the mayor and the City Council to improve the downtown. The city needs economic development and ways to revitalize the shoreline, he said.

Sutton’s wife Stacy is born and raised in West Haven, and currently serves as assistant principal at Bailey Middle School. Sutton said he grew up with a strong sense of public service. His mother was part of the city Council and his father police commissioner. “The reason we do it (run for office) is because we love the town we live in,” he said.

Sutton’s candidacy is cross-endorsed by the Working Families Party, which some critics have used against him, in particular for their support for the Police Accountability Act. Sutton says he was honored to receive their endorsement, which came before the act was adopted in Hartford. “The Working Families Party is not a one-issue party,” he said. He supports their work for access to healthcare and access to the best education, but he does not advocate for defunding the police. “To keep them funded is imperative,” he said, adding that local police departments may not see the incidents that others see. In fact, the act provides additional resources to those departments to address.

As Sutton has been going door-to-door this summer, he found that people are tired of partisan bickering. “We have to keep the whole of Connecticut thriving and healthy,” he said. “Call me naïve, but that can be done.”



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Juniorettes To Hold Food Drive

In cooperation with Orange Community Services, Orange Community Juniorettes will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Orange Food Pantry.

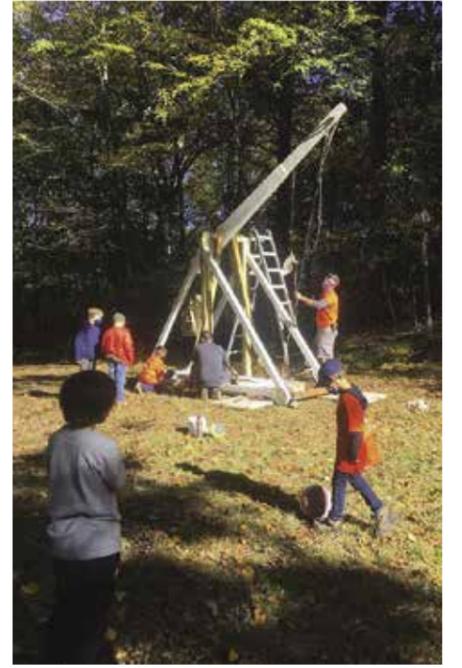
Please send your child to school with a few food items to donate to our food drive. Donation bins can be found at Peck Place School and High Plains Community Center. Bins will be there for the next couple of months to help stock the Orange Food Pantry for the holidays.

We live in a predominantly affluent area; however, it is important to explain to our kids how some families have limited resources, and that this

is an easy way we can all give back to our community.

Every little bit helps. They are specifically in need of peanut butter, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned vegetables, etc. (Beans are in good supply currently).

Orange Community Juniorettes is a parent-run, civic group under the Orange Community Woman's group which teaches the importance of giving back to our communities, fosters leadership skills, and offers enrichment programs to girls (5th-8th grade) in Orange. Want to find out more or get involved? Email: orangecommunityjuniorettes@gmail.com



Left: Pack members learning Archery at the Campout. Right: Assistant Cub Master Alex Zamachaj preparing the Trebuchet for Launch.



The Orange town fourth grade troop 60274 is keeping busy this fall. The girls bagged over 50 packages for the organization Orange Food2kids on October 13, 2020. Troop leader Sarah Gallipoli is currently recruiting Girl Scouts for all levels. Please email Sarahrtr09@gmail.com.



Cubmaster Brian Cleveland at the bonfire introducing the time of the night when scouts can share songs, jokes and skits.

Pack 922 News

On October 5th, Pack 922 held an outdoor pack meeting where they learned how to work as a team. There were 8 stations with different activities where scouts worked in mixed den groups. This helped the younger scouts achieve more complex tasks and showed the leadership skills of the older scouts. While the activities were happening, we welcomed new scouts to the pack and made new friends. Our next pack meeting is on November 2nd at High Plains Community Center pavilion at 6pm. We are always looking for interested girls and boys in Kindergarten through 5th grade to join our pack family. Please contact cubmaster Brian Cleveland bcleland@hotmail.com for more information.

On October 17th the Pack held the annual campout at a local area that included spacing for the 22 attending scouts and their families. While dens worked on completing achievements there were also pack activities including archery, scavenger hunts, trebuchet

launching, nighttime skits and a bonfire. We are thankful for the generosity of the land owners for helping us provide this opportunity to the scouts.

Coming in November we have an opportunity for the community to help us and give back to others. November 14th we will be at High Plains Community Center from 10am to 12pm in the front parking lot collecting food donations for the food pantry. Throughout the weeks before scouts will be in their neighborhoods handing out flyers and bags for donation as well. Please come and support those in Orange that need your help.

Our annual wreath sale will be held on November 21st at High Plains Community Center front parking lot. We will be there from 10am until 2pm. We will also be selling Oronoque Farms pies. These fundraisers will help the pack fund partial costs for events like our camp outs, rocket derby, and the pinewood derby. We can't wait to see you on these two Saturdays.



“Fire Truck \$50K Challenge” Soars to \$158K

Someone pinch me. Are these current numbers true? \$158,000? Is this real or something the heart & soul could only dream about? The “Fire Truck \$50K Challenge” started with an important, yet reasonably modest goal. \$50K to help out. To help the brave & committed members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD).

But during a pandemic? Raise this sort of money? Are you guys serious?

By now, the whole Town knows the story. COVID shuts down the Carnival. COVID shuts down all major OVFD fundraising events. Estimates of reduced income for the OVFD reach as high as \$200,000 – about 50% of its revenue. Imagine: your household loses half of your Annual Income & you still have all your COSTS to pay. What to do?

Think Back: It’s March and Stock Market plunges. It’s April and Unemployment numbers soar to levels not seen since the Depression 90 years ago. It’s May and there are lines to get into Home Depot. Lines at Home Depot!!! Restaurants & gyms closed everywhere. Society is creeping along – at best – at half-speed. Despite all this, the OVFD remains 100% open and on duty.

How do we solve this financial problem? That was the question weighing heavily on the minds of Town & OVFD Leaders. “Income. That’s what the OVFD needs,” declared Deputy Fire Chief Charlie Sherwood. “No Carnival. No Events. That’s a major loss of Income.” Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas amplified on this theme, “Cancelling the carnival was a must for the safety of the public and our members but it brought about another crisis, funding.” \$50K was needed to make a Fire Truck payment, due in October. How to do that?

“We put out the call for help to the Town,” explained Jim Leahy project chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance. “We knew in May it was a pandemic. Just think back: March through May was no fun.” New behaviors were just starting. Learning to wear masks. Staying 6 feet away. Highly limited travel. Being unable to see long-time friends. And family. It was tough getting used to. “And it was not” emphasized Leahy “an ideal time for Fundraising. That’s for sure.”

There are times in life when you simply don’t have a choice. You simply have to do. And to try.

Economy down. Employment down. Lines for normal store shopping. The changing social rules. The uncertainty of it all. “That’s the hidden emotion the



OVFD Members Voice their Thanks for the Town’s Support in their time of Need

Team had to address and to address squarely.” Leahy noted, “We weren’t looking for a Hero.” Nor a bailout by a company. Or a person. Least of all a Government agency. “We wanted to fix our own problem. So, we organized. We put out a call for help.” And boy did the Community respond!

“What can you say?” Leahy stated with wide-eyed amazement. “We started with an idea that all members of the Board of Finance supported. We created a GoFundMe site. And we worked it.”

The last 4+ months (June to October) are now History. It feels like a blur, doesn’t it? The facts speak for themselves:

621 Contributions made to the “Fire Truck \$50K Challenge”: 61 from Business/Organizations responded to the call; 560 Citizens/Families signed up for duty. We named it THE ORANGE ARMY.

38 Leadership Sponsors braved Economic uncertainty to invest in the Cause: 30 members of the 2% Club (\$1,000); 2 GOLD members (\$2,500); 6 PLATINUM members (\$5,000). \$158,199 in contributions are to support the OVFD in its time of need. Just as the OVFD comes to our houses in times of Emergency – such as a fire – the Orange community came to the

rescue to put out the Fire that threatened up to 50% of the OVFD Operating Revenue.

“This whole project is like running a distance race” Leahy explained, “The uncertainty at the start amid the high hopes of wishful expectation.” The uphill challenges. The downhill of progress. As time passes, some pain twitches in your side, maybe when an event didn’t pan out like you expected. “That happened to us” Leahy continued. “But just like in a race, you focus. Filling the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run is often easier said than done. We did one good thing. EVERY day. And we had faith.”

TODAY: Here we are. Celebrating. The OVFD is saying “Thank You” to all. We collected \$34,000 in new contributions in the 4 weeks since the last article. A grand total of over \$158,000, more than TRIPLE the Original Goal. In short, Orange showed its true colors. The character of the Town is on full display for all to see, collectively doing its thing in an understated “No Big Deal” fashion. That’s Orange.

Just like in a distance race, we approach the finish line with a degree of enhanced effort. “It’s a good feeling to have been a part of this project,” Leahy reflected. “I would like to offer that

the thanks go out to ALL residents – donors or this project or not – as it’s the Community where we live in which these donations take place that matters and it’s the atmosphere in the Community that produces this giving environment. We are all part of that. The 2020 Legacy will forever include this \$50K Challenge that we faced, the initial uncertainty that we felt, and the vigor & focus of the Town’s collective effort over this 4+ month distance.”

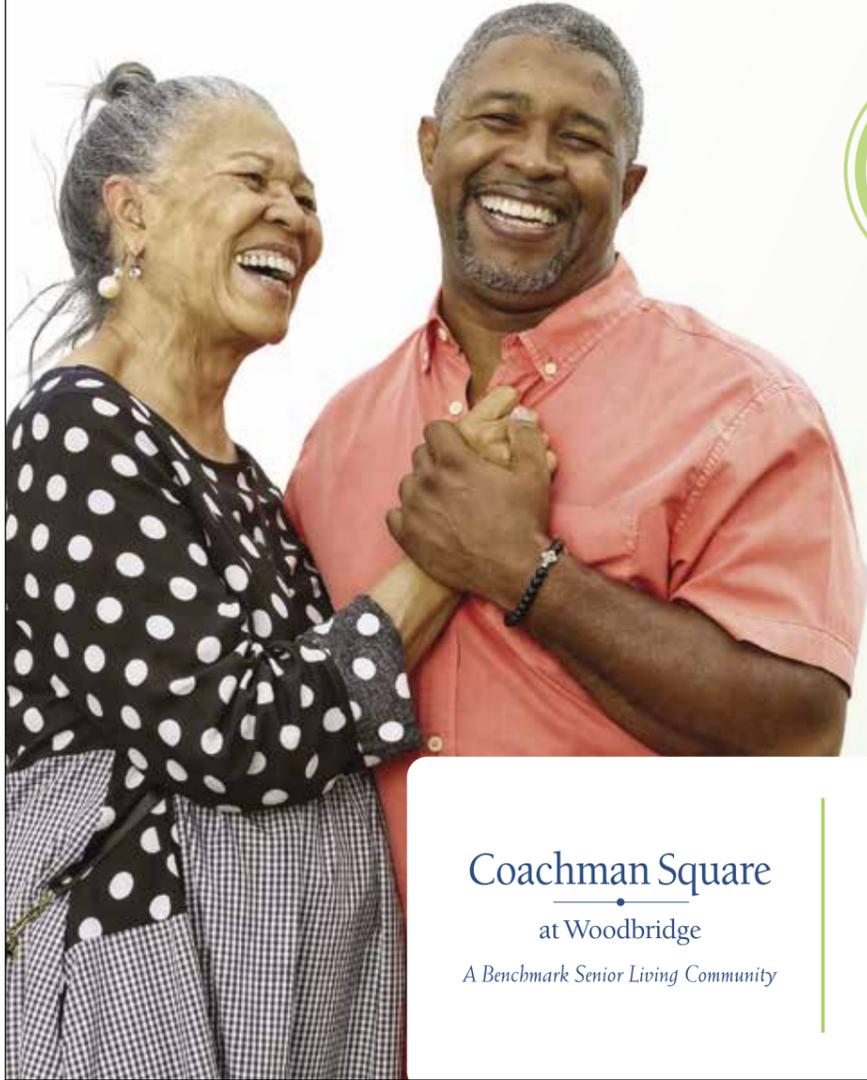
To all residents then, when you see the “THANK YOU” signs around Town, go ahead - smile & celebrate a little bit in your heart. We – all of us – should celebrate our achievement; congratulate your friends, your neighbors, and yourselves. That’s Orange. It’s that kind of place. Since 1822.

As we wind down this project, you can still join the Team. It’s the last chance. Join THE ORANGE ARMY. Become involved in “Fire Truck \$50K Challenge.” By doing so, you’ll make a measurable difference.

Every contribution – no matter the size -- is valued. The link to the GoFundMe page is on the Town website www.orange-ct.gov or on the OVFD website www.orangevfd.org. Checks can be mailed directly: OVFD, P.O. Box 878, Orange, CT 06477. Thank you.

“Once you have an innovation culture, even those who are not scientists or engineers - poets, actors, journalists - they, as communities, embrace the meaning of what it is to be scientifically literate. They embrace the concept of an innovation culture. They vote in ways that promote it. They don’t fight science and they don’t fight technology.” — NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

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Peck Place School Students Spread Kindness

The Peck Place School students did an amazing job raising money for their school while spreading kindness throughout the community. Acts of kindness included sending cards to people who may be isolated, cleaning up outside the school, delivering baked goods to the police station, and raising

money for Alzheimer's.

To celebrate the great accomplishment of reaching their goal, Mr. Balisciano rewarded the students by dressing up as a penguin and waddling to every single classroom. The kids loved it! Great job everyone. Keep spreading kindness!

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Optimized Vision & Eye Care Opening Announcement

What do we offer?

Eye exams, glasses prescription, contact lens fitting, primary medical and emergency eye care.

Where are we?

20 Division Street, Derby, CT 06418. (Yes, we are inside the Derby BJ's, but you don't have to be a member to be seen.)

What insurances do we accept?

We accept most major insurances for eye exams, including Medicaid, Medicare, Anthem BCBS, United Health Care, Oxford Health, Cigna, Connecticare, Harvard Pilgram, Humana, Davis vision and Spectera.

What do you do to ensure safety during the COVID-19 era?

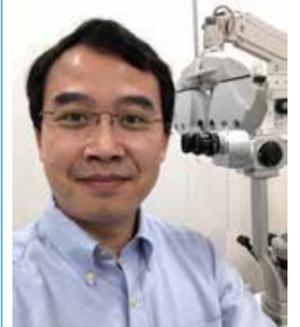
BJ's works hard to maintain great hygiene inside the club. We don't see patient with current covid-19 diagnosis or contact history. In addition, patients and doctor are both required to wear masks. Direct patient contact surfaces are cleaned between each eye exam. The exam and pretest rooms are sterilized twice a day (during lunch time break and at the end of the day) with UV-C light, which efficiently kills viruses and other pathogens.

How about glasses and contact lenses?

We provide prescriptions for glasses and/or contact lenses after your eye exam. You decide where to buy. We recommend BJ's Optical, which is located next to us. You can get high quality glasses and contact lenses with optimal prices without any limitations of choices from insurances.

Who's the Doctor?

Dr. Guo, OD, PhD, graduated from the esteemed New England College of Optometry with Doctor's degree in Optometry, had more than 15,000 patient encounters, provides primary medical and vision eye care.



For appointment:

Call: (203) 732-7638

Message: (203) 503-8832

Email: ovecatbjs@gmail.com

After receiving your email or message, we will contact you within one business day.

Since we are newly opened, we have plenty of exam slots available. Call today to make an appointment!



Students in the 3s class at OCNS enjoyed a fall leaves dance using streamers.



OCNS 5s Kindergarten Readiness class enjoyed an outdoor story time on a beautiful fall day.

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of November 2020



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

2nd	Zoning Board of Appeals7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Country Fair Cmte7:30 pm	HPCC
4th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Conservation Comm.....7:00 pm	HPCC
5th	OGAT7:30 pm	Town Hall
9th	Traffic Authority4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm.....4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Economic Development Comm5:30 pm	Town Hall
	Amity Board of Education6:30 pm	Woodbridge
10th	Inland Wetlands Comm.....7:30 pm	Town Hall
12th	Community Services Comm7:00 pm	HPCC
	Pension Board.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
16th	Family Counseling.....9:00 am	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education7:00 pm	Mary L. Tracy
	Board of Finance.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
17th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
18th	Board of Selectmen7:00 pm	Town Hall
	CERT.....7:00 pm	HPCC
	Park & Recreation Comm.....7:30 pm	Town Hall
19th	Case Memorial Library Comm7:00 pm	Case Memorial Lib.
	Bond Construction Oversight Cmte.....7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Recycling Cmte7:00 pm	HPCC
23rd	Youth Services.....7:30 pm	HPCC
27th	Emergency Management.....8:00 am	Police Station

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

From the Fire Marshal



A Good Time to Check Your Smoke Detectors

The Orange Volunteer Fire Department Is Reminding People To Check Their Smoke Detector Batteries At Least Once A Year

Halloween isn't the only thing happening on October 31 this year. That's also when most people will set their clocks back one hour. It's a good time to check your smoke detector batteries. "With the furniture we have in our homes today, fires and toxic smoke can spread much more rapidly than in the past, when natural materials were used," said Vaughan Dumas, fire chief. "That's why having a sufficient number of well-located, working smoke alarms is essential to give you the most amount of time to get out and get help."

Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, which sometimes are combined in one device, usually hang unnoticed on the ceiling. "When was the last time you checked out your smoke detectors?" asked Dumas.

Smoke detectors should be tested once a month by pressing the test button, according to the National Fire Protection Association. In addition, the NFPA recommends changing batteries at least once a year. "It's always easiest to associate a task with something else going on so you don't forget," said Dumas. "We suggest changing your batteries when you change your clocks." This fall, clocks change at 2 a.m. November 1, so most people will change clocks before going to sleep October 31.

Smoke detectors are an important part of any plan to keep a home safe from fire. Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. "That's why firefighters push the issue of smoke detectors," said Dumas. "Today's alarms react quicker and sound fewer false alarms." Dumas offered these additional points:

- ✓ Smoke detectors that are more than 10 years old need to be replaced;
- ✓ If you replace your detectors, look for devices that say, "Helps reduce

cooking nuisance alarms" beneath the UL label. Those devices meet a new standard designed to differentiate between cooking and other smoke. Smoke detectors still should be at least 10 feet away from cooking equipment. If replacing detectors, they should all be the same brand so they "talk" to each other enabling all the detectors to go off if one goes off;

- ✓ People with hearing deficits can get alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers;
- ✓ Never paint over a smoke or carbon monoxide detector; and
- ✓ Smoke alarms should be inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level.

Those with additional questions about smoke detectors can call the Orange Volunteer Fire Department at (203) 891-4703 or the Fire Marshal's office at (203) 891-4711.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to residents and businesses in Orange and, through mutual aid, surrounding towns. Members receive training in fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials response, homeland security issues and other emergency services.

Operating strictly with revenues from fundraisers and donations, the Orange Volunteer Fire Department is one of the remaining few all-volunteer incorporated fire departments in Connecticut. Active members are on-call to serve the community on a 24-hour/seven-day basis, responding from stations on Orange Center Road and Boston Post Road.

In addition, the fire company offers public education services including lectures, demonstrations and training. For information about membership, donations or public education, call (203) 891-4703, click on <https://www.orangevfd.org/> or find us on Facebook.

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR



Drive In Movie Night Donation

A very special thank you to the Lion's Club of Orange for this extremely generous donation of snacks and candy for the Drive-In Movie night that was held on 10/24/2020. Bags were put together that were given to each car. Thank you Lions!

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Orange Youth Services is offering a Pumpkin Carving Contest for this Fall season! Have fun carving your pumpkin at home and then email in a photo! This is for any/all Orange families with student-age children. The top 5

pumpkins will win a prize. The deadline for submissions is Friday, November 6th, 2020. Email in your photos to the Youth Services Coordinator, Jessica Simone, at jsimone@orange-ct.gov



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Orange Firefighters Honor Deceased Members With Service

Two Additional Members Added To The List Of Firefighters Who Have Died As National Fallen Firefighter Weekend Is Marked

On September 29th members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department quietly honored past members who have died. The annual memorial service usually takes place on Memorial Day.

Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas noted the difference in the timing and circumstances of this year's service as he addressed members. Night was falling and members stood quietly with their heads bowed, their faces masked and with some distance between members. "Had it not been for their contributions," Dumas said of past members, "we wouldn't have the foundation we have today."

Dumas noted that the service couldn't be held on Memorial Day because of the coronavirus, but that Tuesday was an appropriate day because it came in the middle of National Fallen Firefighters Weekend, which runs from September 27 through October 4. In addition to the Orange ceremony, Vaughan thanked firefighters for participating in a state ceremony that added Fire Marshal Tim Smith to a memorial list at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. Smith died in the line of duty in January.

Father Norman Brockett, pastor at Holy Infant Parish and a Fire Department chaplain, offered prayers for the occasion, citing the firefighters' work as inspirational. "We can never repay the sacrifices of these courageous firefighters," he said. "We only acknowledge that they gave all for us. Help us to go forward today having received from these short moments of prayer and meditation a small measure of personal aspiration to be like them in daily small ways."

Dumas noted that in addition to

Smith, Elfo Pol's name was being added to the list of firefighters being remembered. Pol passed away in June.

After Vaughan's comments, he and Deputy Fire Chief Charles Sherwood read the names of the firefighters who had passed away. Those names were:

Charter Members

- › Herbert Achtmeyer
- › William Achtmeyer
- › James Beebe
- › Edwin Boppert
- › Harold Brown
- › John Burns
- › Raymond Carter
- › Benjamin Clark Sr.
- › George Clark
- › Fred Crosby
- › John Demarest
- › John Gardner
- › Clarence Hall
- › Robert Harris
- › Edward J. Harvey
- › W. Arnold Hine
- › Frederick Hine
- › George T. Hine
- › George Johnson
- › William Knight
- › Chester Neal
- › Clarence Northrop
- › Donald Page
- › Edward Savage
- › Elbert Scobie
- › Alton Terrell
- › C.W. Townley
- › Chris Winkle Jr.
- › Robert J. Woodruff

Active

- › Robert T. Baldwin
- › Earl Becker
- › William Brennan
- › John Capecelatro
- › Ralph Capecelatro

- › Jack Crockett
- › Joseph Cuzzocreo
- › John Cuzzocreo
- › James Daniel
- › Dr. H. Lincoln Dunn
- › Arthur Eberlein
- › Andrew Fredericksen
- › W. Earle Fulton
- › Edward Gagel
- › Donald Galligan
- › George W. Gilson
- › Henry Grove
- › Robert K. Hathaway
- › George T. Hine Jr.
- › Ronald Hine
- › John Howell
- › Clark Howlett
- › Ernest Kirchberg
- › Peter Logidice
- › Norvel Lloyd
- › Steven Loomis
- › Gene Lubocki
- › Elmer Manley
- › George McDermott
- › Dr. Leroy Monks
- › John O'Brien
- › William Olesen
- › Axel Petersen
- › Clifford Petersen
- › Fred Pilbro
- › Walter Plummer
- › Elmo Pol
- › James Richitelli
- › Kenneth R. Robinson
- › John Ross
- › Walter Scott
- › James Searles
- › George Smith
- › Timothy P. Smith
- › W. Curtis Sperry
- › William Sutherland
- › James White
- › John P. Wies
- › Thomas M. Wright
- › Joseph Yarosh

- › Harry Zarkos
- › Deceased Active
- › Charles Palmer
- › Frank J. Kelly Jr.
- › John Slater
- › James Moran
- › Kenneth Mitchell Sr.
- › Clayton Pilbro
- › Albert Clark Jr.
- › John Seninowski
- › Joseph Swatt
- › Roger Patrick
- › James Ewen
- › Harrie Patrick
- › Ray Stock
- › Frank W. Knight
- › Honorary Member
- › Harold McGrath Jr.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to residents and businesses in Orange and, through mutual aid, surrounding towns. Members receive training in fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials response, homeland security issues and other emergency services.

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Our thanks goes out to all our donors who have contributed so generously to our effort.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

14th Annual Community-Wide Kristallnacht Commemoration

Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, will hold its 14th Annual Community-Wide Kristallnacht Commemoration on Sunday, November 15th at 9am. This year we will honor the conscience and heroism of Mr. Odd Nansen of Norway.

As Adolf Hitler's noose was tightening around the neck of German Jewry, Odd Nansen, a Norwegian architect, threw himself into the work of providing a safe-haven for Jewish refugees and all who were fleeing Nazi persecution. To that end, he and his wife Kari created "Nansen-hjelpen" ("Nansen-Relief"), a humanitarian organization in Oslo as well as a shelter for refugee children.

On April 9, 1940, Norway was overrun by Nazi Germany. Tragically, by late 1942, most of Nansen's refugees had been systematically murdered by the Nazi regime, along with many of Norway's Jews. However, Nansen's brave staff at the children's shelter managed to rescue 14 children by secretly transporting them to Sweden. These children survived the Holocaust and subsequently found new homes all over the world. Some are believed to still be alive today.

Meanwhile, Odd Nansen joined the Norwegian resistance against the Nazis. He was arrested by the Gestapo in 1942 and deported to the Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, Germany. In Sachsenhausen, Nansen courageously maintained a secret diary on tissue-paper pages. The diary included vivid drawings of the horrific details of camp life as they happened, in real time. The diary and drawings were published after the war and provide an important first-hand



Congregation Or Shalom

account of the atrocities perpetrated at Sachsenhausen. After the war, Nansen published his diary in Norway, where it was and is still widely known. The diary was re-published and annotated in English in 2016 as "From Day to Day" by Timothy Boyce.

At Sachsenhausen, Nansen risked his life to save a ten-year-old Jewish boy named Tommy who had survived the infamous death march from Auschwitz. Today, Tommy is Professor Thomas Buergenthal, a former judge on the International Court of Justice at the Hague and Professor Emeritus at George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC. Years later, Professor Buergenthal would write, "Odd Nansen not only saved my life; he also enriched it with his philosophy of life."

The entire community is invited to join this event, held virtually this year via Zoom. It will begin at 9am with the solemn lighting of a Yellow Holocaust Memorial Candle. Speakers include Timothy Boyce, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom. The Nansen family in Oslo will also participate.

Please contact jewishnewhaven.org/RSVP to register. Pre-registration is required.

A First! Rejoicing With The Torah Outdoors!

On Sunday morning, October 11th Congregation Or Shalom in Orange held its Celebration of Simchat Torah – "Rejoicing with the Torah" – outdoors. Simchat Torah is the annual worldwide celebration of the completion of the reading of the Torah, the first of the bible's books. "The reason for moving our celebration outdoors was to make this event possible for a larger number of participants, in this age of pandemic awareness," commented Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, adding, "Besides, the weather was spectacular!"



Pictured above are Rabbi Wainhaus, President Bob Spaulding and one of the families that attended the celebration.

Holy Infant Church Women's Guild

This past summer, the Holy Infant Church Women's Guild was very proud to present a \$1,000 scholarship to graduating senior Mattea Salati. The scholarship winner is chosen from the parish based on academic achievement, community and school participation, and church service. Mattea's application clearly documented her outstanding efforts and achievements in all of these areas.

Starting the Guild's new year in September, the annual membership tea was cancelled due to COVID 19. The Guild held a Bake-less Bake Sale at the end of the month.

For the October meeting, there was a talk on breast cancer awareness by Dr. Andrea Silver of Yale via remote access by Zoom. The Guild also participated in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event.

The Guild's fundraisers help with larger charitable works such as filling pocketbooks for underprivileged and homeless women in the New Haven area. Last year the Guild was fortunate to donate 70 filled pocketbooks, which were distributed at the Sunrise



Holy Infant Church

Café's Christmas Breakfast. This year we will be very happy to gather about 40 pocketbooks which will be filled at our November meeting with warm hats, gloves, and hygiene products. Throughout the year our ladies bake goodies and collect socks, coats, underwear, and toiletries for a New Haven men's shelter through the Midnight Run program. In November we will purchase and roast turkeys for the New Haven Community Soup Kitchen. Finally, as in past years, the Guild members are blessed to be able to purchase Christmas gifts for needy families. That brings us to December, the end of 2020 and with great hope for the beginning of a better new year.

Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm

Outdoor Services (weather permitting)

- › Sundays 9:00 am**
- › Mondays 5:45 pm**
- › Saturdays 9:30 am

** also available via Zoom, like other daily services



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Children's Services

Children's Havura (up to age 5) and K-2 Kehila hold outdoor Shabbat services in the BEKI courtyard. For more information, consult Youth & Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff, anormanschiff@beki.org.

Youth Group Event

BEKI's USYers will pack Thanksgiving baskets for food insecure families on Sunday, November 22. For more information, contact Annie Norman-Schiff.

Wednesday Schmoozes

BEKI high school students will take on chess master Jim Eade, best known for his books "Chess for Dummies" and

"The Chess Player's Bible," in an hour of chess playing, commentary and learning on November 4.

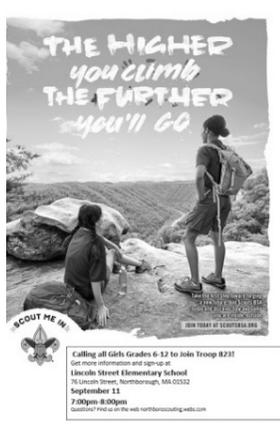
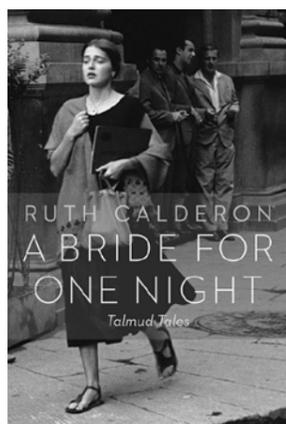
BEKI's film and discussion series about racial justice starts on November 11 with a discussion of the film "I Am Not Your Negro," a 2016 award-winning documentary, narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, about James Baldwin's observations on American race relations.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker will be the guest for a Town Hall discussion on November 18.

On December 2, Corey Stone, who was part of the executive team at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will discuss issues of debt, debt

See "Beth-El Keser" On Page 23

HOUSES OF WORSHIP



Congregation B’Nai Jacob Events

Our Building is Closed, but Our Community is Open!

Please join us on Livestream or Zoom! To register for a Zoom event, please call the office at (203)389-2111.

Weekend Happenings

Friday
› 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat - on Zoom only

Saturday
› 9:00 am Bread & Torah
› 10:00am Shabbat service - live in the tent weather permitting and on Zoom

Sunday
› 9:00am Sunday School on Zoom

Upcoming Classes & Events

Rabbi Shapiro’s Fall Class
A Bride for One Night

Mondays, 7:30-9:00pm
On Zoom:
› November 2, 9,16,30
› December 7, 14, 21
› January 4, 11

In her engaging book, “A Bride for the Night,” Ruth Calderon rewrote Talmudic tales as richly imagined short stories, affording the reader an entrance into the fascinating world of this core ancient text. We will read the stories in their original in the Talmud as well as reading Calderon’s retellings of them. We will embark on an imaginative journey into the world of the Talmud and get to know it in new and surprising ways. No background or Hebrew necessary. All are welcome. Zoom only — zoom link will be sent to participants upon registration. To register, email office@bnaijacob.org or call 203-389-2111.

Family Learning

The best Jewish education is family education, when a whole family engages in learning together. We are excited to do this once a month with all of you, as the situation allows.

Our First MONTHLY In-Person Family Workshop

On the Doorposts of Your House and Upon Your Gates

Sunday morning, November 8, 10:00am - 12:00pm
We will make beautiful mezuzot that you can proudly display at home and learn all about why we have mezuzot, what’s inside them, and why.

We will hold this program safely distanced, in our auditorium with a table for each family. Masks will be worn at all times and bathroom use will be one person at a time. If the weather permits, we will have snacks outdoors. If the guidelines change, we will modify the plan.

This program is part of the religious school, open for all children 12 and under with a parent and/or grandparent. Siblings welcome.

Newcomers welcome - please call the office for more information. (203) 389-2111
RSVP by November 1 so we can prepare supplies and the room as needed.

Adult Ed Speaker - on Zoom

Daniel Headrick, Ph.D.

Sunday, December, 10am
“Climate Change: A New Perspective”

This talk draws on Professor Headrick’s book, “Humans Versus Nature: A Global Environmental History.” Please call the office to register (203) 389-2111.

Attention Boys & Girls Ages 11-17!

Join the fun and adventure of Scouts BSA!

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Camping, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, and roasting marshmallows around a campfire are just a few of the things that Scouts can do with their friends. For more information contact Jonathan Glassman at 203-701-8522.

DID YOU KNOW? Is A Family Asset Protection Trust Right For You?

Are you married? Does one of you depend on the other for help with activities of daily living? Are you concerned that the surviving spouse may not be able to live independently if the “helper spouse” died first? If you answered “yes” to those questions, you may benefit from a Family Asset Protection Trust (“FAPT”).

What is a FAPT and how does a FAPT work?

- It is a testamentary trust that sets aside assets after your death for the benefit of the surviving spouse, rather than giving assets outright to your spouse.
- It shelters the assets in the FAPT to protect those assets should the surviving spouse apply for Medicaid (Title XIX). That is because the assets in the FAPT will not be considered owned by the surviving spouse or available to the surviving spouse when determining eligibility.
- Even though assets in the FAPT are not considered available to the surviving spouse, the Trustee(s) (typically a child or children) has the discretion to use assets in the FAPT to provide the surviving spouse with income and/or assets to pay for things the surviving spouse needs.
- Any assets that have been protected in the FAPT that are not used by the surviving spouse can pass down to children/grandchildren without needing to “pay back” for Medicaid benefits the surviving spouse received.

If you want to protect assets and be able to pass something down to children/grandchildren, but worry that the high cost of long term care may prevent you from doing that, a FAPT may be right for you. If you have questions about the FAPT we would be happy to speak with you during a no-charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



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

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FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

BY DENNIS MARSH

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

New Software

During the Covid quarantine we stayed busy. Orange Community Services installed new software. Senior Center members will be given a key tag to use at a new kiosk which will be in the HPCC front lobby. You will use the key card to sign in for classes, activities and volunteering. More information to follow.

Virtual Show

Join Friendship Tours FREE Virtual Show featuring the amazing Edward Twins on November 17 at 6:30pm. Registration is required. To register go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIoFuCvrDivHtYI-AeLtEPqZE6hYuwwlSHRq>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the show. See a preview of the show on our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BM-p71M93LcE>. See a message from the Edwards Twin about the show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-8qsuEMeL3s>.

8qsuEMeL3s.

Virtual Classes

If you would like to participate in David Chandler's Tai Chi via Zoom—call the office with your email and we will ask the instructor to email you an invite.

If you would like to participate in Chair Exercise while at home, visit the Town Website at Orange-ct.gov and under Departments you will see a link to the Senior Center. There you will find the Chair Exercise video - <https://media.discovervideo.com/show?v=2e01f56ca0&vt=1&ch=f0ba0e7d06>. Chair Exercise has resumed Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 11:00am. Details are subject to change as warranted.

Classes

In order to begin to reopen the senior center for activities we must adhere to state guidelines. At this point in time we must wear facial coverages and practice 6 feet of social distancing. All classes must be signed up for in advance in the senior center office.

Some classes are coming back, and others are planned to be back:

Afghan Ladies 4th Monday at 1:00pm in Senior Lounge. Next meeting is November 23;

Bocce meets Wednesday at 10:00am at the Bocce Court;

Fitness Tuesday & Thursday at 8:30am with Danielle in Café;

Laughter Yoga meets Wednesday at 11:00am;

Yoga Monday with Andrea at 9:00am in room 3 & 5;

Yoga Wednesday with Andrea at 9:30am in room 3 & 5; and

Zumba Gold Friday with Danielle at 8:30am in Café.

Frozen Meals

There is a special meal program consisting of a box of 5 frozen meals during the Covid-19 pandemic. We can deliver the meals, or you can come by and pick the meals up. Delivery is only available to Orange residents. Call the office to complete an application. A suggested donation of \$3 per meal would be greatly appreciated.

Community Services has an Emergency Food Bank available for Orange residents in need. Call (203) 891-4788 for assistance.

AARP Safe Driving Courses

AARP announced that all in-person AARP activities have been canceled through the end of 2020. AARP Smart Driver online course is an alternative, especially for those who need to renew their car insurance discount. AARP has extended its special 25% off discount through the end of the year.

Website: www.aarpdriversafety.org
Promo code for 25% discount: DRIVINGSKILLS
Good through December 31, 2020

Legal Clinic

We are resuming our Legal Clinic services. Attorney Floman DePaola's office will conduct appointments via telephone on the first Wednesday of the month. Appointments will be for 1/2 an hour beginning at 9:00am. Please call the senior center at 203-891-4788 to schedule an appointment. We will forward the schedule to Floman DePaola office who will then contact you at the scheduled time. Please be home for the appointment.

Medicare Seminars

Join us when Marc Figlar presents Connecticut Care on November 2, United Health Care on November 9, Anthem on November 16, Carepartners on November 23, and Wellcare on November 30; all at 1:00pm.

All seminars will be held at the Community Center. Remember, we will be maintaining social distance and wearing facial coverings. Seating is limited due to Covid so you will need to preregister at (203) 891-4788.

Trips

All Senior Center trips through 2020 are canceled.

Medicare Seminar

BY DENISE STEIN

So it is not too late to come and join a Medicare Seminar. In November we will have Connecticut on Nov,2; United Health Care on Nov 9; Anthem on Nov. 16, Carepartners Nov, 23 and Wellcare on Nov, 30.

All seminars will be held at the Community Center at 1:00. Reservations are required so that we may follow Covid-19 regulations.

If interested please call the office at 203-891-4788 for an appointment. We look forward to seeing you soon.

VA Dedicates West Haven Annex

VA Connecticut Healthcare System dedicated the opening of the West Haven Annex, 200 Edison Road in Orange during a 10am ceremony on October 16. The Honorable Pamela J. Powers, Acting VA Deputy Secretary was scheduled to appear. Masks were required. Social distancing was observed.

The annex is a new 45,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that will house outpatient programs formerly located at the Errera Community Care Center in West Haven. The annex will serve more than 2,300 veterans experiencing serious mental illness, substance use disorders, homelessness and housing issues.

Having outgrown its space in a converted factory in West Haven, this new location allows VA Connecticut to expand services to help veterans obtain their goals to live successfully and as productive citizens. The outpatient programs include:

- › Substance use group programming;
- › Mental health case management

- › programs (a national model);
- › Wellness center including a gym that promotes Whole Health and focuses on wellness and strengths of individuals;
- › Therapeutic Supported Employment Services; and
- › Recovery-oriented group programming that teaches real world skills and coping strategies.

There is a new veteran computer lab developed with a nonprofit partner to provide Veterans with technology, equipment and skills to help them search for jobs, develop resumes, explore educational opportunities and find housing.

The annex has a full kitchen to provide nutritious therapeutic lunches and where Veterans can work with a dietitian to develop healthy habits. Veterans can also practice interpersonal skills that they learn in group formats when sharing their meal together.

Several national VA program offices will also be housed at this location.

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“\$50K Challenge” From Page 4

Charlie Sherwood: You know, people don't spend money on things that don't mean anything to them. People spend money on things that mean something to them. And all of these people – THE ORANGE ARMY, as we now call them – thought so well of us that they stepped up and contributed. To be part of the OVFD and to be thought of in this way...It's a privilege really. Rewarding stuff.

OVFD: Why I Serve

Bert Gallant: I Love the Town and the OVFD Department. I love being involved in it. I love the fact that I can contribute something. My OVFD participation has evolved. I started by working as a Volunteer at the Carnival. Currently, my work is more “behind the scenes” tending to the books, the

budget process, & serving on Committees. I make a contribution that is noticed & appreciated. And I enjoy the satisfaction that I get from making that contribution. It enriches you, and I am proud to be part of the OVFD organization. So even if you are not an active Fire-Fighter, there are opportunities in the OVFD to contribute & to serve.

Charlie Sherwood: It's empowering. It's rewarding. It's exciting. For example, you get a call in the middle of the night, a CO alarm. You go to the house, your neighbor's house – most often a neighbor unknown at the outset – and you address the matter. You solve the problem. “All is Okay” you tell them. The appreciative words come back “Thank you.” But it's more. It's the building of these relationships with the population across the Town of Orange. These are the valuable things in life.

And it results – over years & years – in building trust.

Bert Gallant: It's a culture of giving. It's a culture of wanting to give. I see it now in Father-Daughter relationships in the OVFD. That we are all in this Together. You know, when on the OVFD it's the whole family that contributes. You may miss the Turkey on Thanksgiving, or part of a celebration event. So, it's the whole family that sacrifices when a spouse is out on a call.

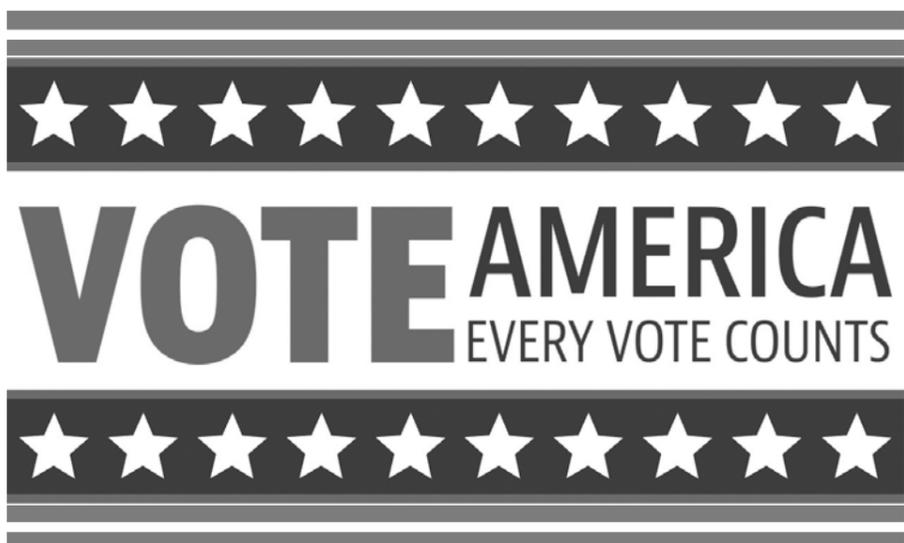
It's Love of Community, a Love of Serving the Community. The whole Town of Orange is like that. For me, that makes it feel like part of a Family.

Charlie Sherwood: If you have a value in yourself for commitment, if you have a value in yourself for helping others, then consider participating in the OVFD & providing emergency service response. I've been doing this for over 50 years and it never gets tiring.

Or Boring. And it's a good feeling mentoring younger members and working with past OVFD Chiefs (Fred Knight, Charlie Gagel, John Knight) and the current Chief, Vaughan Dumas, to ensure that the OVFD can help the people of the Town in the future. I would love to know that the OVFD will be serving the community when it reaches “150 years of service.”

As we wind down this project, you can still join the Team. It's the last chance. Join THE ORANGE ARMY. Become involved in “Fire Truck \$50K Challenge.” By doing so, you'll make a measurable difference.

Every contribution – no matter the size -- is valued. The link to the GoFundMe page is on the Town website www.orange-ct.gov or on the OVFD website www.orangevfd.org. Checks can be mailed directly: OVFD, P.O. Box 878, Orange, CT 06477. Thank you.



“Beth-El Keser” From Page 20

forgiveness, bankruptcy and finances through the lens of Jewish texts.

From 8:00 to 9:00pm on Zoom, BEKI Schmoozes include a presentation and time for questions. To request the link, email office@beki.org.

Separation and Survival

Daphne Geismar, author of the new book “Invisible Years” about her Jewish family's years of hiding in the Netherlands during WWII, will speak at the Zoom Schmooze 11 am, Sunday, December 6.

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

A Family's Account of

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

The Orange Historical Society

Below are just a few of the wonderful things for sale that can be seen Saturdays from 10-3 at 605 Orange Center Road.

Come browse in the museum and the “furniture barn” out back.



For information call 203-795-3106



That's What Library Friends Are For

Over the past few years, the Friends of the Case Memorial Library have donated over \$25,000 to the library for programs and services, with funds accrued from the sale of used book donations from the community.

The mission of the Friends is to extend literacy and cultural programs to everyone in the community. Friends' programs have included bluegrass, gospel, jazz, folk, and classical music presentations, as well as cooking demonstrations. The Friends also sponsor Storytime for Toddlers, Craft and Music programs for Tweens and Young Adults and the Summer Reading Program.

Expanding services beyond the library building, the Friends subsidize Museum Passes for free or reduced admission to 25 museums and cultural attractions in Connecticut, such as the Barnum Museum, Beardsley Zoo, Discovery Museum and Planetarium, Mark Twain House, Mystic Aquarium/Seaport, New Britain Museum of American Art, New England Air Museum, Peabody Museum and Shore Line Trolley Museum.

Another Friends' program, the an-

nual Oscar nominee films are offered in the afternoon (with closed captions) and evening showings.

In memory of one of the founding Friends, the Friends award the annual Lucy Scillia Scholarship of \$1000.00 to a Senior in an area high school who plans to pursue a college degree at an accredited university or college.

The Friends' renewal of "The Book Page", a newspaper about new and noteworthy books is free for library patrons. The Friends also fund additional copies of popular books to accommodate increased demand.

At Christmastime, the Friends invite local business and non-profit groups to provide festive theme-related decorations for the library.

The Friends appreciate all community book donations for resale, providing funds for programs and activities. Besides book sales, used books, priced at \$2.00 each, are always available in the Friends' Bookcase adjacent to the main entrance. Because of limited activities due to COVID, this is a great time to weed home bookshelves, in readiness for funding future programs of the Friends when the library reopens.



Get to Know Jack of the Lantern

The toothy grins of jack-o'-lanterns are as much a part of Halloween as candy corn and costumes. Even though these carved pumpkins have become synonymous with Halloween, the festive gourds weren't always tied to the October holiday.

The history behind jack-o'-lanterns is not entirely known and there are multiple origin stories, but people may have been making these carvings for centuries.

One tale traces the origin back to Ireland and a popular Irish myth. According to History.com, the tradition involves a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." As the story goes, Stingy Jack invited the devil to share a drink with him. Being the cheapskate his name implies, Jack didn't want to pay for the drinks, and he convinced the devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy the beverages. After the devil transformed, Stingy Jack instead pocketed the money and placed it next to a silver cross, which prevented the devil from changing back into his original form. Jack made the devil promise that should Jack die, he wouldn't claim his soul. Eventually Jack freed the devil, but not before he tricked him again with another con.

When Stingy Jack eventually died, legend states God would not allow such a trickster and unsavory character into heaven. The devil could not claim Jack's soul as promised, but he

was upset by the tricks Jack had played. In turn, the devil then sent Jack off to wander the dark night infinitely with only a burning coal to light the path. Stingy Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been traversing the planet ever since. Irish storytellers first began to refer to Jack's specter as "Jack of the Lantern." Eventually the name was shortened to "Jack O'Lantern."

There are other origin stories regarding jack-o'-lanterns. Some say the term originated in 17th century Britain, where it was often customary to call men whose names were unknown a common moniker like "Jack." Night watchmen who carried lanterns might have been called "Jack with the lantern." Other theories connect jack-o'-lanterns to the Celtic pagan practice of hallowing out root vegetables and carving them with grotesque faces. Illuminated by coal or candles, these items served to ward off evil spirits. When settlers came from Europe to America, where turnips and other root vegetables were scarce, they used native pumpkins instead.

Jack-o'-lanterns are often seen lighting up the Halloween night. There are various theories regarding the origins of the carved gourds. While the truth may never be fully known, it's fun to learn about the various origin stories connected to this popular symbol of Halloween.

"Fire Truck \$50K Challenge" LAST CALL: Join the Team



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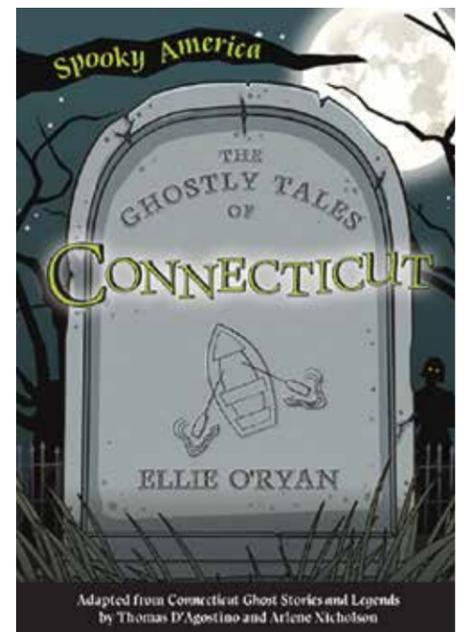
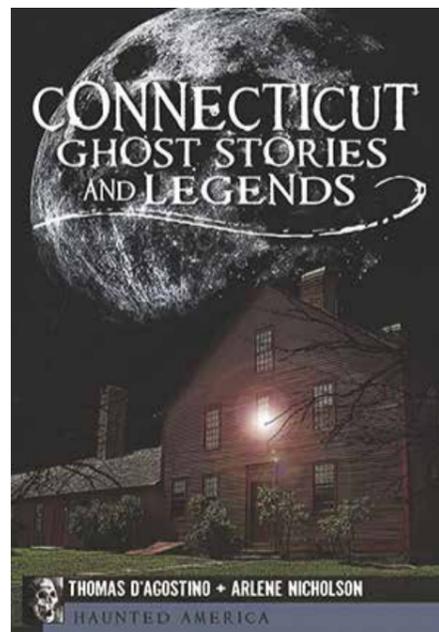
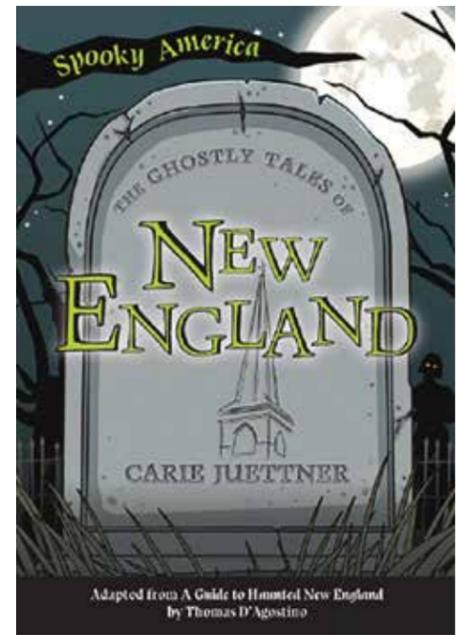
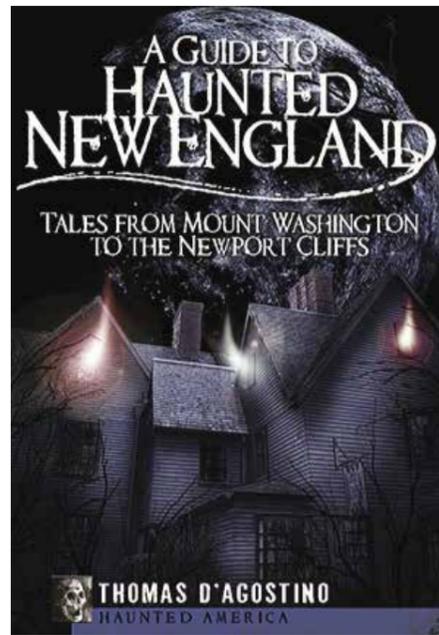
Coach Sobel's Hoop Heaven Clinics

Coach Steve Sobel will be holding the Hoop Heaven Clinics on November 14th at the CT Sports Center in Woodbridge, CT. Coach Sobel, along with a few other coaches, will be helping kids develop their skills to prepare for the return of basketball, while adhering to all COVID guidelines. The clinics will be open to boys and girls in grades 4-12.

The clinic on the 14th will be split into three sessions: Session 1 (9-10:30 AM), Session 2 (11-12:30 PM) and Session 3 (1-2:30 PM). Session 3 will be only for high schoolers and will be focused on elite shooting and skills training. All COVID guidelines, including wearing masks into the facility and taking players' temperatures, will be followed. The price per session will be \$29.00.

Dr. Steve Sobel is a renowned basketball coach, college professor, and motivational speaker. Dr. Sobel has been coaching basketball for over 40 years and has helped the careers of many successful basketball stars in the Connecticut area, including Kevin Freeman (former UConn standout) and Jeremy Lamb (Indiana Pacers). Coach Sobel also currently coaches and trains several young players from across Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Coach Sobel's Hoop Heaven Clinics are a great opportunity for young players of all ages to sharpen their skills and enhance their passion for the game of basketball. For more information about registration, please contact John LaFrance at john@johnlafrance.com or 475-201-6515.

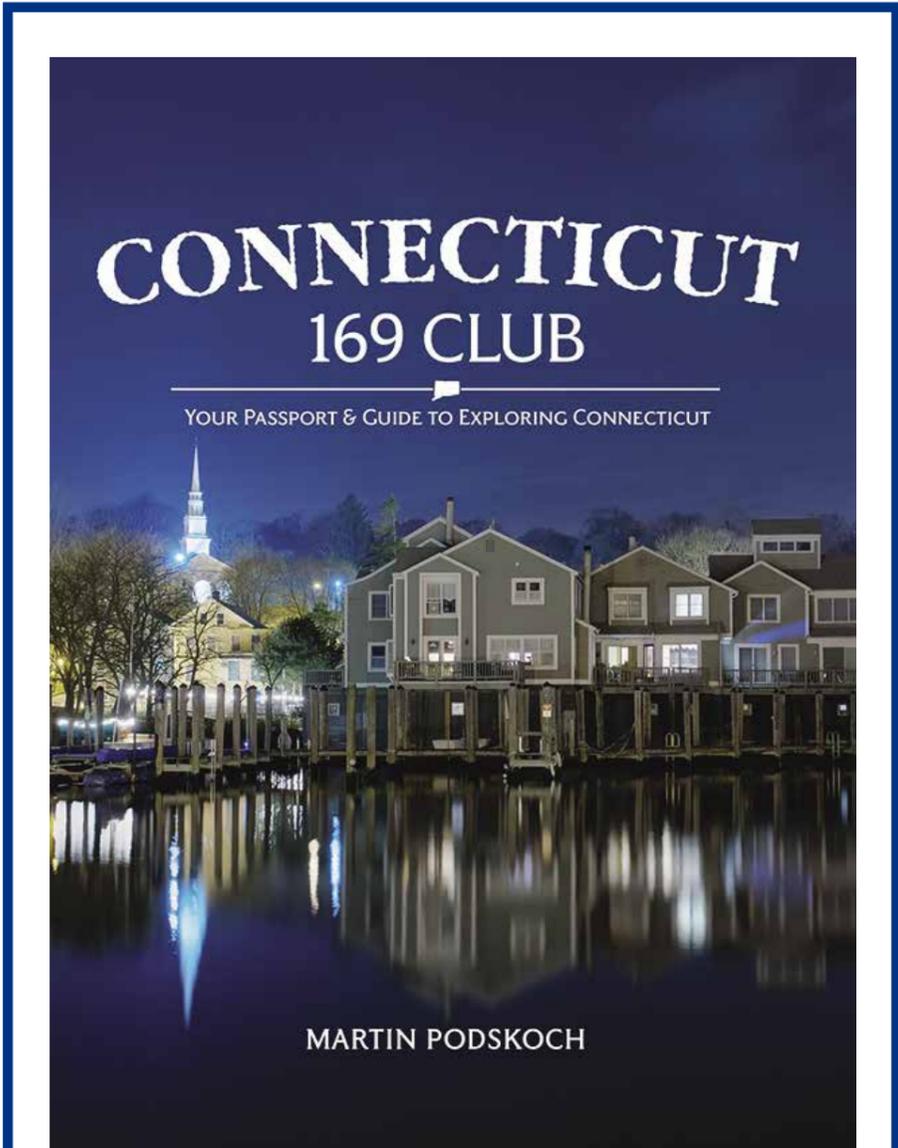


Coming Soon THE GHOSTLY TALES OF CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND

Tales of mysteries and legends of colonial times will greet you as you read about Connecticut's haunted history. Once called the Nutmeg state, Connecticut's mysterious legends come to life even though the main players are dead. If the Connecticut book isn't enough to scare you, be sure to read the ghostly Tales of New England. So, dive into these chapter books but be

sure to leave a light on...

The Orange Historical Society will have these books for sale at \$12.99 each in the near future at its antique shop in the Academy Building, 605 Orange Center Road; hours: Saturdays, 10am-3pm. For information, call 203-795-3106, visit our website: www.orangehistory.org or email us at orangehistorical@yahoo.com.



The 169 Club book is available at the Academy Museum at 605 Orange Center Road on Saturdays from 9-3.

Ask the author of the Orange page to sign it for you.

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HISTORY CORNER

BY GINNY REINHARD

Did You Get Away...?

Col. Thomas Knowlton

If you didn't get to Tolland County with my last story, then plan two counties at once with Windham County, just next door, to the east. Ashford is the first stop in what is known as the quiet corner and believe me, driving through woods to get to my destination was quite quiet indeed. Formally New Scituate, Ashford was settled in 1710. During the Revolutionary War, the famous Knowlton's Raiders were led by Col. Thomas Knowlton with 75 men going to Boston to fight the British at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Often the name Breed's Hill is associated with the name Bunker Hill. Knowlton was covering a retreat of Washington's troops on Long Island where he was mortally wounded in battle in September of 1776.

Ashford has many old buildings dating back to the 18th century and was a farming community as were so many of our towns in Connecticut. A committee elected by an Annual Town Meeting was charged with providing farmers with the fastest and safest routes to market, with direct routes from Hartford to Boston and Providence. Taverns, hotels and blacksmith shops grew along the well-traveled highways and as the population grew, tanneries, carpenter shops, grist mills and dairy farms provided additional opportunities for its citizenry.

Just a hop, skip and a jump, to the south, is Chaplin with 30% of its land being preserved with a State forest, Joshua's Trust, a private trust and the Legacy Program, a state and federally funded land preservation program. As with many early towns, church going

involved going long distances. Benjamin Chaplin, a wealthy deacon of the Mansfield church built his home on the Natchaug River* but before he died, in 1795, he gave \$1500 to finance a new meetinghouse (church) about a mile from his home.

The Historic District is known as the Village with homes in the Federal and Greek Revival style. Although the old post office, country store and tavern are missing, the Village still has the charm of a street, suspended in time. There are some working farms but Chaplin has many of its citizens employed at the University of Connecticut. One of the more famous aspects of Chaplin is Diana's Pool, located in the Natchaug River where fishermen enjoy a day along a quiet riverbed and visitors from around New England come to photograph the pool. Sound interesting?

Eastford is just to the north of Chaplin where Connecticut Magazine named it the best small town in the state, in 1993. Originally part of Ashford, Eastford was first settled in 1711 with 28.6 square miles covered by two major forests today. The Natchaug State Forest offers fishing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding with private campgrounds. The Yale Myers Forest is Yale University's main forestry training center and one of Connecticut's top ten birding sites on the Nipmunk Trail.

Eastford is loved by astronomers for its dark night skies. I bet you can see the Milky Way up there. At one time, Eastford was an agricultural community but with its vast waterways, early industry sprang up with all types of mills; grain, lumber, cotton, wool, silk, as well as an iron foundry. A clover seed mill produced 20,000 pounds of seed annually. Do you know what the clover plants were used for? Industry flour-

ished with palm leaf hats, cart wheels, cotton mattresses, carriages, wooden washing machines, twine, furniture, wooden handles and the ever-loved baseball bats.

Isaac Magoon

Within walking distance of the town center of Scotland is the birthplace of Samuel Huntington, one of its most prominent citizens. Huntington was one of four signers of the Declaration of Independence** from Connecticut and after returning to Connecticut, he was elected governor in 1786, a position he held until 1796. The Town of Scotland was settled in 1700 and is predominantly rural with small farms having the honor of being the eighth smallest town in our state.

The Scottish Highland Festival Association, New England's largest Scottish event is held in Scotland, the town being named by Isaac Magoon, one of its first settlers because it reminded him of his origins in Scotland. Once a farming town, it is now a community of citizens working in other towns while being part of what is a picturesque, historic and quaint place to live.

To the east of Scotland is Canterbury, along the Quinnebaug River. The first inhabitants were the Peagscomsuck Native Americans. The name Canterbury, from Kent England, made famous by Chaucer with his Canterbury Tales, is the origin of the name for this Connecticut town. Many settlers, during the 18th century, established farms and with rivers and streams, power was generated for mills, both textile and grist. Moses Cleaveland, a Canterbury resident, led his fellow citizens to the west and founded Cleve-

land, Ohio. The northern portion of Ohio was once a Connecticut Reserve and many Connecticut town and city names can be seen there today.

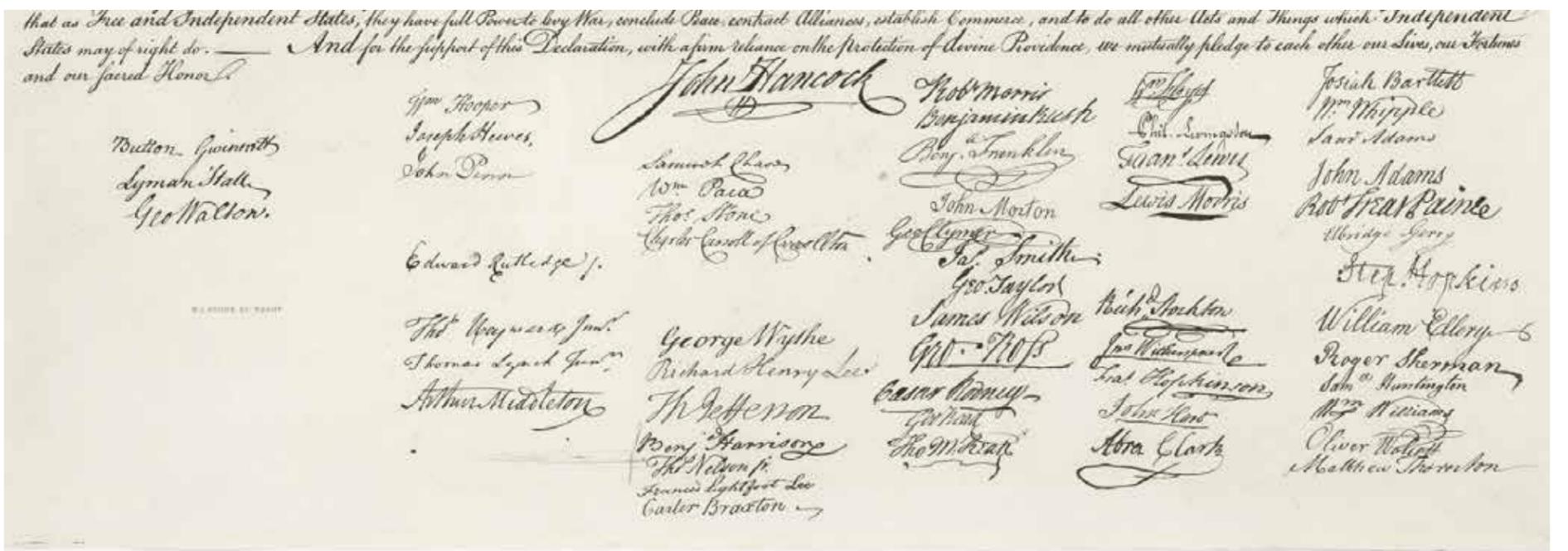
Prudence Crandall

Another famous resident was Prudence Crandall who established the Canterbury Female Boarding School in 1831 which provided a varied curriculum for girls. In 1833, Miss Crandall welcomed 20-year-old Sarah Harris, an African-American girl who wished to become a teacher. The Caucasian girls soon withdrew from her school and it became a school "for young ladies and little misses of color." Girls from several states came to attend the school but Crandall faced legal harassment and social ridicule for her efforts to educate black girls. The Connecticut legislature passed the Black Law which stated that no out-of-state black student could be educated there and the school was forced to close.

Today, the Prudence Crandall Museum is a National Historic Landmark and it is said that her school was the first integrated school in the country. Prudence Crandall is Connecticut's State Heroine. Oh, did I forget to tell you, last time, that Nathan Hale is Connecticut's State Hero? You'll have to look back at my last article to check on me. Until the next trip...Enjoy Connecticut.

*Native American word meaning "land between two rivers."

**Samuel Huntington's signature is to the right under Roger Sherman and no, John Hancock was not from CT, he was from Massachusetts.



Signatures of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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-Mike Southworth

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