

Orange Town News



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

VOL. 18 – ISSUE 11

CIRCULATION 6070

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023



Left to right: 1.) James Zeoli is sworn in for his 10th term as Orange first selectman. 2.) The Board of Selectmen winners are sworn in: John Carangelo, Mitch Goldblatt, Ralph Okenquist, Judy Wright Williams & PJ Shanley. 3.) Tax Collector Thomas Hurley takes the oath of office. 4.) Town Clerk Mary Shaw is sworn in for her 2nd term. 5.) Board of Finance members James Leahy, Kevin Houlihan and Anna Mahon are sworn into office. 6.) Amity Board of Education members Paul Davis, who currently chairs the board, and three new members Michael McDonough, Dana Lombardi and Cathy Bradley take their oaths.

Zeoli Sworn In for His 10th Term as Orange First Selectman

The Swearing-In Ceremony of newly elected Town Officials was held on Friday November 17th at High Plains Community Center. It was the 10th Inauguration of First Selectman James M. Zeoli who will be serving his nineteenth and twentieth years as First

Selectman of The Town of Orange. Dominick Lombardi was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Honored guests who participated in the event included Father Peter Orfanakos of St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church, Orange Police De-

partment Honor Guard, Commander Lewis Merritt of American Legion Post 127, singers from Amity High School, and State Representative of the 119th District Kathy Kennedy was the guest speaker. Attorney Win Smith III had

the honor of swearing in all the candidates. Other honored guests in attendance were State Representative of the 114th District Mary Welander and Tony Giannattasio the Mayor Elect of Milford.

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This is another program that will continue to educate us about Connecticut History. Reservations are required and may be made by phone at 203.891.2170 or online at www.case-memoriamlibrary.org. The link to the program will be emailed to you earlier on the day of the presentation.

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To Submit a Letter to the Editor mail us

or Email your letter to: letters@orangetownnews.com

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

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Orange Town News

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

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

February 9 | Valentine's Day Issue.....

March 8 | St. Patrick's Day Issue.....


Issue Deadline

February 2

March 1

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

FROM OUR READERS



National CAP Wreaths Across America Campaign

I write to provide information for you to share with the Orange Connecticut Veterans concerning this year's National CAP Wreaths Across America campaign to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Every December, it is a Civil Air Patrol holiday tradition observed by all 52 CAP wings and even abroad. Thousands of CAP officers and cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances to honor our nation's fallen. They present the colors, deliver orations and place veteran's wreaths on headstones at national and local cemeteries and war memorials. Last year, more than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veteran's graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad. Members of Civil Air Patrol's CT Minuteman Squadron, located at Tweed New Haven Airport are proud to partner once more with Wreaths Across America. Wreaths Across America culminates this year on Saturday, December 16th, 2023 with an estimated 90,000+ volunteers placing 244,700 wreaths on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery and many of Arlington's memorials, including the Tomb of the Unknowns. Simultaneous ceremonies will be held throughout the day at over 1,400 cemeteries or war memorial sites in all 50 states, as well as over 20 foreign locations.

The CT Minuteman Composite Squadron, CAP based at Tweed New Haven Airport, in association with the Orange Cemetery Association, the New Haven Rotary and American Legion Orange Post 127 has selected the Orange Cemetery in Orange CT for the Veterans Wreath laying Ceremony this year. Wreaths will be placed on veteran grave sites in the cemetery on December 16th. A short ceremony will be held at 8AM at the cemetery preceding the wreath laying. Those who wish to make a donation or purchase wreaths may do so at sqr.co/wreaths or contact Sandra Garay 1st Lt. at sandra@heart-strongeducation.com.

Sandra Garay

A Call for Civility and Merit in Orange Politics

I extend my warm congratulations to all candidates who emerged victorious in the recent municipal elections. As the Campaign Chair for the Orange Republican Party, I take immense pride in the integrity and dedication of our campaign and the caliber of candidates we presented.

However, it's disheartening to witness the divisive tactics employed by our counterparts. The refusal of a joint debate, the circulation of blatantly misleading and aggressive attack mailers, and the attempt to inappropriately associate our local Board of Education candidates with national Republican figures were deeply troubling. Such actions starkly contrast with Orange's longstanding tradition of civility and respect in political discourse.

In Orange, we have always held ourselves to a higher standard, particularly during campaigns. As the Campaign Chair, I prioritized maintaining this decorum. Despite tempting opportunities to retaliate against what we perceived as an unqualified and radical slate of Democratic candidates; we chose to rise above. Our campaign focused solely on the strengths, qualifications, and proven track record of our candidates, particularly under the successful Zeoli Administration.

See "Letters" On Page 15

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.

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Amity Contract Seeks to Attract New Teachers

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to stem the tide of teachers leaving the district and to support teacher retention, the Amity Board of Education and the Teachers Union have agreed to an unprecedented 13.5% salary increase spread over the next three school years. “Both the administration team and the Board of Education are in support of a teacher’s contract that both attracts new teachers to the district to fill vacancies and supports teacher retention to limit the disruption of education to our students,” wrote Amity Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars in an email. The contract will cover the years starting July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027.

Many industries have seen large turnover rates in the wake of the pandemic, but teacher burnout, in particular, has been in the headlines nation-wide and led to pockets of shortages.

Amity has seen its share of teachers leaving, some choosing to retire and others leaving to join higher-paying districts or to leave the profession altogether. Amity Education Association (AEA) President Patrick Cumpstone said since the beginning of the Covid pandemic in 2020, some 56 teachers had left the district. That figure represents about 25% of the faculty, according to Cumpstone. His union

represents 227 teachers spread among the high school and two middle schools.

This level of turnover is unusual for the Amity district, especially given it occurred partly during the school year. For the teachers who are staying that often means taking on more responsibility to cover for colleagues until new hires can take over. But filling openings takes time. Seeing long-time colleagues move on also takes an emotional toll. Moreover, the turnover has an impact on students, academically and emotionally, especially when it occurs during the school year.

The focus during the negotiations this year was on wages, Cumpstone said. Even so, the 13.5% increase does not mean that all teachers will walk away with a 13.5% wage increase. It is an overall number that describes a web of working conditions and remuneration which rewards longevity and academic advancement, but seeks to make it easier for new hires to build a career at Amity.

The contract reduces the step scale – which increases the salary each year a teacher is at Amity – from currently 13 steps to 12, which allows them to reach the top faster, Cumpstone said. It also cuts steps 1, 2 and 3, thereby creating a starting salary of over \$60,000 for a candidate with a Master’s degree. Step increases themselves make up almost 7% of the wage increase, without add-

ing in the general wage increase.

A major benefit for young families is that starting in July 2024 the contract will allow those expecting to grow their family – either by birth or by adoption – to add accrued sick time when on approved Family Medical Leave. It means up to 12 weeks of paid maternity/paternity leave.

New in the contract is a tuition reimbursement program for teachers who pursue an advanced degree. Cumpstone said some 15-20 teachers had expressed an interest. This feature, according to Dr. Byars, not only makes Amity’s contract competitive with other school districts, but also supports the district’s strategic goal to provide teachers with opportunities for professional development and learning.

Dr. Byars pointed out that revisions to the sections of the contract addressing class size will provide the administration with more flexibility and options if school schedule changes are ever needed.

The contract provides that at the middle school, class sizes shall be no greater than 22 students, with the exception of accelerated math, which shall be no greater than 28 students. At the high school, class sizes shall be no greater than 27 students. Physical education classes shall be no greater than 35 students.

At the same time, the contract pro-

vides that “in unusual circumstances, the class size or the total class teaching load may be modified.” Similarly, courses meeting fewer than three times per four-day rotation shall not be subject to the provisions of [the total class load as described in] Article V, Section A.2.

Negotiations for the contract ended in mediation, but both sides seemed eager to support the final contract. Cumpstone said in his view, both the Board of Education and the administration shared the concerns brought forward by the teachers. “They value our teachers,” he said, adding, “we understand that they also have an obligation to the towns.”

Dr. Byars expressed a more muted support. “Overall, we were very pleased to have reached an agreement through the mediation process and without having to go to arbitration,” she wrote. When asked about the towns’ input, she pointed out that the selectmen have the option by law to reject the contract, up to 30 days after it was filed, but warned that such action would move it into arbitration.

Budget impact: Given that salaries account for approximately 60% of the Amity budget, Dr. Byars said she expects the annual salary increase in the 2024-25 budget to be greater than 4%. “The budget will have to increase proportionally to maintain our current programs,” she wrote.

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what’s going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

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Orange Town News

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Peck Place School Honors Veterans

The students and staff of The Peck Place School gathered together to honor our veterans who fought and served for our country. Veterans related to students and staff were treated to refreshments and a musical event which included the voices of all students from grades 1-6. In addition, the veterans

viewed a slide show honoring the veterans and learned about the military branch they served in and their connection to the school. It was a wonderful and important way to honor our veterans who have sacrificed so much and to teach students what Veterans Day is all about.

EDUCATION

Preschool Lottery

*“Limited Openings” for 2024-25 Community
Peer/Tuition Based Program*

The Orange Elementary School System is now accepting names for the “Lottery” for the 2024-2025 Preschool Program at Mary L. Tracy School. Our Special Education/General Education integrated preschool is looking for three- and four-year old children to enroll as community peers and positive role models. This program enriches each child’s social, emotional, physical, cognitive, intellectual, and creative abilities through early academic and social experiences. It is designed to prepare the children for early success and school readiness. By law, students with special needs identified with an IEP are placed in the Preschool Program by the Dept. of Special Services through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process and they do not participate in the lottery.

In order to participate in the preschool all children:

- › Must be 3 years old but not older than 4 years old by September 1st, 2024;
- › Must be toilet trained to attend preschool;
- › bona-fide Orange residents only;
- › Parents need to provide transportation to and from school for their child.

The Preschool Program follows the district’s school year calendar: the AM class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the PM class is held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each classroom

will be a blend of three- and four-year old children. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students per class, which includes our special education students. The total school year cost of tuition for community peers is \$3,250 paid monthly, \$325 per month. Our fee-based preschool is held 5-days/week, for 3-hrs/day. No transportation is provided for general education community peers.

Community peer children are selected thru the “Lottery”. The lottery is conducted in two stages:

1. all names are ‘picked out of a hat’ by age group for the “limited number of available spaces”, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list.;
2. the 2nd drawing decides if your child will attend the AM or PM class to balance each classroom with an equal amount of 3-year old and 4-year old children.

If you wish to have your child participate in the Lottery, please call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to place your child on the list. We will be accepting names for the 2024-25 lottery up until 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 26, 2024. Parents will receive a letter with the lottery results thru the US Mail in February, 2024.

Any further questions call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) at the Orange Board of Education.



4 Creature Comforts to Offer Holiday Guests

A welcoming guest room with fresh bedding and some additional accessories can make overnight guests feel right at home this holiday season.

Overnight guests can make the holiday season feel that much more special. Spending extra time with loved ones is part and parcel of the holiday season for millions of individuals, and hosting overnight guests ensures hosts get quality time with friends and family members they may not see much of throughout the rest of the year.

Holiday hosts may want to go the extra mile for their overnight guests who traveled long distances to see them. With that in mind, hosts can provide these four creature comforts to make overnight guests feel right at home during their stay.

Charging dock: Just about anyone who has traveled over the last two decades has forgotten to pack a phone charger or left one behind at one point or another. A charging dock on each guest room nightstand can ensure no such fate awaits hosts' friends and family members.

Fresh bedding: It's customary to wash sheets after overnight guests leave so the next time loved ones are welcomed into a home the bedding is clean. But if it's been awhile since you've hosted an overnight guest, wash the bedding, including sheets, pillowcases, covers, and, if necessary,

comforters or duvets, prior to guests' arrival. The scent of freshly washed bedding can set a welcoming tone that guests will appreciate.

Toiletries: Stock up on extra toothbrushes and travel-sized accessories like mouthwash and hand sanitizer so guests who might have forgotten their own items don't feel like they have to impose and ask for a ride to the store to purchase new items. If kids are coming, be sure to purchase some spare kids' size toothbrushes.

Privacy: Privacy is perhaps the most significant creature comfort to offer overnight holiday guests. In homes with small children, hosts can check guest room door locks to ensure they still work and install replacements if they don't. In addition, in homes where this is possible, designate one bathroom as "guests only" during their stay. Privacy also can extend to where guests spend their nights. If possible, pick a room away from the hustle and bustle of the house so guests can get some quiet time and rest during their stay. If that's not possible, hosts can make sure the holiday festivities quiet down at a certain hour each night so overnight guests can rest if they so desire.

Holiday hosts can take their offer of hospitality to the next level by offering their overnight guests some creature comforts that can make their stay that much more enjoyable.





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ARTS & LEISURE



Left: Broadway actors Erika Henningsen and Kyle Selig offered a workshop for students in Amity's Performing Arts program. Right: Samantha Gallagher performs a song from Mean Girls.

Broadway Actors Present Workshop at Amity

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Amity performing arts students had the chance to rub shoulders with a bit of Broadway glamor recently, when Erika Henningsen and Kyle Selig – both

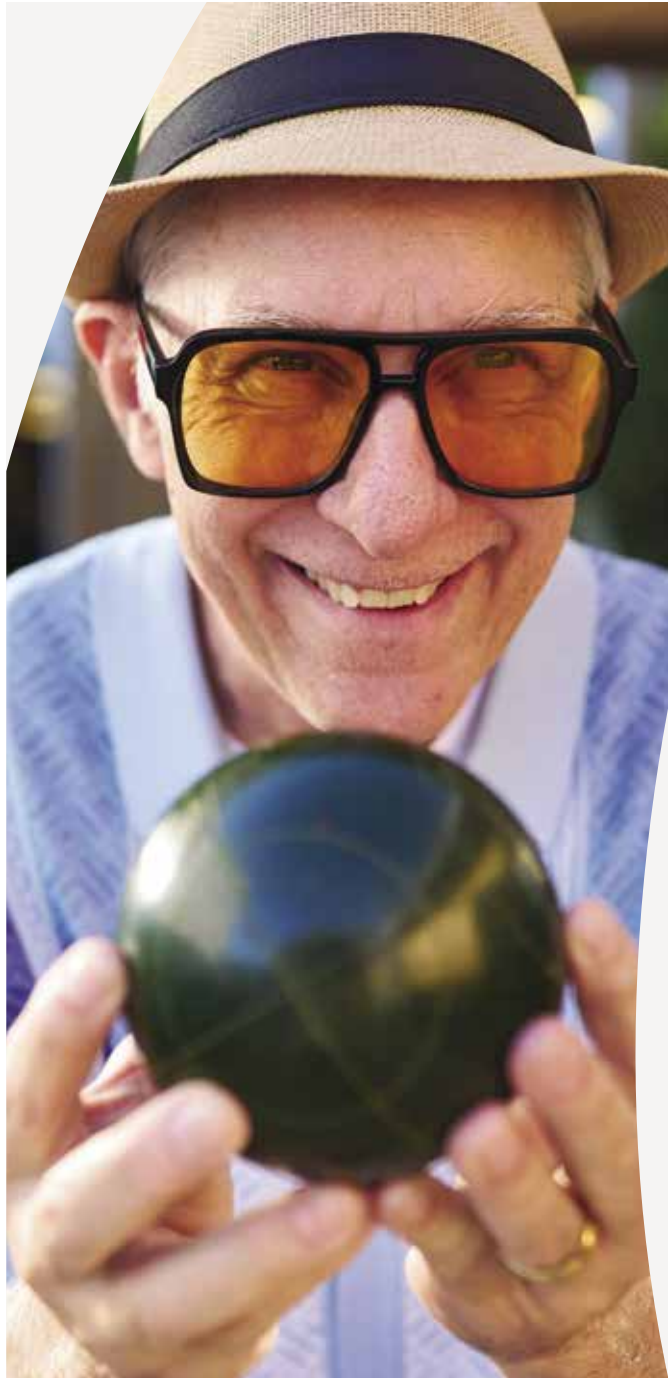
actors from the original cast of Mean Girls the Musical – visited the school to present a workshop in the school's Black Box Theater. Students were eager to perform songs from the musical and get some tips from the actors. Mean

Girls will be the spring musical at Amity come April 2024.

Both Henningsen and Selig seemed to enjoy the students' performances. Their comments put the songs into context, pointing out the moments

the characters pivot or realize something about themselves. "There is an epiphany in this song," Selig said to a rendition of 'I'd Rather Be Me.' This

See "Workshop" On Page 16



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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



Town of Orange Highway Dept. Snow Plowing Policy

There are over 110 miles of streets in the Town of Orange. Snow removal can cost up to \$2,500.00 per hour. Therefore, it is important for the Department of Public Works to use its resources wisely with cooperation from the residents to minimize the cost.

Plow Routes: The streets are plowed and sanded in order of priority. Main (collector) roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills, and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead-end streets. Side streets will remain unplowed if the main roads require repeat plowing due to heavy volume of snowfall. This may not seem fair to the residents of side streets or dead ends. However, the main roads must remain open.

Blocked Driveways: All snowplows angle the same way; to the driver's right. While plowing, the plow will push the snow in front of a residential driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to his/her driveway. The only way to avoid additional snow removal is to wait until DPW work crews have completed their final clean up of your road.

Mailbox Damage: The town repairs or replaces only those mailboxes and/or posts that are struck by the plow blade. Usually, a paint mark or tire tracks provide evidence of a mailbox strike. The Town does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of plowed snow. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal; including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside. It is recommended that homeowners do not purchase and utilize plastic mailboxes and/or posts as they are subject to damage. DPW recommends the use of a 4" x 4" wooden post or 2" metal pipe with a metal mailbox.

Private Plowing: The Town of

Orange prohibits private plow contractors from pushing snow from private driveways or parking lots onto Town streets. This practice is dangerous and impedes the Town's snow removal efforts. If there is no other alternative to pushing the snow into the street, the plow driver must plow off the windrow left across the street by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but certainly it should be no worse than when the driver began work.

No Parking: The Town of Orange Snow Removal Ordinance takes effect on November 1 of each year and continues to April 1 of the following year. During this time, there shall be no parking on public roads during snowstorms. Should your vehicle be parked on the street causing an obstruction to snow removal vehicles, your vehicle may be ticketed or removed by the Town of Orange Police Department. The cost of removal and any other subsequent fees shall be borne upon the owner of the vehicle.

Snow Stakes: The Town of Orange Highway Department reminds Orange residents to install "snow stakes" now before the ground freezes. It is difficult to distinguish between the pavement edge and the edge of a lawn in heavy snowfall. Installing stakes along property edges as close to pavement as possible without interfering with traffic will help homeowners avoid unsightly lawn damage this winter, especially for properties with underground sprinklers or invisible fencing. Snow stakes should be 30-36" high and can be purchased at a local hardware store. If using wooden stakes, paint the top 3" of the stakes red to increase visibility against snow.

Residents who feel they have a legitimate complaint should call the Town of Orange Department of Public Works at (203) 891-4775.



Orange Firefighters Recover from Haunted House

Firefighters have finally chased all the goblins and ghouls out of their firehouse and have started planning next year's Haunted House event.

This was the second year the Orange Volunteer Fire Department created a haunted house in the fire department's Orange Center Road firehouse. More than 600 kids and adults walked through the Halloween happening.

"People had a great time seeing the spooky, gory things we created this year," said Rob Panapada, a firefighter who is the co-chair of the program. "The combination of laughter, shrieks and screams told us everyone was having a creepy, but good time."

"We had the advantage of the Orange Players and the Goodwin Dance Troupe this year," added Dag Anderson, co-chair of the program. "We're already planning next year's event. It'll be even better!"

The Orange Volunteer Fire Asso-

ciation 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.



OCNS families enjoyed their annual visit with Santa. Families enjoyed arts and crafts, games and a visit with Santa. Students were also able to mail letters to Santa



Students from the 3s class at Orange Community Nursery School enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving



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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



VFW Post Presents American Flags to Local Mission BBQ

Recently members of the Walter Dymarczyk VFW Memorial Post 12106 Branford presented 300 American Flags to Angel Ramirez, Manager of the Mission BBQ restaurant in Orange. Chuck Larkins & Bill Savastano representing their VFW had been doing this for several years & in turn the Management at Mission BBQ gives the flags to their patrons.

The mission of the restaurant is to serve authentic – American BBQ nationwide – to those who make our country great – those who have served & those that are still serving the community as men & women in the military, firefighters, police & first responders &, of course, the community.

Anyone patronizing the restaurant knows the warm feeling you get from the staff & then again when you see the many photos of groups displayed all over the restaurant. Once you settle in & you are browsing the menu – if it happens to be high noon – all are asked to rise for the playing & Singing of Our National Anthem. We would like to tell everyone – that as Proud Americans & Veterans – “It Doesn’t Get Better Than That.” We encourage anyone that likes BBQ & a warm friendly atmosphere – to stop by, settle in & sing along with the crowd, have some mouth-watering BBQ & starting Veterans Day, November 11th take home & display an American flag – it just may “Make Your Day.”

Spreading Holiday Joy

The members of The Garden Club of Orange have been busy decorating the Case Memorial Library rotunda and making wreaths for the Town Buildings to help brighten up the dark winter days. The purpose of the Club is to promote and encourage garden skills and knowledge, both individual and

civic. If you are interested in learning more about the Club, please visit our website at www.gardencluboforangect.com or call membership Chair Lisa at 203.795.1343. The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs.

Garden Club of Orange Members Receive State Level Awards

Several members of The Garden Club of Orange were recognized at the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. annual awards meeting on October 25, 2023.

Mary Ellen Bospuda was recognized for her work with youth gardening and received the Tribute Award for

Youth, Patricia Logioco was recognized for outstanding horticultural achievement and received The Joyce P. Harris Award, Lana Ho was recognized for her overall work with the Club and received the Lillian. M. Rathburn Award and Raye Raye MacLellan received the Award of Merit.



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



A Heartfelt Thanksgiving Celebration

Orange Lions Club: 35 Years of Thanksgiving Service

In the heart of every Orange Lions Club member, there beats a common devotion to serving others, a commitment that has defined our club's legacy for over 3 remarkable decades. We take great pride in reminiscing about our longstanding tradition of hosting the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the High Plains Community Center. Once again, this year, we were privileged to witness the profound and transformative impact of community service.

Our Thanksgiving gathering brought together 126 individuals in person, with an additional 21 hearty meals thoughtfully delivered to homes, ensuring that no one in our communi-

ty went without a warm Thanksgiving meal. The heartfelt appreciation and gratitude expressed by our guests truly warmed our hearts, reinforcing the significance of our mission.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the devoted members of the Orange Lions Club and the multitude of volunteers who stood shoulder to shoulder with us. Among them were enthusiastic teenagers and adults from our community who generously dedicated their time and energy to this cause. Special recognition goes to the Girl Scout Troop 60274, the Orange Juniores, students from Amity Middle School, and a young volunteer from Bethany, all of whom embodied the spirit of selflessness.

Orange Community Women Offers Unique Holiday Gifts

Looking for a gift for that special someone who loves Orange? Well, look no further! Orange Community Women has a limited number of beautiful mugs featuring the town seal for sale right now.

The mugs are handcrafted by expert pottery artisans, using a ceramic scrimshaw process for precision detail and high-end quality. They feature a medallion picturing the Orange plowman and his team of oxen, symbolizing our town. These custom-crafted mugs are one of a kind, meaning that no two are exactly alike, and each one is beautifully unique. They are being sold for \$20 each.

Orange Community Women is a chapter of Connecticut Junior Women, Inc. We unite the women of Orange and surrounding areas by participating in community service and providing enrichment, leadership

and social interaction. Our projects include scholarships to Amity students, donations to the library, fire department, youth services, Food-2Kids and Orange Community Services, collecting for veterans, working with the Tracy Bunch (sponsored by Orange Community Services) and the seniors at Silverbrook and yearly family-friendly community shows. Orange Community Women welcomes new members. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at High Plains Community Center.

Please contact Orange Community Women at Orangecommunityw@gmail.com to purchase one of these very special mugs and arrange to have it delivered to you. Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/orangecommunitywomen/> for more information and color pictures of the mugs.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



Temple Emanuel Donates 125 Turkeys to Soup Kitchen

Jeffrey Levison, chair of Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven’s annual turkey collection program, stands among the turkeys being gathered by Temple members. This is the 22nd year for the turkey drive. Last year, the temple donated 93 turkeys to New Haven’s Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. This year, 125 turkeys were sent to New Haven, along with fixings donated by some temple members.

Temple Emanuel, in Orange, is a small, but growing, Reform synagogue with members from many parts of the New Haven and the Lower Naugatuck Valley.



Trinity Church Christmas Eve Services

All are welcome to attend our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24th, at 10:30am and 5:00pm! Our morning service will offer nursery care and Children’s Church available for babies through 6th grade. Our evening service will be a family-friendly service and include a children’s book reading, a brief message, and Christmas songs for the whole family. Please join us this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Trinity Church is located at 33 Center Road. If you have any questions, please call 203-387-4711 x11 or email trinityoffice@trinityefc.com. You can also connect with us trinityefc.com and facebook.com/trinitychurchwoodbridge.

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

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

- Join Us For Weekly Services Morning Minyan**
- › Sunday 9:00 AM – In person and Zoom’d
 - › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoom’d
 - › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoom’d

Shabbat Services

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

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

Congregation Or Shalom Book Discussion
Thursday December 21 @ 7:00 pm
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
Discussion led by Fern Tausig
WINNER OF THE 2023 PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father’s good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of generations ago. Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens’ anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can’t imagine leaving behind.

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



Congregation Or Shalom

Yahad Hebrew School
Yahad is a community Hebrew school, a joint project of Congregations Or Shalom and B’nai Jacob in Woodbridge. At Yahad, meaning “together,” students form their Jewish identities through amazing experiential programming, while building foundational skills in prayer, Hebrew, Bible and much more. Together, as students, parents, teachers, and as a community, we will create our Jewish future! Please call Rachel @ Or Shalom if you are interested 203.799.2341.

Community
Join the Orange Community at their annual Orange Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. November 19th at 7pm. This year it will be held at St. Joseph of Arimathea, The Church of the Good Shepherd 680 Racebrook Rd, Orange.

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

Mitzvah of the Month
We are collecting for December, blankets and socks. Please call the office at 203.799.2341 to schedule drop off.

Coffee and Learn
Our weekly program with Rabbi Wainhaus meets every Wednesday 11-noon. We explore the ancient texts of our tradition and the light they shed on the issues of our day. You may attend in person or via zoom - either the entire series or specific topics. Call the office for details at 203.799.2341.



“Letters” From Page 5

I believe the Democrats in Orange have learned a valuable lesson from their significant defeat. In this spirit, I urge Joe Marruli, Chair of the Democratic Town Committee; Selectman Mitch Goldblatt; and Democratic Campaign Co-Chairs for 2023, Trish Pearson and Jody Dietch, to refrain from engaging in negative political rhetoric. The future of Orange politics should be built on the merits and visions of candidates, not on disparagement and division.

Let us collectively strive to uphold and cherish the civil political environment that has long been a hallmark of our community.

Dominick J. Lombardi, Vice Chairman of the Orange Republican Party; Campaign Chair 2023 Orange Republican Party

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! With family gatherings, gift swaps and midnight toasts quickly approaching this holiday season, Anheuser-Busch and Dichello Distributors, Inc. are more thankful than ever to be a part of your festivities. Whether you’re raising a glass at a loved one’s house or celebrating with a night on the town, remember to keep yourself

and your community safe.

If you’ll be spreading holiday cheer with an ice-cold beer or two, don’t forget to plan ahead for a safe ride. There is an average of 300,000 daily incidents and 10,000 annual fatalities related to alcohol-impaired driving in the U.S. – and this problem is 100% preventable.

That’s why we’ve joined forces with Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Uber in a first-of-its-kind industry coalition that is focused on ending drunk driving. In a new initiative called Decide To Ride, we are encouraging everyone to plan ahead for a safe ride home, before the celebrations even begin – because you can’t drive drunk if you don’t drive there.

For more than 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking initiatives and community-based programs to prevent underage drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol. At Dichello Distributors Inc., we’re proud to work alongside Anheuser-Busch to ensure that we keep our friends, families and neighbors safe by planning ahead for a safe ride home.

Cheers to a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!
Tony Lota, Alcohol Awareness Coordinator, Dichello Distributors, Inc.



Planning Pointers for Holiday Hosts

Hosting is a significant part of the holiday season. From late November until New Year’s Day, millions of people across North America welcome friends and family into their homes. Whether you’re hosting a small gathering with locally based loved ones or welcoming distant relatives into your home for several days, the following are some planning pointers to ensure your home is ready and guests feel welcome this holiday season.

Hire a local cleaning service. The holiday season can be hectic. Holiday functions at school, office parties, community events, and more fill up social schedules between late November and early January. Busy social schedules leave little time for house cleaning, which is a must before welcoming guests into a home. A local cleaning service can clean the whole house for hosts welcoming overnight guests or focus on a few popular entertaining areas if party guests will be going home at the end of the night.

Get an early head count. Ask party invitees and prospective overnight guests to RSVP early enough to ensure you can accommodate everyone’s needs. Additional seating may be required for holiday parties, while hosts may need to arrange for extra bedding for overnight guests. The earlier you know who’s coming, and potentially staying,

the more time you have to ensure you can accommodate everyone.

Rent items from a local party supply store. When hosting large gatherings, a local party supply store can be the place to go for decorations, seating, food trays and utensils, and more. Such establishments also may rent specialty supplies like outdoor heat lamps for cold weather parties or tents and outdoor tables and chairs in areas where the weather is warm during the holiday season. Hosts can typically rent everything they need to host the party, saving them the expense of buying items that may just sit in storage the rest of the year.

Arrange for transportation. Whether guests are flying in from distant lands or local friends, relatives or neighbors stopping in for the night, hosts can arrange for transportation to and from their homes to ensure everyone arrives safely and makes it home without incident. Pick overnight guests up at the airport so they see a friendly face upon arrival. When hosting gatherings with local family and friends, encourage others to share how they intend to get home and recruit designated drivers if you intend to serve alcohol.

Hosts can take heed of these planning pointers so guests feel welcome and have a good time this holiday season.

DEATH NOTICES

Lois Elaine Blackman

Lois Elaine Blackman, 86, peacefully passed away November 17, 2023 at Waterbury hospital who kindly cared for her.

Lois was a lifelong resident of Orange. She retired from SNET. She

loved antiques and animals. She was a kind and generous Aunt. She was predeceased by her parents, Nellie and Clarence, her brothers Richard and John and her longtime companion Peter. Lois wishes will be honored at a private service.

DEATH NOTICES

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

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Proprioception: The 6th Sense of the Body

BY KYLE BRANDAY MSPT

Balance is a complex thing in life, but in the body, it takes on a whole different meaning. Internally, we have to balance our heart rate, blood pressure, cholesterol, breathing, and digestion. The most critical thing to balance our body functionally is something most people don't even sense. It's called Proprioception.

Proprioception is our body's innate ability to know where it is in space. Meaning, that our body can sense its own positioning. Seems simple right? It is, until our body experiences trauma, strain, or, forbid, a debilitating event such as a stroke or surgery.

Our body's 6th Sense is much more complex in how it operates. Ask yourself a question, How do you know your foot hit the ground when you walk? Now take it further. How do you know you landed in a stable position which will allow you to absorb the impact, assess the change of ground surface under your foot, and know it's safe to load that leg and take your next step? Not so easy is it?

Proprioception works based on our nervous system being able to instantaneously uptake and interpret information and fire a signal back to your muscles with how to respond. Think of how quickly you can walk, run, jump, or climb. Your body has to respond even quicker to create the right response to the ever-changing conditions around you. This is what makes proprioception truly our body's 6th sense.

But proprioception isn't just about signals coming from your feet up. It's also about total body position. How do we know that we are slouching at our desk? What about sensing where your arm is when you're reaching to get the plate out of the upper cabinet?

Our 6th sense has so many far-reaching implications that we cannot function properly without it. Where we see it be the most integral, though, is in our balance. We walk fast, slow, sideways, backwards, and every way in between. But none of that can occur without proprioception.

Now that we know why it's so important, let's look at what affects proprioception. Orthopedic injuries such as sprains, strains, tears, and broken bones can negatively affect this sense. By changing the length tension relationship of different muscles, it creates an opening for muscles to lag in their ability to sustain and create a contraction to stabilize. Ligaments which have been over stretched cannot provide the natural input back to the brain to then engage stabilizing muscles when the joint moves outside of its normal pattern.

Proprioception is also affected by the combined input of our vestibular system,



Kyle Branday

stretch receptors within the muscles, and our nerves running between our thighs, calves, and ankles/feet. This combined input creates movement strategies to overcome a disturbance in our balance.

Ankle-Knee-Hip Strategy is the way in which our lower body coordinates functional movement of what muscles contract at what time. The old saying "Timing is everything" certainly applies to the way in which our muscles work together to create motion. If your thigh muscles (quadriceps and hamstrings) fire too early, it could lead to our toes dragging across the ground and tripping.

Whether you are 1 year old, 21 years old, or 91 years old, proprioception can make or break our ability to move and function. High level athletes need it to stabilize their movement so they can wow us with their athletic prowess. But all of us need it to make sure we don't end up falling over ourselves.

Want to get your proprioception "balanced"...you have to start with finding out why it's not working properly. That's where we come in. A full head to toe assessment to determine the proper treatment path is the first step. From there, progression of balance related exercises to increase stability will help restore your function and confidence.

For more information or to speak with a therapist about the next step to rebalance your body, call (203) 389-4593. Tap into your 6th sense today!

Kyle Branday, MSPT, is a Physical Therapist and Partner working in the Woodbridge, CT office at 1 Bradley Road. A graduate of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT, Kyle specializes in the treatment of orthopedic and neurological injuries and dysfunction. With over 17 years of experience working with patients from infants and kids to geriatrics and professional athletes, Kyle's approach to treatment is to maximize a person's physical potential through functional evaluation and find the root cause of their dysfunction. He can be reached directly at (203) 389-4593 or visit www.amitypt.com/appointments/ to schedule your evaluation.



"Workshop" From Page 9

is your Declaration of Independence." In another scene he encouraged the student to address a particular student directly with their song. "Try to get that person to walk to you," he recommended.

In "What's Wrong with Me," Erika Henningsen pointed to all the questions in the lyrics expressing self-doubt – until later in the story the character launches into her newfound freedom in "Fearless." Every song is a scene with beginning, middle and end, she said. Songs are part of the story.

The music for Mean Girls was written by Jeff Richmond, with lyrics by Nell Benjamin, based on a book by Tina Fey. The musical premiered at the National Theatre, Washington, D.C., in 2017 and opened on Broadway in April 2018 at the August Wilson Theatre. A film is set to open in early 2024. It's a coming-of-age story, with a young girl, Cady, who moves to a suburban high school from Kenya.

Mean Girls The Musical will be on stage at Amity April 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13.

Following the workshop, students had a chance to ask questions. Stage fright? It never goes away, both actors agreed. But, be as prepared as possible, they recommended, and over time it gets better.

Should they watch the movie which is about to be released? Selig said he watched the first movie once, then never again ("They don't sing!"). And Erika agreed. "I can't be Lindsay Lohan," she said. I just went in and did my own thing."

One question was whether it's better to study musical theater at a college or to go straight into acting. For Henningsen, who studied at the University of Michigan, there are many schools where you can get good training. Ask yourself where you are going to be happy, she recommended. At school, people can make mistakes and still succeed in a safe environment, she said, adding that might not be the case in a professional setting. Selig added, "you need to be an active participant in your education."

The event was sponsored by the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.



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Holiday Cooking For a Crowd Made Easy



A number of things can be expected during the holiday season. Children will anxiously await visits from Santa and travelers recognize there is bound to be traffic on the roadways and crowds at the airport. And if you're opening your home to guests, those visitors will be expecting some delicious food.

Meals are a big component of holiday entertaining, so much so that holiday hosts may spend weeks pondering what to serve guests. These guidelines can help simplify cooking for a crowd.

Plan Make-Ahead Dishes

Simplifying holiday cooking comes down to spending less time in the

kitchen on the day of the festivities. Make-ahead dishes that can be reheated or set in chafing dishes for buffet meals are preferable. There's lots of dishes to choose from, including casseroles, stews, soups, and baked pasta dishes. Avoid fresh pasta offerings, like spaghetti and meatballs, for example. Leftover noodles will get mushy and will not reheat very well.

Ham is a Good Choice

Ham is a forgiving dish that is quite popular for holiday gatherings. Many hams come pre-cooked and pre-sliced, so producing a flavorful main course may be just a matter of dressing it up with seasonings or even using the glaze that often comes with such products.

Cater a Meal

There's certainly pride that comes with offering guests a table full of home-cooked foods. But the expense, effort and time that goes into creating a masterful menu can be taxing. If a lot of people are coming for the holidays, hosts can find out which area businesses offer holiday catering packages and consider them. This frees up more time

for mingling with guests. And food establishments often have experience knowing just how much food to have per person, reducing waste and helping hosts avoid having a refrigerator full of leftovers they may or may not eat.

Delegate Some Tasks

It's alright to ask guests to bring something to the holiday dinner. In fact, they may be eager to pitch in. If someone brings a salad, another an appetizer and others some desserts, then it is just up to the host to provide the main course and maybe a side or two. This removes a lot of the pressure.


Select Familiar Foods

Hosts may be tempted to try all of the delicious recipes featured in magazines or online around the holidays. However, sticking with familiar dishes that you have made before reduces the chances for error. Recipes that can be whipped up by rote will make holiday cooking tasks easier and quicker.

Cooking for a holiday crowd doesn't have to be difficult, especially when hosts employ a few strategies to simplify meal creation.

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Judd
Bridge Minor
Hotchis
North
Rockdale
Oakville
Haver
Hadda
Rasham
Mont
Wat

HISTORY CORNER



BY GINNY REINHARD

Do You Know Where It Was?...

You might have noticed, over the last several decades of stories I have written, that I like my titles to ask a question. I do that to entice you to continue to read about the history of Orange. Well, this is a humdinger. I have written about the farming in Orange, but the details of the Fairlea Farm, once owned by Wilson H. Lee, is an untold story, in what has been somewhat of a mystery...not a deep mystery, but certain aspects that will keep you reading until the very end.

According to Mary Woodruff's History of Orange*, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson H. Lee moved to Orange in 1902 buying the Nettleton Farm consisting of one hundred acres. This was to be their summer home after leaving the hustle bustle of New Haven. However, after a few years it became their permanent residence. In contrast to Mr. Lee's business venture of printing high grade directories and other public service booklets, he bought 300 cows! Well, he had 100 acres of farmland so Ayrshire and Jersey cattle was a perfect fit. The milk from the Ayrshire cow is closest to mother's milk therefore it was best for babies and young children.

His milk soared into popularity being known through the state as the finest grade of milk. His production of acidophilus milk made this honor even more significant when a president of the United States travelled abroad citing, in a letter to Lee, that his milk made his voyage and subsequent meetings more tolerable. Wouldn't we like to have that letter! Mr. Lee, a man of many talents, continued his association with the printing firm of Price, Lee and Adkins erecting a building on the Post Road eventually becoming Wilson H. Lee Company. So, where was this building you say? Home Depot stands on this iconic land.

You remember I wrote that Mr. Lee bought 100 acres, well he increased his holdings in 1909 in buying the first district school house after the town abolished its five district schools. It became one of the many homes he purchased to house his employees with each one accommodating both single and married couples. Without citing where these homes are located, there are more than 4 still standing and occupied. The Bryan-Andrew house is one of them. His homestead was on Orange Center Road, a large white home which at one time was twice the size. Why you say? Well, his daughter Prudence married John Demarest, the manager of the printing plant and Mr. Lee cut

the house in half, moving it up the road.

My title asked if you know where it was. Well, here is what Fairlea Farm was in 1909 as the Nettleton Farm. After buying the acreage it encompassed part of Orange Center Road, easterly to Indian River to the Post Road on the south and north to a portion of Old Tavern Road. This is what Mr. Lee purchased in 1902. So now, what happened next? Oh, it came with one cow. So, why did Wilson buy such a large tract of land for his summer home? We will never know. But he increased his holdings by 1923 to 632 acres and by 1942 he had 50 cows, 4 bulls, and 6 horses.

His holdings were not any less opulent than his stock with 1 barn for the Ayrshire, another for the Jerseys, 3 silos, a dairy building, a cow hospital, a calf barn, a windmill with a water tower, an ice house, a horse barn, a mechanical shop, wood sheds and others sheds necessary to prolong the health and safety of this magnificent farm! Did I forget a blacksmith shop? And, of course, office buildings. As I said, Mr. Lee was a man of many talents and so we must add that while milk was always delivered from a dairy, he established a new idea for a retail store for dairy products. His eye for marketing was keen in that he created and had made, elaborately designed milk bottles and his brochure describe the farm and welcomed visitors to see it and how milk was processed. His telephone number was listed in the S.N.E.T. office as Liberty 1005 so visitors could call for a ride to the farm from the railroad station...you know the station I have written about several times.

Orange has many stories to tell and just when I'm scratching my head for other one, an idea pops up and to my delight I sit down and write. We, at the Orange Historical Society, were given a rolled-up photograph which upon close inspection was for Fairlea Farm. At the very bottom it was dated 1930 and also written were the words Pomona Grange. Wow, what was that all about?

On December 4, 1867, in the office of William Saunders, superintendent of Propagating Gardens in the Department of Agriculture, a group of seven men planned what was to be a vital force in preserving and expanding American democracy with the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. More commonly known as the Grange, like a tree, it is made up of branches with the National Grange being the par-



ent. There are State Branches in 42 states of which Connecticut is one and regional branches called Pomona Granges. The Orange Grange was once a local chapter.

The Grange originally sought to help southern and northern farmers recover from the Civil War. Its purpose today, with over 240,000 members nationwide, is to build a program of fellowship, embracing legislative activities, agricultural initiatives, youth projects, family activities and Community Service. Grange membership is non-exclusive evolving into an organization concerned with the needs of all people.

OK, so what does this have to do with Fairlea Farm? I quote, "A gracious friend of the Grange, Wilson H. Lee president of the Wilson H. Lee Company has given the use of his private estate, Fairlea Farm, Orange for their annual field day gatherings." Yes, the photo, which is over 3 feet in length, is one of those gatherings!

Dateline, August 12...New Haven Courant, "Tomorrow Pomona Grange and the New Haven County farm bureau will hold a field day at the Fairlea Farm Orange. The program will open with an inspection of the farm which is owned by W.H. Lee. Basket picnic with music will be enjoyed in the grove at noon." Dateline, July 15th...National Master L.J. Tabor to speak at the annual field day at Fairlea Farm in Orange at

the home of Wilson H. Lee." And still another newspaper printing, this time in the form of a flyer is entitled Dairy-men at Fairlea - State Association Have a Pleasant Field Meeting - Session Held at Wilson H. Lee's Big Dairy Farm on Special Invitation - Visitors Shown Over the Interesting Estate - Address-

es on Important Topics Relating to Dairying by Experts - Ladies of Orange Grange Act as Hostesses at Lunch.

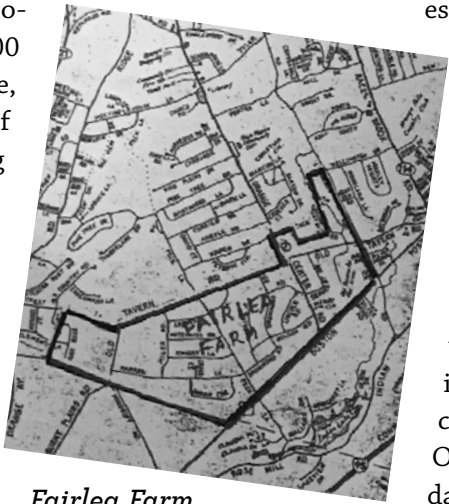
It goes on to say that one hundred members and their wives of the Connecticut Dairymen's association journeyed to Orange for a pleasant day's outing. The information goes on stating the guests were met at the train station by a number of wagons and driven to the farm where they were shown the big estate of Mr. Lee. One part of the farm, of great interest, was the 65 acres of corn. Lunch was served in picnic style in a large grove that formed part of the estate.

So, this story has to come to an end as there is just so much room in each issue. We have been given the Pomona Grange history with the farm by their public relations co-director and hopefully there will be more to come... stay "tuned" I might have a sequel to this story.

*Mary Woodruff's **History of Orange** book is available for sale at the Academy, chock full of history at the time of her writing in 1949. It will pique your interest and make you look for more.



Wilson H. Lee



Fairlea Farm

LOCAL SPORTS



(Left) Denise Stein, Outreach Worker, Orange Community Services & Jillian Branes, Senior, Captain Amity Girls Basketball team

Amity Captain Donates 18 Pies for Holiday Giving Program

Jillian Barnes, Captain of the Amity Girls Basketball team, organized a Lyman Orchard's Pie fundraiser with her teammates and collected and do-

minated 18 pies to the Orange Community Services Holiday Giving Program. Thank you, Jillian, for your kindness – it does matter!

Spartans 9U Football Team Headed to Pop Warner Nationals

After winning the Northern Connecticut Pop Warner and New England Regional Championships, the 21 players from Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange are heading to the Pop Warner Super Bowl Nationals being held De-

cember 2-8, 2023 in Orlando, Florida. This is the first Amity Pop Warner football team to ever make it this far in the championships and the first year that any 9u football teams have been invited to compete in the Nationals.

Amity Youth Lacrosse: Register Now for 2024!

Amity Youth Lacrosse has opened registration for our 2024 Winter Clinic and 2024 Spring Season. The mission of Amity Youth Lacrosse is to develop an understanding of the sport of lacrosse and promote physical fitness and a sense of pride through teamwork,

team spirit, strong sportsmanship, and community representation through service and example. The program supports boys in grades K thru 8th residing in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge, CT. More information is available on our website, amityyouthlacrosse.org.

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!
Display ads start at only \$110 per issue.
Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad!



Local Dancers Perform in The Varsity Spirit Spectacular

Abby Blair, Taraji Carter-Gore, Sophie Glassman, and Makenzie Rowland from Amity High School in Woodbridge, CT are four of more than 800 high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the country that represented the camp brands of Varsity Spirit in the Varsity Spirit Spectacular at the Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando, Florida from November 17 - November 20, 2023. The individuals invited to perform are part of a select group of captains, co-captains, officers and seniors who attended a Varsity Spirit summer camp this summer hosted by Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA), Universal Dance Association (UDA), National Cheerleaders Association (NCA), National Dance Alliance (NDA), United Spirit Association (USA) and Urban Cheerleading Experience (UCE).

Abby, Taraji, Sophie, and Makenzie performed in an exclusive performance at Disney's Magic Kingdom Park before of hundreds of fans. Besides enjoying a sunny trip to Orlando, performers had

the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and dancers from across the nation and enjoy a magical holiday season at Walt Disney World® Resort parks. For more information, visit www.varsity.com or contact John Calitri at jcalitri@varsity.com.

Memphis-based Varsity Spirit, the driving force behind cheerleading's dynamic transformation into the high-energy, athletic activity it is today, is the leading global source for all things spirit, including cheerleading, dance team and performing arts. A division of Varsity Brands, Varsity Spirit is a leader in uniform innovation, as well as educational camps, clinics and competitions, impacting more than a million athletes each year. Focused on safety, entertainment and traditional school leadership, Varsity Spirit's employees have been dedicated to celebrating spirit through its brands since 1974. For more information about Varsity Spirit or Varsity Brands, please visit varsity.com or varsitybrands.com.



HOLIDAY CHEER BEGINS HERE!



Free Hot Cocoa & Free 2-Hour Parking

- November 24 – December 24

Present a same-day receipt from a participating retailer for \$50 or more at Claire's Corner Copia or Common Grounds for a free hot cocoa. Visit our website for details.

Storytelling & Selfies with Santa & Mrs. Claus

- Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23 1:00-3:00pm
B Natural Kitchen, 260 College Street
- Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10 & 17, 1:00-3:00pm
Barnes & Noble/The Yale Bookstore, 77 Broadway (lower level)

Chapel Street Ice Carving Demonstrations

- Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23, 1:00-3:00pm
On the sidewalk in front of Üni-Home Life, 1046 Chapel Street

Strolling Yuletide Carolers

- Chapel Street, Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23,
12:00-3:00pm
- Broadway District, Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10 & 17,
12:00-3:00pm

Andy Wolf Holiday Tubulation Series

- Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 16 & 23, 1:00-4:00pm
Broadway Island, across from J.Crew/Apple/lululemon
- Sundays, November 27, December 3, 10 & 17, 1:00-4:00pm
Chapel Street, in front of Union League Café

Free Cupcake or Hot Cocoa and Strolling Carolers

- Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23, 1:00-3:00pm
in the Whitney-Audubon District
Present a same-day receipt from a participating retailer for \$25 or more for a free cupcake at Katalina's or hot cocoa at Willoughby's Coffee & Tea. Visit our website for a list of participating retailers TheShopsatYale.com/WhitneyAudubon.



The Shops at Yale.com/Holiday

A unique collection of more than 65 local boutiques, national brands, cafes, restaurants & attractions with convenient parking in historic downtown New Haven. Plan your visit at TheShopsatYale.com.