

# The Orange Times

When there's better writing, there's better reading.

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June 5, 2014



## MEMORIAL DAY 2014



Photos by Lexi Crocco



## Real Meaning Of Memorial Day

by Brian McCready

ORANGE – More than 1,000 residents lined the Memorial Day parade route to catch a glimpse of their children or friends who were marching in the annual popular event.

But to the veterans who were present, the true meaning of Memorial Day, was the ceremonies held before, and after the parade.

At the High Plains Fairgrounds where the ceremony was held before the parade, speaker after speaker reminded residents that Memorial Day is more than just parades, a three-day weekend, and cookouts.

Ceremonies concluded at the Orange Center Cemetery where the meaning of Memorial Day was observed. More than 200

residents met at the cemetery to pay respect and honor all of the servicemen and women who died in support of their country and its freedoms.

Town Moderator Robert Mirto said Memorial Day is a "solemn occasion." He asked residents to reflect on the real reason why we're commemorating Memorial Day.

Mirto praised the Girl Scouts who mapped out and marked the graves of servicemen and women dating back to the Revolutionary War. Mirto remarked that next year it will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. He recalled how returning soldiers were treated so poorly and the emotional effect it had on them.

First Selectman James Zeoli  
**MEMORIAL continued on page 21**

## Report: Preserve Turkey Hill

by Brian McCready

ORANGE – The Connecticut Audubon Society concludes in a 60-page report that the 377-acre Turkey Hill Preserve the town purchased in 2011 for \$7.1 million should remain as passive open space.

On page 38 of the report it specifically states, "It is our opinion

that due to the presence of sensitive environmental receptors within the various habitats of the preserve, recreation use should be limited to passive recreation such as hiking, birding, photography and nature interpretation."

"Higher impact uses such as horse-back riding, ATV use, and Mountain-biking on the site may impact sensitive flora and fauna, erode soils on steep slopes, tram-

ple or run over fauna of conservation concern, or come into conflict with hikers, the report concludes.

The report states that human presence on the preserve can pose management challenges associated with soil erosion and adversely affect wetlands.

"Hikers, horse/horseback riders, mountain bikes, dogs and others

**REPORT continued on page 21**

## Orange Budget Approved

by Brian McCready

ORANGE – Residents voted three to one in support of approving the town's \$63.28 million budget for fiscal 2014-15 in a recent vote.

Out of a population of more than 12,000 residents, 187 people voted yes and 64 residents cast their ballot against approving the budget.

Polls were open at the High Plains Community Center from noon until 8 p.m. Polls used to be open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. but have been scaled back because of a lack of voter participation and to save money by reducing the hours of paid poll workers.

The approved budget includes a 3.05 percent spending increase next year. But the real effect on taxpayers is about a 1 percent in-

crease because revenues increased significantly, which helped keep the tax increase to a minimum.

Finance Director Al Chiarenzelli has said residents on average can expect to pay an additional \$69 in property taxes next year as a result of the increase in spending on the town budget. The average house has a market value of \$328,800, which translates into an assessed **BUDGET continued on page 21**

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## News & Events

# Amity Hires New Assistant Principal In Orange

by *Brian McCready*

ORANGE – The Amity Board of Education has promoted Teacher Neil Holt to the position of assistant principal at the Orange campus of Amity Regional Middle School.

Holt is currently serving as a Spanish teacher at the school, which is where he has been since 2007. Superintendent of Schools Charles Dumais made the recommendation to the school board for it to hire Holt.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve such an excellent school, with its outstanding staff and supportive community,” Holt said in a statement released by Amity. “I love working with middle school students, and I intend to work hard to strengthen the culture of learning, high expectations, and caring that makes our school such a wonderful place. With my knowledge of the school, and having worked as part of the school leadership team over the past few years, I look forward to a smooth transition into the

coming school year.”

Holt will begin his new role on July 1. He will earn a salary of \$112,071.

Dumais said out of more than 120 candidates, Holt “rose to the top with exemplary demonstrated skills in both organizational leadership and instructional leadership.”

“His broad middle school teaching history and his experience as a content leader in the district contribute to his suitability for this position,” Dumais said.

Dumais said Holt displayed impressive

leadership qualities during the interview process.

Amity Board of Education Chairman William Blake said the board’s Personnel Committee met with and interviewed Holt.

“I sat in on the interview and he’s been at the middle school since 2007. He loves middle school kids and is very enthusiastic,” Blake said. “He’s worked out very well there. He’ll do a great job.”

## Amity BOE Selects New Athletic Director

by *Brian McCready*

ORANGE – Ernest “Ernie” Goodwin has gigantic shoes to fill.

The Amity Board of Education voted unanimously to select Goodwin, who served as a physical education teacher in Simsbury since 2006 and the system’s assistant athletic director since 2012, as its new athletic director. Goodwin will earn a salary of \$109,959.

Goodwin will begin his new job at Amity on July 1 replacing the beloved and well-respected Paul Mengold, who has been Amity’s athletic director for the past 38 years, and is retiring on June 30.

Under Mengold’s leadership, numerous Amity sports teams have won state championships.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of an exceptional school district such as Amity,” Goodwin said in a statement released by Amity. “The support from the school district

and community is evident. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the student-athletes, coaches, administration, and community.”

Superintendent of Schools Charles Dumais, who recommended the board hire Goodwin, said Goodwin “demonstrated that he has the skills and abilities to preserve the best parts of a truly great program and also advance us to the next level of athletic excellence.”

“Students, parents and colleagues in Simsbury extolled Ernie’s ability to effectively manage change through developing and fostering strong relationships with all constituents. We are confident that he will be an excellent fit for Amity,” Dumais said.

Dumais said Goodwin has the abilities to “foster a strong sense of community.”

Goodwin has been a physical education teacher since 1997 and has coached boys and girls in high school wrestling, football, track and field, and collegiate wrestling. He is a graduate of Springfield College, having

earned a Bachelor of Science in Movement and Sport Studies/Physical Education and a Master of Science in Athletic Administration.

Amity Board of Education Chairman William Blake said Goodwin has an “outstanding background as a coach and now as an assistant athletic director.”

“He has the right personality, and right awareness of the issues, and will provide opportunities for boys, girls and special needs children,” Blake said. “Sports is not just what appears on the sports pages.”

Blake said Goodwin impressed everyone at Amity with his “attitude and knowledge.” He said Mengold will be greatly missed as he is so well-respected in the sports community.

According to the New Haven Register since 1983, Amity sports teams have won two New England titles and 45 state championships, 122 league championships, an additional 155 SCC Housatonic Division titles, 16 Connecticut Coaches’ Association coaches of the year, nine national high school

coach of the year finalists, and six Gatorade state players of the year.

Long-time Amity girls’ volleyball coach Paul Thees, who recently retired, reflected on Mengold’s legacy earlier this year.

“Paul Mengold has taught thousands of students, coaches and educators the true meaning of interscholastic athletics. He understands that high school sports, above all else, teaches young men and women life lessons focusing on teamwork, perseverance, dedication and pride,” Thees said. “During his career he has built one of, if not the most extensive high school athletic programs in the state on a foundation of integrity and sportsmanship.”

Dumais said Mengold deserves all the credit for building a first-rate sports program at Amity.

“I think not only has Paul done a great job, he’s created a fabulous legacy at Amity,” Dumais said.



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# Selectman Pitches Affordable Senior Housing

by *Brian McCready*

ORANGE – Citing a real need for more affordable senior housing in town, Board of Selectmen member Kenneth Lenz asked the selectmen to form a committee to study the issue.

Lenz addressed the topic of additional affordable senior housing in town at the May Board of Selectmen meeting.

Lenz, who first pitched the need for more senior housing during last year's first selectman campaign, said the town has a high number of seniors. According to census records, 19 percent of the town's population is 65 or older, he reported.

"At our last Board of Selectmen meeting it was re-emphasized that there's a real need for additional affordable housing, when we were advised that there were 89 applications in the lottery for the three vacant units at Silverbrook Estates," Lenz said.

Lenz said a committee should be formed to explore and recommend to the town ways and means of providing additional affordable senior housing in town.

"I am willing to serve on such a committee, and hope that with your support and that of our fellow selectmen we will be

successful in providing affordable housing options to our seniors in town when they need to move out of their homes because of age, infirmity and or finances," Lenz said.

Twenty years ago the town built 45 units at Silverbrook Estates, but Lenz said that is not nearly enough.

"There is a big backlog of people wanting to get in there," Lenz said. "There is a great need for more."

Lenz said an additional 45 units of affordable senior housing is needed right now. He stressed he is looking for a quality affordable housing facility for seniors and not a "slum."

"If we don't do something now, if then seniors will be forced to leave," Lenz said. "We owe it to our long-time residents. I'd like to face it now before it comes more of an acute problem."

First Selectman James Zeoli said 50 percent of the people who applied for Silverbrook were Orange residents. He said 89 people applied to get on the waiting list. He did say it's impossible to just limit it to Orange residents because federal or state funds would likely be used to build a new facility.

"It's challenging," Zeoli said. "We'll look into it and consider it."

# Cub Scouts Having Fun!



Photo by Jeff Cap

Pack 922, chartered by the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, attended the annual Connecticut Yankee Council Wepawaug Valley District Famoree camping weekend.

The Famoree camping weekend was held at Camp Cedarcrest in Orange. Cub Scout packs from all over southern Connecticut participated in this weekend camping event each year. Pack 922 is

proud to announce their first place position, winning this year's "site inspection."

In addition, the winner of the patch design contest for the 2014 Famoree was a Cub Scout from Pack 922, Zack Geremia.

Cub Scouts is open to all boys in grades 1-5 and they can join in any grade. For further information about joining Cub Scout Pack 922, please visit [www.OrangeCTscouting.com](http://www.OrangeCTscouting.com).


## Bocce Now Available To Seniors

The Orange Senior Center is beginning to offer Bocce beginning May 20 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the High Plains Community Center on Orange Center Road.

## Correction

In our write up of the Cohen and Wolf, P.C. "Cinco de Miles" road race in Orange that appears in the May 15 edition of The Orange Times, we need to make a correction.

We mistakenly reported that the road race was a 5k but in fact it was a five mile road race.



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# Opinion & Editorial

## Editorial

### What Budget Vote?

What's the saying about if a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound? Well the same thing could be applied to the recent budget vote in Orange.

Just 251 residents decided the fate of a \$63 million budget. That bears repeating. The town has a population of more than 12,000 residents, and less than 3 percent took the time to have their voice heard.

How is that possible? Are they apathetic? Does the exceedingly low turnout mean that they're happy with the current direction of town government?

We think it's vital that town officials find out why turnout was so low. Several years ago the polls were open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. and the turnout was low, but not this low.

Town officials decided to reduce the hours the polls were open from noon to 8 p.m. a couple of years ago because of the lack of voter participation and the desire to save money.

Even as far back as 2005, 933 residents voted on the budget. In 2010, as many as 650 taxpayers took the time to vote.

It's beginning to feel like the time is now to do away with budget referendums, which costs taxpayers thousands of dollars. Once the Finance Board approves its final budget there should be a town meeting and residents can approve it there.

It's clear residents have spoken through their inaction that they are tired of heading out to the polls each May to vote on the town budget.

We hope Town Hall picks up on the silence too.

## Capitol View

### Budget Vote Closes 2014 Session



STATE REP. THEMIS KLARIDES

The 2014 Legislative Session adjourned May 7 following the General Assembly's passage of a \$19 billion state budget.

The near party-line vote came days after it was announced that state revenues plummeted by \$460 million and the projected deficit for the next budget had swelled to a colossal \$3 billion.

Given the state's gloomy fiscal outlook, I voted against the budget because it relies on non-renewable revenue gimmicks and the raiding of off-budget accounts – all but guaranteeing the need for future tax increases.

In order to "balance" on paper, the budget sweeps revenue from essential service funds, including \$20.5 million from road and bridge repair funding and \$20 million from the tobacco and substance abuse prevention fund.

The budget will grow our deficit by utilizing phantom revenues that will never materialize, including \$75 million that will supposedly come from delinquent taxpayers. There is no explanation as to where the number came from, or if it is achievable; it simply stands as a mystery line item.

Instead of just criticizing, I joined my Republican colleagues in creating our own budget. Our proposal eliminates the accounting tricks and calls for realistic cost cutting measures, including a hard hiring freeze and a travel ban for state employees that will yield millions in savings. It responsibly reduces spending in order to restore funding for infrastructure, and increases municipal aid by \$21 million.

I was proud to take part in creating a transparent, workable alternative. For more information on the adopted state budget adjustments, as well as my proposal, visit my website: [www.RepThemis.com](http://www.RepThemis.com).

### Fees And Trees



STATE REP. PAUL DAVIS

During the recent legislative session the General Assembly took up consideration of two energy related issues brought to our attention by numerous constituent complaints. Both became important bills which I cosponsored.

The first, An Act Concerning Electric Customer Consumer Protection, makes substantive changes to provisions concerning the electricity market for residential customers.

The second, An Act Concerning Tree Trimming, sets up new requirements electric companies must follow before pruning or removing any trees or shrubs around their poles and wires.

During the past few years more and more local residents have switched their electric providers from United Illuminating to alternates in order to reduce rates. While at first this worked well, many people have complained that these companies were now using techniques which resulted in increased costs. The bill we passed sets up new rules to protect consumers.

In general customers will now get more detailed information about their rates and contracts; the amount of time to switch companies will be greatly reduced; and the providers must now give advanced written notice of rate changes.

By now almost everyone in Orange have seen the results of UI's vegetation (tree) management program. This program was instituted in order to provide more reliable electric service, particularly during intense storms. Many have expressed concerns that companies are going too far in removing trees and in general doing a poor job of communicating with property owners. In response to these concerns we passed a bill that establishes clear rules for the program, which better protects property owners including the town.

### Moving Connecticut Forward



STATE REP. JAMES MARONEY

Education is the most important investment any state can make toward a healthy socio-economic future. We have been diligently working on apprenticeship programs, working toward universal pre-kindergarten and promoting educational collaboration between

our high schools and colleges. We established the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) that will administer programs and funding that affect children from birth to elementary school. The OEC will develop a plan to improve access to preschool programs and achieve universal pre-k in Connecticut. We have created grant programs and reimbursements that have created more than a thousand new preschool slots.

We created a new apprenticeship grant program under the Subsidized Training and Employment Program that will provide grants so that small businesses and manufacturers can hire high school and college students. These work experiences will provide a solid foundation students need to succeed and smoothly transition into workplace.

I am very pleased to bring out my first bill this session that promotes a partnership between technical high schools and community colleges. The law requires the regional community-technical college system to collaborate and develop a cooperative agreement with the technical high school system.

The agreement includes allowing each community college and its neighboring technical high school to share space, equipment, material, or instructors and permitting high school students to earn college credit from the community college.

We also helped to support school infrastructure improvements in Orange by approving funds for repairs to the schools to alleviate the strain on the municipal budget.

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### From Where I Sit:

## Of Roads, Schools, Temples And Forests

The May Board of Selectmen meeting covered a wide variety of matters. The first was the First Selectman's presentment of the low bid for contract for the final work on Edison Road, which is funded by a federal grant.

When Edison Road is opened, it will allow the light industrial zone property north of Interstate 95 to be more accessible.

The Town Engineer submitted proposals to the Bond Oversight Committee for road improvements on Milford-Derby Road, Indian River Road, Prindle Hill Road, Dogburn Lane, and the bottom of Old Tavern Road, all of which should be underway this summer or fall.

The Orange Board of Education



SELECTMAN KEN LENZ

submitted the opened bids for the new school security systems which should be undertaken shortly. I spent time earlier in the week with Superintendent Lynn McMullin and Construction Supervisor Mike Luzzi inspecting the progress of work at Peck Place School, and

plans for the security system there.

I'm glad to report the substantial project at Peck Place is coming along ahead of schedule AND under budget. It is yet to be determined how much of the work will be paid by the town's insurance carrier, or from state grants, so we really don't have a firm idea how much of the project will have to be paid by Orange's taxpayers.

A proposal was made by the Chinmaya Mission to be made

exempt from property taxes. This group bought a portion of the Legionnaires of Christ property on Route 34 and Racebrook Road that it uses as a house of worship.

Chinmaya Mission is a Hindu spiritual organization that is expanding into New Haven County. The selectmen welcomed the members of the group who were present, and passed resolutions to rescind the tax exempt status of the Legionnaires of Christ in town, and to adopt a new ordinance to grant property tax exempt status to Chinmaya Mission. There will be a public hearing as part of next month's selectmen's meeting on these matters prior to adoption.

The board considered my proposal to appoint a committee to explore ways and means of adding to the affordable senior housing in town.

Finally, there was an interesting

discussion regarding the conservation management report prepared by the Connecticut Audubon Society concerning the Turkey Hill Preserve. The report covered in great detail the rich array of plant and animal species found in this 376-acre forest preserve, with a suggestion that it be maintained pretty much as is.

I recently hiked the loop (a nice 45-minute hike) and found it both beautiful and tranquil, with little evidence in the forest of the hand of civilization. The selectmen wanted to hear from the public about what sorts of other recreation should be permitted, and so there will be a public hearing to get more input before decisions are made on that ... and that's as I see it from where I sit.

*Kenneth Lenz is a member of the Board of Selectmen.*



# News & Events

## Voo Do: Volunteers of Orange Do

### Finding Life's Balance Through Volunteering



**JODY  
DIETCH**

An Orange Rotary member since 2000, Carl joined the organization after being invited to one of their meetings.

"I was impressed with how they almost single-handedly eradicated polio from the earth," he said, adding that working with rotary "gives me an opportunity to give back."

Currently, working with the Gates Foundation nationally, their mission is to provide clean water to poverty stricken areas around the world.

Carl said for just \$40, a family of four can have clean water for the rest of their lives. Clean water means less disease because so many people in the world are cooking, cleaning and drinking dirty, disease infested water. "These are the things that get me all worked up and make me want to raise money to help," he added.

Orange Rotary contributes more than \$30,000 annually to programs nationally and locally.

Locally, the rotary provides dictionaries to every third-grader in Orange, registers

Carl Russell's father was a clown but Carl is the one doing the juggling. Carl is a successful commercial real estate agent, tri-athlete and busy volunteer. Currently, he is serving a one-year term as the Orange Rotary president.

area children in the Amber Alert ID program, makes donations to Orange's food pantry and energy assistance program, and participates in *Operation Warm*, collecting and distributing thousands of coats to needy children in the area including in Orange. Additionally, rotary awards \$6,000 in college scholarships each year.

This past Thanksgiving, Orange Rotary held their first 5K road race. Carl came up with the idea for the road race after missing the deadline for the race he usually ran in on Thanksgiving Day.

When he tried to find another race, they were all sold out. He realized that meant there was a large demand for Thanksgiving Day road races so he pitched the idea to the Orange Rotary and last year, was the first of what plans to be an annual event.

Carl is also a member of the Orange Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and the Orange Economic Development Commission. The commission "supports the marketing aspect of the economic development initiatives." He is also a member of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors through which he participates in Habitat for Humanity.

Carl is also the President of REEF, Real Estate Educational Foundation, which is a charitable affiliate of the Greater New Haven Association of Realtors.

REEF is a graduate school student loan reimbursement program designed to help those working in social services pay back their student loans. More than \$500,000 has

been awarded.

When Carl talks about his dad, Joey Russell, he reflects on how his father would have them "running in 12 different directions growing up." He said he and his four siblings all give back to their communities.

"He instilled in us a sense of community," Carl said.

Sometimes the needy are "right under our noses," Carl said as he told of how a business meeting led to a relationship between the Church of the Good Shepard and local businessman Angelo Melisi.

Carl said Melisi's snack business had near expiration date snacks they could not sell and Melisi asked Carl if he had any ideas. Now every Friday, fellow Rotarian, Don Lewis, takes the snacks over to the church for their free lunch program.

"Volunteering is part of life; it rounds out life. You have to find a balance among the physical, spiritual and financial parts of your life. To me, volunteering is part of the spiritual balance," Carl said.

Jody Dietch is vice chair of the Orange Board of Education.



Submitted Photo  
Carl Russell serves as the Orange Rotary president.

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	<p><b>ORANGE 438 HOWELLTON ROAD</b> <b>NEW LISTING! \$254,900</b> A little TLC &amp; this home will shine! 3BR, 2.1BA, 1440sf Ranch. Sunny, large Living Rm w/corner fpl. Updated EI Kit w/oak cabs, hdwd flrs, rear patio ovrks level yd. Subject to probate. Sold "AS IS". <b>WAYNE HUGENDUBEL ~ 203.605.2946</b></p>			<p><b>ORANGE 811 OAKWOOD ROAD</b> <b>NEW LISTING! \$315,000</b> Beautiful large 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Ranch. New &amp; refinished hardwood floors, fireplace, S/S Appliances, 3 Season Porch, New Roof. Oversized 2 car garage w/loft and electricity. <b>WILLIAM BONOS ~ 203.606.8175</b></p>	
	<p><b>ORANGE 421 WINDY HILL ROAD</b> <b>NEW LISTING! \$524,999</b> 4 bedroom, 2.1 bath country colonial with inground pool and tennis court. Newly updated bathrooms with radiant heat, new three season sunporch, beautiful level lot and great backyard. <b>MARIBETH LIGHTOWLER ~ 203.804.5453</b></p>			<p><b>DERBY 9 EAST COURT</b> <b>ACTION PRICED! \$175,900</b> Spacious, pristine 2 Bedroom FHA approved Condo w/open floor plan, eat-in kitchen. Living Room has slider to deck. In a quiet, complex close to shopping &amp; major highways. <b>BETTE DEVINE ~ 203.215.9969</b></p>	

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# Youth & Education

## Superintendent's Corner:

### Peck – A Cleaner, Brighter Place



LYNN  
MCMULLIN

There's no doubt the disastrous leak at Peck Place on January 6 was taxing on this community. The cost is \$1.9 million – but the cost in human spheres is not.

The time teachers spent inventorying soggy materials and packing and unpacking their classrooms; the hours Principal Eric Carbone, his wife, and the Director of Curriculum Colleen Murray spent 'school-shopping' and retro-fitting the Yale office spaces into a beautiful school with classrooms, a cafeteria, and gym; the efforts of the Race Brook and Turkey Hill teachers and PTOs; the changes in procedures and accommodations made by the Peck community, and, at Peck Place itself, the constant walk-throughs, communications, oversight, and sometimes sheer elbow grease that a project of this dimension requires – all of this has been taxing too.

But there is so much more to celebrate than to lament! Thanks to Facilities Director Mike Luzzi, Board of Education Chairman Bill Kraut, and an ever-changing corps of workers, Peck will be 'like new' when it reopens – polished, bright, clean, and ready for its next several decades with students and teachers.

The work is currently on schedule; and while the physical move back into the classrooms will certainly present another challenge, we're beginning to look forward to the grand opening and the first day of school.

So, what's been done these past months?

And what is still ahead?

#### Asbestos Removal and Testing:

When Peck Place flooded, we moved the kids into Race Brook and Turkey Hill for a few days while a cleaning company dried out the floors and repaired the collapsed ceilings. We expected to have the building ready to occupy within a week. Then, as they dried, the floor tiles began lifting and curling. Tiles snapped when you stepped on them. Knowing that the glue under the tiles contained asbestos, Luzzi immediately cleared the building of teachers and workmen. Facility Support Services, an environmental company, was already on site.

A state inspector was called in to assess the situation. The building tested safe; but there was no choice, the tiles and glue had to be removed. In brief, after much discussion about a partial or full abatement, the Town's Boards made a smart decision to abate the areas of concern throughout the entire building once and for all. That asbestos removal, which also included the ceilings and pipe fittings, was completed in three separate phases. As each phase was released, the building was tested, and ultimately Peck passed all of its environmental tests. DONE!

#### Insulation:

There were several issues with insulation and piping that have now been changed to prevent a recurrence. So what's changed? All of the soffits on the exterior walls of Peck's classroom wings have been fully insulated with thick, rigid foam board. As this work progressed, the difference in warmth was palpable. The classrooms sinks, and all of the piping, which were previously located on the exterior walls have been removed. All water

coolers and sinks are now located on interior walls. We took this opportunity to make them handicap accessible, as well. DONE!

#### Lighting and Ceilings:

The new white ceilings throughout the entire building make the classrooms and halls so much brighter. The architecture in the library was changed and the library now has a flat ceiling. By taking advantage of an energy savings program with United Illuminating, the school has updated, brighter, and more natural, classroom lighting and new LED exit signs were installed throughout. The gym has a new ceiling and lighting as well. DONE!

#### Painting:

Peck looks like new! All the walls in classrooms and hallways have been painted a very pale yellow, called 'linen.' The gym and cafeteria were painted a combination of royal blue and white. Because of the freshly-painted walls, the doors looked shabby, so they were redone as well. Metal doors were painted a satin black; and wooden doors were sanded, re-stained, and polyurethaned. DONE!

As this update goes to press, there are only four remaining projects: the floors, roof, cabinetry, and univents. The projects are now out to bid. Work will hopefully commence soon.

#### New Floors:

The tile has been delivered, and the floors are currently being installed over a water-proofing barrier. The tile is a light color to keep the building as bright as possible. The library carpet and the few other remaining carpets will be professionally cleaned after all the heavy work is completed.

Currently, a crew is prepping the gym concrete slab for the arrival of the new wood

flooring. IN PROGRESS.

#### Roof:

The new roof has approved and is out to bid. Work on the roof should begin in the next few weeks. JUNE.

#### Univents and Cabinetry:

Each classroom will have a new univent with individual climate controls for both heat and air-conditioning. A rumor abounds that Peck will have central air-conditioning, but that is not the case.

The univents will allow teachers and staff to control the temperature and humidity in the individual classrooms. The metal cabinetry is being replaced with wood units similar to the cabinets in the sixth grade addition. They will have more open shelving to accommodate crates and bins. JULY.

There are a few, as yet, unanswered questions: We don't have an insurance settlement yet, but we are working with a local, professional adjuster and CIRMA. We also don't know the amount we will receive in reimbursements from the state.

Orange will be reimbursed at 36.43 percent of some yet-to-be-determined portion of the roof, univents, and cabinetry. Finally, we don't know the grand opening date, and while we are confidently on schedule, we need the installation of cabinets and univents – and the move back from Yale – to all go smoothly before we can announce a move-back window with certainty.

Lynn McMullin is the superintendent of schools for the Orange Elementary School system.

## Math Central:

### The MythBusters Meet The Common Core

With all due apologies to the real MythBusters, Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage, the narrative below presents a fictionalized, tongue-in-cheek method of separating truth from fiction regarding the Common Core State Standards.

**Jamie:** Well Adam, we have had literally thousands of letters from our loyal viewers asking us to find out the truth about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

**Adam:** No doubt Jamie ... the kids just finished their first year with the new standards and lots of misinformation has been flying about. Let's start with this one, it's a doozy ... **Some folks contend that CCSS tells ev-**



MARK  
AHRENS

**ery school district exactly what textbooks to use, in essence a national curriculum. What say you Jamie?**

**Jamie:** We sure have had loads of fun with this one. Kari and Tori loaded this rumor up with Buster, our anthropomorphic stunt dummy, into our beater car and drove it over the side of cliff to see if it could survive.

**Adam:** Well ... we always love to put poor 'ole Buster to the test, even when science itself is victimized ... I'm dying to know ... what happened?

**Jamie:** This myth is officially busted. This rumor suffered G-force traumas that were invariably lethal. **The CCSS contains**

**grade-level standards but leaves curriculum development and text-book selection entirely up to each school district. Teachers still have the flexibility to teach creatively.**

Let's tee up another Myth Adam ... **Some folks think CCSS represents the lowest common denominator in education and will actually water down many states' current educational efforts.**

**Adam:** We had Grant take this assertion and place it into a hermetically-sealed container so we could measure, via our stink-o-meter, the rubbish parts per million (rppm) contained within this statement.

**Jamie:** As you know, anything over 42 rppm means that the air is so stench-laden, that the truth can no longer be discerned. What was Grant's reading for this experiment?

**Adam:** 118 rppm Jamie. Phew, this myth is olfactory busted. **CCSS were designed to build upon the most advanced current thinking about preparing all students for success in college and their careers. This will result in moving even the best state standards to the next level. In fact, since CCSS began, there has been an explicit agreement that no state would lower its standards.**

We have time for one more myth, Jamie. I must say, based on recent revelations about data collection, this one seems entirely plausible. The myth is that **the Federal Govern-**

**ment has established a national database on each student in CCSS. How did we go about divining fact from fiction on this one?**

**Jamie:** Well Adam, to test this one, we taped the statement to what's left of Buster and packed them both into our specially protected bunker. We then attached C4 explosives to the bunker to simulate a stick of dynamite.

Like our other two myths, this one was also busted! In fact, blown to smithereens. **Just as before CCSS, each state remains in control of their own students' data. The Federal Government receives student results aggregated only by school, just as it has for the past several years.**

**Adam:** Well Jamie, another episode of Mythbusters has come to an end. It's been a great show because we were able to do our favorite stuff ... we blew things up, drove a car over a cliff, and created awful smells. Despite all this fun we weren't able to put a single dent in CCSS ... it's resilient, that's for sure.

**Jamie:** Yeah, but that just means we will collect up some more bluster and hyperbole, piece Buster back together, and come back even stronger with more crazier mayhem for round two.

**Adam:** Excellent, Jamie, I can't wait! *Mark Ahrens is the center director of Mathnasium of Milford. He can be reached at 203.783.1490.*

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# Youth & Education

## And The Winner Is...



The Board of Education recently held a district wide spelling bee and the winner of the Grade 3/4 division is Liliana Restrepo, a fourth grader. The winner of the 5/6 division is Michael Haverstock, a fifth-grader. Both Liliana and Michael attend Turkey Hill School. Photo by Steve Cooper

## Amity Regional Middle School Honor Roll

### Grade 7 First Honors

Jenna Aconfora, Mounisha Anumolu, Talia Barry, Sophie Benjamin, Emily Berkeley, Katelyn Blake, Alexandra Bonat, Emily Bretthauer, Carly Chervenak, Marc Chodos, Madelyn Ciskowski, Rachael Crow, Stephen Delaney, Ira Einbinder, Dize Eron, Cailey Esposito, Marcelle Gagnon, Taylor Gourdier, Payton Grande, Alexis Halstead, Lien Har, Allison Hummel, Hyunbeen Lee, Adam Leszczak, Erin McCormack, Diane Meng, Jay Moon, Arianna Pargen, Soo-Jin Park, Dorothy Parniawski, Madelyn Pickett, Jack Pletter, John Poland, Julia Potter, Unaiza Rana, Julia Todeasa, Anthony Tom, Madison Tom, Jacqueline Tran, Colton Varholak, Connor Visnic, Xian-Zheng Zhong, and Clare Zorena

### Grade 7 Second Honors

Austin Agapiou, Lani Beaudette, Michael Bier, Nelson Bordeleau, Abigail Bowser, Jake Bronson, Gabriella Caruso, Danielle Casapulla, Elizabeth Cesanek, Alexa Cofrancesco, Molly Cox, Joseph DiBenedetto, Brian DiGiovanni, Gina Driscoll, Elaina Ferraro, Mary Foley, Lauryn Giuliano, Shiva Gowda, Kalynna Hauser, Kaylee Huber, Robert Jaques, Izabella Jones, Margaret LoSchiaivo, Amanda Moran, Luke Nemecek, Kenneth Page, Liam Palazzo, Sana Patel, Sandrine Pyne, Shelby Ronan, Jonathan Schachter, Kelly Shaw, Spencer Shepard, Napoleon Stardellis, Kevin Tian, Daria Torrenti, Reed Wegman, Tucker Wright, Garrett Young, and Kevin Zheng

### GRADE 7 CITIZENSHIP RECOGNITION

Jenna Aconfora, Sophie Benjamin, Abigail Bowser, Carly Chervenak, Madelyn Ciskowski, Gina Driscoll, Cailey Esposito, Mary Foley, Lauryn Giuliano, Taylor Gourdier, Shiva Gowda, Christopher Greco, Alexis Halstead, Julia Hoddinott, Julia Hurlburt, Adam Leszczak, Dorothy Parniawski, Madelyn Pickett, Julia Potter, Jared Sullivan, Julia Todeasa, Anthony Tom, Madison Tom, Garrett Young, and Clare Zorena

## Congratulations Orange Students!

Linda Drozdowicz, daughter of Drs. Bonnie and ZB Drozdowicz of Orange, graduated from the Mayo Clinic Medical School. Linda is a graduate of Amity High School, and was the top liberal arts and sciences scholar at the University of Connecticut for 2010 graduating Summa Cum Laude. Linda will be entering a residency program in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Mount Sinai Hospital Icahn School of Medicine in New York City.

Eastern Connecticut State University's 124th Commencement included three graduates from Orange including: Amanda DeGennaro, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Lauren Gray graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and Andrew Prince graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Economics.

Ashley Smith of Orange, received a BA degree from Skidmore College.

Among the graduates from Bryant University who are Orange residents include: Steven Todd Bishop, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Finance, Cum Laude; Matthew Ari Borsuk, Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psycholo-

gy, Cum Laude; Yevgenia Mikhailovna Pogorelova, Bachelor of Science in International Business in Marketing, and Samantha L. Rimler, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Marketing, Cum Laude

Ryan Duffy of Orange, made the Dean's List for Franklin & Marshall College's fall 2013 semester. Ryan is the child of John W. Duffy, Jr. and Karen M. Duffy.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announced that Thomas Meehan of Orange, a first-year student majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development, has been named a Charles O. Thompson Scholar for the 2013-14 academic year.

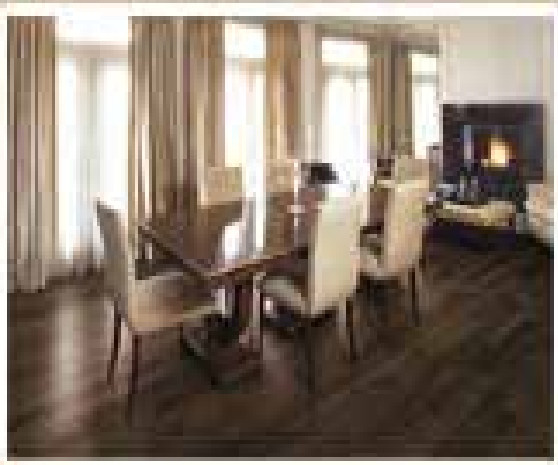
Meredith Bauer of Orange, recently graduated from Champlain College. She received a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

The following local Orange residents recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines: Sama Abdulmalik initiated at University of Bridgeport, Ahmed Alfehaid initiated at University of Bridgeport, and Xinyuan Hu of Orange, who initiated at the University of Connecticut.

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## Health & Wellness

### “Doc” Whitney Road Race

The George “Doc” Whitney Road Race & Walk is scheduled for Sunday, June 29, at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road. Proceeds will benefit the George “Doc” Whitney Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Kids Fun Run (ages 6 and under) begins at 9:20 a.m. while the Kid Fun Run (ages 7-11) commences at 9:40 a.m. and the 5K Road Race & Fitness Walk begins at 10 a.m.

All pre-registration fees through June 21 are \$22 for the road race, \$12 for 12 and under and the 5K Fitness Walk, and \$6 for the Kids Fun Runs.

Online registration is available until Tuesday, June 24 at [www.hitekracing.com](http://www.hitekracing.com)

All runners and walkers age 65 and over will not be charged a fee but they must mail in an official race application to the race director by Saturday, June 21. Online registration is not available for this special consideration.

### Natural Living:

## What We Should Feed Our Kitties



SABRINA  
SANTORO

My column is usually about healthy and natural topics related to people; this one is my opinion about what we should be feeding our treasured kitties. I recently lost my beloved rescue kitty, Muffy, to chronic kidney disease.

When we rescued Muffy on the eve of Super Storm Sandy, I soon found she was already in the advanced stage of this disease, and there was no “fixing” it. We did our best to treat it, but watching her decline was heartbreaking, and compelled me to do some extensive reading on its causes.

When my daughter was in college she took in a kitty. When she came home, so did Kitty. Kitty vomited food at least once a week, which drove me insane. She was vet checked and found healthy. I tried every brand of food on the grocery store shelf, she still vomited.

Then I started doing some research into its possible causes. I learned that cats are not just carnivores, but they are obligate carnivores, which means they must eat meat to survive. Also, they have a very short digestive tract and are extremely inefficient at breaking down carbohydrates. I went to a local pet store and bought grain free, low carb food. That was the end of the vomiting. Even her skin and her fur improved, it became soft and shiny, no skin flakes. I researched more.

I learned that cats have very efficient kidneys, which draw moisture from their prey; they are naturally not “bowl drinkers” and won’t turn to the water bowl unless already dehydrated. Dry

food, no matter how high the quality, is not your kitty’s friend.

Dry food is manufactured as a convenience to us; it is marketed to us, loaded with carbs, corn and filler grains, and tough on their kidneys. Even grain free dry food is problematic. Does your cat seem “addicted” to the dry food? Pet food companies coat the kibble with animal digests targeted to attract your pet.

All those cat food commercials that show bowls of colorful foods, loaded with fruits, vegetables, corn, etc? They are marketed to you, so you’ll buy it for your cat. The nutrients found in fruits and vegetables are indigestible to cats, and all those grains are just cheap fillers. The most recent research shows that an all dry diet is a significant contribution to the probable development of chronic kidney disease. Even leaving a bowl of dry for “grazing” during the day while you are away is not a good idea. Grain free or not, dry food creates problems.

So what to do? If you’re disinclined to try a

raw diet (most of us are) choose a canned food that derives 100% of its protein from meat, is grain free and low or absent in carbs. If you are gone for long periods during the day, keep some frozen in a baggie and turn it out frozen onto a dish for kitty before you leave. By the time she’s ready for more food, it will be defrosted and ready to eat.

Our new kitten, Charli, is on canned food, made in the US, no soy, no grains, no preservatives, artificial colors or flavors and has 0% plant protein, just 100% animal protein and contains all the nutrients she needs. She’s energetic, healthy, her fur is shiny and soft, with no visible signs of dander or flaking, and has no digestive issues. I’m not a “crazy cat lady”, just trying to keep our kitty naturally healthy.

*Sabrina is co-owner with her husband, Ernie, of Sunflower Farm and Connecticut Natural Soapworks, a beekeeper and Reiki Master. [www.sunflowerfarm.com](http://www.sunflowerfarm.com)*

### Spring Rabies Clinic

Amity Animal Rescue Fund, Inc. (AARF), will be offering its Rabies Clinic on Sunday, June 8 from 12-2 p.m. at the Orange pavilion on Orange Center Road.

A current rabies license is required to register your dog in all municipalities in Connecticut. The deadline for licensing is July 1.

Dr. Tara Nanavati, a veter-

inarian and Orange resident, will be volunteering his services for this event.

All proceeds will be used to continue AARF’s “Spay/Neuter Now” program, which assists area residents with low cost spay/neuter services.

The cost for a rabies inoculation is \$15.

Please bring proof of cur-

rent inoculations to receive a three year rabies vaccine.

Dogs must be on leash and cats must be in carriers.

AARF is a non-profit all volunteer organization. This clinic is being held to honor the memory of one of its founding members, Bridget Albert, who unexpectedly passed away in April.

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# Health & Wellness

## On Your Mind:

### You Can Stop Being A Bullying Victim



**FERN  
TAUSIG**

Bullies come in all shapes, sizes and gender. Many people have experienced bullying either as a child or as an adult; experienced it at home, at school or on the job.

It seems impossible to see a day go by without some report of a terrible incident involving a bully or victim of a bully.

I am amazed at the number of adults I see for anxiety whose anxiety began when being bullied either in school or at home.

I would love to hear from you and how you dealt with it, including whether you are still dealing with it. I wonder how many of you are the bully and just don't realize it because no one has told you.

The anxiety or fear that is created by being bullied is easy to understand. Because of the nature of the unconscious mind, when one experiences fear as a young child, the feelings of fear remain while the initial cause may be consciously forgotten.

This fear evolves into anxiety and grows bigger with each experience of fear regardless of the initial cause.

For example, a child may experience a scary encounter with a mean child that later makes them uncomfortable meeting new children. The anticipation of another encounter with a mean child makes them feel anxious. Those who enjoy intimidating others often sense that anxiety, and the cycle begins.

Bullying comes in many different forms and often begins at home. We know that children who were abused often grow up to be bullies at work or to their own children.

We also know now that the brain of a bul-

ly is different. An article in the New York Times written by Tara Parker-Pope says that "... In a chilling finding, the researchers found aggressive youths appear to enjoy inflicting pain on others ... When the aggressive youths watched people intentionally inflicting pain on another, the scan showed a response in the part of the brain associated with reward and pleasure." This is a chilling discovery that we can all find enlightening.

The million-dollar question is then, how to avoid being the target of a bully. Bullies are really cowards, but they have an uncanny way of choose their victims. Everyone knows that when you stand up to a bully they back down.

I have recently worked with several clients ranging from 10-60 years old who were victims of bullying. Using a variety of techniques and hypnosis these clients were able to neutralize the feelings they had about the bullies and replace them with feelings of

confidence and empowerment. You can't control other people but you have 100 percent control over the way you allow them to affect you and 100 percent control over the way you respond to them.

Anxiety is always caused by something real that happened a long time ago that you have already survived and is in the past. The unconscious mind continues to try to protect you using adrenaline when triggered by a situation that possibly represents a threat even though there is no real danger.

Hypnosis is the most effective way to change those negative thoughts that create the negative feelings that seem to attract bullies in every stage of life. Check my website for the next workshop about improving self-esteem and feeling empowered using hypnosis.

*Fern is a certified hypnotist, life coach and health educator. She can be reached at 203.283.4567, www.myhealinghypnosis.com*

## The Color Orange:

### You Can Stop Being A Bullying Victim

I love Emily Dickinson's poems. When I started counseling patients with cancer, AIDs and other illnesses I let them know they weren't statistics. They could believe in their potential and have hope. Studies have shown people who have plans for the future are more likely to be alive than those who don't.

I was criticized for giving false hope to my patients. A W.H. Auden poem says of cancer; "Childless women get it and men when they retire. It's as if there had to be an outlet for their foiled creative power."

Folks, there is no false hope. Hope is real. Here are Emily's words: "Hope is the thing with feathers which perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all."

Hope is a resource which helps us get through the day and survive. So never forget your potential. It doesn't drain your energy to have hope. Miracles and self-healing do occur. Several oncologists felt a woman who came to see me had no hope as the type of cancer she had didn't respond to therapy.

One oncologist, however, knowing me, said, "But I'll treat her to give her hope." The letters from him told of her dramatic response and her going into complete remission within two months. Her comment as to



**BERNIE  
SIEGEL, M.D.**

why it happened, "When Doctor Siegel sat on my hospital bed and hugged me I knew I would get well."

The next free treatment which helps us to survive is true love, which is unconditional and given with no expectations. Then the giver and receiver both benefit. Yes, love is the answer to all of life's problems. When you become a love warrior amazing

things happen. Love is a weapon people do not know how to handle and has the potential to heal all the world's problems as well as our individual issues.

Next on our list is faith. I know people who have left their troubles to God and had their cancer disappear. It isn't easy to have that kind of profound faith, but when you do it accomplishes amazing things.

A woman came into my office and asked me to document God healing her of cancer. I asked her why didn't she let me operate and then God could keep her well. She was enraged at my lack of faith and walked out. Six years later after I delivered a lecture in New York City, a woman came up and said, "Do you remember me?" She told me she was the woman who had walked out due to my lack of faith and was free of cancer. I hugged her and said, "I am so happy to meet a saint."

The mind, body and spirit are a unit and

there is no limit to what these forces of nature can accomplish. So watch what happens when you love your life and body and leave your troubles to God.

*We currently have a mind, heart and health matters support group for those in need and for caregivers who need support the first Wednesday evening of every month and a*

*cancer support group the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of the month at Coachman's Square at 21 Bradley Road, Woodbridge. If interested contact Lucille Ranciato at lranciato1@yahoo.com 203.288.2839 or myself bugsyssiegel@sbcglobal.net for details.*

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## Amity Boys' Tennis Team Is Perfect

by Brian McCready

ORANGE – The Amity boys' tennis team is currently undefeated with 14 victories, and the squad's coach calls the talent "one of my best teams ever."

Amity tennis coach, Chris Raffone said Jason Seidman, Max Einbinder, Ethan Bershtein and Phil Hochman are all undefeated in singles action.

"Our goals for the season are the Southern Connecticut Conference Championship and state title. This is one of my best teams ever," Raffone said.

Raffone knows something about coaching extraordinary talent at Amity. He's been the coach for eight years and has amassed a staggering 131-19 record.

Amity has won the SCC championship three times under his leadership.

"The team is a great group this season winning every match," Raffone said.

Captain Jake Noyes is leading the team on and off the court and is also undefeated in doubles.

"My favorite part of coaching is seeing the friendships that develop amongst the kids and watching them grow into fine young adults. I take great pride in keeping in touch with graduated players and seeing what great things they're doing with their lives," Raffone said.

## Send Us Your Sports Photos And Information

by Brian McCready

ORANGE — In each edition of The Orange Times we reserve two pages for sports. We want to spotlight the youth and adults in town, no matter the sport.

We do our best to cover the Amity athletic teams with photos and stories from our staff, but we want to go beyond that, and that is where we need your help!

If your child is playing in a little league, or youth sports team and you take a picture, send it to us, and we will be more than happy to print it. All we ask is for a high resolution photo, mainly that means from a good camera and we can publish iPhone pictures, and the names of the youths in the photo.

And for any photos you submit, we want to make sure to give you credit for your efforts. Please include your name.

Orange is a tight-knit community, and we want this to be your community newspaper. And we're not just focusing on the youth. If you're in an adult sports league and you want to spotlight your efforts, please send in photos and caption information.

Send any photos and information to [sportseditor@theorangetimes.com](mailto:sportseditor@theorangetimes.com)

## Amity Volleyball Squad Improving



Amity volleyball player, Tyler Barwise, goes up to serve in a recent game.

Photo by Lexi Crocco

by Brian McCready

ORANGE – Improvement isn't always measured in wins and losses, and that is how Amity boys' volleyball coach Michael Cofrancesco feels about his squad.

Cofrancesco's team has compiled a 4-12 record thus far this season, but he said he sees real improvement.

"Over the past few weeks many opposing coaches have made comments about our improvement. So I am pleased with are improvement. We have just come on too late because we entered the year with such minimal experience," Cofrancesco said. He said over the past few weeks the team has really developed a nice chemistry and is playing much better.

"Ethan Smith right side hitter

has improved tremendously offensively and blocking. We have also moved Joe Ferraiolo to libero which has helped our defense. Brett Southworth, outside hitter, has also become more aggressive going for digs, which has been a spark to the energy of the whole team," Cofrancesco said.

"Our captains Nick Bottone and Tyler Barwise continue to be our main hitting forces. In the past two to three weeks

we took the Southern Connecticut Conference top team Cheshire to five sets (losing 3-2 in their gym), took one loss Oxford to four sets and lost the fourth set 29-27, and beat Xavier, the two seed for SCC's and a team with double digit wins, 3-2," Cofrancesco said. Amity will be the four seed in the SCC tournament.



# SPORTS

## Amity Softball Team Continue Its Strong Play



Photo by Steve Cooper

Amity softball pitcher Kate Koshes delivers a pitch during a recent game and Krista Reynolds is at third base.

by **Brian McCready**

ORANGE – The Amity softball team continues to excel on the field compiling a 14-4 record as of press time.

Amity's four losses were to Cheshire, Mercy, Shelton, and East Haven, said Loren Purcell, who is the team's coach.

Amity's pitchers Kate Koshes is 11-1 and Morgan Perry is 3-2 on the mound.

Recent individual honors include All Southern Connecticut Conference Housatonic Division selections: Heather Watt, senior captain, shortstop; Jenna DiLorenzo, junior, centerfield; Koshes, sophomore, pitcher; Teresa Marchitto, sophomore, right fielder/catcher.

Krista Reynolds was selected SCC Scholar Athlete of the month, and was selected by the New Haven Federation of Softball Umpires for their annual Scholar Athlete Classic Game. This game will be held on June 21 at West Haven High School, 6 p.m.

"Krista was selected for this game based on her academic

achievements and dedication to being a well-rounded student athlete," Purcell said.

Purcell said she is "extremely pleased" with the performance of her team.

She said the team's goals remain the same, winning the SCC tournament this month, then qualify and win the state tournament.

"Our girls are determined to succeed. Although, we are a young team this season, each girl knows their role and works hard daily to achieve the goals set forth by the team," Purcell said.

### Offensive powers

Jenna DiLorenzo is tearing up the base path, her coach said.

She has had back-to-back games with home runs in each of them against Joseph A. Foran and North Haven.

"Line drive smokers that left the park like a bullet. I believe Jenna is one of the best hitters in the state," Purcell said.

She's got some backup from fellow teammates swinging the bat well this season.

"Koshes has performed outstanding on the mound, but also provides us with consistent at bats

each game," Purcell said. "Teresa Marchitto, Jill DeMaio, Haley Kober, Noelle Bencivengo and Janaya Young have all added tremendous efforts at the plate. Team captains, Heather Watt, Krista Reynolds, and Heather Ferranti, are providing us with the leadership this team needs to keep us on the path of success."

Purcell said she is excited that Heather Ferranti is coming back.

"Our senior starting pitcher was injured preseason and is now cleared to swing away, but we still will have to wait for her appearance on the mound," Purcell said.

"Heather is an outstanding athlete and it was extremely upsetting to have to see her miss part of her senior season. She will be a nice addition for post season play."

Defensively, Reynolds has made some amazing plays at third base, her coach said.

"She is one of our best defensive players and can play basically any position," Purcell said. "Jenna, Haley, and Teresa have all made solid consistent plays in our outfield. Janaya has been solid for the team, with her cannon behind the plate."



Amity softball player Jill DeMaio swings the bat in a recent game.

Photo by Steve Cooper



# Home & Garden

## Real Talk:

### You Ask, A Pro Answers

## Assessments VS. Appraisals

There seems to be much confusion between the two "opinions of value" that are set by two completely different strategies. Since one does not relate at all to the other, home buyers naturally question why and how this could be?

Let's start with the town assessment. The taxes for each property are determined by using 70 percent of the assessed value times the tax rate.

In this manner, the homeowner recognizes his responsibility for a portion of the expenses the town incurs. The town hires professionals



**BARBARA  
LEHRER**

to examine the location, square footage, lot size, etc. to determine the amount a home is worth for this purpose.

I suggest you visit the town assessor for a more extensive evaluation of the process. Many homeowners spend time in the assessor's office requesting a review and possible lowering of their assessments, but we all love our home values to be UP when it

comes to market sales! The town controls its assessments, but the buyers and the lenders control the market val-

ue! The town's figures have nothing to do with the pricing of homes, thus the appraisals come from closed prices in a recent time frame.

Your realtor gives you the first taste of this range when she or he previews your home and then researches the houses that have closed in the last four to six months in the surrounding neighborhoods with like size and amenities.

Next comes the buyers who determine whether they agree with the marketing price. The seller only has control over the asking price, the access to the property and its condition. These buyers will review the comparative sales with their representatives (real estate agents) and hopefully confirm a purchase

agreement with the seller.

At this point, the lender now takes control. The appraiser they send will look at the assessments, and evaluate the reason for such higher or lower readings as comparing each "comp" used. This is only one small consideration the lender makes, more importantly the size, age and upgrades are the main source used.

So, the next time you see a house in Orange priced at \$399,900, that has an assessment of \$299,990, just be glad your taxes do not reflect that!

If you need more information on these issues email [Barbara.Lehrner@cbmoves.com](mailto:Barbara.Lehrner@cbmoves.com)

## Don't Sweat It:

# Tips To Get Your Air Conditioner Ready For Summer



**TOM  
CASEY**

Air conditioner repair can be expensive, and AC replacement even more expensive. The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is your best bet to staying cool.

Here are 5 Do It Yourself (DIY) Things to Get Your AC Ready for This Summer:

- 1) Change your filters:  
Dirt is the #1 cause of air conditioning

breakdowns. It's crucial to have a properly sized, clean filter to keep your system working smoothly. Dirt build-up reduces your capacity and puts more stress on your system, as well as costing you more to operate.

- 2) Trim around your outdoor unit:

Overgrown bushes or shrubs, grass clippings, falling leaves, or even dust and dirt restrict airflow through your AC, causing problems. Blocked airflow, even partially, causes system pressures to skyrocket, lowering cooling capacity and raising utility costs. Your AC also runs hotter, so it's more likely to overheat and breakdown prematurely.

- 3) Open all your registers:

Your AC's cooling capacity and operating efficiency are directly linked to your indoor airflow. It's crucial to make sure all your supplies and returns are wide open and not blocked by furniture. Reduced airflow caused by closed or blocked vents equals big problems. Contrary to popular belief, closing off vents or rooms does not save you money.

- 4) Flush your drain:

One of the main jobs of your AC is to remove moisture, known as condensate, to dehumidify your home, which must be drained away to prevent water damage to your house, as well as the potential for mold or mildew in your cooling coil drain pan. A mixture of warm water plus a little white vinegar poured into the drain line and/or pump can flush out any potential debris that may be built up. Be sure to pay careful attention to how "fast" it drains to ensure water is being disposed of quickly.

- 5) Look for signs of water leaks:

Take a good look around your indoor unit, to see if there's any evidence of previous wa-

ter leaks. You'll need a good light to really be able to tell if there are any stains or signs of rust where water might have been leaking or dripping in the past. Usually stains appear either as a white or brown shadow where the water has evaporated away.

A little bit of preventative DIY can go a long way to extending the life of your air conditioner. If your AC does malfunction, and you need air conditioning repair, it's always best to call a certified professional to completely diagnose your system.

Beyond DIY, professional maintenance does have numerous benefits. Regular AC tune-ups improve your system's performance and cooling capacity, reduce monthly electric bills, prolong the life of your system, and can identify small, simple issues before they turn catastrophic (and expensive). Plus, a professional AC tune-up keeps any manufacturer's warranties valid as well.

Tom Casey, Owner of Climate Partners in Milford, CT can be reached at 203.877.7771 or [tomc@caseyforcomfort.com](mailto:tomc@caseyforcomfort.com)

## Just Floored:

# Red, White, And Blue Inspiration For Your Home.



**ANNAMARIE  
AMORE**

The Fourth of July is right around the corner and I have some great patriotic décor ideas for you. Red, white and blue look fantastic together giving you a styled called "Americana."

The front porch and outdoor living rooms are the perfect place to decorate for the Independence Day celebration. Small touches of red, white and blue will do the job great, old-fashioned pleated full flag fans are the most common feature on front porches and fences.

Give your old outdoor furniture a pop of color with cushion covers, planters with our patriotic colors, wicker chairs with blue and white ticking stripe, and red or blue accent pillows and throw blankets.

Spray-painting your old furniture with blue and white will give a great feel as well as reinvent your old pieces to look like new.

In your living room, add a patriotic touch with a star or flag motif. Toss a white quilt over the back of a wing chair dressed in red

and blue plaid. Set a wooden trencher (a large rectangular vessel once used to serve food) on top of a primitive cupboard or dry sink. Display the American flag above the fireplace or hang it in another prominent location.

Give your kitchen a subtle fourth vibe, by placing red and white carnations in a blue vase or mason jar with a blue tint. Keep it simple with a checkered tablecloth, using your carnations as a centerpiece. You can also display baskets or wooden bowls stenciled with a stars and stripe motif to hold red apples or tomatoes.

The bedrooms are easy enough to get into the holiday spirit with bedspreads or quilts in red, white or blue hues coupled with matching shams and decorative pillows featuring the flag motif, which adds a patriotic touch.

These are just a few ideas to decorate your house. I find that local stores such as the Christmas Tree Shop and craft stores always have these items for great prices. Enjoy your holiday and as always be safe.

Annamarie Amore is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialists. She can be reached at [amoreinteriors@yahoo.com](mailto:amoreinteriors@yahoo.com)



# iSpa & Nail

Victoria and Sean fulfilled their dream last December when they took the plunge and became the new owners of iSpa & Nail in the Trader Joe's Shopping Center.

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# Home & Garden

## The Garden Spot:

### Welcome June...

## The Garden At Its Best!



**MARION RIZZO**

The song captured it best "June is busting out all over." This is probably the most enjoyable time of the year for gardening. Not too hot, a fair amount of rain and perennials showcasing their flowers and foliage.

Annuals are planted and their bright colors add that needed punch to the yard and landscape.

One of my favorite June blooms are peonies. What could be more dramatic than those flamboyant, fragrant full-bodied blossoms? Peonies are a great addition to any garden. Not only are they spectacular but even after the flowers wilt, the shiny green leaves remain throughout the season, turning a reddish color by fall. Unlike many perennials, whose leaves can become unsightly, peony foliage continue to add beauty to the environment. Once planted peonies will last for generations and are hardy enough to withstand harsh winters. My peony is almost ready to bloom and I can't wait!

There are a couple of things to keep in mind when adding peonies to your garden. First, newly planted peonies may not bloom for the first two or three years. Once they are established, peonies do not like to

be moved.

Their favorite location is a spot where they receive six hours of direct sun and they do not like to be planted too deeply. If you transplant or separate the plant, be aware they may not survive.

Peonies are heavy feeders and once they are established, it is suggested that a low-nitrogen fertilizer be scratched into the soil six inches from the crown of the plant.

Given the size of their blooms, it's a good idea to place support rings around the plants in the spring to prevent them from flopping over. Cut peonies for bouquets in the morning, just as the bud is opening and a few individual petals are visible. Be sure you don't remove more than half the flowers from each plant at a time and avoid taking any leafy stems. This will ensure vigorous blooms next year.

Peonies have an interesting history. They have been a treasured flower in Asia for hundreds of years and came to the Western world in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are particularly popular among Chinese artists. The root of the peony was used in folk medicine as a cure for menstrual cramps and asthma. I think you'll agree the peony really is one of the outstanding stars of the perennial garden.

*Marion Rizzo is a past President of The Garden Club of Orange.*

## Room 911:

### You Can Never Be Too....

I recently remembered an old adage that went something like this, "You can never be too rich or too thin."

While that may or may not be true, I would like to add that as a person involved in interior decorating and design, "You can never have enough closets or storage space." What starts out as a closet half-empty, soon is brimming over with clothes, overcoats, a place to hide holiday gifts, tennis rackets, school projects and the like. Below are some ways to create more space for your everyday things and your favorite treasures.

#### Under A Staircase

If you live in a colonial style house you can take advantage of space under a set of stairs. Shelves or even a rack for out of season overcoats can be put into a built-in closet under the stairwell. In one instance, oversized coffee table books were put on open shelves that tucked under the staircase. It had a quirky charm as it also featured old train car replicas. Don't forget that the space under basement stairs can also serve as storage for sports equipment, CDs/DVDs, guitar cases and bins of Lego blocks.

#### Window Seats

Window seats, especially those with a cushion, lend a special charm to a house. It is a nook to savor a moment to read a recipe, make a list, read a chapter of a book and get off your feet for a while. However, it can be more useful than that. This is a great opportunity to put cabinets underneath it for all kinds of storage.



**TEDRA SCHNEIDER**

#### Kitchen Islands

A kitchen island is very much in vogue and often you will find a stove top or an extra sink within the island. Once again, this is a good opportunity to have cabinets and even open shelves on the exterior edges or sides to house a cookbook collection, wine rack or knick-knacks. While pull out garbage cans be found within the island

as well, it often serves as storage for a large lobster pot, oversized casseroles, colanders and mixing bowls.

#### Shelving

If you are not the neat, orderly type, you might want to think twice about any type of open shelving. On the plus side, you can have vertical racks for your dishes, cup hooks for mugs, horizontal shelves for displays of kitchen paraphernalia, cookbooks, spices, flower pots filled with herbs, etc.

However, open shelving could end up being a catchall for everything and my advice is to proceed with caution. If you're not neat, opt for cabinets or drawers.

In my next installment, I will explore some other storage methods from entertainment/media centers, bars, laundry areas, mud room, and pet areas. In the meantime, really study possible areas in your house that are underutilized. You will be surprised to see how much potential storage exists within your home!

*Tedra Schneider can be reached through her website at [www.restagebytedra.com](http://www.restagebytedra.com)*

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# Arts & Entertainment

## ARTS MATTERS

*"Art resonates when it's connected to people" - Mary Lou Aleskie*

by Patricia Miller

**THE ORANGE PLAYERS** presented its Spring Production, "Kick Out of Cole," featuring the beautiful music and creative lyrics of the legendary Cole Porter on May 15, 16, 17, and 18. Attendance was good and the performances were well received each night. The cast was composed of several Orange residents and others from surrounding towns. One of the memorable songs was "Antoinette Birby" (who came from Derby!), written while Porter was an undergraduate at Yale. References to Derby, as well as Chapel Street, the Taft Hotel and Yale drew appreciative chuckles from the audience. Some of the other music included "I've Got You Under My Skin," "From This Moment On," "Anything Goes," "Night and Day," and many other of his well-known songs. The Orange Players, founded in 1974, is reported to be the second-oldest (some say the oldest!) continually performing community theater group in Connecticut. The Players will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding with a Gala in the fall — open to the public and sure to be a festive evening! A warm welcome will be extended to former, present and future members as well as friends in the community-at-large. Be on the lookout for further information.

**ART IN THE LIBRARY** exhibit for the month of June is the work of Benjamin Cassiano and Ginny Schmidt. Cassiano works in acrylics and mixed media, Schmidt works in watercolor. The opening reception is Thursday, June 5 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**MILFORD FINE ARTS COUNCIL** announces its annual cocktail party and meeting at the Milford Yacht Club (131 Trumbull Avenue, Milford) on June 18 at 6 p.m. for the reception and 7 p.m. for the meeting. There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The cost is \$25 and reservations are required. Call 203.878.6647 or go to [milfordfac@optonline.net](mailto:milfordfac@optonline.net). Tickets can also be bought online at [milfordarts.org](http://milfordarts.org). RSVP by June 10.

**EASTBOUND THEATRE** (Milford Fine Arts Center, 40 Railroad Avenue, Milford) presents "To Gillian, On Her 37th Birthday," written by Michael Brady and directed by Nancy A. Herman. The play runs June 6-22, playing on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. The play's action, centers on a widower living and brooding at his beach house since the death of his wife on her 37 birthday, while trying to connect with her spirit. His sister-in-law and her husband arrive, bringing a woman named Kevin as a blind date for David. Tensions build as the family deals with grief and the necessity of getting on with life.

Call 203.878.6647 or go to [milfordfac@optonline.net](mailto:milfordfac@optonline.net) for tickets.

**AMITY CREATIVE THEATER** has done it again with their outstanding production of "In the Heights!" The Connecticut High

chestra, Allah Hathaway and Ruben Stoddard, La Santa Cecilia, Traces-Les 7 Doights De La Main, Arguendo-Elevator Repair Service, David Grieg's American Premiere of "The Events," Regina Carter and much more! In this, the 19<sup>th</sup> year of

of containing a container, through June 6.

The CAW Student show, featuring new work by students of all ages and all experience levels, will be on view from June 29 to July 23 Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-5:30

Committee and Milford Trees. All mediums and styles are welcome. Artists' fees are \$25 for one piece, \$35 for two pieces. MFAC members receive \$5 off total fee. For additional information go to [milfordarts.org](http://milfordarts.org) or call 203.878.6647.

## Orange Players Present...



Photo By Pat Miller

Martin, Paul Templeton, Suzanne Powers, Sarah Golley, Ralph Buonocore, Christine Gill, Rich Moran, Raye Riccitelli MacClellan, Barbara Stolarik, Paul Templeton, Valerie Torphy perform "Kick out of Cole."

School Musical Theater has nominated Amity High School's Creative Theater for awards in 16 out of 18 categories! The nominations are for Outstanding Hair and Makeup (Andrea Kennedy), Outstanding Costuming ((Julie Chevar, Brenda Burt), Outstanding Lighting (Dan Hassenmayer), Outstanding Set Design (Rob Kennedy), Outstanding Sound (Tom Ivanovich), Outstanding Direction (Rob and Andrea Kennedy), Outstanding Choreography (Andrea Kennedy), Outstanding Music Direction (Peter Randazzo), Outstanding Orchestra, Outstanding Leading Actress (Shaylen Harger), Outstanding Supporting Actress (Alida Ballou), Outstanding Supporting Actor (Ryan Rattley), Outstanding Chorus, Outstanding Featured Performer (Kahari Blue-The Piragua Guy), Outstanding Lobby Display (Barbie Harger), and Outstanding Production of the Year.

These nominations are an affirmation of the high musical theater standards set and achieved by the Kennedys at Amity High School.

Their talent and commitment to excellence have put their productions at the top of the "must-see" list for the Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge region and beyond. We are all proud of you and your students whom you have inspired to make their best efforts, culminating in award-winning productions.

**THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ART AND IDEAS** runs from June 14-June 28 all over New Haven. Some of the featured artists include Diana Reeves with the New Haven Symphony Or-

chestra, artists from around the corner and around the globe gather in celebration of "transformation and tradition," manifesting itself in 15 days of performances, talks, tours and festivities that explore our traditions and origins. The festival has been named by CNN as one of the top attractions in a list of "50 States, 50 Spots for 2014." For more information, schedule of events and tickets, go to [ARTIDEA.ORG](http://ARTIDEA.ORG)

**STRING QUARTET TRUCK**, in conjunction with the Festival of Arts and Ideas, brings classical music to the streets of New Haven June 14-19 from 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. The String Quartet is affiliated with Music Haven (117 Whalley Avenue, New Haven), which also will sponsor a citywide Play-in on the Green on Saturday, June 21 from 7 p.m., to 8 p.m. Music Haven calls all string players to join in this free event. Call 203.745.9030 for more information.

**JCC SUMMER MUSIC SERIES** presents a Beatles/Simon and Garfunkel Tribute Concert with Mark Schwartz and Preston John on Wednesday, June 25 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The concert is free and barbecue food will be available for purchase. Contact De De Jacobs-Komisar by sending an email to [dedek@jccnh.org](mailto:dedek@jccnh.org) or by calling 203.387.2522.

**CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP'S** National Juried Show for 2014 "Box Pot, The Contained Container," features contemporary ceramics, exploring the concept

p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at CAW (80 Audubon Street, New Haven).

**NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB** (193 Whitney Avenue, New Haven) is exhibiting through July 5 the work of William Meddick, a New Haven painter who recently displayed his work at the Case Memorial Library. His work includes still-life, landscapes and interiors. His utilization and portrayal of light in his paintings evokes powerful responses from viewers. The paintings can be seen daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**NEW HAVEN MUSEUM** (114 Whitney Avenue, New Haven) has a fascinating exhibit through November 2, with a very long name — "Interpreting Old Bones: Art and Science Give New Meaning to Remains Found - Nothing is Set in Stone: The Lincoln Oak and the New Haven Green." This exhibition pairs powerful interpretative art created by seven well-known Connecticut artists with scientific analysis by noted bio archeologists — an informative and revelatory tribute to the historic Lincoln Oak felled by Hurricane Sandy. Every first Sunday of the month admission is free of charge. Otherwise, admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$2 for students. For more information, go to [newhaven-museum.org](http://newhaven-museum.org).

**ARTISTS** are invited to submit work that presents their visions of trees for a collaborative art show, "Trees," sponsored by the Milford Fine Arts Council's Visual Arts

**SPLIT KNUCKLE THEATRE** will be presented at Long Wharf Theatre (222 Sargent Drive New Haven) in "Endurance," a concurrent telling of tales of two men in leadership positions struggling to keep their respective ships afloat. One is Sir Ernest Shackleton, who kept 27 men alive in the most inhospitable of conditions from 1914-1916.

The other is Walter Spivey, a Hartford insurance executive living 95 years later in the biggest economic meltdown since the Great Depression.

In trying to justify his recent promotion, he relives the Shackleton story, asking the question, "Can one of the greatest leaders in human history inspire me to conquer the corporate world?" The Split Knuckle Company uses chairs, desks and filing cabinets to create a world of ice, snow and mountains. This inventive company is based in Storrs, and was founded by a group of actors who met at the London International School of Performing Arts, an organization founded by former director of the Ecole Jacques Lecoq. Lecoq was an influential French mime and director, who explored, practiced and taught expression through movement. For tickets to "Endurance," call 203.787.4282 or go to [longwharf.org](http://longwharf.org).

**JOHN LITHGOW**, one of our most talented contemporary actors, will be performing a one-man theatrical memoir, "Stories by Heart" on Friday, June 6 at the Long Wharf Theatre (222 Sargent Drive, New Haven). Lithgow, an Emmy, Golden Globe and Tony award winner, won his first Tony in 1973, just three weeks after David Storey's "The Changing Room" transferred from Long Wharf, where the play had its world premiere to Broadway.

He remembers Long Wharf fondly in his memoir. "Stories by Heart" is a touching and humorous reflection on storytelling as the tie that binds humanity. He traces his roots as an actor and as a storyteller by interspersing his own story with a great story read to him and his siblings as children — "Uncle Fred Flits By," written by P.G. Wodehouse. Lithgow portrays ten distinct outrageous characters (including a parrot). This one-night-only special performance combines the power of storytelling, the magic of theatre and the talent of one of our greatest actors. For tickets call 203.787.4282 or go to [longwharf.org](http://longwharf.org).

Have an event, a comment, or an idea? Send to [patmiller605@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patmiller605@sbcglobal.net)



# Senior Living

## Poet's Corner:

### A Grand Troupe Of Players That Take Us Back In Time



**JOHN  
ULATOWSKI**

*The Orange Players is Connecticut's oldest continuously operating community theatre group, more than 40 years of productions of comedy, drama, and musical productions. It is supported by a community of avid theatre goers, as well*

*as those who simply enjoy fines arts and live entertainment. Their success is measured not only by hard work, sterling performances, and superb adaptations, but equally so by the longevity of the theatre's life – four decades worth. And it seems only likely to expect that it will continue. The Orange Players will never see a last curtain call.*

They make their entrance amid fanfares of great expectations. Performers seasoned in the tunes of life, in the delivery of quartz-timed lyrics that speak trippingly upon the tongue. They change us through the art of transition into another identity.

They sing the songs of gentle remembrance and come to ply their wares with a vibrancy that catches and holds the attention of those within the dark expanse of a gym theater. The players enter front stage like proud diplomatic couriers, who have melodious messages to dispense of tales sung in the key of life, with odes of joy and tragedy mellowed into one.

Performers as brothers and sisters in arms in the common bond of shared creativities and personal interpretations, living in the nu-



In a rehearsal for "Kick Out of Cole," from left to right: Suzanne Powers, Ralph Buonocore, Sarah Golley, Linda Martin, Paul Templeton, Valerie Torphy, Gary Harger, Valerie Torphy, Gay Harger, Barabars Atolarik, Christine Gill, Rich Moran, Raye Riccitelli McClellan  
Photo by John Ulatowski

cleus of things artistic. They have become the props of life that have traveled back in time to a different age, a long ago dimension. They hold us within the musical rhythms of living, encouraging all to look, to see, to feel, to smile, to be.

They are performers turned masterful chameleons ... whose very souls change before our eyes, putting themselves on the block for all to see ... the vulnerabilities, the foils, the surrender as willing receptors in the name of art. Chameleons that for a brief candle's glow,

sheds the skin of self and blossoms brightly in the glare of stage lights. They stand as artists whose bold reach is to interpret all essence and nuance of perfection within their craft, to seek to extract the truth in us in the songs they sing ... leaving us dwelling in the realms of Camelot.

They are the grand troupe that has come into town, dancing to the tunes that delight, bellowing songs that mellow sturdy hearts. Performers who are the stewards of their own liege, led as captives in the lure of sirens' call,

swept away in the fall of muses' beckoning that tenderly entice to sing, to sing. Behold the players ... that bring the music of life, offering its listener the metamorphosis into another age, into another way of life long ago. Shall we dance to the music?

*Special thanks to Assistant Director Pat Miller for the backstage pass.*

*John Ulatowski is the Youth Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange.*

## Retired and Rejuvenated:

### When Life Throws You For A Curve

Change can be absolutely exhilarating when we've initiated it. Good changes might be buying a new car, moving to a new place, redecorating your living room or simply changing your hairstyle or color.

On the other hand, when change is thrust upon us unexpectedly and uninvited, it is easy

to become frozen by fear and anxiety, making us uncertain about what to do next. What we really want to do is to return to the way things were. Unfortunately, that is usually not an option.

Losing a job, having a relationship end, suffering an accident, losing our good health, or losing a loved one are changes we don't ask for. While there are situations when change is indeed for the worse, often change can be an opportunity. We may not see it that way in the beginning, but in the end the impact of the change is ultimately how we deal with it.

When change is thrust upon us uninvited, there are ways to make the most of it and come out ahead, even more fulfilled, exuding more strength and thankful for the opportunity. Yes, you read that correctly — thankful that it occurred.

There was a time in my life when I lost a job that I truly loved. Now as I look back, it was a wonderful opportunity that opened new doors and led to a new career that allowed me to really make a difference in many people's lives.



**JOANNE  
BYRNE**

There are steps that help us navigate the unexpected changes in our lives. We should begin by understanding that changes that occur happen for a reason. As we move from "here" to "there", there will be moments of emotional anguish, obstacles that seem initially insurmountable and moments of fear.

Have faith and not fear. It is easy to become frustrated when obstacles jump in our path along the way to where we want to be and the life we want to create. Choose to address these frustrations with faith instead of fear and engaging in negative self-talk.

It is healthy to grieve our losses, whether it be a loved one, a job or any disappointment in life. We must allow ourselves time to mourn the death of a life we thought would continue for some time. But then it is important to take action. Get busy pursuing a goal that you may have placed on the shelf. Get busy doing your best work and chasing dreams that you can now put into action.

The life you thought you were going to live may not occur exactly as you predicted, but it will be better than you expected if you commit yourself to the change that must occur. By choosing to embrace the change that has been thrown into your lap, you are choosing growth.

You will be opening your heart, trusting that wonderful things will

find you again, and bravely moving forward even when you aren't sure exactly how it will work out.

Joanne Byrne served as Senior Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. She is now actively and

happily retired. Email her at [joannebyrne41@gmail.com](mailto:joannebyrne41@gmail.com) to share your thoughts on retirement.

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# Business

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## Insuring Your Future:

# Medicare Advantage A Good Option

Much criticism has been leveled of late at the Medicare Advantage plans. Articles appeared in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times that accuse providers and insurance companies of increasing profits at the expense of the taxpayer and Medicare recipients.

Medicare Advantage plans are administered by major insurance companies who are paid by the federal government to handle claims and administrative processes related to senior insurance. Some plans are HMO (only use doctors and hospitals in a certain network) and others are PPO's or POS plans that allow for out of network coverage at a slightly cost to the insured.

Medicare Advantage plans are offered by three major insurance companies in New Haven County. One of those plans, United Healthcare, was not able to come to an agreement with Yale-New Haven Hospital and those facilities owned by Yale-New Haven Health as well as physicians in the Yale related medical practices.

As a result, people with a Medicare Advantage plan offered through United Health, which is an HMO plan, cannot use those medical providers or facilities that are part of the Yale Health Network.

This came as quite a shock to people in the greater New Haven area, as they were told their doctors were not in the network late in the open enrollment period, and they were not told that Yale-New Haven Hospital and its affiliates were out of network until January, after the open enrollment period had ended.

While this development was justifiably disconcerting and alarming to many United Healthcare MAPD



TRISH PEARSON

clients – it should not diminish the value of Medicare Advantage Plans in general.

Medicare Advantage Plans operate in much the same way as traditional health insurance. The plans have a copay for office visits and outpatient treatment and a co-insurance for inpatient hospital stays. In addition, the plans provide for prescription coverage as is mandated by Medicare.

The big difference is that premiums range from \$0 per month up to \$225/month. One can choose the plan that best fits their medical needs and budget. This flexibility has been a great help to many of my clients.

Many seniors are quite healthy, on minimal medications and visit the doctor three or four times a year. They are quite content paying a \$25 copay for a doctor visit and a small copay for prescriptions.

While most Medicare Advantage plans have a network of providers and healthcare facilities, emergencies are generally covered as “in network” no matter where they occur. This is a common myth about MAPD plans – “it won't cover me if something happens when I am away from the area.”

In choosing whether a Medicare Advantage Plan is right for you, consider whether you would rather put money in the insurance company's pocket each month, or leave it in yours and use it if and when it's needed.

If you have questions, don't wait until the Open Enrollment period to get answers. A certified insurance agent can advise you anytime during the year.

Trish Pearson is a licensed independent insurance agent and certified Long Term Care Specialist. Contact her at 203.640.5969 or [trishpearson281@gmail.com](mailto:trishpearson281@gmail.com)

## Overstock Warehouse Opens

Overstock Warehouse located at 519 Boston Post Road Orange is a family owned and operated retail store. This is the first of its kind store in Connecticut, said Usman Syed, who is the owner.

Overstock has a special business relationship with major wholesale clubs and other bigbox stores that allows the company to receive their brand name overstock and open box at deep discounts.

On average, the company sells the goods at a 20-40 percent discount to the wholesale clubs and up to 50-60 percent below other retail stores.

Overstock carries everything from fur-

niture pieces, latest flat-screen HD TV's, navigation systems, cameras, and other electronics, as well as a great selection of grocery items, cookware, appliances, household items, designer clothing, shoes, bedding, health and beauty products, toys, and more at reduced prices.

“No other store can beat our prices on quality products,” Syed said. “Every week we get new shipments from major retailers. We believe that we offer good quality, great prices and outstanding customer service we will quickly become a weekly destination for our customers. We are opening our facility to the public in the first week of June.”

## Meet The Orange Times' Writers

Come out and meet some of The Orange Times writers at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Orange Business Expo to be held 11-4 p.m. at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, on Wednesday, June 18.

The Orange Times boasts more than 20 community columnists, who are leaders in their industry, and who provide invaluable

commentary and advice in the pages of this newspaper.

Now is your chance to come and meet them including Board of Selectmen member Kenneth Lenz from noon to 2 p.m., Tedra Schneider, noon to 2 p.m., Barbara Lehrer at noon, Patricia Pearson from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Marion Rizza.

## Property Transfers

220 Midland Drive, \$845,000, Richard Parauka to Zhixin Zhang, filed on May 2  
378 Racebrook Road, \$570,000, Annamaria Amore to Kaushal Shah, filed on May 5  
431 Taulman Road, \$365,000, Frank Corso AKA EST to Wunda Pangu, filed on May 12  
43 Indian River Road, \$240,000, Peter Zelinsky to Robert Zelinsky, filed on May 14.  
361 Longmeadow Road, \$315,000, Ralph DeMartino to Tom Bova Jr., filed on May

16.  
501 Ridge Road, \$539,900, Jay Hansen to Robert Hamill, filed on May 19.  
183 Sunrise Hill Circle, \$790,199, Sunrise Hill Estates LLC to Howard Taubin, filed on May 20.  
652 Cedar Grove, \$435,000, Ashley K. Juliano Trustee to Roger Manandhar, filed on May 22.  
728 North Greenbrier Drive, \$328,000, Deborah Hayden to Chenxiang Lin, filed on May 23

# Orange Expo

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### SEMINARS

<b>11:45pm to 12:15pm:</b>	<b>LinkedIn! Making the Most out of this Service</b> <i>by: Glen McDermott, Red Rock Branding</i>
<b>12:30pm to 1:00pm:</b>	<b>Zero to 50k Views on YouTube</b> <i>by: Glen McDermott, Red Rock Branding</i>
<b>1:30pm to 2:15pm:</b>	<b>College Financing Aid 101; Sending your Child to College</b> <i>by: James Maroney, First Choice College Placement LLC</i>
<b>3:00pm to 3:45pm:</b>	<b>Home Buying Made Simple</b> <i>by: Prielle Kane, TD Bank</i>

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# Wine & Food

## Dining Out:

### Star Of India: North And South Cuisine



TWO  
GUYS

In a small strip mall at 157 Boston Post Road is a charming colorful restaurant called the "Star of India." This unique restaurant, owned by Avtar Singh the past six years, offers you authentic cuisine with a distinct taste.

We were greeted by our waiter, Satnam, and we were shown to a cozy window seat.

The room was vibrant with large mirrors on each side of the restaurant; the walls are red with green and gold accents, complementing the white table cloths with bright red and yellow napkins, creating a very warm and inviting atmosphere.

After ordering our drinks it was time to look through the menu, which appeared to us like a magical variety of spices and flavors. There were more than 13 appetizers such as vegetable samosa, (two crispy patties stuffed with spiced potatoes and green peas) or meat samosa, (two crisp patties stuffed with savory spiced ground lamb), and for fish lovers, Jhinga Manchurian, (crisp shrimp in hot cilantro garlic sauce).

There is also the puffed rice crisp, potatoes, chick peas, mint and tamarind chutneys called Bhel Puri. For vegetarians they featured 14 entrees such as vegetable curry, Mutter Paneer, (homemade cheese cooked with peas, cream and flavored with Indian spices) or Bangalore vegetable, a south Indian style vegetarian meal cooked in coconut, red chillies, and coriander.

Then there is their Tandoor specialties. Tandoor is a clay oven which smokes and roasts your meats with a distinctive charcoal flavor.

Some of their offerings included Tandoori chicken, lamb, fish, shrimp, or a delicious combination of chicken, lamb and seafood prepared on skewers.

Their menu continues to amaze us with their favorite bread specialties such as Naan, flour bread, or try Peshwari Naan, which is made sweet with dried fruit and nuts and the Aloo Paratha, which is layered butter fried, stuffed with shredded potatoes, peas and spices. All told Star of India has 13 authentic breads to choose from.

We started by sharing a vegetable, Tikki, which is mashed potatoes and pea patties in a chick peas batter, deep fried and a side order of French fries. We were also served a relish tray of tamarind, onion relish, mint chutney, and thin Papad crackers.

Robert's main meal was chicken Saagwala, which is boneless chicken cooked with spinach in mild spices with a side dish of white rice.

This was the first time we ordered such a dish and it was amazingly flavorful. We also ordered a side order of Pooori, two deep fried puffed breads, very light and great for dipping. My dinner was chicken Curry which is boneless pieces of chicken cooked in a curry sauce.

We ended our meal with India coffee and India rice pudding, cooked to sweetened with milk, raisins and almonds. The Star of India is a land of delicious variety and flavors at reasonable prices.

Two Guy's are Vincent Farricelli and Robert Modena. Both reside in Orange.

## Delicious Times On Four Wheels



Photos by Steve Cooper



More than a dozen food trucks rolled into town for Race Brook School's Food Truck Festival at the Orange Fairgrounds. The event was held as a fundraiser for RBS and vendors offered everything from gourmet grilled cheese by Caseus to baked potatoes from Spuds Your Way followed with a fresh cannoli from Meriano's Cannoli Truck and a cupcake from Sugar. Cowabunga served burgers and soft-serve ice cream, Firedog sold a variety of hot dogs and Fryborg topped French fries with a variety of delicacies. Lunch Box 23 featured sliders made from farm-to-table local ingredients.

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## New Autism Gym Opens

The ASD Fitness Center, located at 307 Racebrook Road recently held its grand opening at its new 5,000 square-foot facility.

Founders Adam and Dedra Leapley were inspired to create a specialized gym for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) based on their own experience of raising a child with ASD.

The ASD Fitness Center, which has been under construction since December 2013, is designed specifically to provide a safe, comfortable and structured environment to empower individuals with ASD and to help their fitness, nutrition and social/emotional wellbeing.

The programs offered at the sensory-friendly facility are intended to improve physical fitness levels, build confidence, increase social awareness, and to decrease

anxiety.

Offerings at the fitness facility include personalized Individual Fitness Programs (IFP) with the options to add nutrition and functional skill goals (e.g. throwing and catching a ball, riding a bike, etc). Also offered are one-on-one personal training, sectioned workout stations equipped with visual cues, a tailored "fun" station following each workout station, a designated area for functional skill development, small group classes including adaptive karate, yoga, and Bal-A-Vis-X, and parent/guardian workout and waiting areas.

To learn more about the ASD Fitness Center please visit the Center's Facebook page, [www.asdfitnesscenter.com](http://www.asdfitnesscenter.com) or email [info@asdfitnesscenter.com](mailto:info@asdfitnesscenter.com).



Photo by Steve Cooper

From Right to Left: ASD Fitness Center Executive Director Christina Keating, State Rep. Themis Klarides, State Rep. Paul Davis, Orange First Selectman James Zeoli, ASD Co-Founder and Owner Adam Leapy, ASD Co-Founder and Owner Dedra Leapy, State Senator Carlo Leone and Orange Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Anna Accetta cut the ribbon at ASD Fitness Center on Racebrook Road.

## Obituararies

### BURCH, LOUISE

J. Louise J. Burch, 88, formerly of Orange, loving wife of the late Edward S. Burch, died May 11. She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Lucy Ciarleglio Sabellico. She is survived by two daughters, Kathleen (Paul) Peters, of Old Saybrook, and Susan (James) Funaro, of North Haven; two beloved grandchildren, Michelle Funaro, of North Haven, and Jesse (Stefanie) Peters, of Windsor Locks; and a cherished great-granddaughter, Marielle Peters. Also surviving are four sisters-in-law: Lucille Sabellico, of New Haven; Marie Sabellico, of Wallingford; Vera Burch and Ceil Wojciechowski, both of Ansonia; and many nieces and nephews. Louise was predeceased by two brothers: Louis Sabellico and her twin, Anthony Sabellico; and two sisters, Carmel DeCaprio and Anna Canelli.

### HACKETT, GLORIA D.

Gloria D. Hackett, 90, of Orange died on May 9. She was the wife of the late John J. Hackett, mother of Barbara Hackett Potkay of New Haven, John Dudley Hackett and his wife Karin of Bethany and Robert Dudley Hackett of Yokohama, Japan, grandmother of Timothy, Jeffrey, Nicholas and Mikayla Potkay all of Stokesdale, NC, Cameon and Chance Stine of Bethany and Toshiro and Aki Hackett both of Orange. Gloria was the daughter of the late Cecil and Margaret O'Connor Dudley. She was a longtime parishioner of Holy Infant Church in Orange.

### LENDER, LENA SHMUKLER

Lena Shmukler Lender, 91, of Boca Raton, FL, passed away at Hospice By The Sea Boca Raton FL, on May 23, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Samuel A. Lender. Lena was born in Philadelphia, PA. on May 26, 1922, to the late Samuel and Jenny (Snyder) Shmukler. Lena was the beloved mother of Marcy Lender and her husband James LeBlanc of Winthrop, MA. and the late Dr. Michael Lender (Marilyn Lender) of Orange. Loving sister of Florence Radin of New Haven and the late Leon Sherman (Phyllis) of FL. Cherished grandmother of Michele Lender-Shedarowich (Seth), Dr. Marla Lender (Karen Hall), Meridith Indorf (Paul) and Mathew Lender. Adoring great-grandmother of Dylan, Austin, Soloman, Liam, Samuel and Monae. Dear Aunt of several nieces and nephews. - See more at: [http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nhregister/obituary.aspx?n=lena-lender&pid=171132535&fhid=4186&eid=sp\\_ommatch#sthash.glgsh-CIE.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nhregister/obituary.aspx?n=lena-lender&pid=171132535&fhid=4186&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.glgsh-CIE.dpuf)

### LIBBY, LENA MARY FRATTINI

Lena M. Libby, 96, of Orange, died May 15. She was the wife of the late Sam Libby. Mother of Lorraine Libby (Linda Rahm) & Dennis J. (Carol) Libby. Sister of Christine Serafino and the late Joseph, Bruno and Aubrey Frattini, Mary Bigelli, Sue Ferrucci, Diane D'Amato and Mae DelChario. Grandmother of Alycia (Sean) Winter, Rebecca (Hank Robinson) Libby, Michelle (John) Libby, Aaron Libby, Rachel (Chris) Cacciato and Andrew W. (Liliana Soto) Mullenbach.

Also survived by six great-grandchildren (Finley and Madeleine Winter, Trinity Robinson, and Madison, Lilah, and Sydney Cacciato).

### MICHALIK, GENEVIEVE LOSTYS

Genevieve Lostys Michalik, 91, formerly of Orange died on May 16. Genevieve was the wife of the late Stephen Michalik, both longtime employees of the New Haven school system. She is survived by her sister Helen Lostys, nephew Francis (Ann) Lostys, niece Josephine (Fred) Lev, niece Genevieve (Joseph) Bogacki, and nephew John Lostys, and several grandnieces and nephews and their children.

### POZZA, MARIO A.

Mario A. Pozza, 91, formerly of Orange, died May 16. He was born in Italy and is the son of the late Bortolo and Mary Agnes Pozza. He was the beloved husband of Sally Pozza. He also leaves a son John Pozza of

Daytona Beach, FL, a daughter Randi Gula and her husband Robert of Cheshire and most cherished granddaughter Lexie, along with many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Jennie Ruhnke of Oak Forest, IL. Mario was an Army veteran having served as a combat engineer during World War II.

### VIRZI, JOHN I.

John I. Virzi, 83, of Orange, died May 6. He was the loving husband of Patricia Virzi and son of the late Joseph and Francesca (Giordano) Virzi. John is survived by three daughters: Anna Maria Virzi (Patrick F. Quinn), Susan Vendola (Christopher) and Patricia Esposito. He is also survived by: Anna Curtis, his sister; Joseph Virzi, his brother; Eugene Melewski, a brother-in-law; granddaughters, Cristina and Katie Esposito; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Frank. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force.

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\*actual clients of Boys & Girls Village are not pictured to protect privacy

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Orange Center Road  
Orange, CT  
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Rain date Sunday June 15th



# News & Events

## Pat Dray Honored For Volunteer Work

3Mgives donated \$250 to the Garden Club of Orange in recognition of Pat Dray's commitment to the community.

Pat Dray, has donated countless volunteer hours to Garden Club of Orange. As a volunteer, she has contributed her time toward raising funds for the Garden Club; this includes: May Market, Orange Country Fair Tent and Holiday House Tour.

The funds raised toward these events support town beautification projects. In addition, Pat also volunteers at The Federated Garden Club of Connecticut with judging at various Flower Shows around the State.

"3M employees and alumni generously give their time and skills to help improve lives," said Kimberly Price, vice-president, 3Mgives. "We are pleased to recognize their commitment to their communities."



Pat Dray and Maryellen Bespuda.

Photo by Lana Ho

## Orange Briefs

### Democrats Hold Office Hours

Orange Democratic officials will begin hosting "office hours" at the Case Memorial Library starting on Thursday, June 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Residents are invited to come and voice their concerns about topics affecting the community

including trees, roads, full day kindergarten and the lack of a grocery store in Orange.

The "office hours" meetings will begin on June 5 with more scheduled. So far, additional meetings are set for Thursday, July 10 and Thursday, August 7.

### Youth Basketball Camp

The Green Knights basketball camp held at Notre Dame of West Haven is now accepting registration. The camp will be held from June 30-July 11.

For boys and girls age 6-11 the camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and for youths aged 12-16 it will be held from noon

to 3 p.m.

Both sessions are open to Orange boys and girls. Contact Jason Shea for more information at 203.535.9291 or by email jshea@notredamehs.com

Forms are available at www.greenknightsbasketballcamp.com.

### Free Summer Concerts

Orange Community Services is hosting three free summer concerts at the Orange Fairground Gazebo this summer.

**June 25, Wednesday 6-8 p.m.** — Valiante Hart — Americana/Folk band. Rain date is Thursday, June 26.

**July 23, Wednesday 6-8 p.m.** — White Eyed Lizards — Callypso band. Rain date is Wednesday, August 6

**August 20, Wednesday 6-8 p.m.** — The Whiskey Boys — Bluegrass band. Rain date is Thursday, August 21.

Orange Transportation is available to Orange seniors or disabled residents for the Wednesday night concerts. Call 203.891.4788 for a ride. So bring your family and your friends! Since its free bring your friend's family!

### American Legion Tag Sale

The American Legion will hold a tag sale 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June at the Legion Hall, 630 Grassy Hill Road in Orange.

Donated items for the tag sale

may be dropped off at the back of the Legion Hall up to two weeks before the tag sale.

All kinds of good, clean items would be graciously accepted.

### Amity POPS Concert

The 45th annual Amity POPS concert takes place 7 p.m., June 6 and 7, at Amity High School,

25 Newton Road, Woodbridge. For more information visit Amityband.com

## Living Treasures Honored



Photo by Dennis Marsh

Left to right: State Representative Paul Davis, Elmer Manley, Emma Cuzzocreo, Donald Lewis, and State Representative James Maroney.

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## Recycling Tips



The Town of Orange Recycling Committee is appointed by the First Selectman and meets monthly. If you have any questions or suggestions, please attend a meeting or e-mail [orangerecycles@gmail.com](mailto:orangerecycles@gmail.com). You can also contact any of the current members including the Chair Mitch Goldblatt, John Brown, Tom George, Stephanie Jatlow, Kathryn LaFontana, Pat Walsh, or alternates Karen Della-Giustina and Ilene Moyher.



# News & Events

## MEMORIAL *continued from page 1*

said it's easy to lose sight about the true meaning of Memorial Day. He said yes there are picnics, a day off from work and family celebrations, but it's important to reflect on why it's such an important holiday.

"The purpose of us being here is the solemnness of the day," Zeoli said. "It's one of those days we should never forget."

Grand Marshal Laurence P. Czajkowski, a U.S. Army veteran who entered the service in 1968 and retired as a Major in 1998, said he was honored to be chosen as grand marshal.

"Today's a day where we are here to honor the dead and pay tribute to the living," Czajkowski said.

But Czajkowski also delivered some pointed remarks regarding the neglect of veterans.

"We don't carp, we don't whine, we don't complain, we just follow orders," he said.

He said the neglect of veterans began after the Vietnam War and continues today. He challenged residents to lobby their elected officials to improve the plight of veterans. Veterans health care and tax abatement are substandard, the grand marshal said.

"After we leave the reviewing stand today we are all but forgotten," Czajkowski said. "What did you do for a vet today?"

"You need to remind your children that the parade ends at the cemetery, that is where the real parade is," Czajkowski said. "Teach your children honor, duty and country."

Honorary Chief of Staff Peter J. MacDonald, who is a U.S. Army Vietnam vet-

eran having served from 1965 to 1978, said he urged residents to remember all of those people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"If you remember a person they never really die," MacDonald said.

Honored Veteran Joseph Blake simply said "God bless the troops living and deceased."

Keynote speaker Philip Grande Sr. said Memorial Day was created as a holiday after the Civil War and expanded in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to honor all military members killed in the line of duty.

"The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts, the safest place to be is in one's prayers, and the best place to be is with God," Grande said.

**Orange marchers and floats included the following:**

Orange Police Chief Robert Gagne and Assistant Police Chief Anthony Cuozzo, town officials and dignitaries, Amity Regional High School Band and its director Phil Dolan, Rotary Club of Orange, all scout troops, Holy Infant preschoolers, Orange Community Nursery School, Amity Girl's Youth Lacrosse, Orange Congregational Church Youth Group, Lions Club, Orange Baseball Little League, Church of the Good Shepherd, Orange Democratic Town Committee, Orange Youth Soccer Association, Race Brook School, Orange Country Fair, Amity Middle School, Orange Highway Department, Community Emergency Response Team, Orange Volunteer Fire Department, Pyramid Temple Order of Mason, and the new Orange Elementary School Marching Band about 150 youths in their brand new uniforms.

## REPORT *continued from page 1*

that deviate from the trail system could potentially do one or more of the following: trample plants of conservation concern, introduce non-native plant species propagules, trample or kill ground-nesting birds their nests, eggs or young, initiate or exacerbate soil erosion problems, and disturb various roosting birds of conservation concern, especially raptors," the report states.

Additionally, people and pets that deviate from the existing trail system are at risk of running into poisonous plants, biting and stinging insects, stinging plants, and aggressive wildlife, the report concludes.

The Audubon Society wrote there is evidence that people let their dogs run off their leash, and that leash laws need to be enforced. The agency also called for the dog warden to visit the site periodically.

Board of Selectmen members briefly discussed the Connecticut Audubon Society's report at

its May meeting. Selectman John Carangelo, who has lobbied for mountain bikers to be allowed on the property, said the report was "comprehensive."

But Carangelo said he was surprised there was no discussion in the report about more recreational uses for the former Hubbell property.

"I thought it was part of it," Carangelo said.

He said he'd like to see a small piece of the property opened up for all residents to use for recreational purposes.

Selectwoman Judy Williams said she'd like to have a meeting where everyone who has a stake in the parcel can meet at once.

"It's a fragile piece of property," Williams said.

She said some people are us-

ing quads and ATVs on the land, which is tearing it apart. Williams said she too would like to see some recreational uses for the property including bike trails, a picnic area, and possibly a paved area to ride bikes.

First Selectman James Zeoli said he will work to schedule a meeting so the public can weigh in on the report and possible uses for the Turkey Hill Preserve. Selectman Ralph Okenquist said the meeting should be called soon because the selectmen have been waiting on the Audubon Society's report for two years.

"Let's find out what the people of Orange want to do with the land," Okenquist said.

Selectman Kenneth Lenz said the parcel is very impressive.

"It's fairly rare to see a forest of

this magnitude in its virtual state," Lenz said.

He said the town needs to keep quads and ATVs off the site. Zeoli said the Police Department is aware of the issue but it's tough for them to patrol.

According to the report, the preserve spans the Turkey Hill Brook and Wepawaug River local watershed basins. A majority of the preserve is forested, except for an old field and small pond area located at the northern end of the site.

The site is accessed via an entrance drive off of Derby Milford Road at its intersection with Turkey Hill Road.

The trails on the site are currently open year-round to visitors travelling on foot. No fish were observed in the on-site wetlands, but 14 species of amphibians were

found. A significant number of reptiles were found on the site including the Eastern Box Turtle.

A total of 159 species of birds have been identified in the preserve including the state-listed, Great Egret, Northern Parula and the Common Raven. No state endangered, threatened or special concern mammals were found on the property, but 19 species were detected on the site including rodents, a bobcat, coyote, fox, and deer.

The report concludes that the preserve would likely serve as a suitable outdoor classroom for elementary and high school students.

## BUDGET

*continued from page 1*

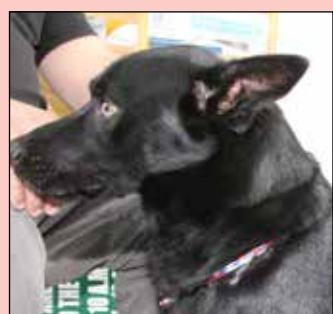
value of \$230,160, which represents 70 percent of the market value.

The median taxes for the average house for 2014-15 will be \$7,099.

For a breakdown on next year's budget, the town side operations are increasing by 5.32 percent from \$21.5 million to \$22.63 million. Orange's share to fund the Amity Regional School District is increasing by \$155,465 or 0.72 percent to \$21.76 million, and the Orange Board of Education budget is increasing by \$571,853 or 3.13 percent to \$18.82 million.

The town side operations is increasing by 5.32 percent largely because its debt service payment is increasing by \$353,096, and the town is funding an additional \$370,950 for capital projects.

## Rescue Me



Carson went for an interesting walk by himself two weeks ago in Derby. Although he covered a lot of ground, he eventually came to the attention of Woodbridge Animal Control. Carson is a male, adult, 45 pound, Terrier/Black Lab mix dog, all black in color with brown eyes. He has a friendly, outgoing personality with watch-dog potential and is good with adults, children and friendly dogs. To bring out his best, the lad will need some obedience training and human attention. He likes cookies so bring one with you when you meet. Carson, other dogs and cats are available for adoption at Woodbridge Animal Control in Woodbridge. The shelter is located at 135 Bradley Road and can be reached by phone at 203.389.5991.

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## News & Events

### Orange Fire Department Receives \$203,089 Grant

Three members of Connecticut's congressional delegation announced that \$203,089 in federal grant money is coming to the Orange Volunteer Fire Association.

Operations and Safety grants can be used in five areas: training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modification to facilities.

"Ensuring first responders have updated and necessary equipment, and proper training, is crucial to protecting not only the public, but the brave men and women who serve our communities," Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3) said in a release. "The

equipment purchased with these grants, and the training they will enable, will better prepare the first responders of ... Orange for the dangerous and lifesaving work they so ably do."

Senator Richard Blumenthal said in a release: "These federal funds will support and advance the lifesaving work of firefighters in ... Orange who put their lives on the line every day to protect their communities."

Senator Chris Murphy said: "This grant will provide critical support to help ... Orange's firefighters do their jobs more effectively and keep them safe as well."

### Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

The Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold their annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Boston Post Road fire house.

Enjoy scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash brown potatoes, and all you can eat pancakes prepared by the Orange volunteer firefighters. Orange juice, milk, coffee and tea will also be available.

Tickets are \$8 for adults at the door or \$7

in advance, \$6 for children ages 6-12 at the door or \$5 in advance. Children 5 and under are free with a paying adult. Proceeds benefit the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. Advance tickets may be purchased from any auxiliary member or at Knight's Inc. 286 Boston Post Road.

For further information, call Lynn Knight 203.799.2592.

### Chamber Names Its Executive Director

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Orange Chamber of Commerce held last week Anna Accetta was named the


executive director. She had been serving as interim director the past nine months.

## Maximus Retires



Submitted Photo

The Orange Police Department's K-9 Maximus retired from service. His handler Officer Michael Kosh became the town's School Resource Officer in January, and Max has visited all of the schools since then. Max has served the town since 2006, and will turn 9 soon. Most of the dogs from his training class have been previously retired. Max successfully conducted searches for persons and evidence and made numerous apprehensions during his career. Police Chief Robert Gagne said "Officer Kosh and Max's service and sacrifice are in keeping with the highest values of the police service and they have our sincerest gratitude."



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## Long-time Registrars Retiring

Democrat Carmela Apuzzo and Republican Mary Devito are both retiring at the end of the year.

"Carmela Apuzzo helped countless numbers of young people register to vote and believes wholeheartedly that elections should be an open and honest process," said Trish Pearson, who is the Democratic town chairwoman. "Although only 5' tall, she is a giant among her peers. Her attention to detail and support of the candidates was extraordinary. She will be tough to replace, but never able to replicate. We are planning an event to celebrate Carmela's illustrious career, in the

next few months. "

Republicans are honoring Devito, who served for 13 years as that party's registrar, with a reception. Devito's reception is 6 p.m. Thursday, June 12 at the Grassy Hill Lodge, 77 Sodom Lane, Derby, CT.

It costs \$38 per person (cash bar). Please RSVP by June 5 and mail your check payable to ORTC and send it to Pat Zeoli, 177 Old Tavern Road, Orange, CT, 06477 or call for more information at 203.795.9679.

Janice Casey is the Democratic nominee and Fred Kendrick is the Republican nominee.

## Legislation Aims To Protect Against Convicted Sex Offenders

State Rep. Themis Klarides (R-114) and State Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Jr. (D-17) successfully pushed for legislation that will help keep families better informed about convicted sexual offenders living within their neighborhoods.

The bill, which passed the General Assembly by a near-unanimous margin, requires the state to notify the chief executive officer of a municipality when a registered sexual offender becomes a resident of that municipality or is released from prison into that municipality. The measure allows the municipal leader the discretion to inform residents of the offender's location.

"Families have the right to be notified if sexual offenders are living within their neighborhoods so they can take proper precautions to ensure their children aren't in danger as they play in their own yards," Klarides said. "This is such a common

sense policy, that most people understandably assume the safeguard is already in place. However, under current law, the only option municipal leaders have to obtain residency information about sexual offenders is to constantly scour the online registry. This bill will ensure officials have timely and accurate information to pass along to residents as needed."

The bill was prompted by an incident in Woodbridge where a school bus stop was located directly in front of a group home that housed two repeat sexual offenders, both of whom were convicted of assaulting children. There were approximately 30 children living within a two block radius of the Group Home, and years passed before parents learned about the potential threat and were able to take appropriate action.



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