

Annual Town Report

For the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/13



Orange, Connecticut

www.orange-ct.gov

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TOWN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

TOWN HALL

(617 Orange Center Road)

Phone – 203-891-4700 Fax – 203-891-2185

First Selectman (Ext. 4701, 4737, 4738)	Tax Assessor (Ext.4722, 4723, 4724)
Town Clerk (Ext. 4728, 4729, 4730)	Tax Collector (Ext. 4725, 4726, 4736)
Sanitarian (Ext. 4719, 4732, 4733)	Building Official (Ext. 4713, 4714, 4748)
Public Works (Ext. 4712, 4718, 4741)	Accounting (Ext. 4766, 4739)
Town Plan & Zoning (Ext. 4731, 4743)	Registrar of Voters - Democrat (Ext. 4715)
Treasurer (Ext. 4734)	Registrar of Voters - Republican (Ext. 4716)
Finance Director (Ext.4740)	Orange Government Access TV (Ext.4749)
Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer (Ext. 4746)	WPCA Administrator (Ext.4746)

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm

HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER

(525 Orange Center Road)

Park & Recreation

203-891-4790
Fax 203-891-2173
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday
Town Pool – 203-891-4761

Community Services

203-891-4788
Fax 203-891-2191
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Youth Services 203-891-4785
Transportation 203-891-4788
Senior Services 203-891-4789
Outreach Worker 203-891-4787

THE CLARK BUILDING

(605A Orange Center Road)

Orange Visiting Nurse Association

203-891-4752 Fax 203-891-2169

Orange Economic Development Corp.

203-891-1045 Fax 203 - 891-1044

Family Counseling Services/Bridges

203-795-6698/203-878-6356

Orange Drug/Alcohol Action Committee

203-891-4701 Fax 203-891-2169

Orange Chamber of Commerce

203-795-3328 Fax 203-795-5926

OTHER TOWN SITES

Orange Police Department (Non-emergency) - 314 Lambert Road...203-891-2130
Fire Marshal - 355 Boston Post Road.....203-891-4711
Case Memorial Library - 176 Tyler City Road.....203-891-2170
Orange Post Office - 36 Old Tavern Road.....203-795-3523
Town Garage - 308 Lambert Road 203-891-4775
Transfer Station 203-891-2177
Tree Warden..... 203-397-2361
Poison Control Center-UCONN Health Center.....800-343-2722
Silverbrook Estates 100 Red Cedar 203-891-8265
Animal Control- 664 E. Broadway, Milford.....203-783-3279

SCHOOLS

Orange Board of Education 637 Orange Center Road, Orange.....203-891-8020
Mary L. Tracy School 650 School House Lane, Orange.....203-891-8028
Race Brook School 107 Grannis Road, Orange.....203-891-8030
Turkey Hill School 441 Turkey Hill Road, Orange.....203-891-8040
Peck Place School 500 Peck Lane, Orange.....203-891-8034
Amity Regional Senior High School 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge ..203-397-4830
Amity Regional Middle School 30 Ohman Avenue, Orange.....203-392-3200
Amity Adult Education 130 Ohman Avenue, Orange..... 203-392-3215

COURTS

Fifth Circuit Court - Derby Clerk of Court.....203-735-7438
Superior Court - Milford Clerk of Court.....203-877-4293
Small Claims Court - Milford.....203-874-0674
Probate Court – Parsons Govt Center Milford.....203-783-3205

DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS

First Selectman.....	James M. Zeoli
Selectmen	Joseph F. Blake, John J. Carangelo, Mitchell R. Goldblatt, Ralph G. Okenquist, Judith W. Williams
Assessor	Mark B. Branchesi, CCMA
Building and Demolition Official	Fred Trotta, CBO
Building Electrical Inspector	Elfo Pol
Community Services Director.....	Carol Nardini
Community Services Elderly Outreach Worker.....	Denise Stein
Community Services Senior Services Coordinator	Dennis Marsh
Community Services Youth Coordinator.....	John Ulatowski
Drug/Alcohol Action Committee Coordinator	Joan Kreiger
Emergency Management Director	Fred Palmer
Finance & Administration Director	Albert W. Chiarenzelli
Fire Chief	Charles Gagel
Fire Marshal	Timothy P. Smith
Fire Marshal, Deputy	James Vincent
Inland & Wetlands Enforcement Officer	R. Scott Allen
Library Director	Meryl Farber
Building Superintendent	John Stewart
Health Director.....	Joseph Zelson, M.D.
Health, Visiting Nurse Director	Judith G. Benson
Park & Recreation Director	Daniel Lynch
Police Chief	Robert Gagne
Police Chief, Assistant	Edward Koether
Probate Judge	Beverly Streit-Kefalas
Public Works Director	Stephen M. Savarese, P.E.,L.S.
Public Works Highway Crew Chief	Don Foyer, Sr.
Registrar of Voters – Democratic	Carmela Apuzzo
Registrar of Voters – Republican	Mary DeVito
Sanitarian	Fred Schumacher, R.S.
School Superintendent Amity District #5.....	Dr. John Brady
School Superintendent Elementary Schools	Lynn McMullin
School Business Administrator	Kevin McNabola
State Representative 114 th Assembly District	Themis Klarides
State Representative, 117 th Assembly District	Paul Davis
State Representative, 119 th Assembly District.....	James Maroney
State Senator, 14 th Senatorial District	Gayle Slossberg
Tax Collector	Sandra Pierson
Town Clerk & Registrar of Vital Statistics	Patrick B. O’Sullivan, CCTC
Town Counsel	Vincent M. Marino, Esq.
Town Counsel - Labor	Michael J. Dorney, Esq.
Town Meeting Moderator	Robert Mirto, Esq.
Town Committee Chairman - Democratic.....	Trish Pearson
Town Committee Chairman - Republican	Rick Roberts
Treasurer	Joseph Scaglia
Tree Warden	Edgar L. Vaughn
Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Administrator.....	R. Scott Allen
Zoning Enforcement Officer	Paul Dinice

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Elected

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

James M. Zeoli, First Selectman (11/13) Joseph F. Blake (11/13) John J. Carangelo (11/13)
Mitchell R. Goldblatt (11/13) Ralph G. Okenquist (11/13) Judith W. Williams (11/13)

BOARD OF FINANCE

Kevin Houlihan, Chairman (11/15) Joseph P. Nuzzo (11/13) James Leahy (11/15)
Kevin Moffett (11/15) John Cifarelli (11/13) Glen Ketchian (11/13)
Fred Kendrick (11/15)-alternate

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION

Walter Clark, IV, Chairman (11/13) Paul Kaplan (11/16) Ralph Aschettino (11/15)
Judy Smith- Morgan (11/15) Oscar Parente (11/13) William Perfetto (11/15) – alternate
Paul Dinice - Zoning Enforcement Officer

ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Kraut, Chairman (11/15) Amy Criscuolo (11/13) Diane Brown (11/13)
Jeffrey Cap, (11/13) Scott Massey (11/13) Susan Riccio (11/13)
Robert Ricciardi (11/15) Jody Dietch (11/15) Keith Marquis (11/15)
Debra Marino (11/13)

AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

(ORANGE MEMBERS)

Sue L. Cohen (11/13) Tracy Russo (11/15) Christopher Browe (11/15)
Thomas Hurley (11/13) Diane Crocco (11/15) Steven DeMaio (11/13)
John Grasso, Jr. (11/15)

CONSTABLES

Randolph Thomas (11/13) Jeffrey Vargo (11/13) Santo Galatioto, Jr (11/13)
Michael Donadeo (11/13) Jody Daymon (11/13) Kristen Marquis (11/13)
Robert Shanley (11/13)

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Mary DeVito, Republican Registrar (1/15) Carmela N. Apuzzo, Democratic Registrar (1/15)

TOWN CLERK

Patrick B. O'Sullivan, II (1/14)

TAX COLLECTOR

Sandra Pierson (11/13)

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Carmela N. Apuzzo (1/17) Noah Eisenhandler (1/17) Susan A. Clark (1/17)
Anita M. Pol (1/17) Marian G. Reid (1/17) Marie Gull (1/17)
Sheryl Lynn Lofgren (1/17) Maria Papaluca (1/17) Susan Noonan (1/17)
Lynda Anderson (1/17) Karen J. Arnold (1/17) Tracy A. Benedetto (1/17)
Craig Stahl (1/17) Vincent J. Farricielli (1/17) Suzanne Sutton (1/17)
Santo J. Galatioto, Jr. (1/17) Carlyne A. Labrecque (1/17) Sheila O'Neill (1/17)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointed

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Richard Cenami, Chairman (12/13) Andrew Blanchette (12/15) Albert Melotto (12/13)
Richard Polio (12/15) George Russo, Jr. (12/15)

CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMISSION

Kenneth Ziman, Chairman (12/13)	Ursula Hindel (12/13)	Katalin Baltimore, V. Chair (12/15)
Maureen White (12/13)	Elizabeth Meyer (12/13)	Diana Duarte (12/13)
Nancy Becque (12/15)	Sharon Greco (12/15)	Donna Monro (12/15)
Stephanie Cuzzocreo (12/15)	Edward Martin (12/15)	Michael Teller (12/15)

ORANGE VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION BOARD

Thomas Krause, Chairman (12/13)	Julie Davis (12/15)	Stan Rutowicz (12/15)
Marianne Bauer (12/13)	Jean Virshup (12/15)	Loretta Smith (12/15)
Patricia Zeoli (12/13)	Barbara Bacal (12/13)	Richard Zorena (12/15)
Joseph Trentacosta (12/15)		

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Joseph Lembo, Chairman (10/14)	Lisa Zarny (10/14)	James Ronai (12/13)
Chuck Stackpole (10/14)	James O'Connor (12/13)	Stephen Bspuda (12/13)
Linda Kantor (10/14)	Nicholas Bencivengo (12/13)	David Corris (12/13)

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Don Lewis, Chairman (12/16)	Mark Grasso (12/13)	Susan Lewin (12/15)
John Barton (12/13)	Roy Cuzzocreo (12/15)	

SAFETY COMMISSION

Fred Palmer, Chairman (12/13)	Robert Gagne (12/13)	Charles Gagel (12/13)
Fred Trotta (12/13)	Timothy Smith (12/13)	John Barton (12/13)
Lynn McMullin (12/13)		

ORANGE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION (OGAT)

Sol Silverstein, Chairman (12/13)	Gary DelPiano (12/15)	Dennis Marsh (12/13)
Andrea Shiffirin (12/15)	Bridget Albert (12/13)	
	Ron Davis, Coordinator	

TREE COMMITTEE

Gail Nixon (10/14)	Bruce Lindsay (10/14)	
John Dorais (10/13)	Philip Grande, Chairman (10/13)	
	Ed Vaughn, Tree Warden	

COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF VETERAN'S GRAVES

Anthony Monaco, Chairman (3/14)	Paul Tarbox (3/14)	Richard Manley (3/14)
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WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Robert Kleffmann, Chairman (2/17)	Michael Visnic (2/15)	Nick Mastrangelo (2/16)
Philip Grande, Sr. (2/14)	C. Robert Sigler (2/16)	

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

Rick Mangione, Chairman (12/15)	Lesley Giovanelli, (12/15)	Ronald Ruotolo (12/13)
John Belfonti (12/13)	William Perfetto (12/15)	James Ewen (12/13)
Diana Ross (12/15)	R. Scott Allen, Enforcement Officer	

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Noah Eisenhandler, Chairman (12/15)	Pat Panza (12/16)	Kenneth Gambardella (12/13)
Rudolph Miller (12/13)	Gregory Natalino (12/15)	Mathew Pickering (12/15) – alternate
David Crow (12/15) - alternate		

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Appointed

2012 BOND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

James M. Zeoli	Ralph Okenquist	Mitchell Goldblatt
Albert Chiarenzelli	Kevin McNabola	Frederick Kendrick
Kevin Moffett	William Kraut	

BOND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Kevin McNabola	Fred Kendrick	William Kraut
Ronald Ruotolo	Mitchell Goldblatt	Paul Foley

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Selectman Ralph Okenquist, Chairman	Frederick Kendrick	Ernest Lucarelli
William Powell	Stephen Savarese	Michael Luzzi
Robert DeFeo	Joseph Lembo	Robert Gagne
First Selectman James Zeoli		

ELDERLY HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Fred Palmer, Chairman	Dennis Marsh	Albert M. Clark, III
Nancy Nyhan	Joseph Blake	Joy Habib

ORANGE COUNTRY FAIR COMMITTEE

Karen McCausland, Co-Chair (12/15)	Bryan Clark (12/13)	Kevin Monck, Co-Chair (12/15)
Marianne Bauer (12/15)	Wilson Daymon (12/15)	Robert Archambault (12/15)
Paul Estok, III (12/13)	George Plaskowitz (12/13)	Emory Allaire (12/13)
Walter Bespuda (12/15)	Walter Hine (12/13)	Robert Fantarella (12/15)
Gerald Butcher (12/13)	Stephen Bespuda (12/13)	

**ORANGE FAMILY COUNSELING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Patricia Miller (12/13)	John P. McGill (12/14)	Officer John Aquino, Dare Officer
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HPCC RENOVATION COMMITTEE

Selectman Joseph Blake, Chairman	Daniel Lynch	Carol Nardini
Tom Pisano	Kathy Gulia	Adam Wade
John Stewart		

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Kevin Gilbert, Chairman (1/14)	Robert Mirto (1/14)	Andrew Steinbrick (1/14)
Robert Gagne (1/14)	Mary Jewell (1/14)	Donald Jewell (1/14)
George Geane 1/14)	Al Pol (1/14)	Richard Manley (1/14)
Lynn McMullin (1/14)	James Marenna (1/14)	Al deCant (1/14)
John S. Sullivan (1/14)	John P. Sullivan (1/14)	Ronald Wachter (1/14)
Frederick O'Brien (1/14)		

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Denise Stein (1/15)

OPEN SPACE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Albert M. Clark, III, Chairman	Fred DeDomenico	Dorothy L. Berger
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PENSION BOARD

Eric Hendlin, Chairman (12/13)
Jose Taverner (12/13)

Paul Dinice (12/13)
Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt (12/13)

Peter Firla (12/13)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

First Selectman James Zeoli

Selectman Joseph Blake

Selectman Ralph Okenquist

ORANGE RAILROAD STATION COMMITTEE

Joseph Lembo, Chairman
Armand Cantafio

Paul Grimmer
Rudy Zimmerman

Len Farber
Robert Archambault

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mitchell Goldblatt, Chairman
Stephanie Jatlow
Mary-Jo Sierakowski

Kathryn LaFontana
Patricia Walsh
Steve Savarese

Thomas George
John Brown

SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

Carol Nardini, Chairman (4/14)
Fred Schumacher (4/15)
Dan Lynch (4/14)

Robert Gagne (4/14)
Meryl Farber (4/15)
Charles Gagel (4/14)

Donald Foyer (4/15)
Karen Goldberg (4/15)
Karin Lewis (4/14)

**HEARING OFFICER FOR ABANDONED
OR UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES**

Jeffrey Sachs, Esq.

VIOLATION HEARING OFFICERS

Philip Nizzardo

Jena Bonazzoli-Barretta

David DiBenedetto

WAR REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Severio (Bob) Fodero, Chairman
John LaViola

Carol Rapuano
Elaine Arena

Jeffrey Dyer

YOUTH SERVICES

Marie Gull, Chairman (12/13)
John Manfreda (12/13)
Jon O'Keefe 12/13)

Robert Catalde (12/13)
Peter Boppert (12/13)
Patricia Moffett (12/13)

Sharon Stockel (12/13)
Robert Gagne (12/13)

EmilyRose Martino (12/13), Student Rep
Matthew Schmitt (12/13), Student Rep

Rachel Marcus (12/13), Student Rep
Emilie Steinbrick (12/13), Student Rep

John Ulatowski, Coordinator

REPRESENTATIVES

Appointed

REGIONAL ACTION COUNCIL

Joan Kreiger

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CABLE TV

Marlene Silverstein (06/15)

Pasquale Tancreti (06/15)

Ronald Davis (06/15)

AMITY FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Joseph Nuzzo

BRIDGES

John P. McGill

CATCHMENT AREA COUNCIL #6

Linda Corriveau (4/14)

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

First Selectman James M. Zeoli (11/13)

**GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INTERNAL EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Linda Siclari

LIBRARIES ON LINE (LION)

Meryl Farber

LONG ISLAND SOUND COUNCIL

Carol Martin

TOWN MEETING MODERATOR

Robert Mirto, Esq. Town Meeting Moderator (12/13)
Shelby Wilson, Esq., Deputy Meeting Moderator (12/13)
Thomas Hurley, Deputy Meeting Moderator (12/13)

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Paul Kaplan

TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ORANGE REPRESENTATIVE

Stephane Skibo

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL
DISTRICT CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

Vacancy

TOWN HISTORIAN

Virginia Reinhard

GREATER NEW HAVEN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Lawrence Levy, alt.

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICY BOARD

Jasper Jaser (6/14)

TOWN OF ORANGE CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER 2013 THROUGH OCTOBER 2014

- September 2013.....Board of Assessment Appeals Meeting - Motor Vehicles only.
- September 15..... Last day for renters to file Elderly Tax Relief Applications.
- Sept. 1 - Nov. 1..... Applications for Farm, Forest or Open Space Exemptions P.A. 490.
Property owners already receiving exemptions need not apply.
- October 1.....Grand List Date - Tax liability established for all owners of property even
if personal property is subsequently transferred or disposed of.
- Oct. 2, 2012 to
Sept.30, 2013.....Supplementary List for motor vehicles purchased in this period will become
due on January 1, 2014.
- September 30.....Veterans Discharge not previously filed in Orange must be placed on
record ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 to qualify for exemptions.
- Oct. 1 to Nov. 1.....All taxable personal property EXCEPT registered motor vehicles must
be declared to the Assessor. Real Estate and Motor Vehicles need not be
declared.
- October 19 Saturday elector session for new voters – 10 a.m. –2 p.m.
- October 29 Cut off date for admission of electors for 18 year old residents and for
residents of a municipality who moved on or before October 30, 2013.
Session from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Nov. 1 to March 15... ..Applications for those eligible for energy assistance.
- November 4..... Limited session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for Admission of Electors – only
those qualified since October 30, 2013.
- November 5 Municipal Election - polls open 6:00 a.m. - close at 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2014..... Supplemental Auto Tax and second installment of Real Estate, Personal
Property and Regular Motor Vehicles tax due with one month’s grace.
Minimum interest - \$2.00. Interest accrues at the rate of 1-1/2 % per
month from due date.
- Feb. 1 to May 15.....Senior Tax Stabilization Program – Applications in Assessor’s Office.
- February 1..... Elderly Homeowners may start applying for tax relief under Sec. 12-170a
through May 15
- February 1.....Last day to pay second installment of 2012 Grand List and Real Estate,
Personal Property and Auto taxes without penalty.
- March or April.....Board of Assessment appeals open session to hear appeals. Dates will be
announced.
- March 31.....Last day for paying Real Estate Taxes before liens are recorded.
- April 1.....All unpaid Real Estate Taxes will be liened as of this date.
- AprilAnnual Budget Hearing.
- May.....Combined Annual Town Meeting and Budget Meeting.
- May 15.....Elderly renters may start applying for tax relief under Sec. 12-170a through
September 15.
- May 15.....Last day for homeowners to file elderly relief applications.
- June 1 - 30.....Dog Licenses due and payable at the Town Clerk’s Office. All dogs six
months old and older must be licensed. Owners must submit rabies
vaccination certificate to obtain license.
- June 30.....Last day to pay dog licenses without penalty.
- July 1, 2014.....First installment of Grand List 10/1/13 Real Estate, Personal Property and
Motor Vehicle taxes are due with one month’s grace. Bills may be paid in
person at the Office of the Tax Collector or may be paid by mail. If paid
by mail, please follow directions on bills. Call 891-4725 if you have any questions.
- August 1.....Last day to pay taxes without interest for the taxes due July 1, 2014 first
installment. Interest charged is 1-1/2 % per month (from date due) with a
minimum of \$2.00.
- Feb. 1 to Sept. 30.....Additional Veteran’s exemptions based on income annual filing.

ANIMAL CONTROL

During the year of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, we impounded 35 dogs, responded to 11 dog bites, investigated 97 complaints, redeem/adopted out 30 animals and euthanized two. In addition, we fielded numerous questions from residents regarding wildlife and provided them with direction on contracting Wildlife Removers, Police Department or Public Works. Worked closely with the First Selectman's Office while assisting Orange PD to handle a homeless woman living in her car with several animals. 763 dogs were licensed in the town of Orange. Our Pet Food Bank was open to the Orange resident and several families took advantage of the pet food that we offer. In our efforts to reduce the feral cat population and with the assistance of an Orange resident, over 14 cat were trapped, spayed/neutered and re-released from the Bull Hill Lane area in Orange.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals is a quasi-judicial board comprised of local citizens appointed by the First Selectman. The board convenes annually to hear complaints on real estate assessments, motor vehicle assessments and business personal property assessments. Upon written application to the Board, each appellant is issued an appointment with board members where the appellant may enter oral or written arguments concerning their disagreement with the assessment. The Board deliberates each case and sends each appellant a written decision on the disposition of their appeal. The Board of Assessment Appeals heard fifty seven cases from appellants concerning the October 1, 2011 grand list. *In addition, the board reviewed nineteen cases where the Town of Orange purchased land from Hubbell Incorporated after October 1, 2011.*

A summary of the April 2012 appeals is as follows:

Residential	36
Commercial	15
Business Personal Property	6
Total Appeals	57

Out of fifty-seven appeals filed, thirty-six were granted relief and twenty-one were denied.

Real Estate

The total loss in assessed value, on real property, via appeals to the BAA is as follows:

Appeals	Pre phase –in	Post phase-in
30	-2,176,300	-1,177,960

The Board of Assessment Appeal’s review of nineteen cases where the Town of Orange purchased land from Hubbell Incorporated after October 1, 2011 led to Board declaring each case tax exempt as of October 1, 2011. The total loss, incurred through this action is as follows:

Cases	Pre phase-in	Post phase-in
19	- 3,253,800	-1,918,980

Business personal property

The total loss in assessed value incurred through six appeals relative to the business personal property section of the 2011 grand list equaled -861,760.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Orange Town Hall. It is the function of the ZBA to act on the following petitions:

1. Appeals of the Decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer;
2. Applications for Approval of Location for Gasoline Station; Limited Repairer's License; General Repairer's License; Used or New Car Dealer's License;
3. Petitions for Variance of the Requirements of the Orange Zoning Regulations.

All petitions must be submitted at least three weeks prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. Application forms are available in the Zoning Office at Town Hall. Fees must accompany all petitions for properties

During fiscal year 2012-2013, the ZBA approved seven petitions and two petitions were denied. There was one appeal of the decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer was appealed.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The following displays the computations for the October 1, 2011 grand list for the Town of Orange, Connecticut. This presentation is prior to any adjustments that may be made by the Orange Board of Assessment Appeals. An abstract of the 2011 grand list will be filed with the Town Clerk on or before February 29, 2012.

Phase-in and Public Act 09-60

On April 11, 2007, the Board of Selectmen voted to phase-in the October 1, 2006 state mandated revaluation over a five year period commencing with the October 1, 2006 grand list. On June 1, 2009, the Board of Selectmen approved SB#997, also known as Public Act 09-60, which effectively suspends the phase-in process and freezes real estate assessments in the second year of phase in until the next scheduled general revaluation. On August 10, 2011 the Board of Selectman voted to extend the provisions of Public Act 09-60 by adopting Public Act 11-239. The October 1, 2011 grand list reflects the provisions of Public Act 09-60 as amended by Public Act 11-239.

Tax exempt

The tax exempt real estate section of the October 1, 2011 grand list increased from 168,281,100 to 170,619,700. Major contributors to this increase were attributed to Yale, which declared 125 Frontage Road tax exempt, and CIB (Oak Hill), which declared 425 Dogwood Rd and 87 Silver Manor Dr. tax exempt.

Gross Grand List Taxable

The gross taxable grand list reflects the total of all gross assessments of taxable accounts and is prior to deducting all statutory exemptions and *phase-in exemptions*. This total adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals equaled **2,223,429,335** or an increase of 1.703 percent, when compared to the October 1, 2010 gross taxable grand list before corrections from the Board of Assessment Appeals which equaled **2,186,194,448**. All real estate value estimates and assessments are based on the October 1, 2006 grand list which was the by product of general revaluation, as mandated by the State of Connecticut. The prior revaluation was conducted on October 1, 2000.

Total Exemptions

Total exemptions are deducted from the gross taxable grand list to derive the net grand list. Exemptions are in compliance with State and Federal law as well as local ordinance. They include, but are not limited to, veterans, blind, totally disabled, ambulance type vehicles, income challenged veterans, and local additional tax relief programs for veterans. In addition to those exemptions stated above, *the phase-in is also stated as an exemption in the Town of Orange's administrative software system and in this presentation.*

The total exemptions, *excluding phase-in*, for the October 1, 2011 grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals equaled **10,713,610**, a decrease of 1,313,726 when compared to the total exemptions posted, *excluding phase-in*, for October 1, 2010 grand list which was 12,027,336. The decrease in exemptions, *excluding phase-in*, was attributed to a decrease in; regular veterans, local additional veteran's exemptions and the expiration of a tax agreement with Raymond CT Ventures.

Phase-in Exemptions

The exemption amount attributed to the phase-in for the October 1, 2011 grand list before Board of Assessment Appeals equaled 427,631,608.

The exemption amount attributed to the phase-in for the October 1, 2010 grand list before Board of Assessment Appeals equaled 420,694,902.

Net Grand List –Growth Estimate

The net grand list is the sum of all taxable assessments after exemptions. Since the phase-in is effect, this section of the grand list report presents the October 1, 2011 net grand list **before phase-in** and before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals to illustrate **taxable growth**. The October 1, 2011 net grand list displayed an **increase of 1.773 percent** as compared with the October 1, 2010 net grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals. The following compares the 2011 net grand list, **prior to phase in** and before Board of Assessment Appeals and the 2010 net grand list, **prior to phase-in** and before adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2011 grand list</u>	<u>2010 grand list</u>	<u>% change</u>
net real estate with out phase in	1,999,145,950	1,968,478,510	1.01558
net motor vehicles	122,393,530	116,421,800	1.05129
net business personal property	<u>91,176,245</u>	<u>89,266,802</u>	1.02139
net grand list with out phase in	2,212,715,725	2,174,167,112	1.01773

Phase-in Net Grand list

Since the Town of Orange elected to implement phase- in, **the phase- in net grand list is the portion of the grand list upon which taxes are based**. On June 1, 2009 the Orange Board of Selectmen approved SB#997, also known as Public Act 09-60, which effectively suspends the phase-in process and freezes real estate assessments in the second year of phase in until the next scheduled general revaluation. The following compares the 2011 net grand list in PA 09-60 format, as amended, to the 2010 net grand list in PA 09-60 format prior to adjustments for Board of Assessment Appeals:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2011 net grand list</u>	<u>2010 net grand list</u>	<u>%CHANGE</u>	<u>change</u>
net real estate <i>via PA 09-60</i>	1,571,514,342	1,547,783,608	1.0153321	23,730,734
net motor vehicle	122,393,530	116,421,800	1.0512939	5,971,730
net business personal property	<u>91,176,245</u>	<u>89,266,802</u>	1.0213903	1,909,443
<u>total net phase-in grand list</u>	<u>1,785,084,117</u>	<u>1,753,472,210</u>	1.0180282	31,611,907

The 2011 net phase-in grand list **increased by 1.802 percent**, when compared to the 2010 net phase in grand list, before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Real Estate

The net real estate section of 2011 grand list posted an increase of **1.533 percent**. The partial assessments on buildings for the United Illuminating project on 100 Marsh Hill Road and 180 Marsh Hill Road accounted for eighty two percent of the increase in this section of the grand list.

Motor Vehicle

The motor vehicle section of this net grand list **increased by 5.129 percent** as compared with totals posted for 2010. The value of newly registered current model year passenger cars were more than enough to off set the accrued depreciation from recurring vehicles. As in past years, vehicle values were derived from the *NADA Official Used Car Guide New England edition*.

Business Personal Property

This section of the grand list **increased by 2.139 percent** when compared with totals posted in 2010. The 2011 business personal property section reflects a very modest increase in taxable furniture, fixtures and equipment.

As in past years, performance trends are enclosed for each section of the grand list together with the allocation of the 2011 net grand list *before* the application of phase-in. The top 10 taxpayers for 2011 are also included in both non phase- in and *PA09-60 phase- in* formats. In addition, a spreadsheet detailing the reconciliation of the 2011 grand list has been included for your perusal.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

On August 1, 2009, the State of Connecticut adopted amendments to the statewide building code. This code is the building code for every town and city in the state. The State Building Code is periodically revised.

Today, we use and enforce modern building codes that address structural, fire electrical and mechanical safety as well as health, security and even energy conservation. Our job is to make sure that our homes, schools, businesses, and other structures are safe places to live, work and play. We inspect construction projects at several stages to ensure that happens.

The Building Department also works with the Fire Marshal's Office to evaluate structural damage as a result of fire or other causes.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, the Building Department building permits issued, totaled 343, and mechanical, electric and plumbing permits issued, totaled 743.

On November 17, 1991, The Orange Board of Selectmen adopted chapter 186 "Buildings, Numbering of" 186-2.

186-2. Number required: location and size:

Each building, including but not limited to, residential house, store, factory, office building, apartment house or complex, or other multi-unit complex, shall have placed upon it by its owner a building number which shall correspond to the street address number for the building. The town shall assign a building number to each building and shall notify each building owner of the assigned number. The number shall be located on the top or bottom or on the sides of the main entrance of the building facing the street.

AD HOC CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Capital Planning Committee continued its annual activity of requesting inputs from the various town Departments, Boards and Commissions for FY 2014 Short Term Capital Projects. The committee met several times reviewing those inputs and subsequently recommended the following projects for inclusion in the annual Town Operating Budget: Town Hall Floor Remediation, Replace 1997 Public Works Dump Truck, Purchase Park & Recreation Lawn Tractor, Purchase Police Department Video Recording Equipment, Interior Renovations at Police Department, Additional Shelving for Town Clerk's Office, Carpet Cleaning and Interior/Exterior Painting at Case Memorial Library and East Wing Bathroom Renovations in High Plains Community Center. A total of \$282,000 was included in the FY 2014 Town Operating Budget for Short Term Capital Projects.

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerks Office is responsible for the accurate recording and preservation of all land records, maps, Boards and Commissions schedules, agendas and minutes of meetings, Vital Statistics (Births, Marriages & Deaths), Elections and Referendums, as well as various other town records to be in compliance with state statutes, federal regulations and the town charter.

U.S. Senate Primaries were held on 8/14/12

Democrat	Murphy	218	Bysiewicz	136
Republican	McMahon	396	Shays	127

Federal Election was held on November 6, 2012

President	Romney	4209
	Obama	3623

There was approximately a 76% voter turnout.

The Town of Orange now has **Three Voting Districts** to coincide with the **Three** State Representative Districts:

District # 114	Klarides	(District 1	Mary L. Tracy School)
District # 117	Davis	(District 2	High Plains Community Center)
District # 119	Maroney	(District 3	High Plains Community Center)

On January 1, 2009, the State of Connecticut implemented a new on-line system to purchase Sport Licenses such as Fishing, Hunting, Duck Stamps, and Pheasant Tags. As a result the Town Clerks Office **No Longer** sells these licenses.

There was a special Town Meeting held March 13, 2013 to receive communication from the Board of Selectmen regarding appropriating \$15,427,000 in bonds for various town projects; a bond referendum was held on 3/20/13; approved 436 yes and 124 no.

Amity School Operating Budget	5-08-13	\$44,478,455	passed
Town Operating Budget 12-13	5-21-13	\$61,305,166	passed

The Annual Town Meeting was held May 9, 2013 at High Plains Community Center to consider a number of issues. 1) To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey land acquired by the town; passed by voice vote 2) Installment due dates for the payment of property taxes were approved for July 1st and Jan 1st and passed by voice vote. 3) The budget for FY 13-14, prepared by the Board of Finance, was presented and deferred to a machine vote referendum, which was held on May 21, 2013.

Vital Statistics compiled from: July 1st - June 30th

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Births	87	81	95
Deaths	152	142	133
Marriages (issued)	73	41	52

Town Revenues	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Marriage	583	605.00
Recording Fees	75,536	86,807.00
Conveyance	150,991	186,113.28
Dog License	2,803	2,850.00
Miscellaneous/Copies	10,615	11,228.91
Vital	9,937	9,760.00
Historic Preservation	2,510	2,905.00
LOCIP	7,530	8,715.00

The Historic Preservation Account established in July 2000 is an on-going accumulating account, so that over time the Town Clerks Office can complete major preservation projects without impacting other areas of town services. In addition, the Town Clerks Office has received, this year, a grant from the State Historic Preservation Program for \$4,000, which was used to allow the public access to the land records.

Mary Jane Whalen, CATC, and I have attended the numerous Connecticut Town Clerk conferences this past year, in order to keep up on changes in laws and legislation effecting local government, new technology and methods of improving public service in the Town Clerks Office.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Department entered its 33rd year of delivering services to the residents of Orange. Services and programs include a full array of activities for seniors and youth, and medical transportation for persons with disabilities and seniors. Behavioral health services are provided through a contract with Bridges, Inc., with services available at both the main office in Milford and a satellite office in Orange. The Department also provides limited financial support to income-eligible residents through its Community Assistance Fund. Staff has exercised considerable effort to fundraise to insure that residents in need maybe assisted. The town is fortunate to have such a group of committed, resourceful, and compassionate professionals at their service. Through the generosity of individuals, families, local businesses, and civic and service groups, staff raised a record \$18,831 for the Community Assistance Fund. The generosity of the members of this community indeed make Orange a special place to live. A special thank you goes to the citizens who serve on the Community Services Commission, the Department's various advisory committees, and the volunteers whose time and talent support and enhance the programs and services provided through this department. Clerical Assistant Stephanie Cerillo resigned and we welcomed Mary Gagel. In May, Carol Nardini, Director of Community Services gave her notice of retirement to the First Selectman. We thank Carol for her 30-plus years of services and wish her the best in the next chapter of her life. The Orange Senior Center provides activities that promote independence, creativity, and sound physical and emotional health for residents over the age of 55. There is no membership fee for residents. Non-residents may join for \$10 a year for a single person and \$15 for two people living at the same address. After pruning redundant files the membership of the center has increased from 2,408 at the end of FY 2011-12 to 2,496 at the end of FY 2012-13, an increase of 88 people. Three town residents were honored at the annual Pasta Festa! Fundraiser as Living Treasures; 230 people attended the event. It raised over \$2,800 for the Senior Center. The annual summer cookout was attended by 139 seniors in August, 2012. A hot lunch provided by the Elderly Nutrition Program of FSW is served daily in the senior café. During the fiscal year 2012-2013 (with 1 month remaining in the FY), 4,302 meals were served; \$7,169.00 was raised through donations at an average of \$33.81 per day. Orange Community Services has helped 29 households from the Town Fuel Bank for a total of \$10,699.17. This is a change from last year when 28 households were helped for a total of \$9,018.56. One Hundred Seventy Seven households were served through the Emergency Food Pantry. Households are made up of a mixture of adults, children, and seniors. The spirit of the Food Pantry is no-one who request food is denied food upon their initial visit. At that time they are informed of the program's guidelines and asked to present income and residency verification for their second request. . The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent received 229 inquiries for Energy Assistance. This number breaks down to 52 TEAM Applications, Twenty Nine households were served by the Town's Emergency Fuel Bank, and there were One Hundred Seventy Seven Inquiries into the energy program. Friendly Visitors recorded a total hours of 191 hours with 10 volunteers. That averages over 19 hours per month per match. The Outreach Worker has arranged for 34 handyman jobs which were completed by five volunteers. Youth Services incorporated various programs/events with participation by nine hundred thirty-seven youths

collectively. A Free Legal Clinic is held monthly, and 30 residents took advantage of this service compared to last year's amount of 49. The Orange Lions Club held their 17th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the public. Approximately 128 dinners were served, which consisted of no deliveries for homebound, along with 15 seniors transported here on the van and the remainder served at dinner, this has not exceeded the amounts of (128) dinners last year. The Holiday Dinner Basket Project was coordinated by Kimberly Callahan and involved about 40 community organizations and local residents, who participated this year in donating various gifts for the families. There were 27 gift baskets distributed which included grocery gift cards. This year's amounts exceed last years, which were (25 baskets). Local Businesses, Groups and Residents also adopted the families in need by giving out toys, and various gift baskets and gift cards along with monetary donations. There were approximately 15 families which include elderly and adults in need and 28 children that were recipients. These totals did not exceed amounts from last year, which were (25) families, and (24) children. Our Special Transportation Component completed its 29th year of operation and continues to provide rides to the elderly and people with disabilities in Orange. Transportation is provided to medical appointments, the Senior Center, local shopping centers, and personal errands if time allows, along with various special trips being run for the senior center this year. Our three vehicles are lift-equipped and are provided through the Vehicle Acquisition Program at the Greater New Haven Transit District. During the year there were an estimated 3500 rides with donations amounting to \$3,519.00. These amounts did not exceed the rides & donations from last years, which were (3738) rides and donations of (\$4,292). A special thank you is owed to our many volunteers and to our staff that delivers services and provides programs with competence, compassion, and resourcefulness.

ELDERLY OUTREACH, MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Business Sponsor Bingo

An opportunity was created for area businesses to sponsor bingo. The Senior Center Bingo is normally attended by 50 or more senior residents and is held on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:30 pm.

Sponsoring Companies will have the opportunity to hang a company banner and leave marketing materials in the Senior Café for the entire sponsor month. The sponsor will also be able to leave any contact, referral or marketing materials with Denise Stein, M.S., LPC, Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent for future referrals.

Sponsorship would involve a \$100 donation which will be used for the Community Service Department Fuel Bank, they would also furnish a light snack for the intermission of one bingo during their sponsoring month, and provide a basket or gift certificate for the final prize of the day.

Orange Community Services has raised \$600 for the town emergency fuel bank through this project. This fiscal year the donation amount went to \$200.

Energy Assistance

The office of the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent is an intake sight for the State of CT Energy Assistance program and Operation Fuel Community Assistance Fund.

Friendly Visitor / Telephone Reassurance Program

The Elderly Outreach Worker manages the daily activities of the Friendly Visitor/Telephone Reassurance Program. The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent has held quarterly meetings for training and venting purposes. Besides the initial training, volunteers have received training regarding Home Health Care, Downsizing a Home, Congregate Housing, Alzheimer's Disease & Assisted Living, and Orange Visiting Nurse Association.

Personal Development & Trainings

In July 2012 the Elderly Outreach Person attended Senior Medicare patrol Training. In January, it was the TRIAD Conference and the Inter Agency Counseling. In March it was a webinar with the Parkinson's Association on the Advantage of being followed by a neurologist In April it was a seminar on Medicare Fraud and Consumer Scams against the elderly. Then in June, it was training on Durable Medical Equipment.

Print Media

The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent writes a monthly column for the Orange Town News. The column has covered the Low Vision, TRIAD and Exercise, Scams, Nutrition and Great Web Sites. New this year, the Elderly Outreach Worker has started to contribute to the Center's Facebook page.

Handyman Skills Bank

The Senior Center's, Senior Leadership Program has developed a Handyman Skills Bank; The Handyman Skills Bank will assist limited income seniors with light chores around the house. The Elderly Outreach Worker Coordinates the volunteers with the work requested.

TRIAD

The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent facilitates the TRIAD bi-monthly meetings.

The Orange TRIAD continues to plan events and sponsored a Sheltering at Home Panel which was well attended. A grant for \$500.00 was also received for this from UI. In addition, in April, TRIAD put on a Medciare Scam Lunch and Learn.

Client Contacts

The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent spoke with 1138 different persons and made 1,268 referrals to area programs.

ORANGE SENIOR SERVICES

The Orange Senior Center provides activities that promote independence, creativity, and sound physical and emotional health for residents over the age of 55. There is no membership fee for residents. Non-residents may join for \$10 a year for a single person and \$15 for two people living at the same address. After pruning redundant files the membership of the center has increased from 2,408 at the end of FY 2011-12 to 2,496 at the end of FY 2012-13, an increase of 88 people.

Three town residents were honored at the annual Pasta Festa! Fundraiser as Living Treasures. 230 people attended the event. It raised over \$2,800 for the Senior Center. The annual summer cookout was attended by 139 seniors in August, 2012. The Senior Center arranged for many day, overnight, and longer trips, including a 10 day trip to the British Landscapes, 10 day Hawaiian Cruise, 9 day trip to Beijing City China, 6 day trip to Charleston & Savannah, 3 day trip Quebec City, Holiday trip to see the Vienna Boys Choir, Oktoberfest, Lobster Bash with Polynesian Show, Tanglewood, RI Culinary Heritage, Mystery Rail & Sail trip, Wine & River Rose, the Metropolitan Opera House behind the scenes tour, , various theaters to see Carousel, Newsies, Nice Work if You can get It, Andy Cooney St Patrick's Day Show, Pat Boone, Ride the Tiger, Duprees, and an Elvis impersonator, to name a few.

The Senior Center hosted a Summer Cookout, Ice Cream Social & Country Music, Halloween Bingo Party, Veterans Appreciation show, Holiday Dinner Dance, Welcome Spring Pizza Party with the Orange Lions Club, and a Softball Tournament to raise revenue for the Community Assistance Fund.

Classes and activities are offered to exercise and stretch the body, mind, and spirit including yoga, tai chi, watercolor painting, computers, bridge lessons, zumba gold, fitness, tap dancing, line dancing, chair exercise, opera appreciation, and arthritis exercise classes. Some new classes added this year are a Personal History Workshop, Yoga Dance, and a Technology Education Series on iPads and iPhones. We also began a very successful informal monthly event called Teen Tech Talk. Amity High Schools students from Or Shalom offer one-on-one training to seniors on how to operate their iPads, iPhones, and laptops.

The senior center continues to offer a monthly Lunch and Learn with speakers on various interesting topics. The Afghan Ladies continue to make afghans for foster children. Wii Bowling, Chess Club, billiards, and table tennis are enjoyed by many members at the center. AARP offers a monthly Driver's Safety Class and yearly Income Tax Assistance. The Senior Center continued with a monthly birthday recognition event for its membership.

The Orange Senior Center hosts an annual Health & Safety Fair with 24 vendors and which drew over 200 people. The event rose over \$1,300 for the Community Assistance Fund. The center offered a Holiday Market for the first time this fiscal year. We had 14 vendors and each donated an item for the Pasta Festa raffle.

A hot lunch provided by the Elderly Nutrition Program of FSW is served daily in the senior café. During the fiscal year 2012-2013 (with 1 month remaining in the FY), 4,302 meals were served, the program was operational for 212 days; \$7,169.00 was raised through donations at an average of \$33.81 per day. Besides the FSW mandated closed days, the lunch program was closed 24 days due to holidays, fairs or activities, and inclement weather.

YOUTH SERVICES

Through fiscal year 2012-2013 Youth Services incorporated various programs/events with participation by nine hundred thirty-seven youths collectively. Youth Services again assisted the Art in the Library Committee by coordinating with Orange Elementary and Kindergarten schools the 6th Annual Children of Orange K-6 Art Exhibit at Case Library. One-hundred and two students exhibited their art work in areas of drawing, painting, and 3-D. Approximately 160 persons attended the reception. Coordinator was assisted by school personnel in the accumulation of art work. Three Home Alone classes were held at each Elementary School in conjunction with the Orange Volunteer Fire and Police Departments. Seventy-five students participated. The Middle School 7th and 8th grade dances were attended by four hundred sixty-one students cumulatively and assisted by approximately twenty-two chaperones on a rotating basis. Students were able to enjoy professional DJ, food, and raffle prizes. An Incoming 7th grade picnic was held at High Plains and attended by seventy students. Games, raffles, fun booths, food and refreshments were provided through a grant from the Lion's Club. The Job Bank assisted youth in gaining employment with area residents. Varied job areas were offered such as yard work, painting, cleaning attics/basements, mother's helper, tutoring, snow shoveling, and more. During the year, fifty-two jobs were offered to members helping them to experience a variety of work experiences and community interaction. Through an Enhancement grant provided by the State Department of Education to Youth Service Bureaus, an Artist Colony was initiated which was comprised of two separate classes totaling thirty youth who were offered one session of drawing and one of watercolors. Art professionals taught students perception, dimension, depth, measuring techniques, brush utilization, and color scheme and blending. The program assisted students to complete a finished work of art, improve their artistic abilities, and reinforce a sense of confidence in their work toward future endeavors. Also provided through the grant the an ADL "Building a School of Allies" training and workshops for over one-hundred Middle School students in regard issues of bullying, name-calling, gender diversity, and prejudice was offered. The SDE Youth Service Bureau Grant, SDE Enhancement Grant, and Individual Services Report were completed for the fiscal year. The Intergenerational Tutoring program enjoyed another successful year which utilized fifteen students and eight tutors. Tutors worked one-to-one with students at Case Library once per week. Parents provided tutors with academic updates and progress reports. A student-parent-tutor graduation was held in June for participants. Youth Services worked with eight students in regard Court Community service totaling one hundred twenty-five hours. Assignments included administrative, garage, custodial, and food pantry. Also, three babysitting classes were held during the school vacation weeks. Thirty- six students received course instruction/materials as well as First Aid certification and lunch. Twenty-eight Amity High School students worked with Youth Services as volunteers for school credits being utilized in areas of Middle School dances, special events, food pantry, Lion's Club activities, Town concerts, administrative duties, town events, and Community Services. Youth Services utilized a variety of publicity options in regard programming and events which were the local newspaper, parent list serve, fliers, and school announcements. Monthly meetings were attended by Coordinator with organizations such as BOW (Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge Collaborative), PCYC (Planning for Children and Youth Committee), Orange Family Counseling, and Youth Services Advisory Board. Youth Services utilized an area merchants base in regard their services and received discounted prices for all events during the year. Parent chaperones were utilized as volunteers assisting at Youth Services dances and the annual Incoming 7th grade picnic.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By-laws for the conservation commission have been written, approved and submitted to the Orange Town Clerk.

The 2013 CT Trail Days was held at the Turkey Hill Preserve. Chris Shaw, from the Land Trust, provided a guided walk of the Preserve. This year we had a total of 40 plus people that participated.

The Turkey Hill Preserve sign, a kiosk and two picnic tables were installed in October.

The commission hired the CT Audubon, to do a Land Management Assessment of Turkey Hill Preserve. This study will be ready by the end of the year. Recommendations will follow regarding how the property should be managed for recreational activities.

This year the Mary L Tracy Kindergarten children had a week without T.V. One of the after school programs was spent at the Howard Brooks Conservation area. The Children and parents met in the parking lot and Jim Ewen lead a walk that included an old mill site where cloth for the Civil war soldiers was made. Then the children were able to make pinecones bird feeders and had their snack by the Wepawaug River.

A number of illegal activities have occurred at Racebrook Tract including the construction of a series of mountain bike trails that were not authorized. An increased police presence was requested and has resulted in a reduction of these activities.

Racebrook Tract had two new gates installed to prevent parking in unauthorized areas.

New signs identifying outlining rules and regulations have been installed in all the open spaces.

A new kiosk has been installed in the Ewen Preserve at the St Johns Drive entrance. Two additional signs identifying the area will be installed at Lambert Road and St. John's Drive entrance.

The commission hosted a table in the Civic Tent at the Agricultural Fair. Eagle Scout Dan Olson presented his bat box project which were installed at Turkey Hill and Ewen Preserve. Open space maps and bird species leaflets from the CT Audubon were made available to the public.

TOWN COUNSEL

General Matters

The general work of the Town Counsel followed the patterns of past years. Principally, advice was given to the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen and various town boards, commissions and agencies on legal issues facing the Town. Numerous contracts were reviewed and negotiated for construction, goods and consulting services on behalf of the Town.

Zoning and Litigations Matters

Numerous zoning issues were addressed during this fiscal year, but there was not any significant zoning appeals litigated during this fiscal year. A number of tax appeals were filed by residential and commercial property owners. Those matters remain pending. Numerous other litigation matters were resolved and/or averted during this fiscal year. Additionally, several foreclosures were commenced for back taxes. The Town has been compensated for the unpaid taxes and its legal fees and costs on most of the foreclosures.

ORANGE DRUG/ALCOHOL ACTION COMMITTEE (ODAAC)

ODAAC (Orange Drug/Alcohol Action Committee) serves the Amity area as the Local Prevention Council (LCP) for Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge, as designated by the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The committee is a group of community leaders, activists, and concerned citizens whose mission is to educate the residents of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge about the roll that “prevention” plays in leading healthy lifestyles. The committee supports the efforts of drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevent initiatives through funding as granted by a partnership with the Valley Substance Abuse Action Committee and BH Care. Such funding allows the committee to support initiatives in the Amity regional school district as well as the elementary schools of all three towns. During FY 11-13, ODAAC supported and participated in Red Ribbon Week, health and wellness educational modules and sponsored expert speakers on such important topics as bullying, parenting issues, and Internet safety. Additionally, members of the ODAAC committee attended and received certification in mental health first aid, suicide prevention and tobacco education.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Orange Economic Development Commission and the Orange Economic Development Corporation are jointly responsible for undertaking the economic development initiatives of the Town of Orange. During the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year, this partnership carried out several development activities which make up the Town of Orange's Economic Development program.

The OED Commission undertook a series of activities coordinated to enhance the Town's ability to attract retail, commercial, and industrial businesses. Some of these activities included:

- Support of the OrangeLife Magazine
- Maintenance of the OrangeEDC.com website,
- Monthly Newsletter distributed via email to economic development contacts,
- Produced the 12th Annual Orange Community and Business Exposition,
- Administered the Annual Brokers Tour.

The members of the Orange Economic Development Commission include, Armand Cantafio, Chairman; Royce Brosler, Barbara Germano, Nisha Falcigno, and Carl Russell. The Orange Economic Development Commission is generally responsible for helping to oversee many of the marketing activities designed to improve outreach to prospective business and ensuring that tools are in place for successful economic development initiatives.

The *OrangeLife*, which is produced by the Orange Economic Development Corporation and supported by the Commission, is designed to highlight and celebrate what it means to be a member of the Orange community. The magazine supports local businesses, as well as contains useful information regarding the Town of Orange. Over 7,500 magazines are delivered twice per year to every home, business and post office boxes within Orange.

The Economic Development Commission supported the production of a monthly newsletter that is electronically delivered to local, regional and national contacts. These contacts include retailers, developers, and real estate professionals. The newsletter has enabled business contacts to directly and immediately contact the town's economic development professionals.

The Orange Economic Development Commission has been a key driver of the Annual Orange Business & Community Exposition. The Expo, which was held on June 12, 2013 at the High Plains Community, saw the participation of over 425 persons during the day long affair. This year's event incorporated 58 vendors showcasing their products and services at the Expo.

The Orange Economic Development Commission also hosted the 7th Annual Broker's Tour. The tour which included a number of regional commercial brokerage firms toured a number of Orange's available commercial and industrial properties. The event was well

received by the broker's and has become a staple of the Annual Orange Business & Community Expo.

The Orange Economic Development Corporation is a private, not-for-profit organization designed to support economic development initiatives, create economic opportunities and manage the day-to-day economic development activities on behalf of the Town of Orange. The corporation is represented by private business, local residents and representatives of the Town of Orange.

During the 2013 Fiscal Year, the Orange Economic Development Corporation continued to facilitate the economic development efforts on behalf of the Town of Orange. The Town of Orange had a productive year in terms of business growth, as 28 new businesses opened their doors as compared to the 8 business closing that occurred during the year. To further highlight business, growth in the community the commercial and industrial vacancies rates have declined from 6.34% to 3.66%, with the biggest decline coming from the retail zone, which saw a 74,000 square foot decline in total vacancies. The retail zone ended the year with a vacancy rate of 3.93%, while the industrial zone sits at the low vacancy rate of 1.94%. Both retail and industrial rates are now at their lowest rate since the OEDC has been maintaining these types of records (2009).

Another major success was completion of the first phase of the Edison Road Construction project. In December 2013, the first vehicles were able to access Marsh Hill Road from Prindle Hill Road, opening up 70+ acres of land for future economic development. In early 2014, the Town will complete the second phase of the project and open up the road to daily traffic. This project will be finally complete the vision of the authors of the 1967 Town of Orange Comprehensive Plan of Development.

The Orange Economic Development Commission and the Orange Economic Development Corporation are pleased to perform these activities on behalf of the Orange community and welcomes comments or suggestions to assist in furthering the economic development potential of the town.

AMITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

The Regional School District No 5 was incorporated in 1953 to serve the education needs of students in grades 7-12 who reside in the towns of Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany, Connecticut. The district has been meeting this goal with distinction since that time. Amity students regularly exceed state and national averages on standardized exams and continue to demonstrate their competence in a myriad of non-standardized assessments. Amity students consistently achieve at high levels across all content areas. In the spring of 2013, students in grades 7, 8 and 10 continued their outstanding performance on the Connecticut State testing program outpacing state, reference group and their own previous performance. This year excellent progress was made at the grade 10 level - Amity students scored #2 in the District Reference Group in math, #3 in reading, and #5 in writing. In grade 7 Amity was #1 in the District Reference Group in writing, #2 in reading, and #5 in math. Grade 8 scores were also impressive in the District Reference Group with #1 in writing and #3 in math.

The Amity Board of Education is committed to seeing that each school and service area in the district receives comparable resources from the budget. Issues such as enrollment, teacher/student ratio, district and school-based improvement plans, improved student performance on state-mandated tests, curriculum initiatives, health and safety needs in each facility and future capital plans drive the budget. The Superintendent convenes meetings with district leaders to seek input regarding the needs of the entire district and to achieve equitable distribution of resources. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget is presented to the Amity Finance Committee each year in January. This Committee scrutinizes the Superintendent's request and suggests alterations. The Superintendent and administrative team review the suggested alterations and reallocate resources in an equitable manner. The Superintendent next presents the Superintendent's Proposed Budget to the Board of Education in February. A public hearing is held prior to final Board adoption in April to hear input from residents of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. All three towns vote on the budget at referendum in May.

AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Centrally located in the Town of Woodbridge, Amity Regional High School enrolls over 1,600 students in grades 9-12 in a wide variety of academic and co-curricular programs. Amity Regional High School prides itself on achievements in the three A's: Academics, Arts and Athletics.

Academically, Amity Regional High School provides a wide range of learning opportunities available to its students. The highest level courses offered at the high school are in the Advanced Placement (AP) program. In May of 2013, 304 students took 590 Advanced Placement tests; 91% of students taking these exams received passing grades. Our Career and Technical Education Department offers an extensive array of courses, including culinary arts, auto mechanics, and computer-aided design. Over 95% of Amity graduates attend two and four-year colleges after graduation, including many at the most selective colleges in the country. This past spring the Theatre Arts Department offered performances of *Sweeney Todd*. The musical garnered 15 nominations at the Connecticut Musical Theatre Awards Program with a win for seven including Best Supporting Actor, Outstanding Production of the Year, Outstanding Director, and Outstanding Orchestra. In sports, Amity Boys are state champions in Baseball.

AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL – ORANGE CAMPUS

Amity Middle School-Orange operates on a middle school team organization with teachers formed into groups of five covering the subjects of math, science, English, social studies, and world language. This model provides students with a more integrated and organized experience as opposed to the old junior high school model that was organized into curricular departments.

As a result of the implementation of a rigorous remediation plan and a district literacy initiative, there was considerable improvement in grade 7 where our students ranked #1 in writing, #2 in reading, and #5 in math of nineteen comparison school districts. The strong academic program in grade 8 is enhanced by an overnight field trip to New York City. Additionally, a wide array of co-curricular clubs is offered after school. Finally, an interscholastic and intramural program rounds out the Amity Middle School-Orange experience.

ORANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The students, staff, and Board of Education enjoyed a productive 2012 - 2013 school year, one characterized by significant changes and positive momentum.

Advancements in technology continue to be particularly remarkable. We have automated a good portion of our Board of Education Policy Handbook and added a search feature. We have successfully implemented *PowerSchool*, a more robust student information system with a parent portal. Over the summer, we are adding a 'bill pay' option to enable parents to electronically transfer funds for their student's cafeteria, pre-K, and 21st Century bills. We have continued to build our electronic communications through our webpage, *Facebook*, *SlideShare*, and *Twitter*. In its first year the webpage had 118,500 hits; the *SlideShare* presentation with the highest hits was the '2012 CMT Scores' with 612 hits; and the peak week for *Facebook* was 644 visitors the week of August 14 – 20. In addition, we have added another set of iPad carts to each school, created a suite of computer-based intervention tools, and increased bandwidth.

The school district made significant strides converting to the Common Core State Standards. *Math Expressions* was fully implemented in Grades K- 6 putting Orange well ahead of the curve. Despite making the transition to new math standards, our CMT scores did not drop. The implementation of the Common Core in Language Arts is already underway and is a goal this coming year. In addition, two committees met throughout the year: one to write the District's Strategic Plan, and the other to write the new rubric-based Evaluation Plans for teachers and administrators.

The results of the 2013 Connecticut Mastery Test revealed excellent academic growth over time from Grades 3 to 6. In fact, by 5th and 6th grade, a remarkable number of students score in the advanced band. Equally important, our students enjoyed a number of enriching programs and activities from school plays and field trips to interesting cultural programs supported by our active PTAs. One of the most exciting may have been the 'Chick Watch,' in which our kindergarteners hatched nine chicks in an incubator. For reports about the CMTs and many of our academic and enrichment programs, residents can find many news articles or *SlideShare* presentations on the district's webpage at www.oess.org.

Following the devastating events in Sandy Hook, an Ad-Hoc Security Committee convened to develop a sensible approach for improving security at our schools. Our most significant threat was open doors. We have hired eight security monitors who have become an integral part of our schools in a short time. We have added ID badge card readers and a 'rapid response' system, allowing us to both lock our doors and lock-down quickly in an emergency. Sally-ports and video surveillance of exterior and interior common areas are forthcoming. We have adjusted BOE policies as needed.

The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee of the BOE, along with our Facilities Director, worked diligently with the BOS and BOF to pass a bond referendum in March. Since then, we have been meeting with State Inspectors, but two key projects (roofs and boilers) have been postponed until next summer. The BOE and school staff are appreciative of the support of the First Selectman, Board of Finance, and the taxpayers of Orange.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Our main objective is to make sure the town and residents are prepared for and to manage disasters: before, during and after they occur. Everyone should have several days worth of food and water on hand in case of emergency. It is also a good idea to be able to take these items with you in a plastic bin if you must vacate your house or town.

We ask everyone to start viewing the following website: [Fred & Tino \(@orangectemd\) on Twitter](#) We will be using this site live during emergencies. Be Prepared: sign up today. Also, follow OGAT, Orangectlive and Orange Patch.

The town of Orange Emergency Management is headed by Director Fred Palmer and Assistant Director Faustino (Tino) Russo. Both positions are on a volunteer basis. Our objective is to make sure the town is prepared for any disaster which may occur. We have monthly meetings with our Emergency Management Advisory Council (EMAC) to make sure the town is prepared for any disaster, discuss activities and plan exercises. The council consists of several town department heads, American Medical Response (AMR), United Illuminating (UI), Red Cross, Military and other volunteers who will be operating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)(at the Police Department) in case of an emergency.

Communications is top priority during an emergency and the town has changed from Reverse 911 telephone system to "Everbridge". Everbridge allows us to contact every telephone in town in less than one half hour. We have radios so we can communicate directly with our state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and have installed a radio system so we have better communications with area towns. Your federal and state dollars are paying for much of this as there is an ongoing funding program administered by the state DEMHS granting funds to the town of Orange and more recently to Regions of the state. Orange is in Region 2 which consists of towns along Long Island Sound, Milford to Old Saybrook. Our Director and Assistant Director are both licensed Ham Radio Operators as well as several CERT members to reinforce our communications. The town Fire Marshal is our Administrative leg and is very involved with our Emergency Preparedness, safety equipment and funding requests through the State and Federal Government.

We attend quarterly Regional Emergency Planning Team meetings as well as training seminars, exercises and conferences. We are in charge of the town shelter at High Plains Community Center which is operated by our CERT team. Family pets are welcome at the shelter which provides showers, electricity to charge devices, meals and a place to stay overnight when necessary.

In July we participated in a 2 day Statewide Hurricane Exercise with the state and other towns. We prepared for **Storm Sandy** by meeting in advance, opening the EOC, Shelter at High Plains Community Center and sent STRIKE TEAMS (OPD, OVFD, Highway Snowplows) throughout the town in strategic locations for advanced coverage should trees go down. This proved to be very advantages. The Shelter was open for a week providing sleep areas, food, electricity and showers.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The Orange Community Emergency Response Team is a **volunteer** group of citizens trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety/suppression, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, disaster preparedness and shelter management. CERT is a national program administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Orange CERT members use their training to give critical support to first responders and provide immediate assistance to victims when emergencies happen. The team also assists the community with non-emergency events and projects. CERT is prepared to operate our emergency shelter at High Plains Community Center when needed. The team has assisted with Town Fireworks, Volunteer Fire Department Carnival and the Country Fair. Orange CERT is a dedicated team of volunteers that continue to train in all areas of emergency response and preparedness. They are ready to assist and support the first responders and the community at a moments notice every hour of every day.

Total membership is forty (40) with a new class coming this fall.

Everyone should be prepared for disasters in advance: Check the following Websites:

www.Getreadycapitolregion.org , Local www.arcsct.org National: www.redcross.org or your telephone book for free Brochures, also www.ready.gov and www.FEMA.gov

COUNTRY FAIR

The annual Orange Country Fair was held on September 14 and 15, 2012. The Fair was blessed with excellent weather for both days. This fair has been in continuous existence since 1975. It has grown from a one time event to having celebrated its 38th year.

The Committee works year round to provide two days of activities celebrating the agricultural history of the Town of Orange as well as trying to bring new events for everyone's enjoyment. Activities include horse and oxen draws, tractor and doodlebug pulls, pig racing, police dog exhibitions, a hay bale toss and a skillet toss. There are exhibits of crafts and produce displayed and the animal tent continues to be a huge attraction for all ages.

Proceeds from past fairs go towards improvements on the buildings and grounds. This year the Committee used money to build a wash building directly behind the food pavilion with a hot water heater. Repairs were made to the roof of the exhibit hall after Hurricane Sandy damaged it. The committee continues to investigate into new lighting systems for both the exhibit hall and museum buildings.

The Committee wishes to express appreciation to all who volunteer at the event and to all who attend. The Committee would also like to thank the Town's continued support. The Public Works Department has been incredibly helpful with the set up of the fair. Without this support the Committee could not have achieved in putting on such an event. The Committee is proud of the Fair and hope the town is too.

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance has primary responsibility for the preparation and adoption of the annual Town budget. Once the budget has been approved, the Board of Finance establishes the mill rate necessary to fund the budget for general Town operations. The budget process begins in the fall when Town department heads prepare a request for appropriation for the coming fiscal year. Departmental requests are reviewed by the Finance Director and the First Selectman and then forwarded to the Board of Finance for further review and action.

Budget workshops are held from January through March wherein the various departmental budgets are reviewed in detail with input provided by the Town department heads and board and commission members. Toward the end of the workshop process, a projection of the anticipated non-tax revenue amounts is developed, and the appropriation requirements for the Amity Regional School District and Orange Board of Education are reviewed, adjusted and built into the total Town Budget. The annual Public hearing is then held to solicit input from the public for consideration by the Board in preparation of a final budget which is published and presented at the annual Town meeting. In this manner, the Town Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 was approved by the voters in May of 2013. In addition to the budget process, the Board of Finance is also responsible for the periodic review of budgetary compliance as well as the general financial health of the Town. The Board is also responsible for the consideration and supplemental appropriation of funds in response to emergent conditions and unforeseen costs.

The Board of Finance has the authority to oversee the financial activity of the Amity Regional School District. Board member Joseph Nuzzo is the current Orange Representative assigned to the Amity Finance Committee which is comprised of representatives from the Orange Board of Finance, Woodbridge and Bethany Boards of Finance and from members of the Amity Board of Education. The Amity Finance Committee is directly responsible for financial oversight for the Amity School District.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The Fire Marshal's Office operates under the direction of the Board of Selectman, the Connecticut Department of Public Safety/Office of State Fire Marshal, and various Federal agencies. Our department responsibilities can be broken down into three main categories: enforcement of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code, fire origin and cause investigations, and public fire safety education. Fire Code enforcement includes regular inspections of all new and existing buildings located in the Town of Orange, except for one and two family homes.

For the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013, the Orange Fire Marshal's Office activity statistics are:

Inspection, Enforcement and Investigation Statistics:

Fire Code Inspections which includes initial and re-inspection activities	812
State Fire Safety Code violations discovered and cited during inspections	1651
State Fire Safety Code violations that were corrected after being cited	1941
Review of building plans for State Fire Code compliance	209
Fire origin and cause investigations	29
Other activities, such as meetings, consultations, training classes, etc	327
Total permits issued	98

Town Fire Incident Response Statistics:

Fires, including buildings, vehicles, and outdoor property	55
Hazardous Condition responses	120
Rescue calls	17
False alarms	186
Other types of responses	150

Total Fire Responses for the Fiscal Year:	528
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Of the 528 fire calls answered by the Orange Volunteer Fire Association for this fiscal period, there were 55 fires that included structures, vehicles, and brush. These fires caused a total of \$642,000 in property damage. Statistics indicated that 35% of the total fire calls were false activated fire alarms, mostly due to system malfunctions caused by a lack of maintenance. If you own a fire alarm system either in your home or business, annual testing and maintenance is vital to ensure proper operation and to reduce the number of false alarms. Through a FEMA grant and funding from various civic groups our office, in conjunction with the Orange Vol. Fire Association, we are continuing the smoke detector installation program for Orange residents. If you need smoke alarms for your home, our staff can provide and/or install battery smoke alarms **free of charge**. To participate in this program, please contact our office at 203-891-4711, or email via www.orangefiremarshal.com. Help us protect your family by installing smoke alarms!!

ORANGE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. is comprised solely by volunteer firefighters who respond to and take action at fires and emergency incidents in the Town of Orange. There were 528 calls for service during the past fiscal year.

Highlights of the year include:

-The Line officers for this year are: Chief Charles Gagel, Deputy Chief John Knight, Assistant Chiefs Vaughn Dumas and Dr. Charles Sherwood, Captains Michael Esposito and Mark Osinski, Lieutenants David Tufano, Richard Lohrenz, Daniel Cole, and Drew Panapada.

-The Staff officers are Elfo Pol (Treasurer), Arthur Williams (Assistant Treasurer), Peter Daniel (Secretary), and Lisa Kaplan (Corresponding Secretary).

-The department continues to work with the Town of Orange Director of Emergency Management and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to develop responses for emergencies in town.

-Active members are pursuing grant opportunities to replace existing safety equipment for firefighters, including personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus. These items are essential to the safety of firefighters functioning in hazardous environments. Efforts to obtain grant funds are another way that the volunteers work to minimize fire protection costs for the citizens of Orange.

-The department continues an employee assistance program to provide support services for volunteer firefighters. The program seeks to help maintain volunteers' well-being, given the physical and emotional dangers that firefighters encounter.

-Training remains a department priority. During the past year, a number of members completed State of Connecticut courses, including Firefighter I and Firefighter II, Fire Service Instructor I, and Fire Officer I. Further, classes were held for the National Incident Management System (NIMS), training that is mandated by the federal government as part of its homeland security initiative.

The members of the volunteer fire department work throughout the year to raise funds for equipment to protect the citizens of the town and their property. We appreciate the contributions made by the Town of Orange, businesses, organizations, and residents to support our efforts.

A sincere thank you is given to the active members and their families for their service to the department and the community.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Orange Health Department is responsible under general laws, state and local regulations, for disease protection and control, health and environmental protection and promoting a healthy community. The Board of Health is composed of appointed residents who have expressed an interest in the well-being of our community.

The following are some of the issues reviewed and discussed by the Board during FY 2012-2013:

- Kathleen Taylor, RN was appointed to the Board on November 15, 2012 to fill an unexpired term.
- Frederick Schumacher, RS, town sanitarian for 27 years announced his retirement effective August 9, 2013.
- An annual review of American Medical Response (AMR) activities revealed that there were 1098 requests for medical transportation/assistance. The average response time was five minutes and fifty-four seconds. The largest number of calls for AMR service were for Interfacility/Palliative Care.
- Members of the Board and OVNA serving on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee have been tasked with assessing the guidelines and medical staffing requirements for the shelter at High Plains Community Center in the event of emergency situations such as hurricanes, blizzards and power outages.
- In November the Town was designated a HEARTSafe Community indicating Orange had more than enough employees and residents trained in CPR, and more than the required number of automated external defibrillators (AED's) located throughout the town.
- The Orange Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) was commended for being named to the TOP 500 of the 2012 HomeCare Elite – a compilation of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States.
- The larviciding program was again instituted in an effort to prevent the mosquito-borne West Nile virus.

Meetings of the Board of Health are held on the third Monday during the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November at 7:30 P.M. at the High Plains Community Center.

ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

The following is a compilation of the permits and licenses issued by this office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013:

- 73 Subsurface Sewage Disposal Permits
- 2 Well Drilling Permits
- 120 Food Service Establishment Licenses
- 47 Vending/Temporary Food Service/Catering Licenses

During the recent fiscal year, more than 1,977 field and office activities were performed. Examples of the office and field activities that the Environmental Division conducted include the review of 174 subsurface sewage designs and building addition plans, 589 office conferences, 58 septic system repair/building addition investigations, 194 deep test pit observations, 82 percolation tests, 103 septic system installation inspections, 87 site inspections to evaluate various environmental concerns, 24 complaint investigations, 311 food service inspections, 58 stand pipes monitored to determine seasonal ground water levels, 10 ticks were referred to the Connecticut State Agricultural Experiment Station for the presence of Lyme Disease and 10 school and child day care facilities were inspected. In addition, the Director of Health issued four (4) written orders to abate various violations of the Public Health Code.

The issuance of permits to replace existing septic tanks has been on the rise over the last five years. This phenomenon is not unusual since the majority of homes in Town were built in the 1960s and the septic tanks serving these homes are approaching fifty years old. Homeowners are reminded that the maintenance and cleaning of their septic tank is very important to the successful operation of their septic system.

A septic tank should be cleaned and inspected every 3 to 5 years; more frequently if the capacity of tank is less than 1,000 gallons. New tanks are far superior in function and design to their 50 year old counterparts. Therefore, it would be advisable to replace the tank if the pumper/cleaner certifies that the tank is malfunctioning or if it is in a state of collapse.

ORANGE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

The Orange Visiting Nurse Association has been providing community health services to the residents of Orange through its state licensed and nationally accredited homecare agency and school nurse program for over 76 years. The agency is one of five Municipal VNAs still in existence in Connecticut and the agency is thus positioned to respond to the current health care reform initiatives which focus on health promotion and prevention as well as teaching patients to manage their chronic disease so that they can stay out of the hospital and in their homes.

In October 2012, the agency was designated as a Homecare Elite “Top 500” agency in the US. The selection criteria used is: patient outcomes, patient satisfaction and financial measures. The transition from paper to computerized medical records continues with the clinicians out in the field utilizing what is called “point of care” or use of laptops to facilitate record keeping. This has allowed that agency’s clinical staff to communicate in “real time” and to be able to send updates to physicians more easily as well as assist in compliance with regulatory standards.

Our core services remain: skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide and homemaker, social work and nutrition counseling. The agency is staffed with an On Call RN 24/7 to meet urgent needs. In addition, we can assist patients who might need IV therapy at home or hospice care through sub-contract arrangements. OVNA also has a bath program for residents who do not require skilled care but need assistance with personal care in order to remain home.

The agency provides community outreach as part of its mission which includes flu clinics, blood pressure clinics, office visits for residents who are not homebound and require medications which require a nurse to administer, “health chats,” participation with Town agencies and organizations including the Senior Center and Emergency Management. As part of the Town’s response to the storm in the fall, the agency played an active role by providing nursing and home health care assistance at the emergency shelter located at the Community Center.

The school nurses, under the leadership of the school nurse supervisor provided health care to 1480 students. A full time school nurse is assigned to each of the four elementary public schools and a part-time nurse to one private elementary school. The role of the school nurse today is very challenging due to the variety of health problems found among the current school population.

Students made over 15,907 visits to the school nurses for minor and major first aid needs, illness complaints, medication administration and blood glucose testing. Screenings were performed for height, weight, hearing, vision, epiclesis (lice) and scoliosis. The school nurses administer flu vaccinations, PPD screening to the BOE staff as well as participate in PPT and 520 conferences, hold health education classes and conduct playground inspections.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Orange Historic District encompasses the Town Green, the Congregational Church, and twenty-five additional properties in the center of town. The purpose of the Commission is to protect and preserve the significant historic and architectural elements that contribute to the visual character of the District.

The Commission, which consists of five regular members and three alternate members appointed by the Selectmen, operates under Section 7-147 of the Connecticut General Statutes. No building or structure such as signs and walls may be erected or altered without a Certificate of Appropriateness. Such certificate is issued or denied after a public hearing before the commission. All certificates must be granted prior to receiving a building permit from the Town. In most instances, as in the case of fences and signs, a Certificate of Appropriateness is required even though no other permits are needed.

The Commission met quarterly during the year. There were no formal Certificate of Appropriateness' requests during 2013.

SILVERBROOK ESTATES

Silverbrook Estates is a 45 unit elderly congregate housing facility. Owned by the Town of Orange, Silverbrook Estates was opened in October 1994 and funded by a grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). It is specifically designed to serve a frail low-income elderly population. The State of Connecticut continues to fund the residents through the Rental Assistance and Congregate Subsidy programs.

Since 2000, Silverbrook Estates has participated in the State of Connecticut Affordable Assisted Living program. This program has allowed many residents to age in place instead of moving to a nursing home.

The residents are very busy with a variety of activities. There is exercise twice a week and a seated Tai Chi class once a week. A Downtown Abbey tea time was established this winter for fans of the show to watch some episodes and enjoy goodies together. Residents were happy to volunteer and give back to the town this year by putting packets together which were distributed with the new recycling bins that went to all Orange households.

Silverbrook Estates, managed by Elderly Housing Management, conducts all its business as is allowed by Fair Housing Law and is an Equal Housing Opportunity program.

The Elderly Housing Liaison Board members who oversee this project for the Town of Orange include: Fred Palmer, Chairman, Joe Blake, Skip Clark, Dennis Marsh, Jane Crossman, Joy Habib, Sue Mauro and Nancy Nyhan. The board meets the second Thursday of every other month.

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSES COMMISSION

The Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission authorized under Section 22a-28 of the Connecticut General Statutes acts to protect our natural resources. This agency is composed of Orange residents, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, on a bipartisan basis, to monitor and protect the wetlands and prevent their despoliation and destruction. Therefore, any plans you or your neighbors or friends may have that could conceivably impact the wetlands, swamps, bogs, streams or rivers within Orange should be brought before the agency for review and advice before any action is taken.

Most major residential and commercial developments are heard by the Commission and may be the subject of a Public Hearing. The Commissions' meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Orange Town Hall, lower level meeting room, to act on applications pertaining to any regulated activities affecting wetland and/ or watercourses in Orange. Our Enforcement Officer is available to assist residents. All wetland meetings are public meetings, however, public participation is restricted to a legally noticed Public Hearing.

Performing work in a regulated area (one hundred feet from a wetland or watercourse) without approval of the Wetlands Commission could be hazardous to the health of the land that nurtures us all. It could also subject the hasty landowner to legal action, fines, and a cease and desist order, and the possibility of having to undo an expensive but impermissible improvement or development, which encroaches on the wetlands. This past fiscal year the Commission acted upon two residential properties and one Commercial establishment.

CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Case Memorial Library offers the resources and services that Orange residents need to achieve their goals. Whether providing early literacy resources for young readers, materials to assist with college and career planning, online databases and downloadable services, print materials, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray films, technology training or programs for all ages, the Library has something for everyone. Last year, more than 96,000 patrons visited the Library and borrowed over 155,000 materials.

The Children's Department presented a variety of educational and fun-filled activities. More than 2,000 children attended 154 programs, which included story hours, special craft and visual arts workshops, drama workshops, films, musical sing-alongs, and a fabulous Halloween storytelling presentation. In February, 60 children participated in the annual "Take Your Child to the Library Day," where they enjoyed a special juggling performance. The very first stuffed animal sleepover was extremely successful. The animals enjoyed special after-hour activities that included a puppet show and craft, and the children received a photographic memento of their stay. "Dream Big READ" the summer reading program was a huge success with over 180 children participating. The children's staff prepared special booklists throughout the year, as well as a list of children's books arranged by Accelerated Reading Levels.

This year, 141 teens took advantage of fourteen programs designed to their interests. Activities included a Hunger Games-themed indoor mini golf event, an Iron Chef-style competition, and a do-it-yourself spa program where they crafted scented sugar scrubs and bath salts. Book Chat Café, an ongoing afterschool book discussion group for teens that is co-sponsored by the Library and the Orange Middle School Media Center, continues to attract enthusiastic readers.

The Library offered programs for personal enrichment and entertainment including everything from music, art exhibits, film and theatre programs, to individual e-reader and tablet training. Over the course of the year, 2,779 adults attended 86 programs, a 20% increase over last year. The Library kicked off 2013 with a series called "New Year New You", offering educational programs to help people tackle their New Year's resolutions. The series featured workshops on saving money, reducing stress with mindfulness techniques, organizing your home, getting in shape with yoga dance as well as an inspirational talk on eating right for optimal health by a local celebrity chef. The Library expanded its program selections to include regularly scheduled daytime activities. New this year are "Books and Breakfast," a morning book discussion group, and a matinee screening of the Academy Award-nominated films as part of the Library's annual Oscar Film Series. The matinees are shown with subtitles to accommodate those with hearing difficulties.

In September 2012, during National Library Card Sign-up month, the Library partnered with Orange businesses for "Show Your Card." This program allowed Orange residents to receive discounts and gifts for services and merchandise at participating businesses with their library cards.

The Library continues to bring people and information together physically and virtually. Patrons received answers to their nearly 14,000 reference questions and gained access to two outstanding

new digital databases: Morningstar Investment Center and Learning Express Library, an online resource that includes exams, study guides, and e-books to help students and professionals reach their academic and career goals. Orange patrons took greater advantage of Overdrive, the Library's collection of free downloadable audiobooks and e-books. E-book circulation experienced a 63% increase from the previous year. Overdrive can be accessed 24/7 from any digital device.

The Friends of the Library are outstanding supporters. Proceeds from their Basement Book Sales provide funding for programs and materials that enrich the Library and the community. This year, a new amplifier was purchased to enhance the sound quality of programs in the Meeting Room. In May, the Friends invited 160 kindergarteners from Mary L. Tracy School to the Library for a special reading of Z is for Moose, after which each student was treated to a personal copy of the book! The Friends currently offer museum passes to thirteen popular attractions in Connecticut and surrounding areas. The passes can be checked-out with a library card and entitle the borrower to free or discounted admission rates.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Library served as a refuge for over 1700 people in the community who came to power-up their electronic devices, use the public computers, take advantage of the wireless Internet connection, and enjoy a good book in a warm, inviting atmosphere.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

The Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade were held on Sunday, May 26, 2013. Anthony Monaco, U.S. Air Force and Korean War veteran was the Grand Marshal. James L. Marenga, U.S. Navy and Vietnam War veteran was the Chief of Staff. The Honored Veterans this year were the 103rd Air Control Squadron of the Connecticut Air National Guard headquartered in the Town of Orange and commanded by Lt. Col. William A. Neri. Miguel A. Rodriguez, MSW, Counselor and Social Worker with the New Haven Vet Center within the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Captain in the New York National Guard, was the Keynote Speaker. This year a special award was given to Karen Goldberg for her 28 years of service to the committee. Diane Raikis sang the National Anthem. Robert Mirto, Esq. was the Master of Ceremonies and Fred O'Brien, Esq. was the Parade Announcer.

The ceremonies were coordinated by Kevin Gilbert. The services at the Veteran's Memorial Monument at the Orange Center Cemetery were led by Lawrence Czajkowski, Commander, American Legion Post #127. Wreaths were laid at the monument by the American Legion Auxiliary and the Jewish War Veterans. The Committee encourages everyone to attend the ceremonies at the gazebo prior to the parade and the ceremonies at the cemetery after the parade.

Many people help make the parade successful including the Highway Department, the Police Department, the Police Benevolent Association (PBA), the American Legion and its Auxiliary, the Fire Department, and the Park & Recreation Grounds Department. A special "Thank You" to the Orange Cemetery Association in memory of Marjorie Case & Family who bequest funds to help defray parade costs, the Orange Foundation, Eagle Leasing, Winkle Bus, Tom Hill Septic, Pinpoint Pro Motions & Printing, Bob Fantarella, all news media and lastly the boys and girls who did selected readings and the greeters who handed out the flags and programs during the ceremonies.

Generous contributions from private parties and organizations were received to honor our fallen veterans and to support the soldiers who are presently serving our country.

PARK AND RECREATION

The Orange Park and Recreation Department operated many very successful programs in 2012-13. Our program and swim lesson information is available on our website found at www.orange-ct.gov and click on Recreational Services. The website highlights over 60 activities offered by the department throughout the year. Our Summer Camp programs began on June 25, 2012. All four sessions of our Day Camp program were close to full capacity and all eight weeks of our Traveling Teens program were full. The Mini Camp numbers were stable all summer.

The Orange Town Pool saw over 64,000 total admissions for the year, with over 2,100 children successfully completing swimming lessons.

The Park and Recreation Commission has a chairman and eight commissioners.

The Park and Recreation Department has a Director, Assistant Director, Administrative Assistant, Aquatic Supervisor, Park Maintenance Supervisor and Grounds Supervisor. The Recreation Programmer position is currently vacant.

The following events were again operated successfully in Orange at Town Park and/or community buildings: Orange Town News sponsored Concert series, Independence Day Fireworks, Orange Historical Society Train Show, Memorial Day Parade, Amity Rabies Clinic, Orange Expo for Economic Development, Flag Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Orange Firemen's Carnival, The Orange Country Fair, Green Meadows Farm Cultural Show, the Board of Education Olympic Festival, the Boy Scouts Shakedown 2013, Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Drive In Movie, Pumpkin Palooza, Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Arts and Crafts Guild Holiday Fair, Pyramid Shriners Antique Car Show, Relay For Life, Rotary Club Lobster Fest, Chamber of Commerce Road Race, Mothers of Twins Association, Amity Rugby Club, Strawberry Festival, Doc Whitney Memorial Road Race and Amity Teen Center Chilly Chili Run.

Irrigation systems (including the one at Town Green) were repaired as needed. The Park staff continued to maintain 23 softball, baseball and soccer fields, 28 Town owned properties, emptied multiple Park trash containers (weekly), removed Autumn leaves, cleared Town parking lots and sidewalks of snow and measured and posted appropriate safe or not safe signs at our skating ponds.

PENSION BOARD

The Pension Board supervises the Pension Plans sponsored by the Town for the benefit of its employees. The Town provides for two Defined Benefit Plans, currently closed to new hires, and one Defined Contribution Plan, open to eligible new employees of the Town.

During the year, the Board met with both the Plan investment adviser and Plan actuary to monitor the investment performance of the Defined Benefit Plans and the investment performance and options available under the Defined Contribution Plan.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission met on the first and third Tuesday of each month. There were thirteen regular meetings and one special meeting held during the fiscal year 2012-2013. The Commission reviewed many pertinent issues during the year.

Approvals were granted for six Site Plan Applications. Ben's Service Station, 115 Boston Post Road; Papa John's, 116 Boston Post Road; Schmitt Sussman Enterprises, 34 Prindle Hill; UNH (former Hubbell building), 584 Derby Milford Road; Colony Hardware, 269 Lambert Road; Sweet Frog Yogurt, 220 Indian River Road, (Christmas Tree Plaza).

Approvals were granted for Special Permits and Site Plans for the New Haven Hebrew Day School, 261 Derby Avenue; Popeye's Restaurant, 153 Boston Post Road; Grape & Press Restaurant, 35 Old Tavern Road, (Firelite Shopping Center); Strathmore Holdings, LLC, 200 Orange Center Road, medical/office building; Starbucks drive-through, 538 Boston Post Road. A Special Permit was granted to W. Ciola, 0 Meetinghouse Lane to construct a barn.

Several amendments were made to the Orange Zoning Regulations, including amending the LI-2 zone to allow banks and childcare/preschool facilities. Regulations for Fun Houses, Haunted Houses and other similar attractions were also adopted. The Architectural Standards were amended upon the initiative of the T.P.Z.C.

The conversion of a single-family dwelling for an elderly apartment was allowed for J. Lipsky, 548 Halliwell Avenue.

For many years, the Town of Orange has been the beneficiary of having sound zoning ordinances, carefully written, and strictly enforced. The Orange we know today is the result of diligent effort by the Zoning Commission dating back to 1937, when zoning was introduced. The future growth of Orange, in large part, will rely on the continued vigilance of the Commission.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In fiscal year 2012-2013, the Orange Police Department responded to approximately 29,855 calls for service. There were 373 criminal arrests, as well as 2,636 arrests for motor vehicle violations. The Department responded to 1,105 motor vehicle accidents; 1,394 medical emergencies; 1,602 burglar alarms and 319 larceny investigations. There were 32 burglaries reported. The Department also made 58 arrests for Driving Under the Influence.

The Department utilized State grant funding to participate in DUI roadblocks along with the Woodbridge Police Department in both towns, and also used funding to conduct numerous DUI patrols during the major holiday time periods.

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) recognized Department members for their efforts in enforcing drunken driving laws.

In August 2012 Assistant Chief Edward Koether retired from the Department after over thirty years of dedicated service. In September 2012 Lieutenant Anthony Cuzzo, a twenty-two year veteran of the Department, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief.

In December 2012, the Department took delivery of two new Dodge Charger police vehicles, a significant change to the fleet after Ford stopped production of the Crown Victoria vehicles that had served the Department's needs for many years.

In May 2013, the Department held an awards ceremony at which several officers and citizens were recognized for their outstanding efforts to keep the community safe.

The Department also continued its community policing initiatives, with Department members making numerous presentations and talks throughout the year. Department members also participated with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) in two successful prescription drug take back days in September and April. A Citizens Police Academy class was presented in the spring with many Department members participating.

The Board of Police Commissioners is proud of the men and women of this Department, who continue to strive to provide the best possible policing to the Orange Community.

PROBATE COURT

The Milford-Orange Probate Court, as a consolidated court, has been successfully operated by Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas since January 5, 2011.

Through the court, Judge Streit-Kefalas serves the public in decedent estates, trust matters, conservatorships, child guardianship and custody proceedings, adoptions (child and adult), name changes, guardianships of adults with intellectual disabilities, psychiatric commitments, and other matters.

	Current Fiscal Year	Before court consolidation (FYE 6/30/2010)
Decedent estate matters	939	187
Trust matters	76	48
Children custody/guardianship/adoption	45	4
Guardianships of estate	41	27
Conservatorship matters	255	28
Guardianships of intellectually disabled	30	1
Name Changes	41	7
Adult Adoptions	2	0
Psychiatric Commitment matters	0	0

The community of Orange, like many in Connecticut, continues to benefit from the cost savings in the 2011 statewide court consolidation. In addition to statewide savings, the municipal budget share paid by the Town of Orange remains significantly lower than in past years with the former court space in the Community Center available for other uses.

In addition to her duties presiding in the Milford-Orange Probate Court, Judge Streit-Kefalas is serving a second term as President Judge of the Connecticut Probate Assembly – the statewide assembly of probate judges. She remains a presiding judge at the New Haven Regional Children’s Probate Court hearing cases from many of our adjoining communities.

The Milford-Orange Probate Court is located at the Parsons Government Complex, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 with full time office hours from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The judge and staff may be reached at telephone number 203-783-3205 and for after hours emergencies at: 203-581-1288.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works continued to provide supervision and control of the maintenance of all Town owned structures and improvements, with exceptions. During the course of the year, the Public Works Department provided maintenance of the roadways and ancillary structures, waste stream management and custodial services to publicly accessed Town owned buildings. At fiscal year's end, the Department consisted of 28 staff members.

In October of 2012, Superstore Sandy devastated the Town with heavy winds and rain. A Presidential Disaster Declaration was issued as extensive damage was reported across most of the eastern United States. During this time of emergency, all members of the Department of Public Works came together to contribute to the extensive town wide restoration efforts. The winter of 2013 also brought heavy snows and memorable blizzard that had the Department busy clearing and restoring the public roadways. The following list of activities highlights a small portion of the successfully implemented projects the Department performed this past year.

- Promotion of the safety, health and welfare of the public.
- Curbside single stream recycling collection was provided to the residents.
- Hallways were repainted at the High Plains Community Center.
- We again cooperated with the Town of Bethany, by providing our catch basin cleaner and driver to them in exchange for their sweeping and cleaning a majority of our streets.
- Highway personnel continued to remove and replace failing catch basins and storm pipes.
- Street paving consisting of asphalt overlay was placed as needed.
- Progress was made on the program of installing a standard larger street signs.
- Streets were again kept safe for travel by the continued use of spreading salt in lieu of sand or sand/salt mixture.
- Approximately 100 trees determined to be hazardous were removed by a vendor, in conjunction with the Town Tree Warden.
- Highway department assisted UI with their tree and branch removal program around existing power lines.
- The program of inspection and cleaning out of catch basin sumps continued.
- In house personnel inspected storm water outfalls for possible pollution.
- Vendor sampled 6 outfalls as part of CTDEEP required MS4 program.
- Provided "set-up" and "take down" services and installed detour and no parking signs for the annual Fireman's Carnival and Country Fair.
- Provided traffic control signs and personnel for voting at Mary L. Tracy School.

THE ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The Orange Recycling Committee ended the fiscal year with some major accomplishments.

Two committee members volunteered at Orange Hazardous Waste Day at the Regional Water Authority (RWA), both in the fall and in the spring.

The committee met with a great deal of success by sponsoring a table at the Orange Country Fair in September 2012.

The web site was expanded to three pages and now offers Orange residents more information on recycling both at the curbside and at the transfer station. We plan to keep updating our web site as new recycling information becomes available from the Town of Orange and the State of Connecticut.

The committee also designed and sponsored a Please Bring Your Bag promotion that started with Trader Joe's and spread to many other retail stores in Orange. That promotion is ongoing and all residents are encouraged to bring their own bags when shopping.

In June, we hosted a recycling display at the Orange Economic Development Community and Business Expo.

The biggest news of the year was the committee's involvement in designing and promoting the delivery of the 32-gallon roll carts that replaced the 18-gallon blue bins. The committee developed a full-color 3 page flyer that went with the delivery of the carts to over 5000 households by our new curbside recycling hauler City Carting of Stamford at the end of June.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

THE ELECTIONS DIVISION REGISTRARS OFFICE is governed by The Connecticut General Statutes and operated under the direction of The Secretary of States' Office. We keep current on new and upcoming legislation by attending Secretary of State' Conferences two times a year, plus mandated meetings held at the discretion of district chairpersons. We are responsible for conducting an updated registry and the proper upkeep of the new voting machines.

Registered Voters in Orange as of 7-01-2012

Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Other	Total
2423	2401	5120	52	9996

Election Dates:

November 6, 2012	Presidential	
March 20, 2013	Bond Issue	Passed
May 8, 2013	Amity School Budget Ref.	Passed
May 21, 2013	Town Budget Referendum	Passed

Town Meetings:

May 9, 2013	Town Budget	Passed
May 24, 2013	Amity School Budget	Passed

Special Sessions were held:

October 20, 2012	Day	10:00am-2pm
October 30, 2012	Day and Evening	9:00am-8pm

Instructional sessions were held by the registrars prior to the Municipal and Amity elections.

A voter session was held at Amity High School for all students 17 years and older wishing to register. This was held on March 26 & 27, 2013. 92 students registered.

In January of 2013, 249 letters were sent out to individuals selected by the National Change of Address Association. All appropriate changes were made to the registration files. This canvass is mandated annually by the Office of Secretary of State.

SAFETY COMMISSION

The Safety Commission is scheduled to meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall. Matters of public safety are discussed and recommendations for action or study are made to the appropriate Town Board or Department

Public input is welcome and has resulted in action being taken to improve hazardous conditions, and to bring to the attention of Town officials items of concern.

No safety issues were raised this year, therefore, no meetings were held.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen consisting of James M. Zeoli, First Selectman, Joseph F. Blake, John J. Carangelo, Mitchell R. Goldblatt, Ralph G. Okenquist, and Judy W. Williams will serve a two-year term to November 15, 2013.

Of significant importance this year was: 1) NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) authorized to work cooperatively with the Conservation Commission to establish biking trails and maintain a shared use trail at the Turkey Hill Preserve; 2) Approval for the Town to apply for funding through the CT Department of Agriculture's new Community Farms Preservation Program; 3) Anthony Cuozzo promoted to Assistant Chief of Police; 4) Approval to enter into a service agreement with ProAct, Inc. for the CCM Prescription Discount Card Program; 5) City Carting awarded the curbside recycling contract using a 32 gallon roll-out container; and 6) Municipal Bond amount of \$15,427,000 was approved for various Road, School, Town Facility and Police Capital Projects.

Resolutions were adopted on the following matters: First Selectman authorized to execute the Master Agreement between the State of CT and the town regarding the installation of Fire Suppression Standpipe Systems on Bridges; First Selectman authorized to sign Agreement between the State of CT and the town for the extension of Edison Road utilizing Federal Funds under the Enhancement Component of the Surface Transportation Program; and the First Selectman authorized to sign Agreement entitled Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects.

Other matters addressed during this year included: Ribbon cutting July 11, 2012 for the Gallery at Town Hall operated by the Orange Arts and Culture Council to put art in public areas; Green Meadow Farms "Festival of Cultures" was held on the Orange Fairgrounds May 21-23, 2013; Relay for Life was held on the Orange Fairgrounds June 1, 2013; CT Yankee Council, Inc. Boy Scouts of America held a preparation weekend on the Fairgrounds on June 15-16, 2013 for the youth and adults going to the 2013 National Jamboree; and agreement approved with AT&T to broadcast OGAT on AT&T U-verse.

In accordance with the Town Charter, the Board meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road. The public is encouraged to attend all meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Each regular meeting is also broadcast on Orange Government Access Television (Channel 79). In addition to the regular meetings, two Special Meetings were held.

Finally, the Board of Selectmen thanks all Board and Commission members, volunteers, interested citizens and Town employees who have come forward to help Town government operate in an orderly and businesslike fashion during the year.

IN MEMORIAM

We wish to remember fourteen individuals who passed away during this past year and who served the Town with distinction: Ralph Carloni, Marjorie Sim, Robert Crocco, Dorothea Clark, James Mossey, Alan Poole, Jill Ferraiolo, Harry Jones, Deborah Hoffman, Dr. Robert Rauch, Roger Patrick, Dr. George (Doc) Whitney, Margaret Howland, and Richard Sykes.

TAX COLLECTOR

The Town of Orange operates on the Uniform Fiscal Year commencing July 1st and ending the following June 30th. The Tax Collector's office collects real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes. The 2011 Grand List was comprised of the following accounts.

5,469	Real Estate
854	Personal Property
14,351	Motor Vehicle
2,047	Motor Vehicle Supplemental

Totaling: \$ 56,045,980.25 all of which; other than \$ 439,681.82 has been collected.

For Year End June 30, 2012 Current Year revenue collected exceeds the 101.08% collection rate established within the budget-making process. Back tax collection as well as interest and lien fees also exceed the goal established within the budget making process.

The Tax Collector has no discretion in the application of conditions or methods of levy or collection of taxes, and does not have the authority to waive the interest due on delinquent tax bills. As a matter of law, the taxpayer becomes liable to the Town for the tax due by virtue of his ownership of the property; the liability is neither created nor dependent upon the receipt of a tax bill, and failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility to pay the statutorily required interest due on the late payment.

Anyone who has not received a tax bill by July 1st for motor vehicle(s) registered in their name, real estate not being escrowed or personal property, should contact the tax office. It is important for every taxpayer to take the time to read and understand their tax bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

Our commitment to professional development continues and when possible we take advantage of educational seminars and opportunities offered by the New Haven Tax Collectors Association and the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association. We are constantly "networking" and seeking solutions for improved office operations and daily function within the Tax Office.

I am grateful to the townspeople for their support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as Tax Collector. I would like to thank my assistants Sally Ferko and Lynn Plaskowitz along with seasonal clerk Susan Blanchette for their professional and loyal support. It is teamwork that gets the job done. The Tax Collector's office is sincerely committed to the efficient collection of past due taxes which remains our major focus.

ORANGE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION (OGAT)

The primary goal of OGAT is to make local government more accessible and more understandable to the residents of Orange. OGAT strives to help its viewers understand how local government operates, how the activities of town government affect the community, to inform the residents of the available town services and how to better utilize them and above all to maintain transparency in government for the residents of Orange. We do this through the production and distribution of programming which covers a wide range of government information.

Orange Town Hall is wired with a special access cable enabling both live and prerecorded cablecasts to be made. OGAT uses digital video cameras and a digital hard drive to record programs as well as Digital Versatile Discs (DVDs) and a broadcast server for storage and cablecast of programs. OGAT also broadcasts a bulletin board between programs. The bulletin board provides information regarding upcoming board meetings, town meetings and special events as well as the schedule of OGAT programs. During the fiscal year OGAT began concurrently streaming its programming on the internet and broadcast several events live from various venues outside of town hall. These capabilities were made possible using equipment and software purchased with grant funds provided by the Area 2 Cable Advisory Council (CAC) under Public Act 08-159. This law provides for grant funding to enable the municipalities of Area 2 to improve their ability to provide town specific government access programming. These upgrades are examples of OGAT's focus on continuous improvement and our desire to be on the cutting edge of government access stations in adopting the latest recording and broadcasting technologies. The OGAT webcast can be viewed by clicking on the "OGAT LIVE" link on the town's internet page (<http://www.orange-ct.gov/>) or directly at the following url: <http://dv2.discovervideo.com/play/?id=j8290if&player=69&type=flash>

During the fiscal year, the OGAT station recorded and/or broadcast 164 different programs of which 139 were board meetings and 25 were special events. Programs originating from Town Hall are usually broadcast live. All programs are recorded for replay. A sample of the programs shown includes: Board Meetings (Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Town Plan and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Amity Board of Education, Orange Board of Education, Economic Development Commission, Park & Recreation Commission), Annual Town Meetings, Budget & Bond Hearings, Concerts at the Gazebo, Holiday Festival, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day & Sandy Hook Vigil Observances, Pasta Festa, Orange Business Expo, Assistant Police Chief Swearing-in Ceremony, Orange 190th Birthday Celebration/Fireworks, Orange 150, OVFD Carnival, Breast Cancer Awareness, Chilly Chili Run, Go Green, Promotional Videos (OVFD Carnival, Library, Senior Center).

Broadcasts are shown on Cablevision Channel 79.

OGAT is always interested in comments from individuals on its programming. We are also interested in finding individuals who would like to work with us to record or edit broadcasts. If you have a comment or would like to learn or add your expertise to any of our broadcasts, please contact the First Selectman's Office in Town Hall at 891-4737.

TREE COMMITTEE

In the period, the Committee held its scheduled meetings to work with the Town Tree Warden on different tree related matters in Orange. Volunteers, with some minimally paid helpers completed installation of engraved concrete Tree Markers at the various Tribute Trees planted around the community. These markers are permanent and easy to mow over without being disrupted or damaged. The committee received no new Tribute Tree applications, so none were planted. Regular maintenance was performed on the existing Tribute as required by the Tree Warden, through his efforts or those of the Highway Department. Finally, members of the Committee reached out to other Town Boards and Commissions to offer input in an advisory role with any possible Tree questions in upcoming plans or developments.

WAR REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

The original charges to the War Remembrance Committee included, but were not limited to: designing an appropriate 'living memorial' to honor veterans from Orange who served our country in peace and in time of war; select a suitable location for the memorial; and, since the Town would not be providing the finances for the project, raise funds to offset anticipated expenses for construction and future maintenance of the site. Our principal methods of raising funds for the memorial included the sale of commemorative bricks and granite benches, as well financial assistance from the state and Town organizations.

Since the inception of the memorial, there have been fewer and fewer applications for commemorative bricks. Consequently, the mission of the Committee is now primarily one of oversight to insure the proper maintenance of the memorial. Commemorative bricks may still be requested through the First Selectman's office and contributions for the replacement of flags and ongoing maintenance of the memorial are welcome and gratefully accepted.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The WPCA is responsible for operating and maintaining approximately 7 miles of sewer line and 5 pumping stations along the Post Road and south to the West Haven and Milford town lines as well as the sewer system from Fieldstone Village. Post Road sewage goes to West Haven and Fieldstone Village sewage goes to Derby for treatment. The rest of Town is designated a Sewer Avoidance Area. Over 400 residential units are connected to these systems as well as the businesses on the Post Road and south.

The WPCA is responsible for raising its own money to operate and maintain the sewer systems and to pay West Haven and Derby for treatment. The Town Public Works Dept. bills and collects our user charges which are currently \$4.65 per 1000 gallons for the Post Road system. We discharge about 350,000 gallons per day of sewage to West Haven and a much smaller but growing amount to Derby. The cost of operating the West Haven system was \$500,000 this year including \$275,000 to West Haven for treatment.

This year, an odor control system for our main pumping station on the Post Road just north of Orange Center Road was installed and is operating successfully. The other 4 stations lost power during Hurricane Sandy but were kept in operation with our one portable generator, stressing personnel and equipment to the limit. A permanent generator is now being designed for the largest of the 4 stations on Indian River Road near Christmas Tree Plaza which should relieve a large part of the load. Town Sewer Regulations are also being updated to allow better enforcement of DEEP grease trap regulations.

DISABILITY

The Town of Orange does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities; nor does it discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the Town of Orange's ADA Compliance Coordinator c/o the Building Official, Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT 06477, Telephone 203-891-4713, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

This notice is available in large print, on audio tape, and by staff reader, from the ADA Compliance Coordinator.