

# Annual Town Report

For the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/15



Orange, Connecticut

[www.orange-ct.gov](http://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 203-891-2185

#### 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.....203-606-7831  
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  
Special Services Department.....203-891-8023  
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 .....	John J. Carangelo, Mitchell R. Goldblatt, Kenneth E. Lenz, Ralph G. Okenquist, Judy W. Williams
Assessor .....	Mark B. Branchesi, CCMA
Building and Demolition Official .....	Lucien DiMeo, CBO
Building Electrical Inspector .....	Elfo Pol
Community Services Director.....	Joan Cretella
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 .....	Joni Nordstrom
Emergency Management Director .....	Fred Palmer
Finance & Administration Director .....	Albert W. Chiarenzelli
Fire Chief .....	John Knight
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.....	Anthony Cuzzo
Probate Judge.....	Beverly Streit-Kefalas
Public Works Highway Crew Chief .....	Don Foyer, Sr.
Registrar of Voters – Democratic .....	Janice Casey
Registrar of Voters – Republican .....	Fred Kendrick
Sanitarian .....	Brian Slugoski, R.S.
School Superintendent Amity District #5 .....	Charles Dumais
School Superintendent Elementary Schools .....	Vincent Scarpetti
School Business Administrator .....	Mary Jo Sierakowski
State Representative 114 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District .....	Themis Klarides
State Representative, 117 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District .....	Charles Ferraro
State Representative, 119 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District.....	Pamela Staneski
State Senator, 14 <sup>th</sup> 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 Engineer.....	Robert J. Hiza, P.E.
Town Meeting Moderator .....	Robert Mirto, Esq.
Town Committee Chairman - Democratic.....	Trish Pearson
Town Committee Chairman - Republican .....	Nancy Nastro
Treasurer .....	Arthur B. Williams, III
Tree Warden.....	Joseph Ross
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 (11/15)    John J. Carangelo (11/15)    Mitchell R. Goldblatt (11/15)  
Kenneth E. Lenz (11/15)    Ralph G. Okenquist (11/15)    Judith W. Williams (11/15)

#### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Kevin Houlihan, Chairman (11/15)    Joseph P. Nuzzo (11/17)    James Leahy (11/15)  
Kevin Moffett (11/15)    P. J. Shanley (11/17)    Debra Marino (11/17)

#### **TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION**

Walter Clark, IV, Chairman (11/17)    Paul Kaplan (11/16)    Ralph Aschettino (11/15)  
Judy Smith (11/15)    Oscar Parente (11/17)    William Perfetto (11/15) – alternate  
Paul Dinice - Zoning Enforcement Officer

#### **ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

William Kraut, Chairman (11/15)    Deanna Pucillo (11/17)    Mara Saccente (11/15)  
Jeffrey Cap, (11/17)    Christian Young (11/17)    Susan Riccio (11/15)  
Robert Ricciardi (11/15)    Jody Dietch, V.Chair (11/15)    Keith Marquis (11/15)  
Kimberly Browe (11/17)

#### **AMITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

##### **(ORANGE MEMBERS)**

Sue L. Cohen (11/17)    Tracy Russo (11/15)    Christopher Browe (11/15)  
Thomas Hurley (11/17)    Diane Crocco (11/15)    Steven DeMaio (11/17)  
John Belfonti (11/15)

#### **CONSTABLES**

Randolph Thomas (11/15)    Jeffrey Vargo (11/15)    Santo Galatioto, Jr (11/15)  
Michael Donadeo (11/15)    Jody Daymon (11/15)    Kristen Marquis (11/15)  
Robert Shanley (11/15)

#### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Frederick Kendrick, Republican Registrar (1/17)    Janice Casey, Democratic Registrar (1/17)

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Patrick B. O'Sullivan, II (1/16)

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Sandra Pierson (11/15)

#### **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 (12/17)    Andrew Blanchette (12/15)    Albert Melotto (12/17)  
Richard Polio (12/15)    George Russo, Jr. (12/15)

**BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS**

William Bergantino (12/17)  
Paul Foley (11/15)

Ralph Aschettino (11/18)

Pat Moscato (11/16)

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

Michael Storz, Chairman (12/17)  
James White (12/17)  
Kevin Hadlock (12/16)  
Pat Ziman (12/18)

Betsy Kirchberg (12/17)  
Veronica Hendrick (12/18)  
S. Aileen DeFeo (12/16)  
Antoinette Hudgens (12/16)

Susan Noonan (12/18)  
Nettie Bartocetti (12/18)  
Peter Boppert (12/17)

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Sharon Ewen, Chairman (5/19)  
Robert McCorkle (5/17)

Cindy Ruggeri (5/19)  
David Krause (5/18)

Jonathan Clark (5/18)  
Amelia Williams (5/19)

**BETHANY ORANGE WOODBRIDGE DRUG/ALCOHOL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Amy Wargo, Chairman (12/17)  
Marie Romano (12/15)

Patricia Romano (12/17)  
Michele Tenney (12/17)  
Joni Nordstrom Coordinator

Karen Arnold (12/15)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Armand J. Cantafio, Chairman (2/18)  
Royce Brosler (2/16)

Barbara Germano (2/17)  
Nisha Falcigno (2/19)

Carl Russell (2/17)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Fred Palmer (12/15), Director  
Susan Parker (12/15)  
Lt. Col. William Neri (12/15)  
Brian Slugoski (12/15)  
Donald Foyer, Sr. (12/15)  
Michael Luzzi, (12/15)

Faustino "Tino" Russo, Ass't. Dir. (12/15)  
Robert Gagne (12/15)  
Joseph Zelson, M.D., (12/15)  
Bruce Backer, M.D. (12/15)  
Severio Fodero (12/15)  
Carol Luddy, (12/15)

John Knight (12/15)  
Allen Mushin (12/15)  
Timothy Smith (12/15)  
Charles Babson (12/15)  
James White ((12/15)  
James White (12/15)

**BOARD OF ETHICS**

William Butler, Esq. (12/17)  
Jena Barretta, Esq. (12/15)

William Musco (12/17)

John Barton III (12/15)

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Severio Fodero, Chairman (12/17)  
Ferdinand Montegut (12/17)  
Kathleen Taylor (12/15)  
Joseph Zelson, M.D. Director of Health (12/17)

Paul Barash, M.D. (12/17)  
Norman Marieb, M.D. (12/17)

Carol Luddy (12/15)  
Rhoda Gorenberg (12/15)

Robert Baltimore, M.D. Asst Dir of Health (12/15)

**ORANGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Marvin Jamron, V. Chairman (12/15)

John Brandes, Chairman (12/16)  
Clifford Dudley, (12/17)

Patricia Clark (12/18)

**CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMISSION**

Kenneth Ziman, Chairman (12/17)	Ursula Hindel (12/17)	Katalin Baltimore, V. Chair (12/15)
Maureen White (12/17)	Elizabeth Meyer (12/17)	Diana Duarte (12/17)
Nancy Becque (12/15)	Sharon Greco (12/15)	Michael Teller (12/15)
Stephanie Cuzzocreo (12/15)	Edward Martin (12/15)	Baxter Walsh (12/17)

**ORANGE VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION BOARD**

Thomas Krause, Chairman (12/17)	Julie Davis (12/15)	Stan Rutowicz (12/15)
Marianne Bauer (12/17)	Jean Virshup (12/15)	Loretta Smith (12/15)
Joseph Trentacosta (12/15)	Barbara Bacal (12/17)	Richard Zorena (12/15)
Jeanne Consiglio (12/17)		

**PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

Joseph Lembo, Chairman (10/16)	Lisa Zarny (10/16)	James Ronai (12/15)
Chuck Stackpole (10/16)	James O'Connor (12/15)	Stephen Bospuda (12/15)
Linda Kantor (10/16)	Nicholas Bencivengo (12/15)	David Corris (12/15)

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

Don Lewis, Chairman (12/16)	Mark Grasso (12/17)	Christopher Carveth (12/15)
John Barton (12/17)	Roy Cuzzocreo (12/15)	

**SAFETY COMMISSION**

Fred Palmer, Chairman (12/15)	Robert Gagne (12/15)	John Knight (12/15)
Lucien DiMeo (12/15)	Timothy Smith (12/15)	John Barton (12/15)

**ORANGE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION (OGAT)**

Sol Silverstein, Chairman (12/17)	Gary DelPiano (12/15)	Marian Reid (12/17)
Cory Ziman (12/15)	Michael Papa (12/17)	Tina Magyar (12/17)
Robert Kelly (12/15)	Ron Davis, Coordinator	

**TREE COMMITTEE**

Philip Grande Chairman (10/16)	Gail Nixon (10/17)	Cameron Pirc (10/15)
	Joseph Ross, Tree Warden	

**COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF VETERAN'S GRAVES**

Anthony Monaco, Chairman (3/16)	Peter MacDonald (3/16)	Richard Manley (3/16)
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**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Robert Kleffmann, Chairman (2/17)	Michael Visnic (2/19)	Nick Mastrangelo (2/16)
Philip Grande, Sr. (2/18)	C. Robert Sigler (2/16)	

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION**

Rick Mangione, Chairman (12/15)	Lesley Giovanelli, (12/15)	Ronald Ruotolo (12/13)
William Perfetto (12/15)	James Ewen (12/17)	Diana Ross (12/15)
	R. Scott Allen, Enforcement Officer	

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Noah Eisenhandler, Chairman (12/15)	Pat Panza (12/16)	Kenneth Gambardella (12/17)
Rudolph Miller (12/17)	Gregory Natalino (12/15)	Mathew Pickering (12/15) – alternate
David Crow (12/15) - alternate		

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### **Appointed**

#### **BOND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Mary J. Sierakowski	Fred Kendrick	William Kraut
Ronald Ruotolo, Chairman	Mitchell Goldblatt	Paul Foley

#### **CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Selectman Ralph Okenquist, Chairman	Frederick Kendrick	Ernest Lucarelli
William Powell	Michael Luzzi	Robert Gagne
Robert Hiza	Joseph Lembo	Robert DeFeo
First Selectman James M. 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 (12/17)	Kevin Monck, Co-Chair (12/15)
Marianne Bauer (12/15)	Wilson Daymon (12/15)	Robert Archambault (12/15)
Paul Estok, III (12/17)	George Plaskowitz (12/17)	Emory Allaire (12/17)
Walter Bospuda (12/15)	Walter Hine (12/17)	Robert Fantarella (12/15)
Gerald Butcher (12/17)	Stephen Bospuda (12/17)	

#### **ORANGE FAMILY COUNSELING**

##### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Patricia Miller (12/17)	John P. McGill (12/14)	Police Officer Michael Kosh
Marianne Miller (12/17)		

#### **HPCC RENOVATION COMMITTEE**

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

#### **MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE**

Kevin Gilbert, Chairman (1/16)	Robert Mirto (1/16)	Andrew Steinbrick (1/16)
Robert Gagne (1/16)	George Geane 1/16)	Al Pol (1/16)
Richard Manley (1/16)	James Marena (1/16)	Al deCant (1/16)
John S. Sullivan (1/16)	John P. Sullivan (1/16)	Ronald Wachter (1/16)
Frederick O'Brien (1/16)	Richard Hoin (1/16)	Mark Sandillo (1/16)
Meghan Crawford (1/16)	Peter MacDonald (1/16)	

#### **MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

Denise Stein (1/17)

#### **OPEN SPACE SEARCH COMMITTEE**

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

Eric Hendlin, Chairman (12/15)	Paul Dinice (12/15)	Peter Firla (12/15)
Jose Taverner (12/15)	Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt (12/15)	



**CATCHMENT AREA COUNCIL #6**

vacancy

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

First Selectman James M. Zeoli (11/15)

**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 (12/15)

Thomas Hurley, Deputy, Town Meeting Moderator (12/15)

**REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY**

Paul Kaplan

**TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ORANGE REPRESENTATIVE**

Stephane Skibo

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

Vacancy

**CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Paul Grimmer, Director

Orange Economic Development Corporation

**TOWN HISTORIAN**

Virginia Reinhard

**GREATER NEW HAVEN TRANSIT DISTRICT**

Vacancy

**REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICY BOARD**

Jasper Jaser (6/17)



**TOWN OF ORANGE CALENDAR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 2016**

- September 2015..... 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, 2014 to  
Sept.30, 2015..... Supplementary List for motor vehicles purchased in this period will become  
due on January 1, 2016.
- 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 17.....Saturday elector session for new voters – 10 a.m. –2 p.m.
- October 27 .....Cut off date for admission of electors for 18 year old residents and for  
residents of a municipality who moved on or before October 27, 2015.  
Session from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Nov. 1 to March 15..... Applications for those eligible for energy assistance.
- November 2..... Limited session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for Admission of Electors – only  
those qualified since October 27, 2015.
- November 3..... Municipal Election - polls open 6:00 a.m. - close at 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2016..... 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 2014 Grand List and Real Estate,  
Personal Property 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.
- April ..... Annual 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, 2016..... First installment of Grand List 10/1/15 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, 2016 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015 Animal Control did the following for the town of Orange, we impounded 39 animals, redeemed/adopted 27 animals, euthanized 3 animals, responded to 86 complaints, 20 animal bites and 1 infraction.

In addition Animal Control fielded numerous questions from residents regarding wildlife and provided them with direction on contacting Wildlife Removers, Police department or Public Works. The Animal Control Pet Food Bank is open to the Residents of Orange and several families have participated.

In Animal Controls efforts to reduce the feral cat population, and with the assistance of the residents of Orange we have trapped, spayed/neutered and re-released 11 cats in 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 **86** cases from appellants concerning the October 1, 2013 grand list. A summary of the April 2014 appeals is as follows:

<b>Residential</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Business Personal Property</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Supp Motor Vehicle</b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b>Total Appeals</b>	<b>86</b>

Out of eighty six appeals filed, sixty six received changes and twenty were denied.

### **Real Estate**

The total loss in assessed value, on real property, via appeals to the BAA **concerning 64 appeals** equaled -3,628,200.

### **Supplemental motor vehicle**

The total loss in assessed value, **incurred through one appeal**, relative to 2012 supplemental motor vehicle list equaled -2,182.

### **Business personal property**

The total loss in assessed value, **incurred through one appeal**, relative to the business personal property section of the 2013 grand list equaled -312,340.

## **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 2014-2015, the ZBA approved ten petitions and denied 3 petitions.

## ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The following displays the computations for the October 1, 2013 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 2013 grand list will be filed with the Town Clerk on or prior to February 28, 2014.

### Tax exempt

The tax exempt real estate section of the October 1, 2013 grand list increased from **147,958,320 to 156,299,530** for the October 1, 2013 grand list. This constitutes an increase of **5.638 %**. This increase is attributed, in part, to the acquisition of the former Hubbell headquarters by the University of New Haven and renovations to West Campus Drive for the Yale School of Nursing.

### 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. *This total excludes tax exempt real estate*. The gross taxable grand list for October 1, 2013 before adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals equaled **1,930,604,338** or an increase of **1.090 %**, when compared to the October 1, 2012 gross taxable grand list before corrections from the Board of Assessment Appeals which equaled **1,909,786,468**. This section, also referred to as grand list growth, will be displayed in greater detail within the body of this report.

### 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 exemptions.

The general revaluation, effective October 1, 2012, rescinded the phase-in exemptions. The total exemptions for the October 1, 2012 grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals equaled **13,840 250**.

Total exemptions for the October 1, 2013 grand list equaled **14,923,470**.

The total exemption section of the 2013 grand list posted an increase of **7.827 %**. This is attributed to a rise in the non-reimbursable manufacture's exemptions which are posted in the business personal property section of the grand list.

### Phase-in Exemptions

*The general revaluation, effective October 1, 2012, rescinded all phase-in exemptions.*

### Gross Grand List – Growth Estimate

The gross grand list is the sum of all taxable assessments before exemptions and before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals, to illustrate **over all growth**.

The October 1, 2013 Gross grand list displays an increase of **1.090 %** as compared with the October 1, 2012 net grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals.

<u>Category</u>	<u>2013 grand list</u>	<u>2012 GRAND LIST</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>\$ change</u>
gross real estate	1,670,987,730	1,668,408,460	1.0015	2,579,270
gross motor vehicles	131,134,240	127,282,611	1.0303	3,851,629
gross business personal property	<u>128,482,368</u>	<u>114,095,397</u>	<u>1.1261</u>	<u>14,386,971</u>
gross grand list	1,930,604,338	1,909,786,468	1.0109	20,817,870

### **Net taxable grand list (that which taxes are based on)**

The net taxable grand list is the section of the grand list upon which taxes are based.

The following compares the 2013 net taxable grand list and the 2012 net taxable grand list prior to adjustments for Board of Assessment Appeals:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2013 grand list</u>	<u>2012 grand list</u>	<u>%CHANGE</u>	<u>change</u>
net real estate	1,666,174,180	1,662,880,910	1.001980461	3,293,270
net motor vehicle	130,166,460	126,961,121	1.025246619	3,205,339
net business personal property	119,340,228	106,104,187	1.124745699	13,236,041
<u>total net grand list</u>	<u>1,915,680,868</u>	<u>1,895,946,218</u>	<u>1.010408866</u>	<u>19,734,650</u>

The 2013 net taxable grand list **increased by 1.040 %**, when compared to the 2012 net taxable grand list, before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals.

### **Real Estate**

The net taxable real estate section of 2013 grand list posted an anemic increase of *less than two tenths of one percent* reflecting the continuing malaise in the real estate market via poor economic conditions. A contributing factor to this anemic increase stemmed from the purchase of the former Hubbell headquarters by the University of New Haven which reclassified this property as tax exempt for the 2013 grand list.

### **Motor Vehicle**

The net taxable motor vehicle section of this net taxable grand list **increased by 2.52 percent** as compared with totals posted for 2012. 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 as required by the State of Connecticut.*

### **Business Personal Property**

This section of the 2013 net grand list **increased by 12.474 percent** when compared with totals posted in 2012. The 2013 net taxable business personal property increase is solely attributed to United Illuminating and its subsidiaries.

As in past years, performance trends are enclosed for each section of the grand list together with the allocation of the 2013 net grand list. The top 10 taxpayers for 2013 are also included for your perusal.

In addition, a spreadsheet detailing the reconciliation of the 2013 grand list to the 2012 grand list has been included as well.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

On February 28, 2014 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 2014-2015, the Building Department building permits issued, totaled 408, and mechanical, electric and plumbing permits issued, totaled 759. The total construction value was \$19,812,574.

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 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 2016 Short Term Capital projects. The Committee met several times reviewing those inputs and subsequently recommended projects for inclusion in the Town Operating Budget. The following projects totaling \$501,000 were approved by the Board of Finance: New Mobile/Portable Radios for the Police Department, New Large Mower for Park & Recreation, Bus Radio Upgrade and Security System Upgrade for Board of Education, Van Replacement for Community Services, Interior/Exterior Painting and Window/Carpet Cleaning at Case Memorial Library, and Gas and Diesel Pump Facility Upgrade at Public Works Garage.

## TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's 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.

State Election November 4, 2014:

Governor	Foley	3263
	Malloy	2460

There was approximately a 56.3% voter turnout.

It should be noted that longtime Republican Registrar of Voters, Mary DeVito passed on October 12<sup>th</sup> and Democrat Carmela Apuzzo retired.

The town of Orange elected two new Registrars:

Democrat	Janice Casey
Republican	Frederick Kendrick

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

District # 114	(District 1	Mary L. Tracy School)
District # 117	(District 2	High Plains Community Center)
District # 119	(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 Clerk's Office **No Longer** sells these licenses.

Amity Operating Budget FY14-15	5-06-15	\$46,902,348	passed 339 voted
Town Operating Budget FY14-15	5-19-15	\$64,988,821	passed 206 voted

The Annual Town Meeting was held May 12, 2015 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 hand vote 2) Installment due dates for the payment of property taxes were approved for July 1<sup>st</sup> and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and a single payment of taxes on motor vehicles on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 passed by hand vote. 3) The budget for FY 15-16, prepared by the Board of Finance, was presented and deferred to a machine vote referendum, which was held on May 19, 2015.

Vital Statistics compiled from: July 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Births	95	109	106
Deaths	133	160	151
Marriages (issued)	55	55	64

Town Revenues	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>
Marriage	605.00	682.00
Recording Fees	71,668.00	70,647.00
Conveyance	280,256.62	198,421.98
Dog License	2,785.00	2,811.00
Miscellaneous/Copies	7,928.15	8,684.36
Vital	10,736.00	11,087.00
Historic Preservation	1,849.00	1,709.00
LOCIP	5,547.00	5,127.00

It should be noted that fees of 399 deeds were impacted by a new state law regarding Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. (MERS)

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 \$5,000, which was used to allow the public access to the land records.

Pursuant to P.A. 13-34, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Zeoli appointed me as the Town of Orange Veteran Contact Coordinator. I was trained at the Connecticut Veterans Home at Rocky Hill. If any veteran or spouse has any questions about benefits or assistance, please contact me.

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 includes Senior Services, Municipal Agent/Outreach, Youth Services, Tracy Bunch, Special Transportation Service and Behavioral Health Services provided through Orange Family Counseling staffed by contract with Bridges Inc... Community Services administers the Community Assistance Programs which consists of the Food Bank, Fuel Assistance, Holiday Basket and Adopt a Family Program. These programs are maintained solely by donations from residents, businesses, schools, churches and civic organizations. The department received several grants from the Orange Foundation and the Lions Club in support of programs and events. This year the Department had a first time ever benefit concert with proceeds of \$1710 going to the Community Assistance Programs. A substantial amount of \$21,805.00 was raised for the Community Assistance Programs this year. The Department proudly hosted and unveiled a Veterans Memorial Wall of Honor located at the High Plains Community Center. The event drew over 300 people with local and state dignitaries in attendance. The Tracy Bunch Program continues to provide social activities for adults with special needs Monday evenings. Partnerships continue with Synder Foods and Beth El to supplement Food Bank offerings. The Department continues to support the Sheppard's Table Wednesday Lunch Program at the Church of the Good Sheppard. Collaboration with Case Memorial Library continues with the "Boomers and Beyond" Program offering seminars on various topics of interest. Disability Resource Network volunteers continue to help organize the Food Bank. Fifteen residents utilized the monthly Free Legal Clinic sponsored by Attorneys Loman and Dipola. One hundred and twenty eight dinners were served by Orange Lions Club at their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the public. The Holiday Basket Program and Adopt a Family Project partners local residents, organizations and merchants to donate food baskets, toys, gift cards etc. for Orange families and residents in need. This year there were twenty one gift baskets distributed for the Holiday Basket Program and twenty families and thirteen children in need were recipients of the Adopt a Family Program. A special thank you to the staff, residents, merchants, civic organizations, commissions, and volunteers whose generosity; time and continued support is so greatly appreciated.

### **Special Transportation Program**

The Special Transportation Program provides rides in Orange and surrounding locations for residents 55 and older and disabled persons for medical appointments, shopping, special events, to and from the Senior Center and other personal errands. This year there were an estimated 3200 rides with donations of \$3231.00. The Department will purchase three used vehicles previously leased through Greater New Haven Transit. Community Services Department will be the recipient of a Federal Department of Transportation Grant administered by the State Department of Transportation. The grant will fund 80% towards the purchase of a new 12 passenger wheel chair accessible vehicle with a lift for the Department's Special Transportation Service with delivery after July of FY 2015.

## **ELDERLY OUTREACH, MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

**Energy Assistance:** The office of the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent is an intake site for the State of CT Energy Assistance program and Operation Fuel. There were 217 inquires into the Energy Assistance program, 131 Applications for Fuel Assistance through TEAM and 15 referrals to Operation Fuel, a private non profit agency.

**Community Assistance Programs:** There were 33 requests for fuel assistance through the Community Assistance Fund. The Community Services Department through the office of Elderly Outreach/Municipal Agent maintains a Food Bank to help Orange residents make ends meet with donated non perishable food items. This year the program was utilized 197 times by families and residents in need.

**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 September 2014 the Energy Program Training, the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent attended the Start up Training for the Federal Energy Program. In August 2014 attended the Grant Funding Training at the Area Agency on Aging. In November it was training at Maplewood on Alzheimer's and Everyday Life. In October Medicare Seminars for Connecticare, Humana, Cigna, and Aetna were attended along with the ABC's of Medicare. The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent Facilitates the TRIAD bi monthly meetings.

**Print Media:** 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, Calls for Food Bank donations along with current happenings at Community Services.

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

**Client Contacts:** The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent had contact with 1,106 different persons and made 1,576 referrals to area programs. Contacts and referrals include but not limited to : 53 home visits, 67 Homecare, 97 Transportation, 55 Housing, 68 Title 19, 176 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 217 Energy Assistance, 23 Medicare, and 58 to Qualified Medicare Beneficiary.

## **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. In FY 2014-2015 membership increase by 124 for a total of 2831.

Three Orange residents were honored at the annual Pasta Festa Living Treasure fundraiser at Grassy Hill Lodge with 269 people in attendance and raised over \$1370 for the Senior Center. A special recognition was given to another resident for her years of service for the event. The annual summer cookout was attended by 50 seniors in August, 2015. The Senior Center offered many trips, including a 9 day trip to Northern California, 10 day trip to Portugal, 3 day trip to Lancaster PA for the "Miracle of Christmas" show, two overnight trips to Mohegan Sun, one of which was for the AAC Women's Basketball Final. The Senior Center went to see UConn Women's Basketball vs. St John in the Maggie Dixon Classic, celebrate Elvis Birthday, CT Flower Show, Women of Ireland St Patrick's Day Show, 2 Broadway shows, the Rockettes Spring Spectacular, Neil Sedaka, Holly Dolly, West Side Story, A Tribute to the Beatles, Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island, Tanglewood, Lobster Bash, Bobby Rydell, a Barbra Streisand impersonator, Mystery Trip, Big E, Oktoberfest, Rat Pack at Foxwoods, Showboat, Backwards in High Heels, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, and Christmas in Hawaii at the Hu Ke Lau.

The Senior Center hosted afternoon Cabarets, Ice Cream and Pie Socials, Halloween Bingo Party, Veterans Appreciation show, Holiday Dinner Dance, and a Valentines Pizza Party with the Orange Lions Club.

Classes and activities are offered to exercise and stretch the body, mind, and spirit including yoga, yoga dance, tai chi, watercolor painting, painting & drawing, computers, bridge lessons, zumba gold, fitness, tap dancing, line dancing, chair exercise, money management, book club, wellness seminars, a Senior Chorus, and ballroom dance. Some new classes added this year are a Senior Center Chorus, and ballroom dance. We added MELT, and Zendoodle.

The senior center continues with Lunch & Fun. Some topics were a visit to the Andrew Bryan House, Mrs. Drinkwater, a Magician, Tracks Trails and Treasures, Shakespeare in Love, a ventriloquist, Harry Tubman story, India Culture, and a Ballroom Dance demonstration. The Afghan Ladies continue to make afghans for veterans. 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 Orange Senior Center hosts an annual Health & Safety Fair with 22 vendors, which drew over 200 people and \$545 for the Community Assistance Fund. The center offered a Holiday Market for the third time this fiscal year. We had 22 vendors and each donated an item for the Pasta Festa raffle, and raised over \$220 for the Community Assistance Fund.

Hot lunch is provided by the Elderly Nutrition Program administered by Life Bridge and served daily in the senior café. During the fiscal year 2014-2015 – 4,126 meals were served, \$6,947 was raised through donations.

## YOUTH SERVICES

Through fiscal year 2014-15 Youth Services incorporated various programs and events with participation by approximately seven-hundred and sixty-five youth collectively. The Job Bank assisted youth in gaining employment with area residents for a variety of jobs. Home Alone classes were held at each Elementary School in conjunction with the Orange Volunteer Fire and Police Departments. Students were taught safety measures in regard security and home fire drills. Youth Services 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. Students exhibited their art work and parents and community attended a reception. A Super Raffle Pizza Bingo was held for the incoming seventh graders. The event was provided by a grant from the Orange Foundation Trust, U/A, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. The Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades attended three dances and parent chaperones assisted as well. Through an Enhancement grant provided by the State Department of Education two watercolor programs were provided to youth taught by a professional artist. The grant also allowed for support of the Amity Middle School Anti Defamation League anti-bullying program "*Building a School of Allies*" which provided workshops and assemblies for students. Also, e-parenting sessions were held on child development issues and drug, alcohol, and substance abuse issues. The State Department of Education Youth Service Bureau Grant and Enhancement Grant Summaries, and Individual Services Report were completed for the fiscal year. Youth Services also provided residents with an online Youth Services newsletter which featured in photos and articles many of the programs and events held during the current year. The Living History Club composed of senior citizens who were willing to share their historical experiences with students was offered to the Middle School and High School. The Intergenerational Tutoring program offered students one-to-one tutorial assistance weekly being tutored by senior citizens. The long-standing program assists with students grades 3 through 12. Amity High School students worked with Youth Services as volunteers for school credits assisting at local events. Also, two babysitting classes were held for Middle School students teaching basic care of children and offering First Aid certification. Youth Services utilized a variety of publicity options in regard programming and events by utilizing local newspapers and parent list serve emails. Monthly meetings were attended by Coordinator with organizations such as Orange Family Counseling, and Youth Services Advisory Board. Area businesses supported activities through donations and reduced cost for products. The Coordinator also participated on the Juvenile Review Board.

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission manages the Howard D Brooks Wepawaug Conservation Area, Paul Ode, Wolf Park Trail, Racebrook Tract, Housatonic Overlook, Ewen Preserve, and Turkey Hill Preserve.

Listed below are items completed 2014-2015

### Maintenance:

- New split rail fence Ewen Preserve
- Marked Trail for Turkey Hill Preserve
- Cleaned up tires and metal Turkey Hill Preserve
- Cut down trees on trails at Turkey Hill Preserve
- Had Work Day at Racebrook Tract
- Filled in pot holes Racebrook Tract
- Filled in pot holes Wepawaug Conservation Area
- Cleaned up trails Wepawaug Conservation Area
- Painted entrance sign at Wepawaug Conservation Area
- Established temporary restricted parking at Turkey Hill Preserve
- Removed decomposed guard rails at Wepawaug Conservation Area

### Education:

- Turkey Hill School participated in a Field study and went to the CT Science Museum to view their work. And also Geology Study.
- Set up Racebrook School Program for 2017
- Hosted walk for Mary L Tracy School kindergartners for the third year at Wepawaug.
- Hosted walk for Racebrook School for Earth Day for the second year at Racebrook Tract.
- Participated at the Orange Agricultural Fair with a display of our Open Spaces and Backpacks.
- Raised money for “Explore Our Trails Backpack” from Lions Club, Orange Community Women's and Rotary. Two Backpacks put in each school library and Town Childrens Library.

### Events:

- Held second Annual Owl Prowl at Ewen Preserve in November.
- Connecticut Trail Days which takes place the first week in June held at Racebrook Tract with Woodbridge Conservation Commission.

### Scout Projects:

- We hosted a reception for Eagle Scout Dan Olson who received Scouting Honor Medal for Saving a Life. Dan constructed bat boxes in our Open Spaces for his Eagle Scout project.

### Information:

- Assisted in gathering data for the 2015 Plan of Conservation & Development. It is located on the Town and the Conservation Website.
- Conservation Commission requested The Connecticut Environmental Review Team ERT, complete a report on the Ewen Farm Preserve. The report was completed in October and can be found on the Town, and Conservation Website. The report was completed at no cost to the Town.

## **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 2014-2015 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:

- Published 2 Issues of the OrangeLife Magazine
- Maintenance of the OrangeEDC.com website,
- Produced the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Orange Community and Business Exposition,
- Updated the Commercial / Industrial Property Database
- Created the Orange Business Database,
- Established the Orange Community Farmer's Market and corresponding website.

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 Orange Economic Development Commission has been a key driver of the Annual Orange Business & Community Exposition. The Expo, which was held on June 10, 2015 at the High Plains Community, saw the participation of over 400 persons during the day long affair. This year's event incorporated 64 vendors showcasing their products and services at the 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.

**Board of Directors Executive Committee**

Alan Fischer – President	Fischer Real Estate
Armand Cantafio – Vice President	Northeast Electronics
Debbie Clancy – Treasurer	Bank of America
Thomas Cariglio	The United Illuminating Company
First Selectman, James Zeoli	Town of Orange
Roger Funk	F&W Equipment
Roy Cuzzocreo	Orange Fence & Supply Company
Thomas Cavaliere - Secretary	Weichert Regional Properties

During the 2015 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 14 new businesses opened their doors as compared to the 5 business closings that occurred during the year. Through the OEDC's efforts to maintain accurate business records, we are able state that vacancy rates remain at all-time record lows as Total Vacancy Rates ended at 3.59%, which equates to 217,984 SF (Vacant) out a total of 6,207,326 square feet.

Through the joint support of the Economic Development Commission and Corporation, the economic development staff worked with local farms to successfully create Orange Community Farmers' Market. The market averaged weekly attendance of 200-250 shoppers and helped showcase the fresh products of 12 individual farm market participants.

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 educate students in grades 7-12 who reside in the towns of Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany, Connecticut.

The Amity Board of Education is committed to seeing that each school and service area in the district receives comparable resources from the budget. Budget drivers include enrollment, teacher/student ratio, improved student performance, curriculum initiatives, health and safety needs in each facility and future capital plans. The Superintendent convenes meetings with district leaders to seek input regarding the needs of the entire district. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget is presented to the Amity Finance Committee. 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 with a final vote on the budget at a referendum scheduled in May.

## **AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Located in the town of Woodbridge, Amity Regional High School enrolls over 1,600 students in grades 9-12. In the fall of 2014 Amity Regional High School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. This prestigious award honors public and private schools where students perform at very high levels. The U.S. Department of Education requests nominations from the top education official in every state. At the high school level, of those recognized as Exemplary High Performing Schools, 45 were public high schools with two in Connecticut. Amity Regional High School was one of two Connecticut high schools recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School.

Academically, Amity Regional High School provides a wide range of learning opportunities including Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Our Career and Technical Education Department offers an extensive selection of courses. Over 92% of Amity graduates attend two and four-year colleges after graduation. This past spring, the Theatre Arts Department performances of *Tarzan* garnered 14 nominations including Outstanding Production of the Year at the Connecticut Musical Theatre Awards Program. Amity High School's Interscholastic Athletes were recognized as the 2014-15 Class LL State Baseball Champions and State Boys' Tennis Champions.

## **AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL – ORANGE CAMPUS**

Amity Middle School-Orange operates on a middle school team organization. This model provides students in grades 7 and 8 with a more integrated and organized learning experience. Community service is an important theme at Amity Middle School-Orange. One of several community service examples is *Giving Hair and Hope* that supports the *St. Baldrick's Foundation* and *Pantene's Beautiful Lengths*.

The Connecticut Mastery Science Test was administered in grade 8 this past spring. Eighth graders continued their impressive achievement with 88.3% at or above goal in science. The strong academic program in grade 8 is enhanced by an overnight fieldtrip to Philadelphia. Additionally, a wide array of co-curricular clubs is offered after school for both grades. Finally, an interscholastic and intramural program rounds out the Amity Middle School-Orange experience.

## **ORANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

The school district made significant strides in converting to the Common Core State Standards in area of English Language Arts (ELA). *Journeys* and *The Workshop Model* was fully implemented in Grades K – 6. Educators were presented with a variety of professional development opportunities to help them successfully plan and deliver high-quality instruction. Math Expressions was in its third year of implementation and efforts have begun to map the curriculum using an electronic platform, *Rubicon Atlas*. Schools continue their implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support), a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Our students in Grades 3 – 6 completed the first administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Math and ELA. Students in Grade 5 were administered the CMT in Science in the spring as well. Students in Orange scored well above the state average in all areas. Student achievement reports are available on the district's webpage at [www.oess.org](http://www.oess.org). The district piloted a full day Kindergarten program serving 72 students. A positive program evaluation resulted in a recommendation for full implementation of full day Kindergarten in 2015 – 2016.

Technology in the schools has continued to grow exponentially with the introduction of a Juniper Enterprise network, allowing for expanded device numbers and the ability of students to bring their own devices. OESS now runs on a full fiber optic WAN which enables high speed data transmission for students to use computerized educational programs. Teachers and students have also reaped the benefits of the newly implemented Google Apps for Education, bringing about enhanced digital learning and unprecedented technical collaboration.

Two major Bond Projects were completed in the 2014 - 2015 school year. The reclaiming and repaving of the Peck Place parking lot was the first, which included the revamping of general and teacher parking. The student drop off area was moved to the back making it a much safer area. Also completed in this project were new signage, new fencing and a rear card access allowing teachers to enter from the back

The façade at Mary L Tracy School was freshly painted which included scraping, sanding and replacing wood at various locations.

Old carpeting was replaced at Turkey Hill School. Asbestos flooring was underneath the carpeting. There were 6 areas abated, 4 classrooms, the Library and the front office. New bright VCT tile was installed in the classroom and carpeting was installed in the Library and the front office.

The Orange Board of Education has entered into a 20 year agreement with Ct Green Bank through American Solar & Alternative Power for solar power for three of our schools. Ct Green Bank is a State funded entity. This project will allow us to lock into a lower UI rate for the next 20 years. Each school will have a large TV screen showing the students how much energy has been captured from the sun's rays, how much energy has been stored and how much energy has been used. It will also show the environmental impact it has on us each day. The current plan is to have one of our schools up and running by the first of the year and the rest of the project completed in the summer of 2016.

## **COUNTRY FAIR**

The annual Orange Country Fair was held on September 20-21, 2014. We were lucky with fabulous weather for both days. This year marked the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the current fair.

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, agility dog demonstrations, a hay bale toss and a skillet toss. There are exhibits of crafts and produce displayed and the animal building continues to be a huge attraction for all ages. The truck pull on Friday night was again a big success this year. We added a miniature horse pull this year as well.

Proceeds from past fairs go towards improvements on the buildings and grounds. This year the lighting was finished in the exhibit hall in time for the fair. Following the fair and throughout the spring, extensive repairs had to be made to the permanent bathroom facilities.

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.

We are looking forward to another great fair this coming year.

## **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, 2016 was approved by the voters in May of 2015. 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, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, the Orange Fire Marshal's Office activity statistics are:

### **Inspection, Enforcement and Investigation Statistics:**

Fire Code Inspections which includes initial and re-inspection activities	617
State Fire Safety Code violations discovered and cited during inspections	1545
State Fire Safety Code violations that were corrected after being cited	1348
Review of building plans for State Fire Code compliance	124
Fire origin and cause investigations	42
Other activities, such as meetings, consultations, training classes, etc	510
Total permits issued	167
Homes visited where smoke/CO alarms were installed	129
Total Smoke alarms installed/ distributed	463
Total CO alarms installed/ distributed	259
Total alarms provided and/or installed as part of Federal Grant	722

### **Town Fire Incident Response Statistics:**

Fires, including buildings, vehicles, and outdoor property	58
Hazardous Condition responses	74
Rescue calls	13
False alarms	226
Other types of responses	73

<b>Total Fire Responses for the Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>444</b>
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Of the 444 fire calls answered by the Orange Volunteer Fire Association for this fiscal period, there were 58 fires that included structures, vehicles, and brush. These fires caused a total of \$1,087,200 in property damage. Statistics indicated that 51% 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. We have had a very successful smoke and carbon monoxide alarm campaign thanks to a FEMA grant. However, the stock of alarms is beginning to dwindle down, and we are hoping to receive additional federal grants funds to secure more alarms and continue this vital program.

## **ORANGE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION, INC**

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association Inc. remains the sole provider of fire service in the Town of Orange. It responds to fire calls and emergency incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The department is comprised solely by volunteer firefighters. The men and women take pride in the department and in their training.

The Department celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Firefighters gathered for pictures and refreshments.

The Department welcomed a new pumper to the fleet. It carries 1000 gallons of water and pumps at 1500 gallons per minute. The cost was \$400,000., and was paid for by The Orange Volunteer Fire Assn. Inc. It replaces a 1987 pumper. The money was obtained through donations, revenues from the Firemen's Carnival, and sound investment management.

The department responded to 485 calls during the past fiscal year.

The present officers are:

Chief, John Knight	Dep. Chief, Vaughan Dumas
Asst Chief, Charles Sherwood	Asst. Chief, Michael Esposito
Captain, Mark Osinski	Captain, Dan Cole
Lieutenant, David Tufano	Lieutenant, Richard Lohrenz
Lieutenant, Drew Panapada	Lieutenant, Joseph Duplinsky
Treasurer, Elfo Pol	Asst. Treasurer, Arthur Williams
Secretary, Peter Daniel	Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Kaplan

There are two fire stations. The Center Fire Station, and The Post Road Fire Station. The department maintains both stations and pays for utilities and upkeep of those stations.

The department owns and maintains four pumpers, a 100 foot aerial ladder truck and a rescue truck.

Fundraising is an ongoing program in the department. 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 firefighters and their families for their dedication and service to the community.



## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Several issues were brought before the Board of Health for review and discussion including:

The town sanitarian continued to update us on progress regarding contamination of wells in the areas of Willard Road/Gordon Road/Beechlawn Terrace.

Attention was given to the appearance of the West Nile Virus found in mosquitoes in towns contiguous to Orange. None were reported in mosquitoes collected in Orange.

The Director of Health reported that at the semi-annual Health Director's Meeting, the issue of the Ebola disease was discussed and how the various towns were updated on it. It was also noted that this meeting that the State is updating its Emergency Preparedness Plans.

The Board reviewed and offered recommendations on two town draft ordinances, "Public Pools and Bath Places" and "Tattooing and Body Piercing."

An issue that surfaced at several Board meetings was the possibility of developing a new rating system for food service establishments. One of the main goals for such a system is to provide consumers with information and encourage improved performance by the establishments. A survey of rating systems used in other towns was made by our sanitarians. The issue will again be addressed in the Board's fall meeting.

An annual report was given by a representative of American Medical Response (AMR) regarding requests for assistance and medical transportation during the past 12 months. A total of 1393 request were made for assistance resulting in 532 medical transports. It was also reported that AMR has purchased a \$28,000 upgraded cardiac monitor which is now in use.

Based on a slight increase in falls in Orange, as reported by AMR, it was suggested that a future meeting focus on possible programs that might be initiated to address this issue.

The Board usually meets during March, April, May, June, September, October and December on the third Monday of each month 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, 2015:

- 72 Subsurface Sewage Disposal Permits
- 3 Well Drilling Permits
- 136 Food Service Establishment Licenses
- 83 Vending/Temporary Food Service/Catering Licenses

During the recent fiscal year, more than 2,283 field and office activities were performed. Examples of the office and field activities that the Environmental Division conducted include the review of 157 subsurface sewage designs and building addition plans, 541 office conferences, 40 septic system repair/building addition investigations, 105 deep test pit observations, 48 percolation tests, 96 septic system installation inspections, 101 site inspections to evaluate various environmental concerns, 44 complaint investigations, 378 food service inspections, 177 stand pipes monitored to determine seasonal ground water levels, 14 ticks were referred to the Connecticut State Agricultural Experiment Station for the presence of Lyme Disease and 12 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.

Office and field activities in the area of food service have not diminished. There was a substantial increase in the issuance of temporary food service and vending licenses, and conducting re-inspections. Seven food service establishments closed for business while two new establishments opened. Openings included Paradise Indian Cuisine and 700 Degrees Pizza. There was one notice of violation issued by the Director of Health for the closure of a food service establishment. In addition, a hearing was held with the Health Director and a food service operator to show cause why their food service license should not have been revoked.

The occurrence of Lyme Disease and other emerging tickborne diseases still persists in the State. In Orange, a total of 14 ticks were delivered to the Connecticut Agricultural Station for testing. Residents should be aware of the presence of deer ticks and should take appropriate precautions to prevent getting bitten such as wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, cutting down tall grass, brush & overgrowth and checking arms and legs for their presence before coming indoors.

The Department started a public health awareness campaign utilizing the social media website Facebook to provide current health related information throughout the year.

## **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 78 years. The agency is one of four Municipal VNAs in existence in Connecticut and continues to 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 addition to community/public health activities.

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 and staff to provide weekend visits and admission to care. 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 Orange residents who do not require skilled care but need assistance with personal care in order to remain home as part of our community health promotion program.

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, TRIAD and Emergency Management. We also assist the Health Department with disease monitoring through follow tracking/calls as required and data collection.

The school nurses, under the leadership of the school nurse supervisor provided health care to 1494 students this past school year. A full time school nurse is assigned to each of the four elementary public schools; a part-time nurse to one private elementary school as well as Hope Academy in Orange. 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 18,956 visits to the school nurses for minor and major first aid needs, illness complains, 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, conduct health education classes and 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 2015.

## **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 Housing-DOH formerly 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.

We have seated chair exercise and Tai Chi weekly. After over a year of reconstruction, Silverbrook now has a new roof, siding, windows, flooring, boilers, hot water system, smoke and fire alarms/sprinkler system, HVAC system, entry doors, countertops, bathroom lights, thermostats and sidewalks. We are not done yet! The commercial kitchen will get new equipment very soon. There were some growing pains during this project but the residents are enjoying their “new” home.

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 oversee this project for the Town of Orange. The board meets the second Thursday of every other month.

## **INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSE 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 four residential applications and one Municipal application.

Thank you for your interest and concern for our environment.

## CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Case Memorial Library is an indispensable part of the community, enriching lives as it brings together people, information and ideas. Here patrons can enjoy traditional library resources, as well as explore new technologies as they develop. Hard copies of books, and magazines are now sharing space with downloadable audio books, e-books and e-magazines in the Library's online catalog. Library users can gain access to these materials by visiting the Library, or by simply clicking on a computer screen, or any digital device. Last year, more than 96,000 patrons visited the Library, and over 139,000 print, media and downloaded materials were borrowed.

The Children's Department continues to be a center of activity. More than 1,800 children attended 136 programs, which included various story hours, live animal events, special craft and drama workshops, sing-alongs, an Earth Day hike, and an outstanding puppet show. In February, during the annual "Take Your Child to the Library Day," children enjoyed an impressive hula hoop performance. In honor of Chinese New Year, families were thrilled by the stunts of an accomplished Chinese acrobat. Nearly 300 children registered for the summer science-themed reading program "Fizz Boom Read." Children who received their first library card were given a special welcome bag to acknowledge this achievement.

During the year 3,248 adults attended 84 programs, a 12 percent increase in attendance from the previous year. The wide variety of programs included the ever-popular morning and evening book discussions, and Oscar-nominated film series. At special events held throughout the year, attendees received tips on dating after forty, learned how to become effective dog listeners, and enjoyed an informative demonstration and sampling of healthy vegan recipes.

This year, 346 teens enjoyed 18 programs that piqued their interest. In addition to the many fun summer activities for teens, the Library also held "Maker Space" events that taught students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade how to build various projects, such as a fully-functioning spin art machine with simple circuitry, recycled electronics, and common office supplies.

There is no resource more valuable than a librarian. Over the course of the year, our trained librarians answered more than 14,000 questions assisting patrons with everything from research projects and using their devices, to offering suggestions for their next great read.

Technology is changing the way residents use the Library. Our newly redesigned website is a 24-hour virtual Library, which offers an easy-to-use gateway through which patrons can access materials, resources and services at any time. Patrons utilize the website to search the online catalog containing over 129,000 print, media, and digital holdings; place holds; access premium databases; find answers to frequently asked questions; and much more.

The Library's success can be measured by the outstanding efforts of the staff, and the many volunteers who lend their assistance. Gifts received from generous donors throughout the year added to the Library's resources. Through their fundraising efforts, the Friends of the Library graciously offered their support to fund programs, and provide needed materials for our patrons. The Friends "Basement Book Sale" has become a highly anticipated semi-annual community event.

## MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

The Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade were held on Sunday, May 24, 2015. Richard Cenami, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam era veteran, was the Grand Marshal. Richard Manley, U.S. Navy Seabees. Vietnam era veteran, was the Chief of Staff. The Honored Veteran this year was The Reverend Stoddon G.N. King, U.S. Navy, Vietnam veteran. The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator, filled in as the Keynote Speaker. 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 Lewis Merritt, Commander, and 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.

There were eight marching bands which included Amity Middle School, Amity Senior High School, Beecher Road School from Woodbridge and the Orange Elementary School Band. There was a magnificent display of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department's fire fighting apparatus as well as fire trucks from the Bethany Fire Department. We welcome the New Haven Vet Center as a recent addition to our parade whose mission is to help veterans.

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, Ron Davis, OGAT Coordinator, Eli Baum and Jordan Gorelick for playing taps at both the opening and closing ceremonies, all news media and lastly the elementary school students who did selected readings and the Amity Rugby Club 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 2014-15. Our program and swim lesson information is available on our website found at [www.orange-ct.gov](http://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 23, 2014. All four sessions of our Day Camp program had good enrollment numbers and all eight weeks of our Traveling Teens program were close to full capacity.

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 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 Conn Jam 2015, Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, 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, Amity Teen Center Chilly Chili Run, EARS CT Dog Day Event, National Day of Prayer, Rotary Club Thanksgiving Day Road Race, Race Brook School PTA Food Truck Festival and the Farmer's Market.

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 ice.

The Park and Recreation Department hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30PM. The Department is located in the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road. Our phone number is 203-891-4790. Our web site is [www.orange-ct.gov](http://www.orange-ct.gov).

## **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 on a quarterly basis to monitor the investment performance of the Defined Benefit Plans and the investment performance and options available under the Defined Contribution Plan. In addition, the Board met with the Plan Actuary to review and plan actuarial assumptions and performance.

## **TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission met on the first and third Tuesday of each month. There were fourteen regular meetings and two special meetings held during the fiscal year 2014-2015. The Commission reviewed many pertinent issues during the year.

Approvals were granted for the following Site Plan Applications: Monster Golf, 220 Indian River Road, (Christmas Tree Shop Plaza); Silverbrook Plaza, Wasabi Restaurant, 350 Boston Post Road, to construct a stair and entrance addition. Approvals were granted for Special Permits to Temple Emanuel to construct a 2,503 square foot addition to the existing synagogue. Renovations and a drive-thru window were allowed for Goodies, 111 Boston Post Road. The conversion of a single family dwelling for an elderly apartment was allowed for John and Kathleen Maturo, 211 Pine Tree Drive.

A Subdivision Application was submitted by Paul Clark, 560 Lambert Road, to subdivide 3.51 acres of residential land to create two lots. A Resubdivision Application was submitted for 0 Marsh Hill Road and 55 Marsh Hill Road to reconfigure two existing lots into two reconfigured lots. The application was submitted by the Orange Land Development, LLC and by Dichello Distributors, LLC. A Site Plan application was also submitted for the Dichello property to verify compliance. A Subdivision Application, subdivision of Assessor's Lot 7 and a portion of Assessor's Lot 8, Racebrook Estates, LLC, 846 Racebrook Road was submitted to subdivide 8.3 acres of residential land into two lots. A Resubdivision Application was submitted by Walter M. and Mary Ellen K Bspuda Living Trust, 831 Derby-Milford Road, to create two lots from 34.6 acres in the residential zone.

The Orange Zoning Regulations were reviewed and amended regarding Outdoor Storage and outdoor Displays. A proposed zone change to change three lots from LI-2 to LI-3 was requested by the Orange Economic Development Corp. The zone change was reviewed and approved by the T.P.Z.C.

Municipal improvements included the potential Expansion of Fred Wolfe Park and the proposed donation of land by the Estate of Mary Balogh to the Town of Orange. The land consists of approximately 4.80 acres, 1-5 lots on Hemlock Drive.

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission held public hearings and workshop meetings as part of the process to update and adopt a new Plan of Conservation and Development. The final draft was approved on May 19, 2015.

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 2014-2015 the Orange Police Department responded to approximately 33,892 calls for service. There were 407 criminal arrests, as well as 2,622 arrests for motor vehicle violations. The Department responded to 1,054 motor vehicle accidents; 1,460 medical emergencies; 1,303 burglar alarms and 286 larceny investigations. There were 46 burglaries reported. The Department also made 49 arrests for Driving Under the Influence. In 2014 the Department experienced some of the lowest UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) statistics that it has seen in the past forty years.

The Department's K-9 "Major" was tragically killed in a traffic accident in July 2014, and a ceremony was held at Police Headquarters to honor his life and service.

In July 2014, the Department investigated its first homicide in 22 years. An arrest was quickly made.

In the fall of 2014, the Department launched its social media campaign in order to better communicate with the community. The Department initiated Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts as tools to use for community outreach.

The Department utilized State grant funding to participate in DUI patrols during the major holiday time periods.

Several Department members participated in a Shop-With-A-Cop program during the holiday season, which benefitted children from underprivileged families.

In January 2015, the Department added K-9 "Loki" to the K-9 Unit.

The Department added a state of the art, point to point wireless radio system as part of an on-going upgrade to its public safety communications system. Not only will the system greatly improve communications, but it will result in significant savings for the Town resulting from the elimination of dedicated telephone lines that were necessary for the old system to function. The Department also made interior improvements to tile and carpeting, and a new HVAC system was installed, resulting in cost savings through better efficiency.

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) recognized Department members for their efforts in enforcing drunken driving laws. The Department held a Citizens Police Academy class in spring 2015, with many Department members participating.

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 successful prescription drug take back days. Department members also participated in a Torch Run event to raise awareness for Connecticut Special Olympics.

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 and Judge Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas continue to serve all residents of the Town of Orange and the City of Milford in decedent estates, trust matters, conservatorships, child guardianship and custody proceedings, adoptions (child and adult), name changes, guardianships of adults with intellectual disabilities, and other matters.

In the past year, the Milford-Orange Probate Court has experienced an increase in child custody and guardianship petitions, guardianships of adults with intellectual disabilities, and decedent estates. Much of the court's time is serving the social service needs of our elderly, children and intellectually disabled citizens, many of whom require the services of court-appointed attorneys from a panel of committed local attorneys willing to meet these needs.

The court continues to operate on its shared municipal budget with minimal or no changes in the annual budget request.

Judge Streit-Kefalas, immediate past president of the Connecticut Probate Assembly, continues to work to improve the probate services given throughout the state's probate system. In October 2015, she participated in a presentation to the State Legislature's Domestic Violence Task Force and she continues to serve on the Assembly's Executive Committee, Legislative, Public Information and Planning Committees. She is also the Chair of one of the Probate Rules of Procedure Subcommittees. A new rules book was implemented in July 2013 in an effort to provide detailed procedural guidance to both laypersons and attorneys utilizing the probate courts.

The court has also experienced an upgrade in its preservation of court records through a statewide upgrade to the Laserfiche system with the goal in the near future to increase public access to the probate court system via e-filing and electronic data access.

The Milford-Orange Probate Court is located at the Parsons Government Complex, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 and has full time office hours from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The staff of the Probate Court is: Elizabeth Davis, Chief Clerk; Isabella Karash, Clerk; Karen Adams and Christina Bianchi, Assistant Clerks; and Taylor Demirjian, Court Assistant. They may be reached during regular office hours at (203)783-3205 and Judge Streit-Kefalas continues to be available for after hour emergencies, as needed.

All court forms and user guidelines may be obtained at [www.ctprobate.gov](http://www.ctprobate.gov).

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The department's Administrative offices are located on the second floor of the Town Hall. This office is involved with clerical and accounting services, road excavation permits and Transfer Station permitting, facility scheduling, recycling program coordination, and all contracted vendor services and construction project administration, also prepares Bid documents, administers regulations and apply for grant funds. We also respond to calls from residents with questions and concerns, regarding Public Works Facilities, roads and bridges.

The Highway Department, supervised by Donald Foyer, Sr. is responsible for 110 miles of Town roads, including maintenance, reconstruction, repaving, snow and ice control, drainage and tree work and maintenance of countless vehicles and equipment.

All town buildings are staffed and maintained by six full and part time custodians, supervised by John Stewart, Building supervisor.

Seven miles of "Local Arterial Roads" were rehabilitated and paved expending approximately \$2.0 million of the \$5.0 million fund of the original 2012 bond issue. Approximately \$2.0 million and 7 miles of paving were completed the previous year. The fund balance is now approximately \$900,000.

The winter of 2014-2015 included 18 major snow storms, distribution of 2000 tons of salt and the "Blizzard" of January 27-28 for which we applied for and received \$67,151.71 from FEMA.

## **THE ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

The Orange Recycling Committee (ORC) had another very active and productive year. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, residential recycling was down by 2.5% from the previous year, but residents still managed to recycle over 1013 tons of material.

The ORC facilitated the expansion of recycling opportunities at the Orange Transfer Station as residents can now bring paint and electronics there for recycling. Unused prescription drugs are collected by the Orange Visiting Nurse Association on Orange Center Road.

The ORC continued to contribute recycling tips as a regular feature in The Orange Times newspaper, and began sharing information and advertising via OrangeCTLive.com and the ORC Facebook page (<http://bit.ly/ORC-Facebook>).

Additional highlights of 2014-2015 ORC initiatives include:

- July and October - ORC members twice volunteered at HazWaste Central at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven, expediting the drop-off process as residents from throughout the region brought household hazardous waste products for safe disposal.
- September - the ORC hosted a booth at the Orange Country Fair. Members explained residential recycling changes, answered general recycling questions, and distributed kitchen magnets that list items acceptable for residential recycling bins. In addition, the committee sponsored a children's craft category for items made with recycled materials.
- October - the ORC hosted the town's second annual Shredding Day, held for 3 hours at High Plains Community Center. For the second straight year, residents brought over 10,000 lbs. of documents to be shredded. Thanks to full sponsorship by the Orange Rotary Club, this was provided at no cost to residents.
- December - the ORC created and submitted a holiday tree made from recycled materials for display as part of Case Memorial Library's holiday celebration. In addition, committee members met with a representative of the Mattress Recycling Council and the town engineer, but it was decided to defer mattress recycling at this time.
- January - ORC members took a field trip to City Carting in Stamford to observe their state of the art recycling facility in action.
- June - the ORC again hosted a booth at the Orange Business and Community Expo and distributed Forget-Me-Not flower seeds, with a message reminding people not to forget to recycle.
- Committee members regularly collect ink and toner cartridges from town offices and send them to be recycled. In addition, the committee continues to work on ensuring that there are adequate recycling containers at High Plains Fairgrounds for town events.

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE is governed by The Connecticut General Statutes and operated under the direction of The Office of the Secretary of State. Registrars are required to keep current on new and upcoming legislation by attending Secretary of State Conferences twice a year, plus mandated meetings held at the discretion of Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC) district chairpersons. Registrars are responsible for overseeing fair and honest elections, maintaining an up to date voter registry, and the proper upkeep of the voting machines.

<u>Registered Voters in Orange as of 6-30-2015</u>				
Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Other	Total
2,461	2,369	5,198	97	10,072

### Election Dates:

August 12, 2014	Republican Primary for Governor	
November 4, 2014	General Election for Statewide Offices	
May 6, 2015	Amity School Budget Referendum	Passed
May 19, 2015	Town Budget Referendum	Passed

### Town Meeting:

May 11, 2015	Town Budget	Passed
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### Special Voter Registration Sessions were held

September 30, 2014	9:00am-5:00pm
October 18, 2014	10:00am-2:00pm
October 28, 2014	9:00am-8:00pm
November 3, 2014	9:00am-5:00pm

A training session was held for poll workers by the registrars prior to the state election.

October 23, 2014 the Registrar's hosted an Amity High School student for Government Day to familiarize the individual with the election process.

In March of 2015, letters were sent out by the Registrar's office to 288 registered voters for verification of residence. All appropriate changes were made to the voter registration files. This canvass is mandated annually by the Office of Secretary of State.

Voter registration sessions were held April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Amity High School for all students 17 years and older wishing to register. A total of 235 students registered to vote during the annual registration sessions, of these 117 were Orange residents.

## **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, John J. Carangelo, Mitchell R. Goldblatt, Kenneth E. Lenz, Ralph G. Okenquist, and Judy W. Williams will serve a two-year term to November 13, 2015.

Of significant importance this year was: 1) Building Inspector, Fred Trotta, retired after 21 years of service and Lucien DiMeo was appointed the new Building Inspector August 7, 2014; 2) Amendment of Chapter 211 of the Town Code – Firearms, Section 211-1 Discharge of firearms restricted except at a permitted indoor gun range after obtaining a permit from the Chief of Police; 3) Field expansion at Fred Wolfe Park to include two grass fields, a gravel driveway and parking lot; 4) Property tax abatement approved for United Illuminating; 5) Approval of land donation known as Lots 1 – 5 on Hemlock Drive with a waiver of taxes; 6) Amendment of Town Code – Chapter 91 – Library, Section 91.4(A) to reduce the number of members from 14-11; 7) Renaming Edison Road Pez Boulevard; 8) Contract entered into with Quality Data for the taxpayer inquiry web hosted services enabling residents to go online to see what they owe and print out bills; 9) Renaming Orange Drug & Alcohol Action Committee (ODAAC) to Bethany Orange Woodbridge Drug & Alcohol Action Committee (BOWDAAC); 10) Amending Town Code – Chapter 350. Taxation, Article IX – New Haven Hebrew Day School Tax Exemption to include 642 Dogwood Road as property eligible for tax exempt status.

Resolutions were adopted on the following matters: First Selectman authorized to execute the acceptance documents for the temporary property rights and permanent easement for the bridge replacement on RT 114; First Selectman authorized to execute FY 2014 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2, Memorandum of Agreement; Approval to apply for the 2016 Historic Preservation Grant for the Town Clerk's Office; Authorization for Finance Director to negotiate, sign and execute agreements/contracts regarding the Cash Grant for the purchase of a wheelchair accessible motor vehicle for Community Services; and Resolution approved endorsing the So. Central Regional Council of Governments' Regional Incentive Program Proposals.

Other matters addressed during this year included: Amity Middle School students participated in Government Day held October 23, 2014; Replacing the existing boiler at the Orange Center Road Firehouse with a dual fuel boiler, Acceptance of the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development as presented and refer it to a public hearing on March 17, 2015; the Veteran's Memorial Wall of Honor dedication ceremony and reception was held at High Plains Community Center on May 1, 2015; Boy Scouts Conn-Jam was held May 15 – 17, 2015 on the Orange Fairgrounds; the Relay for Life was held on the Orange Fairgrounds May 30, 2015; and the Orange Farmer's Market will take place on the Orange Fairgrounds on Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. from June 25 – October 29, 2015..

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 twelve individuals who passed away during this past year and who served the Town with distinction: John Manfreda, Louis Picone, Mary DeVito, Stuart Coleman, Sue Palmer, Olga Chirgwin, Sheila Weinberg, Lorraine Pritchard, Stanley Bronski, John Serfilippi, Edgar Vaughn and Robert Kelly.

## TAX COLLECTOR

I thank the townspeople for their continued support and giving me the opportunity to serve as Tax Collector. Our commitment to professional development continues and whenever possible we take advantage of educational seminars and opportunities offered by the New Haven Tax Collectors Association and the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association. Networking and seeking solutions for improved office operations and daily functions within the Tax Office remains a priority.

It can be confusing when looking at or requesting figures from the Tax Office. Three different years come into play.

2013 Grand List Year: October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

Fiscal or Collection Year: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Calendar Year: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

The tax bill is based on the Assessed Value of the item, that being real estate, personal property or motor vehicle on October 1<sup>st</sup> of the prior year. In this instance October 1, 2013.

The 2013 Grand List was comprised of the following:

5,509 Real Estate	\$ 50,693,286.17
852 Personal Property	\$ 3,665,563.47
14,877 Motor Vehicle	\$ 3,961,290.69
2,230 Supplemental Motor Vehicles	\$ 541,014.35
(Vehicles registered after October 1 <sup>st</sup> )	

For the year ending June 30, 2015 the revenue collected was 99.23%

A reminder for anyone who has not received a tax bill by July 1<sup>st</sup> for motor vehicle(s) registered in their name, real estate not being escrowed or personal property, 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 tax office at (203) 891-4725, x4736 or [spierson@orange-ct.gov](mailto:spierson@orange-ct.gov). The efficient collection of past due taxes remains a major focus.

## **ORANGE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION (OGAT)**

The primary goal of OGAT is to make local government more accessible and 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 on Cablevision. 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, which provides information regarding upcoming board meetings, town meetings and special events as well as the schedule of OGAT programs. OGAT concurrently broadcasts its programming on the U-Verse system and live on the internet. Previously aired programs are available as video on demand on the internet. During the year a camera stabilizing system, digital switcher, several monitors and a tripod were purchased. This equipment was acquired using grant funds provided by the Area 2 Cable Advisory Council (CAC) under Public Act 08-159. These system 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 live stream and video on demand can be viewed by clicking on the "OGAT LIVE" or "OGAT VIDEO ON DEMAND" links respectively on the town's internet page (<http://www.orange-ct.gov/>).

During the fiscal year, the OGAT station recorded and/or broadcast 160 different programs of which 143 were board meetings and 17 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, Orange Board of Education, Park & Recreation Commission), Annual Town & Budget Meetings, Summer Concert Series, Holiday Festival, Veteran's Day & Memorial Day Observances, Pasta Festa, Orange Business Expo, Government Day, Veterans Wall of Honor Dedication, Independence Day Concert & Fireworks, Labor Day Concert, Meet the Leaders - First Selectman, Breast Cancer Awareness, Senior Center Presentation, Chilly Chili Run, Community Services Event, Promotional Videos (OVFD Carnival, Senior Center, Independence Day Concert & Fireworks, Labor Day Concert), Public Service Announcement (Safe Winter Driving.)

Broadcasts are shown on Cablevision Channel 79 and U-Verse Channel 99.

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 203-891-4737.

## **TREE COMMITTEE**

Planning, Planting, Pruning and Protection were the topics of our year. With the assistance of Orange's newly appointed Tree Warden, Joseph Ross, the Tree committee worked on items ranging from tree sweaters to tribute tree plantings. The committee is continually working on locations in town which would be hospitable to tribute tree or other landscape tree pruning. A couple of new additions were planted as tribute trees on the green area to the east of town hall. In addition, as construction began at the High Plains Community Center parking lot, new areas may have been developed for future planting. The tree Warden and entire committee are mapping out locations of current tribute trees as well as future possible locations. During the season, as the utility companies continued to prune around the electric service lines, questions were debated as to the extent of pruning which would be beneficial. Many comments received supported the Enhanced Tree Trimming as it would help to ensure consistent utility delivery as well as limit storm damage. By the end of the period new growth was visible throughout the pruned areas. Our tree warden works with the arborists from the utilities to notify property owners of removals and intended work on our around public rights of way. Lastly, the committee worked on clarifying and establishing some clear tree regulations and permit applications regarding public trees. Specifically, the placement of objects on trees or the alteration of these trees will need to be applied for and discussed with the tree warden in an effort to provide a healthy environment for our shared resources to thrive.

## **WAR REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE**

While applications for the commemorative bricks continue to be accepted, the prime role of the committee presently is to oversee and insure maintenance of the memorial site.

Contributions are being accepted to assist in the purchase of replacement flags, as needed, and upkeep of the area, including the flowering shrubs. Contributions may be made to the Town of Orange, c/o the Office of the First Selectman.

## **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 in addition to 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 450 residential units are connected to the sewer systems as well as the businesses on the Post Road and south of the Post Road.

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. Our operating budget is currently over \$550,000 a year. The Town Public Works Dept. has been billing and collecting our user charge which is now \$4.95 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.

This year we digitized all grease traps in town onto our sewer map which is kept in CD format. However, illegal grease dumping continues to foul our sewers and pumping stations.

Design of the 60kw generator for the Indian River Road Pumping Station at Christmas Tree Plaza was completed this year and the project was put out for bid. All-Electric Construction and Communications LLC of Milford was the low bidder. The generator will be operational by November.

## **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.