



The Orange Times

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

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Yoga Works



PHOTO BY BRIDGET ALBERT
Members of the Orange Senior Center's Sue Newfeld's yoga class practice the Warrior 1 position. To learn more about the numerous activities at the senior center go to www.orangeseniors.org or call 203-891-4784.

Character Of Town Top Priority

by Brian McCready

According to the 50 people present for a public hearing on updating the town's plan of Conservation and Development, the number one priority is maintaining the community's character.

When residents arrived at the hearing, which was held at High Plains Community Center last month, they were asked to rank their top priorities. Most residents selected maintaining and enhancing the community's character.

Residents responded that Orange is a wonderful place to live; they enjoy the concerts, Firemen's Carnival, and that there is a nice buffer between the residential and commercial areas.

On the downside, some residents said they wish there was more pedestrian access in town.

The second top priority for residents is preserving and acquiring open space. Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt said he believes the town should be proactive and identify potential open space properties to purchase.

The third priority for residents is maintaining community facilities. Residents said the police, fire, library and community pool all give the community a sense of pride. They also said hopefully it will help attract younger families to town.

The fourth highest priority for residents is maintaining the town's natural resources and the fifth highest priority was business development.

Residents said business was necessary to keep the tax base strong. More than 80 percent of the people in the room said business was most important for the tax base while just one person said business was instru-

mental for jobs in town.

George Finley said he attended the meeting because he wants to make sure that retail doesn't expand in the town.

"We have enough," Finley said.

He said he'd like to see more corporate businesses come to town such as Yale University and the University of New Haven have done.

Michael Wydra said he attended the forum to learn the fate of Peck Place School. Pipes broke in the school causing significant water damage. Students have been staying at the Yale campus recently. Wydra said he was worried the school would be demolished and the students would be dispersed to other schools in town.

Goldblatt said the Board of Selectmen voted recently to allocate \$2 million to fix the damage at Peck Place.

Fred Messore, who is a commercial realtor, said the meeting was a great opportunity to offer input on how the town should be developed over the next 10 years. He said he believes there is the opportunity to construct affordable senior housing along Carlson Road and Bull Hill Lane.

Messore said the area makes sense because of it's close proximity to medical and shopping areas.

Orange Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Paul Grimmer said he attended the hearing to support the Planning and Zoning Board, and listen to what input the public offered.

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Amity Wrestling Squad Wins Its Division

by Brian McCready

The Amity wrestling team won the Southern Connecticut Conference Division B Championship with a perfect 5-0 record in its division.

Amity defeated Cheshire, Fairfield Prep, East Haven, Jonathan Law of Milford and New Haven to end the dual meet season, said Bruce Marien, who is the head coach.

"We also pulled off an upset win against a division A team, Shelton (39-33), late in the season," Marien said.

Amity finished the dual meet season at 9-4 and finished fifth at the SCC Individual Tournament last month. Xavier won the tournament again. After Xavier, Daniel Hand finished second, fol-

lowed by Joseph A. Foran of Milford, Shelton and then Amity.

"We had to wrestle without our really good 152 pounder (Evan Donahue, 15-11) because of injury in our last tournament at Foran. He certainly would have scored more than enough for us to come in third in a moderately weak 152 pound weight class in the SCC but that is how these things go," Marien said.

Marien said he was proud that Amity beat strong competitors such as Guilford and Branford.

"We are pleased with the results of our rebuilding effort," Marien said.

Individually

Jake Cala, at 113-115 pounds finished in second place at the SCC tournament and has a 16-7 record heading into the Class LL

tournament.

His brother, Jesse Cala, also took second place at 126-128 pounds and is 16-1 for the season. Austin MacDonald, 120-122 pound wrestler finished third and holds a 17-7 record. David Buono and Nick Photos also took third place at 160-162 pounds and 285-287 pounds respectively.

Buono, a senior, is the team leader in wins (24-7) and the most pins (18) for the season. Photos is a sophomore with a 23-13 record and he will be a key part of our squad for another two years as will Jake Cala, the coach said. Michael Cala, Jesse's twin brother, finished in fourth place at 132-134 pounds to round out Amity's placement in the tournament.



Austin MacDonald at a recent meet.

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News & Events

Voo Do:
Volunteers of Orange Do

Volunteering “Is All About The Kids”

OBOE Building And Grounds Committee Chair Also Discusses Peck Place School



JODY DIETCH

A strong work ethic and desire to do things for the kids, is the driving force behind Jeff Cap's volunteerism. Jeff, who grew up in nearby Milford, reminisced about his first volunteer job when he was 16. “The principal at Live Oaks school was looking for someone to protect the school during Mischief Night so my friend and I stayed at the school from 9 p.m. that night until about 3 a.m.,” he said laughing.

Milford YMCA Receives Funds For Renovation

Representatives Kim Rose (D-Milford), Paul Davis (D-Milford, Orange, West Haven), James Maroney (D-Orange, Milford) and Senator Gayle S. Slossberg (D-Milford, Orange, West Haven, Woodbridge) announced approval of \$250,000 for renovations at the Woodruff Family YMCA in Milford.

“From afterschool programs to health and wellness activities for seniors, YMCAs are more than just brick and mortar structures – they are the lifeblood of communities,” said Governor Malloy. “I am proud that the State of Connecticut is able to support programs like this which provide a host of services that increase the quality of life for residents,” Malloy said.

“The Woodruff Family YMCA is an invaluable resource for our families and is in need of essential renovations to accommodate growing enrollment in its preschool program,” said Slossberg. “We know that these programs make our children lifelong learners, and improve academic and life outcomes. Our children are the ones who stand to benefit most from these renovations.”

“I am pleased that we are able to support the phenomenal work of the YMCA by helping secure this funding,” Rose said. “I appreciate the governor and the State Bond Commission for approving the renovations that will facilitate delivery of services and programs.”

However, much of his volunteer dedication really didn't start until after getting married, moving to Orange and starting a family. “I always worked so I didn't have a lot of time to volunteer,” he explained. “I did help build websites for some non-profits and still do some of that,” Jeff added, who is the IT Director at Newman Architects in New Haven.

When Jeff volunteers, he strives to do his best and he hopes that people realize he is doing it to make a difference. He began with the Boy Scouts of America, something he is still doing. When his now 10 year old son was going to move from Mary L Tracy school to Peck Place, the Cap's received a flyer for a Cub Scout meeting. Having been a Boy Scout himself, Jeff was interested for his son. Jeff recalled that there was one leader and four kids and they were all moving up. “If no one stepped up, Pack 922 would

have closed,” he said. So Jeff and his wife, Vicky, stepped up to become the Tiger Cub Den Leaders. After the first year, he took over as Cubmaster. “I have a way of being able to talk to people. I talked to the other fathers about helping to take over the Den and I recruited more kids. We have more than 30 scouts now,” Jeff explained, adding that it is now the largest Pack in Orange and that is in just five years.

During that time, the Pack also lost Peck PTA as their charter organization, so Jeff approached the Orange Volunteer Fire Department to be their Charter Organization. “I am not an Orange volunteer fireman but I do help them with their website and computers, Jeff said, adding “It turns out that Chief Gagel is an Eagle Scout.”

Jeff has gone on to take leadership courses through the BSA and has earned what is called the “Wood Badge” after taking a 1 ½ year long leadership course. Now he is helping to teach the course. “Scouting keeps you very busy but what you get back from the boys is what it is all about. When we have the Blue & Gold Dinner where the boys graduate to the next level of scouting and you see the boys' faces when they realize what they have accomplished, it is very rewarding.”

Jeff also volunteers on the Orange Country Fair Committee. He is responsible for the website and works the food tent as well as helping with set up and break down. “If people don't volunteer, there won't be these events,” Jeff said. He recently became part of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) explaining that “CERT is there to help the community. Everyone should be part of CERT at some point.”

Jeff is also on the Orange Board of Education. He became interested in politics in elementary school when he did a report on the Presidential Campaign. A chance meeting at the Orange Town Pool with Board of Education member Keith Marquis piqued Jeff's interest and he began attending the Orange Republican Town Committee meetings. “I was not necessarily interested in running for office. At one meeting they asked for volunteers to run for office so I thought about it and decided to run,” he explained. “I care about the kids. I don't want to see the kids not have something they should.” Jeff added, “There is something special



PHOTO BY JODY DIETCH

Jeff Cap.

about Orange, from the carnival to the Country Fair, the landscape is unique from Route 1 to the beautiful neighborhoods.”

Now in the beginning of his second term on the OBOE, Jeff is secretary of the Board, Chair of the Technology Committee and Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. As chair of Building and Grounds, Jeff has been instrumental in the current issues facing the BOE and the condition of its buildings. In regards to Peck Place School, Jeff said, “Our goal is to make sure the kids go back to a safe and clean school, and that includes my own kids.”

He went on to explain that the OBOE made the decision to abate the whole school once it was learned that part of Peck had to be abated after a pipe broke in January. Despite the heat being turned up at the school during a frigid cold snap and the buildings being checked regularly, a pipe in the ceiling that went through an un-insulated cinder block, burst and flooded a portion of the school. The flood caused some of the floor tiles to come up and it was discovered that the adhesive used on the floor years ago was asbestos thus requiring an abatement of that area. However, the OBOE decided that if they had to displace the students for an extended period of time, the entire school should be abated to eliminate any future issues. Jeff added “with the students moved out to the Yale West Campus, it gives the

OBOE an opportunity to address previous problems properly.”

As chair of Building and Grounds, Jeff said they do plan on accomplishing everything on the “To Do List” including the parking lot at Peck. However, the parking lot cannot be done until all of the other work is complete so the large trucks do not damage a new parking lot. “The committee has major capital improvements to be budgeted for. There is a five year plan and that really hasn't changed based on Peck but the OBOE needs to get the funding to accomplish our goals. The zero percent OBOE budgets have made it difficult to get the funding to maintain our buildings,” Jeff explained.

Regarding the mold issue, Jeff said, “It is important for people to know it was a trash can with food mold that was not properly dispensed at the end of the school year. That issue has been addressed at this point.”

Being a volunteer means your family suffers a little bit, Jeff explained. “You definitely have less time with your family, however through scouting I have been able to get some of that time back. I think it has brought me closer to my kids.” He explained, with the OBOE, “it is about all the kids. Orange is great because, for the most part, everyone looks out for everyone else's kids. I have met so many people and it is worth every minute.”