

Annual Town Report

For the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/14



Orange, Connecticut

www.orange-ct.gov

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TOWN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

TOWN HALL

(617 Orange Center Road)

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

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

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

HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER

(525 Orange Center Road)

Park & Recreation

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

Community Services

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

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

THE CLARK BUILDING

(605A Orange Center Road)

Orange Visiting Nurse Association

203-891-4752 Fax 203-891-2169

Orange Economic Development Corp.

203-891-1045 Fax 203 - 891-1044

Family Counseling Services/Bridges

203-795-6698/203-878-6356

Orange Drug/Alcohol Action Committee

203-891-4701 Fax 203-891-2169

Orange Chamber of Commerce

203-795-3328 Fax 203-795-5926

OTHER TOWN SITES

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

SCHOOLS

Orange Board of Education 637 Orange Center Road, Orange.....203-891-8020
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 Fred Trotta, 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 Joan Kreiger
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 Carmela Apuzzo
Registrar of Voters – Republican Mary DeVito
Sanitarian Brian Slugoski, R.S.
School Superintendent Amity District #5 Charles Dumais
School Superintendent Elementary Schools Lynn McMullin
School Business Administrator Mary Jo Sierakowski
State Representative 114th Assembly District Themis Klarides
State Representative, 117th Assembly District Paul Davis
State Representative, 119th Assembly District..... James Maroney
State Senator, 14th 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 Mirro, Esq.
Town Committee Chairman - Democratic..... Trish Pearson
Town Committee Chairman - Republican Nancy Nastro
Treasurer Arthur B. Williams, III
Tree Warden (Assistant)..... Don Foyer, Sr.
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)
Fred Kendrick (11/15)-alternate

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION

Walter Clark, IV, Chairman (11/17) Paul Kaplan (11/16) Ralph Aschettino (11/15)
Judy Smith-Morgan (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) Karen deFur-Maxwell (11/17)
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 Grasso, Jr. (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

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

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)

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)

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 (10/14) Lisa Zarny (10/14) James Ronai (12/15)
Chuck Stackpole (10/14) James O'Connor (12/15) Stephen Bospuda (12/15)
Linda Kantor (10/14) 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)
Fred Trotta (12/15) Timothy Smith (12/15) John Barton (12/15)
Lynn McMullin (12/15)

ORANGE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION (OGAT)

Sol Silverstein, Chairman (12/17) Gary DelPiano (12/15) Dennis Marsh (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 (10/14) Bruce Lindsay (10/14)
Cameron Pirc (10-15)

Don Foyer, Sr., Assistant Tree Warden

COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF VETERAN'S GRAVES

Anthony Monaco, Chairman (3/15) Peter MacDonald (3/15) Richard Manley (3/15)

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Robert Kleffmann, Chairman (2/17) Michael Visnic (2/15) 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)
John Belfonti (12/13) William Perfetto (12/15) James Ewen (12/13)
Diana Ross (12/15) R. Scott Allen, Enforcement Officer

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Noah Eisenhandler, Chairman (12/15) Pat Panza (12/16) Kenneth Gambardella (12/17)
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
First Selectman James M. Zeoli	Joseph Lembo	Robert DeFeo

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)	Officer Michael Kosh, Dare Officer
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 (1/15)	Robert Mirto (1/15)	Andrew Steinbrick (1/15)
Robert Gagne (1/15)	Mary Jewell (1/15)	Donald Jewell (1/15)
George Geane 1/15)	Al Pol (1/15)	Richard Manley (1/15)
Lynn McMullin (1/15)	James Marena (1/15)	Al deCant (1/15)
John S. Sullivan (1/15)	John P. Sullivan (1/15)	Ronald Wachter (1/15)
Frederick O'Brien (1/15)	Richard Hoin (1/15)	Mark Sandillo (1/15)

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Denise Stein (1/15)

OPEN SPACE SEARCH COMMITTEE

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

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

First Selectman James Zeoli	Selectman Ralph Okenquist	Selectman Kenneth E. Lenz
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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 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 2014 THROUGH OCTOBER 2015

- September 2014.....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, 2013 to
Sept.30, 2014.....Supplementary List for motor vehicles purchased in this period will become
due on January 1, 2015.
- 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 18 Saturday elector session for new voters – 10 a.m. –2 p.m.
- October 28 Cut off date for admission of electors for 18 year old residents and for
residents of a municipality who moved on or before October 30, 2014.
Session from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Nov. 1 to March 15... ..Applications for those eligible for energy assistance.
- November 3..... Limited session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for Admission of Electors – only
those qualified since October 30, 2014.
- November 4 Gubernatorial Election - polls open 6:00 a.m. - close at 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2015..... 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 2.....Last day to pay second installment of 2013 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.
- AprilAnnual Budget Hearing.
- May.....Combined Annual Town Meeting and Budget Meeting.
- May 15.....Elderly renters may start applying for tax relief under Sec. 12-170a through
September 15.
- May 15.....Last day for homeowners to file elderly relief applications.
- June 1 - 30.....Dog Licenses due and payable at the Town Clerk's Office. All dogs six
months old and older must be licensed. Owners must submit rabies
vaccination certificate to obtain license.
- June 30.....Last day to pay dog licenses without penalty.
- July 1, 2015.....First installment of Grand List 10/1/14 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 3.....Last day to pay taxes without interest for the taxes due July 1, 2015 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 fiscal year of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, we impounded 55 cats/dogs, redeemed/adopted out 45 animals, euthanized 8, and 746 dogs were licensed at the City Clerk's Office. In addition, we fielded numerous questions from residents regarding wildlife and provided them with direction on contacting Wildlife Removers, Police Department or Public Works. Our Pet Food Bank is open to the Residents of Orange and several families have participated. In our efforts to reduce the feral cat population, and with the assistance of the residents of Orange we have trapped, spayed/neutered and re-released numerous cats in the Prindle Hill Area and continue to assist in the Bull Hill Lane area of 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 one hundred fifteen cases from appellants concerning the October 1, 2012 grand list. A summary of the April 2013 appeals is as follows:

Residential	79
Commercial	31
Business Personal Property	<u>5</u>
Total Appeals	115

Out of one hundred fifteen appeals filed, eighty-one were granted relief and thirty-four were denied.

Real Estate

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

Appeals granted	pre BAA	post BAA	difference
78	51,740,200	48,294,480	-3,445,720

Business personal property

The total loss in assessed value, incurred through three appeals, relative to the business personal property section of the 2012 grand list equaled -10,050.

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 2013-2014, the ZBA approved three petitions

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The following displays the computations for the October 1, 2012 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 2012 grand list was filed with the Town Clerk on February 28, 2013. Impact notices were sent to all taxable real property owners on March 6, 2013, and this informational report was also submitted on March 6, 2013 for your perusal.

Phase-in and Public Act 09-60 and the October 1, 2012 Grand List

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

The October 1, 2012 grand list reflects real estate assessment values, as determined by Vision Governmental Solutions Inc., as of October 1, 2012. These assessment values will replace the frozen phase-in values used for the last four years.

Tax exempt

The tax exempt real estate section of the October 1, 2012 grand list decreased from 170,619,700 to 147,958,200 based on the Vision assessment values. This constitutes a decline of **-13.282 %**. Prior year assessments were based on October 1, 2006 assessment values

Gross Grand List Taxable

The gross taxable grand list reflects the total of all gross assessments of taxable accounts and is prior to deducting all statutory exemptions and *phase-in exemptions*. *This total excludes tax exempt real estate*. The gross taxable grand list for October 1, 2012 before adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals **1,909,786,468 or a decrease of -14.01 percent**, when compared to the October 1, 2011 gross taxable grand list before corrections from the Board of Assessment Appeals which equaled **2,223,429,335**.

The real estate section of 2011 grand list was based on assessments derived from October 1, 2006.

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 phase-in is also stated as an exemption in the Town of Orange's administrative software system and in this presentation for the 2011 grand list.* The general revaluation, effective October 1, 2012, rescinds the phase-in exemptions.

The total exemptions, *excluding phase-in*, for the October 1, 2012 grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals equaled **13,840 250** an increase of 3,126,640, when compared to the total exemptions posted, *excluding phase-in*, for October 1, 2011 grand list which was 10,713,610, The increase in exemptions, *excluding phase-in*, was attributed to an increase in non- reimbursable manufacture's exemptions which are located in the business personal property section of the grand list.

Phase-in Exemptions

The exemption amount attributed to the phase-in for the October 1, 2011 grand list before Board of Assessment Appeals equaled 427,631,608. The general revaluation, effective October 1, 2012, rescinds all phase-in exemptions.

Net Grand List –Growth Estimate

The net grand list is the sum of all taxable assessments after exemptions. Since the phase-in was effect, this section of the grand list report presents the October 1, 2012 net grand list, before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals, to illustrate **taxable growth**. Please note that **2011 grand list net real estate without the phase in** was based on seventy percent of real estate values established on **October 1, 2006**. The October 1, 2012 net grand list displayed a **decrease of -14.315 percent** as compared with the October 1, 2011 net grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals. This decline was attributable to the decline in real estate values from the prior revaluation conducted in 2006 The following compares the 2012 net grand list, before Board of Assessment Appeals, and the 2011 net grand list, **prior to phase-in** and before adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2012 GRAND LIST</u>	<u>2011 grand list</u>	<u>% change</u>
net real estate with out phase in	1,662,880,910	1,999,145,950	-0.168204347
net motor vehicles	126,961,121	122,393,530	0.037318893
net business personal property	<u>106,104,187</u>	<u>91,176,245</u>	0.163726221
net grand list with out phase in	1,895,946,218	2,212,715,725	-0.1431587

The 2012 net taxable grand list and 2011 phase-in net taxable Grand list

The net taxable grand list is the section of the grand list upon which taxes are based. Since the Town of Orange is scheduled to implement the October 1, 2012 revaluation, the following comparison comprises a match between the net taxable grand lists for the October 1, 2012 Grand List and the 2011 net taxable grand list in PA 09-60 format. The October 1, 2012 revaluation effectively ends the phase-in.

The following compares the 2012 net taxable grand list and the 2011 net taxable grand list in PA 09-60 format, as amended, prior to adjustments for Board of Assessment Appeals:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2012 grand list</u>	<u>2011 net grand list</u>	<u>%CHANGE</u>	<u>change</u>
	no phase-in	PA 09-06		
net real estate	1,662,880,910	1,571,514,342	0.058139188	91,366,568
net motor vehicle	126,961,121	122,393,530	0.037318893	4,567,591
net business personal property	106,104,187	<u>91,176,245</u>	0.163726221	14,927,942
<u>total net phase-in grand list</u>	<u>1,895,946,218</u>	<u>1,785,084,117</u>	0.062104693	110,862,101

The 2012 revalued net taxable grand list **increased by 6.210 percent**, when compared to the 2011 net taxable phase in grand list, before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Real Estate

The net taxable real estate section of 2012 grand list posted an increase of *only 5.81 percent reflecting the net effect of the decline in property values from October 1, 2006 via the poor economy. The current real estate assessments were derived by Vision Governmental Solutions Inc., as of October 1, 2012.*

Motor Vehicle

The net taxable motor vehicle section of this net taxable grand list **increased by 3.731 percent** as compared with totals posted for 2011. The value of newly registered current model year passenger cars were more than enough to off set the accrued depreciation from recurring vehicles.

As in past years, vehicle values were derived from the *NADA Official Used Car Guide New England edition.*

Business Personal Property

This section of the grand list **increased by 16.37 percent** when compared with totals posted in 2011. The 2012 net taxable business personal property section reflects added assessments from the United Illuminating projects.

As in past years, performance trends are enclosed for each section of the grand list together with the allocation of the 2012 net grand list devoid of phase-in. The top 10 taxpayers for 2012 are also included in **non phase-in** format.

In addition, a spreadsheet detailing the reconciliation of the 2012 grand list to the 2011 grand list has been included for your perusal.

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 2013-2014, the Building Department building permits issued, totaled 382, and mechanical, electric and plumbing permits issued, totaled 829. The total construction value was \$39,613,284.

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 2015 Short Term Capital Projects. The committee met several times reviewing those inputs and subsequently recommended projects for inclusion in the annual Town Operating Budget. The following projects totaling \$349,800 were approved by the Board of Finance: Front End Loader for Public Works, Renovation of the High Plains East Wing Bathrooms and Vents, Renovation of Detention Cells at the Police Department, Security Fencing at the Police Department, and Interior Repairs at the Library. In addition, a total of \$223,150 was approved by the Board of Finance for repairs at the elementary schools as requested by the Orange Board of Education.

TOWN CLERK

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

Amity Bond Referendum Sept. 24, 2013 \$945,000 Football Stadium Artificial Turf; referendum failed.

Municipal Election November 5, 2013

First Selectman	Zeoli	3180
	Lenz	1718

There was approximately a 48.5% voter turnout.

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

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

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

Amity Operating Budget FY14-15	5-06-14	\$46,047,862	passed
Town Operating Budget FY14-15	5-20-14	\$63,277,311	passed

The Annual Town Meeting was held May 8, 2014 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 1st and Jan 1st. Selectman Williams made a motion to amend the motion for a single payment of taxes on motor vehicles on July 1st, 2014 passed by hand vote. 3) To discontinue a no name right of way between Taft Rd. and Alling Rd.; passed by hand vote. 4) The budget for FY 14-15, prepared by the Board of Finance, was presented and deferred to a machine vote referendum, which was held on May 20, 2014.

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

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Births	81	95	109
Deaths	142	133	160
Marriages (issued)	41	55	55

Town Revenues	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
Marriage	605.00	605.00
Recording Fees	86,807.00	71,668.00
Conveyance	186,113.28	280,256.62
Dog License	2,850.00	2,785.00
Miscellaneous/Copies	11,228.91	7,928.15
Vital	9,760.00	10,736.00
Historic Preservation	2,905.00	1,849.00
LOCIP	8,715.00	5,547.00

It should be noted that fees of 377 deeds were impacted by a new state laws 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 \$4,000, which was used to allow the public access to the land records.

Pursuant to P.A. 13-34, 1st 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.

I hosted a Freedom of Information Training session on May 21, 2014. Thomas Hennick the F.O.I.C. public liaison was the guest speaker; all board, commission and town employees were invited.

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.

After nine years of service, Tracy Benedetto transferred to the Building Department; best wishes in her new career.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Department has been delivering an array of services to the residents of Orange for 34 years. The Department offers a wide range of services, programs and activities for youth, families, seniors and persons with disabilities. Programs are administered by Senior Services, Elderly Outreach/Municipal Agent, Youth Services and our Special Transportation Service. Behavioral Health Services are provided through Orange Family Counseling staffed by contract with Bridges Inc. with services offered at the main branch of Bridges in Milford and a satellite office in Orange. Orange Community Services has a Food Bank that stocks a wide variety of non perishable items and provides grocery gift cards which are available to residents who are finding it difficult to make ends meet with limited resources. Residents, local businesses and civic organizations help keep the Food Bank stocked. This past Spring Orange Community Services Director and Elderly Outreach/Municipal Agent were interviewed by WPLR radio station in collaboration with the Boy Scouts who donated a portion of the food from their local Food Drive. Also, through collaboration with Snyder Foods and Beth El Center, Community Services received food donations of snacks, bread, and various other items to distribute. In addition, local businesses and residents who participated in the Post Office food drive helped tremendously to keep the Food Bank well stocked. In addition, The Department continues to partner with the Church of the Good Sheppard providing Wednesday lunches at the Church. The Department has a Community Assistance Fund which primarily assists residents with fuel needs who meet certain criteria and are not eligible for other fuel assistance programs. The Community Assistance Fund continues to operate solely through the generosity of local businesses, civic organizations and residents. The Tracy Bunch Program continues to provide social activities for adults with special needs Monday evenings. Community Services continues collaboration with Institute of Learning and Retirement who offered classes to seniors. Twenty two residents utilized the monthly Free Legal Clinic sponsored by Attorneys Floman and DiPaola. One hundred and twenty eight dinners were served by Orange Lions Club at their 18th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the public. Community Services has a Holiday Basket Project and an Adopt a Family Project that partners local residents, organizations and merchants to donate dinner 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 Project and twenty families and thirteen children in need were recipients of the Adopt a Family Project. A special thank you to the staff, the, merchants, civic organizations, commissions, and volunteers whose generosity, time and support is greatly appreciated. Community Services Special Transportation component completed its 29th year of operation .The Transportation Program provides rides in Orange and surrounding locations for seniors age 55 and older and disabled persons for medical appointments, shopping, special events, to the Senior Center and other personal errands as time allows. This year there were an estimated 3200 rides with donations of

\$3231.00. The Department will purchase the three used vehicles previously leased through Greater New Haven Transit. In late June 2014 the Community Services Department received notice that they are a recipient of a 2014-2015 Federal Department of Transportation Grant administered by the State Department of Transportation. The grant will be used towards the purchase of a new 12 passenger wheel chair accessible vehicle with a lift for the Department's Special Transportation Service with delivery in fiscal year 2015.

ELDERLY OUTREACH, MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Energy Assistance

The office of the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent is an intake sight for the State of CT Energy Assistance program and Operation Fuel. There were 127 inquires into the Energy Assistance program, 90 Applications for Fuel Assistance through TEAM and 19 referrals to Operation Fuel, a private non profit agency.

Community Assistance Fund There were 14 requests for fuel assistance through the Community Assistance Fund.

Food Bank

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 188 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 2013, the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent attended the ABC's of Medicare, Financial Abuse of the Elderly and Connecticare Medicare Advantage Presentation. In November attended a Medicare Presentation by United Healthcare. In December, it was the Area Agency on Aging – Elderly Nutrition. In March 2014 attended marketing with Constellation Home Care, Alzheimer's Conference and Maplewood Social Worker Appreciation and in June attended training on Durable Medical Equipment.

Print Media

The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent writes a monthly column for the Orange Town News. The column has covered the Low Vision, TRIAD, and Exercise, Scams, Nutrition and Great Web Sites, Calls for Food Bank donations along with current happenings at Community Services.

Handyman Skills Bank

The 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.

TRIAD

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

Client Contacts

The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent had contact with 1307 different persons and made 1,268 referrals to area programs. Programs referred to were: 78 Title 19, 40 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps), 51 Elderly Nutrition Program, 77 homecare assistance, 50 Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program, 91 Transportation, 26 Housing, and 22 Medicare. 255 referrals to various other resources and programs for assist with but not limited to: Handyman program, Friendly Visitor/Phone Reassurance program, finances, medical, housing, safety, long-term care /homecare options and counseling.

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. Membership increased from 2,496 at the end of FY 2012-13 to 2,707 at the end of FY 2013-14, an increase of 211 people.

Three town residents were honored at the annual Pasta Festa! Fundraiser as Living Treasures. 259 people attended the event. It raised over \$2,382.86 for the Senior Center. The annual summer cookout was attended by 157 seniors in August, 2013. The Senior Center arranged for many day, overnight, and longer trips, including a 10 day trip to Ireland, 10 day trip to Italy, 7 day trip to South Dakota, 3 day trip to Saratoga Raceway, an overnight trip to Mohegan Sun, Tanglewood, Lobster Bash, Block Island, Waterfire in RI, Big E, Oktoberfest, Leaf theme Mystery trip, Lions Sleeps Tonight Show, 911 Memorial, Christmas with "Kenny & Dolly", Christmas with the Dickens, UCONN Women's Basketball @ Rutgers, CT Flower Show, Westchester Theater – Ragtime, Dublin City Ramblers St. Patrick Show, Broadway Shows – Kinky Boots & Motown the Musical, The Ride in NY, Connie Francis Tribute Show, and Suffolk Downs.

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

Classes and activities are offered to exercise and stretch the body, mind, and spirit including yoga, yoga dance, tai chi, watercolor painting, painting & drawing, computers, bridge lessons, zumba gold, fitness, tap dancing, line dancing, and chair exercise. Some new classes added this year are a Senior Center Chorus, and ballroom dance. We also continued a very successful informal monthly event called Teen Tech Talk. Amity High Schools students from Or Shalom offer one-on-one training to seniors on how to operate their iPads, iPhones, and laptops. We added social group meetings – Money Management, a Book Club, Wellness Seminars, and an informal i-Club.

The Senior Center changed its focus with Lunch and Learn to Lunch & Fun. The focus shift was from educational speakers to speakers and entertainers focusing on fun topics. The Afghan Ladies continue to make Afghans for foster children. 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 33 vendors and which drew over 200 people. The event rose over \$1,226 for the Community Assistance Fund. The center offered a Holiday Market for the second time this fiscal year. We had 24 vendors and each donated an item for the Pasta Festa raffle. The event rose over \$321 for the Community Assistance Fund.

A hot lunch provided by the Elderly Nutrition Program of FSW is served daily in the senior café. During the fiscal year 2013-2014 – 3,862 meals were served, the program was operational for 212 days; \$6,889.25 was raised through donations at an average of \$28.35 per day.

YOUTH SERVICES

Through fiscal year 2013-14 Youth Services incorporated various programs and events with participation by approximately eight hundred youths collectively. Youth Services again assisted the Art in the Library Committee by coordinating with Orange Elementary and Kindergarten schools the 6th Annual Children of Orange K-6 Art Exhibit at Case Library. Students exhibited their art work and over one-hundred and fifty parents attended a reception. The Job Bank assisted youth in gaining employment with area residents and job opportunities were provided to members. Three 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. The Middle School 7th and 8th grades attended three dances and parent chaperones assisted as well. Through an Enhancement grant provided by the State Department of Education to Youth Service Bureaus three programs were provided to Orange youth: Artist Colonies of drawing and watercolors taught by professional artists; an Anti- Defamation League “Building a School of Allies” training and workshops for hundreds of Middle School students in regard issues of bullying; and two e-Parenting series held at High Plains in regard topics of bullying and another on parent social media concerns and computer use safety. The Living History Club composed of senior citizens provided students with first-hand knowledge of world events that they had experienced in their lives. The State Department of Education Youth Service Bureau Grant, State Department of Education Enhancement Grant and Summaries, and Individual Services Report were completed for the fiscal year. An incoming seventh grade picnic was held welcoming the new class. The Intergenerational Tutoring program offered students one-to-one tutorial assistance weekly being tutored by senior citizens. Also, two babysitting classes were held. Students received course instruction/materials as well as First Aid certification and lunch. Amity High School students worked with Youth Services as volunteers for school credits assisting at local events. Youth Services utilized a variety of publicity options in regard programming and events. Monthly meetings were attended by Coordinator with organizations such as Orange Family Counseling, and Youth Services Advisory Board. Youth Services utilized area merchants for events and received discounted prices.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Maintenance:

- THP parking lot original design from Milone & MacBroom has been modified and accepted. The modified design was presented to the B. Hiza to determine what portion of the design can be completed by Public Works.
- Three owl-nesting boxes were built and installed at the Ewen Preserve. One wood duck box is complete and will be installed in early spring at THP.
- A number of downed trees over the trail were removed from THP.
- Repaired damaged bridge railing at HBCA.
- The damaged Ewen Preserve sign on Lambert Rd., has been returned to the supplier for repair
- Workday held in October at Ewen Preserve cleared approximately three hundred feet of brush from the stone wall.

Education:

- Conservation commission consultant, Mike Ross in conjunction with the Connecticut Science Museum will be heading a 3-day spring science pilot program for Turkey Hill School integrating the outdoor environment at THP as learning resources reporting the k-5 curriculum.
- Ten backpacks containing learning materials will be provided to the various local school libraries. The purpose of these backpacks will be to encourage children and their parents in exploring our open spaces and available on first come first serve basis for a two week period.

Events:

- A reception honoring the work of volunteers was held at Camp Cedarcrest in October
- The first annual “owl prowl” was held in November at the Ewen Preserve with 38 attendees. Audubon Society representative provided narrative and identified at least three different screech owls.
- The first photo contest was held with four people, John Wesolowski, Tamara Ketchian, Priya Aggarwal and Stephanie Durkee participating. The pictures will be displayed in Town Hall.
- Connecticut Trail Days was held in June 7th at Housatonic Overlook
- The commission sponsored guided walks for Mary L. Tracy kindergarten and Earth Day for Race Brook Elementary School

Scout Projects:

- Eagle Scout Will Ruddell, with help from his troop, completed a shelter at Racebrook Tract that can be used for rest area, cross-country skiing and open classroom.
- Eagle Scout Himay Dharani completed a picnic enclosure and table at Howard Brooks Conservation area (HBCA)
- A future Eagle Scout project completed in Power Point was presented to scout leader J. Wesolowski that reroutes trail through sensitive areas and creates bridge crossings at THP.

Information:

- The conservation commission has created a website and can be accessed at Orangetconservationcommission.com
- An app for trail maps has been created in conjunction with the Park Department and can be accessed at www.MyTownTrails.com

TOWN COUNSEL

General Matters

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

Zoning and Litigations Matters

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

ORANGE DRUG ALCOHOL ACTION COMMITTEE (ODAAC)

ODAAC (Orange Drug/Alcohol Action Committee) serves the Amity area as the Local Prevention Council (LCP) for Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge, as designated by the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The mission of the committee is to educate the residents of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge about the roll that “prevention” plays in leading healthy lifestyles. The highlight of the FY 13-14 was a community-wide event hosted by ODAAC, on March 20, 2014 entitled *A Community Conversation* for the residents of Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany. It was held at the Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange, CT and attended by nearly 50 members of the three communities, representing parents, teachers, law enforcement, behavioral and social health professionals, prevention advocates and concerned citizens. The day included large and small group exercises and four breakout sessions that brainstormed around the important issues of stress, domestic violence, bullying, and risky behavior. An ODAAC committee member facilitated each group and each of the groups was charged with defining the issues most important to their theme, and creating action plans to mobilize community members toward a Healthy Community. The response to the event was overwhelmingly positive, and set the groundwork for future follow-up events. Through endeavors such as these, ODAAC supports the efforts of drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevent initiatives in our community through funding as granted by a partnership with the Valley Substance Abuse Action Committee and BH Care. Additionally, members of the ODAAC committee attended and received certification in mental health first aid and tobacco education, and continue to establish relationships with other groups to promote prevention messages.

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 2013-2014 Fiscal Year, this partnership carried out several development activities which make up the Town of Orange's Economic Development program.

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

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

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

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

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

The Orange Economic Development Commission has been a key driver of the Annual Orange Business & Community Exposition. The Expo, which was held on June 18, 2014 at the High Plains Community, saw the participation of over 450 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.

During the 2014 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 16 new businesses opened their doors as compared to the 8 business closing that occurred during the year. In recent years, the Town of Orange benefited from new business expansions at Aurora Products and The United Illuminating Company. Although, there were no significant new property developments in 2014, that doesn't mean progress has stopped. In 2014, we saw vacancy rates drop to their lowest levels. For example: In March of 2014 Retail Vacancy Rates dropped to 3.53%; In June 2014 Industrial Vacancy Rates fell to 1.09% and in September 2014, Total Vacancy came in at 3.38%.

The full length of the Edison Road was officially opened as the project was completed. The road now connects Marsh Hill Road to Edison Road, opening up 70+ acres of land for future economic development.

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

AMITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

The Regional School District No. 5 was incorporated in 1953 to 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. Enrollment, teacher/student ratio, improved student performance on state-mandated tests, curriculum initiatives, health and safety needs in each facility and future capital plans drive the budget. The Superintendent convenes meetings with district leaders to seek input regarding the needs of the entire district. 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 to hear input from residents of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. All three towns vote on the budget at referendum in May.

Amity Regional High School

Centrally located in the Town of Woodbridge, Amity Regional High School enrolls over 1,600 students in grades 9-12. Amity High School has been recognized by the CT State Department of Education and Governor Malloy as one of only nine high schools to earn the designation, *Connecticut School of Distinction*. *Us News 2014 Annual Rankings* of America's 31,242 public high schools, including magnet and charter schools, indicate that Amity ranks #23 in Connecticut, #712 nationally. Additionally, the high school ranks #15 in Connecticut according to a new national study called the *Most Challenging High Schools In America* conducted by *The Washington Post*.

Academically, Amity Regional High School provides a wide range of learning opportunities including several Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Our Career and Technical Education Department offers an extensive array of courses. Over 94% of Amity graduates attend two and four-year colleges after graduation. This past spring, the Theatre Arts Department performances of *In The Heights* garnered 16 nominations at the Connecticut Musical Theatre Awards Program. Amity High School's Interscholastic Athletes continued strong performances.

Amity Middle School – Orange Campus

Amity Middle School-Orange operates on a middle school team organization. This model provides students in grades seven and eight with a more integrated and organized learning experience. Community service is an important theme at Amity Middle School-Orange. One such example of community service is *Giving Hair and Hope* that supports two charities – 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 85.3% at or above goal in science scoring #7 out of nineteen comparison school districts. 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 students, staff, and Board of Education experienced a difficult but rewarding 2013 - 2014 school year, one characterized by significant obstacles, yet an amazing degree of positive momentum.

Peck Place faced environmental challenges all year, beginning with a common mold remediation in the summer of 2013 and followed by a flood recovery from January to late August 2014. If we are to focus on silver linings, we'd have to appreciate the two weeks that the Peck children and teachers spent 'camped-in' with their Turkey Hill and Race Brook neighbors while a new school was located. We would have to fondly remember the time the Peck children and staff spent at Yale, their field trips to the Yale School of Nursing, and their 6th grade graduation under the Yale University tent. We would have to celebrate the 'improved' Peck Place School with a new roof, floors, ceilings, lighting, univents, and cabinets. Certainly, Peck is lighter, brighter, cleaner and ready to face the next 15 - 20 years in style.

The district undertook significant facilities projects at the other schools as well, making the summer of 2014 a 'summer of construction.' We installed support columns in 18 classrooms at Turkey Hill, as well as a new boiler and roof. We abated the corridor at Race Brook and installed a new non-skip ramp. Race Brook also got a new boiler, roof, and improvements to the playground. At Mary L. Tracy, we replaced the crumbling stairs, sidewalks, and curbing.

All four schools now feature double entrances, or 'sally-ports' and video surveillance cameras for improved security. In addition, all classrooms have new door locks.

While the facilities seemingly dominated our attention, the teachers and staff accomplished their own amazing feat with the implementation of the new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans. Each teacher wrote and implemented five goals: two of them for student achievement, one for the improvement of their own practice, and two for school-wide improvements based on parent and student feedback. In their next annual reports, the principals will share very specific data from this goal-setting process. We designed a custom software program, using *TalentEd*, to automate our process and keep track of our employee performance data.

Math Expressions was in its second year of implementation, and the three elementaries continued with their implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports), the foremost program for teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviors. The migration to the *Journeys* language arts program began in the late spring and is moving our schools forward in the migration to common core state standards, a more rigorous but achievable set of students expectations. Our students piloted the SBAC test in the spring, taking the CMT only in Science; there will be no reporting on the SBAC in its first year. We expanded the applications of *PowerSchool* by adding a standards-based report card and have continued to use our district webpage, *Facebook*, and *SlideShare* to improve communications.

We seem to have weathered our lowest student population, with only 1115 students last year. This summer, with new enrollees, we have 45 more students than anticipated. Our ELL (English Language Learners) population has increased to about 60 students. Whatever the challenges, the Orange staff and families seem able to overcome them and provide the best for our children.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

In July we participated in a Statewide Hurricane Exercise with the state and other towns. When we have warning of an emergency such as a storm we prepare by meeting in advance, opening the EOC, the Shelter at High Plains Community Center and deploying STRIKE TEAMS (OPD, OVFD, Highway Snowplows) throughout the town in strategic locations for advanced coverage should trees go down. This proved to be very advantageous in past storms.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The Orange Community Emergency Response Team is a volunteer group of citizens trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety/suppression, light search and rescue, disaster

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

Total membership is fifty (50). If anyone would like to join please look at our website www.cert-orange.org Everyone should be prepared for disasters in advance: Check the following Websites: www.Getreadycapitolregion.org , Local www.arcsct.org National: www.redcross.org or your telephone book for free Brochures, also www.ready.gov www.FEMA.gov

COUNTRY FAIR

The annual Orange Country Fair was held on September 14 and 15, 2013. The Fair was blessed with excellent weather for both days. This fair has been in continuous existence since 1975. It has grown from a one time event to having celebrated its 39th year.

The Committee works year round to provide two days of activities celebrating the agricultural history of the Town of Orange as well as trying to bring new events for everyone's enjoyment. Activities include horse and oxen draws, tractor and doodlebug pulls, pig racing, 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 a big success this year.

Proceeds from past fairs go towards improvements on the buildings and grounds. The committee continues to investigate into new lighting systems for both the exhibit hall and museum buildings. Repairs and new equipment were purchased for the main food pavilion.

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 our 40th 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, 2015 was approved by the voters in May of 2014. 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, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014, the Orange Fire Marshal's Office activity statistics are:

Inspection, Enforcement and Investigation Statistics:

Fire Code Inspections which includes initial and re-inspection activities	724
State Fire Safety Code violations discovered and cited during inspections	1687
State Fire Safety Code violations that were corrected after being cited	1397
Review of building plans for State Fire Code compliance	161
Fire origin and cause investigations	31
Other activities, such as meetings, consultations, training classes, etc	410
Total permits issued	127
Homes visited where smoke/CO alarms were installed	263
Total Smoke alarms installed/ distributed	775
Total CO alarms installed/ distributed	505
Total alarms provided and/or installed as part of Federal Grant	1280

Town Fire Incident Response Statistics:

Fires, including buildings, vehicles, and outdoor property	55
Hazardous Condition responses	88
Rescue calls	12
False alarms	194
Other types of responses	112

Total Fire Responses for the Fiscal Year:	461
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Of the 461 fire calls answered by the Orange Volunteer Fire Association for this fiscal period, there were 55 fires that included structures, vehicles, and brush. These fires caused a total of \$49,340 in property damage. Statistics indicated that 42% of the total fire calls were false activated fire alarms, mostly due to system malfunctions caused by a lack of maintenance. If you own a fire alarm system either in your home or business, annual testing and maintenance is vital to ensure proper operation and to reduce the number of false alarms. Through a FEMA grant and funding from various civic groups our office, in conjunction with the Orange Vol. Fire Association, we are continuing the smoke/ CO alarm installation program for Orange residents. If you need smoke or CO alarms for your home, our staff can provide and/or install them **free of charge**. To participate in this program, please contact our office at 203-891-4711, or email via www.orangefiremarshal.com. Help us protect your family by installing smoke/ CO alarms!!

ORANGE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. remains the sole provider for 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 volunteers. The men and women firefighters take pride in the department and in their training.

The department recruits men and women from Orange and neighboring towns. Members must attain Firefighter 1 status to participate in fire ground activities. The Firefighter 1 course is 200 hours. The cost is \$750 and is paid for by department. Training is an ongoing and vital process in the department. Many members have attained Firefighter 2, Fire Instructor and Fire Officer Certification.

The department maintains a fleet of 4 pumpers, 1 100 foot ladder truck and rescue truck. A committee is in place to replace the pumper. The cost will exceed \$400,000.

For the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 the department responded to 461 alarms.

In March, Chief Charles Gagel stepped down after serving as Chief for the past six years. The town and department thank him for his service. John Knight takes over the position as Chief.

The department maintains two fire stations. The Center Fire Station on Orange Center Road and the Post Road Fire Station. The department pays for all the utilities and the upkeep on these stations.

The department actively pursues grants and has recently been awarded a grant for \$110,000 for the purchase of new turnout gear for firefighters.

Fundraising remains a constant in the department. The members give so much of their free time at the carnival and other fund raising events. The department appreciates 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

Issues brought before the Board of Health this past fiscal year included, but were not limited to the following issues:

- It was reported that a new flu virus surfaced that has a fairly high mortality rate. Plans were already being discussed on the schedule of distribution of the flu vaccine in our town
- The medication distribution system, using pods, under the control of the Quinnipiak Health District, has been changed. This issue was also presented to the Emergency Management Advisory Committee for their consideration.
- The Board was advised that the revised Connecticut Public Health Code now requires that newly appointed directors of health must now have a Master of Public Health Degree.
- At a Region 2 meeting, attended by directors of health, there was much discussion about the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which is a specialized component of Citizen Corps. It is a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security and is a way to localize and utilize medical and non-medical volunteers who would respond to emergencies.
- Staff changes occurred this past year as Town Sanitarian, Fred Schumacher, retired after 27 years of dedicated service to the Town. The Board expressed gratitude for all he has done and wished him well in retirement. Brian Slugoski was eventually named to replace him. During the month of November, a new sanitarian, Lori Romick, was hired.
- On three occasions, the Board met with residents of Willard/Garden Road/Beechlawn Terrace to discuss contamination of wells at their homes. After several meetings, representatives of the Connecticut D.E.E.P were contacted to investigate and identify the source of contamination.
- As of May, larviciding for Town properties had already been done on two occasions. It was noted that the West Nile Virus usually appears in the fall.

The Board of Health meets on March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, September 21, October 19 and December 21, 2015 at 7:30 PM at the High Plains Community Center. The public is invited to attend these sessions.

ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

The following is a compilation of the permits and licenses issued by this office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014:

- 86 Subsurface Sewage Disposal Permits
- 1 Well Drilling Permits
- 129 Food Service Establishment Licenses
- 56 Vending/Temporary Food Service/Catering Licenses

The department went through a significant change of personnel with the promotion of Brian Slugoski to Town Sanitarian, and the additions of Lori Romick, Assistant Sanitarian and Lynn Collucci, Secretary

During the recent fiscal year, more than 2,037 field and office activities were performed. Examples of the office and field activities that the Environmental Division conducted include the review of 202 subsurface sewage designs and building addition plans, 516 office conferences, 56 septic system repair/building addition investigations, 149 deep test pit observations, 60 percolation tests, 103 septic system installation inspections, 128 site inspections to evaluate various environmental concerns, 46 complaint investigations, 280 food service inspections, 56 stand pipes monitored to determine seasonal ground water levels, 9 ticks were referred to the Connecticut State Agricultural Experiment Station for the presence of Lyme Disease and 13 school and child day care facilities were inspected. In addition, the Director of Health issued three (3) written orders to abate various violations of the Public Health Code.

Office and field activities in the area of food service had substantially increased. Several food service establishments closed for business while fourteen new establishments opened. Openings included Popeye's, Subway and Dunkin Donuts on the north and southbound rest stops of the Merritt Parkway and the cafeteria at the University of New Haven Graduate School. There was one notice of violation issued by the Director of Health for the closure of a food service establishment.

The incidence of well contamination had increased this past year. The Health Department suggest that homeowners who are still serviced by a well, should test their water a minimum of once a year for basic indicators and potability. For questions and guidance, you can contact our department as well as the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Private Well Program at:http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/24_residential_drinking_water_well_testing.pdf

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 77 years as well as school nurse services. The agency is one of four Municipal VNAs in existence in Connecticut and is thus positioned to respond to the current health care reform initiatives which focus on health promotion and prevention as well as teaching patients to manage their chronic disease so that they can stay out of the hospital and in their homes.

For the second year in a row, the agency was selected as a Homecare Elite “Top 500” agency in the US. The selection criteria used is: patient outcomes, patient satisfaction and financial measures. The agency continues to have the majority of its clinical staff utilizing a computerized medical record or “point of care” system. This allows for communication in “real time” and to allow us to send updates to physicians more easily as well as assist in compliance with regulatory standards.

Our core services remain: skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide and homemaker, social work and nutrition counseling. The agency is staffed with an On Call RN 24/7 to meet urgent needs 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 residents who do not require skilled care but need assistance with personal care in order to remain home.

The agency provides community outreach as part of its mission which includes flu clinics, blood pressure clinics, office visits for residents who are not homebound and require medications which require a nurse to administer, “health chats,” participation with Town agencies and organizations including the Senior Center, 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 1454 students this past school year. A full time school nurse is assigned to each of the four elementary public schools and a part-time nurse to one private elementary school. The role of the school nurse today is very challenging due to the variety of health problems found among the current school population.

Students made over 12,175 visits to the school nurses for minor and major first aid needs, illness complaints, medication administration and blood glucose testing. Screenings were performed for height, weight, hearing, vision, epiclesis (lice) and scoliosis. The school nurses administer flu vaccinations, PPD screening to the BOE staff as well as participate in PPT and 520 conferences, 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 2014.

SILVERBROOK ESTATES

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

We have seated chair exercise weekly and a new Tai Chi program will be implemented soon. Activities have slowed down somewhat due to the major reconstruction going on with the building. Silverbrook Estates was awarded 3.3 million dollars through the Governor's \$30 Million Housing Investment Plan. The funds are overseen by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) and granted to the Town of Orange specifically for Silverbrook in order to make needed major improvements. These improvements include: a new roof, siding, windows, flooring, boilers, hot water system, smoke alarms, HVAC, entry doors, countertops, thermostats, sidewalks and main kitchen updating.

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 COURSES COMMISSION

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

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

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

CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Case Memorial Library enriches the community by providing resources, services and programs that foster a love of reading and inspire imagination, learning, curiosity, and an open exchange of ideas and information. In addition to an outstanding book collection, the Library offers materials such as magazines, audiobooks, e-readers, CDs, DVDs, museum passes, puppets, downloadable books, magazines, and audiobooks, and premium online databases. Last year, more than 101,000 patrons visited the Library and borrowed over 160,000 print, audiovisual, and digital materials. The number of Orange residents that have library cards increased by 4.2%

The Children's Department hosted a wide variety of lively, fun-filled and dynamic activities for all ages. More than 1800 children attended 138 programs that included story hours, puppet shows, special craft workshops, drama activities, sing-alongs, a science-themed Halloween program about potions, films, and a Stuffed Animal Sleepover. In celebration of "Take Your Child to the Library Day," an annual event held in February, children enjoyed a musical performance and scavenger hunt, and saw the debut of The Reading Tree. Children who visit the Library are encouraged to decorate this hand-crafted tree with leaves on which they write their name and favorite book; the leaves serve as recommendations to other children for great books to read. Approximately 200 children participated in the "Dig into Reading" summer reading program.

Adults and teens continue to attend library programs in record numbers. Over the course of the year, 2,904 adults attended 93 versatile programs. The offerings included the perennial favorite book discussions, Oscar-nominated film series, and cooking demonstrations. At new semi-monthly Drop-In Tech Help sessions, Orange residents received one-on-one technology assistance from experienced librarians with everything from Skyping and downloading e-books to learning to text message their grandchildren. "Downton Abbey" fans were treated to an Afternoon Tea, with specialty teas, baked goods, and a screening of the season three finale in preparation for the new season's debut the following evening. This year, 264 teens enjoyed 16 programs including Book Chat Café, an after school book discussion group, a Halloween Improv workshop, and various arts and crafts events, an 87 percent increase in participation from the previous year.

The Library continues its tradition of excellence in information services. Patrons received answers to over 17,000 reference questions and two outstanding new online resources were added to the collection: Zinio Digital Magazines, an online service that allows Orange residents to download digital issues of over 170 popular magazines to their computer, tablet, or mobile device, and Pronunciator, a language learning tool that helps users gain fluency in 80 different languages.

The Friends of the Library excel in their generosity and support. They freely donate their time to promote the growth of the Library as a cultural and educational center. Funds raised at their popular, semi-annual Basement Book Sales helped provide materials, programs, museum passes and other enrichments that directly benefited the Library and the community.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

The Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade were held on Sunday, May 25, 2014. Laurence P. Czajkowski, U.S. Army, Vietnam, Cold and Gulf War era veteran, was the Grand Marshal. Peter J. MacDonald, U.S. Army and Vietnam War veteran was the Chief of Staff. The Honored Veteran this year was Joseph F. Blake, U.S. Army and Korean War era veteran. Philip Grande, Sr., U.S. Army and Vietnam era veteran, was 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, 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 nine marching bands which included Amity Middle School, Amity Senior High School, Beecher Road School from Woodbridge and for the first time ever 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 and Milford's Engine 260.

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 for playing taps at both the opening and closing ceremonies, all news media and lastly the boys and girls who did selected readings and the greeters who handed out the flags and programs during the ceremonies.

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

PARK AND RECREATION

The Orange Park and Recreation Department operated many very successful programs in 2013-14. Our program and swim lesson information is available on our website found at www.orange-ct.gov and click on Recreational Services. The website highlights over 60 activities offered by the department throughout the year. Our Summer Camp programs began on June 24, 2013. All four sessions of our Day Camp program were close to full capacity and all eight weeks of our Traveling Teens program were full. The Mini Camp numbers were stable all summer.

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

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

The Park and Recreation Department has a Director, Assistant Director, Administrative Assistant, Aquatic Supervisor, Park Maintenance Supervisor and Grounds Supervisor.

The following events were again operated successfully in Orange at Town Park and/or community buildings: Orange Town News sponsored Concert series, Independence Day Fireworks, Orange Historical Society Train Show, Memorial Day Parade, Amity Rabies Clinic, Orange Expo for Economic Development, Flag Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Orange Firemen's Carnival, The Orange Country Fair, Green Meadows Farm Cultural Show, the Board of Education Olympic Festival, the Boy Scouts Shakedown 2013, Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, 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 Peck Place School Field Day.

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

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

PENSION BOARD

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

During the year, the Board met with both the Plan investment adviser and Plan actuary to monitor the investment performance of the Defined Benefit Plans and the investment performance and options available under the Defined Contribution Plan. Also during the year, the Board engaged a new custodian for the Defined Benefit Plans.

TOWN PLANNING AND ZONING

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 2013-2014. The Commission reviewed many pertinent issues during the year.

Approvals were granted for the following Site Plan Applications: Popeye's, and Drive-thru, 121 Boston Post Road; Racebrook Estates, LLC, Chinmaya Mission of Fairfield New Haven, Inc., 393 Derby Avenue, (former Legions of Christ); New Haven Islamic Center, 254 Bull Hill Lane; RSVP, 150 Boston Post Road, (formerly Blue Cube Billiards & Lounge); Dunkin' Donuts and Drive-thru, 226 Boston Post Road; Projectfitkid, 500 Boston Post Road; Christ is Alive Lounge & Billiards, 555 Boston Post Road and Northeast Beverage, 32 Robinson Boulevard. Modifications to the Site Plan for UNH, 584 Derby-Milford Road were made.

Approvals were granted for Special Permits to Cynthia R. Visnic, 974 Patricia Court, to construct a pool house/cabana and a 3-car garage; and to Foundation School, 519 Derby-Milford Road, to construct a maintenance garage to store equipment.

The conversion of a single family dwelling for an elderly apartment was allowed for Manuel and Albertina Dinis, 445 Pine Tree Drive and Charles F. Martin, III, 517 Wolcott Lane.

A Subdivision Application was submitted by the Town of Orange to subdivide Town-owned property located off of Old Lambert Road, Red Cedar Road and South Orange Center Road. The proposal is to create a separate parcel for the Silverbrook I Development.

A Moratorium on Production, Distribution & Dispensaries for Medical Marijuana was approved.

Per Section 8-24 Municipal Improvements of the CT General Statutes, review of a request for the discontinuance and to abandon a right of way between Taft Road and Alling Road.

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission held public hearings and workshop meetings as part of the process to adopt a new Plan of Conservation and Development.

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 2013-2014, the Orange Police Department responded to approximately 31,024 calls for service. There were 370 criminal arrests, as well as 2,231 arrests for motor vehicle violations. The Department responded to 992 motor vehicle accidents; 1,375 medical emergencies; 1,469 burglar alarms and 339 larceny investigations. There were 34 burglaries reported. The Department also made 56 arrests for Driving Under the Influence. In 2013, the Department experienced some of the lowest UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) statistics that it has seen in the past forty years.

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

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

The U.S. Attorney's Office recognized Department members for outstanding work.

The Department added an additional Sergeant to the Patrol Division, ensuring adequate road supervision across all shifts. In January, a new School Resource Officer began assignment, spending time in each of the schools including Amity Middle School.

In 2014 the Department expanded its K-9 program by adding its first ever narcotics detection dog to the force. The dog was purchased through drug asset forfeiture funds awarded to the Department from previous investigations and prosecutions. The Department also partnered with the Milford Police Department, as well as several other area departments, to purchase a state of the art virtual training simulator. The simulator is the same type used by the United States military, and offers virtual training for building critical firearms and decision making skills when dealing with adversaries.

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 and Tip-A-Cop event to raise money 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, as a consolidated court, has been successfully operated by Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas since January 5, 2011. The community of Orange is now served by a full-time court.

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

	FYE 06/30/2010 (pre-court consolidation)	FYE 06/30/2013	FYE 06/30/2014
Decedent estate matters	187	939	1379
Trust matters	48	76	68
Children custody/guardianship/adoption	4	45	112
Guardianships of estate	27	41	31
Conservatorship matters	28	255	310
Guardianships of intellectually disabled	1	30	56
Name Changes	7	41	38
Adult Adoptions	0	2	1

The community of Orange, like many in Connecticut, continues to benefit from the cost savings in the 2011 statewide court consolidation. In addition to statewide savings, the municipal budget share paid by the Town of Orange remains significantly lower than pre-court consolidation.

In addition to her duties presiding in the Milford-Orange Probate Court, Judge Streit-Kefalas is the immediate Past President Judge of the Connecticut Probate Assembly and is an active member of its Legislative Committee. She remains a presiding judge at the New Haven Regional Children's Probate Court, hearing cases from Milford and Orange in addition to all participating regional towns.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

The department's Administrative offices, staffed by Stasia Packard and Elda Stallings, are located on the second floor of the Town Hall. This office performs clerical and accounting services, road and Transfer Station permitting, facility scheduling, recycling program coordination, and all contracted vendor services and construction project administration.

The Highway Department, supervised by Donald Foyer, Sr. includes thirteen (13) employees maintaining and rebuilding 110 miles of Town roads, and maintenance of countless vehicles and equipment. The crew was directly involved with pre paving road repairs, and the subsequent Bond Project Paving Program in June, 2014.

Perfect weather allowed for the start up of the paving program with an available balance of \$4,241,414.00. In 2013, \$758,586.00 had been spent. Paving of over 6 miles of local arterial roads requiring 13,000 tons of bituminous concrete at an expenditure of \$1,517,449.00 was completed. An unexpended balance of \$2,723,000.00 will be available for continuation and completion of the program in 2015.

John Stewart, Building Superintendent, with a custodial staff of six (6) full and part time personnel maintains all the Town buildings except the schools.

Transfer Station and recycling center is available to residents for the disposal of mixed solid waste, bulky waste, brush, leaves, scrap metal, electronic equipment, and now also paint.

The final FEMA inspection and payment for the \$450,000.00 restoration and preservation of the Derby-Milford Road drainage tunnel (circa 1871) was completed. A portion of the historic stone arched tunnel collapsed during Hurricane Irene in August, 2011.

The town purchased a much needed new 6 wheel dump truck, which was outfitted with a snow plow and sander.

ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The volunteer Orange Recycling Committee (ORC) had a very active and productive year. The 2013-2014 fiscal year began with the June delivery of new covered rolling 32-gallon recycling bins to every household, replacing the 18-gallon bins that had to be carried to the curb. This contributed to town recycling rates improving 12% over 2012-2013, which then led to City Carting, Inc. expanding weekly residential curbside pick-up from 2 to 4 days (February 2014).

To provide additional recycling opportunities for residents, the ORC initiated paint can recycling at the Orange Transfer Station. With Eagle Leasing of Orange donating a storage container and Board of Selectmen approval, PaintCare now enables residents to easily and properly dispose of unused paint at the Transfer Station.

Since early 2014, the committee has contributed recycling tips for a regular feature in The Orange Times newspaper. In addition, an article about the committee and its efforts appeared in Orange Life Magazine.

Additional highlights of 2013-2014 ORC initiatives include:

- September - the ORC hosted a booth at the Orange Country Fair. Members explained residential recycling changes and answered general recycling questions.
- October - ORC members worked at HazWaste Central at the Regional Water Authority, New Haven, helping collect household hazardous waste, and participated in an open house at the United Illuminating Smart Living Center, Orange.
- November - the ORC hosted the town's first Shredding Day at High Plains Community Center (sponsored by the Orange Rotary Club). Residents responded enthusiastically, and by the end of the 3-hour event, over 10,000 lbs. of documents were shredded, at no cost to residents.
- December - the ORC added a festive recycling display to the Case Memorial Library holiday celebration.
- April – on Earth Day at the Smart Living Center, ORC members educated visitors via a new interactive recycling demonstration.
- June - the ORC again hosted a booth at the Orange Business and Community Expo and distributed kitchen magnets that list items acceptable for residential recycling bins.
- Committee members regularly collect ink and toner cartridges from town offices and send them to be recycled.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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

Registered Voters in Orange as of 6-30-2014

Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Other	Total
2461	2416	5294	94	10265

Election Dates:

November 5, 2013	Municipal Election	
May 6, 2014	Amity School Budget Referendum	Passed
May 20, 2014	Town Budget Referendum	Passed

Town Meetings:

May 8, 2014	Town Budget	Passed
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Special Voter Registration Sessions were held:

October 19, 2013	Day	10:00am-2pm
October 29, 2013	Day and Evening	9:00am-8pm

Instructional session was held for poll workers by the registrars prior to the Municipal election.

A voter registration session was held at Amity High School for all students 17 years and older wishing to register. This was held on March 31 & April 1, 2014. 188 students registered to vote during the annual spring registration sessions at Amity High School, 129 via the on-line registration format.

In January of 2014, 255 letters were sent out to individuals selected by the National Change of Address Association. All appropriate changes were made to the voter registration files. This canvass is mandated annually by the Office of Secretary of State.

SAFETY COMMISSION

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

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

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen consisting of James M. Zeoli, First Selectman, 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) Adoption of an Anti-Drug & Alcohol Misuse Policy as presented by the CT Drug & Alcohol Consortium; 2) Repeal of Chapter 298. Pawnbrokers of the Town of Orange Code; 3) Agreement between the Town and Planimetrics to update the Plan of Conservation & Development; 4) Student Guardian Cooperative Agreement between the Town, Connecticut Public Schools and Connecticut Police Departments to install video cameras on school buses, 5) Flood incident at Peck Place School and displacement of students and staff to Yale West Campus; 6) Adoption of a new Chapter 175 of the Town of Orange Code Defining Running Bamboo As A Nuisance And Adopting Regulations For The Control Of Running Bamboo; and 7) Amendment of Chapter 350- Taxation- Article III of the Town of Orange Code repealing Legions of Christ Tax Exemption and replacing with Chinmaya Mission Tax Exemption Fairfield-New Haven.

Resolutions were adopted on the following matters: First Selectman authorized to execute and deliver any and all documents to the State of CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on behalf of the Town; Approval to enter into and accept the grant from the CT Housing Finance Authority in the amount of \$3,300,000 for revitalization and operation of Silverbrook Estates; Approval for Town to continue to participate in the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection for 3 years; Approval to apply for an Historic Preservation Grant for the Town Clerk's Office; Approval for Orange Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and School Facilities to accept or reject a Grant for Code Violation (CV) Project at Peck Place School; Approval of the formation by the Orange Board of Selectmen of the Bond Construction Oversight Committee as the established Building Committee for the Code Violation (CV) Project at Peck Place School; Approval of the preparations of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Code Violation (CV) Project at Peck Place School, Approval to authorize the Orange Board of Education to file the ED 049 Grant Application for Code Violation (CV) Project at Peck Place School; Endorsement of a proposal by the South Central Regional Council of Governments for a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant to continue with the development of Regional GIS Data Services; First Selectman authorized to execute the FY 2013 State Homeland and Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement; and Adoption of the South Central Region Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Other matters addressed during this year included: Green Meadow Farms "Festival of Cultures" was held on the Orange Fairgrounds May 20-22, 2014; Relay for Life was held on the Orange Fairgrounds May 31 – June 1, 2014; Town Clerk, Pat O'Sullivan, was appointed the Town liaison for Veterans' Affairs; Appointment of Mark Celentano & Celia Pinzi as Sub-Registrars of Vital Statistics; Abandonment of a no name right-of-way between Taft and Alling Road; and Acceptance of the Turkey Hill Preserve Conservation & Management Plan prepared by the CT Audubon Society.

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, six 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 ten individuals who passed away during this past year and who served the Town with distinction: Andrea Shiffrin, Jack O'Brien, Donna Monro, Joseph Festa, Susan Lewin, Joseph Latella, Sr., Bridget Albert, Peter Logiodice, Robert Reid, and Giulio Balestrino.

TAX COLLECTOR

2012 Grand List Year: October 2, 2012 – September 30, 2013

Mill Rate: 30.5

Fiscal or Collection Year: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Calendar Year: January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

When looking at or requesting figures from the Tax Office it can be confusing. Three different years may come into play. The Town of Orange operates on the Uniform Fiscal Year commencing July 1st and ending the following June 30th. The tax is based on the Assessed Value of the item, that being real estate, personal property or motor vehicle, on October 1st of the prior year. In this instance 2012.

There was a slight increase in the number of real estate and motor vehicle accounts while the personal property showed a slight decrease. The 2012 Grand List was comprised of the following:

5,476	Real Estate
847	Personal Property
14,653	Motor Vehicle
2,216	Motor Vehicle Supplemental (Vehicles registered after October 1 st)

Totaling: \$ 57,261,656.66

For the Year End June 30, 2012 Current Year revenue collected exceeded the 99% mark. Back tax collection as well as interest and lien fees also exceeded the goal established within the budget making process.

Our commitment to professional development continues and when possible we take advantage of educational seminars and opportunities offered by the New Haven Tax Collectors Association and the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association. This year Assistant Tax Collector Sally Ferko earned her State Certification. Hardware and software updates have been completed and we continue to seek solutions for improved office operations and daily function. The Tax Collector's office is sincerely committed to the efficient collection of past due taxes which 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. 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. During the fiscal year OGAT began concurrently broadcasting its programming on the AT&T U-Verse system and also made previously aired programs available as video on demand on the internet. In addition audio/video equipment at the Board of Education was upgraded. These capabilities were made possible by grant funds provided by the Area 2 Cable Advisory Council (CAC) under Public Act 08-159 and by AT&T. 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 187 different programs of which 160 were board meetings and 27 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, Concerts at the Gazebo, Holiday Festival, Veteran's Day & Memorial Day Observances, Pasta Festa, Orange Chamber of Commerce Awards Breakfast, Orange Business Expo, Government Day, First Selectman Candidate Debates, Inauguration of Elected Officials, Indian Tribes Special, Independence Day Concert & Fireworks, Orange 150, OVFD Carnival, Breast Cancer Awareness, Chilly Chili Run, Doc's Race, Bryan-Andrew House Opening, Community Services Programs (Bullying, Social Media), Honoring Selectman Joe Blake, Promotional Videos (OVFD Carnival, Library, Senior Center, Independence Day Concert & Fireworks).

Broadcasts are shown on Cablevision Channel 79 and AT&T 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 891-4737.

TREE COMMITTEE

The Tree Committee had a relatively quiet year as we accepted a new member, Cameron Pirc and longtime member John Dorais retired from the Committee. John is known as a hardworking and highly dedicated volunteer. The Tree Committee celebrated a tribute tree planting for Maureen Clark on the area to the east of the town hall, towards the library. Other existing tribute trees were inspected and maintenance performed as necessary. In conjunction with the highway department any tree or limb related issues on town owned trees were addressed at various locations in Orange. Annually, the tree committee meets with the First Selectman to discuss issues relative to trees in the community. Meetings are general held the second Monday of each month except during July and December. Occasionally meetings are canceled if no new agenda items are presented.

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.

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 budget is currently over \$500,000 a year. The Town Public Works Dept. bills and collects our user charge which is \$4.65 per 1000 gallons for the Post Road system. We discharge about 350,000 gallons per day of sewage to West Haven and a much smaller but growing amount to Derby.

Following a public hearing in September, the user charge rate for Fieldstone Village was set at \$310 per dwelling plus \$0.74/gal/day/year.

Illegal grease discharges continue to foul our sewers and pumping stations. Following a public hearing, our Sewer Use Regulations were revised to allow us to better enforce Town and State regulations on fats, oil and grease.

The upgrade to West Haven's Water Pollution Control Plant to remove nitrogen has now been completed. Orange's share of cost for these improvements is \$3,366,313, payable over 20 years.

Design of the proposed generator for the Indian River Pumping Station is essentially complete. Construction will start as soon as an easement for its location has been obtained at Christmas Tree Plaza.

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.