

# Annual Town Report

For the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/16



Orange, Connecticut

[www.orange-ct.gov](http://www.orange-ct.gov)

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Page

Town Telephone Directory  
Directory of Town Officials  
Boards and Commissions  
Town of Orange Calendar  
Animal Control – District Animal Control (DAC)  
Appeals-  
    Board of Assessment Appeals  
    Zoning Board of Appeals  
Assessor’s Office  
Building Department  
Capital Planning Committee  
Clerk – Town Clerk  
Community Services  
    Director  
    Elderly Outreach  
    Senior Services  
    Youth Services  
Conservation Commission  
Economic Development Corporation & Commission  
Education  
    Amity Regional School District #5  
    Orange Board of Education  
Emergency Management & Civil Preparedness  
Fair – Country Fair Committee  
Finance Board  
Fire Department  
    Fire Marshal  
    Volunteer Fire Department  
Health  
    Board of Health  
    Environmental Health  
    Visiting Nurse & School Health  
Historic District Commission  
Housing- Silverbrook Estates  
Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission  
Library – Case Memorial Library  
Parade- Memorial Day Parade Committee  
Park & Recreation Department  
Pension Board  
Plan & Zoning Commission  
Police Department  
Public Works  
Recycling  
Registrar of Voters  
Safety Commission  
Selectmen – Board of Selectmen  
Tax Collector  
Television- OGAT – Orange Government Access Television  
Tree Committee  
War Remembrance  
Water Pollution Control Authority – WPCA  
Disability  
Financial Report

## 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

#### BOW Drug/Alcohol Action Committee

203-891-4701 Fax 203-891-2185

#### Orange Chamber of Commerce

203-795-3328 Fax 203-795-5926

### OTHER TOWN SITES

Orange Police Department (Non-emergency) - 314 Lambert Road...203-891-2130  
Fire Marshal - 355 Boston Post Road.....203-891-4711  
Case Memorial Library - 176 Tyler City Road.....203-891-2170  
Orange Post Office - 36 Old Tavern Road.....203-795-3523  
Town Garage - 308 Lambert Road.....203-891-4775  
Transfer Station ..... 203-891-2177  
Tree Warden..... 203-606-7831  
Poison Control Center-UCONN Health Center..... 800-343-2722  
Silverbrook Estates 100 Red Cedar ..... 203-891-8265  
Animal Control- 664 E. Broadway, Milford..... 203-783-3279

### SCHOOLS

Orange Board of Education 637 Orange Center Road, Orange..... 203-891-8020  
Special Services Department.....203-891-8023  
Mary L. Tracy School 650 School House Lane, Orange.....203-891-8028  
Race Brook School 107 Grannis Road, Orange.....203-891-8030  
Turkey Hill School 441 Turkey Hill Road, Orange.....203-891-8040  
Peck Place School 500 Peck Lane, Orange.....203-891-8034  
Amity Regional Senior High School 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge...203-397-4830  
Amity Regional Middle School 30 Ohman Avenue, Orange.....203-392-3200  
Amity Adult Education 130 Ohman Avenue, Orange..... 203-392-3215

### COURTS

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

## DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS

First Selectman..... James M. Zeoli  
Selectmen .....John J. Carangelo, Paul Davis, Mitchell R. Goldblatt,  
Ralph G. Okenquist, Judy W. Williams  
Assessor ..... Mark B. Branchesi, CCMA  
Building and Demolition Official ..... Lucien DiMeo, CBO  
Building Electrical Inspector .....Elfo Pol  
Community Services Director..... Joan Cretella  
Community Services Elderly Outreach Worker..... Denise Stein  
Community Services Senior Services Coordinator .....Dennis Marsh  
Community Services Youth Coordinator..... John Ulatowski  
Drug/Alcohol Action Committee Coordinator .....Joni Nordstrom  
Emergency Management Director ..... Fred Palmer  
Finance Director .....John M. Cifarelli  
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.....vacant  
Health, Visiting Nurse Director . . . . .Judith G. Benson  
Park & Recreation Director ..... Daniel Lynch  
Police Chief .....Robert Gagne  
Police Chief, Assistant.....Anthony Cuozzo  
Probate Judge .....Beverly Streit-Kefalas  
Public Works Highway Crew Chief .....Don Foyer, Sr.  
Registrar of Voters – Democratic .....Janice Casey  
Registrar of Voters – Republican .....Fred Kendrick  
Sanitarian .....Brian Slugoski, R.S.  
School Superintendent Amity District #5 .....Charles Dumais  
School Superintendent Elementary Schools .....Vincent Scarpetti  
School Business Administrator .....Mary Jo Sierakowski  
State Representative 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District .....Themis Klarides  
State Representative, 117<sup>th</sup> Assembly District ..... Charles Ferraro  
State Representative, 119<sup>th</sup> Assembly District..... Pamela Staneski  
State Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District .....Gayle Slossberg  
Tax Collector .....Sandra Pierson  
Town Clerk & Registrar of Vital Statistics ..... Patrick B. O’Sullivan, CCTC  
Town Counsel ..... Vincent M. Marino, Esq.  
Town Counsel - Labor ..... Michael J. Dorney, Esq.  
Town Engineer.....Robert J. Hiza, P.E.  
Town Meeting Moderator .....Robert Mirto, Esq.  
Town Committee Chairman - Democratic.....Jody Dietch  
Town Committee Chairman - Republican .....Nancy Nastro  
Treasurer .....Arthur B. Williams, III  
Tree Warden.....Joseph Ross  
Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Administrator.....R. Scott Allen  
Zoning Enforcement Officer .....Paul Dinice

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Elected**

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

James M. Zeoli, First Selectman (11/17) John J. Carangelo (11/17) Paul Davis (11/17)  
Mitchell R. Goldblatt (11/17) Ralph G. Okenquist (11/17) Judith W. Williams (11/17)

#### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Kevin Houlihan, Chairman (11/19) Joseph P. Nuzzo (11/17) James Leahy (11/19)  
Kevin Moffett (11/19) P. J. Shanley (11/17) Robert S. Bocek (11/17)  
Patricia Romano (11/19) - Alternate

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

Walter Clark, IV, Chairman (11/17) Paul Kaplan (11/20) Ralph Aschettino (11/19)  
Judy Smith (11/19) Oscar Parente (11/17) William Perfetto (11/19) – alternate  
Paul Dinice - Zoning Enforcement Officer

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

William Kraut, Chairman (11/19) Deanna Pucillo (11/17) Mara Saccente (11/17)  
Jeffrey Cap, V.Chair (11/17) Christian Young (11/17) Susan Riccio (11/19)  
Betty Hadlock (11/19) Ken Ziman (11/19) Chantell Ewen-Bunnell (11/19)  
Kimberly Browe (11/17)

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

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

Sue L. Cohen (11/17) Tracy Lane Russo (11/19) Christopher Browe (11/19)  
Thomas Hurley (11/17) Amy Esposito (11/19) Steven DeMaio (11/17)  
John Belfonti (11/19)

#### **CONSTABLES**

Randolph Thomas (11/17) Jeffrey Vargo (11/17) Santo Galatioto, Jr (11/17)  
Michael Donadeo (11/17) Jody Daymon (11/17) Glen Papelo (11/17)  
Robert Shanley (11/17)

#### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

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

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Patrick B. O'Sullivan, II (1/18)

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Sandra Pierson (11/17)

#### **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 (12/19) Albert Melotto (12/17)  
Richard Polio (12/19) George Russo, Jr. (12/19)

**BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS**

William Bergantino (12/17)  
Paul Foley (11/120)

Ralph Aschettino (11/18)

Pat Moscato (11/16)

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

James White, Chairman (12/17)  
Arlene Consiglio (12/16)  
Kevin Hadlock (12/16)  
Pat Ziman (12/18)

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

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

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

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

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

Amy Wargo, Chairman (12/17)  
Marie Romano (12/19)

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

Karen Arnold (12/19)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

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

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

Carl Russell (2/17)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Fred Palmer (12/17), Director  
Susan Parker (12/17)  
Commander Glenn Sherman (12/17)  
Brian Slugoski (12/17)  
Donald Foyer, Sr. (12/17)  
Michael Luzzi, (12/17)

Faustino "Tino" Russo, Ass't. Dir. (12/17)  
Robert Gagne (12/17)  
Joan Cretella (12/17)  
Bruce Backer, M.D. (12/17)  
Severio Fodero (12/17)  
Carol Luddy, (12/17)

John Knight (12/17)  
Allen Mushin (12/17)  
Timothy Smith (12/17)  
Charles Babson (12/17)  
James White ((12/17)

**BOARD OF ETHICS**

William Butler, Esq. (12/17)  
Jena Barretta, Esq. (12/19)

William Musco (12/17)

John Barton III (12/19)

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Severio Fodero, Chairman (12/17)  
Ferdinand Montegut (12/17)  
Robert Baltimore, M.D. Asst Dir of Health (12/19)

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

Carol Luddy (12/19)  
Rhoda Gorenberg (12/19)

**ORANGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Marvin Jamron, V. Chairman (12/20)

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

Patricia Clark (12/18)

**CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMISSION**

Ursula Hindel (12/17) Katalin Baltimore, Chairman (12/19) Maureen White (12/17)  
Elizabeth Meyer, V.Chair (12/17) Diana Duarte (12/17) Nancy Becque (12/19)  
Sharon Greco (12/19) Edward Martin (12/19) Stephanie Cuzzocreo(12/19)

**ORANGE VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION BOARD**

Thomas Krause, Chairman (12/17) Julie Davis (12/19) Stan Rutowicz (12/19)  
Marianne Bauer (12/17) Jean Virshup (12/19) Loretta Smith (12/19)  
Joseph Trentacosta (12/19) Barbara Bacal (12/17) Richard Zorena (12/19)  
Jeanne Consiglio (12/17)

**PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

Joseph Lembo, Chairman (10/16) Lisa Zarny (10/16) James Ronai (12/17)  
Chuck Stackpole (10/16) James O'Connor (12/17) Stephen Bospuda (12/17)  
Linda Kantor (10/16) Nicholas Bencivengo (12/17) David Corris (12/17)

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

Don Lewis, Chairman (12/16) Mark Grasso (12/17) Christopher Carveth (12/19)  
John Barton (12/17) Roy Cuzzocreo (12/19)

**SAFETY COMMISSION**

Fred Palmer, Chairman (12/17) Robert Gagne (12/17) John Knight (12/17)  
Lucien DiMeo (12/17) Timothy Smith (12/17) John Barton (12/17)

**ORANGE GOVERNMENT ACCESS TELEVISION (OGAT)**

Sol Silverstein, Chairman (12/17) Gary DelPiano (12/19) Marian Reid (12/17)  
Robert Kelly (12/19) Michael Papa (12/17) Tina Magyar (12/17)  
Ron Davis, Coordinator Christopher Kelly, Assistant Coordinator

**TREE COMMITTEE**

Philip Grande Chairman (10/16) Gail Nixon (10/17) Cameron Pirc (10/18)  
Joseph Ross, Tree Warden

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

Anthony Monaco, Chairman (3/16) Peter MacDonald (3/16) Richard Manley (3/16)

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

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

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION**

Rick Mangione, Chairman (12/19) Lesley Giovanelli, (12/19) Ronald Ruotolo (12/17)  
William Perfetto (12/19) James Ewen (12/17) Diana Ross, V.Chairman (12/19)  
John Hudson (12/17) R. Scott Allen, Enforcement Officer

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Noah Eisenhandler, Chairman (12/19) Pat Panza (12/16) Kenneth Gambardella (12/17)  
Rudolph Miller (12/17) Gregory Natalino (12/19) Mathew Pickering (12/19) – alternate  
David Crow (12/19) - alternate

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**  
**Appointed**

**BOND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Fred Kendrick	William Kraut	Paul Foley
Ronald Ruotolo, Chairman	Mitchell Goldblatt	

**CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Selectman Ralph Okenquist, Chairman	Frederick Kendrick	Ernest Lucarelli
William Powell	Michael Luzzi	Robert Gagne
Robert Hiza	Joseph Lembo	
First Selectman James M. Zeoli		

**ELDERLY HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE**

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

**ORANGE COUNTRY FAIR COMMITTEE**

Karen McCausland, Co-Chair (12/19)	Bryan Clark (12/17)	Kevin Monck, Co-Chair (12/19)
Marianne Bauer (12/19)	Wilson Daymon (12/19)	Robert Archambault (12/19)
Paul Estok, III (12/17)	George Plaskowitz (12/17)	Emory Allaire (12/17)
Walter Bospuda (12/19)	Walter Hine (12/17)	Robert Fantarella (12/19)
Gerald Butcher (12/17)	Stephen Bospuda (12/17)	

**ORANGE FAMILY COUNSELING  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Patricia Miller (12/17)	John P. McGill (12/18)	Police Officer Robert Amarone (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 (1/17)	Robert Mirto (1/17)	Andrew Steinbrick (1/17)
Robert Gagne (1/17)	George Geane 1/17)	Al Pol (1/17)
Richard Manley (1/17)	James Marenna (1/17)	Anna May Pieger (1/17)
John S. Sullivan (1/17)	John P. Sullivan (1/17)	Ronald Wachter (1/17)
Frederick O'Brien (1/17)	Richard Hoin (1/17)	Mark Sandillo (1/17)
Meghan Crawford (1/17)	Peter MacDonald (1/17)	

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

Denise Stein (1/17)

**OPEN SPACE SEARCH COMMITTEE**

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

**PENSION BOARD**

Eric Hendlin, Chairman (12/17)	Paul Dinice (12/17)	Peter Firla (12/17)
James Kline (12/17)	Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt (12/17)	



**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

First Selectman James Zeoli

Selectman Ralph Okenquist

Selectman Paul Davis

**ORANGE RAILROAD STATION COMMITTEE**

Joseph Lembo, Chairman  
Rudy Zimmermann

Len Farber  
Robert Archambault

Armand Cantafio

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt, Chairman  
Stephanie Jatlow  
Mary-Jo Sierakowski

Kathryn LaFontana  
Patricia Walsh  
Karen Della-Giustina, Alt.

Thomas George  
Christopher Prokop  
Ilene Moyher, Alt.

**SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Joan Cretella, Chairman (4/18)  
Brian Slugoski (4/17)  
Dan Lynch (4/18)

Robert Gagne (4/18)  
Meryl Farber (4/17)  
Steven Douglas (4/18)

Donald Foyer, Sr. (4/17)  
Karen Goldberg (4/17)  
Maria Biondi (4/16)

**TRANSFER STATION IMPROVEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE**

Michael Richetelli  
Santo Galatioto, Jr.

John Querker

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

Jeffrey Sachs, Esq.

**VIOLATION HEARING OFFICERS**

Philip Nizzardo

Frederick O'Brien

**WAR REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE**

Severio (Bob) Fodero, Chairman  
John LaViola

Carol Rapuano  
Elaine Arena

Jeffrey Dyer

**YOUTH SERVICES**

Marie Gull, Chairman (12/17)  
Peter Boppert (12/17)  
Lynda Delaney (12/17)  
Wil Gambardella (12/17), Student R  
Emilie Steinbrick (12/17) Student Rep  
Lauren Campos (12/17)

Robert Catalde (12/17)  
Robert Gagne (12/17)

Sharon Stockel (12/17)  
Jon O'Keefe 12/17)

Matthew Schmitt (12/17), Student Rep  
Erin McCormack (12/17), Student Rep  
Martin Gnidula (12/17)

John Ulatowski, Coordinator

**REPRESENTATIVES**

**Appointed**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CABLE TV**

Marlene Silverstein (06/17)

Pasquale Tancreti (06/17)

Ronald Davis (06/17)

**AMITY FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Joseph Nuzzo

**BRIDGES**

vacancy

**CATCHMENT AREA COUNCIL #6**

Marie Romano (4/18)

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

First Selectman James M. Zeoli (11/17)

**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 (12/17)

Thomas Hurley, Deputy Town Meeting Moderator (12/17)

**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**

Annemarie Sliby, Director

Orange Economic Development Corporation

**TOWN HISTORIAN**

Priscilla B. Searles

**GREATER NEW HAVEN TRANSIT DISTRICT**

Charles Smythe (1/17)

**REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICY BOARD**

Jasper Jaser (6/1)

**TOWN OF ORANGE CALENDAR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2016 THROUGH OCTOBER 2017**

- September 2016.....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, 2015 to  
Sept.30, 2016.....Supplementary List for motor vehicles purchased in this period will become  
due on January 1, 2017.
- 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 22 ..... Saturday elector session for new voters – 10 a.m. –2 p.m.
- November 1 ..... Cut off date for admission of electors for 18 year old residents and for  
residents of a municipality who moved on or before November 1, 2016.  
Session from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Nov. 1 to March 15... Applications for those eligible for energy assistance.
- November 7..... Limited session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for Admission of Electors – only  
those qualified since November 1, 2016.
- November 8..... Presidential Election - polls open 6:00 a.m. - close at 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2017..... Supplemental Auto Tax and second installment of Real Estate, Personal  
Property and Regular Motor Vehicles tax due with one month's grace.  
Minimum interest - \$2.00. Interest accrues at the rate of 1-1/2 % per  
month from due date.
- Feb. 1 to May 15.....Senior Tax Stabilization Program – Applications in Assessor's Office.
- February 1..... Elderly Homeowners may start applying for tax relief under Sec. 12-170a  
through May 15
- February 1.....Last day to pay second installment of 2015 Grand List and Real Estate,  
Personal Property taxes without penalty.
- March or April.....Board of Assessment appeals open session to hear appeals. Dates will be  
announced.
- March 31.....Last day for paying Real Estate Taxes before liens are recorded.
- April 1.....All unpaid Real Estate Taxes will be liened as of this date.
- April .....Annual Budget Hearing.
- May..... Combined Annual Town Meeting and Budget Meeting.
- May 15.....Elderly renters may start applying for tax relief under Sec. 12-170a through  
September 15.
- May 15.....Last day for homeowners to file elderly relief applications.
- June 1 - 30.....Dog Licenses due and payable at the Town Clerk's Office. All dogs six  
months old and older must be licensed. Owners must submit rabies  
vaccination certificate to obtain license.
- June 30..... Last day to pay dog licenses without penalty.
- July 1, 2017.....First installment of Grand List 10/1/16 Real Estate, Personal Property and  
Motor Vehicle taxes are due with one month's grace. Bills may be paid in  
person at the Office of the Tax Collector or may be paid by mail. If paid  
by mail, please follow directions on bills. Call 891-4725 if you have any questions.
- August 1.....Last day to pay taxes without interest for the taxes due July 1, 2017 first  
installment. Interest charged is 1-1/2 % per month (from date due) with a  
minimum of \$2.00.
- Feb. 1 to Sept. 30.....Additional Veteran's exemptions based on income annual filing.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

During the year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 Animal Control did the following for the town of Orange: Impounded 27 animals, redeemed/adopted 32 animals, euthanized 2, responded to complaints 82 complaints, 14 animal bites.

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

In Animal Controls efforts to reduce the feral cat population, and with the assistance of the residents of Orange we have trapped, spayed/neutered and re-released 18 cats in the Bull Hill Lane area in Orange.

## BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals is a quasi-judicial board comprised of local citizens appointed by the First Selectman. The board convenes annually to hear complaints on real estate assessments, motor vehicle assessments and business personal property assessments. Upon written application to the Board, each appellant is issued an appointment with board members where the appellant may enter oral or written arguments concerning their disagreement with the assessment. The Board deliberates each case and sends each appellant a written decision on the disposition of their appeal. The Board of Assessment Appeals heard **72** cases from appellants concerning the October 1, 2014 grand list. A summary of the April 2015 appeals is as follows:

<b>Residential</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Business Personal Property</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Supp Motor Vehicle</b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b>Total Appeals</b>	<b>72</b>

Out of seventy two appeals filed, sixty five received changes and seven were denied.

### **Real Estate**

The total loss in assessed value, on real property, via appeals to the BAA **concerning 59 appeals** equaled -1,757,300.

### **Supplemental motor vehicle**

The total loss in assessed value, **incurred through one appeal**, relative to 2013 supplemental motor vehicle list equaled -9,397.

### **Business personal property**

A total increase of 182,340 in assessed value reflected **the cumulative results on five appeals**, relative to the business personal property section of the 2014 grand list.

## **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 2015-2016, the ZBA approved eight petitions and denied 3 petitions.

## ASSESSOR'S REPORT

The following displays the computations for the October 1, 2014 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 2014 grand list will be filed with the Town Clerk on or prior to February 28, 2015.

### Tax exempt

The tax exempt real estate section of the October 1, 2014 grand list increased from **156,299,530 to 157,996,630** for the October 1, 2014 grand list. This constitutes an increase of **1.086 %**. This increase is attributed to the following properties receiving tax exempt status in whole or in part; property owned by Chinmaya Mission, located at 393 Derby Ave, and property owned by the New Haven Islamic Center Inc. located at 254 Bull Hill Lane.

### Gross Grand List Taxable

The gross taxable grand list reflects the total of all gross assessments of taxable accounts and is prior to deducting all statutory exemptions. *This total excludes tax exempt real estate*. The gross taxable grand list for October 1, 2014 before adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals equaled **1,938,798,050 or an increase of 4.24 tenths of one percent**, when compared to the October 1, 2013 gross taxable grand list before corrections from the Board of Assessment Appeals which equaled **1,930,604,338**. This section, also referred to as grand list growth, will be displayed in greater detail within the body of this report.

### Total Exemptions

Total exemptions are deducted from the gross taxable grand list to derive the net grand list. Exemptions are in compliance with State and Federal law as well as local ordinance. They include, but are not limited to, veterans, blind, totally disabled, ambulance type vehicles, income challenged veterans, and local additional tax relief programs for veterans exemptions.

Total exemptions for the October 1, 2014 grand list equaled **16,158,970, or an increase of 8.279%** when compared to the October 1, 2013 grand list which was **14,923,470**.

This increase is attributed to a rise in both the non- reimbursable manufacture's exemptions and non -reimbursable exemptions on certain new commercial vehicles.

These exemptions are posted in both the business personal property section of the grand list and the motor vehicle section of the grand list.

### Phase-in Exemptions

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

### Gross Grand List –Growth Estimate

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

The October 1, 2014 Gross grand list displays an increase of 4.24 tenths of one percent as compared with the October 1, 2013 net grand list before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Category	2014 Grand List	2013 Grand List	%Change	\$Change
gross real estate	1,671,822,160	1,670,987,730	1.00050	834,430
gross motor vehicle	131,737,110	131,134,240	1.00460	602,870
gross business personal property	<u>135,238,780</u>	<u>128,482,368</u>	<u>1.05259</u>	<u>6,756,412</u>
gross grand list	<u>1,938,798,050</u>	<u>1,930,604,338</u>	<u>1.00424</u>	<u>8,193,712</u>

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

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

The following compares the 2014 net taxable grand list and the 2013 net taxable grand list prior to adjustments for Board of Assessment Appeals:

Category	2014 grand list	2013 grand list	% change	\$ change
net real estate	1,667,157,110	1,666,174,180	1.00059	982,930
net motor vehicles	130,983,620	130,166,460	1.00628	817,160
net business personal property	<u>124,498,350</u>	<u>119,340,228</u>	<u>1.04322</u>	<u>5,158,122</u>
<b><u>Total Net Grand List</u></b>	<b><u>1,922,639,080</u></b>	<b><u>1,915,680,868</u></b>	<b><u>1.00363</u></b>	<b><u>6,958,212</u></b>

The 2014 net taxable grand list **increased by 3.63 tenths of one percent,** when compared to the 2013 net taxable grand list, before adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals.

**Real Estate**

The net taxable real estate section of 2014 grand list posted an anemic increase of *less than six hundredths of one percent* reflecting the continuing malaise in the real estate market via poor economic conditions.

**Motor Vehicle**

The 2014 net taxable motor vehicle section of this net taxable grand list **increased by six tenths of one percent** as compared with totals posted for 2013. The cumulative value of newly registered current model year passenger cars was barely enough to off set the accrued depreciation from recurring vehicles.

As in past years, vehicle values were derived from the *NADA Official Used Car Guide New England edition as required by the State of Connecticut.*

**Business Personal Property**

This section of the 2014 net grand list **increased by 4.322 % percent** when compared with totals posted in 2013. The 2014 net taxable business personal property increase is solely attributed to United Illuminating and its subsidiaries.



As in past years, performance trends are enclosed for each section of the grand list together with the allocation of the 2014 net grand list. The top 10 taxpayers for 2014 are also included for your perusal. In addition, a spreadsheet detailing the reconciliation of the 2014 grand list to the 2013 grand list has been included as well.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

On October 31, 2016 the State of Connecticut adopted new codes and amendments to the statewide building code. New building codes are 2012 International Building Code, ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009, 2012 International Existing Building Code, 2012 International Plumbing Code, 2012 International Mechanical Code, 2012 International Energy Conservation Code, 2014 NFPA 70, National Electric Code, 2012 International Residential Code along with the 2016 Amendments. This 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 2015-2016, the Building Department issued a total of 484 building permits and 753, mechanical, electric and plumbing permits. The total construction value was \$34,355,601.02.

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 of 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 yearly activity of requesting inputs from the various town Departments, Boards and Commissions for FY 2017 Short Term Capital Projects. The Committee met several times reviewing those proposed inputs and subsequently recommended projects for inclusion in the FY 2017 Town Operating Budget. The following projects totaling \$206,000 were approved by the Board of Finance: Board of Education Voice over Internet Protocol Phone System; High Top Van for Community Services (20% cost sharing); and Computer System Upgrade to CAD/RMS Software for Police Services.

**TOWN CLERK**

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

Municipal Election November 3, 2015

1st Selectman	Lenz	1413
	Zeoli	2956

There was approximately a 44% voter turnout.

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

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

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

Amity Operating Budget FY16-17	5-03-16	\$47,835,699	passed 357 voted
Town Operating Budget FY16-17	5-19-16	\$66,260,039	passed 356 voted

The Annual Town Meeting was held May 9, 2016 at High Plains Community Center to consider a number of issues. 1) To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey land acquired by the town; passed by hand vote. 2) Installment due dates for the payment of property taxes were approved for July 1<sup>st</sup> and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and a single payment of taxes on motor vehicles on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 passed by hand vote. 3) Abandonment of Christmas Tree Lane, passed by hand count. 4) Purchase of real estate 445 Turkey Hill Road for \$325,000 passed by hand count 5) The budget for FY 16-17, prepared by the Board of Finance, was presented and after a petition submitted to the town clerk with sufficient signatures was deferred to a machine vote referendum, which was held on May 19, 2015.

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

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Births	109	106	92
Deaths	160	151	135
Marriages (issued)	55	64	57

Town Revenues	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
Marriage	682.00	627.00
Recording Fees	70,647.00	72,196.00
Conveyance	198,421.98	280,379.13
Dog License	2,811.00	2,283.00
Miscellaneous/Copies	8,684.36	13,481.00
Vital	11,087.00	10,928.00
Historic Preservation	1,709.00	1,913.00
LOCIP	5,127.00	5,339.00

It should be noted that fees of 433 deeds were impacted by a new state law regarding Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. (MERS)

The Historic Preservation Account established in July 2000 is an on-going accumulating account, so that over time the Town Clerk's Office can complete major preservation projects without impacting other areas of town services. In addition, the Town Clerk's Office has received, this year, a grant from the State Historic Preservation Program for \$3,000, which was used for preservation of vital records.

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

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

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Community Services Department includes Senior Services, Municipal Agent/Outreach, Youth Services, Tracy Bunch, Special Transportation Service and Behavioral Health Services provided through Orange Family Counseling staffed by contract with Bridges Inc... Community Services administers the Community Assistance Programs which consists of the Food Bank, Fuel Assistance, Holiday Basket and Adopt a Family Program. These programs are maintained solely by donations from residents, businesses, schools, churches and civic organizations. The department received several grants from the Orange Foundation Trust U/A Bank of America N.A Trustee and the Lions Club in support of programs and events. A substantial amount of \$21,572.00 was raised for the Community Assistance Programs this year. The Tracy Bunch Program continues to provide social activities for adults with special needs Monday evenings. Partnerships continue with Synder Foods, Trader Joes, Beth-El and Donut Crazy to supplement Food Bank offerings. Collaboration with Case Memorial Library continues with the "Boomers and Beyond" Program offering seminars on various topics of interest. Disability Resource Network volunteers continue to help organize the Food Bank. The Food Bank received generous food donations from, the annual Post Office food drive, Relay for Life, Cub Scouts, just to name a few, and in addition from various places of worship, civic organizations, businesses and residents. Twenty- four residents utilized the monthly Free Legal Clinic sponsored by Attorneys Loman and Dipola. One hundred and twenty dinners were served by Orange Lions Club at their Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the public. The Holiday Basket Program and Adopt a Family Project partners local residents, organizations and merchants to donate food baskets, toys, gift cards etc. for Orange families and residents in need. This year there were thirty-five sponsors that provided twenty –five gift baskets distributed for the Holiday Basket Program; twenty - five families which included elderly and adults and twenty nine children in need were recipients of the Adopt a Family Program. A second successful annual Volunteer Appreciation Day was held to celebrate volunteers who donate their time assisting Community Services. A special thank you to the staff, residents, merchants, civic organizations, places of worship, commissions, and volunteers whose generosity; time and continued support is so greatly appreciated.

## **SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

The Special Transportation Program provides rides in Orange and surrounding locations for residents 55 and older and/or disabled persons for medical appointments, shopping, special events, to and from the Senior Center and other personal errands. This year there were an estimated 3098 rides with donations of \$3430.00. Community Services Department is the recipient of a Federal Department of Transportation Grant administered by the State Department of Transportation. The grant will fund 80% towards the purchase of a new wheel chair accessible High Top Van with a lift for the Department's Special Transportation Program, with delivery after July of FY 2016.

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

**Energy Assistance:** The office of the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent is an intake site for the State of CT Energy Assistance program and Operation Fuel. There were 219 inquires into the Energy Assistance program, 67 Applications for Fuel Assistance administered through TEAM and 20 referrals to Operation Fuel.

**Community Assistance Programs:** There were 40 requests for fuel assistance through the Community Assistance Fund. The Community Services Department maintains a Food Bank to help Orange residents make ends meet with donated non perishable food items. This year the program was utilized 301 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 2015 the Energy Program Training, the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent attended the Start up Training for the Federal Energy Program. In October Medicare Seminars for Connecticare, Humana, Cigna, and Aetna were attended along with the ABC's of Medicare. The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent Facilitates the TRIAD bi monthly meetings.

**Print Media:** The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent writes a monthly column for the Orange Town News. The column has covered the Low Vision, TRIAD, exercise, scams, nutrition, great web sites, and requests for Food Bank donations along with current happenings at Community Services.

**Handyman Skills Bank:** The Handyman Skills Bank assists limited income seniors with light chores around the house. The Elderly Outreach Worker Coordinates the volunteers with the work requested.

**Client Contacts:** The Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent had contact with 1089 different persons and made 1,170 referrals to area programs. Contacts and referrals include but not limited to: 70 Homecare, 69 Transportation, 74 Housing, and 83 Title 19, 176 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 219 Energy Assistance, 37 Medicare, and 59 to Qualified Medicare Beneficiary.

## **ORANGE SENIOR SERVICES**

The Orange Senior Center provides activities that promote independence, creativity, 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. The membership of the center has increased from 3,029 at the end of FY 2013-14 to 2,831 at the end of FY 2015-16.

Three Orange residents were honored as Living Treasures at the annual Pasta Festa fundraiser! Pasta Festa was held at the Grassy Hill Country Club, 206 people attended and it raised \$1495 for the Senior Center. The annual Senior Center Summer Cookout was attended by 51 seniors in August, 2016. The Senior Center offered many day, overnight, and longer trips, including a 10 day trip to Portugal, a 9 day trip to the Colorado Rockies, a 3 day trip to Lancaster PA for the "Miracle of Christmas" show, an overnight trip to Mohegan Sun, and an overnight to Mohegan Sun for the AAC Women's Basketball Final. The Senior Center went to CT Flower Show, a St Patrick's Day Show, a choice of 2 shows on Broadway, a couple of shows at the Newport Playhouse, several shows at Westchester Dinner Theater, Tanglewood, Lobster Bash, Foxwoods Casino for the "Rat Pack", Mystery Trip, Big E, Oktoberfest, Rat Pack at Foxwoods, Showboat, Backwards in High Heels, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Christmas in Hawaii at the Hu Ke Lau, the Highline and Whitney Museum in New York City, boat rides on the Pilgrim Belle and a Gloucester Schooner, as well as a trip to the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island in New York City.

The Senior Center hosted Ice Cream Social & Pie Socials, Veterans Appreciation Cabaret, Holiday Dinner Dance, and a Valentines Pizza Party with the Orange Lions Club. In May the Senior Services Coordinator & the Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent were among a team of 12 runners who ran nearly 200 miles from Boston to Provincetown MA. The run was part of Ragnar Cape Cod. Through corporate sponsors and private donations \$3,692.60 was raised 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, chair exercise, money management, book club, wellness seminars, and movie of the month.

The senior center continues with Lunch & Fun. Some topics were a visit to the Gumbo Soup, Corn Husk Dolls, Steinbeck Out Loud, and Origami for Beginners, From JFK to Beatlemania, Vitas 5 Wishes, Art of Negotiations, Motion Man, and Colonial Tea with the Colonial Goodwife, Feng Shui, and Postcards with Ginny from the Historical Society. The Afghan Ladies continue to make Afghans for veterans. Chess Club, billiards, and table tennis are enjoyed by many members at the center. AARP offers a monthly Driver's Safety Class and yearly Income Tax Assistance. The Orange Senior Center hosts an annual Health & Safety Fair with 48 vendors and which drew over 200 people. The event raised \$2,170 for the Community Assistance Fund.

A hot lunch provided by the Elderly Nutrition Program is served daily in the senior café. During the fiscal year 2015-2016 – 3,665 meals were served, the program was operational for 204 days; \$6,070 was raised through donations.



## YOUTH SERVICES

Through fiscal year 2015-16 Youth Services incorporated various programs and events with participation by approximately eight-hundred twenty-five youth collectively. Home Alone classes were held at each Elementary Schools in conjunction with the Orange Volunteer Fire and Police Departments. Students were taught safety measures in regard security and home fire drills. Youth Services assisted the Art in the Library Committee by coordinating with Orange Elementary and Kindergarten schools the 6th Annual Children of Orange K-6 Art Exhibit at Case Library. Students exhibited their art work and parents and community attended a reception. A Super Raffle Pizza Bingo was held for the incoming seventh graders and attended by parent chaperones as well. The event was provided by a grant from the Orange Foundation Trust, U/A, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. The Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades attended three dances and parent chaperones assisted as well. Through an Enhancement grant provided by the State Department of Education one watercolor program and one drawing program were provided to youth taught by professional artists. The grant also allowed for support of the Amity Middle School/Anti Defamation League anti-bullying program "*Building a School of Allies*" which provided workshops and assemblies for students, e-parenting session on Home Alone for parents, and two mini scholarships for graduating High School students. The SDE Enhancement Grant and summaries and the State Department of Education Individual Services Report were completed for the fiscal year. The Job Bank assisted youth in gaining employment with area residents for a variety of jobs. Youth Services provided residents with an online Youth Services newsletter featuring in photos and articles many programs and events held during the current year. The Intergenerational Tutoring program offered Elementary School students one-to-one tutorial assistance weekly being tutored by senior citizens. Amity High School students worked with Youth Services as volunteers for school credits assisting at local events. Two babysitting classes were held for Middle School students teaching basic care of children and offering First Aid certification. Youth Services utilized a variety of publicity options in regard programming and events through local newspapers and parent list serve emails. Monthly meetings were attended by Coordinator with organizations such as Orange Family Counseling and Youth Services Advisory Board. Youth Services utilized area merchants and received discounted prices and donations.

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Listed below are items completed 2015-2016

### Maintenance:

- Trees cut to clear trail Turkey Hill Preserve
- Boundary Markers Ewen Preserve
- Trail markers put up by Lions Club/Boy scouts/Commission
- Owl houses made for Ewen Preserve
- Trail markers Housatonic Overlook done by Commission members
- Removed deadfalls from Wepawaug Rivers downstream of footbridge at Wepawaug Conservation Area.
- Removed 31 tires and metal, trash from Turkey Hill Preserve
- Removed truck tire Ewen Preserve
- Removed incorrect boundary marker Ewen Preserve

### Education:

- Participated at the Orange Agricultural Fair with display of our Open Spaces
- Held Bird Walk Turkey Hill Preserve with Audubon
- Annual Owl Prowl Ewen Preserve
- CT Trail Days which takes place the first week in June held at Racebrook Tract with Woodbridge Conservation.

### Scout Projects:

- Eagle Scout project done by David Nemecek put bat houses at Racebrook Tract.

### Information:

- Received Grant for Ewen Preserve for an elevated walkway from the State of CT.
- Received Grant for Ewen Preserve for a Indian River Fish Passage Restoration from Audubon.
- Transferred records to High Plains
- Updated all maps for the SCROG website which is available to download.
- Participated at the Library with a Holiday Tree
- Open Space Review of Letter for Properties owners in the Town of Orange
- Article for "Orange Life" Economic Development
- Implemented policy change for Racebrook Tract; no bicycle riding Dec. 1st thru Apr. 30th.

## **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.

## **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 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, this partnership carried out several development activities which make up the Town of Orange's Economic Development program.

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

- Published 2 Issues of the OrangeLife Magazine
- Maintenance of the OrangeEDC.com website
- Produced the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Orange Business and Community Exposition
- Updated the Commercial / Industrial Property Database
- Updated the Orange Business Database,
- Produced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Orange Community Farmers' Market
- Maintained the Orange Community Farmers' Market website

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

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

The Orange Economic Development Commission has been a key driver of the Annual Orange Business & Community Exposition. The Expo, which was held on June 8, 2016 at the High Plains Community, saw the participation of over 400 persons during the day long affair. This year's event incorporated 65 vendors showcasing their products and services at the Expo.

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

**Board of Directors Executive Committee**

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

During the 2016 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 10 new businesses opened their doors as compared to the 5 business closings that occurred during the year. Through the OEDC's efforts to maintain accurate business records, we are able state that vacancy rates remain at all-time record lows as Total Vacancy Rates ended at 5.84%, which equates to 362,643 SF (Vacant) out a total of 6,207,326 square feet.

Through the joint support of the Economic Development Commission and Corporation, the economic development staff produced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Farmers' Market. The market averaged weekly attendance of 150-200 shoppers and helped showcase the fresh products of 14 individual farm market participants.

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

## **AMITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**

The Regional School District No. 5 was incorporated in 1953 to educate students in grades 7-12 who reside in the towns of Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany, Connecticut.

The Amity Board of Education is committed to seeing that each school and service area in the district receives comparable resources from the budget. Budget drivers include enrollment, teacher/student ratio, improved student performance, curriculum initiatives, health and safety needs in each facility and future capital plans. The Superintendent convenes meetings with district leaders to seek input regarding the needs of the entire district. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget is presented to the Amity Finance Committee. This Committee scrutinizes the Superintendent's request and suggests alterations. The Superintendent and administrative team review the suggested alterations and reallocate resources in an equitable manner. The Superintendent next presents the Superintendent's Proposed Budget to the Board of Education in February. A public hearing is held prior to final Board adoption in April with a final vote on the budget at a referendum scheduled in May.

## **AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Located in the town of Woodbridge, Amity Regional High School enrolls over 1,500 students in grades 9-12. In the fall of 2014 Amity Regional High School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. This prestigious award honors public and private schools where students perform at very high levels. The U.S. Department of Education requests nominations from the top education official in every state. Amity Regional High School is recognized as an *Exemplary High Performing School*. Newsweek Magazine's annual survey of America's best high schools ranked Amity #1 in Connecticut for preparing students for college.

Academically, Amity Regional High School provides a wide range of learning opportunities including Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students continued to excel on SAT and ACT assessments. Our Career and Technical Education Department offers an extensive selection of courses. Over 92% of Amity graduates attend two and four-year colleges after graduation. This past spring, the Theatre Arts Department delivered outstanding performances of *Into the Woods* that garnered 12 nominations including outstanding production. Amity High School's Interscholastic Athletes were recognized as the 2015-16 State Champions in Baseball and Boys Cross Country. Two Amity Coaches were recognized as CT Coaches of the year and one Amity coach was recognized as a finalist for National Coach of the Year.

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

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

The strong academic program is evidenced by standardized test results. The grade 8 curriculum is enhanced by an overnight fieldtrip to Boston. Additionally, a wide array of co-curricular clubs is offered after school for both grades. Finally, an interscholastic and intramural program rounds out the Amity Middle School-Orange experience.

## **ORANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

The school district continues to revise and align curricula to meet Connecticut Core State Standards in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. On-going and context-embedded professional learning opportunities, which support teachers as they attempt to effectively engage students in meaningful learning of new units of study will be strategically provided throughout the year. Rubicon Atlas, the interactive electronic platform which the district has selected for creating and accessing curricula, will be used by all and shared with Amity with the hopes of achieving vertical alignment of content instruction for students. Plans to address Connecticut Elementary Social Studies Frameworks and Next Generation Science Standards have also been developed. In addition, schools continue to implement positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) to proactively establish a healthy culture where all students in Orange achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Our students in Grades 3 – 6 completed another administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Mathematics and English Language Arts. In addition, students in Grade 5 were administered the CMT in Science in the spring. Students in Orange scored well above the state average in all areas. Achievement reports will be available on the district's webpage at [www.oess.org](http://www.oess.org).

Technology in the schools continues to grow exponentially. We have provided iPads for all students attending grades K thru 2. Smartboards are now in every teacher's classroom. The combination of the newly implemented fiber network and Google Apps for Education software, has allowed the district's Technology Services department to successfully implement and support a new "1 to 1" program targeted at those students attending Grades 3 thru 6. This "1 to 1" program allows each student to have his/her own assigned laptop for school related learning. The newly assigned laptop shall follow them each school year.

Additionally, this will be the first year that students are taught "1 to World" which means they will use the laptop (1 to 1 device) as a tool to learn curriculum (1 to World). For example, learning to use Google Classroom to communicate with their teachers and creating documents that can be collaborated on in groups and shared between students, parents as well their teachers.

The following projects have been completed in our schools: a new walkway and curbing was done at Race Brook School. Gym floors at Race Brook School and Turkey Hill School were repaired and refinished. To save on energy costs, water heaters at Peck Place School were replaced with a gas water heater. Three new auto scrubbers were purchased to replace the existing scrubbers which were 17 years old. The building management system in all four schools has been updated. Another energy cost savings is the new LED lighting (both interior and exterior) at Race Brook School, Turkey Hill School and Mary L. Tracy School. To keep our security system up-to-date, twenty new portable 2-way radios were purchased to replace the district's old and outdated ones. New 2-way bus radios with GPS were also purchased and installed.

## **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: 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.

We participate in a Statewide Emergency Exercise with the state and other towns each year. 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, and 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 approximately fifty (50). If anyone would like to join please look at our website [www.cert-orange.org](http://www.cert-orange.org)

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

[www.Getreadycapitolregion.org](http://www.Getreadycapitolregion.org), Local [www.arcsct.org](http://www.arcsct.org) National: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or your telephone book for free Brochures, also [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov)

## **COUNTRY FAIR COMMITTEE**

The annual Orange Country Fair was held on September 18-19, 2015. We were lucky with fabulous weather for both days.

The Committee works year round to provide two days of activities celebrating the agricultural history of the Town of Orange as well as trying to bring new events for everyone's enjoyment. Activities include horse and oxen draws, tractor and doodlebug pulls, pig racing, police dog demonstrations, a hay bale toss and a skillet toss. There are exhibits of crafts and produce displayed and the animal building continues to be a huge attraction for all ages. The truck pull on Friday night was again a big success this year. The miniature horse pull continued to impress spectators.

Proceeds from past fairs go towards improvements on the buildings and grounds. Items are being identified by priority for improvement. Shortly after the fair, the Committee was approached by a Boy Scout hoping to do a project within the Museum for his Eagle Scout Project and work began on this.

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

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

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

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

Budget workshops are held from January through April 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 Budget hearing is then held in April 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 May. The Town Budget for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 was approved by the voters at a referendum in May of 2016. 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.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 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, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, the Orange Fire Marshal's Office activity statistics are:

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

Fire Code Inspections which includes initial and re-inspection activities	538
State Fire Safety Code violations discovered and cited during inspections	1365
State Fire Safety Code violations that were corrected after being cited	1350
Review of building plans for State Fire Code compliance	68
Fire origin and cause investigations	67
Other activities, such as meetings, consultations, training classes, etc	612
Total permits issued	288
Homes visited where smoke/CO alarms were installed	97
Total Smoke alarms installed/ distributed	226
Total CO alarms installed/ distributed	138
Total alarms provided and/or installed as part of Federal Grant	364

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

Fires, including buildings, vehicles, and outdoor property	80
Hazardous Condition responses	73
Rescue calls	15
False alarms	228
Other types of responses	73

<b>Total Fire Responses for the Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>479</b>
--------------------------------------------------	------------

Of the 479 fire calls answered by the Orange Volunteer Fire Association for this fiscal period, there were 80 fires that included structures, vehicles, and brush. These fires caused a total of \$240,100 in property damage. Statistics indicated that 48% of the total fire calls were false activated fire alarms, mostly due to system malfunctions caused by a lack of maintenance. If you own a fire alarm system either in your home or business, annual testing and maintenance is vital to ensure proper operation and to reduce the number of false alarms. We have had a very successful smoke and carbon monoxide alarm campaign thanks to a FEMA grant. However, the stock of alarms has been depleted, and we are hoping to receive additional federal grants funds to secure more alarms and continue this vital program.

## ORANGE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

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

The department responded to 479 calls during the past fiscal year.

The department is in the process of investigating the purchase of a new piece of apparatus. This will replace a 1978 "Mack" Telesqirt, which has served the department well. We expect the replacement for it to be around \$900,000. The department will purchase and own this through monies received from donations and the Firemen's Carnival.

The present officers are:

Chief, John Knight  
Asst Chief, Charles Sherwood  
Captain, Mark Osinski  
Lieutenant, Richard Lohrenz  
Lieutenant, Eric Auscavich  
Treasurer, Peter Bopper  
Secretary, Peter Daniel

Dep. Chief, Vaughan Dumas  
Asst. Chief, Michael Esposito  
Captain, Joseph Duplinsky  
Lieutenant, Bill Laudenslager  
Lieutenant, Daniel Abrams  
Asst. Treasurer, Arthur Williams  
Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Kaplan

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

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

Fundraising is an ongoing program in the department. We appreciate the contributions made by the Town of Orange, businesses, organizations and residents to support our efforts.

A sincere thank you is given to the firefighters and their families for their dedication and service to the community.

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Dr. Joseph Zelson retired from his position as Director of Health in May 2016, a position he held for 28 years.

During an annual review with AMR of medical transports within Orange, it was noted that the number of falls had increased from the previous year. The Health Department joined with AMR and the Orange Community Services to introduce PRIDE (Paramedic Referrals for Increased Independence and Decreased Disability in the Elderly) to our residents. PRIDE is free and sponsored by Medicare and Yale University. Its goal is to keep our senior citizens safe and healthy at home.

After many months of discussion and debate, the Board made the decision to require the posting of alphabetic ratings in all Class III and IV food service establishments. The ratings criteria will be based on each inspection score and sanitarian findings according to the following criteria:

A = Inspection score and findings are in substantial compliance with the CT Public Health Code.

B = Inspection score and findings are acceptable with regards to compliance with CT Public Health Code.

C = Inspection score and findings identify Public Health Code violations needing improvement and subsequent inspection.

One of the prime reasons for a rating system is to provide information to the public and to give incentive to restaurant management to improve performance. It should not be construed as judgement about the quality of the cuisine.

The Health Department in conjunction with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District has been planning to develop a program for the distribution of medications in times of emergencies. It is anticipated we will develop our own closed pod at High Plains Community Center to administer medications to Town residents.

In an effort to insure protection against potential mosquito-borne diseases, a review was conducted of the updated Town of Orange Mosquito Management Plan.

The Board of Health meeting during the months of January, March, April, May, June, September, October and December at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at High Plains Community Center.

## ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

The following is a compilation of the permits and licenses issued by this office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016:

- 84 Subsurface Sewage Disposal Permits
- 3 Well Drilling Permits
- 125 Food Service Establishment/Vending/ Catering Licenses
- 89 Temporary Food Service Licenses

During the recent fiscal year, more than 2,500 field and office activities were performed. Examples of the office and field activities that the Environmental Division conducted include the review of 144 subsurface sewage designs and building addition plans, 568 office conferences, 45 septic system repair/building addition investigations, 169 deep test pit observations, 62 percolation tests, 115 septic system installation inspections, 88 site inspections to evaluate various environmental concerns, 58 complaint investigations, 334 food service inspections, 218 stand pipes monitored to determine seasonal ground water levels, 93 ground and surface water samples collected and monitored to determine water quality, 16 ticks were referred to the Connecticut State Agricultural Experiment Station for the presence of Lyme Disease and 16 school and child day care facilities were inspected. In addition, the Director of Health issued four (4) written orders to abate various violations of the Public Health Code.

Office and field activities in the area of food service are still at the forefront. With the popularity of food trucks and events associated with them, the increase in temporary food service licenses is significantly on the rise. The increase in temporary events as well as the Farmer's Market has made it quite challenging to complete the required number of food service inspections in a timely manner. Three food service establishments closed for business while six new establishments opened. Openings included Eli's, Goodies, Maxx's Café, Q's Asian Fusion and Thai Spice. There were two temporary closures of food service establishments due to health code violations.

The Town continues to be actively involved in mosquito management. An ongoing larvicide program is conducted with the assistance of All Habitat Services and the Department of Public Works. In response to the State Commissioner of Public Health's request for local health involvement, we have updated the Town's Mosquito Control Program to include disseminating important health information with regards to the Zika virus. Town residents are urged to continue to protect themselves against mosquito bites and to reduce mosquito breeding areas, and eliminate standing water around the house.

## **ORANGE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION**

The Orange Visiting Nurse Association has been providing community health services to the residents of Orange through its state licensed, Medicare and Medicaid certified and school nurse program for over 79 years. The agency is one of four Municipal VNAs in existence in Connecticut and continues to focus on health promotion and prevention, care of individuals following surgery or hospital stay with many of the referrals coming from area hospitals as well as New York facilities. Another major focus is teaching patients to manage their chronic disease so that they can stay out of the hospital and in their homes in addition to community/public health activities.

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

The agency provides community outreach as part of its mission which includes flu clinics, blood pressure clinics, office visits for residents who are not homebound and require medications which require a nurse to administer, "health chats," participation with Town agencies and organizations including the Senior Center, TRIAD and Emergency Management. We also assist the Health Department with disease monitoring through follow tracking/calls as required and data collection.

The school nurses, under the leadership of the school nurse supervisor provided health care to approximately 1400 students this past school year. A full time school nurse is assigned to each of the four elementary public schools; a part-time nurse to one private elementary school as well as Hope Academy in Orange. The role of the school nurse today is very challenging due to the variety of health problems found among the current school population.

Students made over 16,380 visits to the school nurses for minor and major first aid needs, illness complains, medication administration and blood glucose testing. Screenings were performed for height, weight, hearing, vision, epiclesis (lice) and scoliosis. The school nurses administer flu vaccinations, PPD screening to the BOE staff as well as participate in PPT and 520 conferences, conduct health education classes and playground inspections.



## **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

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

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

The Commission met quarterly during the year. There were no formal Certificate of Appropriateness' requests during 2016.

## **SILVERBROOK ESTATES**

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

We have seated chair exercise and Tai Chi weekly. Our commercial kitchen was renovated this year. We have a new range, a new steamer, a new food storage hot table, a new meat slicer, a new mixer and a new food warmer. Also, we have added a new walk in cooler and freezer. This will ensure that our daily food program will continue to serve each resident for 365 days a year for many years to come.

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 WETLAND AND WATER COURSE COMMISSION**

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

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

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

This past fiscal year the Commission acted upon one residential Application and 3 Municipal applications.

Thank you for your interest and concern for our environment.

## **CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The Case Memorial Library serves the community as a center of learning, innovation, and culture. During the year, the Library circulated over 140,000 items, which included the latest fiction and non-fiction book releases, magazines, large print titles, DVDs and Blu-ray films, audiobooks, and music CDs. There was also a steep 35% increase in the number of free downloadable e-books, audiobooks, and magazines that patrons borrowed in comparison to the previous year. More than 4,500 Orange residents have library cards. Over 97,500 patrons walked through the doors to attend outstanding programs; to receive homework help; to search for a job; to dig for local history and genealogical information; to attend meetings; to seek quiet study space, to transport themselves through literature; and much more.

Over the course of the year, 2,945 adults attended 72 programs. The Library's versatile offerings included the long-standing morning and evening book discussions and Oscar-nominated film series, monthly art exhibitions, and special events such as theatrical performances by area thespians; live concerts featuring the music of Cole Porter and Frank Sinatra; and cooking demonstrations from well-known local chefs.

This year, 261 teens attended 13 activities including the Library's outreach program Book Chat Café, an afterschool activity held at the Amity Middle School Media Center. In the Library, students in grades six through twelve participated in several hands-on creative programs including zentangles and henna classes, and decorative crafts workshops. Teens also learned how to create smartphone "holograms."

With over 2,250 children attending 137 events, the Library was abuzz with the sounds of interactive learning and exploration. The wide variety of program offerings included story times; drama workshops; crafts; live animal shows; family concerts; Nutmeg book discussions; and workshops emphasizing science and math to support STEM learning. Children were captivated by a live production of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" and the "Jeepers Creepers" show in honor of the fifth annual "Take Your Child to the Library Day." The Library's finely tuned summer reading program "Every Hero Has a Story" proved successful, as 239 children enjoyed books, quizzes, games, and prizes.

Skilled librarians assisted patrons with everything from research projects and using their digital devices to offering suggestions for their next great read, answering more than 14,000 questions. The Library added two new databases for Orange residents to take advantage of. AtoZ Databases offers a premier search tool for finding businesses, jobs, and people, while Novelist Plus is a trusted resource that helps library users find outstanding books to read and recommend based on their reading preferences.

The support of the Friends of the Case Memorial Library contributes to the Library's continued success. Funds raised through their semi-annual book sales helped provide programs, materials, and services for all ages throughout the year.

## MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

The Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade were held on Sunday, May 29, 2016. Arnold J. Casola, U.S. Army, World War II Veteran, was the Grand Marshal. James T. Dallas, U.S. Army, Korean War Veteran, was the Chief of Staff. The Honored Veterans this year were members of American Legion Post #127, Lewis Merritt, and Commander. A special recognition was given to 100 year old Marge Cronin for the many years of making the wreaths placed at the memorial stone at the cemetery. Emily Dewey Trudeau, Deputy Assistant State's Attorney, Judicial District of Fairfield and a Bronze Star decorated 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, and American Legion Post #127. Wreaths were laid at the monument by the American Legion Auxiliary and the Jewish War Veterans. The Committee encourages everyone to attend the ceremonies at the gazebo prior to the parade and the ceremonies at the cemetery after the parade.

There were eight marching bands which included Amity Middle School, Amity Senior High School, Beecher Road School from Woodbridge and the Orange Elementary School Band. There was a magnificent display of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department's firefighting apparatus...

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, Arnold Cuozzo of Ace design, Bob Fantarella for the use of his audio system, Gerry Butcher who prepares the gazebo for the ceremonies, Ron Davis, OGAT Coordinator, Philip Kozan for playing taps at both the opening and closing ceremonies, all news media and lastly the elementary school students who did selected readings and the Amity Rugby Club who handed out the flags and programs during the ceremonies.

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

## **PARK AND RECREATION**

The Orange Park and Recreation Department operated many very successful programs in 2015-16. Our program and swim lesson information is available on our website found at [www.orange-ct.gov](http://www.orange-ct.gov) and click on Recreational Services. The website highlights over 60 activities offered by the department throughout the year. Our Summer Camp programs began on June 22, 2015. All four sessions of our Day Camp program had good enrollment numbers and all eight weeks of our Traveling Teens program were close to full capacity.

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

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

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

The following events were again operated successfully in Orange at Town Park and/or community buildings: Orange Town News sponsored Concert series, Independence Day Fireworks, Orange Historical Society Train Show, Memorial Day Parade, Amity Rabies Clinic, Amity Animal Rescue Fund Event, Orange Expo for Economic Development, Flag Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Orange Firemen's Carnival, The Orange Country Fair, Green Meadows Farm Cultural Show, the Board of Education Olympic Festival, the Boy Scouts Conn Jam 2015, Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Pumpkin Palooza, Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Arts and Crafts Guild Holiday Fair, Pyramid Shriners Antique Car Show, Relay For Life, Rotary Club Lobster Fest, Chamber of Commerce Road Race, Mothers of Twins Association, Amity Rugby Club, Strawberry Festival, Doc Whitney Memorial Road Race, Amity Teen Center Chilly Chili Run, EARS CT Dog Day Event, National Day of Prayer, Rotary Club Thanksgiving Day Road Race, Racebrook School PTA Food Truck Festival and the Farmer's Market.

Irrigation systems (including the one at Town Green) were repaired as needed. The Park staff continued to maintain 25 softball, baseball, soccer and lacrosse fields, 28 Town owned properties, emptied multiple Park trash containers (weekly), removed Autumn leaves, cleared Town parking lots and sidewalks of snow and ice.

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

## **PENSION BOARD**

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

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

## **TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission met on the first and third Tuesday of each month. There were nineteen regular meetings and three special meetings held during the fiscal year 2015-2016. The Commission reviewed many pertinent issues during the year.

Approvals were granted for the following Site Plan Applications: Goodies Orange, LLC, 111 Boston Post Road; 34 Prindle Hill Road, expansion of parking; Scinto Office Building, 161 Marsh Hill Road; 260 Bull Hill Lane, lot line revision & property size reduction (former Builder's Square building); Shoprite Supermarket, 259 Bull Hill Lane; CT Center for Child Development, Inc., 339 Boston Post Road; 250 Indian River Road, medical/professional offices (former Rec. Showroom) and Tractor Supply, 253 Indian River Road. Approval was granted for a Special Permit to Home Depot, 440 Boston Post Road for outdoor storage and display. Special Permits were granted for the conversion of single family dwellings for elderly apartments on 329 Laurelwood Road, 219 Riverdale Road and 1026 Field Drive. Enchanted Garden, 461 Derby Avenue, was reviewed and approved for use. A modification of a Special Permit/Building Architecture Standards for Ravenswood/Oaktree Development, 100 South Orange Center Road, was approved.

Affordable Housing 8-30g, 504-506 Boston Post Road, reuse of a rear building, to create a plaza with mixed use was approved. It is a retail/residential property with 8-30g residential component. Ten apartments were approved.

The Orange Zoning Regulations, Parking Regulations and Map were reviewed and amended. Approvals were granted for 8-24 Referral Municipal Improvements: to abandon road dedication and construction agreement for a "paper road", 260 Bull Hill Lane; to abandon the Town's right to "Christmas Tree Lane"; to extend public sewer line to 32.62 acres on Spring Street, (Dogburn Lane); for reconstruction of Derby-Milford Road, funded by CT DOT; for conveyance of land and construction easement on Salemme Lane, to widen Salemme Lane (for 65 Marsh Hill Road, LLC).

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 2015-2016 the Orange Police Department responded to approximately 41,286 calls for service. There were 419 criminal arrests, as well as 2,703 arrests for motor vehicle violations. The Department responded to 1,105 motor vehicle accidents; 1,564 medical emergencies; 1,453 burglar alarms and 393 larceny investigations. There were 47 burglaries reported. The Department also made 63 arrests for driving under the influence.

The Department utilized State grant funding to participate in distracted driving enforcement initiatives during the year, as well as DUI patrols during the major holiday time periods.

The Department undertook several major training initiatives to follow up the use of force training at the conclusion of the previous fiscal year. Officers were trained in fair and impartial policing, de-escalation techniques, and dealing with mental health issues. Officers were also trained on new firearms and body-worn cameras. The body-worn cameras were purchased for each member of the Department utilizing a State grant to completely fund the project. The Department used drug asset forfeiture/ stipend monies to purchase the new handguns and holsters, resulting in improved accuracy, safety and quality.

A new mobile command vehicle was purchased from State auction using drug asset forfeiture/ stipend monies, and was refurbished and outfitted by Department and Public Works personnel with little expense.

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

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

In May 2016 the Department held an awards ceremony, at which several officers and citizens were recognized for their outstanding efforts to keep the community safe. Several Lifesaving medals were awarded at the ceremony.

The Department held a Citizens Police Academy class in spring 2016, with many Department members participating. The Department also continued its other 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 "Cop on Top" and Torch Run events to raise money and awareness for Connecticut Special Olympics.

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

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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

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

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

3.5 miles of "Local Arterial Roads" were rehabilitated and paved expending approximately \$1.0 million of the \$5.0 million fund of the original 2012 bond issue. A new Bond Issue is proposed to provide for the rehabilitation of an additional 9 miles of "Urban Arterial" roads by the year 2020, this completing all 28 miles of our arterials.

The winter 2015-2016 was average and relatively mild. Snow and ice control expenditures were moderate.

## **THE ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

The Orange Recycling Committee (ORC) had another very active and productive year. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, residential recycling increase 1.6% from the previous year, for a total of over 1029 tons of material.

The ORC continued with additional recycling opportunities at the Orange Transfer Station as residents continue to bring paint and electronics there for recycling. Unused prescription drugs are collected by the Orange Visiting Nurse Association on Orange Center Road.

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

Additional highlights of 2015-2016 ORC initiatives include:

- The Committee received a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recycling Incentive Grant of \$6840 which was primarily used for the costs of updating the town's Recycling Ordinance that had been in place for the past quarter century.
- ORC members twice volunteered at HazWaste Central at the Regional Water Authority in New Haven, expediting the drop-off process as residents from throughout the region brought household hazardous waste products for safe disposal.
- The ORC hosted a booth at the Orange Country Fair. Members explained residential recycling changes, answered general recycling questions, and distributed Forget-Me-Not seed packets to all visitors. In addition, the committee sponsored a children's craft category for items made with recycled materials.
- The ORC hosted two Shredding Days, held for 3 hours each at High Plains Community Center. Each time residents brought over 10,000 lbs. of documents to be shredded. In addition, at the second event, over 30 bicycles were also collected for recycling. Thanks to full sponsorship by the Orange Rotary Club, this was provided at no cost to residents.
- Once again, the ORC again hosted a booth at the Orange Business and Community Expo and distributed pencils made from recycled materials to all attendees.
- Committee members regularly collect ink and toner cartridges from town offices and send them to be recycled.
- The Committee publicized ways to opt-out of receiving phone books.
- The Committee worked with and helped to financially support an Eagle Scout on his project to supply sorters for recycling and waste containers at High Plains Fairgrounds for town events.

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Registrars are responsible for overseeing fair and honest elections, maintaining an up to date voter registry, proper upkeep of the voting machines and security of all election materials. The Registrar of Voters Office is governed by the Connecticut General Statutes and operated under the direction of The Office of the Secretary of State. Registrars are required to keep current on new and upcoming legislation by attending Secretary of State Conferences twice a year, plus mandated meetings held at the discretion of Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC) district chairpersons. In 2015 the legislature added the additional requirement that all Registrars be certified by attending classes at UCONN.

<u>Registered Voters in Orange as of 6-30-2016</u>				
Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Other	Total
2,580	2,605	4,924	103	10,212

### Election Dates:

November 3, 2015	General Election for Municipal Offices	
April 26, 2016	Democratic and Republican Presidential Primaries	
May 3, 2016	Amity School Budget Referendum	Passed
May 19, 2016	Town Budget Referendum	Passed

### Town Meeting:

May 9, 2016	Town Budget	Passed
-------------	-------------	--------

### Special Voter Registration Sessions were held

September 29, 2015	9:00am-5:00pm
October 17, 2015	10:00am-2:00pm
October 27, 2015	9:00am-8:00pm
November 2, 2015	9:00am-5:00pm

Training sessions were held for poll workers October 28, 2015 by the registrars prior to the municipal election and April 21, 2016 prior to the Presidential Primaries.

October 20, 2015 the Registrar's hosted an Amity High School student for Government Day to familiarize the individual with the election process.

In May of 2016, letters were sent out by the Registrar's office to 179 registered voters for verification of residence. All appropriate changes were made to the voter registration files. This canvass is mandated annually by the Office of Secretary of State.

Voter registration sessions were held March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at Amity High School for all students 17 years and older wishing to register. A total of 203 students registered to vote during the annual registration sessions, of these 109 were Orange residents.

## **SAFETY COMMISSION**

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

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

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

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen consisting of James M. Zeoli, First Selectman, John J. Carangelo, Paul Davis, Mitchell R. Goldblatt, Ralph G. Okenquist, and Judy W. Williams will serve a two-year term to November 17, 2017.

Of significant importance this year was: 1) Paving of Town roads including curbing, lining and landscaping –Old Tavern Road, Maple dale Road, Meeting House Lane, New Haven Avenue, Old Grassy Hill Road and Dogwood Road including Peck Place School and the Orange Center Road Firehouse parking area; 2) Construction of front parking lot at High Plains Community Center with accompanying new lighting; 3) Grant received for \$6840 from DEEP to help promote recycling efforts in Town; 4) DOT Grant for \$43,200 to replace one Special Transportation vehicle; 5) 2015 Recycling Rewards Program Service Agreement was approved; 6) \$75,000 appropriated for the Derby-Milford Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project; 7) Approved Agreement with American Medical Response of CT, Inc.; 8) Recycling Ordinance amended; 9) Charter Revision Commission appointed; 10) Approval to fund an unanticipated expense to revise the TODD (Transit Oriented District Development) regulation as it relates to the construction of a train station and potential development; (11) Board approved the 8-24 Referral Municipal Improvement for the reconstruction of Derby-Milford Road between Turkey Hill Road and Cranberry Lane; 12) The Town was awarded a \$300,000 STEAP Grant for access and improvements to Fred Wolfe Park and 13) Albert W. Chiarenzelli, Director of Finance, retired and John M. Cifarelli was appointed the new Director of Finance.

Resolutions were adopted on the following matters: Amendment to the 401(a) Defined Contribution Pension Plan which permits withdrawals when a participant attains 59 ½ years of age; First Selectman authorized to execute the 2015 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement; Approval of Memorandum of Agreement, Constitution and By-laws for MEDCOM; First Selectman authorized to execute the Personal Service Agreement between the Town of Orange and the State of CT for Fred Wolfe Park STEAP Grant 2010-04 to construct an access way for Fred Wolfe Park; Resolution approved endorsing SCRCOG Regional Performance Incentive Program for Planimetric Data Development and Regional Open Space Inventory; Resolution approved making recommendations for the Charter Revision Commission to consider and setting a deadline for the completion of its work; 2017 Historic Preservation Grant approved for the Town Clerk's Office and resolution approved allowing the Town to enter into an Agreement with Connecticut Green Bank/C-Pace Program.

Other matters addressed during this year included: Amity Middle School students participated in Government Day held October 20, 2015; Orange Recycling Committee held free shredding days funded by the Orange Rotary Club at High Plains Community Center on October 17, 2015 and June 25, 2016 from 9 a.m. to noon along with bicycle recycling; Sub-Registrars of Vital Statistics appointed; Relay for Life was held on the Orange Fairgrounds May 21, 2016 and the Orange Farmer's Market took place on the Fairgrounds on Thursdays from June 30, 2016 to September 29, 2016 from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m..

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, one Special Meeting was 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 eleven individuals who passed away during this past year and who served the Town with distinction: Edgar Vaughn, John Serfilippi, Robert Kelly, Samuel Volo, Barry Goldblatt, Elmer Manley, George Monck, Alexandra "Sandy" Montesanto, Judge Charles L. Flynn, Sr., Richard Mason and Barbara Kelley.

## **TAX COLLECTOR**

Grand List Year October 1, 2015

Mill Rate on Real Estate and Personal Property – 32.2

Mill Rate on Motor Vehicles – 32.0

This past February we entered into a one year contract with Point and Pay enabling taxpayers to pay their taxes on-line. While we have processed just under \$ 400,000 the ability of paying on-line has presented issues of its own.

To view your information on-line, go to the Town of Orange website; [www.orange-ct.gov](http://www.orange-ct.gov), click on Government Services , select Tax Collector or go to <http://www.orange-ct.gov/govser/taxcollector.htm> you can view payments, print a duplicate tax bill.

Our commitment to professional development continues and whenever possible we take advantage of educational seminars and opportunities offered by the New Haven Tax Collectors Association and the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association. Networking and seeking solutions for improved office operations and daily functions within the Tax Office remains a priority.

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

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

The Board of Finance sets a mill rate based on the dollar amount required to run the Town for the fiscal year. When taxes aren't paid the budget can't be met; therefore the mill rate needs to be increased the following year to meet the budget. The collection rate as of June 30, 2016 was 99.21%

In an effort to keep taxes from increasing, the collection of past due taxes remains a major focus.

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

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

Orange Town Hall is wired with a special access cable enabling both live and prerecorded cablecasts to be made on Cablevision. OGAT uses digital video cameras and a digital hard drive to record programs as well as Digital Versatile Discs (DVDs) and a broadcast server for storage and cablecast of programs. OGAT also broadcasts a bulletin board between programs, which provides information regarding upcoming board meetings, town meetings and special events as well as the schedule of OGAT programs. OGAT concurrently broadcasts its programming on the U-Verse system and live on the internet. Previously aired programs are available as video on demand on the internet. During the year a video messaging system and service renewals for streaming video and video on demand were purchased using grant funds provided by the Area 2 Cable Advisory Council (CAC) under Public Act 08-159. These system upgrades are examples of OGAT's focus on continuous improvement and our desire to be on the cutting edge of government access stations in adopting the latest recording and broadcasting technologies. The OGAT live stream and video on demand can be viewed by clicking on the "OGAT LIVE" or "OGAT VIDEO ON DEMAND" links respectively on the town's internet page (<http://www.orange-ct.gov/>).

During the fiscal year, the OGAT station recorded and/or broadcast 156 programs of which 138 were board meetings and 18 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, Orange Police Awards Ceremony, Holiday Festival, Veteran's Day, Flag Day & Memorial Day Observances, Pasta Festa, Chamber of Commerce Awards, Student Government Day, Independence Day Concert & Fireworks, Labor Day Concert, First Selectman Debates, Elected Official Inauguration Ceremonies, Meet Your Legislators, Legislative Forum, Breast Cancer Awareness Day Ceremonies, Chilly Chili Run, Doc's Race, Fraud & Theft Forum, Promotional Videos (OVFD Carnival, Library, Senior Center, Independence Day Concert & Fireworks, Public Service Announcement (Safe Winter Driving)).

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

OGAT is always interested in comments from individuals on its programming. We are also interested in finding individuals who would like to work with us to record or edit broadcasts. If you have a comment or would like to learn or add your expertise to any of our broadcasts, please contact the First Selectman's Office in Town Hall at 203-891-4737.



## **TREE COMMITTEE**

The Tree Committee met several times throughout the year mostly coordinating the establishment of Tribute Tree locations around the Town. This was a continuation of last year's efforts to identify suitable locations for future Tribute Trees or other tree plantings. A couple of tribute trees were planted behind the High Plains Community Center. A Red Oak, chosen by the Garden Club of Orange was planted near the playground on the South side of the building in an area which will benefit from the installation of some shade trees. A Princeton Elm tree was selected in memory of James Nixon, husband of long time tree committee member Gail Nixon. The Tree Committee has some openings going into the upcoming year in the event that any community members have interest in a light volunteer commitment.

## **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 in Orange along the Post Road and south of the Post Road. We also operate and maintain the sewer from Fieldstone Village. Post Road sewage goes to West Haven and Fieldstone Village sewage goes to Derby for treatment. The rest of the Town is designated a Sewer Avoidance Area. Over 450 residential units are connected to both sewer systems in addition to the commercial properties on the Post Road.

The WPCA is responsible for raising its own money to operate and maintain the sewer systems and to pay West Haven and Derby for treatment. Our operating budget for the year was over \$600,000. We discharge about 350,000 gallons per day of sewage to West Haven and a much smaller but growing amount to Derby.

After holding the user charge rate steady for 5-6 years for customers on the West Haven system, it was necessary this year to raise the rate from \$4.65 to \$4.95 per 1,000 gallons. The rate for Fieldstone Village remained the same at \$310 per dwelling unit plus \$0.74 per gallon per day per year.

Bids for the 60kw generator for the Indian River Road Pumping Station at Christmas Tree Plaza were received early this fiscal year, construction was completed and the generator is now operational. Studies were made of our existing sewer system to determine capacity to handle a proposed train station development as well as possible development on Dogburn Lane. Plans were reviewed for building sewers from the proposed Scinto building on Marsh Hill Road and the new ShopRite being constructed on Bull Hill Lane.

## **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.