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MAGAZINE





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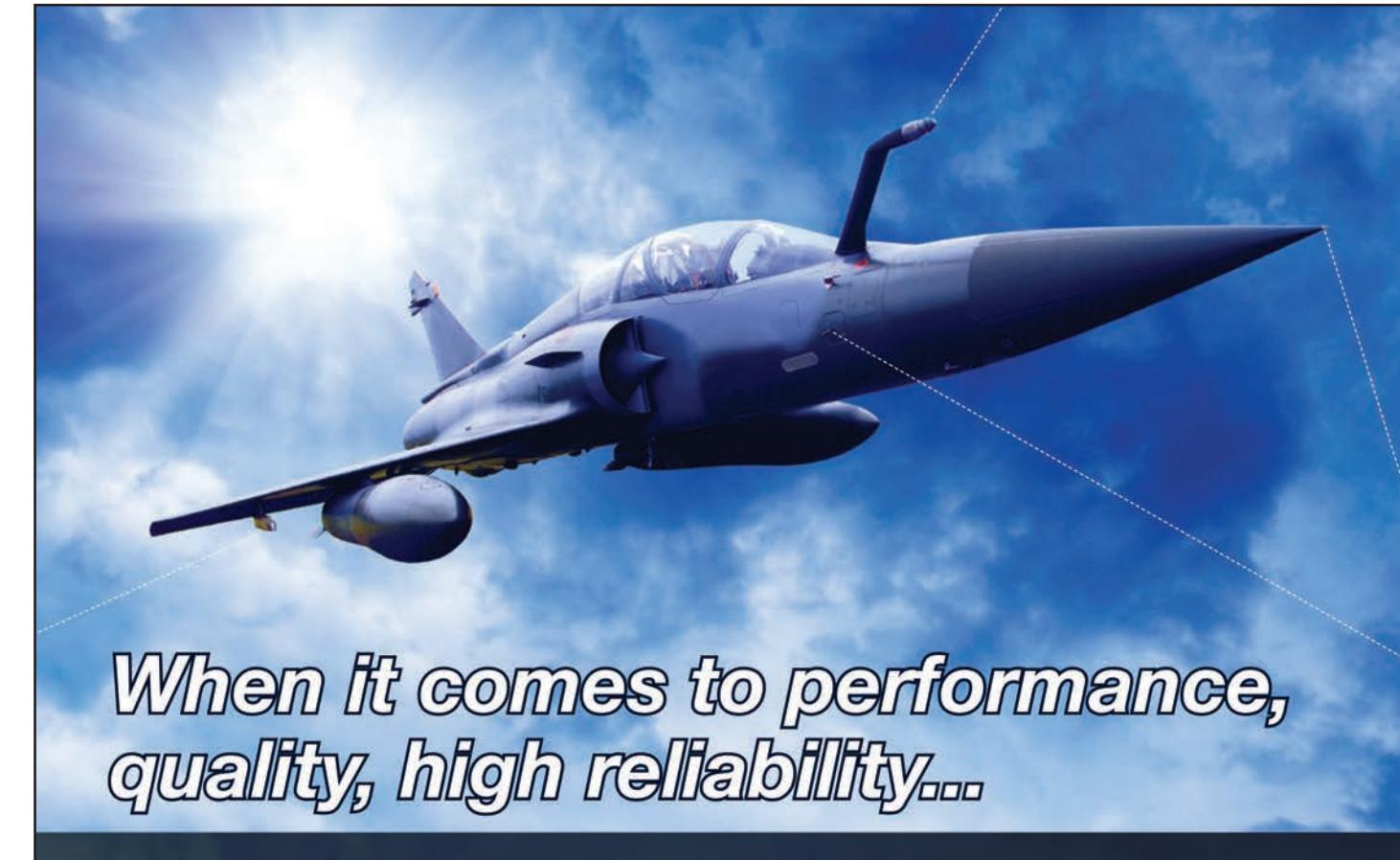


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Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
Annemarie F. Slaby, Executive Director
Orange Economic Development Corporation

Ad Sales
Mary Bialy
Orange Economic Development Corporation

Contributing Writers
Alyssa Davanzo, Charlotte Del Vecchio, Allen Greash, Tasha Meisenheimer, Ginny Reinhard, Joseph Weathered

Submitted Images
Orange Historical Society, Paula Severino, Traveland

Design, Photography & Production
Paula Severino

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Submit Photos and Ideas
To be considered for photographs for our cover (seasonal) and ideas for articles featuring the people and business community of Orange, submit to: aslby@OrangeEDC.com.



On the Cover
The table where food was prepared with time-period instruments in the kitchen of the Stone-Otis house, with a view into the yard. Read the House that Sits on the Corner on Page 23 about the dwelling's first inhabitants.
Photo: Paula Severino

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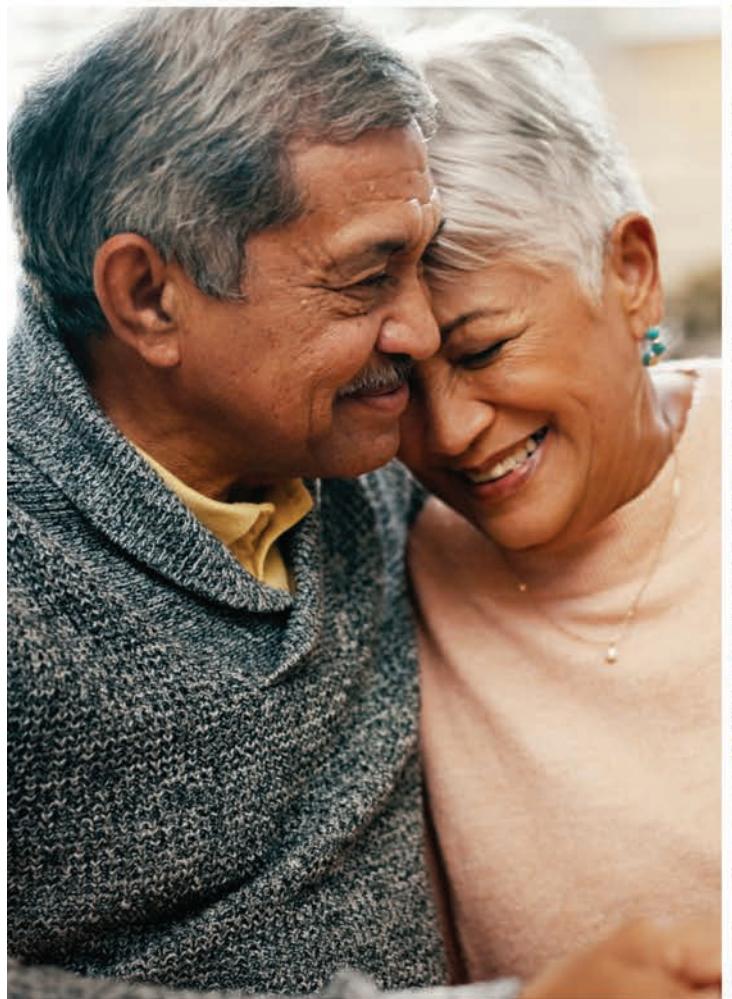
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Publisher's Letter



I am pleased to present our 31st issue! I'd like to thank our readers for their continued support. Your kind words and feedback about how much you enjoy the publication is much appreciated.

As we plan each issue, we strive to offer a good mix of articles highlighting history, agriculture, business, and community. Sometimes new elements come and go—the Business Milestone feature was omitted, but we may bring it back in the future.

In this issue read about a couple who operate a maple farm and produce maple syrup. I got to see their Sugar Shack while the owner explained the process of making syrup. It can take about 50 gallons of sap to make only 1 gallon of syrup. Incredible!

Also featured in this issue is the town's newest beverage shop who offer coffee, hot chocolate, milkshakes, protein shakes, tea, soda, and so much more. With so many flavor combinations, they have the capability to make thousands of different drinks. Beverage orders are taken by staff who are waiting outside for customers as they pull into the lot. The service is fast and friendly!

Remember to check our Calendar for upcoming holiday events! Have a joyful season!

ANNEMARIE F. SLIBY

Executive Director, OEDC

When visiting any of the businesses that have advertised or that are featured, please let them know you saw their ad or article in OrangeLife. As always, I want to thank our advertisers, and First Selectman James Zeoli, the Orange Economic Development Commission, and the Orange Economic Development Corporation for their support.

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Fast, Friendly, and Thousands of Drink Options at 7Brew

WRITTEN BY: JOSEPH WEATHERED

A new concept for beverages has recently opened in Orange, with a promise of friendly, quick service and almost unlimited options. 7Brew, located at 112 Boston Post Road replaces the long dormant space where a Subway sandwich shop called home. The business offers a unique experience of customization and efficiency, starting with the construction itself.

"Our building literally drops into place," comments co-owner Rohan Kapoor. "It's a Modular Build design which is manufactured offsite and is brought to the location in a few parts." Along with the modern construction strategy, 7Brew wishes to specialize in customer service and create long term, repeat customers by having their drink ordered, made, and delivered within minutes.

A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

"At the core of our business is a belief that our customers thrive on a face-to-face interaction," replied Kapoor. "We have our staff come out to cars to take the orders on iPad® devices, and then by the time the cars roll up to the lanes, their drinks are ready and waiting for them! It's all about a positive experience, which we believe encompasses speed, quality, customization, and a great human interaction."



Co-owner Rohan Kapoor in front of 7Brew.

According to their website, 7Brew began with one stand in Rogers, Arkansas with seven original coffees offered. The franchise currently has close to 500 locations across the country, with the Orange location marking the third one in Connecticut. According to Kapoor, 7Brew will also be opening in North Haven and New Haven by the end of this year.

"Orange felt like a natural next step for us after Wallingford and Vernon," Kapoor commented. "The location itself is highly visible, right on a busy stretch of road that already has a lot of traffic, and we saw a great opportunity to serve that community with something fresh and different. While the site had been dormant for a while, we looked at it as a chance to breathe new life into a space that was already well-positioned. Beyond the real estate, though, what

really attracted us was Orange itself – it's a vibrant town with a strong sense of community. We knew we could bring our 7Brew culture of kindness, energy, and connection to a place that would truly value it."

GENUINE CONNECTIONS

"What really attracted us to the 7Brew franchise was how closely its core values aligned with our own," replied Kapoor when asked about his desire to invest in the brand. "7Brew is built around authentic, genuine connections—both with the amazing team members we employ, who are so important to us, and with the customers we serve in the community. The ethos of cultivating kindness and creating positive experiences resonated deeply with us. On top of that, the quality of the product and the incredible level of customization for each guest made it clear this was a concept we wanted to invest in."

The core value concept has led to the relocation of staff from Arkansas to the Connecticut locations to continue on the style and culture, with Kapoor noting that he is "grateful for how seamlessly they've blended with our incredible local Connecticut team, creating the same energy and experience that defines 7Brew."

CREATIVE MENU

7Brew offers a wide variety of beverages—not just coffee—and also boasts a secret menu. "One of the most

exciting things about 7Brew is the creativity in our menu," replied Kapoor. "We truly have something for everyone whether it's coffee, energy drinks, fizzy drinks, smoothies, teas, lemonades, or milkshakes. With over 20,000 possible flavor combinations, guests can really make their drink their own."

As far as the secret menu, Kapoor notes that "It's part of the 7Brew culture to keep things fresh, playful, and



A Pink Mermaid energy drink (right) and an iced Pumpkin Blonde with cold foam and caramel drizzle (left).



From left to right: Rosina King (Brewista), Rohan Kapoor, Kiran Kapoor, and Garrett Wilmoth (Regional Manager).

customizable, and that's what keeps our guests coming back." While 7Brew does not offer an expansive food menu, Kapoor notes that muffin tops are offered, which pair with the drinks.

Our focus is on beverages—we want to do them really well and deliver the best possible experience around," replied Kapoor. "By keeping the menu simple, we can stay true to what 7Brew is all about: high-quality, customizable

beverages served with speed and a smile."

Among their dedication to the local communities, 7Brew has its' own Heroes program, in which a customer can visit their website and nominate someone who goes out of their way to make the world a better place, one act of kindness at a time. The winner receives \$500 and a year of free coffee.

Visit their website 7brew.com. ■

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Transformation Builds Confidence and Strength

WRITTEN BY: ALYSSA DAVANZO

With a new year around the corner, it's easy to get caught up in the hamster wheel of fitness goals – buying new sneakers, following the latest diet trends, and spending extra hours in the gym.

At Transformation Strength and Wellness, located at 518 Boston Post Road in Orange, their mantra is to improve your fitness and well-being holistically, so you'll only need to get in shape once.

This premier fitness studio, which opened in the summer of 2024, fosters an inclusive community and helps members thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally. It all started as an idea between friends Steve Coreano and Stacey Reilly, who met while personal training at the Edge Fitness Club.

"We were well-established at the Edge, leading one-on-one and group sessions with a high volume of clients," said Steve, co-owner of Transformation. "When COVID hit, we decided to open a gym together. This was the first place we found, the price was right, and it had even been a gym and Kung Fu studio. It felt like it was meant to be."

BACKGROUND

Steve brings 11 years of training as a powerlifting coach, with certifications in personal training, Mixed Martial Arts conditioning, weight loss, and more. Stacey holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and certifications in personal training, women's and senior fitness, yoga, and Total Resistance Exercise.

SERVICES

Transformation offers individualized personal training, tailored fitness coaching designed to help clients get stronger, lose body fat, and build muscle. Steve and Stacey create

personalized workouts and encourage clients to maintain consistent habits outside the gym, such as proper eating and sleeping.

"A lot of people hire a trainer because they want to lose weight quickly, but that approach is often unsustainable and can lead to burnout," Steve said. "Early in my career, I began to understand what really moves the needle for clients of all ages. The key is helping people understand how much they need to eat and creating custom nutrition plans. The stronger and better nourished you are, the easier your day-to-day life becomes."

Stacey fell into the niche of working with seniors and women in the pre- or post-menopausal phases of life and has



Steve Coreano demonstrating deadlifts on the Glute Lift.



Co-owners Steven Coreano and Stacey Reilly.

found it rewarding to watch her clients gain confidence.

"I do a lot of balance and functional fitness training, even teaching clients what to do if they fall and can't get up," said Stacey, co-owner of Transformation. "I've seen clients in their 60s, 70s, and 80s get stronger and enjoy life's most special moments, like playing on the floor with their grandkids."

Transformation is comfortably filled with equipment, and Steve and Stacey say that because they design the workouts themselves, it's easy to oversee everyone in the gym. The space is never overcrowded – usually no more than 15 people at a time – so workouts run smoothly, and the energy stays positive.

ONLINE COACHING

For clients with busy schedules, Transformation offers online coaching that keeps them on track. Workouts are recorded through the TrueCoach app, an interactive platform with video demonstrations and communication tools that make online training feel as connected as in-person workouts.

"Online coaching works great for busy professionals and parents," Steve said. "Instead of piecing together workout plans in Word or Excel, the app has all the details clients need to complete their training. We keep tripods on hand so clients can record workouts on their phones and upload them to the app for direct feedback from their trainer."

Since opening, members have created a tight-knit community, celebrating milestones and keeping each other accountable every step of the way. Stacey said that trying to navigate your fitness journey alone, without asking for help, is a recipe for falling off the wagon.

"We want to get people off that island. In the same way it takes a village to raise a child, it takes at least two people – the



Photo: Paula Sevrino
Stacey Reilly demonstrating step ups on the Glute Lift, which help with balance and coordination, especially good for seniors.

client and the trainer – to get someone in shape. When you have support behind you, anything feels possible."

Steve says what makes Transformation stand out from other gyms is its welcoming environment, which is conducive for people from all walks of life. While they take improving their clients' lives seriously, they also know how to have fun.

"Personality is number one, and we believe the compassion and care clients receive is what sets us apart," Steve said. "We like to be funny and witty. I can attest to it, but it's not something you can vouch for on paper. You have to come in and experience it for yourself."

Visit transformation-strength.com, and follow on Instagram for sneak peeks of personal training and client testimonials. ■



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An advertisement for Orange Fence & Supply. The background image shows a woman swinging on a swing set in a park with large, leafy trees. The text "Legacy of Quality" is prominently displayed in large white letters. The company logo, featuring a stylized fence post and the text "ORANGE FENCE & SUPPLY CELEBRATING 95 YEARS!", is at the top. Below it, the text "95 Years of Building 'Em Better!" is followed by a list of services: Residential Fencing, Commercial Fencing, Entry and Estate Gates, Operator and Access Systems, Custom Design Services, Arbors and Pergolas, and Fence Repair. At the bottom, it says "Schedule your Free Estimate! OrangeFence.com | 800-772-3828" and "License # HIC0535641".

An advertisement for Bulldog Swim Academy. The background features a blue and white graphic with a bulldog logo and the text "BULLDOG Swim Academy". The text "200 Indian River Road, Orange" and "info@bulldogswimacademy.com" are at the bottom. The phone number "(203) 701-7740" is at the very bottom. The background of the main text area has a pattern of colorful bones (blue, green, pink) on a grey textured background.

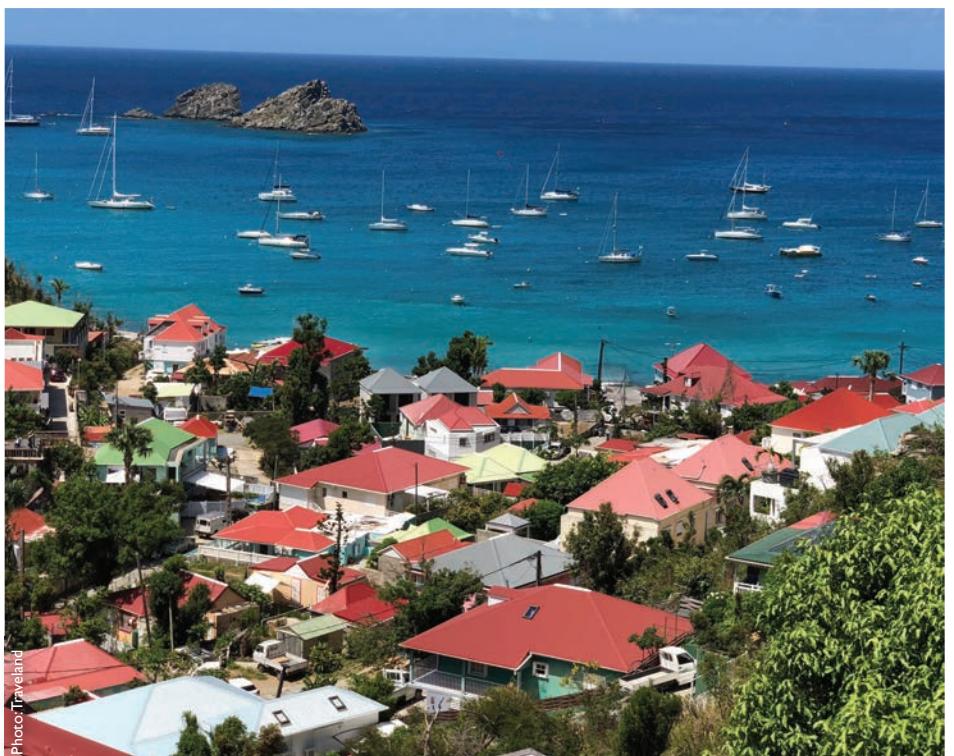
The Evolution of Travel - A Look at Traveland in 2025

WRITTEN BY: JOSEPH WEATHERED

The desire to explore and travel the world has been a constant of human beings for as long as humanity has existed. The idea to see something new, create a memory and most importantly, display it all on our socials will remain forever and the means to attain that idea has constantly evolved.

Since 1979, the family-run business Traveland has been helping travelers explore the world with ease and confidence. Traveland began in 1978 by the parents of brothers Oded, Tamir, and Eitan Battat who decided that the best way to further their traveling passion was to open an agency. The first office was established in Bridgeport and years later, the business expanded to Shelton. In 2018, the Shelton office was relocated to a freestanding building at 564 Racebrook Road.

In those 40 plus years, the agency has had to consistently pivot and move through the evolution of travel.



A beautiful view in St. Barthelemy (St. Barts), one of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean.

SERVICE DRIVEN

"Since 1978, our mission has always been to deliver exceptional service to our clients and that commitment is what's carried us through every challenge," remarked owner Oded Battat. "Over the decades, we've weathered our share of storms: the energy crisis in '95, the aftermath of 9/11 in '01, and the financial crash in '08. Each of those moments shook the travel industry, but Traveland has always been resilient."

While the arrival of online booking sites, apps, and technology changed the business of travel, the 2020



Kayaking through the glaciers of Antarctica on a Silversea® cruise expedition--one of the trips Traveland organizes.

COVID-19 pandemic almost destroyed the concept of travel.

"The pandemic was unlike anything we'd ever faced," said Oded. "The world came to a standstill. People were told to stay home. Resorts closed. Cruise lines halted operations. Suddenly, there was no new business coming in—but we still had a responsibility to our clients who had booked trips in advance."

"It was definitely difficult for us; we struggled with maintaining our existing client's bookings and stayed up to date on ever-changing refund policies and cancellation windows," said Marketing Manager and IT Specialist Tal Battat. "We did a lot of canceling and re-booking for later dates."

Eventually Traveland pulled through the pandemic and were able to offer their customers refunds on cancelled trips, which Oded commented they

were able to offer 98% of those refunds to their customers.

"It was a tough time," commented Oded. "Policies were constantly changing, cancellation windows kept shifting, and we had to stay on top of it all. We spent countless hours canceling and rebooking trips, always with the goal of preserving our clients' trust and keeping their travel plans intact."

LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS

One of the more interesting wrinkles in the post-COVID-19 landscape was that while technology offered travelers a wealth of options and strategies to plan their trip, the other side was being buried in all the options. Perhaps another wrinkle was the need for a more experience-based form of travel.

"After COVID people wanted 'sure things,' said Tal. "No one wanted to get to their destination to realize their window faced a brick wall or construction site. The trend in buyers is currently leaning toward experts."

As Tal comments, "One of our partners is a golf travel supplier that gives us access to immaculate and historic golf courses worldwide—including being the only travel service that can guarantee you a tee time at the Old Course at St. Andrews, which is located

Oded remarked that in the post-COVID world, Traveland focused on concepts such as 'peace of mind over DIY booking' and 'trust and human connection,' which Oded refers to as OI (Organic Intelligence) and personalized service. Oded comments "Unlike algorithms, travel agents listen, adapt, and tailor experiences to individual needs. Our clients appreciate having a real person to call when plans change or emergencies arise."

GATEWAY TO GOLF

When Traveland arrived in Orange, the agency found themselves located in the shadows of several local golf courses. They began to create relationships with the courses, along with expanding to provide golf experiences around the world.

While Traveland has had its struggles during times of change, they have maintained their strength and will be ready and seasoned for future challenges. One thing that will never change; people will always want to travel.



Owner, Oded Battat.

in the United Kingdom. We also offer a program where a golf coach can take a group of golfers abroad."

While Traveland has had its struggles during times of change, they have maintained their strength and will be ready and seasoned for future challenges. One thing that will never change; people will always want to travel.

For information, call the Orange office at 203-929-6000 or view their website at traveland.net. The office is open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm.

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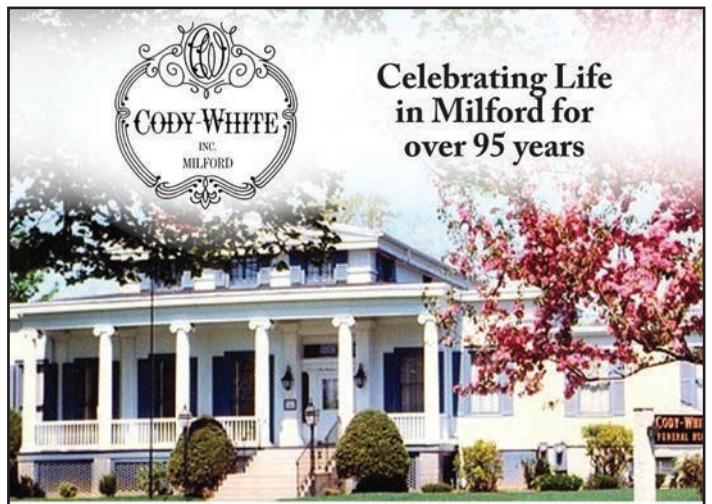
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Family Farming Can Be Sweet – And Sticky!

WRITTEN BY: CHARLOTTE DEL VECCHIO

Orange-raised arborist Chris Minore and his wife AnneMarie acted on a passion for farm-to-table eating and a work-study in a college sugarbush by opening their very own maple farm in 2021. Now, with 300 trees and counting, the family business is expanding one tap at a time.

The Minore family has a long history of family farming, appreciating nature and all that it has to offer. Chris Minore was raised in Orange by his parents, Gina and Paul, who moved here from West Haven in 1994. The family would frequently visit their hunting camp in upstate New York, where they all had a chance to practice farming vegetables, such as corn and soybeans. This is also where Chris got his first look into the sugaring industry, as the family would frequently visit the sugarhouses where horse-drawn sleds would be used for collecting syrup.

After graduating from Paul Smith's College in 2018, where Chris met his wife AnneMarie, the couple moved

back to Orange. They fell in love with Orange's small farm-town style and saw it as the perfect place to raise their own children, Maisie (2) and Dakota (2 Months).

INSPIRATION FOR SUGARING

While attending Paul Smith's College, located in Upstate New York, Chris took on a work-study job in the campus' sugarbush, made up of 3,700 tapped maple trees. This experience urged Chris to develop plans for his own sugarbush, where he could use his knowledge of maple farming and maple syrup production for the benefit of all Orange locals. "[I] was inspired by keeping tradition and appreciating the knowledge of knowing where our food comes from," said Chris.



The sugar shack where syrup is produced.

While sugaring is not Chris or AnneMarie's full-time job, they both work in the residential tree care industry. Chris is an arborist and AnneMarie handles the administrative side of things. Trees are most certainly a passion for this family, since they have dedicated their lives to caring for and maintaining trees of all kinds. But maple trees hold a special place in their hearts.

"I guess you could say trees are our thing since we work with them every day. We just happen to know a little more about Maple trees than anything else," said AnneMarie.

STARTING THE FARM

Chris and AnneMarie started their maple farm in 2021 with 30 trees on their property. By the 2025 season, that number had grown to 375 trees and by 2026, they are expecting to hit the 500-tap benchmark. Each year the Minore's are growing in size and establishment. They add more taps and upgrade their equipment in order to stay up to date on the latest technology and trends in the maple industry in order to bring their customers the highest quality maple products and to keep up with demand.



The Minore family (left to right): AnneMarie, baby Dakota, Maisie, and Chris.

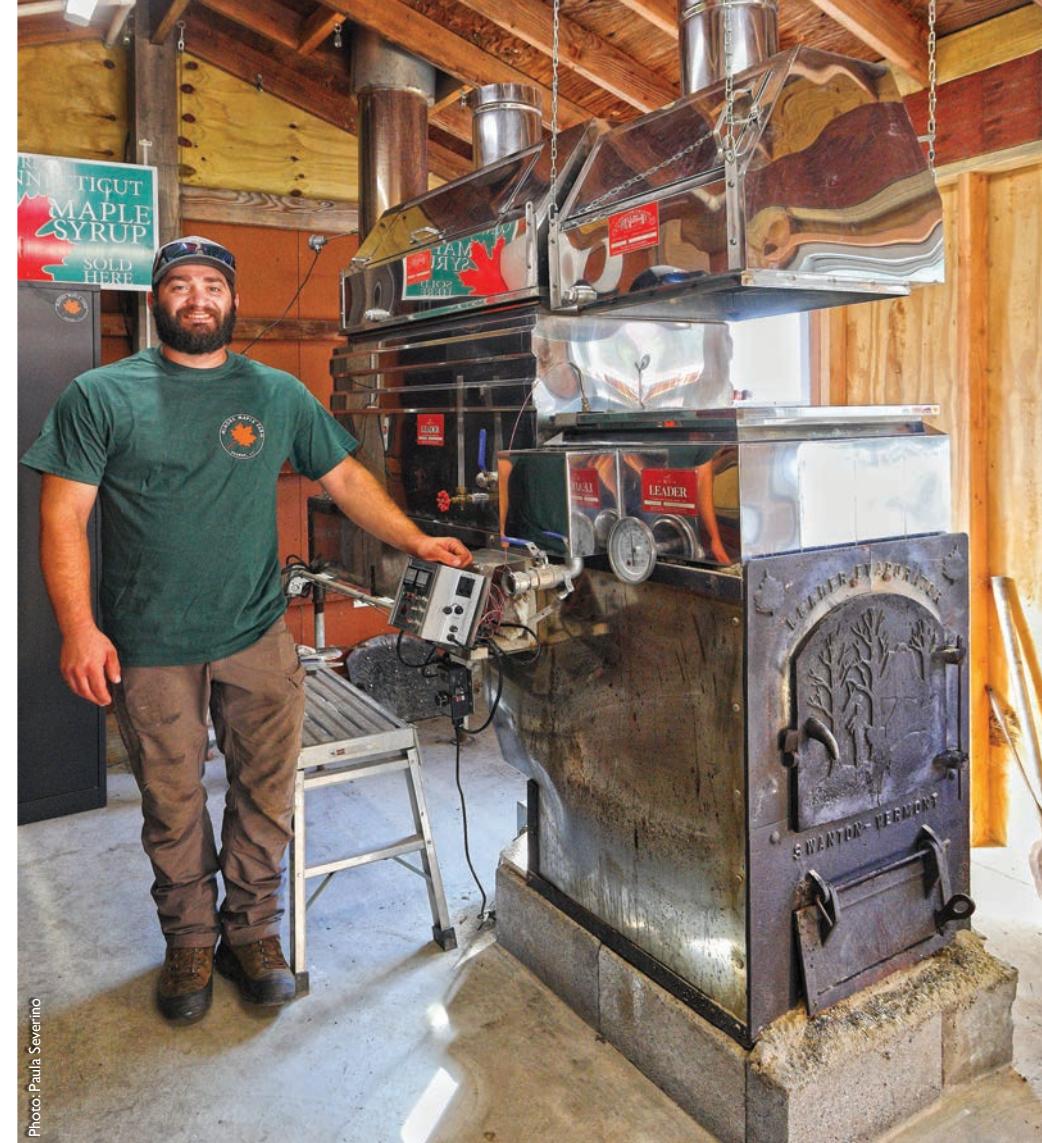
Trees are tapped when they grow to 10 inches or more in diameter, which typically means the tree is around 45 years old by the time it is ready to be tapped. The season for sap collection is usually a six-to-eight-week window beginning in early February and lasting through late March. The weather has a major impact on sap collection, as ideal weather consists of freezing nights followed by bright sunny days. "Once we collect the sap, we are making syrup that very same day. We can go from sap to bottled syrup in less than 24 hours," said AnneMarie.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Chris and AnneMarie are both board members of the Orange Land Trust and work with this committee to protect Orange's land. Within the past year, the Minore's have partnered with the Orange Land Trust to host a pancake breakfast out of their sugar shack, offering tours and fresh maple syrup to guests.



Chris Minore demonstrating tapping a tree, which was the first one they tapped on their property.



Chris Minore with the evaporator machine where raw sap gets boiled, which concentrates the natural sugars and creates the thick, sweet syrup.

Their incredible work has continued to provide opportunities for environmental protection and preservation in Orange. This summer, the Minore Maple Farm partnered with the Connecticut Audubon Society as a "bird-friendly sugarbush." This is yet another effort these maple farmers are making to protect our environment and wildlife, creating a favorable dwelling for native birds who roost in maple trees.

This past season, the Minore's collected about 7,000 gallons of sap from their maple trees. The amount of sap collected each year usually varies depending on the weather, the length of the season, and the number of taps. The sap from the 2025 season created 125 gallons of maple syrup, of which they created their Dark Robust syrup, as well as maple sugar, candy,

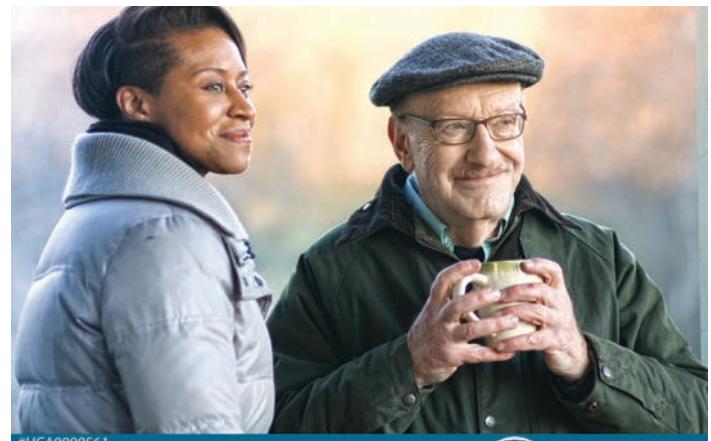
and cream, and sold them at local farm markets over the summer.

The Minore's do not treat their farm as a means for profit, but a source of enjoyment and community for their family and friends.

"Our favorite part is having friends and family come over to help us with the entire process. The memories made in the sugar shack are the sweetest," said Chris and AnneMarie.

This true passion for maple farming and tree care comes out in their products and positive attitudes toward selling to the local community.

Follow Minore Maple Farm on Facebook or Instagram. A new website is in the works which will allow clients to order online.



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The House That Sits on the Corner

WRITTEN BY: GINNY REINHARD

Lots of things can sit on a corner but our corner refers to the little white house at Orange Center and Tyler City Roads. Known as the Stone-Otis House, the inhabitants were the Stone and the Otis families.

Dennis Stone built his home in 1830, a young man with aspirations for his future, a future which took him into politics and important town positions.

Dennis was born in 1805, the great-plus-grandson of Reverend Samuel from Herefordshire, England. The Stone families found their way to Guilford and into Milford, but Dennis was born in North Milford. You know that our town was officially named Orange in 1822. His house was built across the street from the Orange Congregational Church and looking at some of the construction details, you'll find that Dennis added some to his newly built home after noting them on the church, an indication that he was a man of the future.

His future? He was a postmaster, constable, grand juror, tax assessor, town agent and a five-term first selectman. As if this wasn't enough, he ran a store in the northside of his house.

A HOME AND STORE

Looking at the front of the house, one will notice two sets of doors....one



The door to the left was used as the entrance to the store. The door to the right was the entrance to the family home.



The store inside the Stone Otis house, which will be open to the public on December 14th.

THE STONE FAMILY

Dennis and his wife Sarah had three children, the youngest, Le Grand, had aspirations as his dad, but his was to go "out west." The west in this case was Kansas, where he and Dennis



Sarah and Dennis Stone, the original inhabitants of the home.

established a homestead at Twelve Mile Creek. By that time, Sarah had died as did his first two children, Collin and Ellen, so Dennis closed the store to help with the move "west."

THE SECOND INHABITANTS

Enter Charles and Phebe Otis. Charles appears to be an affable personality with a drive for adventure. Not the kind you read in novels but to search a "new" world, the world of invention... indeed, Charles Otis was an inventor. In his own hand, written on tiny pieces of paper, he wrote about the inventions



Phebe and Charles Otis.

of which he was most proud. He was proud of his ancestors as well, as he traced his family back to James Otis, colonial adversary in the Revolutionary War. James can be credited with several sayings which became part of the Bill of Rights...but that's for another time.

OTIS'S CREATIONS

After learning a trade as a machinist, at an early age, Charles took a job in Birmingham (Derby) at a company with



The living room decorated for the holidays. The door to the left is the entrance to the store, which is directly behind the living room. The paintings over the couch are of Sarah and Dennis Stone.

THE OTIS FAMILY

As with Dennis, Charles H. and his wife Phebe had three children that played a part in the purchase of the house that still stands, restored and open by appointment, at this point, but openings will be available in the future. As to Samuel and Charles R. we don't know much about them. We have a picture of Charles in a Mayflower Drum Corps uniform, and we have his drum that he was playing when he precipitated in many winning competitions. Samuel's history notes find him in the Navy's medical division, going overseas.

Being in several engagements in World War I, Sam was overcome by lethal gas, a weapon readily used at that time. He was given a medical discharge and returned home, remaining a bachelor. It was Sam who sold the town his childhood home that stands so proudly as a monument to two important Orange families after his sister Bessie died. She is remembered by the fact that she taught at the Orange School (Mary L. Tracy) before marrying her childhood sweetheart, Harry Olsson.

Much of what we know about these two families comes from research with one more piece of history to add. Next time you ride an elevator, and you see the name Otis....you got it, the families of Charles Otis and Otis Elevator and related.... inventors all.

For more information call the Orange Historical Society 203-795-3106 or visit orangehistory.org. ■



The kitchen where meals were prepared and the family gathered.



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A photograph of a man and a woman smiling. The woman is holding a red ribbon above the man's head. The man is wearing a blue shirt. The background is a bright, airy room. On the left, there is a logo for "PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS MEDICINE CENTERS" with a heart icon. In the center, a red box contains the text "MOVE PAIN FREE PTSMC ORANGE". Below this, in a white box, are the words "Flexible Scheduling", "Hands-on Care", and "No Referral Needed!*". On the right, there is a QR code. At the bottom right, the text "Spring Brook Common 240 Indian River Rd, Ste B7 Orange, CT 06477" and "PTSMC.com/Orange" is displayed.

*In most cases. Contact us for more information.

Let Blush Med Spa Guide Your Beauty Journey

WRITTEN BY: ALYSSA DAVANZO

In a single day, you could be served dozens of ads for top-rated eye creams, sun-damage solutions, and celebrity-approved nighttime routines. With an endless stream of beauty advice, it can be hard to chart your own path and discover what truly makes you feel like the best version of yourself.

Enter Blush Med Spa at 33 Old Tavern Road in Orange and step into a world of luxury wellness. From the herringbone floors to the soft pink walls, every detail sets the tone before you're welcomed by Blush's team of medical professionals, who specialize in subtle enhancements that help clients age gracefully and achieve radiant results.

"We take a holistic approach to self-care," said Jessica Amenta, Manager of Blush Med Spa. "With locations across Connecticut and one in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, our passionate team has spent more than 15 years helping clients feel confident and cared for. Whether you're new to aesthetics or looking to upgrade your routine, we use advanced techniques to deliver natural appearances."

CUSTOM TREATMENTS

Blush Med Spa offers a wide range of treatments, from injectables that smooth fine lines and fillers that restore volume to chemical peels for refreshed skin and microneedling to improve pigmentation. For those exploring their options, Blush's team provides personalized consultations to fully understand each client's needs and goals.

The most popular offerings at Blush are injectables like BOTOX®, which last three to four months, followed closely by dermal fillers. Laser hair removal is another favorite, with the Blush team using the advanced Candela® GentleMax Pro® to safely treat unwanted hair on all skin types. Other services include weight loss peptides, hair restoration, vitamin IV infusions, and vitamin injections.

A NATURAL LOOK

Following beauty trends, the Blush team has noticed that clients are increasingly seeking natural rejuvenation.

"From 2016 through 2020, it was all about lip filler and the mindset of 'the bigger, the better.' Now, people want a combination of modalities to improve their skin's texture and achieve refined

Ashley, a lifelong Orange resident, spent 15 years as an APRN at Yale New Haven Hospital before transitioning to aesthetics in 2020.

"I've always had a personal interest in this space, and I love making people feel confident," Ashley said. "At Yale, I worked in inpatient oncology and later at Smilow Breast Cancer Hospital, where part of my role was helping women feel better after having mastectomies. Working at Blush has been a seamless transition, and I've even had crossover patients who appreciate that I understand their challenges. They'll say, 'I just need to do something to feel better about myself and get back to feeling like me.' It's been rewarding to see those experiences overlap."



Photo: Paula Severino
From left to right: Emily Doherty, Team Lead and Ashley Western, APRN.

results," Jessica said. "It's important for clients to understand that no single treatment fixes everything. That's when overfilling can happen, which is the biggest turnoff in the med spa world. At Blush, we go slow and guide our clients every step of the way."

CONTINUOUS TRAINING

Blush's reputation is built on trust and cutting-edge technology, and a commitment to continuous learning. The team participates in regular trainings to stay current with the safe, proven injection methods and the latest



A medical facial spa room where DiamondGlo® is performed, a dermabrasion treatment that brightens skin and helps decrease the appearance of puffiness.



Ashley Western holding the wand of the Candela® GentleMax Pro® which is used for laser hair removal and skin treatments.

For more information, call 203-263-9353 or view their website blushmedspact.com. ■



Artemis: Education, Protection, and Purpose

WRITTEN BY: TASHA MEISENHEIMER

Artemis Shooting Sports & Training Academy is more than a range or retailer—it is a purpose-driven destination where firearms training, safety education, and responsible community engagement intersect.

Artemis is a multi-unit, omni-channel business that offers firearms, ammunition, and accessories. Permit certification and safety classes as well as tactical training in shooting, driving, and first aid are offered. They have women and youth-focused programs and provide professional-grade training facilities complete with lounges and classrooms.

The name *Artemis*—inspired by the Greek goddess of the hunt and protector of women and children—captures the spirit of the brand and its commitment to strength, safety, and skill. “We chose the name, *Artemis*, because it reflects our commitment to education, protection, and purpose-driven action,” states Liz Gesualdo, a 25-year veteran of the NYPD and former head of its training division. Presently, she leads the training and education at both Artemis locations and ensures students will learn to make sound decisions under pressure. She explains, “Every course is about building skill and confidence—not just pulling a trigger.”

With locations in Elmsford, New York and recently Orange, Connecticut, Artemis offers a modern, inclusive approach to firearms ownership, training, and empowerment. Artemis Orange is managed by Dan Paris, a veteran firearms and security expert, and Eric Guillet, a retired high school history teacher. Artemis unites retail, elite-level instruction, and community outreach under one guiding belief: purpose matters. Their tagline, “For Those with Purpose,” mirrors more than branding—it is their mission.

Gino Vieira is the Head Firearms Instructor, a decorated Marine Corps veteran and master firearms trainer, who brings deep tactical knowledge, years of experience, and a calm, engaging teaching style.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Artemis Orange opened in December 2024 at 543-545 Boston Post Road, taking over a location that lost its federal firearms license. Artemis significantly upgraded the training facilities, equipment, and staff standards, requiring every employee to be a Range Safety Officer (RSO), Connecticut Concealed Carry Permit holder, and trained in basic first aid.

“We set a new standard. Safety, security, and professionalism are non-negotiable here,” says Guillet. Though newer to the community than its Elmsford counterpart, Artemis Orange has been well-received. The team continues to build its Connecticut training cadre and daily class schedule.

WOMEN & YOUTH

Artemis Orange actively participates in local community events, sponsors youth safety classes, and hosts female-focused programs like Ladies’ Range Days and members-only nights through partnerships like *A Girl & A Gun*. They provide women-only programming, exclusive female range events and instruction tailored to new and experienced female shooters. Gesualdo says, “Women want to feel comfortable, respected, and confident. That’s what we deliver.”

One of Artemis’s investors is a dedicated youth sports coach and sits



Dan Paris, Manager.

on the Connecticut Tri-State Board of Teach for America, a national nonprofit that places teachers in underserved schools. This investment in youth development translates into Artemis’s mission to educate and empower future generations. “Whether or not your family owns firearms, every child should know what to do if they encounter one,” says Vieira. “Ignorance is never safer than education.”

TRAINING & RETAIL

Artemis Orange currently employs seven team members and is growing fast. The staff is comprised of retired law enforcement officers, military veterans, EMT’s, paramedics and

an emergency room physician, Dr. Steve LaButi who serves as a certified firearms instructor. His unique background brings a vital, medical perspective to the training programs and reinforces safety, preparedness, and real-world response.

Artemis offers a full line of firearms, including pistols, rifles, and shotguns. They sell ammunition, suppressors, and accessories and require mandatory background checks for every firearm transaction and ID is needed for ammunition sales. Artemis strictly complies with all federal, state, and



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The locker room where clients can store their belongings safely.

local laws. They also have firearm rentals which are available for on-site use and require proper safety gear and a valid CT permit. Artemis offers certified permit classes for: Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Utah and other multi-state options. Courses are available daily and taught by highly credentialed instructors.

Both law enforcement agencies and private security companies regularly train at Artemis locations. The advanced training facilities offer a professional experience that’s rare in the region. “You can’t find many places like this—modern, safe and staffed by experts who care,” states Paris.

Chief John DiFederico, of the New Canaan Police, adds, “In an era where responsible firearm training is more critical than ever, Artemis sets a high bar. Their commitment to safety and community education makes them an invaluable resource for both law enforcement and civilians alike.”

Through its inclusive programs, disciplined approach, and community values, Artemis Shooting Sports & Training Academy honors the spirit of its namesake while building a new legacy of purpose, safety, and skill.

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Fueling Higher Education for Orange Students

WRITTEN BY: ALLEN GREALISH

The Orange Scholarship Fund Association (OSFA), founded by Rita Moule in 1964 due to a lack of scholarships for Orange residents, has been a cornerstone of the community, empowering students to pursue higher education.

Rita remained deeply involved with OSFA until her passing in 2012, and her son Joseph joined in 2010 to continue the Moule family's representation. Today, the fund continues to thrive under the leadership of current president Sabra Donovan and a dedicated board of volunteers carrying on Rita's vision.

60 YEARS OF IMPACT

In 2024, OSFA proudly celebrated its 60th year of making a difference in the lives of local students. This milestone reflects the generosity of Orange businesses, professionals, and residents who have supported the fund for six decades. Each contribution whether from local businesses, groups, or individuals helps sustain this tradition of giving and investing in the future of Orange's youth.

Over the years, the fund has provided scholarships based on financial need, academic achievement, and community service. Since its inception, more than \$561,000 has been awarded to nearly 300 students, helping them ease the financial burden of higher education. This past April, OSFA awarded \$8,000 to five deserving students, while May 2024, \$6,000 was distributed among four students. These scholarships are not only monetary awards but also a message of encouragement, reminding students that their hometown is rooting for them as they take their next steps.

VOLUNTEERISM

OSFA is entirely volunteer-based, with members dedicating their time to reviewing scholarship applications,

setting budgets, fundraising, and keeping the fund active. This spirit of service keeps the organization running, but financial support from the community is essential. Without donations from businesses, organizations, and individuals, the fund could not continue to award scholarships at the level it does today.

New donors are always welcome. Contributions not only launch young academic careers but also receive public recognition in local media, highlighting the donor's commitment to education and community service. For businesses, this is a meaningful

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way to give back while demonstrating corporate responsibility. And as a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, donations to OSFA may be tax-deductible.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, the student must be an Orange resident enrolled in public, private, or parochial school and entering his or her freshman year of postsecondary education. Qualifying institutions include vocational schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, or universities.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of the fund is hearing from past recipients. Their stories reflect the lasting impact that a scholarship can have on a student's life. We encourage past recipients to share their experiences and consider paying it forward with a donation to help future students achieve their dreams," said Joseph Moule.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the fund moves forward, the mission remains the same: to provide local students with the support they need to succeed. Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a difference.

Calendar of Events

WRITTEN BY: MARY BIALY

November 20: Holiday Farm Market and Craft Fair

The gym at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm. A variety of farm, food, and craft vendors, food trucks, holiday music and selfie station. Free admission and parking. Contact Orange Economic Development at 203-891-1045 for more information or check farmmarketorange.com for a list of vendors.

November 27: 13th Rotary Club of Orange 5K Turkey Trot

High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, 8 am start. To register and for more details go to rotaryclubforange.org.

November 28 & 30, December 7: Annual Craft Fair

The Party Barn at Mapleview Farm, 603 Orange Center Road, 10 am – 4:30 pm. Handcrafted vendors throughout both days for your holiday shopping. For more information contact mapleviewfarm87@gmail.com. The event will be canceled if it rains.

December 6: Annual Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting

Orange Town Green, Orange Center Road / 205 Meetinghouse Lane. Start with Cookie Walk and hot chocolate at 3 pm, tractor parade starts its journey at 4:30 at Fred Wolfe Park and arrives by the green at 5:30, tree lighting begins at dusk. The Academy Museum and Stone-Otis House Museum offering free tours from 2 – 6 pm, rain date Sunday, December 7th. Visit orange-ct.gov or orangetractorparade.com.

December 7: Music on the Green

Orange Congregational Church, 205 Meetinghouse Lane, 4 pm. Handbell Choir and Carol Sing featuring the Amity High School Choir Bryan Campbell and Marcia Rizzotti, directors. Free admission.

January 1: Chilly Chili Run 5K Road Race

High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, 10:15 am. To register or for information go to hitekracing.com.

May 22: Race Brook School Food Truck Festival

Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road, 4 pm – 8 pm. Such a delicious way to start Memorial Day Weekend! For more information, find on Facebook at RBSFoodTruckFest.

ORANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The Academy Museum

605 Orange Center Road Open November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 27; 10 am-3 pm.

The 2nd fl. S.N.E.T. Exhibit Open Nov. 22 & Dec. 27; 10 am-3 pm.

Stone-Otis House Museum & Holiday Shop

615 Orange Center Road Open December 14; 1 pm-3 pm (\$4)

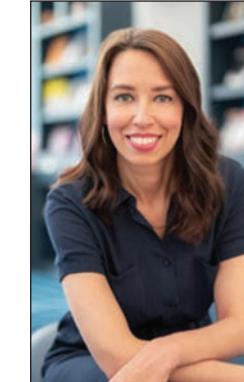
Bryan-Andrew House Museum Tour

131 Old Tavern Road Open December 7 & 21; 1 pm-3 pm (\$4)

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For additional information visit orangehistory.org

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203.549.7727



Mary-Ann White
203.589.3383



Shilpa Jain
203.314.9565



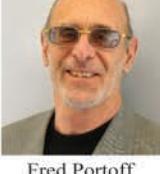
Alicia Mascia
203.500.3150



John Izzo
860.929.8715



Claire Sullivan
203.605.1943



Fred Portoff
203.751.1599



Mary DeVita
203.915.7633



Debbie Schlegel
203.623.6780



Isabel Corredor
203.691.0919