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Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper
Mailed Free to Every Home in Orange
Mailed Free to Every Business in Orange & Milford
PUBLISHED EVERY THREE WEEKS

VOL. 9 - ISSUE 1 CIRCULATION 8409 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014



ORANGE CERT SWEARS IN 15 NEW MEMBERS

By Laura Fantarella - Orange Town News Correspondent

Helping their community through an emergency situation was the resounding reason most of the new inductees to the town's CERT program cited when asked why they wanted to join. The 15 most recent members of the Community Emergency Response Team were sworn in at a ceremony at High Plains Community Center last month after completing a 10-week training program. One of the CERT's major responsibilities is helping man the town's shelter at the High Plains Community Center in the event of an emergency. In his remarks at the graduation ceremony, Deputy Emergency Management Director and CERT member Tino Russo said, "In the past few years there have been some major incidents and there's no way government can protect all of us. People want to help and with a little training they can become part of the solution." According to Russo, CERT plans to have members trained and ready to act when a situation arises.

Former military, information technology professionals, retirees, teachers, medical personnel, and students, most of whom are long time Orange residents, were among the group of men and women graduates. They are: Corey Fischer, Lynn Ericson, Tony Volta, Mike Davis, Jim Lewis, Sangeeta (Sandy) Dadlani, Farhat Siddiqui, Mike Pritz, Ann Teller, Eleanor Hylinski, Bruce Backer, Scott Massey, Chris Shaw, Jeff Cap, and Marty Hummel.

Upon receiving their certificates, the assembled group shared their reasons for wanting to be part of the CERT team. Chris Shaw, a semi-retired bus driver and HAM operator who served in the Navy said he's always enjoyed "messing around with electronic toys" and CERT seemed an ideal place to put it to good use. "I like the idea of helping your neighborhood and your town," he said.

Civic-minded Ann Teller said she loves Orange and joined CERT because she wanted to "do more to help". Reconstructive foot surgeon Dr. Bruce Backer who is a HAM operator and a coordinator for the state's medical services hopes his medical training

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TOWN BULK PICK-UP DATES TO CHANGE!

SEE MAP ON PAGE 23 FOR YOUR PICK-UP DAY



NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES FOR BOARD OF ED

By Melissa Nicefaro - Orange Town News Correspondent

The New Year brought a new challenge to parents and educators across Orange as freezing temperatures caused two pipes to burst at Peck Place School, allowing thousands of gallons of water to flow in through the ceilings of classrooms leaving the entire school flooded with fresh water upon students' return on January 6. As the building was dried, a new problem arose: floor tiles with adhesive containing asbestos began to crack. Air quality tests were conducted (which came back negative, meaning asbestos had not yet seeped into the air) and the administration decided on a permanent replacement of the floors which would involve a lengthier closing of the school for an abatement. The building is sealed off completely, and an abatement contractor with the correct licensing is removing all of the 44-year-old floor tiles and the mastic which adheres them to the subflooring.

Though a cost for the damage has not yet been estimated, Superintendent of Schools Lynn McMullin anticipates the district will be responsible for part of the cost. "It's much too soon to say [what the cost will be], but we have insurance," she told Orange Town News.

As a temporary solution, Peck students were split between Race Brook and Turkey

See "Challenges" continued on Page 2



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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

O.V.F.D. AUXILIARY PANCAKE SUPPER

The Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its 5th annual Pancake Supper on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at Chip's Restaurant, 321 Boston Post Road, Orange. Menu includes Pancakes, Eggs, choice of Bacon or Sausage and beverage.

There will be an early seating at 5 PM and late seating at 6:30 PM. Prices are: \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 Children 10 and under. Tickets must be purchased in advance as there are a limited number of seats available. Tickets may be purchased from any Auxiliary member or at Knight's Inc., 286 Boston Post Road, Orange. All proceeds benefit the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. For further information, contact Lynn Knight @ 203-799-2592 or visit our website at www.orangevfd.com.

"CERT" continued from Page 1

will be helpful in an emergency. Michael Davis, son of CERT Training Coordinator Ann Davis, said he is "already experienced and genetically pre-dispositioned" for the volunteer job.

The Orange CERT team has been in existence since the mid-1990s, growing from about 15 initial members to about 55 with the most recent graduates. CERT still seeks HAM operators and radio communicators and hopes to add at least ten new members to its ranks in the coming year. In addition to volunteering in emergencies, CERT volunteers also help out at town events like the Fireman's Carnival, Country Fair, and Fireworks Display. Anyone interested in joining the team can contact Ann Davis at cookiemama059@aol.com or Al Mushin at K1qex@optimum.net.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



DRENZEK-HEFFRON NUPTIALS

Allen Anthony Drenzek, son of Ronald and Judith Drenzek of Orange, and Rian Catherine Heffron, daughter of Mr. Richard Heffron and the late Mrs. Cathy Heffron of Stamford, CT were married on September 21, 2013. The ceremony was held at the Basilica of St. John in Stamford, CT, with Rev. Michael Dogali officiating at the ceremony.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by Desiree Farano as matron of honor and Kaitlyn Heffron as maid of honor. Danielle Drenzek Jaques and Katherine Frangione were bridesmaids and Antonio Rende was a bridesman. The best man was Thomas Jaques. Rahul Samanta, Miles Loudon, and Tyler Kramka served as groomsmen.

The bride received a Bachelor of Science in History, Secondary Education, and Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University. She is currently the Director of Education at Inspirica and teaches Adult Basic Education at Stamford's Adult Learning Center.

Allen is a line service technician at a Westchester airport. He also works as a free-lance computer technician. He received his Certification as a Professional IT Technician from Comp TIA.

The couple honeymooned in Italy, France, and Spain. They currently reside in Riverside, CT.

FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

By John Ulatowski



Area Residents Need Jobs Help? Youth Services Job Bank Can Help

The Orange Youth Services Job Bank provides a service of pre-screened students, ages 13-16, who can be employed by area residents to do a large variety of jobs such as snow shoveling, yard work, garden help, attics/basements, raking, small painting, party helper, tutoring, clerical assistance, mother's helper...and more. For further information, please call John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at 203-891-4785.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MUNICIPAL AGENT

By Denise Stein



As I am writing this column, we are still experiencing the Polar Vortex. I know I am freezing and so is my entire family. I have two things going for me that I give thanks for every year. I have a house that is centrally heated and a garage.

Please take a moment to think what it is like for your neighbors who may not be as fortunate. There are a number of people here in town that must rely on energy assistance programs in order to maintain that centrally heated house or apartment.

These programs have been drastically cut again. This year the benefits from the Federal Energy Program are down. In addition, Operation Fuel which is a secondary program to assist people who exhaust their energy benefits before the end of the heating season,

has \$1,000,000.00 less this year. This deficit has led them to make serious cuts to their program as well.

So in the middle of this polar vortex, I went online and learned that Orange has a population of 13,233. While we are not a big town, we are a warm hearted town when it comes to making donations and I thought of donations our citizens could make.

If every person in town donated just \$5.00 to our Community Fuel Bank, the money raised would go far to help our neighbors in need.

Please make checks payable to the Treasurer, Town of Orange, in the memo section write fuel and mail to my attention at High Plains, 525 Orange Center Road.

Thank you so much for your generous donations now and in the past.

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