

9 Jepson Drive Milford CT. 06460

Phone (203) 877-5131

Volume. 26 Issue 05

May 2020

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake Chairperson Lillian A. Holmes Executive Director Leonora C. Rodriguez Editor Eleanore Myers Turkington



Dear Members,

In the beginning of this year, we would not have imagined that life as normal would have changed as drastically as it has within the past two months. As 2019 ended and 2020 began, we were hopeful this

Leonora C. Rodriguez new year would bring us many opportunities for growth, learning and togetherness. And in a way, it has. This period, has provided us with time to slow down, to think and to understand how truly small the world is. It beckons us to become aware of the beauty around us. It is the month we think of our Mothers and of their role as carers, nurturers, and of the love they provide. We have seen these attributes from people who are caring for others now; first responders, neighbors, teachers, essential workers, etc. Both men and women, who have learned from their Mothers and their Mother's Mother on how to give, care and love. I wrote about a tunnel last month, an analogy to all that has been happening during this time. We may still be in that "tunnel" but we are getting closer to the road on the other side. Keep looking forward.

The senior center staff have been working at a reduced capacity but still continues our mission to serve the specialized needs of Milford's Senior population. Our kitchen team have been preparing and packaging meals for delivery and pick-up options for seniors in need. The transportation team has been out making meal deliveries. Food bank has been pre-packaging food boxes for pick-up. Wellness calls are being made by various staff whom job function is to connect socially by phone. And, administration has been working on ensuring the mission of the center continues. The equally fantastic workers of the city's Public Works department have continued repairing floors, painting all areas and keeping the Senior Center clean for senior center staff. We are grateful for all the helpers, for the givers and the carers. We are also grateful for you; for doing your part, for staying home, for helping friends and neighbors, for your kind words and good thoughts.



#### **Monday May 25th**

This Memorial day, take a moment to remember all of our brave men and women who have died as a result of combat as well as to all of those who served and have passed on. We will always thank you for your service. For this Memorial day, although we may not have or be able to attend a parade, here are ways you can still honor our fallen.

- 1. Wear or display a Poppy
- 2. Pause at 3 p.m. for a moment of silence
- 3. Read the original Decoration Day proclamation
- 4. Display the U.S. flag.

#### May is a time for celebration!

Nurse's Week: (May 3rd-9th)

National Police Week:

(May 12th-18th)

**Emergency Medical Services Week:** 

( May 19th- 25th)

National Teacher's Day: (May 5th)

Armed Forces Day: (May 16th)

Check out our website's new look!
www.MilfordCTSeniorCenter.com



#### **EDITOR'S DESK**

#### **Eleanore Myers Turkington**



Memories, we all have them, pleasant or not, but, we choose to remember the significant ones; the first day of school, graduation, first boyfriend, our wedding day and of course, in my case, preparing my first dinner as a new bride. I cooked 12 ears of corn for two people. I'll never forget the look on my new husband's face as to please me as he tried to complete his third ear of that golden vegetable. As you may know, my position at the Milford Senior Center is to report events of the day, week or month. Over the years we have had so many pleasant memories at the Center and I say we, because I have enjoyed them as well; the loud cheer when the word BINGO was

shouted out, and the happy chatting of members with exercise mats tucked under their arms as they entered the building. I particularly enjoyed watching dancing members during one of our parties, their years disappearing into the past as seniors twirled and danced to their favorite music. The Center has a huge band, chorus and Gospel singers who always entertains us with music everyone loves. Just outside our front door excitement was always generated by members as they waited with enthusiasm for the bus ready to bring them to a place of music, games, nature and entertainment. I can't forget the subdued atmosphere while folks concentrated on completing puzzles and bridge and just around the corner a craft and ceramic class where items of beauty are created. I always admired the happy smiles on the faces of our Ahrens Group as they made their way to various adventures throughout the building. Our Center closed due to the Coronavirus but the front door will slide open once again and we will greet each other with anticipation and warm friendly greetings.

#### IT IS TIME TO FILE YOUR CENSUS INFORMATION!

If you prefer to fill out your census information on line, you can at my2020census.gov The Census Bureau will follow the guidelines of the Federal, State and local health authorities, The Census Bureau is using the internet to securely collect your information. If you prefer to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire on paper, the Bureau will send you a paper questionnaire for you to complete and mail back. You can also complete it by phone 1-884-330-2020

#### Inside this issue:

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Volume. 26 Issue 5 9 Jepson Drive Milford, CT 06460

The Center is closed in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Phone Lines Staffed: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 2:30pm

Telephone: 203-877-5131 Fax 203-877-5135

Website: Milfordctseniorcenter.com

Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/MilfordSC

#### Congratulations

Milford Senior Center's
Christine Lyas,
Social Service Worker
who recently completed DCPA training.
Dementia Care Professionals of America is a division of AFA created specifically to educate healthcare professionals of all levels on best practices in dementia care.



#### COME VISIT US ON FACEBOOK!

Here is an easy way to see what's going on at our Facebook: www.facebook.com/ MilfordSC Click on and see what's happening at our Milford Senior Center. Pictures, videos all there for you!

### HAVE YOU CHECKED OUR CENTER'S WEBSITE LATELY?

Just log on to www.milfordctseniorcenter.com to view our updated website.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR MAY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS!





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# Manage Your Anxiety By Taking Care of You!

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. *It is natural* to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during a disaster. Everyone reacts differently, and your own feelings will change over time.

Notice and accept how you feel.

Taking care of your emotional health & using positive coping strategies during an emergency will help you think clearly, protect yourself and your family and remind yourself of all the positive aspects of your life that you can control.

### **Tips for Taking Care of You:**

**Take care of your body**— Try to eat healthy well-balanced meals, and get plenty of sleep. Avoid alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

**Exercise regularly** - Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Get outside and walk if you can do safely. Find workout videos online or on TV. See page 9 for details on meditation!

**Connect with others**— Share your concerns and fun daily activities via phone, internet, or mail with a friend or family member.

**Stay informed**— When you feel that you are missing information, you may become more stressed or nervous. Watch, listen to, or read the news for updates from officials. Be aware that there may be rumors during a crisis, especially on social media. Make sure you are turning to sources that are reliable, like local and federal government authorities.

**Avoid too much exposure to news**— Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories. It can be upsetting to hear about the crisis and see images repeatedly.

**Seek help when needed**— If distress impacts activities of your daily life for several days or weeks, talk to a clergy member, counselor, doctor, or contact the SAMHSA helpline at 1-800-985-5990.

**Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking** - consider keeping a journal where you write down things you are grateful for and that concern you—writing down your feelings & thoughts can be a great emotional & mental release.

Find website links & hot lines (page 6) for a plethora of resources to assist you through this time! Hang in there & Take Care Of You!

We look forward to seeing you when we reopen-Amanda Berry, Program Director

Information adapted from the CDC, NIH, and SAMHSA



Use the included bingo card to play from home!

Join in the fun as we play Bingo over the phone!

May 12th and 20th

Start time: 1:30pm Both days

#### **TRAVEL**



Logo Contest Winner, Kevin Hall poses with Milford Senior Center Executive Director, Leonora C. Rodriguez

#### Congrats!

Mr. Hall, a Milford resident, entered the Logo contest in February of this year with 14 other participants. His design was chosen by the Milford Council on Aging Board of Directors during the February board meeting. Mr. Hall received his grand prize of \$100!

The Milford Senior Center will host a "brand" reopening event to showcase the new logo and a refreshed center in the future.



MAKE YOUR MARK: MAY 2020

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. We are pleased to announce the 2020 theme:

#### Make Your Mark

This theme was selected to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day. Communities, organizations, and individuals of all ages are also making their marks. This year's theme highlights the difference everyone can make in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers, and to strengthen communities.

#### TRAVEL NEWS

### Milford Senior Trips Cancelled & Rescheduled for May & June

Sunday May 3rd - The Great Gatsby @ Ivoryton is cancelled Tuesday May 12th – Blithewold in Providence RI is being rescheduled to later in summer

Queen Esther May 19-21st in Lancaster has been cancelled and rescheduled to Sept. 22-24th

Sunday May 24th - Dear Evan Hanson @ The Bushnell – is being rescheduled later in the season

Saturday May 30th – Lovers, Divas & Demons @ Nelson Hall is – still waiting to hear on this one

Monday June 1st – Mohegan Sun – Cancelled and rescheduled for August 10th

Thursday June 4th – South Pacific @ Goodspeed has been rescheduled to November 18th

Sunday June 7th – Forbidden Gardens @ Ivoryton is new date from cancelled date of April 5th

Tuesday June 9th – America 400 by Tours of Distinction – still nothing changed on this yet

Sunday June 14th – Margaritaville @ The Bushnell – is being rescheduled later in the season

Thursday June 18th – South Pacific @ Goodspeed has been rescheduled to November 23rd

#### **Message From Kathy:**

If you might like to take an "Armchair Journey" with me to some wonderful places nearby, or maybe just someplace you might have dreamt of, keep it on your bucket list! Then send me an email and I will take you on a (virtual) one with me! And if you don't have email, then give me a call on my office phone and I will mail you one! 203-891-9400

email kwmilfordseniorcenter@yahoo.com.

# Resources For You!

#### **Keeping Fit:**

The comradery of exercising together is a big motivator—make a plan with a friend to do a workor then check in with each other afterwards or FaceTime each other during your workout - sharing the physical distancing.

www.ymca360.org/on-demand

The YMCA has On-demand video workouts that anyone can access.

https://tools.silversneakers.com

If you are a Silver Sneaker Members you can access on-demand video workouts at this website, or account. If you need assistance call the number on your Silver Sneakers Card.

#### Mindful & meditation websites:

www.mindful.org/how-to-meditate

www.youtube.com/TheHonestGuys

www.communitymindfulnessproject.org

Community Mindful Project will hold meditation by conference call until it is wise to gather Please join us Monday-Friday at 7AM, 12PM and 7PM and Saturday and Sunday at 9AM v Dial In: (857) 799-9498 - Please try to log on 5 to 10 minutes early to reduce pressure on the system. That extra 10 minutes is a great time to connect with others on the call, if you like!

#### Fun Learning:

There is a lot for us to explore & discover in our virtual world. Call a friend & explore one togethed www.housebeautiful.com/design-inspiration/g31677125/historic-homes-you-can-virtually-tour/www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams

#### **Social Services**

Websites & Hotlines that connect you to critical health and human services in your community: **Connecticut 211**: <a href="https://uwc.211ct.org/">https://uwc.211ct.org/</a> or call 2-1-1

Area Agency on Aging https://www.aoascc.org/ 203.785.8533

**Alzheimer's Association 1.800.272.3900** or visit their website <a href="https://www.alz.org/">https://www.alz.org/</a>
They can offer support to those caring for someone with Alzheimer's and dementia, including onl support groups.

(SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Hotline: 1.800.985.5990

Helpline specialists are trained to assist anyone who needs some help coping during this time.

Find Milford's community websites all on one easy website:

www.burbio.com

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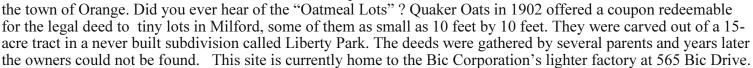
# DID YOU KNOW THAT....

As most everyone knows, the Puritans landed in Milford 1639 and with their destination satisfied, our city became an historical note in the history books. With this thought in mind, I thought you would find a number of interesting facts and events that took place during the past 381 years in Milford.

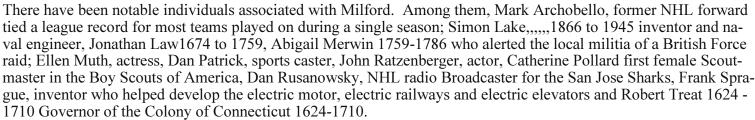
Surprising enough, few of us are aware of the landing conditions upon arrival. Can you imagine how cold it must have been, stepping out of a rocking boat ,possibly a ground covered with snow and ice and a blustery wind and damp clothing from splashing waves? Quite a price for freedom.

Years later, during the Revolutionary War, the Milford section of the Boston Post Road, an important route connecting New York, Boston and other major coastal cities was blockaded by Continental forces and Fort Trumbull was constructed to protect the town. The site of the blockade is commemorated by the Liberty Rock monument located in the Devon section of Milford. This huge boulder 10 feet long and weighs almost 35 tons. was used during the revolution to observe nearby Long Island Sound as well as the Boston Post Road. There are initials P.P. and the date 1776 carved by a young Milford native, Peter Pierett who later became part of the famous "Minute Men."

Then, in 1822 the town had grown so large that residents of the northern and eastern sections of Milford charted their own independent course as



Population numbers were interesting as well. During 1780 there were 2,098 residents, **1850** 2,828; **1890**, 3,811; **1920** 10,193;**1940** 16,439;**1950** 26,870;**1970** 50,858, **1990**,49,938; **2010** 52,759 and **2019** 53,120.



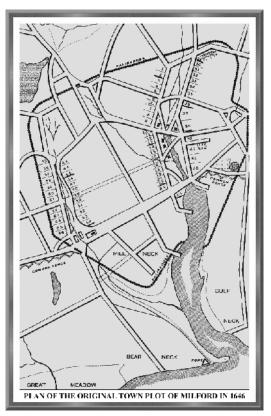
Eleanore Myers Turkington, Editor

Members: Please do not use the road between the Senior Center and the condominium complex as an exit.

This road is only to be used to pick up or drop off food, deliveries and City vehicles.

#### **TITLE VI**

Do you know your rights under Title VI? Title VI ensures that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied, the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal funding. Milford Council on Aging supports Title VI. For more information, visit our web site milfordctseniorcenter.com and go to the link Information and Referrals. You may also email Ikmilfordseniorcenter@yahoo.com or call Liz Kassay, Human Resources Manager 203 877-5131.



(Ha-ha-ha)

### Meditation...

is a mind and body practice that has a long history of use for increasing calmness and physical relaxation, improving psychological balance, coping with illness, and enhancing overall health and well-being. Mind and body practices focus on the interactions among the brain, mind, body, and behavior. We can lower our stress levels, we get to know our pain, we connect better, we improve our focus, and we're kinder to our-

There are many types of meditation, but most have four elements in common:

- 1. a quiet location with as few distractions as possible
- 2. a specific, comfortable posture (sitting, lying down, walking)
- 3. a focus of attention (a specially chosen positive and empowering word or set of words, an object, or the sensations of the breath)
- 4. an open attitude (letting distractions come and go without judging them)
- 5. instrumental / calming music can be a fifth element

#### A Simple Meditation for Beginners:

- ⇒ Sit or lie comfortably and close your eyes.
- ⇒ Make no effort to control the breath; simply breathe naturally.
- ⇒ Focus your attention on the breath and on how the body moves with each inhalation and exhalation.
- ⇒ Notice the movement of your body as you breathe.
- ⇒ Observe your chest, shoulders, rib cage, and belly, feel them slowly release any tension.
- ⇒ Simply focus your attention on your breath without controlling its pace or intensity.
- ⇒ If your mind wanders, return your focus back to your breath.
- ⇒ Maintain this meditation practice for two to three minutes to start, and then try it for longer periods.
- ⇒ When you're ready, gently lift your gaze (if your eyes are closed, open them). Take a moment and notice any sounds in the environment. Notice how your body feels right now. Notice your thoughts and emotions. Take in the calmness.

See page 6 for more links & hotlines! Especially The Community Mindfulness Project - they have free daily meditation sessions via the phone!

Information adapted from the CDC, NIH, Gaiam and Mindful.org.

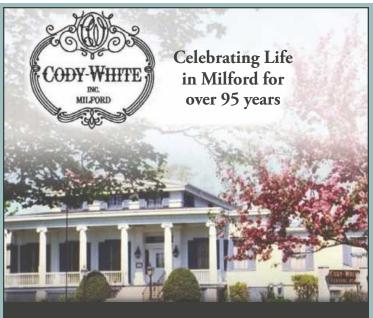
Need to access the Milford Food Bank? Call us Monday - Friday 9:00am to 2:30pm (203) 877-5131

#### Need a Laugh?

Two gold fish are in a tank. One looks at the other and says, "You know how to drive this thing?!"

I couldn't believe that the highway department called my dad a thief. But when I got home, all the signs were there.

Where does the General keep his armies? ....In his sleevies!



"Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals." - William Ewart Gladstone, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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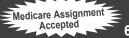
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#### IN OTHER NEWS



# Thank You!

To Casa Blanca Tailors,
Durham School
Services and Betty V.
who donated handmade
masks to the Senior
Center.

To all that has sponsored a Senior's Mini-Lunch program and has helped to keep us serving lunches.

To Shop Rite, Lowes Home Improvement, Subway, Cracker Barrel, Milford Kiwanis and Wildermere Beach Congregational Church for their donation.

To the generous donors who have given towards our continued operations.

And... Girl Scout Troop 38323

#### Members Recuperating

Please notify us if you are aware of a member who is in a healthcare facility in Milford. Please call 203- 877-5131 to request a visit from our Friendly Visitor, Christine Lyas.

Bequest gifts to the Milford Senior Center in memory of a family member or friend are always appreciated.

Please mail your gift to Leonora C. Rodriguez, Executive Director, Milford Senior Center,

9 Jepson Drive, Milford CT. 06460

We apologize for any errors that appear in this bulletin.

#### MILFORD SENIOR CENTER

9 Jepson Drive Milford, CT 06460 Place Stamp Here