

There are times when we agree.

In a series of letters to the editor,* Democratic candidates made observations about the Town of Orange and the policies of Jim Zeoli and his team.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Democratic candidate for First Selectman wrote: *"The Firelight Plaza (correct spelling "Firelite Plaza") is a great example. After the owners fixed it up, its value went up 235 percent. Now they're paying more in taxes, which helps take pressure off of homeowners..."*

AGREED: However the owners didn't just "fix it up." Jim Zeoli worked with our Economic Development Corporation Director, our Town Planning and Zoning board, and the property owners to bring to Orange the **right kind of mixed-use development** over years of planning.

In an effort that started 6 years ago, Jim and the Orange Economic Development Corporation Director helped to bring Noble Gas to Orange. Demolition of the old site has started, and construction of a community travel center and EV showroom will soon begin. Evermark, a premier manufacturer, will also be locating in Orange on Connair Road.

KEEPING ORANGE GREEN

A Democratic candidate for TPZ wrote: *"It is imperative that we protect our green spaces..." My goal is to ensure that future development respects the character of our town."*

AGREED: **Jim Zeoli has increased our green spaces by over 70%.** The recent purchase of Racebrook Country Club not only protects a large section of Orange from overdevelopment but also generates income for the town.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

A Democratic candidate for Orange Board of Education wrote: *"I can see that Orange has done an amazing job of building a great place for our children to learn."*

AGREED: The Orange Board of Education, under the leadership of former chairman (now Selectman) Bill Kraut and current Chairman Jeff Cap, supported by Jim Zeoli's team, has done an "amazing job" supporting our schools. **As a result, we have been able to hire excellent administrators and teachers who have made Orange schools among the best in Connecticut.**

*Milford/Orange Times, July 2025

Experience Matters: Jim Zeoli served on the Board of Selectmen for 6 years before he was elected as our First Selectman. He has been active in our community since age 13, volunteering at the Country Fair and serving as a volunteer firefighter.



Jim is a member of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG), serving as treasurer, secretary, and then as chairman in 2010 and 2023. SCRCOG addresses issues, such as housing, transportation, land use planning, municipal services, and economic development. He chaired the State Department of Agriculture farmland preservation panel for 8 years.