

West Haven Voice

April 18, 2019

Vol. 23, Issue 15, 20 Pages

West Haven's only independent news source
By and For West Haven

Voice Profile

A weekly in-depth interview

New Store wants to fulfill all its customers' wants and needs.

See page 11



Station development still unachieved goal

By Josh LaBella
Voice Reporter

It has been six years since the West Haven train station was completed. The city has taken steps to push for development in the surrounding area but the man who led the charge to build it says they could be doing more.

Mike Mercuriano, who started the petition for the train station to be built in West Haven two decades ago, said he wanted the train station because of how useful it would be for the city. He said around the train station are abandoned or semi-abandoned buildings with over one million square feet of potential.

"(Those) will give you high tech manufacturing, warehousing," said Mercuriano, "just about anything."

Mercuriano said there needs to be an effort to get the owners of the buildings to sell. He said the city needs to push for development of the buildings.

"The city should have this up on the charts for

development," said Mercuriano, "all around the train station, on a daily basis. This should be a main priority."

Fred A. Messore, the West Haven commissioner of planning and development, said the city is trying to get developers to the area, and that his main task now is to push for the implementation of the Transit Oriented Development plan.

The plan aims to utilize the space around the train station for mixed use development.

"Now the market and the opportunity are there for that," said Messore. "I think the Stiles School, and that readapted use, will maybe initiate the whole TOD area."

The Edgar C. Stiles School is a property owned by the city upon which it received bids for development in January. Messore said that is just one of the ways the city is looking to push for development in the area.

David Killeen, the assistant city planner, said
See Station, page 19



Photo courtesy of WHCH

Car seat safety

The West Haven Community House hosted a car seat safety seminar for Head Start parents, which included giving away new seats. Organizers are shown cataloging the seats prior to the presentation.

Photo by Russ McCreven

New look

Iconic Savin Rock has a storied past in the development of the community of West Farms into the city of West Haven. Recently, the city undertook a clean-up of the landmark, taking away much of the overgrowth and trees that cluttered the area. Getting its name from the Savin tree, the spot is where Jonathan Painter saw British Ships entering the harbor in what was part of an invasion of New Haven. The event is captured on the city crest, and is part of the lore of Colonial West Haven.



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Government Meetings

Monday, April 22 -- City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23 -- Planning and Zoning Commission, City Hall, 7 p.m.

West Haven High School Building Committee, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 25 -- Charter Revision Commission, City Hall, 6:30.

On this date:

1956 -- Rainier III marries Grace Kelly

1949 Ireland becomes an independent republic. Six counties in the northern part of the island remained in the Commonwealth, leading to a decades-long ethno-nationalist conflict that culminated in The Troubles.

1906 -- A massive earthquake destroys San Francisco. About 3000 people died.

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Weather

Friday April 19 Cloudy with a periods of heavy rain. High 61F.



Sunrise: 6:06 am
Sunset: 7:36 pm
Wind: S 15-25 mph.

Saturday April 20 Cloudy all day with some rain early. High 61F.



Sunrise: 6:05 am
Sunset: 7:37 pm
Wind: SSE 15-25 mph.

Sunday April 21 Partly cloudy with chance of rain in the PM. High 59F.



Sunrise: 6:33 am
Sunset: 7:44 pm
Wind: S 5-10 mph.

Monday April 22 Sunshine makes a return. High 68F.



Sunrise: 6:02 am
Sunset: 7:39 pm
Wind: SW at 10-15 mph.



Kids' Forecast

Donovan Darden-Morris, age 5, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc, sees a mixture of April showers, clouds and sun for the coming week.

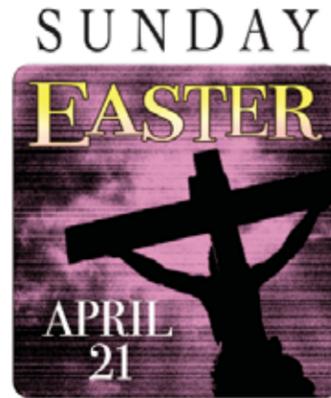
Things to Do

To have your event featured here email it to: info@westhavenvoice.com

The Savin Rock Fireworks Committee is having a Bowling Night. Friday April 26, from 7-9 p.m. at the Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling Alley, 240 Platt Ave. This event is BYOB and Snacks. \$20 includes shoe rental. Please come out to have some fun and support West Haven's biggest night.

A Bike blessing and cruise is planned for the grounds of the Italian-American Civic

Association, 85 Chase Lane, for Saturday, April 27 from 10-2. Registration starts at 10 with kickstand-up at 11. Price is \$20 per bike, \$10 per passenger. Food, raffles, vendors and more are planned. Proceeds to benefit Children's Organ Transplant Association.



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Published by West Haven Voice, LLC
666 Savin Ave., West Haven, CT 06516

203-934-NEWS (6397)

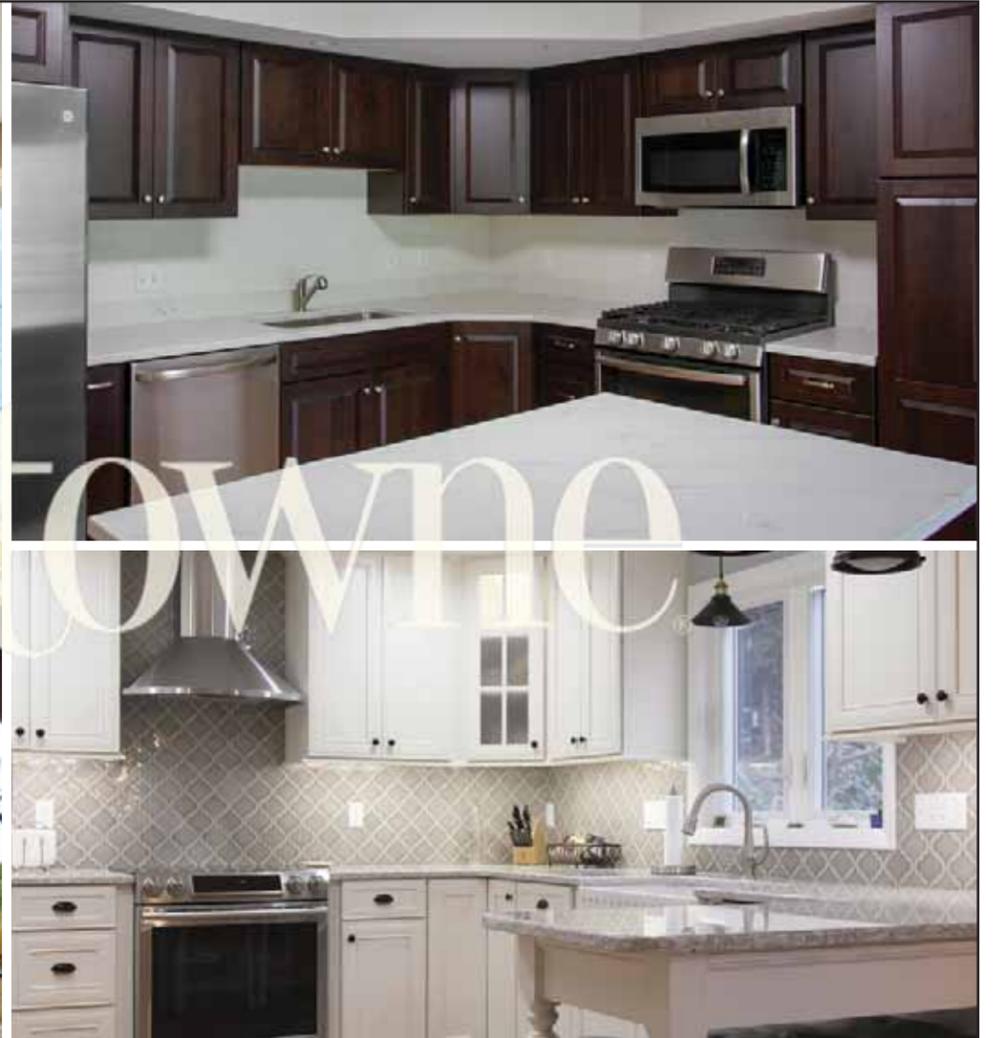
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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Nick's Luncheonette relocates

Nick's Luncheonette owner Nick Milas, third from front left, helps Mayor Nancy R. Rossi cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the reopening of the popular breakfast and lunch restaurant at 255 Sawmill Road. Joining are: State Rep. Charles J. Ferraro (R-117); Milas' wife, Irene; his sons, Kosta, holding 7-month-old son Niko, and Evan; Councilwoman Bridgette J. Hoskie (D-1); and City Council Minority Leader Richard DePalma (R-at large). With them are Nick's staff members; mayoral Executive Assistant Lou Esposito, back left; and Milas' brother-in-law, Augoustis Fifis, back right.

Flapjack fundraiser benefits special needs

The West Haven Interagency Network for Children will hold a flapjack fundraiser from 8-10 a.m. April 27 at Applebee's restaurant, 526 Boston Post Road, Orange.

The cost is \$6 and includes pancakes, bacon and a drink. Proceeds will support activities for children with special needs. Tickets are available at West Haven Youth and Family Services on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. The agency's goal is to sell at least 200 tickets. For tickets, contact WHINC Director Robert S. Morton at (203) 937-3633 ormorton@westhaven-ct.gov.



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Have a few cocktails. Try to outbid your friends. Enjoy a delicious meal. Most important – help us make an impact in the West Haven community as well as abroad. By purchasing a ticket to our auction on APRIL 27, you'll help fund a number of service projects that our club oversees.

Examples include:

- "Operation Warm," – winter coat donations to West Haven grammar schools
- Dictionaries for every 3rd grader in West Haven
- Scholar-Athlete Luncheon
- Blind Veterans Luncheon
- Career Shadowing Day
- Amber Alert Project
- Forest School Playground
- Military Museum Media Center
- West Haven Adult Ed Scholarship

This year, our paddle raise will benefit Uganda Farmers Inc. – a non-profit water project that digs wells for drought ridden Bujanjara Village in Uganda, West Africa. Currently, children walk miles to retrieve water from dirty streams. These wells provide a source of clean and safe drinking water not only for the children but also for the entire village.

**Saturday,
April 27, 2019**

6 p.m to 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$55 per person
(Price includes dinner and open bar)

Italian American Club
Cielo Ballroom
85 Chase Lane, West Haven

Purchase Tickets

Online at:
<https://whrotaryauction.eventbrite.com>

or contact committee members:
Abby Goldblatt at abby.goldblatt@yale.edu
Roland Depew at rcdepew@comcast.net



Dear Felicia

Well honeybunch, it seems that the weather might have finally cracked around here. After weeks of cold nights and colder days, we've seemed to get a bit warmer. As our friend George "The Coach" DeMaio said a few years ago when he moved back into his hometown, "You realize what 'Cooler at the Shore' means when you live along the shore." Truer words yew ain't ever gonna hear. Whilst there might've been 70-degree weather elsewhere, we were lucky to hit 60. It'll be that way for about another month, unless things warm up real fast.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea the verbal jousting match that Eighth District Councilman Tracy Morrissey and Mayor Nancy Rossi are havin' is heatin' up somewhat. Herronner and Morrissey mixed it up at the most recent City Council confab - or its aftermath - over the buyback ishew concerning vacation time for elected officials. Mor-

rissey and Rossi used to be allies on the council at one time, but like many things in these parts, alliances are here today and gone forever cuz of the factional nature of the city's ruling party. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," is the operative principle here.

Tennyrate, last week herronner determined that she was in the right and gave her reasons as to why she's right as rain, and Morrissey is all wet. Well, not to be out-argued, Morrissey has come back with a letter to the editor, published herein on the appropriate page, and lays out her arguments. There is no doubt that this item is gonna be a pernt of departure betwixt Rossi and the person whom most people believe Morrissey is supporting, City Clerk Debbie Collins.

Now, I ain't saying that Morrissey don't have a point to her concern. Effen there is a City Council resolution to the effect that elected officials

shouldn't do this, she is right to point it out. But, as it is an election year, there is also the contention - made by some - that this is jest a pig in a poke that is trying to make an issue for the fall election. Of course, both can be true.

Iyam sure of one thing: this issue is not over. There will be more. Both ladeez like to git the last word in when they're in political kerfuffles. I don't think this is the last we're gonna hear by a long shot.

~~~~~  
It is very interesting and was pernted out by Sammy Bluejay. Here we are in the middle o' April, and the budget ordinance is expected to be passed in two weeks. That means the Council of the Whole, which is lookin' at the spending plan, has been at it for a while. Yet, unlike other years, there ain't been too much outta this year's deliberations.

Iva Lootey made mention o' that fack jest this week, and Cobina had to think about it. Usually, we'd git tidbits about the deliberations and what are now called "leaks" as to what the council people are considering. Methinks the reason we ain't hearin' much is there ain't much to know. Whilst we are still on the current city charter it takes nine votes of the 13 to make changes in the line items. That has been a high hurdle fer the council over the last two decades to the pernt that everyone is hoping the Charter Revisions Commish has a new outline that can be implemented.

~~~~~  
Soooo, effen the council is considering any changes they hafta make sure they have all their duckies in a row and the votes to pass them. Still, the other hurdle is the MARB or Municipal Accountability Review Board. It has a sorta veto power over the budget and effen the council makes a move it don't like, it probably ain't gonna fly. We're still tryin' to figger out how herronner got the budget to balance without making the tax increase that the MARB seemed to want. Remember, the five-year plan expects the mill rate to jump to 40 by the end of the plan in order to give the city the kopecks needed to have cash on hand. It's a puzzlement, but, what in this town ain't.

~~~~~  
Effen yer lookin' for ghost town material, look no further than the Stop & Shop in the berg. As yew might've hoid the workers have gone on strike over wage and health benefits, and the stores, though open, are perty empty. Of course, having picket lines near the entrance would give the wilies to anyone who might have an inkling to go in - unless, of course, they don't care about the union.

Tennyrate, things around the stores have been perty quiet, and the parking lots have been perty empty. It'll be interesting to see how long the entire thing lasts. Nelly Nuthatch has perched herself near the action and sez things are perty quiet.

~~~~~  
Meanwhile, speakin' o' quiet, we were interested to see that jest before press time last week the Actors Colony sent a release talking about the final sale of one of the last properties for the Haven project. The whole thing confused us around here cuz we were under the impression that the whole thing was a done deal as far as properties. I guess we were wrong.

Now, we ain't sure how or why this was sent, but there is some speculation the release, which came from City Hall and not from the developers, was an attempt to take some o' the heat off the fack that not much is happening over there. As I have been tellin' yew rumors have been flying all over town concerning the project and whether it is gonna happen as advertised.

The current reason things are not happening, we are told, is cuz the state Dept. of Transportation has not given the go-ahead on new traffic patterns on Elm Street. Those will be needed if and when the project is completed cuz of the traffic flowing from the highway and over the Kimberly Avenue Bridge. It was hoped the DOT was gonna have an answer by now, but those gears need a bit o' grease, cuz they're actin' as if they're rusted shut.

We shall see what's happening as it unfolds, but the unfolding is takin' a heckuva lot longer than anybody was thinking. We're coming up on five years since it was announced by the O'Brien administration. Effen this comes out the way it's supposed to, we wouldn't be surprised. But, effen changes happen to it, we wouldn't be surprised about that either.

~~~~~  
Lemme tell yew, Madame Olga came in t'other afternoon and was very talkative. She wanted to talk about Beach Street and the fack that now the Debonair Motel was up for sale. I told Olga that we knew about that and that I made mention of it in last week's missive to you. She was a bit miffed cuz she's been sayin' all along that the purchase of it five years ago was a canard. Remember that Sam Gadjensen's wife purchased the property, and then went through the effort o' askin' neighbors what they wanted to see there.

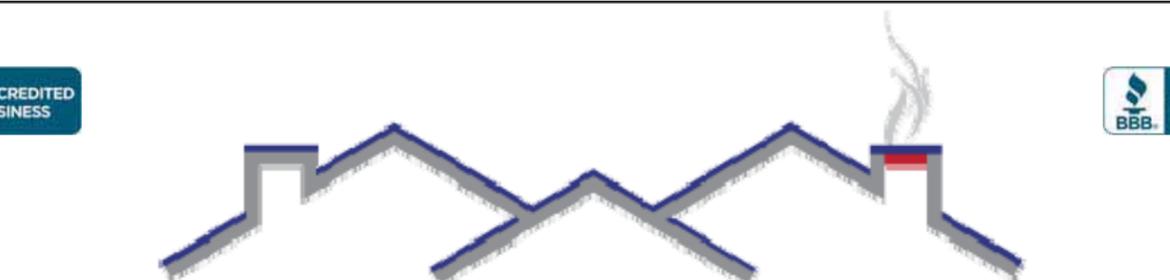
The whole purchase looked like a phony from the start. City Hall was takin' a lotta heat, and this seemed to be a pressure valve. Well, after the "poll" of neighbors, nothin' was ever heard from again. Meanwhile, what should be a very attractive area for speculators or developers languishes with three major properties up for sale and nary a purchaser in the mix.

I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzez,

*Cobina*

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# WHCH parents trained in car seats and safety

West Haven Community House Head Start recently hosted a car seat education and seat distribution event in partnership with the Yale New Haven Hospital Injury Prevention and Community Outreach Program through a 'Buckle Up For Life' Grant. More than 60 car seats were distributed to families in the Head Start program.

More than 80 adults and children attended the educational segment, which was presented by Nick Aysseh, Community outreach Educator from Yale's Injury Prevention and Community Outreach Program.

Police officers from Monroe and Fairfield Police Departments, who are certified child passenger safety technicians, attended to assist Yale New Haven Hospital staff with installing the new seats with the families who attended.

In its 40th year at the West Haven Community House, the Head Start program provides comprehensive school readiness services to more than 150 children each year. The program focuses on the social, cognitive, physical and psychological development of preschool children so that they enter kindergarten prepared to learn.

They offer full-day, full-year programs on a sliding scale fee basis for children of parents who are working or going to school. Part-day, part-year classes, which are closely aligned with the public school calendar, is available at no cost. Head Start is licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood and families must meet the federal income eligibility guidelines to qualify. All children receive health and development screenings, oral and mental health support, as well as healthy meals and snacks.

Parents are engaged in monthly family-based activities and connected with a variety of available services that provide housing stability, continued education, and financial literacy. For more information about the Community House's Head Start program, please contact (203) 934-5221 or visit whcommunityhouse.org.



Photo courtesy of WHCH

A Head Start parent gets a new car seat following a training session sponsored by the West Haven Community House.

# BACKPAIN?

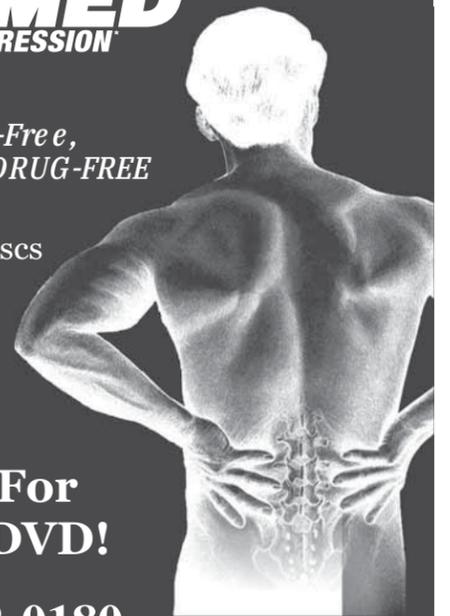
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## Keeping our city clean is a task we all share

Spring has finally taken hold on the area, and the cold of Ole Man Winter is becoming a memory. With the warmer weather comes the annual rite of the season: spring cleaning.

Last week, the city offered its bulk trash collection, and we note that many households took advantage of the opportunity, culling out old furniture and clutter. But it doesn't stop there.

Each year we note that the majority of the city's homeowners and renters take great pride in sprucing up their living areas. This pride manifests itself not only in lawn and grounds care, but in making the exteriors of their domiciles clean and more presentable.

There are others, unfortunately, who do not take as much pride in their surroundings or in their properties. The letters that come to our Gripe Vine column are a perfect example of this. Neighbors complain about cars parked on front lawns or used as a repair facility, some complain of overgrown grass and unrepaired fences that bring down the look of areas.

The city provides the means for people to rid themselves of the clutter of everyday life, or to get rid of the waste that comes from home repairs and upgrades. That is what bulk trash collection is meant to accomplish. But the city is not the only vehicle for keeping things clean. Residents have to do their part.

We note, for example, that people have put their television sets out for collection. The city has not collected TVs in almost a decade, and residents are responsible for disposing the appliances. Yet, we see television sets out on the curbs, and they will not be collected by city crews – nor should they.

Merchants and business owners are another group that can be parsed into those who take pride in what their surroundings look like, and those who don't. Again, city crews have been out for the last few weeks, sweeping streets, and trash bins are reviewed each day for collection.

Many business owners take the initiative to make sure the areas in front of their shops are swept and clean, while others seem to think that is not part of the manner of doing business.

This has nothing to do with the city's financial situation, but everything to do with our perception of what it is to be a good neighbor.

West Haven is our home. We should each do our parts to make the city presentable, and build pride in our community. These are little things, but little things help make the larger picture a better one.

Help the city and your neighbors. Keep your homes and businesses clean and presentable. The benefits are financial and higher property values, aesthetic in better looking neighborhoods, and psychological, with everyone feeling better about themselves and their community.

West Haven Voice  
office will be closed  
Friday in observance  
of Good Friday.



## Letters

### Only in West Haven

Only in West Haven does a sparring match over paying back a total of less than \$8K make front-page news, while nine years of ignoring its own Comprehensive Energy Plan doesn't even get a mention.

Maybe it's the entertainment value we get from team sports that leads to this emphasis on conflict, but it's short-sighted, and is a part of what has led to our being in the fix we're in.

West Haven has not yet managed to implement the free benchmarking and tracking system for our energy use that has led to neighboring towns – and even our own Board of Ed – saving millions. Where is the sense in focusing on possibly (not at all clear) improper payments that amount to small potatoes, while ignoring the millions we might have saved since 2010? Fairfield saves \$2.8 million/year as a result of its energy program.

Anybody want to think about how many millions we might have saved if we had pursued our own energy plan nine years ago? Don't get me wrong, I'm all for holding municipal officials accountable. But to focus on this small issue while ignoring the bigger ones is a travesty. My two cents.

Robin Parsons

WH Sustainability Comm.

### Buy-back not right

Recently an issue came to the forefront concerning Mayor Rossi being paid for unused vacation days. This is contrary to a resolution of the City Council that was adopted on Monday, Nov. 26, 2007, mandating that elected officials do not receive vacation or sick time as a fringe benefit. Mayor Rossi was on the City Council at the time that resolution was passed. I too was an elected councilperson back then. I sat on this council, next to Councilman Rossi, for 10 years. During that time, I thought I heard all she had to offer on her selective fact-checking. Apparently, not so.

Mayor Rossi ran for the office of mayor on three occasions, knowing full well the hours entailed to fulfill the obligations of the office and how much the position paid. She now complains about the number of hours she works and the amount of money she is paid. All of her present complaints come after she admonished prior Mayors for making these same complaints.

Additionally, Mayor Rossi stated that she did not take advantage of the city health insurance benefits because she wanted to help the city but at the same time, she fails to mention that in lieu of not taking

the insurance benefits she took a check for \$4,000, as she has other medical insurance. She further claims that as a benefit to the city she utilizes her own vehicle for work, as opposed to driving the mayor's vehicle. The city continues to own the vehicle, insures it, and she allows members of her administration to drive that vehicle on a fairly regular basis.

All of this comes at a time when residents are suffering the effects of cuts in city services, increasing property taxes, flat-funding for education, layoffs of city workers, and instituting a number of furlough days whereby City Hall is closed to the inconvenience of the residents and to the financial detriment of city employees.

The issue of Mayor Rossi cashing in unused vacation days requires strict review. First and foremost, as we know, elected officials do not receive vacation benefits and they are not required to punch a time clock. They can take time away from their office at their convenience while at the same time receiving full pay. This is a fringe benefit of being an elected official. The mayor and other elected officials receive a weekly paycheck whether they work 10 hours

See Letters, page 18



**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**  
Why are there so many lights on at the Ora Mason Library? Can't save money that way.  
*RH Library*

**Dear RH Library:**  
Alan Olenick, Director of the West Haven Chamber of Commerce replied, "For many years, the lights were not always working. Now we have done a better job of maintaining the building. The building is lit for security and safety purposes. If your reader's question is about inside lighting after normal hours, we probably had a program going on."  
*MJL Curious*

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**  
This letter is a question about Louis Esposito who asked Gripe Vine to pose the following questions: Do you have a new title? Is it Manager of Ceremonies or Master of Grand Openings, or is it still Mayoral Assistant? Would it be asking too much for you to clarify?  
*MJL Curious*

**Dear MJL Curious:**  
I asked the Councilmen in your district for a reply. It was unattainable from the mayor's

office. The councilman from your district (8) Peter Masaro. Councilman Masaro replied, "Mr. Esposito is the Mayor's Executor Secretary as far as I know."

**Gripe Vine Readers:**  
Gripe Vine has published a gripe letter from a (readers) relating to the road conditions at the Beach Street Condominiums.

I have attempted to reach Councilman Nicholas Ruickolot by email and telephone without success.

I am hoping Councilman Ruickolot will contact me at gripevine4wh@aol.com with a reply to this reader's question as to when will the road be paved in front of the Beach Street Condominiums.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**  
I have written to you in the past and have had no response from the city concerning a rotten tree in front of my home on Sharon Avenue. Excerpts from earlier letter: I have called the city four times in the past three years to have the city tree in front of my home removed because it is rotten. Rotten so bad that I



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON** have to call after every strong wind storm to have branches picked up.

I have informed them that any damage done to my home will result in a legal issue. Still no response!) I still can't get a rotten tree cut down that leaves a stump 10-feet-high to rot and attract bugs. You

had stated in a recent reply to my letters that you had faith, and something would happen soon. I had no such faith. Guess who was correct?

Isn't it frustrating to not be heard by the people who get paid by me?

According to some of the other letters you have received I am not the only one who is frustrated. Imagine my frustration also to drive by Savin Rock and see that the tree and shrubs were all taken down around the rock but the hazard in front of my house is still standing?

Guess who won't be getting my vote in the next election? Also, as a side note, I would like to NOT thank the mayor for inviting idiots to come to our city to blow off illegal fireworks and have a general disregard for homes by trashing

and urinating in yards. For what? These fools aren't celebrating anything but being allowed to act like idiots.  
*PW Rotten Tree*

**Dear PW Rotten Tree:**  
I have contacted your Councilman Tracy Morrissey, District 8, with your complaint of removal of a rotten tree on Sharon Avenue. As soon as I hear from Councilman Morrissey, you will read it in Gripe Vine. Meanwhile let me know when and if the tree comes down.  
~~~

You can send your gripes, comments and suggestions to gripevine4wh@aol.com or mail to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Ave. Please include your name, address and phone number, kept in strictest confidence with me.

WHCH offers legacy gift

The West Haven Community House is offering community members the chance to give a Mother's Day gift that will last forever. Through May 8, donors can make a legacy donation in honor of the important women who have made a significant impact on their lives, whether it's a mother, grandmother, stepmother, godmother, aunt or sister. In turn, each honoree or family member will receive a Mother's Day card letting them know that a gift was made in their honor to the West Haven Community House Endowment Fund.

Donations are fully tax deductible and help provide long-term financial security for services that help children and families, and adults with disabilities, and will make an everlasting impact for generations to come.

Community members who wish to make a gift in honor or memory of special women in their lives can donate online at www.whcommunityhouse.org/endowment.html or by calling (203) 934-5221. Gifts must be made by May 8th to ensure honorees or family members receive their cards by Mother's Day.

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

West Haven Little League
Part I

Morse Park, Aug. 21, 1988

Dusty and sweating, 11-year-old Danny Shine stood tensely in the batter's box; the stitches in his right forearm hurt every time he swung the wooden bat. He tried to concentrate on the game and the Hamden pitcher who was facing him, despite the overwhelming din of the crowd.

It was his eleventh birthday, and it looked like he might finish out the day by losing

the game for his team; for indeed, he had a full count, it was the bottom of the last inning, and the Hamden team was leading them—and on top of that, his team already had already gotten two outs. But the bases were loaded; so one way or another, the outcome of the next pitch would decide the game.

He glanced over at the Hamden team's dugout—they were packing up their gear and no doubt were already preparing to celebrate their

victory.

It didn't seem right to him: the West Haven team had already played four games that day, in 95 degree heat, and now they seemed to be sure to end this day in defeat. He dug his cleats into the clay, positioned himself, and prepared for the pitch.

As the sun was sinking low in the sky, the Hamden pitcher made his delivery, and Danny swung the bat with all of his remaining strength. What followed seemed to take place

in slow motion: He heard the crack of wood against horsehide and watched in wonder, as the ball arched upwards, high over the right field fence, passed over the cars in the parking lot, and on out of sight.

As the West Haven fans cheered wildly, Danny rounded the bases at a trot, with fists clenched over his head. It was a grand slam, and he had won the game for his team! In the lingering twilight, the boys carried him from the field on their shoulders.

Your historian remembers that day well; but how many other dramatic memories of this sort have been created through the good works of the West Haven Little League, for the youth of West Haven? And how did West Haven Little League get its start, anyway? Well, it's like this...

In the years following World War II, baseball was the unchallenged number one All-American sport. And in 1950,

unlike today, almost no households had televisions, so boys either followed their favorite teams on the radio or through the newspapers.

Their heroes were the likes of Stan Musial, Gil Hodges, Roy Campanella, Ted Williams, Yogi Berra, and Jackie Robinson.

And they longed to play organized ball, just like their heroes; but in West Haven, there were as yet no organized baseball leagues.

And so it was in that year—1950—that Richard Brennan decided that his son and his son's contemporaries needed an opportunity to play organized ball.

There was initially only one site that seemed to make sense: That was Painter Park, on a site originally known to West Haven's first white settlers as Chestnut Hill Farms; it had two upper ball fields, and a lower field that was set upon the site of a former quarry.

To be continued-



Over the years, the West Haven Little League has fielded many excellent All-Star teams, playing in regional and state competitions. This is the 1987 team. How many players can you identify?

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Photos by Michael P. Walsh



Rte. 1 Dunkin' Donuts reopens

Accompanied by members of the West Haven High School Band, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi cuts the ceremonial ribbon April 3 with city officials and the owners of the Dunkin' Donuts franchise at 985 Boston Post Road to celebrate the restaurant's reopening. From left, Councilman Peter V. Massaro, D-6; City Council Chairman Ronald M. Quagliani, D-at large; Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5; mayoral Executive Assistant Lou Esposito; and owners Frank D'Andrea, his son, Francesco D'Andrea, and his daughter, Nicole Ball. Below -- The Band received a \$500 donation in the form of an oversize check from the ownership of the new Dunkin' Next Generation at 985 Boston Post Road. From left, Councilman Peter V. Massaro, D-6; City Council Chairman Ronald M. Quagliani, D-at large; owner Nicole Ball; Mayor Nancy R. Rossi; band field leaders Amanda Hill and Jasmine Powell; band technical adviser Ralph Ferriolo; and Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5.



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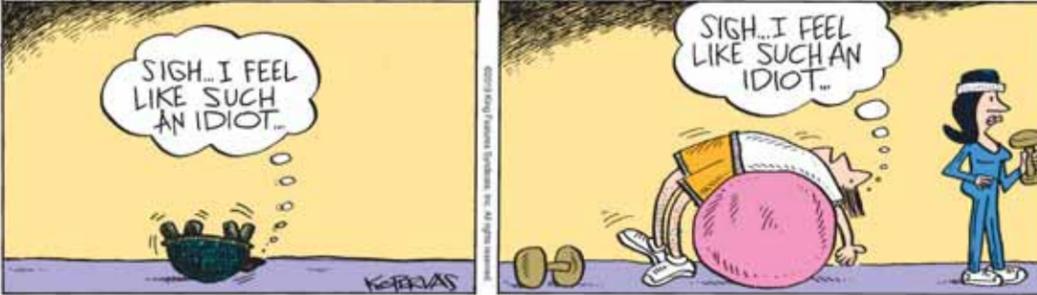
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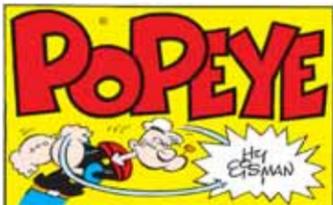
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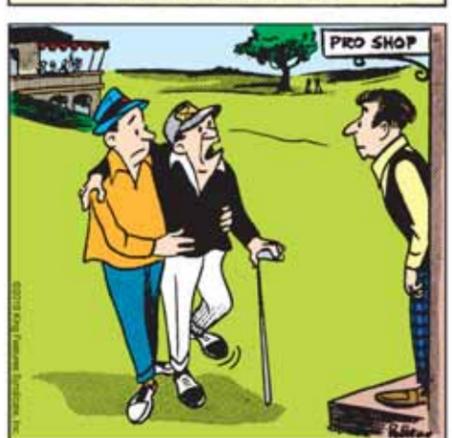


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF - A - DAY



"I kept my head down just like you told me — and a golf cart ran over me."

UFO

BY TOM ASCHENBACH



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If they don't have it, they'll get it

Store owners make a promise

A new store aims to fill the wishes of its customers by stocking anything they need – or want. Dollar and Dream, which has been open for about a month and is located on Elm Street in the Stop & Shop plaza, is packed floor to ceiling with hundreds of things to purchase.

Amber McKiel, the store's manager, said they have practically every item from luggage to balloons. She said if the store does not have something in stock they will order it for you and have it within the week.

"It's like a one-stop shop basically," said McKiel. "Besides the liquor and tobacco, we sell pretty much everything."

McKiel said the store plans on having a grand opening and ribbon cutting with Mayor Nancy Rossi. She also said they want to have a raffle during which customers will receive a ticket for every \$10 they spend.

"We have four prizes," said McKiel. "They are very big prizes. One is an Iphone. One will be a stereo system. There will be a luggage and gift set."

The store is owned by Jasmine and Ken Jiang, immigrants from China. The couple commutes from Queens every morning to oversee their stores, the other three of which are in Bridgeport. Jasmine Jiang said she and her husband are looking to relocate to West

Haven.

Jiang said they used to work for a distributor or retail items but decided they wanted to be able to sell directly to consumers.

According to McKiel, business has been good so far and is best on the weekends. She said they pride themselves on being very accommodating and that nobody should be afraid to come in and ask any questions.

McKiel said the raffle is going to start soon and will be set to end Father's Day weekend.

Photo by Josh LaBella

Amber McKiel, store manager, and owner Jasmine Jiang.



Submitted Photo



In memoriam

The Nutmeg Symphonic Pops Orchestra and Chorus, which is based out of St. Louis Church, recently dedicated a memorial performance to long time violinist Richard Turkington. Voice columnist Eleanore Turkington, Richard's wife, was present to receive a memorial bouquet from Maestro Dino Ciaburri. The next concert will play tribute to Flag Day Sunday, June 9, at 2 p.m. at Gateway Community College, 88 Bassett St, North Haven. The public is invited to celebrate and honor all veterans. For information, call (203) 933-224.

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Westie softball off to great start

The West Haven softball team has opened its season with an impressive start. Going into last week, the Blue Devils had reeled off five, straight victories but were faced with a challenge of facing East Haven, defending state champion Amity and Jonathan Law. On Monday, the Westies defeated the Yellow Jackets, 9-5, behind the hitting of Kailey Carrano, Ashlynn O'Keefe, Veronica Lynn and Gigi Perkins, who all picked up two hits. Carrano homered again, this time a three-run home run to center to put the girls up 9-2 in the fourth inning. Ivy Santos pitched a complete game, allowing three earned runs on eight hits while striking out nine Easties.

On Wednesday, the Blue Devils headed to Woodbridge to battle the Amity Spartans and Santos was at it again, pitching a complete game shutout, allowing just three hits and striking out seven Spartans. The Westies took the early lead in the second inning when Kailey Carrano hit a towering home run to center for the 1-0 lead. That would be the only offense Santos would need but, the Blue Devils tacked on two, more insurance runs in the third inning when Aslynn O'Keefe and Carrano singled and then Kasey Marron brought in both with a double to increase the lead to 3-0. Santos got some timely strike outs the rest of the way to keep Amity off the board.

On Friday, the girls were looking not to have a letdown when they traveled to Milford to take on the 3-2 Jonathan Law Eagles. The Westies hit some balls hard but right at defenders and heading into the seventh inning were trailing 1-0. Law had taken advantage of an error to get a runner to third base in the fourth inning and scored its run on a wild pitch. In the top of the seventh, Gigi Perkins walked and Morgan Peryer singled to set the table for Ashlynn O'Keefe. O'Keefe dropped down a perfect bunt for a single and on a throwing error to first, Perkins and Peryer raced around to score and give the Blue Devils a 2-1 lead. O'Keefe, who had taken second on the error, came in to score when Veronica Lynn reached on an error to make it 3-1. With two outs in the inning, Santos singled. Pinch-runner Olivia Hauer scored on Kasey Marron's double to increase the lead to 4-1. Santos shut down the Eagles in the bottom of the inning to secure the victory. Santos pitched a complete game allowing one, unearned run to get the victory.

This week, the girls look to continue their success and clinch
See Westies, page 14



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Scoring drive

Nick Camara races down field to score against Hamden. The Westies have had an up-and-down go of it so far, but have fared well, overall. West Haven won this one, 15-8.

Rosati sets golf mark

A record low performance by the golf team, a rout in track, and baseball team sweeping the week highlight the second full week of the spring sports season as the five Green Knight teams sported an 8-2 record last week.

Baseball -- Coming off a 9-0 loss to Westhill, the Green Knights baseball team faced a tough week facing off against West Haven, Xavier, and Fairfield Prep with three games in four days. Chalk each one up to victory as Notre Dame emerged from the week with a 5-1 record. Notre Dame starting pitcher Zachary Peters allowed only one hit and two runs while striking out four in his debut in their 10-3 win over West Haven.

A six-run fourth inning proved to be the difference. Against Xavier, the Green Knights rallied twice for a walk-off 5-4 win, with Peters scoring the winning run on a wild pitch. Matt Reyes picked up the win with three scoreless innings in relief. A stellar pitching outing by Ryan Sullivan and a 3-hit, 2-RBI performance from Mason Brenchak lifted ND to a 3-2 win over Fairfield Prep to close the week.

Golf -- Tommy Rosati recorded four birdies en route to a three-under par round of 32 to lead the Notre Dame golf team to a seven-stroke win over SCC rival Xavier in a dual match held at Race Brook CC in Orange, CT on April 9,

2019. Notre Dame fired a team score of 146 to Xavier's score of 153.

Jon Bushka added a 35 as Notre Dame beat Xavier for the first time since 2015. Rosati then helped ND to a 4-0 record with a two-over-par 38 to lead Notre Dame to a 10-shot win over Amity two days later. Rosati carved out seven pars, one bogey, one double bogey, and a birdie for his two-over round.

Lacrosse -- Zach Hochman and Alex Hird scored four goals each as Notre Dame blitzed Hamden early gaining a 14-2 halftime lead in an eventual 16-5 win. Notre Dame used solid goaltending from Khorbin Kern and Max Arnold. In their other game of the week, Notre Dame started strong against Xavier but a seven-goal second quarter led the Falcons to a 14-7 win. Hird had four goals and Justin Shanley two for the Green Knights.

Tennis -- After three tough losses to start the season, the Notre Dame tennis team took to the courts against Cross with one goal - get into the win column. Led by strong play from each player, the Green Knights did just that in their 6-1 win.

Notre Dame won three of the four singles matches and all three doubles matches in improving record to 1-3 on season. Against West

See Knights, page 13



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Player of the Week

Ashlynn O'Keefe (3) is the Vio's Sports Plus/Westie Blue Player of the Week. In three games this past week, the senior picked up two hits in each contest, going 6-for-12, while driving in three runs and scoring four times as the Westies moved into the Top 10 in the state poll. To read about the Player of the Week and learn about all of your West Haven sports, including game stories, photos, and more, visit www.westieblue.com.

Youth Soccer opens spring season

The hard rain late Friday night into Saturday saw the West Haven Youth Soccer League have to postpone most of its Opening Weekend games, but some of the travel teams were able to get their contests in last weekend. On Saturday, the Rock House School of Music West Haven U-19 boys hosted Ansonia.

West Haven got the early lead, with Youssofa Cisse knocked the ball into the goal off a Phillip Smith cross from outside the penalty box. Ansonia scored just before halftime though to tie the game. JJ Ardito worked hard in the midfield, but it was not enough as Ansonia took the lead in the second half and held on to finish the game, 2-1. On Sunday, the boys were back in action,

this time hosting Naugatuck. West Haven went down 1-0 early off of a penalty kick, but Santiago Moreno equalized later for the hosts.

The game ended 1-1. The Top Hat Dance Academy West Haven U-19 boys had two league games this weekend, winning both to start the season 2-0. Saturday night on the turf at West Haven High School, the Westies played Cheshire, winning 5-1.

Holden Axelrod played well in the goal, while the goals came from Danny Morales and Shamar Kingston. The boys were back in action on Sunday, playing New Haven. Axelrod and Nash Noble combined for the shutout, and each added a goal of their own, and Ricardo Lopez, Javier Yanez

and Hugo Castillo added to the goal tally in the 6-0 win.

Sunday afternoon, the Elite Soccer Camps West Haven U-14 girls travel team went up I-95 to play Clinton. The rain held off for some of the game, but soon the girls were forced to play in the slick conditions on the turf in Clinton. West Haven dominated the game from early on, but could not find the back of the net until a corner kick play saw Olivia Trenchard and Ariana Izzo combine to get the ball into the penalty box.

A half clearance by Clinton from a Brooke Flaherty shot saw the ball fall to Izzo's feet, and she hammered the ball into the top corner.

Izzo would later add two more goals, one of a beauti-

ful passing sequence that saw Emma Walker and Julia Tsakonas combine before Walker calmly laid the ball off for Izzo to tap into the goal. The final goal of the Izzo hat trick could come from a beautiful free kick that she put in from just outside the box. Cassie Wadeka had the shutout in goal for the Westies, as the backline anchored by CC Williams, Abigail Phelan, Camryn Flaherty and Nevaeh Swanson helped the Westies to the 5-0 win.

Sunday night, the Gunning Law Firm West Haven U-19 girls took on Hadam-Killingworth in the rain. The Westies jumped to an early lead, on a Cori Severino goal from the left post, but the half saw the score tied at 1-1 as H-K leveled the game on a penalty kick.

Shelby Gagne and Angela Borelli took turns in the net, stopping several shots. The second half saw a very physical game with both teams having several chances to score and take the lead.

Selena Izzo just missed the net, playing well in the central midfield. While Shelby Gagne also chipped in with a couple of nice plays in front of the net. In the end, H-K was able to pull away, winning the game, 4-1.

The Westie defense was anchored by Grace Nowak, with support from Julia Merola, Amanda Tsakonas, Aerin McLaughlin and Lauren Panza. Madison Molster, Ceceilia Yanez and Riley Severino controlled played well in midfield.

Photo courtesy of NDWH

Tommy Rosati shot a three-under par 32 to help the Notre Dame golf team to a 4-0 start to its season with a seven-stroke win over Xavier on April 10.



Knights: *Murphy rolls in hometown*

Continued from page 12

Haven the day before, the Blue Devils won all four singles matches to win a close match 4-3. The Green Knights swept the doubles matches but it wasn't enough as Joe Delgado, Zack Kerzner, Anthony Siaphony, and Jon Saier won their singles matches.

Track -- Warren Murphy sure made the last time he ran in a competitive event in his hometown a day to remember. In so doing, he was part of a convincing Green Knight win as they beat Hamden 95-36 to even their record at 1-1 on season.

The Hamden native posted wins in the 400-meter dash and 200-meter dash while also running the anchor leg of the 4x400 relay team. Jared Russo also fared well in his hometown. He won the 110 hurdles in 16.4 seconds and the triple jump with a leap of 38-feet, one inch. All totaled, Notre Dame won 11 events over the course of the meet.

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Westies: *Lax squad rebounds, 15-8*

Continued from page 12
a playoff spot with their eight win. The Westies were scheduled to travel to Shelton on Monday to face the Gaels and then to Lyman Hall on Wednesday before ending the back end of a home and home with Lyman Hall when they host the Trojans on Thursday at noon.

After opening its season 2-0, the baseball team had a tough week, last week.

On Monday afternoon at Piurek Field, the Blue Devils allowed the Notre Dame Green Knights to build a 10-0 lead before they were able to plate some runs in a 10-3 loss. Trailing 10-0 in the fifth inning, Hunter Alexrod and Branden Coggins both walked and then Dom Cambino reached on an error to score Alexrod to make it 10-1. The Blue Devils added a run in the sixth inning when JC Contreras singled, stole third and scored on a ground out by Mike Tonucci. The Westies got their final run in the seventh inning after Steven Byrd doubled and scored on a Jake Lentine ground out.

On Wednesday afternoon, the boys staked the Sheehan Titans a 4-0 first inning lead and were unable to climb out of the hole in a 4-3 loss. The Westies got three runs back in the top of the third inning when Tyler Jones singled and came around to score of Dom Cambino's double. Cambino was plated by Chris Cavallaro's double to make it 4-2. JC Contreras walked and Mike Boni singled to load the bases before Gianni Gambardella hit a sacrifice fly to score Cavallaro with the third West Haven run. Unfortunately for the Westies, they threatened numerous times for the rest of the game but couldn't get

any more runs in the loss. The Blue Devils collected a total of 13 hits but came up short.

On Friday, the Westies traveled to Madison and were defeated by the Hand Tigers, 8-2. The Tigers took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning before the Blue Devils got a run back in the fourth inning when J.C. Contreras singled, advanced to second on a groundout by Mike Tonucci, moved to third on an error and scored on a Mike Boni single.

The Tigers increased the lead to 4-1 in the bottom of the fifth. In the sixth inning Contreras singled, stole second and came in the score on a groundout by Boni. Hand responded with four, more runs in the bottom of the inning to secure the 8-2 win.

This week, the Blue Devils hosted the Hamden Green Dragons on Monday and will play a road game at Piurek Field against the Career Panthers on Saturday at noon.

The boys' lacrosse team had started the season 2-0, but were dealt a setback on Monday when it was defeated by the Xavier Falcons, 16-1. The Blue Devils did a great job in the first quarter holding the Falcons in check. Kevin Moriarty made some spectacular saves and after he was assessed a penalty for destroying a Xavier attacker in front, Anthony Campagnuolo defended the goal for two minutes, making some great saves of his own. The Falcons were able to sneak one past him with 3:21 left in the quarter for a 1-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Xavier scored seven goals in the second quarter to take an 8-0 lead heading into the half, taking control of the game. The Falcons added six, more

goals to increase the lead to 14-0 before Charlie Miller was able to get West Haven on the board with 7:06 left in the game. Xavier tacked on a goal with 6:20 left and another with .5 seconds left for the 16-1 final.

The Blue Devils were looking to bounce back when they traveled to Hamden to face the rival Green Dragons on Saturday morning. Hunter Messina got the Westies on the board just 1:18 into the game with a goal to make it 1-0.

Connor Fowler increased the lead to 2-0 with a goal 18 seconds later.

Niko Kyle got his first of five goals on the day 26 seconds after that to make it 3-0. After the Dragons cut the lead to 3-1, Justin Rivera scored 40 seconds later to reestablish the three-goal lead. Hamden scored to cut the lead to 4-2 but the Westies responded with Kyle's second goal with 31.7 seconds left in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Rivera picked up his second goal 58 seconds into the quarter and then 1:04 later Nick Camara raced from his defensive position, the length of the field, dished the ball off and then received a return pass in front and fired the ball home for a goal to make it 7-2. Hamden answered with a goal 41 seconds later but Dillon Lenihan capitalized on a rebound of a Justin Rivera shot to score with 8:05 left in the half. The Green Dragons added two goals to send the teams into halftime with West Haven up 8-5.

Hamden scored again 1:05 into the third quarter to cut the lead to 8-6 but, the Blue Devils responded when Connor Fowler got his second goal, sweeping a low shot hockey style and Kyle notched his third to make it 10-6. After Hamden scored to make it 10-7, the Westies put the game

away with the next, four goals. Tyler Moscato scored with 3:56 left in the third, Nikolas Zaino with 47.6 seconds left, Kyle with a low, bullet for his fourth with 14.3 seconds left and then Justin Rivera completing his hat trick with a goal with 7:01 left in the game for a 14-7 lead.

Hamden added a goal and the Kyle scored his fifth with 2:39 left for the 15-8 final. Kevin Moriarty finished with 12 saves between the pipes for the Westies.

This week, the boys played at Notre Dame of West Haven on Monday and hosted Lyman Hall on Wednesday.

The girls' lacrosse team suffered a 16-4 loss at Sacred Heart on Monday afternoon in Hamden. Keegan Riccio led the Blue Devils with three goals while CC Condon had a goal and Taylor Nowak and Chloe Hummel contributed with an assist each. Nicole Gaston made 12 saves in goal for West Haven.

On Friday evening, the Blue Devils hosted the Foran Lions at Ken Strong Stadium. The Lions grabbed a 3-0 lead just 9:48 into the game but, the Westies battled back. Morrighan Leavitt scored with 14:32 left in the first half, Angela Borelli scored 1:32 later and Keegan Riccio scored 47 seconds after that to knot the game at 3-3.

After the Lions got the lead back with two goals, Gianna Sliby scored with 9.6 seconds left in the half but, Foran put a dagger in the back of the Blue Devils with a goal with .5 seconds left in the half for a 6-4 lead at the half.

In the second half, the Lions scored 35 seconds into the half to take a 7-4 lead but, the Westies continued to battle back. Keegan Riccio scored her second with 22:50 left in the game, Taylor Nowak added a goal with 15:57 left and Riccio

again with 14:06 left to tie the game again at 7-7. Unfortunately for the Westies, the Lions responded with the next, three goals to seal the 10-7 victory. Nicole Gaston made 11 saves between the pipes for the girls.

This week, the Westies had a road game at Shelton on Tuesday and head to Middletown to face the Mercy Tigers on Thursday at 11.

The boys' tennis team hosted the North Haven Indians on Tuesday and got wins from Joseph Delgado, 8-6, and Zach Kerzner, 8-2, but fell to the Indians, 5-2.

On Wednesday, the Blue Devils swept singles action to defeat the Notre Dame Green Knights at UNH. Joseph Delgado won, 6-1, 6-3, Zach Kerzner won, 6-3, 6-0, Anthony Siaphong took his match, 6-1, 6-4 and Jonathan Saier was victorious, 6-1, 6-2.

On Friday at Painter Park, the Blue Devils defeated the Sheehan Titans, 5-2. Joseph Delgado won, 6-2, 6-1, Zach Kerzner won, 6-2, 6-2 and Jonathan Saier won, 6-2, 6-1 in singles action.

In doubles play, Jason Rameriz/Lucien Zheng were victorious, 6-2, 6-1 and Awaab Osman/Ron Wood won ,7-5, 6-0 to help West Haven to the triumph.

This week, the boys were scheduled to travel to Platt Tech on Monday, host Career on Tuesday and finish the week with a trip to Wilbur Cross for a match on Thursday at 11.

The girls' tennis team was defeated by the Foran Lions, 7-0, on Thursday afternoon and will look to bounce back this week.

The Blue Devils traveled to North Haven on Monday, hosted Mercy on Tuesday and close out the week with a trip to Cheshire on Thursday at 3:45.

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Working hard

Skylar Serenson competes against Foran in girls' tennis. The squad is still looking for a win in the early going.

Westie Blue In Touch

By Mike Madera

The West Haven softball team is in unfamiliar territory. Not to worry, the Westies could get used to the position.

With three more wins this past week, West Haven remained undefeated and moved into the state Top 10 softball poll in the tenth position.

Silenced for six innings, the West Haven softball team

was looking at the end of an unbeaten start to the season. Then the seventh inning took place.

Scoring four times in the seventh, West Haven rallied for a 4-1 victory over Jonathan Law in Milford Friday afternoon. With the win, the Westies improved to 7-0 on the year.

"We found ourselves in unfamiliar waters this year,"

West Haven coach Joe Morrell said. "It was the first time in seven games we were behind at any time during a game. It was nice to see the girls did not panic and they stayed on course. We scored four runs in the top of the seventh and proved we can come back when we need to. Ivy (Santos) kept us in that game."

Gigi Perkins opened the seventh inning with a walk, Morgan Peryer followed with

a single to right, and Ashlynn O'Keefe followed with a single to score Perkins with the tying run.

Veronica Lynn reached on an error to score Peryer, and Kaley Carrano hit into a double play to score O'Keefe. Santos singled with two outs, and Kasey Marron followed with a double for a 4-1 lead.

Law got a one-out single in the bottom of the inning, but Ivy Santos got the last two

outs to preserve the comeback. Santos went the distance, allowing one earned run on seven hits, while walking two and striking out four.

The Westies stranded runners throughout the game and looked as if they would suffer their initial loss of the year.

O'Keefe singled and stole second in the first, Marron singled and Paige Buerer walked in the second, and Carrano

See Westie Blue, page 16



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Pourin' it on

Morgan Peryer scores as the Westies rally for four runs in the last inning to win at Law. The Lady Devils put together a five-game winning streak at press time, toppling rival Amity Regional in the process.



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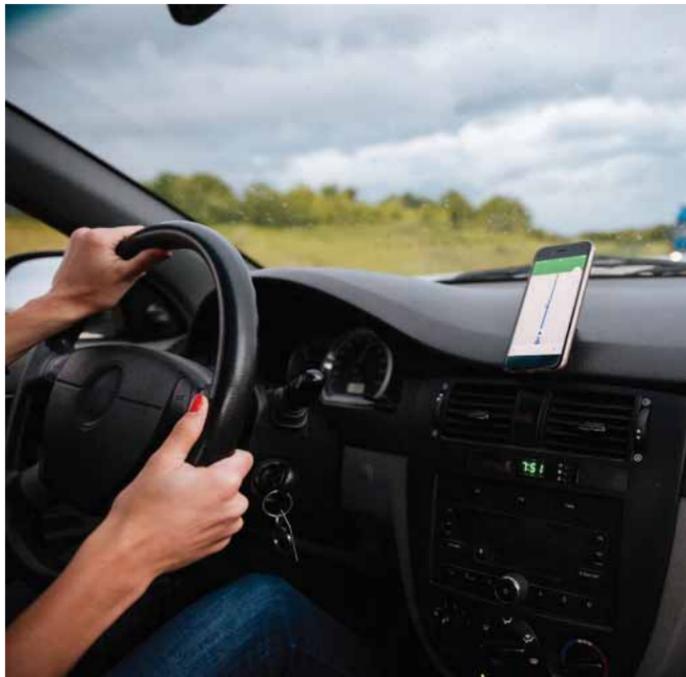
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Westie Blue In Touch

By Mike Madera

Continued from page 15
singled and Marron walked in the fourth, but all were stranded.

An error and a wild pitch helped Law take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning, before Peryer singled and stole third, but was left stranded in the fifth.

Santos and Marron each singled with one out in the sixth, but the Westies could not capitalize.

Prior to the win over Law, it just kept getting better for the Westies.

Led by the pitching of Santos and some timely hitting, West Haven topped Amity 3-0 in a

Southern Connecticut Conference contest in Woodbridge Wednesday afternoon.

"It was a huge win for us," Morrell said. "They were a Top 10 team. The girls wanted to prove something; that we can compete with the best teams in our league. We went out and played very well. Ob-

viously, Ivy pitched tremendous. We didn't make any errors and we got timely hitting."

Santos picked up her sixth win of the season, tossing a complete game shutout, allowing three hits, while striking out seven.

With Santos blanking the

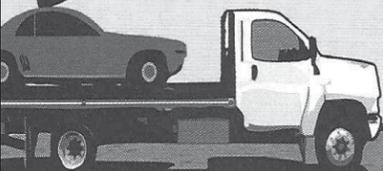
Spartans, the West Haven offense did the rest. O'Keefe, Carrano and Dianesse Rodriguez each had a pair of hits, while Carrano scored twice and Kasey Marron drove in a pair.

Santos did the rest as she allowed just two runners the rest of the way.

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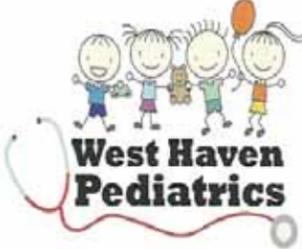
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Around Town

Senior trips slated

F. Senior and Friends has planned a trip to Atlantic City May 22-24 at Resorts Casino. The package includes two dinners, a show and \$25 coupon for slot play. Price is \$279 for a double, \$269 for a triple and \$389 for a single. A trip to Niagara Falls is set for Aug. 5-8. Call for information on this and other trips. Call Fred (203) 389-5808 or (203) 927-4249.

Casino trip

The West Haven Senior Center is making a trip to Mohegan Sun on Wednesday, May 8. Cost is \$25 with \$15 free bet and \$15 food voucher or free buffet. This trip is in conjunction with The West Haven Housing Authority. Pick up times are as follows: Morrissey Manor 8 a.m., Savin Rock Conference Center 8:15, Surfside 8:30, Union 8:45, and John Prete 9. Those picked up at Housing Authority sites, please make reservation with Yolanda (203) 933-9449. Those picked up at Conference Center please register at the West Haven Senior Center or call (203) 937-3507. Bus leaves Mohegan at 4.

Shore Haven scholarships

The Shore Haven Junior Baseball League will be accepting scholarship applications for current high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amounts of \$250 in honor of Sal Arminio, Dave Terese, Sr., and Mario J. Argentino, plus the Joseph Morrell, Sr., Scholarship.

All applicants must have participated in the league for two years for the first three scholarships. Applications must be returned by May 15 to: Charles Gunning, 125 Central Ave., West Haven, 06516. For information can be obtained from area guidance offices or

Summer Theater

West Haven Summer Youth Theater, a division of West Haven Council on the Arts, in conjunction with Performance Plus/RVP Studios, 221 Bull Hill Lane, is offering summer theatre experience for youth ages 10-17. The program will run July 1 (except July 4-5) to Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (M-F) at RVP Studios. It will culminate in four performances of the classic Rock Musi-

cal Godspell 2012 Edition on Aug. 2-4.

Under the direction of Lara Morton with musical direction by Paul Scanlon, participants will receive expert instruction in acting, singing, and movement techniques required of all triple-threat, Broadway-bound performers.

Come to the Open House on April 28, 1-4 p.m. at Performance Plus at RVP Studios to find out more and meet the director and production team.

For more information & to sign up for the program: <http://www.artswesthaven.org/> There is a \$50 discount if enrolled by April 30.

Easter vocalist

First Baptist Church of West Haven, 308 Center St., invites you to attend Easter Service on Sunday, April 2, from 10-11:30 a.m.

There will be a special performance by vocalist Vicky Mariconde. Her debut album is titled "Still I Know." The service theme is "Loss, Hopelessness & Restoration."

Call the church at (203) 934-4381 for more information.

President's Ball

The West Haven Italian-

American Civic Association will host its President's Anniversary Ball with full dinner menu on Saturday, May 11, from 6-11 p.m. at the club, 85 Chase Lane. Menu includes NY strip, stuffed sole, or chicken marsala, with open bar and music. Tickets are \$45 per person. For reservations call (203) 933-3367.

Annual Springfest

Join the Harugari Singing Society for Bavarian Springfest, on Saturday, April 27 at its 66 Highland St. address. At 6 p.m. there is a sauerbraten dinner with spätzle and red cabbage. Live Music is by The Austrian Boys. Entertainment is by the Harugari Schuhplattlers.

Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For reservations or information, call Karin Zamolsky at (203) 375-7050, the club at (203) 933-9930, or e-mail Harugari.gari@gmail.com.

Annual Book Sale

The Friends of West Haven Library will host a mini book sale on Saturday April 27 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Main Library, 300 Elm St. There will be a large selection of adult

fiction and children's books only at this sale for our usual low prices. For information, call (203) 934-6921.

An Al-Anon meeting group invites new members to attend its weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church, 52 George St. For information and details, call (203) 506-1464.

Student Loans

The Seth Haley Memorial Loan Fund of West Haven provides eligible college students with loans of up to \$2500 to help students finish their post high school education.

Applicants must be West Haven residents who have completed two or more years of college or post-secondary work or be in their final two years of advanced work. Any West Haven resident attending college or a post high school professional, technical or trade school can be eligible for a loan. Repayments do not begin, and no interest will be charged until one year after graduation. If you are interested in making an application for a loan, please Gert Beckwith at (203) 934-6921, or Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442



Submitted Photo

GOP honors 'heroes'

The West Haven Republican Town Committee recently honored local community "unsung heroes" Michelle M. Caprio and Meli Garthwait. The honorees were chosen based upon their significant contributions and the positive impact each has made to the local community. Pictured left to right: Republican Town Committee Chairman Pat Libero, Meli Garthwait, Michelle Caprio, State Reps Charles Ferarro (R-117), and Dorinda Borer D-115). As part of the festivities, and to recognize the Point of Light National Volunteer Week, a WHEAT food collection was also held.

Letters

Continued from page 6

or 50 hours. I am aware of no other elected officials, such as the City Clerk or Tax Collector, that have cashed in vacation days. Certainly, there are times when a mayor will work beyond a 40-hour week, which is expected. It is for this reason that a set schedule is not required and that time out of the office may be reasonably commensurate with that.

Elected officials receive full pay each week without regard to the number of hours worked. I have repeatedly asked for the mayor's personal calendar to validate how many days she has taken off to date. She ran on a pledge of transparency but she has not

responded to my repeated requests.

Mayor Rossi, and former Mayor O'Brien should immediately reimburse the city the amount each of them received for selling back vacation days as taxpayers should not bear this burden.

Mayor Rossi blames former Mayor O'Brien for everything that is wrong with West Haven, but when it comes to paying herself, she is in complete agreement with him.

Tracy Morrissey
Councilman 8th District

Mayor responds

It is both necessary and important to respond to former

mayor Ed O'Brien's claim that he and his team were responsible for the recent \$3.1 million surplus; it is simply not true.

Here are the facts:

~~ Ed O'Brien inherited a \$2.7 million budget surplus when he took office in 2013

~~ Ed O'Brien never balanced a budget as mayor

~~ Ed O'Brien was responsible for operating deficits totaling more than \$10 million

~~ Ed O'Brien's proposed 2014 debt restructuring was rejected by the City Council of West Haven because it would have cost West Haven taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars in interest

When I took office in December 2017 - five months

into fiscal year 2018, the City of West Haven was projecting yet another \$2 million deficit in addition to the \$8 million shortfall in revenue that Ed O'Brien built into the budget even after he was told the \$8 million dollars was not going to materialize.

My team and I took immediate and decisive action, making many tough and unpopular, but necessary, decisions to stabilize the city's finances.

We eliminated programs and positions, implemented a freeze on hiring and non-essential overtime, negotiated furlough days, reduced hours of some positions, and canceled events.

We also undertook an aggres-

sive audit of personal property to increase tax revenue and worked to move stalled economic projects forward.

That is why the City of West Haven ended fiscal year 2018 with a surplus.

Here are two more facts:

~~ The City of West Haven is projecting a budget surplus in fiscal year 2019;

~~ The City of West Haven has a positive fund balance (rainy day fund) for the first time in over a decade

The work is by no means complete but we are on the right path and the future is looking brighter for West Haven.

Nancy Rossi
Mayor

Station: *Development still a goal*

Continued from page 1
 most municipalities that have done well with transit-oriented development have utilized mix-use zoning. He said many allow for apartments on the upper floors of buildings, while having commercial space on the bottom floors. He referenced the Atwood project in Allingtown as an example.

“What they are trying to do is create a village, basically,” said Killeen, “where you have people who have the convenience of living near a train station where they can commute to work, or having their employment near a train station so that they can get there.”

Killeen said part of the rezoning was changing regulations to allow higher density residential living than almost anywhere else in the city. He said the city permits almost 40 units per acre in the TOD.

According to Messore, there seems to be a growing market confidence in the city. He said there was a 57 percent increase in revenue from building permits from the last fiscal year to this one.

Messore said he hopes development of the Stiles School will be the catalyst for further development in the area around the train station.

Jonathan Wharton, a political science professor at Southern Connecticut State University, said he gave a talk on Transient Oriented Development at the University of New Haven two years ago. He said Connecticut is a little bit behind on the concept.

The professor said one issue that could crop up for the West Haven TOD is the “not in my backyard” mantra people can have when it comes to mixed-use development in the area.

“Most people in a town like West Haven prefer singular-use zoning,” said Wharton. “Even in my discussion [at UNH] there was this outcry of concern over [high-density housing.]”

There are many benefits of initiating and carrying through a TOD plan, Wharton said. He pointed out it pro-

vides an additional tax base for the city, more commercial space, and, critically, younger people wanting to live in the city.

“That’s really what it’s about,” said Wharton. “Not everybody wants to buy a house or can afford to buy a house in their 20’s and 30’s.

So the thought is, ‘Why not have this open to apartments, and have more people who are younger live in West Haven.’ Because that’s a big concern in

West Haven, it’s graying.” Wharton said he thinks the plan could be transformative in an area which has been so underutilized for so long.

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