

# West Haven Voice

May 21, 2020

Vol. 25, Issue 10 16 Pages

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

## Voice Profile

*An in-depth feature*

Local entrepreneur re-issues game in time of COVID-19, and it's a smash!

~ See page 9



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

### Bathhouse gets summer face-lift

From right, city sidewalk inspector Ernie Chiarelli, mayoral Executive Assistant Lou Esposito, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Wizard Painting Co. owner Todd Tompkins look on as a crew from Tompkins' Savin Avenue company repairs the facade of the bathhouse on the shoreline boardwalk May 13. The Parcel I building, which borders Old Grove Park and houses two bathrooms, an equipment garage and three offices, is receiving a thorough cleaning and overhaul, including a fresh coat of paint, before the summer season officially begins Memorial Day weekend

## Council passes budget

The City Council's passage of new budget ordinance on time, despite the ability to extend the process through June is a case of good news, bad news. Democratic Councilman-at-Large Ron Quagliani, who chairs the council, commended his fellow members for getting the spending package done as prescribed by the city charter.

Gov. Ned Lamont had waived charter provisions and is allowing municipal governments to extend their deliberations until late next month, but Quagliani said the council was up to the task.

The good news: The members were able to make several alterations to the budget, which totaled \$165.2 million when presented in March by Mayor Nancy Rossi. Those alterations and cuts amount to close to \$600,000.

The bad news: The state agency in charge of overseeing the city's budget is not looking kindly on the fact the cuts that reduced the mill rate increase from .80 to .58. As a result, the changes made were reversed and the .80 mill increase remained.

See Budget, page 15

## Cavallaro outlines end-of-year plans

Gov. Ned Lamont's directive two weeks ago closing schools through the end of the year has prompted education officials to hone and nuance their "distance learning" programs as well as make plans for what follows. Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro said this week, while the online learning will continue through the end of the year, plans are being made for such things as grades as well as graduation.

As the school year is set to end on June 12, Cavallaro said the focus of his and his staff's attention has been how

to compute grades as well as opening the 2020-2021 school year.

Regarding the latter, Cavallaro said the emphasis has been on further developing the distance learning program, and looking at continuing instructions from Hartford concerning the fall.

"We will continue with distance learning until June 12, the last day of the school calendar. We've spent a lot of time working out plans for final exams at the high school and figuring out ways to recognize our senior

class," Cavallaro said. "We've also begun the process of planning for the opening of school at the end of August. We are continuing to develop our distance learning program and trying to obtain as many computer devices as possible. To quote the legendary John Wooden, 'Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.'"

With that in mind, Cavallaro is using models used by the White House as well as governor Lamont.

"I am also in the process of forming a *Reopening the West Haven Schools*

*Committee*. That committee will look at rules and guidelines being set by the State of Connecticut, and figure out how they can effectively be put in place in our school district," he said. "I also want the committee to reach out to those at the state level and let them know of obstacles roadblocks that could impact a safe and successful school reopening."

Normally, the May-June time period is one of extra activity for school systems, that hasn't changed with CO

See Schools, page 12

**UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!**

**elm diner**  
(203) 933-9966  
111 Elm Street, West Haven

**BREAKFAST**  
**LUNCH**  
**DINNER**  
**CATERING**

## Obituary

### Frank Zukoff



Frank Zukoff, 61, of West Haven, Ct. passed away suddenly on May 15, 2020. He was loved by all for his comical personality. He leaves behind a son, Frank Zukoff of Florida, sisters, Patty (Dave) Muir of East Haven, Linda Konopka of Clinton, Sherrye Gomes of Clinton, Lori (Jack) Nailor of West Haven, brothers William Zukoff, Jr. of West Haven, Steven (Jackie) Tracey of East Haven, and Michael (Michelle) Tracey of East Haven. He was predeceased by his parents, William Zukoff and Helen Zukoff Tracey, and brothers, John Zukoff, and William Tracey, Jr. Burial will be private.

## On this Date

**1991 -- Former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, is assassinated.** The attacker was a woman believed to be linked the Sri Lankan separatist militant organization, the Tamil Tigers. At least 14 people lost their lives in the suicide bombing.

**1979 -- Violent clashes follow the lenient sentencing for Harvey Milk's murderer.** Milk, the first openly gay U.S. politician, had been shot and killed together with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. The assassin, Dan White, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter only, triggering the White Night Riots.

**1951 -- The 9th Street Show opens in New York.** The ground-breaking art exhibition showing works by artists like Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning is considered the birth hour of the artistic avant-garde referred to as the New York School.

**1932 -- Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic.** The U.S. aviatress' disappearance on an attempted round-the-world flight five years later is one of the most discussed unsolved mysteries in the history of flight.

**1904 -- FIFA, the world governing body of association football, is founded.** The Fédération Internationale de Football Association is responsible for the organization of the World Cup, which is one of the world's most viewed sporting events.

## Voice looking for family pics of fun activities

Families throughout the city are making the best of the Stay-at-Home order given by Gov. Ned Lamont and state health officials. Some are learning that staying at home can be a blast!

The Voice is looking for your photos showing the family activities you are enjoying.

Take a photo and send it to our Facebook page or to our email address: [info@westhavenvoice.com](mailto:info@westhavenvoice.com). Include the names of the people included in the photo and a brief description of the activity.

Two readers have taken advantage of the offer and sent in photographs and captions.

For those needing further information, call us at (203) 934-6397. Your neighbors are interested and so are we!

## Contact

### West Haven Voice

West Haven Voice, LLC  
840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516

203-934-NEWS (6397) Web: [westhavenvoice.com](http://westhavenvoice.com)  
Facebook: [whvoice](https://www.facebook.com/whvoice) Twitter: [@whvoiceads](https://twitter.com/whvoiceads)

Editor Bill Riccio - [info@westhavenvoice.com](mailto:info@westhavenvoice.com)

Sales Director Alan Olenick - [sales@westhavenvoice.com](mailto:sales@westhavenvoice.com)

Sales Associate Molly Gianfredi  
[molly\\_gianfredi@westhavenvoice.com](mailto:molly_gianfredi@westhavenvoice.com)

Next Issue Date: June 4, 2020



**Designed to fit with Mother Nature,  
yet withstand the test of Father Time.**

Presenting the latest ways for your ideas to take shape from Trex® For longevity, style, eco-friendly design and life-long value, it's setting the stage for Next. To learn more about how Trex® is making hte most in outdoor living, contact the TrexPro listed below.



Phone: (800) 224-2128 | (203) 937-6400  
824 Boston Post Road | West Haven, CT 06516  
1700 Boston Post Road, 2nd Floor | Fairfield, CT 06824  
E-mail: [info@baybrookremodelers.com](mailto:info@baybrookremodelers.com)  
Website: [www.baybrookremodelers.com](http://www.baybrookremodelers.com)

TrexPRO®



**Engineering What's Next  
in Outdoor Living®**

Voice  
Classifieds  
(203) 934-6397



Submitted Photo

### Essay winner

The Connecticut Supreme Court's Historical Society sponsored essay and art competitions for local high school students on various important legal principles. The programs have explored topics such as the separation of powers doctrine, the rights afforded by *Miranda v. Arizona*, and a keynote lecture on the "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law." Christopher D'Inzeo, an AP U.S. Government and Politics student at West Haven High School, was selected with his essay entitled, "Obstacles to Voting and Some Possible Solutions."



**Life insurance from a real-life person.**

**Encarnacion Ins Fin Svcs Inc**  
 Elsie Encarnacion, Agent  
 487A Campbell Avenue  
 West Haven, CT 06516  
 Bus: 203-932-0591

Get life insurance that comes with someone local (me). I'm here to help you protect your family's financial future. **LET'S TALK TODAY.**



State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)  
 State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)  
 1708148 Bloomington, IL

# A Partner in the Community



| University of New Haven |

[www.newhaven.edu](http://www.newhaven.edu)

# City begins to ease shutdown

## Boardwalk to re-open tomorrow

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

In accordance with federal, state and local guidelines, the city reopened beaches, the shoreline boardwalk and beach parking lots Friday, but with restrictions, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and city Health Director Maureen B. Lillis announced.

"The good news is that our efforts, including "Stay Safe, Stay Home" and social distancing, are working to a point where we can begin carefully opening the city, effective May 22," Rossi said. "West Haven residents have really excelled with following the various federal, state and local directives. I sincerely thank you for your cooperation!"

For now, the restrictions will cover May and June, Rossi said.

During those months, parking at all beach lots is for West Haven residents

only and is "limited to capacity levels that maintain a safe, reduced volume of visitors to the beaches and allows for the practicing of any applicable social distancing directives," Rossi said.

A West Haven resident beach sticker, with the vehicle's license plate number printed on it, is required to park in each lot and is only valid if affixed to the inside lower left corner of the vehicle's windshield.

If no sticker is present, the resident driver must show a valid driver's license and registration, both of which must have the same city address.

Rossi said the city plans to mail the new resident beach stickers with the July tax bills.

For the boardwalk, people must maintain social distancing and wear face masks at all times, Lillis said. Social distancing includes staying at least 6 feet away from others.

"The boardwalk is not wide enough to ensure safe distancing, so face coverings will be required," Rossi said. "This is to protect the health and safety of all individuals who use our beautiful resources."

Also, no bikes are allowed on the boardwalk until further notice.

According to Rossi, Police Chief Joseph S. Perno has the authority to remove and ban from the city's beaches, boardwalk and parks anyone failing to comply with measures restricting gatherings to no more than five people or maintaining social distancing.

Rossi added that in the coming months, residents can do their part by helping to keep West Haven's 3 miles of public beaches clean and litter-free, saying, "Whatever you bring in, bring out."

For the boat launch on April Street, authorities will monitor the area daily

from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Use of the launch is for West Haven residents only. Residents must comply with COVID-19 boating guidelines from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Lillis said.

Rossi said that other restrictions implemented amid the coronavirus pandemic will remain in effect until further notice, including the cancellation of sports and the closure of playgrounds and piers.

Although piers are closed, fishing is allowed, provided that anglers maintain social distancing and comply with COVID-19 fishing guidelines from DEEP, Lillis said.

The municipal compost site at 1 Kimberly Ave. reopened today.

Rossi said the city plans to update new guidelines for July and beyond.

"As Gov. Lamont issues additional guidance, the city will continue to

# Restaurants get OK for outdoor dining

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

As Gov. Ned Lamont loosens restrictions on restaurants to allow outdoor dining, the city is encouraging West Haven restaurant owners to immediately start using outdoor dining to support their businesses amid the coronavirus pandemic, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Planning and Development Commissioner Fred A. Messoro announced.

Rossi said the city is also making it easier for restaurateurs to gain approval of their proposed outdoor dining plans, for up to four tables and 16 seats, by simplifying the application process and waiving the permit fees until Sept. 1.

On May 11, the City Council approved a communication by Rossi to suspend the outdoor dining permit fees in accordance with COVID-19 restric-

the proposal with council Finance Committee Chairwoman Bridgette J. Hoskie, D-1.

"I want to do everything I can to help our restaurants and all of our businesses in these challenging times," said Rossi, who thanked council members for supporting the initiative.

The city has been at the forefront of promoting outdoor dining since August 2019, when the Planning and Zoning Commission adopted a regulation to guide "Outdoor Dining" at West Haven restaurants.

To apply for an outdoor dining permit, restaurant owners can call the Department of Planning and Development at (203) 937-3580 or contact Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathy Conniff at conniff@westhaven-ct.gov. Instructions for completing an application are

haven.com/DocumentCenter/View/2410/Temporary-Permit-Application-PDF.

According to Assistant City Planner David W. Killeen, the application process requires restaurant owners to submit an application form with a simple drawing of the outdoor dining layout drawn to scale. The layout must show the outdoor dining location and the number of movable chairs and tables planned for use. It also must show at least 5 feet of unobstructed and continuous sidewalk for pedestrians to walk around the area and the tables set up at least 6 feet apart for social distancing.

Killeen said that if a restaurant needs to use a public sidewalk, the owner must provide the city with a certificate of insurance for general liability in the amount not less than \$2 million to comply with Sec-

Code. In addition, restaurants must comply with Section 20.10 of the West Haven Zoning Regulations, he said.

Republican Councilman-at-Large Barry L. Cohen was supportive of Hoskie's proposal, but offered his own amendment helping restaurant owners strapped for cash at this time. The amendment waived the \$50 permit fee for those making applications.

"I was pleased that the City Council supported my amendment to the motion that waives the \$50 permit fee restaurants pay for outdoor dining through Sept. 1," Cohen said. "This allows our local, small business owners the flexibility to consider outdoor dining permits through July 4, and just prior to Labor Day Weekend without being charged the fee. "It may be only \$50, but it's \$50 in our local restaurant owners' pockets."

"I thank Bridgette Hoskie for her fine work with the mayor on the motion."

Although an extension of the original 30-day fee waiver could have been considered by the Council at a later date, Cohen's amendment virtually eliminated the need to consider any extension.

Cohen who recently worked across the aisle with Rep. Dorinda Borer in obtaining \$50,000 from Yale University to purchase Chromebooks for West Haven students added, "I commend Councilwoman's Hoskie's thoughtful work with the mayor on this fee waiver. It may be a small, but nonetheless, important gesture to let West Haven small businesses know that we care, hear and understand your struggles during these challenging times."

(Ed. Note: Editor Bill Riccio, Jr. added to this story.)

## Legal Notice

### West Haven City Council Legal Notice

The West Haven City Council will hold a Public Hearing on May 26th 2020 at 5:55 P.M. for the purpose of implementing the provisions of P.A. 86-469 entitled "Neighborhood Assistance Act" in order to prepare and submit to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services a program list as defined by the department regulations. This meeting will be held via electronic methods in accordance with Rule.#30.

Visit [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5cM1trmHe999FXNJ56X\\_Jg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5cM1trmHe999FXNJ56X_Jg) to watch the meeting live. In order to submit comment, please mail to West Haven City Council, 355 Main Street West Haven, CT 06516. Comments may also be emailed to [mdimassa@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:mdimassa@westhaven-ct.gov). Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. on May 26th to be read into the record.

Stacy Riccio  
Clerk of the Council

## Applications for summer jobs now being accepted

Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program are available on the city website.

Download an application at <http://cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/2412/Summer-Youth-Employment-Program-Application-2020-PDF>.

The four-week summer program, which is awaiting federal funding, is aimed at funding positions for low-income residents ages 14-21.

Applications with all required documents are due by 5 p.m. June 5 to coordinator Jim Eagan, Summer Youth Employment Program, Department of Human Resources, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516. Applications can also be inserted into the drop box at the Main Street entrance of City Hall.

Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Students must also include copies of information, such as a birth certificate and Social Security card, as well as documentation of household income. Students who receive free lunch must provide proof as well.

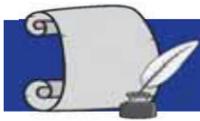
Family income is based on the number of people per household and is required to be within 185 percent of state poverty income levels.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## New sidewalks on boardwalk

An excavation crew from the city's sidewalk contractor, Elm City Materials Inc. of Spring Street, replaces a 250-foot section of the shoreline boardwalk behind Savin Rock on May 11. The work, financed with a state Local Capital Improvement Program grant, paved the way for a new surface of asphalt for the bustling stretch of walkway, which had been a trip hazard. The contractor also repaired 4-by-4-foot sections of the concrete boardwalk near The John Barone Bocce Court and the Savin Rock Conference Center on May 7. Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy said the city is taking advantage of the shuttered walkway to do the work. The popular walking trail has been closed until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing restrictions. The project, supervised by city sidewalk inspector Ernie Chiarelli, also includes repairing and replacing other parts of the 1.5-mile boardwalk.



## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### Wolfe's Bakery Part II

Fred Wolfe, Sr., today fondly remembered as "Pop" was known for his energy and enthusiastic conduct in the world of business, for he was certainly driven to succeed. According to his grandson Bob Wolfe, "Pop worked long hard hours for many years, and often fell asleep while kneading the dough by hand. Pop had hands like hams and muscles like Popeye. He regularly consumed a dozen hard boiled eggs while working to make up for the volume of calories he burned. For many years he worked seven days a week, went home, ate dinner and went to bed early, thoroughly exhausted.

Pop Wolfe was also known for some unusual business decisions: For example, when he visited the local A&P market which was two doors away from the bakery, he noticed that they were selling Heinz pickles for a price that he could not match, given his cost structure. When he asked the Heinz salesman how this was possible; the answer was, "A&P buys pickles by the carload." How big was a carload? Wolfe did not know, but he would find out quickly enough. Soon a carload

of pickles was delivered to Wolfe's; and they were overstocked with pickles for an entire year: Pickles in the basement, pickles in the office, pickles everywhere. After that, the byword of Wolfe's Bakery was, "Sell it or smell it." Pop Wolfe had learned a painful lesson.

It is worthy of mention that when Harold Peschell opened Peschell's Pastry Shop just down the street in 1941, a bouquet of flowers was sent to him by Wolfe's Bakery along with a note wishing him luck, "and if you need anything, let us know." Over the years, these two directly competing bakeries helped each other whenever they could--and it is pleasing to note that this is the way that Wolfe's treated all of their competitors--like friends.

In retirement, Pop Wolfe had purchased a second home in West Palm Beach, Florida. There, he could be routinely spotted, walking through Worth Avenue in Palm Beach's most exclusive shopping area, wearing sweat pants, a UConn tee shirt, and bedroom slippers with the heels mashed flat.

From this, it can truly be stated that Pop was a man who was comfortable in his own skin.

And also in his later years, Pop had a home on Clear Lake in Guilford; one time during a family gathering at Pop's home, his young grandson Bob caught his first fish, which was all of five inches long. Ignoring the urging of some family members to throw the fish back, Pop taught the boy to clean, filet and sautee the fish, after which, all twelve people in attendance had a share of the diminutive fish for dinner. Through this event, Pop's grandson discovered a sensitive side of the gruff patriarch, and learned a lifelong lesson.

By the 1970s, Wolfe's had one hundred employees, eight trucks, fifteen locations, and had fifty wholesale accounts. On Sundays, they sold 1000 dozen hard rolls, in addition to cakes, cookies, pastries, baked ham, cold cuts, platters, and on and on--a total of eighty different items! The family of son Bob lived just three blocks away on Court Street, so family members had a short commute to work.

But life is change, and ultimately the family business was sold in 1977, and it continued onward for five years after that. And then one day in 1982, an article appeared on the front page of the New Haven Register,

saying "Wolfe's Ovens Cold After 70 Years."

It was over: Wolfe's Bakery had closed its doors and become a part of West Haven history.

Today, many senior West Haveners can fondly recall their childhood stops at Wolfe's, and waiting for their free cookies while their mothers were placing their orders on the way home from church on a Sunday morning.

The Wolfe's story is similar to so many other American stories in the manner that was

described so long ago by the writer Horatio Alger: A young man of humble means rises to a life of middle-class security and comfort through hard work, determination, courage, and honesty.

Pop Wolfe did all of that: He arrived in America with very little and built a business that became an institution in Connecticut. And in turn, the benefits of that business and his leadership built a solid foundation for the lives of those generations of the Wolfe family that would follow him.



Wolfe's as it looked in the late 1950s.



Dan Shine is a columnist for the West Haven Voice, and former historian of the First Congregational Church.



**KEENAN FUNERAL HOME INC.**

238 Elm Street  
West Haven  
(203) 933-1217

330 Notch Hill Rd.  
North Branford  
(203) 481-3217



Providing a full-spectrum of products and services, both traditional and alternative, preneed and at-need.

Our professional staff is a group of compassionate and dedicated funeral directors experienced in discussing customized options with families. We are available to assist families at the time of immediate need or to help families make prearrangements.

Philip M. Appell, Funeral Director  
Phil.appell@carriageservices.com

www.keenanfuneralhome.com



**CAROLE A. LAYDON MCELRATH**

Realtor

C. (203) 907-6776  
O. (203) 389-0015  
carolemcelrath.cbintouch.com  
carole.mcelrath@cbmoves.com

270 Amity Road  
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC.



## A Memorial Day prayer

Memorial Day was begun as a way to honor the Civil War dead in the 1880s. Known as Decoration Day until fairly recently, it is a way for the nation to remember all those who fight for the nation, and especially those who pay the ultimate price.

With our fighting men and women in harm's way, this Memorial Day takes on a special meaning. It will be a bittersweet reminder that many thousands are away from home, serving the nation in far-off lands. We think of no greater editorial opinion than expressing the hope they return to us safely.

We make that opinion known by means of a hymn known to us all, though slightly changed to include all the services. The Navy Hymn, known also as Eternal Father, Strong to Save, was written by Englishman William Whiting. It became the U.S. Navy's hymn soon after, and no service in the Academy Chapel at Annapolis concludes without its singing. It was revised in the Missionary Prayer Book in the 1930s to the version we show here. Sung to John B. Dykes stirring tune, Melita, it is a favorite of all denominations, and gained a bittersweet resurgence during the days following the assassination of President John Kennedy.

We present it in an ecumenical version as the hope of all, no matter what creed or religion one follows:

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O God, the Lord of hill and plain  
O'er which our traffic runs amain,  
By mountain pass or valley low:  
Where ever, Lord, Thy brethren go,  
Protect them by thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the father sent,  
To spread abroad the firmament:  
O Wind of Heaven, by Thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by the watchful care  
From every peril in the air.

Almighty God of Love and Power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea. Amen.



## New York's leaders flubbed it

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

New York is the greatest city in the world. It also is uniquely suited to the spread of the coronavirus.

As the national debate over re-opening continues and the political blame game intensifies, it's worth considering the scale of New York's outbreak. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the country, and almost nothing like it in the rest of the world.

The story of coronavirus in America is overwhelmingly the story of coronavirus in New York and its surrounding suburbs.

Any account of how we got to this place, with deaths nationally headed toward 100,000, must center on New York, which was seeded with the virus early and then seeded much of the rest of the country.

Nearly 20,000 people have died in New York City. If the city were a country, it'd rank sixth in the world in total deaths, behind France and ahead of Brazil.

In New York City, according to a New York Times report, deaths have been more than 300% above normal.

In New Jersey, intimately connected to New York, deaths have been 90% above normal. Otherwise, no other

state is close. In the rest of New York state, deaths have been 9% above normal.

The epidemic started early in New York.

By the time it had its first confirmed case on March 1, there may have been as many as 10,000 undetected cases.

The city was getting seeded constantly from abroad. A study published by medrxiv.org concluded that "introductions from Europe account for the majority of cases found in NYC in the first weeks of March 2020."

Then, people coming from or through New York spread the disease elsewhere in the United States.

A New York Times analysis found that the number of cases around the country correlated with how many travelers arrived from New York in early March.

New York's connection to the world, especially Europe, its density and its mass transit system all made it a potent vector.

So, the question of how we could have kept the U.S. from getting so hard hit is really how we could have kept New York from getting so hard hit. Every day counted, and better leadership at the federal, state and local levels would have made a difference, but we shouldn't underestimate the

difficulties.

Trump's early travel restrictions on China would have had to be imposed on Europe as well, when no one was contemplating that.

New York's leaders would have had to warn people off the subways, shut the schools and torch the Big Apple's economy before any plainly visible metrics justified it.

This is why the simplistic shots at President Trump, who indeed should have taken the virus more seriously at the outset, don't work.

He's the president of *New York*, but also of other large, international cities like Los Angeles and Miami that have escaped New York's fate. Has his leadership been better in those places, or do divergent conditions and local decisions account for the better outcomes?

None of this, of course, is to disparage New Yorkers.

They have absorbed a gut punch over the past two months with characteristic grit and bravery.

Yet, without New York's distinctive vulnerability, the course of the epidemic would look completely different.

~~~~~  
*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.*

# Consortes a graduate double-play



MICHAEL CONSORTE



MATTHEW CONSORTE

Notre Dame High School of West Haven President Robert F. Curis is pleased to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2020. This year, Notre Dame's top students are a unique pair: Michael Consorte was named the Class of 2020 Valedictorian and his twin brother, Matthew Consorte, was named the Class of 2020 Salutatorian.

Michael and Matthew reside in West Haven with their parents Carla and Mark (ND Class of 1988).

Both Michael and Matthew are National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society inductees.

The Consortes' success carried over to their varsity athletic experiences, as Michael made a name for himself on the football field, and Matthew captained the basketball and soccer teams. They also served as Peer Counselors and role models to their fellow ND students. Upon graduation, both Michael and Matthew will continue their Holy Cross education at the University of Notre Dame.

The Notre Dame High School administration will hold COVID-19 modified commencement exercises for the Class of 2020 in either June or August, based upon state guidelines for public gatherings.

## Council approves late-tax program

The City Council on April 22 approved a motion allowing the city to participate in the Low Interest Rate Program authorized by Gov. Ned Lamont's executive order in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced.

The council's endorsement of the proposal amid a special meeting paved the way for the low-interest program to aid city taxpayers affected by COVID-19.

According to Section 6 of Executive Order 7S, the program mandates that delinquent taxes remaining due and payable from April 1 are subject to a reduced interest rate of 3% per year for 90 days from April 1.

New taxes due July 1 will have a 30-day grace period and in the event they are paid late will also qualify for a reduced interest rate for 90 days.

## Cancer group offers school aid

West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Committee is accepting applications for a scholarship fund it founded in memory of a third grade Savin Rock Community School teacher who died of breast cancer. The 18th annual Susan A. Ruickoldt Scholarship Fund will award \$2,000 to a female high school senior from West Haven who plans to continue her education.

Candidates must submit an application form, a 250-word essay on achievements and goals, and a 250-word essay on the importance of breast cancer screening and education. Applicants must also submit a letter of acceptance from a postsecondary school and a letter of intent to attend the school. Download an application at <http://cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/2390/Susan-A-Ruickoldt-Breast-Cancer-Awareness-Scholarship-Application-DOCX>. Applications are due by 5 p.m. May 27 to the City of West Haven, Department of Personnel, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516. Applications can also be inserted into the drop box at the Main Street entrance of City Hall.



Submitted Photos

## Elks' grants

West Haven Elks Lodge 1537 applied to the Elks National Foundation for a Gratitude Grant. The Gratitude Grant was intended to aid local organizations impacted by the Coronavirus. The organization was awarded the grant and very pleased to help the VA hospital (\$800 for PPE), WHEAT (\$700 for food bank supplies), and The First Congregational Church - Alex's Kitchen (\$500 for "To Go" containers and packaging supplies to enable delivery of cooked meals for the hungry). Shown are (clockwise from top left) The Elks' Grant Coordinator and Chaplain George Monahan, The Rev. Carl Howard, pastor First Congregational Church and the Elks' Donna Rzasz, Exalted Ruler: WHEAT's Rose Majestic with Rzasz and Monahan; and the VA's John Daniels with Monahan.



# B&B LANDSCAPING

Bill Puchala, Owner

Phone: 203-915-9597

e-mail: [bpuchala64@icloud.com](mailto:bpuchala64@icloud.com)

- Spring & Fall Cleanups
- Mowing & Edging
- Shrubbery Removal
- Seeding & Sodding
- Tree Removal & Chipping
- Weeding & Planting
- Mulching & Topsoil
- Commercial Snow Plowing
- De-thatching, Gravel Driveway, Etc

**Offering Complete Landscape Maintenance Programs**

**Your #1 Complete Lawncare Company!**

**FREE Mowing**  
Call for details

# Dear Felicia

Well, well, and more wells. Here we are in Memorial Day weekend, and it's gonna be one o' the strangest holidays we've seen here since forever. With the Wuhan Virus still besetting the state, and only in Phase I of the "reopening" under the diktat of His Excellency the Governor, it's gonna be a very quiet and different celebration.

The Mystick Maidens of the Marsh have perty much canceled this year's gala celebration, much like everything else. None o' the gals wanna be perched near a marsh during the illness, but more than that, there's nothing else goin' on. The parade is canceled, and the decoration of the various memorials and graves are halted as well, to be done at a later date.

Cobina knows of a few families who're gonna git together, but it's gonna be with social distancing and only a few people. This year will not have the big cookouts we've seen, nor are the restaurants gonna be

expecting big crowds - though on that score who knows.

Sammy Bluejay sent the notice that the city will allow restaurants to open with outdoor service. That's a good thing to help the ailing businesses get back on track. In fact, the city has been good enuff to waive the permit fee. Sammy perned out in other cities they are actually blocking off streets and allowing the them to be used for restaurants.

Heck if they tried that here, Campbell Avenue would be closed from one end to the other. Remember, there are more restaurants and bars along that stretch than pert near anywhere else in the state. Still, the fact that there will be restaurants allowed outdoor service, Cobina has a hunch it's gonna be a busy time. The faster the better.

We hope the Chinese restaurants open up, too. A lot o' them closed at the beginning of the virus cuz people stopped ordering from them - as if cuz of their ethnicity they

were gonna have the virus. There's no explaining the way some people thing. Many have been closed for eight weeks or more. Let's hope they have a good opening as well.

~~~~  
*Iva Lootey, meanwhile, sez that the Boardwalk will open Friday, but that the walkers are gonna hafta keep social distancing, and wear masks. I doubt sunbathers or those using the beach will need to wear masks. That would make an interesting mark on people's faces, though....I guess yew use a tanning lotion to fix the white squares that might result, who knows. Cobina ain't been sunbathing since Mack Sennett had his Bathing Beauties - and she wore those types o' suits.*

*Cobina has a question on masks. Remember, the parks were closed cuz some goody-good complained. When the people use the masks, and breath into them, let's face it, they aren't exactly sturdy. Most of the ones we've seen are what one guy called "coffee filters on elastic." That perty much sums it up.*

*Tennyrate, people breathe into the masks, and in this warmer weather moisture is gonna collect on them, which will make the damp or wet. What's the safety in that? One would think, and maybe I'm being too logical here, that a wet mask is like no mask atoll. The "droplets" everyone is so scared of, will be on the mask. Just asking....*

~~~~  
 Meanwhile, just moving

along as effen there was not anything unusual, the City Council did itself proud this past little while, and put through the annual Budget Ordinance on time. The guys and gals did it according to the Charter timetable, even though the governor said in an executive order --- don't ask me the number --- that they could have until near the end o' June.

The budget as passed had some very interesting tales in its run up to the vote. It seems the council was able, unlike councils of the past, to make alterations in the budget, and did it normally on U Nanny Mouse votes of 13-0. The charter calls for the famous "super-majority" of nine, which in the past has not exactly been easy to achieve. So, the city has seen some budgets go through verbatim cuz the changes could not be agreed upon. Not this time.

The panel wanted to make cuts so that the hike in the mill rate wouldn't be the suggested .80. They whittled it down to .58, by making almost \$600,000 in cuts. Then came the bureaucrats. Ysee, the state boys wanna see the mill rate git up to 40 come hell, high water or the atom bomb. Soo, when it was found out that the cuts were made, the state said that any budget that doesn't show a .80 increase was DOA.

So, the last meeting was

spent putting money in this line item or that line item, with the goal of putting the money where it would do the most good, particularly rainy day funds, etc. It was the end of a very different kind of budget review.

Don't git Cobina started on the Hartford cabal. What they lack in skill they make up in lack of humanity. They just see dollars and sense, and not the damage they cause. Meanwhile, the state is run like it is with the deficits it has. Go figger.

~~~~  
*Nelly Nuthatch came in and sez that with the Governor ending the school year setch as he did, the school system, here and elsewhere, are looking to let the kids git their stuff - y'know the stuff left in lockers - and looking to finish the year with grades and other stuff.*

*Natchurly, the problem of grades came up, and yew can read Neil Cavallaro's ideas on that. Yew hafta give it them, they really did get this distance learning thing up and running perty quickly. And, tho' it ain't as good as the kids being there in person, people are saying in some ways it was harder for the kids cuz they had to do more individual work - that's never a bad thing.*

*Still, there are other things that hafta be considered. Graduation is a big deal all over the country, and our little berg is coming up with the idea of a drive-in graduation. The logistics haven't been totally figgered out, yet, but it's an attempt to give the young men and women as much of a graduation as can be done in this time and place.*

*And, I hear that the prom has been moved to the summer. That's good, the kids should have their one night as a class. Sometimes even Cobina is a softy.*

~~~~  
 What's gonna happen next year is still up in the air, we're hearing. Some people expect that the governor ain't gonna let schools open before Sept. 1.

That's only a few days beyond when they normally open up over the last decade or so. Heck, we didn't open till after Labor Day.

Thing is we hear fall activities, like sports and things like that might hafta wait until schools open cuz there is gonna be a time to see effen in-person classes cause a rise in virus cases. Once that's established fall activities may begin again, we're told.

How that is gonna play out is anyone's guess. Nobody really knows what's gonna happen, and whether things are gonna work out the way the plans are set up. That's been the only given: nothing is set in stone.

Mitt luff und kizzez,  
*Cobina*

**For All Your Real Estate Needs....**  
**Fran Gregoriades, TRC**  
 Office Manager, CT Realtor, Florida Broker  
**203-932-6455 x 301**  
  
**Harborview**  
 REALTY SERVICES, LLC  
 140 Captain Thomas Blvd  
 West Haven, CT 06516






## Oyster River Energy

“The affordable home heating oil specialists”

Automatic delivery  
24/7/365 customer service

Comprehensive service plans  
Flexible pricing and payment plans

Complete Heating & Cooling sales and service



203-932-2717



[www.oysterriverenergy.com](http://www.oysterriverenergy.com)





Serving West Haven residents since 1987.

HOD #362



File Photo by Michael P. Walsh

### Deadline extended

The West Haven Veterans Council has extended the application deadline to July 17 for the 13th phase of its popular Brick Campaign. Download a brick application at <http://cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/2129/Veterans-Brick-Campaign-Application-2020-PDF>. Veterans Council members and city officials will dedicate the 13th phase of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor at 10:45 a.m. Nov. 11 in Bradley Point Park. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing restrictions, the event, originally slated for May 23, has been rescheduled to coincide with the annual Veterans Day tribute.

# It's all in the game for Chris Massa

With extremely challenging times ahead due to the wide spread COVID-19 virus, many people today are having trouble getting adjusted to their new reality of self-isolation. A lot of people finding ways to cope with the anxiety of being stuck at home can be challenging – that's why one entrepreneur is helping out with the use of an app.

Christian Massa, an entrepreneur from West Haven, created an iPhone game app called Square Darr, back in 2014. He wanted to create a game that was not just fun but challenging. About a year after the release of the app, Massa pulled the game from the iTunes store and shifted his focus on a new business venture with his family.

"I released the app in 2015 but shortly after releasing I pulled it out of the iTunes Store to focus on a start-up with my family called Aquatec Flooring.

After hearing about how people weren't taking covid-19 to seriously and not following the CDC guidelines, he thought the game's re-issue could have a beneficial effect.

"I re-released the app back in the game store to try to see if I can curb the amount of people going outside by offering cash donations to those who play the app," he said. "I've had over 1000 downloads since the re-release I do 'pop-up challenges' on my Instagram (Instagram.com/massa) where I post 'insta stories' (Instagram stories) giving challenge details,"

He recently hosted the "Square Darr 20-for-20 challenge." The first three people who scored 20 were Venmoed them \$20.

"We had three winners, two of them coming from the West Haven and the other from California," he said.

A recent challenge had many players on the app for over three hours of play time per user trying to get 20.

The game is pretty simple; users must get a little black square through an opening in

the falling red lines. Trying to keep as many people indoors as possible, Massa holds daily competitions on his Instagram page where he gives away cash prizes, which are sent via Venmo or Cash App.

Massa is 28, and a graduate of West Haven High School. He lists his occupations as actor, filmmaker, and entrepreneur.

"I've been on a few investigation discovery shows in 2013-2014. I created a short film called Pressure with my brother Joe in 2016 that dedication to people suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts. That led into me being the assistant director of the documentary 'My Suicide Story,' which my brother Joe created. I'm also the co-founder of our family business "Aquatec Flooring" aquatec-flooring.com.

If the name sounds familiar, his brother, Joe Massa, was the subject of a March profile for

his Youtube documentary.

The re-release of the game has had its benefits, not only to the players, but to the inventor. He says since he put the game back out on the market, he's been very hands-on.

"I play to maintain the app, bug fixes etc.," he said. "People tell me all the time how addicting the app is and how hard it is. A lot of people compared it to Flappy Bird."

In the coming weeks, once the COVID-19 era is behind us, he hopes to get back into those things that he does professionally. For the time being, he is doing what everyone else is doing, going along to get along. His game, though, has made that "going and getting" a bit more palatable for many thousands.

For more information on Christian Massa and to participate in the Square Darr challenge, follow Massa's Instagram: Instagram.com/massa.



Christian Massa shows off the game he re-issued.

## IT SOLUTIONS WHEN IT MATTERS

- NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
- BUSINESS CONTINUITY
- MANAGED IT SERVICES
- IT SECURITY

500 Boston Post Road  
Milford, CT 06460

180 Glastonbury Blvd., Ste 107  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

935 Jefferson Blvd., Ste 1004  
Warwick, RI 02888



(855) 512-4817 | [www.tbngconsulting.com](http://www.tbngconsulting.com) | [info@tbngconsulting.com](mailto:info@tbngconsulting.com)



# Around Town

## Shore Haven scholarships

Shore Haven Jr. Baseball will be accepting scholarship applicants from June 2020 high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding scholarships in the amounts of \$250 in honor of 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 Terese, Argentino, and Morrell Sr. scholarships. Applications must be returned by May 15, to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Ave. West Haven 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance offices or by calling (203) 934-9740.

## Revue rescheduled

The 38th edition of the Golden Oldies Revue, originally scheduled for Saturday, April 4, at Cielo Ballroom has been cancelled and rescheduled for Friday, June 5, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Michael Hoover presents "Memories of Elvis" at 9:30. Also featured Carla Gemma. Tickerts are \$30 per person. Proceeds benefit MDA. for prizes and Raffle! call Geri Caccavale, (203) 795-5473.

## 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. If you are interested in making an application for a loan, please call Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442.



### We Understand Commitment

You can rely on Edward Jones for one-on-one attention, our quality-focused investment philosophy and straight talk about your financial needs. To learn more, call today.



**Darryl T Zebrowski, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

5 Wagner Place Suite 4  
West Haven, CT 06516  
203-937-0005

[edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)  
Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

MKT-1952G-A



# Parking Lot Pickup

@West Haven Public Library  
300 Elm Street

## From Library to Table

- This service is available to all registered library patrons.
- Limit of 5 items of any type of material currently available.
- Once your items are gathered, we contact you for a date and pickup time window.

Contact us:

**Adult circulation** - email: [wmcirc@westhavenlibrary.org](mailto:wmcirc@westhavenlibrary.org)  
**Children & Teen** - email: [wgcirc@westhavenlibrary.org](mailto:wgcirc@westhavenlibrary.org)  
**Phone** - 203-937-4233

UFO

BY TOM ASCHENBACH



**TITAN ENERGY**  
Creative energy solutions

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU SAVE \$ ON YOUR ENERGY**

Contact us for a custom quote on your electric and/ or natural gas.

We'll also let you know if you qualify for a FREE energy audit.

**Contact:**

**MICHAEL HORTON**  
Ph: 203-464-3163  
Fax: 860-436-3459  
[mhorton@titanenergyne.com](mailto:mhorton@titanenergyne.com)

2275 Silas Deane Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | [titanenergyne.com](http://titanenergyne.com)



I have had a number of complaints from my readers about the dog droppings on the Green. I have had the opportunity to cross West Haven's Green, sometimes on business and often just to sit awhile. I had to agree with my letter writers, it is not a very pleasant sight.

However, following relaying the dog dropping gripes I notified Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie Gripe Vine received the following response, "Public Works confirmed they will be following up to clean up. They are also looking into signage as well."

Gripe Vine Readers, if you have occasion to visit the Green and locate a sign prohibiting dog droppings, please let me know.

A "handshake" and a thank you to Councilwoman Hoskie for her part in a hopeful success story.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

There are several 3 x 4 potholes from Brown Street to Chestnut Street which Chestnut Street is the worse. My daughter got a flat tire and was stranded recently on this street. It is a severe safety hazard and there are several potholes on Chestnut up to Painter Park. Police and/Highway Department please patch

before someone gets seriously hurt in an automobile accident.

*RTS, Resident*

**Dear RTS:**

Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie was notified of this condition and I am waiting for her reply. Meanwhile, please let me know if the road has been improved and as soon as Gripe Vine has an answer, I will publish it as soon as possible.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Water is pouring onto the sidewalk and onto the grass on the corner of Swampscott and Nonquit Street. The sidewalk needs a cutout and drains so that water will not pour onto the sidewalk and turn into ice in the cold weather. Children cannot walk on this sidewalk in cold weather because it becomes a sheet of ice and they must walk to the street that

crosses over.

*A Caring Parent, IM*

**Dear Parent:**

All gripes and complaints are important, but when there is a danger for children, fast action should be taken.

I have asked Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton to investigate your complaint. As soon as I hear from Councilwoman Hamilton, her response will appear in Gripe Vine. Please let me know if you see any changes at this location.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Can you get someone to check the Grand Canyon here

at Washington and Main? It's large enough to hide a 747 jet.

If you hit it, you will know it! Everything that is not batten down in your car will rattle including your teeth.

*RF Main Street Resident*

**Dear RF:**

I have forwarded your complaint to Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie. Her reply will appear in Gripe Vine.

~~~

Send your gripes, comments and issues to gripevine4wh@aol.com or write to Gripe Vine c/o The West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, 06516.

## GRIPE VINE

Do you have a complaint or issue? Fill out this coupon and mail it to  
Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Avenue, West Haven, CT. 06516

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

GRIPE \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

If you need more writing space, complete your gripe on a separate piece of paper and submit with this form. Your identity will be kept confidential with Eleanore Turkington, Gripe Vine Columnist. You can also email your gripe to gripevine4wh@aol.com

# Financial Focus

## Courtesy of Edward Jones Financial

### Know risk tolerance at different stages of life

As an investor, you'll always need to deal with risk of some kind. But how can you manage the risk that's been made clear by the recent volatility in the financial markets? The answer to this question may depend on where you are in life.

Let's look at some different life stages and how you might deal with risk at each of them:

When you're first starting out ... If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or even five decades to go until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk, as risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Consequently, your risk tolerance may be relatively high. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the middle stages ... At this time of your life, you're well along in your career, and you're probably working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and possibly for your children's college education. So, you still need to be investing for growth, which means you'll likely need to maintain a relatively high risk tolerance. Nonetheless, it's a good idea to have some balance in your portfolio, so you'll want to consider a mix of investments that align with each of your goals.

When you're a few years from retirement ... Now, you might have already achieved

some key goals – perhaps your kids have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. This may mean you have more money available to put away for retirement, but you'll still have to think carefully about how much risk you're willing to take. Since you're going to retire soon, you might consider rebalancing your portfolio to include some more conservative investments, whose value is less susceptible to financial market fluctuations. The reason? In just a few years, when you're retired, you will need to start taking withdrawals from your investment portfolio – essentially, you'll be selling investments, so, as much as possible, you'll want to avoid selling them when their price is down. Nonetheless, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. However, you can further reduce the future risk of being overly dependent on selling variable investments by devoting a certain percentage of your portfolio to cash and cash equivalents and designating this portion to be used for your daily expenses during the years immediately preceding, and possibly spilling into, your retirement.

When you're retired ... Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all. But you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. Establishing a withdrawal rate – the amount you take out each year from your investments – that's appropriate for

your lifestyle and projected longevity can reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to lower your withdrawal rate temporarily.

As you can see, your tolerance for risk, and your methods of dealing with it, can change over time. By being aware of this progression, you can make better-informed investment decisions.

*This article was written by Edward Jones, Member SPIC, for use by Darryl Zebrowski, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*



Aides & Companions

aidesandcompanions.com

Home care by Aides and Companions can be a low cost alternative to more expensive assisted living programs. We work to ensure our clients stay safe and healthy at home. We can help to identify needs before they become difficult and expensive to resolve.

Unlike most home care agencies, Aides and Companions care-givers are all Certified Nurses Aides or Home Health Aides. All are graduates of state-certified programs and receives monthly "in-service" training to keep their skills honed.

**OUR SERVICES**

- Live-In Care
- Daily or Weekly Visits
- Overnight Care
- Caregiver Services
- 24/7 Care
- Transportation Services
- Respite Care

65 Elm St, West Haven  
**(203) 777-1234**

[info@aidesandcompanions.com](mailto:info@aidesandcompanions.com)  
[www.aidesandcompanions.com](http://www.aidesandcompanions.com)



Photo courtesy of WHCH

## Still providing services

During this crisis, the Community House is still in action and continues to support West Haven residents. The Community Connections Residential staff is working 24/7 in the residential homes for adults with intellectual disabilities providing a safe and engaging place to weather this crisis, and staff from Head Start and Child Care programs are regularly contacting families to provide educational instruction, resources, and creative ways to keep their children engaged

# Schools: *Plans ongoing for end of the year*

Continued from pag 1  
VID-19, only made the challenges a bit different, according to the schools chief.

"This time of year is the busiest time of the school year. We are ending one year and planning for the next. This year, as you can imagine, has been even more challenging. Finally, now that the schools will not be reopening until the late summer, all of our administrators have been working on plans that will allow for students to pick up personal items, they are also planning for orientation for all new students. The challenge is having them take place within the guidelines we have to work

with," he said.

With the end of the year and almost two marking periods worth of distance learning, the system has developed a two-option method of computing grades, especially for high school students who might need more information as they prepare for post-high school life. The schools chief indicated the student will have input as to the method employed.

"The State Department of Education has recommended a pass/fail option be used for all students. We are planning on using a hybrid model. All students through eighth grade will receive a pass/fail grade," he said. "High school students,

however, will be given an option based on what's best for the students. Our counselors have spent a lot of time working with their students on determining whether a letter grade may be better for college entrance, final grade point averages, and even scholarships that may be available. Our goal always, but especially under these circumstances, is to assist students meet their long-range goals."

For those who might need summer school, Cavallaro indicated plans are being finalized to make that happen, but maybe not as broadly as in past years.

"Summer school for regular education students will be offered on a case-by-case basis, depending on, for example, the student's effort during the distance learning time, if they may need a credit or two to graduate," he said. "We have online courses that we can offer. A bigger challenge is summer school for special education students who require a year-round program. We are awaiting guidance from the State Department of Education before offering any specific plan. Given the needs of this population of students, and the amount of care they require, it will be difficult

to bring them into a regular school setting. However, we will do everything possible to meet the needs of their individual learning plans."

A concern ever since the shutdown has been how to handle graduation/awards and other activities for the Class of 2020. Cavallaro said there are some plans in the works.

"In the coming days and weeks, we will be announcing detailed plans for graduation. The high school administrative team, class advisors, and I have met with senior class officers, and they've made it clear to us that two things that are very important to them are a senior prom and some kind of graduation ceremony," said.

He took time, then to offer his impressions of the seniors' grasp of the situations.

"During each meeting, I've been very impressed with their understanding of the current pandemic we're all dealing with, and their desire to have closure to a very unusual year. A tentative date for a prom has been scheduled for August, we will be doing a virtual graduation on June 12, and we are planning a "Drive-Through" ceremony for the end of June."

With the plans for the new year, Cavallaro said registration of new students brings its own special plans and remedies.

"We are continuing to register students for the upcoming school year. We have to be ready! I believe that schools may have to open with a combination of distance learning and in person at school model. The goal would be to reduce the population density in each of the buildings. It seems to me that until there is a vaccination, we must proceed cautiously. I believe we must also do our best to reassure parents, students, and our employees that we've done everything in our power to take every precaution that it is safe to enter our schools. I realize and understand how challenging this will be," he said.

As far as "distance learning," Cavallaro is pleased with the results, so far.

"I believe that considering up until mid-March that there was no distance learning plan, our entire staff, and our families have risen to the challenge. They have made the most of the educational opportunity that we've provided them with. Having said that, there are always things we can do better. This was a new venture for everyone. We've gotten positive feedback overall, but I've heard from many parents that they want more of a virtual classroom situation with teachers and students having real interaction, for example,"

As with most things, a post-year effort will be made to get feedback from staff in order to make changes where needed, and reinforce positives. He's hoping the information will help future development.

"We are now just completing surveys with our teaching staff on the positives and improvements we need to make. We will look at those responses very closely, and improve our curriculum. That's what we normally do anytime we implement new curriculum anyway."

Cavallaro said, while distance learning has been more or less successful, it is no substitute for the in-person experience of daily classes.

"There is no substitute for kids coming to school every day and interacting with teachers and socializing with friends. Schools offer a safe and welcoming environment for all children. Distance learning can't offer that. Students lost out on concerts, plays, sports, and award ceremonies. Families couldn't watch their children perform or be recognized for their accomplishments. That has to be difficult. I know I missed those things a lot. While academics should always come first, there is much more to a student's time in school," he said finally.

# City fast-tracking permits for Y-NH

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

City and fire officials recently fast-tracked the permit and approval process to help Yale-New Haven Health implement emergency logistical support operations at its new 140,000-square-foot Regional Operations Center on Derby Avenue, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced.

Assistant Building Official Douglas Colter and Michael T. Esposito, the acting chief of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown, conducted a safety inspection and issued a certificate of occupancy allowing Yale New Haven Health to open the operations center ahead of schedule for anticipated emergency use during the coronavirus pan-

demic, Rossi said.

Thanks to the city's full cooperation, Rossi said the newly built center — an advanced warehouse for distributing medical supplies throughout the Yale New Haven Health System — is now in operation supporting Yale's emergency supply mission aiding health care workers on the front lines of COVID-19.

Rossi said the city, at the request of Yale New Haven Health contractor A-Z Corp., also approved a recent overnight construction project to build two cleanrooms for sanitizing personal protective equipment for reuse.

Colter and Esposito approved the new sanitizing rooms with a permit, followed by an inspection and approv-

al — all within 24 hours, she said.

The regional distribution center, based at 600 Derby Ave., is composed of a one-story building with a mezzanine and 120 parking spaces. It is expected to employ up to 95 managers and staff, with half of the positions newly created jobs, officials have said.

Yale-New Haven Health officials, joined by city and state leaders, broke ground on the operations center in September 2018.

Yale-New Haven Health purchased the 116-acre property off Route 34 in August 2017 to build a strategic operations center and distribution warehouse for medical supplies that can serve its expansive health care system in Con-

necticut and Rhode Island and other clinical partners across the region.

The wooded property, formerly owned by Acorn Technology Campus LLC, abuts the Regional Water Authority's Maltby Lakes reservoir. A large swath of the property — 39 acres — was set aside for preservation by Yale New Haven Health.

Yale-New Haven Health System includes five hospitals — Bridgeport, Greenwich, Lawrence + Memorial, West-erly (Rhode Island) and Yale New Haven — as well as several specialty networks and Northeast Medical Group, a nonprofit medical foundation with hundreds of community-based and hospital-employed physicians.

## Southworth gets GOP nod for 14th

Local Republicans unanimously endorsed West Haven FireFighter Mike Southworth to run for Senate in the 14th Senatorial District. Local leaders from West Haven and Milford spoke to the unique ties, which Southworth has to the district and how impactful his service has been to local communities.

State Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117) placed Southworth's name into nomination citing the need for proven leadership and an experienced voice to represent West Haven in Hartford.

"As a first responder, Mike is a qualified leader in the community," said Ferraro. "Mike will roll up his sleeves and will fight for the residents of the 14th District. He is committed to helping those in need, and making our state a more affordable place to live, work and retire.

Milford Alderman Ray Vitali seconded the nomination stressing the candidate's strong ties to the city.

The District, which includes parts of West Haven and Milford, had the backing of Milford leaders as well.

"Mike understands the needs of each community in the 14th district," said Milford Alderman Ray Vitali. "Mike knows Milford well and will be here for the residents and business owners of Milford. We need a state senator who isn't a rubber stamp and who will challenge the status quo in Hartford."

In his acceptance speech, Southworth shared his concern the state is becoming a place to leave, rather than look to reside.

"Connecticut is quickly becoming a state that no one can afford to live in, raise a family in, work in and retire in." He added that he "intends to go to Hartford and put people over politics. It is time to right the ship, put the citizens of this state back on their feet."

Democrat James Maroney is the incumbent.

West Haven Library  
westhavenlibrary.org



## West Haven Library

**Bookmobile Delivery**  
When our doors are closed,  
service is still open



**Bookmobile patron delivery**

This service is available on a first come first serve basis and to West Haven Residents only.

Limit of 5 items of any circulating types of material currently available in West Haven.

Once your items are gathered, we will contact you for a pick-up date and time for bookmobile delivery.

**Contact us:** phone: 203-937-4233  
email: bkm@westhavenlibrary.org

# bsg

## BUSINESS SERVICE GUIDE

**EMMETT'S AUTO SERVICE**  
REPAIRS AUTO BODY TOWING 24 HRS  
**EMMETT MAHER**  
OWNER



184 Campbell Ave      203-934-3100  
West Haven, CT 06516      emmettsautoct.com

"We'll Be Pleased  
To Serve  
You..."



**B&D TILLOTSON PHOTOGRAPHICS®**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
**(203)691-8885**

A Veteran Owned Business

FOR PERSONAL \* BUSINESS \* RESALE  
Call or e-mail for appointments  
Bruce Tillotson Photographer Owner  
Dani Tillotson Graphic Designer Owner  
e-mail: [banddtillotson@gmail.com](mailto:banddtillotson@gmail.com)

**DENNY TREE SERVICE**



**HARLAN DENNY**

**(203) 799-2766**

HIC Contractor's License No. 562440  
Member TCIA  
Fully Insured  
Estimates Given

**Sette Landscaping, LLC**  
*The grass is greener on the Sette side*

**Joseph F. Sette**      **Licensed**  
**Lawn Specialist**      **Insured**

*Residential*      *Commercial*

**Everything Landscaping**  
**Lawn Repair Specialists**  
**(203) 932-1009**

LEW & MANN COHEN  
sales@ctplateglass.com      Tel: (203) 335-7824  
Fax: (203) 335-6901

**CONNECTICUT PLATE & ART GLASS CO., INC.**  
*Family owned since 1914*

- Furniture Tops
- Wall & Door Mirrors
- Tempered Glass
- Store Front Construction
- Shower & Tub Enclosures
- Insulated Glass
- Plastics
- Business & Home Service

1751 Main Street • Bridgeport, CT 06604  
[ctplateglass.com](http://ctplateglass.com)

This can be  
your spot  
**(203) 934-6397**

**CALL YOUR AVON LADY**

Looking for Avon?  
Call Phyllis Franco,  
(203) 932-9367,  
And I'll drop off a brochure.  
Over 30 years experience  
Friendly service.

**FOR RENT**

**Harborview Condominiums**  
Commercial space available  
In this professional building.  
Desk/Space from \$295/month.  
Full office with waiting area  
\$695/month, includes off-street  
parking, Use of penthouse meet-  
ing room, janitorial services  
Call us for an interview.

(203) 932-6455.  
Fran x 301

**GUTTER CLEANING**

Jay's Gutter Cleaning. Minor  
repairs, tree work, hedge-  
trimming, power washing,  
Insured. Free estimates. Call  
(203) 506-9384.

**SITUATIONS WANTED**

**Home health aide/caregiver.**  
15 years' experience. Can pro-  
vide transportation to doctor's  
stores, etc. Can do over-nights.  
Reasonable rates. Call (475)  
241-4446.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
Repairs -- Walls and ceilings,  
sheetrock, carpentry. Free es-  
timates. Insured HC#0647093.  
Bill (203) 901-2136.

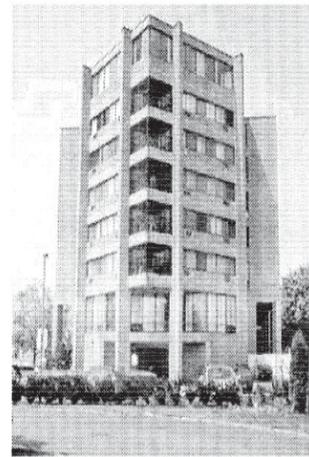
**Play Fine Music Well.** Piano  
lessons in your home since  
1992, beginners welcome,  
reasonable rates. Details,  
Openings, References: (203)  
479-4467

**PLUMBING PROBLEMS?**  
Leaky faucets, leaky show-  
ers, and pipes, bathroom  
sinks, common toilet problems,  
clogged sinks and drains, hot  
water heaters installed, gar-  
bage disposals. Call (203) 584-  
6868.

**AMWAY SALES**  
Looking for Home, Health,  
Beauty Products - We Have  
What You Need.  
Contact: Amway Distributor  
Nia at 203-440-8631/ knia500@  
gmail.com  
Amway.com/mtmworldwide

**TAX SERVICE**  
More changes in the tax  
law affect both 2018 and  
2019 taxes. Let me help you  
get refunds from your 2018  
taxes. Over 40 years' expe-  
rience preparing taxes in  
a professional, timely and  
cost-efficient manner. No  
waiting with pick-up or drop-  
off service. Call bill at (203)  
934-9525.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**



Call us for an interview.  
We specialize in Condo  
Association Management  
and Multi Families.  
31 years experience.

For more information, call Fran x 301

**(203) 932-6455**

**Harborview**  
REALTY SERVICES LLC

140 Captain Thomas Blvd,  
West Haven, CT

**Americanisms**



“And I'm proud to be  
an American,  
where at least I know I'm free.  
And I won't forget the  
men who died,  
who gave that right to me.”  
— Lee Greenwood

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

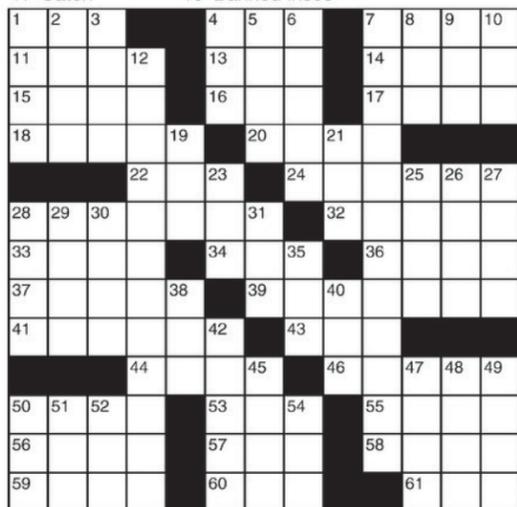
**FOR RENT**  
West Haven – Park Street. One  
room for rent. \$500/month, or  
\$135/week. Includes utilities.  
One person only. No friend  
overnight. Call Giuseppe, 203-  
508-3672.

**John's Lawn Cutting**  
203-508-3659  
Call for estimate!

**FOR SALE**  
1000-PIECE JIGSAW PUZ-  
ZLES FOR SALE OR TRADE,  
CALL RON, (203) 907-6993.

**King Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Easter treat
  - 4 Wager
  - 7 Retain
  - 11 Metric mea-  
sure
  - 13 Rowboat need
  - 14 Sleeping
  - 15 Flow like  
molasses
  - 16 Chum, nowa-  
days
  - 17 Actor Brad
  - 18 Grassland
  - 20 Opening
  - 22 Erstwhile gar-  
ment
  - 24 Hitchcock  
classic
  - 28 Spotted insect
  - 32 Radiant
  - 33 Champing at  
the bit
  - 34 Bathroom fix-  
ture
  - 36 Yorkshire river
  - 37 Narc's mea-  
sures
  - 39 Croquet equip-  
ment
  - 41 Catch
- DOWN**
- 1 Ids' counter-  
parts
  - 2 Get bigger
  - 3 Middle East  
strip
  - 4 Go up and  
down
  - 5 Listeners
  - 6 Army unit
  - 7 Carefree
  - 8 Sapporo sash
  - 9 Allow
  - 10 Banned insec-
  - 43 Second person  
ticide
  - 44 Related to
  - 5-Down
  - 46 Use a Brillo  
pad
  - 50 Ballerina's frill
  - 53 Cauldron
  - 55 Japanese  
zither
  - 56 Press
  - 57 Flightless bird
  - 58 Calendar  
quota
  - 59 Trudge
  - 60 Kenny G's  
instrument
  - 61 That girl
  - 29 Not "fer"
  - 30 Nincompoop
  - 31 Wrigley prod-  
uct
  - 35 Reddish-brown  
horse
  - 38 Perched
  - 40 — Angeles
  - 42 They're calling  
Danny Boy
  - 45 Prolonged  
sleep
  - 47 Fawns' moth-  
ers
  - 48 Hexagonal  
state
  - 49 Induce ennu
  - 50 Gratuity
  - 51 Web address
  - 52 Excessively
  - 54 Monkey suit

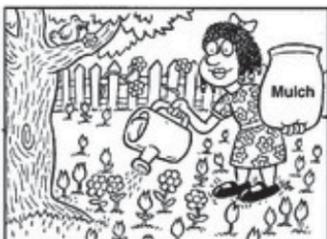


**MAGIC MAZE • DOG-EARED WORDS**

A O L I G G D B Y W T T R P M  
K I F D U B E Y W O T U S Q O  
M K I F N D B L R H Z X H H W  
U S Q O D N L T G D J S O H F  
D C A Y E W G I E O I T V T S  
Q P N L R O F R K F D I H F E  
C B Z Y D G I W G O V D U S R  
G O D P O T D O G G O N E Q P  
S Y A D G O D I L I H C N L M  
L J G O D L L U B I H F E D S  
G O D N R O C I T A M G O D C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all  
directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: A SHARP ANGLE OR BEND

- Bulldog
- Chili dog
- Corn dog
- Dog days
- Dog-tired
- Dogfight
- Dogfish
- Doggone
- Dogma
- Dogmatic
- Dogtrot
- Hotdog
- Sled dog
- Top dog
- Underdog

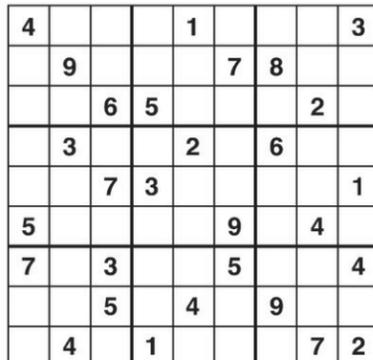


**APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!**  
How many flowers are pictured in Mary's  
garden? (Count them with a friend and see if  
you both get the same total.)

**A BETCHA PUZZLE!** Place six ice-cream sticks on the table  
and challenge your friends to arrange them so that each stick  
touches all the other sticks!  
**SECRET:** The solution is pictured to the right.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way  
that each row across, each column down and  
each small 9-box square contains all of the  
numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

**Junior Whirl**  
by Charles Barry Townsend

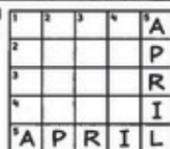
- 1. SUN\_
- 2. SUN\_
- 3. SUN\_
- 4. SUN\_
- 5. SUN\_
- 6. SUN\_

**A SUNDAY SPELLING BEE!**

Let's see if you can make your  
vocabulary grow by spelling these  
six "SUN" words correctly. Hints to  
the meaning of each word are given  
below.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- 1. Gave evidence against  
(gangster slang).
- 2. Type of disposition.
- 3. Cool and sweet.
- 4. It's useless at night.
- 5. Miscellaneous items.
- 6. A neck protector.



**END OF MONTH STUMPER!** At right is a word square. Find  
the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All  
words used must read the same both across and down.

- 1. A serious narrative work.
- 2. What they do to tires.
- 3. Found in a theater.
- 4. Native of New Zealand
- 5. A rainy month (APRIL, in place).



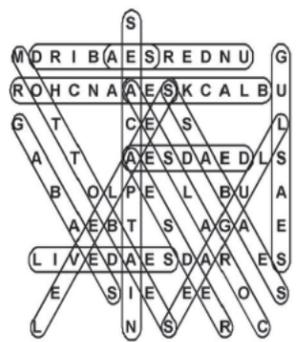
**Answers to last week's puzzles**

**King Crossword — Answers**

Solution time: 24 mins.



**SEAWORTHY WORDS**



**Weekly SUDOKU — Answer**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

# Budget: *State disallows cuts in spending*

Continued from page 1

Quagliani explained the situation that transpired during the council's review.

"Prior to completing our deliberations, the council passed several budgetary line item cuts, many unanimously (13-0), that totaled close to \$600,000 to potentially reduce the mill rate increase from .80 in the (pre-pandemic) Recommended Budget to approximately .58 mills," he said.

Shortly after that meeting, the State Office of Policy and Management, the agency that oversees the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB), send a message to Finance Director Frank Cieplinski.

"He was told to relay to the council that any budget we pass that reduces the .80 recommended mill rate increase "would not be considered, and returned to us for correction," Quagliani said.

So the final meeting of deliberations was a bit hectic.

"On our last night of deliberations the council approved several line item changes to increase funding to line items to include unallocated contingency, OPEB Trust, and our Rainy Day Fund amongst others. The council felt it important to have a healthy contingency fund, due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic and anticipated lower revenue for the first quarter of FY21," he said.

The council, by a vote of 13-0, approved the Mayor's Recommended FY 21 Budget with Council amendments and set a city mill rate at 37.48 mills, a .80 increase from FY20. The Allingtown Fire Department mill rate was held flat.

MARB was supposed to review the budget at its last scheduled meeting, May 12, but that session was canceled for lack of a quorum. The council will have to wait until today to find out if their package is accepted. The MARB is scheduled to meet today.

Quagliani had high praise for the legislators, who had to adjust their meeting because of the COVID19 shutdown. He particularly praised Councilwoman Bridgette Hoski as chairman of The Finance Committee, who chaired the deliberations as a "committee of the whole."

"The Council takes its responsibilities seriously and were nimble in transitioning from in-person meetings to virtual meeting to make sure city business continues to be conducted," Qualiani said.

"The Finance Committee/Council-As-A Whole chaired by Councilwoman Hoskie conducted 11 virtual budget meetings. Members were engaged in the budget process and worked very hard to identify budget reductions to lower the recommended mill rate increase to our residents recognizing the financial struggles many of our residents are going through. In the end, this was to no avail as OPM stated any budget submitted to them with less than a .80 mill rate increase would be rejected and returned. The current Council approved budget is awaiting MARB review and action."

One major hurdle has been the funding of the city's library system. The mayor's

original budget came under heavy criticism from the Village Improvement Association, which oversees library operations, for cuts made in the new spending plan

Quagliani said the members came up with some solutions.

"The Library budget was bifurcated to provide \$1.2-plus million in direct payments, while maintaining \$125k in contingent funding for FY21 in addition to \$100k already set aside in contingent funding for FY20," he said.

"These funds can potentially be used to support the library with developing program needs for our residents in a post-pandemic society, equipment, and implementing recommendations from the Library Efficiency Study that will be launched once the pandemic is over,"

He said the pandemic has closed the three-building library department, but there are some recommendations when things open again.

The library buildings have been closed since March due to the coronavirus and a re-opening date at this point is

undetermined. The Council has also requested that the City and Library collaborate on HR, Payroll, and IT to leverage similar systems and reduce costs," he said.

Over the years, the current charter's mandate of a supermajority to make alterations in the budget has been a hurdle too high for some past City Councils. This year, however, it wasn't much of a difficulty according to the chairman.

"While the mill rate increase is not the result many of us wanted, the satisfying part of this year's budget process was that this council (5 returners and 8 new members) worked collaboratively and passed several budget line item changes unanimously (13-0), easily reaching the supermajority needed to make any

changes," he said.

While the budget process continued in an altered but successful way, Quagliani wanted residents to know that the reason for the online meetings was not lost on the membership.

He offered his and the council's thoughts and prayers for victims of COVID-19.

"The Council offers its deepest condolences to our West Haven families that have lost loved ones to the coronavirus. A special thank you to all our community members that in these difficult times have given so generously to our neighbors in need. A bright light during this very difficult time is the strength, caring, and perseverance demonstrated daily by our West Haven community," he said finally.

Voice Classifieds  
work for you.  
Buy It! Sell It!  
Find It!  
(203) 934-6397

## WE ARE OPEN AND PLAN TO STAY IN BUSINESS

*But to do so we need to reduce inventory.  
So we are reducing all of our in stock merchandise by 30%*

### Choose From

#### DIAMOND JEWELRY

Engagement rings  
Wedding Bands  
Earrings  
Pendants  
Bracelets

#### GOLD JEWELRY

Chains  
Bracelets  
Earrings  
Pendants  
Gold wedding rings

#### STERLING JEWELRY

Pendants  
Earrings  
Bracelets  
Pandora Jewelry

#### WATCHES

Citizen  
Timex  
49 Brand

Visit us soon for best selection.

**Open daily:**  
Tues-Fri: 9 am - 5 pm,  
Sat: 9 am - 1 pm

*Leslie Jewelers*

**203-933-3291**

1El n6t re, W6H, avn n , SH, am s n nt m SW

*Luxurious  
Affordable  
Assisted & Memory Care*

# SEACREST

588 Ocean Avenue  
West Haven, CT 06516

203-931-2510  
www.seacrestweb.com

*Picturesque Seaside  
Living*

*Located directly on Long Island Sound*

# Students and Distance Learning

## They have their opinions

Recently, students in grades 5 & 6 participated in an online letter writing assignment, offering their opinions about distance learning in a letter to Superintendent Neil C. Cavallaro.

Teachers worked with the students on the elements of a formal letter combined with the process of opinion writing. District English Language Arts Coordinator Colette Bennett and Carrigan School Reading Consultant Latanya Joyner downloaded a number of these selections and sent them to Cavallaro to read and enjoy. The following are those letters.

While it did not surprise any of us that the students missed being at Carrigan, their opinions about learning online and the way they were expressed was "fantastic and enlightening," according to Principal Richard Webber. We agree!

Dear Superintendent Neil Cavallaro:

As I sit at the desk in my bedroom attempting to write this letter, I can't help but think how much I miss being in school. I truly never would have imagined that I would ever feel that way, but it's true. I miss my dad driving me to the bus stop, we always tried to be the first car there. I miss chatting with my friends on the bus ride to school. We are starting to get used to the online schooling, but it doesn't even come close to being in my classroom with my friends and my teachers.

Online schooling is not the same as what we do in class. My teachers always found a way to add a little bit of fun and laughter while also teaching us new things. I couldn't wait to start Carrigan. I was definitely a little nervous at first, but was so excited when I found out that Miss Morrell was going to be my teacher. I first met Miss Morrell at street hockey camp and she was so nice. I'm so disappointed that I am missing all of this time in school with Miss Morrell and Mrs. Wyatt.

I miss walking into class and hearing Miss Morrell say good morning. I miss the laughs we all had during the day. I miss getting to work in groups with my friends to complete assignments. I miss gym, lunch and recess with my friends and cousins. I even kind of miss hearing Miss Morrell telling me to make sure I keep my desk clean. Miss Morrell and Mrs. Wyatt are really good about answering our questions over the computer, but it was so much better to be with them in person. I like the helpful hints Mrs. Wyatt would give me in class for my math problems. I liked being able to go up to Miss Morrell's desk when I had a question about one of our work packets.

My parents and my teachers explained that online schooling is what we have to do for now in order to keep us safe. It's kind of hard to understand at times, but I know it is for the best. I just really hope that we are able to get back to school before the end of the year. I want to be able to go on field trips with my class and participate in field day. It makes me sad to think that all of those fun end of the year activities that we all looked forward to all

year will not happen.

Lastly, I want to tell you that I really hope that on April 20 you are able to tell us that we can go back to school. I know that you have to do what is best and what will keep us all safe, but I hope that I am able to spend the last part of the year with my friends and teachers.

*Chase Watson*  
Miss Morrell's class

Dear Mr. Cavallaro,

I hope you're having a good week. Although distant learning has been fun I do miss being in school because I miss seeing my teachers and friends. With my teachers I am physically explained, have somebody to correct me, and get to see Mrs. Cannon's smile. Distant Learning doesn't offer the same type of support and smiles that Carrigan has.

**First**, distant learning can get lonely. I miss playing and talking to my friends, my friends and I would always play freeze tag or just tag at recess. When we didn't have outside recess we would draw inside for recess or just talk at lunch. During distant learning, I can't really talk or play with my friends. I can send them messages through Google Classroom but it's not the same.

**In addition**, distant learning could be confusing. When there is a new topic posted it is hard to learn it by yourself. At least in school we have teachers who would explain everything to you and just give you extra support if you needed it. It's different with technology than going to school with friends and teachers that help when we use this. It's way different there's less help, less talking, and less support.

**Lastly**, I miss going on the bus and going to Carrigan school. Carrigan is a fun school and a nice school. We always had caring cougars, assemblies, and fun activities in specials. In Carrigan I miss all the old things we did. I hope we all come back soon.

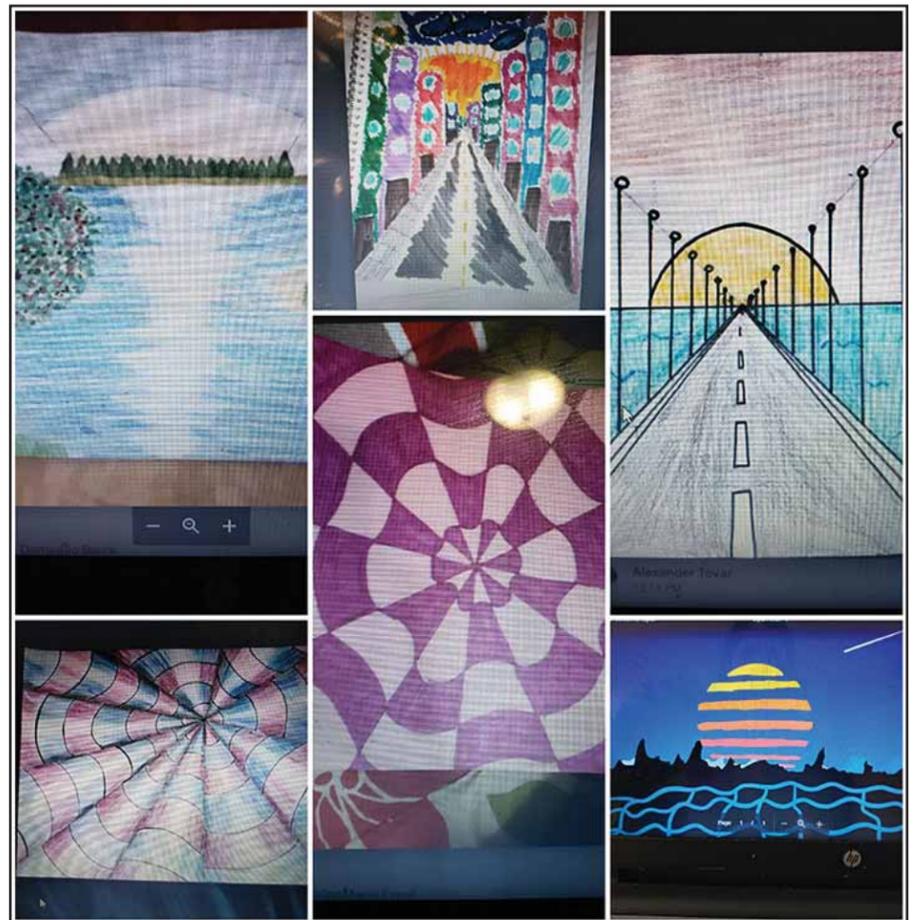
**In conclusion**, I feel that distant learning might be helpful but it does not have the same spirit as Carrigan. Distant learning cannot replace Mrs. Cannon's smile, friends, and Carrigan's support.

*Makayla Alvarez*  
Mrs. Cannon's class

Dear Mr. Cavallaro:

I don't really have a pro or con about this quarantine. I just seem like it's not a bad idea and not a good one. The schools were smart to do home schooling. I don't know what I would do the whole day without work! I feel like the schools have a point in closing schools and homeschooling instead. If the schools were to be opened, they would never know if someone was sick or not.

But, like I said, I also think it would be good to go back to school. I understand the ones that want to go back to school. To be honest, I want to go back to school, too. Personally, I think it's better to go to school and learn than to just stay at home and do it. I like public schools because now how are we going to communicate with people. You



Julie Tomcheski, art teacher at Carrigan, has received these works, via distance learning teaching.

might be saying "With phones" but what if a person didn't have a phone.

In the end, it was truly a good idea to shut down the schools and do homeschooling instead. Like I said, I don't have a vote in this because it was a good idea and a bad idea. But after all, the real thinking goes to you, the Superintendent. A suggestion from me is to make this homeschooling fun. I know it already is. For example, art is fun but I know it can be more fun by posting activities not just drawing. That's not to say I don't like art, but it is only an example. I hope everyone stays safe in this quarantine.

*Aya Frikel*  
Mrs. Rice Class

Dear Mr. Cavallaro:

I personally am not a huge fan of distance learning. I am not learning as much as I would in school, there are problems sometimes when I try to turn my assignments in, and I miss my friends, and teachers. I think we all are going a little crazy, being stuck at home. It's definitely taking some getting used to. I am not enjoying distance learning and here is why.

First of all, our school day is about 6 hours long, and my work can take me less than a hour, to a hour and a half. I am not learning new things, it is more like a review than learning. I think that they should put up new assignments that we haven't learned, or maybe learned a little, and they can upload a video on how to do it, like they've been doing for the last assignments. I think that we should have an option, maybe if the work is too hard, you do the easier work. Plus, the teacher can help, or your parents can.

Also, sometimes there are issues when I try to do, or turn my work in. One day, I was about to start my math, and it wouldn't let me type. My solu-

tion to that was to add an attachment and just do it on that. That worked fine. But, the other day, I finished my math work, and when I went to turn it in, it wouldn't work, then they posted the same assignment, but it was supposed to be fixed. The same problem occurred. I couldn't type, so I added an attachment. It was all set and I turned it in, but then they removed it. So, I ended up doing it 3 times. In school, we would not have this problem because we hand the paper to ourselves.

Lastly, I miss all of my friends, and my teachers. The last time I saw someone who wasn't my family was the Friday that we were supposed to be gone for 2 weeks..which is not 2 weeks anymore. I didn't realize that my friends actually keep me having fun, because while yes, I do have fun with my family, it just isn't the same as being with your friends and having fun with them. What I think stinks the most is that the go back to school date keeps getting pushed, and I really hope that they do not cancel the year, because since I've got to carrigan, I've always wanted to graduate.

I know school is canceled for our safety, but I hope we go back soon.

In conclusion, I hope we go back to school soon. All of these problems are affecting my learning, and I am nervous that I might not know what I need to know for 7th grade because of this. I hate being stuck at home, and not being able to see friends and not being able to go to school. I dislike distance learning for all of the reasons above. All I can say is that when we go back to school, I will never complain about it again.

*Carly Morabito*  
Mrs. Sampietro's Class

**More letters will be published next issue**