

West Haven Voice

June 25, 2020

Vol. 25, Issue 12 16 Pages

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

Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

Promotion Day 2020

~ See page 13



Drive-through graduation a go next week

Ending quite a remarkable senior year, the West Haven High School Class of 2020 will complete its scholastic career with the first-even drive-through graduation ceremony. A virtual commencement was conducted two weeks ago, but a method of handing out diplomas to the seniors was important to school and city officials.

The two-night ceremony, set for Monday and Tuesday, will have the graduates and families queue in a caravan of vehicles, with each graduate receiving a diploma. Plans were completed Monday.

The ceremony will follow the following outline:

A stage will be set up in the student parking lot at the high school. Beginning at the Savin Rock Conference Center, graduates and their families will organize in groups of 30. The first group will ride in procession to the parking lot and park in front of the stage. Student will get out of the car. Their name will be called, and they will walk across the stage in cap and gown and receive a diploma. A photographer will take their picture. While the first 30 are parked, the second group will be waiting along Educational Way. Once the first group exits through Kelsey Avenue, the second group will pull into the parking lot. The process will continue until the entire group receives its diplomas.

According to Principal Dana Parades, there is only one change that has been made to the format.

"The only change is to allow parents to exit their vehicle and stand in a designated spot to allow for social distancing," she said.

As of press time, 361 of the 381 graduates have signed up for the event. Signs will be posted along with way, compliments of Gilbane Construction, which is working on the high school rebuild, the school's Parent-Teacher-Student Association, Board of Education and the Building Oversight Committee.

"Though this is not the ceremony any of hoped for, we hope to make the event special and memorable for our seniors," Parades said.

Mayor Nancy Rossi had a special thank-you to the seniors, and commended them for their understanding.

"Our graduating seniors have faced a world-wide pandemic and situations that none of us could have ever imagined. They persevered and made the very best out of a situation that was both difficult and disappointing on many levels," she said. "Our seniors have handled the conditions as well as anyone could have expected and for that I am proud of each and every one of them."



Photo courtesy of Gary Letendre

Work continues in Allingtown

Work continues on the rehabilitation of the Allingtown Green last week in this photo, submitted by Gary Letendre. Workmen have been constructing a concrete and stone memorial site that will anchor the site with a walking path and trees. Ken Carney, head of the city's Building Committee is overseeing the work and praised the construction. "The quality of work is outstanding. John Colonna of Colonna Concrete has taken great pride in his work. I believe the residents of Allingtown and all residents of West Haven will be proud of the final product."



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Next Issue Date: July 9, 2020



Photo by Dan Shine

Summer!

The Summer Solstice heralded the beginning of the sun and fun season last weekend. With it comes a long spate of warm, sunny weather through this week, with a chance of showers. In other words a typical summer along the shore!

On this Date

1993 -- Both Canada and Turkey elect female heads of government for the first time. Kim Campbell became Canada's and Tansu Çiller Turkey's Prime Minister on this day. Worldwide, women in top political positions are still the exception.

1967 -- The world's first live global satellite TV program is aired. The BBC program "Our World" featured artists from 19 countries. The Beatles premiered their song "All You Need Is Love" on the show. Some 400 million viewers tuned in.

1950 -- The Korean War begins as North Korea invades South Korea. The war soon evolved into an international conflict and a proxy war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, leading to fears of a new World War. It was ended by an armistice in 1953.

1947 -- The Diary of Anne Frank is published. The Jewish girl's account of her life in hiding from the Nazis has become a well-known work of world literature and made Anne one of the most prominent victims of the Nazi regime. She died at age 15 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

1910 -- Igor Stravinsky's ballet "The Firebird" is premiered. The work was performed by Sergei Diaghilev's legendary ballet company "Ballets Russes". It was a huge success, catapulting Stravinsky to stardom.

Voice looking for family pics of fun activities

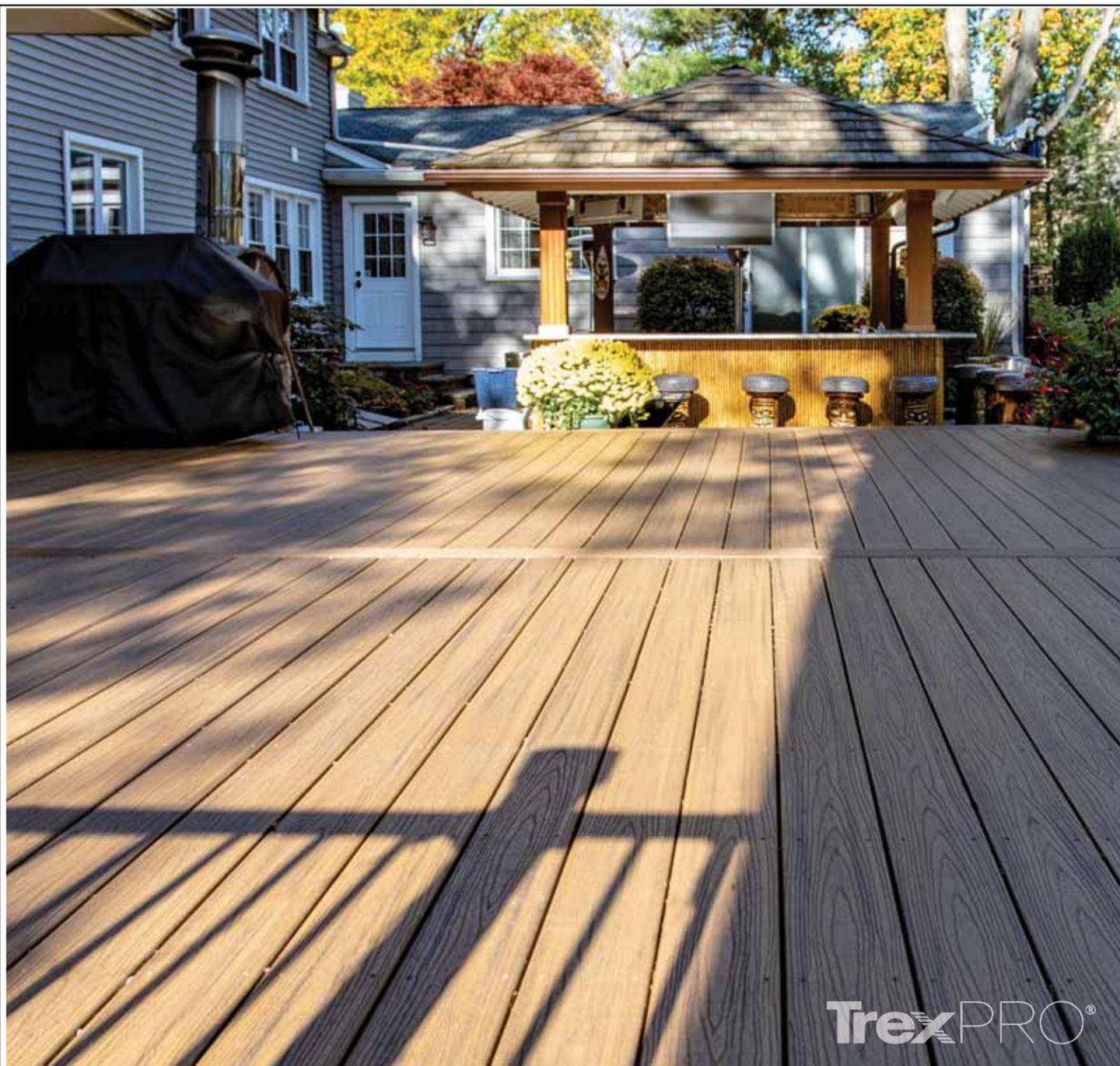
Families throughout the city are making the best of the Stay-at-Home order given by Gov. Ned Lamont and state health officials. Some are learning that staying at home can be a blast!

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. 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!



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WHHS students take prizes for essays

Alana Orecchio, a junior at West Haven High School, won third prize of \$300 in the 2020 Connecticut Foundation for Open Government's Forrest Palmer High School Statewide Essay Contest. Alana wrote about the Killingly Board of Education decision to keep the "Redmen" mascot for Killingly High School although it was previously rejected as a racist symbol.

Alana wrote: "Overall, there is no legal obligation for the Killingly Board of Education to change its mascot under the First Amendment's right to freedom of speech; however, as some students, teachers, and Native American groups in Killingly believe, the school board possesses a moral obli-

gation to respect those tribes that were abused," she wrote. "Changing the 'Redmen' mascot would fulfill this moral obligation."

The contest is named in honor of the late Forrest Palmer, a decorated World War II veteran, who began the contest in 2000 when he was president of CFOG's board of directors. CFOG is a nonprofit educational organization founded on the principle that open, transparent government is in the public interest.

CFOG sponsors the essay contest to encourage thought and debate among students on public and freedom of information issues.

Yarid Tyran, also a junior at West Haven High School, won

an Honorable mention award of \$50. Yarid wrote about the N-word controversy at UCONN last fall.

Students were asked to write essays on one of three topics:

1. In October 2019, two University of Connecticut students were charged under a state hate-crime law for yelling the N-word on campus. The comments were not directed at a specific individual. Should these students have been charged with a criminal offense? Does the First Amendment protect offensive speech?

2. The Killingly Board of Education has voted to keep the "Redmen" mascot for Killingly High School although it was previously rejected as a rac-

ist symbol. Students, teachers and Native American groups had urged the board not to do this.

In Killingly, the dispute became an election issue last fall. Is it a First Amendment issue?

3. In most communities, student publications are subject

to approval by faculty advisers, school principals and school superintendents. When a subject is controversial, their instinct is often toward censorship to avoid criticism. Should Connecticut have a state law that protects student free expression?



ALANA ORECCHIO



YARID TYRAN



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Hand sanitizers donated to WHCH



Submitted Photo

Councilwoman Elizabeth Johnston (D-3), WHCH Executive Director Patricia Stevens, WHCH Board of Directors President, William Heffernan III, and Councilman Barry Lee Cohen (R-10) all show off the hand sanitizers donated to the nonprofit organization last week.

Last week, members of the West Haven City Council presented West Haven Community House (WHCH) Executive Director, Patricia Stevens, and Board of Directors President, William Heffernan III, "UConn Nation" hand sanitizers for the nonprofit organization's Community Connections program.

The city's donation was made possible by University of Connecticut doctoral students and Councilman Barry Lee Cohen (R-10), on behalf of the Connecticut Center for Applied Separations Technologies (CAST) and the UConn Department of Chemical Engineering. Joining Cohen for the presentation was fellow WHCH Board of Directors member, Councilwoman Elizabeth Johnston (D-3).

During the pandemic, some chemical manufacturers have repurposed a portion of their

production lines to manufacture hand sanitizers. These process lines are normally used to produce plating chemistries for automotive, building, hardware, aerospace, and other end-use components.

Cohen who has been involved with advanced chemical technologies for over three decades, reached out to his industry colleagues, one of whom provided introductions between Cohen and UConn students and faculty affiliated with CAST. Under the direction of doctoral student, Noah Ferguson, the center was able to offer hand sanitizer that will ensure all WHCH Community Connections resident and day clients receive a 6 oz. bottle. Later this month, an additional supply will be distributed to Savin Rock Communities - Morrissey Manor residents.

"It was a couple of weeks into the pandemic, and we were having our weekly research group meeting," said Ferguson. "We were bouncing ideas around of what we could do, and producing our own hand sanitizer came up. We all wanted to use our engineering skills to help the community."* Ferguson also noted that World Health Organization (WHO) specifications are used to produce the hand sanitizer.

Stevens said, "We are very grateful to the UConn doctoral students and faculty who used their knowledge and experience to produce a very needed supply, and to Barry Cohen, WHCH board member, who arranged for this generous gift. As we prepare to re-open our Community Connections program, the hand sanitizers will become invaluable to our agency and clients as we ensure for the ongoing safety and health of all clients and staff."

Community Connections, a division of The West Haven Community House, provides individualized and meaningful enrichment opportunities that increase independence, enhance community integration, and improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.

Donations to allow the students to continue their hand sanitizer production and distribution to charities and communities in need, can be made by visiting <https://app.mobile-cause.com/vf/uconnENG>.



2020 SEAHAWK FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING REGISTRATION

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VIA, city spar over building sale

The committee dedicated to running the city's library system has taken issue with the way the city handled the sale of one of its venues, and certain declarations made in defense of the sale.

The Village Improvement Association issued a statement this week, saying the sale of the former Forest School Building, asking for documentation on certain claims, and disputing statements made by some officials.

Meanwhile, the city's corporation counsel, Lee Tiernan, has made a point-by-point refutation of their claims, saying he made sure they got a fair shake.

In making its statement this week, the VIA maintains it is committed to continuing a service in the Allingtown borough, and cites the current post-COVID-19 situation as a major factor.

"The Village Improvement Association of West Haven, Inc. is dedicated to ensuring that the Allingtown community retains library services. With the drastic rise in unemployment and school children without access to traditional educational resources, the opportunities and services offered by the VIA are more important than ever. The VIA is committed to working with the City of West Haven to ensure these critical services remain in Allingtown," the statement read.

One of the major points of contention of the city's sale to the Acorn Group, a development company headed by David Beckerman, is the position the city has taken regarding first refusal of the property to the group.

The VIA maintains it has asked for the documentation, but has not seen it.

"From the outset, the city has relied on the notion that Acorn Group maintained a "Right of First Refusal," which would allow for it to match any bid submitted. The "Right of First Refusal" was not noted in any of the bid materials, and, curiously, was not mentioned by the city's Corporation Counsel until after the VIA's substantially higher bid was submitted. The city then purported to rely on the "Right of First Refusal" to weaken the VIA's proposal and allow the developer to amend its bid. The city's Corporation Counsel cited the "Right of First Refusal" as a material component of his legal recommendation to the City Council to accept the Developer's bid over the VIA's bid," the statement said. "The VIA has repeatedly asked for a copy of the "Right of First Refusal" and hired an independent title searcher to review title for 1 Forest Road, but no

such "Right of First Refusal" has been found or provided to the VIA."

The association further contends that public input into the sale of the property has not been allowed thus far.

"The VIA attempted to participate in the April 27 City Council meeting, the meeting at which the Purchase and Sale Agreement was approved, by submitting written testimony. The VIA's submission is not cited in the minutes of the meeting and it is apparent from the discussion by the City Council members that many had not even seen the VIA's testimony," the statement reads. "Additionally, the public has not had the proper opportunity to weigh in on the sale of the Allingtown Library. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-163e requires that a public hearing be held when municipal land is sold but no such public hearing has been occurred."

A major bone of contention was the statement made by Building Oversight Chairman Ken Carney that a deposit check was not accompanying its bid is false.

"The VIA submitted a \$25,000 deposit check along with its proposal. A copy of the deposit check is attached hereto. The deposit check was returned to the VIA on June 3, demonstrating that the city had possession of it even as the false statements were made and published," the statement reads.

Despite what it calls events that have "shaken the VIA's confidence in the city's desire to take action, it is vowing to work with officials to maintain an Allingtown presence.

"The VIA has remained committed to working with the city to ensure that critical library services will remain in Allingtown. Now, it is time for the city to take real action by offering financial resources to secure a permanent home for the Allingtown Library," the statement reads.

Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan responded to the statement Tuesday, making a point-by-point refutation. As to the matter of the deposit check, Tiernan clarified the matter.

"I never said VIA did not submit a deposit, despite pressure from the City Council and the Developer to invalidate the VIA bid because they had no deposit check I did not do that. The City Council did not reject the library bid because it lacked a deposit check. The developer called me 'an idiot' because I did not invalid the Library bid for failure to submit a deposit check. I cannot speak for Mr. Carney, but the "lack of a deposit check" was not relevant and was not considered by the City Council when the library bid was rejected," he said.

The matter of the first refusal is a matter of record, the counsel stated.

"There is a right of first refusal recorded in the City Clerk's office, but it was not cited as a reason to give the developer the bid. The right of first refusal was irrelevant. The City Council did not consider it. I did not consider it. We DID NOT have comparable bids. One bidder would pay taxes (property and personal) one would not; one would invest \$2 million in improvements to the building generating significant permit fees, one would not; one bidder would close immediately, one would require six months to obtain a mortgage while their operation was closed due to COVID. If they failed to obtain a mortgage they could walk away; one bidder has a history of successful private development in the city the other entity has a history or poor financial performance (deficits in 2015 and 2016, endowment dropping in value, overpaying for a parking lot by \$80,000.00 and investing \$900,000 over the last five years in one branch and nothing in the other)," he said.

Tiernan said the late delivery of the library bid was also not an issue.

"The City Council received information from the Library at 4:30 p.m. the night of a council meeting concerning the topic of the sale of the Library. That information was distributed to all council members by email, notwithstanding its late delivery," he stated.

"When the sale of the property is competed all applicable

laws and statutes will be complied with. The property has not been sold, yet"

Tiernan indicated other plans are in the works.

"The city has committed to selling the Allingtown Fire Station building at some point and the developer wants that building and the city has been supportive of that. If the city fails to sell the Allingtown Library to Acorn (Beckerman), all development in Allingtown by him stops. A new roof will need to be installed at the library building or the building will have to be closed. We did not receive any other bids from private parties for the library. We are under no MARB oversight. Selling the library building to the VIA is fiscal malpractice, irresponsible and is not ultimately in either the best interest of the City or the Library as it makes both entities weaker," he said.

Tiernan points out the City Council did, in fact, keep in mind the borough needs a library branch, and has made some move toward that end.

"Not that they were obligated to do so, but the City Council had a signed commitment by the developer of the Blake building to consider the Library/Coffee shop option in that space in some for. VIA toured that building. It's near a bus line, a school, UNH and is in Allingtown. The council knew this when they rejected the library bid, they had this documentation. This admin-

istration, under the leadership of this mayor, created the potential option and the Mayor and the Council is committed to a library presence in Allingtown," he said.

He questioned the VIA's contention it is underfunded.

"The VIA claims it does not have enough funds now, yet they can hire a lawyer and afford to buy a building and maintain it for \$500,000," he said. "The City Council hates the library so much they just voted CDGB (Community Development Block Grant) funds for the library last night in excess of \$30,000," he said.

Finally, Tiernan noted the city has raised rental fees for all nonprofit groups using city buildings.

"(The) administration has raise rent for nonprofits to use city buildings. The Library could not expect its no-rent position to continue in Allingtown indefinitely."

Just before press time, Carney clarified his statement made in the June 4 issue.

"When the bid from the VIA came in, it had a note attached that the deposit check was coming. While that should have nullified the bid, it did not," he said, backing up what Tiernan relates in his statement.

"I wasn't accusing the VIA of lying, I wouldn't do that. I support the library. But believe this is in the city's best interest in the long term, putting the building on the rolls."



The VIA contends it was unfairly treated in the sale of the site at 1 Forest Road. Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan disagrees.



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Congratulations Class of 2020! For those of you who are ending your collegiate careers, we hope you find a life's work that will be fulfilling, and become contributing members of your community and family. For those ending their high school careers, we hope you find that niche that will make your life have meaning, whether it be in a college setting leading to a professional life, or entering the working world and using the skills you have acquired.

You are living in a time where conformity is more the order of the day than in any time in the recent past. Forces controlled by groups of elites, particularly in the political and academic spheres are asking for submission, rather than agreement. Are you adult enough to handle these pressures and fight off the temptation to subsume your will to the mob? In other words, are you an adult?

If you believe your "unalienable" rights are derived from the government, and not Nature or "Nature's God," you are not ready for the real world.

If you believe your civilization, the one that has given you the right to speak and protest, is fundamentally evil and must be collapsed, you are not ready for real life. You have a gap in your education that needs to be addressed.

If you see the history of this nation as intrinsically evil and must be destroyed, you are not ready for real life. You have not the maturity to understand that all nations have pasts that are less than stellar, no matter the location or the culture.

If you think ideas are violence and must be stamped out, you are not ready for real life.

If you see words as violence to be destroyed by violence, you are not ready for real life.

If you need trigger warning and are unable to listen to opposing ideas, shouting people down, you are immature and unequipped for dealing with real life.

If you need safe spaces to shield you from people or arguments with which you disagree, and are unable to articulate those objections, you have been robbed of an education and are unprepared for the real world.

If your major was or is in topics that end in "Studies" (Women Studies, Gay Studies, etc.), these are not disciplines, they are political statements. You will not be prepared to enter the real world after graduation.

If you see slavery as the overriding event that negates everything the United States aspires to, you are immature and need to read and learn more before entering the real world.

If you see the world as an Us v. Them proposition, you have been poorly taught and poorly mentored and must understand differences that exist between people.

If you think policy disagreements, or people who have opposing views to yours deserve to be "cancelled" by losing their job, their property and their reputations, you are not ready for the real world and are an emotional child.

If you think tearing down statutes and defacing property and harming people are the way to fight fascism, you yourself are the fascist and are no better than the Brown Shirts or the Black Shirts, or Stalinists of former times -- and as propagandized as they were.

If you can't separate political thought from any aspect of life, including entertainment, you are unprepared to live in the real world.

If you believe that biology must take a back seat to displaced and disordered thinking that will hurt individuals in the long run, you are unable to understand the consequences of those thoughts, and unable to function in reality.

Education is the learning of objective facts and truths, and being able to discern those things that are neither objective nor true. If you see the world from a totally subjective point of view, or are willing to blind yourself thinking you are morally right and everyone who disagrees is evil, you are incapable of dealing with the world, and have been poorly trained.

If you can find your way to rational thought with dispassionate results, you are truly educated and deserve a place in the real world. Good luck!



A contemptible betrayal of trust

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had big news last week -- the city is opening up its iconic Lakefront Trail after months of being closed off as part of a COVID-19 lockdown.

That Lightfoot kept the trail closed even after Chicago had experienced large-scale Black Lives Matter marches -- thousands during the "Drag March for Change" -- is one small instance of the flagrant social distancing hypocrisy across the country in recent weeks.

If it's OK for throngs of people to pack the streets, and shout and chant to protest the death of George Floyd, it ought to be permissible for someone to ride a bike along the lakeside while keeping to him- or herself.

Yet, Mayor Lightfoot welcomed the protestors.

"We want people to come and express their passion," she said -- and still kept the trail shuttered.

Many of the same officials who were most zealous in locking down their states and cities instantly made an exception for Black Lives Matter protests.

Their rigidity became laxity in a blink of an eye.

Their metric for reopening wasn't the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention guidelines or any other public health measure, but the "wokeness" of the activity in question.

Visiting the deathbed of a loved one with COVID-19? *Absolutely not.*

Having a proper funeral? *No way.*

Gathering more than about 10 people at a graveside? *No one should be allowed to put the public at risk in such a way.*

Bringing thousands of strangers to march together for hours in spontaneous, disorderly groups? *Thank you for your commitment to positive change.*

Attending a church service? *Well, maybe in a couple of months.*

Holding a struggle session with religious trappings where people confess their racism and vow to work to defund the police? *Please, let's have more.*

To believe the leaders of Blue America, SARS-CoV-2 is the first virus in human history to have a social conscience.

It is virulent enough in the ordinary course of events to justify the most restrictive social controls; not such a big deal if it might get in the way of marches for social justice.

The likes of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio have justified the different standards

by arguing that fighting racism is important.

Well, so is mourning your dead, keeping your business from being ground to dust and worshipping your God.

It is a sign of a ludicrously blinkered worldview to believe that a protest march deserves more consideration than these other elemental human needs.

Another argument is that the protesters are willing to put their health on the line for their cause.

But, until recently, it was said that anyone going outside wasn't just endangering themselves, but the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Why wouldn't that be true of the Black Lives Matter marches, too?

Don't expect consistency, or even a serious attempt at it.

More than 1,000 public health experts signed a letter calling the protests "vital to the national public health," thus immolating their credibility on a pyre of motivated reasoning.

It's social distancing for people and activities they find uncongenial, and different rules for their ideological allies.

What a contemptible betrayal of the public trust.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Pfaff's Family Market What brought them to America?

For the Pilgrims, it was the search for a new home where they could practice their religion freely and without fear. For some later generations of New Americans, it was a chance to break free from unjust regimes and warring nations; for others, it was to escape from starvation, genocide, hopelessness, poverty, and lack of basic personal freedoms.

For Xavier Pfaff, it was Opportunity, for the ambitious young man would come to America to chase a dream:

To build a business, find a good woman, marry, raise a big family, acquire land, build a clustering of homes, and keep his family close, where he could watch them grow, develop and flourish.

So, the teen-ager left home and family, along with everything and everyone he had ever known, and boarded a ship alone, bound for America.

Pfaff was born in southern Germany in 1866 and learned the baking trade from his father.

He arrived in America in 1882 and first worked as a baker at Brown's Bakery on First Avenue until 1897, when he left them to become a grocery clerk.

By 1901 he was ready to go out on his own, and opened the grocery and meat market which would bear his name at 108 Center Street.

It was from this location that the family would operate Pfaff's Market during all the years of its existence.

Teen-aged Josephine Dorrer arrived from Germany alone in America in 1883. Before long she met Xavier Pfaff and they were married.

It was a marriage that lasted for over sixty years, and produced a large and close-knit family, most of whom labored at Pfaff's Market at one time or another.

This was the era of the neighborhood corner store, and neighboring families walked to Pfaff's in order to pick up

any necessary food and supplies—groceries, meats, produce, soap, brooms, washboards—whatever their needs, Pfaff's would do their best to accommodate.

As time passed, the new little market established itself in the neighborhood and began to grow.

In a time when most people walked everywhere or took the trolley, telephone orders would come in from far-flung customers and their groceries would be delivered by horse and wagon. As a direct result, the market eventually had eight delivery wagons, heading out each day to transport groceries to locations near and far, including: Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge and Westville.

During the early years of Pfaff's Market, The United States was briefly engaged in World War I, and strong anti-German sentiments prevailed in some quarters; however, the Pfaffs by then were recognized as an important part of the West Haven community, and their popularity within West Haven was never diminished.

Later on, during the Great Depression, many West Haven families had barely enough food to eat.

There are still stories told of grocery bills that were quietly forgiven and boxes of groceries that were left anonymously on back doorsteps by the Pfaffs in order to sustain those who needed help the most.

To be continued-

We wish to thank Shannon Pfaff, Dennis May, Dan Kiernan, Bob Wolfe and Mike Kiernan, without whose help this story would not have been possible.

City accepting applications for seasonals

The city is accepting applications from residents ages 18 and older for summer seasonal employment for the Department of Public Works.

The minimum wage jobs consist of working 40 hours per week until Sept. 1.

Download an application at <http://cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/2202/Employment-Application-PDF>.

Applications are also available by calling the personnel office at (203) 937-3558.

Send applications 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.



Pfaff and Weiss was a landmark in the Town of West Haven. The Pfaff brothers and staff, shown above, and the outside of the store, show a common theme in the turn of the 20th Century: immigrants coming into the country and making a living and prospering, even in difficult times.



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

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Dear Felicia

Hard to believe, sweets, but here it is the end o' June and - finally - life seems to be getting back to what we can term "normal." Of course, the barbarians are storming the gates, tearing down statues and causing ruckuses that they themselves can't explain, but setch is the world we're living in right now. Nobody can explain themselves and the one who yells the loudest gits results. But as our editor says of ten, "They are victims of their lack of education."

Sooooo, normal. Effen yew've been on the Interstate yew git a drift o' what Iyam talkin' about. Cobina had to be in her gassamobuggy doing what she does, and trying to git there using the highway. Well, effen yew didn't think things were getting somewhat normal, a traffic jam would disabuse yew o' that notion. Yup. Cobina was in her first three-mile back up since the beginnin' o' March. People seem to be returning to work whether the mucky-mucks

in Hartford tell them it's OK. People, in other words, aren't listening to the "experts" anymore, cuz they've been wrong, wrong, wrong soooo many times. In fack, Cobina is of the hope that normal people will stop listening to the "experts" on several things, cuz when you come right down to it, they are only guessing - it might be an educated guess, but a guess nonetheless. Here in the Asylum by the Sea, yew don't hafta go onto the highway to see that things are getting more normal. Just keep yerself by an open window and yew will notice it. The convoys of motorcycles have, once again, descended on the inhabitants of this little berg with all the noise that goes therewith. Yup, Cobina and others in her neighborhood had to endure the loud sounds of motorcycles in groups of 10 and 20 over the weekend: one more proof that people are voting to end the lockdown with their feet.

~~~~

*Sammy Bluejay fluttered by t'other afternoon and let it be known that things again are returning to normal, cuz the municipality sent out its annual "Greetings" letter to the taxpaying public. Yup, with the new beach stickers came the tax bills - and the increase that the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) mandated for the city. Soooo, July will go off as usual with the public being asked to pay its levies. I guess that's something to be thankful for in a way.*

*An interesting letter, meanwhile, came this week via Barry Cohen, the GOP councilman from the Tenth Districk. As yew remember, the council, when it was reviewing the budget, tried to come up with cuts that would diminish the amount of tax increase that was in the original proposal.*

*The MARB, which wants the city to get up to 40 mills in the next couple years, nixed the idea and said, with its usual uncaring attitude that it would reject any budget that didn't have the prescribed increase. That jibes with what chairman Ron Quagliani said a couple weeks back.*

*What Cohen's letter seems to indicate, and it's at least interesting as far as this old-time observer is concerned, is that the council might actually be working together for the foist time in many a moon. Over the last several years - decades, in fact - the council has been split along factional lines, even though the Democrats have been the majority party for almost 30 years. Cobina wouldn't call it*

*a new era, but it's nice to know the sand box is a lit'le friendlier this term.*

~~~~

Nelly Nuthatch came by and sez that the Drive-Through Graduation for the kiddies in the Class of 2020 seems to be perty much going along as planned. Effen yew remember, the grads had a "virtual" commencement earlier this month. But, there was a notion that the kids should be able to have some semblance of a "walk" to get their diplomas. Thus came the current plan. The grads will be queued up in their autos and somehow or t'other drive up to a dias to git their diplomas. Police and school officials were set to finalize the plans, and it seems that some congratulatory signs and other stuff will be erected along the route to let them know the city it happy for them. Nice to know that things are being done in these special times. There is some ingenuity being utilized to offer them a graduation "exercise" of some stripe or t'other.

~~~~

*Whilst that is going on, Iva Looety tells me that there is some consternation in the circles that contain people from the library lobby. That consternation concerns a statement in a story in the last edition wherein it was said that the library didn't have a deposit check accompanying their bid for the Allingtown Library. Well, that was a misstatement of*

*some kind, I guess, cuz a copy of the check appeared two days after the story appeared, and there is gonna be some questioning.*

*Now, how this is gonna change anything, I ain't sure. But in this berg yew never know. The powers that be seem to want to put the old school building on the tax rolls, and sale to a developer will do that. Meanwhile, those same powers want to move the branch of the library to the old Blake Building - the former Lincoln School that was converted to the Bored of Education building back in the 1970s, and is now lying fallow.*

*And, Iva seems to think the people supporting the library seem to be of two minds, those who wanna take a more conciliatory approach, and those who wanna go full bore against the sale. Me-thinks this will end somewhere in the middle where the pernt will be made about the check, some mea culpas being voiced, but nothing really changing as far as what the plans are.*

*Felicia, yew and I have seen this scenario play out in other things over the years, and usually the old expression "You can't fight City Hall," plays true to form. They hold most o' the cards, and unless yew find them doing something expressly out of bounds, things work out the way city leaders want them to. It's jest the way things work.*

~~~~

And, just to be consistent, we've been noting the lack of progress over there on Foist Avenue between Main and Elm since the long fence was put up and (almost a month ago) Water Street was closed permanently. That, of course, is where the Haven is supposed to be built, and the demolition of all those old home-steads to happen.

The only thing that has taken place over there is the local Fire Brigade is doing some training, using the buildings as a way of maneuvering in situations, but effen yew were lookin' for things to come crashing down, don't hold yore breath. You'd be a very strange color o' blue effen yew did.

The developers of the Haven like to play things close to the vest, and one could give 'em the benefit of the doubt sayin' they're waiting until the Wuhan Virus is over. But that time seems to be drawing to a close and we hope that things will start percolating over there. The neighbors have been very patient, but we wonder when their patience will play out, and anger set in. I guess we'll know soon enuff.

~~~~

*With that bit o' chatter, I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzez,*

*Cobina*

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HOD #362

# Beaches, recreations sites open in city

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

In accordance with federal, state and local guidelines, the city reopened certain recreational venues last week, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and city Health Director Maureen B. Lillis announced.

On June 17, the city reopened the West Haven High School track and tennis courts, the Painter Park tennis courts, and the shoreline bocce and horse-shoe courts.

Also on June 17, the city increased the capacity of beach parking lots to 75%, Rossi said. Beach parking is for West Haven residents only until further notice.

Rossi noted that the boat launch on April Street is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. It is closed overnight.

Use of the boat launch is for city residents only. Residents must comply with COVID-19 boating guidelines from the state Department of Energy

and Environmental Protection, Lillis said.

Rossi is encouraging residents to continue keeping

West Haven's 3 miles of public beaches clean and litter-free,

saying, "Whatever you carry in, carry out."

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RS4035OF



## Around Town

### Student loans

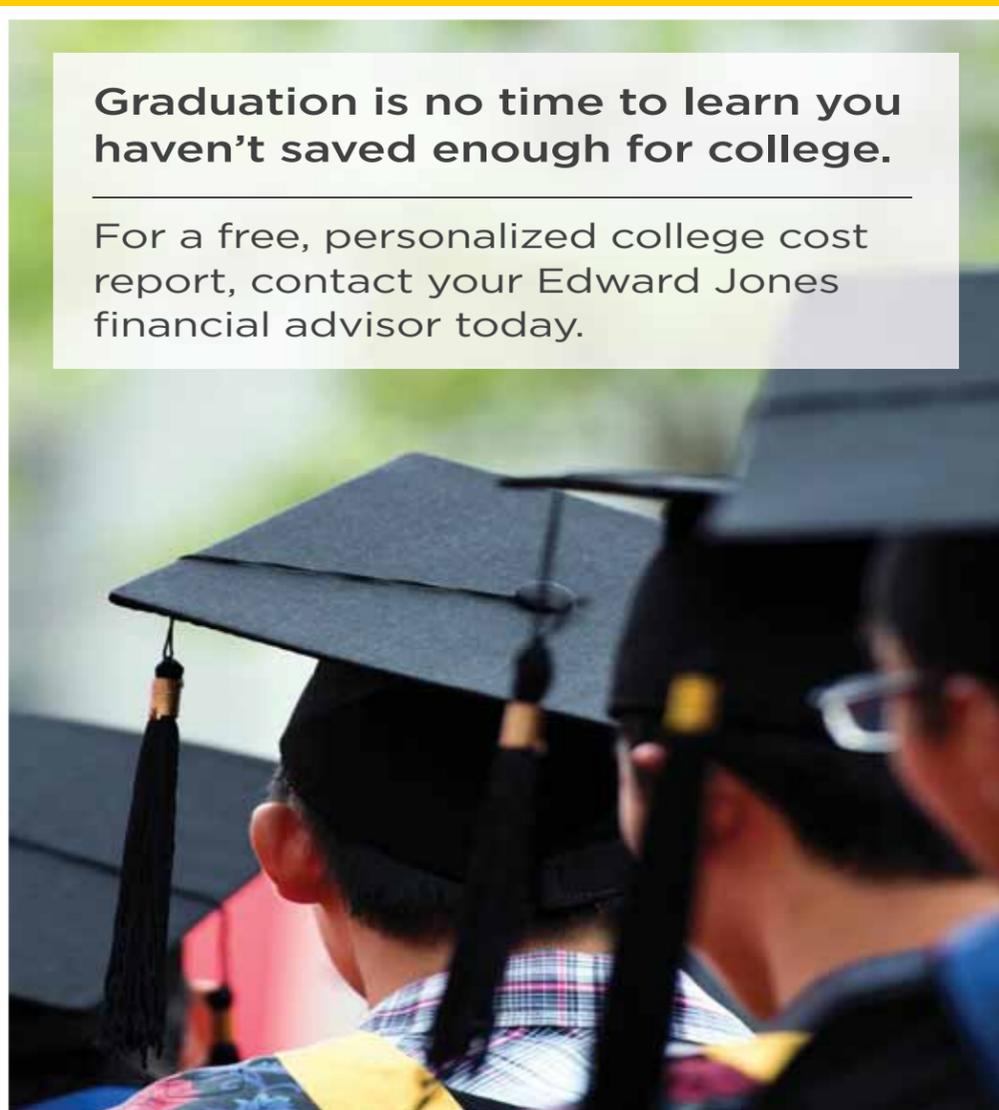
The Seth Haley Memorial Loan Fund of West Haven provides eligible college students with loans of up to \$2500 to help students finish their post high school education. Applicants must be West Haven residents. If you are interested in making an application for a loan, please call Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442.

### SHJBL announces scholarships

Shore Haven Jr Baseball is proud to announce their 2020 scholarship winners. The Dave Terese Sr Scholarship was awarded to Connor Faughnan who will be attending the College of the Holy Cross. The Mario Argentino Scholarship was awarded to Marissa Forleo who will be attending the University of Connecticut. The Joseph Morrell, Sr. Scholarships were awarded to Robbie Forleo who will be attending the University of New Haven, and to Jake Lentine who will be attending the University of New Haven.

### Shred 'Event' sponsored by IA Auxiliary

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and Ladies Auxiliary is holding a Shred Event on Saturday, June 20, from 10-1. The cost is \$10 for a small box, \$20 for large, and \$20 for a hard drive. There is virtually no contact, as it is a drive-through shred event. Pop your trunk, open your door, and we will remove items for you.



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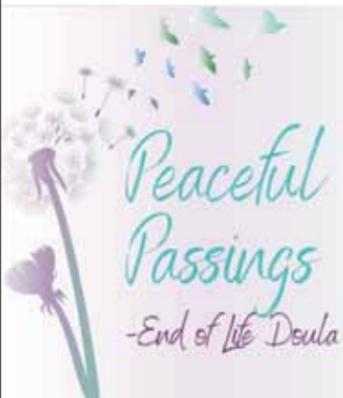


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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

For the past three months there has been no American Flag at Seth Haley School. This is a public building and I have noticed some public schools have the flag up and some do not.

This is a disgrace during a national emergency and for the veterans that have served our nation and for the ones who have died in mortal combat.

I called the mayor's office and they seem to want to pass the buck to the school board. What is going on here? My neighbors on South Street are infuriated with this and have come to me. Why haven't our so-called elected leaders notice this? They wanted this job in leadership but don't want any responsibility.

*Furious of West Haven*

**Dear Furious of West Haven:**

Your letter arrived several weeks ago and since the Voice is published twice a month



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON**

this reply was waiting to appear.

Councilman Robert Bruneau was requested to look into this matter and responded immediately with this reply, "I will have a flag up there tomorrow. Thank you for reaching out."

I have been told the flag has been flying and patriotism has returned to Seth Haley School.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I ride my bike on the Boardwalk from Chick's to Bradley

Point, usually about four times a week. I CAN'T STAND IT! People do not observe the markings on the sidewalk and walk all over the place. When I ride by them on my bike, some people say, "Watch where you're riding that thing!" The problem is I am on the proper side of the boardwalk. This happens from St. John's Church to Bradley Point.

It's really annoying to have to slow down to a dragging pace and wait for people to move and then they get mad like I'm doing something wrong.

Why don't they pay attention?

*Irritated Bike Rider*

**Dear Bike Rider:**

Next column, I will publish a complaint from an individual who walks on the Boardwalk and who complains of bikers and their attitude.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

The cars drive right through the stop sign all day long at the intersection of Dix Street

and Nonquit Street. When the weather gets warmer kids are outside playing and it becomes dangerous. There needs to be a traffic cop to monitor and issue citations to deter cars from driving through stop signs.

*A Caring Dad*

**Dear Caring Dad:**

Personally, before I provide an answer to your complaint, I want to thank you and all the other really caring West Haven residents who make the extra effort to protect our children and others. Whenever I receive a letter similar to yours with warnings of danger, I personally say to myself, "This warning is from a really caring individuals." So, readers, please continue to send these warnings to Gripe Vine. Through your district councilman or woman, who can hope to assist the police department in monitoring similar dangerous areas in West Haven.

To continue, I notified Councilwoman Robbin Warr Hamilton and shortly after receiving this complaint, she replied, "The Traffic Department at the West Haven Police Department has been made aware of this request."

Readers observing traffic violations here, please contact

me as soon as possible and once again I will have Councilwoman Hamilton follow through with the police department.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

When are the holes on Main and Washington Street going to be filled?

*Help the Motorists*

**Dear Help The Motorists:**

Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie received your complaint and here is what she had to say, "They are on the list to be filled."

Let me know when you see progress readers.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

There are several 3 x 4-foot potholes from Brown Street to Chestnut Street. My daughter got a flat here and was stranded on the street. It is a severe safety hazard and there are several potholes on Chestnut up to Painter Park. Police Highway Department, please patch before someone gets seriously hurt in a car accident.

**A Chestnut Street Resident Dear Resident:**

The area you mentioned is in Councilwoman Bridget Hoskins District and she replied to your pothole concerns with "I have forwarded this to Public Works."

# Financial Focus

## Courtesy of Edward Jones Financial

### Ensure you are properly insured

There's certainly been plenty of volatility and uncertainty the past few months, but one aspect of your financial picture has probably remained stable: your need for insurance. And since National Insurance Awareness Day is observed on June 28, now is a good time to review your overall insurance coverage to determine if you and your loved ones are well-protected.

You might be surprised at the lack of protection among your fellow citizens. Less than 60 percent of Americans have life insurance, and just about half of those with insurance are underinsured, according to LIMRA, a research organization.

Of course, you might think the reason so many people don't have insurance is because they don't need it. But just about every age group can benefit from life insurance.

- If you have a house and a family ... Your insurance needs are obvious: If something happened to you, could your mortgage payments still be met? How about your car payments? Doctor's bills? College for your children? Even if you have a spouse or partner who earns a decent income, your family could still have big trouble paying its bills if you weren't around.

- If you're young and single with no family responsibilities ... If you're in this group, why would you need life insurance? For one thing, perhaps you owe money together with someone else – you might, for example, be a joint debtor

on a mortgage. If you passed away, your co-debtor would be responsible for the entire debt. And just because you don't have family responsibilities now, it doesn't mean you never will. If you have a family history of serious health issues, which may eventually affect you, you could have trouble getting life insurance later, or at least getting it without paying a lot. Now, when you're young and healthy, the coverage is available and may be more affordable.

- If your children are grown and you're retired ... If you retire with debt or have a spouse dependent on you, keeping your life insurance is a good idea, especially if you haven't paid off your mortgage. Plus, life insurance can be used in various ways in your estate plans.

Even if you recognize the need for life insurance, though, you may be uncertain about how much you require. Your employer may offer insurance, but it might not be sufficient for your needs. And, perhaps just as important, if you leave your job, voluntarily or not, you'll likely lose this coverage. If you purchase a private policy, what's the right amount? You might have heard you need a death benefit that's worth seven or eight times your annual salary, but that's just a rough estimate. To determine the appropriate level of coverage, you'll need to consider a variety of factors: your age, income, marital status, number of children, and so on.

Still, even after you've got the right amount in place, it doesn't mean it's set in stone. You should review your coverage regularly, and especially when you change jobs, get married or remarried, have children or experience any other major life event. Life insurance should be a key part of your overall financial strategy, along with your retirement accounts and other investments. Make sure you're properly covered – for today and tomorrow.

*Written by Edward Jones for use by Darryl Zebrowski.*

## City participating in tax program in response to COVID-19 orders

The City Council recently 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.



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**Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
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Photo by Michael P. Walsh



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**Suggs sworn in**

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi swears in Christopher M. Suggs to the Board of Police Commissioners during a ceremony attended by dozens of colleagues, friends and loved ones June 10 at The John C. Ireland Bandstand on the Green. Suggs and Rossi were joined by state Rep. Michael A. DiMassa (D-116); City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath; city Treasurer Michael P. Last; Planning and Zoning Commission Chairwoman Kathleen Hendricks; and City Council members Bridgette J. Hoskie (D-1), Elizabeth Johnston (D-3), Robbin Watt Hamilton (D-5), Peter V. Massaro (D-6), Treneé McGee (D-7), Chrystal Fanelli (D-8), Robert Bruneau (D-9), Barry Lee Cohen (R-10), and Gary Donovan (D-at-large). Suggs, a longtime member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Democratic Town Committee, succeeds Commissioner Peter BonTempo, a former deputy chief of the Police Department who retired in 2000 after a career of nearly 23 years. A lifelong Westie, Suggs represented the 5th District on the City Council from 2007 to 2011.

**COVID-19 testing slated for Green**

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

The Health Department has opened a COVID-19 testing site on the Green for the next two weeks, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Health Director Maureen B. Lillis announced.

The walk-up site, held on the Main Street side of the Green, will operate from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. today and July 1-2 and from 2-8 p.m. Friday and July 3.

All medical insurance policies will be accepted, but those without insurance will not be turned away, Lillis said.

Swab tests will be given to people with symptoms and without and done by Murphy Medical Associates of Greenwich. No blood tests for antibodies will be offered.

Tests will be sent to a third-party lab for processing, with the results expected within 24 hours, Lillis said.

**Registration underway for city summer camps**

Registration has opened online for the Department of Parks and Recreation's modified camp and playground programs this summer, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Park-Rec Director Mark E. Paine Jr. announced.

Register at <http://www.whparkrec.com>.

All programs will hold three sessions: July 6-16, July 20-30 and Aug. 3-13. Each session is for West Haven residents only and will meet Monday through Thursday.

Painter Park Day Camp, which costs \$190 per session, will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Junior Day Camp, which costs \$110 per session, will meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pagels Elementary School.

Playground camps, which cost \$48.50 per session, will meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bailey Middle School, Carrigan Intermediate School and Washington Elementary School.



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Visit our website [westhavenlibrary.org](http://westhavenlibrary.org) for July 1st limited opening information

# Promotion Day -- 2020

Mackrille School conducted a Promotion Day ceremony for its children in the fourth grade. The outdoor event kept children socially distant, but allowed them to see their classmates one more time. Right -- Alivia Reilly with Parents. Below -- Mrs. Jodi Memmott's 4th Grade Class Promotion Ceremony. Nathan Gagne's pictured with mom, Kristen Palm. Bottom -- Meanwhile, Bailey Middle School was decked out to honor its graduates on the day the school year ended.



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### WEST HAVEN LEGAL NOTICE

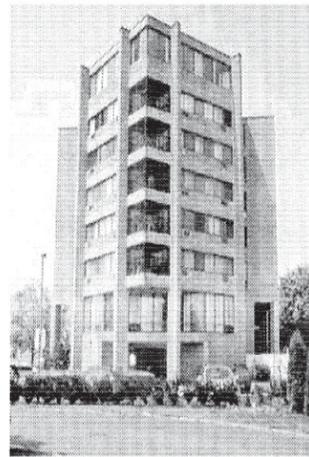
A certified list of Party-Endorsed Candidates for the:

Ct. Assembly-District 115  
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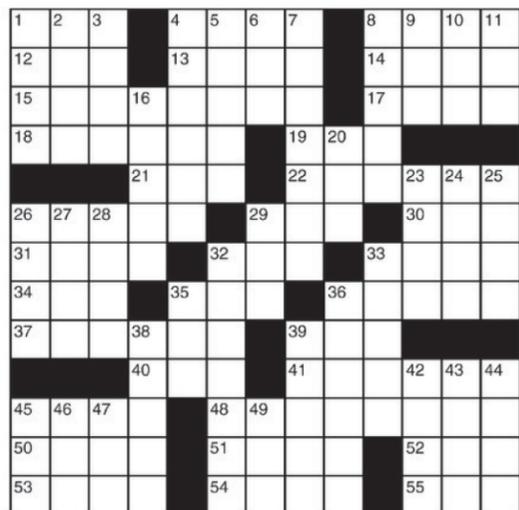
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## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dallas cager, briefly
  - 4 Frat party sup- ply
  - 8 Prejudice
  - 12 Expert
  - 13 Sicilian spouter
  - 14 St. Louis land- mark
  - 15 Flogged
  - 17 Tardy
  - 18 Vigorous
  - 19 Puncturing tool
  - 21 Fa neighbor
  - 22 Pulverized
  - 26 Pitch
  - 29 Irritate
  - 30 Foreman opponent
  - 31 Check
  - 32 Calendar pgs.
  - 33 Pageant win- ner's address
  - 34 Scepter topper
  - 35 Fido's foot
  - 36 Insertion mark
  - 37 Ran
  - 39 Scull tool
  - 40 Mentalist Geller
  - 41 Eaves dropper?
  - 45 Deserve
  - 48 Played in water
  - 50 United nations
  - 51 Twistable treat
  - 52 Singer
  - 53 "Little Women" woman
  - 54 Agrees silently
  - 55 Banned bug killer
- DOWN**
- 1 Numbers course
  - 2 Liniment target
  - 3 Couturier Wang
  - 4 Give
  - 5 - alcohol
  - 6 Compass pt.
  - 7 He loved Aida
  - 8 Poolroom sup- ply
  - 9 A Gershwin brother
  - 10 Performance
  - 11 The girl
  - 16 Insurance fraud factor
  - 20 Tussaud's medium
  - 23 Barber's con- cern
  - 24 Otherwise
  - 25 Mi. or km
  - 26 Walked hard (on)
  - 27 Juno's coun- terpart
  - 28 Barbecue entree
  - 29 Promise
  - 32 Midwestern capital
  - 33 Breaker of Ruth's record
  - 35 Apiece
  - 36 Chocolate sources
  - 38 Intuitive feeling
  - 39 Lubricated
  - 42 African nation
  - 43 Give temporar- ily
  - 44 Fix manu- scripts
  - 45 Recede
  - 46 Heady quaff
  - 47 Deteriorate
  - 49 Paid athlete

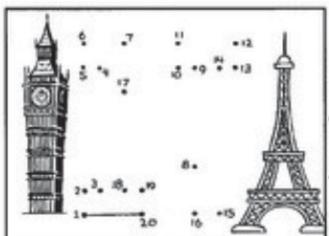


## MAGIC MAZE • BEANIES



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: USED TO MAKE TOFU

- Bean bag
- Beantown
- Black bean
- Buckbean
- Caribbean
- Jacobean
- Jelly bean
- L.L. Bean
- Lima bean
- Mr. Bean
- Navy bean
- Pea bean



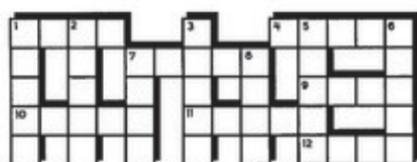
WHAT PART of London is in France? Connect the dots and find out.  
Answer: The tower.

Illustrated by David Coulson

**THREE-RING CIRCUS!**  
Place the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 into the small circles so that the four numbers, on the rim of any ring, add up to 14.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



WAY OUT WEST!

At left is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are words pertaining to the Old West that you will need to complete the puzzle, using the trial-and-error method. Try to finish before roundup time.

- 4-letter words:**
- BARN
  - COLT
  - PESO
  - SPUR
  - STAR
- 5-letter words:**
- ARROW
  - BOOTS
  - HORSE
  - POSSE
  - ROCKS
  - SHACK
  - SHEEP
  - STEER
  - WATER

**A PANOPLY OF PAN WORDS!** In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with PAN. Use the following definitions:

- 1. PAN (in place).
- 3. A jury duty list.
- 5. A cure-all.
- 2. Type of glass.
- 4. Looked for gold.
- 6. Deep dish fruit dessert.



Answer: (Across) 1. Posse, 4. Arrow, 7. Boots, 9. Colt, 10. Steer, 11. Shack, 12. Spur. (Down) 1. Posse, 2. Sheep, 3. Horse, 5. Rocks, 6. Water, 7. Barn, 8. Steer.

## Answers to last week's puzzles

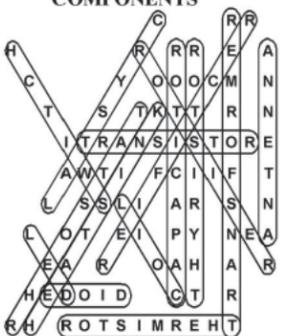
### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



### ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS



### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Submitted Photo



### Community project

West Haven Girl Scout Brownie Troop 67020, which included a few alumnae, chose the West Haven Child Development Center for their "Take Action Project." They planted natural mosquito repelling plants, flowers and vegetables for the children. Pictured are: Front row -- Finn McLaughlin (WHCDC Preschooler), Molly Kennedy (alumna). Back row -- Zanii Smith, Sunnie McLaughlin (alumna), Selma Correia-Freire (alumna).



THOMAS PLANTAMURA

Tommy,

We are so proud of you.

Congratulations on acceptance to University of Hartford

Love Pa and Mary-Ann

### Congratulate Your Graduate

Submit your message at [westhavenvoice.com](http://westhavenvoice.com)

### Registration dates listed for schools

West Haven Public Schools will host registration appointments for all K-12 students not currently registered for the 2020-2021 school year.

Registration will take place in the Pagels Elementary School Library located at 26 Benham Hill Road, from 9 a.m.-1p.m. on the following dates: July 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5, 12.

Appointments should be scheduled by calling 203-937-4300 ext. 7118. Packets will be mailed to the address provided and all necessary documents will be required at the time and day of the appoint-

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| Wedding Bands          | Bracelets           | Earrings                | Timex          |
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| Pendants               | Pendants            | Pandora Jewelry         |                |
| Bracelets              | Gold wedding rings  |                         |                |

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