

# West Haven Voice

July 9, 2020

Vol. 25, Issue 13 16 Pages

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

## Voice Profile

*An in-depth feature*

WHHS Class of 2020

Class gets to 'walk' during special ceremony.

~ See below  
See page 3



# Class of 2020 celebrates!



Photos by Mackenzie Meaney

The West Haven High School Class of 2020 ended its secondary school careers in a way similar to the way their senior year developed – in an unusual way. Forced by COVID-19 restrictions to a virtual commencement exercise earlier in June, most of the seniors and their families took part in a Drive-Thru

Graduation, June 29 and 30. It gave the families and the graduates an opportunity to have some semblance of a “walk” to receive their diplomas. Fighting intermittent showers and threats of rain on both days, the class was able to come through it all with the same stoic attitude that characterized them all year.



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Next Issue Date: July 9, 2020



This photo taken from last week's Drive-Thru Graduation is what we can expect this week as far as weather. Forecasters are calling for heat and humidity with showers possible each day.

## On this Date

2011 -- South Sudan becomes the youngest country in the world. The North East African country, formally known as Republic of South Sudan peacefully seceded from Sudan after an independence referendum was passed. Since independence, however, the country has been wrecked with widespread ethnic violence and human rights violations.

1981-- Donkey Kong is released by Nintendo. Nintendo's famous character Mario debuted as Jumpman in this popular arcade game.

1962 -- Andy Warhol's iconic Campbell's Soup Cans make their debut. The Soup Cans were first displayed at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles, California, and were instrumental in popularizing Pop Art in the United States.

1958 -- Lituya Bay megatsunami. -- A mega-tsunami, a tsunami whose waves are higher than a normal tsunami, hit Lituya Bay in Alaska, United States, resulting in a wave that was recorded to be 1,720 feet or 516 meters high. This is the highest wave recorded in history.

1877 -- The first Wimbledon Championship is held. -- The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London hosted the first Wimbledon championship, which was not only the first tennis championship held in England but was also a precursor to grand slam tournaments. 22 men competed in the championship and Spencer Gore became the first person to win the Wimbledon tournament.

### Births

1959 -- Kevin Nash -- American wrestler, actor

1950 -- Viktor Yanukovich -- Ukrainian politician, 4th President of Ukraine.

1947 -- O. J. Simpson -- American football player, actor, author.

1932 -- Donald Rumsfeld -- American politician, 13th & 21st United States Secretary of Defense.

1858 -- Franz Boas -- German anthropologist.

## Voice looking for family pics

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.

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# Westie Class of '20 gets a send-off

By Mackenzie Meaney  
*Special to the Voice*

A little rain was not enough to dampen the spirits of West Haven High School.

On Monday, June 29, half of the class of 2020 gathered in the parking lot on the side of the school to celebrate all of their accomplishments. It was their day to shine.

After having a school year get cut short due to COVID-19, and having senior students miss out on sports seasons, musicals, or just the time spent in the classrooms finishing out high school, the

West Haven community was able to give the graduates a proper send off -- or at least, as proper as it could be given the circumstances.

"Everyone has really come together to try and make this work for the kids," Principal Dana Parades said of the evening. "We're just hurt that we can't do this the right way and give them what they deserve, but we are hoping that we can do as good of a job as we can to make this night special and something memorable for them."

Cars carrying graduates and

their families started to arrive around 4:30. Each wave carried roughly 30 students. The graduates would get out and stand in front of their cars (all wearing masks) and carrying a name card. Teachers would then grab the card, and hand them to Principal Parades standing on the podium located on the movable stage.

She would call each student's name one by one. They would then leave their designated parking spots, walk up to the stage, grab a diploma off the table, and take their masks off to display a brilliant smile

full of happiness, pride, and excitement.

Graduates would then stand on either side of the stage, with Parades saying "Graduates to my right, you may turn your tassels and return to your cars. Congratulations." The same phrase said to the students on

the left.

They were through West Haven High School in about 30 minutes. Speed was necessary for the intermittent rain showers during the day on Monday. Regardless of the weather, it was a memorable evening that no one will ever forget.



Photo by Mackenzie Meaney

The West Haven High School Class of 2020 had a unique Drive-Thru graduation ceremony last week. On both days intermittent showers were in the forecast, and sometimes put a damper on the proceedings.



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# COVID-19 testing is underway for residents of SRC

Savin Rock Communities (formerly West Haven Housing Authority) announced last week COVID-19 testing its residents has started at Surfside Apartments.

Savin Rock Communities houses approximately 1000 residents in seven developments across the City. Of that population, approximately 60% are seniors and/or disabled residents potentially at higher risk if they contract COVID.

Surfside is Savin Rock Communities' largest housing complex. Testing for other Savin Rock Communities sites will be scheduled immediately following Thursday's kickoff.

"On behalf of the Board, staff and residents of SRC we would like to thank State Rep. Dorinda Borer for responding to the need and connecting Savin Rock Communities with several state authorized testing providers," said John Counter, Housing Authority Director.

Borer, a member of the legislature's Public Health Committee, helped to spearhead the initiative to ensure West Haven would be a pilot city for the statewide mobile program. "Our Housing authority buildings are home to many seniors and lower income families who have health complications, aides that travel in and out of the building and limited transportation. Bringing mobile units to these sites supports the critical health care need of over 1,000 at-risk residents and is a mitigator to the overall spread within our city," she said.

Counter noted that the collaboration with The Cornell Scott Hill-Health Center will be at no charge to residents.

Cornell Scott Hill Health Center is a comprehensive, compassionate community healthcare provider which has been serving the Greater New Haven community since 1968. CSHH has 20 care sites in the area and treats 36,000 patients per year with a focus on under-served communities.

"We are so appreciative of working with CSHH, an organization with an established footprint in WH, which now continues to serve our community by providing this much needed testing to our at-risk Senior and disabled residents," said Counter. "CSHH mobilized and coordinated this effort with SRC in less than 10 days. We are fortunate to have them working in our community."

Throughout the COVID crisis, SRC has collaborating with the mayor's office, nonprofits and community organizations to respond to residents' needs. The mayor's office and team have provided multiple food drops to our residents, has assisted with acquiring essential PPE and access to providers for masks, gloves and sanitizers.

Testing will be for symptomatic and asymptomatic residents and will be coordinated with the residents.

Voice Classifieds  
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## Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Party will be held on August 11, 2020, in each town.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:

**Democrats**

Name and Address:

Joe Biden, Wilmington, DE  
Tulsi Gabbard, Kapolei, HI  
Bernie Sanders, Burlington. VT  
Uncommitted

**Republicans**

Name and Address:

Donald J. Trump, Palm Beach, FL  
Roque "Rocky" DeLaFuente, San Diego, CA  
Uncommitted

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 23th Day of June, 2020

Denise Merrill  
Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will be held on August 11, 2020. The hours of voting at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

Hours of Voting: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voting District

Location of Polling Place

District 1- Elks Lodge 1537  
District 2-Savin Rock School  
District 3-Washington School  
District 4-St. Paul's Church  
District 5-Simchat Yisrael Hall  
District 6-Forest School  
District 7-Anna Molloy School  
District 8-Edith E. Mackrille School  
District 9-Seth Haley School  
District 10-Pagels School

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225 Meloy Road  
806 Jones Hill Road  
148 South Street  
26 Benham Hill Road

\*\*Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: 355 Main St. West Haven, CT 06516

Dated at West Haven, Connecticut, this 30th day of June, 2020.

Town Clerk Patricia Horvath  
Town of West Haven

# Tax office opens 'drive-thru service'



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

The West Haven tax office's new window service features large tents and a plywood staging area, along with a plywood ramp and walkway, on the Campbell Avenue side of City Hall to give taxpayers access to three windows to pay their taxes. The next-door assessor's office has also been outfitted with a window as part of a smaller staging area and tent to allow staff to assist residents with services.

## Tax bills, stickers mailed

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

City tax bills — real estate, personal property, motor vehicle and sewer — have been mailed and are payable in two installments: July and January. Included in the mailing are the new two-year beach parking stickers.

Each tax bill, which is sent out once a year, has three parts: a payment coupon for July, payment coupon for January and payment coupon for taxpayers' records.

Taxes were due July 1. Payments after Aug. 3 are considered delinquent and subject to interest, Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli said.

Thanks to the city's COVID-19 relief ordinance, 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.

Taxpayers can make a payment on the city website at <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=westhaven>. Sewer bills are on the same page but under a separate heading. Tax

payment history can also be viewed and printed.

The fees for credit cards and electronic checks are available at <http://cityofwesthaven.com/276/Payments>.

Current taxes can be paid by the drop box at the Main Street entrance of City Hall. Current taxes can also be paid by mail — check or money order, no cash — to the tax office lockbox: City of West Haven, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 150461, Hartford 06115-0461. When paying by lockbox or drop box, the canceled check is the receipt. After Aug. 3, taxes with interest can be paid by mail to the City of West Haven, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 401, West Haven 06516.

West Haven residents who own their vehicles and are current on their motor vehicle

taxes will receive the 2020-22 beach stickers in the mail with their tax bills. Anyone who leases a vehicle will also receive a sticker in the mail.

Delinquent taxpayers are not eligible for the free stickers, which expire June 30, 2022, until their motor vehicle taxes are paid, city officials said.

Beach stickers are for new, leased and military-exempt vehicles, including motorcycles. A "new" vehicle means it was registered in West Haven after Oct. 1, 2019. Commercial vehicles are excluded and will not receive a sticker. Each sticker includes the vehicle's license plate number printed on it and is nontransferable. Beach stickers are a benefit for resident taxpayers whose vehicles are registered in West Haven.

By Michael P. Walsh

*Special to the Voice*

The tax office rolled out a new window service at City Hall on June 23, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli announced.

The window service allows the tax office to offer in-person payments for the first time since March 16, when City Hall was closed until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic, said Lou Esposito, Rossi's executive assistant.

Esposito said the city has erected large tents and constructed a plywood staging area, along with a plywood ramp and walkway, on the Campbell Avenue side of City Hall to give taxpayers access to three windows to pay their taxes.

The payment windows are serviced by tax office personnel and equipped with protective plastic glass to shield both employees and taxpayers, Esposito said.

Current taxes can be paid by check, credit card, debit card or money order at the windows or by the drop box — check or money order — at the Main Street entrance of City Hall. No cash is accepted until further notice, city officials said.

Taxpayers who have cash can go to a bank of their choice to obtain a money order or certified check.

Taxpayers can also make a payment on the city website at <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=westhaven>. Sewer bills are on the same page but under a separate heading. Tax payment history can also be viewed and printed.

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The assessor's office, which is next door to the tax office on the same side of City Hall, has also been outfitted with a window as part of a smaller staging area and tent to allow staff to assist residents with services.

While waiting in both lines, taxpayers must wear face masks and socially distance by staying at least 6 feet apart at all times, Health Director Maureen B. Lillis said. West Haven tax bills — real estate, personal property, motor vehicle and sewer — have been mailed and are payable in two installments: July and January. Bills \$100 or less are payable in full.

Each tax bill, which is sent out once a year, has three parts: a payment coupon for July, payment coupon for January and payment coupon for taxpayers' records. Taxes were due July 1. Payments after Aug. 3 are considered delinquent.

### Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Care Series Three Virtual Programs from the West Haven Library

Presented by Maria Tomasetti  
South Central Regional Director  
Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter

**Tuesday, June 30, 2020, 6:30 to 8 p.m.**  
Dementia Care: Effective Communication Strategies

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 6:30 to 8 p.m.**  
Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

**Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
Dementia Care: Safety Considerations

These programs will take place over Zoom.

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## Rhetoric is wearing thin

The five-week temper tantrum we've seen since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis is starting to wear thin all over the country, but maybe more in communities of color, where most of the damage is being done through burning, looting and mayhem. One need only look at the aftermaths of various cities, including parts of New York City, to realize this has little to do the life of one man. This is an insurrection.

Black Lives Matters is a pro-Marxist organization. That is not this publication saying that, a foundress of the organization, Patrisse Bullors described herself and fellow co-foundress Alicia Garza as "trained Marxists." What other proof do we need?

Floyd's death was the most recent in a series of BLM outbursts, and shows a coordinated, well-funded operation, that hires mercenaries to stir up trouble. Much of their funding comes through two sources, globalist George Soros, who is hoping to bring down the United States so he can help bring about a one-world government, and multi-national corporations, who are being shaken down by BLM in much the same way the Rainbow Coalition did in the 1990s, and Al Sharpton in the early 2000s.

That this has gone on this long is a manifestation of the mainstream media's hope this will bring down the "Orange Man" Donald Trump. CNN has called the "demonstrations" mostly peaceful, even has mayhem envelopes their on-site reporters. Meanwhile, somehow, some way they try to blame Trump. But more than the media, which is only doing what we all expect, our feckless leaders are allowing anarchy.

Whether it is allowing statues of Christopher Columbus in New Haven, or asking police to kneel in solidarity, spineless leaders are hoping in their best Neville Chamberlain impersonation to appease the crowd. They will not be appeased.

Black Lives Matters and those who rain terror on cities are bullies, pure and simple. They only understand their use of force to get their way. But like most bullies, once confronted with force, they run and hide.

As we said, we believe the scales are beginning to come off the eyes of communities of color regarding BLM and the mostly white, liberal post-adolescent adolescents that fill their ranks.

In Minneapolis neighborhoods have had enough and are calling out BLM. So are members of the entertainment industry. Sure, some in Hollywood and elsewhere are advocating, but we see a split among them.

Those who were held captive in the CHOP zone in Seattle are relating horror stories of daily life. Meanwhile, people are beginning to question "defund the police" efforts.

They are told the money will be put in other programs to help disadvantaged youth. They are beginning to ask the salient question: We already do that, will more money fix the problem? Those who have watched the anti-poverty movement from its inception in the 1960s already know the answer.

People are beginning to get angry. They see this is not about equal justice or equal rights. It's about insurrection. Perhaps the best description of the mobs was done in a piece in Redstate.com:

"These mobs are not progressive. These mobs are not enlightened. These not mobs are not edgy, they're not hip. They're frauds. They're dimwitted, phony drama addicts."

We agree!



## The 2020 election train wreck

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist  
President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden agree on one thing -- the other side is trying to steal the election.

Trump told a gathering of students in Phoenix that this "will be, in my opinion, the most corrupt election in the history of our country."

The president of the United States actively undermining faith in the electoral process is gross and unprecedented, but he's not alone.

Asked by Trevor Noah of "The Daily Show" whether he worried the election would be rendered "moot" by his supporters being prevented from voting, Biden replied: "It's my greatest concern. My single greatest concern. This president is going to try to steal this election."

This wasn't an isolated comment. "Mark my words," he warned in May, "I think he is going to try to kick back the election somehow, come up with some rationale why it can't be held."

Yes, if there is one thing everyone can now agree on, it's our inability to pull off a free and fair election.

Perhaps a handy victory by Biden or, much less likely, Trump will take the edge off

the postgame acrimony, but it is going to be ugly regardless. If the election is close, the aftermath will be a norm-busting extravaganza of conspiracy theories, lawsuits and, at the very least, threats to take it to the streets.

If Trump loses, there's unlikely to be a concession phone call -- one of the little grace notes of our democracy -- and he will argue that he was undone by Democratic cheating. Heck, he *won* in 2016 and still maintained he'd been cheated.

The transition would surely be unlike any we've ever seen, with the incumbent routinely insulting his soon-to-be successor. Trump would be likelier to live-tweet Biden's inauguration than to attend.

And if he wins, it could be even worse.

There were protests in the streets after Trump won in 2016. In the supercharged atmosphere of 2020, we shouldn't be surprised by riots. After once again believing he'd inevitably lose and facing another intolerable four years of President Trump, the left's shock and despair would be unlike anything either side in our politics has experienced in memory.

One of the ironies of the 2016 election is that Democrats rightly scolded Trump for pre-

paring the ground not to accept the election result. Then, when he won, they resisted accepting the result themselves, preferring to believe that the election had been stolen by Russia.

A close result will obviously magnify feelings on both sides. The Florida vote controversy of 2000 was the height of recent domestic contention over a presidential election. Looking back, though, it was remarkably tame.

With control of the presidency hanging by a thread in Florida, there were no large-scale demonstrations, let alone violence. The legal briefs flew fast and furious and both former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Al Gore wanted to win and distrusted the legal and electoral maneuvers of the other side.

Yet there were things that neither of them would say in public and both of them were willing, if it came to that, to concede with grace. Both men were shaped by the post-World War II consensus in American politics. They had absorbed its standards and reflexively honored its guardrails.

That was 20 years, and an eon ago.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*



# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## Pfaff's Family Market Part II

There are times when many of us navigate the Sea of Life in the manner of a rudderless ship, drifting at the whim of the wind and the tides. But this was not the way with Xavier Pfaff: He came to America with a plan and he followed it faithfully. Even as he was managing and growing his business, he was buying land, building homes and

making sure that there was a place for every family member to call home. Upon his death, it was revealed that he had left property to each of his eight children.

As time went by, the ever-growing Pfaff family worked together at the store and spent their off-work hours together as well, in accordance with Xavier's plan. As it happened, they also played together, at a special place in the woods named Pfaffville.

The place was chosen by Xavier Pfaff, for he had acquired land in Oxford, just downstream from Stevenson Dam and built a number of riverside cottages forming a special little family community.

The family referred to their summer trips to Pfaffville as going "Up the River." The encampment was placed atop a rock ledge which looked out over the Housatonic River, just south of Stevenson Dam. The

ledge was half a mile long, elevated two hundred feet above the river, and upon it were five cottages, one for each of the Pfaff families. A switchback staircase led down to the river, where there were boats, docks, a sandbar, and plenty of opportunities for building happy memories.

In the words of Mike Kiernan, Xavier's great-grandson, "It was idyllic for a boy, the woods and water.

On weekends it would be packed with family and friends arriving from town. The parties were huge and moved between cottages. The grownups would be laughing, yelling and arguing until late in the evening.

Meanwhile, the many, many kid cousins--it was the Baby Boom after all--ran wild in a pack catching fireflies and playing all manner of games in the dark.

"During the day, the crowds would gather at the sandbar across the river. As folks arrived and came down to the rocks, they would be shuttled across in a rowboat. Josephine Pfaff, West Haven High School gym teacher of some 35 years, gave swimming lessons and water safety training to two generations,

and her system worked well: Once a child could swim across the Housatonic River without a life jacket, they could ride in the rowboat without wearing one. It was a rite of passage, and I dog paddled across at age four.

"In August of 1955, Connecticut suffered one of the worst floods in its history; the statewide flood came on the heels of back to back hurricanes that thoroughly saturated the ground. Meanwhile, as this flood was taking place, the men of the Pfaff family were at work in town, unaware of the looming danger. As the waters of the Housatonic rose dramatically, those at Pfaffville became concerned about the dam being able to survive the storm. It

See Pfaff Family, page 9



The Pfaff Family, 1949



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

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# Dear Felicia

Top o' the week to ya, honeybunch! Hard to believe we're already in the midst o' July. But we knew that cuz the Fourth o' July not only passed, but Cobina's neighborhood sounded like a re-enactment of the third Battle of the Marne. For two weeks leading up to, and every night since, the boom, boom of fireworks has lit up the skies and scared the cat. So, except for the non-sense about masks, etc., it is a usual mid-summer. But, the "night's dreams" are being interrupted.

That was especially true on July 3. Whilst the city didn't have its annual gala fireworks that usually bring in up to 100,000, there were enough private fireworks going off to gladden the heart of any and all pyromaniacs. It was quite something.

As is the custom, the Mystick Maidens of the Marsh cobbled together something of an Independence Day celebration, but had to move it. We had planned on converging

on Sandy Point for this year's event, but the reconstruction of the sewer or water lines over there - which have been going on for some time - forced us to move. This year we decided by the flats by Oyster River, and had a wonderful time.

The Asylum by the Sea, meanwhile, people have got their tax bills and their beach stickers. And this year the beach stickers are impawtant cuz only residents are allowed to use the beach parking lots. Until the guys up in Hartford say so, I guess, the beach ain't limited to residents, but the parking lots are.

Sammy Bluejay happened to flutter around the shoreline jest to see what's going on, and sez that it was fun watching people who obviously weren't residents angling to get parking. The put their cars in some interesting places, and he wondered effen they got tagged. The city charges for parking, so that revenue seems to be gone at least for the time being, but there is

some sport in watching out-of-town cars jockeying for places to park for the day.

~~~~~  
*This was the year the Savin Rock Festival was supposed to reappear. One wonders now with Wuhan Flu worries effen the city is gonna can it for this year. Usually, it happens at the end o' July. And, we hafta be honest, we ain't seen anything concerning its cancellation. So, we wonder effen it's still being discussed.*

*The festival is one of the highlights o' the summer, and we ain't seen in three years. The city's financial difficulties made it a casualty, what with overtime expenses and the like. Herroner said last year that plans were for it to be brought back. That was before the state locked itself down and is now just beginning to open. We're in what the politicians are calling Phase II of the state's reopening, which is something of a numbers game. It'll be interesting to see jest how this plays out. We would think a final announcement would be forthcoming. Like we said, we ain't seen anything on it.*

~~~~~  
 Of course, Nelly Nuthatch sez many parents' eyes were on His Excellency, the governor last week to see what is gonna happen with the opening of schools. Nelly sez that whilst Gov. Lamont talked in general terms about the opening of schools, the meat and potatoes of the plan have not exactly been thrashed out, yet.

I guess the school systems are supposed to report some details to the powers that be and then a more detailed plan will emerge. I know there are a lotta parents who are really hoping that schools will re-open cuz the kiddies are badly in need of getting back with their peers. Still, other parents are kind o' liking the home-schooling, and might just opt into that. Lawd knows that some o' what they're teaching - particularly history as present circumstances show - is a bit off the mark. Plus, kids are allowed to advance at their own rate, and not be held back or pushed forward by the group. It'll be interesting to see how that side of the question pans out.

Nelly, meanwhile, has heard some rumblings. It seems that depending on how things go this summer, schools may not open before Sept. 1, which is not the way some systems were hoping. Like a lotta colleges they were hoping for an earlier, rather than later opening.

Tennyrate, after the opening of schools, don't be surprised effen there is a two- or three-week period where nothing happens extra-curricular-wise. The period will be used to assess effen there is a spike in the number of infections. That will determine the next step, one way or t'other.

The scenario then sez that extra-curriculars will begin

in late September. That's the way we're hearing things from around the state, but who knows effen that is the way it's going to work out. The variables in this are all over the place.

~~~~~  
*Here we are some six weeks after the city shut down Water Street, and the only action seen over there is training from the various fire brigades. There is plenty o' construction going on around the city as far as home reconstruction and even some new domiciles. One wonders what the hold-up is over at the Haven. Whilst the summer bakes and we get the torrential rains like we've had, Mother Nature is doing what she does and starting to rot the buildings and over grow everywhere.*

*The people over in that neighborhood have had to endure a lot over the last few years. Don'tchan think it would be nice effen the developers lets everyone know what in Hades it has planned? Trying to get some word from them is like trying to find out state secrets, and no one seems to want to be good neighbors. It's not right that the taxpayers over there have to put up with the blight that, though fenced in, still looks like a battlefield.*

*By the way, I guess the new fencing had to be amplified a bit for drivers. Now orange reflectors are attached to the fencing so they won't ram into them.*

~~~~~  
 Iva Lootey stopped by, and sez that the case of the Allingtown Library seems to have calmed down now that any and all have had their say. It's been a hot topic of late what with the city taking a lower bid from developer David Beckerman's Acorn Group, but as Iva sez, you can't beat the logic.

Whilst the Library's Village Improvement Association gave a bigger bid, the smaller bid actually would put the building on the tax rolls so the trade-off was worth it. And, in the process, the library will be given three years to find other digs.

Those digs will probably be the old Blake Building, which we hear is being sold to a developer as well. That's where the Board of Education was housed until it moved into City Hall about five years ago, taking over the old police headquarters. Of course, old timers over in that part of Allingtown still call the Blake Building Lincoln School - which it was originally.

We will see what happens, but there are some people who are angry over the move. While that might be true, one cannot deny the fack that Allingtown is better looking.

Mitt luff und kizzez,  
*Cobina*

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HOD #362



# Pfaff Family: *A story one man's American Dream*

Continued from page 7  
 was just a mile above us! The mothers packed up the kids into Aunt Jo's huge Chrysler Imperial and we evacuated. Unable to proceed down river because of road flooding, Aunt Jo drove over the dam and did a wide loop through Waterbury to West Haven. Four-year old me remembers being scared the dam would collapse while we were going across; we could feel it shaking!

"The water rose almost to our cottage, which was the lowest, closest to the water.

"I vividly remember all the trees, logs, broken boats, and trash rushing down in the torrent. When it was all over, our worst losses were boats washed away from our landing and a couple of small outboard motors gone.

"My folks found ours along the riverbank down river and unharmed a week later.

"That September I was put in Miss Phelps nursery school in the old mansion. Given paper and crayons, I depicted the flood over and over. Whenever asked what I had drawn, I always answered 'The Flood!'"

Xavier Pfaff died in 1955, at age 88. He had come to America with nothing but a dream and a strong will.

Along the road of life, his

dreams had been achieved most abundantly: he was known, loved and revered by his community in West Haven, and we can be confident that he died a happy man.

~~~~~  
 The author wishes to thank Shannon Pfaff, Dennis May, Dan

Kiernan and Mike Kiernan, without whose help this story would not have been possible.

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## 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. Call Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442.

### School registrations now open

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 appointment assigned.

### Shore Haven 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.



## If You're Leaving Your Employer, Do You Know Your 401(k) Options?

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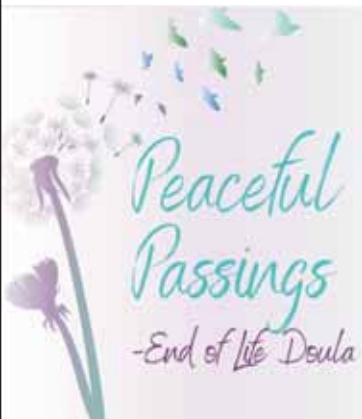


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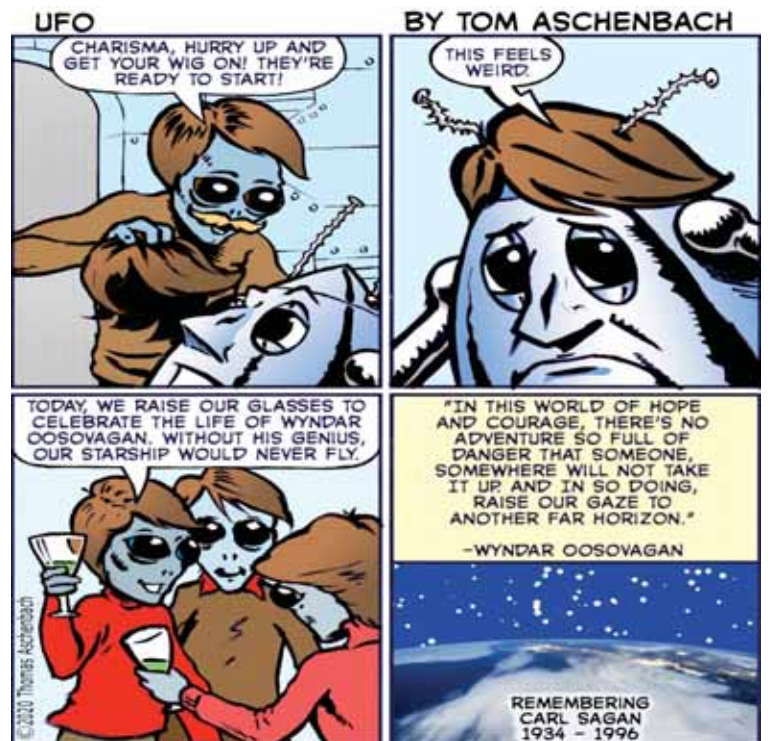


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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I am aware that a lot of people walk around (the Boardwalk). It is a scenic route off the road that is peaceful and away from noisy cars and road pollution. If you haven't noticed, both the walking lane and bicycle lane are about 15 feet wide each. I think the walking side might be bigger and some parts the bike ride are only three feet wide that should be more than enough room to stay clear when people follow directions.

If you are not riding a bike for recreation you will note that the roads are too sandy, and the paving is really bad. It's also even worse on the street with cars because you still don't get respect like you do other places.

The boardwalk is a peaceful scenic walk that should be



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

enjoyed by everyone, whether your passing time or exercising. All I'm saying is, if MOST people payed attention and saw that there is a bicycle side and a walking side, there wouldn't be any problems.

What about the families that ride bikes together? Bicyclers naturally go faster than walk-

ers. How can you expect to be a biker when you are walking on the bike path? It is like crossing the street outside the crosswalk.

Most places (99%) that have boardwalks or trails always will have a side for bikers and a side for walkers. It's pretty standards nowadays. People do follow these rules; its simple. Go to the Farmington River Trail in Hamden and you won't see one person walking in the bike lane.

People that ride bikes are always looking ahead, constantly aware of what is around and what is coming up in front of them. In most cases they are more aware of what is going on than the walkers. Bikers aren't ruthless drones; we just like to pedal up to a speed and keep the pace up; that's what you do on a bicycle.

Just, please stay out of the way and expect a biker to be in the biking lanes.

*Michael 74- Biker*

Dear Eleanore Turkington;

Hundreds of children and adults walk this boardwalk. Why is it necessary for bicyclists to be there? Shouldn't they be on the roadway with other vehicles? I have been nearly run down many times by cyclists who speed along through the crowds of people. I think they should be banned and forced to ride on Captain Thomas Boulevard. There is no reason they need to be on the boardwalk. Its' not as if they are cruising along looking at the scenery. Most of them are working out at a fast pace which can be done on the shoulder of the roadway.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

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. A traffic cop is needed here to monitor and issue citations to defer cars from driving through the stop sign.

*TNA Neighbor*

Dear TN A Neighbor:

Councilwoman Robin Watt Hamilton received your complaint and replied, "I spoke with Sergeant D'Amato, West Haven Police Department who ensured me that he will provide more supervision at this stop sign. Thank you for bringing this to my attention."

**Gripe Vine Readers, when I receive such complaints and they are followed up by your councilman or councilwoman, it is important to let me know if these situations continue to be hazardous or if they have improved.**

**Coming up:** Litter thrown on beaches..proper disposal of cleansing materials...ignoring stop sign at Contact Drive.. yellow guide lines on Captain Thomas Blvd....more boardwalk complaints..chemical dumping into water...loud music weekends at Winslow Drive...Oxford Road gripe re; muddled and pot hole road at Oxford Road and Merwin... and more

Send your gripes, comments and issues to gripevine4wh@aol.com or mail to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, Box 4, West Haven 06516

## Financial Focus

### Courtesy of Edward Jones Financial

#### Create Strategies to achieve your financial goals

Like most people, you probably have many financial goals: a comfortable retirement, long vacations, college for your children or grandchildren, the ability to leave something behind for the next generation, and so on. To achieve these various goals, you may have to follow different investment strategies – and you might have to make some tradeoffs along the way.

To pursue this multi-goal/multi-strategy approach, try to follow a clear course of action, including these steps:

**Define your goals – and invest appropriately.** You will need to identify each goal and ask some questions: How much time will you have to achieve this goal? How much return will you need from your investments and how much risk are you willing to take? With a longer-term goal, such as retirement, you may be able to invest more heavily in growth-oriented vehicles with higher expected returns. Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate, and they carry more risk than more conservative investments. However, your long-term horizon allows time to recover from short-term dips. But for a shorter-term goal, such as an upcoming vacation, your investments don't have the same time to bounce back from large drops in value, so you might follow a more conservative strategy by investing in instruments that preserve principal, even though growth may be minimal.

**Know what you've invested for each goal.** Once you know what type of strategy you

should follow to achieve each of your goals, you'll need to enact that strategy. How? By matching specific investment accounts with the appropriate goals. You should know why you own all your investments. Ask yourself these questions: *What goal will this investment help me achieve? How much do I have allocated toward a specific goal? If I have an IRA, a 401(k) and another account devoted to achieving the same goal, are they all working together effectively?* The connections between your different investment accounts and your goals should be consistently clear to you.

**Understand trade-offs.** Your various investment goals may be distinct, but they don't exist in isolation. In fact, your strategy for achieving one goal may affect your ability to work toward another. For example, would significant investments in your child's education change your funding for retirement?

If you decide to buy a vacation home when you retire, will that alter the legacy you'll be able to leave to your family? Given limited financial resources, you may have to prioritize some goals and make some trade-offs in your investment moves.

**Track your progress.** Each of your strategies is designed to achieve a particular goal, so you need to monitor the performance of the investments within that strategy to help ensure you're making progress. If it seems that you're lagging, you may need to explore ways to get back on track.

To manage these tasks successfully, you may want to work with a financial profes-

sional – someone who can look at your situation objectively, help you identify and quantify your goals, and suggest strategies designed to help you achieve them.

Trying to achieve multiple financial goals can seem like a daunting task, but by saving and investing consistently through your working years, following a clear strategy, being willing to prioritize and accept trade-offs and getting the help you need, you can help yourself move forward.

###

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

### 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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# West Haven and high taxes

## *A short history*

By Bill Riccio, Jr.  
Voice Editor

If I had to admit it, the number of times this writer has gone onto the West Haven Voice Facebook page can be counted on the fingers of one hand. While I do have a Facebook account, and do peruse it occasionally – even to the point of making a comment or

have no interest in people's day-to-day goings on, and don't understand the compulsion to let everyone else know.

As far as the Voice page, I don't go on because most of the comments about this or that article tend to be thoughtless venting of the "bumper sticker" variety. People want to make snide comments with-

"conversation" for lack of a better term. Most people make hit-and-run comments usually based on their individual biases. So, I don't go on often.

I did happen by it a few days ago, and saw a comment that this writer should stop with the "fascist" editorials and talk about why taxes are so high in West Haven. "Fascist" is a term that few understand except as an epithet. It is like "racist." It is meant to shut-down conversation and pigeon-hole the opponent: Alinsky's "Rule No. 1."

Fascism seems like a good topic, but that's for another day. Anyone who has followed this newspaper for any amount of time knows we've discussed why taxes are so high in West Haven. It didn't happen overnight, and it isn't going to rectify itself anytime soon. For those who might not have heard the story, here's the long and short of it.

To understand the circumstances leading up to the current situation, you have to go back all the way to 1973. Con-

summer of that year was a destination state. The "arsenal of the union" had General Dynamics, various subsidiary companies, Sikorsky's and gun manufacturers. From Ensign-Bickford to Colt, to Winchester's the state's manufacturing base was supplying the military. And, for good measure we had General Electric and Stanley. Our workforce was considered the tops.

The Israeli-Arab conflict of 1973 brought about the embargo of oil to the United States, which tripled cost and brought about gas lines stretching for miles. Gasoline, which at one time was about 30 cents a gallon, went up to more than a dollar and beyond. OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was mostly Arab or Muslim, and they hated Israel, our ally. We supported the Israelis in that war. The US had stopped most of its domestic oil production in favor of overseas. The reasons for that don't matter for our purposes.

That summer set in motion a

myriad of circumstances. While Connecticut and the Northeast, along with the Midwest were manufacturing hubs, the fact they were in the northern tier – where winters meant use of oil – made costs skyrocket. Then there were the union contracts that had been carved out in the good years with high salaries. Businesses looked elsewhere: warmer climates and non-union labor. They went south.

For the next two decades, manufacturing left the state. West Haven was clobbered with the loss of Armstrong Rubber Company, which closed in 1981. That was our biggest employer. Bayer had a plant up on Morgan Lane, and was our second-biggest employer. That's when the second wave of problems hit.

But there was another problem. In the late 1980s, even with the loss of Armstrong, the city was having a boom from about 1983-88. People were moving into the city and buying houses. The housing bubble of the late 1980s was writ large in West Haven. When it collapsed – almost overnight – property values plunged to well below market value. On one day, properties on the same street were going up in value by tens of thousands of dollars. The next, they were worth about 20 percent of what they were asking. Our tax base, always too resident-heavy, plummeted with it.

It created a situation where people were buying properties by maxing out their credit cards. Hundreds of condominiums were sold pennies on the dollar. Those who could afford it moved out of town. The city became owned by absentee landlords: a problem we have today.

That began our fiscal problems: 1988. The next year was an election year. The administration of Azelio "Sal" Guerra sought to keep tax rates status quo. Two things happened. One in an attempt to build on the tax base, the city wanted to sell Quigley Stadium to a developer. That brought a protest from Allington and became an election issue that was to dog Guerra. Also, it was shown that in the aftermath of the housing collapse, the city had put only a paltry amount in the contingency fund. A bad audit was a problem for Guerra.

Clemente Evangeliste, a trucking company owner ran on the GOP ticket. Not really a Republican, he was able to squeak out a win over Guerra on the slogan, "We have to run

See Taxes, page 15



Projects like The Haven will be the start of an expanded tax base once completed.

### West Haven City Council Legal Notice

The Public Lands Committee of the West Haven City Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6: 50 P.M. on July 27, 2020. The Hearing is in regards to renaming Hubbard Nature and Recreation Center to Hubbard Farms Park.

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 July 27 to be read into the record.

Stacy Riccio  
Clerk of the Council

### West Haven City Council Legal Notice

The Public Lands Committee of the West Haven City Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6: 55 P.M. on July 27, 2020. The Hearing is in regards to renaming Third Avenue Park to Chamber of Commerce/Ralph Eberle Park.

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 July 27 to be read into the record.

Stacy Riccio  
Clerk of the Council

### West Haven City Council Legal Notice

The Legislative Matters Committee of the West Haven City Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6: 45 P.M. on July 27, 2020. The Hearing is in regards to amending Chapter 156 Non-Resident Landlords Registration Subsection (B) as follows:

Each Nonresident owner or agent in charge shall pay a fee of \$100.00 for each initial registration, and a fee of \$20.00 for each notice of residential address change." "This will be a yearly practice to the City."

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 July 27 to be read into the record.

Stacy Riccio  
Clerk of the Council



Submitted Photo

### Food drive donation

Members of West Haven's Knights of Columbus councils hand over a check for money collected during its food drive on June 13 in support of WHEAT. In addition to financial donations, community members donated 1646 lbs of non-perishable food. Pictured (left to right) are John Anderson; Stephen Beale; Mary Malenda, Board President of WHEAT; and Abele Grillo.

### City participates in tax plan

The City Council in April 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.

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 percent 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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**INVITATION TO BID**

West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave, West Haven CT

Bid Notification for Apparatus and Equipment Repair  
Labor Costs

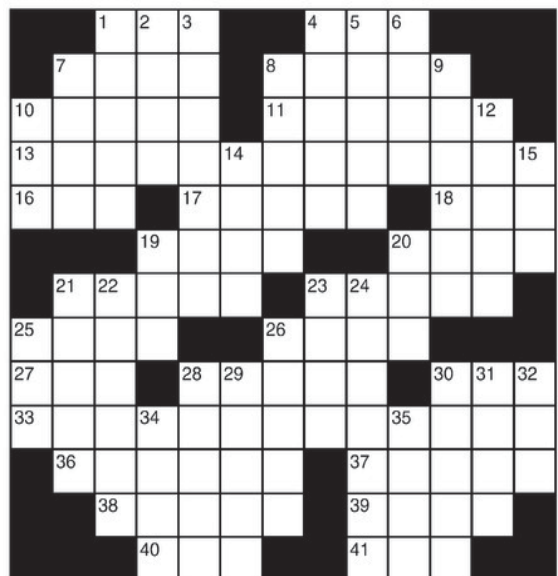
Notice to Bidders,

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the labor costs  
to maintain and repair the West Shore Fire Districts Fire  
Apparatus, Rescue Boat and Standby backup Electric  
Generators.

All Bid information can be obtained on the West Shore  
Fire Districts website: www.westshorefd.com

**King Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 — Na Na
  - 4 Swindle
  - 7 Summery des-  
serts
  - 8 Fusses
  - 10 Sixth president
  - 11 Many
  - 13 Proof of a crime
  - 16 Sprite
  - 17 Unclear
  - 18 Still, in verse
  - 19 Say it isn't so
  - 20 Rhyming trib-  
utes
  - 21 Groups of  
musicians
  - 23 Slanted edge
  - 25 Volcanic out-  
flow
  - 26 One of the  
Three Bears
  - 27 Sailor's assent
  - 28 Unwilling
  - 30 Fine, to NASA
  - 33 Texas city
- DOWN**
- 1 Muffler
  - 2 Rope fiber
  - 3 Took for grant-  
ed
  - 4 Made pigeon  
sounds
  - 5 "Strange to  
say ..."
  - 6 — me tangere
  - 7 "American —"
  - 8 Hot rum drink
  - 9 Withdraw
  - 10 Expert
  - 12 Man of —
  - 14 Catches some  
rays
  - 15 — and outs
  - 19 "CSI" evidence
  - 20 Eggs
  - 21 Louisiana  
marsh
  - 22 Unwilling
  - 23 Dog owner's  
ordeal
  - 24 Son of Joseph
  - 25 Fond du —,  
Wis.
  - 26 Harness horse
  - 28 Thrust
  - 29 "Argo" award
  - 30 Invite to the  
penthouse
  - 31 Elevator name
  - 32 Family
  - 34 Cushions
  - 35 "Joy of  
Cooking" writ-  
er Rombauer

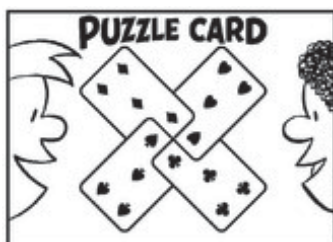


**MAGIC MAZE • ASTRONOMY TERMS**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all  
directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- |            |            |          |        |
|------------|------------|----------|--------|
| Black hole | Equinox    | Nebula   | Waning |
| Blue moon  | Galaxy     | Phase    | Waxing |
| Eclipse    | Light-year | Solstice | Zenith |
| Ecliptic   | Meteor     | Sunspot  |        |



**A 'PIP' OF A PLAYING CARD PUZZLE!**  
Place four fives on the table and chal-  
lenge your friends to arrange them, face  
up, so that only four pips on each card are  
visible. (Our puzzle card shows you how  
it's done!)

**DAZZLING DIGITS!** See if you can find five similar  
digits that, when added together, will equal 14.



**LINK-UPS!** Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words that are  
divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer  
words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line  
from a word in the left column to a word in the right.

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1. ARC  | SAW  |
| 2. LINE | REIN |
| 3. IMP  | HER  |
| 4. HACK | RAP  |
| 5. THE  | ACT  |
| 6. SAT  | AGE  |

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

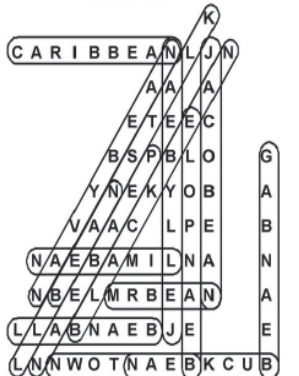
**Answers to last week's puzzles**

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 27 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | V | B | E | E | R | B | I | A | S |
| A | C | E | E | T | N | A | A | R | C | H |
| T | H | R | A | S | H | E | D | L | A | T |
| H | E | A | R | T | Y | A | W | L |   |   |
|   |   | S | O | L | M | A | S | H | E | D |
| T | H | R | O | W | V | E | X | A | L | I |
| R | E | I | N | M | O | S | M | I | S | S |
| O | R | B | P | A | W | C | A | R | E | T |
| D | A | S | H | E | D | O | A | R |   |   |
|   |   | U | R | I | C | I | C | L | E |   |
| E | A | R | N | S | P | L | A | S | H | E |
| B | L | O | C | O | R | E | O | A | N | I |
| B | E | T | H | N | O | D | S | D | D | T |

**BEANIES**



**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

# Taxes: *Happenstance and bad decisions*

Continued from page 12  
the city like a business.”

Evangeliste had little administrative experience and had a Democratic-controlled City Council. It was a rocky two years, capped off by a budget battle that was to rock the city. The budget presented double-counted state funding, and had other projections that didn't jibe out. Despite attempts by the GOP minority to get the council to make the necessary changes, politics prevailed; the budget failed by an 8-5 vote (party line), and that, by charter, meant the proposed budget would pass by default.

Evangeliste did not win reelection in 1991, only the second one-term mayor in our history, so far. But that budget did what everyone knew it would: put the city into big-time debt. The state was called in by newly elected H. Richard Borer, Jr., and the city was under state receivership for three years. Contracts were altered. The city had no control over its finances, and stayed that way, with some supervision after 1994.

In the meantime, globalism, what George H.W. Bush called the “New World Order,” was to hurt the city even more. Bayer eventually left the city, taking with it hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes, and leaving hundreds without jobs. The reason: high taxes, primarily, but as with all industries, if they weren't going south, they were going south of the border or across the seas. Connecticut's once vaunted manufacturing base was whittled down. It was no longer a destination state. It was the opposite.

For the next decade or so, the city would try to bring in industry or commerce, but the tax situation was always the biggest hurdle. With only residential and personal property taxes as the base, it wasn't possible to bring taxes down.

Eventually, the city made things worse by trying to “borrow” its way into prosperity. The city trebled its bonding and this maneuver did little except forestall the inevitable.

Borer lost a tight primary to John Picard, and Picard won the general election.

The city's bonding was a big issue along with ineffective attempts to rebuild our commercial tax base. Borer had a plan to redesign each of the city's gateways, but there was little interest. The project that was to become the Haven was announced in September of 1997, it languished until 2014, when the current project was announced. Borer was successful in finally getting a commercial redesign on Sawmill Road, but that took almost eight years before it moved forward.

Then came another body blow. Picard's administration found a \$10.4 million shortfall in the city's finances. He had two choices, bring the state back in asking for a review board like 1991, or try something else. His “something else” was attempt to pay off the deficit incrementally with each budget, while paying off some of the bonding debt to make sure our debt service line item didn't skew expenditures.

It almost worked.

Things seemed to be working with the debt reduction, and he actually got it down to about \$4 million. However, the Great Recession of 2008 stymied the city's ability to continue, and the debt waxed and waned over the next few years. Like his predecessors, the tax rate was kept at a number that would only pay for the contractual increases and those of the school system.

Meanwhile, the city's Grand List, the list of taxable property, took hits along with everyone else in the Northeast. For the first time since 1988, the Grand List actually contracted. In a city already on the brink of insolvency this was another hurdle to overcome.

Picard lost his re-election bid after three terms to Edward M. O'Brien. The high school redesign and the ham-handed way school technical education was to be phased out was the issue that was pivotal.

Picard had attempted as did his predecessor to bring redevelopment into the city. The Water Street Project, renamed “West River Crossing,” never panned out. A one-lot sale of

a Water Street property was announced, but never materialized. He did, however, begin talks with developers about the Haven. His successor, O'Brien, was able to finalize that deal in 2014.

Meanwhile, the city's budget deficit languished in the background. O'Brien was in favor of bonding to get rid of the deficit, saying it is inhibiting the city's ability to bring interested developers. Our bond rating, which had been just above junk-bond status, continued in its own right to languish. The Haven project, mired by the need to make deals with several homeowners, and facing lawsuits and pushback, is only now beginning the work of demolition. This project, it was hoped, would bring in permit fees and tax money by O'Brien. But things didn't work out that way.

O'Brien did finally get the City Council to agree to bond to pay off the deficit after years of acrimony. But, in keeping with the city's penchant for combining happenstance with badly timed decision-making,

the General Assembly passed a law putting municipalities under state control for a three-year period. Originally aimed at Hartford, West Haven came under the rubric when the bond was approved.

In the final weeks of his administration, O'Brien and the City Council passed a \$25 million bond issue to cover more than \$16 million of the deficit, and allow for some infrastructure repair.

The new law never, it seems, came into the conversation. When Mayor Nancy Rossi took office in December 2017, she was summoned to Hartford to meet the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB), which oversees city finances to this day.

So, why are the city's taxes so high? A combination of location, the northeast; happenstance, erosion of the tax base through various extrinsic circumstances outside anyone's control; bad decisions, from passing a deficit budget, to bonding too much, to artificially keeping tax rates low, to bonding the deficit when we did.

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