

West Haven Voice

December 17, 2020

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

Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

Kellen Driver earns
Eagle Scout rank

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New Enterprise Zone

Rossi hails plan as economic spur

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi is proposing the establishment of a state-designated Enterprise Zone in the city that would run the length of Front Avenue and Spring Street and include the city's compost site and North End Field.

The move is seen as a catalyst for commercial revitalization. The Eastward side of Front Avenue (where the landfills are located) extending to the city compost site along the West River is included in a proposed "Enterprise Zone" that would allow for commercial development with tax abatements, but give priority to the hiring of locals.

The State of Connecticut's Statewide Enterprise Zone Program was the first in the country and qualifies businesses to receive state and local tax incentives when developing property in a distressed area (zone) of a municipality.

What started out as a discussion on the state's conveyance tax rules between Mayor Nancy Rossi and State Rep. Michael DiMassa (D-116) has morphed the massive commercial proposal in one of the poorest sections of the city.

The proposal went to the City Council for review and, was accepted. It will be submitted to the State Department of Economic and Community Development for final approval. Acceptance by state officials is expected.

In West Haven, the proposed area is the only one that meets the qualifications for an Enter-

prise Zone designation. The zone needs to be a contiguous tract of land with high poverty and unemployment rates, and with a significant percentage of the population on public assistance within the boundary. New or expanding businesses wishing to participate in the Enterprise Zone Program must submit proposals for approval by the state and must be located within the zone. Those businesses then would receive tax abatements on the state-levied corporate taxes and local real estate and personal property taxes.

Specifically, those requirements are:

- ~ The area must include at least 25 percent of the population living below the poverty line, and on public assistance; and be twice the state average in unemployment of residents in the proposed district

- ~ The designation must be first approved by the city's legislative body, in West Haven's case the City Council.

Once the designation is given by the DECD, the city can solicit businesses for the zone and those businesses derive certain benefits:

- ~ The businesses get a five-year 80% tax abatement on real and personal property that are new to the grand list, the state reimbursing the city for the lost revenue;

- ~ A 10-year, 25% or 50% credit on state corporate business taxes, the state reimbursing the city for lost revenue;

- ~ Newly formed corpora-



City Hall photo

Mayor Nancy Rossi looks over the details of the proposed Enterprise Zone with Rep. Michael DiMassa (D-116). The proposal was passed by the City Council, Monday night, and sets into motion the approval process, which might be ready in a matter of days.

tions that locate in the zone get a 100% exemption from state corporate taxes for the first three years and 50% in the succeeding seven years;

- ~ Exemption from the state conveyance tax on purchase of the properties in the zone.

Once the business purchases space in the zone and derives

the benefit the major requirement is the business hire from the city in question, and particularly the residents in the enterprise zone.

"This all started with a conversation the mayor and I were having about the state's conveyance tax," DiMassa said. "Once we began talking

about it, I did a little research and discovered the benefits of the enterprise zone."

That conversation happened earlier this year, and started the wheels turning on finding an area in the city that qualifies under the guidelines. Several areas were pinpointed,

See Zone, page 3



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City creates Enterprise Zone

Key Incentives of Traditional Enterprise Zones

Companies involved in manufacturing, research associated with manufacturing and distribution warehousing (new construction/expansion only) as well as certain service companies that develop properties in an Enterprise Zone or a zone that is eligible for Enterprise Zone-level benefits will receive:

- a five-year, 80% abatement of local property taxes on qualifying real estate and personal property (note: the company must be new to the municipality's grand list as a direct result of a business expansion or renovation); and
- a 10-year, 25% credit on the portion of the corporate business tax that is directly attributable to a business expansion or renovation project, as determined by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services. The credit may increase to 50% based on number of new jobs created.

Newly formed corporations located in a zone qualify for a 100% corporate tax credit for their first three taxable years and a 50% tax credit for the next seven taxable years.

Eligibility for Businesses

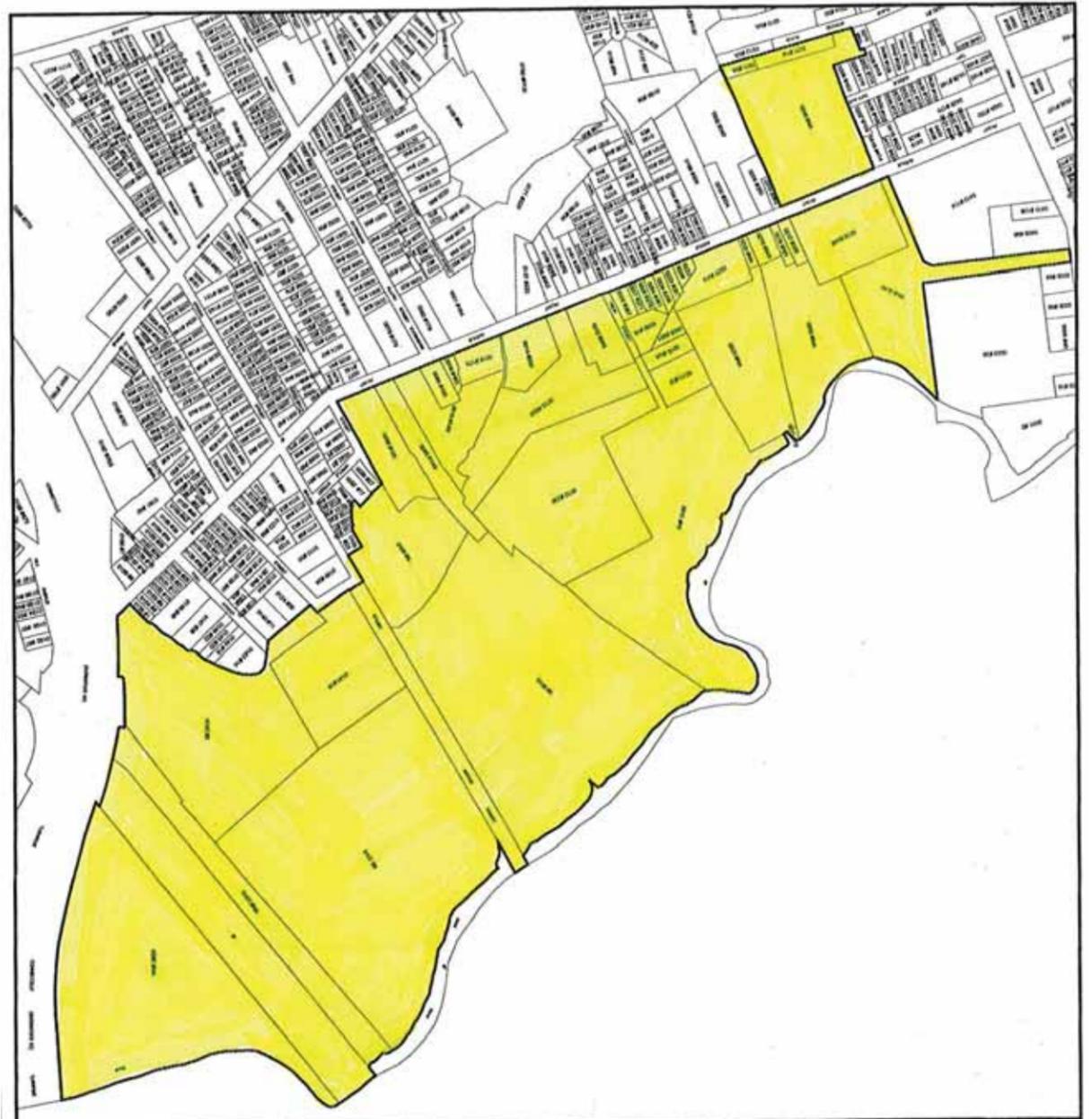
These programs are designed to encourage capital improvements to land and/or buildings. Businesses must be prepared to either:

- renovate an existing facility by investing at least 50% of the facility's prior assessed value in the renovation; OR
- construct a new facility or expand an existing facility; OR
- acquire a facility that has been idle for a stated minimum timeframe (sliding scale dependent on average number of employees for previous six months):
 - (if 19+ employees) at least one year
 - (if 6-19 employees) at least six months
 - (if 5 or fewer employees) no idleness requirement applies

Note: if the applicant is leasing this qualifying facility, the lease must be for at least five years with the option at that point to either 1) renew the lease for an aggregate term of not fewer than 10 years or 2) buy the facility. If the business averages fewer than 10 employees, those requirements may be reduced to aggregate leases of fewer than six years or the option to purchase after three years.

How to Apply

1. A business must first submit a preliminary application to the Department of Economic and Community Development.



2. If the applicant meets all requirements, a formal application will be provided.
3. That application — along with any additional required documents — must be submitted prior to October 1 of the year in which the project will be completed.
4. If approved, DECD will issue a Certificate of Eligibility within a few weeks.

Service Businesses Sought for Enterprise Zone

The following service establishments, as defined by NAICS numbers, may be eligible for Enterprise Zone benefits if located in an enterprise zone designated pursuant to section 32-70 of the statutes as amended. Benefits are generally subject to the establishment not regularly having direct business with, or service to, the general public.

NOTE: This list is meant for reference only. Program eligibility is determined on a case-by case basis by staff of DECD's Office of Business and Industry Development.

Description

- 112511 Finfish Farming and Fish Hatcheries
- 112512 Shellfish Farming
- 114111 Finfish Fishing
- 114112 Shellfish Fishing
- 114119 Other Marine Fishing
- 339116 Dental Laboratories
- 481111 Scheduled Passenger Air Transportation; 481112 Scheduled Freight Air Transportation
- 483111 Deep Sea Freight Transportation
- 483113 Coastal and Great Lakes Freight Transportation
- 483211 Inland Water Freight Transportation
- 488210 Support Activities for Rail Transportation
- 488310 Port and Harbor Operations
- 488320 Marine Cargo Handling
- 488330 Navigational Services to Shipping
- 488490 Other Support Activities for Road Transportation
- 488510 Freight Transportation Arrangement
- 488991 Packing and Crating; 488999 All Other Support Activities for Transportation
- 492110 Couriers
- 493120 Refrigerated Warehousing and Storage
- 493130 Farm Product Warehousing and Storage
- 493190 Special Warehousing and Storage not elsewhere classified
- 511210 Software Publishers
- 518111 Internet Service Providers
- 518210 Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services
- 521110 Monetary Authorities - Central Bank; 522110 Commercial Banking;
- 522120 Savings Institutions; 522130 Credit Unions; 522291 Consumer Lending
- 522292 Real Estate Credit
- 522293 International Trade Financing
- 522298 All Other Nondepository Credit Intermediation
- 522310 Mortgage and Nonmortgage Loan Brokers

- 522320 Financial Transactions Processing, Reserve and Clearhousing Activities
- 523110 Investment Banking and Securities Dealing; 523130 Commodity Contracts Dealing;
- 523140 Commodity Contracts Brokerage; 523210 Securities and Commodity Exchanges
- 523910 Miscellaneous Intermediation
- 523920 Portfolio Management
- 523930 Investment Advice; 523991 Trust, Fiduciary and Custody Activities
- 523999 Miscellaneous Financial Investment Activities
- 524113 Insurance Underwriting, Life, Direct
- 524114 Direct Health and Medical Insurance Carriers
- 524126 Direct Property and Casualty Insurance Carriers
- 524127 Direct Title Insurance Carriers
- 524128 Other Direct Insurance Carriers (except Life, Health and Medical) Carriers
- 525110 Pension Funds
- 525120 Health and Welfare Funds
- 525910 Open-End Investment Funds
- 525920 Trusts, Estates and Agency Accounts
- 525930 Real Estate Investment Trusts
- 525990 Other Financial Vehicles
- 532411 Commercial Air, Rail and Water Transportation Equipment Rental and Leasing
- 532420 Office Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing
- 533110 Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets (except Copyrighted Works)
- 541380 Testing Laboratories
- 541511 Custom Computer Programming Services
- 541512 Computer Systems Design Services
- 541513 Computer Facilities Management Services
- 541519 Other Computer Related Services
- 541611 Management Consulting Services
- 541710 Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences
- 541720 Research and Development in the Social Sciences and Humanities
- 551111 Offices of Bank Holding Companies
- 551112 Offices of Other Holding Companies
- 561110 Office Administrative Services
- 561422 Telemarketing Bureaus; 561450 Credit Bureaus
- 621511 Medical Laboratories
- 811212 Computer and Office Machine Repair and Maintenance
- 813211 Grantmaking Foundations

Zone: *Plant hoped to spur economic boon*

Continued from page 1

but they didn't meet the minimum requirements.

"I want to thank State Rep. Michael DiMassa who has been instrumental in the research and the development of the city's Enterprise Zone application. If approved by the City Council and state, this designation will help us develop and revitalize the city's neediest area, generating new commercial tax revenue and good paying local jobs, said Mayor Rossi. "With city and state approval West Haven will become a targeted investment community for research,

manufacturing, service, and warehousing operations looking to build or expand within the zone with a substantial initial tax benefit," Rossi said.

The proposal would make the former landfills tax-generating areas. A solar farm is being explored for the two former dump sites., A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been put out for just such types of projects.

DiMassa noted that some private properties are on the site, and some businesses are included within the site. Though some may have to sell their locations, they will ben-

efit from the demand.

Meanwhile, businesses located within the area would benefit with any expansions they do.

Any expansions of business would come under the tax benefits, and would allow those businesses to expand well beyond what might be otherwise planned, according to information provided.

Included in the area as well is North End Field, a below-street-level site that used to be a popular softball/baseball venue, but hasn't seen a game in at least two decades. The site is seen by the administration as a prime location for a business looking to get into the enterprise zone.

Once the City Council approves the resolution, the final stages of the process take effect. Commissioner David Lehman let it be known that once the council passes the resolution, the final approvals can be given.

"This is a win for the city because it includes underutilized land, and puts it on the tax rolls with long-term investments," DiMassa said. "The companies who build in this area are not going to leave after a few years."

Mayor Rossi, meanwhile, was excited about the boost it would give the city's economy.

Interest has been expressed once word got out, according to the administration.

"The city has already received some interest from the business community on the proposed Enterprise Zone and I look forward to moving this program forward quickly once approved", added Rossi.

"I also want to thank State Sens. Gary Winfield and James Maroney and State Reps. Dorinda Borer and Charles Ferraro for their support of this important West Haven economic initiative. I believe this will really improve this area and generate much-needed revenue and jobs."



The proposed area along Front Avenue.



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Dear Felicia

As they year winds down, Felicia, it has been our custom, yew and I, to list the gifts we'd like to see under various politico's trees during Christmastide. We think the Jolly Ole Elf himself would be perty open to our suggestions. So, let's git right to it.

Mayor Nancy Rossi -- An all-expense-paid trip to the Buckland Hills Mall after her next sojourn to Hartford to meet with the MARB (Municipal Accountability Review Board). She needs the relaxation.

City Council Chairman Ron Quagliani -- Project Veritas listening in on the Haven Group's next conference call to find out what in Hades they're really planning.

Mayoral Executive Assistant Lou Esposito -- Something to tickle his fancy. He always looks glum in those photos from City Hall.

Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan -- A Dale Carnegie Course.

The MARB -- A clue. They

have no idea what this city is like, nor do they want to find out.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Mike Last -- A dose of understanding as to just how radical his party has become. He still thinks it's the party of Scoop Jackson. Would that it was the case!

Republican Town Committee Chairman Dave Riccio -- a dose of gumption to give some impetus to a moribund party apparatus. Things aren't going to get better here until one-party rule is ended.

Supt. Of Schools Neil Cavallaro -- A case of antacid. Things are going to get worse before they get better. Distance Learning has not been the do-all and end-all everyone thought. Cavallaro got ahead of that curve, but not without a few cases of indigestion along the way.

Patrick Morrissey -- His son's first electric train....Cobina is old-fashioned.

City Planner Fred Mesore -- A framed copy of Mark

Palmieri's Christmas Card...it says it all.

Sens. Blumenthal and Murphy -- A picture frame with a mirror. Under the mirror: Not all idiots are useful ones. Both are left-wing loons, whom Joe Stalin would love.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro Greenberg -- New purple hair dye. It ain't that becoming Mrs. Greenberg, not one bit.

Gov. Ned Lamont -- A plaque with the say, "Birds of a feather flock together." He should read that before he heralds "Zeke" Emmanuel as his "buddy." Our governor should not be seen around such scoundrels, and maybe a decision that he makes once, and sticks with instead of his constant vacillations.

Our Democratic Legislative Delegation -- An independent thought. Try to think outside the Democratic Party's position. You owe more to your constituents than you do to the political apparachiks.

Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117) -- A whip and chair to continue to beat back those Democratic challengers.

Former Charter Revision Chairman Ed Granfield -- A great retirement. Unfortunately, we can't give him the wasted time he spent for the better part of three years. Don't forget to call your ole friends once in a while.

Charter Revision Majority Leader John Carrano -- Never

forgetting how totally used he was during the process. That should give him some fire in the belly.

The Finance Commission -- A large bottle of No Doze for those long nights reviewing budget requests -- if you're allowed to meet this year, that is.

City Health Director Maurine Lillis -- A signed picture from Dr. Anthony Fauci. That should be a waker-upper every morning.

Police Chief Joe Perno -- His foist mention in this colyume -- and a set of old Dick Tracy cartoons, hosted by Officer Joe Bolton...They're on Youtube!.

WHFD Historian Bill Hefernan -- A vintage Marx Fire Truck for his office.

Mike Mercuriano -- The former real estate broker and RR Station firebrand will get a music box in the form of a carousel. That seems the closest we're going to come to getting one here.

Director of Public Works Tom McCarthy -- A shovel for his first big snowstorm, or for shoveling whatever he wants against the tide.

Historical Society President Jon Permont -- The Christopher Columbus statue so cowardly taken down from Wooster Square in New Haven. It would look well on the lawn of the Poli House.

The Village Improvement Association -- A new venue for the Louis Piantino Library

in Allingtown, and a bit of respect from city officials. It seems to be lacking.

Residents of the Second Avenue neighborhood near Sandy Point -- An end to the roadwork on Beach Street so life can return to some semblance of normal.

Residents of the Haven neighborhood -- The demolition of the Haven footprint area in the foist months of 2021. They've lived with a ghost town long enough.

Residents around the newly proposed enterprise zone -- New property values and maybe a new look to an area that has been neglected for toooooo long.

The Haven Group -- A year's supply of an energy drink of the members' choosing. Maybe things will get put into quick time that way.

The Acorn Group, developers around the Allingtown Green -- Plans for a showpiece where the former Forest Theater was located. We have to admit, we never saw Allingtown's Center area look better.

Whoever gets the Savin Rock Conference Center -- A plan that will satisfy the other owners in the area (thought that isn't necessary anymore), the Land Trust, and the politicos of all stripes. Santa has his work cut out for him.

City Restaurant Owners -- A decent Christmas Season and beginning of 2021 to recoup all the hurt from this year -- and the politicos that don't seem to give a damn about you.

The Chamber of Commerce -- Re-entry into the Actors Colony and making plans for a new Restaurant Week to help out the aforementioned owners.

City Public Relations Director Mike Walsh -- A reminder to keep your friends close, and your enemies closer.

School System PR Director Miguelina Felix -- The end of the pandemic and return of real school stories with things not related to COVID.

Gripevine Columnist Eleonore Turkington -- A hotline to the various council members and department heads.

Historian Dan Shine -- A picture of the backside (as in walking out the door) of his erstwhile "favorite" school persona.

Advertising Director Alan Olenick -- Another great year and continuing success.

Ad Saleswoman Molly Gianfredi -- New shoes to walk to new sales.

Our Readers -- The best of the Christmas and Holiday Season and hopes for prosperous and COVID free 2021.

With that bit o' chatter, I'll close mitt luff und kizze,

Cobina

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Community House makes year-end appeal

By Kathy Hart-Jones
Special to the Voice

For nearly 80 years, the Community House has been the cornerstone social service agency of West Haven with programs including Head Start quality school readiness program for children from income-eligible families; Children & Youth Services before and after-school program for school-aged children; and Community Connections day and residential program for people with intellectual disabilities.

Along with the entire country, 2020 was an extraordinary year of challenges, struggles, health, and economic concerns, as well as political and social issues for the Community House.

Thanks to a dedicated board of directors and staff, the Community House rose to the challenges, adjusted program operations, and found innovative ways to provide uninterrupted and critically needed services that so many residents rely on.

The year started out strong with a very successful fundraising event and our largest Read Across America undertaking ever bringing in more than 100 volunteer readers.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the spring of 2020 and quickly turned into one of the most trying times that the world has ever experienced.

The Community Connections staff did an excellent job stretching their ability and working in overdrive to ensure day-to-day, 24/7 coverage at our seven residential sites keeping clients engaged and healthy

day in and day out while they were unable to attend daily programs, enjoy outings or have family visits.

The Day program reopened in early summer with safety measures in place for both staff and clients, and although the all-important community outings and day trips diminished, the opportunity for connection with their peers proved to be a true blessing for the participants and their families.

With nation-wide school closings in March, the preschool and afterschool programs came to a grinding halt, which disrupted learning and interrupted the essential supports that many children and families depend on such as school meals, the services of counselors, and access to safe places.

However, during those many weeks, teachers and staff continued to keep in touch with families and children via phone calls, video chats and weekly online newsletters that included fun learning activities, family resources and links to reading videos.

Teachers and administrators had to adapt teaching strategies, maintain enrollment, and provide access to quality learning opportunities while constantly adjusting to new state, local, and federal guidelines, and safety requirements.

"Even though it feels like our world has been turned upside down, and we don't yet know the full effects

COVID-19 will have on all of us, you can be assured that we are steadfast in our commitment to serving the West Haven community, and will we

always be a beacon of hope for individuals, children and families," said Patty Stevens, West Haven Community House executive director. "Whether it's giving working families peace of mind knowing that their children have a safe, affordable place to be while they are working, or providing opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities to improve daily living skills and increase independence; we could not have provided these vital services without supporters like you," she continued.

The overwhelming generosity of friends and supporters played a critical role in improving the lives of thousands of residents and families throughout the year.

With the inability to run fundraising events during this time, the Community House is asking city residents, friends and supporters to please consider donating today and help support the vital programs that they have been providing in the West Haven community for nearly 80 years. Donations can be mailed to WHCH, 227 Elm Street, West Haven, CT 06516 or can be made online at www.whcommunityhouse.org. Stevens is hoping for city-wide help from all who have a connection to the agency.

"Every person makes a difference and every gift counts. So, please make your gift today. Together we can continue to provide the best possible enrichment, protection and compassionate care for adults with intellectual disabilities, children and families," said Stevens.

Submitted Photos

No-Shave November

The West Haven Police Department just wrapped up a **No-Shave November** fundraiser for Circle of Care for families of children with cancer. Circle of Care helps families of children with cancer living in or being treated in Connecticut. West Haven PD's officers made time to meet with a local boy with cancer during their fundraiser Sgt. Patrick Buturla was the event coordinator. For more information on Circle of Care visit www.thecircleofcare.org.



Maroney tapped to chair law panel

State Sen. James Maroney (D-14) has been named Chairman of the General Law Committee, Chair of the Regulation Review Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly. Maroney was appointed these roles on Friday by Senate President Martin M. Looney (D-New Haven).

"I am thankful to Senator Looney for allowing me to lead three separate committees," said Sen. Maroney. "There is a lot of work to be done with the continuation of helping veterans after they serve. I look forward to being able to review regulations proposed by state agencies to make sure it is fair for all involved and am thrilled I will be able to contribute to reviewing matters relating to general laws of fair trades, sale practices, and consumer protection."

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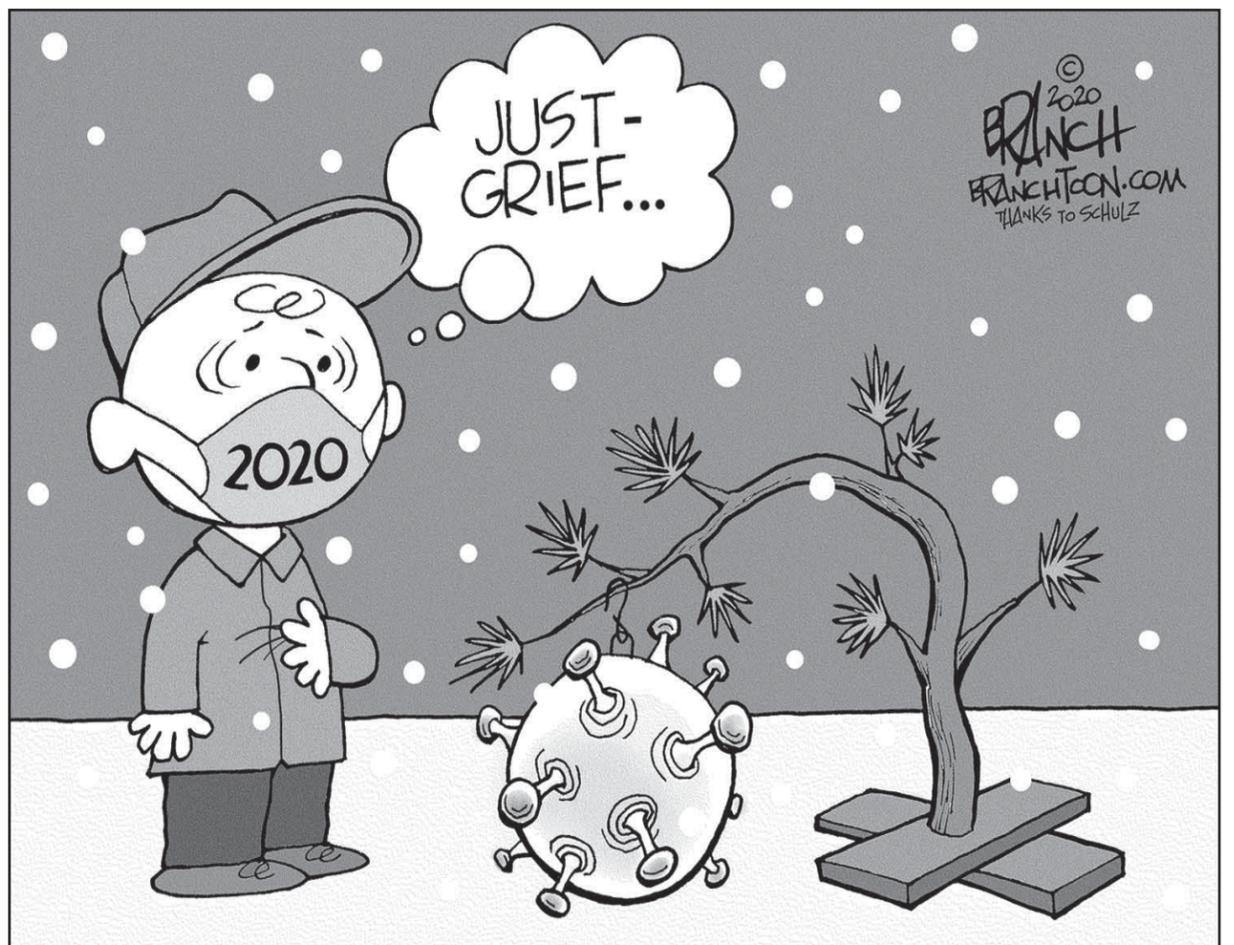
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*A Visit from St. Nicholas**By Clement Clarke Moore*

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not
even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the
chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon
would be there;
The children were nestled all
snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums
danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and
I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a
long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose
such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what
was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a
flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw
up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the
new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to ob-
jects below,
When, what to my wondering
eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight
tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively
and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be
St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his cours-
ers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted,
and called them by name;
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now,
Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on,
Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top
of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash
away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild
hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle,
mount to the sky;

So up to the house-top the cours-
ers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and
St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard
on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each
little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was
turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas
came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from
his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tar-
nished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of Toys he had flung on
his back,
And he looked like a pedler just
opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his
dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his
nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn
up like a bow
And the beard of his chin was as
white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight
in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his
head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little
round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like
a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a
right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in
spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of
his head,
Soon gave me to know I had
nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went
straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then
turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his
nose,
And giving a nod, up the chim-
ney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his
team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the
down of a thistle,
But I heard him exclaim, ere he
drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to
all a good-night."





KELLEN W. DRIVER

Driver an Eagle Scout

West Haven Troop 899 member Kellen W. Driver was recently awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Kellen, the son of proud parents David and Angela Driver, earned this highest distinction in Scouting by passing his Eagle Scout Board of Review of the Boy Scouts of America on Dec.

Driver's Eagle Project was the revitalization of the Painter Park nature trail which consisted of clearing of the trail of downed trees and overgrowth blocking the path, installing drainage pipe in three eroded areas, creating a marked sign for the public, cleaning up of litter, among many other tasks along the way.

Kellen obtained the approval and full support of West Haven Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Mark Paine to successfully complete his project.

Kellen, age 15, began his Eagle Scout journey when he was 6 years old as a Tiger Cub. In 2017, after completing the Ordeal, he was inducted into the Order of the Arrow. Having 26 merit badges, he has also earned his first Palm. Kellen will become the Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 899.

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Antipasto	\$49.95
House / Caesar Salad	\$35.00
Shrimp Cocktail	Jumbo: \$2.25/ea Medium: \$1.75/ea
Stuffed Shrimp	\$4.00/ea
Fried Seafood Platters	Market Price
	C mb Platter (Shrimp, Calamari, Scallops)
	Frie, S. rimp Platter0 Frie, Calamari Platter
Fried Artichoke Hearts	40 Pieces - \$39.95

Chicken Parmigiana	\$52.00
Eggplant Parmigiana	Small: \$48.00 Large: \$80.00
Manicotti	\$2.75/ea
Lasagna	\$52.00
Baked Ziti	Small: \$42.00 Large: \$68.00
Sausage & Peppers	Small: \$45.00 Large: \$75.00
Chicken Wings	Buffalo, Teriyaki, BBQ, Garlic Parmigiana
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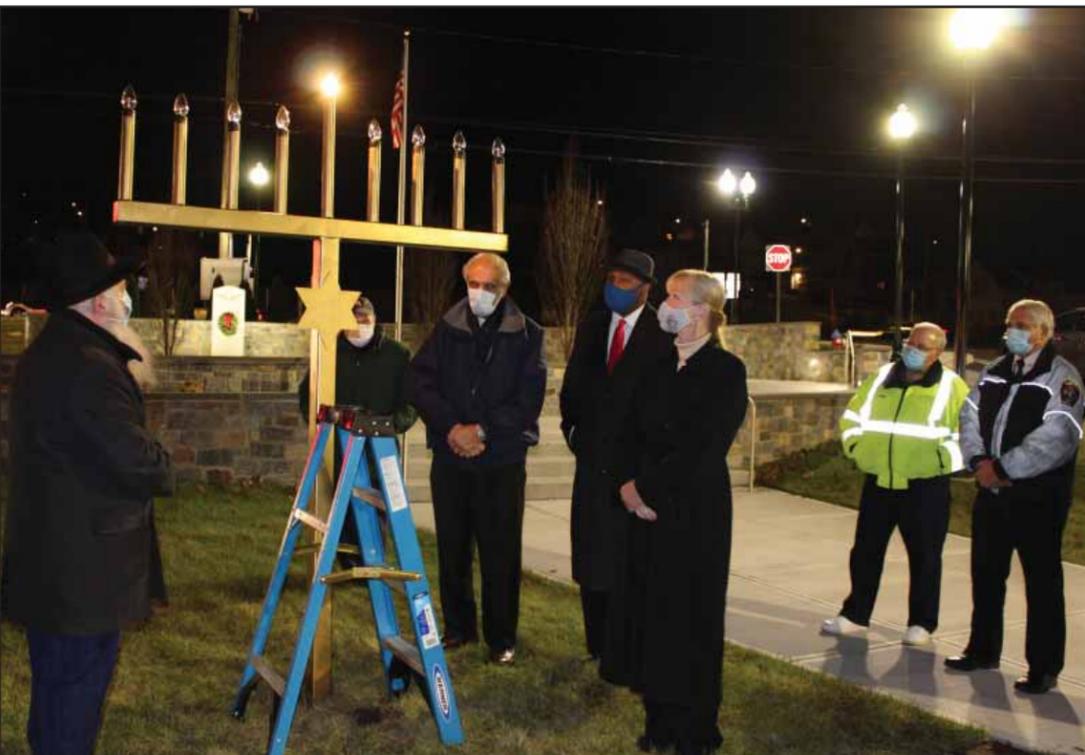




Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Hanukkah menorah lightings

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi watches the lighting of the menorah as Rabbi Menachem "Mendy" Hecht of Congregation Beth Israel of New Haven, joined by his children, leads a Jewish blessing at the sundown celebration of the first day of Hanukkah on Dec. 10 on the West Haven Green. The annual ceremony was attended by a small gathering of West Haven residents and officials, including state Reps. Charles J. Ferraro, R-West Haven, and Michael A. DiMassa (D-116), Councilmen Barry Lee Cohen (R-10), and Gary Donovan (D-at large); Planning and Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins, and University of New Haven political science professor Joshua Sandman. Below -- Rossi, DiMassa, Cohen, Donovan, Mullins and Sandman were later led in a menorah lighting on the Allingtown Green by Rabbi Joshua Hecht, the headmaster of the Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy and spiritual leader of Chabad of Orange.



Rossi lights up Allingtown

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, fourth from left, lights the Christmas tree on the Allingtown Green on Dec. 10. Joining Rossi are, from left, Planning and Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins; University of New Haven political science professor Joshua Sandman; mayoral Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito Jr.; Councilman Peter V. Massaro, D-6; Christian Mullins; state Rep. Michael A. DiMassa, D-West Haven; Councilman Gary Donovan, D-at large; Deputy Chief Michael T. Esposito of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown; and Councilman Barry Lee Cohen, R-10.

Second-half taxes due

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The second installment of city tax bills — real estate, personal property, motor vehicle, sewer — are due Jan. 1, and payments after Feb. 1 are considered delinquent and subject to interest, Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli said.

The 2019 supplemental motor vehicle bills are in the process of being mailed for vehicles registered after Oct. 1, 2019, and are also due Jan. 1.

Taxes can be paid by check, credit card, debit card or money order from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the window outside the tax office on the Campbell Avenue side of City Hall, 355 Main St., or by the drop box — check or money order — at the Main Street entrance of the building. City Hall is closed on Friday until further notice.

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.

While waiting in line for in-person payments at the tax office window, taxpayers must wear face masks and maintain social distancing at all times, including staying 6 feet away from others.

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 tab. 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>.

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 Feb. 1, taxes with interest can be paid by mail to the Office of the Tax Collector, P.O. Box 401, West Haven 06516. Payments can also be made in person.

Anyone needing a motor vehicle clearance must pay in person by credit card, debit card or money order.

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Photos by Miguelina Felix

Toys for Joy!

Students from West Haven High School sorting toys for the annual Toys for Joy drive. Toys are provided by the West Haven High School Peer Advocate group. The toys are distributed to needy families to make the holidays a little brighter for city youth. Pictured testing out the merchandise and sorting it are Jaden Perez, Matt Oliwa, Carson Kershner, and Hailey Alfano.



Clinic resumes counseling services

The West Haven Youth and Family Services Clinic has resumed counseling services for couples, families, individuals and youths using a confidential virtual platform.

Call (203) 937-3760 to schedule an appointment with certified therapists Robbin Wolf-Airault or Sheila Hebert.

Former clients and new referrals are asked to leave their name, phone number and reason for calling so a clinician can contact them.

Bingo resumes

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association has reopened its weekly Bingo, Doors open at 6 p.m.. Social Distancing applies. Masks must worn, no reserved seats. Bring your own snacks & drinks. Call (203) 937-8339 for information.

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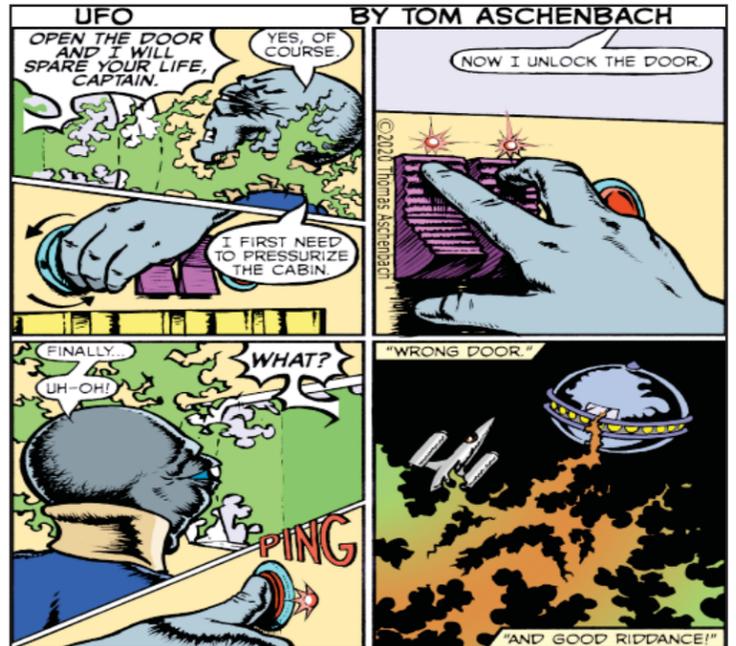
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Photo by Miguelina Felix

All the fixings

Carrigan Intermediate School delivered 26 complete Thanksgiving dinners with turkeys to Carrigan families. Shown are the components that made up the dinner packages. The turkeys were donated from the Vertical Church, pies from the WHPD, and all sides - stuffing veggies etc. from the staff. They also donated 1500 plus items to WHEAT.



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Historian's corner

By Dan Shlne

Loretta's Christmas Memory, 1929 (With thanks to Valerie Forte Vitali)

In her years as Librarian, Loretta BonTempo Forte had

a knack for selecting books that suited the avid readers who patronized the library. Her love of reading from the time she was a child guided her choices for both adults

and children. Books that she enjoyed as a child were sentimental and involved family life during times of hardship, and Loretta often noted that, frequently, the stories started with the death of a mother.

Loretta wistfully joked that she herself had lived the riches to rags to riches story of *The Little Princess!* And no better way did she document that personal story than by telling a Christmas story about being orphaned during the Great Depression and finding herself, in 1929, in a cold apartment in Allingtown with nothing to celebrate the holidays other than a string of lights and a box of ornaments.

Loretta's mother, Josephine BonTempo, had died in February, 1928, in the hospital in NH of complications of diabetes, and the following summer, her husband and the father of their eight children, Nicholas, left his job and young family and went to Italy.

He had returned at the end of the summer with a young and very Italian bride (Josephine was raised in the US from infancy, had American

ways and American friends). Loretta was 15, and her 6 siblings who still resided in the family home on Derby Avenue ranged in age from early 20s to age 13. On the anniversary of their late mother's birthday, Dec 13, there was a huge argument between father and sons, and the children all left, with a few belongings, Loretta carrying the pet canary in its cage. The younger children went to a cousin's house while the older brothers stayed with friends, and the family, split apart, spent a miserable holiday.

During the next year the older brothers secured custody of their minor siblings and found a flat in Allingtown, moving into a neighborhood of mostly Italian American immigrant families, who were hard working, but it was 1929, not a good time for anyone. As soon as the neighbors heard, however, that a family of young people without parents had moved in, they began to gather what they could spare. Some brought coats to be used as blankets, the brothers bought a wood stove and

acquired bed frames while the neighbors brought bundles of wood and some food. Recalling those hard times, Loretta used to say that she would never want others to know how it was to go to bed hungry.

Loretta had one dress to wear to school that year, until WHHS Principal Seth Haley called her in to his office and asked her how she managed with only one dress, since the female teachers had described the situation to him. Loretta said that she washed it carefully every week-end. He then handed her an envelope, in it was some money, "our faculty wanted you to have another dress". Later that year, she won a gold piece as a prize for an essay she had written. Everyone said it was something to be kept. She quickly spent the gold piece on another durable dress.

By Christmas, 1929, the BonTempo children were living together in the second floor flat on Orlando St in a house owned by Mrs. Campaniolo. One day in December, return-
See Historian, page 13



LORRETTA BonTEMPO

Financial Focus Investment lessons for 2020

As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that we've all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Here are some to consider:

- *The markets look ahead.* Here's something many investors discovered in 2020: Investment prices don't always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing.

What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product (GDP), reflect what's happening *today*, but the markets are always looking toward *tomorrow*, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as

greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market's opinion by its performance.

- *Opportunities will always exist for investors.* Although the coronavirus seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well.

For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it's probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here's the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress – and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their portfolios in a way that's appropriate for their goals and risk tolerance.

- *Patience and discipline can pay dividends.* As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the

pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon – investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment

sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's un-

likely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year – so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond.

###

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City issues rules limiting parking in snowstorms

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

To help crews expedite snow removal, Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy is reminding residents and businesses to observe parking regulations during and after storms.

Per the "Severe Weather" parking ordinance under Chapter 188 of the West Haven Code, police will tag and tow vehicles violating the ordinance at the owner's expense. Violators will receive a \$100 fine.

Once snow begins to fall, a parking ban is in effect on the even-numbered side of most roads, unless one is posted with a "No Parking" sign on the odd side.

The ban is in effect for 36 hours after a storm. Residents are urged to park in driveways or designated private lots.

However, during an official snow emergency declared by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, a parking ban will run from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on both sides of Campbell and Savin avenues, Morgan Lane, Elm Street, Meloy Road, Second Avenue from Elm to Beach streets, and Main Street from Savin to Washington avenues.

McCarthy is also reminding residents and businesses to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after a storm or face a \$25 fine "for each day that the violation persists."

According to the "Removal of Snow and Ice" ordinance under Chapter 195 of the West Haven Code, people are given 24 hours to remove snow from sidewalks on and bordering their properties.

Violators are subject to the \$25-per-day fine, which is enforced by the Police Department, the ordinance states.

To report a complaint, call the department's nonemergency line at 203-937-3900. Complaints are kept confidential.

McCarthy also pointed out that plowing or blowing snow into city streets is prohibited and violators are subject to a \$60 fine for each offense, per the ordinance.

Also, residents and businesses with mailboxes damaged by snow thrown from a plow are the responsibility of the property owner.

The city will only repair mailboxes damaged by the striking of a plow blade if there is visible evidence, such as paint or tire tracks.

Snow removal around mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility.

Residents are also urged to help firefighters keep hydrants clear of snow.

For more information, call the Department of Public Works at (203) 937-3585 or visit the department's page at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/177/Public-Works>.

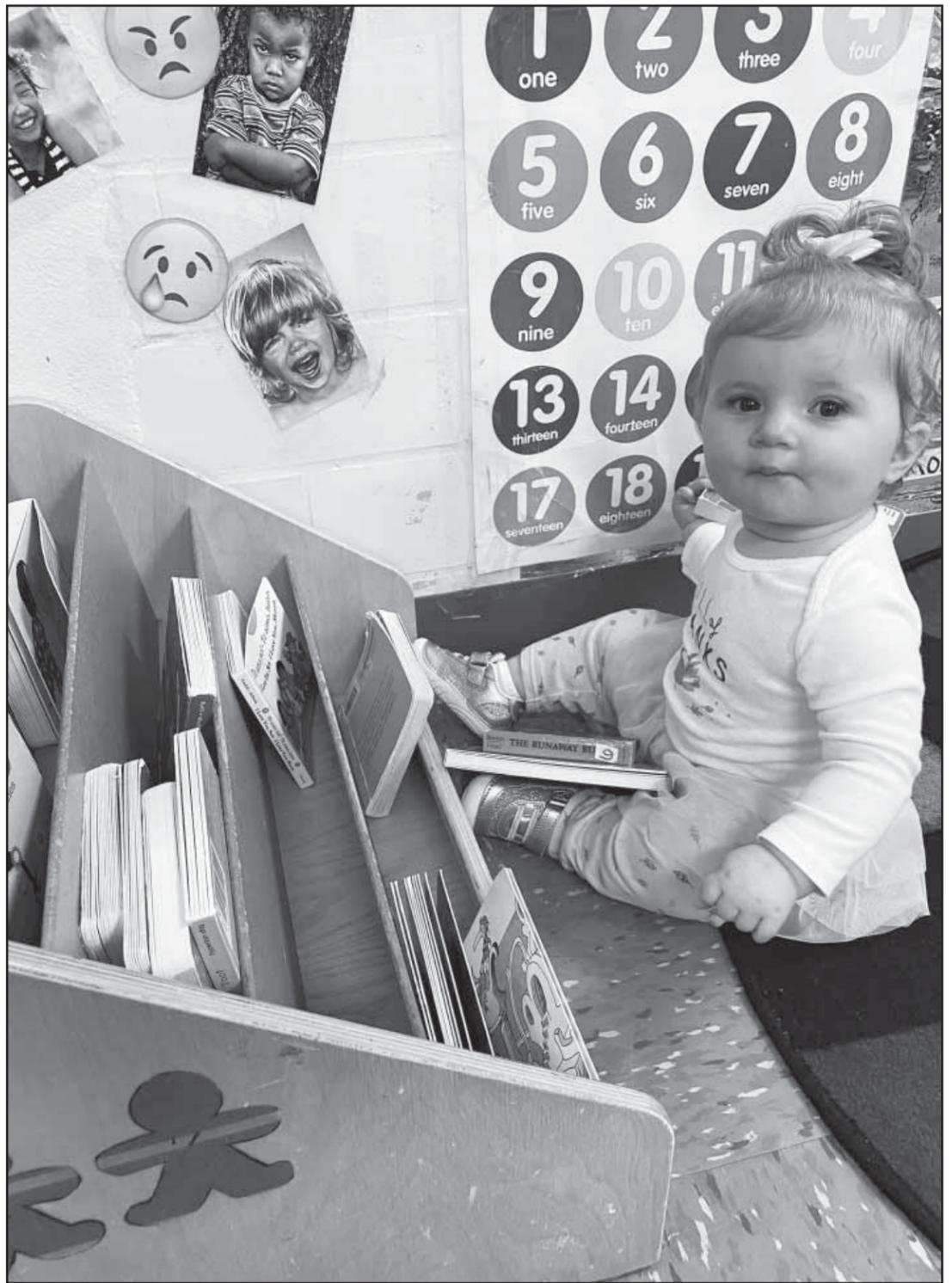


Photo courtesy of WHCDC

Picking a good book!

Melody Rose Gurr, age 1, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is choosing her favorite stories from the book corner. The agency provides early education for youngsters enrolled in its programs. The WHCDC has been providing those educational services for more than 30 years.

Obituary

Katherin Held

Katherine Disbrow Spaulding Held was born September 20, 1915 to Frank Edgar Spaulding and Natalie Belle Disbrow Spaulding at the family home in West Haven. She had an older brother, Frank, Jr., who predeceased her. She was baptized June 10, 1917 and joined the First



Congregational Church (now First Church) in April 1930. She worked at Yale University after attending West Haven schools and Katherine Gibbs College. Katherine worked for 8 years with First Church on the Messenger production; she was past President of the Keystone Group there and served as a representative to the New Haven Church Association. She also enjoyed many years of friendship with the Lunch & Learn group there. She was active in the West Haven Historical Society, past President/Honorary Member of the West Haven Garden Club; and belonged to the African Violet Society.

She married Irving Arnold Held at the family home under the apple tree planted by her father as a backdrop on a lovely summer day July 3, 1940. The couple had four

children – Ron (Ellie) Held of East Sandwich, MA; Nancy (Smokey) Adams of Prineville, OR; Bruce (Susan) Held of S Sandwich, MA; and Sue (RJ) Woodward of Sutton, MA. She is survived by 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Katherine loved to laugh, and enjoyed life and the simple and unexpected joys it brought her. She loved her Cape Cod memories, having summered there many years with 5 generations of family. She cultivated years of lovely and award-winning African violets, roses, flowers and vegetables.

She enjoyed her sun chime, her porch view and the shore breezes. Katherine attended many years of Broadway shows at Schubert Theater, and concerts at Goodspeed Opera House, Long Wharf Theater, and Oakdale. She

travelled the east coast by train, car and bus, and saw the sights of Colorado, California and Washington.

In later years she was helped by so many kind and gracious caregivers from HomeInstead (Hamden), and Companions and Homemakers (Hamden) who also shared her days, her stories, and tended her so very well. Also, of special note, we thank the staff at Connecticut Hospice, in Branford, for their compassionate care and appreciation of what a special lady she was.

Following this tribute is mom's story "The Apple Tree and Me" in her own words, which she wrote in 2005.

Katherine will be buried at Whitneyville Cemetery in Hamden alongside her beloved Irv, who died in 1982. She was also predeceased in 1988 by a granddaughter,

Megan Elizabeth Woodward. The family plans a gathering in mid 2021, when we can come together more easily and enjoy a summer day in remembrance of a sweet lady who loved her family, her West Haven home and the sights and sounds of Long Island Sound.

"If I had a flower for every time I think of you, I could walk in my garden forever." Blessings and heartfelt thanks from your loving family for all you've given us all these many years.

The family suggests donations to First Church Book of Remembrance, First Church, 1 Church Street, West Haven, CT 06516; or Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School Bing Center for Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia, 450 Brookline Ave Mayer 549, Boston, MA 02216 Attn: Christopher Patterson.

Historian: *Memories of a BonTempo Christmas, '29*

Continued from page 11
ing home from WHHS, Loretta and her younger brother, Peter, found that someone had left a cut Christmas tree for them.

They dragged it upstairs and secured it in the stand they had recently gotten, along with some ornaments, from their former home, which was on the market, their father intended to go back to Italy to live. Then Loretta announced that they were going to decorate the tree to surprise their siblings who would be returning that evening from their jobs in New Haven.

Peter adamantly rejected that suggestion. He insisted that the family tradition was to decorate the tree on Christmas Eve. Loretta told him that

that was a ridiculous plan, and since there would be no gifts under the tree, they might as well enjoy the decorated tree before the actual holiday. Peter said, "NO", and ran from the room dragging the box of ornaments, trailing ribbons of tinsel garland. Loretta ran after him and grabbed the box. He grabbed it back and then she grabbed him and they rolled around and fell into the tree, knocking it over. There was a huge crash, and then they stopped, when from the back hallway they heard Mrs. Campaniolo yelling, "Hey, what is going on up there!!???"

Together Peter and Loretta ran to the door, and with enormous nerve, shouted back at her, "MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!". And it was then,

THEN that they realized that the kind but skeptical woman (who had reluctantly rented the flat to a bunch of kids) could evict them, or at least tell their older brothers how rude they had been to her. Loretta began to cry with shame. She thought that she would be the cause of their second Christmas without a home of their own...She and Peter were sullen and silent when they heard their family members coming up the stairs. They listened for the landlady's door opening. They were sure that they had embarrassed their family and would cause them to be evicted. But, as far as they ever knew, the landlady never spoke a word about the event.

Sometime later that week the tree did get decorated. A

stranger delivered a turkey, sent "from a friend", which Loretta reluctantly accepted, embarrassed by their plight. Word came that it was from May Carrigan, and they did enjoy it. The neighbors continued to send what they could spare, and the economy finally began to create better jobs... living on Orlando St helped the BonTempos forge lifelong friendships with the neighboring children. And when their father left for Italy, he let them take some furniture from his house and some books as well. The boy who lived next door in their new neighborhood, who loved to read, was eager to borrow books, befriending the brothers whom he knew from ice skating at the Lagoon, all the while grinning helplessly

love struck at Loretta...whom he would marry in 1940.

Times would quickly change. The industrious BonTempo children would work to improve their plight, and the economy improved as well. The following Christmas they proudly bought their own turkey! Friends from the neighborhood took the place of their once loving parents, and support from teachers and co-workers meant everything...when Loretta reminisced about the 'troubles' that the BonTempo children had endured, it was with humor and pride, along with a few bittersweet tears, remembering their love for each other, their stamina and grit, and the loving help of the Orlando Street neighbors.



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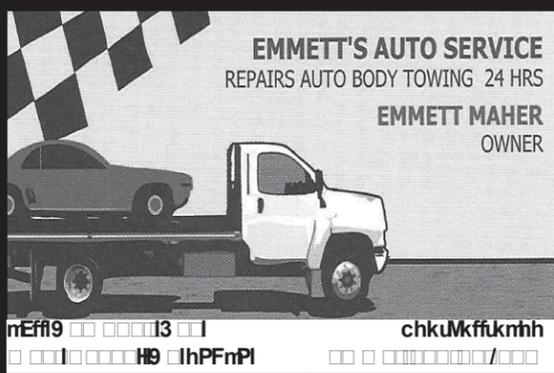
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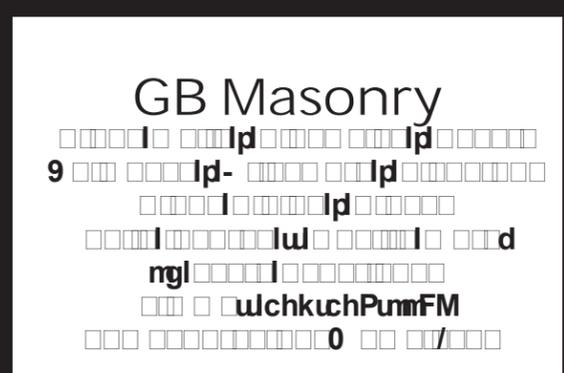
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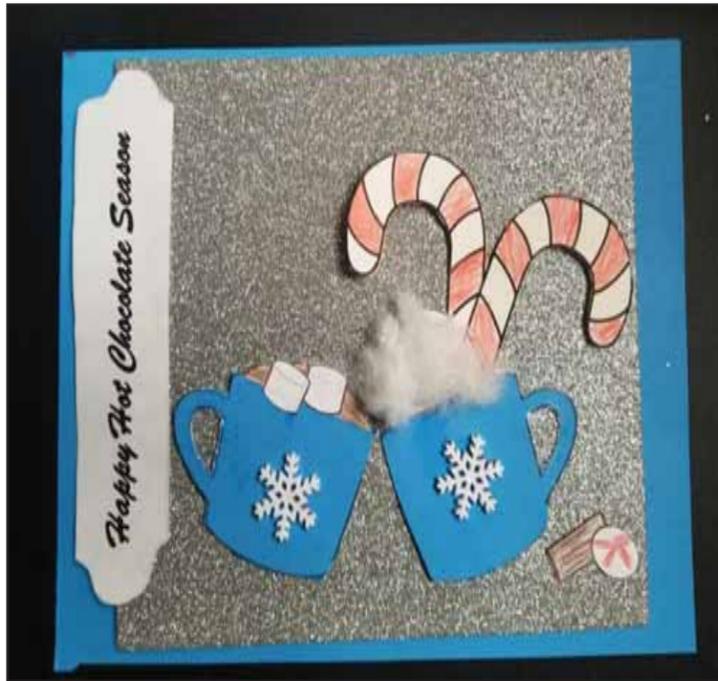
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The artist known as Ayyan C produced this holiday-themed work, and it looks like he and his Alma Pagels classmates are hoping for a Cole -- and maybe White -- Christmas.

□ □ | □ □ □ □ □ □ 14 □ □ □ □

2010 -- Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself on fire. The Tunisian street vendor self-immolated as a protest against the economic conditions in Tunisia. He died 18 days later at the age of 26. His protest and death were a catalyst for the Tunisian revolution and similar revolutions and protests around the Arab world.

2010 -- The beginning of the Arab Spring. The multi-country protests and demands for change in the Arab world are thought to have begun with street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi's self-immolation in Tunisia. Bouazizi's attempt and death 18 days later was the catalyst for the Tunisian Revolution which forced then-president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to step down from his post.

1989 -- First episode of The Simpsons aired. The popular American animated series directed by Matt Groening is set in the fictional town of Springfield and it follows the life of the Simpson family.

1903 -- First flight of the Wright Flyer. The powered aircraft was made by the Wright brothers and was the first such aircraft to take flight.

1790 -- Discovery of the Aztec calendar stone. Also known as the Stone of the Five Eras, the sculpture was excavated in Mexico City.

Births

1978 -- Manny Pacquiao. Filipino boxer, politician.

1973 -- Paula Radcliffe. English runner.

1936 -- Pope Francis. Current Pope of the Catholic Church.

1778 -- Humphry Davy. English chemist, physicist.

1770 -- Ludwig van Beethoven. German pianist, composer.

Deaths

2011 -- Kim Jong-il. North Korean politician, 2nd Supreme Leader of North Korea.

2010 -- Captain Beefheart. American singer-songwriter.

1933 -- 13th Dalai Lama.

1830 -- Simón Bolívar. Venezuelan commander.

1273 Rumi. Persian mystic, poet,



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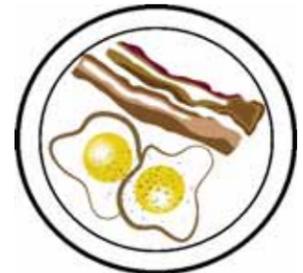
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First Congregational Church of West Haven Annual Christmas Eve Breakfast

Please join us for a grab and go breakfast on December 24, 2020 between 10 am and 12 pm, at the white church on the West Haven Green.



The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and juice.



Please RSVP to Kirsten by December 20th.
You can send an e-mail to ChristmasEve@FCCWestHaven.org

or

Leave a voicemail at 203-859-8782

Please include your name and the number of meals you are requesting.

Merry Christmas!



39 Elm St

West Haven, CT

(203) 932-5846

Hours:

Mon - Thurs: 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Fri & Sat: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sun: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Don't forget to order your holiday trays in advance

Gift Certificates always available

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Six Meatballs
Lorenzo's Italian Bread

\$32.95

Boneless Pork Chop Pizzaiola
over Cavetelli
Tossed Garden Salad (1/2 tray)
Lorenzo's Italian Bread

\$32.95

Eight Cannelloni or Manicotti
Tossed Garden Salad (1/2 tray)
Lorenzo's Italian Bread

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