

# West Haven Voice

July 1, 2021

Vol. 26, Issue 14 16 Pages

West Haven's only independent news source

*By and For West Haven*

## Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

**WHHS Class of 2021**  
See Page 10

*Note*

**The next issue of the Voice will move to July22 instead of July 15. See you then!**



# Centennial kicks off!



City Drone Photo by Alycia Sandella, Photo by Michael P. Walsh



People gather in Old Grove Park to commemorate West Haven’s 100th birthday June 24 — 100 years to the day of West Haven’s incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut’s youngest town. The West Haven Centennial Celebration kicked off with a 1980s tribute concert performed by The Pop Rocks. Left -- Parents and children dance to the music.

## Pop Rocks open celebration

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

Westies young and old, many donning blue and white, gathered in Old Grove Park to help their beloved West Haven blow out the figurative candles on its 100th birthday June 24.

Amid a cool breeze and a spectacular strawberry sunset, The Pop Rocks, “Connecticut’s ultimate ‘80s experience,” kick-started the West Haven Centennial Celebration by interacting with the audience while playing a two-hour set of totally awesome hits — 100 years to the day of West Haven’s incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut’s youngest municipality.

The showstopping performance, presented by the City of West Haven Centennial Celebra-

tion Committee, put the icing on the cake for a birthday bash 100 years in the making and left partygoers clamoring for more.

And there is more — much more, said committee Chairwoman Beth A. Sabo, the city’s commissioner of human resources.

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, the committee’s honorary chairwoman, recently announced a six-month series of free concerts, historical exhibits and fireworks — headlined by the long-awaited return of the Savin Rock Festival in the Grove on July 30-31 — to commemorate West Haven’s 1921 birth.

Rossi, West Haven’s first female mayor, opened the centennial kickoff by welcoming concertgoers to the 151-year-old Grove and

See Centennial, page 15



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Next Issue Date: July 22, 2021



Brianna R. of Pagels Gr. 4 has a Rain drop drawing, as she thinks we're in for some showers this week.

On this Date

2002 -- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is established. It is the first international judicial body that has the power to try individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. It was created by the Rome Statute, an international treaty that was signed in the Italian city of Rome in 1998.

1991 -- The Warsaw Pact, a defense treaty between 8 communist countries, is formally disbanded in Prague. The pact was founded in 1955, during the height of the Cold War, as a way to counterbalance the power of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Western Europe.

1979 -The Walkman makes its appearance in stores for the first time. The portable audio cassette player was made by Sony and went on sale in Japan.

1908 -- SOS is adopted as the International Distress Signal. The 2nd International Radiotelegraphic Convention, which was signed in December 1906, made the Morse code distress signal (· · · — — — · · ·), the standard international maritime distress signal. Even though it was replaced by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in 1999, SOS is universally seen as a distress call and is often mistakenly thought to be an abbreviation of Save Our Souls or Save Our Ship.

Concert series begins July 9

The West Haven Centennial Concert Series will continue July 9 with Rubber City, "one of Connecticut's premier concert, party and club bands."

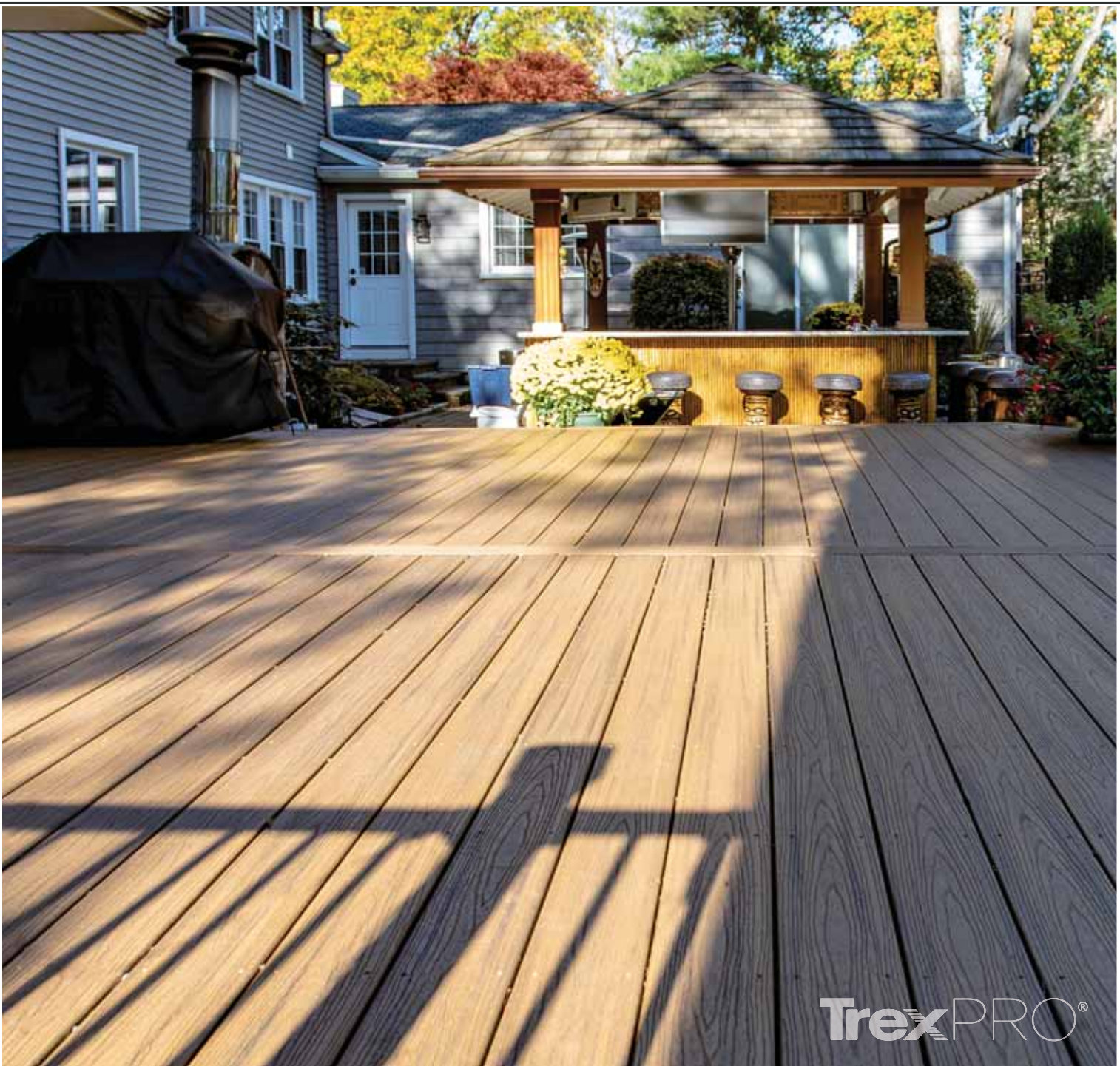
The two-hour concert is set for 7 p.m. in Old Grove Park. The rain date is July 12.

On July 17, Airborne will play contemporary jazz on the Allingtown Green at 7 p.m. The rain date is July 28.

On July 23, Simply Swing, a 10-piece orchestra featuring "swinging horns, a dynamic rhythm section and wonderful vocals," will perform in the Grove at 7 p.m. The rain date is July 26.

The concert series will follow in the Grove with the Chicago blues of The Cobalt Rhythm Kings at 7 p.m. Aug. 13 and the R&B of Shaded Soul Band at 7 p.m. Aug. 27. The bands' rain dates are Aug. 16 and Aug. 30, respectively.

On Sept. 5, the series will culminate in the Grove at 7 p.m. with a two-hour concert by What a Fool Believes, "a Doobie Brothers experience" celebrating the Doobies' 50th anniversary. The rain date is Sept. 9.



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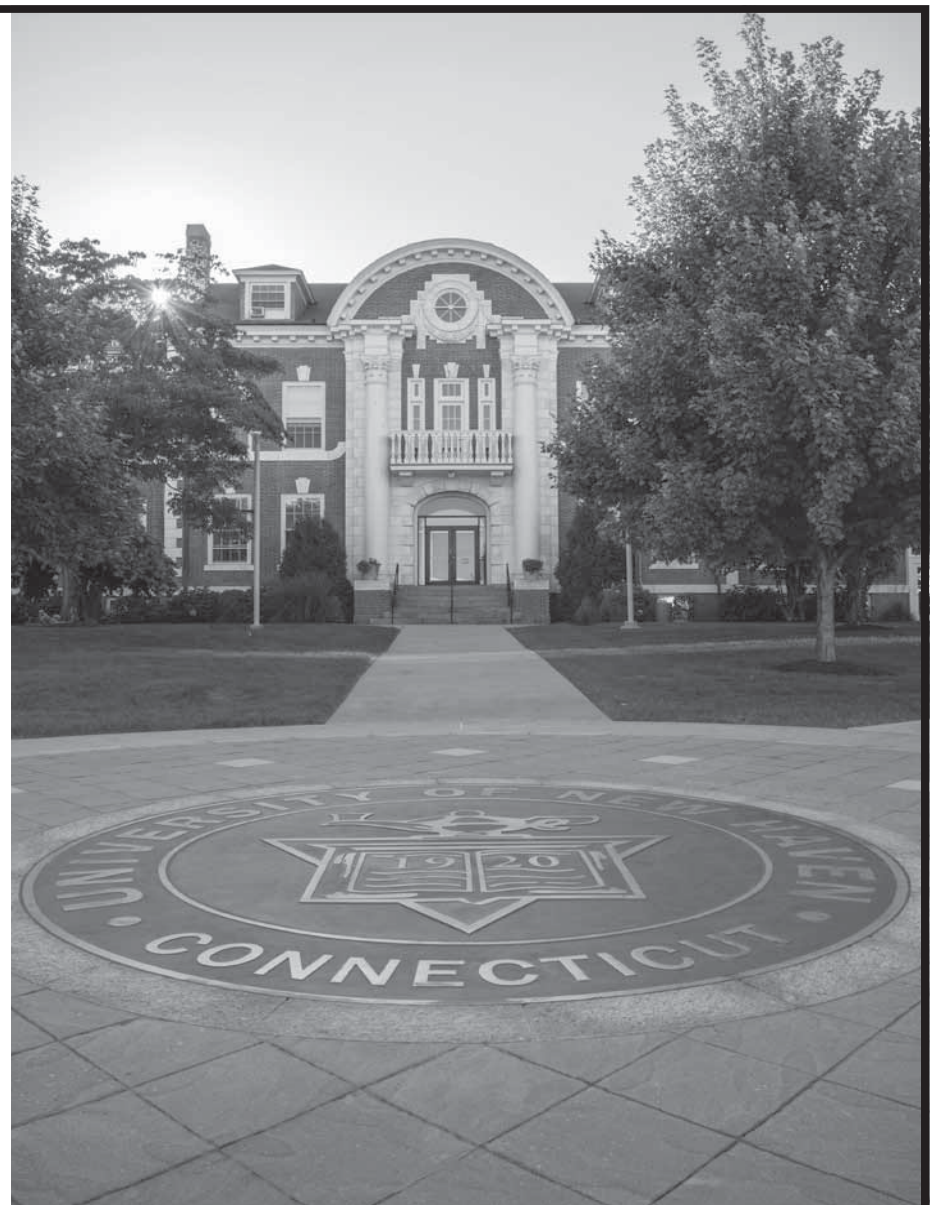


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University of New Haven

## A Partner in the Community

# Dear Felicia

Before we start with the description of all things city, I jest wanna tell yew that effen yew try to contact the office, or have tried, this week, it will be hit or miss. Our esteemed editor will be outta the office for a few days as he is at a conference on Long Island. Let's hope he comes back well rested.

Another reminder, we're pushing the next issue back to July 22 to keep with our two-a-month schedule. This might hafta be revised later on when school bus schedules come out, but the next issue will be July 22, and then we go every other week from there.

Well honey bunch it's amazing around these parts. The Centennial Celebration, so-called, is under-way and things really got cookin' over the last week or so. A big shindig was held over at the Old Grove Park and our little papyrus has the story and photos to go with it.

In fack, it seems every-thing that we are gonna be doin' over the next little while is putting a "centen-

nial" moniker on jest about everything. As we were scribing this week's mis-sive, what should our wonder-ing eyes appear but dia-per bags for the centennial. There seems to be joke in there somewhere, but Co-bina ain't gonna be the one to bring it up.

The July 3 fireworks won't happen this year cuz the Centennial Celebration is gonna have them later in the summer, but the good news is the Savin Rock Festival might be making a comeback as well as other things that will be going on. We printed a long de-scription of the events, and as they come about we'll commit space to them Iyam sure.

Effen you didn't see it in the last issue, the city is gonna up the conveyance tax on prop-erty sales from .25% to .50% cuz of the enterprise zone de-signation it would seem. The fack that they're gonna give de-velopers a tax break effen they come into town means that the city is allowed to double the conveyance tax. The city

giveth, the city taketh away, blessed be the name of the city.

We were interested by the responses we got to the mat-ter when we sent out – or our editor sent out – questions regarding it. Y'see with the age of the internet, it is best to have the politicos and setch send back responses. It does stop 'em from sayin' they've been misquoted or taken outta context. It's all in black and white on a screen for us to lift and insert into the story.

Tennyrate, the thing that got us chucklin' was the folly up that was sent. Our query was "we know the city CAN increase the tax, the question is SHOULD it?" The foist response we got was that we are doing what other cities do. Cobina read the quote and was brought back to her childhood of so long ago. The gist of the answer was, "Well, my friends did it."

As yew can remember, there was the pat answer than every mother had when that state-ment was a defense, and, in effeck, that's what the politi-cos here are saying: others did it, why can't we? Yew almost wanna say, "If the other cities jumped off a bridge, would you do it, too?" The fearful thing is, maybe they would!

Let's jest face facks, when it comes to having the ability to raise a levy here or there, no politician is gonna say no. Heck the city, according to herronner, already knows what it's gonna do with the kopecks collected. So, the real answer is: we can, we did, and we're gonna spend the mon-

ey. Full. Stop. Politicos are soooooo predictable.

Nelly Nuthatch happened to be fluttering by the Beach Street area to get a gander of things, and noted that the beach that was built up in front o' the former Chick's res-taurant has been eroded away to a fraction o' what it was. Nelly seems to think it's al-most as exposed as it was after Hurricane Sandy about nine years ago.

That was when the city had to make emergency repairs so that the pipes running along the street didn't get exposed. Nobody wanted the elements to git to the sewer lines. Ten-nyrate, Nelly seems to think that somebody might hafta take a look over there. It's a perty popular area for locals to perch whilst on the shore. It's one o' the most active when it comes to swimmers and sunbathers. Let's hope we don't have a re-play of what happened before.

The area is supposed to git rebuilt – up to seven feet high-er than now – in the next few years, but with the state you have to think almost in geolog-ic time. Things aren't exactly done in a timely fashion.

As Sammy Bluejay pernted out, this is the calm before the political storm that will brew over the summer until the primary in September. With the turn of the calendar, the political parties are gonna be scheduling their caucuses for the purpose of putting together candidate slates. Of course, we know already that the Dem-

mies will be participating in a three-way primary. Herron-ner made it official three weeks ago, thus ensuring a three-way race.

Before she announced, for-mer O'Brien Executive Assis-tant John Lewis announced his intention to seek the nod, and ole Ed O'Brien himself deter-mined that he wants to take yet another run at the office.

No one expecks that there will be an upset when the Democratic Town Commit-tee meets later in the month. That means that petitions and petitioners will be out in force lookin' for signatures to get the other two on the ballot. Even though the outcome is perty much assured, yew know surer than shootin' something is gonna happen that will give drama to the event. Hap-pens every time, and Cobina wouldn't be surprise if it hap-pens, she'd be surprised effen it don't.

Sammy also pernted out that the Republican caucus will happen and we're all still waiting to see or hear effen the aethereal Mr. X will come outta the shadows and become a challenger or the only an-nounced candidate, Barry Lee Cohen.

As I've told yew before, when Cohen announced there was talk of another candidate com-ing down the pike. That hasn't happened yet, and some are wonderin' effen it ever will? We've heard some names be-ing thrown around, but don't think it's right to make those names public – at least not at this pernt.

Well, we've only got a few more days to wonder, and then it'll either happen, or it won't. I jest have a feeling there is more to this episode than we're being led to believe. Call it a hunch – or experience on how things happen in this burg.

Before we forgit, the young-ster over at West Haven High had their graduation cerem-ony jest before we came out with our edition last time. The weather had forced it to be postponed until after press time. So, we have some pics here and hope that the grads find life a bowl o' cherries. You've go a lot ahead of you. Let's hope all the decisions you make are the right ones, and all the dreams you have come true.

Mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Loud, rude, obnoxious party on Leete Street till wee hours of the morning. It sounded like a bad 10-piece orchestra that played to the max. Cups and debris tossed all over the place.

Neighbors take notice there: A noise ordinance up to 10 p.m. and a littering ordinance. Several of my neighbors are elderly and some neighbors have newborns and work.

Please stop ,stop and stop.  
*Noise Buster AN*

**Dear Noise Buster AN**

You are right! There is a 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. noise ordinance in West Haven." Persons in a residential zone beyond the boundaries of his or her premises may not be in excess of the noise levels in these regulations. 154-5 in the city's enforcements."

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

(There wasa) late night party Friday night; kept neighborhood up all night Please rent a hall or different location.

*A New Unhappy Night Owl  
FOI*

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

We reside in a 30-unit condominium known as Oceanside on Beach Street. The SPEEDING and the NOISE MAKING is unbearable.

Several years ago, we had a meeting with the mayor to discuss the speeding and the unbearable noise issues and nothing was done.

Police presence in the summer was tried, but as soon as they go the speeders, and the noise makers return. Speed bumps are the only answer to these problems.

They were placed all over the beach streets of Milford and on several streets in New

Haven. In all these locations, the problems were solved and there were no accidents.

We are asking for speed bumps in West Haven.

*It's Time To Do The Right Thing!*

**Dear Time:**

I have sent a copy of your complaint to Councilman William X. Conlon your Councilman for your district.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I live across the street from Beacon on The Hill. The grass is out of control. I have called City Hall, but of course, no one is available.

People are telling me its up to the new owner so is it possible for the city to contact them so something can be done about this?

*HK Disgruntled Taxpayer*

**Dear HK:**

There is an ordinance in West Haven that reads, "Residentially zoned premises not occupied by a structure in which grass weeds or similar vegetation (excluding flowers, fruits and vegetables, is allowed to reach and remain at the height of eight inches or greater for a period of ten days or longer.:

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

If a vehicle is parked on city streets and not moved for a week or so, it is tagged by the police.

How is it that a white truck with an out-of-state plate is parked on Front Avenue just before Quigley Stadium abandoned for years, not tagged or towed allowed to stay there?

When driving up Front Avenue toward this truck you must avoid it by coming to the edge of the double line to avoid oncoming buses or semis making deliveries to



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

businesses across from the stadium.

Please explain the double standard here.

*Just Curious, RZ*

**Dear RZ:**

I forwarded a copy of your letter to Councilman Mitchell Gallignano and have not yet received a reply. Watch for an explanation in Gripe Vine soon.

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

I have been told there is a deep dip in the sidewalk just on the border of Milford and West Haven. Please be careful!

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

There is dumping ag Stevens Avenue along the section by the woods toward Spring Street by the back entrance to the VA.

There is constantly dump-

ing there because there are no streetlights here at all.

*CAC*

**Dear CAC:**

I have notified two Council People, Councilman Mitchell Calignano and Councilwoman Trenee McGee of this situation.

Please let me know if you see an improvement here.

If you have a gripe, concern or comments, you can email them to me at [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com) or mail them to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516.

Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number, kept in strict confidence with me.

# GRIPEVINE

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If you need more writing space, complete your Gripe on a separate piece of paper and submit with this form. Your identity will be kept confidential with Eleanore Turkington, Gripevine Columnist. You can also e-mail your gripe to [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com) or use the online form at [westhavenvoice.com/gripevine](http://westhavenvoice.com/gripevine).

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## A right and proper loss

The Democratic Party's attempt to usurp the Constitution and federalize all elections – as well as to make cheating more common than it is already -- saw a well-deserved and (we hope) final demise in the Senate last week. The bill, S-1, nee HR-1, was called the "For the People Act," but it was little more than a power grab by Democrats.

The bill failed to gain "cloture" in the Senate, by not reaching the 60-vote margin needed. It failed 50-50 in the divided house much to the chagrin of so-called "progressives," who want to see the Senate turned into another House of Representatives.

The only thing we agree with supporters of this bill on is the nation faces an existential threat. They believe because the bill failed, we believe the failure stalled that threat. Passage would have harmed the nation. What better time to happen then as we celebrate July 4th. The bill had the following provisions:

- ~Federalized control over congressional elections;
- ~Declared that standard state and local maintenance of elections systems, such as purging ineligible voters from voter rolls, limiting vote-by-mail, requiring voter ID, and establishing rules against felons voting, would erode the right to vote;
- ~Required all challenges to the law to be filed in the federal courts in Washington, DC, dominated by judges appointed by Democrat presidents;
- ~Established online and automatic voter registration;
- ~Protected illegal immigrants from prosecution if they vote;
- ~Established same-day voter registration;
- ~Registered minors to vote;
- ~Mandated early voting;
- ~Established nationwide vote-by-mail without a voter ID; and
- ~Required the doxing of contributors to political action committees (PACs).

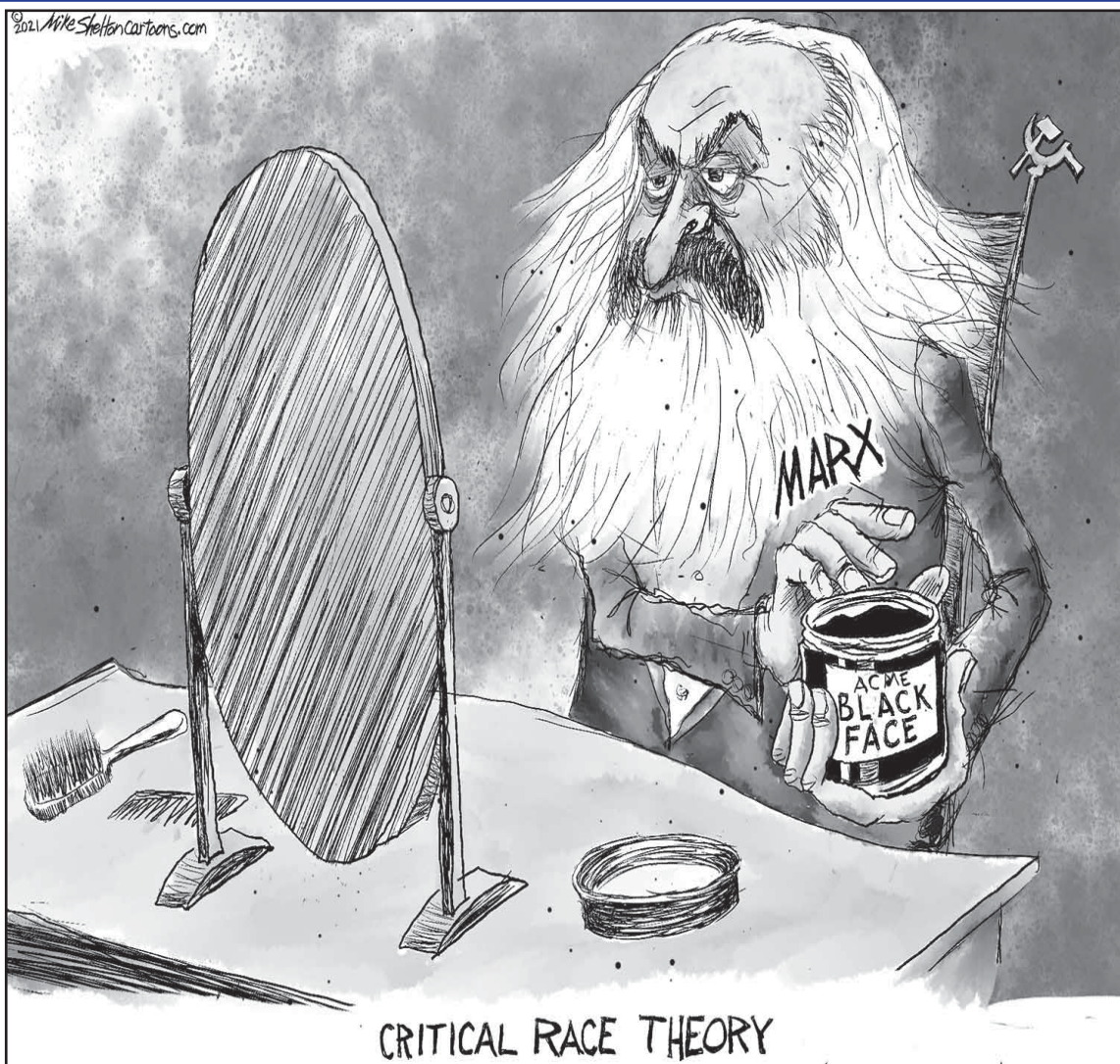
It is worth noting the FTPA was questionable as far as passing Constitutional muster. The Founders had a reason to keep election laws and policy within the states. And that is specifically stated in the document, but these days, with grammar and syntax ignored by some justices, not to mention the plain meaning of the text, we are glad it was not left to the courts.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas probably put it best in his speech following, calling it the Corrupt Politicians Act, and calling out supporters for wanting to create not a path to legally cheat in elections. We have enough evidence to see that 2020 was a year that saw blatant cheating. Even Time Magazine's Molly Ball heralded the conspiracy of business and political leaders to "fortify" the election. Such a "fortification" would be made permanent. Audits are going on now in several states, with more to follow. We will find out what those "fortifications" were.

Those now angered over the loss are now saying Democracy is in danger. They show nothing except their ignorance on how the Republic was set up, and what safeguards were put in place to make sure there was no tyranny of the majority. We would recommend the following, but expect these people are not interested in learning anything: <https://ammo.com/articles/constitutional-republic-vs-pure-democracy-how-us-election-process-has-changed>.

There are forces at work looking to overthrow our institutions and customs, calling them racist, but little if anything is shown as evidence. We guess it is in the ether somewhere.

These evil forces lost this battle. They will come back doubly hard.



## China defense spending soars

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Joe Biden isn't known for his austerity, except when it comes to the nation's defense.

As part of his welcome emphasis on competition with China, the president cajoled reluctant European countries at the G-7 summit into releasing a statement critical of China, on top of the announcement of an infrastructure program meant to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

That's all fine as far as it goes, but a glaring omission from Biden's campaign is a defense budget that reflects the growing challenge from Beijing.

Indeed, Biden justifies almost any increased domestic spending as designed to check China's ambitions, at the same time he neglects what is most needful to keep China from dominating its region and waging war on our allies or perhaps the U.S. itself.

If we can deter China from taking Taiwan with subsidies for electric cars, Biden is arguably the Churchill of his time.

If we can counter China's defense buildup with more funding for affordable housing, Biden deserves to take his place beside Alfred Thayer

Mahan or George Kennan as great strategic thinkers.

Otherwise, his approach is lacking, and disturbingly so.

Biden's infrastructure plan, a sprawling proposal that would spend \$2.3 trillion on everything from roads and bridges to affordable housing and elder care, is about the "global competition with China," the president insists.

By Biden's way of thinking, whatever progressives have wanted to do for years is suddenly a priority in the new Cold War. The left-wing "explainer" website Vox now claims, "Improving domestic infrastructure and investing in new and emerging technologies, especially clean energy technology, is the best way the U.S. can challenge China for supremacy on the world stage." The publication quoted a Democratic congressional aide, "The best way to enact a progressive agenda is to use China [as a] threat."

There are indeed areas of advanced technology that we need to invest in, especially semi-conductors and artificial intelligence (a \$250 billion Senate bill passed last week is an imperfect step in this direction), but it's not true that we can simply windmill our way to victory over China.

Although you might miss it listening to Biden, there are threats from China that don't involve infrastructure spending or clean energy initiatives.

China has been growing its annual defense spending by more than 6% a year.

It has now surpassed the U.S. and technically has the largest navy in the world.

It is on pace to double its nuclear weapons over the next decade.

It has flown hundreds of sorties near Taiwan this year, and a top U.S. admiral warns that it could invade in the next six years.

Given all that, one might expect the openhanded Biden to invest substantially in a stronger, more advanced U.S. military, but his profligacy doesn't extend so far. He increased defense budget spending by about 2%, which won't even keep up with inflation.

This doesn't come close to what we realistically need. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mark Milley said at a U.S. Naval Institute event late last year, "We're going to have to have a much larger fleet than we have today, if we're serious about great power competition and deterring great power war." He called for a

See Lowry, page 7

# Museum seeking to list vets as part of Centennial exhibit

As part of its celebration of West Haven’s Centennial, the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center is collecting the names of local veterans from the past 100 years to include in a display honoring their service.

The museum is asking West Haven residents to help honor family members who served between 1921 and 2021 by providing the veteran’s name and service branch for inclusion in the display. West Haven veterans will also be honored with an event in November.

Names can be submitted by leaving a voicemail at (203) 934-1111 or by email to [whmilmuseum@snet.net](mailto:whmilmuseum@snet.net).

# Lowry: Defense \$\$ lag

Continued from page 6

3-5% increase in the budget every year but didn’t think that was plausible because of fiscal constraints (little did he know, the \$6 trillion blowout to come in every other area of the budget).

We should be spending more on defense, and spending differently. With an eye to deterring conflict with China, we need to recalibrate in a serious way to focus on advanced technologies and weapons systems for the Navy and Air Force, and in space. Hypersonics, directed energy, and control of the electromagnetic spectrum should be particular priorities.

Biden has no excuse for not pursuing this. It’s not as though he can say we can’t afford it.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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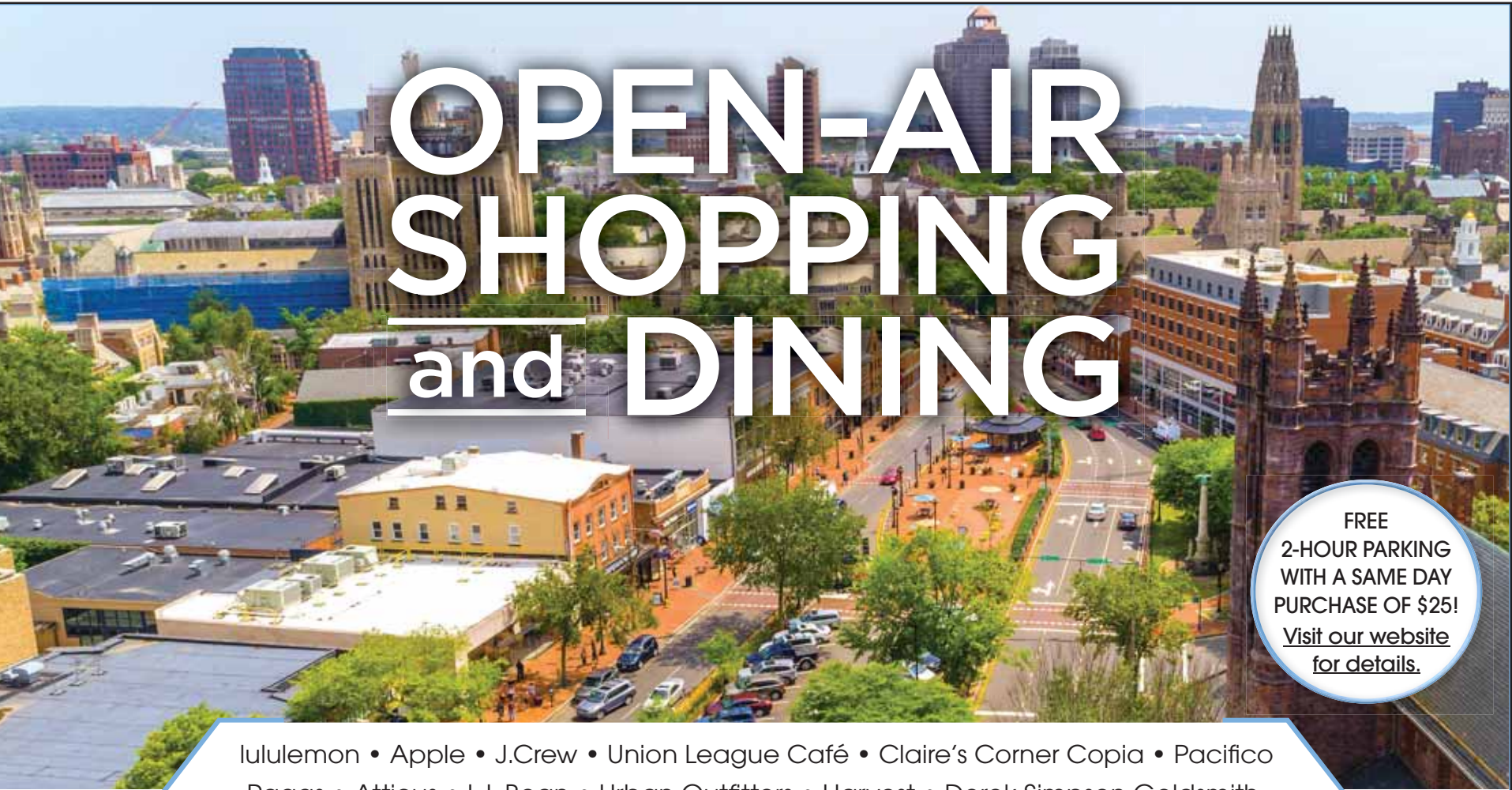


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# City celebrates 'Juneteenth' holiday

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi fittingly issued a proclamation declaring Juneteenth in West Haven on June 19 during the city's first Juneteenth celebration in Allingtown's Brent Watt Park.

The community event, called West Haven Celebrates Juneteenth, was organized by Councilwomen Robbin Watt Hamilton (D-5), and Treneé McGee (D-7), and was sponsored by districts 5 and 7 of the Democratic Town Committee as part of the West Haven Centennial Celebration.

The three-hour event, held in the small but well-arranged park on Tile Street, included remarks by Rossi, McGee and Watt Hamilton, along with a rendition of the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Police Commissioner Christopher M. Suggs served as the master of ceremonies.

June 19 is the traditional commemoration date of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring all slaves free in Confederate territory on Sept. 22, 1862, but the news took time to travel.

"On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger landed on the shores of Galveston, Texas, to declare that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved people were now free," said Rossi, reading the proclamation to the crowd.

Since the first Juneteenth event in Texas in 1866, Juneteenth has been observed in hundreds of communities across the country, providing an opportunity to mark the emancipation of enslaved people.

"Juneteenth also highlights the artistic and intellectual achievements collectively preserved through the slave trade, the emancipation era and the civil rights movement, as well as more recent accomplishments of African Ameri-

can cultural expression," Rossi said.

West Haven's Juneteenth celebration featured performances by talented young people from the area, including cheerleaders, a poet, dancers, a saxophonist and singers.

It also included a drum call by Rhythm From the Heart, a performance by the Village Drill Team and a concert by The Nu Groove Band, which played R&B and classic rock hits.

Local artists and authors showed their works, and vendors sold novelties and wares, such as T-shirts, jewelry and soaps.

Vintage cars were on display, and members of the Health Department's coronavirus response team gave doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to those 18 and older.

"Our community honors the strength and resolve of African Americans throughout

our history and commemorates Juneteenth with cultural readings, prayer, musical performances, food, and exhibits of art and literature," Rossi said.

Brent Watt Park, just a block west of Ruden Street near the University of New Haven and Notre Dame High School campuses, is near and dear to Watt Hamilton's heart.

The 97-by-110-foot pocket park was dedicated on July 1, 2017, in honor of her brother, the late Democratic Councilman Brent Watt, who served Allingtown's 5th District from Dec. 4, 2011, until his death on June 25, 2016, at age 54. Watt Hamilton was unanimously tapped by the City Council on the one-month anniversary of her brother's death to fill his council seat.

Watch "West Haven Juneteenth 2021" on the City of West Haven's YouTube Channel.

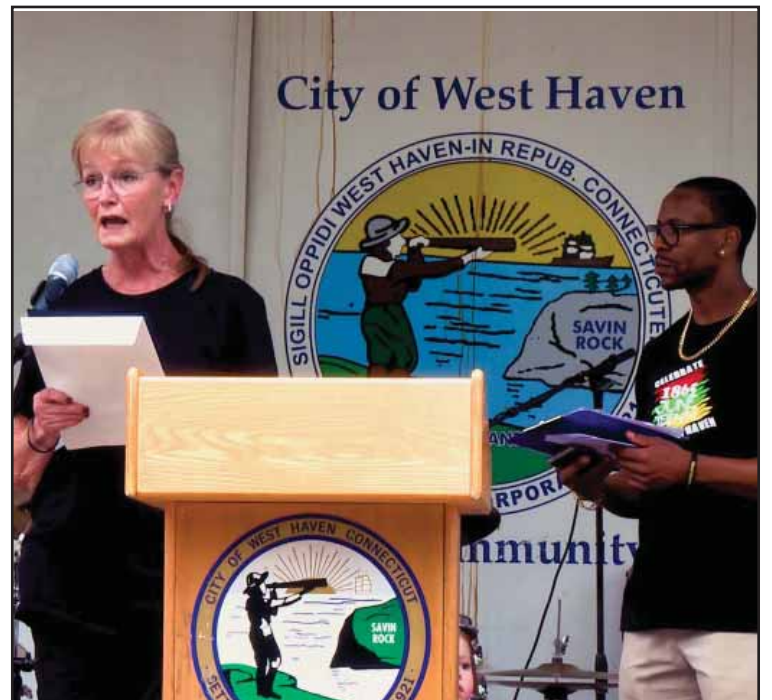


Photo by Andrew Kosarko

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi reads a proclamation declaring Juneteenth in West Haven on June 19 during the city's first Juneteenth celebration in Allingtown's Brent Watt Park. Looking on is police Commissioner Christopher M. Suggs, the master of ceremonies.

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Photos by Todd Dandelske

WHHS' newest alums

The West Haven High School Class of 2021 went out in style in front of family and friends at Ken Strong Stadium. The return of normalcy following the COVID-19 pandemic allowed a complete graduation ceremony on a summer's evening. The class was feted by school officials, and given a final word by Class President Mackenzie Gardner, and the Valedictory Address by Hunter Axelrod.

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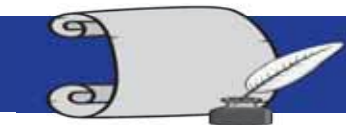
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Vendors sought

The city is seeking craft, farm and food truck vendors to participate in the Tony Inzero Farmers Market, which opens its 2021 season July 8 on the Green. Through Oct. 23, the market at Main Street and Campbell Avenue will include state farmers selling homegrown fruits and vegetables and crafters selling wares from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To participate in the semiweekly market, download an application at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/3397/Farmers-Market-Application-2021-PDF>. Applications are also available for pickup at City Hall.



Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Settling of Kelsey Hill  
Part I

When the first white settlers arrived in the area presently known as West Haven, they found broad marshes that were bordered by what the mariners of that era referred to as “Ye Round Hills.” Those hills were what we know today as Kelsey Hill, Jones Hill and Marsh Hill.

The land lying between Kelsey Hill and First Avenue was mostly tidal wetland, and could not be used for dwellings or farming.

Southeast of the present Green, there was a seasonal Indian settlement known as Wigwam Neck. Another settlement, used by the Indians for fishing, was located just north of Savin Rock.

To travel from the Green to Savin Rock, the earliest residents followed the old Indian path that would later become Savin Avenue: For it wasn't until 1865 that Campbell Avenue would be completed through to the shore; and it wasn't until sometime after 1920 that Kelsey Avenue would be cut through all the way from Savin Avenue to Main Street.

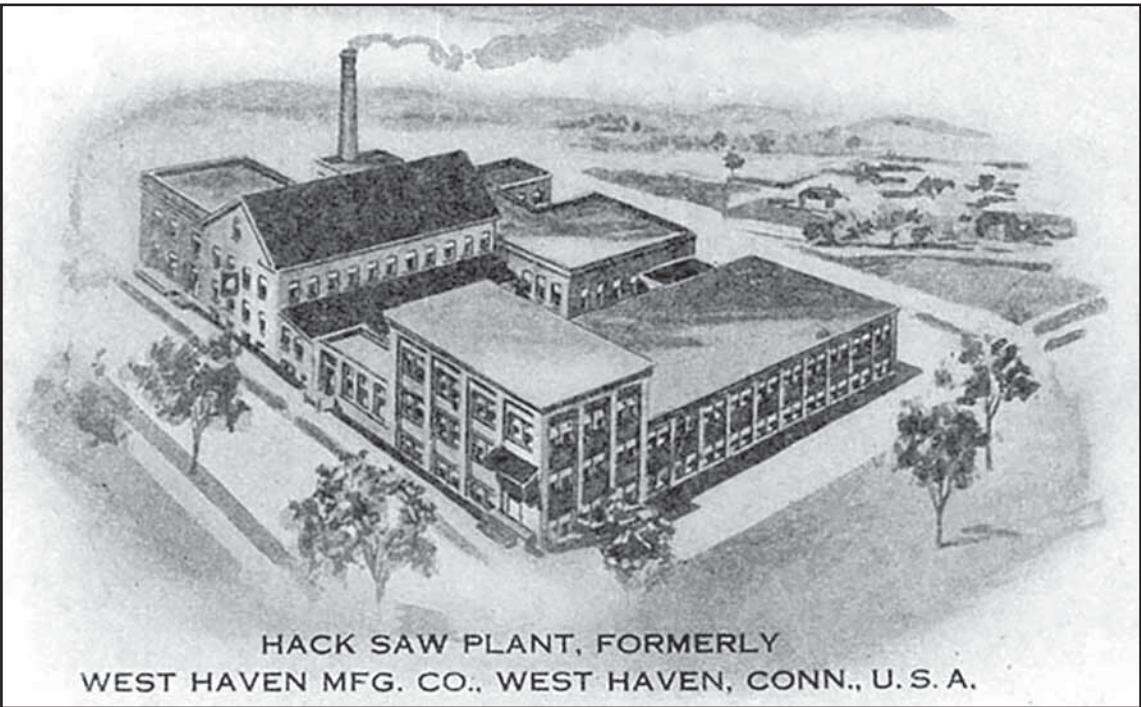
What we refer to as Kelsey Hill is actually composed of shale and schist (known to geologists as Cheshire-Holyoke complex soil), types of light gray rock made of clay particles which are cemented together and which usually can be split into thin slabs. In the area of Kelsey Hill, this stone is covered with a very thin layer of soil.

The remaining open space covered with trees and vegetation has helped to protect the area of the hill from water runoff problems on the streets and in the homes.

There was an article in The New Haven Register dated Dec. 22, 1912, which chronicled the growth and development of West Haven, Borough of Orange, Connecticut during that era. Citing an endless building boom, the article described West Haven as offering a “semi-country life of leisure” with “unlimited woodland for the nature lover.”

Offering employment opportunities at seven nearby factories, West Haven was also just a thirty-minute trolley ride to the many factories of New Haven. West Haven's amenities in that period offered access to numerous schools, plus a public library, several churches and a downtown shopping district.

Charles E. Graham was the only surviving son of James Graham, who was active in Connecticut politics and had made his fortune in



manufacturing. Raised into a family of excelling achievers, Charles Graham received a superb education before joining his father in 1880 as a partner in James Graham and Company, where he gained the experience necessary to take over the company upon his father's death in 1900. Charles Graham was one of the founders of the West Haven Manufacturing Company, maker of hacksaw blades and power-driven hacksaw machines, and located at the intersection of Elm Street and Water Street.

He also had a hand in many other endeavors, including newspaper, railroad and manufacturing concerns, along with leadership positions in local and state governments. His weekends were spent yachting on Long Island Sound. Charles Graham remained a very active force in West Haven until his death in 1926.

It should therefore come as no surprise that Charles Graham owned a significant portion of West Haven real estate, covering much of southern Kelsey Hill.

In 1903, Charles Graham sold a few acres of Graham Manor to John L. Sherman, a builder and masonry contractor.

Sherman saw in this piece of land a source of raw materials: the shale and schist there were abundant, close to the surface and would be easy to transport, for the quarry Sherman envisioned was close to Savin Avenue. The quarried stone would be used in the construction of building foundations and also as a raw material for the processing of mortar. Evidence of Sherman's quarry can still be seen along lower Basset Street.

To this day there exists a document, “Map of Graham Manor,” dated 1912 and “Developed by Charles Graham.” The map entails

most of Kelsey Hill, and was prepared in order to demonstrate the proposed creation of streets and housing lots to be created on this shale hill which was covered with a thin layer of soil and many wooded acres.

This plan called for the cutting through of the then-incomplete Kelsey Avenue, and the existence of streets, houses and families on the land, some of which instead would become Painter Park.

Homes located on Kelsey Hill would have been very attractive to new families: Nearby were the central shopping district and public transportation via trolley, as well as access to West Haven's beaches and the Savin Rock amusement area.

Ed. Note: We thank Cathie Iaccarino, Peter Malia, James Holt, and Mark Paine, without whose capable and most willing assistance, this story would not have been possible.



Dan Shine is a columnist for the West Haven Voice, and local history buff



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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

From left, City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and West Haven Child Development Center Executive Director Patrice Farquharson, with daughter Julia Farquharson, 22, reveal West Haven’s new centennial diaper bags at City Hall on June 23. The yellow-and-brown bags, which contain essential provisions for parents of newborns, were made possible by the Child Development Center and the West Haven Community House through a donation from the Eder family.

**Centennial babies  
will get a free gift**

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath and West Haven Child Development Center Executive Director Patrice Farquharson revealed West Haven’s new centennial diaper bags at City Hall on June 23.

The city clerk’s office started distributing the yellow-and-brown diaper bags the next day to the first 100 West Haven babies born on or after June 24, said Beth A. Sabo, the chairwoman of the City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee, who attended the unveiling along with Farquharson’s 22-year-old daughter, Julia.

Sabo said the distribution coincided with the centennial kick-off ceremony in Old Grove Park on June 24 — 100 years to the day of West Haven’s incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut’s youngest town.

The diaper bags were made possible by the Child Development Center and the West Haven Community House through a donation from the Eder family, said Sabo, the city’s commissioner of human resources.

The bags are emblazoned with the centennial’s dark blue “100” logo with “Celebrating Our Past” and “Inspiring Our Future” in dark blue lettering.

Each bag of donated supplies was assembled by Julia Farquharson and contains essential provisions for parents of newborns, including a centennial bib from the Community House, a children’s book from Read to Grow, a dental kit from the state Husky Health program and a first haircut gift card from Teddi and Archell, as well as a history of West Haven from the West Haven Historical Society.

For information on the diaper bags, call the city clerk’s office, located on the first floor of City Hall at 355 Main St., at 203-937-

**Centennial volleyball tourney  
registering 6-player squads**

The Department of Parks and Recreation is registering six six-person teams for the West Haven Centennial Coed Volleyball Tournament.

The double-elimination tournament, for those 16 and older, is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 31 at the Sea Bluff Beach courts on Ocean Avenue. The rain date is Aug. 1.

The team entry fee is \$100.

All participants will receive a centennial T-shirt, and the tournament winner will receive a prize.

Organizers require a minimum of two females and one male on the court during match play.

Register at Park-Rec’s Painter Park office, 190 Kelsey Ave., or download a waiver/roster at [https://www.whparkrec.com/forms/5694\\_centennial\\_volleyball\\_waiver\\_roster.pdf](https://www.whparkrec.com/forms/5694_centennial_volleyball_waiver_roster.pdf) and return the completed form with the \$100 fee — check or cash, no credit cards — to the office by July 26. Make checks payable to the City of West Haven — Centennial Account.

For tournament information, call (203) 937-3651.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for an Interior Door Replacement at the Benham Hill Station 2v0 Benham Hill Rd West haven CT 06v16 and an Exterior Door Remplacement at the Ocean Ave Station H60 Ocean Ave West Haven Ct.06v16 will be received by the West Shore Fire District, H60 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT. 06v16 until July 16, 2021 at 2D0pm at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at H60 Ocean Ave, West Haven CT.

Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the Fire Districts website [www.westshorefd.com](http://www.westshorefd.com)

Provide pricing for two Door Replacements that comply with the bid specifications.

Mandatory Walkthrough on July 6, 2021 2D0pm at 2v0 Benham Hill Rd and 2D0 at the Ocean Ave Station H60 Ocean Ave West Haven CT 06v16

RFI Period Ends July , , 2021 at 2D0pm.

Bid Due Date July 16, 2021

Project Award on July 1, , 2021

Project to start on August 2, 2021

Bids ~~four~~ four copies. are to be submitted by July 16, 2021 at 2D0pm to the West Shore Fire District H60 Ocean Ave West Haven Ct 06v16.

Only those who attend the mandatory walkthrough may bid on the project.

INVITATION TO BID  
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

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Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the Fire Districts website [www.westshorefd.com](http://www.westshorefd.com)

Provide pricing for a bathroom remodel that complies with the bid specifications.

Mandatory Walkthrough on July 6, 2021 2D0pm at 2v0 Benham Hill Rd. RFI Period Ends July , , 2021 at 2D0pm.

Bid Due Date July 16, 2021

Project Award on July 1, , 2021

Project to start on August 2, 2021

Bids ~~four~~ four copies. are to be submitted by July 16, 2021 at 2D0pm to the West Shore Fire District H60 Ocean Ave West Haven Ct 06v16.

Only those who attend the mandatory walkthrough may bid on the project.

Around Town

Vet Museum open

The West Haven Veterans Museum, 30 Hood Terrace is now open Wednesday through Saturday, 10-2. For more information, call (203) 934-1111 or email, [whmlmuseum@snet.net](mailto:whmlmuseum@snet.net).



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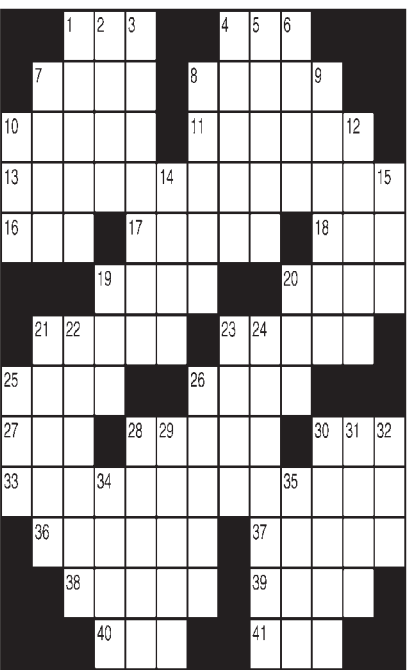
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12 Napper's  
racket  
14 Comestibles  
15 Earth (Pref.)  
19 Calligrapher's  
instrument  
20 Word of denial  
29 Leek's kin  
21 007 portrayer  
30 Metric mea-  
sures  
22 Legendary  
Daniel  
31 Simple  
32 Retired jet  
34 Lectern locale  
35 "Once — a  
time ..."

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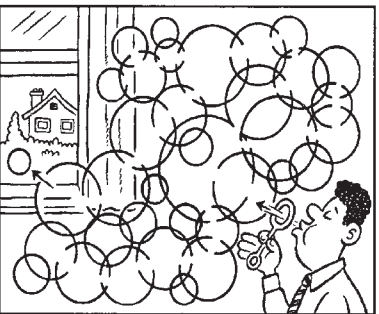
**MAGIC MAZE • WORDS WITH  
THREE R'S**

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

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

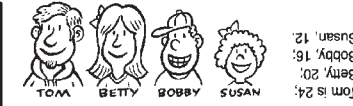
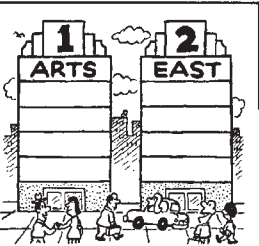
Arbitrary Elderberry Mirror Terrier  
Carrier Harrier Narrator Terror  
Corridor Horror Reorder Warrior  
Derringer Ironworker Report

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**BUBBLE TROUBLE!** Find a path through the bubbles  
that leads from Andy's wand to the bubble that's  
floating out of the window.

**AGE SAGE!** Can you figure out the ages of our four friends? Tom is four years  
older than Betty, who is four years older than Bobby, who is four years older  
than Susan, who is half the age of Tom.



**TWIN TOWERS!** On the top floor of Tower 1 you'll  
find the word ARTS. Rearrange the letters to form  
four new words that you can enter in the remaining  
floors. When you're done, do the same with EAST  
on Tower 2.  
seal, teas (any order is OK)

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

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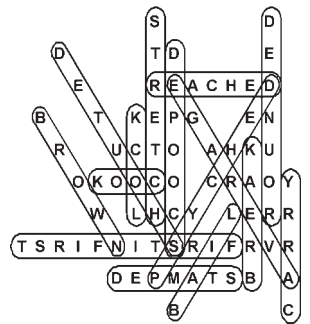
**Answers  
to last week's  
puzzles**

— **King Crossword** —  
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

— **OUT**



— **Weekly SUDOKU** —

Answer

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

# Centennial: Concert kicks off city's festivities

Continued from page 1  
congratulating her fellow Westies on the community's 100th anniversary.

The ceremony observed West Haven's secession from Orange a century ago. West Haven and North Milford joined in 1822 to form the town of Orange. The rural and residential sections of Orange separated in 1921 when the residential part, West Haven, became the state's youngest town.

After remarks by city Treasurer Michael P. Last, the master of ceremonies, The Pop Rocks hit the stage running — and sporting the era-defining fashion that was all the rage.

The five-piece band opened with a medley of Europe's "The Final Countdown" and Loverboy's "Working for the Weekend" and followed with an array of the best pop and rock from the decade of decadence, including Madonna's "Material Girl," Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer" and Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'."

Men, women and children from all walks of life danced the night away, including forming an impromptu conga line with the band while performing Buster Poindexter's "Hot Hot Hot."

The Westie pride on display demonstrated the best of the

American spirit, reflecting the determination and resilience of a people who vowed to never lose hope — so much so they adopted "nil desperandum," a Latin phrase meaning "never despair," as West Haven's official motto in 1935.

People showed their patriotic colors by purchasing centennial coins, lapel pins and lawn signs from Sabo and committee member Diane Dietman at the hospitality table.

Each person who bought a \$10 lawn sign will get entered into a raffle for a chance to push a "start button" to help launch this year's fireworks. The winner and up to three guests will also dine on burgers and hot dogs under the Savin Rock Fireworks Committee's hospitality tent before and during the display.

All merchandise proceeds generated by the centennial committee will offset expenses and support the \$50,000 centennial budget approved by the City Council, Sabo said.

Local vendor JOD Designs, a veteran-owned screen printing company, sold centennial T-shirts.

To coincide with the kickoff, the city clerk's office started distributing centennial diaper bags to the first 100 West Haven babies born on or after June 24.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Partygoers form an impromptu conga line with members of The Pop Rocks, "Connecticut's ultimate '80s experience," during West Haven's centennial celebration.

The yellow-and-brown diaper bags were made possible by the West Haven Child Development Center and the West Haven Community House through a donation from the Eder family.

Each bag of donated supplies contains essential provisions for parents of newborns. Call the city clerk's office for details at 203-937-3535.

Although June 24 marked West Haven's official incorporation, the committee earlier this month commenced the

community's anniversary festivities with a West Haven Historical Society exhibit, "From Village to Town," followed by the Centennial Boat Parade and a Juneteenth event, called West Haven Celebrates Juneteenth.

The Centennial Savin Rock Festival will showcase West Haven's past 100 years and the "sights, sounds, smells and tastes" that made the 20th-century Savin Rock Park "the playground of New England."

The 2021 fireworks, billed

as "They Will Be Heard on the 3rd," will launch off Bradley Point Park at 8 p.m. Sept. 3, with a rain date of Sept. 4.

Before the fireworks, people of all ages can shake, rattle and roll to funk and rock music played by the Kathy Thompson Band in front of Savin Rock from 6-8 p.m.

For a complete list of centennial events, see the schedule at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/343/Centennial-Events>.



Photos by Bob Grestini

## Reliving a bygone era

Maureen Klein explains historical maps of West Haven starting from the 1600s. The West Haven Historical Society's Centennial Exhibit was so popular a second open house was slated for last weekend. The exhibit included displays of Native American artifacts, early maps of West Haven (West Farms) showing the city's growth and development from village to town by 1921. Also featured were early businesses and industries that grew up near the Railroad on Wood Street, and Washington Avenue. The exhibit also spotlights numerous hotels, restaurants, and amusements.

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Submitted Photo

Great year

West Haven Youth Lacrosse Lightning 3/4 team recently finished its season with a record of 20-3 and went unbeaten (4-0) in season ending CONNY jamboree.

Youth Soccer ends  
spring season with  
short list of games

The West Haven Youth Soccer League finished up the spring season this past weekend. Cappetta’s Italian Imports closed the season with a 1-0 win over Shoreline Wellness Center. Kylie McCoart made some great saves in goal. Celeste DiNallo was solid in defense. Luciana Cappetta scored.

The Elite Soccer Camps Red Rangers ended their season with a win over Oyster River Energy Saturday morning. Jax Guarino and Ryan Abekah scored and played great defense. Ben Trenchard picked up a hat trick in the game and used some impressive foot skills to create chances for himself and his teammates. Emmett Hemming and Luca DeCrescenzo worked up and down the field, while Matteo D’Elia scored and used moves to get past opponents. Jacob Rader continued to dazzle on the field with his dribbling, and Nathan D’Aurio made some great passes. Taylor Bell and Elias Padilla showed a lot of hustle in the win for the Rangers.

The U10 girls travel team had a great weekend at the Newington Wrap-Up tournament. The team opened the weekend winning 8-3 against New Fairfield. They went on to win their second game against Thomaston, 3-2. During both games the girls had an excellent team effort with great passing skills and defense. Kiley McCoart and Celeste DiNallo made great saves in goal with Annabelle Fiorillo dominating on defense. Luciana Cappetta and Stella Porto controlled the midfield for West Haven.

On Sunday the girls played two Wethersfield teams resulting in one win and one loss. Francesca DeMartino and Chelsea Frost worked hard to control the ball on the field. The weekend results saw West Haven placing third out of nine teams in the tournament.

Submitted Photos

Win Championships

The U12 West Haven boys and girls teams travelled to Newington two weeks ago to participate in the annual Newington wrap-up tournament. Both teams won all four games they played against tough opponents. Both won the tournament championship.

Basketball camp registration set

The West Haven Lady Blue Devil Girls Basketball Camp, for players age 10-14, is planned for Aug. 16-20 from 9-noon at West Haven High School. Steve Carden, coach of the Lady Devils is running the camp. Theprice is \$50 per camper.

Skills to be worked on include:

- Shooting, ball handling, passing, defense, rebounding;
- In game situations and strategy;
- Group and individual instruction;
- Competitions and gameplay;
- Strength and conditioning.

Register by July 20. For information, contact: [stephen.carden@whschools.org](mailto:stephen.carden@whschools.org)

