

West Haven Voice

February 17, 2022

Vol. 27, Issue 4 20 Pages

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

Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

Woman of many hats
Beth Sabo to retire

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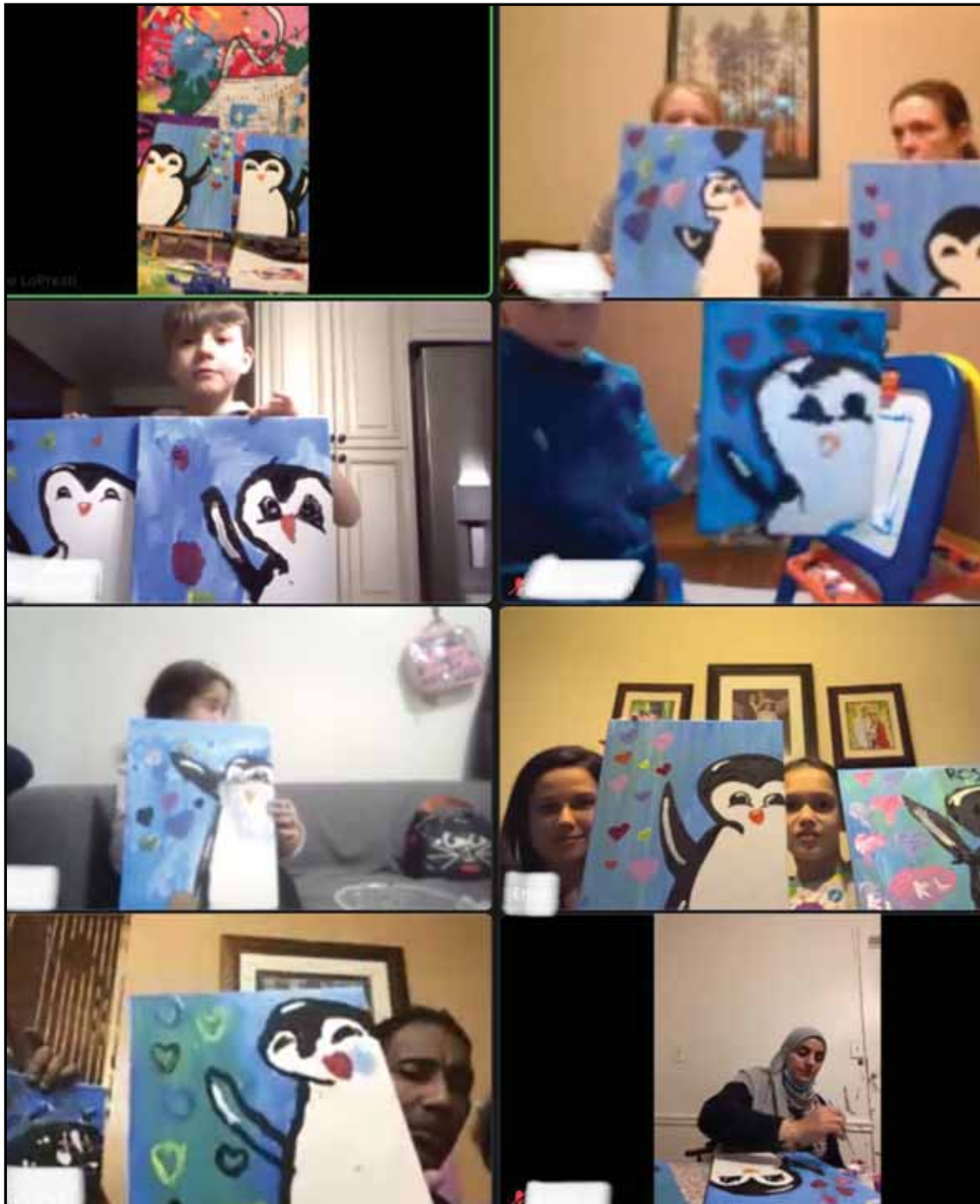


Photo courtesy of WHCH

Valentine Penguin

Introducing the Valentine Penguin from the West Haven Community House Children and Youth Services Family Engagement Paint night hosted by Picasso Parties. The event, conducted remotely, is one of the many family-style exercises sponsored by the group. Here are some of the results.

Last chance for input Special confab set for Feb. 23; HS tour added

It will be the last – and possibly best – time for city residents to give their input on how the city could best utilize federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. The federal program, passed by Congress to aid cities and towns that suffered during the height of the COVID pandemic, and is to be used to fund projects that would be beneficial to the community.

A special meeting of the City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in the West Haven High School Auditorium. The meeting is called under Rule 11 of the City Council Rules, and is co-sponsored by Mayor Nancy Rossi.

“West Haven City Council and Mayor Rossi invite city residents to attend a council meeting at the new West Haven High School. The purpose of the meeting is to hear input from city residents on the spending of ARPA funds. All public comments will be considered for the final spending plan,” the call of the meeting states.

Along with the council and Rossi, newly appointed members of the ARPA committee, a panel established last month to oversee the expenditures, will be in attendance, headed by its chairman Ken Carney. Members of the committee include Christopher Barstein, Neil C. Cavallaro, Iris Diaz, Kenneth Ferris, Dwight Knowles (vice-chairman), Michael P. Last, Gary M. Perdo and Rohan Smith

In addition to the public meeting, residents are invited to take a guided tour of the new high school, which has been under construction for three years, and is set to be officially dedicated in the fall.

The city was awarded \$29 million, while the Board of Education is getting its own share to the tune of an additional \$20 million. So, projects considered will be city-oriented, while the BOE will map out its own spending plan.

This is the second meeting in which public input was requested. Tuesday, the mayor conducted a Town Hall-style meeting looking for ideas on how to allocate the funds. City officials emphasize the meeting on Feb. 23 will be the last such meeting and are urging interested residents to attend.

See Meeting, page 11

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An advertisement for Seacrest Assisted & Memory Care. The left side features a dark background with white text: "Luxurious Affordable Assisted & Memory Care", "SEACREST", "588 Ocean Avenue West Haven, CT 06516", "203-931-2510", and "www.seacrestweb.com". The right side shows a photograph of a modern building with large windows and an outdoor patio area with wooden chairs and umbrellas. The text "Picturesque Seaside Living" is written in a cursive font over the photo, and "Located directly on Long Island Sound" is at the bottom.



Mathias, a student in the Head Start program at West Haven Community House, sees sunny weather for us today, but cold temperatures.

On this Date

2008 -- Kosovo declares its independence. The region's secession from Serbia followed an armed conflict referred to as the Kosovo War.

1992 -- Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer is jailed for life. Dahmer was convicted of murdering and dismembering at least 17 young men and boys.

1913 -- The "Armory Show" opens in New York. The art exhibition featured works by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Vincent van Gogh and marked the advent of artistic modernism in the United States.

1904 -- "Madama Butterfly" is premiered. Giacomo Puccini's opera, one of the world's most performed works of musical theater, was poorly received in its first performance.

1863 -- A precursor of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is founded. The "Committee for Relief to the Wounded" was created by a group of citizens in Geneva, Switzerland.

Births

1981 -- Paris Hilton, American model, actress, singer.

1963 -- Michael Jordan, American basketball player, actor.

1949 -- Fred Frith, English guitarist, composer.

1904 -- Hans Morgenthau, German philosopher.



Photo courtesy of Steven R. Mullins

Citizen of the Year

The Rev. E. Carl Howard, Pastor of the First Congregational Church on the Green has been selected as West Haven African-American Citizen of the Year by the City's Black Heritage Committee. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 23 in noon in the Harriet C. North Conference Room, second floor at West Haven City Hall, 355 Main St. Born and raised in Stamford, Howard has been a West Haven resident for the more than 30 years. Prior to being called as Senior Pastor, he served First Church as bridge pastor and provided pulpit supply during interim periods. His appointment as Senior Pastor was ground-breaking, considering that he is the first Pastor of African stock in the parish's 300 plus year history. Howard is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and has earned several master's degrees from Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been married to his wife Belinda for more than thirty years.

Contact

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Next Issue Date: March 3

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Commission PD concerns gain traction

Since making the difficulties in the local police department a call to action, the chairman of the agency's ruling body is encouraged by the reaction he's seen thus far. Police Commission Chairman Ray Collins said this week the result of statements made to the City Council by his colleague John Carrano last month, and published in local press accounts, has galvanized support for the WHPD.

Last month, Commissioner John Carrano, speaking for Collins and the commission, outlined a continued decline in the current numbers of the department, but the continued difficulties in getting replacements for the numbers who are leaving and going to other, more lucrative positions.

Carrano pointed out in his statement that the city's police force is noncompetitive in terms of salary and benefits, including for those injured, and that a lack of a pension rather than 401k plan, has set up a revolving door of young officers, leaving the force after the city pays for their equipment and training to the tune of more than \$100,000 per officer.

The current contract with the police union lapses at the end of the current fiscal year, negotiations for a new contract are

ongoing, and it is hoped some of these longstanding problems can be addressed in the coming weeks and months.

In follow-up statements this week, Collins noted the reaction to the statement and press accounts, has served as a wake-up call for city leaders, and that attitude is seen by members of the department.

"The reactions from the rank-and-file that I have received have been very positive," Collins said. "They are very appreciative that all parties concerned (commission, council and mayor) have realized the issue and have worked together to come up with a solution. I have also heard many positive reactions from the general public. As a whole our community has a great respect and appreciation of our officers who, I believe are the best in the state."

The city's financial problems over the years have created a pay gap with other towns that is making the moving more attractive to officers. Collins said the city can take immediate steps in the current contract negotiations that can stem the tide.

But the city's decision in 2009 to move from a pension plan to a 401k is the biggest disincentive for keeping officers and hiring new ones. City

officials at the time thought the move would be part of a larger wave of cities and towns doing the same thing, but many that did, quickly went back to a defined benefit. In his statement to the council, Carrano noted the city will lose seven officers in the coming months, cutting the force from 114 (from a maximum of 121) to 107.

Collins said this is the big hurdle to be overcome.

"The next key step in addressing the issue of retention is to immediately work on bringing back a defined benefit package (pension), because not only is important to pay our officers at a competitive rate, but also protect them against any god forbid career ending injury that may occur," he said. "When we hire a new officer, we want that officer to be able to afford to spend his/her entire career with us."

Collins said these are the major problems concerning the department, and, so far, no other negative ripple effects have been noticed. But the new effort to improve things for officers might be having its own ripple effect.

"I have heard about a few officers that were planning on leaving/retiring that are now reconsidering," he said.

Collins said the recent call to action by Carrano and the

Commission has put the issue of the WHPD on the front burner. He is hopeful this new awareness will bring about the changes he believes will help the city and the department staff.

"I am very encouraged that the elected community could

come together and listen to an issue, discuss, negotiate and act on it without turning this into a political football. The retention and well being of our officers that PROTECT AND SERVE our community 24/7 is paramount, and I thank each

See WHPD, page 8



Happy New Year, neighbors.

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A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

Howdy honeybunch, things seem to be moving along here in the Asylum by the Sea – some people hate when Cobina uses that line. She uses “God’s Li’l Acre,” too, like the book in the 1950s, but that seems to us to be a bit presumptuous at times when one looks at the way this place is run...and has been for about 100 years.

So, anyways, thing around here seem to be getting outta the pandemic stage and moving in fits and starts into a more “normal” way of doing things. Oh, there are those that don’t wanna give up the power they’ve had or the control – people love control, especially politicians and bureaucrats, and we’ve had a ton o’ those types lordin’ over us over the last little while.

But it seems that whilst they won’t be the ones to admit it – at least not in public – there

are political forces at work that seem to show the Blue States’ ruling parties are seeing the handwriting on the wall in November. At least on the national side there will be a shellacking or two – one hopes. Meanwhile, people have had jest about enuff. And effen yew consider what went on in Virginia and elsewhere, our Demmie overlords seem to see John and Jane Q. have had it up to their bicuspids.

The geezer in the White House, when he has a lucid moment, don’t like the fack that people are moving away from his and his bureaucracies’ diktats, but that snowball has begun the roll and won’t stop until the trip is over. Meanwhile, who’d have thunk that placid Canada was gonna be a call for people down here and in Europe to rattle the chains the politicos wanna keep us in. That, m’dear has

had a lot to do with things in the lower 48.

Meanwhile, here in our part of the universe, John Carrano and Ray Collins of the Police Commish have rattled chains or cages, but they seem to waking people up to the fack that our little berg doesn’t hafta have a ‘Defund the Police’ movement, it’s been goin’ on for some time, and it’s time to change course.

Carrano put it to the City Council in no uncertain terms that the city’s PD is losing people left and right, and will be well below the optimum number of 121 before long. The problem is one that has been talked about – but not seriously – for a few years. Carrano’s speech changed all that.

We’re losing constables to other towns cuz we’re way behind in salary and benefits as far as it goes. Those we do hire soon fine greener pastures and head there, but our taxpayers foot the bill for the training and equipment, only to have the hire move to another town.

Sooooo, something has to be done and done quickly – but not too quickly. As we’ve learned in other ishews over the years, haste makes bad decisions. This has to be done deliberately and cautiously with a long-range plan. The constables’ contrack is up at the end of the fiscal year, and some

changes can be made, but re-instituting a pension instead of a 401k and making other decisions will have be done according to a plan. Let’s see if we have the guts to pull it off.

~~~~

*Cobina is gonna ask the question again, and hope she gits an answer. In fack, she has two questions now. With the planned demolition of the Savin Rock Conference Center in the near future, we’re still wondering about what will happen to the Savin Rock Museum? It’s an attraction for those who traverse the walk/bike path in warmer seasons and people git a kick outta seeing things from our days as an amusement park locale. So, what’s gonna happen to that?*

*The next query is related. One of the things that has been worked on for a couple o’ decades is trying to git a Savin Rock-style carousel in the area. It was planned to be an adjunct to that building. Now, it’s had its problems, but there is still a committee to look into getting a carousel. Where is that pavilion gonna be put with the new plans?*

*It would seem a good question to ask at this pernt before things go too far afield. We can’t wait to hear what those in charge might have to offer.*

~~~~

I guess this comes under the heading of “Why is Anyone Surprised,” but it seems that our recent problems with federal COVID funds possibly being misused or put into dummy corporations ain’t unique. Some very thoughtful criminal-types have been doing setch things all over the country, and, of course, the media is treating it like somebody kicked an old lady or something.

Once yew put that much money out there, there’s gonna be some nefarious types who’re gonna play the system and figger out ways to make some filthy lucre. And don’t thing for a minute there all gonna git caught. Some might, most won’t. An audit will be made and headlines will report that billions have been abused. After that? Crickets.

So, here in our little community a committee has been set up, and from the looks of it, it seems they’re gonna try to put some guardrails up to make sure the nefarious types think twice. Unfortunately, it was a reactive response, based on some unfortunate events last fall.

It’ll be interesting to see how things work out as new projects and new requests come in.

We don’t usually hold out much hope for these types of committees, but we’ll keep our powder dry till we see how things are done.

Sammy Bluejay was her

t’other afternoon and was waxing how the names on the committee show that herronner means business and will keep a lid on anything untoward going on as we “move forward.” Sammy is always a bit more optimistic about these things than Cobina, but ya gotta admire his attitude. We shall see.

~~~~

*Hard to believe that Beth Sabo, the young gal who came into city government so many years ago is retiring. There are some people who seem to be around forever, and who do whatever they’re asked to do. She is one o’ them. Over the years she’s worn more hats than you’ll find in Delmonico’s in the Elm City. Administrations have depended on her, and she’s done it all*

*There was a time when special projects were handled by the likes of Mary Tracy and Dodie Ireland. When they left the scene, yew always wonder effen someone will pick up the slack left by people like that. Well, with the retirement of Sabo, one wonders exackly that. Whenever there was a projeck to be done, Sabo was behind it or had a big part to play in it. Who’s gonna pick up the slack?*

*I guess we’ll find out soon enuff. Have a great retirement, Beth, and keep in touch.*

~~~~

Nelly Nuthatch came over t’other afternoon and mentioned that the General Assembly was starting its session this week.

This is always a trying time for Cobina, hon. Yew never know what that bunch will do, but they will DO something. Y’see that’s the mantra: At least we’re DOING something. Words that should send a chill down everyone’s spine.

Whenever politicos say they want to do something it usually means spending money or creating a new bureaucracy, which includes spending money.

Over the years we’ve come to believe that it’s all like a board game to some o’ these politicos. They just don’t think of our tax dollars as real money or that there might be a bottom to that money well. Certainly, the fack that we’ve lost thousands of people to red states doesn’t seem to bother them, they just keep on keepin’ on.

So, brace yourself, hon. The thieves are back in session and will do what they always do... and, of course, it’s all for our benefit. Piffle.

~~~~

*Meanwhile, herronner is plugging away making the budget that is due in a few weeks.*

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

The home on Jessie Drive leaves their two Labs outside almost all day and night and one of them barks so loud at any sight or sound, 7 a.m., 5 p.m., 12 a.m., doesn't matter. Not to mention that it's been absolutely freezing out. It makes it even worse that the owner leaves them out there.

This has been occurring all hours of the day and night, but the owner doesn't seem to care or having any awareness of how this is negatively affecting neighbors. I have already tried to go over there to talk to them. I don't even get an apology and they don't even attempt to try to fix the problem. They leave the dogs outside, so they don't become their problem inside. I'm not sure what the appropriate step is:

*Really Fed Up*

**Dear Really Fed Up:**

I have will notify Councilman Steven Johnstone of your dilemma and as soon as I hear a solution from him, you will read it here.

**Dear Gripe Vine Readers:**

I have received numerous complaints regarding the Kelsey, Main, Wagner and Elm Street traffic problems. There have been numerous references in this column and

comments and inquiries from my readers, so to date, I will sum up this issue with the following letter from a loyal reader:

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Thank you for looking into the Kelsey/Main, Wagner and Elm Street traffic light mess.

However, in the past I contacted the traffic division about an issue (I did this for someone else, and as a representative of the city and made that clear) and never even received the courtesy of a reply to j(and the problem was never addressed). Thus, having the councilwoman contact them is not. I fear, not going to produce any result. Thought about that as I sat there for an inordinate amount of time today, wondering why these lights were timed so badly in the first place. Wondering how long we'll just put up with it

*C. Gallo*

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

I received a gripe awhile ago relating to a White Street Blight condition, reported this to the proper council member, and I'm still waiting for results of her investigation. You will read the results here soon.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

We have potholes on Ashford Street- The whole street



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

has them. Please help!

*West Haven Taxpayer*

**Dear West Haven Taxpayer:**

I have forwarded your complaint to Councilwoman Robbin Ward Hamilton. Her reply, "I have passed this on to the Commissioner of Public Works Readers on Ashford Street, let me know if this condition has been remedied.

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

I have received inquiries on the city's ordinance for out of towners who live in West Haven part of the year and the

Boot Law imposed on their cars. Gripe Vine has made inquiries to the city's tax office, attempting to discover how much money ha been collected to date. Watch Gripe Vine for the Tax Collector's response.

Also, I am attempting to collect information on the Ward-Heitman Museum.

You can send your inquiries, comments, issues to [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com) or write to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516

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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).

**Assessment appeals heard in March**

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hear appeals of real estate and personal property assessments on the 2021 grand list by appointment during March. The board will also hear appeals of motor vehicle assessments on the 2020 supplemental motor vehicle grand list that received a tax bill due Jan. 1.

Any property owner who wants to appeal an assessment must submit a written application to the board. The assessor's office must receive the completed form on or before Feb. 20.

Download an application at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4152/Board-of-Assessment-Appeals-Application-PDF>.

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## PD woes need team effort

Police Commissioner John Carrano, acting for Police Commission Chairman Ray Collins, sent out a clarion call to the City Council: we must do something to make the West Haven Police Department a competitive option for incoming candidates. In a detailed statement before the panel last month, Collins outlined a department that has been losing staff and not filling openings due to its pay scale and lack of pension benefits.

This has been a longstanding difficulty since the city's financial straits resurfaced in the early 2000s and has continued to this present day. To keep the budget increases manageable, city administrations have not kept pace with surrounding towns as to pay scale, opting for percentage raises that have put the city out of the competition.

Collins estimated the city is 15 percent, or about \$6,300 below the starting salary of local municipalities of similar size, and 15 percent, or \$11,000 below the maximum salary offered by those same towns. When raises are given, they are between 2.5 and 3 percent, and are not keeping pace with other municipalities. Add to that a disability insurance package that is little more than workers compensation, and you have a recipe for what we are experiencing.

Add to this the 2009 decision to offer only a 401k plan to incoming officers rather than the traditional pension, and you have a recipe for what we are experiencing. The city is acting as a training center for police officers with the city footing the bill for all that entails. Then, after a year or two, officers look to greener pastures with pensions and higher salaries. Collins stated the city has lost 21 officers in the recent past to other communities.

Right now, the city has 114 on the WHPD. Industry experts believe the city should have a minimum of 122. The situation will get worse with the departure of others that will bring the total down to 107. And new recruits are not filling the gaps.

The lack of pay and benefits has caused new prospects to look elsewhere for employment. The current crop of recruits is not looking at the city in any great numbers, with a possible single applicant possible.

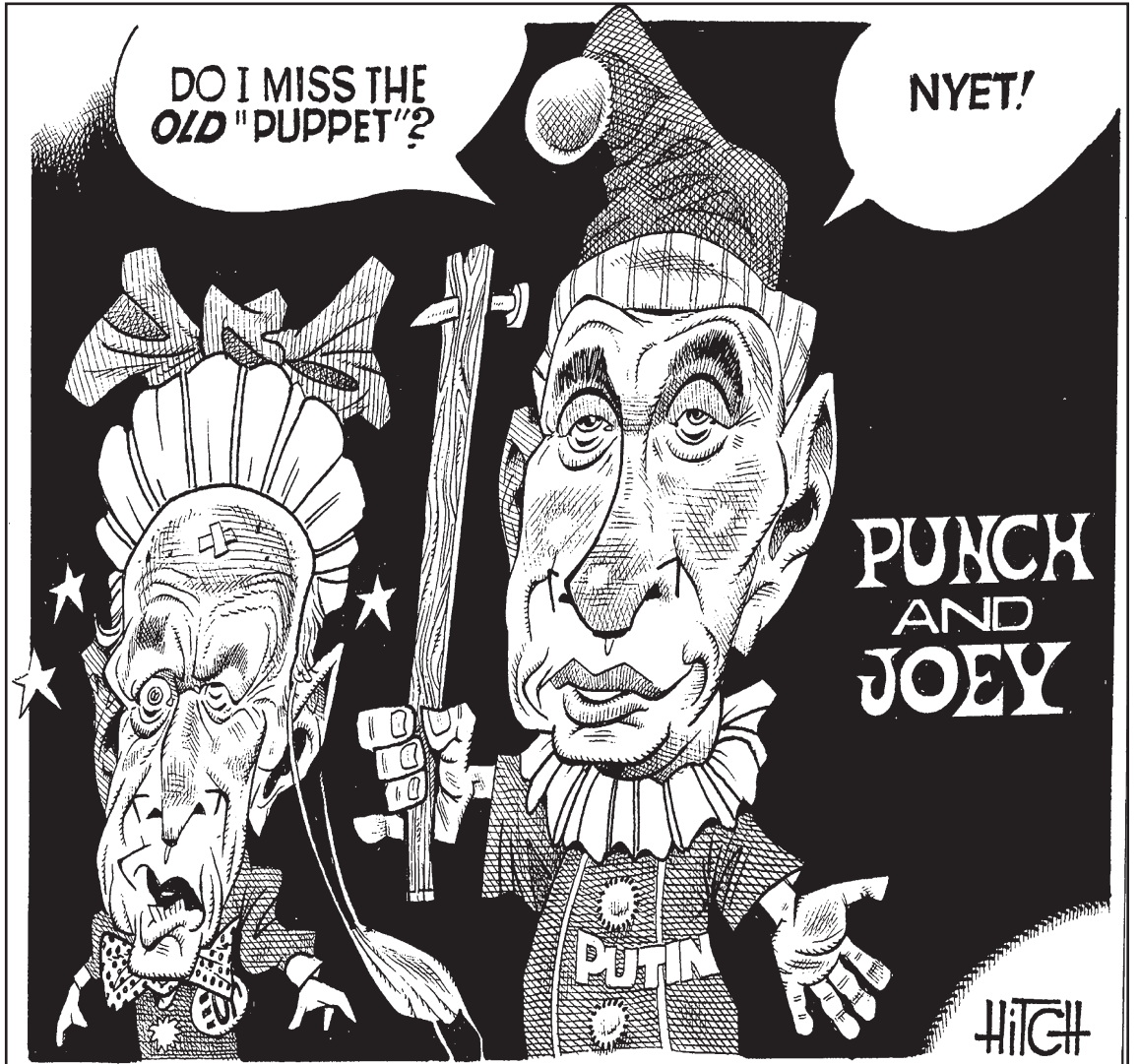
The lack of numbers has caused another problem. Veteran officers, who find their way into the city after working elsewhere are leaving for another reason: mandated overtime. Veteran officers go to another place in hopes of working out their years with some accrued seniority. Mandated overtime has made the city less attractive and caused some to leave the force and go somewhere else.

Collins noted in his statement the loss of the officers since 2015 has not been without its own costs. The city has spent \$2.1 million in costs for staff that have left. That is an eye-opener for city officials, if nothing else is. Officials at the South-Central Criminal Justice Association have alerted the department of its own concerns.

The problem with the WHPD did not happen overnight. It has been an ongoing situation that has been put on the back burner in a city fraught by other financial woes. But that can no longer be the case. A plan of action that will bring the department into competitive territory. This is a problem that has taken years to fester, and it will take some time to remedy.

The police contract is up for renegotiation as the present pact terminates with the end of the fiscal year. A committee of the City Council along with members of the Police Commission and the rank-and-file officers should be established by the Rossi administration to address a long-range solution.

The city cannot afford to have fewer officers who are overwhelmed with added shifts. It needs a fully operational department with competitive salaries and benefits. The city needs leadership on this issue. Now. It needs a team effort.



## Biden can't accept 'normal'

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Joe Biden was the candidate of normality who hasn't been able to deliver it, particularly on the pandemic.

This is not entirely his fault, obviously. He didn't create the delta and omicron surges, nor did he -- or most anyone else -- foresee that the vaccines wouldn't prevent infections as advertised.

On COVID, though, as on much else, he has been trapped by a commitment to his political base and by a reflexive opposition to everything associated with Donald Trump into an endless emergency posture that isn't wearing well with time.

Everyone agrees now -- after the flameouts of initial efforts to pass Build Back Better and of the attempt to trash the Senate filibuster -- that Biden needs a political reset. His looming Supreme Court pick will presumably provide a much-needed win, but is unlikely to move the needle much. It's on the pandemic that Biden has, in theory, an opportunity to change course in a significant way.

By more fully embracing an approach geared to living with COVID and returning to normality, Biden could usefully play against type, align

himself with shifting public opinion, and acknowledge the reality of the third year of the pandemic when vaccines and boosters are easily available to anyone who wants them.

Even the thought of such a tack would, once upon a time, have elicited charges of intolerable recklessness. In certain quarters, it still does. But the public is moving in this direction. A new Monmouth poll found that 70% of the public agrees with the statement that "it's time we accept that COVID is here to stay and we just need to get on with our lives."

Unsurprisingly, 89% of Republicans agree with that view. But so do 71% of independents and nearly half of Democrats.

An NBC News poll on the schools found the same kind of partisan splits. According to the survey, 65% of people were most worried about kids falling behind academically and only 30% most worried about stopping the spread of COVID. Again, Republicans and independents were strongly on one side -- 87% and 66% most worried lost learning -- and Democrats divided, with 43% worried about kids losing academic ground.

In a big Kaiser Family Foundation survey, 51% of Democrats described the pandemic

as the biggest problem facing the country, whereas only 28% of independents did and 19% of Republicans.

This suggests that the response to COVID is beginning to become a wedge issue -- Democrats can play to their base, which is most invested in maintaining restrictions, only at the risk of alienating the broader electorate.

Biden, whose handling of COVID is less and less popular, shows signs of being conflicted. The White House counseled against panic at the outset of the omicron surge, and even talked of a declaration of independence from the virus last summer. But the president hasn't been able to make it unmistakable that he thinks we've entered a new phase in the pandemic. As the heterodox center-left writer Matthew Yglesias points out, the Biden administration may believe that it has embraced normality but what it's really done is only make "the most extreme public health people mad at them."

If the administration wants to make a statement, it could decisively turn against the teacher unions on the issue of keeping schools open, siding with parents and kids over a Democratic interest group. It

See Lowry, page 7

# Letters, we get Letters!

## O'Brien misinformed

In response to former Mayor O'Brien's letter to the *New Haven Register* dated Feb. 6, concerning the newly formed ARPA Committee, which was established by current Mayor Nancy Rossi, he is misinformed regarding its intent. That comes as no surprise since relying on misinformation while decision-making was a trademark of his administration. Just recently, for example, the misinformation he received while contemplating a run to get his old job back cost him the opportunity to be placed on the ballot. He was given the wrong date to file and never bother to question it.

The committee is tasked with managing projects deemed a priority by city leaders, as a result of having listened to concerned citizens at public meetings and seeking their input. Members are not all experts in construction as O'Brien claims.

Superintendent of Schools, Neil Cavallaro, is responsible for educating almost 6,000 students and works with

countless families throughout this community. The Board of Education must take into consideration not only a child's academic needs, but also their social and emotional well-being. Other members include Rohan Smith, who has a strong background in finance. Mike Last has been involved with several community outreach groups.

It has a diverse make-up of skilled West Haveners who care deeply about the city and want nothing more than to see to it the funds are well spent, and taxpayers get the most "bang for the buck."

Clearly, Mr. O'Brien who has been desperate to get his old job back since losing to Mayor Rossi, will do anything to discredit her including spreading misinformation.

*Ken Carney*

**Chairman, ARPA Committee**

## Fix PD difficulties

I read with disbelief West Haven Police Commissioner John Carrno's statement to the West Haven City

Council, as published in the February 3<sup>rd</sup> (2022), edition of the *West Haven Voice*; concerning the crisis in the West Haven Police Department.

Mr. Carrno's statement discussed the current state of affairs in the West Haven Police Department, centering on wages, benefits and attendant retention difficulties within the department.

Specifically, Commissioner Carrano reviewed wage increases received by our police officers over the previous five years, to wit: 2% increase in 2017, 0% increase in 2018, 2019 & 2020, and a 1% increase in 2021. These wage increases, quite frankly, are pathetic. These minuscule and paltry raises immediately bring to mind the old adage: "You get what you pay for!" The City of West Haven must provide competitive, market-based wage increases for its police officers. Doing so would certainly assist with the retention of quality officers, and the ability to attract the best of new candidates.

The statement then discussed the fact that, in 2009, the City of West Haven

decided to replace officer's traditional defined benefit pension plan with a 401k defined contribution pension plan for new hires. That was a major mistake! As everyone knows, police work is dangerous, especially now a days. The police field is a young person's job. Police officers rely on and need a good pension plan, so they can retire at an appropriate age. The last thing that citizens should want are elderly police officers who cannot afford to retire responding to emergency calls for service.

A defined contribution pension plan shifts the investment risk to the employees, away from the employer. A sudden market correction or account devaluation as one nears retirement could be devastating. In addition, a 401k pension plan combined with low wages is a deadly combination. For these reasons, a 401k defined contribution pension plan has no place in police work.

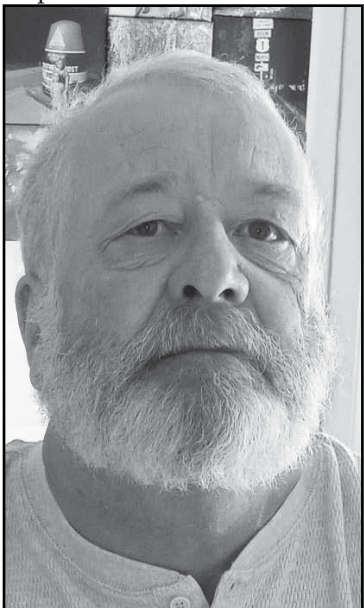
When the City of West Haven re-  
**See Letters, page 12**

## Obituary

### William Melin

William "Billy" Ralph Melin, age 65, of West Haven passed away on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, at his home. He was the devoted husband of Janice (Wendland) Melin for over 45 years. Billy was born on October 31, 1956, in New Haven, son of the late Ralph "Shady Red" and Irene "Sticky" Horobin Melin, and was a lifelong West Haven resident.

Billy met Janice in his early teens and their romance began soon after. He worked as a mechanic for several dealerships and CRC in West Haven



before his retirement. Billy spent many weekends camping with his family and friends and enjoyed trips to Bermuda, The Bahamas and Las Vegas. He was a caring and supportive father and an amusing and mischievous grandfather. Bill and Janice loved going for "rides", trips to the casinos and spending time with each other at the boat ramp feeding the seagulls. Most recently, Billy took pleasure in riding his scooter throughout his neighborhood, making many friends on his adventures and looking for deer and turkeys on the way.

In addition to his wife and best friend, Janice of West Haven, he is survived by his daughter, Melissa G. Melin-Miles and his grandson, William M. Miles, both of Wolcott. He also leaves his brothers, Thomas Melin and his wife, Suzanne of Milford, and David Melin and his wife, Dale of West Haven; his brother-in-law, Edward Wendland and his wife, Lucy of West Haven; his sister-in-law, Gayle Pannone and her husband, Frank of West Haven; many cherished nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews;

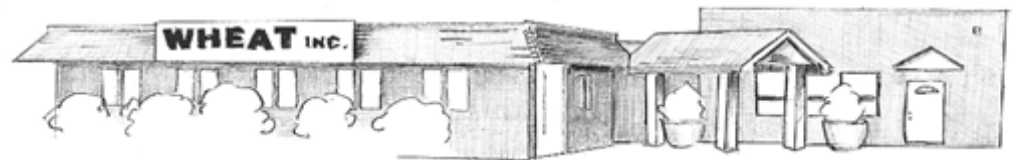
and his loving pups, Cricket, Petie and Dale. He was predeceased by his brother, Robert Melin; his brother-in-law, Kenneth Wendland; and his favorite pug, Gidget.

The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire, 615 So. Main Street, Cheshire, CT

06410 was in charge of arrangement. His funeral was on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, with a service in the funeral home.

Burial was private and at the convenience of his family. Memorial contributions may be made to the Joseph A. Pagliaro, Sr. Family Fund at the Val-

ley Community Foundation, 253A Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT 06418 or by visiting <https://www.valleyfoundation.org/articles/joseph-a-pagliaro-sr-family-fund>. To leave online condolences or to share a story of "The Bat", please visit [www.fordfh.com](http://www.fordfh.com)



WHEAT's pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00-4:30. Residents only need to bring a photo ID and two current pieces of mail (bills, lease, official letters, etc) and two or three grocery bags. Please call or email us to find out how to get food if you cannot come in person.

WHEAT is giving out food twice a month during February.

Donations can be brought on Tuesday and Wednesday between 9:00 and 4:30; Thursdays between 1:00 and 4:30. Please drive to the white overhead door to unload donations.

In case of bad weather if the West Haven public schools are closed, WHEAT is closed.

**WHEAT**

674 Washington Ave., West Haven

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wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net

## Lowry: *No 'science' here*

Continued from page 6

could relax its indefensibly sweeping guidance on school masking and instantly pave the way for local school districts to lift their mandates. It could end the federal mask mandates on travel.

But any of these measures would mean crossing progressives; enduring the scolding of one-dimensional public-health experts; and courting comparisons to Donald Trump, or even worse, Glenn Youngkin and Ron DeSantis.

And so President Biden, as conditions change, can't change with them, putting normality on indefinite hold.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# WHPD: *Officials agree plan is necessary*

Continued from page 3

and everyone involved to help not only to address and acknowledge the situation, but also to finally begin to remedy it," he said.

City Council Finance Chairman Bridgette Hoskie, meanwhile, is watching the negotiations. She has been concerned about the issue for years, and is hopeful the recent attention will turn things around.

"I have been talking about this issue for a few years now. Every budget season I bring up salaries and lack of pension. It is a pressing matter,"

She said. "I obtained salary data from CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) a few months ago. I met with the commissioners and shared the info . I also discussed what other data needed to be brought forward to show the state of emergency we are in. This is a pressing matter that needs to be addressed," she said.

Whatever is done, the first priority is that of competitiveness, and getting qualified candidates.

"The salary disparity needs to be addressed immediately

before this city hits that state of emergency," she said.

As the Finance Committee Chairman, Hoskie has looked into various ways to fund the PD. She doesn't think a tax increase is the way to fund the problem.

"There are many ways to fund the right sizing of the WHPD. There will be some bonding that will be paid off in the amount of about \$5M a year. Of course, we will bond for other projects but there will be a need to balance the load. We also have some new tax revenue sources coming

in through economic development. Increasing taxes is never the go-to in which we look to fund items. This needs to be done and we need to do it right," she said.

Hoskie said a long-term solution is needed, not some short-term fix.

"We need to have a plan of action, a plan for today and the future that encompasses everything. Bonding, right sizing salaries and ensuring services and/or programs for our community,"

But the Finance Chairman said the problem is not just

one of the police department. Other first responders are showing the same effects of years without funding.

"This issue is not just the WHPD, our Fire Departments are struggling as well. I have spoken with the chiefs of Allington and the Center to encourage them to begin the process. All our departments need long term goals that include not just purchasing equipment, building new house but how to fund and give our men and woman wages deserving of those who risk their lives for us," she said.

## Seniors plan trip to Mohegan Sun

Join us West Haven Seniors on the of 2022 to Mohegan Sun Casino, Wednesday, March 16. There are no packages being offered by the casino at this time and cost for trip is \$30. Payment is due by Friday, Feb. 25.

The bus will depart from the Savin Rock Conference Center at 8:30 a.m. and departing the casino at 3 p.m. The casino is requiring masks for those guests who are not fully vaccinated. Temperature checks will be done remotely upon entering property and buffets are closed at this time.

To reserve your seat please come to our office at 201 Noble St. upper level or call (203) 937-3507.

## Tax relief offered

The assessor's office is accepting applications by appointment for tax relief programs for elderly and disabled homeowners. West Haven residents can apply for the programs, based on their 2021 incomes, weekdays from Feb. 15-May 13 in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. For an appointment, call 203-937-3515.

Income limits, including Social Security, are \$46,400 for a married couple and \$38,100 for a single person.

To qualify for the West Haven senior tax freeze program, the applicant must be age 70 by Dec. 31, 2021, and have lived in the city for at least 20 consecutive years. The program will freeze the city portion of the resident's taxes only for the upcoming year.

Income limits, excluding Social Security, are \$50,000 for a married couple and \$35,000 for a single person. Those eligible for the program must reapply each year. The assessor's office is also accepting applications until Oct. 1 for additional veterans exemptions. The maximum income is \$46,400 for a married applicant and \$38,100 for a single applicant.

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# JFK's words an inspiration to retiring Sabo

By Dan Shine  
Voice Columnist

They were 17 of the most inspiring words in 20th Century American History.

*"And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your Country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."*

Those words, spoken in 1961 by newly elected President John F. Kennedy galvanized a generation of American youth into the service of something much bigger than themselves: For some it was the Green Berets; for others it was the Peace Corps; still others chose to be teachers or public servants.

Among those was Beth Sabo, who felt a special calling, and made it her goal to become a teacher when she grew up, but who—as fate would have it—would instead excel in another field of service.

She smiles as she looks at Kennedy's image on her office wall at City Hall and begins her story that is told with emotion, and just a few tears.

Beth grew up in Levittown, Long Island: Developed in 1947, Levittown was the first, and best-known major planned suburban development in America.

"It was a magical time in a magical place. You knew all of your neighbors; and all of the adults you called 'Aunt' or 'Uncle' and their name," she said. "Nobody locked their doors, and the community was like one big family. Our fathers were all G.I.s who had returned from the war, and were fulfilling their dreams of marriage, home and family. While our fathers were at work and our mothers were at home, we kids played stickball and roller blade hockey in the street every day after school. I graduated from high school in 1969 and went away to school. All those kids of yesteryear still have reunions, and these days we stay in touch via the social media. We laugh at our memories, and I feel blessed that all of this has lasted through the ages."

After graduating from SUNY Brockport, Beth continued on, pursuing her master's degree from Southern Connecticut State College (now University), while she applied for a teaching position in West Haven. But at that time, the demand for teachers was low. She began working part-time for the Recreation Department, under Barbara Barry and Bob Schotta. Apparently, they saw some promise in her, for one year later Beth was managing "Project SOFTEN" which was financed by a state grant and offered a multitude of after-school activities and included transportation for those who participated. "Project SOFTEN" was enormously

popular: it offered sports and skills instruction in wood-working, sewing, cooking, etc.

And the years came and went. Beth became assistant to Azelio "Sal" Guerra, who was Director of Human Resources, and in 1987 she became Commissioner of Human Resources, when "Sal" had been elected Mayor.

And because she was Beth, she also took on some "special projects" which did not fall within the scope of Human Resources.

More years passed. From 2003-2013 Beth served as Commissioner of Public works; in 2013, she became Director of Personnel and Human Resources, a position which she held until her retirement in July of 2021.

Retired, she may be, but Beth Sabo is still working at City Hall, albeit only "part time," which for her is probably about 40 hours per week.

In a reflective moment, Beth looks back on some of the projects that she has overseen: Renovations—with the help of committees—of West Haven's Historic Green, Quigley Stadium, Old Grove Park, and the High School baseball and softball fields. Also, Duffy's Soccer Field, Savin Rock Museum, Veterans Museum, and the Veterans Walk on Bradley Point.

"Think of it," said Sabo, "West Haven's premier property, dedicated to all of our veterans—what could be more fitting? When you visit the site, the nature of it commands a certain silent respect. And what you see there are people looking for the names of loved ones, the names of the people, the places, and the service that they rendered unto their country. It brings out a certain reverence among the visitors."

Beth Sabo also managed the city's involvement in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in 1995, which she terms, "An amazing display of humanity." In addition, she chaired the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program and was honored in 2003 by Yoplait and Susan G. Komen as one of 25 individuals in the nation making a difference in Breast Cancer.

And finally, in late 2020, Beth Sabo was asked to accept the daunting assignment of assembling and chairing the "City of West Haven Centennial Celebration - 1921-2021 Committee;" she accepted the position and discharged her duties as expected.

It might be added that it was a desire of that committee to create a "pamphlet" of West Haven history with ads interspersed.

The initial concept grew

and grew, and quickly became much more than that!

In accordance with their insistence, this author saw the development of a book entitled "West Haven - Village to Town" become a reality, to his great delight! With the assistance of Catherine Bushman, Sue McCarthy, Michael Walsh and Beth Sabo—a portion of West Haven's 100 years as an entity—stories from the Historian's Corner—achieved this goal!

In all, Beth served under eight mayors, and two supervisors. They are, respectively, Mayors Robert Johnson, Lawrence Minichino, Azelio "Sal" Guerra, Clem Evangeliste, Richard Borer, John Picard, Edward O'Brien, and Nancy R. Rossi, also Robert Schotta and Jon Purmont.

How does Beth sum up her career?

She closes our discussion with a quotation from Confucius: "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

During her many years with the City of West Haven, Beth Sabo has worn many hats, as officials used her talents to complete many projects.



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# Officials tout tax benefits for city families

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker joined members of the Connecticut Association for Human Services at the West Haven Community House on Feb. 2 to promote a free federal tax preparation program and raise awareness of the Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit.

At the tax season kickoff, Rossi and Elicker touted the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, an initiative of the IRS that offers free tax help to people who need assistance preparing tax returns, including those who make \$58,000 or less, people with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers.

The event was sponsored by the Greater New Haven Family Economic Security Coalition and CAHS, which coordinates the VITA campaign in Connecticut.

Rossi and Elicker, who in their remarks complimented each other's city initiatives, also raised awareness of the Connecticut EITC, a refundable state income tax credit for low-to-moderate-income working individuals and families. The state credit has been increased to 41.5% of the federal EITC for this tax season,

officials noted.

The event's other speakers were CAHS CEO John Merz, IRS Senior Tax Consultant Ron Peruzzi, IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service Manager Karen Mayer, Community House Executive Director Amy Guay-Macfarlane, Jennifer Heath, the president and CEO of the United Way of Greater New Haven, and Takima Robinson, the director of asset building programs at CAHS.

"At the completion of last year's tax season, the CAHS CT VITA Coalition assisted over 10,000 taxpayers, resulting in \$16 million in federal refunds and \$3 million in EITC," Merz said. "We are thrilled with those results, and we are pleased to be able to again offer qualified families and individuals free tax preparation and filing during this upcoming tax season."

"This is an important service and offers a significant savings to those who are challenged by the extra expense of tax preparation. In addition to free tax services, CAHS also offers educational programs that help build long-lasting financial stability."

Rossi, a certified public accountant, added: "Tax assistance and financial education are both crucial in a time like this, particularly when the

COVID-19 pandemic has created financial strains in our communities. The VITA program is critical in ensuring that low-to-moderate-income families properly file their taxes and get their deserved tax refunds."

Rossi continued: "The Connecticut Association for Human Services is working hard in collaboration with Code for America to ensure that our residents get necessary tax services while staying safe during the spread of the omicron variant. I am deeply appreciative of all our trained volunteers and our funders who make this program possible, and I urge all who are eligible to sign up. I strongly support this initiative and the value it brings to the Greater New Haven area."

Last year, trained IRS-certified VITA volunteers in Greater New Haven prepared more than 2,700 tax returns, returning \$5.1 million in state and federal refunds to local families and over \$930,000 in federal Earned Income Tax Credits, which officials said may have otherwise gone unclaimed.

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, CAHS will continue its partnership with Code for America to operate a VITA online service at <https://www.getyourrefund.org/en>.

GetYourRefund.org is a non-profit service built by Code for America, a nonpartisan, nonpolitical charitable organization, in partnership with IRS-certified VITA sites nationwide.

The VITA online service offers the same quality services as in-person VITA sites. Taxpayers can answer intake questions and upload tax documents at <https://www.getyourrefund.org/en>.

ourrefund.org/en.

Trained IRS-certified VITA volunteers will remotely prepare tax returns, speak with taxpayers to review them and file the returns with taxpayers' consent.

For taxpayers without access or the technology to use the online service, CAHS has VITA sites in Fairfield County that offer drop-off and limited in-person services.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Rossi delivers remarks at the tax season kickoff at the Community House, saying, "The VITA program is critical in ensuring that low-to-moderate-income families properly file their taxes and get their deserved tax refunds."

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## The Shops at Yale

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# McCarthys celebrate 67 years together

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

In a time still dominated by the coronavirus, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi lifted spirits — again — by delivering valentines to 30 married couples of 50 years and more during the city’s 32nd annual Valentine’s Day event Friday.

First Avenue residents William and Dorothy McCarthy, who have been married for 72 years, were among the West Haven couples honored by Rossi three days before Valentine’s Day.

During the pandemic-safe celebration, Rossi drove to each home and gave each couple a blue tote bag emblazoned with a white West Haven seal and filled with congratulatory gifts.

For three decades, the city had recognized those sweethearts who reached the half-century mark and beyond with a Valentine’s Day party

featuring entertainment, dancing and refreshments.

But like last year, this year was different because of COVID-19. Pandemic or not, Rossi was once again determined to keep the city’s Valentine’s Day tradition going.

Without skipping a beat, Rossi, with help from the Department of Elderly Services, planned an alternative event that celebrated the holiday of love from the safety of couples’ homes — all the while playing Cupid and delivering gift bags to the happy couples in an otherwise trying time.

“The City with a Heart” tote bags were donated by Westies Win, a nonprofit fundraising group, and were assembled by the University of New Haven Mayor’s Advisory Commission, a collaborative, student-driven task force founded in

2015 to strengthen town-gown relations.

Each insulated bag contained a red rose, a bottle of sparkling wine, a salami and provolone snack pack, and a centennial coin, lapel pin and decal. Each bag also included two bottles of bug spray, face masks and two bottles of hand sanitizer donated by the Health Department, along with valentines made by Girl Scout Troop 60298 and snacks donated by the Democratic and Republican town committees.

Rossi also presented the McCarthys, the event’s oldest married couple, and the youngest couple, Savin Avenue residents David and Deborah Latella, 50 years, with a bottle of sparkling wine and a pendant necklace courtesy of Leslie Jewelers.



City Photo by Tom McCarthy

West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, center, pauses with William and Dorothy McCarthy after delivering valentines to the First Avenue couple as part of the city’s 32nd annual Valentine’s Day event Friday.

## Meeting

Continued from page 1

Under Treasury Department guidelines, the city can utilize four categories when determining allocation of funds:

~~ To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;

~~ To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;

~~ For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and,

~~ To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

These categories, however, seem to be broad in scope, and allow municipalities discretion in use for capital expenditures.

Uses not allowed under the law are:

~~ Depositing funds into any pension fund;

~~ Directly or indirectly offset[ting] a reduction in the net tax revenue of [the] State or territory resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation.

A summary of the law may be found at: <https://www.wittobriens.com/resources/summary-of-treasurys-american-rescue-plan-act-final-rule-guidelines>.

Face masks will be required for the meeting.



Photo by Patricia C. Horvath

## They do!

Justice of the Peace Steven R. Mullins officiates the marriage of Yi Yi Ge and Dan Condrea in the Harriet C. North Community Room at City Hall on Monday. Ge and Condrea were among three West Haven couples united in matrimony on Valentine’s Day as part of an annual service sponsored by the city clerk’s office, which offers free weddings to couples who apply for a marriage license at City Hall.

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Submitted Photo

## Special food drive

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, students from Saint Lawrence School in West Haven collected over 350 non-perishable food items that were donated to West Haven's Emergency Assistance Taskforce (WHEAT) to help local community members and families in need. Celebrated by all schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education, and this year's theme was "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."



# Iranian refugee ordained at Holy Spirit

By Steven R. Mullins  
*Special to the Voice*

The Rev. Melina Dezhbod was ordained to the Order of Priests by The Rt. Rev. Laura Aherns, Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 1 at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven.

Until her ordination, Dezhbod, 24 served the parish as a deacon. In her capacity as missional curate, her focus has been overseeing the parish's outreach programs, reaching out to the underprivileged and teaching confirmation classes to the parish youth and converting adults. She also preaches and celebrates once a month.

Dezhbod works under the supervision of the Rev. Kevin Olds, priest-in-charge.

"I am thankful that the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut asked me to work alongside Mother Melina during her curacy," Olds said. "Our shared ministry at Holy Spirit has been a delight and I am looking forward with great

anticipation to all that God has in store for this new priest in this City of West Haven."

Olds delivered the homily at Dezhbod's ordination mass.

Born in Tehran, Iran, Dezhbod, escaped with her family from the Islamic state due to religious persecution. They were refugees when they came to Connecticut in 1999.

Dezhbod was raised in Naugatuck, where she graduated from Naugatuck High School. She later attended St. Joseph College in West Hartford, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in social work. She later earned her M. Div. from the Virginia Theological Seminary.

"Accepting a call of any kind is never easy. It is scary and there are many unknowns," Dezhbod said. "But among every call is our purpose; and working to live into it each and everyday."

She was ordained a transitional deacon last year. Dezhbod is also employed as a chaplain at Danbury Hospital in Danbury.



The Rev. Melina Dezhbod kneels prior to ordination.

## Letters, we get letters!

Continued from page 7

placed its traditional pension plan with a 401k plan, it *de facto* eliminated the disability component of the traditional plan. In other words, if a police officer hired after 2009 incurs a career-ending injury or illness while protecting the citizens of West Haven, he or she is entitled to receive only "36 months of Worker's Compensation benefits and, afterwards, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), benefits." In contrast, traditional pension plans contain a disability component which pays 50-60% of base salary to the injured officer. Moreover, if killed in action, an officer's family receives no compensation at all for future lost earnings. So when the City of West Haven eliminated its traditional pension plan for new hires in 2009, it doubly-screwed its new cops, leaving them with a much less generous pension and no Long-term Disability plan!

Statistics reveal that approximately 63% of applicants for SSDI are initially denied benefits. I wonder if the City provides permanent disabled police officers with legal representation during the SSDI Appeal Process, i.e., hearing before an Administrative Law Judge and Social Security's Appeals Council?

The City of West Haven should immediately and unilaterally reinstitute the traditional pension plan for its police officers; the matter should not even be a subject of collective bargaining in their ongoing contract negotia-

tions. Even then, officers hired since 2009 will be unable to replace lost pension credits during their previous years of service. The police union is at a tactical disadvantage because, if they appeal to binding arbitration, the city will certainly make a convincing case to the arbitration panel on their lack of ability to pay, since it is essentially broke and still under the oversight and control of the State's Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB).

Indeed, it boggles one's mind to see that Commissioner Carrano would need to prepare such an in-depth and comprehensive presentation to the West Haven City Council on matters that are so simple and common sense! And where is Councilman-At-Large Ron Quagliani on this issue? One would think, as a former Chief of Police in West Haven, he would be leading the charge on the issues of inadequate pay, benefits and the resultant inability to retain personnel.

It is long past time for Mayor Nancy Rossi and members of the City Council to step up to the plate and do the right thing. Provide your police officers with competitive wages and a traditional defined benefit police pension plan which also provides for long-term disability benefits. While I am a taxpayer and do not relish an increase in the property tax mill rate, certain expenses are simply necessary and the cost of doing business. Properly compensated dedicated police officers is one such expense.

John Grottole



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**Historian's corner** By Dan Shine

**Maritime Series, Part III  
New Haven's Lighthouse**

When we look across New Haven Harbor on a clear day, it is easy to spot the white monolith of the Lighthouse at Five Mile Point, so named for its distance from downtown New Haven. A lighted beacon shone from that spot for 73 years—but not always from the structure that we see there today.

From the earliest days of the European settlers, New Haven has been a significant trading port for the East Coast and the West Indies; and also from those earliest days, the shale outcroppings of Lighthouse Point, or Five Mile Point have been a significant hazard for vessels entering and leaving the harbor.

Thus, New Haven *had* to have a lighthouse. The original small, shingled structure was made of wood

in 1805; it was but thirty feet tall, and its simple beacon was lit with a whale oil flame. The light was visible from a distance of 5-12 miles, depending upon conditions.

In 1847, a second lighthouse was built on the same spot, at a cost of \$10,000. Like the other Connecticut lighthouses, it was octagonal in shape. Its beacon was magnified by a brand-new technology—it used a fourth-order Fresnel lens. The new lighthouse, made of East Haven sandstone, was 65 feet tall, and rose 97 feet above sea level. This structure served as New Haven Harbor's lighthouse until 1877, when the Southwest Ledge light was built on the present site of one of New Haven Harbor's breakwaters.

The lighthouse keeper and his family lived in a brick structure that is adjacent to the lighthouse; this was connected

to the lighthouse itself by a wooden passageway, which has long since disappeared. In general, lighthouse keepers had large families; the keeper was responsible for maintaining the lights, mirrors, brasswork, and taking care of any other details that would keep the beacon visible—without fail—each and every night. The lighthouse keeper's wife earned extra money from the neighbors by performing light housekeeping for them (sorry, bad joke).

It wasn't an easy life; maintaining the light could become downright hazardous to the lighthouse keeper during high winds and foul weather.

In 1924, the City of New Haven purchased the now-defunct lighthouse, along with its land and buildings, and Lighthouse Point Park was created; the park has operated continuously ever since. Dur-

ing the 1920s, the park and its ball field attracted baseball legends Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb.

Today, the grounds are open year-round, but the lighthouse itself is usually closed; park rangers do open the lighthouse on a limited basis for tours. That park, as it should be noted, is one of the most popular spots for bird watching along the entire East Coast.

Thus, The Lighthouse, a New Haven landmark, continues to stand, and harkens back to the glorious days of New Haven's maritime heyday—days of adventure and romance, when wooden ships traveled under the power of sail and steam.



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



The New Haven Lighthouse has been a landmark in the region for about a century and a half. The structure and its keeper's house are still preserved at Lighthouse Park, a popular beach area in the Elm City's Annex neighborhood. We see it here in one of the many postcard depictions (above) and one of hundreds of photographs.




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## Quintets rebound

After suffering consecutive losses, the West Haven girls basketball team has responded in impressive fashion. Fresh off a 24-point victory over East Haven, the Westies used a balanced scoring attack to roll past Career, 71-21, on the road.

Twelve different players worked their way into the scoring column as the Westies improved to 10-2 with their second straight victory.

Amani Abuhatab led the way with 17 points, Cassidy Carrano added 10, and Isabella Fiorillo scored nine. Ava Murphy and Jasmyrn DaGraca each scored six, while Mya Flemming scored five.

The Westies allowed just three first half points, led 19-0 after one quarter and 29-3 at the half. A 30-5 run to start the second half, was too much for Career to overcome.

Abuhatab scored nine of West Haven's 19 first quarter points, while Flemming added five. Fiorillo connected on three field goals in the second quarter, and ten different players scored in the third quarter, led by Carrano with six and Murphy with five.

West Haven won its third consecutive contest with a resounding 74-47 victory at Shelton. Ten different players were in the scoring column as the Westies improved to 11-2 on the year.

Carrano led the way with 25 points, Abuhatab added 18, Fiorillo chipped in eight and Ella Morgan six as West Haven rolled to the victory.

West Haven took control of the contest early and never looked back as the Westies jumped out to a 31-12 lead after one quarter. The lead grew to 44-16 at the half and West Haven was well on its way to victory.

Scoring 13 of her 19 points in the fourth quarter, Carrano, along with Abuhatab, led West Haven to a thrilling come-from-behind 59-51 victory over Hillhouse in a Southern Connecticut Conference Hammonasset Division contest.

Abuhatab scored nine of

her team-high 25 points in the final quarter as West Haven took over the top spot in the division, breaking the tie with Hillhouse. A West Haven victory over North Haven Friday evening would seal the division crown for the Westies.

The Westies avenged a 31-point loss to Hillhouse just two weeks earlier, but it did not come easy. Following a basket by T'ajia Lloyd and a pair of free throws by Trinity Moody, Hillhouse had a 48-42 lead with 4:38 to play.

Abuhatab and Carrano then took over to lead the Westies on a 17-3 run to close the game. Carrano scored 10 points in the run, Abuhatab added five, and freshman Ella Morgan came up with a huge shot to give West Haven a 54-48 lead with 1:22 remaining.

The shot by Morgan was just one of a number of big plays by the freshman as she logged considerable minutes with West Haven in foul trouble. Morgan's presence led to blocked shots and Hillhouse turnovers which Abuhatab and Carrano turned into points in the final quarter.

Trailing by four, Carrano drained her second of three 3-pointers in the final quarter to get West Haven within 48-47 with 4:03 to go. Abuhatab followed with a bucket and free throw for a two-point lead with 3:29 to go, before Carrano sandwiched two buckets around a Morgan basket to cap a 14-0 run, giving West Haven a 56-48 lead with 46 seconds remaining.

Lost in the 14-point run may be the defensive efforts of the Westies. West Haven controlled the boards in the final four minutes and contained the Hillhouse offense until the Westies made the run.

After Hillhouse's Nielle Reaves drained a 3-pointer to get the Academics within five points with just over 30 seconds to go, Carrano's fired the last dagger in any hopes of a Hillhouse comeback when her long-range 3-pointer gave West Haven a 59-51 advantage.

After Abuhatab scored 13

points in the first half, the Academics did a masterful job on the West Haven junior, holding her to just a single 3-pointer in the third quarter.

Hillhouse trailed by five at the half, but went on a 18-10 run in the third quarter to take a 38-35 lead. Reaves scored the first five points of the second half to even the game at 25.

A 5-0 run by the Academics gave Hillhouse a 30-28 advantage, before Morgan's basket had West Haven on top 32-31 late in the third quarter.

Reaves proved to be a thorn in West Haven's side all game, finishing the game with 18 points, and giving the Academics a 40-35 lead to start the fourth quarter. Hillhouse's Dillyn Boyd and West Haven's Carrano matched 3-pointers, setting up West Haven's frantic fourth quarter rally.

The goal was clear entering Friday evening's contest against North Haven. A win would clinch the Southern Connecticut Conference Hammonasset Division title. After a slow start, the Westies got back on track and defeated North Haven, 69-50, at West Haven Hight to improve to 16-2 on the season, and take home the division title.

Carrano led West Haven with 23 points, Abuhatab scored 21, and Dealyce Howard scored 16 in the clincher.

Finding its groove, West Haven used baskets by Carrano and Abuhatab to take a 16-15 lead, before Mya Flemming gave West Haven a 17-16 advantage after one quarter.

The Westies then put the game away in the second quarter, scoring 21 of the combined 26 points, including a 16-1 run to close the quarter for a 38-21 halftime lead.

Howard hit a pair of 3-pointers in the quarter, including one just before the buzzer, and finished with eight points, Howard's second bucket of the quarter had West Haven up 27-20, before Abuhatab and Carrano connected.

Carrano followed with a steal and assist on a basket by Flemming, Abuhatabh increased the margin to 35-21,



Photo by Todd Dandelske

**Manny Belcher goes for lay up against Hillhouse. The Westies avenged an earlier loss to the Academics.**

and Howard's 3-pointer put West Haven on top 38-21.

The West Haven boys basketball team won its fourth game in a row with a resounding 80-50 victory over Foran in West Haven. West Haven improved to 7-5 on the year.

The Westies had 11 players in the scoring column with Manny Belcher and Henry Smith leading the way with 17 points apiece. Tavares Tuck had 11 points and Kyle Kearson added eight.

Six different players scored in the opening quarter when West Haven took a 24-13 advantage. Tuck drained a pair of 3-pointers, Henry Smith scored seven, and Roderick Smith had five.

The Westies held a 15-point lead in the second quarter behind a balanced attack. Belcher helped put the game away in the third quarter when he connected on three 3-pointers.

West Haven is starting to find its way. Needing overtime, the Westies defeated Hillhouse, 55-47, to improve to 6-5 on the year.

The victory was West Haven's third in a row. The Westies were led by Kearson with 18 points, including four 3-pointers, and Tuck with 14 points. Javaun Calhoun added

eight points and Dwight Francis had seven points in the win.

Kearson drained three of his 3-pointers in the opening quarter, while Tuck and Francis also hit from long range. West Haven outscored the Academics by eight points in the overtime, doing most of the damage at the free throw line.

After a tough loss against Bassick, West Haven got back on the winning track with an 86-47 victory over East Haven.

The Westies had contributions from a variety of players as 14 different players were in the scoring column, led by Tuck and Belcher with 17 points apiece.

Henry Smith had 11 points, Jared Butler added nine, and Roderick Smith and Kearson each scored eight.

The Westies jumped out of the gates quickly with 27 first quarter points and never looked back. Belcher scored eight points in the first eight minutes, Tuck drained a pair of 3-pointers and Kearson had four points.

Henry Smith knocked in a pair of 3-pointers in the second quarter, Butler scored five points, while Tuck and Calhoun each scored four.

**See Westies, page 15**

# Westies: *Hockey teams still struggling*

Continued from page 14

West Haven had plenty of opportunities to pull away against Bassick. The numbers at the free throw line told a different story.

Missing 12 shots from the line, including 11 in the first half, West Haven never put away Bassick, falling 82-80 in overtime at West Haven High.

With the loss, West Haven saw its four-game winning streak come to an end and fell to 7-6 on the year. The Westies were 29-of-41 from the free throw line.

West Haven had three players in double figures, led by Tuck with 21 points and Belcher with 20. Javaun Calhoun added 12 points, Henry Smith had nine, Dwight Francis had eight and Butler chipped in six.

The Westies trailed by one point after the first quarter as they missed four free throws. Belcher had five points in the opening quarter.

West Haven took a 37-31 lead in the second quarter as Henry Smith hit a big 3-pointer and finished with seven points in the quarter.

The Westies never extended the lead and saw Bassick even the game at 50 in the third quarter. West Haven missed just one free throw in the second half, connecting on all 11 in the fourth quarter.

Tuck and Belcher tried to close out the game for the Westies in the final quarter with seven and six points, respectively, but the game went to overtime and Bassick squeaked out a two-point win.

West Haven has had some big wins the past two years. For this season, the biggest win came vs. Fairfield Prep.

Going to toe-to-toe with one

of the state's best teams, West Haven prevailed with a 65-56 victory at West Haven High. West Haven's second straight victory improved the team to 9-6 on the season.

Tuck led four Westies in double figures with 22 points, while Belcher scored 14, Henry Smith had 12 and Kearson added 11.

Despite seven points from Belcher and four from Kearson in the opening quarter, West Haven trailed 19-15. The Westies took a 30-28 lead, outscoring Prep, 15-9, in the second quarter as Tuck scored 10 of his team's 15 points.

West Haven increased the lead to 47-41 as Kearson scored seven points and Henry Smith scored six in the third quarter.

Tuck helped ice the game with 10 points in the final quarter, including six from the free throw line.

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team snapped a four-game losing streak and climbed back to the .500 mark with a 4-2 victory over Amity/North Haven/Cheshire Monday afternoon in Hamden.

Nine different players were in the scoring column and Grace Nowak made 12 saves to help the Westie Sharks improve to 7-7 on the year. Chase Ireland led the way with a goal and an assist, while Maya Boyhen added two assists.

After a scoreless first period, West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy took the lead for good with four goals in the second period.

Freshman Julianna Picard gave the Westie Sharks a 1-0 lead off assists from Boyhen and Ireland, before Geena Montano increased the lead to a pair of goals off assists from

Ashley Welch and Meghan Dupre with 7:34 left in the second.

Just 3:01 later, the lead was 3-0 as Ireland scored off an assist from Taylor Alfano. Emilee DeGrand capped the scoring for the Westie Sharks with 58 seconds remaining in the middle period off assists from Anne Plunkett and Boyhen.

Amity/ North Haven/Cheshire spoiled the shutout for Nowak with two goals in the final period.

West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy lost for the fifth time in six games Saturday afternoon with a 3-1 loss at Hamden.

The Westie Sharks trailed by two goals after one period of play and never got back on track. Meghan Dupre scored an unassisted goal 3:02 into the second period, but Hamden scored 3:21 later to gain back its two-goal lead.

West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy managed just five shots in the third period of the loss.

The Westie Sharks fell to 8-9 with a 6-2 loss against Avon on Senior Night at the Edward L. Bennett Rink Saturday evening.

Dupre and Boyhen each had a goal and an assist, and Nowak made 32 saves, but it was not enough in the loss.

Dupre gave the Westie Sharks a 1-0 first period lead off an assist from Boyhen, but Avon scored the next five goals, including two in the first period for a 5-1 advantage.

Boyhen finally got Westie Sharks back on the board off an assist from Julianna Picard with 3:17 left, but Avon added another goal late in the third for the 6-2 final.

After more than a week off, the West Haven boys hockey team was eager to get back on the ice. Unfortunately for the Westies, things did not go their way.

Falling behind early, West Haven never recovered in a 5-2 loss against. With the loss, West Haven fell to 2-10 on the year.

Cheshire controlled play in the opening period, limiting the Westies to just four shots. The Rams scored 6:06 into the contest when Andrew Vaill tipped in a shot by Ryan Fraser, before Damon Zurolo went through the zone untouched and backhanded a shot home for a 2-0 advantage with 1:24 left in the opening period.

West Haven had one solid scoring opportunity in the period, but a breakaway shot by Ryan Bernardi sailed wide.

The Rams tool a 3-0 lead off a rebound in front, before Bernardi sent Nico Bruneau

in on a breakaway. Bruneau's shot to the top left corner got the Westies within 3-1 with 2:39 remaining in the middle period.

That momentum lasted 22 seconds as Cheshire scored off a sharp angle for a 4-1 lead. Bruneau scored his second of the period with 3.8 seconds remaining in the middle period to get West Haven within 4-2, but West Haven never got closer.

One game after playing possibly its worst game of the season, the West Haven hockey team rebounded to defeat Glastonbury, 4-3, in overtime.

Marcus Burrows scored from in front off a pass from D.J. Carfora with 4:34 left in overtime as West Haven improved to 3-10 on the season.

Javed Ullah made 34 saves in the win, including 16 in the first period

With the ceremonies of celebrating the 1990 state championship season fresh in the minds of the players, the team was looking to avenge an earlier season loss against Hamden. Despite rallying from a two-goal deficit, West Haven fell to the Green Dragons, 7-3, Saturday.

Spreyer scored twice, and Alfano and Carfora each had two assists, but it was not enough. With the loss, West Haven fell to 3-11 on the year.

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# Youth hockey teams prep for tournaments

The West Haven Mite A travel team played in the Mite State Jamboree last Saturday, going 4-2-1 in a day of competitive games.

The Blue Devils opened the day with a 1-0 win over CT Elite. Jax Guarino scored the lone goal off a nice one-timer set-up by Logan Minio. Jameson Schempp was stellar in goal, making a few big saves down the stretch to preserve the win.

The pair combined again in game two, this time Guarino setting up Minio for the goal in a 1-0 win over Central. Cooper Owens played strong defense to help keep the shut-out.

The Westies tied the undefeated CT Chiefs in the third game. Down 1-0 with under a minute to play, Ben Trenchard broke up a Chiefs attack and got the puck up to Minio. Minio skated along the boards before cutting in to set up Brady Salkins for the tying goal as seconds ticked away.

The Westies fell 1-0 in game four to the Yale Mite A team. Schempp again came up with some big saves, but the Westies could not find the back of the net, despite the hard work of Caden Minio, Jameson Eid, and Henry Seslar.

The Blue Devils bounced back in their next game, taking it to Wallingford and winning 3-0. Guarino and Salkins both found the back of the net again, as did Logan Minio, getting the assist on his goal from Caden Minio.

The boys finished the day strong, defeating Ridgefield in the final game, 6-2. Trenchard and Owens once again anchored the defense, as Guarino picked up the hat trick. Seslar banged one home, getting set up by Salkins. Logan Minio added the other two goals, and Schempp was once again solid in net for the Westies.

The West Haven Mite A travel hockey team was back in ac-

tion this past weekend, playing against the Wonderland Wizards Mite A squad. The Wizards won the contest 12-7, but the young Westies gave them a tough game.

Logan Minio led the scoring, picking up assists from Guarino and Caden Minio. Guarino added two goals of his own, with Logan Minio assisting him. Salkins rounded out the scoring, getting the pass from Trenchard.

Trenchard and Cooper Owens both played well defensively, and Jameson Eid and Seslar put in a lot of hustle on the wings to get up and down the rink. Jameson Schempp continued his impressive run of form in goal, making several huge saves throughout the game.

The West Haven Mite C hockey team took on the Milford Mud Hounds at Bennett Rink. Multiple goals were scored by JP Beebe, Carter Liston, Landon Alling, Emmet Hemming, Sarah Mastroni and Caleb Ford. In addition, a goal was contributed by Jackson Ford, while several shots on net were made by Abby Hemming. Making her debut in net for the Blue Devils was Kiera Harrison, and she made many great saves.

The Mite C's took on the Chiefs Mini Mites on Sunday at Newington Arena. Playing goalie for the Blue Devils was Emmet Hemming, also making his debut and making many great saves.

Multiple goals were scored by Carter Liston, Beebe, Mastroni, Jackson Ford and Abby Hemming. Additionally, a goal was scored by Alling and several shots on goal were made by Kiera Hemming and Caleb Ford.

The West Haven Squirt A travel hockey team participated in the Connecticut Hockey Conference State Tournament in Shelton this past weekend. The team went 4-0 against their opposition to gain the

Nutmeg Division title.

In the championship game, the Westies downed New Canaan, 2-1, to capture the title. Colton Bruneau opened the scoring with an unassisted goal with two minutes left in the first period, jamming in a loose puck from the crease. West Haven held a 1-0 lead deep into the second period, until New Canaan scored on a breakaway to tie the game with 2:53 left.

The tie did not last long as Logan Stackpole was able to find the puck in the crowd, took off into the offensive zone and sniped a quick shot that ended up in the back of the net to give the Westies a 2-1 lead. Nikolas Scalice had a blockbuster game between the pipes with a double-digit save count, holding New Canaan to the one goal. Bruneau received player of the tournament racking up six points across the four-game stretch.

On Saturday, the Westies played a doubleheader. The first game was against the Riverhawks, and Logan Stackpole scored two goals in the game, each assisted by Colin Whelan. Rounding out the scoring to give the Westies a 5-1 victory was Bruneau with a hat trick, one of which was an assist by Stackpole. Forwards Kyle D'Agostino and JJ Charbonneau worked hard along the boards to keep control of the puck in the neutral zone in both games.

In the second game of the day, the Westies played the Southern CT Stars, ending with a 5-1 victory. Leading off the scoring was Dane Walsh, going top shelf with an unassisted goal in the first period. In the second period, Stackpole score an unassisted goal followed by defenseman Conner Owens who launched a rocket from the blue line. Stackpole would go on to score a second goal in the third period off an assist from Whelan, and rounding out the scoring

was Walsh with another unassisted goal. Anthony Parise also had a strong game with a few breakaways to move the puck up the ice for the Westies. Goaltender Evan Harrison was a brick wall in the game, shutting down Southern's scoring efforts.

In the opening game of the tournament, the Westies played a very physical game against New Canaan. Colton Bruneau scored the first goal of the game off an assist from defenseman Holden Napolitano. Dane Walsh went top shelf to score in the second period, and defenseman Ryan Schempp sniped a shot from the point off a quick pass from Bruneau on a Westie power play.

Overall, the Westies only had four goals scored against them in the tournament. The outstanding efforts of the West Haven defense of Ryan Schempp, Conner Owens, Kyle Johnson, and Joseph Mondo shut down their opponent's offense with a solid and consistent effort in every game.

Crisp passing, a masterful neutral zone reset strategy, and a strong backchecking effort were the keys to success for the young Westies. The goaltending duo of Nik Scalice and Evan Harrison, who split time between the net, each had double digit save counts in the tournament.

The West Haven Youth Hockey Squirt AA team notched two wins and a tie over last two weeks.

The Westies were able to play at the Peoples United Center on the campus of Quinnipiac University and Quinn Smith stole the show in net by posting a 1-0 shutout with 22 saves over the Mid Fairfield Rangers AA.

Andrew Lacasse buried a pass from Rocco Kelly to account for the only goal. AJ Farrell, Cody Young, Owen Santos, and Stella Porto led

the defensive efforts in front of Smith.

The Westies tied the Mid Fairfield Rangers AA 2-2 in West Haven. Charlie Gunning and Dylan Spreyer found the back of the net for the Westies. Smith notched 17 saves in the contest.

The Westies travelled to Stanford and came away with a 5-4 win over the Connecticut Junior Rangers Elite. Lacasse opened the scoring on a pass from Jeremiah McGrath, and Digioia evened the score on a pass from Jaxon Troyer.

After falling behind a goal, Digioia buried a pass from Gunning to tie it. Digioia then added an unassisted goal, before Lacasse broke free and buried the game winner on a 5-on-3 shorthanded penalty kill. Smith turned in another stellar performance in net with 19 saves for the win.

The West Haven Bantam A hockey team split a pair of games last Saturday as it prepares for the upcoming state tournament. The Blue Devils dropped a tight, 2-1 decision to Avon and then rebounded with a 6-3 win over Darien. The Westies' overall record is now 25-10-5.

On Saturday morning at Edward L. Bennett Rink, the Westies hosted Avon A. The Blue Devils took an early 1-0 lead with a power play goal. Sean Studley hit Alex Bowery streaking down the slot and Bowery buried his wrist shot. Avon tied it at 1-1 in the final minute of the first period.

Neither team scored in the second period as Trevor Cathey made several clutch saves for the Westies in the period. Avon finally broke through with 58 seconds left in the game to pull out the 2-1 win.

Later on Saturday night, the Blue Devils went to Stamford Twin Rinks to face Darien A. West Haven took an early 1-0 lead when MacNiven fired

See Hockey, page 19



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Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50I(b) and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 16-50I-1(e), notice is hereby given that on or about February 28, 2022, The United Illuminating Company (UI) will file an application with the Connecticut Siting Council (Council), 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut, for the issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Application) for the upgrade (relocation and rebuild) and operation of 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines located between UI's Milvon and West River Substations in southern New Haven County. The Milvon to West River Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project (Project) will involve removing UI's existing 115-kV lines from catenary structures that span the Metro-North Railroad tracks and rebuilding the 115-kV lines on independent monopoles to be primarily located within property along the railroad corridor owned by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The Project is needed to maintain the reliability of the transmission grid.

Details on the Project will be included in UI's Application to the Council. If approved by the Council, Project construction is expected to begin in late 2023 with an in-service date of mid-2028.

Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from: Samantha Marone, The United Illuminating Company, 100 Marsh Hill Road, Orange, CT 06477

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**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of West Haven will hold a public hearing commencing at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, in the Harriet North Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT to consider the following matter:

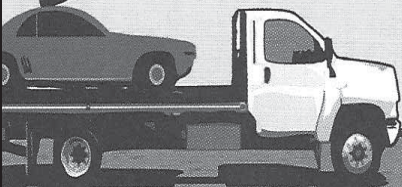
**Application of Savin Rock Partners, LLC for a Zone Change from SCR to SRR at 200-270 Captain Thomas Blvd, Assessor MBL: 021-0185-0-0000, and application of DeLaurentis Management Corp. to Amend Table 39.2 of the West Haven Zoning Regulations to allow up to 11 residential units above the ground floor and a walk-in medical clinic.**

**A copy of these applications are on file in the Department of Planning and Development, and the City Clerk's Office on the first floor of West Haven City Hall for public inspection. Call West Haven Planning & Zoning Department 203-937-3580 for more information. Parties in interest and Citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard at this time.**

# bsg

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**S11B4K N1W STUD1NTS**  
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accepting new students to start  
in September in West Haven. All  
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cast.net for all the details.

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**k reat for all functionsm**  
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**, OM1 4PROV1M1NT**  
Repairs -- Walls and ceilings,  
sheetrock, carpentry. Free esti-  
mates. Insured HCR0647093. Bill  
T203901-2136.

□□□□○□□□□□  
Babysitter is needed in West  
Haven mornings. The child is 10  
years of age. Person hired needs  
to drop the child o to school each  
day. Will be dropped o at your  
house at 6:30 a.m., and pick the  
child up after school. Child must  
be at bus stop at 8:15, dropped o  
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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |    |
| 15 |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 18 |    |    | 19 |    | 20 |    |    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 |    |    | 23 |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 |    |    | 26 |    | 27 |    | 28 |    | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 |    | 33 |    | 34 |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |    | 39 |    | 40 |    | 41 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 42 |    | 43 |    | 44 |    | 45 |    |    |
| 46 | 47 | 48 |    |    | 49 |    | 50 |    |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    | 53 |    |    | 54 | 55 |    |
| 56 |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |
| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |

**DOWN**

|    |                     |    |                       |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 7  | Admin. aides        | 31 | Thin cut              |
| 8  | Know-it-all         | 33 | Beatles classic       |
| 9  | And others (Lat.)   | 35 | Standard              |
| 10 | Diminutive suffix   | 38 | Conk out              |
| 11 | Color worker        | 40 | Pamper                |
| 16 | Dinner for          | 43 | Sage                  |
| 20 | Corn spike          | 44 | Sage                  |
| 21 | Excellent, in slang | 45 | Farm female           |
| 22 | Toy block           | 46 | Country's             |
| 23 | Place               | 47 | Actor                 |
| 27 | May honoree         | 48 | Unspoken feeling      |
| 29 | Aftermath           | 49 | Gulf War mis-<br>sile |
| 30 | Vogue rival         | 53 | Unwell                |
|    |                     | 54 | Yon maiden            |
|    |                     | 55 | Sweetie               |

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## MAGIC MAZE

**RUSSIAN FAMILY NAMES**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: FORMER PRESIDENT BORIS —

|         |           |         |          |
|---------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Alexeev | Kuznetsov | Pavlov  | Sokolov  |
| Egorov  | Lebedev   | Petrov  | Vasiliev |
| Fedorov | Mikhailov | Popov   | Volkov   |
| Ivanov  | Morozov   | Smirnov |          |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

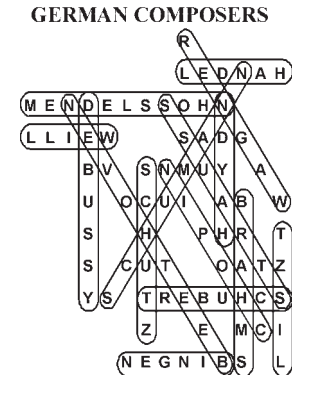
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## Answers to last week's puzzles

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 24 mins.

|           |          |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|----------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| HUE       | DAVY     | PITA  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ALL       | EDAM     | IDOL  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GAL       | CALCUL   | LATE  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SNAIL     | LANE     |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|           | PADS     | DUBAI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CALORIES  | PINK     |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ABE       | ESTEE    | ETE   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| REVS      | CALABRIA |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| STYLE     | TASE     |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|           | UMA      | YENTA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CALRIPKEN | ARK      |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ASAP      | BOLO     | POI   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIPS      | SNOW     | AYN   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**GERMAN COMPOSERS**



**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

**HEART-HEARTED WORD SQUARE**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| H | E | A | R | T |
| E |   |   |   |   |
| A |   |   |   |   |
| R |   |   |   |   |
| T |   |   |   |   |

WORD No. 1—HEART—is in place in this word square exercise. You are asked to find four additional words that will read similarly across and down.

**Definitions:**

- Valentine symbol (in place).
- Promio mate of Elsie the cow.
- Love, Italian-style.
- TV listing word.
- Go with the flow tendency. How quickly can you fill in answers?

1. Heart, 2. Elmer, 3. Amore, 4. Heron, 5. Trend.

**S-CAPADE!** Adding S to a certain number will reduce that number by three. What number? (P.S.: It's tricky.)

Add S to IX; result is SIX.

**PIP SQUEAKER!** Pick a playing card from 1-10. Double its value, add 1, multiply by 5. Add 1 for hearts, 2 for spades, 3 for diamonds, 4 for clubs. Resulting amount reveals card and suit. How?

Card value appears at left; suit is 5 less than digit at right.

**CACHE 26!** Four numbers—5, 6, 7 and 8—shown in the diagram, at right, total 26. Indeed, blanks may be filled with missing numbers 1-12 so that a dozen or more foursomes totaling 26 appear. Here's how: Place 4 and 11, left to right, at top; then, clockwise, 3, 10, 2, 9, 1, 12, in that order.

Now, just for fun, check out foursomes totaling 26, both across and down, in boxes and straight lines.

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
|  |   |   |  |
|  | 5 | 6 |  |
|  | 8 | 7 |  |
|  |   |   |  |

# HIDDEN GEMS

*Cooperative Effort between the Voice and the West Haven Economic Development Commission*

The Lunar New Year - an important Asian holiday - happened earlier this month, marking the remainder of 2022 as 'the Year of the Tiger.' Although Chinese New Year may be the most well-known version of this celebration, each Asian country has its own customs and traditions. West Haven is fortunate to have several of these countries represented in our diverse restaurant scene.

Sri Thai Rachena Netsuwan and her brother Paul are co-owners of this Thai gem located at 315 York Street. They have lived in West Haven for over ten years. They grew up together in Bangkok, a cosmopolitan, coastal city that is bustling like New York, but, like Connecticut, has a great deal of maritime influence.

"Our mother was a great cook, and she remains our biggest inspiration," Rachena says. She often involved them not only in food preparation but in her process of deciding what to select at the local markets. The family's meals could be elaborate at times.

Carefully sourcing fresh and authentic ingredients, the siblings remember their roots in delicacies like Yentafo, a savory rice noodle dish in tomato broth with shrimp, crispy wonton, and bean sprouts. They also serve up classics like Pad Thai, Drunken Noodle, Chicken Satay served with tangy peanut dipping sauce, and the ever-popular fried banana with ice cream.

Among the restaurant's most frequent customers have been members of the West Haven Police Department. Based just across the street, some officers have grown into Sri Thai's biggest fans. "They have been checking up on us, grabbing lunch and saying hello. They want to make sure we will stay open because they love our food," Rachena says with pride.

Da.Wa.The phrase, in Korean, is a casual way to say "Come in." As such is meant



Golden Dragon and DaWa are two local asian restaurants marking the New Year. The two restaurants offer their best cuisine all year.

to convey a warm welcome to the West Haven community. The restaurant was opened three years ago by Chef Jeong, who has worked in New York City kitchens for over 20 years. Most days, the dining room right off of I-95 at the Sawmill Road exit is bustling, an indication that, so far, the welcome has been mutual.

Online reviews of the place average 4.6 stars: "This was my first time having Korean food in Connecticut. I usually go to Ktown in NYC. Great service, and portions were large, prices reasonable." "Seafood pancake was crispy on the outside, and soft on the inside with plenty of seafood! The place was bright and comfy." Another diner raves, "My friend and I have been CRAVING some amazing Korean food and we've been to multiple restaurants but DAWA

was by far the best decision ever!...We felt welcomed and well-taken care of."

If you are not sure what to order, the wait staff will be glad to give recommendations. The appetizer menu is the restaurant's strongest set of selections, featuring dishes like Tteok Bokki (pronounced Tok-Bocky), explained by a teacher from Milford as "comfort food, what a student might want to eat while studying for exams." Picture round and chewy rice cakes simmered in a spicy red pepper sauce. Kimchi or scallion crispy fried pancakes are popular, and these usually come with a variety of toppings (order the large size if you want to make a meal out of appetizers, or the small size if you are also ordering an entree.) To please whole families and show off their eclectic range,

DaWa also offers Korean BBQ, a variety of soups, and traditional Japanese sushi.

Golden Dragon 778 Boston Post Rd. (203) 931-8465 Though there is no dine-in or delivery, this place attracts people from as far away as West Haven's West Shore and even Hamden to its Allingtown location because of its tasty food and friendly service. While many Westies have not yet tried this reliably good source of Chinese cuisine, others call it the best around. It is harder for the tidy place to go unnoticed this time of year, however, with all of the bright red New Year decorations.

The owner, Jimmy, grew up in West Haven, and graduated from West Haven High School around 2000. He has an easy-going manner with the kids who find their way over after class, since the restaurant is

just down the street from ES-UMS and the University of New Haven. It is also not far from Carrigan Middle School, and shares clientele with the West Haven Academy of Karate, situated in the same shopping strip.

At Golden Dragon, you will find classic Chinese-American favorites like Sesame Chicken and Beef with Broccoli, with a tasty Pork Fried Rice offered on the side. A great dish to try is Dragon and Phoenix, which combines the ever-popular General Tso's filling one half of the container (chicken or tofu, as you prefer), and steamed shrimp with broccoli in the other.

The Lo Mein is also good. Most options are pictured above the counter, but a few are handwritten and tacked to the walls, so the menu is ever-evolving.

## Hockey: *Squads prep for postseason play*

Continued from page 16

from the blue line and Gio Ferrucci banged in the rebound 3:30 into the game.

Tied at one, the Westies took over the game in the second. Studley found Ferrucci barreling down the slot and he wristed it home. Theo Diakomis battled behind the net and found Matt Molnar, who whipped the puck out front where Zach Melchior swept

it in.

The Westies made it 4-1 in the final minute with a 5-on-3 tally. Joey DiGioia quickly passed to Brody Elam who skated it in and ripped a laser through the five-hole.

Ahead 4-3, Studley got the momentum back when he picked up the puck in Darien's zone, juked a defenseman, and slid it to Bowery who buried his wrist shot. DiGioia added

an empty net goal in the final minute for the 6-3 win. Cathey was solid again in goal.

West Haven dropped a 3-2 decision to CT Junior Rangers 2008 AAA in the team's final tune-up before the state tournament. The Blue Devils, 25-11-5 overall, will be competing for a Tier 3 championship next week.

On Saturday morning at Edward L. Bennett Rink, the Wes-

ties grabbed the lead with 1:47 left in the first. On the power play, Parker Guarnieri slid a pass to Leo Mazuroski just inside the blue line and the defenseman fired a laser beam making it 1-0.

The Rangers scored late in the second and twice more in the third period to take a 3-1 lead. In the game's final minute, the Westies were on a two-man advantage and pulled the

goalie.

Ferrucci worked the puck off the boards behind the net and found Studley in the slot and he buried it, making it a one-goal game.

The Westies could not find the equalizer in the final moments. Cathey was strong in net for the Blue Devils.

For all your West Haven sporting news visit [www.westtieblue.com](http://www.westtieblue.com).



## How Can I Help Prevent Sewer Backups?

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets or garbage disposals
- Pour grease and oil into a covered disposable container and put it in the trash **“Cool It - Can It - Trash It”**
- Soak up remaining fats, oil and grease with paper towels and dispose of with your trash
- Before you wash dishes, scrape meats and food with fat and grease into the trash
- Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain basket or strainer into the trash
- Only use garbage disposals for fruits, vegetables and organic waste

### ***Properly Dispose of Household Grease***

**Most grease is a byproduct of cooking and is usually found in such things as:**

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter & margarine
- baked goods
- sauces
- dairy products

#### **PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Keep Drains & Sewers Clear  
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Grease is one of the leading causes  
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***Never pour grease down the drain!***



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