

# West Haven Voice

March 24, 2022

Vol. 27, Issue 6 20 Pages

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

## Voice Feature

*An in-depth feature*

**Carrigan takes 3rd  
place in reading event**  
See page 20



## Rossi unveils \$168.3m plan

The public will get its one and only chance to let city officials know their views on Mayor Nancy N. Rossi's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023 in a public hearing set for Tuesday, March 29 at the Bailey Middle School Auditorium at 6:30. Mrs. Rossi unveiled her \$168.3 million spending plan before the City Council in a special session, March 17.

The public hearing is the only opportunity the public has to address the budget before it goes into a six-week review by the City Council. Under the City Charter, the review must be completed, and a final vote taken on the budget on or before the first Thursday in May.

The best news for taxpayers is the mayor's plan, though increasing spending by about \$3 million over last year, will keep the city's mill rate the same at 34. A mill is the dollar amount of taxes paid per thousand of assessed value. The rate does not include fire tax levies in the West Shore and First Taxation Districts, still to be determined by the fire commissions when they release their budgets. The Fire Department of West Haven: Allingtown will not see an increase in rates under the plan.

While noting the city was coming out of the worst years in its recent history, the mayor tried to keep an upbeat attitude in her  
See Budget, page 12



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Sweeney Square

Joined by West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, 2022 Irishman of the Year Keith Sweeney, a decorated former city police officer, pulls off the shroud revealing the Kelly green street sign designating the Campbell Avenue side of City Hall as "Keith M. Sweeney Square" for the next year at the 29th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 17. See page 13 for more.



Submitted Photo

## 'Charlie Brown' opens

The West Haven High School Theatre Workshop presents *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, the first musical in the brand-new auditorium at West Haven High School! This family friendly musical opens tonight to Saturday, with shows at 7 p.m. and a special matinee on Saturday at 2. General admission tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/61695> or at the door. See page 14 for more pictures.

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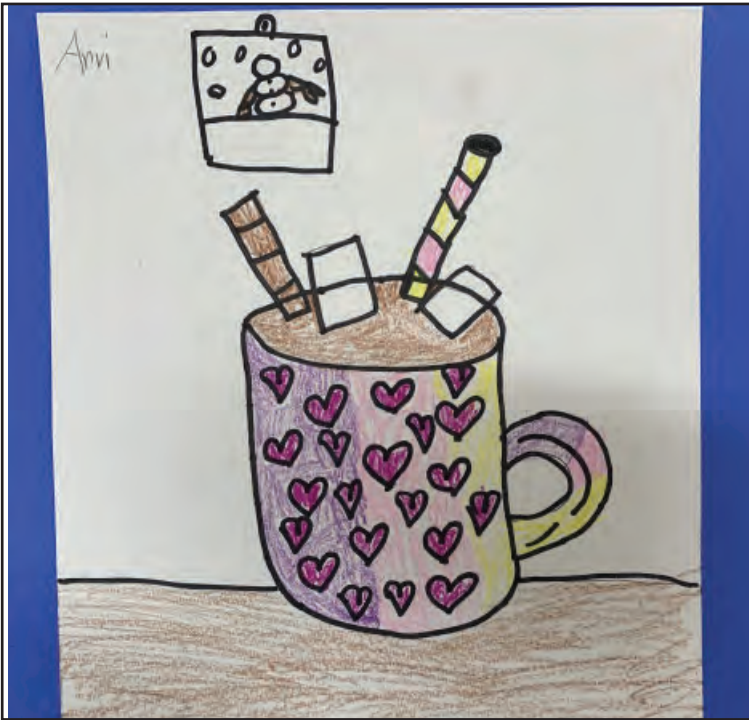
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The artist known as Arvi from Pagels School Grade 3, wants one more cold day to build a snowman and enjoy hot chocolate.

## Contact

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Next Issue Date: April 7

## On this Date

**1999 -- For the first time in its history, NATO attacks a sovereign country.** The military alliance bombed Yugoslavia during the Kosovo War - without a UN mandate.

**1989 -- Oil tanker Exxon Valdez runs aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska.** The mishap resulted in one of the most devastating environmental disasters in history, killing up to 250,000 seabirds and other wildlife.

**1965 -- Millions watch NASA spacecraft Ranger 9 crash into the Moon.** The U.S. space probe broadcast live pictures back to Earth, enabling TV viewers to follow its approach to the Moon and its controlled crash.

**1896 -- Aleksander Popov achieves the world's first radio transmission.** The Russian physicist transmitted the words "Heinrich Hertz" from one building of St. Petersburg University to another.

**1882 -- Robert Koch discovers the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis.** The German scientist, who is regarded as the father of modern bacteriology, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1905.

### Births

**1930 -- Steve McQueen,** American actor.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Leading the Way

The West Haven Police Honor Guard and the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums lead the procession of dignitaries toward the plaza in front of City Hall, where former policeman Keith Sweeney was honored as Irisman of the Year on St. Patrick's Day. Sweeney was named in 2020 for the honor, which was held up because of COVID. Go to page 13 for the full story.

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# Rossi announces plan for ARPA funding

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi has released a comprehensive

## City offers Fraud Alert sign ups

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

The city clerk's office is providing a new tool to help property owners protect one of their most valuable assets.

Hide original message

City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath said property owners can sign up for Fraud Alert to receive alerts whenever a document, such as a deed, mortgage or lien, is recorded under their name.

Sign up for free at <https://searchiqs.com/fraudalert/?CC=CTWHA>.

"This is an easy way for homeowners to have peace of mind," Horvath said.

Horvath noted that because other West Haven property owners may share the same name, "this new tool adds additional protection to your property."

Property owners can view documents online or in the clerk's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

plan outlining how the city will spend about \$29 million in federal coronavirus relief funding.

Rossi presented the ARPA Community Investment Plan to the City Council on March 14.

The nine-page spending plan requires the council's review and approval.

In October 2021, Rossi launched an online submission form seeking residents' ideas for spending the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

The plan includes \$3.5 million for the long-planned arts center at 304 Center St., \$3.07 million for fire department aid, \$3 million for stormwater management, and \$2.4 million for police personnel retention.

Other projects include a \$2 million expenditure for infrastructure paving and improvements and \$1.65 million for municipal building improvements.

It also includes \$1 million for a recycling and reuse center, \$1 million for open space preservation, \$1 million for small-business aid, \$680,000 for public health outreach, \$585,000 for broadband access and \$500,000 for traffic and boardwalk monitoring cameras.

See the full ARPA Community Investment Plan at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4241/ARPA-Community-Investment-Plan-PDF>.

[www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4241/ARPA-Community-Investment-Plan-PDF](https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4241/ARPA-Community-Investment-Plan-PDF).

In late January, Rossi established a nine-member committee to oversee West Haven's allocation of ARPA funding.

The mayoral-appointed ARPA Committee is led by Chairman Kenneth Carney, Vice-Chairman Michael P. Last and Secretary Dwight Knowles. The other members are Christopher Barstein, Neil C. Cavallaro, Iris Diaz, Kenneth Ferris, Gary M. Perdo and Rohan Smith.

The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:45 p.m. in the Harriet C. North Community Room on the second floor of City Hall.

Carney is the chairman of the West Haven High School Building Committee and the West Haven Building Oversight Committee; Last is the city treasurer and a member of the board of directors of the West Haven Community House; and Knowles is the clerk of the high school's Building Committee.

Barstein is the executive director of Benchmark Senior Living and was a hospitality industry professional and educator for more than 35 years; Cavallaro is the city's superintendent of schools;

and Diaz is the chairwoman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown and was the vice chair of the city's Charter Revision Commission.

Ferris is a former two-term city treasurer and was a member of the city's Inland Wet-

lands Watercourse Agency; Perdo is a member of the high school's Building Committee and the Washington School Building Committee; and Smith is an accountant at the West Haven VA Medical Center and was a member of the Charter Revision Commission.



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# Dear Felicia

Here we are in the last week o' March, hon. We determined to push the second isshew of the month back a week cuz Herronner was to propose her spending plan for the next fiscal year. Soooo, as we publish the details of it, we did what we had to do. Needless to say, the end of the month brings hopes of crocuses blooming, and the air getting a bit less chilled.

Near my domicile there are a few trees showin' that buds are jest a week or so away, and it seems that lawns are greening a bit. Why the weather report? Cuz as much as Cobina likes the winter, she has had it up to her bicuspid with the cold, and the wing. Of course, around our parts things really don't start getting warm until May. "Colder by the shore" is one of the truest statements weathermen say on a given day. But things are lookin' up.

And, the fack that the budget has been proposed is one sign of it.

With the proposal now public, the City Council set the hearing, and we now will see how this aspect of the process goes. Every year, Cobina harkens back to the days when the West Haven Taxpayers Association was in full bloom. Those were days when everyone seemed engaged in the political warp and woof of this city - much to the chagrin of the political movers and shakers.

Of course, those days were the days of "Save Our Shore," and massive spikes in home assessments. With the inflation what it was in those days - like today, actually - assessments were through the roof, and people were miffed. Eventually, those problems led to the state going to a five- and then four-year assessment

strategy, so the sticker shock isn't quite so bad.

Still, I can see the hundreds o' people in the old high school auditorium excoriating the leadership, and looking for cuts in spending. It ain't like that anymore, though one wonders effen now that things are gonna be perty much status quo with the mill rate, people will see they hafta be more engaged. I wouldn't hold my breath, but yew never know.

~~~~  
Sammy Bluejay was perusing the document and we know one group o' people that will be there in force will be those who are wanting a new satellite library in Allintown. Herronner made mention of it in her discourse and comments last week, and Sammy sez a lotta people are wondering about it the future of it. Remember, the library was shut down almost four years ago, now, and the potential reopening has been a sore subject amongst members of the Village Improvement Association, and the administration for a while.

The topic is part of the distribution of the American Recovery Act funds - the funny money that is causing some of the inflation we're seeing now - and it'll be interesting to see how this plays out. Don't be surprised, sez Sammy, effen members of the VIA or jest interested parties concerning the library want more than jest a

generalization of what is contemplated.

After that, we wonder who will be attend the confab. Don't git Cobina wrong we hope hundreds show up just to hear about what is planned. But, this berg ain't what it used to be with absentee ownership and setch. People who rent don't pay as much attention as people who own. Still, let's hope there are some memorable moments in this year's public hearing.

~~~~  
Effen yew remember, the last issue had a letter scribed by Christine Gallo of the Economic Development Comish. She picked up on a comint we made to each other in a previous missive concerning the Savin Rock Museum. Current plans call for the demolition of the current building, which means the closure of the museum housed in the lower level.

To many, including Cobina and I think it's fair to say, Gallo, think the artifacts and memorabilia from the amusement park are somewhat of an after-thought. The focus is on getting rid of the building and putting in a tax-producing business -- not a thing to criticize. However, effen what she said in that letter is true, that the exhibits will be parsed out and some will be displayed in the new brewery business, that ain't a good idea.

Jest once, can we have an inclusive plan which keeps things together, where the whoop and holler of a new business doesn't drown out the fack that we have something that should be preserved? Does it hafta be an either/or? Could it be a both/and? Jest wondering.

Speakin' o' the former Region 2 of the Redevelopment Plan (hard to believe it's been lapsed for so long now, when it seemed it would never die), we see that something is happening over at the Savin Rock Parkade. The Wag was in fine spirits tellin' me about it. The ownership has changed hands and the lot has been paved, a new restaurant ensconced there, and it seems that the former site of several grocery stores is being groomed for something.

One would think that would be a topic the administration would like to promote, but I guess not. Still, Cobina is an inquiring mind and wants to know...And, while we're at it, we see numbers have been painted on the former CJMs on Campbell Avenue. We seem to remember something is planned fer that site. Could the fack numbers have been spray painted on the façade mean that after several years of standing empty something

is happening over there? And the former American Buckle Company site, will something happen there? Questions, questions, questions.

~~~~  
Nelly Nuthatch came by t'other afternoon and noted that whatever they did on Beach Street to reinforce the beach and sidewalk, it seems to have held out in the bad weather we've had over the last couple o' months. We've had some perty strong Nor'easters come through here, and usually they chew up the beaches. The area in front o' the channel marker on Beach Street, near Morse Park was recently rebuilt. The waves of previous storms had all but washed out the sidewalk, and prompted emergency repairs.

The area is slated to be graded differently over the next several months, with the roadway hiked up seven feet from its current level. The flooding and wave action have always been a difficulty. With the rebuild of the beach, and the potential reconstruction o' the roadway, maybe things will be better and last longer - maybe not. We shall see, but that is one o' the projects we expect to see.

The former Chick's has been sold, and we're told the former Debonair Motel property has changed hands. Maybe things will be lookin' up in that neighborhood.

~~~~  
Circling back as we like to so, we see that Herronner mentioned the Simon Group and the Haven in her comments whilst proposing the budget. To be fair, things seem to be moving over there a bit faster than in past months. We see that a few more houses have been torn down, and it looks like some other progress has been made. That is a good thing.

We know from what we've been told by the Actors Colony that negotiations are going on betwixt the developer and the city, we have a suggestion: part of the negotiation has to be more open communication not only with the taxpayers of the city, but particularly the neighborhood around the construction site.

The Simon Group has been notorious for its lack of communication with the city, including the political leaders. That has to stop everyone realizes. But, part of that discussion has to be the neighborhood. They've borne the brunt of decay and pestilence over there. The developer should start being a good neighbor and letting those homeowners know whatinhell is going on. Jest Cobina's thoughts.

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

*Cobina*

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# Gripevine

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I don't understand why whenever anything needs to get done in West Haven by either the City of West Haven or by the State of Connecticut it drags on or never gets done.

Back in July of 2021 there was an accident at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Captain Thomas Boulevard at which time a pole which holds the traffic lights was knocked down severing several wires. Well, my question is what is taking so long to repair the traffic signals? This slow-motion performance by my state and local officials would never be allowed in any Fairfield town. West Haven for years always drags their complaints when getting anything done.

I urge all West Haven residents to call City Hall at (203) 937-3500 and ask what is taking so long to repair the traffic lights.

*MP Neighbor*

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

As you know, this is the place to air your complaints and to vent. Most of the time when your local councilmen and women cooperate and check out your complaints, Gripe Vine is able to solve resident's issues.

Today I would like to salute a group of people that took matters into their own hands and pitched in together and worked hard to clean p an area in your city. Two vacant lots on Peck Avenue were cleaned up during freezing weather I would like to praise and thank members of the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association who worked together recently to put a shine on an area that w as covered with trash. Great job!

To add frustration to the problem of city-wide trash pickup here is a recent letter from a resident:

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

The only time to dispose of bulk/trash items is on three specific dates. There is no pace for West Haven residents to dispose of bulk trash. Other cities have transfer stations to dispose of bulk trash, but they are only for resident use. West Haven has no other options except the three single dates provided.

*Resident Taxpayer*

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

We do need a transfer station like Hamden. Since there are a lot of rentals in West Haven, furniture is often dumped around town.

*Tired of Trash*

**Dear Resident and Tired:**

Research indicates West Haven does not have the space to provide a transfer station. If any of my readers out there have suggestions or knowledge of possible areas for this purpose, let me know and I will forward this information to city authorities. Send your suggestions to [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com) or West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516, and I will follow up.

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

I have been receiving complaints of "mangled sidewalks at Brown Street." If you have found this complaint to be valid, let me know. Gripe Vine has been in contact with your council women, Bridgette Hoskie and Elizabeth Johnston. Their reply will appear in my next column.

**Dear Gripe Vine Readers:**

In response to your complaints of motorists requesting a stop sign at Marian and



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

Middle Street, a school bus stop, Councilwoman Elizabeth Johnston replied to Gripe

Vine, indicating she had forwarded this complaint to Sgt. D'Amato of the West Haven Police Departmento To date, Gripe Vine has not received .confirmation of this stop sign installation. Readers out there, let me know if this safety measure has been completed.

Gripe Vine has also notified Councilwoman Johnston and William Conlon of the excessive speeding on Second Avenue. To date: No reply.

**Coming up...more** and more potholes..more c traffic complaints and missing stop signs...Hamden House inquiries....Boot Law inquiries.... potholes at Center Street...

snowplow pushing snow gripe...Church Street and Second Avenue pot holes...trafic signal at Derby Avenue... missing stop light at Capt. Thomas Blvd. complaint... to lane merge complaint on Campbell Avenue...Saw Mill Road and Greta. Blight at White Street...Ashford Street gripe and more.

You can send your gripes, comments and 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, CT 06516 Please include your name, address, and phone number, all kept in strict privacy with me.

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

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SCAN ME

## Public gets to speak March 29

With the turn of the March calendar, the city's political centers turn to the Rite of Spring called the "Mayor's Budget Proposal." Last week, that event took place as prescribed by the City Charter, and begins a six-week review by the City Council. The process culminates with the final vote on the proposal after the review, scheduled for the first Thursday in May – again, per the charter.

The Fiscal Year 2023 budget, as set out by Mayor Nancy N. Rossi, is set for \$168.3 million, and has the usual contractual increases, revenue streams and expenditure line-items one expects from such documents. Part of that annual budget "cycle" is the annual public hearing. City Council Chairman Peter V. Massaro has set the hearing for Tuesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Middle School's auditorium. We urge taxpayers to take advantage of the opportunity.

In this week's edition we not only publish excerpts from the budget, showing revenues, expenses, and, of course, the bottom line both for the city, school system and taken together, we show the date and time of the public hearing. This is more than a legal requirement. It is an invitation for taxpayers to take part in the political process that most affects their daily lives: the how city will operate in the fiscal year beginning July 1. Under the charter, this is the only time the public – those who pay the taxes – are given the stage front and center and allowed to opine on how and where the city is spending its money. Over the last few years, these hearings have devolved to little more than *pro forma* exercises, with few comments, and those usually from special interest groups looking for more funding, or some other project.

Part of the problem has been the city's longstanding financial problems, which have been taken over by forces from outside the city. Since bonding to eliminate the city's deficit in late 2017, the city has been under eye and thumb of the Municipal Accountability Review Board. It is understandable city residents determined their voices and opinions do not matter under the current circumstance.

The city is coming out of the financial stresses that plagued it for almost three decades, and while things are not rosy, they are looking up, and there seems to be a resurgence of opportunities that will put us on better fiscal footing. That is why now is the time for taxpayers to take a more active interest in the budget, and let officials know their opinions, desires, and hopes. West Haven cannot allow itself to be dragged back down into a fiscal quagmire. Municipal officials over the previous administrations took the public's silence as consent. Bad decisions were made. Bonding, borrowing, dependency on too much state aid, and pushing things off to "later" all contributed to the problems.

With the city looking to come out of the fiscal morass the public needs to be watchful. At one time there was a West Haven Taxpayers Association that served as a watchdog on fiscal priorities. One could quibble with the organization's priorities at times, but there was no doubt it was a check on city officials.

We need a similar check on city officials today, not only to question, but to get answers from those who serve us as elected officials. The public getting engaged in the budget process is one way to rekindle the notion that city officials are being watched – and checked – if things go awry.



## Trump didn't cause war

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

More than a year into the Biden presidency, Vladimir Putin has invaded a sovereign neighboring country and, of course, everyone knows who's to blame -- Biden's predecessor.

In an instance of misdirection for the ages, a spate of commentary has pointed the finger at Donald Trump for supposedly creating the predicate for Putin's brutalizing of Ukraine.

There's no doubt that Trump has long had an apparently uncontrollable reflex to say warm things about Vladimir Putin. He foolishly mused about pulling out of NATO. And his withholding of aid to Ukraine for a partisan political purpose -- to pressure the Ukrainian government to uncover dirt related to the Bidens -- was a tawdry abuse of power (and led to his first impeachment).

No one should hold Trump up as a paragon, but to blame him for sparking a delayed-fuse geopolitical cataclysm that just happened to explode on Biden's watch is wholly ridiculous.

Trump critic retired Lt. Col Alexander Vindman, who had a star turn as a witness at Trump's first impeachment,

says Trump emboldened Putin and left Ukraine unprepared to defend itself. Former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch says Trump sent the world the message that Ukraine was a mere pawn. A piece in *The New York Review of Books* says Trump "paved Putin's way."

There is no support for this argument in a world where facts and logic -- or basic chronology -- mean something.

First of all, Russia had grabbed Crimea and started a long-running war in Eastern Ukraine in 2014, long before anyone had any idea that Donald Trump would run for president, let alone win. It clearly didn't take Trump to give Putin the idea that he could get away with invading Ukraine -- he invaded Ukraine and got away with it under the administration of Barack Obama, when, by the way, Joe Biden was vice president.

It is now widely acknowledged that the sanctions back then were too timid, a concession that Obama officials let Putin off too lightly. Surely, that must have figured into the Russian leader's calculation whether to invade yet again.

Then, there's the fact that Barack Obama steadfastly resisted providing Ukraine le-

thal aid -- after it had already been invaded. Bipartisan opposition to Obama didn't move him. He believed deeply in the appeaser's logic that it would be too "provocative" to give Ukraine weapons simply to defend itself.

Again, Trump had nothing to do with this misbegotten decision; indeed, he criticized it.

Trump's offense in 2019 was to delay military aid -- including Javelin missiles -- that Congress had approved for Ukraine, in a reversal of Obama's policy. If Trump never should have engaged in this self-interested gamesmanship, he released the assistance by September 2019.

Another line of argument is that Putin didn't invade Ukraine during the Trump administration because the Russian leader was already getting everything he wanted from Trump, including the destabilization of NATO. The outward expression of Trump's doubts about the alliance, though, largely took the form of loud complaints about European countries skimping on defense spending, which were completely justified.

Indeed, it's perverse that Angela Merkel was made into a great heroine of West-

See Lowry, page 15

**West Haven City Council**  
**Notice/Agenda of Special Meeting March 29, 2022**

**West Haven City Council Legal Notice**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY CHARTER CHAPTER XIX, SECTION 4,  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN WILL CONDUCT  
A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE  
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MAYOR ROSSI'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 2022-2023 IN ITS  
ENTIRETY CAN BE FOUND ON THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN WEBSITE  
[WWW.CITYOFWESTHAVEN.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFWESTHAVEN.COM).

STACY RICCIO  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

**MEETING AGENDA**

6:30 P.M. SPECIAL MEETING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CLERK TO READ CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING

MAYOR ROSSI & FINANCE DIRECTOR'S PRESENTATION

SUPERINTENDENT CAVALLARO'S B.O.E PRESENTATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT





BUDGET SUMMARY AND CITY MILL RATE CALCULATION

Table with columns for FY21, FY22, FY23, and FY23 Mayor's Rec. Budget. Rows include Total Expenditures, Operational Revenue, Federal & State Grants, Non Current Taxes, Current Property Tax Levy, Total Revenues, and Mill Rate Calculations for MV, R/E, and Total.

FY22\_23 BUDGET - CAPITAL REQUEST

Large table listing capital requests with columns for Owner, Project Name, Description/Reason, Funding Source, and amounts for FY23, FY24, FY25, FY26, and FY27. Includes various projects like bathroom upgrades, equipment replacements, and vehicle purchases.

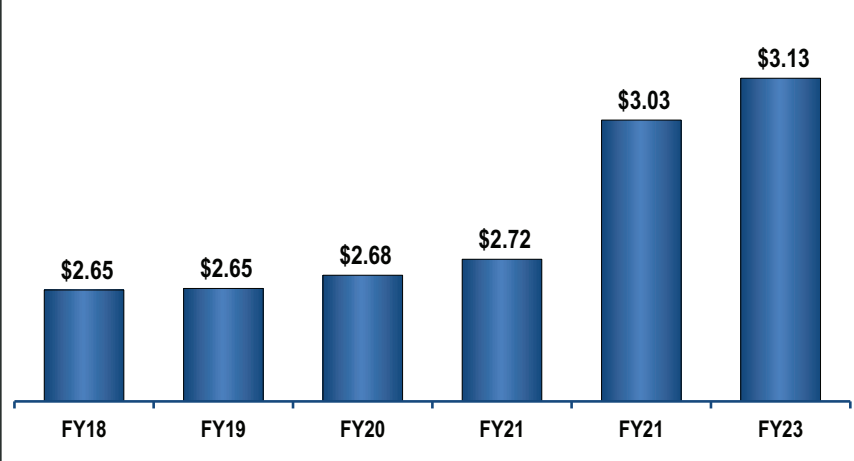
NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST COMPARISON

Table comparing Grand Lists for FY21, FY22, and FY23 across districts (First, West Shore, Allingtown) and property types (Real Estate, Motor Vehicle, Personal Property).

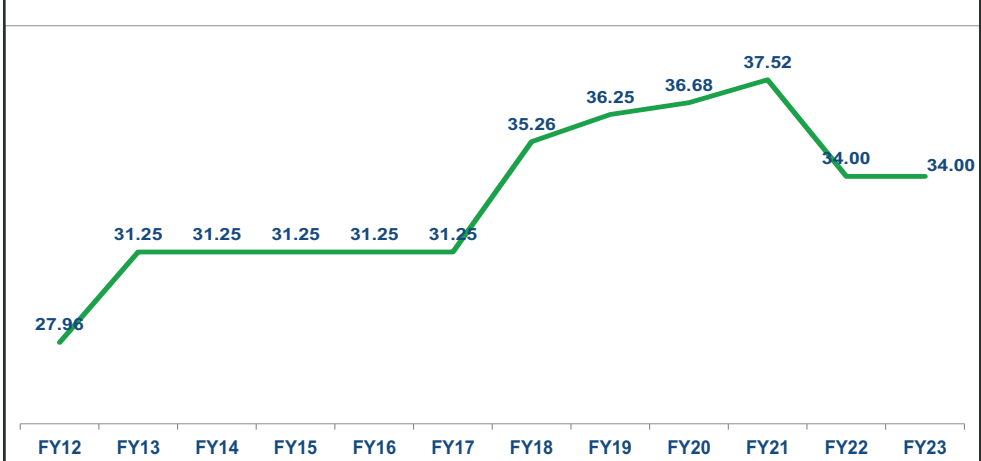
SEWER USE FEE CALCULATION

Table showing sewer use fee calculations with columns for FY22 Operating Budget, FY23 Dept. Request, FY23 WPPC Recomm., and FY23 Percent Change. Rows include Total Expenditures, Prior Year Sewer Levy, Interest & Liens, and Estimated # of Units.

NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST - BILLIONS (year over year growth)



CITY MILL RATE HISTORY





## Rotary of West Haven slates 'Day of Service'

West Haven Rotarians will join their fellow members around the nation for the annual Day of Service, scheduled for April 9. This year, the city's largest volunteer agency to help the needy, the West Haven Emergency Assistant Taskforce (WHEAT), along with the Purple Pantry and local food pantries, are the beneficiaries, according to local organizers.

"Rotarians are known for their tireless efforts to help those in need, but the Day of Service will be the single largest volunteer effort we've ever held in our region," said Joanne Alfieri, Governor of District 7890, which oversees 57 clubs in northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts.

Rotary Club of West Haven Day of Service will be located on the Green, Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Easter Bunny will be there for photos with youngsters.

The group is asking for: Non-Perishable Food Items (only), which may include: canned goods, tuna fish, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, soup, pasta, soups, etc. Perishable foods will not be accepted at this time.

The Purple Pantry may also be provided donations from this drive.

## Marching units sought for Memorial Day Parade

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council are seeking veterans, civic groups, fraternal organizations, service clubs and marching bands to participate in the annual Memorial Day parade, which steps off at 10:30 a.m. May 30.

Participants must register and list required special accommodations for the procession, which has no rain date.

The city will provide transportation for veterans who are unable to walk the 1.5-mile parade route, which follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street. To make arrangements, call the mayor's office at 203-937-3510.

The parade grand marshal is Emery Linton Sr., an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Download a participation form at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4236/Memorial-Day-Parade-Reservation-Form-2022-PDF>.

Forms are also available for pickup in the mayor's office at City Hall, 355 Main St., where they are due May 6.

Completed forms must be faxed to (203)937-3705 or mailed to the West Haven Memorial Day Parade, Office of the Mayor, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516.

## VIA taking applications for annual scholarships

The Village Improvement Association of the West Haven Public Library is accepting applications for the following scholarships: Concetta Sacco, Pauline Smith, Una Burns, Pamela Gardner, Gert Beckwith and Concetta Sacco in honor of Francis Blanchette.

Every honoree has dedicated their great talents to the City of West Haven.

The Village Improvement Association will award six \$750 scholarships. Applicants must be June 2022 high school graduates who plan to pursue a college course of study and be West Haven residents for two years.

Applications are available at the West Haven Public Library, the Ora Mason Library, the guidance offices of the West Haven High School, Fairfield Preparatory School, Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hopkins School, Lauralton Hall, Notre Dame High School, Sacred Heart Academy and Platt Technical. The West Haven Public Library website has a link to download the application at [westhavenlibrary.org](http://westhavenlibrary.org).

Applications and essays are due by May 7.

## Seniors plan trip to The Breakers

The West Haven Senior Center is running a trip to The Breakers Mansion, Newport Rhode Island – on Tuesday, May 10. It is a self-guided tour of this magnificent 70-room mansion that was occupied by the Vanderbilt family as their summer cottage. After the tour lunch is at Brick Alley Pub & Restaurant with independent time to shop in downtown Newport.

Bus leaves at 9 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center and leaves Newport at 4 p.m.

The cost of \$119 includes transportation, admission to mansion and lunch.

Travelers are not required to wear masks.

To reserve your seat please call the Center, (203) 937-3507



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|                                                                                      |                         | \$1,000.00                                                                            |
|                                                                                      |                         | \$1,200.00                                                                            |
|                                                                                      |                         | \$1,500.00                                                                            |
|                                                                                      |                         | \$1,800.00                                                                            |

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FACE PAINTING BY LAURA OF HAPPY DAZE

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 RAIN DATE 23 APRIL & 24 APRIL STARTS @ 1 PM

Location: Captain Thomas Blvd, Savin Rock

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED TO BENEFIT THE ZIADA FAMILY EDUCATION FUND**  
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First Congregational Church of West Haven

# EASTER FESTIVAL

April 2, 2022 9 am - 2:30 pm  
Church on the West Haven Green

Crafts and gifts, pictures with the  
Easter Bunny and light  
refreshments



Vendor space  
still available email  
[events@fccwesthaven.org](mailto:events@fccwesthaven.org)  
for more information

## PEDALS SMOOTHIE & JUICE BAR IS NOW OPEN!



Pedals Smoothie & Juice Bar offers healthy, plant-based smoothies, cold-pressed juices, signature acai bowls, and more, such as their house-made peanut butter, almond butter, and hazelnut-chocolate spread. Pedals prides themselves on serving food that's vegan, gluten-free, and made with only organic, locally sourced ingredients, as well as having sustainable, eco-friendly business practices. Pedals Smoothie & Juice Bar is located at 284 York Street, New Haven.

### The Shops at Yale

Plan your visit at [TheShopsatYale.com](http://TheShopsatYale.com)



# Sweeney finally gets his big day!

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Keith Sweeney said it was worth the wait.

After a two-year pause because of the coronavirus, Sweeney, who was named West Haven's Irishman of the Year in 2020, finally received his honor on St. Patrick's Day 2022.

With Mayor Nancy R. Rossi looking on, Sweeney, a decorated former police officer, unveiled a Kelly green street sign designating the Campbell Avenue side of City Hall as "Keith M. Sweeney Square" for the next year at West Haven's 29th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 17.

Sweeney, whose grandparents hailed from the counties of Roscommon and Offaly, Ireland, was presented with gifts of appreciation, including an embroidered "Irishman of the Year" jacket, and words of praise from Rossi for "sharing and preserving the culture of Ireland and the teachings of St. Patrick, personifying the qualities of an Irish Westie and the values of an American Catholic."

In addition to Rossi reading a proclamation citing Sweeney's dedication to the Irish American community, the ceremony featured the hanging of the street sign outside City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance naming the public square for the honoree until next year's celebration, when he will pass his title to a fellow person of Irish ancestry.

At the start of the 35-minute program, Joan D. Connor, the 2019 recipient, received her rectangular sign to take home. Connor is now the longest-serving honoree in event history because of the twice-postponed celebration.

The West Haven St. Patrick's Day Committee each year recognizes an Irish resident or couple who exemplifies service in the city's rich Irish American community.

"I want to first thank the St. Patrick's Day Committee for bestowing this honor on me," said Sweeney, an integral part of West Haven's St. Patrick's Day celebrations as a committee member and participant. "I am humbled and honored to receive this distinguished

## CORRECTION

A story in the March 3 edition of West Haven Voice concerning Mark Mattiessen and his exhibit at the West Haven Veterans Museum incorrectly stated in a photo caption he was a Vietnam Veteran. Mr. Mattiessen is not a Vietnam Veteran, but works with Vietnam-era veterans. The Voice regrets the error.

award following all the great previous recipients, who have worked so hard trying to keep up the Irish heritage and tradition of our forefathers."

As the sound of Celtic music played by bagpipers and drummers filled the air during the cultural event in honor of Ireland's patron saint, Sweeney, 68, toasted his lineage with dozens of his closest friends and loved ones, along with a sea of shamrock-clad dignitaries, including police and fire officials, and descendants of folks from Erin.

"Whether it was working on the (Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day) Parade Committee or as a member of one of the different Irish societies in the area, we have to recognize all the hard work they do in an effort to keep the Irish traditions alive," Sweeney told the crowd, many of whom donned Aran sweaters and other Irish garb on a misty St. Paddy's Day.

In the 1890s, Sweeney's grandparents left the Emerald Isle in search of the American promise, settling in West Haven.

The youngest of five brothers, Sweeney grew up in a single-family home on Lake Avenue overlooking Lake Phipps. He attended city schools and graduated from West Haven High in 1972.

At the midday ceremony, Rossi also presented an Irish flag to Sweeney, who was accompanied in the front row by daughter Erin Sweeney, of

West Haven. Just a few rows behind, Bruce E. Sweeney, a long-standing member of the First Fire Taxation District's Board of Fire Commissioners, looked on with pride as his brother was feted.

Keith Sweeney, a lifelong Westie, was also joined by former wife Kathleen Johnson, of West Haven.

Daughter Shannon Sweeney and granddaughters Etta Aylwin Seely, 3, and Nellie Kate Seely, 1, all of Concord, Massachusetts, were unable to attend.

Among those attending the event were 2022 Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Seamus Bohan, of Orange, and 2022 Parade Queen Morgan Daley, of Hamden, and her honor attendant, Megan Burke, also of Hamden.

The opening procession was led by the West Haven Police Honor Guard and the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums.

After 2013 Parade Queen Fiona Stewart, of West Hartford, sang beautiful renditions of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Irish national anthem, "Soldier's Song," the Rev. Mark R. Jette, the 2010 Irishman of the Year, offered an Irish blessing and shared a few funny stories about his adventures with Sweeney in Ireland.

Once at a pub in Ireland, Jette said Sweeney asked the barman, "What's the weather

forecast for tomorrow?"

"I'll give you an Irish forecast," the barman said. "Go and look out the window. Can you see the mountains?"

"Yes," Sweeney said.

"It's gonna rain," the barman said.

"How do you know that?" Sweeney asked.

"If you can see the mountains, it's gonna rain," the barman said. "If you can't see them, it's raining."

The invocation was followed by remarks by 2014 Irishwoman of the Year and state Rep. Dorinda Keenan Borer, D-West Haven, who served as the master of ceremonies and greeted the gathering before

presenting Sweeney with a General Assembly citation on behalf of the city's delegation.

Rossi then delivered remarks lauding Sweeney.

"Keith Sweeney's accomplishments are a testament to the determination, joy and hope of the Irish, and on this special occasion, we remember with pride the inspiring contributions of Irish Americans like Keith Sweeney to our way of life," Rossi said.

The program culminated in an emotionally charged performance of "Amazing Grace" by the emerald society's array of bagpipers and drummers, who dedicated the rendition to Sweeney.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Keith Sweeney receives an embroidered "Irishman of the Year" jacket from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi.

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Submitted Photos

## Charlie Brown and Gang first musical at new venue

The cast of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" has been rehearsing for weeks and is ready to troop the boards this weekend. The musical opens tonight and runs to Saturday, with shows at 7 p.m. and a matinee on Saturday at 2. General admission tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/61695> or at the door. General admission tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/61695> or at the door.



## West Haven Public Library Scholarship 2022

Download the application and guidelines

[www.westhavenlibrary.org](http://www.westhavenlibrary.org)

- \* Application are being accepted for one of six scholarships for students who will graduate High School in 2022 and are West Haven residents.
- \* Scholarship applications are due by May 07, 2022.
- \* Applications and Guidelines are available at area high school guidance offices and West Haven Public Library locations.


Main Library  
300 Elm Street  
203-937-4233

Ora Mason Branch  
260 Benham Hill Road  
203-933-9381

## Parishes plan food drive

A Food Drive will be held on Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St Louis Church of St John XXIII parish, 89 Bull Hill Lane, to benefit WHEAT. Most needed food items are peanut butter, mac and cheese, tomato sauce, pasta, soup, hot and cold cereal, canned vegetables.

This is a Drive-Thru event sponsored by Our Lady of Victory and St John XXIII parishes. Monetary donations (cash or checks payable to WHEAT) are greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Food Drive or mailed to WHEAT, 674 Washington Ave., West Haven 06516.



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# Library tapped ARPA grant by national association

West Haven Library has been selected as one of 200 libraries nationwide for the American Library Association's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries opportunity, an emergency relief program to assist libraries that have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, West Haven Library will use funds to anchor itself in the community as a strong humanities institution. The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library deliver excellent programs and services related to culture, history, literature, and other humanities subjects.

More than 370 libraries applied for the grant, according to ALA. View the full list of selected libraries.

The participating libraries, selected through a competitive, peer-reviewed application process, include public libraries, academic/college libraries, K-12 libraries, and tribal, special and prison libraries. The recipients represent 45 states and Puerto Rico and serve communities ranging in size from 642 residents in Weir, Kansas, to the city of Los Angeles. Libraries were chosen with an emphasis on reaching historically underserved and/or rural communities.

"We are so happy to have been chosen for this amazing opportunity from ALA and NEH," said Li-

brary Director Colleen Bailie. "This grant will enable us to enhance our reach to at risk youth in our community and expand outreach services as we come out of the pandemic."

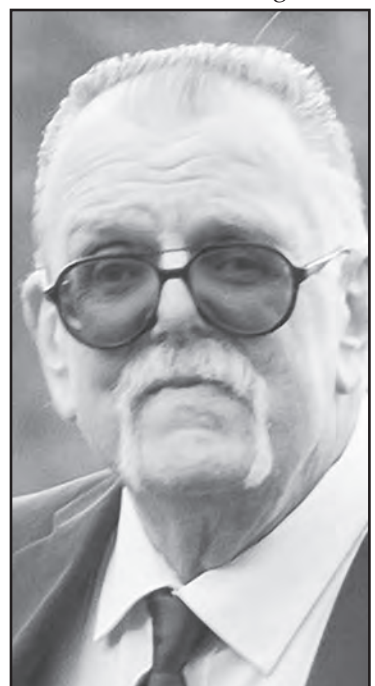
West Haven Library will use the grant funds to enhance our summer literacy program. For the past six years, we have offered tutoring and summer reading kits for kids to encourage reading for at risk children. This grant will enable us to expand the program. This grant also will make it possible to expand Bookmobile services in the Allingtown area until we have a new branch in place. The Piantino Branch was closed in September of 2020 when the building the library was housed in for 42 years was sold.

## Obituary

### Ralph Biondi

Ralph Biondi, age 76, of West Haven, CT passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones on March 6, 2022. Ralph was born on March 25, 1945 in New Haven, CT and is predeceased by his parents, Marie Louise (Andreola) and Pasquale Biondi. He is survived by his beloved wife of 39 years, Nancy Ortiz Biondi; his six children, Janine Biondi, Peter Biondi, Taisha Ortiz, Lisa Goll (Jonathan), Marie Biondi, Gina Godlewski (Joseph); his three cherished grandchildren Zackary Prates, Azreal, Greyson; and his loving sisters Claudia Marston and Noreen Biondi, along with a host of nieces and nephews.

Ralph had a successful career and spent over 40 years at G&O Manufacturing before



happily retiring. After receiving his Engineering degree, he began at the company as an Apprentice Engineer. Over time, he held many roles there, including an International Liaison resulting in his million-mile status on multiple airlines, and ended his career as Plant Manager for the New Haven, CT location.

Ralph was a devoted family man with a passion for civil service, community outreach, and the Freemason brotherhood. While he spent many years traveling the world, being with his family was always the most important part of his life. From Ralph's selfless character to insightful wisdom, he was a true leader, role model, and father figure to many. His love for the water and seafood kept him close to his childhood town of West Haven, CT where he resided his entire life.

Over the years, Ralph lived life to the fullest and was a man of many talents. From working at his family's butcher shop, delivering flowers for Fitzgerald florist, to even serving as a volunteer paramedic. He was also recognized as a distinguished ballroom dancer, loved riding his many motorcycles, and was an avid fisherman who had the opportunity to fish across the world. He was active with the CT Shriners and Masonic Annawon Lodge 115 Chapter where he held the coveted title of Master Mason in 2000

amongst his Mason brethren. He loved spending time with his lodge brothers and helped promote awareness of freemasonry in his town and anywhere he traveled. For many years, he was elected to serve on the West Haven Board of Assessment Appeals and was very involved in the West Haven Community and athletics through his daughters. Many will remember him for his infamous game dinners, his vastly impressive comic book, baseball card, and coin collection, and his Easter and Mother's Day flower stands.

As his family, we will fondly remember him for his unique and cool style that showed you he marched to the beat of his own drum, his loving and al-

ways open heart, and his ability to soothe the soul through his cooking. Always happy, always smiling, and always selflessly caring for others.

May the glory of God guide Ralph to the gates of heaven and welcome him with open arms.

While his physical presence may no longer be with us, he is with us in spirit watching over his friends and family forever and always.

"That man is a success - who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much, who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children, who has filled his niche and accomplished his task. Who leaves the world better than he found it, who

has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it, who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had." - Unknown

West Haven Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. His funeral was Friday, March 8. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Lawrence Church. Interment was private.

If you can, the family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider giving the gift of donating blood or platelets in memory of Ralph through the American Red Cross. Other charitable contributions to the American Red Cross in his memory and flowers are also equally welcomed.

### Lowry: Don't blame Trump

Continued from page 6

ern statesmanship at the same time she maintained a pathetic level of defense spending and deepened Germany's energy dependence on Russia in a way that was more dangerous than anything Trump said or tweeted.

And it wasn't Trump who told Biden to execute a humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan, to give Putin the gift of a summit after he menaced Ukraine the first time, to remove sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, to speak forthrightly about Western divisions at a pre-invasion press conference, or to forgo preemptive sanctions.

All of that is on Biden, and all of it -- especially the Afghan fiasco -- had to make an impression on Putin. Now, it may well have been that Putin was undeterrable, but that makes it all the more outlandish and dumb to blame a former U.S. president for his depredations.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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West Haven, CT 06516

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Come hear the music from La Didone by Cavalli, La Finta Giardiniera by Mozart, Carmen by Bizet, La Finta Giardiniera by Mozart, Die tote Stadt by Korngold, Susanna by Floyd, The Ballad of Baby Doe by Moore, Der Czarevitch by Lehar, and The Coronation of Poppeia by Monteverdi.

Suggested donation is \$20.00 per person at the door  
but all are welcome despite ability to pay

Wheelchair accessible | Vaccination required

# Budget: Hearing begins six-week process

Continued from page 1  
prepared remarks.

"The City of West Haven, although facing some of the toughest times in our history over the last several years, including a health pandemic and unfortunate criminal behavioral, continues to make needed structural changes and improvements to meet our long-term strategic goals," she said. "The fiscal year 2023 recommended budget is balanced, makes critical investments in our community and educational system and is fiscally responsible. The recommended budget does not in-

crease the City or Allingtown Fire District tax mill rates."

Since she took office in December 2017, Rossi has been under the fiscal microscope of the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB). This was prompted by former Mayor Edward O'Brien's decision to bond to pay off a decade-old deficit that had been carried over. Changes in state law put West Haven and Hartford under review, with the MARB having veto power over budget decisions, while providing state funding until the books could be balanced.

Rossi was able to craft a

spending plan without state help last year, and nixed state funds this year as well.

"The budget does not include any state restructuring grant funding from MARB, for a second straight year. I am proud to report that the City of West Haven has managed four consecutive balanced budgets, all producing surpluses. We expect a fifth operating surplus for fiscal year 2022, when the audit is completed. Our fund balance or "rainy-day fund" continues to grow, giving the city financial flexibility and stability as we look to a post-COVID world," she said.

Two positive pieces of news in the address included a state increase in Payment-in-Lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) grants, given to cities will non-taxable properties such as universities and other institutions. Also, the city's debt service is decreasing by more than \$3 million, allowing that money to be distributed elsewhere.

The mayor turned to projects that will increase the city's Grand List over the next few years.

"We look forward to completing and moving forward many current economic development and community proj-

ects, which will increase the commercial grand list further stabilizing our tax mill rate. The flood gates and new lighted bridge at the mouth of the Cove River will be completed this summer, the permits to complete the raising of Beach Street are awaiting approval at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the New England Brewing Company will break ground at the former site of the Savin Rock Conference Center, and Hartford Health Care will be moving into the Allingtown Center. We will continue to negotiate an interlocal agreement and timeline with the Simon Group on the much anticipated 'Haven' project," she said.

Meanwhile, the West Haven High School project is nearing completion "on time and under budget," and plans for a new Washington School are underway.

The American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) are earmarked to complete some longstanding projects in the city, including the Arts Center at the former Masonic Temple on Center Street, first announced in 2009. Also, the Allingtown Library branch is set for funding some three years after being closed, a victim of redevelopment in the Allingtown Center.

"The American Rescue Plan Act funding of \$29 million is before the City Council for review and approval. The plan, when approved by the council, will address many much needed projects and programs such as completing the city's Arts Center, which will be a catalyst for the revitalization of the center business district; prioritize and address chronic neighborhood flooding throughout the city; enlarge and renovate our senior center allowing for additional programming; invest in a new Allingtown Library, and address many other important social and economic issues that will benefit West Haven residents. I have appointed an ARPA Committee to execute the council's approved plan. The committee is charged with completing the projects on time and within budget. All projects, meetings, budget, and invoices will be posted online to assure accountability and transparency," she said.

With the hearing on Tuesday, the six-week review comes to the council, which meets, traditionally, as a committee-of-the-whole, under the chairmanship of Finance Chairman Bridgette Hoskie (D-1).

Once the review is over, the council must pass the budget ordinance by the first Thursday of May.

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# Historian's corner By Dan Shine

**Maritime Series, Part V  
Sandy Point  
Part I**

*In the creation of this story, we wish to acknowledge the efforts of Cathie Iaccarino, Bill Breen, Dr. Scott Graves, Dr. Jim Tait, Lee Letourneau, Mark Paine, and Kathy Granfield.*

~~~~

It was on a Saturday in 1957 that father took The Boy for a walk out onto Sandy Point. It seemed to the five-year-old that they walked forever, out on the spit of sand that extended a half mile out into New Haven's inner harbor. No great lessons were taught that day, but the memory of that event was a strong one,

perhaps because The Boy never repeated that trip.

Decades passed; and then one day as The Boy was sitting in a traffic jam on Long Wharf, he spotted the sand bar and began to wonder how it came about and what was significant about it.

Father was no longer around to answer his questions, so he turned to others.

Two coastal geologists from SCSU and a couple of local naturalists have been very helpful in providing background information.

It is suggested by some that Sandy Point has been in existence for thousands of years. Early maps of the area show its outline in 1700 and beyond. In addition, aerial images

have helped us to observe the changing shape of Sandy Point over the last 80 years.

It is also suggested that beneath the sand bar, there may be a layer of glacial till—assorted materials left over from the last ice age—possibly forming a sort of foundation.

What other forces have brought the sand bar to this spot, and created its odd shape?

Not Old Field Creek, which enters the harbor at a spot adjacent to the sand bar. It is a very small tidal estuary, and more than likely, this backwater marsh is a site of fine sediment which has been washed in by the tides.

Probably not the West River, which flows slowly into the

harbor, and deposits very fine sand or silt at its mouth.

It appears from all evidence that Sandy Point was built by along-the-shore sand movement caused by wave action from the South-Southwest. All of West Haven's beaches are artificially nourished by truckloads of sand every few years, and some of that sand eventually finds its way to Sandy Point.

It should be noted and understood that the waters nearest to Sandy Point are only 1-3 feet deep at low tide, and that the sand bar, plus the stone jetty at its tip pose a navigational hazard to careless boaters: the jetty itself is submerged at high tide.

To be continued-



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



This aerial view of Sandy Point shows the development of the area over the years. It is a protected area each spring for several species of birds, including the piping plover.

**Tax relief offered elderly, disabled**

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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Photos by Todd Dandelsk

Clockwise from left --No. 13 Javaun "Stretch" Calhoun dunks against Prep in CIAC 2nd round playoff action. The Westies were ousted by the Jesuits. Above -- Brady Price prepares to shoot on the Notre Dame goaltender in the regular season finale, won by Notre Dame. Below -- DJ Carfora races up the ice against the Green Knights.

## Westies: Teams ousted from CIAC playoffs

Continued from page 24

utes to go when Bruneau's shot was denied and Mike Alfano could not convert into an empty net.

The Green Knights controlled play in the middle period with a 13-3 shot advantage and a 2-1 advantage in goals. Logan Hurd increased the lead to 3-0 with 9:21 remaining and a hat trick by Curtis with 7:55 to go had Notre Dame on top 4-0.

West Haven finally got on the board with a power play goal by Bernardi with 55.8 seconds left in the period off an assist from Carfora.

The Guilford Grizzlies topped West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy, 4-3, in the Southern Connecticut Conference championship game at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy was looking to win its second straight title over the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies dominated overtime with an 11-5 shot advantage, but goaltender Grace Nowak kept the hopes of the Westie Sharks alive with 10 saves. Her best was just 30 seconds in when she denied Daniella Vickerman in front with a pad save.

The Westie Sharks only had five shots in the extra session, but they were of high quality. Julianna Picard was denied in front by Guilford goalie Julia McDonald two minutes in, and Anne Plunkett hit the post with 8:25 to

go, before Guilford won the title with a power play goal by Cuozzo.

"We left it all on the ice," WH/SHA coach Blake said after her team closed the season at 9-13. "This was our best game of the year. What a better time for it. The girls went out and played for the seniors. They left it all out there."

The third period was a thrill from the start as Guilford took the lead early after trailing entering the period, before the Westie Sharks used a brilliant goal by Meghan Dupre with 1:43 left to send the game to overtime.

Trailing by a goal, the Grizzlies evened the contest at two when Maddie Epke was left alone in the slot and beat Nowak between the pads 3:59 into the third.

Just 27 seconds later, Guilford took the lead when Vickerman's quick shot in front found the back of the net off assists from Olivia Gill and Cuozzo.

The game looked as if it would end with Guilford taking home the title, but the ice started to tilt in favor of the Westie Sharks in the final five minutes of regulation. Dupre was denied in front with 4:30 remaining, before Guilford took two penalties in 42 seconds in the final 3:42.

With two seconds remaining in the two-man advantage, Dupre went the length of the ice before ripping a shot to the top right corner with 1:43 remaining in the third to force overtime.

"I did not take her off the ice," Blake said of Dupre. "With her offense and defense, she kept us in this along with Grace (Nowak). Grace was amazing. She was phenomenal. She has been phenomenal all year."

The game was fast paced from the start with the Grizzlies controlling a majority of the opening 30 minutes, but trailing, 2-1.

With Nowak turning aside a variety of shots early, the Grizzlies were knocking on the door. Guilford finally found the back of the net when Evans took a pass from Epke and fired a shot through a screen from the point for a 1-0 lead with 8:31 left in the opening period.

The Westie Sharks wasted no time drawing even, needing just 3:06 to respond when Dupre fired a rocket from the slot past McDonald with 5:25 remaining in the opening period.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy continued the pressure, but McDonald denied Plunkett and Taylor Alfano in a span of one minute, before Emilee DeGrand found Plunkett alone in the slot for a 2-1 lead with 2:47 remaining in the opening period.

The goal by Plunkett held through the middle period despite Guilford holding a 15-6 shot advantage. Nowak was the story of the period as she turned aside 15 shots, including a laser by Epke in the slot with a glove save

with 8:50 remaining.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy's best opportunities came in the final five minutes as Chase Ireland's backhand in front just trickled through the crease, and a blast from the point by Alfano was turned aside by McDonald's pad save with 1:10 to go.

Nowak finished with 47 saves, while McDonald stopped 25 shots for Guilford.

The West Haven boys basketball team opened the Division I state tournament with a 65-45 victory over No. 20 Trumbull. Unfortunately for the Westies, the season came to an end two days later in a 66-40 loss to fourth-seeded Fairfield Prep.

No. 12 West Haven had 10 players in the scoring column against Trumbull and was led by Tavares Tuck with 16 points. Kyle Kearson had 12 points, while Javaun Calhoun had eight and Henry Smith seven in the win.

Tuck got the Westies on their way with seven points in the opening quarter for a 23-7 lead. West Haven led 33-17 at the half and increased the margin to 46-23 after three quarters of play with a balanced scoring attack.

For all your West Haven sporting news throughout the year, including game articles by Mike Madera, highlights, photos and more, visit [www.westieblue.com](http://www.westieblue.com).

## Swim Club set to open spring season practice

The West Haven Swim Club is gearing up to start its spring season on Monday April 25. Registration is now open at <https://www.westhavenswimclub.org/page/team-registration>

The spring season is an eight-week-long session, taught in a clinic-type atmosphere open to children of all ages, and designed to teach children proficiency in the four competitive swimming strokes: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly.

Swimmers are introduced to the basics of all four strokes and trained to improve skill and speed.

The program is for both children who have some experience in swimming through lessons and are considering the competitive fall season and veterans looking to refine technique. Practice runs Monday through Friday, with a minimum attendance requirement of three practices per week.

All new swimmers will be assigned a permanent practice time after tryouts on Monday April 25, at 5:30 p.m. at the West Haven High School Pool. Practices will run at 5:30 and 6:30 beginning Tuesday April 26. Returning swimmers will begin practice on April 26 at the same practice time they were in last season.

All swimmers are assigned practice times based on age and ability. New swimmers ages 8 and under are required to complete one lap unassisted to make the team. New swimmers, 9 and over, are required to complete two laps unassisted in order to make the team.

For registration and information contact Coach Sean McCauley at [westhavenswimclub@outlook.com](mailto:westhavenswimclub@outlook.com) or visit the website at [www.westhavenswimclub.org](http://www.westhavenswimclub.org).



Photo by Todd Dandelske



Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Preventing a tip-in

AJaved Ullah gets ready to handle a tip attempt in the regular season finale against Notre Dame. The Westies' win streak was halted by the Green Knights before both teams entered the CIAC tournament.

### Setting one up

Amani Abuhatab (34) takes a jumper in the Blue Devils' 63-53 loss to Danbury in the 2nd round of the CIAC playoffs.

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For more information, visit [www.whcommunityhouse.org](http://www.whcommunityhouse.org) or [www.indeed.com/cmp/West-Haven-Community-House-Inc](http://www.indeed.com/cmp/West-Haven-Community-House-Inc).

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Photo by Michael O'Brien

Carrigan's Top 10 readers from The Great Reading Games, from left to right: Scott Horlacher, Justice Damiani, Marcelliano Quinones, Ellana Reno, Jeremy Salas-Chan, Michelle Cerda, Abigail Allister, Isaias Alvarez, Sophia Dos Anjos, and Mayenmen Ngoh)



# Carrigan takes 3rd in nation in Great Reading Games

By Michael O'Brien  
*Special to the Voice*

May V. Carrigan Intermediate School won 3rd-place -- in the nation -- in The 2022 Great Reading Games hosted by Learning Ally. Students at Carrigan achieved a score of 1,881,011 with a total of 165,504 pages read.

"I am so proud of our school and our students for such an

outstanding accomplishment in such a challenging school year," said Jaclyn Cincotta, Carrigan's Reading Consultant. "Keep up the great work Carrigan!"

Learning Ally is a free reading app/program that allows students to download and listen to age-appropriate texts. It has been shown to be effective for students who otherwise

don't have access to grade level literature due to a reading disability (dyslexia) or other impairment. It has helped to keep all of Carrigan's 5th- and 6th-graders engaged in more reading.

Carrigan began The Great Reading Games challenge at the end of January and competed nationwide with other schools in its bracket [mid-

dle school]. The classroom teachers sent home flyers to families with usernames and passwords and hyped up the challenge with students in their class, encouraging them to use the program in school and add books to their bookshelves. Teachers made Learning Ally an option for "listen to reading" station during Daily 5.

Here is a breakdown of how students earned points:

- ~ 100 points for every day a student read 20 minutes on a weekday;
- ~ 50 points for every day a student read 20 minutes on a Saturday or Sunday;
- ~ 10 points for every page read;
- ~ 1 point for every student you have reading



Photo by Carrie Malangone

## Girl Scout Day celebrated

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, back center, recognizes Girl Scouts of the West Haven Service Unit at City Hall on March 14. During the half-hour ceremony, Rossi, a former Girl Scout and troop leader, answered questions before reading a mayoral proclamation declaring Girl Scout Day in West Haven. The event was coordinated by Troop 60298 leader Carrie Malangone, Troop 60321 leader Jennifer Conroy, Troop 60351 leader Katie Koontz, Troop 60330 leader Heather Bucheri and Girl Scouts of Connecticut Member Experience Specialist Janeska Cardona. The observance marked the 110th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, a national organization founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Ga.

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Submitted Photo

## Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School recently celebrated its Students of the Month for February in a ceremony held at the school. The students were honored for their academics and achievements in the classroom. Each student was awarded a pin and certificate, and the students, along with their parents, were invited to have breakfast with the Rev. Jose Mercado, pastor, and Principal Paul DeFonzo. Pictured from left to right: Fr. Mercado; Xander Estes, Grade 6; Nathan Basilio, Kindergarten; Demari Foster, Grade 4; Sophia Hernandez, Grade 1; Lorenzo Hruszko, Grade 2; Isabella Celentano, Grade 3; Robert Percopo, Grade 5; Joshua Roberts, Grade 8; Jaelyn Beauvais, Grade 8; and Principal DeFonzo.



## Around Town

### Kite event honors Ziada

The second annual Kite Event hosted by the First Congregational Church of West Haven will be held on Saturday, April 16 at 1 p.m. The event will take place on the lawn in front of Savin Rock on Captain Thomas Boulevard by the Conference Center.

Kites and Face Painting are FREE. Fried Dough Pizza by Franco's. Please join us in celebrating the Memory of John (Johnny Z) Ziada. Donations are welcomed and all proceeds to benefit the John Ziada Family Education Fund.

For further information: [info@fccwesthaven.org](mailto:info@fccwesthaven.org).

### WH butler to speak

Former White House butler Alan DeValerio will give a presentation at the West Haven Senior Center in the Johnson Community Center on April 21.

WHSC members will get the inside scoop from DeValerio on the preparations for entertaining at

the White House, including how the functions have evolved from the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Biden administration.

The 45-minute presentation is set for 10 a.m. at 201 Noble St. and will include a Q&A session.

For reservations, call (203) 937-3507 or register at the senior center by April 18. Seating is limited.

### 'Opera Rara' hosts benefit

Sir Charles Productions, and the Church of the Holy Spirit present "Opera Rara," a benefit concert for the The West Haven Emergency Alliance Task Force (WHEAT), at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 28 Church St., on April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Arias and duets from rarely heard operas by Monteverdi, Cavalli, Mozart, Bizet, Korngold, Lehar, Floyd, and Moore as sung by soprano Vicki Revere, tenor Thomas Heilman and accompanied by Eric Trudel.

The program includes: *La Didoneby* by Cavalli; *La Finta Giardiniera* by Mozart; *Carmen* by Bizet; *Die tote Stadt* by Korngold; *Susanna* by Floyd; *The Ballad of Baby Doe* by Moore, *Der Czarevitch* by Lehar, and *The Coronation of Poppeia* by Monteverdi.

Suggested donation is \$20 per person at the door, but all are welcome despite ability to pay. The venue is wheelchair accessible, and vaccination is required. To find out more, contact [sircharlesproductionsltd@gmail.com](mailto:sircharlesproductionsltd@gmail.com), or call (203) 691-7841,

### Stamp Club meets Tuesdays

The New Haven Stamp Club has a stamp club meeting every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. at 62 Clark Road in North Haven.

There is also a coin and stamp show at the Annex Club, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven, on the 4th Sunday of every month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

bsg

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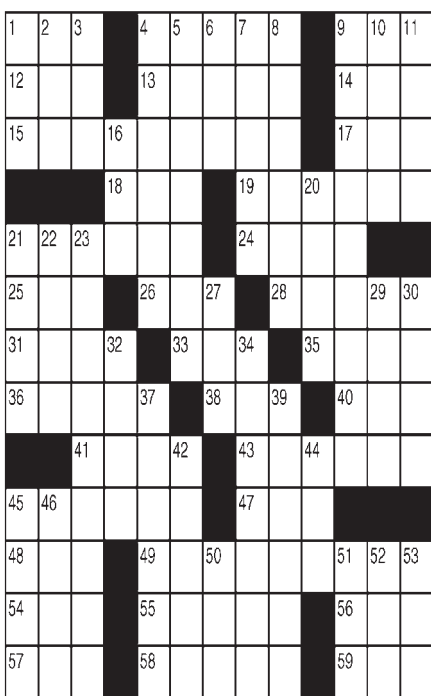
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Atlas page
- 4 Ivy League University
- 9 Science room
- 12 GPS sugges- tion
- 13 Haunting
- 14 Docs' org.
- 15 1989 Al Pacino film
- 17 Decks in the ring
- 18 Small battery
- 19 Yard tools
- 21 "Understood"
- 24 Membership
- 25 Tolkien beast
- 26 Civil War sol- dier
- 28 Pulitzer cate- gory



- 31 Abound
- 33 Narc's org.
- 35 Dr. McGraw
- 36 Anticipate
- 38 Chips go-with
- 40 Sugar suffix
- 41 Mark Harmon TV series
- 43 School break
- 45 Shun
- 47 Owned
- 48 Sashimi fish
- 49 New York City's -- Park
- 54 Decay
- 55 Ryan or Tatum

- 56 Gaiety
- 57 Sauce source
- 58 Actions
- 59 Turf
- 1 " -- Miniver"
- 2 Packed away
- 3 Shell-game item
- 4 "No cheat- ing!"
- 5 Akin beach town
- 6 Acapulco gold
- 7 "The First -- Club"
- 8 Required
- 9 Sierra Nevada resort
- 10 Cupid's spe- cialty
- 11 Low range
- 16 Granola grain
- 20 John Irving hero
- 21 Teeny bit
- 22 Got bigger
- 23 Maryland
- 27 Nap site
- 29 Avoid
- 30 Pub orders
- 32 Lansing's st.
- 34 Dunce
- 37 Steering sys- tem part
- 39 Gems from oysters
- 42 Pigs
- 44 LPs' succes- sors
- 45 Jug handles
- 46 "Scram!"
- 50 Churchill suc- cessor
- 51 Conditions
- 52 Pair
- 53 Conclusion

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## MAGIC MAZE • SNAPPY WORDS

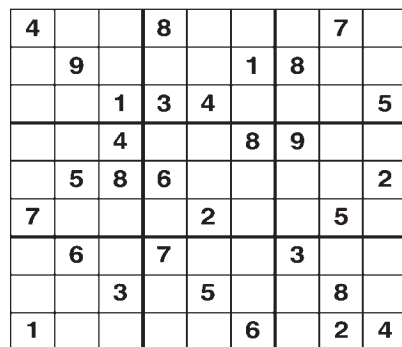


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
Unlisted clue hint: TURTLE.  
Cold snap Snap pea Snapback Snappish  
Gingersnap Snap roll Snapchat Snapshot  
Snap bean Snap-brim Snapdragon Unsnap  
Snap fastener Snap-on Snape

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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!

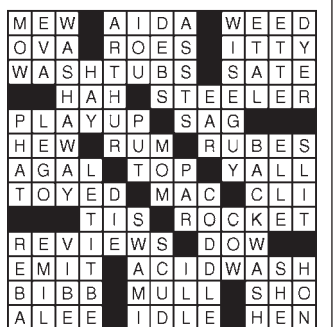
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## Answers to last issue's puzzles

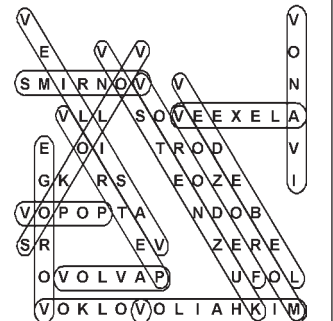
### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



### RUSSIAN FAMILY NAMES



### Weekly SUDOKU

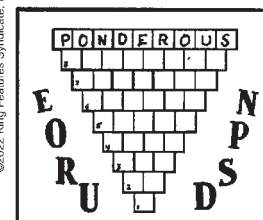
Answer

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



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### FIND PONDEROUS STEPWORDS

START at the bottom and work your way up in this PONDEROUS word test.

Each word is composed of one or more of the letters -- E, O, R, U, D, S, P, N -- shown. Each term has one more letter than its predecessor. Definitions, from bottom up:

1. Scorecard letter for a baseball flub.
2. Compass direction.
3. Ballpoint item.
4. Sign in shop window.
5. Lying flat out.
6. Man, woman or child.
7. Send a reply.
8. Big fast-food burgers: Quarter- —

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1. E 2. NE 3. Pen 4. Open 5. Pione

**SEE WHAT!** Look for a sign in this crystal ball. What sign can it be? Draw lines from 1 to 2 to 3, etc. to find out.

**S-CURVES!** Letter S completes each of these seven-letter series: 1. MNOPQR--  
2. OTTFFS-- 3. SMTWTF-- 4. MAMJJA-- See if you can explain why. Hint:  
Saturday 4. S stands for September.

**DOTS NICE!** An intricate circle-and-line design shown here provides a challenging  
wits test. It is possible to place nine checkmarks among the various circles so that  
no two checks appear in the same row, column or diagonal  
line.

Two starter checks are already in place. See if you can insert the remaining seven.  
Remember, nine checks are required. Just one on any line.

How quickly can you comply?

P.S.: Have an eraser handy.  
1st 6th; 2nd 4th; 3rd 5th; 4th 7th; 5th 8th; 6th 9th; 7th 10th; 8th 11th; 9th 12th.

# HIDDEN GEMS

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

Perhaps there are only spiders there, or something of that sort.

So wrote the Russian novelist Dostoyevsky in anxious rumination on what heaven might be like. Of course since then we've become too sophisticated for the one-size-fits-all pearly gates, clouds and harps model, preferring to think of, say, a purely elevated state of being. Yet I well imagine there are many of us for whom any heaven still includes unlimited puppies, hot fudge sundaes, palm trees and massages.

We have the siren song of The Massage to thank for the existence of the Inner Essence Spa, as owner Shana McCarthy - who majored in exercise physiology and originally intended to go into physical therapy - changed her mind once given a gift card for a massage. It "piqued my interest in [it]," she explains. "I visited a massage school and was intrigued by all the creative avenues that the field of massage therapy opens you up to." McCarthy opened her first space in Woodbridge, and after about four years, moved to a larger facility in Orange; she was there for thirteen years.

On the hunt for larger quarters, McCarthy moved to the Boston Post Road in Allington. Her dad's business is next door; he's been a fixture in town for decades. He suggested she check out a space he had ready for rental, and it was perfect for her needs.

Inner Essence offers more than the typical day spa. McCarthy specializes in energy healing, a unique procedure that uses techniques from indigenous cultures around the world [which] "promote clarity, balance and security," she says, while also incorporating meditation techniques and inner child work.

The spa also offers traditional Chinese cupping massage, which suctions out toxins; Japanese Ashiatsu, in which the masseuse uses bare feet to massage, and lomi lomi, Hawaiian massage incorporating soothing strokes. A weekend course for medicinal aromatherapy is also offered.

"It's like a spiritual retreat," explains McCarthy.

Participants submit a paper and receive certification from the aromatherapy company Wisdom of the Earth.

In addition, the spa offers more traditional massages, facials, scrubs - the list of offerings requires a booklet of substantial length.

All the therapists at Inner Essence have many years of experience.



Jay Raposa of Major League Barber Shop puts the finishing touches on a customer at his Campbell Avenue location. The shop is the second one he has run in his career. Right -- The facilities at The Massage are directed toward making the customer's experience memorable.

To quote McCarthy, "We are a group of authentic and passionate people, highly experienced, who really love the healing arts."

This has garnered the spa its loyal fan base - along with all the traditional spa niceties - the plush suites, softly twilit relaxation room, selection of high-quality spa products for sale, even homemade treats for the holidays (especially Valentine's and Mothers' Days). A scrub, Swedish massage, and a moist slice of homemade banana bread? There's your heaven.

Likewise, Dostoyevsky probably could have used a good grooming for that Rasputin-like hair and beard, and he would certainly have his pick of establishments in our fair city. Nevertheless, it would be hard for his attention not to gravitate to the imposing Major League Barber Shop ensconced at the corner of Campbell and Elm Streets.

Owner Jay Raposa got started in the business long ago.

"I used to cut my friends' hair in the neighborhood", he says.

Due to a troubled childhood, Raposa worked "a lot of dead-end jobs" to make ends meet, "but I was always passionate about hair."

He formerly ran a well-regarded barbershop in Fair Haven when one of his clients, a real estate investor, suggested he decamp over the Kimberly Avenue bridge for West Haven.

He chose the Campbell Av-

enue site, moving up from three chairs to twenty-one. New customers mingle with old, loyalists who make the trek from Fair Haven because they appreciate Raposa's finely-tuned customer service.

Major League is a full-service shop, offering hair cuts

and styling and hot lather shaves.

Of course, the shop's major standout is the availability of private suites. These one-on-one enclaves provide a grooming experience which is, according to Raposa, "almost like a therapy session".

The shop's personal service and attention to detail continues to win over new customers. Raposa says he likes to say he offers "new school services with old school charm."

And that's barbershop heaven.



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Rotary 

**WHEAT Food Drive on West Haven Green**

## Westies ousted from state play

The season came to a crushing end for the West Haven boys hockey team with a 4-3 loss to Fairfield Prep in the opening round of the state tournament. Despite rallying from a 3-0 deficit, No. 12 West Haven suffered the crushing loss when fifth-ranked Fairfield Prep scored with 26.6 seconds left in regulation.

When the Jesuits scored 58 seconds into the second period, West Haven was in a 3-0 hole and looked to surely be in for an early exit from the postseason.

With 1:38 remaining in the middle period, that certainty was no longer as Ryan Bernardi's shot off an assist from Anthony Peschell trickled in. Just 46 seconds later, Bernardi was at it again when he scored with 52.4 seconds to go in the period.

After goaltender Javed Ullah kept the Westies within a goal, Mike Alfano scored from in front with 8:14 to go to even the game at three.

West Haven constantly pressured but could not take the lead as D.J. Carfora's shot from in close sailed over the net. The Jesuits rang the crossbar with 2:54 remaining, setting up the last-second win for the Jesuits.

West Haven picked up its seventh win of the season with a 5-3 victory over Hand-Madison on Senior Night. The Westies scored four times in the final 15 minutes to pull out the victory.

Nico Bruneau finished with one goal and two assists, while Javed Ullah had 20 saves as the Westies improved to 7-12 on the year.

West Haven took a two-goal lead in the third period when Bruneau set up Jayden Spreyer for a breakaway goal 1:53 into the third, before Marcus Burrows stole the puck and scored 2:46 in for a 3-1 lead.

Hand evened the game with a goal 1:15 later and another with 9:52 to go to even the game at three. The Westies did not quit.

Picking up a loose puck along the boards, Peschell blasted a shot home for a 4-3 lead. Bruneau scored a power play goal of an assist from Bernardi with 1:11 remaining for the 5-3 final.

The first two periods saw a combined 13 shots for West Haven and a 1-1 game. Hand struck first on a goal by James Barber with 4:17 gone by in the middle period, but the Westies needed just 35 seconds to respond.

Bruneau fed a lead pass to Spreyer on the left wing. Spreyer circled the net and fed Mike Alfano in front for a shot to the top right corner and a 1-1 tie with 10:08 left in the period.

West Haven had a chance to take the lead with seven minutes to go in the period when Mike Madera set up Jack Aloi, but Aloi's blast was turned aside by a brilliant pad save by Alex Schiano.

The Westies saw their three game winning streak come to an end with a 5-2 loss to Notre Dame – West Haven in the regular season finale. With the loss, West Haven closed the regular season at 7-13.

The Westies struggled to get anything in the opening period, pinned in their own zone for the majority of the opening 15 minutes.

The Green Knights wasted little time setting the tone of the game as Grant Curtis took advantage of a West Haven turnover and beat West Haven goaltender Javed Ullah just 57 seconds in.

Notre Dame appeared to take a 2-0 lead, but Colby Faughnan's tally was wiped away by an icing call 3:28 into the game.

The Westies had a golden opportunity to even the game when Carfora stole the puck while short-handed, broke into the Notre Dame zone, but shot over the net. Just 49 seconds later, Notre Dame had a 2-0 lead when a shot from the point by Curtis when off Ullah and into the net with 6:32 to go in the opening period.

West Haven finally put pressure on in the final five minutes of the opening period, but shots by Spreyer from the slot, and Peschell from the point were denied by Notre Dame goaltender Peter Alfano.

West Haven's best opportunity came with less than two minutes to go.  
See Westies, page 18



Photo by Todd Dandelske

West Haven Goalie Javed Ullah makes a stop against Fairfield Prep in the CIAC playoffs, won by the Jesuits, 4-3, in a heartbreaker.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Hits milestone

Coach Jessica Moriarty presents #34 Amani Abuhatab with a ball marking her 1000th point scored during the Westies' playoff game against Danbury.