

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

# West Haven Voice

June 2, 2022

Vol. 27, Issue 11 20 Pages

## Voice Feature

*An in-depth feature*

Allingtown  
traditionn returns

See page 9

Rossi discusses  
Tier IV

See page 8



# City celebrates America!

Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Right -- Grand Marshal Emery Linton Sr. steers West Haven's Memorial Day parade up Campbell Avenue on Monday morning from a golf cart driven by city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo. Linton, an Army veteran, served in the Vietnam War in 1970-72. Below left -- West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, holding an American flag while waving to people, leads city and state officials along the Campbell Avenue parade route. From left, Paul Pesco, a New York session guitarist who has recorded and toured with Hall & Oates and Madonna, jams with guitarist John McCarthy, who owns the Rock House School of Music, along with Connor Antico, a Stamford theater and film actor, and other guest performers. The mobile "stage" was one of Rock House's three floats, all featuring musicians and performers from the West Haven music school, and were made possible by Anthony Augliera Moving & Storage of East Haven and Bruneau's Garage of West Haven. See story and photos pages 10-11.



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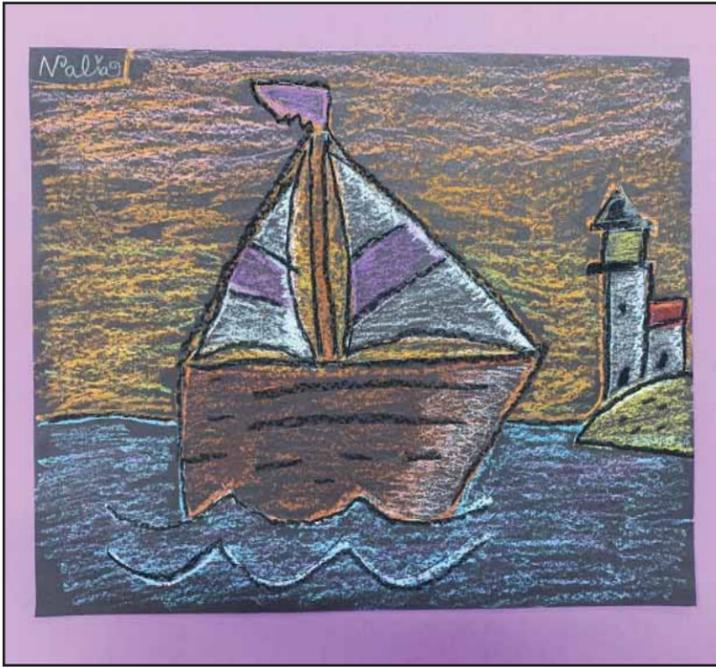
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Nalia N., Grade 3 at Pagels School says it looks like windy weather on the Sound -- good for sailing this first weekend in June.

## On this Date

**1979** -- Pope John Paul II becomes the first pontiff to visit a communist country. Millions of spectators lined the streets of Warsaw as the Pope began his nine-day tour of his native Poland.

**1967** -- Benno Ohnesorg is killed. A police officer shot the unarmed German student at a demonstration against the state visit of the controversial Shah of Iran. It later ruled that the shooting was not an act of self-defense. T

**1953** -- Queen Elizabeth II is crowned. The coronation in London's Westminster Abbey was the first televised major international event in history. Elizabeth's accession to the throne followed the death of her father, King George VI, 16 months previously.

**1847** -- Felix Mendelssohn's Wedding March is used at a wedding for the first time. Dorothy Carew and Tom Daniel were the first to use the iconic piece for their wedding ceremony. The event that made the work world famous was the wedding of Victoria, Princess Royal and Prince Frederick William of Prussia in 1858.



Photo by Dan Shine

## Beach people

Walking the beach is a popular pastime in West Haven, with hundreds of people taking advantage of the area during the entire year. Voice columnist Dan Shine saw this couple early one morning walking across the waterline. Mornings are still chilly despite temperatures climbing some days into the 80s.

## Contact

### West Haven Voice

West Haven Voice, LLC  
840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516

203-934-NEWS (6397)      Web: westhavenvoice.com  
Facebook: whvoice      Twitter: @whvoiceads

Editor Bill Riccio - info@westhavenvoice.com

Sales Director Alan Olenick - sales@westhavenvoice.com

Next Issue Date: June 19

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# Brick Walk dedication now on Saturday

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Because of rain last weekend, West Haven Veterans Council members and city officials will now dedicate the 14th phase of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park at 5 p.m. Saturday.

All veterans are invited to participate in the seaside ceremony, which will feature a flag-raising, an invocation and a wreath-laying, as well as remarks by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Veterans Council President Dave Ricci.

The public is also invited.

State Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-115) will serve as the master of ceremonies.

In November 2006, the Veterans Council began the first of 14

campaigns selling bricks to memorialize vets on the 100-yard Walk of Honor between the William A. Soderman and Vietnam Veterans memorials.

The bricks, which cost \$75, have charcoal lettering for personalized messages.

About 2,900 bricks have been installed so far, including 58 for the 14th phase and 130 for the 13th phase, which was dedicated June 5, 2021.

In May 2015, the dedication of the eighth phase included the dedication of a granite stone in memory of Veterans Council President Lorelee "Lori" Grenfell, who died in 2015 at age 60. The memorial was crafted by Giordano Bros. Monuments of West Haven.

The Walk of Honor's first phase

and the city's Korean War Memorial were dedicated in May 2007.

In May 2008, the walkway's second phase and a memorial in honor of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman were dedicated.

Soderman received the Medal of Honor after he distinguished himself in December 1944 while defending an important road junction near Rocherath, Belgium.

On July 1, 1984, Bradley Point Park's flagpole was dedicated in memory of Soderman, who died in 1980.

City Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo has overseen the construction of all phases of the walkway, which was built by City Point Construction Co. of West Haven.

Sabo has also supervised the design and placement of the granite Korean War and Soderman memorials, which were made by Shelley Bros. Monuments of Guilford.

Also in 2008, 14 grave markers signifying every war in U.S. history and peacetime were dedi-

cated. The markers are mounted on granite posts.

Subsequent dedications have been held amid much fanfare, attracting hundreds of veterans and their families from all corners of Connecticut and beyond. Over the years, the spot has become a place of reflection for many.

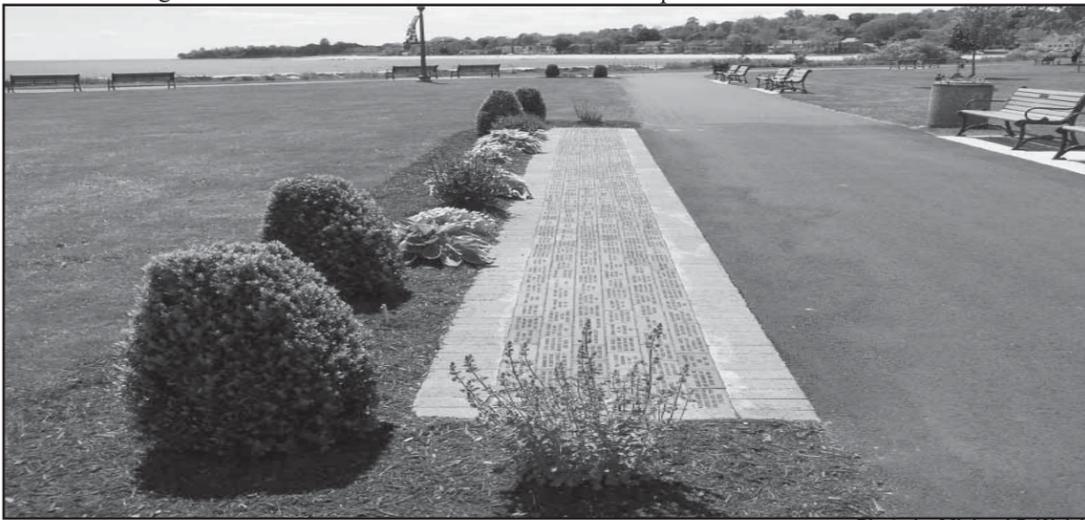


Photo by Michael P. Walsh

The brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park.



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# Dear Felicia

Howdy do, honeybunch! Here we are, already celebrated the Memorial Day holiday and heading toward what Nat King Cole called the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." And as we know in this part of the universe, it's the last adjective that seems to be the rule. Things around here are getting crazier as we speak and we ain't even into the summer.

Effen yew haven't noticed the brigades of motorcyclists have descended upon us once again looking for the sand and sun, and coming in numbers that break the noise ordinances. That's only the foist thing that is happening around here. The usual summer stuff will come in jest a matter of weeks: people trying to park everywhere, visitors not having manners, and residents getting annoyed cuz things ain't cleaned up yesterday.

This Memorial Day was

like many others, the parade seemed to git the numbers out, and people were happy to be in the nice weather and setch. The parade is a big thing around these parts as yew know, and things were geared up early with flags bedecking Campbell Avenue days before the event...it looked rather nice.

The Mystick Maidens of the Marsh decided to have their annual do at the Sandy Point area. It's a nice, secluded spot, and allows us to really let loose and not disturb the local yokels. Of course, all the politicos and special people were invited and showed. 'Twas quite an affair.

Of course, the conversation tended to center around the city's new status as the state's red-headed stepchild, being under the oversight of the MARB in Tier IV. We've been to this rodeo before, and we

know how things are gonna turn out. The MARB is gonna have complete control over things and Cobina wouldn't be surprised effen some contracts and other negotiated items were "reviewed" and attempts made at renegotiating them. We shall see. That's what happened the last time, and it wasn't pretty.

Sammy Bluejay was around City Hall and sez that there is some concern thereabouts over what the MARB is gonna do over the next little while. Herroner and Scott Jackson, of course, are taking the brunt of the barbs right now – some of them rightfully so – most of it because they don't seem to have the paperwork the panel wants to seek.

The most recent thing was the raises given to the WHPD to help retain and recruit new officers. It was this papyrus that broke the fack the PD had been losing people cuz the city didn't have a pension plan and was tens of thousands of kopecks behind area towns and cities as far as compensation packages. The City Council tried to remedy that, and boosted things in the current budget.

Unfortunately, the work showing how the city was gonna pay for these raises didn't seem to be at the panel's disposal, which promptly

incurred the ire of the members assembled. The MARB rejected the budget and gave the city a few more weeks to git its act together. Let's hope this time they'll do what they hafta and put things in order.

The PD is way behind its minimum number of officers – which may make some in the community happy – but for those of us who live in the real world, not having enough officers puts more work on the existing force, and leads to a ripple effect of problems. Let's hope the administration can git it's duckies in a row and make MARB happy.

*Nelly Nuthatch got my ear during the MMMs Memorial Day picnic, and sez that she's heard some of the highly touted projects that have been publicized might be in jeopardy. Nelly, always the picture of discretion, has been murmuring about disaffected developers who are not happy with some city officials right now.*

*She also sez that the timing of the repaving of Beach Street and the raising of the roadbed is a pernt of contention. It ain't happening at opportune times for developers and might be a problem going forward. Wouldn't that be something? It jest seems like things never break the right way around here.*

*Now, Cobina ain't talking about anything in particular this time, let's jest say that people who know people are relating stories of being very unhappy with those who's job it is to facilitate things. They are being a hindrance rather than a help. We've heard this before – many times – so, we ain't surprised. More on this as details come this way.*

Iva Lootey noted that since Herroner has threatened to fine the developers of The Haven Project for blight due to their slow-walking the demolition of things down there, some progress has been made. Iva noticed some digging machinery down there, and also some clearing of debris. That debris was there for a while, and now, it's gone. I guess making threats and setch get some results.

Still, the city ain't been able to pin down the developers to a timetable or schedule as to when things will git done. How do we know that? Well, effen that happened there would be a big press conference and celebration. We ain't heard of one, so we hafta be under the assumption that things are still in the "talking stages." Of course, those "talking stages" have been going on for months now.

With each passing month we git further and further away from the opening of the promised mall, which we were told

would be ready for the Christmas season of 2022. That ain't gonna happen. Heck we'd be surprised effen the demolition of all those properties is finished by then.

One good thing the city is trying to do is reopen Water Street in the interim, whilst nothing substantial is happening down there. The traffic along the area there is jest unbearable, and reopening that will give a little relief to people trying to git through to Elm Street or the other side of First Avenue.

Yew remember I've been wonderin' about the Kimberly Avenue Bridge, and the fack that it's about 30 years older than its intended sell-by date. It was put in in 1969 and was only supposed to be used for about two decades before replacement.

Tennyrate, there has been some inspections or work done there recently, which can't be a bad thing. Still, effen the mall is built over there, one wonders how in blazes the bridge is gonna take even more wear-and-tear.

It guess we'll fine out.

You will see the residents over at Lake Phipps are having a bit of a tussle with city officials over who's job it is to fix some erosion problems that have cropped up since the renovations were made over there. Effen yew remember, about a decade ago the city did some work, including the elimination of the spillway over by Main Street.

Well, property owners along "The Rez" are saying the new water currents and storm systems are damaging existing waterfronts. Of course, who's responsible for the repairs is one of the disputed problems. Meetings were asked for, and city officials were queried, but some answers still are wanting.

This should be an interesting situation, cuz it'll be a case study in how administration officials deal with the public more than the ultimate decisions themselves. Right now, it seems the residents over there seem to believe they are not being taken seriously. That's never a good thing.

Cobina reminds you of her famous beach rule now that we are in the throes of the summer beach season. It goes thus: the amount of fabric worn by a sunbather is many times in inverse proportion to the age of said person. The skimpier the costume, the older the person – this goes for both sexes, sweets. As grandma used to say, "Some people don't have a mirror in their bathroom."

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

*Cobina*

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**Gripe Vine Readers:**

Several columns ago, I received a complaint from a reader who asked me why some of the lights on the city's Green were not lit. I was able to contact a source that would help with this problem. Thanks to my reader who initially noted the problem kept in touch, noting that the lights were still not operating several weeks later.

Good news! Today I can tell you, the lights are now functioning! My reader wrote, "Yes! They finally replaced the lights on the Green! after a few weeks!"

With a city the size of West Haven and a beautiful Green the lights should be checked regularly, not only to display the Green but for safety's sake as well.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

As a single parent raising a child it, has happened more than once. The landscaper mows, leaf blows early at 8 a.m. disturbing the whole neighborhood. Please start later and have consideration for your neighbors.

*Annoyed Resident*

**Dear Resident:**

I did some research on West Haven's noise ordinances:

Landscaping can be done 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Additional inquiries related to a resident or company's use of hours of service I suggest a call to the Board of Health in West Ha-

ven, (203) 9373-660

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

In a recent column, I received a gripe from a resident on Cold Spring Road who complained of a street sign dangling. I notified our Police Department and today I received the following note, from the letter writer, "Hur- ray! The Cold Spring Road dangling sign is all taken care of."

My thanks to the West Haven Police Department. How refreshing to see a request taken care of promptly!

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Quite often in your column I see that you attempt to get readers' problems solved by writing to the Councilmen or Councilwomen who are responsible for residents in their districts. Just how do we know what district we live in and who is responsible for helping you? We would also like to know how to reach them. It is assumed that everyone has access to the internet and can try to reach them this way, but some residents don't have access to the internet, or they are not proficient with emailing. Do you have the answers?

*Just Curious*

**Dear Just Curious:**

Well, yes I do! A friendly, helpful staff member at the City Clerk's Office provided the answer to your inquiry:

If you have a question concerning a problem in your



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON**

neighborhood, and you don't know which Councilmen or Council Woman to contact, you can call the City Clerk's

Office at (203) 937-3535. Give your street identification and they will locate the district you're in and the contact number for your council representative. If you don't have access to a computer (I am sure you will be provided the Council email addresses as well) you will receive the council member's phone number or address, enabling you to place your concern with the council person in your district.

Of course, you can contact Gripe Vine and I will do my best to help solve your gripe.

A note: A list of all the street pothole gripes were published in the last Gripe Vine column.

I forwarded them to the Public Works Department. If these potholes have not been repaired or if you want to add your street to the list, send them to me. Please let me know whether your pothole complaint has been repaired or not.

You can submit your gripes, comments and issues by contacting gripevine4wh@aol.com. Please include your name, address and phone number, kept in strict conditionality with me. Or you can fill out the form in my column and mail it to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516.

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## Newport Playhouse trip set

The West Haven Senior Center will offer a bus trip Aug. 3 to the Newport Playhouse in Newport, Rhode Island. The trip includes lunch and the suspenseful comedy "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," a love triangle set in a Howard Johnson's motor lodge involving a woman, her lover and her husband.

The trip costs \$125 and includes transportation, admission, lunch and all gratuities. Payment is due June 24. For reservations, call (203) 937-3507 or register at the senior center, 201 Noble St., upper level.

The bus will depart at 8:45 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center parking lot, 6 Rock St., and leave at 5 p.m. from Newport.

Newport Playhouse's COVID-19 policy requires patrons show proof of full vaccination, which verifies they have received a second shot at least 14 days before the event. Proof of vaccination must show a name that matches the government-issued document.

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## Officials must get act together

As expected, Gov. Ned Lamont approved a recommendation by the Municipal Accountability Review Board to put the city under a Tier IV designation, putting the panel in charge of the decision-making process regarding the city's finances. For those keeping score, this is the second time in the past 30 years such a designation was made (1991-94), though under a different set of state statutes.

Thirty years ago, the city found itself in a \$17 million hole due to a shoddily constructed budget that double-counted some revenues.

The state advanced, via a special act, funding to repair the damage, but oversaw by means of a similar review board the day-to-day decisions.

We now have a different situation, but the same result. The MARB was convened for the city under a new state statute that required such review should a city bond to pay off a deficit.

Just before leaving office then-Mayor Edward O'Brien requested bonding for more than \$25 million. The City Council approved it, and by the time current Mayor Nancy N. Rossi entered the third-floor office, there was a notice of state oversight, which has continued. The city was put into Tier III status on a four-tier scale, with the city retaining its autonomy, but getting direction and some decisions by the MARB. Most recently, the debacle of the expenditure of federal COVID-relief money, coupled with alleged fraud concerning other COVID-related funds, pushed the MARB to request Tier IV, giving the panel more immediate oversight, which might include contractual obligations, staffing, etc.

In its recent meeting reviewing the city's budget, the MARB had concerns about the new police package included in an effort to retain and recruit new officers. The total was some \$2.7 million. The members questioned the revenue basis for the new expenditures, and were told the money is covered, but the paperwork was not brought to the meeting by the mayor. No paperwork, no approval.

The MARB rejected the budget as presented and gave the city until June 15 to produce a revision. Mayor Rossi insists the paperwork is available, but the last-minute changes and details leading up to its approval by the City Council were the reasons for the omission. Documentation and the availability of documentation has become a problem in City Hall. It was just weeks ago, the state report finding the city's use of COVID funds were improper was released. City officials averred the report was incomplete because documentation was not included that the city had. We hope that documentation has made its way to the authorities so some answers can be duly provided and duly documented.

In this instance, we do not understand the lack of such documentation. If the council approved the expenditure and some rearranging of funds and/or revenue sources was determined, why weren't those documents provided? We are now in a situation where the city is going to have provide every jot and tittle of correspondence regarding budgetary matters, and the administration should be (and should have been) aware of that. Part of our problem is a slipshod way of providing things. Either the new Finance Director Scott Jackson, or the mayor, or both must take the lead in getting things to the MARB. Given the city's new status and its recent history, we are not surprised MARB declined acceptance of the budget. Let us hope that come June 15, the city will have its financial ducks in order.



## Defending Ukraine dollars

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Populist critics have gone after the new \$40 billion in aid to Ukraine hammer and tongs. Donald Trump has complained that we are sending billions to Ukraine "yet America's parents are struggling to even feed their children." Republican Sen. Josh Hawley calls the assistance "unfocused globalism."

There's no doubt that \$40 billion constitutes a vast sum, even in Washington, D.C., circa 2022, but the expenditure is warranted.

At the end of the day, there's no getting around the fact that it costs lots of money to support a country fighting a war in the 21st century against an advanced, if incompetent, military foe.

We would have saved tens of billions of dollars, at least initially, if we had never aided Ukraine and contented ourselves with letting Russia overrun it. But a victorious Putin would have posed a more direct threat to NATO. That would have caused an even bigger military build-up in the West than we are seeing now, and we would have been part of it, unless we were to decide to give up on our most important alliance.

The Ukraine war might be

expensive, but it is the Ukrainians doing the fighting. They are degrading the military of an adversary of the United States and trying to push it away from NATO's borders without a single U.S. or Western soldier engaged in the fight. All things considered, this is a deal.

Nearly \$9 billion of the package replenishes U.S. stockpiles after Biden sent U.S. weapons to Ukraine on an emergency basis using Presidential Drawdown Authority. It'd be perverse not to replenish our supplies of Javelins at this point in the name of economizing over Ukraine.

Likewise, several billion dollars in the package pay for the U.S. deployment of troops to NATO countries.

Part of the military aid is billions of dollars in financing for Ukraine and NATO countries to buy U.S. weapons, something that Trump has supported strongly in the past on "America First" grounds.

Indeed, it is strange that critics of the bills are invoking nationalism in their opposition. Hawley worries that the bill doesn't represent "a nationalist foreign policy."

By what definition? Assisting a sovereign country in defending its borders against a nation bent on restoring its

imperial glory is a broadly nationalist project. So is resisting an adversary of the United States that, together with its de facto ally, China, wants to reduce our national power and influence, and end the preeminence of the U.S.-led Western world.

It's not as though the assistance keeps us from pursuing urgent domestic priorities. We don't have a baby formula shortage because we've sent too many weapons to Ukraine, and the shortage -- in large part, a regulatory problem -- would still exist if our new level of assistance to Ukraine were \$0. The same is true with the border. Biden is not interested in the policies that might restore order there, which was true prior to the Ukraine war and will presumably be true after.

There's certainly more Europe could do, especially regarding general support for the Ukrainian government and food assistance to Ukraine and countries most affected by war-related disruptions. Our other allies who don't have an interest in taking sides between Ukraine and Russia should be providing food assistance, as well.

There should be no mistaking, though, that the stakes in

See Lowry, page 7

**Letters**

**Police raises are a necessity for the city**

The City of West Haven has numerous pressing issues, but one, I believe, is in dire need of help and has catastrophic repercussions if not dealt with immediately.

Our Police Department has been losing good officers at an alarming rate. They are underpaid between \$10,000 and \$20,000 annually. The city pays \$100,000 to train an officer, and in two years many leave for neighboring towns for better salaries and retirement benefits.

This past weekend saw bedlam at our beaches. City Council Chairman Massaro stated that we got hit with early warm weather that caught the police force off guard. In speaking with police, I have learned that we do not have the staff to patrol the beaches now or when summer hits. More officers are leaving imminently, with more to follow as the police contract expires July 1.

Last March, the City Council voted to give a \$10,000 raise to each officer. West Haven has since been assigned Tier IV designation by the MARB, meaning the state has taken over the city's finances, due to the city's inability to have the most basic controls on finances. Our police tell me that the \$10,000 raise for our officers is off the table. West Haven Police moral is understandably at an all-time low.

Public safety should be the number-one priority of the City of West Haven, and the MARB. I understand that MARB wants to see a five-year budget showing the city can maintain the pay increase for our officers, and I commend them for that. My concern is that time is running out on the current police contract, and if the immediate need for raises is not met, the ramifications of a mass exodus from an already understaffed force will be disastrous to the city.

If this situation is not resolved before their contract expires in five weeks, the city will not be able to man their police cars, crime will continue to soar, and I fear that the city may never recover.

*Andy Weinstein*

**Lake Phipps problems unanswered**

This letter is in regards to the ongoing issues that myself and several other neighbors at Lake Ave have been having as a result of Coe River drainage. Besides the city coming in and reinforcing the banks, the City of West Haven received a state grant to do work across Main Street due to the erosion. They came in and reinforced everyone's bank they knew that the land was being affected. But with this reinforcement, it created additional issues of land erosion, foundation cracks, and flooding that has resulted in damage that we have had to pay for along with thousands of dollars of damage after Tropical Storm Elsa made her way on July 9, 2021. My neighbor had 5 feet of water in her basement due to the lack of reinforcement in front of her home from the creek. The city stated that they sent her and the neighbor alongside of her a letter asking if they can work on the creek in front of their homes but nothing to prove these letters were sent as neither neighbor received letters.

In addition, there are several trees on the side of the creek that are blocking the water flow along with trash that keeps flowing in from Cove River into our back yards. We have had several meetings at City Hall with Public Works Commissioner, Tom McCarthy, Wetlands Commissioner, William Kane, Engineer, Abdul Quadir, and a hired attorney from the city. Councilman, Victor Borrás, and Legislator, Dorinda Borer, also attended the meetings and did a walk through of the damage that the lake has done to our land and homes. We have made countless emails and phone calls to Tom McCarthy but he is refusing to follow through on the promises that he made during the Sept 24 meeting that we all participated in at City Hall of West Haven. The city added boulders, in 2017, to the side of the wall in aid of the flooding but this only made things worse. Since then, boulders have fallen to the bottom of the creek and the erosion

See Letters, page 10

**Lowry: Defends Ukraine \$\$**

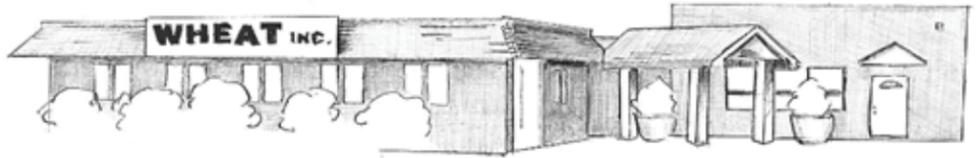
Continued from page 6

the war are large. The outcome will profoundly affect the future of Ukraine, the robustness of the Western alliance, perhaps the nature of the Russian regime, and China's consideration of whether or not it is too risky to try to take Taiwan by force.

Paris is worth a Mass," Henry of Navarre supposedly said before converting to Roman Catholicism and becoming king of France in the 16th century. Similarly, staving off Russia, and perhaps defeating it without firing a shot, is worth \$40 billion.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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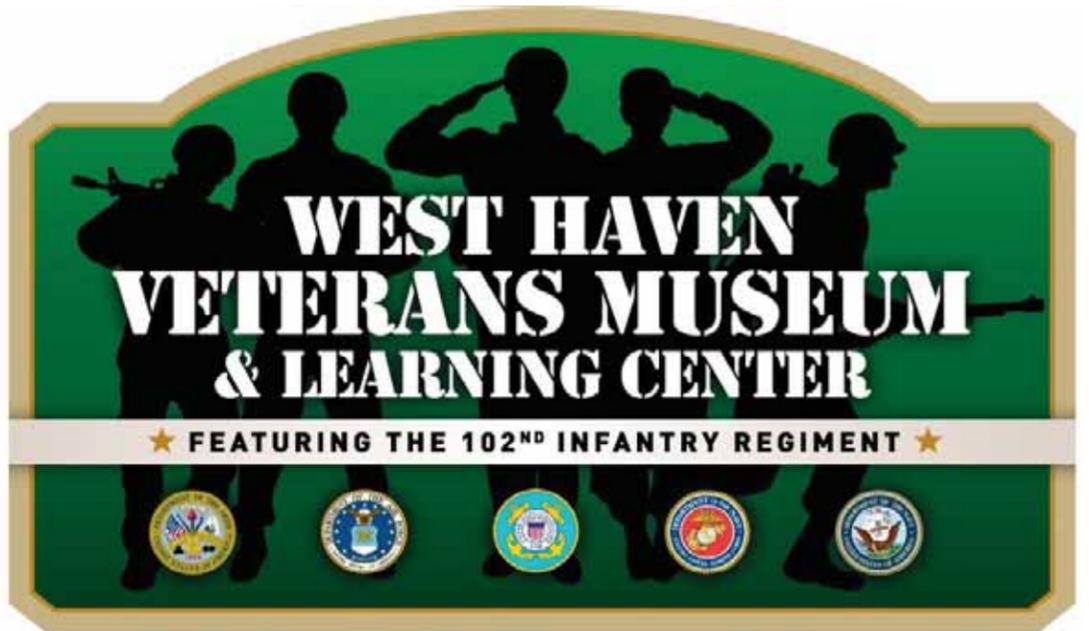


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# Rossi says MARB will get correct figures

With the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) rejecting the city's approved budget last week, the city has until June 15 to put together a package that will satisfy the pane. The MARB exercised its new oversight power after the city was placed into Tier IV status by Gov. Ned Lamont. The new powers give the state board oversight and authority over the city's finances

The Tier IV status was a consequence of a state-commissioned audit into use of federal COVID relief funds, and the allegedly fraudulent siphoning of funds into dum-

my companies by at least two former officials.

MARB rejected the budget due to an increase included for the city's police personnel. Earlier this year the Voice reported the Police Commission going before the City Council, asking that salaries and benefits be brought up to par with surrounding towns. The city's lack of a traditional pension plan (offering a 401k instead), plus the fact salaries are as much as \$10,000 below average means the city is losing officers and having trouble recruiting new ones. At last count, the city is 14 officers below its standard, having 107

on staff, rather than 121.

In reviewing the budget, MARB members said the new spending on police was not backed up with concurrent revenue. Mayor Nancy Rossi defended the budget and said MARB's decisions was based on erroneous information. In a questionnaire sent by the Voice this week, the mayor said the MARB's concerns will be addressed in full.

"The budget submitted to the City Council was balanced, as was the budget approved by the City Council. MARB had received a report from Milliman, an actuarial study for the police department pension,

which contained erroneous information and an incorrect higher annual contribution to the pension fund," she said. "The report is being recalculated with the correct information and will be resubmitted to the city. The city will submit a revised budget to the MARB and the Five-Year Plan by June 15"

When questioned about the whether the MARB might tick up the mill rate, which stays flat at 37.48 (before fire taxes) under the City Council's budget, she was less certain.

"The city will submit a responsible and balanced budget and make every effort to

keep the mill rate flat," she said.

Rossi reiterated the problem with the budget shortfall as seen by the MARB was one of an actuarial error that is now being corrected.

"The city submitted a budget with the correct contribution to the police pension fund, however, the MARB obtained a report with a higher contribution, which was not correct. A corrected actuarial study is forthcoming, and the revised budget will include the correct contribution, which will be much closer to the amount originally supplied by the city," she said.

When asked what effects the new Tier IV status will have on the city's ability to run or have autonomy, Rossi was upbeat.

"Being in TIER 4, the MARB will be more involved in financial aspects of the city including the approval of the annual budget. The city will work closely with the MARB on the revised budget to ensure all services are continued and the budget is balanced," she said. "The city will continue to increase the commercial grand list, and the rainy-day fund continues to grow."

In her final comments, Rossi said the city will work under the new Tier IV status, but took a swipe at those who she believes put the city in the position it is in.

"Although the city was elevated to TIER 4 because of the alleged theft and mismanagement of Cares Act funds by a few individuals, the city's general ledger and financial outlook continues to improve," she said. "I am angry and very disappointed that funds were allegedly embezzled under my watch. I take full responsibility, however."

She said the city is moving toward making needed changes in its daily practices – a matter that has incurred the wrath of MARB members on several occasions.

"Moving forward changes have already been made and the city will continue to strengthen our internal controls. With that said, I will not allow this sad and unfortunate situation to derail or take the focus off the continued growth and progress the city is making," she said.

## Stamp Club meets set for the year

The New Haven Stamp Club meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at 62 Clark Road, North Haven.

For those looking for buying, selling or swapping, here is a stamp and coin show on the fourth Sunday of each month. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 554 Woodward Ave., East Haven.

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# Allingtown tradition makes return

After an hiatus of a couple of years, a tradition returned to the venerable Allingtown Green to honor those who served and gave their all from the borough in the defense of freedom. On Memorial Day morning, a wreath laying ceremony took place on the newly renovated Allingtown Green. The service honored the lives of Allingtown residents that died during war. It also honored all deceased members of the Allingtown Fire Department. Prior to the Green renovations and the Covid-19 pandemic, the ceremony was an annual event that was held before the West Haven Memorial Day Parade for many decades.

Monday's ceremony marked the first time that the ceremony has been held since 2016. Around fifty attendees marched from the Allingtown Fire Headquarters on Admiral Street in a procession led by the New Haven County Firefighter's Pipe Band to the Green. Deputy Chief Michael Esposito served as Master of Ceremonies. Retired West Shore Fire Department Lieutenant Kevin McKeon played taps on the bugle. Prayers were offered by the Rev. and Councilman Victor Borrás, D-8, Chaplain of the West Haven (Center) Fire Department.

President David Ricci, of the West Haven Veterans Council along with Firefighter Ian Shack of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association presented flowers at the veterans and firefighter monuments respectively. Attendees included, Council Chairman and retired City of West Haven, Allingtown Chief Peter Massaro, D-6, Councilwoman-at-Large Colleen O'Connor, R, and Gary Donovan, D, Councilwomen Kathy Tucker, D7 and Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5, Allingtown Fire Commissioners Fred Brown and Kevin Corcoran, Center District Fire Commissioner and Allingtown Volunteer Chief John Carew, Allingtown Volunteer Firefighter and Planning & Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins, former Mayor Edward O'Brien, City of West Haven, Allingtown A Shift career firefighters and others.

Photos by Chris Randall

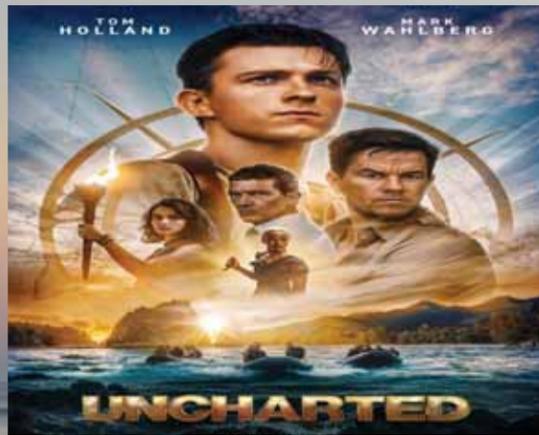
City of West Haven Allingtown Deputy Fire Chief Michael Esposito speaks during the Allingtown Green Wreath Laying Ceremony on Memorial Day. Below -- Retired West Shore Fire Department Lt. Keven McKeon (far right) plays taps as Allingtown firefighters Ian Shack, Steven R. Mullins and John Ordazzo render hand salutes during the Allingtown Green Wreath Laying Ceremony on Memorial Day



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# Traditional parade celebrates our nation



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Hundreds lined the parade route, Monday.

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Marshal Emery Linton Sr. steered West Haven's Memorial Day parade Monday morning from a golf cart driven by city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo.

Linton, an Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War in 1970-72, led the 40-unit procession of veterans, bands and dignitaries, including Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and other city officials, along Campbell Avenue.

The parade stepped from Captain Thomas Boulevard north to Center Street, where a sea of people lined the 1.5-mile route, American flags waving, for the annual patriotic march.

Linton, 73, was tapped by the West Haven Veterans

Council, which helps the city organize the parade, for his years of service to the military, his fellow vets and his community.

The 90-minute parade commenced with a dramatic fly-over by a C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft operated by the Connecticut Air National Guard.

The event, in memory of the deceased members of the U.S. armed forces of all wars, is the oldest parade of its kind in southern Connecticut.

In addition to veterans groups and marching bands, anchored by the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums, the procession featured the traditional contingent of youth organizations and sports

leagues, dance and Scout troupes, fraternal organizations and service clubs, local and state leaders, police officers and firefighters.

It included cheerleaders from the West Haven Seahawks and a fleet of Jeeps from the Connecticut Beach Cruisers.

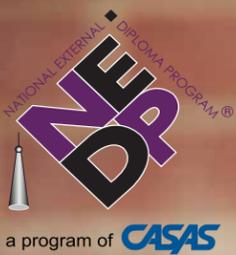
The procession also showcased musicians from West Haven's Rock House School of Music performing on a trio of floats made possible by Anthony Augliera Moving & Storage of East Haven and Bruneau's Garage of West Haven.

Guitarist John McCarthy, who owns Rock House, performed on one of the floats with acclaimed theater and film actor Connor Antico and Paul Pesco, a renowned New York session guitarist who has recorded and toured with Rock & Roll Hall of Famers Hall & Oates and Madonna.

Antico, 27, of Stamford, is See Parade, page 11

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## Letters

Continued from page 7

has worsened with every rain/tropical storm. We pay heavy taxes for the land that we have and ask that the City of West Haven correct the issue that they caused as a result of the work they did in 2017. Now, they are refusing, stating that the lake is partially each homeowner's property as they do not want to pay to fix the issue they created. This is neglect on their part as they manipulated the area which only added more damage.

Due to the force of the water after a major storm, it pulls the dirt from underneath and therefore it has caused the posts of my deck to become slanted. This is now deemed dangerous to utilize and I will have to pay out of pocket to repair the posts. The city is not taking any ownership of this.

There is also the issue of the invasive Japanese Knotweed that has overgrown to over 6 feet tall and not only is it slowing down the water during a storm, causing a flood, but it is also blocking a driver's view from turning onto Main St, from Lake Ave. This is dangerous and can cause accidents. Maintenance should be done regularly for safety reasons.

We have recordings and notes of the meetings that indicate all of these promises that the Public Works Commissioner has made and have reminded him of these via email but he does not respond. We are asking that they take care of this matter immediately or we will be forced to take legal action.

Naza Bungu  
Lake Avenue resident

Photos by Michael P. Walsh

# Parade 2022

Clockwise from right -- The West Haven High School Band. The national champion West Haven Seahawks cheerleading team. From left, the First Fire Taxation District's Board of Fire Commissioners, Treasurer John Carew, Secretary Herbert Hill and Chairman Bruce E. Sweeney, ride in a 1935 Mack pump firetruck driven by retired West Haven Fire Department Inspector Robert Abate. The firetruck was formerly operated by the department's North End Hose Company. West Haven resident Jacques Rossignol gives a thumbs-up while driving



## Parade

Continued from page 10 starring in the fall debut of the John Mellencamp musical, "Small Town," in Louisville, Kentucky. He is also releasing an extended play record, "Make Something Beautiful," produced by Pesco.

A wreath-laying ceremony was held after the parade at the World War I Armistice Memorial on the Green.

Also after the parade, McCarthy jammed with Pesco, Antico and other notable musicians at an all-star tribute concert celebrating John Ziada, the late West Haven restaurateur and community volunteer affectionately known as Johnny Z.

The hour-plus show, attended by concertgoers of all ages, took place in the middle of Campbell Avenue in front of Z's Corner Cafe, Ziada's live music mecca.

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Class of 2022

West Haven Adult Education recently conducted its annual commencement exercises at West Haven High School. Among those graduating were those who completed their high school studies. Those graduating with high school diplomas were given the traditional sendoff, and stood for a class picture after the ceremony.

## FUSE Theatre of CT seeks actors, college students

FUSE Theatre of CT is now registering for its summer production of *Disney's Frozen KIDS*, a spectacular 30-minute musical, designed for elementary school-aged performers, is based on the 2013 Disney film and the 2018 Broadway adaptation. The production will be directed by Keona Gomes of New Haven (University of Hartford '25).

This is the inaugural session of FUSE's "Multi-Gen Mentorship Initiative," a program

that aims to give New Haven-area youth a comprehensive introduction to theater in a fun, welcoming and professional environment, as well as providing training and mentorship opportunities for college-aged theater artists seeking hands-on experience.

Adapted for young performers, this musical includes favorite *Frozen* songs such as "Love Is an Open Door," "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and "Let It Go," as

well as wonderful new songs from the Broadway production. This production of *Frozen KIDS* is sure to prove that "some people are worth melting for."

Performance dates: Aug. 12-13, at a venue in New Haven or West Haven, announced at a later date.

Registration for up to 30 students ages 7-12 can be found at [fusetheatre.org](http://fusetheatre.org). Auditions will be virtual. Tuition of \$585 includes five weeks of pro-

gramming (two virtual and three in-person in West Haven), scripts, costumes, sets, and professional photographs. Financial aid is available.

Rehearsals will take place Mondays through Thursdays, July 25-Aug. 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Gateway Christian Fellowship, 129 Bull Lane, West Haven. Aftercare will be available from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for \$100/week or \$35/day.

Fuse Theatre of CT is seeking highly motivated college students (or experienced rising high school seniors) to join the production team.

The company is now accepting resumes and letters of interest for exceptional students of theatre, music, design, dance, stagecraft and media/

technology for a six-week paid, part-time commitment. Areas include, but are not limited to music direction, choreography, lighting design, set design, stage management and more. Ideal candidates are deeply passionate about the performing arts and have experience and enthusiasm for working with children. Candidates must be willing to submit vaccination records and be fingerprinted for a background check.

Disney's *Frozen KIDS*, designed for elementary school-aged performers, is based on the 2013 Disney film and the 2018 Broadway adaptation. The production will be directed by Keona Gomes of New Haven.

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# Historian's corner By Dan Shine

## The Oak Hill Ladies Seminary

On April 3, 1843, Reverend Edward Wright became the pastor of First Church. He was newly graduated from the Yale Divinity School at the age of twenty-eight, and had recently married to Miss Susan Ames of Brattleboro, Vermont. His bride was a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and had been a teacher in Ohio.

While he was just a young boy, Rev. Wright's father had died. He had attended what is now Deerfield Academy and then apprenticed as a blacksmith. By the time he had completed his apprenticeship, a local clergyman had interested young Wright in the ministry. He entered Yale College, graduated, and went on to attend the divinity school, graduating in 1843. Shortly thereafter, Rev. Wright went on to accept a position at First Church as pastor.

Mrs. Wright was a very unique person. Shortly after moving to West Haven she began her initial moves to de-

velop some of her ideas about education for young ladies. In those times it was the exception for a girl to go to college and the norm was fundamentally a grade school education. Her dream was to create a school that would train girls to enter a wider range of activities than what existed for them in that era.

Starting in 1844, Mrs. Wright invited a young female relative to spend her summer with the Wrights, using the vacation period for special tutoring. A West Haven girl of about the same age heard of the plan and asked to be allowed to share in it, and things began to snowball from there. By the end of that summer many applications were received for entrance to the program. In the fall of 1844, regular classes began to be held at the First Church parsonage on Savin Avenue.

According to promotional materials, all students had to be at least twelve years of age; boarding pupils were charged \$180 per year. Further, it read,

"The order of studies includes Colburn's Arithmetic, Mitchell's Geography, History of the United States, English Grammar, Watts 'On The Mind,' Adam's Arithmetic, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Pencil Drawing and Pastel Painting."

As time passed and enrollment grew, the Wrights approached the First Church Ecclesiastical Society and arranged to buy a parcel of land owned by the Society on what is now Church Street Hill. On that tract of land was created a three-story structure which included living quarters for the Wrights and classrooms for the seminary. As far as we know the Oak Hill Seminary was in operation until 1870, offering a four-year course of study, and producing refined young ladies while making every effort to keep them in step with the times. A total of 668 students attended the seminary over the years. Several years after the school ceased its operation, the building caught fire and burned to

the ground.

Rev. Wright was the principal of the seminary from 1843-1852 when he succumbed to typhus. It should also be noted that Rev. Wright aided greatly in the financing of the new school structure by selling shares in the school to church members. Every Sunday the students of the seminary would march to church in a body, and attend worship as a group on the church's balcony.

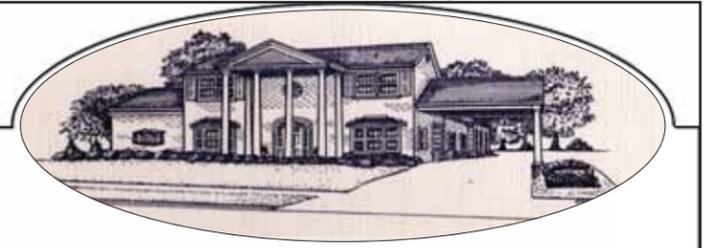
~~~~~  
We wish to acknowledge past West Haven historians Bob Shine and Harriet North, and Sara Pettinger of the West Haven Public Library for helping providing the material for this story.



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



Above -- A class of young ladies who attended the Oak Hill Seminary pose for a group picture. Below -- a woodcut of the building gives an idea of the grounds.



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# Westies: *Squads head into CIAC tourney*

the fifth and five more in the sixth, to defeat Lyman Hall, 15-3, in a game stopped after sixth innings due to the mercy rule.

Mia Rubirosa led West Haven with four hits, three runs batted in, and two runs scored. Carrano had three hits, scored three runs, and drove in two, while Brianna Miller and Raccio each had a pair of hits.

The West Haven softball team was looking to close the regular season on a high note. Playing Jonathan Law, the Westies would surely be tested.

With an uncharacteristic four errors, West Haven fell to Law, 5-1, in the regular season finale. The Westies finished

the regular season with a 16-4 record.

West Haven's lone run came to tie the game in the third. Miller doubled with two outs, Beurer walked, and Raccio singled to short to score Miller.

The Westies could not break through again as they stranded a pair of runners in the fourth, went down quietly in the fifth and sixth, and stranded a runner in the seventh.

Rubirosa went the distance, allowing two earned runs on seven hits, while walking three and striking out four.

Rubirosa knows it is all about the will to win when it comes to postseason play. The sophomore certainly led the way against Cheshire.

Tossing a complete-game 3-hitter with seven strikeouts, while reaching base twice and scoring a run, Rubirosa led fourth-seeded West Haven to a 4-1 victory over fifth-seeded Cheshire in the quarterfinals of the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament at Biondi Field.

West Haven took a 1-0 lead in the first only to see Cheshire even the game in the third. The sign of a good team is how it responds, and West Haven did just that in the bottom of the third inning, scoring three times to take the lead for good.

Beurer and Raccio opened the inning with walks and both advanced on a ground out to second by Burrows. Carrano walked to load the

bases, before Miller singled to left to score Beurer for a 2-1 lead.

An error on the play allowed Raccio to score, and also put runners on second and third with one out. Sophomore Taylor Alfano followed with a sacrifice fly to right to score Carrano for a 4-1 advantage.

"It helps our pitcher when you are up three runs," West Haven coach Joe Morrell said. "You are not nail-biting everything. If you make a mistake, it is not the end of the world, so those three runs were really important for her as well."

The rest was up to Rubirosa and the sophomore responded in style as she retired the final 12 batters after West Haven took the lead, and 14 straight

overall.

The Westies took a 1-0 lead in the opening inning as Rubirosa led off with a single, stole second, moved to third on a sacrifice, and scored on Beurer's single to right.

After West Haven stranded a pair in the second, Cheshire scored its only run in the third as Charlee Nagle walked with one out and Grace Lurz followed with a bunt single. A double steal put the pair in scoring position, before Jordan Chymbor singled to score Nagle with the equalizer.

The Rams put two more runners in scoring position in the inning, but Rubirosa escaped without further damage.

The run to the Southern Connecticut Conference finals came to an end for the West Haven softball team. Falling behind by six runs in the first inning, fourth-seeded West Haven never recovered and fell to top-seeded East Haven 9-1 at East Haven High Tuesday afternoon.

With the loss, West Haven fell to 17-5 on the year and will wait to play in the state tournament next week.

West Haven trailed 7-0 before getting on the scoreboard in the fifth. Carrano and Miller singled, Alfano walked to load the bases and Rubirosa hit a one-out sacrifice fly to center to score Carrano.

The Westies stranded two in the sixth and the bases loaded in the seventh.

## A reminder

The summer sports season is set to begin in both baseball and soccer. The West Haven Voice would like to remind league publicists and coaches of the requirements for weekly reports. All leagues are to have one publicist through whom all stories come. Our rule is: we will edit it, headline it and print it, but we will not write it.

Coaches are reminded to check with their league officials as to the protocol to be followed in order to have games published in the Voice. No individual games will be accepted. All games must be accepted through the league's publicist.

Deadline for copy is Tuesday at 10 a.m. unless prior clearance is given by the editor for a later submission. All copy must be in paragraph form and is subject to the same editing for clarity, grammar and space as are all other submissions.

All games must have scores in those divisions where scores are kept. We understand some younger divisions do not keep score, but those that do should be reported accordingly.

For information on sports submissions, call (203) 934-6397.

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**Cheerleading: Cebi Waterfield - 203-676-6196 [whseahawkscheer@gmail.com](mailto:whseahawkscheer@gmail.com)**

# Porto's beats Keenan's in soccer play

A beautiful weekend saw a full schedule of games for the West Haven Youth Soccer League. In U8 boys action Saturday morning, Westies Nutrition played P&B Express. Awab Abdelmageed came ready to dominate with his speed and footskills. Luca Gagliardi had a hat trick using his incredible ball control to create scoring chances.

Cameron Moody showed amazing team work, passing and still looking for his very first goal. Vio's Sports Plus took on Budget Transmission Center.

Nick DePino and Xavier Philogene played outstanding defense, while Willie Cadwell contributed with his first goal of the season. Porto Funeral Home won over Keenan Funeral Home, 6-3.

Falcone Law Firm was defeated by West Haven Professional Firefighters, 7-3.

With skilled dribbling and passing, CaDian Gaywood Jones was able to assist Ahmad Abdulkarem with an impressive high and deep goal. Jones also assisted on Enderson Samaniego's goal.

Great hustle by Joshua Roman allowed him to get by the Firefighters and score the third goal. For the West Haven Professional Firefighters, Paul Christensen led the way, scoring one and showing some great field play. David Christensen had picked up three goals, and Steven Christensen

added two.

Justin Chacon also contributed to the attack with a goal and three assists. Jan Ibanez, Yair Negron, Abraham Morales, Sabri Abdelmageed and Gillermo Gonzaga also had a good game.

In the other U14 rec game, Taco Town and York Business Center played to a thrilling 3-3 tie.

In U10 boys action, the Elite Soccer Camps Tsunamis took on Wizard Painting, picking up the 6-2 win. Santino Amato was strong in goal, and Ryan Abekah led the way on offense with three goals.

Roland Green and Matteo D'Elia added goals as well. Jax Guarino and Ben Trenchard contributed to the attack and defense from the wide midfield position, while Jacob Warren and Guillermo Rubirosa played a solid game for the Elite Soccer Tsunamis in the win.

The American Legion Post 71 Eagles picked up a win over Milano & Wanat, 3-1. Jacob Rader had a strong all around game, playing good defense and attacking the goal.

Davonte King and Luca DeCresenzo scored, and Seth Empric, Shamar Boyd, Collin Gibbons, and Julien Chacon all played well.

Baybrook Remodelers and West Haven Polics Local 895 rounded out the U10 group in a game that finished, 4-4.

In travel team games, the

Law Office of Paul V. Carty West Haven U9 girls defeated Prospect, 6-0.

The West Haven Elks Lodge 1537 U14 Girls won their division of the Clinton Invitational Tournament this weekend.

The girls played a series of great games offensively and defensively, with Kayla Quintanilla only giving up two goals on the weekend.

Goals were scored by Riley Fenn, Alexia Lucas, Camilla Murphy, Katarina Oliveira, Amiyah Jones, Arianna Throm, Amyah Kelly, Kaylee Pellino, Kayci Gayle, Cristel Miguel, Lulu Sebas, and Madison Gargiulo.

The Nick's Luncheonette U15 Boys also won their bracket at the tournament.

The People's United Bank U11 girls played in the Clinton Invitational Tournament over the weekend as well, facing off against Madison on Saturday. The girls tied 1-1 with some great defensive work by Annabelle Fiorillo and Olivia Petrie defending the net.

The game against Clinton gave West Haven a 7-1 win with goals by Celeste DiNallo, Stella Porto, and Luciana Cappetta.

Chelsea Frost made some great plays up the field.

The final match of the day was against Wallingford where the girls fell short, 1-0.

Josylyn Davila controlled the defense with help from Kai Ruotolo.

Sunday's semifinal match against Madison brought goals by Porto and Cappetta with an assist by Davila. Francesca DeMartino used her footskills to maintain control of the ball against Madison, but West Haven came up short in a 5-2 loss.

The Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center U10 boys travel team had a busy weekend. The team hosted Cheshire Saturday night, winning 6-2. Jaxon Cruz played a great game in goal, and Gavin Lenihan spent some time between the posts as well. Adam Lamkantar scored a goal in his first game with the team.

On Sunday, the team participated in the Clinton Invitational Tournament. They opened with their first game against Guilford, which finished, 2-2.

West Haven got goals from Roland Green and Derek Dosario, with Davonte King getting the assist for each goal. Their second game of the day came against BPA, which the Westies won, 6-0. Josiah Soto and Lenihan were strong in goal, and Seth Empric impressed with his ability to hold onto the ball.

Mason DaSilva and Matteo D'Elia sprayed passes

around the field, while Tonye Issac and Luca DeCresenzo both played great on defense. Jimmy Clark contributed on defense and added a goal as well.

Game three of the day saw the boys take on a tough Haddam-Killingworth U10 team, and after a close first half the Westies pulled away in the second half, winning 6-2.

Ryan Abekah scored, as did King. Cruz made a few great saves in goal, and he was supported by the strong defensive play of Jax Guarino and Ben Trenchard. Jacob Rader and Empric played a strong game in the midfield in the win.

The final game of the tournament had the West Haven boys play Haddam-Killingworth's second team, and the Westies did not waste time, scoring early in the 7-1 win. Rader played a great game in goal, and DeCresenzo, Green, and Abekah scored. Ethan Fonseca used his speed to play great defense, and his skills on the ball to get it forward in the attack.

Trenchard and Guarino were a force once again on defense, and their play in the midfield helped West Haven keep possession of the ball. Lamkantar played well up and down the field in the final win of the day for the young Westies.

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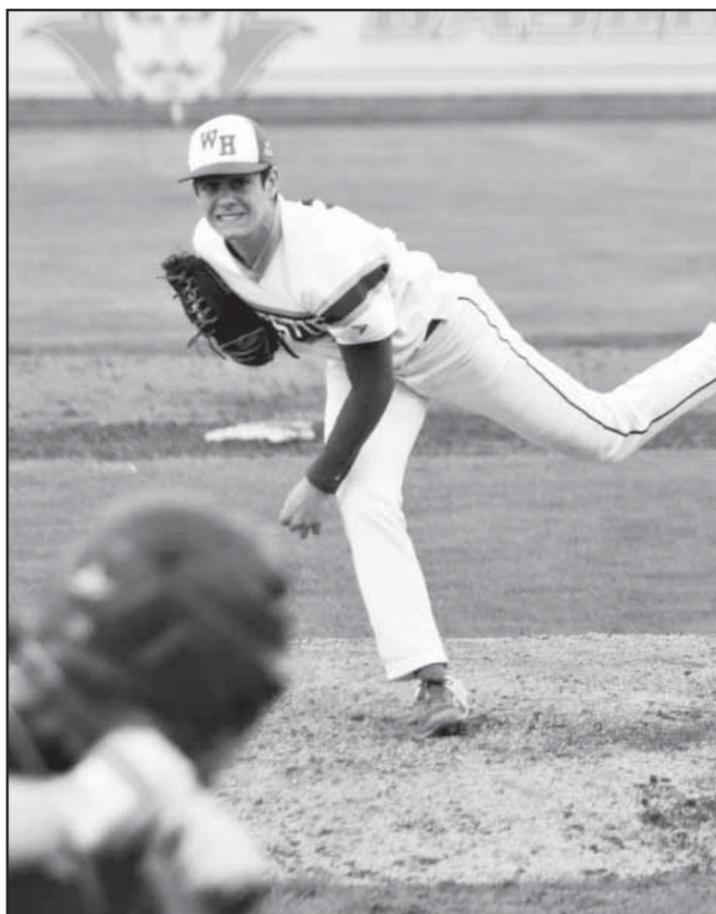
Family Support Services Manager  
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Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Season winds down

Right -- The Westies mob #18 Dylan Supan after his walk-off hit in a 4-3 win over Cheshire. Middel right -- Julia Tsakonias muscles her way to the front of the net versus Westhill. Bottom right -- Haygen Alexrod deals from the hill against North Haven. Below - -Brian Carew clears a Branford player out in front of the Westies' net. The regular season wound down and the equipment was put away for another year, while the Westie baseball and softball tams headed to tournament play.



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# Historical Society sets open house June 11

Did you know that West Haven was originally called by another name? Or have you ever heard of Wigwam Creek? For whom is the Football Stadium named? Some of these questions may be asked of kids attending the Open House at the Historical Society on Saturday, June 11. The Open House will run from 10-11:30 a.m., and 1-2:30 p.m.

Fun and game activities, related to West Haven history and Savin Rock, will be the theme of the Open House at the Poli House Garden 686 Savin Ave. opposite the Green. It is all part of the historical organizations efforts to increase kid's interest and understanding of local history. "History can be fun and we hope the youngsters who come out on Saturday June 11 will enjoy the activities and participate in all that we have planned for them," noted Historical Society President Jon Purmont.

Among the activities will be a Native American section. There projectile points and arrowheads will be displayed which were discovered at the Peterson Farm on Bull Hill Lane. Various crafts and hands on engagement showing how to make wigwams, bracelets of "wampum" beads, and basket weaving were tasks engaged in by local tribes and will be available to participants.

Another part will feature a geography section which will

display maps of West Haven at various phases of its development. Participants will learn how an early settlement developed into a village, town, and city and how each section of West Haven developed over time.

A "Famous People from West Haven" section will familiarize the young people with individuals who distinguished themselves by achievements in various fields. Young people will become familiar with the names Thomas Painter, Peter Brown, Ken Strong, and Eleanor Estes to name a few.

Another section will focus on West Haven's famous Savin Rock Amusement Park. It will be recalled for the youngsters by several examples of games which will give kids an idea of what "games" were offered at the Rock years ago.

Open House Day on Saturday June 11 at the Historical Society promises to be a fun-filled day making local history come "alive" at the Poli House. No rain date is schedule



The Poli House, 686 Savin Ave., is the headquarters of the West Haven Historical Society and the location of the June 11 open house.

## Around Town

### 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.

### Lee/Career Hall of Fame

The Richard C. Lee and Hill Regional Career High Schools Hall of Fame dinner will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. Sly Williams, one of New Haven's

all-time great basketball players leads a class of 14 former students and teachers being honored for their career achievements and public service. Tickets for the dinner are \$60 each. Go to [lee-career.com](http://lee-career.com).

### WH Senior head to casino

The West Haven Senior Center will run a bus trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard on July 13. No casino packages are offered at the moment. The trip costs \$30. Payment is due June 10.

The bus will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center parking lot, 6 Rock St., and depart at 3 p.m. from Foxwoods. The casino requires face masks for guests.

# bsg

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# HIDDEN GEMS

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

June is National Wedding Month, and this month's theme is party planning.

Did you know there are small businesses you can support right here in West Haven to help you create a memorable occasion?

E.V. Events & Design, LLC - interview with Earnelle Edmond

(203) 868-0384 / <https://eveventsanddesign.com>

Q: What's your backstory/how did you get started with your business?

A: My partner and I planned a friend's wedding and got many compliments. The bride's brother noticed I had been doing this for years and said I should make money from it. He passed away, and after that we said, "you know what? It's a good idea!" so we bought an existing events planning business.

We started out with 400 dollars - we each invested 200. We went up to Maine with a minivan to move the stuff that came with it.

When we got there, we realized we needed the largest truck U-Haul sells! We got off to a really good start with that deal.

Q: What is your particular niche or target audience?

We don't have one particular audience. We are just trying to make dreams come true. The word of mouth has been great. From large venues to outdoors at the West Haven beach, from intimate backyard gatherings to crowds of 300 people. This is what we love to do.

Q: What led you to base this business in West Haven?

Space for storage was available on one floor of our multi-family home.

We grew out of it but that was helpful in the beginning. We keep lawn chairs, linens, coffee pots, vases, and all kinds of decorations on hand, balloon arches and columns, and various backdrops. We keep up with the trends, for instance natural grasses with a feathery look are very "in" this year. We have royal ball themes, sequins, and rosettes. We have a lot in stock, even a juice fountain!

Q: What do people really appreciate about working with you?

We're down to earth. You have to be professional, but at the same time we try to treat everyone like family. By the time we are done with an event we are friends with our clients.

Because we make sure that the event is even better than what they wanted.

Q: What do you offer that's hard to find anywhere else?

We don't just do decor, we do planning and design from the beginning to the end of the whole thing. Sometimes people have already bought a few things, so can build that into the plans.

Blaq Pearl Photography - interview with TeQoa Griffith

203-491-8625 / <https://www.blaqpearlphotography.com/>

Q: What's your backstory/how did you get started with your business?

My husband and I owned a radio station, and we traveled around to various events.

Our photographer suddenly became unavailable. I said to my husband, "Buy me a camera, I'll figure it out!"

When I did, I found a new passion. We work side by side, he does videography and I do still photography.

Q: What is your particular niche or target audience?

Weddings! I do 20-25 of them every year. That is kind of a lot, and I could do more. However, I want to be very intentional about sustainable work-life balance and staying inspired, so I set limits. I do other kinds of special occasions too, and family portraits.

Q: What led you to base this business in West Haven?

I love the diversity! I've had the honor of doing a Lebanese wedding, Muslim weddings. I enjoy learning about their cultures as we work together. I also appreciate the space we found at 14 Gilbert St., even though we need more space now, as we are looking to expand.

Q: What do people really appreciate about working with you?

The experience. We have a lot of repeat business because people enjoy the experience we get to create together.

Whether working in my studio or out at an event, we have a blast!

Q: What do you offer that's hard to find anywhere else?

Well, you know, the stakes can be high when it comes to a wedding. Emotions are charged, and details matter. We get that. I actually like working with that energy, leaning into that stress so that there's more comfort and ease. Because at the end of the day, people and their memories matter. We are able to create this beautiful thing together, a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Kid's Day  
at  
WH Historical Society  
686 Savin Avenue  
CT Open House  
June 11, 2022  
10:00-11:30  
or  
1:00-2:30

Learn About West Haven History

Child must be accompanied by an adult.

## Baseball, softball head into tourney

The West Haven baseball team won its third consecutive contest and improved to 10-8 with a 7-2 victory at Branford.

Dylan Supan picked up the win on the mound, throwing a complete game 4-hitter. The senior allowed two earned runs, struck out five and did not walk a batter.

Ray Gilbert led the offense with three hits, a run batted in, and a run scored. Gianni Gambardella and John Lindsay each had two hits, two runs batted in, and a run scored, and Tyler DeSanty had a pair of hits and scored twice.

West Haven fell to Fairfield Prep, 14-4, in Fairfield in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule. The Westies trailed 7-4 after three innings, but the Jesuits put the game away with two runs in the fourth and five in the fifth.

Corey Coggins led the offense with two hits, one run batted in, and one run scored, while DeSanty had a hit and drove in a pair.

Jack Hay started on the mound for the Westies and allowed six hits and six earned runs in 3.1 innings of work. Hay walked six and struck out two in the loss.

Needing a victory over North Haven to qualify for the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament, the West Haven baseball team could not get the job done. Despite limiting the Nighthawks to just three hits, West Haven fell, 9-7, in the regular season finale at Piurek Field.

The loss dropped West Haven to 10-10 on the year and gave the final seed of the tournament to the Nighthawks.

West Haven, playing as the away team as North Haven's field was not playable, was undone by the free pass as a trio of Westie hurlers combined to walk 15 batters in the contest.

The Westies took a 1-0 lead in the first as Gilbert walked with two outs, moved to second on an error and scored when Supan reached on an error.

With the game even at one, West Haven took a 5-1 lead in the top of the second as singles by John Lindsay, Gazzaneo, and Jones loaded the bases. DeSanty singled in Lindsay, before Gambardella doubled to left to clear the bases.

North Haven responded with five runs in the bottom of the inning on six walks, a hit batter and a two-run single for a 6-5 advantage.

Trailing 7-5, West Haven evened the game in the sixth on a two-out, two-run double by Gilbert to score Gazzaneo and DeSanty, but North Haven used five walks and two wild pitches in the bottom of the sixth to score twice and pull out the victory.

The West Haven rolled to a 20-8 victory over Wilbur Cross Tuesday evening on Senior Night at Biondi Field.

Paige Beurer led the offense with two hits, four runs scored, and two runs batted in, while Melanie Jimenez scored five times, Gianna Carrano drove in four and scored twice, Mia Rubirosa scored three times, and Brianna Miller scored twice and drove in a pair.

Scoring six times, West Haven never stopped, adding four in See Westies, page 14



Photo by Todd Dandelske

**Paige Beurer gets the out at second and looks to turn two against the Easties in the second round of the SCC championships**

Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Senior sendoff

Boys' lacrosse celebrated Senior Night prior to game against Branford/East Haven Co-op. The seniors are shown with their parents following the annual ceremony.

