

West Haven Voice

April 6, 2023

Vol. 28, Issue 7 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Theater Workshop
finishes run
of 'Grease'

See page 11



Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien

Tradition continues

Members of the Class of 2023 Council and several art students got together last week to put the senior class's mark on the monolith that stands outside of Ken Strong Stadium. The large stone has been painted by successive classes for several years, and was moved to its present location when the new high school was under construction. It stood in the courtyard of the former building. Each class puts its own mark on the stone until the successor class takes its turn a year later.

A new library in Allingtown still in works

Since it was closed in the fall of 2020, residents of the area of the city seeing the most dynamic renewal are still without a library branch. The Louis Piantino Library closed in 2020 after the former Allingtown Community Center, a section of the former Forest School, was deeded to developer David Beckerman as part of his reconstruction of the borough's center district.

Since the closure, the Village Improvement Association (VIA) has been busy trying to secure a location for the library. The VIA has secured some property on Boston Post Road, but some legal issues remain, according to Head Library Colleen Bailie.

"The VIA purchased land through endowment funds at 634 Boston Post Road back in June 2022, with the hopes of having 668 (neighboring property) foreclosed on and then deeded over to the VIA," she said. "That is still pending, and no guarantee will be released to the library."

Should that fall through, the agency is looking to another possibility. According to Bailie, the VIA is also collaborating with the Fire Department of West Haven-Allingtown on building a library/fire department on a site to be determined.

While the VIA secured a property with endowment funds, the construction costs and other expenses will come from various sources, once a plan is put into motion.

"Financing will be from a number of sources, including a state library construction grant (already approved), state and federal grants, and a capital campaign. The library is working with the Giving Collaborative to launch a full capital campaign as a means for corporate and public contributions to the Allingtown library project," Bailie said. "We are also applying for a number of grants for the project, including the Community Investment Fund. Working with the fire department, we believe there will be newer opportunities for collaborative funding for the project."

Should things go smoothly, Bailie believes the planning and construction could mean a new library is in place by the winter of 2025. It could be sooner, but several pieces have to "fall into place" for that to happen.

At one point there was discussion on moving the Piantino Library to the former CVS location at the corner of Campbell Avenue and the Post Road. However, Bailie reported that is no longer an option for the library's leadership.

While waiting for a new location, the books and effects taken out of former venue were moved to the main library, or have found their way to other places, according to Bailie.

See Library, page 3

Missing Something?

Let the Voice help you put together your marketing plan today.

Contact us at sales@westhavenvoice.com for details.



Evan Bustamante, age 4, is a West Haven Child Development Center, Inc student. Evan predicts warmer weather will bring sunshine and flowers.

On this Date

1994 -- The Rwandan genocide begins. The assassination of Rwandan President, Juvénal Habyarimana, and Burundian President, Cyprien Ntaryamira, triggered a mass slaughter of ethnic Tutsis with up to 1 million victims.

1965 -- The first commercial communications satellite is launched. Intelsat I, also known as Early Bird, facilitated the first live TV broadcast of a spacecraft splashdown when Gemini 6 landed in the Atlantic Ocean.

1924 -- A team of aviators begins the first round-the-world flight in history. Four aircraft left Seattle on a west-bound route around the globe. 157 days later, two of them reached the same location.

1909 -- Robert Peary allegedly becomes the first person to reach the North Pole. Peary's claim has never been verified and is widely contested. The first undisputed journey to the North Pole was the 1948 Soviet Sever-2 expedition.

1896 -- The first modern Olympic Games are opened in Athens. 241 athletes from 14 countries took part in the First Olympiad. The event took place over 1500 years after the last ancient Olympic Games.



Photo by Nancy Stanewicz

Holy Week

The Church of the Holy Spirit Acolyte Guild coordinator and Eucharistic Minister Steven R. Mullins (center) Christian Mullins (left) and Delsin Rodriguez (right) lead a procession of choir and clergy at the start of the Liturgy of the Palms at the parish's Palm Sunday celebration. Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It marks the first day of Holy Week. The most solemn days begin tonight, Maundy Thursday, and end with Easter.

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: April 6, 2023

A UNIQUE FACILITY FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

Anniversaries | Baptisms | Bar/Bat Mitzvahs | Birthdays | Meetings | Repasts
Communions | Fund Raisers | Reunions | Showers | Wedding Receptions

We accommodate up to 200 Guests, Full Kitchen Facility, Bar Room Facility and Stage, Deck/Patio and Grill, Full Audio & Video Projector, LED Dance Lights, Wireless Internet, Ample Parking, ADA Compliant Access

For Reservations:
Call (203) 937-0088

WEST RIVER HALL

37 ORLANDO STREET | WEST HAVEN, CT 06516

info@westriverhall.com
www.westriverhall.com

Library: *Piantino building plans still afloat*

Continued from page 1

"The Piantino book collection is currently in the condensed stacks at the Main library, with items available for loan. Items that have been removed from the location have been donated or given to the Friends of the Library for a number of book sales. Furniture from the former branch has been either donated to other groups or reallocated in the remaining two library branches," she said.

Once the new library is completed, the services offered will be increased as well, serving a customer base that is looking for newer ways of getting information as well as

those found in a traditional library.

"With the new Allingtown location we are looking to increase the numbers of computers available to the public, have a much larger meeting space available for use after hours, a historical room containing the Library's WH historical collection, a separate teen area and children's program room, and more private study areas with ample parking," Bailie said.

The Louis Piantino Library was a longstanding part of the Allingtown Center and its surrounding area. First opened in a commercial property on the Boston Post Road near Front Avenue, the library was

moved to the newly opened Allingtown Community Center when the former Forest School was remodeled in the 1970s.

Many residents of the borough have lamented the loss of the library, and are eager for its return in some location nearby.

Borough resident and GOP Mayoral Candidate Steven Mullins is not only a supporter of the library, but has suggested the new location get a new name.

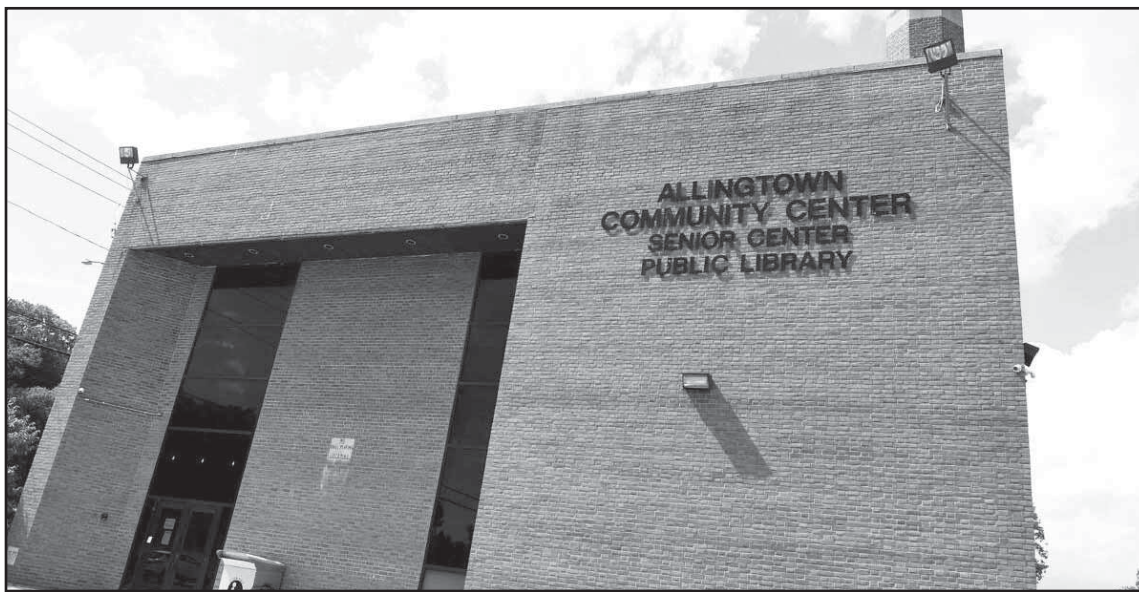
Mullins has suggested former longtime City Clerk Al Forte be remembered by naming the new location after him. Forte was a lifetime resident of

Allingtown, and well known in civic and community circles.

Whatever happens with the new location, Bailie said the plan is to offer Allingtown residents the all the services expected in a modern-day library complex.

"Myself and the library

board are committed to seeing a library location in Allingtown as soon as possible to enable the library to serve the needs of all residents in West Haven; whether its technology help, programming, lending materials, or a community space," she said finally.



The Piantino Library was moved out of the former Allingtown Community Center in 2020.

Combine and get in on the surprise.



Encarnacion Ins Fin Svcs Inc
Elsie Encarnacion, Agent
487A Campbell Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
Bus: 203-932-0591

Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm[®], you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.[®]

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company
Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
State Farm Lloyds
Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company
Winter Haven, FL
200185



A Partner in the Community



University of New Haven

www.newhaven.edu

Dear Felicia

Well, hon, as we slip into April things around the burg are really starting to percolate. The trees are budding, the flowers are starting to come up, the showers are falling, and things in our corner of the universe are kicking into high gear.

As yew remember, Herronner issued her annual budget a couple o' weeks back, and the annual public hearing took place t'other night. Once that happens, the springtime ritual of the City Council going into special session happens. Nelly Nuthatch sez that whilst the membership knows it has to do this exercise, there is a gnawing feeling that it's all for naught anyway.

Ysee no matter what they do, the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) has the final say. So, whilst there will be meetings and votes and debate and analysis, all of it still hinges on

the words and whims of the MARB. Some members see the whole thing as a bit of a waste of time, especially effen the MARB decides to upend some or part o' what the council determines during the discussions over the next few weeks.

Stay tuned, As I told yew, some of the membership is wondering whether to run again come November. There is talk that besides a long list of candidates for mayoralty as the months drag on, there might be bunch of people looking to sit in open seats that longtime council reps have decided to vacate.

And speaking of the mayoralty, since we last corresponded, there have been no new additions to the rolls of those who will run for mayor in either party...not yet. Still to be determined is whether Mrs. Rossi will seek a fourth term, or decide to leave the post. The word on the street is she

ain't gonna run, but yew and I know that we've seen this drama before. Nothin' is done until it's done. We will keep you posted, of course.

As of this writing we see two candidates on each side of the political ledger, Demmy and GOP. While we await the announcement of the current incumbent, there is also the decision of Barry Lee Cohen, who was the GOP standard-bearer in the last go-round. As he lost only be 30-plus votes, there is wonder whether he wants to go through the grind again.

No word yet, but yew cannot be faulted for thinking the race is gonna get more wide open than it already is. Cobina is hearing that others are interested in the spot. And then there is the decision of one Dorinda Borer, who might throw the whole shebang into a different game plan. T

The Wag came in t'other day and reported the City Council approved the new plans for the new Washington School. The old relic on the corner of Brown and Washington is gonna be razed. Now, there are are some who think this is a great idea and are applauding it. I always feel a bit nostalgic about great buildings being torn down. As a piece of architecture, what is a grand building is gonna be replaced by something with straight lines and no beauty.

Cobina wouldn't be opposed too much to all this tearing down and building up effen she thought something useful was going on inside these whited sepulchers, but new building or not, the kids still can't read! New buildings don't make better education, but they make honchos feel better. One wonders effen they'll take the name away, too. Keep yore eyes on that.

The exit door at the Actors Colony has been used an awful lot lately, and some are wondering if it is portend of things to come on the aforementioned mayoral race. The Grants Coordinator recently found the exit door to his liking, and with the recent resignation of the Finance Director, and the fack that positions aren't being filled, leads to a very interesting situation at 355 Main St.

The managerial style of the thoid floor has been the topic of much discussion over the last years, and that discussion has taken a nasty turn more recently. Some see Herronner as not accessible and aloof at times, and those criticisms are becoming louder.

The MARB is frustrated that positions aren't being filled cuz tit has those positions as part of the remapping of city government. That's been one of the isshews that has miffed the MARB membership over the last little while.

The fact that people are leaving their jobs is fueling the speculation that the mayor will not seek a new term. That may or may not be, but long-time watchers of things political in this town – setch as yew and me – haft admit we ain't seen this many people walking outta City Hall in quite some time. Keep yore eyes peeled, more may be happening.

Iva Lootey noted that some of the principles in the fraudulent use of federal dollars by former officials is now in the sentencing phase, and more are due. The sentences are perty stringent as they should be. People used the public trust given them and tried to line their pockets. Some, like Mike DiMassa, were up and coming stars in the political sphere, and there is part of Cobina that still sees that bright, fresh face of years ago. How people get that devious still amazes.

Tennyrate, as I said more people are being sentences and as we get up the ladder, the time these ladeez and gents are guests of the fed'ral government at a secure facility will get longer and longer.

Sammy Bluejay was here, and noted the speed with which the demolition at the former Haven site is moving along. It jest proves when you

wanna git something done, one can find ways of doing it. Over the last two weeks or so, most of the stretch betwixt Elm Street and Main has been torn down, and what is really amazing is the speed the debris is getting cleared.

For years the Simon Group told the city things were gonna happen, and things were gonna git torn down Yet, fires erupted in vacant buildings and factories, squatters were evicted, vermin multiplied, and the neighborhood had to grin and bear it. Now that there is a potential buyer of the land, the work has proceeded double quick.

As I told yew the last time, there is woid that Simon Group has a potential buyer, though who or what hasn't been leaked out. When they finally admitted the mall wasn't gonna be built, there was a rumor that some movie group was interested. Don't know effen that's still going around. I guess we'll know in the fullness of time, but who wants to wait that long. Effen I hear anything I'll let you know.

Cobina sees that a new park has been designated off o' Platt Avenue. It's called Narrow Point Park. That's a good thing, cuz before you know it some developer will take the land that is perty marshy near the Cove River, and try to put houses on it.

Yeah, that still goes on around here. Yew should see some o' the new houses going up in town on postage stamp lots and what were green plots along some thoroughfares, and in hilly terrain.

We went out in the gassamobuggy to do some errands and saw some o' the construction. We can see water problems happening in some places cuz of the way these things are built on hills. I wouldn't wanna be the owner o' the house at th bottom, that's for sure.

Whilst out, we saw the construction of the new condos at Beach Street on the former Chick's site. They are goin' up perty quickly! Still, the raising o' the roadbed is supposed to happen in the next little while, so maybe the builders are trying to git things erected before the dust and asphalt stars to fly.

The recent Nor'easters have given us more understanding o' why the roads hafta be raised. Not that there was any big flooding, but the wind, rain and seas were heavy enuff to put things into perspective. We will keep our eyes on things over there.

By the way, I wonder what's happening with the former Debonair??

*Mitt luff und kizzez,
Cobina*

For All Your Real Estate Needs....
Fran Gregoriades, TRC
 Office Manager, CT Realtor, Florida Broker
203-932-6455 x 301

Harborview
 REALTY SERVICES, LLC
 140 Captain Thomas Blvd
 West Haven, CT 06516

SHORT ON CASH??
HIGHEST PRICES PAID!
TURN YOUR UNUSED GOLD INTO CASH
HIGHEST PRICES PAID!

- No Item Too Large Or Small
- On Site Testing While You Wait
- Immediate Payment
- 10k, 14k, 18k, Dental, Sterling
- Licensed Buyer For Over 30 Years
- Any Condition

Leslie Jewelers

Friendly Service Provided Here! 27 Wagner Place Family Owned And Operated

203-933-3291

Visit us on the web - www.lesliesjewelers.com



Dear Gripe Vine Readers::

Just a reminder, this column now has a new email address. If you have been sending your gripes, questions and comments to the previous address and have not received a reply from me or a solution has not appeared in Gripe Vine, it is possible I never received it.

Here, once again is Gripe Vine's new email address gripevineatwh@yahoo.com.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Not really a gripe, but more of an observation. I have been looking online to find websites/etc. for the various mayoral candidates running in the next election. I really had no luck finding any actual website for any candidates. I did not find a website for the West Haven Republican Party or the West Haven Democratic Party. I know some information is available on Facebook. It would be a good idea for the parties and the candidates to have a website outline basic information about why the voters should consider voting

for them. Include the candidates background as it relates to running for mayor and an outline of their platforms for West Haven's future.

Many voters want to know what the candidate brings to the table, how the candidate hopes to stabilize West Haven's financial future and economic development and specifically how the candidate plans to work with the MARB to get the city back on track.

Setting up a website and allowing voters to be able to subscribe for updates regarding the candidate is well worth the effort it you are serious about running for Mayor in the next election cycle.

Sincerely Uniformed Voter

Dear Sincerely Uniformed Voter:

I will be looking forward to my readers' responses to your suggestion of an online West Haven mayoral website.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I have been trying for the past 10 months to get a missing street sign on Tuttle Street



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

which has been missing since before summer.

I have called the West Ha-

ven Maintenance Department, and the West Haven Police Traffic Department to no avail. I would appreciate your help.

Disappointed Resident

Dear Disappointed Resident:

I have contacted Councilwoman Kathrine Tucker several times seeking assistance with your complaint of a missing sign on Tuttle Street. To date Gripe Vine has not received a reply. Gripe Vine will be looking for a reply from Councilwoman Tucker or you, indicating the sign has been replaced. If there are residents in this neighborhood who

have seen the installation of a new street sig, please contact Gripe Vine.

A special thank you to all City Council Members: I have and do appreciate the time you take to follow up on resident's city complaints.

~~~~

Readers, you can send your gripes, comments and issues to [gripevineatwh@yahoo.com](mailto:gripevineatwh@yahoo.com) or you can mail them to Gripe Vine, c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516. Your submissions are always treated with confidentiality with me.

## Land Trust sponsoring nature-themed contest marking Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and the committee that oversees the disposition of our shorefront public lands wants to celebrate it.

The Land Trust of West Haven is celebrating by hosting a nature-themed poetry contest for 3rd, 4th, and 8th-grade students. The winning poems will be revealed at an award ceremony on Friday, April 28, at 6 pm. at the Land Trust's Poetry Post located on the Savin Rock boardwalk near the Old Grove Park facilities. The rain date will be Saturday, April 29 at 6.

The contest is a way to bring city youth back to nature, and back to understanding the world around them, according to one official of the organization.

"Parents today are facing a huge challenge," said Marilyn Wilkes, Vice-President of the Land Trust and event co-coordinator. "The way children learn and socialize has changed dramatically over the past decade because they have become so entrenched in the digital world and disconnected from the natural world. It's vital that we foster a love of nature in children. Poetry is a way for them to explore the beauty they see outside and communicate it to the world."

The contest is coordinated in such a way as to correspond with lessons students are learning system-wide.

According to Colette Bennett, the Board of Education's language arts coordinator and event co-coordinator, students have been learning about poetry in their classrooms for the past several weeks. In grades 3 and 4 in each elementary school, students are studying the haiku and the tanka, both Japanese poetic forms.

In grade 8 at Bailey Middle School, students are studying famous poems on the topic of nature. In order to appreciate how the theme of nature is developed in a given poem, they identify patterns of language, structure, and punctuation.

A three-judge panel will determine the winning poems: Tony Fusco, who was named Poet Laureate for the City of West Haven in April of 2019 and Co-President of the Connecticut Poetry Society; Renny Loisel, President of the West Haven Land Trust; and Colette Bennett. Each winner will receive a \$50 gift card and a native plant, courtesy of the Land Trust's Native Plant Initiative.

The Land Trust of West Haven, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed to promote the protection and preservation of natural resources and open space properties of public significance in West Haven with particular emphasis on the shoreline of the Long Island Sound in the general area of Savin Rock.

## GRIPEVINE

**Do you have a complaint or issue? Fill out this coupon and mail it to Gripevine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_


GRIPE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


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 [gripevineatwh@yahoo.com](mailto:gripevineatwh@yahoo.com) or use the online form at [westhavenvoice.com/gripevine](http://westhavenvoice.com/gripevine).

Serving New Haven County & the Shoreline Communities for over 100 years



Live streaming available  
at no additional  
cost

**Burials ~ Cremation ~ Pre Planning**



At Keenan Funeral Home we work with every family's budget to

give your loved one the dignified memorial they deserve.

Philip M. Appell  
Funeral Director & Managing Partner  
[phil.appell@carriageservices.com](mailto:phil.appell@carriageservices.com)

238 Elm Street, West Haven  
(203) 933-1217

330 Notch Hill Road, North Branford  
(203) 481-3217

**Keenan Funeral Home**

[www.keenanfuneralhome.com](http://www.keenanfuneralhome.com)
[wecare@keenanfuneralhome.com](mailto:wecare@keenanfuneralhome.com)

## Hearing over, not process

In our editorial on this page two weeks ago, we urge West Haven residents to take an active interest in the budget-making process now underway. With the completion of the charter-required public hearing on Monday, the City Council now goes into a monthlong deliberation as a Committee of the Whole, reviewing the plan issued by Mayor Nancy N. Rossi.

As stated in our last essay, the public's primary ability to discuss and question the budget plan takes place at that hearing, but we wish to reiterate our support of those who will go beyond that one-time event, and take an active interest in the upcoming deliberations.

While the City Council members come together in special session and committee, the public is not uninvited from the deliberations, and may attend some or all of the scheduled resumptions. We say "resumptions" because the Committee of the Whole does not adjourn its meetings throughout the month, but suspends them. This maneuver allows debate and votes, retaining the original quorum, should members not be able to attend on certain dates.

We urge residents to take part because this is not a sequestering of the City Council so much as a focused overview of one particular issue, namely, the budget. While the public does not have the opportunity for comment while in session, there have been many times interested parties have brought certain issues to the attention of council members, and those issues have resulted, in some cases, attempts at changes in the plan.

The point is the public, the taxpayers, are and should always be part of the process of budget making. After all, it is the taxpayer who foots the bill for the running of the city and the school system. He who pays the piper does have the right to call the tune.

Many times, those most involved in the deliberative process are those interests most closely associated with the budget: employees, unions, etc. This is why we believe the reinstatement of a group similar to the West Haven Taxpayers Association of four decades ago is important. Taxpayers speaking through one voice make an impact on politicians and are more effective than individuals acting alone.

Lacking that organization at the present time does not preclude residents from becoming involved in the work of the council over the next several weeks.

Over the next several weeks, ending on the first Thursday of May, the City Council will review the budget package. We reaffirm our belief the taxpayers should continue to attend those sessions, and offer what ideas they might.

## A lesson in foot-dragging

City residents are getting a lesson in the slow-walking we were given by the Simon Group in the eight years it had promised to build The Haven, the erstwhile project that never got off the ground.

For years, neighbors of the project, city officials and taxpayers were given a master class in obfuscation, delay and deflection as the buildings on the property languished, and rotted. Now, the group is reportedly looking to sell the land, and might even have an undisclosed buyer. In the last two weeks, more has been done on the property than in the eight years combined. It proves the kabuki theater we were subject to by the developers.

Let us hope the land is sold, and quickly.



## We are failing our girls

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Yes, we are making kids trans kids.

We are going to look back years from now and wonder how we failed young girls so badly.

Between social media and fashionable gender theories, we are making teenage girls depressed, anxious, and trans.

In a Substack essay the other day, a mother wrote of her daughter: "She was among the last of her small group of biologically female friends to socially transition. It was mid-pandemic, and she spent most of her time with her best friend, who had, unbeknownst to me, shown her hours upon end of transgender entertainment on YouTube and TikTok."

Of course, that is going to have an effect, although there is a massive effort to deny it among trans activists and in much of the media.

The Geico gecko can convince us to buy car insurance. Trump can post a meme on Truth Social, and it can convince someone to go take a baseball bat to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. Someone can use the wrong pronoun and it can convince a trans person to harm himself or herself. But what can't possibly happen, we are supposed to believe, is that the constant discussion and celebration of transgenderism might convince confused young people

to decide they are nonbinary or trans.

Even some trans advocates are willing to admit this makes no sense. Marci Bowers, president of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, told the progressive New York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg: "There are people in my community who will deny that there's any sort of 'social contagion' -- I shouldn't say social contagion, but at least peer influence on some of these decisions. I think that's just not recognizing human behavior."

Bowers is an exception, though. It is taken as an article of faith among trans activists and much of the left that social contagion is a pernicious myth.

This denial is based on the idea that people, especially young people, aren't suggestible. As if what we are told, what our friends do and say, what signals we get from society aren't enormously important. And as if awareness and encouragement of transgenderism, nonbinary status, and heretofore unknown genders haven't increased dramatically.

Internet searches for anorexia in recent years have declined while searches for transgender have soared. There are transgender and nonbinary celebrities. Schools have started teaching kids gender ideology, and some

will "transition" children without telling parents.

The trans advocates argue that a more permissive environment is simply allowing people to embrace their true identities, the same way more people admitted they were left-handed when the taboo against lefties gave way in the 20th century. That analogy falls down, though, since the spike in trans and other identification is particularly pronounced in areas that are particularly encouraging.

As Madeleine Kearns of National Review points out, young people in California identify as trans at roughly about a 40% higher rate than the national average. And in the Davis Joint Unified School District, in a heavily progressive city outside Sacramento, the rate is three times that of California as a whole.

Girls are particularly sensitive to peer pressure. This aligns with the trend. According to Kearns, there used to be more gender-dysphoric boys than girls by about a two-to-one margin. Now, there are more gender-dysphoric girls than boys by three to one.

Such suggestibility was evident in the TikTok-driven phenomenon during the pandemic of teenagers developing strange tics. According to a Canadian study, The New York Times reports, "The adolescents were overwhelmingly

See Lowry, page 7

## At a Glance

### DOT to replace signal controllers

The state Department of Transportation is developing plans to replace traffic signal controllers and cabinets at select state-owned traffic signals in the city, along with installing communication equipment at several of the locations.

The DOT will coordinate the project with city officials during the design phase.

"It is the department's policy to keep the public informed and involved when such projects are undertaken," said Matthew C. Blume, the division chief of traffic engineering at the DOT's Bureau of Engineering and Construction. "At this time, it is anticipated that an informational meeting or formal public hearing will not be necessary."

The following West Haven intersections are included in the state project: Ocean Avenue (Route 705) at South Street; Ocean Avenue (Route 705) at Platt Court; Derby Avenue (Route 34) at Central Avenue; and Jones Hill Road (Route 162) at South Street.

Blume said the bureau should complete the design plans in June, with a tentative advertising date for construction of August.

Anyone interested in requesting information on "Project No. 0173-0532" can contact the project manager, John W. Lockaby, at [john.lockaby@ct.gov](mailto:john.lockaby@ct.gov) or (860) 594-2719.

### Blight enforcement number listed

For questions about public space or blight, contact city Code Enforcement Officer Laurie Lopez at (203) 937-3596 or [llopez@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:llopez@westhaven-ct.gov).

### Free radon test kits available

It's not too late to test your home for radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer.

The city Health Department has a limited number of free radon test kits, Health Director Maureen B. Lillis said.

To receive a test kit, call the department at 203-937-3660. A sanitarian from the department will deliver the kit and help place it in the home, Lillis said. Radon is a colorless, odorless and naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. It's found in rock, water and soil.

While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings, Lillis said.

To learn more about radon, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>.

### Applications accepted for tax relief

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 2022 taxable and untaxable incomes, weekdays through May 15 in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. For an appointment, call (203) 937-3515. No walk-ins.

### Marchers sought for annual 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 29. 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 Mark Levine, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Download a participation form at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4955/Memorial-Day-Parade-Reservation-Form-2023-PDF>. Forms are also available for pickup in the mayor's office at City Hall, 355 Main St., where they are due May 8. 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.

### Lowry: *Failing our girls*

Continued from page 6

girls, or were transgender or nonbinary -- though no one knows why."

In light of all this, other countries have pressed the brakes on aggressive treatment for trans-identifying minors. In urging that so-called gender-affirming care be used only in "exceptional cases," Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare cited "the uncertainty that follows from the yet unexplained increase in the number of care seekers, an increase particularly large among adolescents registered as females at birth."

If Sweden can acknowledge reality, so should we.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

(c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.



## Grassy Hill Auctions

CASH \$ For Your Items!!

### ESTATE SALE SERVICES

&

### ATTIC & BASEMENT CLEANOUTS

Jude M. Dichele & Bill  
Pastore  
Owners

(203) 868-1816

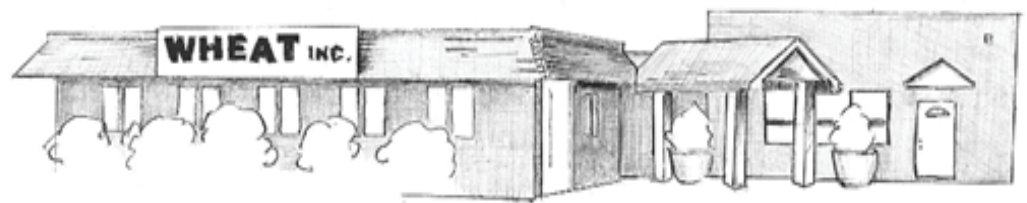
[GrassyHillAuctions.com](http://GrassyHillAuctions.com)

Call Before You Throw  
Anything Away!

#### Always Buying

Antiques, Collectibles, Old/Vintage Toys, Musical Instruments (Saxophones, Trumpets, Violins, Flutes, Clarinets, Trombone & SO MUCH MORE), Advertising Items, Wristwatches (Broken or Not), Pocket Watches, Tools (Machinist, Woodworking, & MORE) Doorstops, Clocks, Oil Paintings, Old Signs, Old Photographs, Old Postcards, Brewery Items, Hunting & Fishing, PEZ Dispensers, Costume Jewelry, Broken Jewelry, Gold & Silver Jewelry, Gold & Silver Coins, Military Items, Swords & Bayonets, Helmets & Patches, Medals & Uniforms, Pocket Knives, Lighters & Pipes, Fountain Pens, Mechanical Pencils, Fraternal Order Items, Religious Items, Industrial Items, Winchester Items, Sikorsky Items, Pratt & Whitney Items, Cold Items, Native American Items, Vintage Electronics, Slot Cars, Toy Trucks, Matchbox & Hotwheels, Barbie's, Folk Art, Statues, Bronzes, Trains, Cameras, Mid Century Modern Furniture, Straight Razors, Shaving Items, Political Items, Comic Books, Sports Cards, & Autographs....

& THE LIST GOES ON!



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

WHEAT is giving out food twice a month.

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

## WHEAT

674 Washington Ave., West Haven

203-931-9877

[wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net)

# Historian's corner By Dan Shine

## Savin Rock's Transition Part I

Those of us of a certain age have fond and romanticized memories of Old Savin Rock. It was a wonderful, magical place, and maybe it could have been rehabilitated and retained, but this was not to be.

The Boy can still recall the magic of the Rock; but he can also recall a Savin Rock of broken sidewalks, broken

glass, weeds, bums and poor sanitation.

And he remembers Saturday and Sunday mornings on Kelsey Avenue during the warmer months, when he and father would have the regular task of picking up garbage, leftover food and drink containers, and other assorted objects which had been flung from car windows, and onto their lawn, as the evening's revelers drove home.

Dinnertime talk became more and more frequent as to "what should be done" about all of this.

Apparently, they weren't alone--West Haven taxpayers expressed their will by referendum in 1963, and in 1967 the various structures of Old Savin Rock were demolished, one-by-one.

However, every story has more than one side to it, and this one is no exception.

Below, we share the words of Sue Burke Hutchinson, daughter of longtime Savin Rock Concessionaire Maggie Burke:

Its October 1965, dreary, chilly and gray. It's the day we are to empty our stand in Savin Rock's old Midway. I remember walking the back way with Aunt Marie; Hill Street, across Ward Street, through the parking lot to Palace Street. Down the Midway, and past Ihne's bar.

I remember the silence. Hers, mine, the empty streets, echoing with its emptiness. The destruction all around, houses being demolished, Tiernans half gone, all the heavy equipment sitting in the parking lot, waiting for the next day

Sadness deep in our souls, knowing even at my age of 16, life was changing big time.

Our house was going down soon, Aunt Marie's also. Our livelihood had been taken away, and everything I knew for sixteen years was being destroyed. I didn't understand it then, I do now, but still hold bitterness somewhere deep inside.

Walking down the Midway, I saw that other concessionaires were doing the same, some had signs of merchandise for sale, pickup trucks in the Midway filling up with the prizes people coveted and came from miles around to win, tossed around like the junk they were.

At our stand, Lenny was already there, taking down the wooden shutters to open up for the last time. His face said it all.

No one spoke, no greeting, no chatter, just the sounds of people emptying their stands. No rides open, no food stands



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



Marge Burke, left, is shown with her sister, Marie Smith, at the family stand on the Savin Rock Midway, circa 1965.

open, except Cameron's, the flying horses, the arcade and fascination. Nobody was around, it was as though they knew to stay away; to let us grieve and work privately; to respect this day for what it was.

So we packed prizes in boxes for hours. Bill Cameron came by with coffee and rolls and to hug and say goodbye. As we worked, the tears just kept flowing, silently, just kept coming, mine mostly for my Aunt and for Mom, for their sadness. I remember thinking for the first time, how dirty and shabby it all was.

Maybe it was time? Was there a better plan for my family?

To be continued.

Submitted Photo

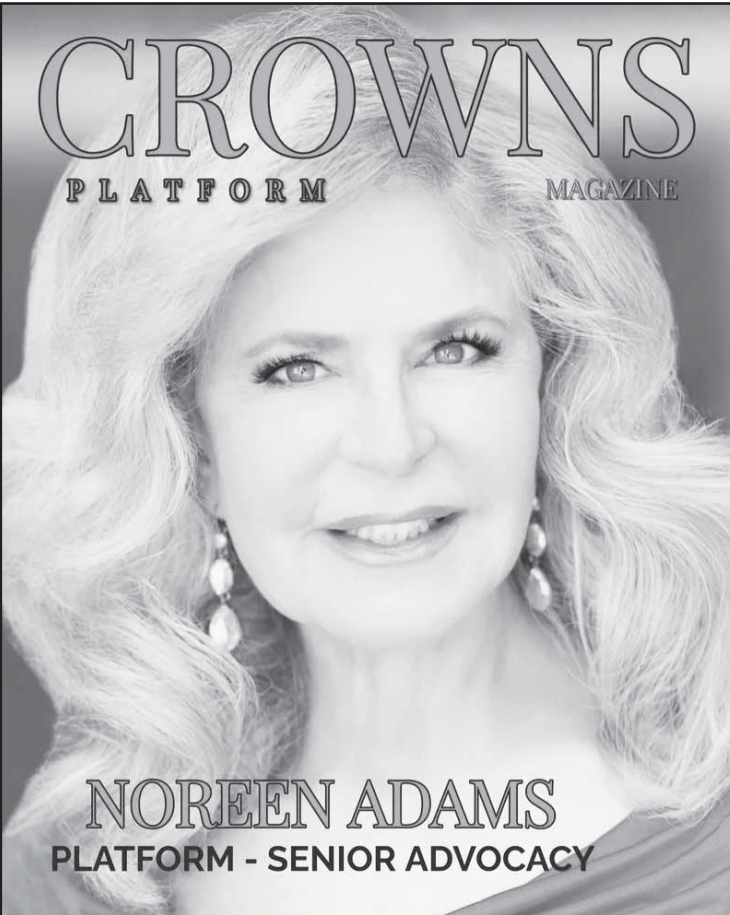


**West Haven Funeral Home**

In this age of corporate-owned funeral homes, we are a family owned and operated establishment, proudly serving our community since 1965.

We provide a level of dignity, respect, personal care and attention to detail that is second-to-none. In your time of need, allow us to honor your loved one – not because this is our business, but because this is our way of life.

*Funeral Directors:*  
Celia Pinzi, Michael Dion & James Stricker  
Pre-Arrangements & Pre-Financing Available  
662 Savin Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516 · Phone: (203) 934-7921  
Email: office@westhavenfuneral.com · www.westhavenfuneral.com



**CROWNS**  
PLATFORM MAGAZINE

**NOREEN ADAMS**  
PLATFORM - SENIOR ADVOCACY

## On the cover

City resident Noreen Adams, the reigning Miss Rhode Island Senior America representative, was recently put on the cover of Crowns Magazine for her work with senior advocacy. Adams has done appearances all over the state, and region in her work.



# City reups the 'Boot'

Residents who are delinquent on their taxes are urged to pay their overdue taxes as soon as possible.

West Haven's "boot" program resumes this month, and tax delinquents risk their vehicles being immobilized with a wheel-locking boot.

TaxServ Capital Services LLC of Hartford is the city's vendor that administers the program in cooperation with Vioalert Systems LLC of West Haven.

A vehicle-mounted ID system that is part of the program uses an infrared license plate scanner to target tax scoff-laws. Vehicles are released of the boot once their owners pay all delinquent taxes and the boot fee.

The boot, however, may be on a vehicle that does not owe back taxes because the scanning system recognizes delinquent taxes linked to the vehicle owner's name, according to city Tax Manager Rachel A-Massih.

Residents can check if they owe back taxes and make a payment at <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=westhaven>. They can also pay in the tax office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

A-Massih said delinquent personal property taxes for city business owners who have not paid their taxes have also been turned over for collection. Properties with delinquent real estate and sewer bills have now been lien-ed, and collection proceedings are in process, she said.

Taxes accrue additional interest on the first day of each month.

## Mullins hosting a city meeting set for April 12

Republican Mayoral candidate Steven R. Mullins will be hosting a town hall-style meeting on Wednesday, April 12th from 6 to 7 p.m.

The meeting will take place in the Harriet C. North Community Meeting Room, second floor of West Haven City Hall.

Topics of discussion are anything and everything regarding the City of West Haven, such as and not limited to finances, public safety and quality of life.

All West Haven registered voters, regardless of political party affiliation are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Mullins at: (203) 824-4262.

Voice Offices will be closed Good Friday

## World Tai Chi Day & Health & Wellness Fair

**Saturday, April 29  
10 AM - 02:00 PM  
West Haven Green**



1909

2023



Projected  
2025

Come join us on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## Washington - A Night to Reminisce

Coffee will be served in the Gym while you're able to peruse tables of memorabilia and talk to friends about the wonderful memories the students, staff, and school of Washington has given us.

Parking is on the black top.



Photo by Geiger/Regional Chamber

## Take 5 Oil Change opens in Allingtown

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, holding oversized scissors, cuts the ribbon with Frank Buffone, the director of operations at Take 5 Oil Change, center right, to mark the business's grand opening at 1083 Boston Post Road on March 24. Shown with them are, from left, City Council members Gary Donovan, D-at large, and Colleen O'Connor, R-at large; Take 5 owners Adam and Jeff Kimberly; and Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. Take 5 is on Allingtown's bustling Route 1 corridor, just east of Meloy Road near the Orange line. According to the Kimberly brothers, the new business's specialty is a 10-minute oil change, where customers stay in their car while the oil is changed.



## THE EASTER BUNNY LIKES CARROTS

NO, NOT **CARROTS...**

### CARATS!

1 CARAT DIAMOND  
 PRICED \$2,000.00  
 \$3,000.00  
 \$4,000.00  
 \$5,000.00

Again, this Easter, we have a selection of 1 ct and 1/2 ct diamonds. One is sure to fit your budget. This special ends Easter Sunday. Visit us at our new location!

OR GET 1/2 CARAT  
 PRICED \$1,000.00  
 \$1,200.00  
 \$1,500.00  
 \$1,800.00

## Leslie Jewelers

27 Wagner Place, West Haven, CT  
 203-933-3291

Visit us on the web - [www.lesliesjewelers.com](http://www.lesliesjewelers.com)

West Haven's Diamond Center. We can finance your purchase for up to 60 months. Trade ins welcome

## Budget plan with council

The annual public hearing portion of the budget-making process now completed, the City Council now sits down to review the spending plan, presented three weeks ago by Mayor Nancy N. Rossi. The 173.4 million package includes a \$5.1 million increase from the present fiscal year, and, if approved a .97-mill increase in taxes.

By charter, the council must approve a budget by the first Thursday of May. Until then, the membership sits as a Committee of the Whole under the leadership of the Finance Committee Chairman.

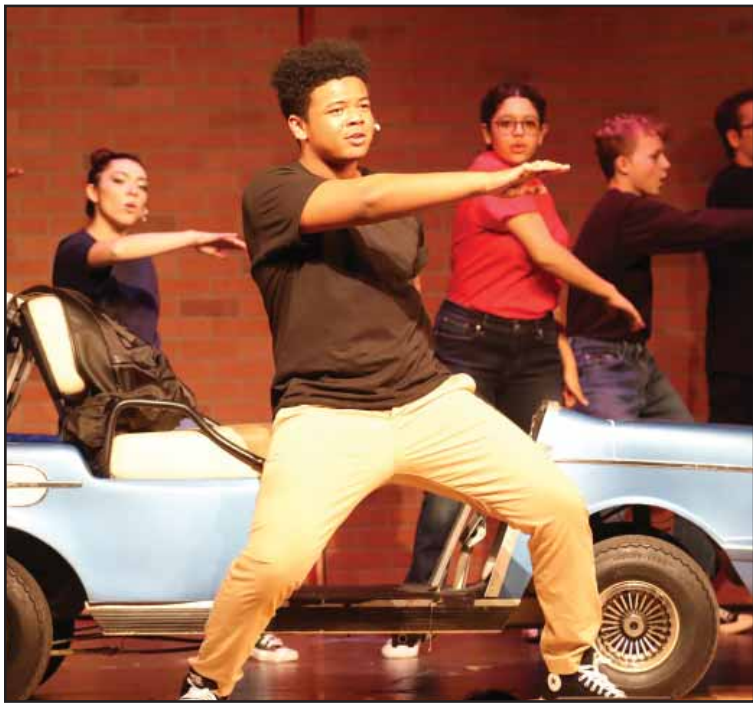
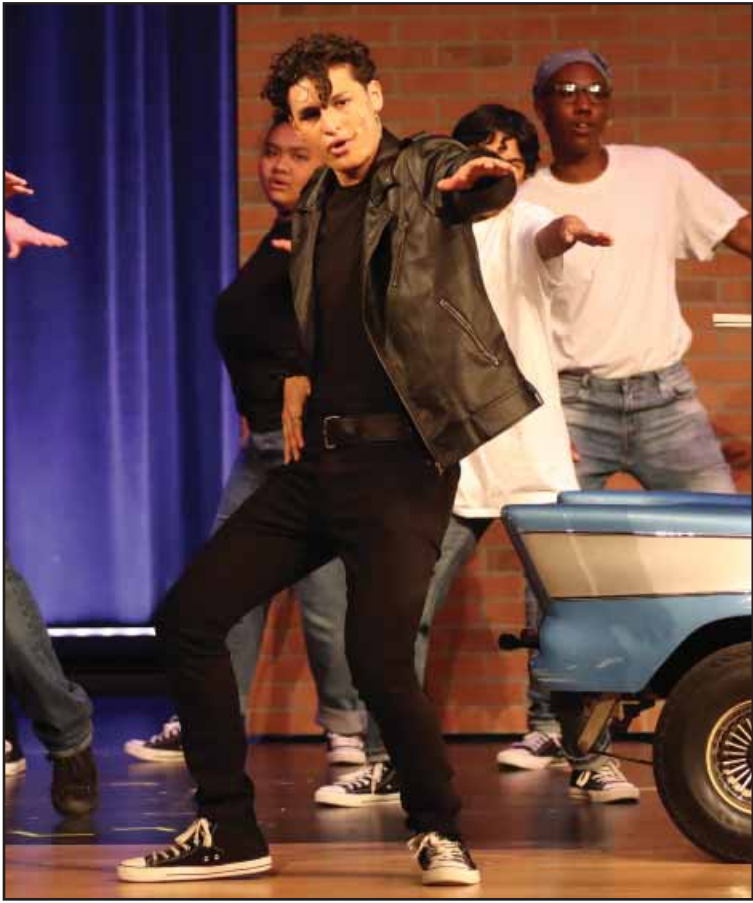
Under the charter, a supermajority of nine of the 13 members must vote in the affirmative to approve an alteration in the budget.

Democrat Councilman-at-Large Ron Quagliani is hopeful the council can reduce the proposed mill increase with some spending cuts, but that still must be approved by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB).

"I do think the recommended mill rate increase can be reduced however the City Council does not have the final approval on the budget," he said. "The MARB has rejected the City Council amended budget that contained expense cuts in the past and certainly can do that again this year if they are not in agreement with our actions (to reduce the mill rate)."

Quagliani said he and his colleagues are fearful of the increase.

"A .97 mill rate increase will increase taxes on average approximately \$200 per year (\$16.67 per month). The Fire District budgets are yet to be determined and an increase is likely in the annual sewer use fee," he said.



Photos by Todd Dandelske

### 'Grease for Peace'

The West Haven High School Theatre Workshop performed Grease last week in four performances. The troupe played to enthusiastic crowds, rekindling memories for some of the Do-Wop era.



## Cybersecurity That Protects Your Business.

We are a Milford based information and security technology company that works in collaboration with clients to support their infrastructure and data security needs for today and tomorrow.

We are global defenders in a world where good wins.



Manage

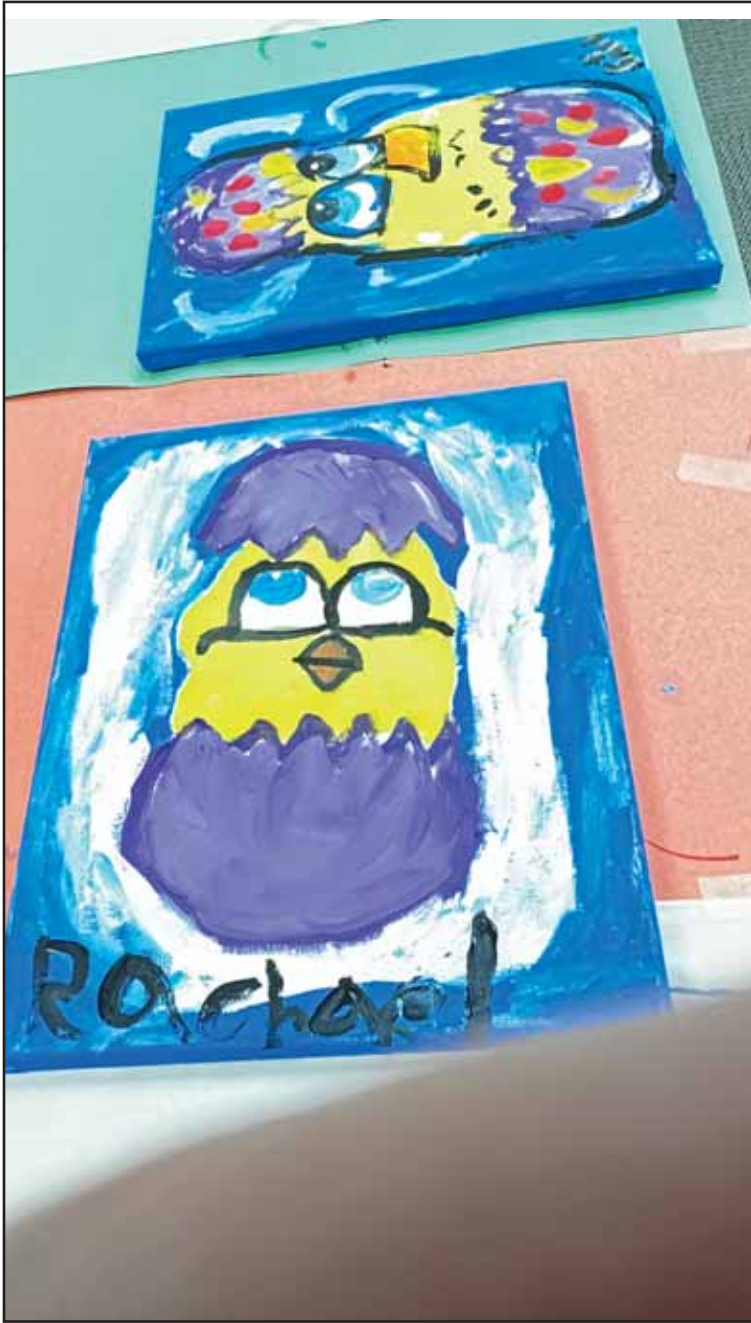


Defend



Respond

Learn more today at [Vancord.com](https://Vancord.com).



Submitted Photos

### Future artists

The Picasso Paint Party happened Monday, March 27 at the Ora Mason Library. Darcee LoPresti, instructor, had the task of guiding these future artists on canvas. The next family event at Ora Mason is scheduled for April 11. Bring the Hoopla comes for two programs. One is geared for ages 3-5, while the other is for youngsters 6-12.





WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU  
SAVE \$ ON YOUR ENERGY

Contact us for a custom quote on your electric and/ or natural gas.

We'll also let you know if you qualify for a FREE energy audit.

**Contact:**  
**MICHAEL HORTON**  
 Ph: 203-464-3163  
 Fax: 860-436-3459  
 mhorton@titanenergyne.com

2275 Silas Deane Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | titanenergyne.com



CT DCP Registration HCA-000807

Home care by Aides and Companions can be a low cost alternative to more expensive assisted living programs. We work to ensure our clients stay safe and healthy at home. We can help to identify needs before they become difficult and expensive to resolve.

Unlike most home care agencies, Aides and Companions Personal Care Aides receive monthly "in-service" training to help keep their skills honed. Most are graduates of state-certified training programs as well.

**OUR SERVICES**

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Live-In Care               | Showering - Dressing Assistance |
| Daily/Weekly Visits        | Doctor's Visits                 |
| Overnight Care             | Respite Care                    |
| Activities of Daily Living | Long Term - Short Term Service  |

CT Agency on Aging Provider

65 Elm St, West Haven  
(203) 777-1234

info@Aidesandcompanions.com  
Aidesandcompanions.com

## Around Town

### Two trips offered city seniors

The West Haven Senior Center is offering two bus trips to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam on June 7 and Lavender Pond Farm, June 14.

The Goodspeed trip includes lunch at the Gelston House, followed by "Gypsy," a musical about vaudeville and burlesque.

The trip costs \$150 and includes transportation, lunch, admission and gratuities. Payment is due April 24.

The bus departs at 10 a.m. from the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot at 91 Bull Hill Lane, the former Nike site, and leaves at 3:45 p.m. from Goodspeed.

The Lavender Pond Farm, voted "Best Connecticut Attraction" in 2017 by USA Today, is home to more than 10,000 lavender plants. It offers a gift shop with all things lavender, a mini-train tour of the property and a walking trail.

The trip includes lunch at Little Pub in Old Saybrook, followed by a stop at Clinton Premium Outlets.

The trip costs \$125 and includes transportation to three locations, gratuities and lunch. Payment is due May 5.

The bus departs at 9:30 a.m. from the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot at 91 Bull Hill Lane, the former Nike site, and leaves at 4 p.m. from Clinton.

Senior center membership is not required to attend either trip. To make a reservation, call the center at (203) 937-3507.

### VA retirees luncheon, May 10

The VA Medical Center's annual Retirees Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, at 11:30 at Lorenzo's, 39 Elm St. The cost is \$39 per person with a cash bar. Reservations must be paid by April 26. Contact Kathy Blakeslee at Kblake2259@comcast.net, or (203) 215-5762 or Elaine Schempp at Elaine.schempp@gmail.com

### Drive-thru Food Drive

The Social Justice Committee of St John XXIII Parish will sponsor a Drive-thru Food Drive on Saturday, April 15 at St Louis Church, 89 Bull Hill Lane (circular drive at entrance) from 9 a.m. to noon to benefit WHEAT and the Purple Pantry Box at St John Vianney Church.

Requested items include: Peanut butter, tuna fish, Mac 'n cheese, pasta, tomato sauce, hot and cold cereal, fruit cups, protein bars, snack crackers with cheese or peanut butter. Checks (made payable to WHEAT) may be brought to the Food Drive or mailed to WHEAT, 674 Washington Ave.

### Review celebrates 40th

The 40th anniversary of the Golden Oldies Review (50's 60's 70's DooWop) is scheduled for April 29 at the Cielo Ballroom, 85 Chase Lane, from 7:30-Midnight. Music by DJ Charles Rosenay!! of Liverpool Productions

Michael Hoover will present "Memories of Elvis" at 9. Cash Bar Smoke Free Door Prizes Raffle and Proceeds to benefit MDA Tickets are \$40 per person

For ticket information please Geri Caccavale at (203) 795-5473 or Lucy Prokop, (203) 468-2528

### Raffle for Swift concert tix

St. Lawrence School will hold a Taylor Swift Tix raffle, with the winner receiving two tickets to the sold-out Taylor Swift concert on Friday May 19 at Gillette Stadium. Tickets are now on sale for a drawing to be held on Monday, May 1. The proceeds of this raffle will benefit St. Lawrence School, West Haven.

Tickets can be purchased until May 1, either in-person at the school office or by calling (203) 933-2518.

The cost of each raffle ticket is \$50, or 3 for \$100. The drawing A limited number of raffle tickets will be sold. Seats are located in Section 205, Row 4.

### Stamp Club meetings

The New Haven Stamp Club meets every Tuesday evening at 82 Clark Road in North Haven at 7:30 p.m. New members are welcome. The club holds a stamp and coin show the fourth Sunday of the month 9-2:30 p.m. at the Annex Club, 554 Woodward Ave. East Haven.

Photo provided by Michael O'Brien

## Scholar Leaders

Flanking WHHS Principal Dana Paredes are students Maya Bermudez and Sebastian Navarro, who were recently named 2022-23 Scholar Leaders by the Southern Connecticut Conference. The pair were recognized and honored during a banquet at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven on Monday, March 27th. Scholar Leaders are selected by their school's principal for demonstrating outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school and external communities.



Photo by Steven R. Mullins

### Learning new aid

Members of the West Haven Lions Club were recently trained how to operate a Hilton Spot Vision Screener camera as part of the Kidsight National Lions Program. The initiative is to help parents, childcare providers, and educators to find and treat juvenile vision problems. Lions Club members will be using these special cameras at the West Haven Community House this summer during Head Start registration. The program is funded by the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation. Joan Bennett, a past Lions Club District Governor teaches West Haven Lions Club member Kimberly Vasas how to operate a screener camera as part of the Kidsight National Lions Program.



Photo by Christian Mullins

## Easter Bunny visits

The Easter Bunny arrived a week early and made a special delivery of 100 Easter baskets to the children of the St. Louis campus of St. John, XXIII parish. The baskets were donated by the Fellowcraft Club of Annawon Lodge, #115 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven. The Club has been donating Easter baskets to St. Louis and the former St. Paul's Church for the past 20 years. Pictured from L-R are Religious Education Director Monica L. Pang, basket volunteer stuffer Kim-Marie Mullins, the Easter Bunny (Past Worshipful Master Steven R. Mullins) Lodge Senior Warden and Fellowcraft Club President Joey McVety and Lodge Worshipful Master Christopher Belous.



Photos by Michael O'Brien

## Weighing their options

West Haven High School recently hosted a Trade School Job Fair in the main lobby. Specialty schools in art, culinary arts, various trade-oriented post-secondary schools, and the armed forces were part of the event, showing students their options following graduation.



Friends of the West Haven Library  
**\$5 Fill-a-Bag**  
**Book Sale**  
 Saturday, April 15, 2023  
 10am-2pm  
 West Haven Public Library  
 Main Branch Parking Lot • 300 Elm Street

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Fill your bag! | We accept: |
| ◆ Books        | ◆ Cash     |
| ◆ Audiobooks   | ◆ Credit   |
| ◆ DVDs         | ◆ Paypal   |

Buy one of our \$5 bags when you arrive, then grab & go!



Photos courtesy of WHCH

### 'Night at Races' returns

West Haven Community House's "A Night at the Races" made a triumphant return on March 18 at the University of New Haven. Hosting more than 300 people, the fundraising event last ran in 2019 and went on hiatus during Covid. The community event is WHCH's major fundraiser that supports the various programs run by the organization.

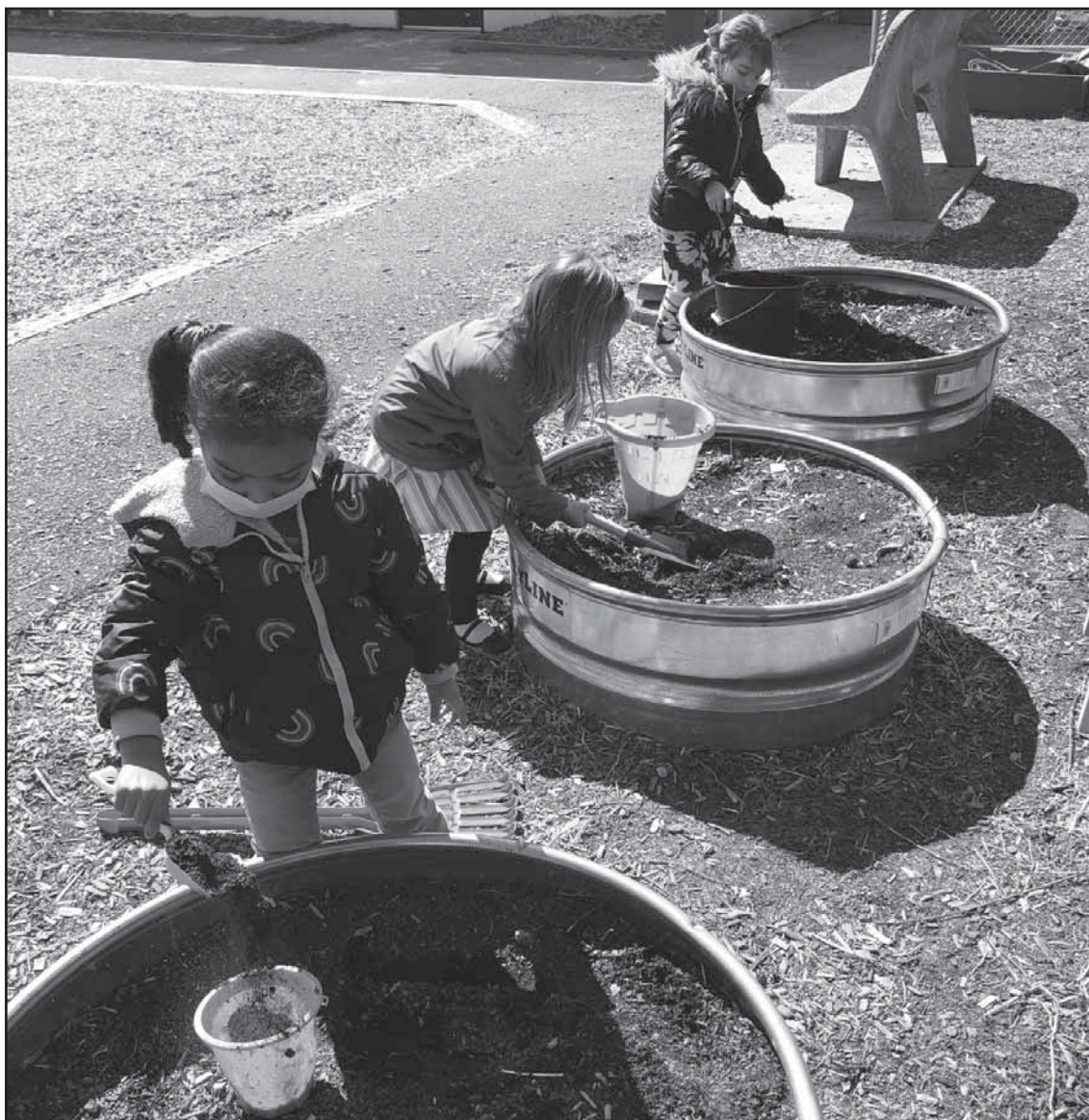


Photo courtesy of WHCDC

### Planting season

Children at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc have been busy preparing their garden beds for planting and participating in the National Dairy Council's "Moo Cow Dance" competition.

## WEST HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

MOVIE night \* 18+

**\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED\***



**MAIN LIBRARY  
300 ELM ST.  
WEST HAVEN, CT 06516  
(203)937-4233**

**MONDAY, APRIL 17TH  
CONNIE SACCO ROOM  
5PM-7PM**

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

Photo by Todd Dandelske



## Tuning up!

Chloe Whelan protects the ball as she heads up field against the Lyman Hall Trojans in a pre-season scrimmage at Ken Strong Stadium. The season was to open on Saturday, but a Nor'easter barreled up the coast, curtailing most high school schedules. Play begins in earnest this week.

# Holding penalty altered in school football

A notable change to Rule 10 of the NFHS Football Rules Book will eliminate the excessive penalty enforcements for offensive fouls that occur behind the line of scrimmage in high school football.

This change in Rule 10-4 (Basic Spots) is one of seven revisions recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Football Rules Committee at its Jan. 8-10 meeting in Indianapolis. All changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors for the 2023 high school football season.

In a move to achieve one of the committee's fundamental tasks of maintaining a balance between offense and defense, this revision stipulates

the basic spot for enforcement of fouls behind the line of scrimmage is the previous spot rather than the spot of the foul. Current penalties for illegal kicking, batting and participation fouls, as well as provisions for offensive fouls occurring in the end zone that may result in a safety, remain intact.

As an example, with the change in Rule 10-4, a team on offense at its own 40-yard line that is called for holding 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage at its own 30-yard line, would be faced with first and 20 from its 30-yard line rather than the almost insurmountable task of first and 30 from its own 20-yard line.

"This is an excellent rule change that the majority of

game officials and coaches requested and that our NFHS Football Rules Committee members approved unanimously," said Richard McWhirter, chair of the NFHS Football Rules Committee and assistant executive director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA). "I believe this change will make the rule clearer for coaches and easier for game officials to administer."

In a change that addresses another goal of every NFHS rules committee – risk minimization – additional criteria were approved to help identify players who should be defined as defenseless receivers related to application of unnecessary or excessive contact.

An addition (d) to Rule 2-32-16 states that another ex-

ample of a defenseless player includes a receiver, as previously defined in the rule, including the person intercepting the pass, who is forcefully contacted by an opponent that is not 1) incidental contact as a result of making a play on the ball, 2) initiated with open hands, or 3) an attempt to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around the receiver.

The committee also approved a clarification to the intentional grounding rule change implemented last year. The change in Rule 7-5-2EXCEPTION permits the exception for intentional grounding to the first and only player to possess the ball after the snap ends.

A revision in Rule 2-29-1 clarifies when a player is in-bounds after being out of bounds. While the committee

approved additional language for clarification, there is no change to any foul or subsequent penalty provisions, or any rules related to illegal participation or the provisions regarding eligibility to catch a pass.

One change was approved in Rule 1-5-3 regarding player equipment, specifically player towels, which now may contain one manufacturer's logo and/or one school logo, neither exceeding 2¼ square inches. Towels must be a solid color, but now do not have to be the same color for each player. Towels may not, however, be the color of the ball or penalty flag.

In Rule 7-5 (TABLE) regarding forward pass interference, the word "intentional" was removed, which puts the rule in line with how it is already enforced, which is a 15-yard penalty.

The NFHS Football Rules Committee is composed of one representative from each of the NFHS member state associations that use NFHS football rules, along with a representative from the NFHS Coaches Association, NFHS Officials Association and NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

A complete listing of the football rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Football."

According to the 2021-22 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, 11-player football is the most popular high school sport for boys with 973,792 participants in 13,733 schools nationwide. In addition, there were 34,935 boys who participated in 6-, 8- and 9-player football, along with 3,633 girls in all four versions of the game for a grand total of 1,012,360.

WestieBlue.com



For all your West Haven sports, visit [www.westieblue.com](http://www.westieblue.com)

Complete coverage of all sports teams from Youth Sports to Alumni

Photos Videos Player of the Week WH Championship teams  
Future Westies Alumni Hall of Fame WH News and Notes  
Team Leaders Statistics Coaches Information Coaches Corner  
And more

Your Everything WEST HAVEN Sports site

Contact Mike Madera

Phone: (203) 530-1322

Email: [MikeWestieBlue@aol.com](mailto:MikeWestieBlue@aol.com)



FOR ALL OF  
**APRIL**

Every purchase of this \$2.50  
Community Bag at the Stop & Shop  
location listed below will send us \$1.

Drop by drop makes an ocean.

Dollar by dollar  
makes a difference.



BENEFITING ORGANIZATION

Friends of the West Haven Library

AT THIS STOP & SHOP LOCATION

460 Elm St., West Haven CT 06516

COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM | [STOPANDSHOP.2GIVELocal.COM](http://STOPANDSHOP.2GIVELocal.COM)





Submitted Photo

### Sixth grade champions

The St. Mary's of Milford sixth grade girls team captured the New England Regional championship by posting a 25-22 win over Our Lady of Mercy (Providence). The win capped an undefeated season with a state championship and St. Mary's tournament title. West Haven was well represented by Ava Pellino,, Finley Gunning, Mary Sowitcky and Braelyn Roldan.

## RTMFL elects new leaders

The Ray Tellier Midget Football League is one of the most well-known and successful youth sports organization in the area. The league now has a new leader.

Adam Gigola has been elected as the new President of the Ray Tellier Midget Football League (West Haven Seahawks).

Former President Michael Last stepped down on February 1, 2023 after being elected as President of the Southern Connecticut Pop Warner Football Conference, which the West Haven Seahawks are a member.

Last served the league for 39 years, beginning as an assistant coach in 1983 of the West Haven Fire Department, when the league was inter-city with six teams.

Last served the last 15 years as President of the organization.

Gigola, who has been on the league's Board of Directors for more than a decade, played for the Seahawks and at West Haven High School.

"I have been part of the Ray Tellier Midget Football League for nearly 40 years and it's time to turn it over to a new generation," Last said after Gigola's election as President. "Adam is a former player of mine with a lot of energy and new ideas. I think the league will grow and prosper under his leadership."

A loyal and dedicated bunch, most of the Board members and coaches will return to work together for a smooth transition. The RTMFL is a great organization with a rich and proud history going back to its founding in 1966.

"I was fortunate to have known many of the founders of the league and my goal was always

to continue the league they started; fundamental football and cheerleading, and the teaching of the important life lessons of teamwork, responsibility, discipline and respect," Last said. "The league has a bright future. I will definitely miss being at practice on August 1 for the first time since 1983!"

Gigola looks forward to taking over the leadership role and does not plan any big changes, at least at first.

"If it is not broken, don't fix it," Gigola said after being elected President. "The league is in good shape, and we saw increased participation in football and cheerleading last year. I don't plan on many changes this year. The league has been successful for 56 years. I am looking forward to my first year and working with our Board members and coaches."

Last will take over the Southern Connecticut Conference which has seen many changes over the last several years, including a reduction of football levels and participants in many towns. Youth football and cheerleading programs have more options than ever before.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of growing youth football and cheerleading in Southern Connecticut and across the state," Last said. "Youth football has had its challenges for more than a decade and is honestly at a crossroads. We have to market football and cheerleading to a youth population that has many more choices than we did growing up. My job will be to market and grow youth football and cheerleading in Southern Connecticut and I look forward to the task."

### Legal Notice

The West Haven FY2021 Annual Financial Report is available for inspection on the City of West Haven's Website under quick links and in the City Clerk's office located at 355 Main Street West Haven CT.

Patricia Horvath, City Clerk

# The Family Restaurant

Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

**Try Our Omelettes - Starting at \$5.00!**

**Our Menu Includes:**  
Salads, Grinders, Wraps, Burgers, Pasta, Greek Items

*Dine In or Take Out*



**LUNCH SPECIAL**

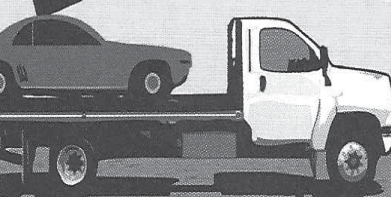
FREE CAN OF SODA  
WITH PURCHASE OF A SUB OR CLUB SANDWICH

**142 Campbell Ave**  
(formerly Cafe Haven)  
**(203) 934-4407**

## At Your Service

**EMMETT'S AUTO SERVICE**  
REPAIRS AUTO BODY TOWING 24 HRS

**EMMETT MAHER**  
OWNER




184 Campbell Ave      203-934-3100  
West Haven, CT 06516      emmettsautoct.com

**GB Masonry**

Stone Walls \* Sidewalks \* Pavers  
Chimneys \* Brickwork \* Flagstone  
Stone Siding \* Stucco

**Fully Insured -- Quality Work!**  
17 years Experience  
Jimmy-- 203-206-1159  
gbmasonrystone@gmail.com



**Danny McCullough III**

STATEWIDE  
NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES  
"WE COME TO YOU"  
(202) 701-5134

DannyMcCullough91@yahoo.com  
P.O. Box #260513  
West Haven, CT, 06516  
Seniors Free!

To advertise here, call 203-934-6397 for rate information

**CALL YOUR AVON LADY**  
Looking for Avon?  
Call Phyllis Franco,  
(203) 932-9367.  
And I will drop of a brochure.  
Over 30 years' experience.  
Friendly Service.

**FOR RENT**  
**Harborview Condominiums**  
Commercial space available  
In this professional building.  
Desk/Space from \$295/month.  
Full office with waiting area  
\$695/month, includes off-street  
parking, Use of penthouse meet-  
ing room, janitorial services  
Call us for an interview.  
(203) 932-6455.  
Fran x 301

**GUTTER CLEANING**  
Jay's Gutter Cleaning. Minor  
repairs, tree work, hedge-  
trimming, power washing,  
Insured. Free estimates. Call  
(475) 238-2199.

**PLUMBING PROBLEMS???**  
Leaky pipes, Leaky Faucets,  
Leaky Showers, Running Toilet,  
Drain Cleaning, Leaky Hot Water  
Heater, Garbage Disposals, Dry-  
er/Washers, Laundry Lines, Dish-  
washer Lines, Gas Stoves, FULL  
PLUMBING REPAIR SERVICES,  
(203) 584-6868.

**SEEKING NEW STUDENTS**  
Grammy-nominated musician/  
piano teacher Judy Pancoast now  
accepting new students to start in Sep-  
tember in West Haven. All ages. Email  
mamanook@comcast.net for all the  
details.

**DRAIN CLEANING**  
Leaky pipes, leaky faucets, leaky  
showers, running toilet, garbage  
disposals, clogged tubs & sinks,  
dishwashers, hot water heater-30  
gal., or 40 gal., gas stoves. Save  
money - get your water heater  
cleaned and flushed out. **PLUMB-  
ING SERVICES, (203) 584-6868**

**MTS GARAGE DOOR**  
Quality Installations and  
Sales Free Estimates  
203-544-3642  
Email Mtsdoorct@gmail.  
com

Art Painting Instruction  
Acrylics or oils  
\$30 for a 3 hour session in  
West Haven  
Call Edith at 203 232 4384  
edithreynolds.com

**FOR SALE**  
Looking for good homes!  
Savinn Rock Amusement  
Park . Many framed pho-  
tos, Old Savin Rock and  
Coney Island Post Cards.  
Private showing. (203) 988  
7883

J's Lawn Service

Accepting new clients/cus-  
tomers for summer lawn  
care. Also, spring cleanup  
and lawn preparation. For  
estimates call (203) 435-  
3319. Veterans and senior  
discounts available.

**Voice Classifieds**  
Buy It!  
Sell It!  
Find It!  
Call today!  
(203) 934-6397

**PIANO LESSONS  
BY COMPUTER**  
Since 1992, in your home  
when we can.  
Beginners welcome,  
reasonable rates.  
Details, References.  
In West Haven: 203-479-4467

**West Haven Elk's Lodge  
Hall Rentals**  
150 person capacity  
Low Prices  
Bar and Kitchen  
facilities available.  
Great for all functions  
Free Parking  
203-671-4322/203-933-1537

**TAX SERVICE**  
More changes in the tax laws affect your  
2022 taxes. Let me help you get your re-  
funds. More than 40 years' experience  
preparing taxes in a professional, timely,  
and cost-efficient manner. No waiting with  
pick-up or drop-off service.  
Call Bill at (203) 934-9525.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**



Call us for an interview.  
We specialize in Condo  
Association Management  
and Multi Families.  
31 years experience.  
For more information, call Fran x 301  
**(203) 932-6455**  
140 Captain Thomas Blvd,  
West Haven, CT

**Harborview  
REALTY SERVICES LLC**

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Shred  
6 Tyke  
12 Alaskan capi-  
tal  
14 Actress  
Lansbury  
14 Soak up  
15 Packed in  
a box, as  
oranges  
16 Boxer Spinks  
17 Like dried mud  
19 Mac alterna-  
tives  
20 Round Table  
titles  
22 First lady?  
24 Expected  
27 Facts and fig-  
ures  
29 Congers  
32 Elvis Presley  
hit song  
35 Spiked club  
36 Mandolin's  
kin  
37 UFO crew  
38 Billboards  
40 Minor quib-  
bles  
42 Nile biter  
44 &&&&  
46 Deal (with)  
50 Weak  
52 Missouri-born  
president  
54 "- serious?"  
55 Small song-  
birds

**DOWN**

1 Hayseed  
2 Not - many  
words  
3 Drudges  
4 Eg. and Syr.,  
once  
5 Barhopping  
tour  
6 Big truck  
maker  
7 Ham - (deli  
order)  
8 Links org.  
9 Personal bug-  
aboo  
10 Power co.  
supply  
11 Tiny  
amounts  
12 Tokyo-based  
carrier  
18 Amaze  
21 Altar promise  
23 Victory sign  
24 Poorly lit  
25 Actress  
Hagen  
26 Fugitives  
28 Creative flair  
30 Allow  
31 Soon-to-be  
grads  
33 Homer's  
neighbor  
34 Profit  
39 Beauty parlor  
41 Diving gear  
42 Miles away  
43 Withered  
45 Neither fem.  
47 Skip  
48 Frying needs  
49 Em halves  
51 "See ya!"  
53 Caviar

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

**MAGIC MAZE • THINGS THAT WEAR OUT**

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

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

Boots      Horseshoes      Pillows      Socks  
Brake pads      Knees      Relationships      Tires  
Gloves      Old jokes      Sandpaper      Toothbrush  
Hip joints      Parents      Sneakers

© 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. AD SLOGANS: Which company was  
advertised with the slogan, "Think Outside  
the Bun"?

2. TELEVISION: Which TV show spawned  
the spinoff sitcom "Mama's Family"?

3. U.S. CITIES: In which city would you find  
the USS Arizona Memorial?

4. ANATOMY: What are the bones that  
make up the spine known as?

5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the lowest point  
in the United States?

6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the  
traditional material in a 40th anniversary  
gift?

7. MOVIES: What is the name of the tow

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

**Answers to this week's puzzles**

**King Crossword**

**Answers**

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

# HIDDEN GEMS

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

At long last, fellow citizens, and after that tardy bit o' winter, spring is heavy and latent in the late March air. And nothing says spring like - what else? Flowers! Easter, Mother's Day, showers of various and sundry lk - they are all on their merry way.

If your nose is itching to sniff out some floral beauty, there's a new bloom in town: Christine's Creations is now cozily ensconced where Captain Thomas Boulevard forks near Savin Avenue. When you step inside, you'll be met by a truly local shop with a nautical flair.

Owner Christine Gonzalez, who opened the shop in January, worked previously for Myers' florist in Branford: when looking for a job after getting a degree in art, Chuck at Myers' loved the fact she had studied that particular discipline. "He took me under his wing," she says. He advised her to "look at a flower arrangement like a blank canvas" and to simply make her art three dimensional. Gonzalez says that she loved it.

Gonzalez opened the store in West Haven because, like so many of our Hidden Gems profilees who love the city, she was born and raised here. «I am a Westie,» she proclaims with pride. She was doing arrangements for special events, and credits her husband with her new digs. The Captain Thomas building was for sale, and "after our mortgage was paid off, my husband surprised me with the idea of opening my own shop," Gonzalez says. Even though she's only been open for a few months, the shop is doing well.

Christine's Creations is a full-service florist. Gonzalez does special events, weddings, funerals, birthdays, anniversaries etc. Gonzalez put together four beautiful arrangements while I was there, the last one a birth congratulation arrangement of pink roses, delphiniums, and alstromeria in a taupe ceramic elephant trunk up of course, speckled with white polka dots. There's a quaint corner table where you can peruse books to choose the perfect blossoms. The shop also has nicely potted houseplants ready to gift and will have palm crosses. FTD? Teleflora? Have no fear, Christine's Creations has both.

Gonzalez prides herself on personalized customer service. Customers can, if they so desire, go into the cooler and choose their own flowers. The store always stocks roses, carnations, lilies, stock, snapdragons, monte and alstromeria, and will happily do special requests. Last week, a woman wanted ranunculus, which Gonzalez ordered for her.

The shop also delivers to most of New Haven County, It's obvious as she effortlessly puts together her designs that Gonzalez is the artist her degree prepared her to be. "My medium is flowers," she smiles.



This arrangement, and the one to the bottom left are two creations by Christine.



**DRAIN SERVICE STARTING AT \$125**

**24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE!!!**

**TJ Plumbing**  
Supplies & Service, LLC

**Call us (203) 804-4714**  
tjplumbingsupplies@gmail.com

**20% OFF for first time customers**

**POOL OPENING STARTING AT \$175**

**YOU CAN FIND US ON:**  
-Thumbtack - Facebook  
-Networx - Craftjack  
-Home Depot Pro

**Kitchen/Bathroom Sink Stoppages**  
**Toilet Stoppages**  
**Mainline Stoppages**  
**General Plumbing**

**Opening/Closing**  
**General Maintenance**  
**Chemical Maintenance**  
**Repairing Leaks**  
**Water Testing**  
**Repair/Replace Pool Equipment**



# Sports

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Page 20

## Westies lose in '23 opener

The season got off to a slow start for the West Haven baseball team. Scoring in each of the first four innings, Amity topped West Haven, 9-1, at Amity High Monday afternoon in the season opener for both teams.

The Westies never got going offensively, managing only six hits in the game. Cam Cruz led the way with a double and single in three at bats for West Haven.

Chase Supan started for West Haven on the mound and took the loss. The junior pitched 3 2/3 innings, allowing eight runs, seven of which were earned. Supan gave up just four hits, while walking three and striking out five.

After West Haven went down quietly in the top of the first, Amity struck first with a two-out rally. A walk and a hit batter loaded the bases before Derek Porto singled to left to score a pair of runs.

West Haven had a pair of hits in the second, but a double play ball erased a single by Supan, and Cruz was left stranded after his two-out single.

Two hit batters helped Amity take a 4-0 lead in the second, before K.J. Harp reached on a two-out error but was left stranded in the third. A sacrifice fly by Porto in the bottom of the third gave the Spartans a 5-0 lead.

West Haven's Jose Padilla doubled with two outs in the fourth, but was left stranded, before Amity put the game away with four more runs in the bottom of the inning, all coming after two were out.

West Haven's lone run came in the sixth when Ray Gilbert hit a one-out single, moved to second on a passed ball, and scored when Padilla reached on an error.

Three West Haven pitchers combined to strike out seven and allow just five hits, but the Westies also walked four and hit six batters.

*Ed. Note -- At press time this was the only information available.*



Photo by Todd Dandelske

The spring season got underway in high school athletics this week. Just before the openers, teams tuned up in scrimmages. Top -- Pitcher Mia Rubirosa delivers from the circle in the Blue Devils' scrimmage versus Masuk. Center -- Olivia Trenchard defends during the Westies' scrimmage against Lyman Hall. Below -- Connor Hume delivers from the mound in the Westies' opening scrimmage versus Morgan. From Left -- Catcher Ray Gilbert pounces on the ball and prepares for a throw to first base against Morgan.

