

West Haven Voice

May 11, 2023

Vol. 28, Issue 9 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

City parish celebrates 300th

See page 3



Council OKs budget plan

The City Council took two steps in approving a budget ordinance, last week, that might prove controversial when it is reviewed by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB), which has final say.

The council reduced Mayor Nancy N. Rossi's \$173.4 million plan down to \$172.6 million, reducing the mill rate from .97 to .81; and then hiked the salary for the next mayor a \$109.61 salary, nearly \$22,000 more than currently.

The 10-2 passage of the ordinance means, pending MARB approval, city taxpayers will see the current 34 mill tax rate tick upwards to 34.81. In the case of the mayor's salary, members thought the raise would attract more candidates in the future, putting the pay on par with other local communities.

While passing the budget, the council approved requests to fund open positions in City Hall departments, many of which are currently understaffed. The body did not approve funding any new positions until Jan. 1, 2024, helping reduce the budget's overall bottom line.

"The Council also provided additional funding to accounts that have been under-funded for decades including additional contributions to fund balance, OPEB (Other post-employment benefits) for City and Allingtown Fire, and internal service funds such as liability, medical insurance, and worker's compensation beginning to address long-standing audit findings," said Democratic Councilman-at-Large Ronald Quagliani.

Quagliani, who was the only of six council members sent

See Budget, page 13



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Posick

Spring Cleaning

Volunteers from United Illuminating took part in the Earth Day cleanup of the Sandy Point area, sponsored by the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association. Shown are a group of the volunteers, and David Killeen of the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association working with the volunteers. See page 14 for more details.

Beach Street Phase 2 project set to begin

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Phase 2 of the long-anticipated raising of Beach Street is set to begin this month, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced.

Rossi said the project will raise a section of Beach Street up to 11 feet above sea level to protect the area's flood-prone neighborhoods.

The project will also help ignite economic development on the Beach Street corridor, she said.

"I am ecstatic for the final phase of the raising of Beach

Street," Rossi said. "The road raising will absolutely spur economic activity on Beach Street and the surrounding area."

The mayor added, "I have been fighting for this project since I originally requested it be put first on the city of West Haven's state bonding list, and I am grateful for the project to pass the final approval point."

In May 2020, Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-115) announced \$5.2 million in state funding for Phase 2 of the road raising.

The money joined \$3.5 mil-

lion in federal and local funding for Phase 1, including \$2.94 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program and \$560,000 from the city.

The two-phase project consists of raising an approximately 3,900-foot stretch of First Avenue and Beach Street from Monahan Place, near the Water Pollution Control Plant, to Morse Avenue, near the former Chick's Drive-in restaurant.

Phase 1 was completed two years ago and raised the road up to 7 feet from Monahan Place to the wastewater treatment plant.

Just over a decade ago, the area was 5 feet underwater during Superstorm Sandy, City Engineer Abdul Quadir said.

Phase 2 had been delayed since 2021 because of a protected species of grass that had been discovered by officials from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection during the permit-

ting process.

"I want to thank City Engineer Abdul Quadir for his assistance in guiding the project through each delay," Rossi said.

Quadir said Phase 2 will raise Beach Street from the treatment plant to Morse Avenue and should take about eight months to complete.

Once completed, the roadway project, like its counterpart, will include new sidewalks and a two-way bike lane on the beach side of the road, he said.

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Nolan Williams, 3-1/2 years old, a West Haven Child Development Center, Inc student, is hoping for sunny weather for Dragon flowers to grow in his garden.

On this Date

1998 -- India executes a series of nuclear weapons tests. The detonations raised fears of a nuclear conflict in the area and sparked international protests. On May 13, 1998, India officially declared itself a nuclear power.

1996 -- ValuJet flight 592 crashes into the Florida Everglades shortly after takeoff. All 110 people on board lost their lives in the crash that was caused by a fire in the cargo compartment.

1985 -- 56 football fans die in a stadium fire. During a match against Lincoln City, the wooden stands at Valley Parade football ground went up in flames. The exits were locked. A burning cigarette thrown into a waste bin has been determined as the probable cause of the disaster.

1981 -- The musical *Cats* premiered. The piece sparked a musical craze around the world and catapulted the composer Andrew Lloyd Webber to stardom.

868 -- The earliest surviving dated printed book is produced in China. The "Diamond Sutra" is one of the most important texts in Mahayana Buddhism. The British Library in London presently houses the copy.



Photo courtesy of Land Trust of WH

Poetry contest winners

Poems written by Jace Rodriguez, "My Happy Place" (3rd grade, Savin Rock School), Dana Guadarruma, "Northern Lights" (4th grade, Savin Rock School), and Bruna Reppetto Tobias, "Renewed by the Moonlight" (8th grade, Bailey Middle School) were chosen from more than 400 entries for the top prize in the Land Trust of West Haven's poetry contest. A three-judge panel determined the winning poems: Tony Fusco, Poet Laureate for the City of West Haven; Renny Loisel, President of the West Haven Land Trust; and Colette Bennett Language Arts Coordinator for the school system. Each winner received a \$50 gift card and a native plant, which represents the Land Trust's Native Plant Initiative. Left to right: Bruna Reppetto Tobias, Jace Rodriguez, and Dana Guadarruma

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Next Issue Date: May 25, 2023

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Episcopal parish marks 300th anniversary

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit will have a celebration of its 300th anniversary on Memorial Day weekend. The parish was founded as Christ Church in 1723. Following the 2006 merger of Christ Church and St. John by-the-Sea, the new parish adopted the name Church of the Holy Spirit.

As Christ Church, the parish is the second oldest Episcopalian congregation in the State of Connecticut after Christ Church, Stratford. It

has been known as the "Mother Church of Central Connecticut," having established many other parishes and missions, such as Good Shepherd, Orange, the aforementioned St. John by-the-Sea and the former St. Martins In-the-Field, West Haven just to name a few.

The celebration begins with an open house on Saturday, May 27 from 1- 5 p.m. During that time, tours of the 116-year-old church building

and parish house will be given, as well as viewing of historical documents and materials, many dating back to the 1723 founding.

The celebration continues on May 28 with the Feast of Pentecost and a festive pontifical mass, celebrated the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut at 9, with a reception following.

For decades the parish has been known for its outreach ministries. It has a vegeta-

ble garden specifically for WHEAT and cooks and serves breakfast to the needy at Columbus House one Sunday a month. The Church has opened its doors for decades by hosting many Boy and Girl Scout troops, as well as numerous substance abuse re-

covery organizations. The parish house is also a voting precinct for the City of West Haven's first district.

All celebratory activities are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Vestryman Steven R. Mullins at (203) 824-4262.

The 116-year-old Church of the Holy Spirit building was originally consecrated as Christ Church when it was completed by the famous firm of Cram & Goodhue, which pioneered the Gothic Revival Movement in this country. The building is considered one of the firms finest representations of a small parish church. The parish name changed when St. John By-the-Sea merged with Christ Church. The 300th anniversary of the parish makes it the second-oldest in the state.



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Dear Felicia

By the time yew git this mis-sive, sweets, we're supposed to be outta March and into May. No, I didn't forget April - April forgot April and stayed as March, and it's been March since March with cold, damp and windy weather with wind chills. It ain't been great for Cobina's lumbago, but we are hopin' the season will finally feel like it supposed to feel this time o' year. I'd certainly like to shut off the heat for a time.

Tennyrate, before we start, old Cobina made a boo-boo in her last note to yew, saying Patricia Bollettieri was running for City Clerk. That ain't right, it's treasurer. I jest got things mixed up in m'head. Needless to say, people pounced on that error straight away.

Meanwhile, just as people expected the mayoral race got a bit more interesting. Barry Lee Cohen filed for candidacy and becomes the thoid person looking for the nomination on

the GOP side o' the aisle, new-comer Paige Weinstein was the foist, Steve Mullins was number two, and Cohen fills out the triumvirate. Sooooo, expect some interesting machinations on that side come the primary season. It should be very interesting.

Weinstein hasn't done much, and Mullins has begun his campaign with town hall-format meetings. He and Cohen have name recognition, so the early money is probably on them; though I hear Weinstein might have support of some of the Town Committee. Who knows. The problem there ain't the primary, and is what happens thereafter.

Republicans ain't like Demmies. Demmies come together after a primary and work for the winning candidate. Republicans tend to take their ball and go home effen they don't win. In a city like ours, where the Demmies have

ruled for more than three decades, it might be time for the GOP to change the playbook. No matter who wins, they hafta come together. That would be bucking history, but maybe it'll happen.

The Demmies haven't had anyone new enter the race of late. Former Mayor Ed O'Brien is seeking the nod, and Victor Borrás the Eighth District rep have announced. Still out there is whether Herronner is gonna seek a fourth term. There are a lotta naysayers in the party, who believe she won't go for number four. Still, others say the fack she hasn't announced is more of a question of her being the incumbent and she has the option to wait as long as possible.

Whatever, it looks like at least a two-way primary is possible in that party, but it could become a three-way race effen Herronner announces. The big fly in the oatmeal is Dorinda Borer. Cobina ain't sure she's gonna wanna get into the morass that is West Haven when she's got a good gig in Hartford, but effen she does decide to run, the "calculus" as they say changes.

All bets are off after that, and there is word that at least one of the candidates said to supporters effen that happens, he's out. We shall see.

~~~~

*The City Council passed a budget last week, but as yew know that ain't the end of it. With Tier IV status with the MARB, it has to be given an imprimatur before it can become law. The vote last week, which had to be done on the foist Thursday of May by charter, was the end of that seven-week exercise we go through every year.*

*Sammy Bluejay who sat outside the chambers listening to the debate so Cobina wouldn't have to, sez that an attempt was made to pare some costs down, and the number he hoid was \$600,000. That is part of a mill, maybe half. The hope is to pare down the .97 mill increase to something a bit more manageable. This has been attempted before, but the MARB has shot it down, and kep' the tax increases in the last few budgets. Many in the council are hoping they won't this time, but I wouldn't bet the mortgage on it.*

*Speaking of the council, Chairman Peter Massaro didn't let anyone misunderstand where he was coming from last week when he demanded an apology from the MARB. Sammy was there as well, and sez that Massaro, who is a black-and-white kind of a guy, took umbrage at the way the council has been treated by MARB.*

*It has been suggested the council be brought into discussions with the MARB, and that is a definite change in the modus operandi of the MARB. Massaro wants a letter of apology before he invites the members. He's right to be outta sorts with the way MARB has treated the council and the city taxpayers.*

*Sammy thinks, however, after the bluster and bitterness is over, the MARB will meet with the council. This probably should've happened five or six year ago. Instead, diddat and condescension were the means the MARB used to git its way. So, there will be resentment. Keep yore eye on this one.*

~~~~

Well, whatta ya know? After much angst and some slowness, it was announced this week that Beach Street will be raised about seven feet as promised more than two years ago. Nelly Nuthatch was in t'other day after the announcement was made, and sez that work is expected to begin in a few weeks.

Remember, that area is particularly susceptible to flooding during big storms, and we've had incidents where the flooding and erosion was so bad, storm drain and other pipes were bared by Mother Nature. The new roadbed, being higher in elevation, will hamper that type of erosion.

The people most affected by the news are the new owners of the former Chick's property. Whilst they are building a new set of high-end condos as

we speak, the plan for a new restaurant on the location really couldn't happen until the raising of the roadbed was assured.

We wonder effen the two other properties on Beach Street, the former Debonair and the former Captain's Galley site are also affected by the project. Once those properties are worked on, some of the unsightliness of the much used thoroughfare will be eradicated. Still, one wonders how the closure o' the road is gonna affeck travel throughout the city. Think Third of July night!!!!

~~~~

*Effen we don't have enuff drama in the Asylum by the Sea, here is an unforced error on the part of Herronner that, effen handled right would't be the problem it has become. Yew probably hoid that in lieu of a raise, Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan was given the right to ousdie work, which was handled by his wife in the private law firm. It is legal.*

*The problem is no one seems to have been told of the arrangement, and, of course, it was found out and made into a semi-scandal. Effen people were told and the City Council signed off on it, there might have been some hooting and hollering, but it would have died down with the next psycho-drama. There seems to be one a week.*

*To make matters worse, Tiernan is then suspended for not disclosing it on his financial statements or something. That really just made things worse. It made it seem like Herronner was playing a game of CYA after the arrangement was made public. This ain't a way to run a railroad.*

~~~~

The Wag came in and wondered, Herronner put together an Energy Commish, one that has not sat for eight years. Ray Collins IV, a name from the past, is the chairman. What is this commish gonna accomplish that hasn't been done without it? The layering of boards and commissions is a product of modern life. It jest seems strange this would be reconstituted after so long and outta the blue.

~~~~

*Nelly Nuthatch came in and wondered what is going on with the Brewery project at the former Savin Rock Conference Center. The project got its approval a year ago, but not much seems to be happening. That has sent the rumor mill into overdrive. Somebody better git on top of this one.*

*Something from the Economic Development crowd might help, no?*

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Spring is here and so are the baseball parents parking on the sidewalk in the fire lane at the high school causing pedestrians to have pedestrians to walk on the busy roadway.

It's very dangerous and we have spent so much money on our high school and the ample parking lots to house all of the cars and keep our pedestrians safe.

Thanks for helping in the past, Eleanore, with this issue.

**Dear PT:**

Unfortunately, I made numerous attempts to address your complaint. However, this year, I went another way and was able to come up with a solution.

I asked Lt. Joseph D'Amato, Patrol Division Shift Commander of The West Haven Police Department for some help with this problem. He replied, "Please have any complainant contact the Police

Department non-emergency phone (203) 937-3900 and speak with a police dispatcher to report any parking violations. Violations such as these, they need to be called in when observed."

My suggestion, PT place this phone number in your cell phone and have the police department come and take care of this complaint on the spot!

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I don't know if any of your readers have complained to you about all the television commercials that show up during an average television show.

Recently I took a count on some of them and wanted to share my gripe with your readers.

I am aware that these commercials can be avoided if you subscribe to cable. That is a personal choice, but I can't afford cable.

So, I have to bear with the ads that appear on regular



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

television. So here is the count I metered during my recent visit to TV Land. There

were 11, yes, 11 during one movie, 8 on another and 9 on another. Sometimes I lost track of the program or movie I was viewing!

My question, Eleanore, is there a limit to how many commercials can be shown during a non-pay television offering?

Jay Bee

**Dear Jay Bee:**

Here's the information provided, by the FCC Federal communications Commission, "There are no rules regarding the amount of airtime a television station or network

cable or otherwise devotes to commercials. The exception to that rule is children's programming."

My suggestion to your gripe is to hit the sound button on your controller.

~~~

You can send your gripes, comments, or issues to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com You can also mail your gripes to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516 Please include your name, address and phone number, kept in strictest confidence with me.

Around Town

Trip to Mohegan Sun slated

The West Haven Senior Center is offering a bus trip to the Mohegan Sun casino in Uncasville on July 12.

No casino packages are offered at the moment.

The trip costs \$35. Payment is due June 16.

Mohegan Sun also offers more than 30 stores for shoppers.

The bus departs at 8:30 a.m. from the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot at 91 Bull Hill Lane, the former Nike site, and leaves at 3 p.m. from the casino.

Senior center membership is not required to attend. To reserve a seat, call the center at (203) 937-3507.

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.

Grieving parents' group meets

West Haven Youth and Family Services' Grieving Parents Support Group led by Cate Saxton and liaison Marianne Gambardella, meets monthly on the first and third Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the West Haven Senior center. Come and meet other grieving parents and be part of a confidential, safe environment.

Drive-thru Diaper Drive, Saturday

A Drive-thru Diaper Drive will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at New Life Church, 255 Jones Hill Road, West Haven. Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of St John XXIII Parish, the drive will benefit the West Haven Diaper Bank. Sizes 4 and up are requested; baby wipes are appreciated as well.

Mothers Day Plant and Pop Up slated

A Mothers Day Plant Sale & Pop Up is set for the Savin Rock Surf Shop, 270 Captain T Blvd., for Saturday, May 13, from 10-3, and Sunday, May 14, from 8-noon. The event is indoors, featuring tables of vendors with a wide range of handmade gifts and products. We will also have a fresh, local selection of flowers, plants and herbs.

Bradley Point Garden Club meets.

The Bradley Point Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 16, at the Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road at noon. Please bring your own lunch. After a business meeting, MaryEllen Abbagnaro will provide a demonstration on Container Gardening. New members are always welcome to join. For more information, call Dawn @ (203) 932-4619.

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MARB offer late, necessary

City Council Chairman Peter Massaro has a point, and it is one the Municipal Accountability Review Board should take under advisement. That said, striking a first-ever relationship with the legislative leaders of the city would be beneficial overall, and should not be constrained by what are perceived as slights by the state panel.

Massaro reacted last week to comments made by MARB Jeffrey Beckham that he would like to meet with the City Council, the upshot being the body would be brought into the discussions pertaining to the city's financial restructuring. Massaro said such a meeting would not happen at the invitation of the council until a letter of apology is sent by MARB. Massaro - and other members of the council - believe the state review board has been condescending to the city's elected officials, and demeaning to the city, in general.

In fact, the case can be made the state board looking for a relationship now after six years of MARB oversight is a bit backward. The panel should have made these overtures back in 2017 when it was first empaneled. Instead, only the chairman of the council was allowed at meetings with Mayor Nancy Rossi, and the elected officials were reduced to getting their information second-hand.

Remember, it was a bond issue passed by the City Council under Mayor Edward M. O'Brien that prompted the panel's formation. The bond issue paid off a longstanding deficit first discovered in 2006 under the Picard administration. Financial difficulties nationally and regionally hampered paying the deficit off through subsequent budgets. In the meantime, the state had enacted a law that put all municipalities that used bonds to pay deficits under the aegis of a review panel. When Rossi took office in December 2017, she was almost immediately contacted by the state, and the city was put under review.

Over that time, Massaro and others bristled at some of the statements made by MARB members during their deliberations, with no attempt to build a relationship, let alone some correspondence, between the taxpayers' elected representatives and panel. As we state above, instead of trying to forge a relationship now, the MARB should have done that six years ago, bringing the council into the process, and letting its members know the direction the panel wished to go.

There is no doubt trying to change the city's way of doing business has been a thorn in the panel's side; however, if the MARB collaborated with the council instead of acting by diktat and threat, things might have worked out differently. The point is not only the executive, but the legislative branches should have been part of the process.

This new initiative might be too late in the eyes of the chairman, and we understand his anger; but we see a wrong that must be righted, albeit late in the game. The City Council should be brought into future talks and negotiations with representatives chosen by the council. Beckham should be commended for his acknowledgment of that fact. Let us not let past slights continue this adversarial relationship.

The City Council as well as the third floor of City Hall should be involved in future MARB plans and decisions. That can only help the taxpayers of the city, and bring an understanding of those plans that, frankly, have been opaque at times. We urge the council to meet with the MARB, bury whatever difficulties and move toward a working relationship.



Biden preps Basement II

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist
Joe Biden is going to run for reelection.

One question this raises: How is anyone going to tell?

The basement presidency is about to embark on another basement campaign.

Biden's political genius turns out to be not provoking strong negative emotions because no one particularly thinks of him as being in charge or as having anything interesting to say.

President Biden and the people around him are, in effect, conducting a large-scale, ongoing political science experiment: Is it possible to run a left-wing government -- with tactics often frankly at odds with our constitutional system -- and avoid a massive backlash by having a president at the top who appears ineffectual and out of touch?

If Bernie Sanders, the ill-kempt, self-avowed socialist, or Elizabeth Warren, the off-putting, dyed-in-the-wool progressive former academic, presided over exactly the same administration with exactly the same policies, they'd have ignited a political firestorm by now.

The cry from the center-right and independents would be, "To the barricades!" The cry provoked by Joe Biden is more, "Meh."

By being around forever, Biden has achieved the status of a known quantity. His rhet-

oric is generally moderate-sounding, and he never says anything memorable. No matter how radical and lawless the acts of his administration, it's hard to associate those qualities with an elderly man who tells stories of his bygone cooperation with Republicans and often rambles to little effect.

People should be threatened by this administration, but -- with a few exceptions such as his visually apocalyptic "Dark Brandon" speech prior to the midterms -- they don't feel threatened by Biden himself. Or they fear his incompetence more than anything else.

Biden's age is an asset in taking the edge off his left-wing governance, yet the effects of it are obvious for everyone to see. At 80, he makes the elder statesmen of yore seem youthful by comparison. Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel at 70. Ronald Reagan was elected president at 69. The long-serving French legend Charles de Gaulle retired permanently at 79.

If the reaction to Joe Biden isn't a vociferous rejection, it is still an emphatic, "No, thanks." According to the new NBC News poll, more than half of Democrats and 70% Americans don't want him to run for reelection. His age, of course, is the leading reason; it doesn't take a gerontologist to realize that an 80-year-old man and the most demand-

ing job on the planet aren't a natural match.

The White House clearly understands this as well. President Biden is carefully stage managed, and sometimes awkwardly reminded of his cues by people with him at events. His interactions with the press are limited, and this isn't a media that is out to get him but is incredibly sympathetic and accommodating.

Biden broke with tradition by not holding a press conference while on his trip to Ireland. He's done 54 interviews so far in his first two years, according to The New York Times, the fewest since Ronald Reagan. He has averaged 10 news conferences a year, whereas Calvin Coolidge -- you know, "Silent Cal" -- did about 90 annually during his first two years in office.

The standard isn't very high, though, when you are a default candidate. That's how Biden won against Donald Trump in 2020; it's how he avoided a midterm drubbing in 2022; and it's how he hopes to win again against Trump, should he be the nominee, in 2024.

Biden has built on the old adage, "Never interfere with an enemy when he's destroying himself." His version is basically, "Never bother going out in public when your enemy is destroying himself."

The lesson of the last couple

See Lowry, page 7

Photo courtesy of WHCDC

Baylor visits tots

Meteorologist Ashley Baylor from WHTNH-Channel 8 News visited Kate Harrington's and Kerry Kennedy's preschool class at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. She read her book, *Storms and Snow Skis and Socks*, New England's Weather Truly Rocks to the class.



Letters, we get letters!

Apicella seeks at-large seat

I am Silvana Apicella, and I am formally announcing that I am seeking one of the At-Large City Council seats to be inaugurated on Dec. 3.

While I will be seeking the nomination at the Republicans' July convention, I will, in any process required, appear on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Having lived in West Haven my entire lifetime, buying a house, and raising my son, I have witnessed the decline, felt the sting of the ever-increasing taxes, the stagnation of economic development and the inaction of the present City Council.

We are enduring a diminishing quality of life due to the many years of one incompetent administration after another. This past year we heard the City Council pass a unanimous vote of no confidence, only to hear two members make contradictory statements within a week. We were exasperated that the City Council refused the residents' request for oversight and monthly reporting of the Covid funds, which could have prevented \$1.2 million from being stolen. We were shocked when the Council refused to act after two, I repeat, two audits revealed that Department Heads received tens of thousands of dollars of Covid Error in Felicia column

There was an error in the Dear Felicia feature in the April 20 2023 issue of the West Haven Voice. It stated that I am a candidate for the City Clerk position, which is incorrect. I am a candidate for Treasurer of West Haven, not City Clerk.

Patricia Bollettieri

Lowry: Biden announces

Continued from page 6

of years is that Biden doesn't have to be scintillating, impressive, or inspiring. Heck, he doesn't even have to be popular. He simply has to be there. To paraphrase Woody Allen, 90% of getting elected for Joe Biden is just showing up.

His campaign could be barely evident and still succeed.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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funds they were not entitled to receive.

We need a City Council comprised of individuals that understand the duties of being a Council member. To that end, I became fully aware of those while a member of the Charter Revision Commission in 2018. We need our Council to be accountable and represent their constituents, not their friends and bank accounts.

In the last five years, we have seen six Finance directors, two of which were dismissed in the middle of a budget cycle. We cannot trust the Mayor's judgement; therefore, I will be seeking an ordinance which will require the City Council's approval of any Department Head, based on qualifications and experience, not cronyism.

We realize that West Haven has endless potential, with our miles of beaches, underutilized waterfront property and lack of economic development. We are in severe need of a real vision, a renaissance, a change of the current mindset, change in how the city operates, change on the third floor, and change in the City Council.

With that endless potential, there are better days ahead for West Haven. I will work as diligently as I did on the Charter Revision Commission and as the creator of one of the finest community events in the city, Pizza Wars, that has raised

thousands of dollars for our youth and charity through the West Haven Italian American Civic Association's Women's Auxiliary.

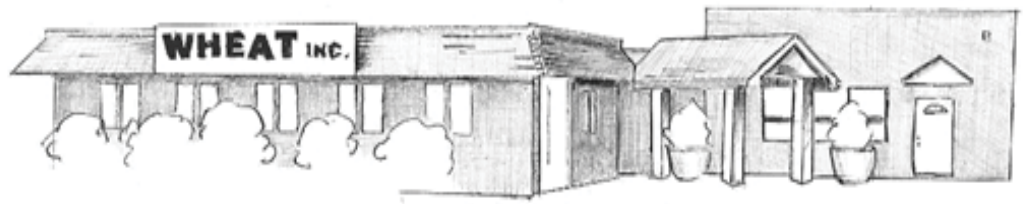
Those who know me understand that I WILL question that which needs to be questioned and fight for the resi-

dents; those that do not will learn very quickly. My recent appointment to the Board of Ethics, with the endorsement of members of both parties can attest to that. I have always been an advocate for the residents, and I will continue to fight for the changes neces-

sary to ensure the success of the City.

Again, I am Silvana Apicella, and I am seeking the support of all the residents, regardless of District or affiliation, to become an At-Large City Council member in the Nov 7, Election.

Silvana Apicella



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.

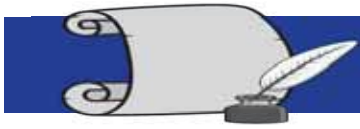
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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Savin Rock's Transition Part III

By 1967, most of the structures and attractions at Savin Rock had been removed, although The Boy remembers that some remained until 1969 or so: Peter Franke's, the Flying Horses, the Scooter Cars, and George Kelsey's old Bandstand, which would eventually collapse before it could be rehabilitated, a victim of age and the elements.

But without a doubt, the wheels of Progress were turning even before the demolition took place. In 1968, a redevelopment plan was approved.

The various sentiments of the period were summarized in the words of past West Haven Historian, the late Harriet C. North, as written in 1986: "However, a new era in history of Savin Rock and the

City was already well under way by 1973. The final demise of the Savin Rock amusement area in the late 50's and early 60's helped trigger a massive Redevelopment effort, and at one time plans for scores of apartments were proposed..."

The following is presented as submitted by Steve Hildrich from news clippings and his personal recollections:

Changes in public attitudes emerged. The initial plan was to retain four acres adjacent to the Rock as open space. In 1971, Bernie Kershner formed a concerned citizens group to save six acres instead. Others wanted more.

The dramatic shift took place in 1973 when Summersets' proposal for an 800-foot-long 12-story-high apartment on Parcel I, which was dubbed, "The Great Wall of China," set

off a massive petition drive by an organization called "Save Our Shore" (SOS), formed by people like Jean Kaas of the First Congregational Church. The SOS founders' names are immortalized on the stone plaque at the center of the beautiful "Grove Park," formally known as Parcel I.

SOS called for a 1973 referendum that put a stop for a time to the Great Wall. By late 1973 SOS evolved into IMPACT (both a civic group and a political party) which ran Ted Adams unsuccessfully for mayor.

IMPACT organized another petition for a 1974 referendum to stop all further development on the remaining 40 acres. Although they won the referendum about 6,400 to 4,900, the many "no" votes may have shown the public's awareness

that stopping all development might be a problem.

However, much of West Haven was stunned when the Connecticut Supreme Court on Jan.4, 1978, overturned the result of the 1974 referendum. The court stated, in essence, that for any significant change in a redevelopment plan, all the original developers, or their successors in interest, would have to agree to the change.

The court also held that a 40-acre park would be a "significant" change in the plan. The policy justification was that to get developers to commit their money to a redevelopment plan, they had the right to not have the rug pulled out from under their expectation of return on investment when they committed to the original plan.



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



Left -- The Skyblazer, which stood adjacent to Savin Avenue, was razed during the demolition of the amusement park in the late 1960s. The ride was a favorite of patrons, and was one of several "coaster" rides. Below- Beach Street was a busy thoroughfare leading into the park as shown in this 1953 photo. Rides and attractions lined the street with thousands in attendance every summer weekend.



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Bailey students have more room, cooler classes

By **Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta**
Voice Writer

Cafeteria seating at Bailey Middle School was a bit tight. Without much spacing, students were having lunch during five waves throughout the day to have comfortable seating, according to principal, Rob Bohan. And with the warmer weather finally here, there's an added benefit: air conditioning.

In addition to an undersized cafeteria, the school is not air-conditioned. During the warmer months, they'd open windows. The lack of air conditioning, the tight seating, and the early lunch waves were issues that needed to be addressed.

While there were officially no complaints, according to Bohan, who became an administrator in 2013 and principal in 2017, an improvement on the outdated cafeteria was welcome.

Ken Carney, the Building Committee chairman, was asked by the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro to add to the cafeteria using Emergency and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, part of the American Rescue Plan network of federal dollars.

The winning bidder was W.J. Mountford Company, who built the cafeteria using a design from KBA Architecture, an award-winning provider of professional design services. The project budget was budgeted at \$2 million. When all was completed, only 1.7 million was spent.

The project started at the end of the last school year and was completed in time for the incoming students to use the facility in September. The completed cafeteria is more spacious with more natural light, a new drop ceiling, and an additional food line for "grab and go" food.

"We've gone from five lunch waves to four waves," said Bohan. "We can get more kids comfortably seated. It increases our instructional time. More students are in the classroom. It's a big win for us."

Both students and teachers were very receptive to the cafeteria's enhancement, according to Bohan.

"It's always interesting when you do something new to try to keep everybody happy," he said. "We're a seventh and eighth grade only. Incoming seventh graders didn't know any better. But eighth graders were wide-eyed over the bigger space. They got a kick out of it. Everybody was excited, teachers, staff... We didn't get parents calling, but anybody that saw it was very positive. At the Board of Ed meeting, early on in the school year, we talked about the spacing with positive feedback."

Carney called the transformation, "Amazing."

The design got high marks.

"KBA Architecture was outstanding to work with. They did a fantastic job," he said.

Carney further explained that they bumped the front of the school out and got 2500 square feet of additional cafeteria space with a metal pitched roof.

Carney also shared that compliments were received regarding the gorgeous new gray brick and added that the building department, The BOE facilities department, the West Shore Fire Department, and city officials worked tirelessly and made it all happen quickly.

As for the air conditioning, it is now a reality.

"We're going to need it in May and June. It's up and ready to roll," Bohan said.



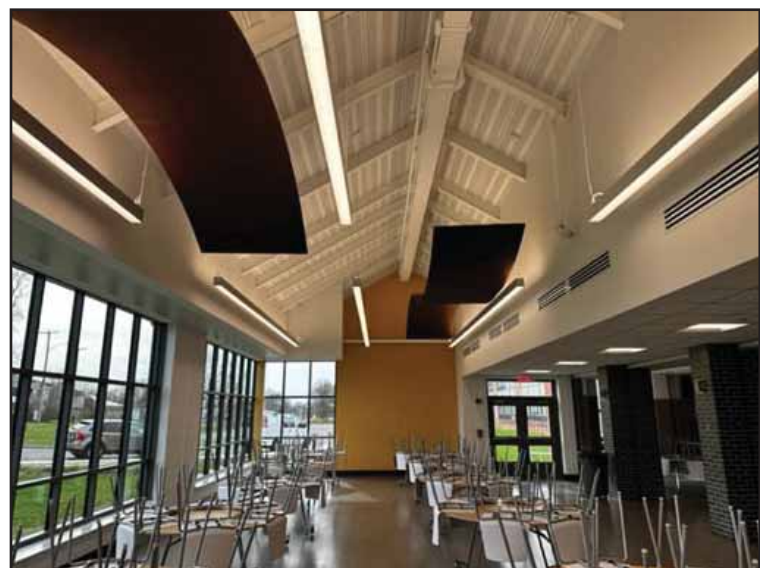
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Staff Photo

The new Bailey cafeteria gives students more room at lunch.

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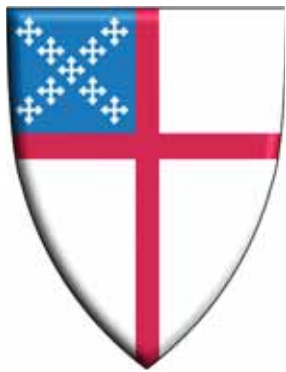
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Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien



Valedictorian, Salutatorian announced

West Haven High School announced its Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the WHHS Class of 2023. Valedictorian, Vittoria Favia, and the WHHS Class of 2023 Salutatorian, Yaju Pradhan. Favia plans to attend Rutgers University following graduation, while Pradhan is between Wesleyan University or Villanova University. Shown are: Olivia Quagliani (School Counselor), Vittoria Favia, Dana Paredes (WHHS Principal), Yaju Pradhan, Norma Merced (School Counselor).



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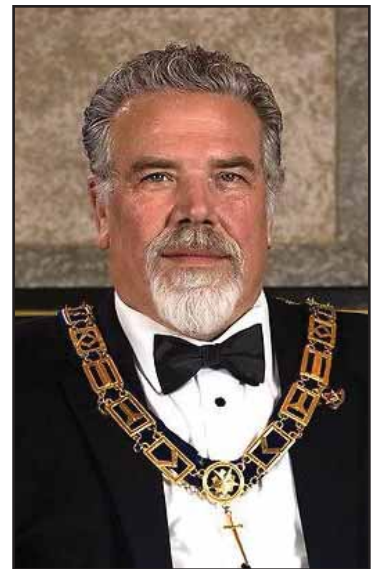
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JERRY NERO

Nero chosen Mason of Year

Annawon Lodge 115, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven have chosen Brother Jerry Nero as 2023 Mason of the Year.

Nero, 57, is a native of Caserta Province, Italy and migrated to the United States at the age of 3. He credits his parents for bringing him and his two siblings to the US for a "better life."

He joined Annawon Lodge in 2020. During that time, he has served as tiler and currently sits at senior deacon. He is also a member of the Knights Templar, Royal Arch Masonry, Scottish Rite Masonry, among other Masonic related associations.

With his brothers, Nero founded Nero Air Conditioning and Heating, where he is the service manager. He is engaged to Leigh Cassidy. He also has a son and daughter.

A dinner and program will be held for Brother Nero on Saturday, May 27, at the Lodge, 263 Center St. The dinner will begin at 5:30 and the program will begin at 7.

Dinner tickets are \$35 per person and \$65.00 per couple. For ticket purchases or additional information, call Past Master Steven R. Mullins at (203) 824-4262.



Photos courtesy of Michael O'Brien

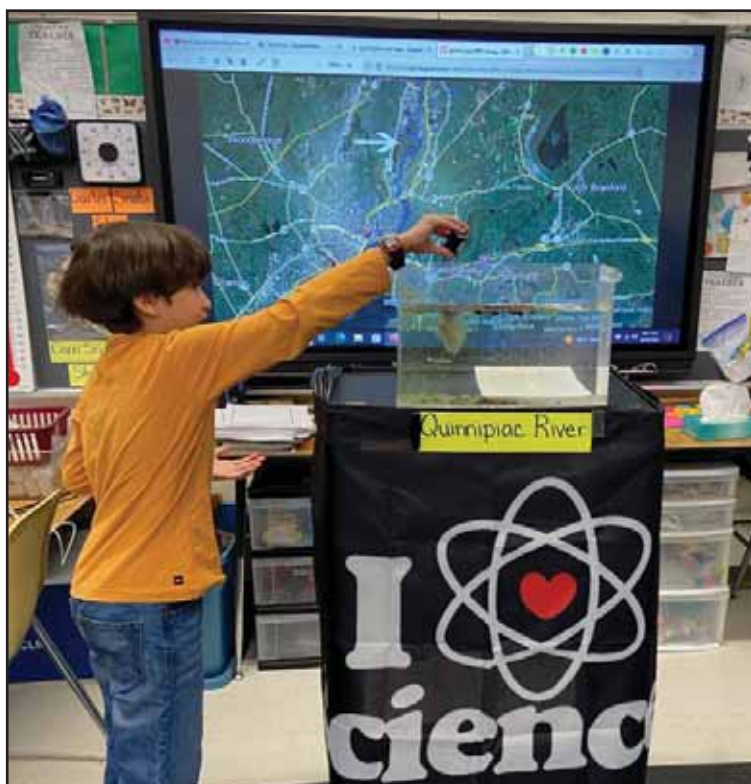
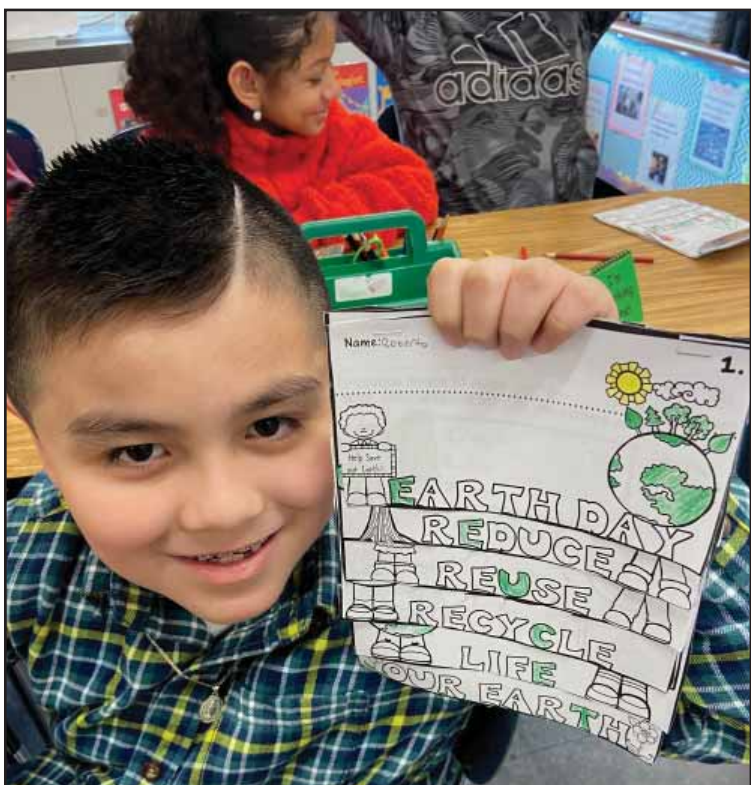
Artist visits Forest School

On Friday, students and staff at Forest Elementary School were treated to a special performance by speed-artist Rob Surette. Surette's incredible performance featured theatrical lights accompanied by a large video screen with amplified music, while he used body-encompassing, paint-splattering painting techniques to create 6-foot portraits of Abraham Lincoln, Mother Teresa, Albert Einstein, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien

'Reading Buddies'

The "Reading Buddies" groups are back in action at Forest School. Pictured here is Jackie Withington's 4th-grade class with Tricia Carey's kindergarten class. The older and younger classes are paired up to have the "buddies" take turns reading, which gives the older students a chance to practice their fluency skills as they support the early readers with decoding and comprehension.



Photos by Michael O'Brien

Earth Day celebrations

During the past two weeks, elementary school students participated in activities to celebrate Earth Day. Those activities included participation in an interactive story, creating Earth Day flip books, and creating Earth Day headbands.



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Playscapes ready for spring use at three city venues

Three new playscapes, secured by a state grant, have been completed and are now in use at the respective sites.

State Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-115) secured a \$450,000 state grant to fund the construction of three new playscapes during the last session of the General Assembly. Building Committee Chairman Ken Carney oversaw the project with support from Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro.

Playground equipment supplier Childscapes installed the safe and state-of-the-art playscapes at the following locations:

Edith Mackrille School -- This spacious and colorful playscape features 1,540 square feet of rubber safety surfacing, three benches, and several recreational structures.

Glade Street Park -- The largest of the three, this has about 1610 square feet of Rubber Safety Surfacing, a bench, and features a swing set.

Seth G. Haley Elementary -- The Rubber Safety Surfacing covers about 1540 square feet. There is a bench and a bright yellow slide.

The old playgrounds could not accommodate the number of students at the two schools, and Glade Street Park is a West Haven Housing Authority Complex without a playpark.

Borer said she believes playing is a component of children's happiness, health, and growth.

According to Mackrille Principal Taryn Driend, the new playscape's rubberized matting is soft as a cushion, making it a safe space for playing. She also said the kids love the musical features (instruments), the market, and other fun equipment.

There is a bench named after late crossing guard Deb Hutchinson, installed in 2012, and two new benches. Families enjoy congregating at the playscape at Mackrille after school, so it has brought the community together, school officials say.

Submitted photos

Three city playgrounds were the sites of new playscapes, using state grants, secured by Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-1150). The locations are Edity Macrille and Seth G. Haley Schools, as well as Glade Street Park. The Haley site is accentuated by a memorial bench, dedicated to the late Deb Hutchinson, a crossing guard at the school.





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Budget: Council gives OK to slight decrease

Continued from page 1

questions by the Voice to answer our request for comment, said these benefits and insurance line-items were concerns of MARB, and had to be addressed.

"The Council put a great deal of time and effort to ensure that necessary services were funded while being very mindful of our residents tax burden. The Council also took the MARB's guidance very seriously and funded items that have been short-funded for decades," he said.

The mayoral salary hike, al-

ways a hot button issue when attempted, was addressed by the former council chairman.

"The mayor's salary was adjusted effective Dec. 3, 2023 (the date the new term is inaugurated) to address the disparity between the West Haven mayor's salary and our peer communities," he said.

So far several candidates have filed papers to run for mayor in November from both parties.

On the Democratic side, former Mayor Edward M. O'Brien and Eighth District Councilman Victor M. Borras

have announced. Mayor Rossi has not yet announced her plans for the fall election.

On the Republican side, Paige Weinstein, a newcomer to the city politics, and longtime city official and Republican Town Committee member Stephenn R. Mullins announced early. Barry Cohen, last election's candidate, announced last week that he will seek his party's nod.

If given the go-ahead by MARB, city taxpayers will see their taxes go from \$34 per \$1,000 of assessed value, to \$34.81 per \$1,000. The hike is

estimated to add \$6-\$19 per month to the average household.

Quagliani said the council would have liked to do more in cuts, but the real numbers hampered the effort.

"Since one mill equals \$3.1 million, it is extremely difficult to make substantive reductions without impacting services, but the end result was a lower mill rate (34.81) from the Mayor's Recommended Budget (34.97)," he said finally.

MARB is expected to take up the city budget ordinance at its next meeting.

ArtsWest donates; plans 'Make Music Day'

Board members from ArtsWestCT delivered two steel pan sets to the West Haven Child Development Center, located at 201 Noble St. Children immediately got busy playing them, continuing their musical education as plans get underway for Make Music Day 2023.

The second annual event takes place June 21, at Old Grove Park from 5-8:30 p.m., and is open to the public.

The national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, steel pan has become a popular part of percussion groups across the Caribbean, especially at Carnival time.

The player strikes different areas of the pan with short wooden mallets that have rubber tips on both ends to make different notes. Fashioned out of industrial steel drums and other repurposed metal objects since the 1930's, the instrument has cultural and historical roots going back

much further, to the talking drums of many West African cultures.

These steel pans are made by a company called Jumble-Jam. The table-top setup is easy to play for all ages.

The donation was arranged by ArtsWestCT's treasurer Zohra Rawling, a local musician and voice instructor, who leads the ensemble Madame Thalia. She purchased them through Make Music International.

"Providing these instruments to the Center as an educational resource is a great example of our mission, to center creative expression and performance by and for the West Haven community," said group President Elinor Slomba. "Last year we hired a percussionist to spend several days in-residence with the children, and hope to do something similar this year. Meanwhile, members of the broader community will have

a chance to see, play, and learn about the steel pans and other instruments when we celebrate Make Music Day."

Make Music Day, started in West Haven by ArtsWestCT and the West Haven Early Childhood Council in 2022, returns as a celebration of the first day of summer with live music at the beach.

This year, the family-friendly event, which falls on a Wednesday this year, is being held in conjunction with the City of West Haven. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Food trucks will be on site. Community groups will have tables where educational information and community resources will be distributed. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own musical instruments or use one of a limited number to be made on-site. Sign up for the ArtsWestCT newsletterlow @westhavenarts on Facebook.



Photos by Tammy Theis-Satterlee

Children at the West Haven Child Development Center enjoy playing steel pan instruments set up on tables in their outdoor play area.

Cohen enters race for mayor; 3rd to seek GOP nod

Seeing the opportunity to win a position he lost by a handful of votes, former Tenth District Councilman Barry Lee Cohen announced his intention to run for the mayoral nomination on the Republican ticket in November. Cohen, the GOP standard-bearer in 2021 lost by 32 votes to incumbent Democrat Nancy N. Rossi.

The Republican took out papers for his candidacy last week, ending weeks of speculation, and setting up a three-way race for the nomination in the Republican Party. Paige Weinstein, a newcomer to city politics, and longtime Town Committee Member Stephen R. Mullins have already announced their candidacy.

Cohen's announcement picked up right where it left off in the 2021 campaign, calling for a change in leadership from a city that hasn't seen a Republican mayor elected since Clemente Evangeliste beat Azelio Guerra in 1989. Cohen assailed the one-party rule and what he sees as

"If there is anything that the last five years have demonstrated, we need A NEW West Haven. And should I be blessed with earning your vote and trust, I will be prepared to lead on Day One and offer 'leadership without excuses.' I will be accessible, forthright, and accountable," he said. "The days of finger-pointing will stop. Residents are tired of the same song, first, second and third verses. Transparency will be practiced, not preached."

Rossi's last two years have been anything but calm. Since finding that city officials set up a dummy corporation to embezzle federal Covid funds, the mayor has come under attack for what some see as her lack of hands-on leadership. That case is still wending its way through the legal system with some of the principals convicted and sentenced.

But Rossi has come under criticism from the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) for failing to implement changes in the way the

city does business. Her administration has seen a mass exodus of top-echelon officials with the most recent being the loss of Scott Jackson as Finance Director (the third in her administration) and resignation of Doug Colter, who was the city's Grants coordinator.

Staying with his "new West Haven" theme, Cohen said the next leader needs to face old challenges and newer ones.

"A New West Haven also requires a new leader but with the *right* experience, willingness, and in-depth knowledge of West Haven's challenges and limitless potential to address the significant fiscal constraints, change the culture of City Hall, and rebuild a shattered public trust. A leader with a proven record of unquestionable community service, local engagement, and business success is required. I am that leader," he said.

Accelerating economic development is a top priority he stated in his accompanying press release. He will focus on

the following initiatives, all of which are detailed in his platform to be published on barry4westhaven.com later this month:

~ Revitalizing the Boston Post Road

~ A technology corridor that will extend from Frontage Road to the Railroad station.

~ Transforming downtown.

~ Strategic planning and marketing of our the shore-front.

~ Putting an end to rampant blight, where some areas which have become common dumping grounds

"Although West Haven is a community of immense riches, for over a generation we've been recognized as the city of missed opportunities. Blaming the city's economic neglect on our financial condition, while the MARB balanced our budget books by pouring millions of dollars into the city's coffers, is not acceptable or sustainable," he stated.

He applauded the use of federal American Rescue Plan

Act (ARPA) for needed infrastructure improvements, he said the city has to plan for when that funding dries up.

"These initiatives will be temporary if we do not have a plan in place to maintain what are intended to be transformational in helping us rise above our fiscal crisis, and improve our quality of life," he stated.

He said to transform the city, voters have to get beyond party affiliations.

"Now more than ever, it's time to put party labels aside. Serving the public should never be about R, D, I, U---because it's about us," he stated.

Cohen came close to upending the party labels the last time in an election marred by charges of irregularities particularly with absentee ballots.

His case went to court and found its way the State Supreme Court, which sustained a lower court ruling the errors involved were not enough to overturn the result.

Meanwhile, GOP opponent Mullins said tersely, "I welcome the competition."



Submitted Photo

Sandy Point Association volunteers, along with a contingent from the United Illuminating Co., worked to clean up Sandy Point on April 22.

Sandy Point gets a spruce-up

On April 22, members of the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association were joining the Stewards of the Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary and volunteers from United Illuminating for the Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary Beach and Marsh Earth Day Cleanup. The event corresponded with Earth Day.

"As we celebrate Earth Day in Connecticut, we're proud to partner with the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association to give back and make sure we're caring for the unique natural resources and habitats in communities like West Haven," said United Illuminating President and CEO Frank Reynolds. "More than 15 UI employees are taking part in this terrific opportunity to volunteer, leveraging an additional financial donation from the Avangrid Foundation."

Second District Councilman Meli Garthwait, a Steward of the Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary, was instrumental in bringing UI's employee volunteers to the event.

"I am so grateful to United Illuminating for partnering with us to help clean up our shoreline and marshes in celebration of Earth Day. Every year since I have moved here, Sandy Point has attracted more attention from residents around the state and beyond for its natural beauty in an urban setting. I am honored to be one its stewards as we continue to work

with the community to maintain and enhance Sandy Point and the rest of our shoreline as well. See you Saturday!"

The cleanup concentrated on sections of the beach and waterfront areas clearing trash, plastic bottles and other items that wash up from New Haven Harbor and Long Island Sound.

Meanwhile, The SPNA participated in The Great Give, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, from April 28 to May 4. Since The Great Give began in 2010, more than \$20 million has been raised for hundreds of nonprofits.

Moving forward as a nonprofit organization, the SPNA will support activities primarily with charitable contributions. Membership fees will no longer fund programs.

Since 2021, SPNA has promoted the Sandy Point neighborhood and has helped to build a sense of community. Association programs include frequent cleanups in visible areas, providing constructive input on City projects, advocating for neighborhood improvement projects, holding social gatherings, and promoting pedestrian safety on public streets. Further information is available at www.sandypointneighbors.org.

For more information about the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association, please visit the website at www.sandypointneighbors.org.

At a Glance

Historians looking for airport info

The West Haven Historical Society is seeking historical artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia on the West Haven Airport. Those objects will be featured in an exhibit which will be held at the Poli House June 10-11.

Anyone who may have such material is asked to contact Jon at (203) 933-0081 or they may drop off the items on any Thursday between 9:30-noon at the Historical Society 686 Savin Ave., across from the Green. Loaned items will be returned after the exhibit closes on June 11.

The local airport business was a fascinating and interesting part of West Haven history that has largely been forgotten. Located on South Street, it was originally farm land which eventually became the site of Seth Haley School and the surrounding neighborhood. The exhibit will be part of the Open House Day of Museums and Historical Societies throughout Connecticut.

Mullins hosting two town halls

Republican Mayoral Candidate Steven R. Mullins is announcing the next round of neighborhood town hall community forums.

A forum will be held at the Ora Mason Library, 260 Bentham Hill Road on Monday, May 15, from 6-7 p.m. Another forum will be held at House of Jacob Church, 142 Canton Street on Thursday, May 18, from 6-7 p.m..

Neighborhood town hall community forums are open to all registered voters, regardless of political party affiliation. For more information, call Mullins at (203) 824-4262.

Summer youth work applications ready

Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program are available through May 26 in the athletic director's office at West Haven High School and the main office at Bailey Middle School.

Applications are also available on the city website at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/51110/Summer-Youth-Employment-Program-Application-2023-PDF>.

The six-week summer program, which begins July 10, is aimed at funding positions for low-income city residents ages 14-21.

Students must return applications with all required documents to West Haven High from 7-9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and to Bailey from 8-10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

No applications will be accepted after May 26.

Students must also include copies of information, such as a birth certificate and Social Security card, as well as documentation of household income.

Family income is based on the number of people per household and is required to be within 185% of state poverty income levels.

In addition, some work sites will require a COVID-19 vaccination. Students must indicate their vaccination status on the application. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Applicants will be notified by mail or phone if more information is needed.

Mattress collection has new rules

Mattress drop-off at the city garage on Collis Street has been discontinued because of public safety concerns, Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy announced.

To dispose of mattresses moving forward, McCarthy said West Haven residents must buy mattress bags from the Department of Public Works and put them out for pickup on their weekly curbside collection day. The bags cost \$10 each, payable by cash or check, and are available in the public works office on the third floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

"As a courtesy to our residents, we have reduced the cost of the bags from \$25 to \$10," McCarthy said. "We look forward to continuing our mattress collection service using the much-safer mattress bags."

~~ Michael P. Walsh

Vendors sought for Farmers Market

The city is seeking craft, farm and food truck vendors to participate in the Tony Inzero Farmers Market, which will open its 2023 season July 6 in the Oak Street Beach parking lot off Captain Thomas Boulevard. The market, nestled on the right side of the Oak Street municipal lot, will include state farmers selling homegrown fruits and vegetables and crafters selling wares from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays through Oct. 14. It will also include food trucks.

To participate in the semiweekly market, download an application at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/5128/Farmers-Market-Application-2023-PDF>. Applications are also available for pickup in the mayor's office at City Hall, 355 Main St., where they are due June 16. Completed applications must be emailed to Killian Gruber, the market's manager, at kgruber@westhaven-ct.gov or faxed to (203) 937-3705.

For more information, call Gruber at (203) 937-3510.



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Photos by Todd Dandelske



Great plays!

Far Left -- Melanie Jimenez makes a diving catch in center in the Westies' 14-2 victory over Mercy. Left -- Zach Forbes fires the ball past the Branford goalie for the Blue Devils. The Hornets topped the Blue Devils, 13-9, and were looking for their first victory of the season.

U12 girls split pair, U10 boys top Madison

The Cappetta's Italian Imports West Haven U12 girls travel team were on the road on Saturday where they played a tough game against Guilford. Kiva Inahuazo and Celeste DiNallo were aggressive in defense, but West Haven fell short, 2-0. On Sunday, the girls hosted Wallingford, coming out on top, 2-0, with goals by Stella Porto and Francesca DeMartino. Josylyn Davila and Annabelle Fiorillo's dominated in defense.

The Elite Soccer Camps West Haven U10 boys travel team played in Madison Saturday afternoon, winning, 3-0. Jaxon Cruz was once again stellar in net, keeping the shut-out and making several big stops to lead his team to the league win. Ryan Abekah, Luca DeCresenzo, and Adam Lamkhanantar all scored. Jacob Rader, Seth Empric, and Joey Ruiz all made key defensive plays, and Roland Green and Mason DaSilva were solid in midfield in the win for the Westies.

The RQ Professional Accounting and Tax Services Grey Cheetah took on Nick's Luncheonette. Olivia Gomez scored two goals and Chloe-Marie Landell picked up the hat trick. Sharon Oke-dina scored and showed some fancy footwork, while Savannah Gilchrist, Maliah Damiani, Mia Armenta and Aaliyah Castillo made up a fierce defensive unit. Vio's Sports Plus and the Gunning Law Firm battled early Saturday. Camden Powers came out aggressive and confident, scoring two of Vio's Sports Plus's goals. Jalen Hoskie showed true grit and determination on defense, contributing to multiple big stops. Ashton Chaparro and Irshad Mandozai played great on both sides of the ball, demonstrating great hustle and teamwork throughout the game. Stars Ice Cream and Taco Town played to a 2-2 draw, while the University

of New Haven Blue Stallions came out on top over the West Shore Family Dental Fightin' Molars, 4-3.

The Porto Funeral Home Blue Devils battled with Thorough Restoration Saturday to pull out the victory. Blake Bova, Dean Azano and Will Marmelstein all found the back of the net in the win. The team had some great heads up plays and stepped up on defense when it counted. The West Haven Professional Fire Fighters pulled away late against a very competitive West Haven Italian American Civic Association, ultimately winning, 7-3. Both teams played extremely well. The Fire Fighters were led offensively by Doniel Agustin and Joey Sperry, Jr. Farid Saibou and Mohamed Nasr centered the attacking midfield. Anchoring the defense was Abraham Morales-Linares, Yair Negron and Adrian Vega. Baybrook Remodelers and Elsie Encarnacion State Fram Insurance battled in a 4-4 game, and Eli's Orange and Frankie's of West Haven played to the same score.

The West Haven Federation of Teachers didn't come

away with a win against West Haven Police Local #895, but they started to have some synergy and are learning positions. Esteban Chavez and Ayman Elaziz shared time in goal facing some tough shots. Dylan Soc netted one goal while assisting teammate Mirwais Ibtikar on three goals. Adrian Lopez Perez played very strong in the back allowing his teammate Robbie Percopo to try a new position on Midfield. The Meledes Construction LLC played against Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center in an exciting match. Nadia Lymons netted a couple goals with her unstoppable energy. Annabella Provo played strong defense and worked hard to carry the ball up the field and help her team. Gabriella Gomez showed great effort chasing down the ball and getting it up the field. Mackenzie Vargas jumped in this weekend and worked to attack and defend.

Dillman and Dillman, LLC, won a thrilling match against Milano & Wanat, 5-0. Seth Empric and Collin Gibbons dominated defensively. Jaxon Cruz kept the shut-out in goal and added a goal of his own,

and Jacob Rader showed great play all around. The Elite Soccer Camps Greyhounds defeated Wizard Painting 6-0. Roland Green started the scoring for the Greyhounds after he won the ball in midfield and dribbled the length to score. Jax Guarino scored and had two assists, the first early in the game to Emmett Hemming. Guarino's second assist set up Ben Trenchard for a goal, as he hit a first-time volley into the side netting late in

the game. Abigail Hemming added a goal, and Liam Lima and Ryan Abekah combined for the shut-out in goal. Angelo Mendieta and Ali Alhaddad both played well for the Greyhounds in the win. Rounding out the weekend were two thrilling matches. Keenan Funeral Home defeated Lorenzo's Ristorante Italiano, 3-1, and Mad Mike's Cheesesteak came from behind twice before they went ahead in a 4-3 win over the Golden Stingers.

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Westies: *Netters win tough Shelton match*

Continued from page 20

Harp added a hit, drove in two runs, and scored once.

Looking to build some momentum after a victory over Wilbur Cross, West Haven knew it was in for a tough contest against Hamden.

Hamden pitcher Aiden Jovia proved to be tough, allowing just three hits, while walking two and striking out eight in a 9-0 Hamden victory at Piurek Field in West Haven Friday evening.

Three Green Dragons scored four times in the second and added another in the fifth, before putting the game away with three runs in the fifth.

Hume started for the Westies, allowing seven runs, three earned, on six hits, while walking two in 4 1/3 innings of work.

Gilbert led the West Haven offense with two hits, while Jones added a double. West Haven also walked four times, but the Westies could not generate any offense.

West Haven baseball team dropped its third straight contest and fell to 3-8 with a 4-0 loss against Amity Amity's Brock Goodwin was the story of the game as the Amity pitcher tossed a no-hitter, allowing just three baserunners. Goodwin retired the last 16 batters in a row to close the gem.

West Haven did not mount much offense in the contest with Gilbert reaching on an error in the first, but he was left stranded.

The West Haven softball won 15-0 five-inning victory over Wilbur Cross. Despite managing just four hits, the Westies took advantage of 19 walks to pick up the victory.

Mia Rubirosa was the winning pitcher, allowing just one hit in four innings of work, while walking three and striking out nine. Taylor Alfano pitched the fifth, allowing one hit and striking out two.

Hannah Burrows led the Westies with three runs batted in and three runs scored, while Alfano scored three times, and Juliana Petruzzello and Shyanne Raccio each scored twice. Olivia McDonnell also drove in three runs for West Haven.

Just one game after putting up 15 runs, the West Haven softball team did even better. Pounding 20 hits and taking advantage of six Sacred Heart Academy errors, West Haven rolled to a 20-10 victory over the Sharks.

Every player in the starting lineup for West Haven had at least one hit, with Miller leading the way with four hits, five runs batted in, and two runs scored.

Rubirosa added three hits, drove in three runs, and scored four times, Melanie Jimenez

had three hits, two runs batted in, and two runs scored, while Raccio, Burrows, Carrano, and Natalie Gallo each had two hits.

Gallo scored four times and drove in two runs, Carrano scored three times and drove in a run, Raccio scored twice and drove in a run, and Burrows scored twice.

After scoring 35 runs in the last two games, the bats went silent for the West Haven softball team. Held to just four hits, West Haven fell to Cheshire, 7-0, in a road contest.

Not only were the West Haven bats silent, but four errors on the defensive side led to five unearned runs.

Jimenez led West Haven with two hits, while Rubirosa and Burrows added one hit apiece.

West Haven made the most of its opportunities. Despite having just six hits, West Haven took advantage of nine walks and defeated Mercy-Middletown, 14-2, in a mercy rule contest after six innings at Biondi Field.

Raccio and Alfano led the Westies with two hits apiece, while Carrano and Rubirosa each scored three times. Alfano and Gallo each scored twice in the win.

Rubirosa picked up the victory in the pitching circle, allowing six hits and two runs, one earned, while walking three and striking out four.

West Haven improved to 6-4 with a 5-2 victory over Amity at Biondi Field.

Raccio was stellar in the pitching circle, allowing two earned runs on seven hits, while walking two and striking out two.

Offensively, Rubirosa led the way with three hits, two runs scored, and a run batted in. Raccio also drove in a pair.

West Haven took a 1-0 lead in the second, added two more in the third, and matched Amity's single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

Alfano got West Haven going in the second when she led off with a single, moved to second on a sacrifice by Burrows, third on a passed ball, and scored on a ground out by Carrano.

The lead increased to 3-0 in the third as Rubirosa singled, and later scored on an error, before Raccio's double scored Jimenez.

Raccio's grounder to second scored Rubirosa, who had singled in the fifth, before Rubirosa singled to score Burrows, who had singled, in the sixth.

The West Haven boys lacrosse team fell to 0-5 with a 20-7 loss to Hamden.

Hamden outshot the Westies 48-25 with West Haven goalies T.J. Levenduski making 13 saves and Ameir Durham making 15 saves.

Marcus Burrows recorded his first career hat trick, Nick Conlan scored twice, Zach Forbes recorded his first career goal, and Connor Hummel also scored in the loss.

West Haven scored three times in the opening quarter, with Burrows scoring at the 9:31 and 5:50 marks. Hummel scored off an assist from Conlan at the 2:40 mark of the opening quarter.

The Westies added three more goals in the second quarter as Forbes scored unassisted at 8:04, Burrows scored his third of the game off an assist from Khai Outhavong with 1:39 left and Conlan tallied 39 seconds later.

Conlan scored West Haven's final goal with 9:24 remaining in the fourth.

West Haven team fell to 0-6 with a 15-2 loss against North Haven.

Conlan and Aedan Coe each scored for the Westies, while Levenduski made 12 saves. Victor Smith also played well defensively for the Westies.

North Haven outshot West Haven 35-16 in the contest, with both of West Haven's goals coming in the fourth quarter. Coe scored with 3:30 remaining and Conlan added the final tally with 18.2 seconds to go.

West Haven is getting closer to that first win. Battling for three quarters, the Westies could not prevail in a 15-6 loss to Lyman Hall.

Conlan led the offense with three goals, Burrows added two goals and an assist, and Coe also scored.

Conlan opened West Haven's scoring with 10:06 left in the opening quarter and Burrows followed suit with 4:53 remaining in the first quarter.

The Westies scored three times in the final 2:56 of the opening half on goals by Burrows with 2:56 remaining, Coe 1:05 later, and Conlan off an assist from Burrows with 53.3 seconds left in the half.

Conlan scored the final West Haven goal in the fourth quarter.

West Haven was outshot 35-18 in the contest. Levenduski made 10 saves and Durham finished with four saves for the Westies. Myles Cortes was solid on crease defense for West Haven.

West Haven battled, but the team could not prevail in a 13-9 loss at Branford.

Six different players scored for the Westies and eight players were in the scoring column. Conlan led the way with two goals and two assists, Connor Hummel and Outhavong each scored twice, while Zach Forbes, Coe and Burrows also scored.

In an offensive contest, Branford held a 39-22 shot advan-

tage. Levenduski made 10 saves and Durham made six in the loss for the Westies.

The West Haven girls lacrosse team fell to 1-4 with a 15-14 loss at Mercy. Six different players were in the scoring column in defeat for the Westies.

Julia Tsakonas led the way for West Haven with six goals and one assist, Delaney Johnston scored five times, and Brooke Moscato added two goals and an assist. Melissa Tsakonas added one goal and an assist, while Chloe Whelan and Heather Fonda each added two assists.

West Haven improved to 2-5 with a thrilling 11-10 victory over Lyman Hall. Trailing 5-0, West Haven rallied for the victory as Whelan scored with 5:27 remaining.

Amber Militrano finished with seven saves, including several in the second half to help preserve the comeback victory.

Johnston scored six goals, Julia Tsakonas added three, and Moscato also scored for West Haven. Nada El Mouki and Melissa Tsakonas each had two assists in the win.

West Haven could not continue its winning ways, falling to Foran 14-7 in Milford Monday evening. With the loss, the Westies fell to 2-6 on the year.

Melissa Tsakonas and Johnston led the way with three goals apiece, while Julia Tsakonas also scored once. Johnston added two assists, while Whelan and Moscato added one assist apiece.

Militrano made 16 saves in the loss for West Haven.

The West Haven boys tennis team swept doubles play in a 5-2 victory over Foran at West Haven. With the victory, the Westies improved to 5-2 on the year.

In singles play, West Haven's top-seed of Miguel Torres defeated Ryan Purviance. 6-4, 6-2, and second-seeded Brandon Sihaphong topped Arush Puri 6-3, 6-2.

Foran won the next two singles matches as third-seeded Tristan Adorno defeated West Haven's Eshwar Balakumar, 6-0, 6-0, and fourth-seeded Oscar Lin topped West Haven's Johnny Chen 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

In doubles play, West Haven's top-seed of David Guadarrama and Javon Huang defeated Keith Pokornowski and Johann Chen, 7-6, 6-4, and second-seeded Valentin Diaz and Caden Mateo topped John Brown and Karth Lakoji, 6-3, 6-1. Third-seeded Ali Hamza and Yousaf Khan defeated Noah Held and Lennie Prue, 6-3, 6-3.

After suffering its first defeat of the year against Wilbur Cross earlier in the season, the West Haven boys tennis team

had a second chance against the Governors Thursday afternoon. Unfortunately for the Westies, the Governors came out on top once again in New Haven.

With the loss, West Haven fell to 5-3 on the season, while Cross improved to 7-1.

West Haven picked up one of its victories in singles play as top-seeded Torres defeated JJ O'Garro, 6-3, 6-4. West Haven's only other victory came in doubles action as second-seeded Diaz and Mateo defeated Krish Patel and Aki Hussian, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

In doubles play, top-seeded Mario Berrios and Cassius Morgan Co of Cross defeated, Guadarrama and Huang 6-1, 6-3, while third-seeded Vikram Dalal and Julian Theodore of Cross topped Hamza and Muhammad Tahir, 6-4, 6-3.

West Haven rebounded from a loss against Cross to defeat Career, 6-1, and improve to 6-3..

In singles action, Career's top seed Marcus Duff defeated West Haven's Torres, 6-4, 6-1. West Haven won the rest of the matches as second-seeded Sihaphong topped Terry Giles, 6-1, 6-2, third-seeded Balakumar defeated Ravi Dana, 6-0, 6-0, and fourth-seeded Chen also won.

In doubles play, top-seeded Guadarrama and Huang topped Chris Santiago and Jaylen Lopes, 6-0, 6-0, while second-seeded Diaz and Mateo, and third-seeded Hamza and Khan were also victorious.

West Haven knew it was in for a tough battle visiting undefeated Shelton. Behind a team effort, the Westies prevailed, defeating Shelton, 4-3, on the road.

In singles play, top-seeded Torres defeated Chase Graber, 6-3, 7-6, while second-seeded Sihaphong topped Ben Rhodes, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1. Shelton's third seed Adam Klein topped West Haven's Balakumar 6-0, 6-0, while West Haven's fourth seeded Chen defeated Anthony Rivera, 6-2, 6-1.

In doubles play, Shelton's top seed of Jack Mackniak and Jack Parkes defeated West Haven's Guadarrama and Huang, 6-0, 6-2.

West Haven's second seed of Diaz and Mateo topped Ryan Ouloul and J. P. Kocotn 6-2, 6-1, while Shelton's third seed of Dominik Gulevowski and Shoham Agrawal defeated West Haven's Hamza and Khan, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

~~~

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





Photos by Todd Dandelske

### Win some...

Above -- Brooke Moscato scoops the ball for the Westies in a recent loss the to Shelton Left -- Gaels. Jose Padilla fires on to first for the out against Amity. The Westies were defeated, 4-0, in this one as Amity pitcher Brock Goodwin tossed a no-hitter, his second of the season.

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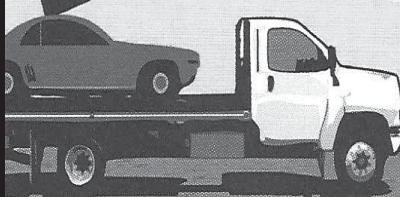
It will take place in the Harriet North Room, 2nd Floor West Haven City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT.

The Proposed Text Amendment to Table 39.2.N (TOD Uses) Reads:

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Detail of Antonio Frasconi's woodcut  
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Source: southernlivingplants.com - Brenda Weaver

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29 Rock's Brian  
30 Berth places  
31 Quick swim  
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35 Always  
36 Gourmand  
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band  
46 Privy to  
47 Robust  
48 Mine yield  
49 Honey  
bunch?  
50 Historic Scott  
51 Evergreen  
type

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16 Feet, slangily  
19 Cushions  
20 Schreiber  
21 Sicilian volca-  
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22 Transparent  
23 Seabird  
25 Scrabble  
piece  
26 Schiller poem  
used by  
27 Ceremony  
28 Mast  
30 Macadamize  
33 Marsh birds  
34 Flunk  
36 Goofed  
37 First bed  
38 Sharpen  
39 Slender  
woodwind  
40 Hay bundle  
42 Third degree?  
43 Corn serving  
44 Exist  
45 Kitten's cry

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VYTASWEIVSCRPN

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all  
directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: **Comfortable and Snug Feeling**

A-frame Fishing Pine needles Stream  
Campfire Forest Retreat Views  
Chalet Lodge Skiing Wildlife  
Fireplace Log cabin Snow

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way  
that each row across, each column down and  
each small 9-box square contains all of the  
numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**  
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**Answers to this week's puzzles**

**King Crossword**  
Answers  
Solution time: 26 mins.

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answers

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

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which animated movie includes the line, "Fish are friends, not food?"  
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the "Sesame Street" Muppet who lives in a trashcan?  
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country geographically in Africa?  
4. ANATOMY: What is complete heterochromia?  
5. U.S. STATES: Which two states don't recognize Daylight Savings Time?  
6. LITERATURE: Which best-selling novel (1989) is set in Clanton, Mississippi?  
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the national dish of Spain?

8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of leopards called?  
9. HISTORY: Which two Greek city-states fought the Peloponnesian War?  
10. AD SLOGANS: Which company once urged customers to "reach out and touch someone" by telephone?

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# Football Foundation honors WH, ND duo as scholar-athletes

The Casey-O'Brien New Haven County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame conducted its 63rd Annual Scholar Athlete dinner on April 12 at Aqua Turf in Southington

"We are very pleased to recognize twenty-nine outstanding young men that excel in the classroom and played football this past fall for their academic excellence, leadership and citizenship," said Anthony Mortali president of the chapter. "We are pleased to honor another group before their parents, grandparents and friends".

In addition to the scholar-athletes four other award winners were honored including 33 year football official John Tullo of North Haven who will be presented the Official Recognition Award. Selected by the New Haven Football Officials Association John is considered one of the top officials in the area. He served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition, Kevin O'Brien of Hamden received the Chapter Award of Merit for his work with the chapter over the past 18 years including serving as chairman of the Scholar-Athlete Selection Committee. He has also been a member of the Walter Camp Football Foundation since 1975, serving as president from 1990 to 1992.

The Chapter Coach of the Year Award was presented to Anthony Sagnella coach of the North Haven Nighthawks. Anthony has been the coach at North Haven since 1997, winning 152 games, 12 league/division titles, with 9 CIAC playoff appearances and this past season winning the Class MM State Championship defeating Killingly, 51-34.

The chapters Distinguished American Award will be presented to WTNH's Ann Nyberg, who has spent more than 40 years in television news. She is the longest serving female news/anchor in Connecticut television history. In 2015 Ann was inducted into the prestigious Silver Circle an honor given to television professionals who have made significant contributions to the

## Women's Bocce League opens season next week

The Savin Rock Ladies Bocce League starts Wednesday, May 17, at 5 p.m. and runs through Aug. 30.

The League is currently registering new and returning players. It is an independent league, which is non-profit and non-partisan.

It is a multi-cultural and multi-generational program that provides the opportunity to meet people and get exercise through playing bocce. Beginner to experienced players are welcome.

The bocce courts are located in the Old Grove section of Savin Rock Park. Players should commit to the season. We realize people will be on vacation or different things come up - that is why we will have subs. Subs do not pay dues, but must complete required forms. If any lady is looking for something to do, it is a fun night.

The league meeting will be on May 17 at 5 p.m, and afterwards a practice Bocce round is scheduled. You must register through the Savin Rock Ladies Bocce League with the forms provided in the links below. Please contact Elene Hanahan at Ehanahan@aol.com, or Susan Webster at ssw49@aol.com. Dues are \$85, which must be

paid in full by April 26th. Dues are used for prize money and end of season Awards Dinner. Checks should be made payable to: Savin Rock Ladies Bocce League (SRLBL) and mailed with Registration Form and Liability Waiver to: Susan Webster, 147 West Walk, West Haven 06516.

For more information, contact: [https://westhavencr.myrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29698](https://westhavencr.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29698).

## SHJBL offers scholarships

Shore Haven Junior Baseball will be accepting applications from June high school seniors that are pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amount of \$250 each. The league will also be awarding the Joseph Morrell, Sr. Scholarship.

All applicants must have participated in the league for at least two years. Applications must be returned by May 15, to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Avenue, West Haven 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance counselor offices or by calling Charles Gunning at (203) 934-9740.



Above == West Haven's Connor Coe received the Casey-O'Brien New Haven County Chapter of the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award at the 63rd Annual Scholar Athlete Awards Dinner. He is shown above with his family. Below --Notre Dame's Matthew Piechota with his family and coach Joe DeCaprio (R).



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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Gianna Carrano slides safely into home during the Blue Devils' 14-2 win over Mercy.

## Westies eye tournament runs

After a tough loss at Shelton, the West Haven baseball team was looking to get back on the winning track. A solid pitching performance by junior Haygen Axelrod could not do the trick.

Despite Axelrod pitching a complete game, West Haven fell to Lyman Hall, 4-1, at Pat Wall Field in Wallingford..

Axelrod was on throughout the game using 87 pitches to move through six innings. The West Haven pitcher allowed six hits and two earned runs, while walking three and striking out three.

West Haven went down in order in the first three innings and trailed 1-0 entering the fourth.

KJ Harp started West Haven's fourth when he hit an infield single and moved to second on an error on the play. Harp went to third on a wild pitch and scored on a single to right by Ray Gilbert to even the game at one.

Jose Padilla followed with a single to center, but a double play ball ended the inning for the Westies.

Lyman Hall took the lead with a run in the bottom of the fifth, and put the game away with two more runs in the sixth.

West Haven got back on the winning track with a 10-0 victory over Wilbur Cross in a five-inning mercy rule contest at Piurek Field.

Evan Jones picked up the victory with five strong innings, allowing just two hits, with one walk and four strikeouts. Jones threw 69 pitches, 45 for strikes.

Gilbert led the offense with three hits and three runs scored, Padilla had two hits, drove in a run, and scored once, while

See Westies, page 16

## WHHS athletes sign letters of intent

West Haven High School hosted its annual 'Signing Day' event two weeks ago in the high school's all-purpose room, in which student-athletes who plan to play at the collegiate level are recognized in front of their family, friends, teammates, coaches, and staff.

Co-Athletic Director Mike Anquillare created this event three years ago.

The 'Signing Day' featured the largest group of signees to date.

"These 14 students are not only great athletes, but they are also at the top of their class academically," said Anquillare. "They have excelled both in the classroom and off it, and I could not be more proud of this group. I wish them the best of luck at the next level."

The 14 WHHS student-athletes that have committed to compete at the collegiate level are the following:

Amani Abuhatab (girls basketball), Mercy College; Maya Bermudez (girls soccer), the University of Southern Maine; Hannah Burrows (softball), Bay Path University; Gianna Carrano (softball), Albertus Magnus College; Cassidy Carrano (girls basketball),

Springfield College; Cassidy Dalton (girls lacrosse), University of Bridgeport; Savien Daniley (football), Springfield College; Avian

Evans (football), Springfield College); Jeremiah Christie-Frances (track & field), Clark Atlanta University; Sebastian Navarro (boys soccer),

University of Indianapolis; Juliana Petruzzello (softball), Albertus Magnus College; Brianna Miller Pet-taway (softball), Wentworth

Institute of Technology; Shyanne Raccio (softball), Lasell University; and Deven Robinson (football), Western Connecticut State University.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Thirteen WHHS student-athletes were in attendance for 'Signing Day' in front of their family, friends, teammates, coaches, and staff