

West Haven Voice

November 2, 2023

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

David O'Brien
producing Off-Broadway
production

See page 14



City, owners discuss fate of Debonair

By Dan Atkinson
Voice Writer

Over the last few decades, the Debonair Beach Motel at 296 Beach St., has slowly deteriorated from being a popular destination for upper-class residents to stay and enjoy quality food and live music, into an abandoned and dilapidated property. The motel, which was constructed in 1959, also housed a restaurant and a resort for homosexuals in its lifetime.

The Debonair lost its final residents in 2014 after it was foreclosed upon. It is heavily populated by overgrowth, rodents, wild animals such as skunks and possums, filled with trash and covered in graffiti, and has no heat. The motel's blighted state has hindered the city's goal of revitalizing the neighborhood and making its beachfront an appealing destination for both residents and out-of-town visitors.

Despite being bought by the New Haven-based development company SimLev Holdings, LLC for \$1 million in August 2021, a variety of complications has prevented it from performing any construction or demolition on the Debonair since. However, recent developments have given the owners and government officials a glimmer of hope that SimLev can soon begin carrying out their original business plan for the motel.

Homeowners on California and Beach Streets are very fed up with how the deterioration of the Debonair has negatively impacted the quality of life in the neighborhood and their properties, as well as the safety of multiple pets who have been bitten by rodents and or repeatedly sprayed by skunks. While they have found a dedicated ally in first-term City Councilwoman Meli Garthwait (Republican), they have still struggled to get city officials to address the conditions of the motel and possible steps that could be taken to demolish the property and construct a new motel or business in its place. Two of these homeowners discussed their frustration with the property's state.

"I've lived here for roughly 40 years. When we first moved here, the Debonair was gorgeous and we would go there for meals," said a California Street resident who wished to remain anonymous. "These owners are doing nothing about the condition of the property and the animals living there. I had to call the city a couple of times about bushes that were coming over the fence into my yard and discoloring it, and I am nervous about letting my dog out in the backyard alone because I don't know if it's safe."

See Debonair, page 10



Submitted Photos

Halloween on the Green

The civic group West Haven United hosted Halloween on the Green, Saturday, with hundreds of families attending the all-day event. Besides the hundreds of costumed youngsters and teens, dance teams performed, and people were entertained with a spooky bounce pit and other attractions. See page 10 for more pictures.

Missed the debate? Check it out here:



www.dorindaborer.com

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR.

ELECT DORINDA BORER AND ROW A ON NOVEMBER 7TH

Paid for by Dorinda2023 • Michelle Caprio, Treasurer • Approved by Dorinda Borer





Melody Gurr, age 3, is a West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. student. She predicts cool crisp weather just right for gathering pumpkins.

On this Date

1982 -- Ronald Reagan signs a bill to create Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The day, observed every year on the third Monday of January, commemorates the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. a leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

1964 -- Coup in Saudi Arabia. Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud takes over the government of Saudi Arabia while his half-brother, King Saud is overseas for medical reasons.

1938 -- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation established. Officially known as CBC/Radio-Canada, the network is Canada's public radio and television broadcaster.

1930 -- Haile Selassie I becomes the emperor of Ethiopia. Considered as a leading figure in the Rastafari movement, Selassie reigned over Ethiopia for 44 years.

1917 -- Balfour Declaration. Originally sent as a letter on this day to Baron Rothschild from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, it declared BRitish support for a Jewish state in Palestine. The letter was eventually added to Sevres peace treaty.

Voice classifieds
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Photo by Kara Comfort

Montagna calls it a career

Nancy R. Rossi on Oct. 20 congratulates retiring Park Maintenance Superintendent Joseph "Joe" Montagna on 52 years of "dedicated service" to the departments of Public Works and Park Maintenance. During a morning reception attended by Montagna's co-workers at the Park Maintenance Department at 91 Bull Hill Lane, Rossi presented him with a mayoral citation for his "hardworking spirit" and "remarkable career in public service." Reading the citation, Rossi said, "Your wholehearted devotion to maintain our park system has placed our parks among the finest in Connecticut." Montagna was hired in 1971 under the administration of then-Republican Mayor Alexander F. Zarnowski.

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Next Issue: Annual Thanksgiving Football Preview - Nov 23rd



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VOTE ROW A ON NOV. 7TH

CITY-WIDE CANDIDATES:

City Clerk: John Lewis	Council at Large: Nick Pascale
Treasurer: Ron Quagliani	Council at Large: Brian Laucks
Board of Ed: Cebi Waterfield	Tax Collector: Eric Murillo
Board of Ed: Johnathan Jones	Board of Tax Appeals: Joseph Harvey
Board of Ed: Heather Shea	Board of Tax Appeals: Suzanne Mink

DISTRICT-WIDE CANDIDATES:

District 1: Anne Heffernan	District 6: Dawn Callahan
District 2: Michelle Coletti	District 7: Kathy Tucker
District 3: Sarah Ackbarali	District 8: Christopher Vargo
District 4: Gary Donovan	District 9: Kathleen Mueller
District 5: Edward McMillian	District 10: Dylan Molster

Dear Felicia

November already! Before yew know it the Christmas stuff will be up in stores... wait a minute...it already is up in stores. No sooner do the managers have the Halloween stuff down, the holly and ivy seem to take their place in the blink of an eye. We had Indian Summer last week, and now we are really feeling what fall is like, temps have tanked and it's noticeably damper and colder. Quite a turn-around.

Of course, the turn of the calendar to November means we are going to have the election of somebody on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of the month. This year, the boys and girls of voting age are gonna be selecting who will run this burg of the next little while. There has been some back-and-forth amongst the candidates, but not much to speak of.

A debate a couple weeks back proved not much. Both candidates said what was expected, both pushed change in the way the city does things, and both took minor snipes at each other. The biggest kerfuffle, though, came by way of write-in candidate Steven R. Mullins. Mullins was left outta the debate, which was probably a faux pas on the Mayor's Advisory Committee of the University of New Haven.

The leader of said group

made the determination that Steve R. wasn't gonna get more than 1 percent of the vote, and excised him from the proceedings. Mullins, as he should, was not happy with the decision. It really was not a good one, methinks. Foist off, write-in candidates have done fairly well, albeit they were sitting mayors. But, more than that. In a city where the voters are gonna made an overhaul outta the leadership - that's what this election is with the decision by Nancy Rossi not to run - all the voices should be hoid.

It shouldn't be up to a guy who works in town, but doesn't live in town to make that decision. Mullins is well known and has a following. So do the other candidates. Everyone should be hoid, but they weren't because of a bone-head decision. The city needs change, three people are running for office and saying changes are needed. The best way to make a decision is to hear all sides. Jest Cobina's thoughts.

Adn jest so we're clear I woudn't bet the mortgage on this go-round being a walk in the park for any of the candidates. This has the makings of one of the closest elections in a while. It's not gonna be an easy night for anyone of the candidates. Methinks the vot-

ers are not happy. It'll be interesting how that shows itself in the totals. Last time was by jest over 30 -- officially.

Needless to say, this election "cycle" has been free of all the stuff that used to drive candidates and their supporters batty. Madame Olga was in t'other afternoon and sez that there has been lit'le if any damage done to lawn signs. Remember when that was setch a big deal??? It used to be a fall sport to see how long after signs were put on lawns that they would be vandalized - usually by supporters of the opposition. We remember many a persona who was caught over the years.

And everyone seems to be complying with the size limitations. That used to be a bbbiiigggg pernt of contention among candidates. Not so much anymore. Now they worry about other things - like a person's pronouns or something inane like that. Inanity was lost on one side, but gained on another.

By the by, Olga had another topic she wished to discuss, and one can be allowed to wonder. She was positing the possibility the whole NEBCO thing was a bit of political circus. The developer gets push back at a City Council meeting, feigns indignation, pulls the project "off the table," gets his main opposition to post

something in this papyrus about being "disappointed" the project was pulled, and then puts it back on the table.

Now, whether that happened or not, one could wonder. Things were jest a bit too coincidental. And, effen there is one things we have learned over these many decades yew and I have been corresponding, there is no setch thing as a coincidence.

So, now the project is back on the table, the new lease was passed, and all we hafta do now is wait for the magic to happen and the new place in whatever form it takes be constructed. Don't git me wrong, I yam glad things turned out the way they did, this town has a reputation for treating developers like the plague. But, one wonders effen a bit of political chess was played and not only was the game played, but so was the city.

Madame Olga is usually perty good when it comes to pondering setch things.

Speaking of projects and developers, there is a new rumor going about the burg about the former Haven property. It's kind o' sketchy but we did hear that some type of talks are going on. The former developer still owns the property, and has made a big effort to demolish pert near the entire space. Only the last few buildings on the west side of Main Street and Bayview remain.

So, that has made the usual suspects wonder effen something is cooking regarding the sale of the land, which the former developer wants to do toot sweet. Over the months there has been talk of a movie studio and other types of businesses going up there, but who knows.

The one thing Cobina can say is that in this war of attrition that has occurred over the last nine-plus years since the Haven was announced and 27-plus years since the original "Water Street Project" was announced, is that the once verboten idea of residential property is now being accepted.

There was a time when any type of residential construction was dismissed as more stress on the city's infrastructure and services. Well, now that people just want something over there, talk of a "residential component" is now not the taboo topic it once was - funny how that happens.

Now people are saying they wouldn't mind some "high-end" condos or apartments there on the waterfront if it'll bring in big-time tax dollars. Maybe, but the reason we want commercial is that it doesn't stress the system. Funny how people forgit those arguments when they jest want things to be over.

Still, until we know who is interested in the property, and what will be proposed, all of it is jest

more speculation, and Goodness knows, we have more of that in these parts and anywhere else.

It's good to see the WHPD contract was signed, sealed and delivered...at least with the City Council. Now it has to be given the imprimatur by the Municipal Accountability Review Board, otherwise know as MARB. MARB is reviewing the return to a pension plan, and getting rid of the 401(k) the city had imposed more than a decade ago.

Let's hope they put this approval in high gear. The fack the city has lost a lotta people and is currently under-staffed as far as the PD is concerned is a direct result of what was decided as a cost-saving measure that had the opposite effect.

This papyrus was the foist to publicize the problems with the force more than two years ago. The city was hiring new candidates, training them at a cost of more than \$100,000 per, giving them a job, and after a year or two losing them to other departments cuz the benefits package - read pension - was not up to snuff. In the long run the "cost saving" measure was one that cost the city many, many kopecks, and many, many good people to other departments.

Kudos to Chief Joe Perno who has been able to keep things afloat over there. We've known Joe for decades and remember his family very well. We thank him for being the one constant in this entire process. Kudos, too, to the Police Commish, which brought the problem to the public and finally got people to sit up and pay attention...not an easy thing to do in these parts.

Speaking of kudos, Best of luck to Joe Montagna, who has retired after working for the city since the cooling of the earth's crust. It seems that Joe was always around and always involved in the city. Now he gets to enjoy some years of retirement. Best to you and yours!

Iva Lootey was cruising about and happened near the Beach Street reconstruction. It seems that things are moving along on the project. The new roadway is nearly finished, and maybe it will be sooner rather than later when we can git back to opening that major artery back up.

Of course, the residents over there are probably not as happy to see things open up. It's been nice and quiet over there with no traffic. Once things get back to normal, the quiet will become the urban noise it always was.

Mitt luff und kizzez,
Cobina

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12th Community Thanksgiving in the works

With the turn of the calendar to November, thoughts start drifting to Thanksgiving Day, and a group of residents has a special thought with the holiday: feeding those who might not have a meal or anywhere to go.

The 12th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner is set to go on Turkey Day, with the committee in charge looking for help from the community.

The dinner will be hosted, once again, by The First Congregational Church of West Haven. And, except for the Covid years, those looking for a place to have a meal with a group can do so. The dinner will be served in the church's Fellowship Hall with curbside pick-up at the church entrance at 464 Campbell Ave.

"The dining room service will be from Noon to 1:30p.m.," said Bill Ewry, longtime chairman of the event. "The time for the curbside pickup will be announced prior to Thanksgiving."

Dinners will be provided by registration only so the committee will know how many dinners to prepare. With the help of area restaurants and donations from the public, more than 300 meals were distributed last year, and over the years, it has been a way to bring the holiday to shut-ins

and those alone.

"We will be accepting requests for dinners through our church office by phone, our website, or email," said Ewry.

The Church Office: (203) (933-6291, with the Website: www.fccwesthaven.org,, and Email: thanksgivingdinner@fccwesthaven.org.

Requests will be accepted through Friday, Nov. 17, the chairman said. After the meal requests have been received, the requesters will be called with directions prior to Thanksgiving Day.

The Thanksgiving meal will have all the fixings of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner including: Once again, The University of New Haven, through the school's food services provider, has volunteered to provide some of the food for the dinner, but that means the committee is still looking for donations.

If anyone would like to support the dinner with a monetary donation, checks can be made out to "The First Congregational Church of West Haven" and sent to the church office at 1 Church St., West Haven, CT 06516 attention Bill Ewry with "Thanksgiving Dinner" in the memo.

Those looking to make food donations may do so by dropping food off at the church

office at the Church Street address through Nov. 17, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The committee is looking for many items but has a special request.

"It may sound odd, but we could use canned jellied cranberry sauce, and canned sliced carrots," said Ewry.

Though this is the 12th edition of this iteration of the Thanksgiving Dinner, such events go back to the early 1980s. A committee of the West Haven Clergy Association began the dinners, and ran them for several years in collaboration with the West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce (WHEAT). The group also ran a soup kitchen during the week.

Eventually, the work was considered out of the growing range of WHEAT and the various subcommittees and tuned over to its present group of residents. The once constant has been the hosting of the event at First Congregational Church and using the Fellowship Hall.

In the 1990s many people volunteered for the event, and hundreds of people came for the meal just to experience the community that was fostered.

Ewry said finally, the group expects the requests to be in line with past years.

What: Community Thanksgiving Dinner
When: Noon-1:30 p.m.
Where: 1st Congregational Church
Contact: (203) 933-6291
www.fccwesthaven.org
Deadline: Nov. 17

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Consider 3 questions

Next week, the voters of West Haven are asked to determine the leadership of the city over the next two years. For the first time in decades, voters have a real opportunity to select from among three viable candidates, all with extensive experience, and all well-known in the community.

Dorinda Keenan Borer is the Democratic nominee and has a record of public service from city boards and commissions, as well as an extensive stint in the General Assembly as representative of the 115th Assembly District. While there she moved up the leadership ranks and has been instrumental in bringing many thousands of dollars into the city. Her work with various civic and fraternal organizations is impressive and has given her the visibility she enjoys today.

Republican Barry Lee Cohen is the Republican nominee and has a record of public service that spans back decades in the fraternal and social work he has done, a solid record as a businessman, and terms on the City Council representing the 10th District. He lost a bid for the mayoralty two years ago by a handful of votes, in the strongest showing by a Republican in decades.

Steven R. Mullins, write-in candidate, is a name synonymous with public service. Serving on several boards and commissions over this adult life, Mullins is a longtime member of the Republican Town Committee, served several terms as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, and has a resume of service in various civic and fraternal organizations throughout the city.

When making up one's mind, we hope voters will look less at the party and more at what each candidate has to offer. We suggest using three criteria when selecting:

Ability to Effect Change - The last several years have pointed out the city needs to alter its way of doing business. The inability to effect change has hampered directives from the Municipal Accountability Review Board, which became so frustrated it imposed a Tier IV level on city operations, giving it, rather than city leaders, the deciding hand in making decisions. Which candidate voters believe can make the effective changes needed should be a determining factor.

Decision making into action - The last few years have seen an inability of leaders to convert decisions into action. The ability to lead includes getting the disparate people, departments, and personnel on one page. We have not seen that type of leadership. Programs or projects are announced, and it is years before any sort of implementation takes place. Streamlining that time lag and getting the machinery of government to work efficiently is another determining factor.

People instead of politics - The city's political structure has been problematic for decades because decisions have been made based solely on political expediency and not what is best for the people of the city. The spoils of victory are seen as the booty of some in the political class. This must change. People rather than party must be the determining factor. Party politics has hampered this city in many things over the years and has aided in our financial decline. Voters must choose the candidate who puts the city first.

These are the criteria voters should consider when entering the voting booth Nov. 7. Our future depends on it.



Trump and foreign policy

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Luck is the residue of design, they say. Might it also be the residue of frightening and confusing foreign adversaries?

Donald Trump's relatively crisis-free presidency in foreign affairs has created a sense, perhaps an accurate one, that he cowed enemies into not challenging the U.S.

As Sen. Tom Cotton has pointed out, Kabul didn't collapse on Trump's watch, Russia didn't invade Ukraine and Hamas didn't launch a historic terror attack on Israel.

Now this may have just been good fortune. Four years isn't a large sample size. But the argument that adversaries feared him, and therefore acted with a measure of restraint, is quite intuitive.

No one is going to mistake Trump for Cardinal Richelieu or Henry Kissinger. His view of the world was highly personal and reflected a few obsessions, especially the notion that we were getting ripped off by foreigners. His trade war with China was a waste of time, and his commitment to NATO was genuinely in doubt.

Yet, despite the feeling of chaos created by his constant shoot-from-the-hip bombast, things basically stayed on the rails.

The fact that Trump was erratic and took perceived slights so seriously made it difficult to know how he would react to any given provocation. It was personal unpredictability elevated to the level of game theory.

Maybe he was just blustering. Maybe he was ready to take it further. But who would want to find out?

In other words, Trump spoke loudly and carried a stick of indeterminate size, and this was perhaps as good as carrying a big stick.

It's worth noting, though, that he followed through on his promise to bomb ISIS into near-oblivion, and when given the chance to hit a committed enemy of the United States, the notorious Iranian operative Qasem Soleimani, he targeted him for killing despite the considerable risks.

The New York Times reported at the time:

"After initially rejecting the Soleimani option on Dec. 28 and authorizing airstrikes on an Iranian-backed Shiite militia group instead, a few days later Mr. Trump watched, fuming, as television reports showed Iranian-backed attacks on the American Embassy in Baghdad, according to Defense Department and administration officials.

"By late Thursday, the presi-

dent had gone for the extreme option. Top Pentagon officials were stunned."

If U.S. officials were stunned, how must anyone around the world with American blood on his hands have felt? And wouldn't it have made adversaries think twice about doing anything to set the president to "fuming"?

In an interview with Bret Baier back in June, Trump made vague reference to a threat he issued to Vladimir Putin about a prospective invasion of Ukraine that supposedly stayed Putin's hand. Who knows the accuracy of this? But Trump characterized Putin as believing his threat only about 10%, and that gets at what was probably a key element of the Trump deterrent effect -- a nagging sense that he might not be bluffing, even if it seemed likely he was.

We saw this dynamic out in public regarding immigration policy south of the border. Trump rattled the cage of the countries he needed cooperation from until he got it.

He threatened to close the border with Mexico. "If they don't stop them," Trump said of illegal immigrants, "we are closing the border. We'll close it. And we'll keep it closed for a long time. I'm not playing games." Actually, he was play

See Lowry, page 7

Letters, we get letters!

Mullins rides with PD

This past Saturday afternoon into the evening (C-Shift), I had the opportunity to participate in a ride along with a young West Haven police officer. Out of respect for the privacy of said officer, I'm not mentioning his or her name, nor the details of the calls that we participated in.

I feel that it is vitally important as a candidate for mayor and for our other city officials to know first hand about what our men and women in blue go through to protect and serve the 55,000 citizens that call West Haven home. As I have stated at City Council meetings in the past, City Councilors should take advantage of a ride-along opportunity, especially during the annual budgeting process. West Haven has the finest and best trained police department in the State of Connecticut. I'm not being bias. I have heard it from police personnel from all over. Chief Perno and staff, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!

Steven R. Mullins

Supports election of Cohen

I am taking this time to share my thoughts on Republican mayoral candidate for West Haven, Barry Lee Cohen. As a lifelong resident of West Haven, I have watched our city gradually go downhill. I also noticed that the common denominator has been the same politics over and over again: self-interest, lack of system, lack of structure, no true leader steering the ship. Nepotism ran rapid and spending was lacking oversight.

Barry Cohen gives me hope for a better future. He is no nonsense and takes the bull by the horns to get

a task done. I find him goal driven and always having his eye on success. He is the first candidate that I feel optimistic about leading us into the new era of West Haven. My knowledge of Barry's qualifications speaks for itself. He has a proven track record in the corporate world. He can and will bring business into West Haven because he has the insight into reaching out and making West Haven attractive, making West Haven a user-friendly city.

His opponent, Dorinda Borer, who I personally like and respect, has shown that she needs to stay in her present position in Hartford. Dorinda is an excellent legislator and she would be hard to replace, causing us to lose our competent representation in Hartford, which we need.

Arthur J Penna

Cohen policies better for city

With the West Haven Mayoral election quickly approaching on November 7, 2023 voters need to choose carefully between the opposing candidates.

Connecticut State Rep. Dorinda Borer, 115th District, is the Democratic endorsed candidate, while Barry Lee Cohen is the Republican candidate.

Analysis of Rep. Borer's voting record during her approximately six years of serving as a state representative (since 2017), reveals a liberal Democrat who wants to legalize drugs, punish the police and force burdensome government oversight onto Connecticut's citizens. Borer proudly voted with her liberal Democratic colleagues for Public Act 20-01, "An Act Concerning Police Accountability," which effectively destroyed policing in Connecticut. Since passage of that ill-conceived and draconian legis-

lation, police officers are afraid to do their jobs for fear of lawsuits, harsh disciplinary action and decertification by the CT Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST-C). Crime has predictably increased, and West Haven homeowners now encounter "Street Takeovers" in residential neighborhoods. In contrast, at a recent Mayoral debate, Mr. Cohen correctly opined that Borer's vote "cost us safety and security." "We have to honor our people in blue," Mr. Cohen noted. Amen.

Rather than attempt to decrease costs for cash-strapped taxpayers, Representative Borer has consistently voted to add to their financial burdens. For example, Ms. Borer voted FOR House Bill HB-6688, "An Act Concerning a Highway Use Fee," the new trucking tax that will result in increased costs at the grocery store; and voted AGAINST reducing the already exorbitant sales tax (LCO-6335) to provide relief to families being crushed by soaring inflation. Yet, Ms. Borer claims she is fighting for consumers. On the contrary, Rep. Borer is a "Tax and Spend" Democrat. For example, Ms. Borer hammered taxpayers with a \$1,800,000,000 tax increase (HB-7424), voted to raise her own pay by 43% (HB-5406), and voted with Democrats 97% of the time. The list goes on.

Moreover, Borer recently resurrected the construction of the New England Brewing Company's (NEBCO) taproom facility on city-owned land on Captain Thomas Boulevard. We almost dodged that bullet when, earlier this year, the City Council and the developer could not agree on the terms of the Lease Agreement. Unfortunately, the State Bond Commis-

See Letters, page 8

Viet Vets seek names; deadline date changed

Current and former city residents who served in the Vietnam War are sought by the West Haven Vietnam Memorial Inc. Committee to have their names inscribed on a new section of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Bradley Point Park.

To qualify for name recognition on the memorial "wall," Vietnam veterans must apply and meet the following requirements:

- Applicants must live or have lived in West Haven. Veterans living in West Haven must provide proof of residence, such as a utility bill.

- Applicants must have served in-country during the Vietnam War.

- Applicants must have been honorably discharged from military service. A DD214 form (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) is required.

- Applicants must share potential costs, if any.

The committee does not have a formal application. Veterans must mail all documents, which are due **Jan. 1**, to West Haven Vietnam Veterans, City Hall, lower level, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516.

Those with questions can call Bill at (203) 521-2356, Steve at (475) 655-2993 or Paul at (203) 500-2159.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial includes a black granite wall inscribed with the names of those from West Haven who served or gave their lives in Vietnam from 1959 to 1975, along with three white flagpoles draped with the American, Connecticut and prisoner-of-war flags.

The memorial, dedicated Nov. 12, 2003, also includes a black granite map of the four battle districts of Vietnam bearing the inscription "All Gave Some, Some Gave All," as well as five bronze insignia markers atop black granite posts representing each branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Lowry: *The Trump Doctrine*

Continued from page 6

ing games, but effective ones.

He really did cut off aid to Northern Triangle countries, before restoring it once he had what he wanted.

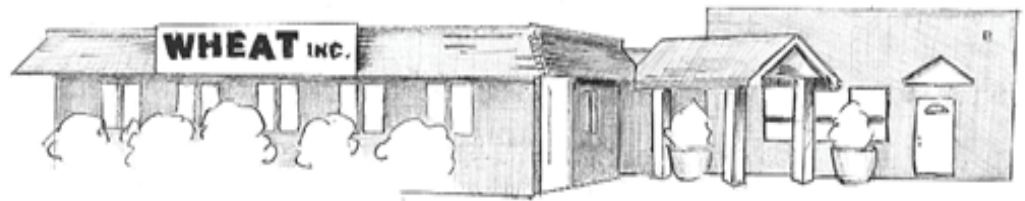
In short, when Trump says that Hamas wouldn't have done this on his watch, many Republicans, and perhaps independents in a general election, will tend to believe him.

To his credit, Biden has said the appropriate things in the wake of the Hamas attack, but sentiments go only so far.

A more important question is whether the right people fear President Biden as they appeared to be scared of his predecessor.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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WHEAT's pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00-4:30 All CT residents are welcome, no appointment needed. Photo IDs and proof of address are not required. Visitors can come twice a month to receive food and should bring their own grocery bags if possible. If not, WHEAT has grocery bags available. Please call or email us with any questions about WHEAT's services.

Food donations can be dropped off any time our office is open: Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.

Monday, Friday and weekends by appointment.

WHEAT

674 Washington Ave., West Haven

203-931-9877

wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net

Obituaries

The Rev. Ernest Bodenweber, former 1st Church pastor, succumbs

Rev. Ernest Bodenweber passed away peacefully after a short illness on October 17. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1925. He graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1943, from Denison University in 1947, and from Anderson Newton Theologi-

cal School in 1953. He also did graduate study at Boston University School of Theology and Harvard Divinity School. After serving three pastorates in Massachusetts, he was called to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in West Haven, Connecticut,

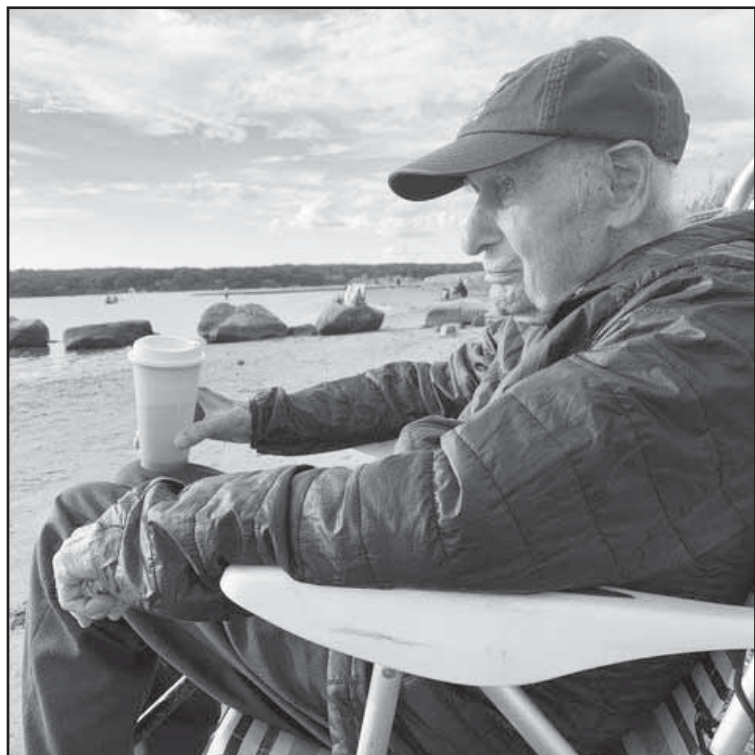
from which he retired in 1988. During his active ministry he served on the Boards of the Alumni of Andover Newton Theological School, the Seaman's Friend Society of Boston, the Mission Committee of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the United Ministry of Higher Education in Connecticut. He also served as moderator of the New Haven Association of the United Church of Christ. In retirement, he did volunteer activity with the Marshall Lane Manor Convalescent Hospital of Derby, the Foundation for the Community Encouragement, the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, and Yale New Haven Hospital. He was an active participant in both the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven and the Shalom United Church of Christ, also of New Haven. He was a devotee of music and sang in several choruses including the New Haven Community Chorus, the

University Glee Club, and the New Haven Oratorio Choir. He reveled in the musical richness at Yale and attended countless concerts there.

He is pre-deceased by his first wife Dorothy Tekel Bodenweber and survived by his wife, Muriel Beck Bodenweber; two daughters, Jennifer Bodenweber and Joanna Bodenweber; son-in-law, Geoffrey Fried; five stepchildren, Cynthia Love, Donald Beck, David Beck, Daniel Beck and Katherine Beck; step daughters-in-law Stephanie

Beck and Debbie Sherman; step son-in-law Mark Love; eight step-grandchildren and seven step-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will take place on Sunday November 5, 2023, at 3 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, New Haven. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Andover Newton Theological School at Yale University or Connecticut Hospice in Branford, CT. To leave an online message please visit www.westhavenfuneral.com.



Joan M. Petitti

Joan Marie Petitti, age 73, of Florida, formerly of West Haven, passed away on October 22, 2023 after a long battle with cancer. For 47 years, she was the loving wife of Michael Petitti.

Joan was born in New Haven, daughter of the late Salvatore and Ann Cirasuolo Malinconico. In addition to her husband, she is also survived by her devoted children, Andrea Copela and her husband Nick of West Haven, Michael S. Petitti of Wallingford, her cherished grandchildren, Nicholas and Joseph Copela and Michael and Vincenzo Petitti, and her siblings Judy Williams, Tom Malinconico (Mary Ann) all of Florida. She also leaves many other relatives and friends. Joan and her husband Mike have been enjoying their retirement the past 12 years in Florida where they played golf and danced many nights at their community clubhouse, with all of their friends.

She loved life, her family, her friends, dancing to Motown hits, going to the beach or pool, shopping, cooking delicious Italian meals and going to the



casino. Joan had such a big heart and enjoyed making sure everyone around her was happy. She touched so many lives and will be deeply missed.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on November 11, 2023 at 10am in St. John Vianney Church, St. John XXIII Parish.

Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation at www.komen.org.

Parish plans food collection

The Social Justice Committee of St John XXIII Parish in West Haven will sponsor a Food Drive to benefit WHEAT and the Purple Pantry Box on the weekend of Nov. 4 and 5.

Please bring donations to all Masses at St John Vianney Church (300 Captain Thomas Blvd.) or to St Louis Church (89 Bull Hill Lane). Masses are Saturday at 4:30, Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 at St John Vianney; Masses are Saturday at 4, Sunday at 9, 10:30, 12:30 at St Louis. Place your donations in front of the altar before Mass.

Those unable to bring your donation to church, are asked to call Charlie, (203) 934-9740, and he will pick it up at your house. Suggested items are canned cranberry sauce and instant mashed potatoes for the pantry at WHEAT and canned meat, tuna, macaroni & cheese for the Purple Pantry Box. Money donations are also gratefully accepted—cash or checks payable to WHEAT.

Final senior bus trip of year set

The West Haven Senior Center is offering a bus trip to Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts on Dec. 8.

The cost is \$145 and includes transportation, driver gratuity, admission to the village and a "holiday" buffet lunch at Wight Farm. Payment is due Nov. 10.

The bus departs at 10:30 a.m. from the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot at 91 Bull Hill Lane, the former Nike site, and leaves around 4:30 p.m. from Sturbridge.

To make a reservation, call the center at (203) 937-3507.

West Haven Health Department & West Haven Food Policy Council presents

HELP DONATE TO THOSE IN HUNGER!

Collecting Oct. 30 through Dec. 15

Non-perishable, shelf-stable items can be donated at:

- M-F 9a-5p - West Haven City Hall, 355 Main Street
- Saturday 9a-5p Allingtown, West Shore & Center Fire Stations



Donations will be distributed to West Haven Emergency Task Force (WHEAT) and members of the Food Policy Council that prepare lunches and dinners for individuals weekly



What We Need

Water, Juice, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, Oatmeal, Tuna, Beans, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Soups, Snacks, Etc.

Visit us online at www.whwesthavenfoodpolicy.org

West Haven Fire Services/ Fire Safety Checklist



On November 5, 2023: Remember to turn your clocks back one hour

ALSO

CHECK YOUR SMOKE & CO DETECTORS

Heating Equipment

- Keep electric space heaters at least 3 feet from all combustibles
- Replace furnace filters once a year
- Clean lint from behind clothes dryer
- Install a sparks screen in front of the fireplace
- Have chimney, furnace inspected and cleaned annually**
- Dispose of ashes in metal containers
- Keep newspapers, other combustibles and clutter away from water heater/furnace



Electrical

- Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- Do not tack cords to the walls or run them under rugs
- Maintain air space around electrical equipment such as TV, VCR, stereo, etc.
- Install additional outlets, by a qualified electrician, to avoid using cube taps and extension cords
- If you must use extension cords, use only the kind that have a built in circuit breaker



Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

- Limit the amount of chemicals stored
- Dispose of and recycle household hazardous materials properly.
- Store hazardous materials in proper containers with tight fitting lids and correct identification labels
- Store hazardous materials away from heat sources
- Allow proper ventilation when using flammable liquids and hazardous materials
- Put oily rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids, not in a pile where they can spontaneously ignite.



DO NOT STORE PROPANE or GASOLINE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

Store in detached garage or shed or on deck

If you need to dispose of Propane Tanks call 203-488-1956

Leetes Island Fuel ~ 49 Leetes Island Rd ~ Branford, CT

Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended**
- Cuff sleeves and turn pot handles
- Never store combustibles in oven or on stove top
- When barbecuing, move unit away from house
- Dispose of coals/ashes in metal containers

Smoking Materials & Candles

- Never leave cigarettes or candles unattended**
- Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature
- Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers only
- Never smoke in bed**
- We recommend against the use of candles
- If you must use candles, place them in sturdy holders

Smoke and CO Detectors

- Install SMOKE & CO detectors inside and outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home**
- Test smoke, CO detectors once a month (use a broom handle to reach)
- Replace smoke, CO detector batteries twice a year (replace when changing time on clocks-Spring and Fall)**
- Replace smoke, CO detector units every ten years

Fire Extinguishers

- Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher
- Teach your family how to use a fire extinguisher (use P.A.S.S.-Pull the pin , Aim, Squeeze, Sweep)

Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan

- Develop a home escape plan that includes
 - Crawling low under smoke
 - Two exits out of every room
 - A meeting place outside (tree, mailbox, etc.)
- Practice escape plan with every member**
- Teach all family members how to:
 - Dial 911 in an emergency
 - Stop, drop and roll if clothes catch fire

The use of a kerosene heater within the City of West Haven is prohibited by Ordinance

Debonair: *Future of landmark discussed*

Continued from page 1

The woman discussed how the Debonair's terrible condition has ruined the value of living in a beachfront property.

"The state of the Debonair is degrading to my house and I'm nervous about what else could come out of the property if it is demolished. I should have a great view of the water, but the motel blocks everything."

Nick Barbetto, who has lived at 26 California Street for 17 years, echoed his neighbor's words.

"My dog got attacked by a possum, I have mice in my house for the first time ever and I'm seeing the animals get into my yard at night and then wake up with garbage strown all over my yard," Barbetto said. "I've spoken at City Council meetings and wrote a letter to the owners about the need to demolish the motel and remove the animals. The Debonair needs to go."

Meli Garthwait, who represents West Haven's 2nd district that Beach Street and the surrounding neighborhood is in, was quickly informed by many residents of how swiftly the Debonair had fallen apart after being elected. Garthwait has dedicated herself to determining the best future for the property during her term in conjunction with fellow City

Council members and officials.

She eventually took the position that the Debonair Motel was blighted and a health hazard, is affecting the quality of life of residents, and should be demolished as soon as possible. During her term, Garthwait slowly but surely got multiple council members and city officials to adopt similar positions. Garthwait again expressed the need for the city to demolish the Debonair at a City Council meeting on Sept. 25. Garthwait discussed her concerns about the property with the *Voice*.

"After taking office, I began contacting the blight officer about the condition of the Debonair. I immediately received complaints from residents about animals from the motel entering their property and biting pets and have reported all this information to the city," she said. "Just this past week, I talked to residents living behind the motel and everyone is having mice and rats entering their houses. Because the owners are not maintaining the property, there are just terrible health and safety problems for all property owners. I believe the motel must come down because it can't be saved."

Garthwait has said at meetings that West Haven should first bait and trap any animals

that are on the property and either dispose of or relocate them depending on city laws before demolishing the Debonair. The councilwoman has high hopes that the entire City Council will get completely behind this effort, along with administrators.

"Property owners in my neighborhood need to know city leaders' care. We haven't been a very good steward of the neighborhood by taking care of residents and protecting what they own," Garthwait emphasized. "It's so unfair for my constituents to have their pets attacked and live on the edge like that. The issues with the Debonair should have been taken care of a long time ago, but it's just been allowed to fester because no one wants to do the hard work to solve them."

Garthwait's discussions and efforts behind the scenes to determine the future of the property finally began to pay off in the last week of September. City administrators told her Sept. 27 that a meeting was scheduled for the next Oct. 4 with the SimLev Holdings ownership group, and that Assistant City Planner Cathy Coniff and Building and Zoning Official Mike Fisher would be there. This was the first time Garthwait was able to secure an in-person meeting with the leaders at SimLev.

At the meeting, the three city officials got a much better understanding of the difficulties SimLev had faced with cleaning up the property and motel construction after buying the Debonair.

Garthwait said that Sim Levenhartz, the property's primary owner, was present at the meeting along with two colleagues, one of whom works for Haven Ventures. The company told her it has been unable to do any construction because of new zoning guidelines the city adopted after the Debonair was purchased. These guidelines caused a significant delay in construction because it forced the owners to change their initial construction plans. They have lost \$15,000 each month since buying the motel while not earning any money.

Garthwait and her colleagues also learned at the meeting that SimLev Holdings was unable to carry out any demolition of the Debonair because of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) setback guidelines. These prevent property development companies from performing any demolition prior to starting a permit process with the city government in which the property is located. If SimLev ignored these guidelines and demolished any of the Debonair, it would lose buildable property. Because of this, the owners want to use the current footprint of the Debonair to renovate it.

At the meeting, the city government and Meli gained a much better understanding of what the owners ultimately want to construct at the Debonair if they can begin work on the project. Levenhartz and his team want the property, which currently is three stories, to become a privately owned boutique motel that houses 15 rooms per floor and features a swimming pool on the third floor, a small restaurant and possibly a rooftop bar on a fourth floor.

SimLev will attempt to get a special permit or variance from the city for all the construction work they plan to do. This will come up for approval at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on Oct. 24. SimLev will submit drawings of the proposed building and the rooftop bar will also be subject to approval then.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the owners signed a six-month contract with the city that agreed to them working with a pest removal company to remove mice and rats from the motel property and the removal of vegetation from the back of the motel. The owners also agreed to fill in and/or cover the existing

pool. Finally, they agreed to submit construction drawings of the Debonair before the end of the year. Throughout the meeting, Garthwait said Levenhartz and his team emphasized that they want to get moving on motel construction as soon as possible.

"It was a productive meeting even if the demolition I hoped for won't immediately take place," Garthwait said.

"I think plans for the property are going in the right direction. I am going to keep on the issue and make sure I'm consistently communicating with the owners and their plans are moving forward. I have heard from a few residents who are happy that there's finally some communication between the city and motel owners and we're going to be working hard with the developers."

If the Debonair's owners can build a boutique motel, Garthwait believes it will provide Beach Street with another business that is sorely needed.

"If a new hotel joins the new brewery and restaurant and the city's reconstructed bird sanctuary, I think we will have a beautiful shoreline area for people to come visit."

"Instead of visitors staying in neighborhood B&B's or a chain motel, they could go to a nice boutique motel. The City Council must make sure that residents are informed properly about what's going in the neighborhood and that both projects don't stall."

While Barbetto is skeptical that SimLev can rebuild the Debonair into a nice motel, he acknowledged that it could have a positive economic impact.

"I wouldn't want the motel to be more than three stories because a bigger one might disturb myself and neighbors and our view of the water."

However, I think it would help the neighborhood financially. I would get behind the project if it is a decent property."

Energy assistance offered by CEAP

The city is accepting applications for the federally funded Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. Appointments for all heating sources can be made by calling (203) 937-3572.

Applications will be processed via phone by appointment Monday through Thursday. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Applicants must also provide SNAP benefits, Social Security numbers and birthdates for all household members, as well as current utility and water bills for the household.

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



- Any Occasion Creation, 1090 Chapel Street,** Fresh floral designs for any occasion, including custom arrangements for weddings, conferences, events, and banquets.
- Atticus Bookstore Cafe, 1082 Chapel Street,** Adult and children's books, stationery, puzzles, greeting cards, vinyl records, and more.
- Book Trader Cafe, 1140 Chapel Street,** Used books, CDs, and DVDs.
- Derek Simpson Goldsmith, 1094 Chapel Street,** One-of-a-kind jewelry made in New Haven by Derek Simpson. Celebrating 53 years in New Haven.
- dwell New Haven, 1022 Chapel Street,** Home decor, textiles, apothecary, artisan jewelry, fine chocolates, baby gifts, barware, and more.
- Grey Matter Books, 264 York Street,** Rare and used books, with an emphasis on literature, art, humanities, and science.
- Hull's Art Supply & Framing, 1144 Chapel Street,** Art supplies, custom and ready-made frames, children's art supplies & kits, stationery, pens, and more.
- idiom Boutique, 1014 Chapel Street,** Women's apparel, artisan jewelry, and accessories. Celebrating 18 years in New Haven.
- Lou Lou Boutiques, 23 Broadway,** Clothing, affordable jewelry, accessories, candles, beauty products, Thymes Fraiser Fir products, and more.
- More Amour Boutique, 1130 Chapel Street,** Unique retro-chic and affordable women's apparel and accessories. Offering a wide variety of sizes, including plus sizes.
- Neville Wisdom Design Studio, 27 Broadway,** One-of-a-kind fashions for women and men made in New Haven. Pre-made and custom pieces available.
- Raggs for Men & Women, 1020 Chapel Street,** Upscale and designer clothing, shoes, and accessories. Celebrating 39 years in New Haven.
- Shiana Hair, 1020 Chapel Street,** A full service salon offering a wide range of services and high-quality professional products. Gift cards available.
- Sneaker Junkies, 976 Chapel Street,** Rare and limited edition sneakers, unique streetwear, and accessories for men, women and children.
- Soap-edi, 1022 Chapel Street,** A variety of soaps and skincare products made from locally grown ingredients. Premade and custom gift boxes available.
- Üni-Home Life, 1046 Chapel Street,** Asian-inspired electronics, cosmetics, plushies, homeware, and fun knickknacks.

Festive Experiences & Activities

- * Free Hot Cocoa at Claire's Corner Copia or Common Grounds with Same-Day \$50 Retail Receipt from Participating Merchants, November 24 through December 24.
- * Free 2-Hour Parking with Same-Day \$50 Retail Receipt from Participating Merchants, November 24 through December 24.
- * Storytelling & Selfies with Santa and Mrs. Claus, 1:00-3:00pm on Saturdays & Sundays, November 25 through December 23. Visit website for locations.
- * Strolling Yuletide Carolers on Chapel & Broadway, 12:00-3:00pm on Saturdays & Sundays, November 25 through December 23.
- * Ice Carving Demonstrations in front of Üni-Home Life, 1046 Chapel Street, 1:00-3:00pm on Saturdays, November 25 through December 23.
- * Small Business Saturday Pop-Up with Free Holiday Craft Classes for Children, Giveaways, and Popcorn, 12:00-4:00pm on Saturday, November 25 at 1042 Chapel Street. Visit TheShopsatYale.com/Holiday for additional details!



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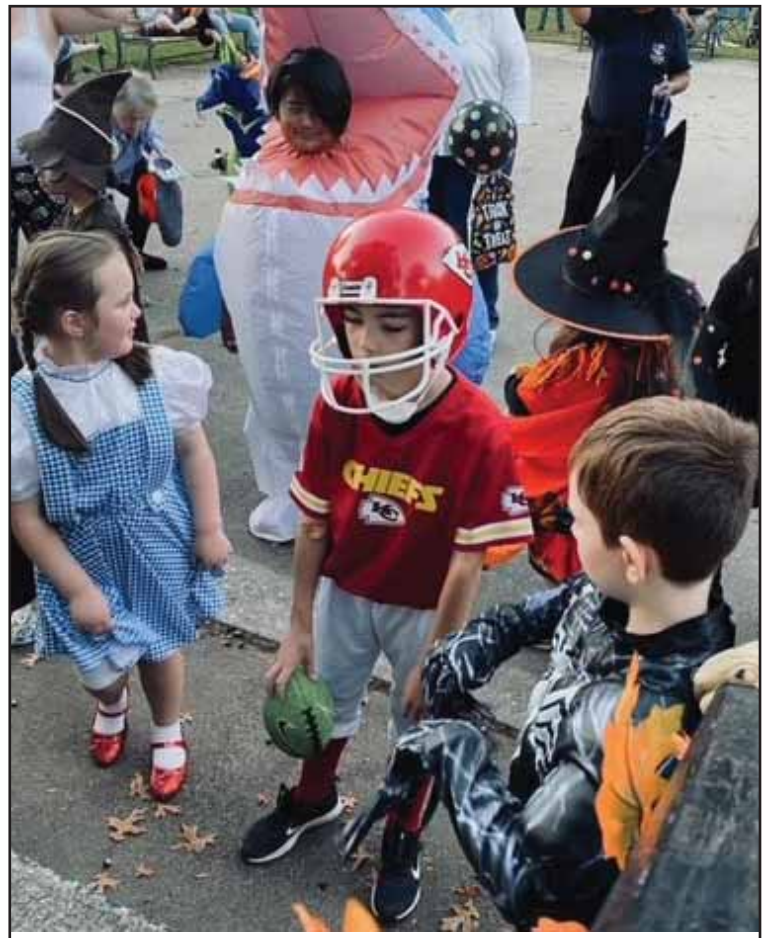
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*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 10/2/23. Limited time offer is available to residents and businesses of West Haven, Orange, and Milford, CT. Rate is subject to change at any time. Minimum balance to open and earn APY is \$500. To earn the best rate, both accounts - checking and CD - must be opened at the same time. Fees could reduce earnings. Early withdrawal penalties apply. Funds must represent a new deposit to New Haven Bank. CD will renew at the standard 6-month rate and term at that time.



Submitted Photos

Halloween hijinx

Costumes and special attractions brought hundreds of residents to the Green on a beautiful Indian Summer Saturday for West Haven United's Halloween on the Green celebration. The youngsters and teens came out in all their Halloween finery, and enjoyed presentations by various groups.



“
In trying times like these, West Haven residents would be best served with Steven Mullins as their Mayor. I've had the honor of knowing Steve for over twenty years, and he is an honest, hard-working public servant, who has proven tremendous leadership to the residents of this great community, which he loves.

M. Jodi Rell
- Former Republican Governor M. Jodi Rell



Steven Mullins
Write-In for Mayor - Nov. 7

WRITE-IN VOTES

● 1D
SM

VOTE
WRITE-IN ROW
1D



"Just fill in the bubble and write in "SM" to cast your vote for me on Election Day!"

Candidates make final pitch to voters

Nov. 7, the voters of the city determine which candidates will be their choices to run the city for the next two years. In an effort to bring information in the waning days of the campaign, the Voice sent a questionnaire to the candidates. The following are their responses. Ed. Note: We have alternated the response sequence in order to be fair. A last question asking for "General Comments" was deleted from the final responses.

How has the campaign been going into the final week? What has surprised you about the issues concerning voters?

Barry Cohen -- In one word, "Fantastic, I am grateful and humbled by the support and trust the community has placed in me and my team. The message has been loud and clear: For decades, one political party has ruled at City Hall – and it shows. Voters desire a new and better direction.

What has surprised and truly disappointed voters has been the negative campaigning by my opponent, instead of addressing issues most important to them. Voters are dismayed at the misrepresentations and distortions of my public service.

Dorinda Borer -- The

campaign is going very well. Lots of energy and positivity. This year we've seen a more active and engaged electorate than in the past. Residents are definitely concerned with a wide variety of issues, but there is an overwhelming and frustrating lack of trust in our city government and my team and I am ready to reverse that course by having open and transparent communication with the residents, just as I have had over the last 7 years as a state representative for West Haven.

In general, there have been no surprises as the biggest issue is always going to be taxes. A stagnant economy and high taxes go hand in hand, and we have had both for much too long.

Steven R. Mullins -- The door-to-door responses have been very positive. People in West Haven tired of business as usual and are not pleased with the candidates chosen by the two major parties and are looking for a change

What is the issue you think hit home with voters most?

Borer -- Clearly residents want to see economic development to grow the Grand List and help alleviate the burden on residential property taxes. The experience I've gained in this area will be critically valuable

to moving us forward and bringing developers in. I believe I've done a pretty good job of moving Beach Street forward, the Conference Center forward and secured funding for infrastructure so we can now build through our business corridors such as the Boston Post Road. I want to leverage the funding I've already secured to parlay into more. And let there be no mistake, the Center will be a priority as I hope to knock a few buildings down and rebuild for the future. Development also helps with jobs. When we have more and better paying jobs, our community is uplifted.

Residents also are hungry for better communication. Government is funded by the people and the people have a right to know what's happening with their tax dollars. I'm a firm believer in delivering timely honest messages. It's not a lot to ask of elected officials.

Other than that, a prevalent issue I hear at the doors is potholes, sidewalks and paving. Again, people want value for their high taxes.

Mullins -- Going into this campaign, I thought the main issues voters were concerned about were going to be financial mismanagement and corruption. However, in

reality it's the little things that are being ignored that voters are most concerned about.

Things that are easy fixes that are commonly ignored, like pot holes, litter and blight; as well as the Mayor's Office and City departments not returning calls and emails.

In general, it is frustration that the city is not being attentive to the needs of the residents.

As mayor, I will keep proper oversight of big picture issues that have a major, long-term effect on the City; while still remembering the minor matters that have an immediate effect on our
See Candidates, page 21



COHEN




BORER



MULLINS

“
Write me in
Row D



STEVEN MULLINS WILL TAKE THE JOB OF WEST HAVEN MAYOR SERIOUSLY

- Strengthen Public Safety:** Fully equip our West Haven police, firefighters, and 911 dispatchers with the resources necessary to ensure our citizens' safety
- Bolster Our Economy:** Hire a qualified, full-time city planner to work with our Economic Development Commission and collaborate to build West Haven's business climate from within
- Eliminate Government Waste:** Keep taxes low, and ensure our revenues are spent wisely, with all of our residents in mind. Commit to ending the culture of corruption at West Haven City Hall
- Prioritize Fiscal Responsibility:** Bring fiscal responsibility to West Haven by working together with the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) to address budgetary issues

- Expand Our Small Businesses:** Market West Haven to attract more new, quality businesses. Work with stakeholders to create job opportunities for all of us
- Fix Our Infrastructure:** Spend our tax dollars wisely to fix potholes, roads, structural and aesthetic blight, and litter
- Work Across the Aisle:** End the useless division in our government by bringing bi-partisan, common sense solutions to City Hall. Collaborate with dedicated citizens, regardless of political affiliation, to improve our overall quality of life in West Haven. Work together to make it an even greater place for education, employment, family life, and retirement
- Fix Our Education System:** Provide increased funding to the Board of Education. Focus on expanding creative programs for our children, especially in the music, arts, and culinary curricula

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- Served as Planning and Zoning Commissioner for 16 years
- Served on Race Relations Task Force, U.S. Department of Justice
- Specialized in both residential and commercial property management, as well as sales and marketing across various industries
- Degree in Business Management from Berkeley College

www.StevenMullinsWestHaven.com

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★ Paid for by Mullins for West Haven, 2023; Douglas Turcotte, III, Treasurer



O'Brien produces off-Broadway's 'Dracula'

David O'Brien is a West Haven native and proud alumnus of West Haven High School (C/O

2018) and Hofstra University) is making a name as a serious producer. The city native is currently a Master of Fine Arts student at Columbia University studying Theatre Management & Producing, and getting his bona fides with *Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors* at New World Stages, an off-Broadway theatre in the Hell's Kitchen section of New York City.

His credits include *Heard You, Were Leaving*, *The Bridge*, *The Arrangement* (Columbia University School of the Arts); *18* (Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival at The Vineyard's Dimson Theatre); workshops; and a virtual benefit concert for WHEAT.

O'Brien is the Associate Artistic Director of the Savin Rock Theatre company and has interned with The Nederlander Organization, an international theater owner, presenter, and producer of theatrical and concert events.

Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors is billed as a "Bram-new comedy that New Yorkers can really sink their teeth into. Filled with clever wordplay and anything-goes pop culture references, it's a 90-minute, gender-bending, quick-changing, laugh-out-loud reimagining of the gothic classic, perfect for audiences of all blood types."

It runs through Jan. 7, at New World Stages. The production stars James Daley, Jordan Boatman, Arnie Burton, Ellen Harvey, and Andrew Keenan-Bolger. It is co-authored by Steve Rosen and Gordon Greenberg, who also serves as the production's director. The lead producer is Drew & Dane Productions (Drew Desky and Dane Levens) and the executive producer is Dori Berinstein.



Above Left -- The logo of *Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors*. Above -- David O'Brien on opening night, and the cast of the Off-Broadway production, running through Jan. 7.

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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

My hands are still shaking as I write this letter to you. I am elderly and on Medicare and Social Security. I have accepted my age and medical problems but always felt assured knowing that I have medical coverage.

The other day my phone rang and a woman's voice instructed me to get my Medicare Card and tell her the information on it. She said the government is changing the system and even the colors of my Medicare card. My first thought was why I am losing my medical coverage. My heart began to pound, and my hands shook holding the phone. The voice continued with instructions, and I decided I better do something pretty quick.

Then I remembered I had heard there were all kinds of scams out there, so I decided to stall this caller. I told her my card was in my upstairs bedroom and to hold on. I used my other phone and called my son. "No Mom, that's a scam hang up." I went back to the phone and the person had hung up. Can you warn your readers about calls like this?

Still Shaking

Dear Still Shaking:

I am very sorry that calls like this reach my readers. Here is what I discovered about calls like yours, they are SCAMS. They are trying to obtain your financial and personal information. You will never be called on the phone for such information as stated above.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

This gripe is about a car wash locally. My car went up in flames 10 minutes after being washed. I have been trying to get a refund for a month for the week I was out of work looking for a replacement vehicle and the deductible. It has been impossible to get someone to respond.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

I think customers of this West Haven location should be aware of these dangers while also getting someone to respond to my reimbursement request. Thank you for your consideration regarding this story.

Fed Up

Dear Fed Up:

I attempted to reach several car washes in West Haven but was unable to talk to any of them. I also notified one of these outlets by mail and have heard nothing. I would suggest you contact the Better Business Bureau to see if they have received similar complaints about this business. Please let Gripe Vine know if you received any satisfaction from this source.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

My gripe is about Jeffrey and Donald Streets. They need repair or, better yet, pavement.

There are two catch basins and a manhole cover on that corner. The pavement is crumbling around it. The entire Jeffrey Street needs paving. Please let me know the status. I have called Public Works without any response.

Donald Street Resident

Dear Donald Street Resident:

I have contacted the Council member for your district, Councilwoman Katherine Tucker and she replied, "Thank you for reaching out regarding the pavement. I will report your concerns to Public

Works."

Donald Street Resident, please let me know if any signs of repair have been taken.

Readers, please note, Gripe

Vine anticipates hearing from the various city departments recognizing your complaints. Please let me know when your gripes are resolved.

If you have a gripe, comment or issue, you can send them to gripevineatwhyahoo.com or c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road.

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 or use the online form at westhavenvoice.com/gripevine.

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

St. Lawrence School, (This was written in 2017; St. Lawrence School is still doing well!)

In May, 1895, the Reverend Jeremiah Curtin was named the first resident pastor of St. Lawrence Church. It was his fondest desire that there be a school for the children in the

Parish; in September, 1917, his desire became a reality: St. Lawrence School was opened with a staff of two sisters of St. Joseph of Chambray. The brick structure was designed to contain eight classrooms, but initially only four rooms on the first floor were ready for use. The upper floor was

temporarily used as a home for the Sisters until the small house used as a Convent was moved from the site of the present convent to Union Avenue. The new convent was erected in 1920 and additional sisters arrived each year as new classrooms were completed.



Over the years, St. Lawrence School has had an active Mothers Club (later to become Parents Club), a CYO, a Drama Group, and a Girls and Boys Brigade. As part of its ministry to the community, St. Lawrence Church has sponsored a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack for many years.

Today, Principal Paul DeFonzo guides a visitor through the school. The first floor of the front portion of the building is designated for students in grades kindergarten through grade 2, while the second floor of this section is designated for students in grades 3-5. Housed also in this section is a computer lab, meeting room, library, and an art/music room. The basement of this section has a science lab, instrumental music room, and the nurse's office. The PreK program is housed in an adjacent building, the Parish Center, which also serves for the After School Program. An addition was built at the rear of the school in 1956 for students in grades 6-8. This section also houses an additional computer lab and a regulation size gymnasium/cafetorium.

Mr. DeFonzo explains, "We offer our students a rigorous, challenging curriculum, technology of all kinds: Smart Boards in every classroom, Turning Point Technology, Chromebooks, and web-based programs such as Lexia Reading."

The classrooms are a charming blending of old and new, with woodwork that bears the patina of 100 years, and coat hooks for today's students, which were once used by other St. Lawrence students, who are now grown to old age. Mr. DeFonzo continues, "What sets



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

us apart from other schools is a family atmosphere. Many of our students are with us for 8-10 years of their young lives. They have the advantage of starting in our PreK 3 or 4 program, and staying with us right through 8th grade! The students and their families, along with the staff, grow really close during this time. In addition to teaching our students the skills of today, we don't overlook some of the more traditional things—like cursive writing, courtesy, respect, and reverence for a Higher Power. We are a Faith Based school, but we minister to the community, not just to our own Parish."

St. Lawrence School turns 100 years old this September, and the people of West Haven join in celebrating a successful First Century!

Saturday, November 18th at 3:00 pm
300 Elm Street, West Haven, CT

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Westies rebound after 1st loss



Photos by Todd Dandelske

West Haven's No. 19 Ariana Izzo goes around a Lauralton defender in the Westies' 3-1 Senior Night victory. Teammate Abby Phelan sets the ball up for the Blue Devils in the contest, which was played at the freshly carpeted Ken Strong Stadium. The squad qualified for postseason play with two draws and two wins in its final four matches.



The game plan was simple. The execution for the North Haven football team was to perfection.

Coming into the much-anticipated contest against the state's second-ranked team with a powerful single wing offense, North Haven put on a clinic in topping West Haven, 21-13, in a Southern Connecticut Conference contest at the newly surfaced Ken Strong Stadium.

Aside from running out the clock at the end of the first half, North Haven had just four possessions in the contest, scoring on three of them and running out the clock on the final possession of the game. The Nighthawks had three drives of 15 plays, and the final drive of 13 plays to kill the final eight minutes of the game after West Haven got within one score.

North Haven finished with 269 yards of offense, only eight coming in the air on just one pass play, in the contest. The Westies could not solve North Haven's offensive scheme mainly because North Haven controlled the line of scrimmage from the start.

On the flip side, West Haven was held to just 33 offensive plays and 175 yards of offense. Due to North Haven's offense, West Haven had just four offensive possessions, scoring on just one.

The Westies looked out of sync on the offensive side. Quarterback Nick Conlan was 12-of-18 for 99 yards, but North Haven did not allow any big plays by West Haven on the offensive side.

When West Haven traveled to play fourth-ranked Newtown, last week, it was going to be interesting to see how the No. 7 Westies reacted to their first loss of the season just a week earlier.

Conlan and company responded just fine. Behind five touchdown passes and 327 yards in the air by Conlan, West Haven defeated Newtown 41-31 to improve to 6-1.

West Haven's defense came up with big plays throughout, starting with stopping Newtown inside the 20 on the opening drive of the game. Conlan wasted no time responding as his short pass to Kemp was turned into a 69-yard score and 7-0 West Haven lead.

After Newtown evened the game at seven, West Haven needed just one play, a 55-yard scoring strike from Conlan to Reid for a 14-7 advantage.

The West Haven defense again came up big with a goal line stand, then marched 99 yards for a 20-7 advantage after a 23-yard scoring run by Kemp.

Leading 20-9 heading into the second half, West Haven quickly turned the lead to 28-9 when Conlan hit Reid for the pair's second scoring strike of the game.

A Conlan 59-yard touchdown pass to Eady gave West Haven a 34-16 lead late in the third quarter. With West Haven ahead 34-24, Conlan hit Reid for the third touchdown connection of the game between the two, a 77-yard completion with less than three minutes to go.

The West Haven volleyball team fell to 8-8 with a 3-2 loss at Sacred Heart Academy. The Westies dropped a 22-25, 18-25, 25-20, 25-20, 8-15 decision.

Hudanur Sahin ran the offense with 35 assists, while adding
See Westies, page 18



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Senior Night!

West Haven's senior volleyball players were honored last week and took the traditional photo with family, coaches and friends. The Lady Devils had a successful night on the court as well, blanking Lyman Hall, 3-0.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Rafael Gazcon makes a move around a Shelton defender in the Westies' 0-0 tie. Gazcon has been a big cog in the Westie machine, which ended the season with a 9-4-3 record heading into the CIAC Soccer Tournament.

Westies: *Lady booters qualify for tourney*

Continued from page 17

12 digs defensively. Alison Frazer was strong defensively with 23 digs, Olivia McDonnell had a solid night with 14 kills and five digs, Sam Close added 16 kills and four blocks, while Bianka Portugal Morales chipped in 10 digs and four aces.

Shannon Hoey finished the match with seven digs and four aces, Maddie Scillia had six digs, Camila Queiroz added five digs, and Avery Criscio finished with four digs and two kills.

West Haven lost its second

straight match and fell to 8-9 with a 3-1 loss at North Haven. The Westies fell, 24-26, 17-25, 25-23, 15-25.

Sahin ran the offense with 24 assists and added seven digs. Morales had 19 digs and four kills, Frazer had 16 digs, McDonnell added 14 kills, 10 blocks, eight aces and eight digs, while Hoey had 13 digs. Close chipped in 10 kills and three blocks, while Queiroz had 10 digs.

West Haven snapped its two-game losing streak with a 3-1 victory over Sheehan, 25-21, 25-13, 19-25, 25-14 moved

West Haven back to the .500 mark at 9-9.

Sahin led the way for the Westies with 28 assists, four digs, four aces, and three kills, Frazer had 16 digs, McDonnell added 12 kills, nine aces, and four blocks, while Portugal Morales had 10 digs and six kills. Scillia and Queiroz each had eight digs, while Criscio added five kills and five digs, Close had five kills and three blocks, and Hoey had four digs.

West Haven honored its seniors and the team responded with a 3-0 victory over Lyman Hall. The Westies improved to 10-9 on the year by scores of 25-16, 25-13, 25-9.

Sahin ran the West Haven offense with 20 assists, and added nine digs on defense. Frazer was stellar defensively with 15 digs, McDonnell had 10 kills and four digs, Portugal Morales added nine aces, seven digs and six kills, while Scillia finished with 11 digs.

Criscio chipped in five kills and four digs, and Close finished with five kills.

Preparing for the postseason, West Haven came up on the short end of a 3-1 score against North Branford, 25-27, 20-25, 25-18, 21-25. The dropped the Westies to 10-10.

Frazer led the West Haven defense with 18 digs, Hoey had 12 digs, Sarah Davey added 11 digs and seven assists, and Scillia and McDonnell each had 10 digs. McDonnell also had nine kills, seven aces, and six blocks, Sahin chipped in 11 assists and 10 digs, and Portugal Morales added 15 assists.

West Haven opened postseason play with a 3-1 victory over No. 9 Lauralton Hall, 25-20, 25-19, 16-25, 25-18.

Sahin led the Westies with 18 assists, six digs, four aces, and two kills, Frazer led the defense with 13 digs, Camila Queiroz added 12 digs, and

Close had 10 kills.

McDonnell played well with nine kills, four blocks, and four digs, Portugal Morales had nine digs and three kills, Sarah Davey added eight assists, and Hoey and Scillia each added five digs in the win.

The West Haven boys soccer team finally returned home. In its first game at Ken Strong Stadium, West Haven did not disappoint, rallying for a 3-2 victory over Guilford.

Rafael Gazcon had a goal and two assists, and Darwin Calvopina made 13 saves to preserve the victory.

Manny Gordon and Walter Romero also scored for the Westies.

West Haven scored the first goal on the new field when Manny Gordon scored at the 13:05 mark off an assist from Gazcon.

Guilford got the equalizer 6:53 later, and took a second half lead at the 52:20 mark.

The Westies then rallied, scoring twice in a span of 3:31 to take a 3-2 lead. Romero scored off an assist from Gazcon at the 66:50 mark, before Gazcon drained the winner off a penalty kick with less than 10 minutes remaining.

Guilford held a 16-14 shot advantage in the contest.

West Haven won its second game in a row and improved to 9-4-2 on the year with a 4-1 victory over North Haven Wednesday evening at Ken Strong Stadium.

Gazcon led the Westies with a pair of goals, while Walter Romero finished with a goal and an assist.

Calvopina made six saves as the Westies held a 15-8 shot advantage in the contest.

West Haven scored the lone goal of the first half as Romero scored off an assist from Gordon at the 24:01 mark. Gazcon gave the Westies a 2-0 lead 4:46 into the second half off

an assist from Matt Pantone, before Romero set up Ethan Masoperh less than three minutes later for a 3-0 lead.

After North Haven got on the board, Gazcon wasted no time getting the three-goal lead back when he scored off an assist from Bobby Severino 1:15 later for the 4-1 final.

West Haven capped the regular season with a 0-0 draw against Shelton. The scoreless home contest moved the Westies to 9-4-3 on the year.

The tightly contested match swathe Westies hold a 7-5 shot advantage. Calvopina made two saves, and Yahzeel Beyley made three saves for West Haven in the shutout.

After a slow start to the season, the West Haven girls soccer team qualified for the postseason with two draws and a pair of wins in its last four games of the regular season.

The Westies began their run to the postseason with a 1-1 draw at North Haven. Jaylyn Powell scored the lone West Haven goal as the Westies inched closer to the postseason.

After a 3-3 tie at Lyman Hall, the Westies returned home and used victories over Lauralton Hall and Foran to qualify.

In the 3-1 victory over Lauralton Hall on Senior Night, Powell, Abigail Phelan, and Ariana Izzo scored for the Westies.

The Westies capped the run with a 4-2 victory over Foran. After Izzo gave the Westies an early lead, Powell scored twice, and Amiyah Jones also scored to clinch the postseason bid as West Haven improved to 5-8-3.

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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).

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# Tigers take 6-2 win in Youth Soccer

The West Haven Youth Soccer League played through beautiful weather on Saturday and pouring rain on Sunday. The RQ Professional Accounting and Tax Services Lightning Fairies took on Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Dragons this week. Katarina Stratton played tough defense and stayed on top of the ball throughout the game. Avalyn Wilder scored twice. She kept control of the ball and made many nice passes to her teammates. Katherine Samaniego also scored as did Savannah Gilchrist, who scored one goal and blocked multiple shots made by the strikers.

The Elise Encarnacion State Farm Insurance Chrushing Tigers defeated Dillman & Dillman, LLC, 6-2, in an early Saturday morning game. Awab Abdelmageed scored three goals. Hakan Yanbul and Rodger Rodriguez also scored, and Rodriguez played outstanding defense and provided a game-changing assist to goaltender

Nicholas Henninger, who performed a fantastic job.

Milano & Wanat got the 3-2 victory over Baybrook Remodelers. It was a total team effort by Milano & Wanat. On defense, big plays by Christian Ramirez-Chacon and Geronimo Osorio helped Goalie Julio Arroyo get the win. The attack was led by Michael Wilson, who picked up the brace. Cynere Carter and Jordaniel Donis also played well.

Lorenzo's Ristorante Green Beans defeated Stars Ice Cream. Lorenzo's was led by Jada Avila, Chelsea Hernandez Fortin, Nylan Beyah, Ariana Tolentino and Yousra Moussa, who all scored. Shalyn Suchite-Henostroza played well in the goal. In an exciting match between West Haven Professional Fire Fighters and Stars Ice Cream, West Haven Professional Fire Fighters emerged victorious, 5-3. Notable goal scorers for the West Haven Professional Firefighters included David Govea and Doniel

Agustin, with strong offensive support from Farid Saibou. Excellent defense from Abayomi Olatunji, Ibrahim Osman and Joey Sperry helped secure the win. It was a thrilling contest on the soccer pitch!

The U14 girls travel team hosted Orange last Sunday where they fought hard, but came up short, losing 3-0. Lulu Sebas had several amazing saves in net. Naomi Shubin and Lynnise Chesson both worked hard to gain control of the ball for West Haven. The girls were back in action Sunday, on the road to Southington, where they fought hard for a win but fell short, 2-0. Shubin took control of the ball and had several good plays for West Haven. Olivia Petrie was in net where she saved several shots on goal.

The Elite Soccer Camps West Haven U11 boys travel team played twice this past weekend. On Saturday they hosted rivals Guilford but fell, 3-1. Jaxon Cruz worked hard in the goal, making

several saves to keep his team in the game. Seth Empric played solid defensively, as did Collin Gibbons. On Sunday, the U11's hosted Meriden in rainy and muddy conditions. The Westies started off slow, finding themselves down, 2-1, at the half. Ryan Abekah scored the lone goal in the first half.

The second half was a different story, as the young Blue Devils came up strong. Abekah scored again to tie it up, then Roland Green notched a pair of goals to put West Haven up. Abekah would score to complete his hat trick, getting a beautiful pass from Adam Lamkhanter. Jax Guarino locked down the middle of the field defensively, and Luca DeCrescenzo was dangerous on the dribble. Joe Ruiz and Ben Trenchard were both aggressive on defense and made smart passes when they won the ball. Taha Ozhan worked the wide area of the field, and Jacob Rader was once again solid and dependable at center back.

# Midget team picks up hockey tie and win

The West Haven Mite A hockey team had an intense weekend of hockey, kicking it off on Saturday against the Central A team.

Everyone from Mite A played hard, with Austin Picard, Maddy Bruder, and Jack Weiss leading the way on offense with multiple goals each. Also scoring for the Westies were Landon Alling, JP Beebe, Brayden Gagliardi and Gabriella Jenei. Ava Healy and Quinn Uscilla had multiple shots on net, and Finn McLaughlin fought hard between the posts.

The Mite A team played Echo A team on Sunday. McLaughlin had another solid showing in net with strong defensive support from Weiss, Uscilla, Bruder, Healy and Jenei. Weiss, Uscilla, Jenei, and Alling all had multiple shots on goal, with Picard and Gagliardi getting the Westies on the board.

The West Haven Mite B hockey team hosted the Southern Stars A1 team at Bennett Rink. The Westies played an outstanding game on both ends of the ice.

Scoring was plentiful, with Luke Salkins, Blake Bova, and Chase Liston each scoring three plus goals. Defensively, the Westies were led by Callen Tagliatela in net, who was tough as nails in shutting down the Stars' attack.

In front of Tagliatela, Parker Vitelli played a strong defensive game and helped set up numerous goals.

Mite B hockey team hosted New Canaan at Bennett Rink on Saturday. The Westies had a great showing, with goals coming in bunches.

Salkins paced the Westies offensively with many goals. Bova and Liston each tallied multiple goals.

Rylan Jacob scored an addi-

tional goal, while Dean Azano also scored on an assist from Liston. Defensively, Vitelli led the way in net with several clutch saves. The West Haven Mite C Blue hockey team traveled to Northford to take on Wallingford Hawks Mite C. In net for the Blue Devils was Mena Paredes, who made her goalie debut, and made many excellent saves. Multiple goals were scored by Sebastian Malangone and Connor Gaul, with one goal each also coming from Joseph Gaul and Chloe Kendall.

Mite C Blue traveled to play Darien Ice Cats 8U Red on Sunday. In net for Mite C Blue was Kaden Kendall, who had another great game between the pipes. Multiple goals were scored by Chloe Kendall, with a goal also from Paredes. Joseph Gaul had many shots on net as well during the match-up.

The West Haven U18 Midget team picked up a hard-fought tie and a win over the weekend.

West Haven opened the weekend with a 3-3 tie against Southern at the Edward L. Bennett Rink. The Westies got on the scoreboard first when Dante Hardt scored off an assist from Eli Gregory 1:41 into the game. With the game even at one, Cam Delvecchio scored off an assist from Will Delvecchio with 18 seconds left in the first for a 2-1 advantage.

Southern evened the game in the second, before West Haven took a 3-2 lead with 6:42 remaining in the game as Gregory poked in a loose puck off an assist from Haygen Axelrod. Southern evened the game with 2:10 remaining.

West Haven traveled to play the Riverhawks Sunday evening and posted a 3-0 victory.

Axelrod scored twice, and Jason Gherlone and Javed Ul-

lah combined on the shutout.

Axelrod gave West Haven a 1-0 lead with 7:14 left in the first period off a rebound of a shot by Jayden Spreyer, before Hardt made it 2-0 less than three minutes later off assists from Ryan Kelly and Owen Zaharawicz. The lead would remain at two goals until 4:17 remained in the second when Mike Madera set up Axelrod for a 3-0 advantage.

West Haven split a pair of contests with Greater New Haven this weekend. West Haven lost, 4-2, at Northford Saturday afternoon, before following with a win at West Haven on Sunday.

The Westies trailed 3-0 in the third on Saturday, before

Spreyer scored off an assist from Zack Fonda with 3:11 remaining. Less than a minute later, Jason Alling scored off an assist from Hardt to get within 3-2, but an empty net goal by Greater New Haven sent West Haven to its first defeat of the year. West Haven rebounded to post an 8-5 victory over Greater New Haven Sunday afternoon at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven.

Madera and Cam Delvecchio led the offense with two goals and an assist apiece, Gregory scored twice, and Spreyer added a goal and two assists in the win.

West Haven jumped out to a 2-0 first period lead as Made-

ra scored off an assist from Spreyer 4:12 into the game, and Delvecchio scored off an assist from Alling two minutes later.

Delvecchio increased the lead to 3-1 off assists from Axelrod and Will Delvecchio, before Yousaf Ullah scored of an assist from Spreyer for a 4-2 lead.

With the game even at four, Spreyer scored a short-handed goal off an assist from Madera, before the two teams went to the third period even at five. Gregory scored twice for a 7-5 lead, with assists going to Connor Bunnell and Will Delvecchio, before Madera scored on a breakaway with 4:53 to go.



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& THE LIST GOES ON!



# Letters, we get letters!

Continued from page 7

sion provided a \$900,000 grant to renovate the site, and the developer rushed back to the table. Moreover, the Bond Commission provided a \$600,000 grant to NEBCO to expand their brewing capabilities, regardless of the company's new home. Mr. Cohen correctly noted that the \$600,000 grant received by NEBCO is outrageous, as there is ample manufacturing/operational space within the City of West Haven. Ms. Borer, who helped engineer this sweetheart deal for NEBCO, proclaimed, "The deal closed, and I was an instrumental part in getting that deal to close." Now taxpayers in the First District can look forward to noise, increased traffic and other inherent problems of a large barroom facility.

Another legislative accomplishment, according to Rep. Borer, was the 2019 Bill ("An Act Concerning the Use of Single-Use Plastic and Paper Bags"), to tax, then ban, the plastic grocery bags we all used. Single-use plastic bags were banned in Connecticut as of July 1, 2021. A fervent supporter of the legislation, Rep. Borer proudly proclaimed, "Bye, Bye plastic bags!"

The citizens of Connecticut were left without the convenience of free disposable grocery bags and were forced to purchase unsanitary and costly reusable bags.

Should Rep. Borer become the Mayor of West Haven, she and her slate of councilors will decide the fate of the city's participation in the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) "Food Scrap Diversionary Pilot Program." The \$800,000 grant funding received by West Haven from DEEP is conditional upon the city making a commitment to the program by allowing for the program's continued operation by ordinance. Currently, West Haven has a 20 percent participation rate, with 80 percent of its citizens choosing not to participate in the program. City officials must soon determine whether they will amend the ordinance regarding garbage and refuse to codify mandatory participation in the program.

According to an Aug. 30 article in the New Haven Register, "The issue has animated many residents in the city, many of whom have taken to social media groups to express dismay about government overreach in changing the waste collection process." During the recent mayoral debate, Representative Borer said the city would need a compelling, data-based analysis of the program's ability to reduce costs. "I just don't think the program is ready for a mandate," Rep. Borer said. However, given Ms. Borer's penchant for environmental legislation, there appears to be little doubt that she would slowly, but surely, move to amend the applicable ordinance and mandate the separation of food waste from the rest of our trash. Doing so would be the supreme example of big-brother government overreach, dictating under penalty of law how you throw out your trash.

West Haven desperately needs Barry Lee Cohen, especially when the alternative is a liberal politician like Ms. Borer. Mr. Cohen will provide exemplary leadership, lower our taxes and keep city government appropriately constrained and working for us. Barry will support the police and allow them to do their jobs, which will ensure the safety of the citizens of West Haven.

Indeed, during the recent mayoral debate, Ms. Borer, in boasting about her "accomplishments" as a state representative, proclaimed, "Just imagine what I could do here in West Haven!" The trouble is, I can imagine, and that's exactly what I am afraid of. And so should every voter and taxpayer in the City of West Haven. That's why we need to elect Barry Lee Cohen the next Mayor of West Haven on November 7, 2023, and bring forth fresh leadership that serves the citizens, not imposes a political agenda and one-party rule on a very weary electorate.

John Grottolo

## Cohen can stop city's decline

I hope the taxpayers of West Haven are not foolish enough to vote for Dorinda Borer. The lady is a just another tax-and-spend, soft on crime, liberal Democrat, with the voting record to prove it.

The Democrats have had a stranglehold on West

Haven for over 30 years and look at how bad things are here!

Mr. Barry Cohen is the only candidate that can turn things around. He should be the mayor already as he was the victim of a corrupt vote last time that gave the election to Nancy Rossi, while a judge looked the other way and refused to get involved.

West Haven is rapidly becoming like New Haven and Bridgeport in all the bad things, and pretty soon it will be too late to do anything about it.

William Shine

## Gregorio endorses Cohen

Let me start by saying that I am voting for Barry Lee Cohen for Mayor of West Haven on Nov. 7.

And I will admit that although Barry and I have had disagreements over the last few years, and yes, sometimes he is a bit "over the top" and relentless, (which Cobina has pointed out in many columns), given his professional background, service to the public and his unabashed love for West Haven, he is the right person for the job.

His opponent, Dorinda Borer and her fellow Democrats are quick to point out how he walked out of a meeting (negating a quorum over a proposal that was bad for the city), voted (along with his fellow council members) to place Michael DiMassa in a position of power over the COVID funds (and let's not rehash how painfully that turned out), voted for the 5 year plan that increases taxes (with more spinning from Mrs. Borer there since a plan is malleable and not set in stone), took the city to court over fraudulent absentee ballots (considering that the court did not absolve the parties of their wrong doing and yes! voting is a precious right), it is apparent that is all Mrs. Borer and the Democrats have. The shame of it all! Yet, I have not heard one person, except for Barry, bring up questionable judgements made by Mrs. Borer on her record and decisions.

The Democratic controlled Connecticut legislature has unabashedly increased all forms of taxes on citizens, made the police eunuchs with the Police Accountability Act, and then praise themselves for bringing money (our tax money, whether state or funds infused by the Feds), to West Haven. Bad decisions all the way around when one looks at the big picture and wonders if someone has a non-stoppable printing press spewing out dollars and thinks social working and punitive actions can replace the hard work and efforts of law enforcement. Yes, there are a few bad seeds in any profession, but reacting emotionally to the national fever and the detrimental effects of disabling the good ones is just plain wrong. And who voted for all this bad legislation, that's right, Mrs. Borer.

The Democrats might try to convince the public that Mrs. Borer and her slate are new to the scene, but I challenge all of you to look up the names and you will find most are familiar to politics and it's the same damning play that we have experienced over 30 years with recycled actors.

And let's not forget that part of the playbook is the 11th hour shining knight riding in on his horse, Governor Lamont, who toured the city with Mrs. Borer and offered the state's help. It is just like the staged shenanigans of the Democrats in years past, appealing to the worn out, overtaxed citizens who are desperate for economic development and a clean and safe community. The argument made is that the money would go to other municipalities if not us. Sounds like desperation and politics as usual. We get nothing for nothing, and I truly hope there was no quid pro quo attached to all these millions coming in. After all, the same Mrs. Borer voted for a special taxation district for the Havens developers when everyone knew it wasn't happening. To announce it two years later when it was dead in the water well before it was finally admitted was just another political ploy that was held in the bag of tricks.

So yes, my vote will be for Barry because I believe he can get the job done and his judgement isn't tied to long-term political relationships that have only ruined our city.

Please join me on Nov. 7, vote Line B and let's refresh our city in the way it deserves. As he says, this is a referendum for the survival of West Haven.

Michele Gregorio

2019 Republican Mayoral Candidate

## Cohen has accountability

Barry has my vote for West Haven mayor because he is a proven, experienced leader. I have come to know Barry from when he was my councilman.

When I have needed help, whether it be an issue with blight, safety, or a question about anything here in town, Barry always responded quickly and offered to help.

Not only does he answer his phone he shows up to help. He is very accessible, polite and he does what he says he is going to do. Barry solves problems quickly, he doesn't wait around. He has great attention to immediacy and transparency. I'm sure he got this way from being a business executive, you can see he has the skills to negotiate and make stuff happen.

I think it's very important to have a leader who is local and very accessible to the people. If elected Barry's sole focus will be his job as mayor. We need someone who has a lot of time and energy because our town has a lot to improve.

I'm voting for Barry because to me he is a proven honest, hardworking, accountable Westie!

Britni Cotter

I fully endorse Dorinda Borer's candidacy for Mayor of West Haven. As a current state representative, Dorinda has demonstrated her dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our community. It's time for her to bring her exceptional leadership skills back home to West Haven.

What sets Dorinda apart is her approachability and ability to connect with people from all walks of life. She listens to our concerns, understands our needs, and diligently addresses them. Dorinda has been our voice in Hartford, ensuring that West Haven's interests are always represented.

As Mayor, we can have her undivided attention right here in our beloved city.

Dorinda Borer is not just a politician; she is a committed member of our community who has always gone above and beyond for the betterment of West Haven. Her experience, passion, and dedication make her the perfect candidate to lead our city into a brighter future.

Remember, a strong community starts with a strong leader. Dorinda Borer has repeatedly demonstrated she is the leader we need to guide West Haven forward. I urge you to join me in supporting her mayoral campaign and voting for her on Nov. 7.

Dorinda Borer is not just a candidate; she is a beacon of hope for West Haven's future. Let's rally behind her and ensure that our city continues to thrive under her capable leadership.

Diana McManus



## Rell endorses Mullins

Photo courtesy of Milford Republican Town Committee

Former Connecticut Republican Governor M. Jodi Rell has endorsed write-in candidate for Mayor Steven R. Mullins. Rell served as governor from 2004 until 2011. Earlier this month, Mullins, a Republican and member of the West Haven Republican Town Committee was endorsed by former Waterbury Democrat Mayor Michael Jarjura at a press conference on the steps of City Hall. Jarjura was also elected Mayor as a write-in candidate in 2005.





Submitted Photo

### Dream Center opens

The Dream Center of West Haven had its Grand Opening celebration this past Saturday. It is located at the West Haven Masonic Building, Annawon Lodge, 263 Center St. The ceremonial ribbon cutting was held and was attended by over 100 people, including inter-denominational clergy, federal, state and local officials and Annawon Lodge members. The Dream Center, which is

part of the ministry of West Haven's Vertical Church, has a goal to restore hope in the West Haven community. They help serve children, families, seniors, veterans, the homeless and those with disabilities. The center focuses on re-connecting people to God and supporting services that address immediate and long term in areas such as hunger, clothing, job skills and employment search.

## Candidates: *Take last lap in mayoral race*

Continued from page 13  
citizens and their everyday lives.

**Cohen --** Without a doubt, it's lowering taxes through responsible economic development. The most asked question by voters this election cycle is, "Why can't we be more like Milford?" My answer is, "Why aren't we better than Milford?" We have 4.3 miles of shoreline, a strategic location to major roadways, coupled with a train station and two outstanding universities. Plus, the beginning of a renaissance in Allingtown that should extend to the Boston Post Road.

Understanding and appreciating the needs of investors and developers is essential. Knowing and speaking the language of industry, technology, supply chain, local business, and corporate requires real-world experience that can't be legislated; it must be lived. Listening, earning respect and trust, forming partnerships, negotiating innovative programs and incentives, and leading take years that cannot be easily earned or taken for granted.

Economic development goes beyond government grants. Although an important tool to improve infrastructure, utilities, and roads, grants--your tax dollars-- grants unto themselves are not sustainable.

**What is the final thing you'd like to say to voters?**

**Mullins --** All three candidates for mayor are good, hard working individuals that want the best for West Haven. Please read our statements and digest our opinions and be educated voters on Election Day.

**Cohen --** The election will be a referendum on

change. After visiting well over 6,000 households, holding five town hall meetings, and countless neighborhood Q&A sessions, voters are demanding meaningful Change that starts with new leadership that is trusted, accountable, and experienced to lead on Day One of taking the oath of office. The status quo is no longer acceptable or sustainable. Having the same party in power for over three decades has resulted in economic neglect, high taxes, blight, and financial corruption, as well as a decline in safety and security. Public trust is broken and the party that shattered it cannot be trusted to repair it.

Popular people have been making popular decisions in West Haven for decades, resulting in less than impressive results.

It is clear to me that taxpayers are paying too much and getting too little. Fiscal responsibility, backed by hands-on experience, is critical.

**Borer --** I would like to thank the residents, supporters or not, that I have had the opportunity to speak with over the last few months. Their ideas and suggestions are invaluable to the success of this great City.

West Haven has had a difficult few years to say the least. At times it's been pretty difficult to be in Hartford representing the city I love and hearing the push back and knowing I have to work ten times harder to get results for us. I've stayed strong, positive, and focused through it all because I know we deserve better. But we can't go on this way.

Without strong local leadership we are just

shoveling against the tide, and nothing is going to change. It is critical that we fix and change the foundational local government structure, we rebuild trust, and we must rebrand. And that's exactly why I'm running.

I believe at this critical crossroads, my proven experience, knowledge of how to get things done, network and drive provide me and my team with the tools to lead us forward. At this point, we just can't afford to take a risk.

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cepting new students to start in Sep-  
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**Help Wanted**  
University of New Haven seeks  
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Please forward resume to  
tcrowley@newhaven.edu.

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**INVITATION TO BID**

WEST SHORE FIRE DISTRICT  
WEST HAVEN CT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for the  
purchase of Traditional Fire Helmets will be  
received by the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave  
West Haven, CT. 06516 until November 17, 2023  
at 2:00 pm.

The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 860  
Ocean Ave, West Haven CT.  
at 2:00 pm on November 17, 2023

Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the West Shore  
Fire Districts website www.westshorefd.com

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

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

**DOWN**

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Jet speed                     |
| 2  | Director                      |
| 3  | Practice pugilism             |
| 4  | Bamboozled                    |
| 5  | Solidify                      |
| 6  | Skip                          |
| 7  | Fragrant flowers              |
| 8  | Summer on the Seine           |
| 9  | Crib cry                      |
| 10 | Physical                      |
| 11 | Basil or thyme                |
| 20 | Bread and butter, so to speak |
| 22 | Chip giant                    |
| 24 | Seraglio                      |
| 25 | Resort                        |
| 26 | "Wham!"                       |
| 27 | Estuary                       |
| 29 | — de cologne                  |
| 30 | "Top Gun"                     |
| 31 | Historic time                 |
| 35 | "Take your time"              |
| 36 | Panda's diet                  |
| 39 | South Pacific nation          |
| 40 | Eve's grandson                |
| 41 | "Do — others ..."             |
| 43 | Sax range                     |
| 45 | Gumbo veggie                  |
| 46 | Friend                        |
| 47 | Beams                         |
| 49 | Some coll. degrees            |

**MAGIC MAZE • ENGLISH —**

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

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

|           |            |            |         |
|-----------|------------|------------|---------|
| Accent    | Channel    | Language   | Setter  |
| Breakfast | Dictionary | Literature | Sparrow |
| Bulldog   | Horn       | Muffin     | Teacher |
| Castles   | Ivy        | Saddle     |         |

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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**

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

ACROSS

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Netting                       |
| 5  | Composer Porter               |
| 9  | "I'm not impressed"           |
| 12 | Dog food brand                |
| 13 | Send forth                    |
| 14 | Chopper                       |
| 15 | "Arrivederci!"                |
| 16 | Marathon fraction             |
| 17 | Blemish                       |
| 18 | Difficult                     |
| 19 | JFK info                      |
| 20 | Gentle soul                   |
| 21 | Victory                       |
| 23 | Greek X                       |
| 25 | Quick run                     |
| 28 | Cry of distress               |
| 32 | Exact                         |
| 33 | Broadcast again               |
| 34 | Rouse                         |
| 36 | Caviar provider               |
| 37 | "Xanadu" band                 |
| 38 | "— Blue?"                     |
| 39 | Family fight                  |
| 42 | Zodiac animal                 |
| 44 | Frost                         |
| 48 | Hostel                        |
| 49 | Future tulip                  |
| 50 | Tex. neighbor                 |
| 51 | Scribble (down)               |
| 52 | Regarding                     |
| 53 | Paris airport                 |
| 54 | Equi-                         |
| 55 | "Scram!"                      |
| 56 | Calendar squares              |
| 7  | Fragrant flowers              |
| 8  | Summer on the Seine           |
| 9  | Crib cry                      |
| 10 | Physical                      |
| 11 | Basil or thyme                |
| 20 | Bread and butter, so to speak |
| 22 | Chip giant                    |
| 24 | Seraglio                      |
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| 39 | South Pacific nation          |
| 40 | Eve's grandson                |
| 41 | "Do — others ..."             |
| 43 | Sax range                     |
| 45 | Gumbo veggie                  |
| 46 | Friend                        |
| 47 | Beams                         |
| 49 | Some coll. degrees            |

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

- SCIENCE: What was Joseph Lister's main contribution to science?
- HISTORY: Which pro football team won the very first Super Bowl?
- MUSIC: What is the title of the Rolling Stones' 2023 album?
- MOVIES: Who played the monster in Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: How much of the popular vote did Abraham Lincoln receive when he was elected president in 1860?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the ancient city of Petra located?
- AD SLOGANS: What product was ad-

vertised by a man who kept saying, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing"?

- FOOD & DRINK: What is often called the national dish of Canada?
- LANGUAGE: What does an oologist study?
- TELEVISION: What does SVU stand for in "Law & Order: SVU"?

- Answers
- Antiseptic surgery.
  - Green Bay Packers.
  - "Hackney Diamonds."
  - Peter Boyle.
  - Less than 40%.
  - Jordan.
  - Alka-Seltzer.
  - Poutine: potato fries, cheese curds and gravy.
  - Eggs.
  - Special Victims Unit.
- (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



Submitted Photo

# Student recognition

St. Lawrence Principal Frank Arnone recognized the students of the month at a recognition Breakfast. Students are selected based on their personal and academic success. Winners were by grade: Grade 1- Charlotte Monks, Grade 2- Brayden Gagliardi & Clea Vilchez, Grade 3- Sophia Hernandez & Brandon Rylski, Grade 4- Sebastian Hernandez & Emily Palma-Ibarra, Grade 5- Isabella Celentano. & Ishani Jackson, Grade 6- Isabella Hernandez, Grade 7- Christian Podlas & Mia Miraldi, Grade 8- Mateo Santillan-Briceno



# City to mark Veterans Day at Bradley Point

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council will hold a Veterans Day tribute on the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park at 10:45 a.m. Nov. 11.

All veterans are invited to participate in the annual ceremony, which will feature remarks by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and a Veterans Council representative.

The public is also invited.

Tom J. McCarthy, Rossi's chief of staff, will serve as the master of ceremonies.

The event will commence with a presentation of the colors by the West Haven Police Honor Guard and a flag-raising by the West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard.

It will include the national anthem and "God Bless America," a wreath-laying, and opening and closing prayers.

The tribute will also include a bell-ringing at 11 a.m. and taps played by retired West Shore Fire Department Lt. Kevin McKeon.

Veterans Day, formerly Armistice Day, is celebrated on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month,

marking the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918.

To coincide with the solemn ceremony, the Veterans Council will officially launch the 16th phase of its popular Brick Campaign.

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

About 2,950 bricks have been installed to date, including 51 for the 15th phase, which was dedicated May 27.

Applications, due March 15. For details, call (203) 937-3510.

**State of Connecticut Official Ballot**

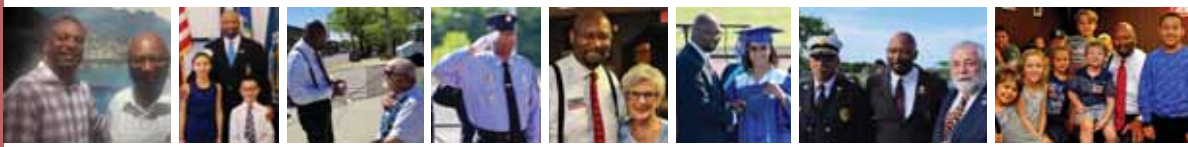
| OFFICE         | MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE                  |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| PARTY          |                                     |
|                | <input type="radio"/> 1A            |
|                | <input type="radio"/> 1B            |
|                | <input type="radio"/> 1C            |
| WRITE-IN VOTES | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 1D |

**VOTE WRITE-IN ROW 1D**

"Just fill in the bubble and write in 'SM' to cast your vote for me on Election Day!"



## A Son of West Haven



Paid for by Mullins for West Haven, 2023; Douglas Turcotte, III, Treasurer

“As Mayor, I will work tirelessly towards implementing the highest standards for West Haven taxpayers. I am calling on all candidates running for municipal offices, regardless of political party or office sought, to join me in making this pledge to the hard working taxpayers of the great City of West Haven.

To view my Taxpayer Bill of Rights, visit:  
[mullinsforwesthaven.org/taxpayer-bill-of-rights](http://mullinsforwesthaven.org/taxpayer-bill-of-rights)

*Steven R. Mullins*



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Ryan Ford



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Bonnie Posick



City Council District 3  
Nyrell Moore



City Council District 4  
Domenic Broccoli



City Council District 5  
Robert Wittkofske



City Council District 6  
Dominic Konareski



City Council District 8  
Dave Riccio Sr



City Council District 9  
Jeff Christman



City Council District 10  
Steven Johnstone

## Barry Lee Cohen for **MAYOR**

### BARRY LEADS. BORER LEGISLATES. WEST HAVEN WINS!

- ★ **Trusted and Tested** Executive and Community Leader
- ★ **Businessman and Taxfighter**
- ★ **REAL** Economic Development
- ★ **Keep Barry's Opponent** in Hartford

For a ride to the polls or an absentee ballot, text or call 203-996-8532

Paid for by Barry for West Haven 2023, Anthony Lancia, Jr., Treasurer. Approved by Barry Lee Cohen.  
Paid for by the West Haven RTC, Angela Driver, Treasurer.  
Paid for and Approved by Penny Sutcliffe.



**VOTE ROW B**  
[barry4westhaven.com](http://barry4westhaven.com)