

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

West Haven Voice

December 7, 2023

Vol. 28, Issue 23 20 Pages

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

City and Allingtown
tree lightings

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Mayor Borer takes office

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Dorinda Borer formally began her inaugural two-year term as West Haven's second female mayor after being sworn in during a ceremony at West Haven High School on Sunday morning.

Borer, a former three-term state representative, was administered the oath of office by state Attorney General William Tong in front of a spirited crowd of more than 500 well-wishers in the school auditorium at the inauguration of elected city officials.

She was joined onstage by her son, Drew Borer, 22, and West Haven Democratic state Rep. Treneé McGee, the master of ceremonies.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were former West Haven Mayors Nancy R. Rossi and Edward M. O'Brien, along with East Haven Mayor Joseph A. Carfora, Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett and North Haven First Selectman Michael J. Freda.

Watch the inauguration on West Haven YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/szcljNjoOc?feature=share>.

Borer, a Democrat, defeated Republican candidate Barry Lee Cohen and write-in candidate Steven R. Mullins in the Nov. 7 general election, earning one of the highest vote totals for mayor
See Inaugural, page 10



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer, right, opens the front door to City Hall on Main Street for fellow Westies Dalky Morfe and her daughter, Mia, 3, on Monday morning. Less than 24 hours earlier, Borer, who was elected for change, opened City Hall's front and side entrances to the public for the first time since March 2020, when the entrances other than the Savin Avenue entrance were closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Borer said the opening of all City Hall entrances signifies that West Haven is back open for business.



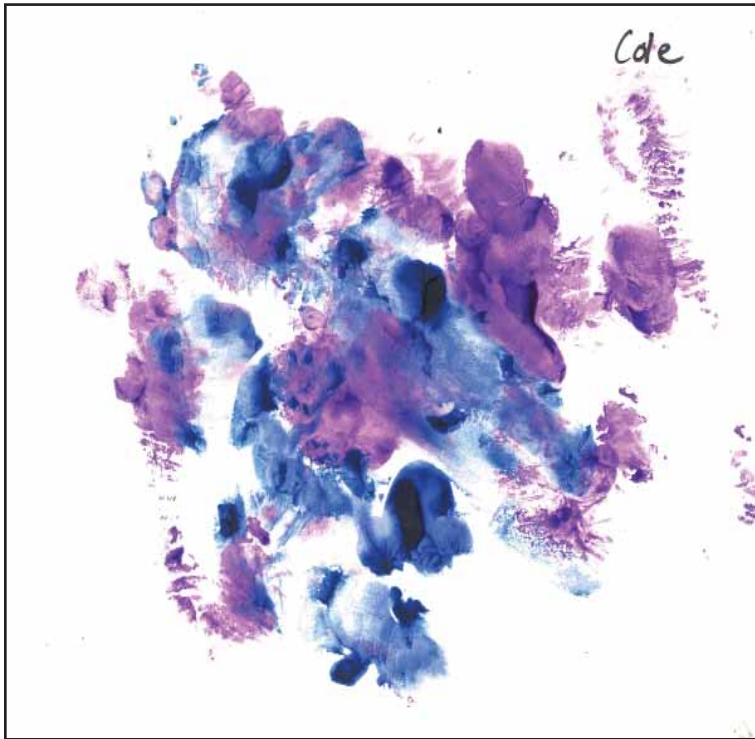
Photo by Todd Dandelske

On to the state finals!

West Haven coach Rich Boshea leads his team to the handshake as the West Haven Blue Devils defeated the Greenwich Cardinals at Greenwich 26-13, to earn a berth in Saturday's CIAC Class LL final against Staples of Westport. The game is set for Central Connecticut State University's Arute Field for a 5 p.m. kickoff. The Westies are making their first finals appearance since 2002.

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Cole Santino, age 2, a West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. student, is predicting wintry weather.

On this Date

2004 -- Hamid Karzai takes office. The Afghan politician took office as the President of the Islamic Republic in Afghanistan's first direct democratic elections in history.

1982 -- December Murders in Suriname. Fifteen prominent Surinamese men were kidnapped and subsequently murdered over 3 days by the military government. The men were known to have criticized the military dictatorship.

1941 -- Attack on Pearl Harbor. The Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack was the impetus for the U.S.'s entry into World War II.

1787 -- First state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Delaware became the first state to ratify the United States Constitution. Because of this, it is sometimes called the First State.

1732 -- Royal Opera House opens its doors. The popular performing arts venue in Covent Garden, London houses the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.

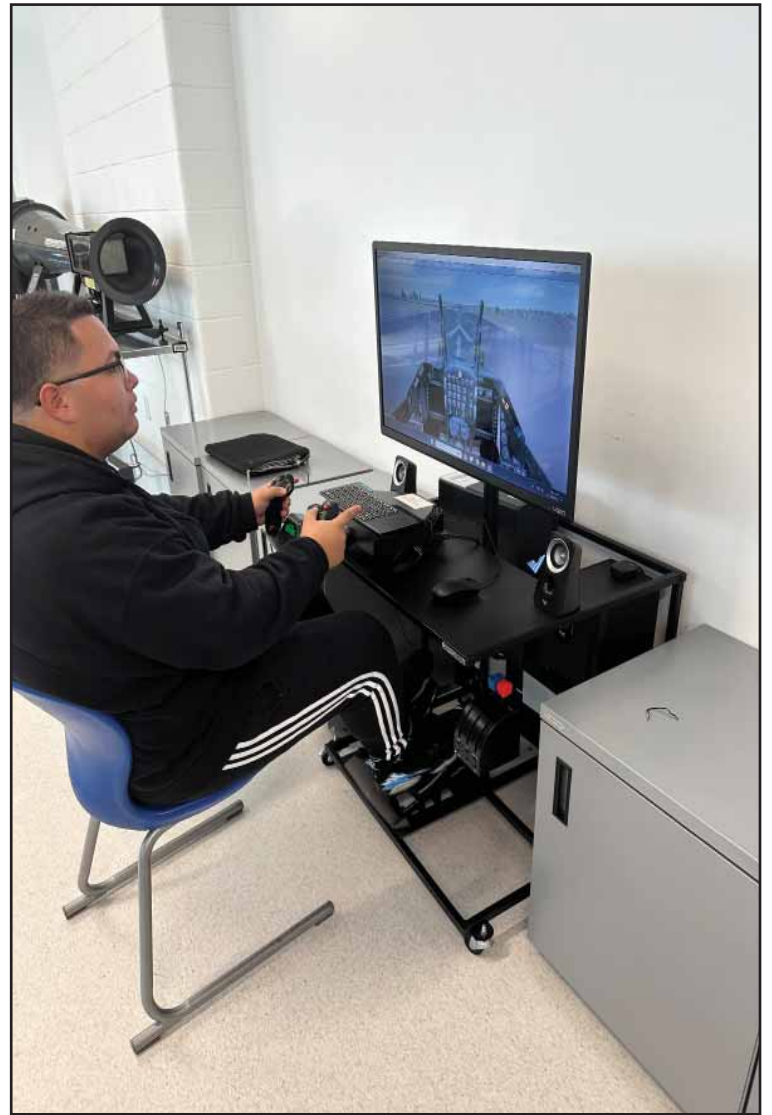


Photo by Michael O'Brien

Simulated flight

Students in the Aeronautics class at West Haven High School tried out their new flight simulator in a class taught by Eric Rice. Junior Sergio Colon is shown taking a flight into the cyber sky.

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Submitted Photo

Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School recently recognized its Students of the Month. The students were honored for their outstanding qualities and contributions to the school community. From left -- Michael Adu-Gyamfi, Finn Mclaughlin, Lesmari Brown, Natalia Buskey, Logan Power, Assistant Principal James Rullan, Gisele Rafael-Mateo, Lorenzo Hruszko, Joaquin Buskey, Zahara James, Savannah Clark, Camdyn Edward's, Mariel Soto.



City observes Pearl Harbor Day today

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council will observe Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park at 10:30 a.m. today.

All veterans are invited to participate in the solemn service, which will commemorate the 82nd anniversary of Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The public is also invited.

The annual ceremony, held in front of the Walk of Honor's William A. Soderman Memorial, will commence with a greeting by City Clerk John W. Lewis, the master of ceremonies, followed by a presentation of the colors and a flag-raising by the West Haven

Fire Department Honor Guard.

It will feature remarks from Mayor Dorinda Borer read by Lewis on behalf of Borer, who is unable to attend because of her first meeting as mayor with the state Municipal Accountability Review Board in Hartford.

West Haven Fire Department Chief James P. O'Brien will read the names of the 18 Connecticut servicemen who died in the Japanese bombing of the U.S. Navy base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. A firefighter will toll the department's chrome bell each instant a name is called.

The Pearl Harbor tribute will include the Pledge of Allegiance led by Veterans Council President Dave Ricci, the national anthem, and opening and closing prayers.

Merry Christmas, neighbors.



I wish all my neighbors peace, joy and love this Christmas and beyond. I'm blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

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Dear Felicia

Well honey bunch, by the time yew git this missive, a new administration will be enconced in the Actors Colony, and we will see if "change" is really about to happen. The biennial festivities took place at the high school on Sunday and all the newly elected personae were duly given the oath.

To say people are looking at this new group with anticipation is to put it in perspective – somewhat. Whilst the team of Dorinda Borer has got some new faces, there are enough old faces to make some amongst us wonder efen things are just gonna be same old, same old. Cobina wants to be an optimist and wants things to git righted, but some people ain't the optimist she is.

As I have told you for years, West Haven, like Gaul, is in three parts, and so is the Democratic Party. Always has been. Where there once were people like Allen and Johnson, etc., there is now Borer, Picard (yeah, the faction still holds his name though he's been outta town for years), and Morrissey.

The Picard faction ruled the roost for the last little while, before that it was the Morrissey group, and now Borer's minions are back in power. But this time there's a bit of a twist.

Sammy Bluejay was in t'other afternoon, and he is of the opinion that things really are gonna hafta change in City Hall from what they've been. The MARB (Municipal Accountability Review Board) has had it up to its collective bicuspid with the leadership here, and is hoping for a bit more cooperation. Now, Sammy was right when he said part of the problem has been the MARB itself, and its imperious attitude, but in the waning days of the term, there seemed to be a type of reconciliation, or "can't we all just get alone" moment.

We shall see efen that makes any difference one way or t'other. But to git back to my point. Mrs. Borer has put herself in the position of a mediator, one who gits things done, and somebody who can communicate effectively. That really was the summation of the campaign, and her time in Hartford kind of burnished that reputation.

She's set a high bar, and now she's gonna hafta deliver. It'll be her name at the top of the marquee, and she will become the face of the leadership in our little corner of the universe. We shall see what happens in the next little while. There is a lot to be done, and two years ain't a lot o' time. Whilst the majority party was

able to put yet another person in the thoid floor of City Hall, whether it can govern is another things. We shall see.

~~~

*The Wag was in after Sammy and had his own lamentations concerning the City Council. As yew know, the last election more or less put most all of the Borer people into power, and swept out incumbents from both parties. Now we have a 11-2 majority on the council – again. Super-majorities have always been a problem in our history.*

*What happened was the majority ran roughshod over everything, bonding for this, bonding for that, and putting us in a bigger financial hole than we got ourselves out of. Remember it was found that the city was in arears \$10 million in the mid-2000s after being in the hole for most of the 1990s. I guess we can be thankful it's not 12-1.*

*The Wag, like a lot of us who watch things politick in this burg, is hoping this new group ain't like their predecessors. But we hope for the best, and expect the worst. Absolute power ain't a good thing.*

*The only real check on this group is the MARB. Nothing financial can be done by the council without the imprimatur of the MARB. That's the good news.*

*How this will all shake out will be known perty fast. The inaugural address by the new mayor,*

*plus the election of the new chairman of the council as well as committee appointments (including the Finance Committee) will tell a tale.*

*As I said above, we shall see.*

~~~

Jest days before the oaths were taken, Dorinda Borer sent her farewell to the peeps up in Hartford. She also tendered her resignation from the seat in the 115th assembly district. That means a special election will hafta be held in order to fill the seat. This is gonna be an interesting side-show, methinks.

Some names have already been dropped as to who might fill the chair, and we know that discussions about said election were held in the last several weeks. The question before the house is whether it's gonna be a simple two-candidate race or will there be others throwing their hats into the fracas.

As I said, and Iva Lootey confirmed, names have been dropped, and we know that Herronner supposedly has her eye on one person to take the spot. That name is much different than the one we hoid a few weeks ago.

The other question, besides who will get the nod from the mayor, is whether that means other candidates will petition to be put on the ballot. Usually, these things are a two-person procedure, one from one party and one from t'other. In the case of the 115th that seat has been held by a Demmie since knickers were the trousers of choice.

But, efen people think they have a chance – and other factions git involved, and there is a Republican in the mix, a two-candidate race becomes a multi-candidate race, and all bets are off. Not sayin' this is gonna happen, but we know with the names that have been bandied about, there is a chance someone might not wanna play nice. Once the dust settles after the first few days of the administration, a lot o' this stuff will get much clearer.

~~~

*Nelly Nuthatch came to tea a day or so ago, and wondered efen the city's GOP Town Committee will do any soul-searching about its dismal failure in November – much of it through its own decisions. The chances are it won't. Nelly reminded me that at one time the GOP was the party of young people. The Demmies had become staid and set in their ways. Well, the GOP was the place people took interest – and this was not so long ago.*

*Well, instead of letting the new blood come in, the old blood redoubled. In a city that had more than 5,000 Republicans – a workable minority – now there are*

*only about 3,000. And, whilst most people are "independent," the bulk goes toward the Demmies.*

*The last election was as bad as it could be. We've said this before, the party went with the money, and forgot that name recognition and prior service mean something to voters. As expected, the endorsed candidate got swamped, and a lotta resources were used.*

*Personalities aside, and that was something the GOP couldn't do in 2023, the GOP did what it always does: be a coffee clatch until a few months before the next election, and then try to get a candidate that might ...just might... get a few votes.*

*Will the leadership of the party take stock in their lack o' performance? Probably not. They just don't have it in them. It'll be a party in name only, put up candidates it never expects to win, and plod along the same way. Until that changes, the Demmies are in the driver's seat forever.*

~~~

Over on Beach Street it looks like things are starting to wind down, but only the birdies can tell. The roadbed is lifted, the sidewalks seem to be getting put down. One wonders how long it's gonna be before the barriers are taken down and one of the major arteries in our traffic system is put back into service.

It's been a haul, but it looks like things will be better, and we won't hafta worry about flooding there. We hear the restaurant that is supposed to be built on the property adjacent to the new condos is waiting for the work to end before the developers can start construction.

Who knows, but spring things might be moving along over there, and with the possibility of the Debonair debacle getting solved, Beach Street will be a pleasant ride once it's open.

~~~

*Meanwhile, Cobina was in her gassamobuggy jest after the holiday, and decided to motor by the high school. The ladeez who traverse the diamond in the spring will have quite the new facility. Construction of the artifical surface is complete, and when we motored by we noted that only fencing and amenities had to be put in. Quite something.*

*Over aon Washington Avenue a sad sight, fencing is being put up around the perimeter of Washington School, and that measn the days are numbered for that beautiful old building, and the nice setting it gives the neighborhood.*

*No, I dont believe building a new school was the only option, it was just the one the leadership wanted. Whited Sepulcres.*

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

*Cobina*

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Gripe Vine Readers who will remember this infamous date will no doubt have difficulty reading the large headlines in newspapers declaring Japan Bombed Pearl Harbor!! Lest we forget!

I remember black shades on windows, squatting in the basement of Longfellow School, Bridgeport, Connecticut. And the big word RATIONING!

However, today, Gripe Vine is presenting a more recent event for our new council people to ponder. I will be looking for a prompt answer for my next column.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I have lived in West Haven for five years now and would like to appeal for help and report speeding on my street, Shingle Hill Road.

After observing the traffic on a regular basis and found that 33% of all vehicles are exceeding the posted speed limit of 25mph.

Also, school buses going by the house from Bailey Middle School are regularly speeding. These buses carry school children and need to be asked to slow down. Decidedly, buses #204, 224, 234

In addition, this same day, I counted 200 vehicles, which were speeding. There are a number of concerned neighbors among myself with young children and grandchildren exiting or visiting on a regular basis.

I appeal to you for help to get the West Haven Police Department and Commission to take corrective action on Shingle Hill Road and, more throughout the entire city, to address speeding.

JA

**Dear Respectfully JA:**

'Gripe Vine has notified



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON**  
West Haven Chief of Police of the condition on Shingle Hill Road I have also directly notified the West Haven Chief of Police of the speeding on Shingle Hill Road. You should see an increased police coverage on this road. If not, let me know immediately. Gripe Vine has also been in contact with authorities on the bus speeding. Let me know, please.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I am hoping this letter will spark someone at this time. I would like to see a nice bakery open in West Haven, one that bakes multi-grain, really wheat, etc., breads, The stores do but not the real things. We had two fine bakeries, but they only sold white bread, though I still miss them, Wolfe's and Peschell's.

There always seem to be other people in them, so it wasn't because of patronage. Let's hope someone is reading my letter.

Florence P

**Dear Florence P:**

Your letter might spark interest in local bakeries adding this product. Gripe Vine for an answer.'

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I called three times City Hall to get an absentee ballot. I even spoket o the mayor's of-

office, but was sent to another office. I never got a call back. Never received a ballot. Never got to vote. Upset!

Irritated Voter

**Dear Irritated Voter:**

Gripe Vane will do a follow up on your complaint.

**Coming up.....**Highland Avenue Parking and City Hall

entrance, and much more.

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## A few suggestions

As of Sunday, a new administration has taken office, the result of the November 7 election. Dorinda Keenan Borer is the new mayor and controls the City Council and under-ticket offices, both of which are in the complete control of one party. We will not sugar coat it, our history with a super-majority (the charter demands at least one minority member) has not resulted in good decisions. At least there are two members of the opposition in this iteration.

As we begin a new era, we wish the new officeholders well, and hope the call for "change" that was so much a part of both Republican and Democratic campaigns does not fade in the push to take power. With this in mind, we offer these suggestions to the new administration:

**City over Party** - The Democratic Party has run this city for 34 years and counting. In that time, we cannot say the leadership has been sterling. In fact, many of the problems and difficulties have been engendered because party, not what is best for the city, has been the rule.

For too long, new administrations saw wins to "get their people in." It would not be an exaggeration to say the factionalism in the Democratic Party has resulted in a revolving door of the same faces hired and rehired, with no appreciable benefit to the residents of the city. That must change.

We hope the new administration, a product of the party's factionalism, can rise above the pettiness and move the city in a positive direction. That was what was campaigned upon, that is what we expect.

**Real reform** - Piggybacking on that issue, we hope the new administration will work with the Municipal Accountability Review Board and bring about a reform of city practices.

It no secret the MARB and the last administration were constantly at loggerheads over getting reform done.

Those unreformed practices were a major reason former city and state official Michael DiMassa, and company were able to create dummy companies, and embezzle millions. Yes, the crime was discovered, but it showed the way the city does business needs to change.

**Real responsiveness** - One of the issues that taxpayers increasingly complain about is the lack of responsiveness in having their concerns addressed. We see it in columns in this newspaper, we hear it in the phone calls to the office, and it is addressed by speakers at council meetings and town halls.

Department heads, down to desk workers, must understand residents have real concerns and want answers. We understand people can be busy, but that does not mean real concerns from taxpayers become part of the paper shuffle, and never get addressed.

Residents pay some of the highest property taxes in Connecticut and are right to expect city officials will treat them with respect and timeliness. No, there should be no abuse or disrespect, and that should be called out. Most people, however, want someone to listen, and offer a solution or advice. It is not too much to ask.

We offer our congratulations to Mayor Borer and her team. We wish them well, and hope for much success in the coming weeks and months.

They have been given the opportunity to put into practice the promises they made during the recent campaign.

Best of luck!



## Movie follows familiar pattern

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

The figure of Napoleon has long been an object of fascination, but the new Ridley Scott biopic makes one wonder why.

The film, perhaps inadvertently, partakes of the spirit of the times. The so-called Great Man theory of history -- that it is exceptionally talented men who bend events to their will -- is out of favor. Accordingly, the movie renders the stereotypical great man, Napoleon, as doltish and uninteresting.

No man is a hero to his valet, goes the old saying. But can't he at least be a hero, or a compelling persona, to the director of a \$200 million movie about him?

Apparently not.

Napoleon can be considered a proto-fascist dictator, or an enlightened reformer, or some of both, but he could never be considered dull, at least not until portrayed by a stolid Joaquin Phoenix, seemingly unaware that the general was a sparkling personality, a hugely energetic reformer and an inspiring leader of men.

As the Wall Street Journal critic Kyle Smith puts it, "Mr. Phoenix's Napoleon could never have commanded so much as a squadron of the Salvation Army."

The Great Man theory is

now considered simplistic and even dangerous, and has about it the stale stench of dead white males. Academic historians tend to obsess with broad economic and social forces or with minutiae, while the largest impersonal force of all, the climate, occupies an outsized place in the political debate of advanced countries.

We don't have to swoon like the philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, who enthused after catching sight of Napoleon in Jena about "this world-soul, riding out of the city on reconnaissance."

But the general and emperor demonstrates that great men matter -- not that they are virtuous or good, or that they can overcome every obstacle put in their way by themselves or others, or that large-scale factors don't count, but that individual leaders take a hand in shaping events, sometimes decisively.

Would any Macedonian other than Alexander the Great have toppled the Persian empire and marched on India? Would any Frenchman besides Charlemagne have united much of Europe under his rule and brought about an intellectual and cultural renaissance? Would any Russian other than Peter the Great have modernized the Russian empire, defeated the Turks

and Swedes, and built St. Petersburg?

How different the 20th century would have looked without Hitler, Stalin and Mao.

By the same token, only Napoleon -- who rose to power in France only six years fleeing his native Corsica with almost nothing -- would have undertaken his historic campaign of institution-building in France and conquest in Europe. Many of his changes in France proved worthy and enduring, while his ambitions in Europe were rightly resisted by other powers, England foremost among them.

At the end of the day, he was a captain of war who knew one thing above all -- the offensive to seek and destroy the enemy army. He had speed on his side, a feel for topography and the flow of battle, and innovative tactics. These enabled him to destroy enemy armies and pick apart coalitions arrayed against him for years, as his legend grew.

As always happens, though, his rivals learned from him, and his military advantages slipped away. He lost a long battle of attrition, in masses of broken men, horses and weapons. His operational prowess, synonymous with great victories at Ulm and Austerlitz, didn't translate into success in

See Lowry, page 7

# Borer: 'Let us celebrate our great city'

*Ed. Note: The following is the address given by Mayor Dorinda Borer, Sunday.*

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for being here today. I know at this time of year how busy everyone is. But I want you to know how appreciative and truly humbled and honored it is to stand before you now as the 13th mayor of the great City of West Haven.

I want to thank everyone who is participating in the program today; from our clergy to our entertainers, to our firefighters, our interpreter and to our police - to that end recognize the officers that were recently involved in a traumatic incident, and we wish them the best in their recovery.

Thank you to our veterans, especially Dave Ricci our leader of the Veteran's Council who just led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thank you to our state and federal elected officials including: Lt. Gov. Byciwicz, Sen. Blumenthal and Erik Russell our State Treasurer who hails from West Haven. And special thanks to my good friend

Attorney General William Tong for swearing me in.

Thank you, President Zenger, not just for being here today as our guest speaker but it is refreshing to have a president of a university live in the city and now understands our city's needs, I look forward to a great partnership.

To our mayors who served before me thank you for being here and thank you for your service. Mayor Rossi thank you for being the first female mayor of our city and showing all the other young women that anything is possible.

Now, normally at the end of each speech through the years I end by thanking my son Drew. But today if you'll indulge me, I want to thank him first. Because today Drew is making a little history himself as he now has the distinct pleasure, he may use a different word, but he has the distinct please of being the only one in the state that has had a father as mayor and now his mother as a mayor in CT.

I mention that because people will often say those

serving in office are sacrificing family and personal time, but in reality, it is our family members that bear the burden and I think Drew has been a pretty good sport for 22 years. And I want him to know how proud I am of him and that I love you Drew.

I worked to get through if you noticed without crying because I understand if I cry in the first 5 minutes of being mayor that may not be a good look.

It is not just my family it is all the friends of families of elected officials that share their loved ones. Thank you.

There is one absence I feel today and that is of my parents. But I take solace in knowing their lessons stayed with me.

My parents who -- my mother was a teacher, my father a salesman -- who worked hard to provide for us but didn't have a lot of means and told me at age 16 I better go get a job (or two) to pave and pay my own way through life as there are no short cuts, no one will hand you something you

didn't deserve. So they told me to work hard and put in an honest day's work and always be accountable for your actions.

These are the values I learned at an early age which have been instilled in me, and I carry with me. But, one of the most important lessons my parents taught me was that in life don't spend all your time and energy on trying to fix your weaknesses, but instead identify your strengths, hone in on those strengths and leverage them to be successful. And that's what I have always tried to incorporate into my work and my life. Look for and recognize the strengths not only within myself but in others and other situations and help leverage those strengths.

And that's why I'm so proud of the newly sworn in team sitting on this stage before you because each brings different strengths and experiences to the table. I want to congratulate each official both Democrats and Republicans as this is your day and you deserve

all the recognition and appreciation for your willingness to serve.

And as we know there are separate branches of government. Our Constitution has that in place for a reasonable balance of power. Balance is okay. That means there will be times of course where we don't always agree but I make this commitment to you, I won't ever question your motives I will always communicate with you and we will approach situation with finding our common ground in order to make the best decisions for the residents of West Haven.

We will get away from the politics that have divided and derailed the efforts in our city because we all have one ultimate goal and obligation here, and it is to the residents of our city that put us here. They are counting on us and deserve good government. And deserve it in a bipartisan way.

Yes, West haven you deserve good government.

Our story has been frustrating  
See Address, page 11

## 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: *Napoleon the dullard*

Continued from page 6

the ultimate geopolitical war. It all ended in ashes and exile, twice. Napoleon was unforgivably careless with the blood and treasure of France, and that of the rest of Europe that struggled so mightily to stop him.

It's not a story that should occasion hero worship, or romantic images like the famous Jacques-Louis David painting of Napoleon crossing the Alps. But it's not a story devoid of interest, or featuring a slightly ridiculous dullard at its center. Hollywood, in a rank distortion, somehow has made it so.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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## W.H.E.A.T. REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX AND ON  
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Dec 2 - Peanut Butter

Dec 3 - Jelly

Dec 4 - Boxed Potatoes

Dec 5 - Macaroni & Cheese

Dec 6 - Canned Fruit

Dec 7 - Canned Tomatoes

Dec 8 - Tuna (Can or Pouch)

Dec 9 - Pasta

Dec 10 - Pasta Sauce

Dec 11 - Canned Yams

Dec 12 - Spam or Canned Ham

Dec 13 - Boxed Milk

Dec 14 - Tortillas

Dec 15 - Rice

Dec 16 - Oatmeal

Dec 17 - Dish Detergent

Dec 18 - Canned Stew

Dec 19 - Laundry Soap

Dec 20 - Roll of Toilet Paper

Dec 21 - 3 pk Ramen Noodles

Dec 22 - Soup /w meat

Dec 23 - Can of beans

(any kind)

Dec 24 - Cake Mix w/Frosting  
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674 Washington Ave from 10-12  
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- 430 Kelsey Ave Tues-Sat that week



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# City contracts to inspect sources of inflow into sewers

CDM Smith of East Hartford and Martinez Couch & Associates LLC of Rocky Hill have been contracted by West Haven to conduct a sewer system study for locating sources of stormwater inflow to the city's sanitary sewer system.

The three-week study, overseen by CDM in designated Allingtown neighborhoods only, will attempt to locate direct and indirect connections from sources, including catch basins, roof drains and broken

sewer pipes. One of the methods used is smoke testing, performed by Martinez Couch.

During testing, white smoke is introduced into the sanitary sewer system via a smoke-generating machine at an existing maintenance hole. White smoke is vented from holes in maintenance hole covers on the street and plumbing vent pipes on or near the roof surface.

The procedure is normal and not cause for alarm.

For full details, read the informational flyer: <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/5729/West-Haven-Smoke-Testing-Notice-Flyer-PDF>.

For the affected Allingtown neighborhoods, see the project maps: <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/5730/West-Haven-Smoke-Testing-Area-PDF> and <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/5731/West-Haven-Supplementary-Smoke-Testing-Area-PDF>.

[West-Haven-Supplementary-Smoke-Testing-Area-PDF](https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/5731/West-Haven-Supplementary-Smoke-Testing-Area-PDF).

In addition, CDM Smith is conducting a mapping of the city's storm drain system over the next nine months in the following neighborhoods:

3rd Avenue, Aircraft Road, Atwood Avenue, Benham Hill Road, Beatrice Drive, Bedford Street, Blohm Street, Burwell Road, Campbell Avenue, Candee Avenue, Carrigan Intermediate School, Central Avenue, Coleman

Street, Cynthia Drive, Derby Avenue, Edna Street, Everett Street, Farwell Street, Forest Road, Fresh Meadow Road, Front Avenue, Frontage Road, Greta Street, Heffernan Drive, Hemlock Street, Hillside Avenue, Homeside Avenue, Homesteader Lane, Jones Hill Road, Knight Lane, Mackrille Elementary School, Main Street, May Street, Wilson Avenue, Morgan Lane, Morris Avenue, Oak Grove Cemetery, Ocean Avenue, Ruden Street, Park Terrace Avenue, Peabody Street, Phipps Drive, Quigley Stadium, Rangely Street, Robart Street, Ruden Street, Savin Avenue, Sawmill Road, Haley Elementary School, Shingle Hill Road, Stop & Shop, Terrace Avenue, Tetlow Street, Tuthill Street, Valley Brook Road, Washington Avenue.

## City's menorah ceremony today

The city's Hanukkah menorah lighting on the Green is set for 4:30 p.m. today.

The lighting will mark the first night of the Jewish Festival of Lights, an eight-day commemoration of rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians.

The annual ceremony, led by Mayor Dorinda Borer, will include a blessing by a local rabbi.

## Three Kings Day marked, Jan. 7

West Haven's 2024 celebration of Three Kings Day is scheduled from 1-4 p.m. Jan. 7 at Tropical Caribbean restaurant, 701-703 Campbell Ave.

The free event is presented by the city, Budget Transmission Center and Car Wash, Tropical Caribbean and the West Haven Hispanic American of the Year Alumni Association.

Festivities will include music, refreshments and toys — and a visit by the three kings, of course.

Toys are distributed to West Haven children on a first-come, first-served basis.

Three Kings Day is a tradition in Spanish-speaking countries.

The holiday, observed on Jan. 6, marks the arrival of the three kings — Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar — in Bethlehem. The Magi, or wise men, brought gifts to the infant Jesus at Epiphany.

*West Haven Health Department & West Haven Food Policy Council presents*

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# Tree-lighting opens Christmas season

By Michael P. Walsh

*Special to the Voice*

Santa and Mrs. Claus accompanied Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and a group of Vietnam veterans to light the Christmas tree on the Green at the city's annual holiday kickoff Nov. 25.

After arriving in the West Haven Fire Department's 1935 Mack pump firetruck, Santa and Mrs. Claus were escorted to a portable stage on the Main Street side of the Green by the West Haven Seahawks cheerleading team to the sound of applause and shouts of glee from hundreds of bundled-up merrymakers.

Before the lighting, WOW Radio personality Brian Smith, the master of ceremonies, thanked and praised Rossi's special guests — members of West Haven Vietnam Veterans and Surfside Veterans — as the all-ages crowd clapped and cheered.

Rossi then gave a shoutout to then-Mayor-elect Dorinda Borer, whose inauguration was Sunday, and helped Smith lead revelers in a countdown to set the tree — and the Green — aglow.

The guests recognized onstage were West Haven Vietnam Veterans President Dave Ricci, Vice President Al Beck Sr., Treasurer Steve Carney, and members Howie Chernikoff, Rick Foley, Mark Levine, Kevin Sullivan and Howie Thomas.

Also recognized were Surfside Veterans President Rich Deso, who is also West Haven's municipal veterans representative, and members Robert Chapin, Doug Daniels, Conrad Martin, chaplain Ken Smith and Al Terr.

The lighting marked the "50th Anniversary of Freedom."

In 1973, President Richard Nixon held a White House reception for U.S. prisoners of war from Vietnam. On May 24, the Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California, observed the homecoming's golden anniversary — 50 years to the day of the then-president hosting the largest dinner in White House history in honor of the 591 POWs released by the North Vietnamese.

To celebrate the anniversary locally, the city and West Haven Vietnam Veterans are sponsoring a City Hall poster series, "A Learning Experience," to recognize the unwavering courage and selfless sacrifice of the approximately 766 American service members held captive during the Vietnam War, Ricci said.

The 19-month series, which began in September in City Hall's first-floor entryway, will also chronicle nearly every aspect of the war, Sullivan said.

The four-hour festival opened with the national anthem sung by Associate Pastor David Thomas of Kingdom Life Christian Church and followed with performances by Top Hat Dance Academy, the West Haven High School dance team and the Mulkerin School of Irish Dance. Top Hat was directed by Sharon Minnix, the dance team by Lizz Petrakis and Mulkerin by Kathy Carew.

It featured performances by West Haven's own Judy Pancoast, a Grammy-nominated recording artist. Pancoast treated the crowd to a songbook of holiday nuggets, including her popular original, "The House on Christmas Street."

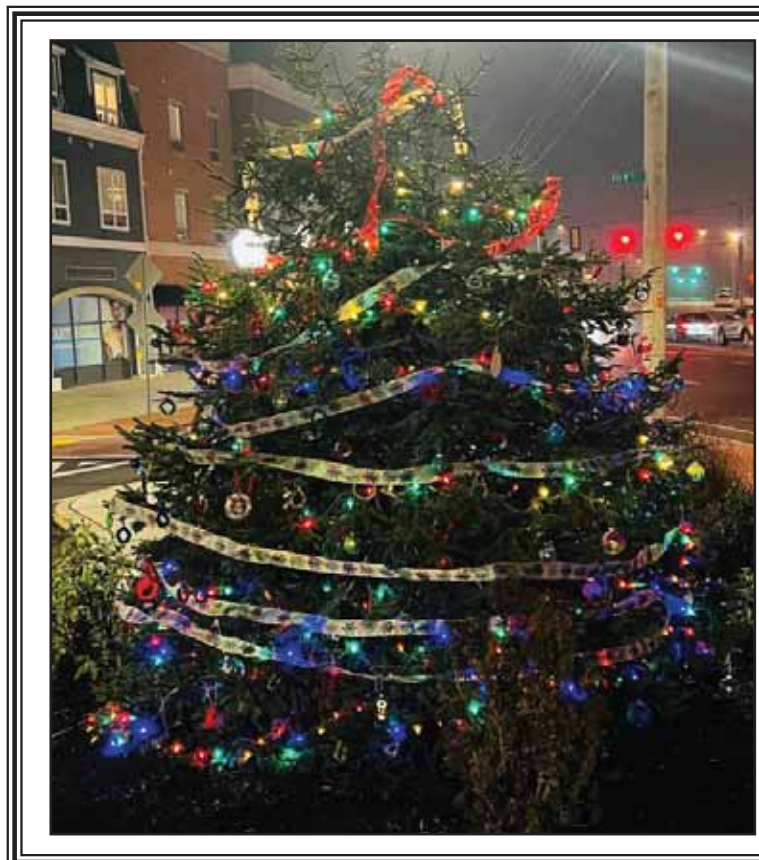
The annual event was presented by the city, ArtsWestCT, the First Congregational Church and West Haven United, an organization aimed at bringing the city's volunteer groups

See Christmas, page 17



Photos by Stacie L. Walsh and photo by Ryan Walsh

Above -- Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, holding an electric switch, center, and master of ceremonies Brian Smith, right, lead Rossi's special guests — Santa and Mrs. Claus, West Haven Boy Scout Troop 821 member Torianna Malangone, and members of West Haven Vietnam Veterans and Surfside Veterans — in a countdown to light the Christmas tree on the Green at the city's annual holiday kickoff Nov. 25. Left -- Avianna Carrano, 4, of West Haven, is all smiles with Santa and Mrs. Claus in their workshop on the Green.



Photos courtesy of Amanda Brault

## Allingtown Christmas

The borough of Allingtown had its official tree-lighting on the Memorial Green, hosted by former Mayor Nancy Rossi. The tree-lighting opened the holiday season for Allingtown residents, and included a visit from Mrs. and Mrs. Claus, who interrupted their Christmas preparations to attend. They met with Annabella Mendoza to hear her Christmas List.



# Inaugural: *New administration takes office*

Continued from page 1  
in decades. Rossi, a Democrat, did not seek a fourth term.

Borer is West Haven's 13th mayor since the city's incorporation in 1961.

In her inaugural address, "A Bridge Forward," she congratulated her fellow

elected officials, thanked her son, family and supporters, and outlined a number of goals for the next two years.

"Our story has been a frustrating one to say the least recently, but that's not the story that we are going to let define us," Borer said. "I

am reminded of the words of Victor Hugo, who said, 'Even the darkest night will end, and the sun will rise.' Our sun is rising, West Haven!

"We may have faced challenges, but it is the resilience of our people that has always prevailed. Our

story is going to be about our strengths. Our story is going to be about our successes. And we will celebrate and leverage everything West Haven has to offer."

Borer pledged to celebrate the city's shoreline, restaurants, school system, public safety departments, business owners, train station, West Haven VA Medical Center, University of New Haven, youth sports, older residents, diversity, history and development opportunities.

Lastly, she pledged to celebrate all residents, affectionately known as Westies.

First Congregational Church Senior Pastor E. Carl Howard and Vertical Church Outreach Pastor Paul Bronson gave opening and closing prayers, respectively.

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz administered the oath of office to elected Democratic City Clerk John W. Lewis, Democratic Treasurer Ronald M. Quagliani and elected Democratic Tax Collector Eric Murillo.

U.S. Sen. Richard

Blumenthal, D-Conn., swore in the five incumbents and eight newcomers on the City Council.

Returning council members are Sarah J. Ackbarali, D-3; Gary Donovan, D-4; Katherine Tucker, D-7; Steven J. Johnstone, R-10; and Meli Garthwait, R-at large.

New to the council are Anne Heffernan, D-1; Michelle Coletti, D-2; Edward McMillian, D-5; Dawn Callahan, D-6; Christopher E. Vargo Jr., D-8; Kathleen Mueller, D-9; Brian Laucks, D-at large; and Nicholas A. Pascale, D-at large.

State Treasurer Erick Russell administered the oath of office to members of the Board of Education, including incumbent Democrat Caryll "Cebi" Waterfield, incumbent Republicans Robert J. Guthrie and Patricia B. Libero, and elected Democrats Heather Shea and Jonathan E. Jones.

Russell also swore in incumbent Democrat Joseph W. Harvey III, incumbent Republican David Riccio Jr. and elected Democrat Suzanne Mink to the Board of Assessment Appeals.



**BSA Troop 899 is chartered by Church of the Holy Spirit on the West Haven Green. Scouts BSA has a mission to prepare scouts for life. The Cub Scout Pack meets 6-7 pm on Tuesdays and the Troop meets 7-8 pm. Call Committee Chair Jenna Messier for more information 203-954-7800**



City Photo

Mayor Dorinda Borer was escorted into the WHHS auditorium by her son, Drew.

**Meetings:**

**Sunday:**  
9:30 am Breakfast - \$3 Buffet  
10:00 am Topic Meeting

**Monday:**  
12:00 pm Living Sober Topic Meeting

**Tuesday:**  
12:00 pm As Bill Sees It Topic Meeting  
8:00 pm Beginners Topic Meeting

**Wednesday:**  
11:00 am "Jimmy's Lunch" - \$3  
12:00 pm Topic Meeting

**1st Wednesday:**  
6:00 pm Executive Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Members' Meeting

**3rd Wednesday:**  
5:30 pm District 15 GSR Meeting

**Thursday:**  
12:00 pm Free to be Me Topic Meeting  
7:00 pm "Shot-Gun" Big Book - UPSTAIRS

**Friday:**  
12:00 pm 12 & 12 Step Group Meeting  
8:00 pm Heroin Anonymous Topic Meeting

**Saturday:**  
7:30 am Breakfast - \$6+ Made to Order  
8:30 am Men's No Nonsense, No Smoking, No BS Topic Meeting  
1:00 pm Saturday Live Topic Meeting

**1st Saturday:**  
6:00 pm Dinner - \$10  
7:00 pm Old Timer's Speaker (25+ years)

**Last Saturday:**  
5:00 pm Potluck Dinner  
6:00 pm "How We Did It" Anniversary Meeting - Coins & Cake!

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West Haven, CT 06516

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⇒ To help keep the doors open for another sick & suffering person  
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⇒ YOU can make a Difference!

# Address: 'Story will be about our strengths'

Continued from page 7

ing to say the least recently but that's not the story that we are going to let define us. I am reminded of the words of Victor Hugo, who said, "Even the darkest night will end, and the sun will rise." Our sun is now rising West Haven with a new dawn.

Because we may have faced challenges, but it is the resilience of our people that has always prevailed and brought us to this point.

Our story instead is going to be about our strengths! Our story is going to be about our successes. And We will celebrate and leverage everything West Haven has to offer.

We will celebrate our amazing shoreline a shoreline that is the longest coastline in the State which has something for everyone; from the stretch of beaches that thousands of our residents enjoy each summer, to areas of open space for passive recreation to the opportunity for development. We will celebrate and we will leverage all of those aspects and opportunities.

We will celebrate the greatest restaurants our state has to offer, and we will help to promote them to bring more people into our city and make sure their business continues to be sustainable.

We celebrate an incredible school system where everyone involved works hard every day for the children of our city. And we will support our educators, and the staff in our school system by making sure they have the tools they need to be successful in providing an opportunity for quality education for every child in our city.

We will celebrate our public safety; our fire, our police, our EMs, our 911 Dispatchers, our paramedics that are all second to none, and we will work to hire and retain our public safety personnel.

We will celebrate our business owners that opened their business to realize the American dream and for years have been offering our residents great services and we will provide them with the resources and the assistance they need to help them thrive.

We will celebrate the state-of-the-art Train Station that continues to be one of the newest in the region, and I will promote it to employers looking to relocate here.

We will celebrate that we are home to one of the largest healthcare systems for veterans in the country and I will work to improve collaboration with them so every veteran in our city gets the healthcare they deserve.

We will celebrate being home to a first-class university

with thousands of students living in our city and hundreds of residents that are employed there and I will work to improve our communication and our town gown relationship so that we can help each other.

We will celebrate our youth sports, our coaches, our mentors that provide opportunities for our youth by building confidence, pride and teamwork. But we will expand what we offer to our children in addition to sports through additional avenues for engagement such as arts, music, or community programs because our children deserve every opportunity to flourish.

We will celebrate our seniors that offer great wisdom, and I will work to help keep them in the homes they love.

We will celebrate our city's diversity and embrace it.

We will celebrate our city's great history but not get stuck in it or mourn it but use it as a spring board for our future.

We will celebrate the significant opportunities for development across our city that are just begging to be tapped by bringing investors to the table to help us create an economy that provides jobs and tax relief.

Everywhere I turn in our city I see opportunities and promises ready to unfold.

But you know who else we should celebrate? You, our residents, the people of West Haven, affectionately known as Westies.

We have talent and experience that can be tapped. We have residents with energy and compassion. And we have demonstrated to each other over and over again that we are a resilient community that through thick and thin no matter what rise above and stick together. You demonstrate the pride and passion of our city, and you are the heart and soul of this city.

So, let's not imagine let's re-imagine. Let's write our next chapter, by turning the page.

And when all is said and done, we will promote West Haven to the world, because we know what an amazing city we really are and it's time the rest of the world knew it as well.

Yes it takes a great leader, yes it takes a quarter back to lead the team. I gladly and proudly take on that role, and I'm ready to get to work, but it's the will of our residents that have always and will continue to help West Haven tell a new story.

I know you want to see us flourish as much as I do. So together Let's create a story that generations look back and say they did something right!

We, myself and our new

team, will get this done for you, our Westies through delivering good government. And while it won't happen overnight. I will draw on that lesson my family taught me and provide you with a strong work ethic, give you that hard day's honest work, and always

be accountable for my actions.

Tomorrow morning at 9 a.m I will open the front door to City Hall, a door that has been locked for 3 years. I will open that door both physically and figuratively, I will hold out my hand to you West Haven and let you know you are wel-

come in our government and we are here to serve you.

Brighter days are ahead. The best is yet to come, West Haven,

I'm Dorinda Borer, I am now your proud mayor. I love this great city. Let's start celebrating West Haven!



City Photo

Mayor Dorinda Borer Shakes hands with Attorney-General William Tongs following his administering the oath of office. Looking on is Drew Borer, who escorted his mother..

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# Allingtown FD hires female firefighter

City of West Haven Fire Department–Allingtown will be conducting a swearing-in ceremony for three recently hired firefighters.

For the first time in its history, the department will be swearing its first female full-time career firefighter.

This is also the first time, since the pandemic, that the ceremony will be open to the public. It is planned for the Minor Park station, 318 Fairfax St., at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec.15.

Samantha Trayer will be among the three, following her successful completion of the 14-week long State of Connecticut Fire Academy program where she is finishing near the top of the class.

In addition, the department will also welcome two firefighters who have laterally transferred from the states of Virginia, and Arizona after following and successfully completing the application process.



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CT DCP Registration HCA-000807

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



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Dubel's Cafe tees off fund


Dubel's Cafe owner Fred Hugendubel, a co-chairman of the annual Dubel's Golf Tournament, presents an \$8,200 check for the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program to Beth A. Sabo, the program's chairwoman and the city's commissioner of human resources, at City Hall on Monday. The money raised at the October tournament will benefit the program's Susan A. Ruickoldt Scholarship Fund. The fund was founded in March 2003 to raise breast cancer awareness in honor of Ruickoldt, who taught third grade at Savin Rock Community School before dying of breast cancer in 1997. Each spring since 2003, scholarship organizers have awarded \$2,000 in Ruickoldt's memory to a female high school senior from West Haven who plans to continue her education.




# MOVIE MATINEES



MONDAY  
DECEMBER 4TH



MONDAY  
DECEMBER 11TH



SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 23RD

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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

**Christmas, 1917**  
**By Seth G. Haley**  
**As written, 1955**

It was Christmas, 1917; the occasion World War I; the place a tiny village in France, a village with one little shop, a few houses, a beaten chateau. Stationed there temporarily

was a machine-gun battalion of the Rainbow Division, to which I, as a YMCA worker, was attached. To this place I was sent, to try to make a Christmas for these men.

I arrived a few days before Christmas. It was bitterly cold. There was snow and ice

on the ground. The men were billeted in barns, in the chateau, anywhere. They spent their days on long marches, training, hardening for the ordeal ahead. They were reasonably cheerful, and together we planned for our Christmas. We secured from the fine

parish priest the use of his little, unheated hall. Then we searched for talent in the outfit, held rehearsals, with no piano available. But the "Y" had promised a plane, and it came on Christmas Eve, with boxes of Christmas things. Many willing hands unloaded the truck, and then the final rehearsal.

Christmas morning came bright and fair, and cold, and in the hall, decorated with greens and red berries, with a colorful tree on the stage, the men assembled, bundled in their coats.

The program began with a brief religious note; a few verses of scripture, the Lord's Prayer, a few simple remarks, a carol we all remembered. Then the boys performed: vocal and instrumental solos, banjos predominating; a surprising piano solo; a good quartet; dancers, and then the climax, the "Hobnail Minstrels," a rollicking good number.

Then the distribution of little gifts and a Christmas card to each man. A closing song and benediction.

Shortly, the dinner! Uncle Sam had remembered us abundantly, and the cooks had worked valiantly. There was turkey and all that goes with it on Christmas Day at home; and "seconds!" My dinner was with one of the companies in a new barn, my table a manger. Unforgettable!

In the evening another gathering in the cold, dimly lighted little hall. Some of the entertainment repeated and the singing of familiar carols from our leaflets. The quartet sang softly and effectively "Silent Night, Holy Night" and the



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

day was ended.

No, not quite ended, for many lingered -to talk, to write letters by candle light, some standing, using the stage for a desk. And to my little room adjoining, many came to talk, to show pictures of their loved ones so far away and to receive New Testaments, which fitted the blouse pocket over the heart.

Come early next morning, and they marched away to another area, their shoes crunching on the snow and ice. They waved and spoke as they passed me, standing by the side of the road.

I watched them out of sight around the bend, and thought, "Wonderful boys, the flower of American manhood. I hope their Christmas helped!



SETH G. HALEY

WEST HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## BABY SUPPLY DRIVE & CLOTHING SWAP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th  
 1:00-6:00PM

The West Haven Public Library will be giving away donations of gently used and new baby clothes, toys and supply items. Stop by to shop for your little one!

Excess donations will be given to the Nurturing Families Network and West Haven Dream Center to support West Haven parents in need.

Collecting Dates :

**November 13 - December 18th**

**Drop off in the Children's Dept on the 2nd Floor of the Main Library**

**For more information:**  
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# Westies play for first Class LL title since '02

For the first time in two decades, the West Haven football team is headed back to the state finals.

Behind two touchdown passes and a pair of touchdown runs by Nick Conlan, the Westies topped Greenwich, 26-13, in the Class LL semifinals at Greenwich Sunday afternoon.

Looking for their first state title since defeating Greenwich in 2002, the Westies will

play Staples Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University. West Haven defeated Staples in the season opener in September.

Trailing 6-0, West Haven evened the game when Conlan hit Armani Reid in stride for a 77-yard touchdown pass and a 6-6 tie.

The Westies took the lead for good in the third quarter as Conlan scored on a 44-yard scamper, then increased the

margin to 18-6 when Conlan hit Demarco Eady for a 21-yard score.

Clinging to an 18-13 lead, Conlan scored from four yards out in the final two minutes to seal the win.

West Haven opened the past 14 days with a regular season loss to Fairfield Prep, before opening the state playoffs with a win over New Britain.

For six weeks to start the season, the Fairfield Prep foot-

ball team could not have imagined they would be in position to play for a postseason spot on the final day of the regular season. Three wins later, and the Jesuits had one mountain to climb, along with a bit of help to play in the postseason.

The Jesuits did their part, holding West Haven in check, and squeezing out a 21-14 victory in a Southern Connecticut Conference contest at Ken Strong Stadium in West Haven Wednesday evening.

The Jesuits broke out to a 21-7 lead at the half, then relied on the defense in the second half to hold on to the victory.

After West Haven used eight plays to go 53 yards for a Conlan to Reid 16-yard touchdown, getting the Westies within 21-14, the Prep defense made several stands.

The Westies had a chance to tie the contest, facing fourth down at the Prep eight, but the Jesuit defense stopped Conlan one yard short of a first down with just over six minutes remaining.

After holding the Jesuits, West Haven had one final opportunity to even the contest, but Prep took advantage of some West Haven miscues, then sealed the contest when T.J. Cirilli's interception gave Prep the ball with under five minutes to go.

Prep took all but 35 seconds off the clock, but West Haven was unable to generate any offense, falling for the sixth straight time against the Jesuits.

"It has to do with how well Prep played," West Haven coach Rich Boshea said. "We didn't make plays that we have to make, and we didn't do things we have to do to win the game. That comes from Prep playing really well. We knew it was a tough match up. They were fighting for their lives, and we just didn't get it done when we had to."

The Jesuits set the tone in the opening half, controlling play from start to finish on both sides of the ball. Fighting for a postseason bid, Prep amassed 210 yards of offense in the

opening 24 minutes, and other than an interception returned for a touchdown by the Westies, were barely threatened.

Needing just four plays to move 56 yards on its opening possession, Fairfield Prep made things look easy when the drive ended on a 39-yard touchdown strike from Tyler Smith to Vincent Lombardo just 1:08 into the contest.

West Haven could not recover a poor snap on its next possession, setting Prep up at the West Haven 49. When the Jesuits looked as if they were extending the lead to a pair of touchdowns, Coryon Harris picked off a pass by Smith and returned the interception 99 yards to get within 7-6 as the extra point failed.

The Westies failed to click on any cylinder in the opening half, including a poor snap on a punt attempt, giving the Jesuits possession at the West Haven 8. Three plays later, Prep led 14-6 on a 3-yard touchdown run by Jon Morris with 1:04 remaining in the opening quarter.

West Haven had its share of opportunities to get on the board to close the opening half, but two drives ended inside the 30, and the final play of the half fell incomplete with the Westies at the 5-yard line of the Jesuits.

While the Westies could not capitalize, Prep did, taking a 21-6 advantage with 1:03 remaining in the half on a 20-yard scoring strike from Smith to Finbar Malloy to cap a 14-play 73-yard drive.

Heading into the postseason, third-seeded West Haven had plenty to think about. There were struggles of late to win in the postseason at home, and most currently, a loss to Fairfield Prep less than a week ago to conclude the regular season.

Not of that mattered Tuesday evening.

Behind the passing combination of Conlan and Reid, the running of Camren Kemp, and a decisive interception by Harris, West Haven topped sixth-seeded New Britain, 28-14, in

See Westies, page 15



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Brian Oliver hoists QB Nick Conlan after his touchdown rush. The Blue Devils play Staples of Westport for the Class LL state championship on Saturday at Arute Field at CCSU.

Photos by Todd Dandelske

Clockwise from right -- Demarco Eady sprints for the end-zone after hauling in a Nick Conlan pass. Armani Reid slides to catch a Nick Conlan pass. Kavonni Daniels sacks the Greenwich quarterback in the Westies' 26-13 win. The Westies play Staples of Westport for the Class LL state championship, 5 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University's Arute Field.



# Westies: *Play for Class LL title, Saturday*

Continued from page 14

the quarterfinal contest at Ken Strong Stadium.

"It is not our kind of night obviously," Boshea said after his team improved to 9-2. "We dropped a lot of balls, but our defense played pretty well, and our guys made plays when they really had to. New Britain played very well. We got the W and that's our main thing."

"It was pretty good," Conlan said of the team's passing game. "We saw some things we never saw before. We didn't see many blitzes. Usually, teams blitz a lot. They started to do it towards the end. It was something new. We knew we had to sit in the holes, find the open space, sit there, and I would throw it to them."

Despite windy and frigid conditions, Conlan was on the mark against the Hurricanes, completing 13-of-23 passes for 159 yards and a pair of touchdown passes. Conlan's line could have been better if not for several dropped passes early on when West Haven was looking to get on the scoreboard.

"He throws a good ball into the wind because his throws are sharp and tight," Boshea said of Conlan. "They (Reid and Conlan) just know each other well. They have that feel. They play a lot of seven on seven together, and

they know each other's moves. Armani is a money player and Nick is a money player."

Conlan and Reid were in sync throughout the game, as the duo connected ten times for 131 yards and two touchdowns.

Leading 6-0, Conlan hit Reid for a 19-yard score and a 14-0 lead in the second quarter. It was the duo's connection with 5:08 left in the game which was the final dagger, giving West Haven a 28-7 lead.

"Talking before the plays," Reid said of the connection with him and Conlan. "Talking after the plays. During practice. After practice. Always having a connection with your quarterback. Let him know I got your back."

While the passing of the Westies helped move the ball, it was the running game which set the tone in the second half as Kemp scampered 56 yards for a touchdown and a 21-0 lead on the first offensive play from scrimmage for the Westies.

The Hurricanes wasted no time responding, needing just six plays to go 68 yards. After a 41-yard run by Jayden Allen put the ball at the West Haven six, Cayden Hill ran in the final six yards on the next play to get the Hurricanes within 14 points.

The Hurricanes then had two

straight offensive possessions to get back in the game, but Reid made a key fourth down stop on the first, and Harris intercepted a Donovan Campbell pass on the next.

The interception by Harris set the Westies up at the New Britain 13, before Conlan hit Reid from nine yards out and a 28-7 lead.

"I thought Coryon's interception turned the game around," Boshea said. "They had the ball and could have made it a one score game. We picked it off, go down here, and go up two scores."

Campbell hit Israel Dandrade with a 35-yard scoring pass with less than two minutes to go in the game, but the Hurricanes never got closer.

The first half was dominated by the Westies as they held New Britain to just 90 yards of offense. While the windy and frigid temperatures could have altered the offense, Conlan thrived, completing 8-of-14 passes for 112 yards and a touchdown.

With West Haven leading 6-0 and both offenses struggling to get going, Conlan helped give the Westies a 14-0 lead when he drove the Westies 58 yards in five plays.

"It is amazing, especially for me and a couple of other guys as this is our first playoff win in forever, honestly,"

Conlan said. "It is our first (postseason) win at home in a while. It is just amazing."

Conlan completed three passes on the drive to Reid for 60 yards, including a 19-yard touchdown reception with 1:59 remaining in the half. Reid then took a pitch from Conlan on the conversion for the 14-0 lead.

West Haven did not get much going on the ground in the opening half, but the Westies took a 6-0 lead on their second possession of the contest when Ya'Hinus Mercer plunged in from one yard out to cap a 6-play, 57-yard drive with 2:12 remaining in the opening quarter.

New Britain moved the ball at times behind the running of Allen, who finished the game with 149 yards on the ground, but never completed a first half drive with a score. The Hurricanes never got further than the West Haven 42 in the opening half as Allen rushed for 40 yards.

The Hurricanes also could not capitalize as West Haven recovered two of its own first half fumbles.

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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.

Photo by Todd Dandelske

Long Reach!

West Haven's Brian Oliver knocks down a Greenwich pass for the Blue Devils in Sunday's 26-13 win over the Cardinals at Greenwich. The win set up a CIAC Class LL rematch with Staples of Westport at Arute Field on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain at 5, Saturday.



Mite squads continue torrid scoring pace

The West Haven Mite B hockey team hosted East Haven at home. The Westies got on the board early with a goal from Callen Tagliatela, assisted by Maddy Demayo.

Parker Vitelli, Blake Bova, and Luke Salkins also scored for West Haven. Dean Azano was in net and turned away many Yellowjackets shots. Rylan Jacob and Darcy Jacob also played strong games for the

Westies.

The West Haven Mite B hockey team had a busy weekend, with three games on the ledger. In each game, Bova led the Westies with a tremendous performance in net.

Opening the weekend at home against Wonderland Wizard White, the Westies were paced offensively by Salkins and Vitelli. Defensively, Rylan Jacob and Tagliatela

helped turn away the Wonderland attack.

Early Sunday, the Mite B's traveled to Milford to take on the Southern Stars A1 White. With Bova playing another strong game, the Westies denied the Southern attack throughout the entirety of the contest. Led by a scoring barrage from Salkins, the Westie sticks were on fire. Also scoring were Demayo, Tagliatela, Vitelli, and Azano. Darcy Jacob contributed to the Westie performance with hustle and energy on both ends of the ice.

Later on Sunday, the Westie

Mite B's hit the road again to take on Greater New Haven Warriors A1 at the Northford Ice Pavilion. In what was an intense game, the Westies were again led by Bova in goal. Chase Liston and Demayo turned in tremendous efforts to limit the Warrior offense. Azano provided scoring, while Tagliatela and Darcy Jacob and Rylan Jacob each helped to set up multiple shots on net for the Westies.

The West Haven Mite C Blue hockey team hosted CT Northern Lights U8 Maroon at Bennett Rink. Kaden Kendall

was in net for the Blue Devils and made many great saves during the matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Chloe Kendall, with another goal from Nico Camera, his first of the season. Assists came from Marco Camera and Mena Paredes, and multiple shots on net were made by Paredes, Connor Gaul and Joseph Gaul.

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& THE LIST GOES ON!

Christmas: *Festival ushers in the holidays*

Continued from page 9 together.

The sponsors were Affordable Waste Systems LLC, All Purpose Contractors LLC, Baybrook Remodelers Inc., Cordone & Son, EarthLoop LLC, Frankson Fence Co., Herrington & Sons Tree Specialists LLC and Winkle Bus Co. DJ Dan played holiday-themed music while costumed Christmas characters and Victorian-clad carolers entertained families around the downtown park.

The Yuletide festivities included an inflatable Santa's village and craft stations on the 5-acre Green, where children decorated wooden ornaments, wrote letters to Santa, and made cards for U.S. troops overseas and those at the West Haven VA Medical Center.

The Christmas tree was adorned with fluorescent-colored lights and ornaments and was decorated by West Haven Boy Scout Troop 821, the first all-girl Boy Scouts of

America troop established in the United States.

The troop's charter sponsor is the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown. Garland adorned with white lights decorated The John C. Ireland Bandstand, and Victorian lampposts bedecked with angels blowing on trumpets illuminated the walkways.

The decorated park also included inflatable attractions that youngsters went in and had pictures taken.

Before their long sleigh ride back to the North Pole, Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted children and posed for snapshots. Just steps from Santa's workshop, boys and girls dropped off wish lists at St. Nick's official U.S. Postal Service mailbox.

West Haven United stamped children's holiday "passports."

Along with hayrides, kids rode in a vintage West Shore firetruck provided by Baybrook Remodelers.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- Addison Root, 8, of West Haven, gets a sea queen painted on her face by Laura Feist-Roche, the owner of Happy Daze Costumes of West Haven. Below -- Victorian carolers added to the festive atmosphere.

WHFD-Allingtown gives oath to trio on Tuesday

City of West Haven Fire Department-Allingtown will be conducting a swearing-in ceremony for three recently hired firefighters.

For the first time in its history, the department will be swearing its first female full-time career firefighter.

This is also the first time, since the pandemic, that the ceremony will be open to the public. It is planned for the Minor Park station, 318 Fairfax St., at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Samantha Trayer will be among the three, following her successful completion of the 14-week long State of Connecticut Fire Academy program where she is finishing near the top of the class.

In addition, the department will also welcome two firefighters who have laterally transferred from the states of Virginia, and Arizona after following and successfully completing the application process.



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City of West Haven

A copy of the West Haven City audit for the fiscal year 2022 is on file in the City Clerk's office for public inspection.

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Town & City Clerk

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Kapow!"
4 British ref. work
7 Holler
12 Director Spike
13 Chemical suffix
14 Fall sign
15 Nest egg acronym
16 Large, luxurious car
18 Brooch
19 Range
20 Collections
22 – tear (ragging)
23 First lady of scat
27 Earth Day mo.
29 Transparent
31 Dolphins' home
34 Traces of smoke
35 Agile
37 Obtained
38 Bygone Peruvian
39 Flamenco cheer
41 Vacillate
45 Quick trip
47 Shoe width
48 Pungent cheese
52 Aachen article

DOWN

1 Radar dots
2 High nest
3 Signified
4 Fixes a squeak
5 Newspaper chief
6 Fiend
7 Pivot
8 That guy's
9 Kimono sash
10 Samovar
11 – kwon do
17 Ellipse
21 Ballroom dance
23 Radiates
24 Vinyl records
25 Back talk
26 Billboards
28 Picnic dessert
30 – Jima
31 Roman 1051
32 "There's no – team!"
33 "Better Call Saul" network
36 Bellow
37 Swiss metropolis
40 Sledded in the Winter Olympics
42 Like a neglected garden
43 Vowel group
44 Streisand title role
45 Equitable
46 Streetcar
48 Leary's drug
49 Jurist Lance
50 Fortify
51 A/C meas.

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: A MALE BOVINE

Bald Clear Gray Spear
Bare Dead Light Thick
Bone Double Pig Wrong
Buffle Empty Red

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers to this week's puzzles

King Crossword

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers

1. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
2. Arctic and Pacific.
3. Fear of good news.
4. 742 Evergreen Terrace.
5. Generally between 300-500.
6. Third.
7. Suriname.
8. Internal organs of a young animal.
9. Late 14th century.
10. Copernicus.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which Disney animated movie features the song "Whistle While You Work"?

2. GEOGRAPHY: Which two oceans are on Russia's shores?

3. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called euphoria?

4. TELEVISION: What is "The Simpsons" home address?

5. GAMES: How many dimples are on a golf ball?

6. ASTRONOMY: Earth's place in the solar system is how many planets from the Sun?

7. LANGUAGE: What is the only country in South America whose official language is Dutch?

8. FOOD & DRINK: What is a sweetbread?

9. LITERATURE: In which century was "The Canterbury Tales" written?

10. SCIENCE: Who is considered the father of modern astronomy?



Photo by Beth Sabo

Westies Nutrition supports scholarship

Amanda Forst, left, and Mandy Hutchinson of Westies Nutrition at 153 Sawmill Road present a \$207 check in support of the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program on Nov. 13. The money will benefit the program's Susan A. Ruickoldt Scholarship Fund. The fund was founded in March 2003 to raise breast cancer awareness in honor of Ruickoldt, who taught third grade at Savin Rock Community School before dying of breast cancer in 1997. Each spring since 2003, scholarship organizers have awarded \$2,000 in Ruickoldt's memory to a female high school senior from West Haven who plans to continue her education.



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Donate NEW toys (ages 0-3) and NEW coats (all ages) to the United Way of Greater New Haven to benefit those in need this holiday season while enjoying seasonal melodies. Free parking is available at the 150 York Street Garage. Visit our website for details.

Ice Carving Competition & Yale University A Cappella Concert

- **Sunday, December 10, 12:00-4:00pm**
5 professional ice carvers will each create a spectacular ice sculpture in only 4 hours. Vote on your favorites to win gift cards. Plus, enjoy performances by accomplished Yale University a cappella groups. Free parking is available at the 150 York Street Garage. Visit our website for details.

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Chapel Street Ice Carving Demonstrations

- **Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23, 1:00-3:00pm**
On the sidewalk in front of Ūni-Home Life, 1046 Chapel Street

Storytelling & Selfies with Santa & Mrs. Claus

- **Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23 1:00-3:00pm**
B Natural Kitchen, 260 College Street
- **Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10 & 17, 1:00-3:00pm**
Barnes & Noble/The Yale Bookstore, 77 Broadway (lower level)

Strolling Yuletide Carolers

- **Chapel Street, Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16 & 23, 12:00-3:00pm**
- **Broadway District, Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10 & 17, 12:00-3:00pm**

Andy Wolf Holiday Tubulation Series

- **Saturdays, November 25, December 2, 16 & 23, 1:00-4:00pm**
Broadway Island, across from J.Crew/Apple/lululemon
- **Sundays, November 27, December 3, 10 & 17, 1:00-4:00pm**
Chapel Street, in front of Union League Café

Free Cupcake or Hot Cocoa and Strolling Carolers

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The Shops at Yale.com/Holiday

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