

West Haven Voice

January 11, 2024

Vol. 29 Issue 1 24 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Young rockers
heading West

See page 12



Jim mies, Inc. files new appeal over plan revisions for NEBCO

Ed. Note: The original announcement was issued by Michael P. Walsh, Director of Communications for the city. The remainder of the following is from Voice staff.

The owners of a seafood restaurant on the West Haven shoreline have filed an appeal against the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and Rock Street Brewery LLC, the developer of a taproom proposed by New England Brewing Co. at the city-owned site of the former Savin Rock Conference Center at 6 Rock St.

The appeal, filed recently by Jim mies Inc. at Superior Court in Milford, claims that despite developer Doug Gray's modification of the original plan to scale back the brewery project, the new plan will encroach on an existing easement.

"It is very disappointing that after the groundwork, accommodations and public feedback, Jim mies decided to move forward with an appeal of the most recent zoning decision," Mayor Dorinda Borer said. "It was particularly surprising as they had recently issued a public statement indicating their willingness to work with the city."

Borer said upon receiving the appeal, she subsequently met with Jim mies of Savin Rock owners James and Paul Gagliardi to determine the prospect of a collaborative path forward for the project, which would include a taproom for Woodbridge craft brewery NEBCO in the 22,000-square-foot conference center building.

"Unfortunately, their appeal remains in effect, and the city will put its best foot forward in defending the Planning and Zoning Commission's decision that allowed the latest brewery plan to go forward," Borer said. "We continue to be committed to bringing NEBCO to West Haven."

The appeal is the latest in a series of setbacks for the project, which was approved in August of 2022. The City Council approved a 60-year agreement. The agreement as first approved, was a ground lease allowing for the city to maintain ownership of the 4-acre property while allowing Gray, the principal of the Delaware-based limited liability company, to demolish the existing conference center and construct a 46,165-square-foot building that would include a brewery, a taproom and event space.

Almost immediately, the plan came under scrutiny, and a lawsuit was filed by Jim mies, opposing it. That lawsuit, plus what was seen as some opposition within the council as the time moved forward saw Gray decide to pull the project in September of last year.

Gray had made alterations to the specifications in order to accommodate the listed complaints, including revising the building's footprint so that it would accommodate that of the existing

See Appeal, page 9



File Photos

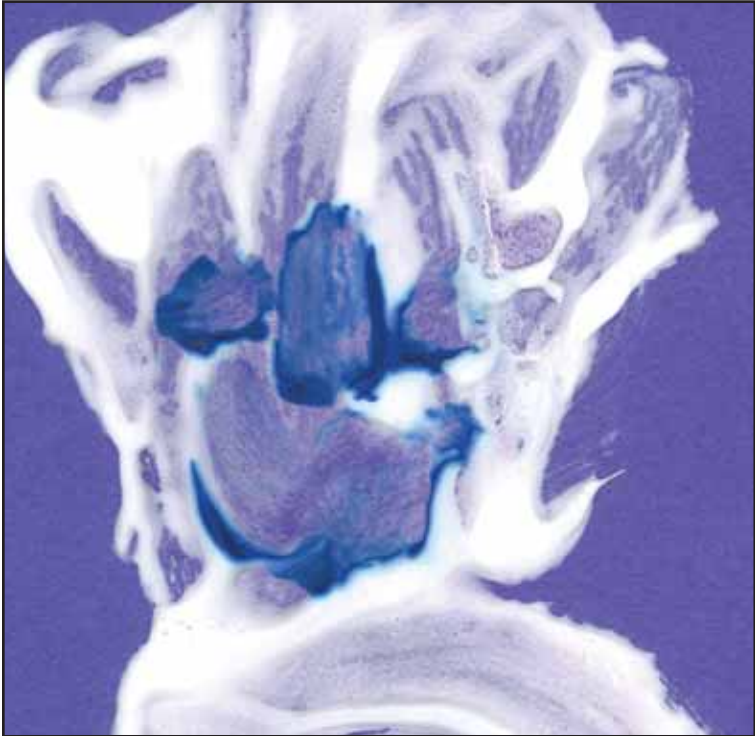
The Savin Rock Conference Center (above) has seen two private owners, a city takeover under the Shoreline agreement of the 1980s, and a point of contention over a two-year effort to make it a taproom/brewery under NEBCO. Below is the original plan for the building that was to replace the current building. That, too, has been scrapped in order to expedite the process.

★ ★ ★
BILL HEFFERNAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VOTE "ROW A" ON JANUARY 23RD!



PAID FOR BY HEFFERNAN FOR WEST HAVEN. MICHELLE CAPRIO, TREASURER. APPROVED BY BILL HEFFERNAN.



Roman Orsini, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is predicting snowy weather just right for building a snowman.

On this Date

2002 -- The first prisoners arrive in Guantanamo Bay. Following reports of torture, Amnesty International called the situation at the US detention camp a "human rights scandal".

1985 -- The first Rock in Rio music festival is held. A whopping 1.5 million people attended, making it the world's largest music festival.

1962 -- A massive landslide kills 4,000 in Peru. Nine villages in the Río Santa Valley were engulfed by a 12-meter wall of rock and ice.

1935 -- Amelia Earhart flies solo from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland. She was the first person to achieve this feat. Her journey took her from Honolulu to Oakland, California.

1922 -- Insulin is used for the first time to treat diabetes Fourteen-year-old Leonard Thompson was the first person to receive the medication to combat his Type 1 diabetes

1378 -- Earliest record in Durham, England of "Plough Monday," the first Monday after the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6) when agricultural work could restart. Work schedules were determined many times by the church calendar.

1158 -- Vladislav II of Bohemia becomes king.

1055 -- Theodora is crowned Empress of the Byzantine Empire.



Photograph by Steven R. Mullins

MASTER JOSEPH McVETY, Jr.

McVety installed Annawon Master

Joseph F. McVety, Jr., aka "Joey Bond" was formally installed as Master of Annawon Lodge, #115 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven Saturday morning during colorful and elaborate rites. He replaces Worshipful Master Christopher Ryan Belous.

A bail bondsman by trade since 2000, McVety has owned Joey Bond Bail Bond's since 2014. He is currently New England Director for the Professional Bail Agents of the United States (PBUS) and a past board member of the Bail Association of Connecticut. McVety is also an agent with the William Raveis Real Estate Milford office. A native of West Haven, McVety currently resides in East Haven. McVety joined Annawon Lodge in 2018 and was raised by then Worshipful Master Steven R. Mullins.

The rites were presided over by The Reverend and Most Worshipful Brother Bruce Bellmore, past Grand Master of Connecticut Masons and attended by the current Grand Master MWB Joseph Porco.

In addition to McVety, other officers installed were: Chaplain Richard Biela, Senior Warden Douglas J. Turcotte, III, Junior Warden Jeremy Borelli, Treasurer Gerald Calibritto, Secretary Dennis Frosolone, Senior Deacon John McManus, Junior Deacon Brian Drury, Senior Stewart Joseph Viola, Junior Stewart Joshua Dwyer, Marshall Richard M. Cordero, Tiler Scott Shappy, Historian Peter King Organist Christian Helwig, Almoner Johnny Garcia, PM and Belous as Trustee.

Mystery Photo



Photo courtesy of West Haven Historical Society

Can you identify this landmark from a postcard provided by the West Haven Historical Society?

Send an email to info@whhistoricalsociety.org

First correct response will win a copy of *Images of America West Haven*. A full explanation of the photo will appear next week.

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Next Issue: January 25, 2024



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BILL HEFFERNAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**A FRESH FACE TO MOVE
WEST HAVEN FORWARD**

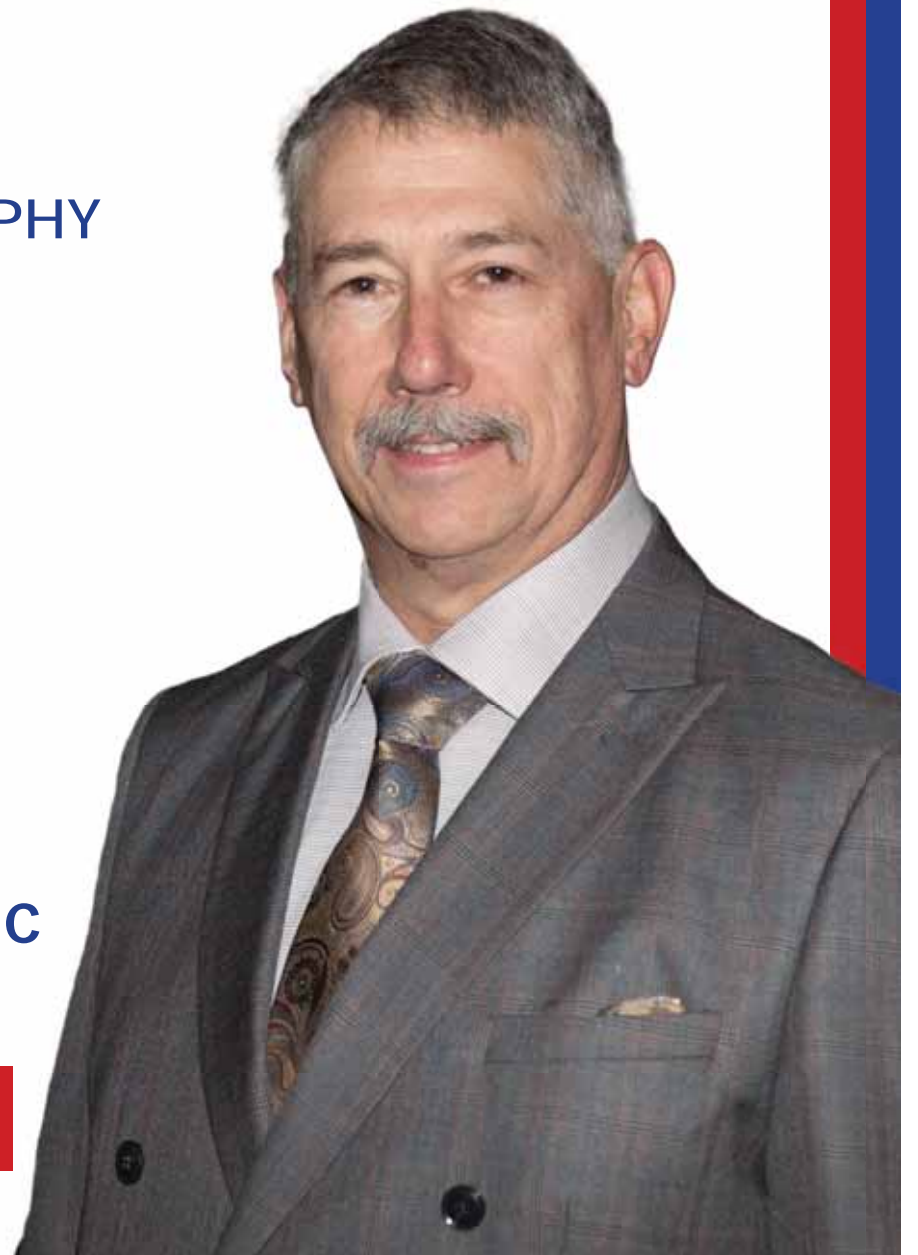


VOTE ROW A - JANUARY 23RD!

- *RETIRED WEST HAVEN FIREFIGHTER*
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- *COMMUNITY HOUSE BOARD MEMBER*
- *UNION MEMBER*
- *COMMUNITY LEADER*

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- **GOVERNOR NED LAMONT**
- **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
SUSAN BYSIEWICZ**
- **STATE COMPTROLLER
SEAN SCANLON**
- **FORMER STATE REP.
DORINDA BORER**
- **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
MATTHEW RITTER**
- **WEST HAVEN DEMOCRATIC
TOWN COMMITTEE**



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PAID FOR BY HEFFERNAN FOR WEST HAVEN. MICHELLE
CAPRIO, TREASURER. APPROVED BY BILL HEFFERNAN.

Dear Felicia

Happy New Year, honey-bunch. Hope yore plans for the year go according to schedule. It seemed a bit quieter around the homestead this year, with not as much frivolity as in past years. I know one thing, the annual setting off of M80s in the neighborhood didn't go off. Usually jest after midnight for as long as Cobina could remember, there would be a barrage of the big boomers. This year, not so much. These ole bones didn't see the New Year come in. We were in the Land of Nod and happy to be so, especially since the neighborhood reenactment of the Third Battle of the Marne didn't take place.

Oh, and I gotta tell yew about this new acronym Cobina learned over the holiday season. AWFL. We'd been reading a few things online when this acronym would find it's way across the pages. Well, a lit'le search and we found it: Affluent White Female Liberal. Perty apt, no? Certainly does fit the description of more than a few people in public life.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea things were relatively quiet as politics and setch were trying to stay on the "Nice" list rather than the "Naughty" one. I don't know how many lumps some of the local yokels found in their stockings, but

we hope a few o' them did.

Tennyrate, a couple of interesting things did happen. Foist off was the nomination of Bill Heffernan for the assembly seat left vacant when Herroner became Herroner. The 115th will have a special election this month to fill the seat and Heffernan was the Demmies' nominee. That kind o' altered the perception that was around some parts of the burg that former Mayor Ed O'Brien was gonna git the nod.

Sammy Bluejay sez that the word about the party is that Herroner was the person who came up with Heffernan's name, and, though she know O'Brien was interested, no endorsement was ever given. That's the scuttlebutt. Soooo, that don't mean there won't be an O'Brien in the race. Sammy sez that whilst fluttering around town, he happened to see lawn signs showing Ed is running. That's an interesting twist, and given the low turnout for setch ballots, almost anything can happen. So, there it is.

Over on the GOP side, Sylvia Appicella is running with the imprimatur of the Town Committee. She's a good candidate in a vastly Democratic borough. But, with the Demmies having essentially two candidates, who knows?

Still, one wonders what this

latest schism is gonna have on the party, since Democratic unity was the mantra of the last mayoral campaign. I guess time will tell, won't it?

~~~

Of course, after Sammy left, Nelly Nuthatch showed up, and was beginning to talk about the caucuses that will be coming up in the next little while. After every mayoral year, the town committee selections are set in February. Effen there is consensus on each of the 60member town committees, the endorsed people take their seats. But that ain't usually the way it happens around here.

There may be some, if not many, primaries which'll take place in March. In past years we've had full-on slates of 60 running against full-on slates of 60. What happens will be an indicator of how things are in the political parties. Effen there is a big primary in the Demmies, that aforementioned unity might be stillborn. It'll be interesting to see what happens and who comes out as chairmen of the two organizations. There was some thought Mike Last might hang up his political hat and retire, but some are saying not so fast.

Whoever gets the chairmanship will be an indication of what should be expected in the next two years. Either way, with Dorinda Borer in total control of party allegiance at the present time, it will be she who determines who

sits in the chair. That's for sure.

Over on the GOP side, one doesn't expect too much of an overhaul, at least not as far as we can see right now. Dave Riccio is the chairman, and who in their right mind would wanna take it away from him? The party is broke, jest took a trouncing, and whatever good will and new faces might have been coaxed into running last fall, history tells us, they kind of wither away.

Don't expect too much from the Republicans. You don't git disappernted that way.

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With the turn of the calendar, Iva Lootey reminded me that the three-month slog called the "budget" begins this month. Usually, the Board of Finance sits and reviews the requests that should be trickling into the office from the department heads. That is the start of the process. The review takes the bulk of the month, and then the BOF makes its own recommendations. The next phase is the review by the mayoral staff and Finance Director, and then a proposed budget is put together and given to a special session of the City Council in March. Review takes place in April, and by the Foist Thursday in May, all is supposed to be in place by charter.

The BOF has not really played much of a part in many of the budgets the Rossi Administration proposed, something that rankled those who sat on the Board. How it happens under the new administration will be a source of interest. One would think getting that group involved is a good thing. If nothing else it gives some political cover... plausible deniability, ya know.

This is the time the rubber hits the road as far as administrations go. There is nothing so tedious as putting together a budget. It's made more tedious because the MARB, that panel of overseers, is looking over everyone's shoulder.

And, despite all the meetings, testimony, questions and bickering, when the final budget comes out it is MARB that has the final say on the document, can make its own changes, and raise the mill rate as it sees fit. That means all the hours put in by so many can be ignored by so few. That, m'dear, makes a tedious job like budget-making all the more brutal.

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Madame Olga came in with a cute story this past week, and it has to do with the new City Treasurer Ron Quagliani. Now, Ron as you remember was an up-and-coming member of the constabulary in his younger days, and worked his way up the food chain to chief, where he sat for a few years. He is now working at the

University of New Haven, and has quite the situation.

Tennyrate, Ron said when he was elected that he wasn't gonna just have stamp made and have checks stamped with his signature, he was gonna sign each and every check other than payroll, and see what is going out on aregular basis. He called it another "check."

Soooo, the foist couple o' weeks were interesting: he'd come in on Thursday, roll up his sleeves, and begin signing. Cobina knew about this, and that is why she made jokes about sending him a fountain pen for Christmas. The first few weeks we hear-tell the number of checks was well over 400. That stayed true for the first few times, and now it's down to a more manageable number.

We can jest imagine the hand cramps that could set in whilst trying to sign all those outlays. More power to him. It has to be somewhat satisfying, though, seeing the stack of checks go from one side of the desk to t'other. No?

~~~

We wonder effen reality has set in for the new members of the City Council. We have a feelin' it might have. We see it every changeover. Running for the office is one thing, sitting through those interminable meetings is quite another. That dose of reality is something the new members all hafta go through, and sometimes it's more than they expect.

New Chairman Nick Pascale is a veteran, having served in previous administrations in the early to mid 2000s, and now he's the chairman. Let's hope he finds a way to make those meetings productive – and brief! The two don't hafta be mutually exclusive. It jest matters effen people on the council like to hear the sound of their voices. Those people are easy to pick out in very short order.

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One final note, we hear the Beach Street roadbed project won't be finished until March sometime. That's the void of people in the neighborhood. The new condos on the corner of Monahan Place and Beach Street are still being built but some of the first ones are already sold, with people moving in.

Word is weather and some other things are putting off the opening of the main artery, closed since summer. Oh well, the way time flies at our age, it'll seem like nothing.

We know former State Rep Steve Dargan liked the quiet o the nighborhood this past summer. Sez that no motorcycle noise was a real treat. Still, it's a main drag.

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

*Cobina*

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## Resolutions for '24

With the turning of the calendar, we read of many periodicals, columnists, and pundits who have suggestions for New Year's Resolutions. We at the Voice offer our own set of resolutions for public and private residents, those in public life, and those who are not:

Honesty, even when inconvenient, is the best policy – Over the last few years, we have seen those in public life and elsewhere forget what they say matters, and whether they are honest is important. A bit of honesty goes a long way in retaining public trust. We submit the current lack of trust in leadership, locally and nationally, is the inability of those in charge to treat the public as full participants in the process. Whether it was the pandemic and its aftermath, the January 6 riot, and its investigation, or locally with the corruption of local politicians. We found out the truth, when inconvenient is “spun,” or reconfigured to fit a narrative. Indeed, if there is a word that describes the last few years it is “narrative.”

Approach the narrative with respectful skepticism – Politicians and pundits are very quick to set up a narrative and defend it, even when the facts show otherwise. We think of many cases, but Kyle Rittenhouse is most certainly a case in point. The narrative set up about his case was quick and almost devastatingly created an injustice. There are many who still believe him guilty despite incontrovertible evidence. Nicholas Sandmann is another case where the narrative – even after it was refuted – has lived on. Narratives abound with the pandemic as well, and we are finding out those in control were only protecting their ill-gotten gains. Next time a narrative seems too facile, listen, but be skeptical.

Experts are not impeccable; they are just as prone to corruption as anyone – We are most especially talking in this case of Dr. Anthony Fauci. Lionized by the press and politicians we are finding out more this “expert” was and is a criminal who should be prosecuted, along with many who profited from the Wuhan laboratory. This is a case of hubris and greed. Hubris in the belief that he was above criticism and questioning, and greed because of the millions he secured in his investments. The many doctors who fought him, the many nurses who lost their jobs, the many people who had an informed belief he was following the wrong path, have since been vindicated. But he is not the only one. Anytime a person is portrayed as an “expert” find out who is paying them. You will find the opinions they are giving are, often, influenced by who signs the check.

People who disagree with your opinions are not evil – If there is one factor that is eroding the public discourse more than foul language and faux rage. It is the belief that one's opinions hold the moral high ground, and any opposing view is on its face evil. This is the product of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) propaganda being taught in schools and universities. We hope recent events are the beginning of the end for this pernicious error. The corporate world is finding out the DEI mantra is bad for business, creates mediocrity, and leads to decisions not in the best interest of the stockholders, for whom company boards have a fiduciary responsibility. But the notion that someone's beliefs rightly spoken are evil on their face is an infantile way of seeing the world. People who advance these ideas should be rightly mocked and called out for what they are: propagandists.

The year 2024 is just upon us, we hope it brings a year of peace in winding down the wars that exist, prosperity in mind, soul and fortune, and happiness to all our readers, advertisers, and friends.



"THE MEDIA ARE KILLING ME!"

## Confession of an 'expert'

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

The public-health officials are getting around to admitting the fallibility of public-health officials.

The former head of the National Institutes of Health during the pandemic and current science advisor to President Joe Biden, Francis Collins, has noted that he and his colleagues demonstrated an “unfortunate” narrow-mindedness.

This is a welcome, if belated, confession.

Not too long ago, anyone who said that epidemiologists might be overly focused on disease prevention to the exclusion of other concerns – you know, like jobs, mental health, and schooling – were dismissed as reckless nihilists who didn't care if their fellow citizens died en masse.

Now, Francis Collins has weighed in to tell us that many of the people considered close-minded and anti-science during COVID-19 were advancing an appropriately balanced view of the trade-offs inherent in the pandemic response.

“If you're a public-health person and you're trying to make a decision, you have this very narrow view of what the right decision is,” Collins said at an event earlier this year that garnered attention online

the last couple of days.

This is not a new insight, or a surprising one. It's a little like saying Bolsheviks will be focused on nationalizing the means of production over everything else, or a golf pro will be monomaniacal about the proper mechanics of a swing.

The problem comes, of course, when public health, or “public health,” becomes the only guide to public policy. Then, you are giving a group of obsessives, who have an important role to play within proper limits, too much power in a way that is bound to distort your society.

Francis Collins, again: “So you attach infinite value to stopping the disease and saving a life. You attach zero value to whether this actually totally disrupts people's lives, ruins the economy, and has many kids kept out of school in a way that they never quite recover from.”

True and well said, but that's an awful lot of very important things to attach “zero value” to. He also admitted to having an urban bias, driven by working out of Washington D.C. and thinking almost exclusively about New York City and other major cities.

If Francis Collins and his cohort got it wrong, the likes of Florida governor Ron DeSantis and Georgia governor

Brian Kemp -- and the renegade scientists and doctors who supported their more modulated approach to the pandemic -- got it right.

It's always worth remembering that the pandemic was a once-in-hundred-years event and initially, we had very little information and very few means to prevent and treat the disease. It is inevitable that decision-makers are going to make mistakes in such a crisis, and adjust as they go.

That said, the scientists who were in positions of authority could have shown more modesty. They could have welcomed debate. They could have distanced themselves from -- or better yet, denounced -- the campaign of moral bullying carried out in their name.

Many people wanted to outsource their thinking to the experts and then, with a great sense of righteousness, rely on arguments from authority to demonize their opponents and shut down every policy dispute.

Francis Collins, one of the most eminent scientists in the country and a subtle thinker who dissents from the orthodoxy that science and faith are incompatible, would have been an ideal voice to counter the propaganda campaigns

See Lowry, page 7

# Tax changes may affect your '23 return

*Ed. Note: Local tax consultant Bill Conlan has worked for almost five decades filing taxes and addressing concerns. Once again this year, he has cobbled together those tax issues that may affect many local filers.*

**By Bill Conlan**

*Tax Consultant*

I hope that last year was a good year for everyone, and now that the holidays are over, it is once again time to start thinking about filing your taxes for 2023.

A few changes being made that are not included on the list below have to do with the new 1099-K reporting requirement mentioned last year that was supposed to pertain to 2023 taxes, however that has now been extended to now begin with the 2024 tax year. You may still be receiving 1099-K information that pertains to any additional income you receive, however the reporting amount is staying at the \$20,000 amount, or 200 transactions.

Many additional credits for child and dependent care expenses and the enhanced child

tax credits that pertained to 2022 taxes, have now expired and are not available for 2023 taxes. Be aware that those credits most likely lowered your tax liability last year, and will not do so this year. There also is no advanced child tax credits available for 2023 taxes as there were for last year.

The Standard Deduction amounts for all filing statuses have increased by a cost-of-living percentage for the tax year.

The maximum contribution amounts for all categories of IRS's, including 401K's, 403B's, 457's and Roth's has also increased.

The CT Department of Revenue Services has made a few minor changes which are as follows:

The Earned Income Tax Credit has increased from 30.5% of the Federal credit to 40%. Legislation lowers the two lowest rates from 3% of the first \$10,000 to 2%, and lowers the first 5% rate to 4.5% on the first \$40,000 for single taxpayers, and \$80,000 for married individuals. For

Pension and Annuity Income the rate gradually phases out at \$100,00 for single and \$150,000 for joint filers. This phases-in over 4 years, 25% for 2023, 50% for 2024, 75% for 2025, and 100% for years after 2026 and future years. Most of these changes begin after January 1, 2024.

**Energy Credits** -- The lifetime \$500 limit is now replaced by a \$1,200 annual credit limit, credits are \$150 for home energy audits, and \$250 for exterior doors and \$500 total for all exterior doors. Also, \$600 for exterior windows and skylights, central air conditioners, electric panels, natural gas, propane, or oil water heaters, gas or oil furnaces or hot water boilers and \$2,000 for electric or gas water heaters, and biomass stoves and boilers

**RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT-A** 30% credit is allowed for costs to install qualifying systems that use solar, wind or geothermal fuel cell power to produce electricity, heat water or regulate home heat. Qualifying resi-

dences must be in the U.S., but can include vacation homes

**Vehicle Credits** -- A clean vehicle credit of up to \$7,500 for Qualified Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles. The credit is not allowed if MAGI limits exceed \$300,000 for MFJ, or \$150,000 for all others, or if the MSRP exceeds \$80,000 for a van or pick-up truck, or \$55,000 for any other vehicle. Beginning in 2024 the credits can be transferred to the dealers for payment on the vehicle to lower the price of

the vehicle. The dealer must be a qualified dealer in order for this credit to be transferred to them. There is also a Previously-Owned Clean Vehicle Credit available after 2022 that is equal to 30% of the vehicles purchase price, up to a maximum credit of \$4,000.

**Changes to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD'S)** -- Many changes in the laws were made to RMD rules, and I will touch on a few that you should be aware of in the com

See Taxes, page 16



## Viet Vets seek names; deadline is extended

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 **April 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: 'Experts' were wrong

Continued from page 6

that aimed to suppress unwelcome views and even unwelcome facts. Instead, he stuck with his tribe.

It's progress, though, to realize that scientists, too, are susceptible to group-think, recency bias and parochialism; that the experts may know an incredible amount about a very narrow area, while knowing little to nothing about broader matters of greater consequence; that point of views considered dangerous lunacy may, over time, prove out, so they shouldn't be censored or otherwise quashed. It's not just that the scientists acted like blinkered scientists during the pandemic; they tolerated, or participated in, agitprop that was inimical to the scientific spirit and to good public policy.

**WHEAT's** pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00-4:30 pm. All CT residents are welcome, no appointment needed. Photo IDs and proof of address are not required. Visitors can come once a month to receive food and should bring their own grocery bags if possible.

WHEAT is looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteers to work Monday evenings in our pantry! If interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Fiona Pare, at [fpare@wheatpantry.org](mailto:fpare@wheatpantry.org).

**WHEAT**  
 674 Washington Ave., West Haven  
 203-931-9877      [wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net)

# City issues schedule of bulk trash pickups

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The 2024 bulk trash pickup weeks are April 22-26 and Sept. 16-20.

West Haven residents are reminded to separate metals, recyclables and regular trash from bulk trash and put them out no more than 24 hours before pickup. Violations carry

a \$100 fine per daily offense, acting Public Works Commissioner Robert Sandella said.

Residents are also reminded to "Put a Lid on It!" and use lids on all trash cans. Rain-soaked trash costs West Haven 10 times more at the dump, according to Sandella, adding that using trash can lids will save the city money by reduc-

ing the weight of trash and cost of tipping fees.

Bulk items include couches, chairs, tables, carpeting, padding and fencing, which may not exceed 6 feet in length. No building materials, tires, mattresses, propane tanks or hazardous waste are accepted.

Options for disposing of building materials include renting a dumpster or bringing the materials to a disposal facility for a fee.

Tires and mattresses are not considered bulk trash and will not be collected.

Tires can be brought to Town Fair Tire, 63 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$2.75 per tire.

To dispose of mattresses, residents must buy mattress bags from the Department of Public Works and put them out for pickup on their weekly curbside collection day from April 1-Oct. 4. The bags cost \$30 each.

Hazardous waste can be dropped off for free at HazWaste Central, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven. HazWaste is open Saturday mornings from mid-May through October. Propane tanks can be brought to Taylor Rental, 304 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$10.60 per tank.

The amount of bulk trash per collection is limited to 6

cubic yards, which is equal to a pile of trash about 6 feet long, 6 feet wide and 4.5 feet high.

Homeowners are required to rent a dumpster or hire a junk removal service at their expense if trash exceeds 6 cubic yards. Otherwise, trash exceeding 6 cubic yards will be left at the curb, and a \$100 fine per daily offense will be imposed, Sandella said.

To prevent a potential fine, property owners should familiarize themselves with the city's trash guidelines at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/260/Bulk-Trash-Pickup-Other-Services>.

Bulk trash must be generated by the customer at the residential unit where it is collected. Trash will not be collected if it is generated by anyone other than the resident of the home.

Bulk items must be separated and orderly. Do not place them next to a mailbox or utility pole or close to a fence, Sandella said.

Also, do not place bulk items in front of a vacant lot or home — they will not be collected, he said. In addition to bulk trash, the city picks up metals, including household appliances, also known as white goods, and toilets. To schedule a pickup on their

curbside collection day, residents must call the Highway Department at 203-937-3644 or 203-937-3585. Appliance doors must be removed.

The 2024 leaf bag pickup schedule is April 15-Dec. 13. The bags are picked up on residents' weekly collection days. Leaves and grass clippings must be in separate biodegradable paper bags and will not be accepted if they are in plastic bags. The city also picks up brush that is cut into 3-to-6-foot lengths and tied in small bundles, no more than 70 pounds. Logs and stumps are prohibited.

Residents can bring grass clippings as well as bagged leaves and untied brush to the compost site, 1 Kimberly Ave., from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays and, starting in June, from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. The first cubic yard of compost is free with proof of residence. Additional compost costs \$25 per cubic yard. Residents must bring buckets and shovels.

For a \$50 fee, the Public Works Department will deliver up to 2 cubic yards of compost to homes in West Haven.

Prior to the pickup or delivery of compost, residents must make a cash payment in the public works office on the

*See Pickups, page 9*

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# Appeal: *NEBCO* plan subject to litigation

Continued from page 1

structure, but eventually gave up on it, and announced pulling the project late last summer.

Gray then proposed amending the original lease agreement with the city to reflect the modified plans, which included renovating the existing building instead of demolishing it. The modified plans also included the elimination of the production facility of the project, essentially making it a tasting venue without the original "Brewed in West Haven" concept.

Within weeks, however, the plan was back on the table, and it was thought the litigation would be withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Jimmies was taking heated criticism from city residents, and took out an ad in the West Haven Voice attempting to defend its reputation.

What this latest appeal does to the future of the plan is unknown. In the weeks leading up to Gray withdrawing the plan last fall, he had mentioned the possibility of other locations wanting to poach the project.

The project was hoped to be a much-needed boost to the city's commercial use of the shoreline as well as a remedy for rehabbing or demolishing the Savin Rock Conference Center. Built originally in the early 1970s as a replacement for Phyllis' Restaurant, a longtime Savin Rock icon on its "Restaurant Row," the conversion from a take-out/sit-down eatery to a more upscale sit-down facility never took off with the public.

Eventually, the business moved to Milford and sold the building. It soon became the Casino and was a hot spot for a time before it too lost favor with the public.

It was closed, and the agreement that ended 20-years of rancor over the future of the shoreline.

Under Mayor Azelio "Sal" Guerra, the city came to terms with the Land Trust of West Haven, Inc. and the former restaurant location became the Savin Rock Conference Center.

Originally a favored spot for rentals and city gatherings, the maintenance of the building became too costly, and was closed in hopes of finding a new operator.

Conversion to a wedding venue, and other such plans were floated. However, the cost of bringing the building up to code, including replacing its original roof was a hurdle too high for most developers.



Photos by Michael O'Brien



## Feeding the hungry

West Haven High School received a grant of \$100,000 to combat food need across the district. Students in the Life Skills program used that money to purchase groceries at Stop & Shop, and on Dec. 21, they delivered those groceries to families at Forest Elementary School! Coats, provided by the West Haven Rotary Club, were also available for pickup.

## Pickups: City issues rules for bluk trash

Continued from page 8

third floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

No credit cards or personal checks are accepted.

For electronic items, including TVs, the 2024 e-waste drop-off days are Feb. 3, April 20, June 15 and Sept. 28.

Residents can drop off electronic recyclables — typically anything that contains a circuit board or needs a battery — from 8 a.m.-noon at the city garage, 1 Collis St.

West Haven is partnering with Take 2 Inc. of Waterbury, a state-approved recycler and collector of universal e-waste devices, to collect residential electronic items on a quarterly basis.

The collection is free for residents who have such items as computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, modems, computer mice, tablet computers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, photocopiers, fax machines, scanners, video game machines, digital media players, personal digital assistants, stereo equipment, telephones, cellphones, cameras, microwaves and other small appliances.

Anything that has refrigerant, including air conditioners and dehumidifiers, is not accepted. Those items are considered white goods, and residents are asked to schedule a pickup on their curbside collection day by calling the Highway Department.

For details, go to <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/263/E-waste-Drop-off>.

For the e-waste drop-off, residents are asked to heed the following guidelines:

- Stay in your vehicle.
- Vehicles will be spaced out. Event workers will remove electronics from your vehicle. There should be no interaction between residents and workers.
- No mattresses or box springs will be disposed of at the moment.
- No smoke detectors, ballasts or hazardous waste — lighter fluid, liquids, paint — will be accepted.
- Electronic items left curbside will be tagged with information on the e-waste schedule and must be removed, or face a potential fine.


For the latest news and information, subscribe to the city's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofWestHaven>.

**EXCEL THROUGH MUSIC**     [TeachKidsMusic.org](http://TeachKidsMusic.org)

## FUND RAISER CONCERT

**Sunday, January 20, 2024, 3 - 6 PM**

**Music Back Then, 221 Bull Hill Ln., West Haven**



We are very excited to announce the "TKM All Star" band will be performing at the California NAMM convention this January.

### HELP THESE CHILDREN INSPIRE OTHERS!


Join us in making a positive impact! Let's come together to support these amazing children and inspire others along the way! Here's how you can contribute:

- Make a direct donation by scanning the QR code below.
- Share the joy by contributing gift cards, services, or items for our exciting raffles.

Teach Kids Music last year provided hundreds of children with free "Little Rockers" musical exploration classes, donated more than 50 gently used instruments to children in need, and provided monthly "Open mic" sessions for young music students to perform.

*Teach Kids Music, Inc, a 501(c)3 not for profit whose mission is to connect with young children from opportunity limited families to plant the musical seed and enhance the development of creative, lifetime skills that will help them be successful in life, within and outside of music*

**To learn more about Teach Kids Music visit our website at [TeachKidsMusic.org](http://TeachKidsMusic.org)**





**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 - THURSDAY, 11, 2024 | LANCASTER, PA**  
**COST BASED ON PER PERSON OCCUPANCY:**  
**SINGLE: \$489 DOUBLE: \$429 3 PEOPLE: \$409 4 PEOPLE: \$399**  
**CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: WEST HAVEN SENIOR TRIP ACCOUNT**

**ITINERARY:**  
 - Roundtrip Coach Transportation  
 ~ 8:30 AM Wednesday, April 10th:  
 Depart from Veterans Memorial Parking Lot (91 Bull Hill Lane - West Haven)  
 ~ 12:00 PM, Thursday, April 11th:  
 Depart from Lancaster, PA  
 - 1 Night / 2 Days at Eden Resort  
 - Meals included:  
 ~ Dinner at Hometown Kitchen  
 ~ Buffet Breakfast at Eden Resort  
 - Independent Time at Kettle Kitchen

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
 Donna, Program Coordinator  
 at the West Haven Senior Center  
 203-937-3507  
 201 Noble Street  
 West Haven, CT 06516

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**Christmas Queen**

Noreen Adams, city resident, and Connecticut representative to the Miss Senior World Pageant was chosen by Crowns Magazine as its Christmas Queen, complete with a Mrs. Claus outfit.

**Storm parking rules issued by City Hall**

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

To help crews expedite snow removal, acting Public Works Commissioner Robert Sandella is reminding residents and businesses to observe parking regulations during and after storms.

Per the "Severe Weather" parking ordinance under Chapter 188 of the West Haven Code, police can ticket and tow vehicles violating the ordinance at the owner's expense. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine.

Once snow begins to fall, a parking ban is in effect on the even-numbered side of most roads, unless one is posted with a "No Parking" sign on the odd side.

The ban is in effect for 36 hours after a storm. Residents are urged to park in driveways or designated private lots.

However, during an official snow emergency declared by Mayor Dorinda Borer, a parking ban will run from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on both sides of Campbell and Savin avenues, Morgan Lane, Elm Street, Meloy Road, Second Avenue from Elm to Beach streets, and Main Street from Savin to Washington avenues.

Sandella is also reminding residents and businesses to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after a storm or face a \$25 fine "for each day that the violation persists."

According to the "Removal of Snow and Ice" ordinance under Chapter 195 of the West Haven Code, people are given 24 hours to remove snow from sidewalks on and bordering their properties. Violators are subject to the \$25-per-day fine, which is enforced by the Police Department, the ordinance states. To report a complaint, call the department's nonemergency line at 203-937-3900. Complaints are kept confidential.

Sandella also pointed out that plowing or blowing snow into city streets is prohibited and violators are subject to a \$60 fine for each offense, per the ordinance. Also, residents and businesses with mailboxes damaged by snow thrown from a plow are the responsibility of the property owner. The city will only repair mailboxes damaged by the striking of a plow blade if there is visible evidence, such as paint or tire tracks.

Snow removal around mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility. Residents are also urged to help firefighters keep hydrants clear of snow.

For more information, call the Highway Department at 203-937-3644 or visit the Department of Public Works page at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/177/Public-Works>.

Photo by Michael O'Brien  
**Toy Closet  
delivery**

Carrigan Student Council members collected about 400 new, unwrapped toys, and delivered them to the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Toy Closet warehouse. Almost all the student council members have received a toy from the Toy Closet at least once in their lives.



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# HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

## How Can I Help Prevent Sewer Backups?

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets or garbage disposals
- Pour grease and oil into a covered disposable container and put it in the trash **“Cool It - Can It - Trash It”**
- Soak up remaining fats, oil and grease with paper towels and dispose of with your trash
- Before you wash dishes, scrape meats and food with fat and grease into the trash
- Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain basket or strainer into the trash
- Only use garbage disposals for fruits, vegetables and organic waste

## ***Properly Dispose of Household Grease***

**Most grease is a byproduct of cooking and is usually found in such things as:**

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter & margarine
- baked goods
- sauces
- dairy products

### **PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Keep Drains & Sewers Clear of Fats, Oils and Grease

Grease is one of the leading causes of sewer overflows.

***Never pour grease down the drain!***



**City of West Haven**  
**355 Main Street**  
**West Haven, CT 06516**  
**203-937-3637**  
**Paul Butler, ext 5116**

Photo by Michael O'Brien

### Holiday drive success

The West Haven High School Peer Advocates conducted a toy drive for the holiday season. The successful program was able to distribute gifts to nearly 500 West Haven families.



COWHFD Photo

### Blumenthal calls for space heaters standards

From left, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal with Chief Michael R. Terenzio and Deputy Chief Michael T. Esposito of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown at a news conference Jan. 3 to call attention to the dangers of space heaters. The fire safety news conference took place at the department's Minor Park Station, 318 Fairfax St., and included remarks by Terenzio and Blumenthal (D-Conn). Blumenthal has introduced the Safer Heat Act of 2023 to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to "issue a consumer product safety standard for portable electric heating devices," such as requiring manufacturers to install an automatic shut-off mechanism.

**Did you Miss Christmas?**

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 or by appointment

*Leslie Jewelers*

# Young rockers heading to West Coast

Dreams about playing a huge concert in California in front of thousands of people has just become a reality for a group of eight children through the work of Teach Kids Music, Inc., a local nonprofit. The **TKM All-Star Band** has been selected to play at the prestigious National Association of Music Merchants music and trade show in Anaheim California on Jan. 26.

The NAMM show is one of the world's biggest international music conferences and features thousands of music manufacturers and hundreds of famous musicians performing.

Teach Kids Music founder John McCarthy put together the **TKM All-Star** band of musicians aged 10 to 16 that have performed locally at TKM Open Mic events and at local festivals. The band performs modern and classic rock music covering bands including Led Zeppelin, Paramore, Iron Maiden, Journey and more.

The musicians include Max Canul, a 10-year-old who sings AC/DC and plays drums, guitar and is now learning the keyboard; Connor Rizzo, 16, keyboard player and vocalist; Sephie Delaney, 13, a vocalist who loves Led Zeplin, Stevie Nicks, Heart and Joan Jett; Leanne Parks, 16, bass guitar and vocals; Jake Zabawar, 14, guitar; Brooks Mort, 12, drums; Willow Podoloff, 11, vocals and Ondine Harvey, 13, guitar.

Teach Kids Music, Inc is the nonprofit offshoot of The Rock House School of Music, an award-winning school that has taught hundreds of music students in 2 Connecticut locations for over 25 years.

It has been proven that bringing music into a child's life at a very young age, such as 3-8 years of age, increases the likelihood that they will play music for life and benefit from all that it brings to them--focus, determination, stress reduction brought on by environmental and financial issues, creativity, self-esteem and accomplishment creating a strong foundation for their future.

Teach Kids Music, Inc provides children from resource limited families who have a passion for music, with opportunities to learn about music and to play an instrument while enhancing the development of creative, lifetime skills that will help them be successful in life, within and outside of music.

TKM provides instruments, instruction, and a performance atmosphere to help guide children on their musical journey. Last year, Teach Kids Music provided 38 "Little Rockers" classes at no cost to 85 children ages 3 to 8; hosted 10 "Open Mic" sessions with 150 children performing over the course of the year; and conducted four instrument drives resulting in 50 musical instrument donations.

Funding for TKM comes from donations and small grants. To help support TKM and/or to help cover airfare for musicians and families going to California, online donations can be made at [www.TeachKidsMusic.org](http://www.TeachKidsMusic.org) or mailed to Teach Kids Music,



Submitted Photo

Above -- The TKM All Star Band from the left: Leanne Parks, bass and vocals; Jake Zabawar, guitar; Max Canul, vocals, Connor Rizzo, keyboards and vocals, Brooks Mort, drums, Ondine Harvey, guitar and in front Willow Podoloff, vocals and Sephie Delaney, vocals. Below -- "Little Rockers" at an Open mic

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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## Oystering

In 1960, past Historian Lorraine Wood Rockefeller wrote extensively on the subject of oystering for the Town Crier. We are fortunate that this information is still available, decades later. Here are

her words in part:

The products of the New Haven oyster beds go into nearly all the markets of the world and the method of planting, growing, and harvesting the bivalves is a study of great interest.

With a warm spring, favorable weather, with the water outside the harbor lines ranging from 66 to 71 degrees, the female oyster will produce several million eggs and will commence to spawn in shoal water in the month of July

and in deep water until mid-August. The late spawning does not give the youngsters much chance to grow before winter.

After the oyster spawns, the eggs will float in the water for several days, until they come in contact with some clean shell, stone or other hard substance. Then they will settle down to the bottom and adhere to the prepared beds and grow. Their growth depends much on the weather.

High winds agitate the water to such a degree that the sand and mud is stirred up and can kill an entire bed of young oysters. Then if the oyster can weather the storm there are the drills and starfish to be protected from.

The Indians were oystermen centuries before John Davenport and his companions settled upon Quinnipiac. Among the shell deposits left by the Indians hard quartz, sharp and perfect arrowheads have been found and one record states that, "in the vicinity of these shell beds, bones of the Indians were formerly found, some being of men six and one-half feet high."

It is not known just what crude implements of oyster catching the Quinnipiacs used, whether they gathered them in canoes, or, taking advantage of the very low tides caused by westerly gales or waded on the beds, gathering their supply. They harvested for their own use and possibly also reached the mercantile phase of the industry by trading with neighboring tribes. The oyster fishing was conducted for over one hundred and fifty years in much the



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

same manner used by the Indians.


The raising of oysters for market was for many years an important industry although the town waters were later restricted in the culture of the seed oysters. Early fisheries were conducted by individuals who sought fish for food and fertilizer.

About 1840, local men banded together in cooperative fisheries and in 1950, a phenomenal catch of drumfish was made. By 1860, the fishing cooperative had disbanded and only a few individuals remained in the business. Homer Smith and his associates bought the seine house and went into the fish business on the Oyster River.

To be continued.



Oyster harvesting as seen here was a big business not only in West Haven, but all along the Connecticut coastline.



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Photo by Michael O'Brien

### Mackrille donation

Students at Mackrille posed with gifts that were donated to Yale New Haven Hospital's Toy Closet Program! The Toy Closet Program aims to provide each pediatric patient with an age-appropriate toy or small gift when they are discharged from Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.



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# How to Start Your Own Business

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**Wednesday  
January 24th  
5:30PM**

**Our Services**

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## Taxes: *State and Federal changes may affect you*

Continued from page 7

ing tax years. Secure 2.0 increased the age to start taking RMD's from age 72 to age 73, but only for taxpayers reaching age 72 after 2022. RMD's can be aggregated from all IRA's and taken from just one IRA, but different types of IRA's cannot be aggregated together.

SECURE 2.0- The act is designated to encourage more employers to offer retirement plan benefits to employees to start saving for their future. The act also provides various exceptions to the additional 10% tax for taking distributions prior to age 59 1/2.

One such exception allows for the distribution to be repaid over a 3 year period similar to distributions taken during COVID. Prior to SECURE 2.0, a penalty exception was allowed for public safety employees who attained age 50, but now the act also allows for employees who are firefighters, corrections officers and forensic security employees.

After Dec. 23, exceptions are also provided for victims of domestic abuse and the amount eligible is limited to \$10,000, and the act also includes emergency exceptions for distributions of up to \$1,000 taken during the year.

Five hundred twenty-nine plans can now be rolled over into a Roth IRA, and be excluded from income if certain conditions are met, however, the amount cannot exceed \$35,000 over the taxpayer's lifetime and the amount rolled over cannot exceed the annual contribution limits.

Corporate Transparency Act (CTA)-The government is now requiring that information concerning business entities must report to this agency any information on U.S. corporations and LLC's doing business in the United States.

The act will collect data on who owns any interest in these entities.

There are currently 35-40 million such entities registered to do business in the U.S., and in most cases this reporting will include any business registered under an LLC designation. The reporting is to begin starting Jan 2024 and be reported to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN).

Entities registered with the state after Dec. 23 have 30 days to file with FinCen, and those already in existence, have until Dec. 25 to file.





Gripe Vine Readers:

Yes, it's a new year and many of us have celebrated this event in various ways including both looking back and anticipating the future. I sincerely hope you and your family, friends and neighbors anticipate 2024 as a year that will bring good health and happiness to your life.

Gripe Vine will continue to serve The Voice Readers with solutions to your complaints regarding local and state questions and complaints. As you can see, there is a coupon printed for your convenience next to my column, giving my readers the opportunity to submit your inquiries, , gripes and comments. For those of you new to Gripe Vine, I attempt to find answers to your questions from West Haven's various public departments as well as from City Council Men and Women.

As we proceed toward 2024, I am looking forward to a year of providing helpful responses to my readers.

Gripe Vine Readers:

I received a complaint from a reader complaining of several problems on Leete Street. One of them indicated an in-

dividual was draining oil from his car leaving oil deposits on the street. The complaint also included six to eight of these vehicles displayed license plates from Vermont and New Jersey.

Several of the neighbors found themselves cleaning up the oil deposits left on the street. The neighbors have environmental concerns and are looking for a reply to satisfy both appearance and environmental issues.

Gripe Vine was able to reach Councilwoman, Melii Garthwait who was able to provide you and my readers a reply to this gripe.

According to Garthwait, "I finally have answers to these questions for you. I had to hunt around until I got the correct information from the right person and here it is:

I spoke with one of our WHPD'S Sergeants and he said you can own 6-8 vehicles as long as they are not parked illegally, such as lawns, sidewalks, no parking zones, etc.

With respect to the Vermont and New Jersey license plates, they must be registered in CT if they are West Haven Residents.

## Christmas tree reminder

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The Department of Public Works reminds residents not to put Christmas trees in plastic bags or stands for curbside pickup.

Lights must also be removed from Christmas trees. Plastic bags and other items can become tangled in the machine that grinds the trees into compost. Christmas trees will be picked up in January and February only. City residents needing a pickup after Feb. 29 will be charged a \$25 fee. Christmas trees can also be brought to the compost site at 1 Kimberly Ave. Also, residents are reminded that five 2024 holidays will delay curbside pickup one day.

Affordable Waste Systems LLC of East Haven, West Haven's private contractor for rubbish and recyclables, will not pick up on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

West Haven has a new program where they are investigating out of state license

plates and reporting back to City Hall so that they can be followed up and made to register in the state of Connecticut so that the taxes are connected here in West Haven.

It is illegal to work on cars in the street and leave fluid spills. One must report it to the West Haven Police Department as it is actively happening so that a patrol unit can come out and observe the illegal activity and remedy it.

Lastly the landlord must be held responsible for any illegal work being done in the street to vehicles and fluid spills."

Coming up...new parking program....speeding school buses on Shingle Hill Road... Highland Avenue parking... lack of voting ballots... grape City Hall entrance gripe... Jeffrey and Donald Street gripe... stop signs at Kings Highway and Beach Avenue....

You can submit your comments, gripes and issues to gripevineatgripevineatwh@yahoo.com or mail the coupon next to this column to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516

# 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.

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GRIPE \_\_\_\_\_

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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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# Westies: *Lady hoops runner-up in tourney*

Continued from page 24  
three assists, Marcus Burrows had two assists, and Spreyer and Brady Price each finished with a goal and an assist in the win. Javed Ullah made 17 saves for the Westies.

West Haven fell just short in its attempt to win the tournament championship. Despite a valiant effort in goal by Javed Ullah with 44 saves, Lewiston, ME scored twice in the final 6:49 of the contest to defeat West Haven, 2-1.

West Haven took a 1-0 lead in the game with 8:51 remaining as Madera knocked in a rebound of a Porto shot.

Lewiston came right back and scored on the power play 2:02 later, then got the eventual winner with 2:44 remaining.

Fresh off a strong performance in Maine, West Haven was looking to continue that play when it returned to in state action. That never materialized.

Despite battling back from three deficits, the Westies could not pull ahead and fell, 5-3, to Cheshire.

Madera finished with two goals and Spreyer had a goal and an assist in the loss.

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team won its third straight road game and improved to 3-1 with a 4-3 victory over

Guilford in East Haven.

Geena Montano and Julianna Montano each scored twice and had an assist, Ashley Welch had three assists, and Evelyn Twarowski made 16 saves, including eight in the final period to preserve the win.

The girls won their fourth game of the season with a 3-1 decision over Masuk Saturday afternoon.

Julianna Montano led the way with two goals, and Twarowski made 32 saves in the victory as the Westie Sharks improved to 4-1 on the year.

Julianna Montano gave the Westie Sharks a 1-0 lead just 3:21 into the contest, before Masuk evened the game 4:26 later.

It may not have come the conventional way, but the West Haven girls basketball team is in the win column. Faced with another slow start, the Westies rallied from a 16-point deficit to top Jonathan Law, 49-34, at West Haven High.

West Haven was outscored 19-3 in the first quarter, then turned up its defensive play, allowing just single digits in scoring for Law over the next three quarters.

Ciara Harp got things going in the second quarter with

a pair of 3-pointers, while Isabella Fiorillo and Daniela Campillo each drained 3-pointers as well.

The 18-4 third quarter run was sparked by six points from Fiorillo, four from Ella Morgan, and three from Harp, before Harp scored six in the fourth, and Fiorillo and Morgan each added four.

Fiorillo and Harp each scored 15 points in the win, Morgan added nine, and Campillo finished with five.

West Haven won its second straight contest with a dominant 69-20 victory over Wilbur Cross in West Haven. Eleven different players were in the scoring column, with Fiorillo and Morgan leading the way with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Jaecianna Mitchell had eight points, Campillo, Aniah Glover, and Harp each added six points, while Madden Evangeliste scored five points.

Behind the play of Morgan, the girls basketball team won a third straight contest, defeating Norwalk, 49-40, in the opening game of the West Haven Christmas Tournament.

Morgan was stellar in all aspects of the contest as she scored 16 points, had 12 rebounds, and added five blocks and five assists.

Fiorillo and Noelle Lawrence

each scored nine points, Arianna Titus had eight, and Fatoumata Keita added six points in the win.

Looking to win the West Haven Christmas Tournament, West Haven fell just short with a 48-43 loss to Middletown in the title game.

Lawrence led the Westies with 16 points, Fiorillo scored 13 points, and Morgan and Jasmyn DaGraca each scored five points in the loss.

West Haven had the second-ranked Hamden Green Dragons in the spot it wanted. Unfortunately for the Westies, they could not seal the contest.

Holding a talented Hamden team to just 42 points, West Haven struggled offensively and fell, 42-34, at Hamden. With the loss, the Westies dropped to 3-4 on the year.

Lawrence was the only West Haven player in double figures with 17 points. The Westies struggled, scoring just six points in each of the first and fourth quarters.

The West Haven boys swimming team lost its season opener in Hamden, 96-60. The Green Dragons posted victories in each event.

In the 200 medley relay, the Westies placed fourth with a team of Nate Charron, Edward Fagnani, Flores-Copa, Johnny Chen in 2 minutes, 16.64 seconds.

Brandon Sihaphong was fourth in the 200 freestyle in 2:35.27, Andrew McLarty was second in the 200 IM in 2:21.46, and Chen was fourth in the 50 free in 32.03.

McLarty was second in the 100 fly in 1:03.31, Charron was third in the 100 free in 59.14, Jeff Flores - Copa was fourth in the 500 free in 6:55.57, and the 200 free relay team of Charron,

Chen, Flores-Copa, and Fagnani finished in 1:55.38.

Charron finished the 100 back in 1:07.97, Flores-Copa finished the 100 breaststroke in 1:41.52, and the 400 free relay team of Isiah Correira, Sihaphong, Benjamin Proano, and McLarty had a time of 4:50.93.

West Haven fell to 0-2 with a 93-71 loss to Sheehan/Lyman Hall at West Haven High.

West Haven placed third in the 200 medley relay with a team of Charron, McLarty, Correira, and Sihaphong in 2:09.15. The 200 free relay team of Charron, Sihaphong, McLarty, and Proano finished second in 1:53.54, while the 400 free relay team of Chen, Proano, Jerimiah Nieves, and Correira won in 5:45.84.

Proano placed third in the 200 free in 2:39.32, McLarty was third in the 200 IM in 2:21.49, Charron was second in the 50 free in 26.92 seconds, and McLarty was also second in the 100 fly in 1:02.18.

Sihaphong placed third in the 100 free in 1:10.19, Proano was third in the 500 free in 6:52.67, Charron finished second in the 100 back in 1:14.04, and Chen won the 100 breast in 1:44.95.

West Haven fell to 0-3 with an 82-81 loss to Haddam-Killingworth in West Haven.

The Westies posted just two victories in the meet as Charron won the 100 freestyle in 1:00.47, and the 200 free relay team of Charron, Correira, McLarty, and Sihaphong won in 1:52.39.

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).

*Donna's Destinations presents...*



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| <p><b>COST INCLUDE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roundtrip Coach Transportation ~ <b>8:30 AM</b> Depart from Veterans Memorial Parking Lot (91 Bull Hill Lane - West Haven)</li> <li>- <b>3:00 PM</b> Depart from Uncasville, CT</li> <li>- Enjoy dining, slots, quality time with friends, and so much more at the Mohegan Sun Casino!</li> </ul> | <p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION:</b><br/>Donna, Program Coordinator<br/>at the West Haven Senior Center<br/>203-937-3507<br/>201 Noble Street<br/>West Haven, CT 06516</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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**PAYMENT IS DUE BY FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 2024**



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Paige Davis completes in the long jump for the Blue Devils at the Floyd Little Athletic Center.

# Youth Hockey Mite sextets continuing a scoring barrage

The West Haven Mite A hockey team traveled to Hamden and did a great job moving the puck. JP Beebe and Jack Weiss led the scoring with two goals each, and Brayden Gagliardi, Gabriella Jenei, Maddy Bruder and Landon Alling also got on the scoreboard.

Quinn Uscilla and Austin Picard played great on both ends of the ice, with Uscilla contributing a pair of assists, and Picard also assisting on the goals. Ava Healy was a force between the posts. The Westies then took on Rhode Island in the Newport Whalers Christmas Tournament, making it to the championship game.

The Westies defeated the SeaCoast Spartans 2015 Select in a come from behind win. Gagliardi, Weiss and Alling did most of the scoring on assists from Uscilla and Picard. Healy also got on the scoreboard. Two of Gagliardi's four goals came in the last 30 seconds to clinch the win. The Westies played the Newport Whalers to a tie. Jenei had a hat trick, and Uscilla, Gagliardi and Weiss also scored. Moriah Frost was clutch in goal and Beebe was a force on defense. West Haven Mite A then handily defeated the Central Rhode Island Knights Mite A. The scoring was spread around with multiple Westies contributing, including Bruder, Picard, Gagliardi, Jenei and Weiss. Frost was once again unstoppable in goal. West Haven then faced a strong Warwick Waves Mite A team in the championship game. The Westies had multiple shots on goal by Uscilla, Jenei, Gagliardi, Weiss, Alling and Picard, but couldn't convert. Despite goals by Bruder and Picard, and strong defense by Beebe and Weiss, the Westies fell short.

The West Haven Mite A hockey team welcomed the Avon Mite A team with a scoring bonanza. Picard was hard to stop, scoring multiple goals, while Gagliardi, Jenei and Beebe also scored with assists from Weiss, Beebe, and Uscilla.

On the other end, Bruder and Alling play-ed solid defense in front of Healy in goal.

The Westies continued their great play against Mid Fairfield 2015. In goal, Healy kept her hot streak going, shutting down multiple Mid Fairfield shots.

Helping Healy with some solid defense and great puck movement were Beebe and Picard, who continued to be a force on both ends of the ice.

Bruder turned her good defense into offense, scoring two goals, one on an assist from Jenei. Jenei also put one in the back of the net on a breakaway.

Uscilla assisted a Gagliardi goal and also contributed on the scoreboard, by converting solid defense into a breakaway goal. Alling scored by crashing the net following behind a slippery Weiss. Every Westie was critical in this great game.

The West Haven Mite B hockey team traveled to Rhode Island for the Newport Christmas Classic Tournament. In the first game, the Westies took on Barnstable 8u from Barnstable, MA.

Leading the offensive effort were Blake Bova, Chase Liston, and Luke Salkins. Callen Tagliatela played a strong game in net, making numerous clutch saves during the contest.

Maddy Demayo provided tough defense for the Westies, helping to turn away the Barnstable attack throughout the entire game. Parker Vitelli played a great game as well, making good plays on both ends of the ice.

In the second game, the Mite B's battled against the New Jersey Colonials of Morristown, NJ. In what was an intense game, the Westies were led by Rylan Jacob in net.

Bova, Salkins, and Liston again turned in strong offensive games, with each lighting the lamp. Dean Azano also scored, while Tagliatela played with great hustle in the contest and helped set up multiple shots for Azano and Liston.

In the third game, the Westies took on the Newport Whalers Blue. The Westie sticks were on fire and Vitelli also was lights out in goal. Azano, Bova, Salkins, and Liston each scored multiple goals.

Darcy Jacob lit the lamp as well for her first goal of the season. Rylan Jacob added an additional goal as a result of battling in front of the net, and Tagliatela also scored an impressive goal, hammering home a rebound in the Westie victory.

Returning home, the Westies hosted Ridgefield Mite B. In what was a spirited effort by the Westies, Liston got the Westies on the board with an early goal. Salkins and Azano scored additional goals. Tagliatela and Bova each turned in multiple shots on net, while also making several crisp passes to set up additional shots.

Darcy Jacob was in net and made many saves to limit the Ridgefield attack. Demayo contributed strong defense for the entire game.

## FINANCIAL Repair

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# HIDDEN GEMS

**A cooperative of the West Haven Voice and West Haven Economic Development Comm.**

You may have seen a window sign in avocado green on Platt Avenue in the Woodlawn Shopping Plaza, with a matching delivery truck parked just around the corner from Randall's, near CVS. Together, they mark the home base for Edibolic Kitchen, West Haven's own healthy meal prep and delivery service, operating statewide. Owned by executive chef and young West Shore homeowner Josh Wechsler, this is one local business that can help you with your New Year's resolutions year-round.

Fresh-food meal delivery is a growing industry in the United States. In 2024, sales are anticipated to top ten billion dollars. What's driving this trend is a surging demand for quick, affordable food options that can be customized to suit a range of tastes and nutritional needs.

You may have tried one or more of these services. Hello Fresh and Factor operate nationally and usually rank high on most lists. When you next receive one of their frequent mailers, remember we have a local alternative just up the road.

Edibolic Kitchen offers pre-prepared, healthy meals that are ready to simply heat and serve. The business delivers to anywhere in Connecticut and offers 50% off your first order. In addition, customers

can save ten dollars every time by picking up their food right at the store. Delivery and pick-up days fall twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday.

What are the meals like? That's a hard question to answer, since there's so much variety! Fajita-spiced chicken thighs with rice, peppers, and onions is a popular choice and comes in two sizes, full and lean. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner featuring seafood, keto, holiday favorites and more plus snacks are available; you'll probably want to explore the menu yourself at edibolic.com.

Specialty catering to energize and satisfy health-conscious individuals is also an important, and growing, part of the business. People can send each other Edibolic Kitchen's gourmet meals as gifts, and employers can arrange to be a drop-off point for food for their employees as occasional perks, weekly incentives, or special meetings.

Says Wechsler, "Food is the body's fuel and eating is part of everyone's daily routine. Whether you eat to live or live to eat we'll keep you full and fit with food that is delectable and nutritious.

No matter if you want to lose, gain or maintain your weight or just incorporate healthy eating into your lifestyle, we've got you covered."

As a job creator, Edibolic



RSubmitted Photo

**Resident Josh Wechsler is the owner of Edibolic Kitchen in the Woodlawn Shopping Center on Jones Hill Road.**

Kitchen employs dishwashers, drivers, and brand ambassadors in addition to the core team. What's more, they're committed to West Haven. Over nearly ten years in business, they have maintained an outstanding reputation.

In fact, Edibolic Kitchen's average rating on Google Reviews is a whopping 4.9 stars. Customers rave about their

outstanding service, product quality, and variety. Says one from approximately three months ago, "Great place! The food is healthy and delish and economical."

Another reports, "I am so very grateful for Edibolic Kitchen! I am in a place in my life where filling my fridge with healthy prepared meals is improving my quality of

life."

There's no better time than the New Year to try out Edibolic Kitchen. They're conveniently located at 867 Jones Hill Rd. And, according to Josh, "We love meeting new neighbors!"

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& THE LIST GOES ON!

# Mayor schedules district meetings

Since taking office in early December, Mayor Dorinda Borer has made it a priority to significantly improve communication across the city, both internally with department heads and externally with residents.

To that end, Borer has created a series of meetings in each of West Haven's 10 districts and is hosting them along with the respective City Council members, at-large council members and Board of Education members, as well as with a representative from the Department of Public Works.

The meeting sessions will begin in mid-January and run through early February. See the district meeting schedule below for details.

"Each forum will be a one-stop shop for questions and input," Borer said. "Residents are hungry to connect with

their elected officials, and the goal is to be an accessible administration. I pride myself on having an open line of communication, which should be a two-way street — both listening to our residents but providing updates so that trust in transparency can be rebuilt."

Additionally, Borer will host periodic Saturday morning office hours for those unable to visit City Hall during regular business hours. Continuing along the external communication ramp-up, Borer has worked with Police Chief Joseph S. Perno to set up quarterly community forums similar to the late-summer event that was well received by the public.

"As a result of the excellent citizen participation and interaction at our last meeting, the Police Department has

discussed with the mayor scheduling quarterly meetings," Perno said. "The Police Department with the city will be posting the dates soon."

Internal communication is important as well, and Borer has implemented a weekly Cabinet and department head meeting.

"Cabinet meetings may sound basic, but they are a great way to not only collaborate across city agencies but also an opportunity to brainstorm together," the mayor said.

Borer this week organized the inaugural meeting of stakeholders from the three fire departments "to bring together all the principal players — fire chiefs, commissioners, union representatives — to one table for the first time to continue to look for opportunities for synergy."

## Legal Notice

WARNING

January 23, 2024 Special State Election

The Electors of the Town of West Haven are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday January 23, 2024 for the following purposes:

1. To cast their votes for State Representative of the 115th Assembly District

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places is as follows:

| Voting District | Location of Polling Place          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1               | City Hall 355 Main Street          |
| 2               | Savin Rock School 50 Park Street   |
| 3               | Savin Rock School 50 Park Street   |
| 8               | Mackrille School 806 Jones Hill Rd |

\*\* Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: 355 Main Street West Haven, CT 06516

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be open at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00p.m.)

Dated at West Haven, CT. this 20th dat of December, 2023.

John Lewis  
City/Town Clerk, Town of West Haven

## Legal Notice

Public Notice West Haven Housing Authority dba Savin Rock Communities, 23B Glade Street, West Haven, CT 06516 Opening of the Public Housing Family waiting list. Notice is hereby given that the West Haven Housing Authority dba Savin Rock Communities (SRC) in accordance with HUD 24 CFR 982.206 & the SRC Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy will open its Family Public Housing Waiting list. Pre-applications will be available online at [www.savinrockcommunities.org](http://www.savinrockcommunities.org) or at our office at 23B Glade St., West Haven, CT 06516 beginning Tuesday, January 9, 2024. You may request by telephone or mail that a pre-application be mailed or emailed to you. You may return the completed pre-application by mail or email to TGoodwin@savinrockcommunities.org or hand deliver to 23B Glade St. West Haven, CT 06516. If you need to hand deliver your completed preapplication during a time other than normal business hours please contact SRC, Tina Goodwin at 203934-8671 x100 to make an appointment. If you or anyone in your family is a person with a disability and you require a specific accommodation or if you need services or information in a language other than English, in order to fully utilize our programs and services, please contact SRC, Tina Goodwin at 203-9348671 x. 100. If you are hearing impaired, you may call TTD/TTY 1-800-545-1833 x. 901 for assistance. Pre-applications will be organized in the order of preference points and then by the date and time received and date stamped by this office. SRC is an equal housing opportunity agency.



order of preference points and then by the date and time received and date stamped by this office. SRC is an equal housing opportunity agency.



### CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT MAYOR DORINDA BORER CONVERSATION & CONNECTION

Please join Mayor Dorinda Borer, your District and At-Large City Council, Board of Education team member, and a Public Works Department representative for a series of events to hear City updates and gather your input to cultivate continuous improvement opportunities in your district.

**1/17 Weds 6:30p.m.**  
District 8 Chris Vargo, Jr.  
Location: Ceilo Lower Level  
Address: 85 Chase Lane

**1/18 Thurs 6:30p.m.**  
District 2 & 3 Michelle Coletti; Sarah Ackbarali  
Location: Savin Rock café  
Address: 50 Park St

**1/20 Saturday 9:30a.m.**  
District 7 Kathy Tucker  
Location: Vertical Church – Community Room 3  
Address: 225 Meloy Rd

**1/24 Weds 6:30p.m.**  
District 1 Anne Heffernen  
Location: Police Community Room  
Address: 200 Sawmill Rd

**1/25 Thurs 6:30p.m.**  
District 6 Dawn Callahan  
Location: Forest School café  
Address: 95 Burwell Rd

**1/27 Saturday 9:30a.m.**  
District 4 Gary Donovan  
Location: Police Community Room  
Address: 200 Sawmill Rd

**1/30 Tues 6:30p.m.**  
District 9 Kathleen Mueller  
Location: Seth Haley café  
Address: 146 South Street

**2/1 Thurs 6:30p.m.**  
District 10 Steven Johnstone  
Location: Ora Mason Library  
Address: 260 Benham Hill Road

**2/3 Saturday 9:30a.m.**  
District 5 Ed "Mackie" McMillian  
Location: UNH Maxcy Hall Room #124 First Floor  
Address: 300 Boston Post Rd

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showers, running toilet, garbage dis-  
posals, clogged tubs & sinks, dish-  
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out. PLUMBING SERVICES, (203)  
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session in West Haven  
Call Edith at 203 232 4384  
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Thursday  
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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Muscat's land  
5 Droid  
8 - Romeo  
12 Squid dish  
14 Crowd noise  
15 Earring shape, often  
16 Rock's Moetley -  
17 Little louse  
18 Great -  
20 Spiral  
23 Cannon of film  
24 Sofa brand  
25 Cake mixes  
28 Links org.  
29 Los -, California  
30 Satisfied sigh  
32 "Say something!"  
34 "Alfred" composer  
35 Flower part  
36 Run-down  
37 Sudden bursts  
40 Aachen article  
41 Dog's bowlful  
42 Fly at a low altitude  
47 Grate  
48 Points of view  
49 Pro votes  
50 Bit of butter

**DOWN**

1 Calendar abbr.  
2 Actress West  
3 Pie - mode  
4 Land created by C.S. Lewis  
5 Lisa's brother  
6 Spanish gold  
7 Apex  
8 Esoteric  
9 Chicago's Mayor  
10 Mythic man-goat  
11 War god  
13 1509, to Cato  
19 Back muscles, for short  
20 Trendy  
21 Heart charts  
22 Bound  
23 Fact  
25 Pastry store  
26 Scarce  
27 Hourglass fill  
29 Portal  
31 "Psst!"  
33 Prevents, legally  
34 Virgil epic  
36 Billboard  
37 Poet Teasdale  
38 Theater production  
39 Church section  
40 Work on proofs  
43 Clean air org.  
44 - polloi  
45 Single  
46 Calif. clock setting

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**MAGIC MAZE • RODENTS**

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

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

Blesmol Capybara Chinchillas Chipmunks  
Coypu Gerbils Groundhog Guinea pig  
Hamster Marmots Mice Porcupines  
Prairie dogs Rats Squirrel

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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**

1. Panama and Colombia.  
2. Epiphany.  
3. Gru.  
4. Khaled Hosseini.  
5. Fonzie.  
6. Saxophone.  
7. Five.  
8. Freddie Mercury.  
9. Columbia.  
10. Kentucky.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

**Answers**

1. GAMES: In the game Battleship, how many ships does each player have at the beginning?  
2. MUSIC: Which famous rock singer was born with the name Farrokh Bulsara?  
3. HISTORY: What was the name of the first U.S. Space Shuttle?  
4. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Mammoth cave system, believed to be the longest in the world?

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**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: The Darien Gap separates which two countries?  
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is Three Kings Day also known as?  
3. MOVIES: What's the name of the supervillain character in the animated film "Despicable Me"?  
4. LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Kite Runner"?  
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of the motorcycle-riding greaser in the sitcom "Happy Days"?  
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which musical instrument does former President Bill Clinton play?



Photos by Todd Dandelske

### Parting shots

From left -- Noelle Lawrence hits a three-pointer in the Westies' loss to Middletown in the championship game of the WH Holiday Tournament. Above -- Brandon Sihaphong swims in the 200 Freestyle against Haddam Killingworth. Left -- Aved Ullah makes a save for the Blue Devils versus Cheshire See page 20 for more details..



## Feel-Good Facts from Access Health CT

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## Westie netters find a rhythm; win 3 straight

The West Haven boys basketball team is finding its rhythm. And it may have begun with a 65-54 victory over Hamden at the Blue Devils gym.

After trailing by two points through eight minutes of play, the Westies took control of the game with a 24-8 second quarter run for a 36-22 halftime lead. While the second half was evenly played on the scoreboard, West Haven's second quarter run was the difference in the game.

Michael Singleton, who led the Westies with 25 points, was the difference in the second quarter with eight points, while Bryan Tillman scored seven, and Amare Brooks drained a pair of 3-pointers.

Singleton also had seven of his team's 12 first quarter points, and he added six points in the fourth quarter.

Brooks finished with nine points, Tillman and Bennett Scott each added eight, and Isaiah Jackson scored seven in the win.

West Haven won its third game in a row and improved to 5-3 with a 102-50 over Branford at West Haven High.

The Westies blew an 8-point game open with a 26-5 run in the second quarter for a 45-16 halftime lead. Ten different players were in the scoring column, and five players were in double digits for West Haven.

Singleton led the way with 26 points, Scott had 23 points, Jackson scored 16, Jayce Perry had 13, and Ethan Griffin scored 10. Singleton finished with three 3-pointers, while Jackson and Perry each finished with a pair of 3-pointers.

Behind eight points from Singleton and six from Griffin, West Haven led 19-11 after the first quarter. Scott led the 26-5 run in the second quarter with seven points, while Perry and Singleton each scored six.

After picking up its first victory of the season, the West Haven boys hockey team was looking to start a winning streak. The Westies will have to wait for that.

Spotting Fairfield Warde/Ludlowe three goals, West Haven's rally fell short in a 3-2 loss at Martire Arena in Fairfield. With the loss, West Haven fell to 1-2 on the year.

West Haven had its share of opportunities in the game but could not convert. Those missed chances hurt in the end.

Trailing 3-0, the Westies put the pressure on and finally got on the scoreboard when Mike Madera took a pass from Jayden Spreyer and scored from the slot with 10:03 remaining in the game.

West Haven did not convert again until Spreyer scored with 25.5 seconds remaining, but, despite a last-ditch attempt in the final seconds, West Haven fell, 3-2.

West Haven got back to the .500 mark with a 6-1 victory over Hand-Madison at the Edward L. Bennett Rink. On the day the Westies honored the 1994 state championship team, Madera led the way with three goals, Spreyer had two goals and an assist, and Javed Ullah made 23 saves.

West Haven controlled the game with three power play goals, while also adding two short-handed goals.

Mike Madera had a hat trick in the win.

West Haven opened the St. Dominic Academy Christmas Classic with a 5-1 victory at the Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn, ME. With the victory, the Westies improved to 3-2 on the year.

Spreyer and Madera each scored twice, Yousaf Ullah had two assists, and Javed Ullah finished with 26 saves in the victory.

Javed Ullah was stellar in goal, coming 1:23 away from a shut-out.

West Haven advanced to the championship game with a 5-2 victory over St. Dominic. With the victory, the Westies improved to 4-2 on the year.

Madera led the way with three goals and an assist, Porto had

**See Westies, page 18**



Photos by Todd Dandelske

West Haven squads played through the holiday break, with a mixed bag of results. Above -- Andrew McLarty competes in the 100 Butterfly versus Haddam Killingworth, a one-point heartbreaking defeat, 82-81. Left -- Isaiah Jackson takes a jump shot in the Westies' 102-50 win over Branford. Mike Madera snaps a shot for his first goal versus Cheshire. The Westies lost in this encounter, but have had good success so far.