

# West Haven Voice

May 16, 2024

Vol. 29, Issue 10, 20 Pages

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

## Voice Feature

*An in-depth feature*

**Mental Health Month kicked off at City Hall**

**See page 10**



## Gerald Cafferty to lead annual holiday parade

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Vietnam veteran Gerald "Jerry" Cafferty will serve as the grand marshal of the city's Memorial Day parade when it steps off at 10:30 a.m. May 27.

Cafferty, who turns 75 on May 20, will lead the more than 40-unit procession of veterans, dignitaries and bands along the 1.5-mile parade route, which follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street.

An Army veteran who served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War, he embraced the recognition with typical grace and humility.

"It's a great honor, a real honor," Cafferty said on receiving the grand marshal nod. "I'm a behind-the-curtains type of person."

Cafferty was chosen by the Veterans Council, which helps the city organize the annual parade, for his years of service to the military, his fellow vets and his community, the latter of which is the cornerstone of the qualifications for grand marshal, council President Dave Ricci said.

"First and foremost, I want to thank Jerry Cafferty and all other veterans for their brave service to our nation and for providing us with our greatest liberty: freedom," Borer said. "Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice for all Americans."

Borer continued: "West Haven is not only proud of our service members but is proud to be the home of the West Haven VA Medical Center, which has provided quality health care to thousands of veterans who deserve great care. We also boast the largest veterans and military museum in the state of Connecticut, so that across generations, residents can learn of the great sacrifice of the brave men and women who risked their lives so that we can be the greatest country."

"I hope you will join us at the parade and at the wreath ceremony that follows, so that we together will let the families and friends of those who lost their lives know that they will never be forgotten."

The 2024 edition of southern Connecticut's oldest and largest Memorial Day parade has no rain date and will feature three marching divisions and a military division, as well as special accommodations for disabled veterans.

The procession will include an eight-seat golf cart carrying former grand marshals that is bedecked with a star gracing the names of those deceased. Other veterans will ride on a float.

It will also include a flyover by a C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft operated by the

See Cafferty, page 19



Photos by Steven R. Mullins



## Junior Prom

The West Haven High School Class of 2025 celebrated its Junior Prom recently at Cielo. Prior to the evening festivities, classmates gathered with family and friends to pose for photographs at Seacrest on Ocean Avenue. The end of the 2024-25 school year is in sight with many spring events scheduled in the coming weeks.

**VOTE FOR  
PATTY HORVATH**

*West Shore Fire Commissioner*

**Saturday May 25th, 8am - 8pm  
at Bailey Middle School**



I humbly ask for your vote so I can continue to serve our City, its hardworking Firefighters and the Citizens of the West Shore. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Paid for by Patty Horvath





This week's weather photo comes from Head Start Classroom 1500B at West Haven Community House. Sun with some showers are predicted.

## On this Date

**1975 -- Junko Tabei becomes the first woman to conquer Mount Everest.** The ascent by the Japanese adventurer came 22 years after Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first to reach the summit.

**1966 -- In China, the Cultural Revolution begins.** The publication of the May 16 notification marks the beginning of the political campaign, which was initiated by Mao Zedong and lasted ten years. Its objective was to strengthen communism by removing capitalist, traditional and cultural elements from Chinese society.

**1960 -- Theodore Maiman fires the first functional laser.** The American physicist's invention, an advancement of earlier research by scientists in the U.S. and the Soviet Union, was patented in 1967.

**1929 -- The Oscars are awarded for the first time.** The first Academy Awards were presented at a private dinner with about 270 attendees. Today, it is the world's most important entertainment awards ceremony.

**1919 -- Albert Cushing Read takes off on the first transatlantic flight in history.** The crossing from New York State, USA to Lisbon, Portugal on a Curtiss NC-4 flying boat took 19 days.

**1868 -- The first of two key votes was held in the Senate impeachment trial of U.S. President Andrew Johnson, who was ultimately acquitted of all charges.**



## Day of Remembrance

Originally called Decoration Day, the date May 30 was set aside for remembering the dead of both sides in the Civil War. Decorating graves, along with wreath-layings, parades and patriotic speeches. Eventually, the date was called "Memorial Day" to include the dead of all wars. In the 1970a the May 30 date was replaced by the last Monday in May.

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# 16th phase of Walk of Honor to be dedicated

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

West Haven Veterans Council members and city officials will dedicate Phase 16 of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park at 5 p.m. May 25.

All veterans are invited to participate in the seaside ceremony, which will feature a flag-raising, an invocation, and a wreath-laying, as well as remarks by Mayor Dorinda Borer and a Veterans Council representative.

The public is also invited. The rain date is June 1.

Rick Spreyer, Borer's chief of staff, will serve as the master

of ceremonies.

In November 2006, the Veterans Council began the first of 16 campaigns selling bricks to memorialize vets on the 100-yard Walk of Honor between the William A. Soderman and Vietnam Veterans memorials.

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

About 3,000 bricks have been installed to date, including 46 for Phase 16 and 51 for Phase 15, which was dedicated May 27, 2023.

Phase 1 of the Walk of Honor was dedicated in May 2007, along with a memorial to Korean War veterans.

In May 2008, Phase 2 of the walkway and a memorial in commemoration of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman were dedicated.

Soderman received the Medal of Honor after he distinguished himself in December 1944 while defending an important road junction near Rocherath, Belgium.

On July 1, 1984, Bradley Point Park's flagpole was dedicated in memory of Soderman, who died in 1980.

Also in 2008, 14 grave markers signifying every war in U.S. history and peacetime were dedicated. The markers are mounted on granite posts.

The walkway was built by City Point Construction Co. of West Haven. The granite Korean War and Soderman memorials were made by Shelley Bros. Monuments of Guilford.

In May 2015, the dedication of Phase 8 included the dedication of a granite stone in memory of Veterans Council

President Lorelee "Lori" Grenfell, who died in 2015 at age 60. The memorial was crafted by Giordano Bros. Monuments of West Haven. Subsequent dedications have been held amid much fanfare, attracting hundreds of veterans and their families from all corners of Connecticut.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

The brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park, West Haven.

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## Jens Frederiksen Elected as University of New Haven's Seventh President

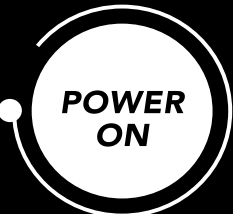
The University of New Haven announced that Jens Frederiksen, Ph.D., an innovative higher education leader with extensive experience in many facets of higher education administration, including enrollment management, fundraising, and academic/corporate pathways, has been elected to serve as the seventh president of the University of New Haven.

For complete story visit [newhaven.edu/new-president](http://newhaven.edu/new-president) or scan QR code.



# University of New Haven

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## Dear Felicia

Howdy, sweets. Hard to believe we're in the middle o' May already. It seems like jest a week or so ago we were bringing in the New Year. Don't look now, but careening toward the half-way mark. The older we git, the faster it goes.

With that in mind, the Mystick Maidens of the Marsh, that venerable organization that's been around since this berg was settled way back when is planning its annual bash at the Cove River near Painter Park this year. We're still lookin' for a new High Mystick Maiden, but that may be settled before you know it. I'll be sure to let you know about our annual doings in our next missive.

The big news is that by the time yew git this here missive, the MARB, official known as the Municipal Accountability Review Board, may have already passed, or is set to pass Mayor Dorinda Borer's budget as amended by the City Council. Those amendments were passed two weeks ago at the deadline, with only minor alterations to expenditures and line items. The big test was it goin' before the boys and girls of MARB.

It looks like it's a go with some high praise from those who reviewed – and recommended passage – by the panel. This is the foist time in a

while we didn't have the give-and-take and grousing and mewing that usually comes from the board. In fact, there was some talk of beginning to look for an exit strategy for the group after seven years of oversight, three under Tier IV.

Two things came outta this, and Sammy Bluejay was perched outside to hear it all. The fact that an exit strategy is even being discussed is good news, and lends one to believe after six years under the old administration that it was the *old administration* that was part of the problem. That seemed o be Sammy's take on it. There was some acrimony there and the new administration offers a different perspective, and even one that could answer queries without being defensive.

The second thing, according to Sammy, is the belief by some of the members the fire services should be consolidated –yeah, the C-word – and put under some type of city control. Anybody who's been paying attention for as long as we have can tell you that is a non-starter. Jest in terms of the legal folderol the districks would have to go through, not to mention the lack of political will to do it, makes it almost impossible.

The remaining two independent districts would have to

have a vote to dissolve their charters, and that is not going to happen anytime soon. But the bigger problem is the accrued financial burdens they have. All those pensions and other debts would have to be paid off before the city could take responsibility. And making an agreement for the city to assume the debt is a political fireball.

Does anyone remember the episodes of when the Allingtown Fire District dissolved? And that was not chartered under the Home Rule Statutes the way the other two districts are. It was a long, involved, and messy process. And there are those who say the district gave up its independence and is not at the mercy of the City Council.

Let's face it, there has always been a give-and-take between the districts and the city. The fact the city might assist in upgrading this or that facility is part of the longstanding way things have been done. But Sammy and Cobina don't see the political will to move toward one department. We thought this issheew was long off the table, and has been the subject of many a tussle over the years.

The members of the MARB should just get on with it, and see that whilst they might want things another way,

what we have now is what we have. Move on, already!

*Oh, and Sammy made one last pernt. The budget passed by the Council and on the verge of being approved (if not already) by MARB includes a tax increase that makes the mill rate 36.60. People are not gonna be happy with it, and is the sixth or seventh increase in as many years.*

*We can see the faces on many a homeowner who haven't been paying attention, and see that their monthly taxes in their mortgage payments are up – again. We're seeing the annual spring surge of For Sale signs. Don't be surprised effen they spring up like dandelions after July 1.*

Nelly Nuthatch was in tother afternoon and sez that the road off o' Cap'n Kangaroo Boulevard and Jimmies has been shut down. Those looking to patronize Jimmies have to use the auxiliary parking lot entrance about 200 feet down the road.

That makes one wonder effen things are finally afoot for the former Conference Center becoming the New England Brewing Company venue that has been promised for the last two years. The aforementioned Jimmies still has a court case against the plan, but one is getting the sensation that things might actually be moving. Let's hope so.

*Cobina got herself into her gas-samobuggy t'other afternoon and decided to see what was happening at the Washington School site. I hafta admit, though I ain't a big fan of tearing down a venerable building like they did, the aerial shot in this papyrus two weeks ago piqued my interest.*

*All things considered they ain't lettin' any grass grow under their feet over there. The footings were put in and since then the steel superstructure has been slowly and steadily put in place. When I saw that they think the thing is gonna be ready by this time next year, I was surprised.*

*I do hafta say though, the Building Committee, and our own Ken Carney, have a knack for doing things on time – not something this berg has been know for over the years. Still as an old coderger I'm gonna say I miss thee old building. It went with the neighborhood. Yeah, I'm still gonna carp about it.*

The long saga of Beach Street is still going on. Madame Olga decided to look over there when perusing her crystal ball. It seems that May is off the boards as far as finishing the paving over there. The new date is June 1 we hear. The weather has played its part, we've been told.

This rainy pattern is not helpful for getting the work

completed. She did note that some work on the stretch from Morse Avenue to Washington Avenue is being done –patching and setch. But things are still not completed cuz Mother Nature won't cooperate.

There's a developer over there who is chomping at the big waiting for the road to open so he can begint he final phase of his development – the restaurant. The condos are completed, Olga said. The only thing that needs doing is landscaping. But the final phase can't start until they open the dang road.

Of course, like I told yew last time, the real opening won't take place until every politico in town gets a chance for the required photo op. While projects are important. Photo ops are mandatory.

*We see a new arts initiative is coming around. A cooperative of various groups, and some grant money might change hands, all well and good. But it does beg the query, posed by Iva Lootey, what in tarnation is going on with the former Masonic Temple/Arts Center on Center Street?*

*The project was announced when another Borer was sitting on the thoid floor of the Actors Colony, and it's perty much lain fallow since. Some work was done more than a decade ago, gutting the inside to create a theater space, but that's where things have been left.*

*There are some who think the idea should be scrapped. OK, but what are we gonna do with the building, which is now city property? This was supposed to be part of a downtown renaissance of sorts, bringing people down to the Center for cultural events. Effen that ain't gonna happen, then some other plan has to be put in the works.*

*We are waiting to hear what the new administration has in mind for the area. We rue the day the Guerra administration got rid of the superior court from City Hall. That was part of the massive decline down there, and we still haven't recovered.*

*Meanwhile, the former Masonic Temple another "venerable building" in the berg is standing against the elements, empty and somewhat gutted on the inside. We remember when the original Savin Rock Gazebo was stading around for years whilst people carped and cackled about what to do with it.*

*Well, the poor thing that had stood for about 100 years finally gave up the ghost and toppled over. I guess that's one way for a political issue to get resolved. Let's hope something similar doesn't happen this time 'round.*

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Most people I know are fed up with the high cost of electricity. As a matter of fact, I read that in July our bill are going up by \$39.

I get very confused with my electric people and wonder where all the extra charge money goes. Can you tell me?

*Going Broke*

**Dear Going Broke:**

I can't blame you for questioning the higher cost of electricity being placed on us again.

I contacted the United Illuminating Company for some answers.

According to UI representative, Sarah Wall Flotsos, a sample bill based on 700 kilowatt hours, indicates distribution of where these charges go.

"The supply charges represent the cost of the actual energy that is generated to power your home for instance, the natural gas, wind turbines, and solar panels that generate the electrons flowing through the power lines. Since 1997 when the legislature deregulated the energy supply, UI has not owned power generating facilities. We procure energy on our customers' behalf and pass on those costs from our customers to the UI for that transaction. Supply costs represent about 44% of our customers' bills.

"The transmission charges pay for the high voltage electric lines that bring power from energy generating facilities over long distance and across state lines into our substations.

"We maintain the transmission line into our own service territory to earn some profit for our small section of the small transmission grid, but these charges also go to the bodies that oversee that interstate network of transmission infrastructure



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON** (iso-new) England FERC, etc. Transmission currently represents about 12% of our customers' bills.

"Finally, the Public Benefits are the charges that pay for state-mandated programs and policies such as power purchase agreements, (PPAS) agreements with nuclear plants Millstone and Seabrook. hardship assistance during COVID-19.

"We do not profit from these charges they are filed separately from a rate case in an annual proceeding known as the Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ( PURA) just approved the 2024 (RAM)last week 4-22-2024 that is the \$30 month increase we anticipate for customers beginning July 1.

"The increase is particularly large this year because the nuclear power plants, which are on fixed-rate contracts which were less expensive than natural gas last year following the war in Ukraine and PURA, extended a credit to customers last year to defray the increase in supply costs. This year there is a swing back to normalcy when nuclear is more expensive than natural gas and last year's credit makes this swing all the more precipitous.

"Public benefits now represent approximately 14% of customers' bills. This time last year, customers were

getting a small credit for the Public Benefits charge- it was actually "a negative " percentage on the bill."

Coming up...Fencing

problem in neighborhood... pot oholes on Rangely Street and Enright Street and out of state regitered vehicles and muchh more

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## Memorial Day prayer

Memorial Day was begun as a way to honor the Civil War dead in the 1880s. Known as Decoration Day until fairly recently, it is a way for the nation to remember all those who fight for the nation, and especially those who pay the ultimate price.

With our fighting men and women in harm's way, this Memorial Day takes on a special meaning. It will be a bittersweet reminder that many thousands are away from home, serving the nation in far-off lands. We think of no greater editorial opinion than expressing the hope they return to us safely.

We make that opinion known by means of a hymn known to us all, though slightly changed to include all the services. *The Navy Hymn*, known also as *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, was written by Englishman William Whiting. It became the U.S. Navy's hymn soon after, and no service in the Academy Chapel at Annapolis concludes without its singing. It was revised in the Missionary Prayer Book in the 1930s to the version we show here. Sung to John B. Dykes stirring tune, *Melita*, it is a favorite of all denominations, and gained a bittersweet resurgence during the days following the assassination of President John Kennedy.

We present it in an ecumenical version as the hope of all, no matter what creed or religion one follows:

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O God, the Lord of hill and plain  
O'er which our traffic runs amain,  
By mountain pass or valley low:  
Where ever, Lord, Thy brethren go,  
Protect them by thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the father sent,  
To spread abroad the firmament:  
O Wind of Heaven, by Thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by thy watchful care  
From every peril in the air.

Almighty God of Love and Power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea. Amen.

**The West Haven Voice  
office will be closed  
Monday, May 27.**



## Biden's just a bad President...

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

The only problem Biden has is that people think he's a bad president.

President Joe Biden has suffered a collapse in his standing generally, but, fundamentally, it's because so few people think he's doing a good job that he's in such a perilous state. Other than that, it's going great. It's hard to exaggerate how abysmal Biden's polling has been lately.

No incumbent president should ever want to be near 43% in a head-to-head ballot test. Yet here is Joe Biden at 43% in the latest CNN poll, 43% in the latest Morning Consult poll, 43% in the latest Economist/YouGov poll, and 43% in the latest Harvard/Harris poll. (NB: Biden ticked up to 48 when Harvard/Harris pushed respondents to choose between Trump and Biden, and the Economist/YouGov poll had RFK Jr. in the mix.)

Detect a trend? (There are other polls that have Biden a little higher.) It's no mystery why Biden's polling is at crisis levels.

An incumbent president's level of support in a reelection bid is typically tethered closely to his job approval. It's hard to get much more than a couple of points above it. Biden's job approval is at 40% in the RealClearPolitics polling average and at 39.3 in the 538 polling average.

The CNN poll has Biden's job approval right there at 40%, where it's held steady for about a year, with 60% disapproving. The Harvard/Harris has his approval rating a little higher at 44%, even though he's at 43% in the ballot test.

It's not just that Biden's job approval is low; he's trailing Trump on the rather crucial metric of who was or is a successful president.

According to the CNN poll, 55% of the public now considers the Trump presidency a success and 44% look at it as a failure. Biden, in contrast, is upside down. Only 39% say his presidency has been a success, while 61% say it's been a failure.

People may have all sorts of expectations for presidents -- that they not get indicted, that they not post on TruthSocial in ALL CAPS, that they accept the results of elections, etc., etc. -- but the most important one, surely, is that they succeed at the job.

Being considered a failed president is not, needless to say, a status consistent with winning reelection.

Of course, the economy is the biggest anchor on Biden. His numbers there are in the tank. CNN has his approval on the economy at 34% and inflation at 29%. The Economist/YouGov poll found the same thing -- 39% approval on the economy and 29% on prices.

In a normal election, these

numbers simply wouldn't be survivable. But with two extremely well-known, unpopular candidates, this is not a normal race.

Trump's history and personal radioactivity give Biden a lot of material to work with. And it's a boon to him that his opponent is locked down in a courtroom several days a week.

The problem for Biden is that many of the attacks on Trump -- especially those based on his legal prosecutions -- feel besides the point compared to the bigger questions in the race. Are more people going to care that Trump has been convicted of felonious book-keeping related to a payment to a porn star eight years ago or that they think he can do a better job handling inflation?

And there's more bad news for Biden: Besides disapproving of his job performance and his economy, people don't particularly like him, don't think he's a strong leader, and don't think he's fit to be president.

If all that represents trouble for the incumbent, the biggest problem, again, is that he's failing at his job. The most direct way for Joe Biden to improve his chances in November would be to become a good president -- although it's unfair to place such unrealistic expectations on him at this juncture in his presidency and career.

## Two frosh chosen for annual award

Two frosh students at West Haven High School were presented with the 2024 Commissioner Mullins Youth Leadership Awards, in ceremonies at the school on Monday.

The students were recommended by Principal Dana Paredes and guidance counselor Holly Bernadetti for the leadership they have demonstrated at West Haven High School and the wider West Haven community.

Each student received a framed certificate, a \$50,00 gift

Barns and Noble and a booklet copy of the United States Constitution.

Mullins, former City Planning and Zoning Commissioner and 1993 alumnus of the school, has been presenting the award to outstanding freshmen since 2016.

**Bobyana Wilson** -- Bobyana, a dedicated SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) club member at West Haven High School, has shown exceptional commitment in her freshman year. She is taking

all four core academic courses at the Honors level and has earned High Honors every marking period. Her passion for learning extends beyond the classroom, as she enjoys playing the piano, watching hockey, and playing word games (Connections is her favorite!). Her future plans include attending college and aspiring to become a dentist.

**Dylan Walsh** -- Dylan, a multi-talented student, is an active member of our WHHSTW (Theater Workshop) Crew, the golf club, and the WHHS Choir. His interests span a wide range, from playing the piano and building Legos to working out and exploring physical places. His academic achievements are equally impressive, as he is taking many courses in his grade 9 year at an Honors level and has earned High Honors each marking period. Dylan's future plans include studying Engineering in Massachusetts.



Photographs by Holly Bernadetti

West Haven Fair Rent Commission Chairman Steven R. Mullins presents his annual "Commissioner Mullins Youth Leadership Award" to WHHS freshmen and Bobyana Wilson and Dylan Walsh

## At a glance

### Memorial Day ceremony in Allingtown

The Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association will host its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Allingtown Green on Memorial Day morning, Monday, May 27, at 9.

A marching procession of dignitaries and career and volunteer fire personnel will depart from the Admiral Street Headquarters to the Green, led by members of the New Haven County Firefighters pipe and drum band. Wreaths will be laid at the war memorial and the firefighter's memorial. Remarks will be made by City of West Haven Allingtown Fire Chief Michael Terenzio and prayers will be offered by the Association Chaplain.

For more information, please contact Firefighter Steven R. Mullins at (203) 824-4262.

### Juneteenth celebration June 8

West Haven's fourth annual celebration of Juneteenth will take place on Saturday, June 8, at Brent Watt Park, 24 Tile Street in Allingtown. Admission is free for all ages. The festivities will take place between 11-3 with entertainment, food, and vendor booths. Entertainment includes the Heavenly Stars singing group, Saxophonist David Davis, Drummer Gamaliel Moses, Rita Rose Entertainment, Dancer Nadia Bellamy, Sounds Unlimited and Mix Master Steve Wallace.

Free parking is available at the University of New Haven Isadore Street entrance. Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved black Americans. The rain date for the festivities is Saturday, June 29th, during the same hours.

For more information, explore [WestHavenJuneteenth.splashthat.com](http://WestHavenJuneteenth.splashthat.com).

### Historical Society plans Open House

The West Haven Historical Society will host an "Open House" at the Poli House, on Saturday and Sunday June 8, 9, at the 686 Savin Ave. headquarters. Hours for Saturday are 10-3, with Sunday hours from noon to 3.

Old West Haven businesses are the focus of this year's major exhibit for the open house. Admission is free.

### Westies Care seeks nominees

Westies Care is seeking qualified applicants for its 2024 Westies Care Awards. All high school seniors who are West Haven residents who meet these criteria are invited to apply: Planning to attend a College/University; Planning to enlist; Earned a minimum of 100 Community Service Hours; Completion of application with essay.

Selected honorees will receive a monetary award along with proclamations from state and local officials. Please contact Phil at [Phil.liscio@westiescare.org](mailto:Phil.liscio@westiescare.org) for further information and an application.

### Radon test kits still available from city

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

Radon is a colorless, odorless and naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. It's found in rock, water and soil.

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

Lillis said testing for radon is recommended every two years.

The city Health Department has received a limited number of free radon test kits from the state Department of Public Health.

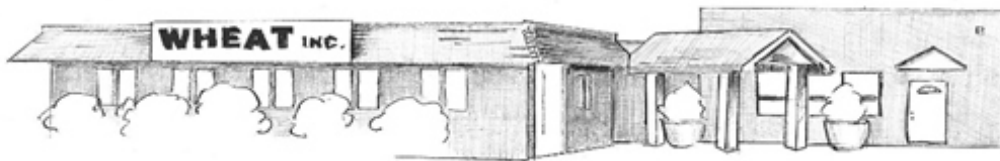
To receive a test kit, West Haven residents can call the Health Department at 203-937-3660. A sanitarian from the department will help place the kit in the home, Lillis said.

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

~~ Mike Walsh

### Wellness Fair

Do Good Feel Good Inc. founder, Michelle Caprio, in collaboration with Public Health Director Maureen Lillis are sponsoring a health and wellness fair on Thursday, May 16, from 6-8 p.m. at Bailey Middle School gymnasium. Admission is a non-perishable item to be donated to WHEAT.



### WHEAT is now open Mondays too.

Our pantry is open:

Monday - 5:00-7:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday - 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 [fp@wheatpantry.org](mailto:fp@wheatpantry.org).

### WHEAT

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# Blue-Ribbon panel to promote arts, tourism

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer has appointed a Blue-Ribbon Panel on Arts, Culture and Tourism to support arts investments in the community, to create a strategy for promoting tourism in West Haven, and to help coordinate the city's new microgrant arts program.

Borer said the West Haven Microgrants for Arts+Culture program will be facilitated by the Greater New Haven Arts Council to help distribute microgrants for artistic purposes in the community.

The microgrants will total \$116,250 and will be issued in increments between \$2,500 and \$10,000 each, depending on an applicant's need, the mayor said.

Borer, who chaired the General Assembly's bipartisan Arts, Culture and Tourism Legislative Caucus when she was a state representative, modeled the new yearlong panel after the speaker of the state House's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Tourism in 2021.

"This special coalition is made up of individuals who bring different strengths and perspectives to the table," Borer said. "Their vision and innovation will help drive the future success of the arts, culture and tourism

in West Haven."

"I like the idea of a panel," the mayor added, "as they have a short one-year life span with a focus on bringing results.

"Statistics have demonstrated that for every dollar you invest in this area, \$3 is brought back to the economy. There is a direct link toward bolstering our community."

The grants, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, will also help strengthen the development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life while showcasing West Haven as a cultural destination, Borer said.

The ARPA grant program has been approved by the state Municipal Accountability Review Board.

Borer said the microgrants will be just one component of the panel's role.

Elinor Slomba, the director of ArtsWestCT, West Haven's public-facing arts service organization, has been a champion of the microgrant program and will coordinate the program's application process.

"We are incredibly glad to see this get started," Slomba said. "We're starting a new chapter for creatives in West Haven. From all the interest we've received so far, we anticipate that a robust and diverse group of

artists will submit applications."

Applications are available online until May 29 at <https://artscouncilofgreaternewhaven.submittable.com/submit/293095/west-haven-arpa-grant/collectOrganization>.

Funded projects will take place in July and August to support West Haven artists, arts organizations and creative businesses, officials said.

The Arts Council will provide the infrastructure for a professionally managed review process. ArtsWest will help promote the program and provide mentorship to applicants.

Borer's eight-member panel will decide the grant awards.

The members are city residents Monique Bolt, Ruby Melton, Marilyn Wilkes, Paige Weinstein, Caitlin Maloney, Steven Gourdiere, Jeffrey Moreno and Paul Scanlon.

"I am excited and honored to work alongside Mayor Borer as part of the blue-ribbon panel," said Bolt, a lifelong Westie and former associate vice president of customer service and enrollment events at the University of New Haven. "As a member of the panel, I look forward to collaborating with the other members to examine ways we can stimulate more arts, culture and tourism within the city of West Haven and to assist with

making decisions, in partnership with the Greater New Haven Arts Council, regarding microgrant distribution to artists, art organizations and creative businesses within the city."

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve on the mayor's blue-ribbon panel and to help create a vibrant and thriving arts and culture ecosystem in West Haven," said Melton, a longtime advocate of the arts who brings extensive experience from her work on several New Haven regional arts organizations.

"This microgrant program will provide a wonderful opportunity for West Haven-centered artists and organizations to showcase their talents," she said. "It's also a way for the city to tap into the beautiful diversity of our artists and creatives and to jump-start creating an inclusive and sustainable arts and culture community. West Haven is at an exciting moment of change."

Informational sessions about the application process are available during ArtsWest's office hours from 2-6 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The one-on-one sessions can be virtual or in person at 377 Main St., Suite 105, lower level, but must be arranged by emailing [artswestct@gmail.com](mailto:artswestct@gmail.com).

# Forum emphasises economics and the arts

Arts and the relationship to economic prosperity was the topic of a recent public forum, sponsored by the city and

ArtsWestCT.

Randy Cohen, Vice-President of Research for Americans for the Arts, spoke about

the arts as it relates to economic prosperity, as well as its impact on the community at-large.

He also demonstrated how the social impact of nonprofit and culture organizations in the Greater New Haven area play a role. The discussion was held in the Harriet C. North Meeting Room at West Haven City Hall on April 4 and was attended by dozens of residents.

Statewide arts & culture supports 54,741 jobs and accounted for \$12.8 billion in 2022, representing 4% of Con-

necticut's gross state product (GSP), He noted. This turns out to be a larger share than other industries such as transportation, construction, and education! Cohen pointed out that arts and culture jobs are uniquely local, embedded in the community and unlikely to be replaced or outsourced.

In our region alone, arts and culture accounted for \$16.1 million, a combination of di  
*See Arts Forum, page 9*

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Photo by Steven R. Mullins

Randy Cohen of Americans for Art speaks to a public forum on art and its relationship to economic prosperity.



Photo courtesy of ArtsWestCT

Following the forum on Arts and their impact on economic prosperity, some of those in attendance took a group shot with guest speaker Randy Cohen (sitting far right). The forum stressed the importance of a vibrant arts community and its affect on municipalities.

## Arts forum

Continued from page 8

Direct spending by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and the event-related spending by their audiences, he reported. Attendees spent an average of \$31.86 per person, per event.

Cohen explained most of these dollars land in the pockets of local business establishments, when concert or theater-goers, for example, pay for things like parking garages, restaurants, retail stores, hotels, and even the local babysitters.

Beyond economics, 76% in Greater New Haven believe that the arts are “a pillar for me within my community.” Over 80% believe that arts “inspire a sense of pride” and should be “preserved for future generations.”

Overall, 79% of Americans agree that the arts attract travelers and are good for tourism. Furthermore, 70% agree with the statement, “the arts improve the image and identity of my community.” Fifty-three percent say, “When planning a vacation, I consider the destination’s arts and culture experiences when deciding where to visit.” With this level of public understanding of the arts and tourism connection, it is no surprise that 66% favor government funding the arts to increase tourism.

The data Cohen reported came from two sources: his organization’s 6th economic and social impact study of the nation’s nonprofit arts and culture industry, known as AEP6, and the US Bureau of Economic Analysis. Overall, as expected our region of the state stands out for its cultural production, retaining the nickname “creative capital of Connecticut.”

Americans for the Arts came to West Haven at the request of the Economic Development Commission, arranged by ArtsWestCT in coordination with the Arts Council of Greater New Haven. Accompanying Randy Cohen was Tamara Dimitri from the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

Recordings and slides from the presentation are available on the We Love West Haven Facebook page.



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# Leaders shine light on mental health awareness



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- Mayor Dorinda Borer is joined by Mental Health Connecticut President and CEO Luis B. Pérez, center left, city Health Director Maureen B. Lillis, center right, and other city officials during a kickoff event marking Mental Health Awareness Month on the steps of City Hall on May 1. At right, an easel displays the "988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline," a national 24/7 hotline that provides caring, trained counselors for people who are experiencing mental health-related distress. Below -- Danny, the West Haven Fire Department's station and therapy dog, wags his tail in support of the cause with his handler, Capt. Jacob Urban, as Mayor Dorinda Borer and other officials share a light moment.

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

A united front of city leaders and first responders were joined by a group of mental health experts on the steps of City Hall to publicly mark Day 1 of Mental Health Awareness Month on May 1.

The kickoff event was led by Mayor Dorinda Borer and Health Director Maureen B. Lillis and featured an array of speakers from the region's mental health agencies, including the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, Mental Health Connecticut, Bridges Healthcare, Shoreline Wellness Center & Behavioral Health Clinic, Fair Haven Community Health Care and the Bereavement Support Group of West Haven.

Borer and Lillis, both of whom wore green for the special month, delivered poignant remarks on the importance of mental health awareness, including a sobering statistic that suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States.

Lillis organized the half-hour event to shine a light on the public health crisis.

In front of dozens of mental health supporters, including city employees and fire chiefs, speakers shared stories of inspiration and words of encouragement, starting with Borer, who bravely revealed her struggle with mental health while growing up in West Haven.

"We're here today because we want to bring awareness to the existence of mental health challenges, but we also want to let our residents know that we recognize it and that there's help available," said Borer, who was flanked by a contingent of city and mental health officials.

The mayor continued: "At a young age, I suffered from mental health challenges. My parents had substance abuse issues, and back then you didn't talk to anybody about what you were facing internally — you hid it. Didn't even tell my own friends. It was a struggle — anxiety, stress, embarrassment. It's very lonely when you're suffering and you don't talk to somebody about it.

"I think I was becoming a little obviously fragile, and a friend came to me and said, 'I think you need to talk to somebody.' And I reluctantly went, and it was life-changing for me. It helped me navigate through a difficult time and is something that I tap into through all of my adult life."

"So seeking help is something very important to your mental well-being," Borer said. "I thank everybody who's in this field that offers the services and who are trained to help people that are struggling."

Lillis, who introduced each speaker, said mental health is "a topic that still gets placed on the backburner but is one that we cannot ignore."

"Poor mental health conditions, including depression and anxiety, are strongly linked to the onset of chronic physical conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes, just to name a few," she said. "These chronic diseases can reduce life expectancy due to higher stress levels, disruptions in sleep and nutrition, increased risks from substance use disorders, and greater difficulties in securing medical care or social support."

Lillis and public health nurse Stacie L. Walsh gave out green awareness ribbons to those attending the kickoff.

Green is the international color of mental health awareness, representing hope, strength, support and encouragement for people who live with mental illness.

To raise awareness in West Haven, green battery-operated candles will illuminate the windows and steps of City Hall in the nights ahead.

Chief Michael R. Terenzio of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allington, who has been in the fire service for more than four decades, talked about the "invisible injury," known as post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Many of us suffer from PTSD, and it's the firefighter culture that can be a friend and a foe," Terenzio said. "No one wants to admit that they're suffering from some kind of behavioral or emotional stress, and least of all is our firefighters. But we're becoming more and more aware of it.

"On behalf of my fellow firefighters here in the city, believe me, PTSD is a real injury, and we have to be ready to seek out the help. And there's a lot of help here that can be afforded to everyone here in the city. Don't be afraid to admit it. I'll admit it, you need help from time to time. Don't hesitate getting it."

Also speaking from the city were Karen Lafo, the assistant director of pupil services at the Board of Education, and Alyssa Maddern, the director of the Department of Elderly Services.

Representing his furry friends, Danny, the West Haven Fire Department's station and therapy dog, stopped by to wag his tail in support of the cause with his handler, Capt. Jacob Urban, who acknowledged the department's increase in mental health-related calls.

See Mental Health, page 14

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Submitted Photos



### New courts

Two basketball courts and two pickle ball courts were completed recently on the campus of Carrigan Middle School. The two courts were funded by American Recovery Plan Act (funds), according to Building Committee Chairman Ken Carney, who is itemizing all projects paid for under the ARPA umbrella.

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## Mayor to host forums on bike safety at beach

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Dorinda Borer and the Police Department are holding a bicycle safety event at two city locations May 25.

The Cycling Safety Day event will take place at the department's Shore Patrol substation on the boardwalk at 11:30 a.m., followed by Brent Watt Park at 24 Tile St. in Allingtown at 1:30 p.m. The rain date is May 26. Borer said the event is aimed at encouraging bike riding and promoting bike safety to prevent crashes and injuries. Sgt. Pat Buturla and his community outreach officers are partnering with Borer to help promote safety and to answer questions on West Haven's bicycle ordinances.

Borer, Buturla and his officers will give out bike helmets and locks to children while supplies last. The event will include complimentary ice cream, helmet decorating and a demonstration by Savin Rock Surf Shop.

Borer also announced the city's purchase of 10 bike racks for installation in designated areas across West Haven. Each green rack holds five bikes. The bike rack locations are: Brennan Field basketball court, Painter Park basketball court, Quigley Stadium basketball court, Sandy Point Beach & Bird Sanctuary, Veterans Memorial Park basketball court, South Street Beach parking lot, Brent Watt Park, Cove River pedestrian bridge and City Hall.

### Class of '64 plans reunion

The West Haven High Class of 1964 is planning its 60th reunion for Sept. 7, noon to 4 p.m. at Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave., on the patio. It will include a buffet dinner with music and dancing. A formal invitation will be sent to all classmates via email. Please RSVP by June 3 to Judy Oberempt at [nana2446@aol.com](mailto:nana2446@aol.com) or (203) 934-9504.



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Submitted Photo

## Beach clean-up

Girl Scout Troop 67216 from West Haven and Hamden celebrated Earth Day recently with a beach clean-up in West Haven. The girls did their service project to earn a patch on April 28 and scoured the tide line from Jimmy's east to the pier. They earned a Earth Day patch for their work. For more information about Girl Scouts contact 1-800-922-2770.

Photograph by Rick Spreyer

## Lion's Club kickoff drive

West Haven Lions Club President Steven R. Mullins presents the Club's glasses donation box to Mayor Dorinda A. Borer in her office at City Hall as Club Vice-President Richard Deso looks on. The box is located on the first floor of City Hall for residents to donate used spectacles for those in need throughout the world. "Lions Club International has focused on bringing sight to the visually impaired for over 100 years." said Chapter President Steven R. Mullins, who presented the box to Borer with Club Vice President Richard Deso. "The West Haven Chapter of the Lions Club is proud to play a small role in this international service project." Mullins said.





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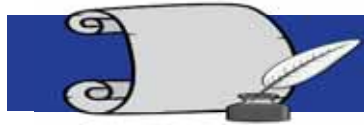
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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Sacrifice of Abraham  
*"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

John 15:13

Near Dusseldorf, Germany  
 April, 1945

Private Daniel R. "Bob" Shine sat in his muddy fox-hole, idly reflecting as he watched the steam rise from his damp uniform and boots. He had been thinking of all those other young dogfaces who had come over with him on the troopship to Europe; so many had been lost in one battle or another.

He had left them behind on snowy fields and hills, and in shattered forests and devastated villages.

His memory led him back to a rubble-strewn village street where he had lost his squad leader under heavy fire. And he recalled his good friend Abe Levy, a sergeant in another company, gone when the war was so nearly over.

Abe was kind and bright, yes, and always afraid as most of the men were. Of the original 200 men in Item Company, only fifteen or twenty of the "old men" now remained. The rest of the men were infantry replacements who had joined them somewhere along the line.

Shine had mused that morning about an old Bible story he remembered, the one about Abraham and his favorite son, Isaac.

In that story, Abraham had led Isaac to a mountaintop and had prepared to offer him up in sacrifice as commanded by his God. Shine tried to recall how the story had ended, but he could not.

Why, he had asked himself, did nations call upon their favorite sons to serve as sacrifices to the god of war? But suddenly he realized that he already knew the answer.

To Shine, the GIs' role in this

would it soon be his fate to be called to the mountaintop?

The spring days came and went. The attacks went on and on, as did the river and canal crossings and the long marches down the end-

passed through farms and villages, they searched hungrily for any food that had been left behind.

Onward they marched toward Berlin. Their advance met with less and less resistance now.

In the German villages and on the farms, white flags and bed sheets flew everywhere in surrender to the Allies. Finally, on May 8, as they reached the town of Plettenberg, the word was received: Germany had surrendered--the war in Europe was over.

As Shine received this news he was flooded with the deepest relief. Here he was, just one year past his teens, but with a war-ravaged spirit that left him feeling like a ragged old man lived within him.

His days of war were now over, but how could he ever find an inner peace? Would he be able to put all of that fighting and destruction behind him?

Suddenly he remembered the ending to the story of Abraham's sacrifice: an angel had descended and had stopped the killing of Isaac at the last possible moment. Abraham had demonstrated his loyalty and obedience, and that was sufficient.

Around him, Shine could now hear cheering and the pealing of church bells. He suddenly felt like the doomed son who had been given back his life. How would he use this gift?

He did not know. But what he did know was that he would never forget his friends, his comrades, and all of those pale battalions who once had shouted and charged, and who now lay beneath Europe's



Pvt. DANIEL R. "Bob" SHINE

war had a high purpose; they had come to Europe to give the gift of freedom to others. And only America's favorite sons were up to the task. As he sat there in the mud, lost in his musings, the company had received the order to assemble and advance.

And as they moved out, Shine had one last abstract thought that lingered long:

less muddy roads stretching across Germany. Shine fought and marched those long miles, always wondering about the mountaintop, and when his time might come. Though winter was long since past, his feet were frostbitten for life; and starvation was always near at hand, for they had advanced far beyond the reach of their supply lines. As the GIs



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

battlefields--silent and numb--their sacrifice complete.

On VE Day, the shattered forests of the Ardennes, where Shine had spent that terrible Christmas in combat, were just beginning to bloom. Where the ground had shaken and flowed red with American and German blood, all was now quiet as nature began the rebuilding process.

Shine imagined those forests, those shattered trees, and knew that he too must rebuild. A young man--now with an old man's eyes and spirit--he must turn from war and embrace his future and learn to live again.

~~~~~  
 This Memorial Day, we humbly extend our respectful thanks to those who, while protecting our sacred Freedoms, have made the Supreme Sacrifice-

## Fontana named Econ chief

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Dorinda Borer has appointed Stephen Fontana as the city's new economic development director.

For the past 10 years, Fontana has served as the deputy economic development director of New Haven's Economic Development Administration, where he has managed the strategies and day-to-day operations of the Office of Business Development.

His duties in the Elm City include economic development design and implementation, personnel and project management, and maintaining relationships with business investors and community stakeholders.

Fontana earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law and a Master of Business Administration in marketing from Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management.

He is one of several new hires at City Hall since Borer took office in December and will start May 20.

Borer said she's excited about Fontana's appointment and strengthening her Cabinet with such a pivotal position.

"Stephen Fontana will bring the leadership, strategies and vision necessary to bolster West Haven's economic development footprint and chart a course for our city's future economic success," the mayor said. "He is widely respected by his peers and is familiar with the region's needs as a whole. His professional experience, public service and educational background speaks volumes."

"I am pleased and excited to join Mayor Borer's team as the city's new economic development director," Fontana said. "West Haven is full of possibilities and opportunities, and I'm looking forward to bringing my skills and experience to bear to pursue her vision for the city's economic development and growth."

Fontana is a former seven-term state representative from North Haven and has working knowledge of state financing and economic incentives.

He is a certified economic developer of the International Economic Development Council, a member of the Connecticut Bar Association and a master fellow of the Life Office Management Association.

Fontana is not related to Rick Fontana, the city's emergency management director.



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## McVety cited as Master

Joseph F. McVety Jr., left, receives a citation from Mayor Dorinda Borer recognizing his installation as the worshipful master of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Annawon Lodge 115 during a ceremony at 263 Center St. on Monday. With them is lodge Senior Warden Douglas J. Turcotte III.

# Mental Health: *Awareness Month kicked off*

Continued from page 10

Representatives from the regional mental health agencies, many of whom also wore green, talked about their agencies and the services they offer, in addition to praising the city for raising awareness.

"Thank you for sharing your stories," said Dr. Ece Tek, the chief medical officer of Mental Health and Addiction Services at Cornell Scott in New Haven. "The more we share the stories, the more we

share the hope."

"You have a community that really has created a great safety net," said Luis B. Pérez, the president and CEO of Mental Health Connecticut in Farmington. "At Mental Health Connecticut, we understand the power of community."

Jennifer Fiorillo, the president and CEO of Bridges in Milford, said her group has a simple philosophy

"We do everything we can to meet people where they are

in their recovery."

Eddy Cordova-Coello, an addiction medicine case manager at Fair Haven Community Health Care in New Haven, discussed mental health issues facing the Latino community, and Kim Kenny, the grants coordinator at Shoreline Wellness in West Haven, said, "Mental health is about all of us looking out for each other."

Cate Saxton, the facilitator of the Bereavement Support

Group, thanked Borer for "shining a little bit of light where there is usually darkness."

The West Haven group, which supports those who have lost a partner, was co-founded by Teddi McKenna and Toni Jo Limosani and meets at 6 p.m. Wednesdays at the Johnson Community Center, 201 Noble St.

Mental health includes people's emotional, psychological and social well-being. It affects how people think, feel and act and helps determine how they handle stress, relate to others and make choices.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, 1 in 5 adults experience mental health illness each year, and only half of them receive treatment.

"Suicide is a major public health issue and can be recognized as a chronic epidemic," Lillis said. "Despite the overwhelming numbers, the tragedy of suicide is hidden by stigma, myth and shame. And it is this stigma surrounding suicide that restricts prevention and intervention."

According to statistics compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the third-leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds and the second-leading cause of death among 25- to 34-year-olds.

In 2022, more than 950,000 12- to 17-year-olds and 1.6 million adults attempted suicide, according to the CDC.

Lillis said there is a glimmer of hope, however.

Pointing to an easel displaying a large blue-and-white sign, "988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline," on the steps of City Hall, she said: "I would like you to remember this lifesaving number: three digits that can save someone's

life. The 988 Lifeline helps thousands of people struggling to overcome suicidal crises or mental health-related distress every day."

Launched by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in 2005, the 988 Lifeline is a national 24/7 hotline that provides caring, trained counselors for people who are experiencing mental health-related distress.

In observance of West Haven's monthlong mental health awareness campaign, the Health Department is sponsoring a series of events, "which will encourage open dialogues, create a new culture of empathy and understanding, and emphasize the importance of normalizing the practice of self-care and taking moments each day to prioritize mental health without fear of embarrassment," Lillis said.

Events include an aroma therapy activity for West Haven Senior Center members and a basketball clinic for at-risk middle school and high school students.

The aroma therapy activity was held May 9 at the senior center, 201 Noble St.

The basketball clinic, limited to 30 participants, is scheduled from 5-8 p.m. May 24 at Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park St., and will include the Police Department's school resource officers.

Lillis said she plans to announce more events soon.

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If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

To get support for mental health, drug and alcohol issues, visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-support>. To locate treatment facilities or providers, visit <https://findtreatment.gov/> or call 800-662-HELP (4357).

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Wednesday, May 22nd

6:30 PM - 8 PM

First Congregational Church of West Haven



# AFC Urgent Care takes a 4-2 win in soccer

It's been an exciting couple of weeks for the West Haven Youth Soccer League, with plenty of action taking place. The Seacrest Retirement Home Strikers added two more wins to their record, playing against the Connex Credit Union and RQ Professional Accounting & Tax Services. Brooklynn Papa dominated on both defense and offense scoring a total of eight goals. Adelynn Marcela-Aiken did an incredible job defending the Striker's goal, keeping both teams away from the net. Liliana Lima continues to hustle on both ends of the field and added to the goal tally in both games. The Connex Credit Union Irish Green showcased incredible teamwork in the game. All players shined bright, as Rogue Montanez, Ameliz Sarmiento, and Khali Douthit-Ellis scored and Frances Stalkos and Chelsea Bennett played great defense. For the RQ Professional Accounting & Tax Services Cheetahs, Jaelyn Aviles, Marwa El-filali, Mariah Casteel, and Ria Sharma blocked many attempts to score. Avalyn Wilder, Katie Samaniego, and Chloe Collins scored multiple goals in the game. AFC Urgent Care defeated Baybrook Remodelers 4-2, and the Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance fell to Frankie's of West Haven by the same score.

The Law Office of Paul V Carty won against Mad Mike's Cheesesteaks, 5-0. Heidi Yanza, Jelanni Malachi, and Taliah Boykin scored in the win. Milano & Wanat played against Physicians Physical Therapy this weekend, tying 1-1. Jude Charles hustled up and down the field, Emmett Hemming scored. Curtis Diaz made a few great passes in the game. George Ellis Company Inc. defeated the Porto Funeral Homes, 3-1, and Stowe's Seafood played Taco Town to a 3-3 draw.

P & B Express played against the Keenan Funeral Home Golden Dragons. Amine Alljate had an open goal that he scored on, while David Barajas Solorio and Tobin Cavalier both scored on break-aways. For the Golden Dragons, the team had great passing and used footwork skills to keep the ball in play.

Matheo Morales, Luca D'Elia, Cash Papa, and Abdulhamid Gbadamosi all scored. Dominic Ferris worked hard to defend the ball from getting into their goal. The Keenan Funeral Home Golden Dragons also had a game against Thorough Restoration and came out on top. The Golden Dragons had another great game, taking full advantage of the field. The team worked together to work the ball up the field and score. They had great passing and assisted other players they hadn't had a chance to score yet. Matheo Morales, Zeyed Baoudene, and Ace Hemming all scored. Walid Akach, Gabriel Gamarra, and Cash Papa hustled and even made some close attempts on goal.

Eli's Orange won against Stars Ice Cream-Light by a margin of 4-1. The first goal of the game was a header by Dylan Soc, the other goals were scored by Ahmad Adbulkarem and a penalty kick by Mohamed Naas. Amazing hustle and control of the midfield by Adhan Beyah was key to the game, as well as two immaculate defensive plays by Xander Estes. The West Haven Federation of Teachers played the WH Professional Firefighters, with the West Haven Federation of Teachers falling. The Teachers had a few absences but performed admirably. Grant Harris excelled as the goalkeeper, showcasing remarkable sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Tyreese Leach held his ground on defense, displaying quick reactions and effectively blocking shots. In the second half, Mason Zielanski stepped up and took on the role of goalkeeper, displaying impressive bravery. With limited play time as goalkeeper, he excelled in his performance. The Gunning Law Firm played the University of New Haven Chargers to a thrilling 5-5 tie. Vio's Sports Plus fell to West Haven Police Local 895, 4-1. The final rec game of the weekend saw Wizzard Painting defeat York Business Center, 2-0. P&B Express played against Porto Funeral Home in a great match up. Both teams played hard, with the score going back and forth. Julian

Chiquillo had an open goal and Xavier Zambrano-Perz scored from midfield. Xavier Munoz-Montano had a two on one and scored the final goal.

The Cappetta's Italian Imports U14 Girls Travel team were on the road in Guilford last Saturday where teamwork and excellent play lead to a 3-2 win. The Westies had several strong plays and passes throughout the game. Francesca DeMartino, Stella Porto, and Arianna Throm all scored for West Haven. The U14 girls returned to action Friday night, where they came up short, losing 4-2. Naomi Shubin had several great runs up the field, blowing past the Orange midfield. Gillian Wynus scored for the Westies. On Sunday, the girls hosted Haddam-Killingworth, taking home a 6-0 win. Lynnies Cheson and Luciana Cappetta showed great passing skills up and down the field. Teamwork led to goals by Francesca DeMartino, Stella Porto, Lulu Sebas, and Alivia Reilly. The Elite Soccer Camps U11 boys hosted Naugatuck last Sunday.

Despite going down early, the boys battled back in the second half to win, 5-3. Ryan Abekah picked up the hat trick, and Matteo D'Elia scored the clinching goal off of

an Abekah assist. Jacob Rader was stellar on defense, with support from Collin Gibbons, Seth Empric, Ben Trenchard,

and Joey Ruiz. Ethan Fonseca played well in the midfield, and Adam Lamkhanter passed well.



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# Westies: Teams make final runs at tourney

Continued from page 20

sible by a pair of West Haven rallies in the sixth and seventh innings.

West Haven closed the week with a 10-1 home loss against Guilford Saturday afternoon at Piurek Field. With the loss, West Haven fell to 9-9 on the year.

The Westies only had four hits in the contest, and after taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning, went silent the rest of the way.

Lucas Forgette took the loss in the start for West Haven as he tossed the first four innings, allowing three runs, one earned, on five hits, while

walking two and striking out one. Haygen Axelrod, Price and Josh Osborne each pitched an inning in relief.

The West Haven softball team saw its two-game win streak come to an end with a 12-2 loss to Guilford at Biondi Field. West Haven fell to 5-9 on the year.

Trailing 3-0 in the first, Mia Rubirosa led off with a deep homer to center to get within 3-1. After West Haven stranded Shannon Hoey who walked in the third, the Westies got on the board in the fourth.

Olivia McDonnell started the rally with a one-out single, and McDonnell scored when

Natalie Gallo doubled to left with two outs.

West Haven never threatened again as Guilford retired eight batters in a row, before Gallo singled with one out in the seventh.

West Haven got a needed victory with a 1-0 road victory over Sheehan. With the win, the Westies improved to 6-9 on the year.

Rubirosa made a fourth inning run hold up as the West Haven senior tossed a complete-game five-hitter, striking out six and walking four. Rubirosa also had two of West Haven's three hits on the day.

West Haven scored the only

run it needed in the fourth inning as Holly Waibel was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning, Taylor Alfano walked, and McDonnell reached on an error to load the bases with no outs.

With one out, Aniah Glover hit a sacrifice fly to right to score Waibel with the only run of the game.

West Haven fell to 6-10 with a 13-0 loss at Cheshire in a game stopped after six innings due to the mercy rule.

West Haven had just four hits in the game, with McDonnell picking up two, and Waibel and Gallo each having one apiece.

The Westies fell to Jonathan Law 14-3 at Biondi Field.

Alfano and Alyvia Ginsberg led the way with two hits apiece, with Ginsberg also driving in a run. Rubirosa had one hit, scored a run, and drove in a run in the loss.

The West Haven boys lacrosse team fell to 2-7 with a 14-0 loss against Foran.

Foran held a 33-25 shot advantage in the contest, with West Haven's T.J. Levenduski making 12 saves.

West Haven got back on the winning track with a 12-0 victory over Wilbur Cross at Ken Strong Stadium.

Marcus Burrows led the way with four goals and two assists, A.J. Iannotti had three goals, Brandon Doody scored twice, and Thomas Porto and Yousaf

Ullah each had one goal and two assists apiece. Levenduski made nine saves to record the shutout. West Haven held a 45-14 shot advantage in the game.

The Westies fell to Jonathan Law, 10-7, at home.

Leading 3-2, Law outscored West Haven 5-1 in the third to take an 8-3 lead. West Haven's fourth quarter comeback was not enough as the Westies fell to 3-8 on the year.

Burrows led the way with five goals, while Levenduski made 14 saves in the loss. West Haven held a 40-32 shot advantage in the contest.

West Haven was shut out in the second half and fell at Lyman Hall, 21-6.

West Haven fell to 3-9 on the year.

All of West Haven's goals came in the first half, with three in each quarter. Burrows led the way with three goals, Ullah scored twice, and Levenduski made 21 saves in defeat.

The West Haven boys tennis team improved to 9-3 with a 7-0 victory over Lyman Hall at West Haven High Monday afternoon.

In singles play, top-seeded Miguel Torres defeated Nate Rininger, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, second-seeded Brandon Sihaphong topped Ashul Patel, 6-4, 7-5,

third-seeded Eshwar Balakumar won over Ethan Tuxbury, 6-2, 6-3, and fourth-seeded Johnny Chen defeated Luca Delucia 6-2, 6-2.

In doubles action, top-seeded Javon Huang and Caden Mateo won over Michael Mastriano and Dylan Stackpole, 6-2, 7-5, second-seeded David Guadarrama and Ali Hamza topped Jake Marone and Jordan Macri, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, and third-seeded Daniel Davis and Jordan Smith defeated David Arsenault and Zack Rininger, 7-5, 3-6, 11-9.

West Haven had a hard-fought match at cross-town rival Notre Dame and fell 5-2 Tuesday afternoon. With the loss, West Haven dropped to 9-4 on the year.

Both of West Haven's victories came in singles play from Sihaphong and Chen. In singles action,

Notre Dame's top seed Mike Lorenzetti defeated Torres 6-1, 6-3, second-seeded Sihaphong topped Reed Neumann 4-6, 6-1, 6-0, Notre Dame's third seed Reaman Curis defeated Balakumar 6-4, 7-5, and fourth-seeded Chen topped Davis Kunjappa 6-1, 6-1.

Notre Dame won all three matches in doubles play

West Haven dropped its second consecutive match with a 5-2 road loss against Lyman Hall in Wallingford. West Haven fell to 9-5 on the year.

In singles action, Lyman Hall's top seed Nate Rininger defeated Torres 7-5, 6-3, second seed Ashul Patel of Lyman Hall topped Balakumar, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, third seed Ethan Tuxbury defeated West Haven's Chen and fourth-seeded Dylan Stackpole topped West Haven's Woobin Kim, 6-2, 6-2.

In doubles play, West Haven's top seed of Huang and Mateo defeated Luca DeLucia and Mike Mastrianni, 6-3, 10-8, and second-seeded Guadarrama and Hamza topped Lyman Hall's Jordan Macri and Jake Marrone, 4-6, 6-1, 10-8. Lyman Hall's third seed of Giulio Marino and Dave Arsenault topped Davis and Smith, 6-1, 6-4.

West Haven snapped its two-match losing streak with a 4-3 victory over Jonathan Law in Milford.

West Haven won three of four singles matches as top-seeded Torres defeated Jon Urachida, 6-2, 6-0., second-seeded Sihaphong topped Dean O'Donnell, 7-6, 6-1, and third-seeded Balakumar defeated Alastire Balin, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4

West Haven improved to 11-5 with a 5-2 victory at Wilbur Cross. The victory was West Haven's second straight as the Westies won three of four singles matches and two of three doubles matches.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

TJ Levenduski makes a save against Jonathan Law.



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& THE LIST GOES ON!





Photo by Todd Dandelske

Holly Waibel slides into second safely versus Law. The Lady Devils are trying to earn a tournament berth, but lost this one, 14-3.

### Shore Haven scholarships applications

Shore Haven Jr. Baseball is accepting scholarship applicants from June 2024 high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amount of \$300 each in honor of Dave Terese, Sr., Mario J. Argentino plus the Joseph Morrell Sr. scholarship. All applicants must have participated in the league for two years.

Applications must be returned by May 31, to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Avenue, West Haven, Ct 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance offices or by calling (203) 934-9740.

### COG plan update available online

The 15 municipalities in south-central Connecticut, with the help of the South Central Regional Council of Governments, are preparing an update to the region's Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan names natural hazards and their potential impacts to each community, including West Haven. It then identifies activities each community may take to mitigate identified risks.

The plan makes each city and town eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency pre-disaster funding. The grant money may be used for projects that mitigate risk to vulnerable residents, build resilient infrastructure and transit systems, and protect the natural environment.

For more information, read the full SCRCOG news release on the city website at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/>.

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West Haven Library

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Reddish brown  
5 \$ dispenser  
8 Cries of aversion  
12 Spiced tea  
13 Goat's plaint  
14 Entreaty  
15 Mystique  
16 Blue Angels events  
18 Australian red wine  
20 Fedora feature  
21 Medicinal plant  
23 PC key  
24 Schubert compositions  
28 "Monopoly" cubes  
31 Misery  
32 Barbs  
34 "Science Friday" network  
35 Adjoining  
37 Sweeten  
39 Rocker  
41 Minnesota –  
42 Penniless one  
45 Fearsome fly  
49 Relaxing time on the slopes  
51 Equitable  
52 "Understood"

**DOWN**

7 Painter  
9 Acting smug  
10 Hacks with an axe  
11 Postpaid enc.  
17 Mexican Mrs.  
19 Sleep like –  
22 Treble clef lines  
24 Bristle  
25 Caviar base  
26 Fabric features  
27 Calming drug  
29 Tax pro  
30 Mess up  
33 Bygone jets  
36 Prairie homes  
38 Of service  
40 – Moines  
42 Beach bucket  
43 Church area  
44 Invitation notation  
46 Story  
47 China (Pref.)  
48 Historic periods  
50 White wine cocktail

May 16, 2024

**MAGIC MAZE ● — KEEPER**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: HONEY-MAKING POLLINATOR

Book Lighthouse Quarterback Station  
Brother's Lock Record Time  
Goal Market Saloon Zoo  
Grounds Peace Shop

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**Answers to this week's puzzles**

**King Crossword**  
Solution time: 22 mins.  
Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answers

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

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European country has the largest population?  
2. TELEVISION: Which sitcom features a character named Ron Swanson?  
3. SCIENCE: What are the three layers of the Earth?  
4. MOVIES: Which 2001 movie has a famous "bend and snap" scene?  
5. MONEY: What is a modern U.S. penny made of mostly?  
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a common name for an animal in the Leporidae family?  
7. LITERATURE: Which children's book contains the line, "Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast?"  
8. ANATOMY: Where is the pinna located in the human body?  
9. HISTORY: Who was the fourth president of the United States?  
10. BUSINESS: What did Amazon sell exclusively when it started business in 1994?

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**Answers to this week's puzzles**

**King Crossword**  
Solution time: 22 mins.  
Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answers

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

# HIDDEN GEMS

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

By Bonnie Posick  
EDC Member

About a mile up the Boston Post Road in West Haven, next door to a used car dealership, Shana McCarthy has created an oasis. Inner Essence Spa and Wellness Center moved to this location in March of 2019, after 13 years in a building just off the Post Road in Orange.

"This was a good move," Shana said. "It's really great here. There's not another business like this in West Haven."

She found that people were very welcoming and, while some of the clients from her Orange location followed her to West Haven, she also gained a new clientele. "It was a very smooth transition," she added.

After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science and training as a licensed massage therapist and energy medicine practitioner, Shana worked in a spa in a shared space, but she always wanted to open her own business.

"That was my vision. I wanted to create a space that was healing for people . . . comfortable, soothing," she said.

She has achieved her vision. The spa envelops its clients in a peaceful environment, free of the stimuli of the outside world. All the senses are engaged: pleasant music plays, the lights are dim, and the mild scent of essential oil fills the air. Relaxation is inevitable.

Shana employs about half a dozen people, and she and her team offer a plethora of services. A few of the many types of massages available include head, neck and back massage, Swedish massage, deep tis-

sue massage, Hawaiian Lomi Lomi massage, and couples' massage.

One of Shana's specialties is Ashiatsu Oriental bar therapy, which is an adaptation of an ancient form of barefoot massage using deep compression and gliding throughout the body, which promotes deep relaxation as well as detoxification of the body.

Plant medicine is another of Shana's focuses. She consults with clients about their life and body physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Based on what the client is hoping to achieve, Shana helps them to intuitively connect to certain plants in the form of essential oils.

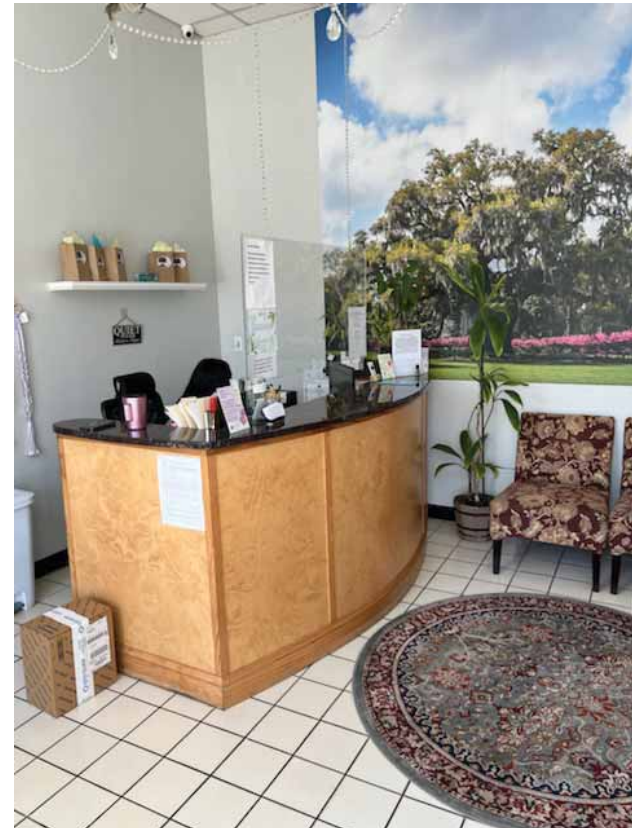
"The essential oils I use for this service are cultivated in a very careful way that maintains the high vibration of the plant therefore allowing healing in our body through its use. Essential oils are very potent and are nature's medicine," Shana said.

Among the other services that the spa offers are heated stone therapy, myofascial release, acupressure, aromatherapy, lymphatic drainage, reflexology, prenatal massage, cupping, and raindrop therapy using essential oils.

Facials, waxing, body treatments, makeup, eyelash and eyebrow services, and paraffin treatments are also available.

Clients may take advantage of spa membership or packages, including rejuvenation, detox, empower or Nirvana. Special packages target the bride- or groom-to-be, or the mom-to-be. Gift certificates are also available.

Inner Essence Spa, located at 781 Boston Post Road, is open seven days a week. Hours on Monday, Tues-



Inner Essence Spa and Wellness Center offers an inviting location for clients to relax and enjoy the day, Wednesday, and Friday are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Hours on Saturday are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are available online at [www.inneressencespa.com](http://www.inneressencespa.com) or by calling (203) 795-

## Cafferty: Vietnam Vet to lead annual march

Continued from page 1

Connecticut Air National Guard.

Cafferty will steer the procession from a golf cart flanked by the West Haven Police Honor Guard.

The 90-minute parade, in memory of the deceased members of the U.S. armed forces of all wars, will showcase the city's legion of veterans groups.

The procession will include bands from West Haven High and Bailey Middle schools, along with the Notre Dame High School Drum Line, the Stylettes Drill Team and Drum Corps, and the New Haven

County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums.

It will include cheerleaders from the West Haven Seahawks, members of the West Haven High School dance team and Jeeps from the Connecticut Beach Cruisers, as well as bands from the Rock House School of Music.

The procession will also spotlight the traditional contingent of youth organizations and sports leagues, dance troupes and Scout troops, fraternal organizations and service clubs, local and state leaders, police officers and firefighters.

Cafferty was born to James

and Loretta Cafferty and raised on Third Avenue in West Haven with his two brothers and two sisters.

His father worked as a clerk at the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Co. His mother stayed home to raise the family's five children, all of whom attended St. Lawrence School.

Just over a year after graduating from West Haven High, Cafferty was drafted by the Army in July 1969 at age 19. He completed basic training eight weeks later at Fort Dix, New Jersey, followed by 10 weeks of advanced training as a medical corpsman at Fort

Sam Houston in San Antonio in preparation for Vietnam.

Beginning Jan. 13, 1970, Cafferty was based out of Camp Evans, northwest of the coastal city of Hue in central Vietnam and near the demilitarized zone.

He served as a medic with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division and participated in the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord, the last major battle of the Vietnam War between U.S. ground forces and the North Vietnamese army.

The 23-day offensive took place in July 1970 outside of the A Shau Valley, southwest of Camp Evans.

In addition to giving first aid in combat, Cafferty fought alongside his company's infantrymen on Hill 902, just over a mile south of Ripcord, to help protect the mountaintop artillery fire support base.

Cafferty received several U.S. military decorations for valor in combat, including the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

The battle was chronicled by author Keith W. Nolan in the 2000 book, "Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970," and by director Shannon Lanier in the 2012 film, "The Battle of

Ripcord."

The book contains a prominent quote from Cafferty: "Those sappers were good. They were inside the perimeter before anyone knew it, and they knew exactly what to hit."

Cafferty was also interviewed about the battle by a producer of "War Stories With Oliver North," the retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel's military history program on Fox News. He appeared in Episode 43, "The Siege of Firebase Ripcord," which aired March 7, 2004.

After serving his tour of Vietnam — 12 months, followed by a one-month extension — Cafferty was honorably discharged as a specialist 4 on Feb. 10, 1971. He also received the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, a South Vietnamese military campaign medal for support of operations in Vietnam after 1960.

After the Army, Cafferty worked for the Postal Service as a clerk in New Haven and Wallingford until his retirement in 2009. Cafferty and his wife, Penny, have been married for 52 years and have two daughters and a son and seven grandchildren.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Army veteran Gerald "Jerry" Cafferty kneels beside the granite U.S. Army insignia marker and the granite map of Vietnam's four battle districts at the West Haven Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Bradley Point Park on May 6. Cafferty, who served in the Vietnam War in 1970-71, will lead the city's Memorial Day parade as the grand marshal when it steps off at 10:30 a.m. May 27 along Campbell Avenue.

## Westie squads make final tourney pushes

The West Haven baseball team inched closer to the state tournament with an 8-0 victory over Branford at Piurek Field. With the win, the Westies improved to 7-6 on the year.

Chase Supan needed just 85 pitches to toss a complete-game one-hitter, striking out 12 in the win. Supan threw 63 strikes and came within a leadoff single in the sixth inning from pitching a perfect game.

Looking to clinch a spot in the postseason, West Haven was one out away from doing so. The Westies could not get that final out in time.

Scoring three times in the top of the seventh inning with two outs, Cheshire rallied to defeat the Westies 7-6 at Piurek Field. West Haven fell to 7-7 on the year.

Jones got two outs with a runner on first in the seventh inning, but Cheshire followed with two singles and a double to rally for the victory.

West Haven had one final opportunity in the bottom of the seventh as Cruz led off with a single and Supan walked with one out. The rally ended there as Cheshire turned a double play to end the contest.

West Haven dropped its second straight con-

test and fell to 7-8 with a 7-3 loss at Shelton.

The Gaels prevailed as they scored three times in the third inning and four more in the sixth to take the lead for good.

West Haven qualified for the state tournament with a 3-0 victory over Hillhouse/Career at Piurek Field. With the victory, West Haven improved to 8-8 on the year.

Supan pitched six shutout innings, allowing one hit, while walking three and striking out 10. Hudson Axelrod pitched a scoreless seventh inning in the clinching victory.

West Haven scored all the runs it needed with two in the first inning and one more in the third.

Trailing twice late in the game, West Haven rallied each time and defeated North Haven 4-3 in eight innings at Piurek Field.

With the game tied at three in the eighth, pinch-hitter Scanlon led off with a double. Madera bunted down the third base line and an errant throw on the play scored Scanlon for the winning run.

The late inning dramatics were made pos-  
See Westies, page 16



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Chase Supan throws six, scoreless innings in the Westies' 3-0 win over Hillhouse/Career.

## Westies' Baldino qualifies for track nationals

Joaquin Baldonado, a senior on the West Haven High School Boys' Track & Field Team, has qualified for the 2024 Nike Outdoor Nationals scheduled for June 12-15 at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.

Baldino will compete in the Discus Throw after qualifying with a personal-best mark of

152'2".

"It honestly hasn't hit me yet," responded Joaquin, when asked about competing at the national meet. "If you told me 4 years ago, that I would be going to Nationals for track, I'd ask you what track is. I'm serious, I had no idea.

"I have to thank my friends that recruited me - the captains

- they encouraged me because once I quit basketball and they saw me at the gym, they told me I should throw and I thought, 'why not'."

Thanks to Joaquin's friends, who pushed him to compete in a sport he was unfamiliar with, the senior, who just started throwing last spring, is now heading to the National

Championship meet in Eugene, Oregon.

Joaquin threw a personal record and National-qualifying toss of 152'2" on May 1st during a 3-team meet between West Haven, Branford, and North Haven.

"Everyone was screaming for me, nobody else really understood what was going

on, but our team all knew because I had to hit 152' to make it, and when we heard the number 152', everyone started freaking out. I started jumping," said Joaquin.

It's an incredibly impressive feature, especially considering he joined the outdoor track & field team during the 2023 spring season.

Before that, Joaquin had played basketball most of his life, starting in second grade. He played for West Haven High School and made varsity as a sophomore, but following his basketball-playing days, he figured he was done with sports.

Fast forward to now, Joaquin is considering joining the track & field team at UMass Lowell, where he will attend next year. The thought of throwing at the next level began during the indoor track & field season.

It has been an incredible journey for Joaquin, a former 2nd-degree blackbelt in taekwondo and a 12-time gold medalist, who will wrap up his high school career with a national championship experience in a sport he knew little about two years ago.

"It's something he and his family can take with them and will have as a life-long memory," said his throwing coach, Cindy Latham.



Photos courtesy of Michael O'Brien

Joaquin Baldonado, a senior on the WHHS boys' track team, has qualified for the Nike Outdoor Nationals, June 12-15, at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.