

## Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

WHHS Valedictorian,  
Salutatorian announced  
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Grant to aid VA  
neighborhood  
See page 15



# Washington School set to open

**By Danny Atkinson**  
*Voice Writer*

Following a long and winding journey, the reconstruction of Washington Elementary School (WES) is nearly complete. The project which received full approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission in March of 2023, is on track to be completed on May 22 and ready to welcome students back in the fall. Currently, students are located at Molloy School. Gilbane Construction, which has tackled many city projects, including the new West Haven High School, is completing its task.

Washington, one of six pre-K-4 elementary schools in West Haven, was earmarked for an upgrade that brought it into the future. The first structure was built in 1909, and no construction work had been done on it since 1986 prior to its demolition. The school was out of compliance, with examples including a lack of air conditioning and elevators. Features of the building such as narrow stairwells, wide hallways and masonry had officials decide that renovation was not a serious option.

"The school was in complete disrepair," said Ken Carney, West Haven's Building Committee chairmen. "There were no breakout rooms for reading or special needs students or extra classrooms if needed."

Carney helped oversee the funding for the Washington Elementary reconstruction as chairman of both the Building Committee and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee. The final cost for the project is estimated to be \$41.7 million. Because of the reimbursement rate of 77.14% that was granted by the state, the city will only have to pay roughly \$10 million. The city was also able to obtain a space waiver at the same time, thanks to the efforts of its state delegation.

The school that students and teachers will return to in the fall will be two stories and roughly 61,000 square feet. The building, which was designed by Antinozzi Associates and the engineering firm Sentec, will accommodate roughly 438 students between pre-K and 70 teachers.

Gilbane Building Co. demolished the old structure in late 2023 and finished its work in January 2024. Workers then immediately started construction, beginning with the creation of ground improvement piles that foundation could be laid upon. The foundation of the school was built that next month, and the school was constructed throughout the remainder of the year.

Once the Gilbane team finished construction a few months ago, the project entered what Ryan Bentz, a General Superintendent for Gilbane who has been one of the individuals running the whole project since the start, called "the finishing stage." This entails work such as painting, flooring, and adding tiles. The completion date is slated for May 22, and the building is scheduled to receive a certificate of occupancy on June 9.

"The finishing process is going very smoothly, and we are hitting all our milestone dates. We are on target to finish May 22, and we see no complications keeping us from finishing then," Bentz said.

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Photos courtesy of Gilbane Construction and Ken Carney

With the opening set for May 22, Gilbane Construction crews are placing fixtures and other equipment in the new Washington School.

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Sofia Lugo Velez, age 5, a West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. student, is predicting warmer weather to help the flowers bloom.

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Next Issue Date: May 22, 2025

On this Date

1984 -- Moscow announces that the USSR will not take part in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Several other countries, such as Cuba, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Vietnam joined the boycott. 4 years earlier, the United States had not sent any athletes to the Summer Olympics in Moscow.  
1978 -- Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler climb Mount Everest without oxygen supply. Prior to the Italian and Austrian mountaineers' ascent, it was thought to be impossible to conquer the world's highest mountain without supplemental oxygen.  
1970 -- The Beatles release the album Let It Be. The recording was the last studio album ever released by the legendary English rock band.  
1927 -- The White Bird and its crew mysteriously disappear. French aviators, Charles Nungesser and François Coli, had taken off from Paris in their Levasseur PL.8 biplane in an attempt to make the first non-stop transatlantic flight. Their disappearance remains a mystery.



Photo by Deborah Collins

Ordinance proposal presented

City of West Haven Fair Rent Commission Chairman Steven R. Mullins presents the proposed Fair Rent Ordinance to Mayor Dorinda A. Borer in the City Council Chambers.  
"This proposal is in compliance with the 2022 state mandate for municipalities with populations of 25,000 and over to enact Fair Rent Commissions, to receive complaints from City tenants and hold hearings on what they believed to be unfair or unreasonable rent increases and or unacceptable living accommodations." Mullins said.  
Borer will now send this proposed ordinance to City Council Chairman Nicolas Paschal and he will assign a subcommittee to hold a public hearing regarding the measure in the near future. Following that, the City Council as a whole will vote to approve or deny the proposal.  
"This was a team effort on the Commission's part." Mullins said. He thanked Commission Vice Chairman Cristian Sanchez, Commissioner Colleen O'Connor, alternate Richard Deso, Commissioner Effie Prokopis, deputy Corporation Counselor Michael Todd Taylor and City Council liaison Christopher Vargo for working so hard on the verbiage of this proposed ordinance.



Photo courtesy of Steven R. Mullins

Clock presented

Clock enthusiast Eric Carlson presented an 1830's era clock that he recently refurbished to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit following the Easter Sunday Mass. Priest in Charge, the Rev. Thomas Jackson receives the clock from Carlson, as Carlson's mother, Parish Junior Warden Sue Carlson looks on. The clock will hang in the church sacristy.

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# School: *Crews work on finishing touches*

Continued from page 1

Bentz and fellow General Superintendent Ryan Ozak said that there had been no significant conflicts or delays throughout either the demolition or reconstruction when contacted at the end of March. In addition, no injuries to workers occurred up to that point. Bentz said that an average of 45 people were working on the school daily since the project's beginning, with a high of 60 during the heaviest stages of construction. Based on information pro-

vided, and what was seen during a visit to the site, students attending in September will have a different experience than in the original building. Carney agrees. "I think the students are going to be more comfortable and have more resources," Carney said. "They will have colorful and well-lit classrooms and access to break-out rooms, a playscape, clean bathrooms, and cafeteria. And in the back, they will have a beautiful playscape in the courtyard." Relationships matter, and

they have been important during this project. Bentz said that Gilbane's relationship with the West Haven school system has been "brilliant" throughout this project. Much of the leadership at Gilbane that worked on Washington Elementary served in similar roles during the renovation of West Haven High School a few years ago, and the strong working relationship these individuals formed with city officials during that time carried right over to working on the elementary school.

"That trust between the two sides has allowed this project to go really well," Bentz said. Bentz said that he and his colleagues found the experience of reconstructing Washington Elementary very rewarding. "It's satisfying when you go

into the community and know your work is all for the kids at the end of the day. It's nice to work in an environment where we are improving the vibe of the school for future students. I think it's going to be a great school and design for future generations."



Photo courtesy of Dan Atkinson and Ken Carney

In anticipation of the May 22 deadline, finishing touches are underway in various class areas.

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# Dear Felicia

May Day has come and gone. No Maypoles were tethered, no songs sung like when we were tykes, sweetie pie, but it's good to know that May is upon us. Heck, it even seems like we're havin' a bit of a spring in these parts. Even though it is "cooler at the shore" as the weatherman likes to say, we're actually not going from bracing cold and damp to wilting hot and humid. That brings up a pernt.

T'other day whilst we were conversing and it was one o' those warmer days, a body was heard to ask a simple query: Now that the temperature is over 60 or 65, we can't say it's damp. So, do we have to say it's humid?"

Good question. When does "damp" become "humid." Maybe one o' them new-fangled AI critters can let us know, but it seems what is damp at 50 degrees, is humid somewhere after that. Go figger.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea we are heading into spring activities. Yew can tell cuz over the last little while the number of events along the shore seems to be growing. Heck a few weeks ago, we had a marathon wending its way through town, and methinks I saw other people doing something similar on the boardwalk in the weeks that followed.

A sure sign of things is the beach volleyball nets have been rigged up and Cobina happened to see some perty hefty action going on a week-end or so ago. That means warm weather is about to commence, and after being in the house most of the winter, it's a welcome time.

May also means the end of the "budget cycle" for the boys and girls of the Actors Colony. Effen my remembrance of the city charter is correck and it-tiz, the City Council ended its review of the document Herroner handed to them back in March. The review lasted through April, like the showers, and come the foist Thursday in May, the budget ordinance was passed. That ended the local process with one thing to go.

State Law still gives a two week window after our charter, with city budget having to be finalized, I believe, by the thoid Thursday of May. That is next week. The MARB, that boisterous bevy of beauteous bumpkins that are in charge of our finances still has to give its imprimatur on it. Nothing is official until then, and, as we know from the past few years, the panel can make changes willy nilly, and has. Soooo, we won't know what is final until the MARB sez it is. We will keep you posted.

Jest a final note. The budget process with the council was probably the least talked about we've ever seen. Nothing came outta the discussions that we saw, and whilst we try to keep our ear to the ground to heard whatever is going on, not much was out there. That is something very unusual in these parts.

In the last issheew we ran a story wherein a bigtime alum of the University of New Haven gave a nice chunk of cash for the building of a business school, the location of which is the now purchased Railroad Salvage location, and probably the former North End baseball field that hasn't seen a baseball in at least four decades.

Tennyrate, the new constructions are gonna be a bit of a boost to the area which has seen some decline cuz of the loss of the supermarket - it was once ShopRite and before that a Grand Union derivative store - and the venerable Railroad Salvage. According to Sammy Bluejay, the school is gonna close its Orange site or sell it off, it was the former Hubbell locale, and will build a new business school in that location.

The good news for the Borough of Allingtown and for the city in general, is the school is looking to make a larger donation to the city in a voluntary contribution to offset the new responsibilities and pressures that will be on city

finances, as well as city infrastructure.

There has been some talk over the years about the school wanting tracts along Front Avenue and the environs, but this seems to put the kibosh on that sort o' talk. Though, as I told yew in the last missive I sent, there are still murmurs about the city getting rid of Quigley Stadium and selling off the land. That has raised some hackles in the borough, which has complained it's the city's redheaded stepchild for decades.

And as I reminded yew in the last missive, the potential sale of the stadium set off a series of events in the form of the downfall of the Azelio Guerra administration in 1989, and led to the election of Clemente Eonageliste that put the city in the financial mess it's been trying to dig out of ever since.

Since the opening salvo about the stadium, we ain't heard much, but who knows. Most of what we hear about in this regard is rumor. However, in this berg the "where there's smoke, there's fire" rule persists.

Nelly Nuthatch was perched at the parking lot on Foist Avenue for the press conference the city and state hosted concerning the reconstruction of the bridges on I-95. It was a strange thing, jest a couple weeks ago we wondered in these pages whether the thing was off the drawing board, and days afterward, the press conference happened.

Nelly was trying to get any new info that might be told during the event, but it was perty much the same stuff that we were told late last summer when the project was announced. It's gonna encompass both the bridge over the railroad tracks outta Union Station, and the First Avenue bridge. It's gonna take 27 months from start to finish, barring anything unforeseen. It's gonna create problems for both North- and Southbound commuters during that time.

In other words, it's gonna be Hades in these parts for about two-and-a-half years, and there ain't thing one we can do about it. I guess the only thing we can hope for is that they make quick work outta the reconstruction and they get outta the way as quickly as possible.

Whilst we can speculate on how things will be - and they will be difficult - we really won't know the full effects of the project until work begins. Let's hope for the best, but prep for the woist, I guess. Plan out other ways of getting around - the city, and the work areas. I jest hope that traffic doesn't find its way off the highway and onto our streets. When that happens things here just

come to a grinding halt.

As yew can see from out front page, the new Washington School is (as our managing partner likes to say) on time and under budget. Well, it's on time. Whether it's under budget or not will be seen perty soon. Now, I know yore expecting me to go off on a tirade about the old building and how it was summarily razed, but I won't do that this time. I've said perty much all I hafta say on the matter. Still don't believe something could be done, but that's another story.

Meanwhile, Iva Lootey agreed with me that whilst he is glad the thing is on time and within the cost, it looks like soooo many other setch buildings. It's like they have one cookie-cutter style for apartment buildings, schools, and other institutions and that's all you see being constructed.

It's not a pretty building. Modern architecture is not much into form, jest function. It'll function as a school, but what the kids are taught is till less than their fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers. It'll jest be a big, square building.

Speaking of constructions, the new restaurant in the former Chick's location on Beach Street seems to be moving along, but not as fast as people had hoped. I guess getting materials delivered, the famous "supply chain" problems we've had since Covid, are still will us. But those delays now put the finishing time at sometime in June or July.

The Wag had heard that it was hoped the location would be fully functional by Memorial Day, the traditional beginning of the beach season, but the supply problems put them behind. That's the bad news. The good news is they will still have the better part of the beach season to build a clientele.

Meanwhile, the City Council made its approvals for the Kelsey, the wedding and event venue that will be put into the former Conference Center building. When they start rehabbing the building is not yet known, but we're at least sure the project won't get bogged down in some litigation or t'other.

Cobina does know that people are wondering what is going to happen to the former Savin Rock Museum that was in the Conference Center. When the NEBCO plan was discussed the exhibits were gonna be put on display there. Not much is being discussed as to what happens next. It would be nice to have a museum reopen there.

I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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Behind the stacks

Spring has officially sprung, and the library is in full bloom with fresh reads, fun programs, and exciting events! We've got so much going on at the West Haven Public Library this month for children and adults alike. Adults can visit the Ora Mason branch to attend a Diamond Art Workshop on May 19th and create a beautiful, three-dimensional work of art; or stop by to pick up this month's take and make kit! This kit includes everything you need to make your own DIY Chamomile Lavender Infused Room Spray, available while supplies last. Stop by the Main Library on May 17th for an hour of relaxing and gentle yoga led by instructor Norma Olvera. Please dress comfortably and bring your own yoga mat. Attend a presentation by Energy Consultant and Realtor, Jamie Dawn from Solar Homes 360, to learn all about what solar power can offer you. This is a solely informational presentation; there will be no solicitations for sales.

May is National Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage month, and the Main Library has crafts for both children and adults to celebrate! Adults can pop in for our Art Drop & Dash: Notan Paper Art—where they can learn about and try their hand at Notan Paper Cutting, a Japanese art style that uses light and dark elements to create stunning high contrast art! Children ages 6 through 12 can register to create Koinobori, or Japanese carp streamers.

GOP 9th confab set for June

The Nine District Town Committee delegation has scheduled a meeting for the first Thursday of each month to search for new Republican Party members, and those who might want to get involved in the district, and town committee work. The meetings are scheduled for the Republican Town Committee Headquarters, 315 Morgan Lane and will be chaired by Anthony Vartuli. The next meeting is June 6. Those interested may attend or get more information by calling DTC Chairman David Riccio at (475) 254-2361.

Support group for sight impaired

"Our Journey of Sight," a low vision/blind support group meets monthly at the West Haven Public Library 300 Elm St, from 10 to noon on the third Friday of the month. This is not a regulatory group, but a group that provides a monthly speaker, and support each other during members' journey of visual loss.

Dog owners reminded of licensing

June is Dog Licensing Month, and residents who own dogs at least 6 months old must renew their licenses by June 30 or face a \$1 monthly fine, City Clerk John W. Lewis said.

State law requires dog owners to submit a current rabies vaccination certificate when applying for the new dog tags. Expired certificates are not accepted.

The fee for the two licenses, which are available in the city clerk's office of City Hall, 355 Main St., is \$8 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$19 for other dogs.

Residents can also send vaccination records and checks in a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Office of the City Clerk, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516. For dogs that have last year's tag number, license renewals are available online: <https://searchiqs.com/iqsdogrenewal/?CC=CTWHA>.

Class of '64 plans 'Get-Together

The WHHS Class of 1964 is hosting its first "Get-Together" on Saturday, Sept. 13 from noon to 4 at Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave. Cash bar and dinner is \$50, with walk-ins at \$60 (cash). For information contact Judy Oberempt. at [nana2446@aol.com](mailto:nana2446@aol.com) or (203) 934-9504.

The Children's Department will also be hosting Music and Motion for ages 5 and under on the West Haven Green all month long! Every Wednesday at 11am, kids are welcome to join us by the gazebo on the Green to sing, dance, and play music! This season of Music and Motion will culminate in a Toddler Prom event on June 11th - come dressed in your best, take photos, dance, and make your own crown to take home. Light refreshments will be provided.

Our longest running employee, Jo Ann Martin, celebrated her retirement this week! You may have seen Jo Ann at our Ora Mason branch over the years. She has been with the West Haven Public Library for 22 wonderful years, and we wish her all the best in her retirement!

Finally, the Friends of West Haven Library would like to thank everyone who came out in support of our spring Fill-A-Bag Book Sale! We didn't let the rainy weather stop us; the sale was moved indoors, and many people still came out to stock up on their summer reading materials. Remember, the Friends have an ongoing book and DVD sale at the Main Library where you can find gems year-round!

This is just a glimpse of what is happening this month at the library. Stop by in person and ask about what programs and events are coming up or find a complete list and calendar on our website, where you can also register. Come see what's popping up.



Volunteers Andrew Bushman, Rose Tiernan, Sue Bonci, Mike Invernale, and Catherine Bushman setting up the \$10 Fill-A-Bag Book Sale at the Main Library during the recent book sale.

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## Blight efforts reviewed

Blight – the ever-persistent problem.

More than a year after the announcement of a new blight initiative, and the subsequent formation of a Blight Task Force, one can see some progress in the property upkeep in the city, but there is still more to be done.

This issue has been a concern in West Haven for more than 30 years and has its origins in the Housing Bubble implosion of 1988. This is something this newspaper has been addressing for most of its history.

The housing bubble burst in 1988 was a catastrophic event in the history of this community and is something the effects of which we are still feeling in 2024. Prior to 1988 West Haven was a destination city. Its middle-class neighborhoods and successful school system had families from all over the state and region coming here.

The city had felt some earlier blows, it is true. The loss of big industries like Armstrong Rubber Company and Bayer Pharmaceuticals eliminated the two largest taxpayers. Future blows coming from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) further eroded the industrial base that had been the mainstay of the community. But it was the housing bubble that hurt the city most.

One day houses were selling for low- to mid-six figures. The next, the same properties were sold for cents on the dollar. We have stated before we remember many people maxing out their credit cards to buy homes and condominiums in hopes of having investment properties when “things got back to normal.”

But they did not, at least not here.

The exodus of live-in owners, and the influx of poorer renters led to a downward spiral in the upkeep of properties. In an era before credit and background checks, if one had the money to pay the rent, the apartment or house was leased.

The cheap property values and lack of money to keep properties up led to a further downward spiral of maintenance. That lack of maintenance, particularly in denser parts of the city, has put housing stock and the surrounding grounds in deteriorating condition.

Mayor Borer announced a Blight Enforcement Commission in March of 2024, and we supported this effort. The multi-departmental commission encompasses Police, Fire, Health, and Building department personnel, and will provide constables to monitor or investigate buildings cited for blight.

From parking cars on front lawns, to deteriorating porches to using driveways as a machine shop, violations of city ordinances must be enforced if the city is to clean itself up from the earlier chaos. This includes illegal dumping in areas that have been problems for years. Again, while some improvement can be seen, there are still areas for improvement. Some areas, such as wooded tracts on Stevens Avenue, still have problems.

A major component is the registration of a person for each property owned by absentee owners. Many LLCs have bought rental stock and hide behind the corporation. The registration puts a name and a phone number to the property, a big plus. Also, the property owners will pay a \$250 registration fee, with a \$500 fine for noncompliance.

We see some improvements, again, with this approach. We believed more than a year ago this innovative plan would be a good first step in tackling blight in the city. It has moved in that direction.



## The shots that changed history

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

The shots that changed the world

The iconic Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem “Paul Revere’s Ride” begins, “Listen, my children ...”

And, sure enough, we have long told our kids and ourselves of the cinematic events in April 1775, when the famous silversmith warned the countryside of approaching British troops and the American Revolution kicked off in earnest.

Like all legendary events, Paul Revere’s Ride and the Battles of Lexington and Concord have been encrusted with myth: It’s almost certainly not the case that Revere yelled, “The British are coming!” (we still considered ourselves British); Revere didn’t ride alone, and he didn’t even make it to Concord (the British briefly captured him); and the role of the celebrated Minutemen, the best of the militia units, tends to be exaggerated in the popular understanding (most of the Colonial forces were regular militia).

Such minutiae aside, that day 250 years ago, April 19, 1775, still deserves to be celebrated in prose and poetry and is every bit as extraordinary as you might have learned when you were a child before we decided we didn’t like our own history and heroes so much anymore.

Hoping to maintain operational secrecy, the British sent a contingent out at night from Boston to capture reputed stores of weapons in Concord. They were immediately noticed -- the “one if by land, two if by sea” lanterns in the Old North Church were a real thing -- and the race was on.

It is really one of the most dramatic episodes in American history: Paul Revere and others rushing to warn the countryside, and the British troops marching through the night, not briefed on their mission, hearing guns and bells sounding the alarm all around them.

Lexington was on the way. The militia mustered as a show of force, not seeking a fight. No one knows who fired “the shot heard around the world”; it may have been an inadvertent discharge. But the British then fired volleys and charged with bayonets, killing eight.

Concord was now fully on alert. Again, there was a wary standoff. Again, someone fired. During this confrontation at North Bridge, the British got off a volley, then the Colonials returned fire with deadly effect and -- shockingly -- the British ran.

Their ranks swelling, the Colonials harried the Regulars along the narrow Battle Road as they retreated back to Lexington, with the places where the fighting was especially in-

tense known by names such as the Bloody Angle and Parker’s Revenge.

Members of the militia didn’t, as popular imagination believes, largely act on their own inspired initiative; they were well-led. The Americans repeatedly stood in formation against the British regulars during the course of the day. “It was an extraordinary display of courage, resolve and discipline by citizen soldiers against regular troops,” the historian David Hackett Fischer writes.

The more dispersed fighting along the Battle Road later on was itself the product of a Colonial plan -- to avoid direct confrontation with a now-reinforced, much larger British force. By the time they made it back to Boston, the British had suffered a true mauling, experiencing roughly 300 casualties to 100 for the Colonials.

The Americans ensured that the word spread far and wide, and the effect was electric. Thomas Paine, who had only recently come to America, felt that “the country, into which I had just set my foot, was set on fire about my ears.” John Adams said that Lexington “changed the instruments of war from the pen to the sword.”

If Lexington and Concord were small-scale engagements in the scheme of things, the reverberations were enormous.

See Lowry, page 7



# Council Democrats review budget plan

Dear Westies,

On May 1, 2025, the City Council passed the FY26 budget after weeks of careful deliberation. Over the course of four weeks, we met with each city department to understand their needs and discuss how best to allocate our tax dol-

lars for the benefit of all West Haven residents. As we did for FY25, we took a deep dive into every department's budget, analyzing each line item and engaging in thoughtful discussions during our caucus deliberations. After two days of collaboration, we passed a

package of changes that we felt were both fiscally responsible and aligned with the best interests of our constituents.

Our role in the budget process is twofold: first, to ensure that the city is properly funded so residents receive the best services possible; second, to make sure those services remain affordable. The mayor and her staff worked diligently to craft a well-thought-out and responsible budget for the City Council's review. Their continued efforts, even after submitting the mayor's initial proposal, resulted in a recommendation package that improved the city's bottom line by \$1.7 million. We recognized that most city departments are operating lean, with little room for reductions without impacting essential services.

Through collaboration with the mayor, her team, and fellow council members, this budget:

- Expands funding for services benefiting our elderly and youth populations.
- Provides our Animal Control Department with the resources to hire a fifth Humane Officer.
- Invests additional funding and in-kind support into our library system.
- Establishes a new Operations Department, to be led by a Chief Operations Officer, to



streamline central services and improve efficiency.

- Lays the groundwork for future consolidation and savings.

- Supports our first responders by providing police, fire and ERS with the resources they

need for public safety.

- Works toward closing salary gaps and addressing disparities.

- Prioritizes the digitization and preservation of records in our Engineering Department.

-Improves infrastructure and upgrades technology.

During our deliberations, we also identified opportunities to expand the Health Department to better support our nurses. We intend to collaborate with the mayor and other City administrators on this effort.

In spite of the property revaluation – which saw property values increase on average by 56% - the Mayor and City Council were successful

in maintaining a modest 2.2% operational increase, which is largely due to contractual increases and increases to other fixed costs. This budget is a strong step forward in making West Haven safer, more attractive, and a more desirable place to call home.

At the heart of it all, we are Westies. We care deeply about our community and are committed to making decisions that best serve the 10 square miles we all call home.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

~City Council Democratic Caucus~

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**Dawn Callahan (D6) | Kathy Tucker (D7)**

**Christopher Vargo, Jr. (D8)**

**| Katie Mueller (D9) | Brian Laucks (D-At Large)**

## Lowry: *Changing history*

Continued from page 6

They sent a message that a defiant American population wouldn't be easily subdued.

Wadsworth concluded his poem with the lines:

"Through all our history, to the last,

In the hour of darkness and peril and need,

The people will waken and listen to hear

The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,



### Pup Photos

Photo courtesy of Eddie Thomas

Gizmo, left, and Flash strike a pose with the Easter Bunny during "Pup Photos with the Easter Bunny" at the Department of Parks and Recreation on April 12. Donations from the event benefited the West Haven Animal Shelter. The pups' mama is city resident Natasha Papile.

## Westies Care accepting nominations

Westies Care is accepting applications for its 15th Annual Westies Care Community Service Awards. Founded in 2009 by the Liscio Family, Westies Care has honored more than 200 high school seniors with monetary awards and proclamations from city, state and federal officials. Criteria: Any graduating high school senior who resides in West Haven and plans to attend a program of higher education, technical training or enlist in the armed services are eligible to apply. To receive an application or in sponsoring a Westies Care Award, please contact Phil Liscio at [phil.liscio@westiescare.org](mailto:phil.liscio@westiescare.org). The deadline is Monday, May 12.

## Fireworks Committee plans fundraisers

"They will be heard on the Third!" The Savin Rock Fireworks Committee is fundraising for the display in West Haven on July 3. The committee raises the funds by seeking donations from area businesses and by holding fundraisers. Upcoming fundraisers include: Ziti & Trivia (May 17 - Randall's, 236 Platt Ave - 6- 8 p.m., \$20) and a Cornhole Tournament (June 8 -- TCB).

For reservations for any of the events contact Sandy at (203) 934-3161. If you would like to make a donation, send a check made out to Savin Rock Fireworks to P.O. Box 216, West Haven 06516.

## WHHS Class of '56 and Honor Society

The West Haven Class of 1956 is planning its 65th reunion for May of next year. The event will include marking the anniversary of the founding of the National Honor Society Chapter, which happened in 1955.

For those who wish more information, call Dino Ciaburri at (203) 809-5478.

Hosted by Capetta's, Reliable Fence CT, & Team Animal Rescue Inc.

# PAWS & PIZZA PALOOZA

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of fun, excitement, and giving back at the 2nd Annual Paws and Pizza Palooza Charity Event! Enjoy thrilling games, exciting prizes, and fierce (but friendly) competition—all while supporting dogs in need. Bring your friends, family, and appetite for a day filled with laughter, community spirit, and plenty of pizza!

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- Live Entertainment-
- Kids Pie Eating Competition-
- 30 Under 30 Pizza Challenge-
- Beer, Wine, and Food Available-

**Date: 05/17/25 Time: 2-5PM Address: 188 Boston Post Rd. West Haven, CT 06516**

Rain Date 05/31/25 Contest begins at 3:30 PM



# Garage dedication remembers Joe Carr



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer, right, looks on as Theresa “Terry” Carr and city building maintenance worker Nico Gambardella unveil a blue-and-white vinyl sign dedicating “The Joe Carr Boardwalk Maintenance Garage” after her late hus-

band in Old Grove Park on April 30. Family members of the late Department of Public Works laborer and driver Joe Carr pause beneath the sign that the city dedicated in his honor in Old Grove Park on April 30.

## Boardwalk facility named for Joe Carr

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

It was a day to remember. Mayor Dorinda Borer joined Theresa “Terry” Carr to unveil a blue-and-white vinyl sign christening “The Joe Carr Boardwalk Maintenance Garage” after her late husband in Old Grove Park on April 30. Accompanied by an array of more than 50 Department of Public Works employees and other city workers, Borer dedicated the maintenance garage and sign at the shoreline bathhouse in honor of Carr, who worked for the department as a laborer and driver from Jan. 17, 1977, until his death on Jan. 20

at age 71. The sign features a symbolic string trimmer, Carr’s tool of choice. Borer delivered words of praise about the hard-working Carr in front of loved ones and friends, along with former and current supervisors and colleagues. “Joe was the love of my life,” Terry Carr said. “He would be so proud of this dedication.” Joe Carr, a Marine Corps veteran who served in the Vietnam War, was known for taking tremendous pride in his meticulous care of the Savin Rock and Bradley Point beach areas, including the Veterans

Walk of Honor. The 100-yard Walk of Honor on Long Island Sound is bedecked with thousands of bricks inscribed to veterans, both living and deceased, as well as an arsenal of monuments to wars and veterans. “Nobody worked harder than Joe, and no one took more pride in taking care of the area,” said former Public Works Commissioner Beth A. Sabo, who led the department from 2003 to 2013. A self-described “true animal lover,” Carr was born in 1953 and raised at “the Rock,” the nickname of the Savin Rock section of West Haven during its amusement park heyday.



Photo by: Kim-Marie Mullins

### Annual Egg Hunt

Approximately 300 children gathered on the West Haven Green on Easter Sunday afternoon for an Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Black Corner Investments and the Annawon Lodge Fellowshipcraft Club. In addition to the hunt, children were entertained by DJ Relley Mac and participated in dance-offs.





Photo courtesy of Rob Forleo

Valedictorian Justin Woychowski, and Salutatorian Bedirhan Ozmen flank WHHS Principal Robert Bohan.

# Top seniors announced in ceremonies at WHHS

By Robert Forleo  
Special to the Voice

West Haven High School (WHHS) announced its 2025 Valedictorian, Justin Woychowski, and Salutatorian, Bedirhan Ozmen. Both students have not only excelled academically but have also made significant contributions to their school community, setting an inspiring example for their peers.

Woychowski, set to attend the University of Maine in Orono to study Survey Engineering Technology, has garnered praise from his teachers for his intellectual capabilities.

"I have had very few students that are this intellectually gifted," remarked Mrs. Emily Grosshuesch, a social studies teacher who has taught both students. "He has turned into a mature young man who I know will always be interested in learning about the world around him."

When asked about his involvement in extracurricular activities, Woychowski proudly listed his roles:

"I was a Drum Major in the Marching Band, the Production Stage Manager for the Theater Workshop, and the captain of the SeaPerch Underwater ROV Team, where we became state champions twice," he said.

Reflecting on his support system, he shared, "My mom, who is the school librarian, has been my biggest supporter. My dad stays up to ask me about the shows and rehearsals every night,

See Seniors, page 13



No one does summer better than West Haven, the official destination of summer. Look out for Summerfest 2025, your one-stop guide for concerts, special events and activities in West Haven. Coming soon!



# SPRING PLANT SALE

Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm -5:30 pm

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana is training groups across the city, including our lifeguards



Mayor Borer, pictured here with Tianna Greene, has secured grants to purchase kits and ordered them installed in public buildings, athletic fields and community hubs.

# You can save a life in West Haven!



AEDs and NARCAN kits being installed across the city



Scan to locate an AED or Narcan Kit near you



Scan the QR code to access valuable resources designed to help protect our community for the challenges of opioid addiction



MAYOR DORINDA BORER



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MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 10:00–11:30 AM  
HARRIET NORTH ROOM





Photos courtesy of Meari Avery

Food drive

A food drive was held by the West Haven Historical Society on Saturday April 19, as a day of service. The event, Two Lights for Tomorrow, is a national initiative to begin the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States’ founding. The night before Two Lights were illuminated in the Poli House window and at many municipal buildings and private residences Society president Susan Walker received a donation from Patricia Donnelly.



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Join our matching challenge! West Haven Attorney Mark A. Healey will match your donation up to \$5,000! Give now and make a difference.

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

# Frankies anniversary, reopening

Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, helps Frankies of West Haven owner Balwinder “Bill” Singh cut the ribbon to celebrate the hot dog restaurant’s 51st anniversary and grand reopening at 1151 Boston Post Road on April 24.

Joining the ribbon-cutting are, from left, longtime Frankies employee Elvia Avesicha; Singh’s daughter, Nancy Kailey, and his wife, Parveen Kaur; 4th District Councilman Gary Donovan; Zoning Board of Appeals Commissioner Rich De Leo; Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce; and Planning and Zoning Commission member Sammy Rivera.

The chamber-organized ceremony featured remarks by Borer and McDonald, who both congratulated Singh on the restaurant’s milestone.

Singh has owned the West Haven Frankies for 17 of its 51 years in business.

The 2,800-square-foot restaurant boasts a large outdoor patio with picnic tables and umbrellas.

Billed as “The Gourmet of Fast Food,” Frankies has been a Route 1 institution near West Haven’s Meloy Road since 1974.



# Seniors: Top scholars listed for Class of ‘25

Continued from page 9

and I owe a lot to my friends, Sam Alquijay and Lia Herasme Gonzalez.”

Bedirhan Ozmen, the Salutatorian, will be attending Yale University to major in Ethics, Politics, and Economics with a Certificate in Education.

“He has dealt with a lot of obstacles in his life but has not let them pull him down. The ambition Bedirhan has to succeed is remarkable,” noted Mrs. Grosshuesch.

When discussing his support system, Bedirhan stated, “My dad has always been my biggest motivator, pushing me to succeed no matter what. I am incredibly grateful for my teachers, especially Ms. Alajjan, who guided me academically and personally.”

He reminisced about his experience at WHHS.

“Some of my most meaningful memories are the mornings spent with my friends visiting Ms. Alajjan during homeroom. Those small moments of laughter and support made a bigger difference than I realized,” he said.

Both students shared their most memorable experiences at WHHS. Justin highlighted the excitement of directing “Mr. Westie 2025.”

“Using everything I learned in stage management, I directed my favorite show. A crowd of 500 made the experience electric!” he said.

In contrast, Bedirhan reflected on the significance of building relationships, stating, “Those mornings with my friends taught me the value of support and friendship.”

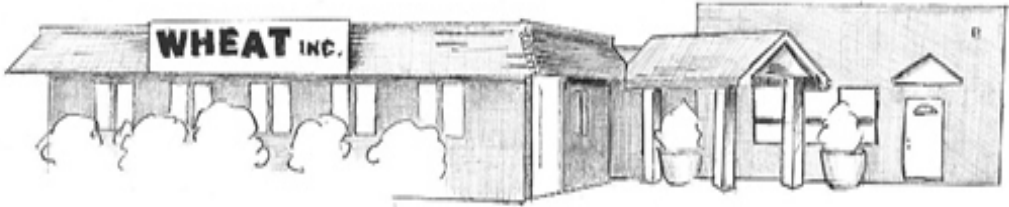
When asked about the challenges they faced during high school, Justin noted, “Juggling shows and other activities was difficult, especially sophomore year during AP exams. Living up to my mom’s legacy as a top student was a challenge, but it pushed me to excel.”

Bedirhan shared a similar sentiment, saying, “Coming from a low-income background and being raised by a single father presented many challenges. Navigating high school without a mother figure made me stronger and more appreciative of my support system.”

As they prepare to graduate, both students offer advice to future WHHS students. Justin encourages, “Find at least one thing you enjoy outside of academics. For me, it was band, which opened many doors.” Bedirhan adds, “Start thinking about your future early, but don’t obsess. It’s okay to change paths and figure things out as you go.”

With GPAs of 5.240 and 5.008 respectively, their academic achievements are only a part of their stories. As they step into the future, the WHHS community eagerly anticipates the remarkable paths these two students will carve out.

“One day, we will all say we knew these incredible individuals,” Mrs. Grosshuesch said.



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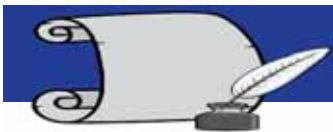
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# Hlstorlan's corner

By Dan Shine

## City Point Yacht Club 130 Years Young

Ever since the first settlers arrived in their “new haven” in 1637, our greater community has been closely linked to the waters of the Harbor and Long Island Sound. Be it Fishing, Shipbuilding, Shipping Trade, or Recreation: nearly every one of us now and in years past has used it in one way or another.

The inner harbor of today is much smaller than it was prior to 1955: In those days, the harbor extended up to Water Street, almost reached Union Station, and City Point jutted out, forming the west side of the harbor. In that year, an extensive dredging project used 7 million cubic yards of the spoil material to extend the shoreline to the outline that we know today.

Way back in 1895, New Haven Harbor was a busy and exciting place. On a typical day, one hundred sailing ships crowded the docks, as an equal number sat at anchor in the harbor, waiting for a favoring wind and tide. As unreal as it may seem, it has been stated that in 1895, about 31,000 vessels entered New Haven Harbor, and of that number, 9000 were still under sail and over 8000 were barges. The breakwaters, with which we are so familiar, had just been completed. New Haven offered cross-harbor steamboat service, as well as steamboat transportation to and from New York City. And here begins our story.

City Point Yacht Club was formed in 1895; in April, 1899, it was incorporated as a body politic, and created for itself a thorough charter. The ob-

ject of the corporation as stated was “to encourage yacht building, to promote naval architecture and the cultivation of naval science.” Further, it stated that “Its object shall be for the purpose of forming an association of amateur yachtsmen in New Haven and vicinity, and of organizing a fleet of sailing and power craft for the purpose of sailing, racing and cruising, and for general sociability.” These goals remain unchanged, 130 years later. Membership was strictly available to male boat owners and non-owners in the beginning, but today welcomes women as well.

The first clubhouse was a small shack at the east end on City Point’s Third Street. The original type of boat and number of each are listed below: Schooners-2, Sloops-15, One Sail Sharpie-11, Two Sail Sharpie-9, Cat Boats-9, Launches-2, Jib and Main Sail-12.

Soon, the members became uneasy about the poor condition of their clubhouse, and built a new clubhouse at 163 Hallock Avenue, with a 300-foot pier that extended out into what today is the rear parking lot of Jordan’s Furniture. In 1909, the new clubhouse became modernized: the oil lamps that were used for lighting were replaced by electric powerlines and lighting.

In 1948, the club was forced from its Hallock Avenue location by the previously mentioned harbor dredging and filling operations. They relocated to the tip of City Point, at 110 South Water St. This attractive location included a 125-foot pier, a two-story

building and 86 feet of shore frontage. At this time, the club had a membership of 105 and a registry of 70 sailboats, motorboats, skiffs and prams.

But in 1950, a severe storm blew through the area, destroying much of the dock and bulkhead. The club went on to purchase the present location at 347 Kimberly Ave. from C.W. Blakeslee and Son in 1952. A clubhouse was built there that year, and other improvements were made to the site. By then the membership was down to 80.

In 1959, wooden piles and docks were added to the site, streamlining the members’ access to their boats, and in 1978 the club’s waters were dredged.

Today, the City Point Yacht Club owns and is located on both the West Haven and the

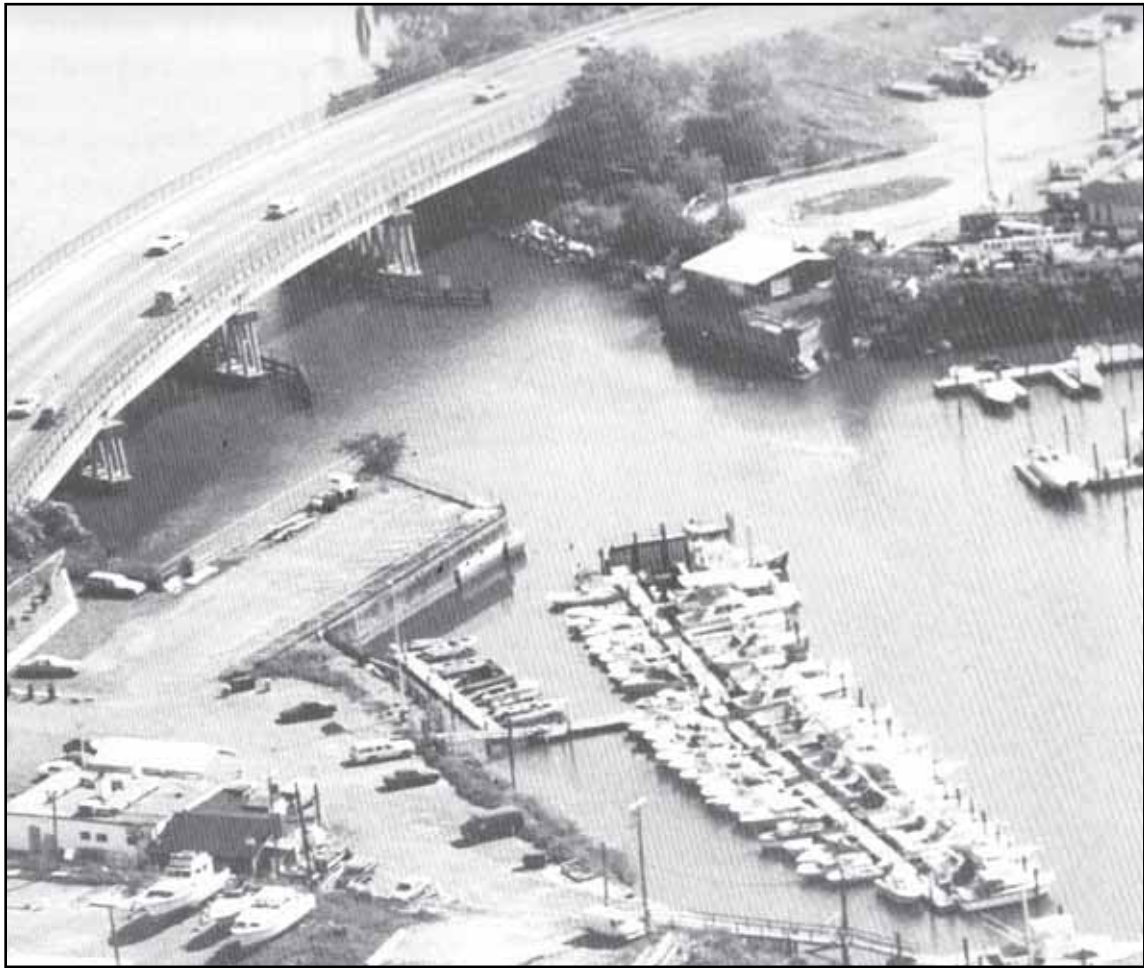
New Haven sides of the West River.

Where once membership of the club was limited to men only—family members could benefit from the membership—today both men and women are eligible for membership and may serve as officers as well. The club offers the use of a swimming pool and a gas dock as well, and a total of 125 boat slips. Currently they have 300 members.

Celebration of the club’s 130th anniversary will take place on June 8. If you have any questions concerning the anniversary or City Point Yacht Club in general, you are welcome to contact Bob Pimer at 203-915-7043 or captbob87@gmail.com. Bob is the third generation of four generations of Pimers who have belonged to City Point Yacht Club.



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



Above -- The 1953 rendering of the new City Point Yacht Club headquarters. Below -- an aerial view of the location.



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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

### Ruickoldt funding

West Haven High School Principal Robert Bohan, second from left, receives an \$8,000 donation from, from left, Mayor Dorinda Borer, Douglas J. Ruickoldt, Doug “the Rake” Ruickoldt and Chairwoman Beth A. Sabo on behalf of the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program on April 30 to benefit the Susan A. Ruickoldt Scholarship Fund.

The donation was made possible by the annual Dubel’s Golf Tournament, Westies Nutrition and the West Haven Youth Soccer League and will support the scholarship fund for the next 25 years, Sabo said.

Borer, the Ruickoldts and Bohan thanked and commended Sabo for her continuing dedication to the Breast Cancer Awareness Program, including collecting more than \$750,000 for breast cancer research and education since the program’s inception in 2000.

Photo by Tianna Greene

### Ronnie Pizza under new ownership

Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, helps Ronnie Pizza owner Mustafa Dagdelenoglu cut the ribbon to celebrate the pizzeria’s grand opening under new ownership at 549 Main St. on April 17. Joining the ribbon-cutting are, from left, 4th District Councilman Gary Donovan, West Haven state Rep. Bill Heffernan, Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, and 6th District Councilwoman Dawn Callahan.

The ceremony was organized by the chamber and featured welcoming remarks by Borer and McDonald.

Ronnie Pizza specializes in thin-crust pizzas, budget-friendly prices and other tasty options, including calzones, submarine sandwiches and wings.

The remodeled pizzeria is located with other small businesses at the busy intersection of Main Street and Kelsey Avenue and is open seven days a week.



## Grant aids VA neighborhood upgrades

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Dorinda Borer joined Gov. Ned Lamont at City Hall on Monday to announce \$1.8 million in state bond funding for neighborhood upgrades around the West Haven VA Medical Center.

The morning announcement featured remarks by Lamont, Borer, Matthew J. Pugliese, a deputy commissioner of the state Department of Economic and Community Development, and state Rep. Treneé McGee, D-West Haven, whose district includes the VA hospital.

It also included remarks by West Haven Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana and city grant writer Olivia Bissanti.

Lamont and Borer were also joined by Becky D. Rhoads, the executive director of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, and state Reps. Bill Heffernan (D-115), and MJ Shannon (D-117), along with West Haven Councilman Gary Donovan (D-4), and city police traffic Sgt. Charles Young.

The funding was allocated by Lamont to the latest State Bond Commission agenda and will pay for VA neighborhood pedestrian safety improvements, including new paving, sidewalks, lighting and bus shelters, as well as other beautification and streetscape enhancements.

“Thanks to you,” said Lamont, turning to Borer, “West Haven is back on track!”

The governor continued: “West Haven has made

such incredible progress. Look at what this (funding) is going to mean for this community — what it means in terms of safety, what it means in terms of pedestrian, walker-friendly. I love everything in and around veterans and veterans hospitals. Investments like this show that we believe in your community, you believe in your community, have pride in your community.

“For me, it’s just one more example of: ‘Here comes West Haven — on the march!’”

Borer thanked Lamont for coming to West Haven for the third time in six months and for supporting the city’s infrastructure needs.

The mayor also touted the VA hospital.

“We are very proud in West Haven to be the home host city to one of the largest veterans health system in the Northeast region, which provides care to our veterans,” Borer said. “Services are provided by 2,000 staff members, as the VA is also one of our largest employees. All in all, the VA system serves approximately 56,000 veterans per year and has 450,000 outpatient visits per year.”

However, the mayor pointed out that the bustling VA campus has taken a toll on the surrounding roads and sidewalks and has presented a public safety challenge for the neighborhood.

“This neighborhood is already a distressed area, and it’s important that we address this area for our residents, the employees and our veterans,” Borer said. “The goal of this project is to improve pedestri-

an and vehicle safety and to bolster economic development because these upgrades include Campbell Avenue, our main corridor, and provide overall better aesthetics, which all lead to a better quality-of-life enhancement.”

Bissanti said the city will receive the CIF grant funding through DECD.

She also said the VA neighborhood project ties into the city’s 2024 \$250,000 CIF grant for a downtown development plan.

“Walkability is great because, whether you’re a resident on Ely Street or a patient at the VA or an employee at the VA, we really want you to be able to walk down Campbell Avenue and enjoy the community,” Bissanti said.

“These safety improvements are going to make a huge difference,” Fontana said. “It’s not only walkways and sidewalks but bus shelters and blue lights with moving cameras in them — kind of tapping into the camera system that we now are putting citywide, this will just be an extension of that.”

“These upgrades will save lives,” he emphasized.

McGee, a neighborhood resident who spoke on behalf of the city’s General Assembly delegation, said: “We must see neighborhood upgrades as a stepping-stone to an even greater opportunity in our community. I’d like to thank the governor for this CIF allocation and really prioritizing us, and I would really love to thank Mayor Borer, who’s always prioritized

See Grant, page 19



# Youth Soccer opens spring season

The West Haven Police Local 895 lost a close game to American Legion Post 71 Crushing Tigers, 2-0.

Ethan Martinez showed some solid footwork in the loss. Muhammad Afaq made a great save on a Tigers shot, and Dilan Guaneme showed great hustle up and down the field.

The Crushing Tigers had unbelievable teamwork and rock-solid defense in the win, led by standouts Seth Feliciano and Nicholas Goncalves. The defense paved the way for a spectacular midfield goal by Rodger Rodriguez and a fantastic finish by Naas Almoatasemand, assisted by Jaycob Aleman.

The Gunning Law Firm Lawmen defeated Cappetta's Italian Imports 3-1, and Stars Ice Cream tied the Law Office of Paul V. Carty, 2-2.

The Milano & Wanat Golden Dragons fell to Physicians Physical Therapy, 2-1.

Landon Alling scored the lone goal and played great in the mid field. Dylan Quizhpe and Cian Sullivan demonstrated great hustle on both sides of the ball.

The West Haven Elks Lodge played a great game on Saturday against the P&B Express team.

Goals were scored by Shavir Medley and Brody Birmingham. Yael Tiburcio played great defense, making several key stops.

Oliver Bacon had several scoring opportunities and showed hustle. The West Haven Federation of Teachers took on Nick's Luncheonette and held on for a 2-1 win in a close match. Porto Funeral Homes defeated the George Ellis Company, 5-1.

The Keenan Funeral Home Blue Devils turned out another great performance against the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association.

The goals were scored by Idris Green, Luca D'Elia, Ace Hemming and Cash Papa for the Blue Devils. Amar Elseed, Adrian Spodick, Noah Mateo and Levi DeMayo each had incredible defensive plays for their team.

The University of New Haven Sport Grey played with great energy in Saturday's game against Stowe's Seafood Light Blue, resulting in a 1-1 tie.

Norman Hart put in a great effort across the field, while goalkeeper Nour El Mouki made some great saves. Joshua Portillo scored the only goal for University of New Haven. Baybrook Remodelers Gold won, 4-1 Saturday against RQ Accounting and Tax Services. Avalyn Wilder, Savannah Gilchrist, Charlotte Murray, and Cyreya Gore scored.



The West Haven Youth Soccer U10 girls team opened the spring season with a Jamboree, meeting Southington, Cheshire and Farmington. The team tallied 17 goals in the event, winning each of its games.

Liliyani Amaro, Tahrielle Boyd, and LilithBelle Warcholic were a nearly impassable defense.

The Top Hat Dance Academy U14 girls travel team hosted Ansonia on Saturday, where they had some impressive plays to control the ball. Celeste DiNallo worked hard in the midfield with Phoebe DiNuzzo controlling the defense.

The Westies won, 4-2, with goals by Stella Porto, Karine DaVila, Khaleesi Veronesi-Noriega, and Luciana Cappetta.

On Sunday the girls took on Haddam-Killingworth, winning 4-0. Francesca DeMartino worked hard in the midfield against HK with goals by Mia Montes and Luciana Cappetta.

The West Shore Family Dental U12 boys travel team had two challenging games this past weekend, winning both.

On Saturday, the Westies hosted Coginchaug and won, 5-2. The boys started off slow, giving up two goals despite the best efforts of Jaxon Cruz in goal.

Ryan Abekah sparked the comeback, and Luca DeCresenzo netted the tying goal before halftime.

The second half was all West Haven, as Matteo D'Elia and Julian Castillo pulled the strings in midfield and Jacob Rader ran the defense.

Taha Ozhan played well in midfield, and Jax Guarino and Joe Ruiz played strong down the stretch to help West Haven hold onto the win.

On Sunday, the team traveled to Guilford and won a back and forth contest, 5-4.

Guilford went up early in the game 1-0, before Roland Green sent Abekah into open space for the tying goal.

Mason DaSilva played a few great through balls to get his teammates into space.

Adam Lamkhantar did a solid job in the center of the field, playing a great ball for Abekah to slot home. Ethan Fonseca also had an assist and added a goal of his own. Collin Gibbons, Seth Empric, and Ben Trenchard played strong defense to keep West Haven in the game and get the win.

The Connex Credit Union West Haven U10 Girls Travel team won, 4-1, on Saturday against North Haven.

Angela Guerrero, Bianca Dinallo, and Riley Onde scored. Hamidat Tidjani, Aaliyah Castillo, and Mackenzie Vargas were strong defenders making excellent passes up field.

The girls also won on Sunday against Orange. Angela Guerrero, Anna Howery, Ayah Lamkhantar, Mackenzie Vargas all scored, as well as Isabella Samaniego who scored a hat trick.

On opening day a week earlier, rain dampened the amount of soccer being played, but some teams were able to get games played. The Golden Dragons won 1-0 behind the lone goal of Uzair Safi against West Haven Police Local 895.

Cyncere Harris played amazing defense while Lucas Egraca gave a standout effort in the midfield.

Baybrook Remodelers won, 5-1, against West Shore Family Dental making exceptional passes to create chances. Cyreya Gore, Bianca Dinallo, Laila Clayton, and Lily Murray scored. Charlotte Murray made some great saves as goalie.

The Cappetta's Italian Imports was excited to get on the field and play hard to open

the season. Mia Capone had a great debut with the team helping with strong defensive stops while Annalise Martinez Rios complimented this with aggressive goal keeping.

The Keenan Funeral Home Blue Devils had an incredible first game with goals being scored by Idris Green, Luca D'Elia, Christian Aguilar, Ace Hemming and Joshua Castro. Cade Hemming and Dominic Ferris had an excellent defensive showing.

The West Haven U10 girls travel team beat Milford, 5-1. Anna Howery defended the goal. Katherine Samaniego, Bianca Dinallo, and Riley Onde all scored in the win.

The West Haven U14 girls faced off against Orange last Saturday. Annabelle Fiorillo and Alessia Coletta worked to control the ball in midfield, and Josylyn Davila held down the defense.

The Westies came up short with a 3-0 loss.

The West Haven U12 boys has opened the season at 2-2. The Westies won their first game of the season, 6-2, against Amity. West Haven jumped to a 2-0 lead, but Amity clawed back to tie it 2-2.

The Westies then turned it on and scored the next four goals to clinch the win.

Ryan Abekah, Roland Green, and Ethan Fonseca all scored, and Ben Trenchard made some key stops on defense in the win.

The Westies next played the Shelton U13 boys team and fell,, 5-3, to a team an entire age group ahead of them. Adam Lamkhantar and Jacob Rader anchored the defense, supported by Collin Gibbons.

All played well, as did Jaxon Cruz in goal, making several fantastic saves against Shelton.

The Westies also fell away to North Haven, 3-0. Seth

Empric, Jax Guarino, and Julian Castillo were the bright spots for West Haven.

The trio worked hard on both sides of the ball to try to get their team back in the game.

Taha Ozhan worked hard in the midfield in the loss.

They then finished the opening run with a 3-0 win against Orange. Abekah picked up the hat trick, and Cruz kept the shutout in goal.

Mason DaSilva and Matteo D'Elia controlled the center of the field, starting counter attacks and squashing attempts by Orange to attack. Luca DeCresenzo worked hard on the left and right flanks, and Joseph Ruiz constantly put himself in strong positions to help his teammates and get a few shots off on goal.

The U10 girls participated in a Jamboree, facing off against Southington, Cheshire, and Farmington.

They played with positive attitudes, amazing passes, and great sportsmanship. Isabella Samaniego was on fire scoring in multiple games, as well as playing goalie and blocking many tough shots.

Mackenzie Vargas, and Katherine Samaniego scored and made fantastic passes. Aaliyah Ramirez scored and as goalkeeper blocked every single shot at net.

Anna Howery and Vivian Andrade took many shots and diligently kept the ball up field. Riley Onde led the team in making six goals and contributing with numerous assists.

In addition to scoring, Bianca Dinallo played great, both as defense and goalie, assisting multiple teammates for a shot at the net. The team scored a total of 17 goals, winning each game of the Jamboree.



# Westies: *Girls tennis picks up first victory*

**Continued from page 20**  
run early, the Westies watched as Amity pounded 14 hits on its way to a 16-2 victory over West Haven in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Gallo led West Haven with two of the team's three hits, while Isabel Abrego had the other West Haven hit.

West Haven dropped its fourth straight contest with a 20-3 loss to Jonathan Law in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule at Biondi Field.

The Westies had only six hits in the game, with Gallo leading the way with a pair. Glover, Wynus, Ryan, and Kaczmarek also added hits in the loss.

West Haven fell to 3-7 with an 11-2 home loss against Mercy. Wynus led the West Haven offense with two hits, including a home run. Davey and Abrego also had hits in the loss.

Photos by Todd Dandelske

Above -- The Blue Devils celebrate Abby Wynus's fourth home run of the season against Mercy. It wasn't enough as the team fell to the visitors. Below -- Geron Cox defends for the Blue Devils against North Haven. It's crunch time for various teams as the spring season is winding down and tournament berths are on the line.

The girls tennis team dropped to 0-4 with a 6-1 home defeat against Jonathan Law. West Haven's lone victory came in singles play as top-seeded Sophie Mazuroski defeated Harshitha Kothapalli, 6-1, 6-3.

Law was victorious in the rest of the matches as Courtney Russo topped Niamh Chesson 6-2, 6-3 in the second slot, third-seeded Siya Patil defeated Lisa Hennessey 6-1, 6-0, and fourth-seeded Rose O'Connell won over Michelle Ceja, 6-0, 3-1 (ret.).

In doubles action, top-seeded Brianna Madelung and Kacey Pagaduan defeated Monserrat Acoltzi and Haley Violante-Fletcher, 6-1, 6-0, second-seeded Carol Jiang and Lasya Pydipati topped Maggie Pierce and Martha Augustin, 6-2, 6-0, and third-seeded Cora Aitkenhead and Isla McKeand defeated Cheyenne Lezcano and Laurie Simeon, 6-1, 6-0.

The West Haven girls tennis

team posted a 4-3 road victory over Hamden.

In singles action, top-seeded Mazuroski defeated Charlotte Sansone, 6-0, 6-1, second-seeded Chesson topped Cynthia Egwuekwe, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, while third-seeded Hennessey fell to Olivia Lancor, 6-1, 6-2, and fourth-seeded Ceja lost to Ella Waller, 6-3, 6-4.

In doubles action, top-seeded Acoltzi and Violante-Fletcher topped Charlotte Trama and Emily Lee, 6-3, 6-4. Hamden's second seed of Sahana Sodd and Kassandra Biagton defeated West Haven, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, while West Haven's third seed of Lezcano and Simeon won over Jahmai Rose and Marianna Titu,s 7-5, 7-5.

The West Haven boys lacrosse team improved to 2-2 with an 8-7 road victory over Montville.

Even at one, West Haven pulled away with five second quarter goals for a 6-2 lead. Trailing by three, Montville

outscored the Westies 4-2 in the fourth quarter, but West Haven held on for its second victory of the year.

A.J. Iannotti led the Westies with three goals and two assists, Anthony DiMeglio had two goals and two assists, and Thomas Porto scored twice and added an assist. James Olsen scored once, while Brandon Doody and Sebastian Oceguela each had an assist.

Cole Hill won 18 faceoffs for the Westies. West Haven held a 35-29 shot advantage in the game with Xavier Nogue making 10 saves in the victory.

The girls lacrosse team battled, but the Westies fell short in a 14-9 home loss to Mercy. Chloe Whelan and Delaney Johnston each scored four times, while Juliana Gonzalez scored once for West Haven.

West Haven battled, but the Westies came up short in a 9-6 loss at Hamden. Whelan led the way for the Westies with three goals and an assist, while

Johnston scored twice, and Madden Evangeliste scored once in the loss.

West Haven fell on the road to North Haven, 13-11. Johnston led the Westies with six goals, Whelan had two goals and five assists, while Mia Sky Roman, Gonzalez, and Evangeliste each scored once.

Whelan and Gonzalez each had three ground balls, while Johnston and Whelan each recorded four draw controls.

West Haven topped Jonathan Law, 14-11, for its first victory of the season. The home victory saw senior Whelan record her 100th career point.

West Haven fell 14-2 against Trumbull at Ken Strong Stadium. Roman and Whelan scored for the Westies.

Aubrey Szostek made nine saves in the loss, while Johnston led the Westies with five shots on goal. Johnston also added an assist in the loss as West Haven dropped to 1-8.



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**Abutilon** plants are commonly known as "flowering maples," as their leaves are thought to resemble maple leaves. These perennial shrubs like well-drained soil and sunny or partly shady locations. Their colorful, paper-lantern-like flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

— Brenda Weaver

"Fools' Gold" flowering maple Sources: www.plantdelights.com, www.ehow.com

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Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of May 12, 2025.

ON NOW: "ABBA: Against the Odds" (Documentary) -- Netflix

12-May: "Kraven the Hunter" (R) -- Prime Video

13-May: "All American" (Season 7) -- Netflix

14-May: "American Manhunt: Osama Bin Laden" (Season 1) -- Netflix

15-May: "The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives" (Season 2) -- Hulu

15-May: "Duster" (Season 1) -- Max


16-May: "Welcome to Wrexham" (Season 4) -- Hulu

16-May: "The Quilters" (Documentary) -- Netflix

16-May: "Murderbot" (Limited Series) -- AppleTV+

16-May: "The Brutalist" (R) -- Netflix

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1. Sinners (R) Michael B. Jordan, Miles Caton
2. Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (PG-13) Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman
3. The Accountant 2 (R) Ben Affleck, Jon Bernthal
4. A Minecraft Movie (PG) Jason Momoa, Jack Black
5. Until Dawn (R) Ella Rubin, Michael Cimino
6. The King of Kings (PG) Pierce Brosnan, Oscar Isaac
7. The Amateur (PG-13) Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan
8. Warfare (R) D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Will Poulter
9. Pink Floyd: Live at Pompeii (G) David Gilmour, Roger Waters
10. The Legend of Ochi (PG) Helena Zenge, Willem Dafoe

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Completely
- 4 Playwright Levin
- 7 Done with
- 11 Secular
- 13 Collection
- 14 Water carrier
- 15 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 16 ET's craft
- 17 Dutch cheese
- 18 Ersatz chocolate
- 20 One-named supermodel
- 22 Tree fluid
- 24 Trombone parts
- 28 Grassy tract
- 32 January, to Juan
- 33 Grassy area
- 34 Shade provider
- 36 FBI guy
- 37 Alpha's opposite
- 39 "The Hunger Games" heroine
- 41 Dance clubs

**DOWN**

- 1 Sir Guinness
- 2 In — land
- 3 Deceitful person
- 4 Terre Haute sch.
- 5 Mortgage again, for short
- 6 Molecule parts
- 7 Exciting Broadway event
- 8 YouTube clip, for short
- 9 Clean air org.
- 10 "The One I Love" band
- 12 Loan application fees
- 19 "Cheers" setting
- 21 Pub order
- 23 Bakery purchase
- 25 Singer Lovato
- 26 Historic periods
- 27 Male children
- 28 Trudge
- 29 Actor Malek
- 30 Dazzles
- 31 Caribou kin
- 35 Yoga pad
- 38 Fine, to NASA
- 40 Italian "three"
- 42 Farm towers
- 45 Franc replacement
- 47 Sudden wind
- 48 Flair
- 49 Scurry
- 50 German auto
- 51 Shoe width
- 52 Have breakfast
- 54 Solidify



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May 5, 2025

**MAGIC MAZE • MOTHER'S DAY**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: LIFE IS A BED OF —

Affection	Children	Lineage	Tradition
Candy	Endearing	Love	Warmth
Card	Family	Motherhood	Wisdom
Celebration	Flowers	Thoughtful	

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**1. U.S. STATES:** Which state is last, alphabetically?

**2. MOVIES:** What does the acronym S.H.I.E.L.D. stand for in movies about Marvel characters?

**3. LITERATURE:** Who wrote the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"?

**4. GAMES:** How many cards are in a standard deck?

**5. TELEVISION:** On which sitcom did the character Harry the Hat appear?

**6. BUSINESS:** When did the first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise open?

**7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** How many Nobel prizes are awarded every year?

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**8. U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president was the shortest at 5 foot 4 inches tall?

**9. ASTRONOMY:** Who was the first woman to travel into space?

**10. ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby platypus called?

Answers

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**Answers to this week's puzzles**

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer speaks during a news conference with Gov. Ned Lamont, second from right, at City Hall on Monday announcing \$1.8 million in state bond funding for neighborhood upgrades around the West Haven VA Medical Center. With them are, from left, Becky D. Rhoads, the executive director of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System; city grant writer Olivia Bissant; state Rep. Treneé McGee (D-116); city Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana; Councilman Gary Donovan (D-4); city police traffic Sgt. Charles Young; state Reps. Bill Heffernan (D-115), and MJ Shannon (D-117); and Matthew J. Pugliese, a deputy commissioner of the state Department of Economic and Community Development.



# Grant

Continued from page 15

public safety and veterans support.”

Donovan, whose district includes the VA hospital, said: “I am very excited that we are getting money to put into our district. Hopefully some of that money can be allocated to fixing up Stevens Avenue to eliminate the dumping issue we have there.

“I would also like to see some of that money be put to cosmetic areas around the VA hospital, including a fence on Boylston Street, which is a dead end. I am very happy with what Mayor Dorinda Borer has done so far and continues to do for our city going forward.”

## Shore Haven offers senior scholarships

Shore Haven Jr. Baseball is accepting scholarship applicants from June 2025 high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amount of \$300.00 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 as well as a school transcript must be returned by May 31, 2025 to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Avenue, West Haven, 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance offices or by calling (203) 934-9740.

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Bradley Point Park

2025 Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26 | 10:30 a.m.  
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Capt. Thomas Blvd. to Center St.





Photo by Todd Dandelske

It was a team celebration, recently, as the West Haven High girls lacrosse team celebrated Chloe Whelan's 100th point after a 14-11 victory over Law.

## Westies looking for tournament berths

The West Haven baseball team is looking to qualify for the postseason. The Westie still have some work to do.

Scoring twice in the third inning and three times in the fifth inning, West Haven scored six unanswered runs to defeat Shelton, 6-4.

Jose Padilla and Brady Price led the West Haven offense with two hits apiece, while Padilla scored twice. Ryan Wilson pitched four innings in relief, allowing two hits and no runs, while striking out three and walking two.

Sandwiching four runs in the first and third innings around a run in the second, Trumbull cruised to a 12-1 five inning, mercy-rule victory over the Westies. West Haven dropped to 2-5 with the loss.

West Haven's lone run came in the fourth inning when Price doubled and scored on a single by Connor Hume.

Behind a solid pitching performance from Hume and clutch team hitting, West Haven defeated Law, 6-1 on the road. With the win, West Haven improved to 3-5.

Hume tossed a complete-game four-hitter, striking out nine and walking one. The senior did not allow an earned run.

Axelrod, Padilla, and Price each had a pair of hits, with Axelrod and Price each driving in a pair. Jones scored twice in the win.

West Haven fell to 3-6 on the year with an 8-4 home loss against Foran. The Lions scored once in the first and four times in the second and never looked back.

Murray and Justin Wilson led the West Haven offense with three hits apiece. Murray also scored twice in the loss.

Looking to get on a roll, West Haven jumped out to an early lead over Cheshire. Unfortunately for the Westies, Cheshire took the lead for good in the fifth inning and held on to defeat the Westies, 6-5 at Piurek Field.

Padilla, Price, and Hume led the offense with two hits apiece, with Padilla driving in two runs. Axelrod also drove in a pair.

Knowing the games are becoming crucial, West Haven rallied to defeat Morgan, 8-2 at Piurek Field. West Haven improved to 4-7 with the win.

Padilla led the way with three of the team's 10 hits, while Douglas recorded two hits. Padilla also scored three runs and drove in another, while Douglas and Jones each scored twice.

The West Haven softball team fell to 2-2 with a 14-8 loss against Lyman Hall at Biondi Field. The Westies led 8-6 after four innings, but Lyman Hall scored eight runs in the final three innings to pull out the win.

Natalie Gallo and Sarah Davey led the Westies with two hits apiece, while Davey and Abigail Wynus each drove in a pair, Wynus scored three times, and Gallo scored twice.

West Haven improved to 3-2

with a 13-0, five inning, mercy rule, victory over Hamden. Wynus provided the late dramatics as her grand slam ended the game in the fifth inning.

Davey scored three runs, Gallo, Isabella Petruzzello, and Kaczmarek each scored twice, Aniah Glover drove in a pair, and Wynus delivered four with the grand slam.

Gallo tossed a complete game, allowing just three hits in five innings of work. Gallo walked one and struck out 12 in the win.

West Haven fell to 3-3 with a 15-0 mercy-rule shortened contest against North Haven. The loss was West Haven's second in three games.

West Haven made four er-

rors in the game, leading to eight unearned runs. Ryan had West Haven's lone hit in the contest.

West Haven dropped its second straight contest, falling on the road to Sheehan, 7-0. With the loss, the Westies dropped to 3-4 on the year.

The Westies had only four hits in the game, with Davey picking up three of those hits. Glover had the other West Haven hit in the contest. Gallo went the distance for the Westies, allowing five earned runs. Gallo walked five and struck out four.

West Haven ran into a tough Amity squad at Biondi Field. Despite trailing by just one

See Westies, page 17

Photo courtesy of Kevin Moffett

### Award presented

Wearing a golf shirt representing the Vincent J. Reilly-New Haven Football Officials Association, and a hat representing the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association, sports official and Voice Editor Bill Riccio, Jr. shows off the plaque naming him the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) 2024-2025 National Active Official of the Year. The award was announced in November and presented recently at a reception at the West Haven Elks Club. The presentation was made by Dan Scavone, Executive Director of the CIAC Officials Association. Riccio has been a member of the GNHBUA since May of 1972, and of the NHFOA since August of 1974, having worked state tournaments and finals games in both sports. A former member of the NFHS Football Rules Committee and its Football Officials Manual Committee, he is on several committees for the GNHBUA and CIAC as well as State Football Rules Interpreter, and serving as the NHFOA Assigning Commissioner since 2017.

