

West Haven Voice

August 6, 2026

Vol. 31, Issue 15, 16 Pages

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

Voice Features

An in-depth feature

**Savin Rock Fest
offered music, fun**

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City mourns loss of O'Brien

Former mayor remembered

Hundreds paid their respects this week as a man who once held the power as the city's chief executive was laid to rest. Edward M. O'Brien, who sat as the mayor of West Haven for two terms (2013-17) lost his biggest battle, fighting a rare form of cancer, passing away on July 29. He was 61. Despite rainy conditions Monday, hundreds lined at West Haven Funeral Home for the wake, while a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John Vianney Church, Tuesday, bringing others.

A 1982 graduate of West Haven High School, O'Brien teamed up with his family to run Goldworks on Campbell Avenue and later run after graduating the Ezra Bowman Technical Institute and the Gemological Institute. Most recently, he ran OBJewelers.com.

O'Brien had never been secretive about his illness, using it as a means of communication to others also suffering from the disease. With the notice of his passing last week rumbling through the city, officials, friends and colleagues were quick to point out his affable nature and the fact he never forgot he was "a Westie."

Mayor Dorinda Borer led the accolades, coming out with a detailed statement:

"It is with a heavy heart that we announce that former Mayor Edward O'Brien lost his battle with cancer yesterday. He was only 61 years old.

"Ed dedicated many years of

his life to serving the residents of West Haven, first as a member of the City Council and later as the City's 11th Mayor. His commitment to public service and his passion for the city were evident throughout his devoted years in office. He was a great contributor to our community, serving on everything from the PTA to many volunteer organizations and even served as a Yale Fellow.

"His courage and determination extended beyond public office as he faced his illness with remarkable strength and resilience.

"Ed had many friends but above all, he was a family man that loved nothing more than spending time with his family.

On behalf of our city, we collectively send our condolences to his wife Roberta, his son David and daughter Caitlin, his brothers Michael and Frank and sister Rosemary, their extended families and of course his mom and Don.

"We know this is very difficult for them. We send them peace, comfort and strength in this time. Rest in Peace, Ed."

She added to that statement with added personal thoughts.

"While Ed is widely known as having served in the capacity of mayor, his footprint is much more than that to many of us who grew up together, our children grew up together, and we served on many volunteers groups together so we saw first-hand his passion to help everyone around him," she said this week.

Politically, O'Brien served

on the City Council, including as majority leader and later chairman, before assuming the third-floor mayor's office of City Hall. He served in those capacities at a time in the city's political history when the Democratic Party, which has led the city exclusively since 1991, was factionalized, fraught with almost visceral competition between the factions.

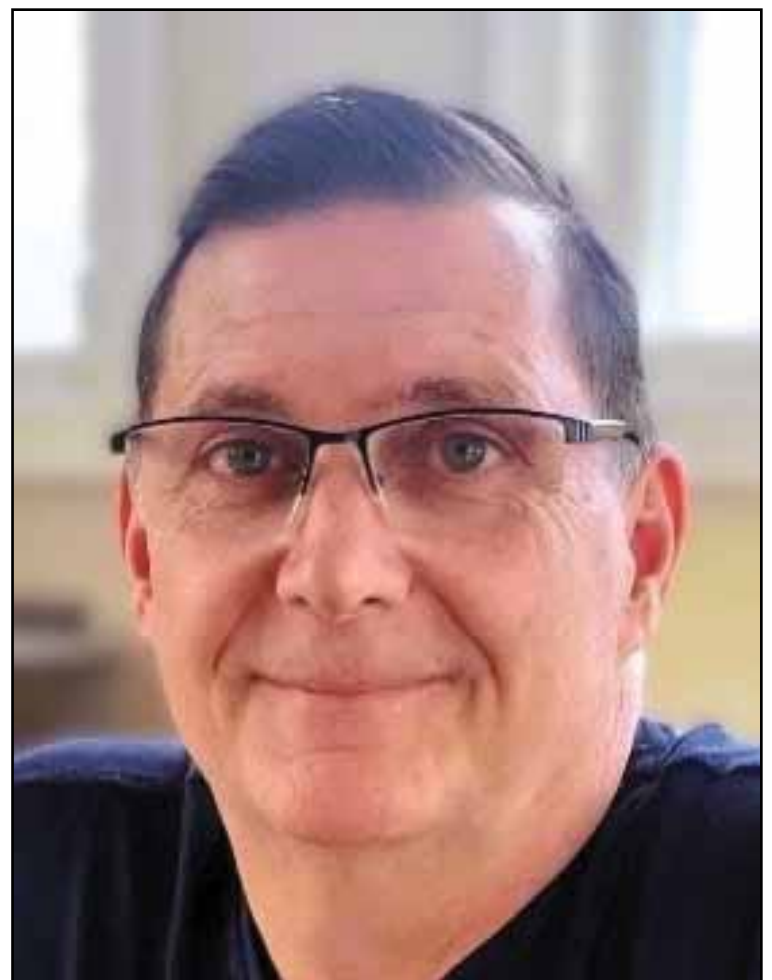
He won his first term, beating rival John Picard in a close primary, and then won the general election. He was known as a person who relished the post of mayor, with residents noting his love of attending functions and events that showed the best of the city he loved.

As a city leader he had to continue to navigate the internal fighting among the majority party's factions and had some success.

Despite those headwinds, he was able to secure a long-awaited deal for the long-delayed redevelopment. First called the "Water Street Project," it morphed into other names until "The Haven" was finalized in October of 2014, based on talks that began under Picard.

Unfortunately, the project languished following the announcement, hampered by market forces at a time when e-commerce was taking up more of the retail market, eclipsing brick-and-mortar properties.

But it was not only in politics that O'Brien made his mark. Longtime councilman/official



EDWARD M. O'BRIEN

Ronald Quagliani, a political colleague, said his mark went far beyond solely politics.

Quagliani, who now serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Haven Community House. While his loss is deeply felt throughout our city, his legacy of service, compassion, and civic pride will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him."

"Ed was a steadfast volunteer, a dedicated advocate, and a true champion for the City of West Haven," Quagliani said. "His commitment to serving others was evident as mayor and through his involvement

with numerous nonprofit organizations, including his role with us as Second Vice President of the Board of Directors for the West Haven Community House. While his loss is deeply felt throughout our city, his legacy of service, compassion, and civic pride will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him."

Quagliani said his grief, like that of others, is real and personal.

See O'Brien, page 8

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It looks like nice weather is on the way from a West Haven Community House Children and Youth Services After School program student.

On this date

2008 – Coup in Mauritania. In the 6th coup in the North African country since 1978, President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi was overthrown and General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, a career military officer, was installed in his place.

1965 – Voting Rights Act Becomes Law in the United States. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act, which prohibited any discrimination in voting. The act enforces the 14th and 15th amendments to the US Constitution.

1962 – Jamaican Independence. The Caribbean island country was first colonized by the Spanish in the early 16th century. In 1655, the British invaded Spanish Jamaica and made it a colony after the Spanish surrendered. Jamaica soon became one of the most profitable colonies of the British Empire, especially after sugarcane was brought to the island by the English. The Jamaica Independence Act of July 1962, which was a result of anti-colonial sentiments that were spreading throughout the globe, gave Jamaica full independence by leaving the Federation of the West Indies.



Photo courtesy of WHCDC

Harvest

Brayden Beirne holds a summer squash from the children’s garden at West Haven Child Development Center, Inc.

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Next Issue Date
August 20

Festival continues its success

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

From high-energy music, food trucks and helicopter rides to a kids zone, crafters and everything in between, the Savin Rock Festival was the place to be on July 24-25.

West Haven’s annual shoreline festival, held in Old Grove Park, paid homage to the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Savin Rock Park, the legendary amusement park once known as Connecticut’s Coney Island and locally as “the Rock.”

The heritage event was presented by Mayor Dorinda Borer and the Savin Rock Festival Committee and was sponsored by Premium Parking, Riva Bar & Restaurant, Carmody, Torrance, Sandak & Hennessey LLP, The Frankson Fence Co. Inc., and Greenskies.

The festival’s opening night showcased Bee Gees Gold, performing a career-spanning set of the Gibb brothers’ chart-topping hits. Bohemian Queen, “the ultimate Queen tribute band,” headlined Night 2, complete with costume changes and musical gems galore from Freddie Mercury and company’s acclaimed rock ‘n’ canon.

Both nights attracted thousands of families to the historic Grove.

The two-day event featured a variety of free children’s activities, including inflatables, a foam pit and firetruck rides, as well as a smorgasbord of food and dessert trucks, nonprofit organizations with informational tables, and the traditional craft fair.

The festival opened both days with Borer greeting the large crowds and followed with a spectacular performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by West Haven’s own Grace Kelly Nowak.

WOW Radio personality Brian Smith once again served as the “ringmaster” of ceremonies.

Night 1’s musical opener, the Rum Runners, “one of Connecticut’s most popular cover bands,” played a nonstop set of party classics that kept the crowd dancing.

Day 2 kicked off with the West Haven Rotary Club’s free pancake breakfast, followed by the city Department of Parks and Recreation’s annual bocce tournament.

Back by popular demand, the festival offered helicopter rides for \$60 per person. From morning to dusk, people of all ages

See Festival, page 16



Photos by Lindsay Katz



Fest fun!

The Savin Rock Festival has always been about the city’s history and family fun. This year was no exception as various rides and attractions for the kids, and some adult competition. Thousands came out on the last week-end of July for the city’s main summer event.

Fair Rent Commission gets new secretary

City of West Haven Fair Rent Commission Secretary Richard Deso has appointed Kim-Marie Mullin as the body's Recording Secretary.

Mullin brings an extensive background in real estate, public service and community leadership to the position. She works as a Asset and Real Estate Portfolio Manager for Fortitude Capital, LLC, in New York City, where she oversees numerous residential and commercial units. She is also a licensed real estate broker in both Connecticut and New York, with over twenty years experience.

Mullin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities

and Communications, magna cum laude, from Iona University.

As Recording Secretary, Mullin will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the official record of the Commission's proceedings. Similar to the role of court reporter, she will document motions, votes, testimony, and other actions taken during public hearings and meetings, ensuring the Commission's records are complete and available in accordance to State statute.

Mullin's professional experience includes, serving two terms as President

of the Women's Council of Realtors, overseeing ten national award winning chapters, State Director of Connecticut REALTORS, sits on the Connecticut State Realtor Grievance Board and serves as a New York State Notary Public.

In West Haven, she serves as Justice of the Peace and a certified election moderator. She is also a founding member of the Sandy Point Neighborhood

See Commission, page 14



Photo by Sarah White

Fair Rent Commission Secretary Richard Deso congratulates Kim-Marie Mullin on her appointment as the Commission's Recording Secretary, as Chairman Steven R. Mullins (L) and Vice Chairman Cristian Sanchez (R) look on.

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Dear Felicia

It's August already, sweets! Where did the time go? It seems we were just crowing about sun and fun and June 1. Now we're heading into the Dog Days, and know that before we blink an eye, the leaves will be turning, and winter will be heading this way.

Before we get too far into the weeds concerning our little corner of the world, we want to send our condolences to the Ed O'Brien family on the loss of the former mayor last week. We won't sugar coat the fact that this papyrus was critical of him whilst he was on the thoid floor, but that was politics, not real life.

O'Brien was a strong family man, and as we like to say around here, "A true Westie." He loved the city and he was one of the few we can say really loved being mayor during his tenure. He seemed to relish the long days and many ceremonial things attached to the office.

We never thought he was out for himself, or looking to burnish his own standing in the community. He knew his community bona fides and didn't need to be artificial about it.

Where we differed was decisions and executions like we do with all the personages who sit up in the catbird seat.

Prayers for him and his fam-

ily at this time of sorrow. The community is poorer for his loss.

Of course, the big news over the past couple o' weeks was the Savin Rock Festival, and kudos to the committee and all those who made it another smashing success. We think the original organizers and officials who have gone onto a "farther shore and greater light" are pleased.

We will say this, the people running the helicopter rides were certainly busy all day. Cobina happened by in the gassamobuggy on two separate occasions on Saturday, and it seemed the lines for the ride were steady. The chopper went back and forth along a shore route, and things seemed to be in constant pick-ups.

Meanwhile, the other attractions in the Old Grove were gathering quite the crowds. We aren't into rock 'n roll, nor disco, leaning more toward the Lindy, and Charleston, but those who are fans of the genre seemed enthusiastic. And for once, Mother Nature cooperated with the event, and the organizers could not have asked for a better summer day.

All in all, it seemed the event was as good as anyone could expect with people at the venue all day and into the night. Once again, kudos to the committee and all the organizations that helped make it a success.

Sammy Bluejay was here t'other afternoon and noted that with the doldrums of the summer, the political scene here abouts is rather staid and quiet – not somethin' we're used to around here. But, when you thik about it, around late July or early August things do slow down each year. The City Council is only meeting once a month, the budget is done, so the heavy lifting is over. Events are happening which keeps the other mavens of the Actors Colony busy, but it seems at a rather laid-back pace.

We will say this, the heavy rains we had a couple o' weeks back was handled perty well by the boys and girls of the Dept. of Public Woiks. Cobina was here in the office for a big whilst the rain was coming down in sheets. I guess we had something like three inches of rain in a little less than two hours. Needless to say streets along a coastal town – and one with the hills and dales we have – saw water collecting in various places

When Cobina tried to git home, calling the route "circuitous" is an understatement. Finally, the Grasso Boulevard was the way to go, and she found her way to the domicile. But, in the process, we saw many street closures, even where they don't happen on

average. Once again, good job to the DPW for getting out there and rerouting people who think they can wade their automobiles through a foot or more of rainwater.

The Wag was in t'other day and wondered effen we'd noticed the gubernatorial race seems to be heating up early. We noted that both His Excellency Gov. Ned Lamont and Republican challenger Ryan Fazio are beginning the TV blitz already, and we have five weeks before Labor Day. That is the traditional beginning of the election "cycle" as they say these days.

One wonders why so early? Does anyone really pay attention now, when there is so much other stuff to do? Methinks not. We only wish they would send that campaign lucre our way. We'd sure as heck take it with both hands.

But seriously, TV ads already. Most people watch less TV during the summer. But we have to remember, campaigns are not run by crusty politicians anymore. They are run by suits making thousands of kopecks as "Consultants." And, even though consultants' strategies have failed possibly more than they've worked, the political class still leans their way each and every "cycle."

Iva Lootey noted that work has begun it seems on Molloy School on Meloy Road. Effen yew remember, two years ago, the city announced the building would be converted into a community center with areas for meetings, the senior center is moving there, and there will be other groups staking out some o' the space.

Some upgrades to the building as well as accommodations to other things are being made, when it is completed it will be filling a gap the city has had for years, and it's not at the extremes of the city, it's smack-dab in the center of it, so nobody can complain. And the Molloy School has always been one of the more handsome constructs in town. It has a classy look that most modern building lack.

Meanwhile, the idea to add meeting spaces at the former Masonic Temple, once going to be the Arts Center, are on the back burner. But Iva thinks we should be thinking about things one at a time anyway. Get the wins whilst you can, and worry about the next one later. Maybe he is right about that.

A few weeks ago, Cobina noted the loss of the West Haven Twilight League from the city – the city that spawned the league in 1933, and is considered the longest continuous active amateur league in the country. Quigley

Stadium, which had been the home of the league for about 30-plus years (it was once domiciled at Painter Park until the advent of metal bats) has been deemed unplayable.

The league, we are told, is currently playing its games at Rochford Field in Hamden of all places, and now there is a move afoot to change the name of the league to reflect the new reality. Longtime Westies should be appalled by this and we know Ed Shrimp Flynn and Bob Greenwood, and even Bob Tingley are spinning in their graves with this news.

The new reality has rekindled the rumors going around that the land will be up for sale, and what once was a cozy little ball park will be made into goodness knows what. Probably, this will be more land taken over to accommodate the University of New Haven – at least the land will be put to good use. But, we can't help but think the city was at fault for this

Twice in 20 years hundreds of thousands of kopecks were used to upgrade the field, only to have it neglected. We remember our own editor chastised the city for the neglect when he umpired a game there – and that was seven years ago. Things were OK for a while, but then neglect is neglect. What should be a landmark is now a ruin – and all because the city has dollar signs in its head, rather than preserving part of our history. Is Cobina upset? Dang right!

With the coming of late summer, we're getting back-to-school ads everywhere. It's less than a month before the youngsters have to trek back to the classroom, when it seems it was a scant few weeks ago summer vacation started. Tempus does fugit.

You can notice the glint in a Mom's eye, looking forward to having her space back to herself, along with the increased horror by the kiddies that sun and fun will soon be in the rearview mirror, and wondering why time doesn't go as fast during the school year as it seems to go in the summer.

Ah, Felicia, we remember those thoughts. When next we commune in this papyrus the bus schedule will be contained in the pages, and that makes it all real. Summer will be over – at least as far as the kids are concerned, and things will get back into the rhythm that we are more used to – drat the luck!

Finally, we ain't hoid anything on the Allingtoun Library in a while. Is it a case of "no news is good news," or something else.

It's a matter that is now seven years in the making with no end.

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

Cobina

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Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks. We had a great time at the Savin Rock Festival this past weekend. It is always wonderful to see so many of our patrons out and enjoying the festival and the lovely weather. We would also like to shout out the winner of our Sunflower Seed Count, Elizabeth Fox, who made the closest guess and won a Dunkin gift card. If you missed us there, make sure to stop by and see us in-person at the library or at the Apple Festival in September!

We've got a packed schedule for the kids to enjoy before back-to-school season officially starts! Starting on Aug. 7, you can join us at the Old Grove Park on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for a lively Sunshine Story Time. Children to age 5 can sing, dance, and listen to music and stories in the sun, and adults can feel free to bring blankets, towels, or chairs to relax on. Kids can also get in on a few crafty adventures at our Ora Mason Library throughout the month of August.

Pick up a Children's Take & Make and use colorful tissue paper to make a fish suncatcher. All supplies are included so you can take them home and put it together at your convenience.

While you're at OM, you can also add to Our Sea of Friends Community Art Display! Decorate your own paper fish and add it to the display as we create a colorful sea together! Both of these programs will be available from Aug.3-31 while supplies last.

Finally, we will be having our Summer Reading Finale on Aug. 12, where kids can once again round out their summer by throwing pie at a librarian. Spend the afternoon at the library enjoying summer crafts, snacks, games and activities. You can explore our Book Mobile and have a turn throwing a pie tin of whipped cream at one of our library staff. Winners of the Summer Reading Raffle Baskets will be announced during this event

Voice still looking for local writers

Have a photo or a story that can only be told by you? The Voice is looking for resident correspondents, who will tell the stories from their streets or neighborhoods that everyone should know about.

The program, begun that the beginning of 2025 has been very successful, and has brought in information that is not only interesting to the immediate area of origination, but has touched the entire city.

All photos and information are subject to the same editing and processing that goes into all items for the paper, and remain the property of the publication.

Letters are encouraged from responsible parties on issues concerning the nation, state or city. All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification of identity. No letter will be published if the information is omitted. Similarly, names will not be withheld for legal considerations.

Contact info@westhavenvoice.com, or phone, (203) 934-6397 during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.'

as well, so children who turn in their summer reading brochures to Main or OM will be able to take home their prize. Registration for this event opened Aug. 1, and is limited so contact us at the library to guarantee your spot.

The adults still have a lot to look forward to as well. Are you looking to get into gardening, or simply just have trouble keeping houseplants alive? Then join us for Intro to Gardening, an introductory presentation on the topic of gardening taught by local business owner Tyler Newkirk. Tyler will be going over the basics of how to start your own garden, answering questions about planting and caring for plants, and will send attendees home with some seeds to help you get your garden started. We also have an ocean themed Take & Make craft kit for adults to enjoy this month. You can bring the calming beauty of the ocean to your home with the Ocean Life Windchime craft. Each kit will include one randomly selected wooden sea creature and all other supplies needed. No registration is required but kits are limited so be sure to stop by the Ora Mason Library if you want one.

Our Summer Reading Bingo Challenge is in full swing and will continue until Aug. 31. Participants can get Bingo sheets from either the Main Library or Ora Mason and complete activities to get a Bingo. Hand in your completed sheets to either library location to be entered into one of three raffles and pick up a new sheet! We are very excited to announce that we have several prizes to give away this year, thanks to generous donations from Lorenzo's Restaurant & Deli, 744 West, Nick's Luncheonette, and Stowe's Seafood.

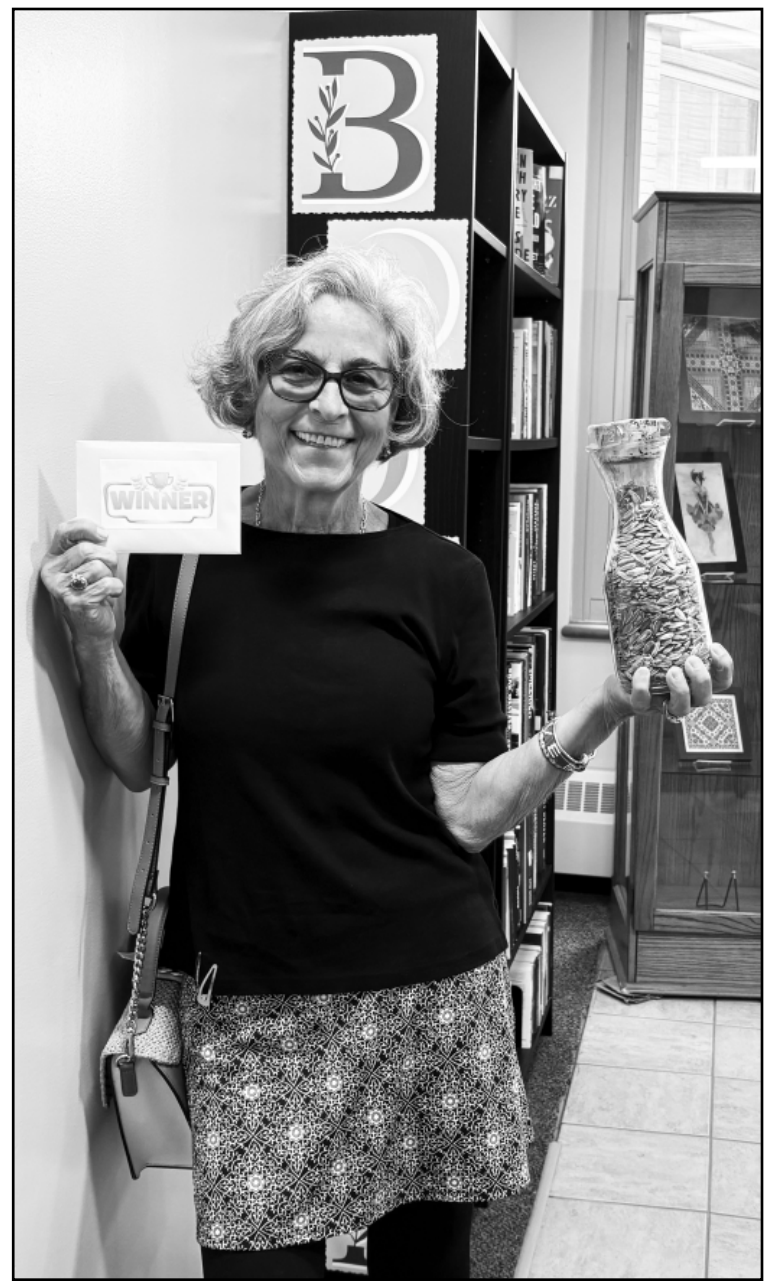
The Main Library and the Ora Mason Library each have one raffle that you will be entered into if you return at least one BINGO sheet to that library. Return at least one to each library to enter

both raffles and have a better chance to win a \$25-\$30 gift card! Finally, everyone who returns five BINGO sheets will be entered into a raffle to win a \$50 gift card. Please contact us with any questions and we look forward to seeing you participate.

Finally, we are still collecting non-perishable food items to donate to WHEAT at the end of the summer. If you are interested in donating, please drop off any items at either the Main Library or the Ora Mason Library. Some commonly needed items are instant mac & cheese, instant potatoes, pasta, rice, beans, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, crackers, nuts, and any canned items like soups, vegetables, and tuna.

Thank you as always for tuning in to Behind the Stacks, and we look forward to seeing you at the library.

Elizabeth Fox made the closest guess of how many sunflower seeds were in the jar at last weekend's Savin Rock Festival. Congrats and thank you for participating!





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DSA is a real threat to watch

While the nation celebrates 250 years as a Republic, there is a small, but ominous, movement that is building momentum among certain factions of the political left, Democratic Socialism. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), really a group backed by the Chinese Communist Party as well as other leftist organizations, has seen some successes in recent Democratic Party primaries.

Led by aging leftist Sen. Bernie Sanders, and Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashid Tlaib, its biggest victory, so far, came from winning the New York City mayoralty in the person of Zohran Mamdani. Mamdani has become the face of the party and the movement, and has won more than 30 primaries nationwide, looking to upend the establishment power structure of the Democratic Party. And, the Democrats have only themselves to blame.

Much like leftwing groups in history, the elites in academe and business, which have shifted from Republicans to Democrats over the last century, thought they could use the verve of the alt-liberals and win state and national elections. Much like leftwing groups in history, the effort has failed and lurched the Democrats more leftward. The Democratic Party of Scoop Jackson, strong on defense, and liberal on social issues, is no longer welcome.

The current Democrats are now the supporters of radical anti-family, anti-American, and anti-Western Civilization groups, looking to tear down our culture and our history, following the same playbook as happened in Russia, China, Cuba, and Venezuela. All those movements failed or are failing, yet the egalitarian left repeats the mantra of the past, "Communism has never truly been tried, we will do it right."

It is interesting to note the recent platform of the DSA contains:

- The dissolution of the Senate;
- The subjugation of the Executive and Judicial Branches under a stronger unicameral Congress;
- Replacing the two-party system with a multi-party format;
- Public ownership of large corporations and ending private property rights;
- Abolishing borders and prisons.

More interesting than the platform in some respects is the demographic of the DSA itself. While presenting itself as a working-class organization, recent surveys have shown that 66 percent of the membership is urban white, with 65 percent having college degrees (85 percent for those in their 20s), but making between less than \$100,000 a year. Most are academics or teachers, or work in the public or nonprofit sectors.

So, what we have are white liberals, mostly on the lower end of the "Earning curve," looking for radical change. Most are agnostic or atheist, and at least a third are "non-binary or LGBTQ." Their sociology and Women's Studies degrees are not reaping the six-figure salaries they had hoped.

There is an old expression concerning those looking for the End Times: "Those who look for the next world, cannot live in this one." The same is true of the angry left, looking for a new system because they cannot live ours. It is not a blue-collar movement, but a movement of malcontents with degrees.

For more than a century those calling themselves "Progressive" have looked to eradicate the individual freedom of America and West, putting government in the hands of bureaucracies of experts. They look for collectivism, using the euphemism of "collaboration," and the breakdown of social norms in the name of "empathy."

Meanwhile, the rest of us should reject the facile arguments of a fringe group that represents repression and oligarchy. Our republic is not perfect, but what the DSA offers has failed everywhere.



Silly case against Defense bill

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

This is a preposterous case against the new defense bill

Congress has been known to slip indefensible special-interest provisions into large must-pass bills when no one is looking. What it has never done before is use such sleight of hand to hand over control of the U.S. military to a foreign country. But that's what we're told is on the verge of happening on Capitol Hill.

The House just passed the National Defense Authorization Act, a sprawling \$1.15 trillion bill that supposedly includes a provision buried in it "merging" the U.S. and Israeli militaries.

This provision, known as Section 219, has united some of the most fervent anti-Israel conspiracy theorists on the right and the left in denouncing the alleged betrayal of America, from Marjorie Taylor Greene to AOC, from Tucker Carlson to Cenk Uygur.

AOC has warned that the provision "is an existential threat to American sovereignty and democracy." Marjorie Taylor Greene has said anyone who voted for the bill "sold out the American people to a foreign country." Tucker Carlson wants literal treason trials.

So what is the substance of Section 219? Legislation often has obfuscatory titles, but this provision is deemed, with admirable clarity, the United

States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It calls for the secretary of defense to designate "an executive agent" to coordinate between the U.S. and Israel on "bilateral defense technology research, development, testing, evaluation, integration and industrial cooperation." The Pentagon will come up with a plan for such cooperation and report back to Congress.

That's it. There is nothing about merging the general staffs of the U.S. military and the IDF; nothing about creating a joint office where Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Israeli counterpart, Israel Katz, work together; nothing about giving Bibi Netanyahu partial control of CENTCOM.

That the United States would want a close working relationship with Israel on military technology is hardly surprising. Israel is one of the world's most innovative societies and, given its precarious security environment, has become a leader in advanced defense technologies.

That a nefarious interpretation of the bill has gotten some traction underlines how any preposterous lie, so long as it's about Israel, gets a hearing these days. Like many conspiracy theories, this one depends on a dark view of American society. We are allegedly so corrupt that we are handing control of our military to a

foreign country without any senior military leaders or officials in an "America First" administration lodging a complaint. No wonder Tucker Carlson wants the kind of tribunals that attended the end of World War II.

At the first Nuremberg Trials, Wilhelm Keitel was found guilty of crimes against humanity and hanged; at the second Nuremberg Trials, Mike Johnson will be found guilty of supporting mutually beneficial technology sharing between allies -- means of execution yet to be determined.

One perversity here is that Netanyahu conceives of the technological cooperation as a substitute for the U.S. military aid that he supports phasing out. In other words, enemies of Israel oppose U.S. military aid, and when a constructive plan is offered for how to go about ending it, they oppose that, too, as an Israeli plot.

Another perversity is that the U.S. should want a very close relationship with Israel on missile defense, an area where Israel excels and that, as we've seen in the Ukraine and Iran wars, is crucial to modern warfare. And yet, the same people who portray themselves as zealously protective of the U.S. national interest want us to turn our back on a source of technological advance.

Israel naturally fits in the
See Lowry, page 12

Quigley Stadium’s future topic of speculation

By **Dominic Konareski**
Voice Writer

The future of Quigley Stadium, a cornerstone of Connecticut baseball history, has become the subject of intense speculation surrounding its future.

The speculation is fueled by the fact the West Haven Twilight League, which calls itself the longest continuous amateur baseball league in the country begun in 1933, has curtailed its schedule at Quigley, which has been its home for the past three decades-plus. Games have gone to other sites, while reports that at least one organization has suggested a rebrand rebrand to the “Southern Connecticut Twilight League” for 2027 and beyond.

This shift is already reflected in the league’s current season. In a significant departure from its tradition of playing exclusively at Quigley, the WHTL has branched out to alternative fields such as Rochford Field in Hamden and Brinley Field in Orange.

Now in the league’s play-off run, the 2026 postseason, which is already underway, has all games slated for West Haven High School. Overall, the 81 total games scheduled for the 2026 season, including the All-Star Game and playoffs, only 19 games

(or a small 23.46%) were held at Quigley Stadium this 2026 season.

The venue hosted its final scheduled event of the year on June 29 for the league’s All-Star Game. Since that date, the final 39 games of the season have been transitioned to other fields, leaving the 79-year-old stadium vacant for the remainder of the competitive calendar.

When approached for comment regarding the rumors of relocation and rebranding city officials did not return phone calls.

However, in a subsequent statement to the New York Sports Show, a league representative sought to downplay the speculation.

The representative clarified that there are “no current plans” for relocation or a name change, asserting that the diversification of venues is purely a matter of “schedule flexibility.” Despite the optics of a dwindling presence at their longtime home, the league characterized its relationship with the City of West Haven as “great.”

While these assurances may temporarily quiet concerns, the contrast between official rhetoric and the statistical reality of Quigley’s usage remains in question.

Built in 1947 and sold to the

Town of West Haven in 1951, Quigley Stadium boasts a storied legacy. For decades, it has stood as the primary diamond for the West Haven Twilight League, which remains its sole active tenant after Notre Dame-West Haven departed in 2025. However, as the structure enters its eighth decade, the signs of neglect are inescapable. The ballpark now

sits in a state of visible decay, fueled by persistent rumors that the city may eventually sell or demolish the property.

The league, which once called Noyes Field, Painter Park its home well until the 1990s, moved to the Front Avenue facility with the advent of aluminum bats. The “intimate confines” of Noyes became logistically a problem

with the then-new technology. Interestingly, the league went back to wooden bats more than a decade ago.

As the 2026 season concludes away from Quigley’s boarded up ticket booth, the question remains: is this the final chapter for one of Connecticut’s oldest and one of the most successful sporting landmarks?



Photo courtesy of WHCDC

A day at the Beach

Children from the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. enjoyed an outing at the beach. The youngsters enjoy many outings and walks when weather allows. Playing in the sand at the beach is a summertime treat.

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Photograph by: Joan Bennett

Sharp eyes!

Lions Club members used a special camera called Hilton Spot Vision Screener as part of the Kidsight National Lions Program at the West Haven Community House during Head Start registration last week. President Steven R. Mullins is shown seen here using the device on three-year-old Mohammad. The program is funded by the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation. The West Haven Club is HIPPA compliant and has trained members dedicated to solving critical issues of eye care in children, Mullins said. The West Haven Lions Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm at the West Haven Veterans Museum on Hood Terrace. For more information, call (203) 824-4262,

O'Brien: City in mourning

Continued from page 1

“My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives were enriched by his kindness and dedication. May we all find comfort in the memories shared and strength in knowing that his impact on West Haven will not be forgotten,” he said. “The West Haven Community House, the many non-profits he championed, and the City of West Haven as a whole are all better off today because of Ed O’Brien.”

He is survived by his wife, Roberta Madden O'Brien; children Caitlin and David O'Brien; Mother Antoinette O'Brien Russo (Donald Russo); siblings Rosemary (Alan Alfonso), Michael (Kathleen O'Brien) and Frank O'Brien; and sister-in-law Karen Palmeri. He was preceded in death by his father, Sgt. Dermot O'Brien, NHPD, mother-in-law Marguerite Madden, and brother-in-law Tim Palmeri.

Farmers Market Thursday, Saturday

The farmers market is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Thursday on the Green, at Campbell Avenue and Main Street, and every Saturday next to the Oak Street Beach parking lot, off Captain Thomas Boulevard.

The market features homegrown fruits and vegetables, baked goods and homemade crafts through Oct. 10.

Parking is available on Campbell Avenue and in the City Hall municipal lot, 355 Main St., as well as in the Oak Street municipal lot and on Palace Street. Oak Street is on the senior shuttle route and the CTtransit route.

The farmers market was dedicated in 2010 in memory of Anthony F. “Tony” Inzero, a leader in the downtown business community who co-owned Flower Affair on Campbell Avenue with Betty DelVecchio for many years.

Inzero was a founding member and longtime president of the West Haven Business Association who spearheaded a variety of events and programs to drum up business for fellow merchants, including the first farmers market in 2000.

Inzero, who lived in Hamden, died in 2009 at age 59.

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Altschuler Beach (The Big Chair)



Photos by Andrew Chartier

New GOP team

From left, lifelong Westies Robert J. Guthrie and Robert Vets are sworn into office by City Clerk John W. Lewis as the West Haven Republican Party’s new registrar of voters and deputy registrar of voters, respectively, during a ceremony at City Hall on Monday. The ceremony was attended by Mayor Dorinda Borer, family members, friends and party members. Guthrie succeeds GOP Registrar Jo Ann Callegari, who recently retired after 45 years of service. Vets succeeds longtime Deputy Registrar Patricia Mastracchio.



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UNH teams up for school financing courses

The University of New Haven has announced a new partnership with ASBO International, becoming a preferred provider of school finance and operations courses.

These courses are designed for individuals pursuing roles as School Business Officials or Certified Administrators of School Finance and Operations, as well as members of the broader education community who want to deepen their knowledge of school business operations.

Each course, which is offered completely online over a period of seven weeks, meets the education eligibility requirements for the school finance and operations (SFO) certification exam and recertification.

The course beginning on Aug. 24 will focus on public school financial management, and the course beginning on Oct. 21 will center on public school operations. Registration is

currently open.

Spring 2027 courses will be offered on public school human resources and educational budgeting as well as public school facilities, transportation, and other ancillary responsibilities

“Overseeing business and operations of K-12 schools is an incredibly important responsibility,” says Christy Smith, Ph.D., director of the University’s Master of Public Administration, who has extensive knowledge working in the public sector, including serving as a policy and budget analyst in the executive office of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

“It is essential that those leading the business and operations side of public schools have the most updated information and training in order to fully understand the challenges and opportunities of running complex business operations,” continued Dr. Smith. “Our collaboration with ASBO International will ensure that these professionals acquire the specialized skills that lead to career advancement and that help engender confidence in those entrusted with leading our public schools.”

“At ASBO International, we are focused on expanding high-quality, accessible professional learning opportunities for school business officials at every stage of their careers,” said James M. Rowan, CAE, SFO, executive director of ASBO International. “This collaboration with the University of New Haven strengthens that commitment by providing flexible, relevant pathways that support both certification and ongoing professional growth.”

Program instructors have extensive experience in both municipal finance and educational finance and operations.

Credits earned through the micro-credentials may be applied to the University’s fully online MPA program, if certain enrollment conditions are met.





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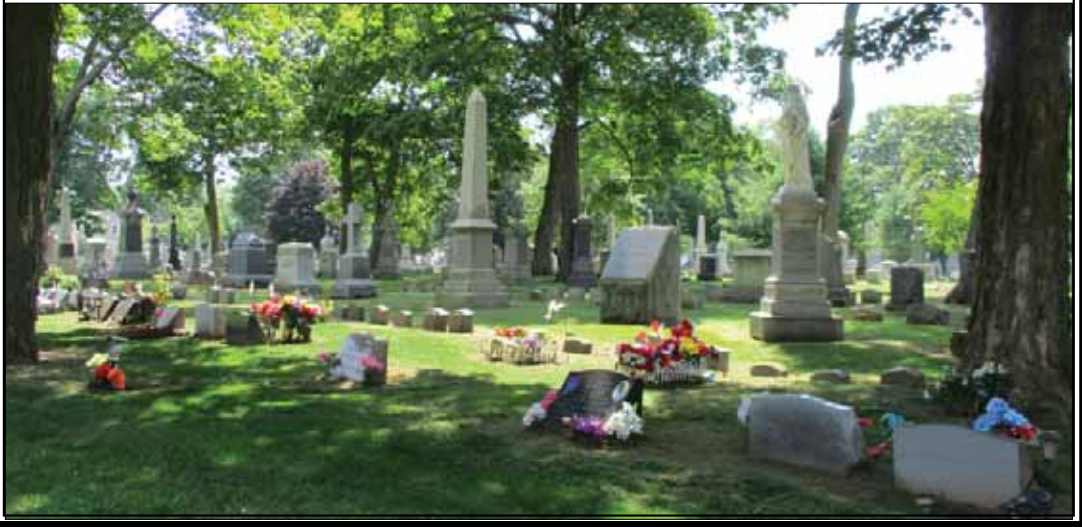
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The Aug. 20 edition of the Voice features the annual school bus schedule



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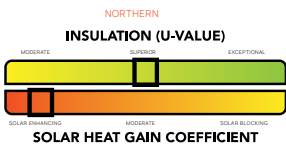


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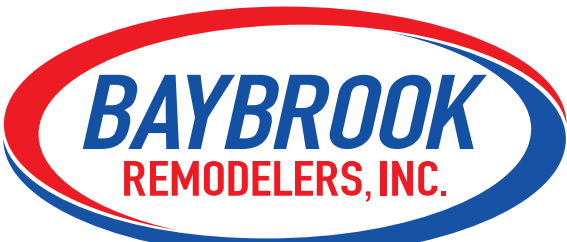


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Local expert offers cybersecurity tips

By Aditya Kari
Security Specialist

Small businesses are the backbone of West Haven. From family-owned restaurants and neighborhood dental practices to local retailers and service providers, these businesses help our community thrive. As technology becomes increasingly central to everyday operations, protecting customer information has become an important part of running a successful business. On July 1, updates to the

Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA) took effect, expanding certain privacy protections for Connecticut residents and introducing additional requirements for businesses that fall within the law's scope. While not every small business is covered by the CTDPA, every business that collects customer information should understand how it stores, protects, and manages that data. Cybercriminals continue to target organizations of all sizes. Many small businesses

rely on email, websites, online scheduling, digital payment systems, and cloud-based software to serve their customers. A security incident involving these systems can interrupt business operations, damage customer confidence, and create significant financial and operational challenges.

The good news is that improving cybersecurity does not always require a large budget. Many effective safeguards are straightforward to implement and can significantly reduce everyday risks.

Separate your business and guest Wi-Fi. Customer Wi-Fi should be isolated from the network used by business computers, payment systems, and other critical devices. Keeping these networks separate helps reduce the risk that an insecure or compromised device could access sensitive business systems.

Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA). Passwords alone are no longer enough to protect important accounts. Adding MFA—such as a verification code from an authenti-

cation app or a security key—provides an additional layer of protection and can prevent many common account-compromise attempts.

Review your website and privacy practices. If your business collects customer information through contact forms, online orders, appointment scheduling, or marketing tools, make sure your privacy policy clearly explains what information is collected, how it is used, and how customers can contact you with questions. Regularly reviewing the software and services connected to your website also helps reduce security risks.

Cybersecurity is not only

about technology—it is about protecting the trust that customers place in local businesses every day. By taking practical steps to strengthen security and understand applicable privacy requirements, West Haven businesses can better protect their customers, reduce cyber risk, and continue serving the community with confidence.

~~~~~  
Aditya Kari holds a master's degree in Cybersecurity & Networks from the University of New Haven and is the founder of Kavach Cyber Solutions LLC, a West Haven-based firm that helps small businesses improve their security.

## WHHS Class of '64 sets reunion

The West Haven High School Class of 1964 is sponsoring its second Get-Together on Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave. Dinner is \$50 per person with walk-ins accepted at \$60 per person, cash only.

Interested classmates should contact Judy Oberempts at [na244@aol.com](mailto:na244@aol.com), or (203) 934-9504.

Payment is due Aug. 8. Checks should be made payable to Patricia W. Massey, and mailed to 238 Cosey Beach Ave., East Haven, 06512.

## Retired Teachers plan picnic

The West Haven Retired Teachers' Association (WHRTA) will host a picnic lunch for its members at Stappa Winery, 403 Derby Ave, (Rt.34) Orange, at 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 20, 2026. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the beautiful winery and its grounds. Dessert provided. (No outside beverages).

For details see your WHRTA newsletter or our Facebook page. Contact [aglagowski@att.net](mailto:aglagowski@att.net) to RSVP or to join WHRTA. Dues are \$20 per year.

## Avenue Groove set for Grove

The West Haven Summer Concert Series continues with Avenue Groove at 7 p.m. Aug. 7 in Old Grove Park, 1 Palace St.

Get ready for high-energy covers of R&B, dance, funk, country and pop hits.

The free concert is presented by Mayor Dorinda Borer and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

To check if the concert has been rescheduled because of rain, visit Park-Rec's website at <https://www.rec.us/organizations/city-of-west-haven>. The rain date is the following Monday at the same time and venue.

## Center offers Cape Cod trip

Tour the land of Cape Cod with the West Haven Senior Center on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 15- 16. Bus departs at 8:15 a.m. from the Vertical Church parking lot at 225 Meloy Road.

The cost of this trip is based on per person occupancy; \$475 for 1 person, for 2 people, \$400 each, for 3 people, \$375 each, and for 4 people, \$360 each. Payment is due by Friday, Aug. 7. The cost includes 1 night stay at the Holiday Inn Hyannis, 2-hour Cape Cod Canal Cruise, a guided tour of Hyannis, 1-hour Hyannis Harbor Cruise, admission to the Cape Cod Maritime Museum, admission to the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum, 1 full breakfast and 1 dinner, meal taxes, meal gratuities, room taxes, housekeeping gratuity, and local guide gratuity, and roundtrip coach transportation.

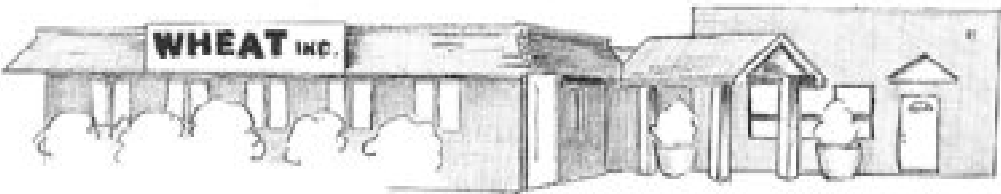
For a more detailed itinerary of this trip, please visit or call the West Haven Senior Center. Non-Residents & Non-WHSC Members are welcome! To reserve your spot, please call the West Haven Senior Center at (203)-937-3507.

## Lowry: Defense bill idiocy

Continued from page 6

Western alliance, but nations ultimately pursue their selfish interests. If we spurn the Jewish state out of irrational animus, it will inevitably look elsewhere and perhaps build a stronger relationship with China. Then we will surely be told by the critics now obsessed with ending the U.S.-Israel relationship that Israel has shown its true colors and deserves even more of our scorn.

~~~~~  
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine



It was the era of Rosie the Riveter as women took over the wartime manufacturing duties as dads, brothers, and beaus went off to fight in Europe and Asia. Cloer to home, the ladies had lunch outside the Armstrong Rubber Company plant.

**World War II,
Here and "Over There"**
Appenwihr, France
Feb. 1, 1945
As the screaming artillery shells fell and exploded around them, a dozen GIs sprinted for the safety of the distant woods and their own lines. The deep snow sucked at their feet and made them slip as the bursting shells showered them with clods of frozen dirt. The German artillery seemed sure to annihilate the GIs at any moment.
Private Daniel R. "Bob" Shine felt as though his lungs would burst. As radioman for the recon-

naissance squad, he carried all of his normal fighting equipment, plus their SCR-300 shortwave radio, which was housed in a large metal backpack. In all, he was running with more than seventy pounds of equipment strapped to his body.
Shine felt as if he couldn't run another step--but run he did--run or be blown to bits in this open field outside of the village of Appenwihr.
BOOM! One shell fell much closer than the rest, landing less than forty feet away. A running GI stumbled and fell. When he got back onto his feet, it was

clear that the force of the blast had rattled his head. The woods were getting closer now, but so were the exploding shells. Would they make to safety it in time?
(From the short story, "Bronze Star")
~~~  
Years later, the boy's mother would tell him the story of World War II from her perspective: "None of us wanted The War, but when it came to us, we knew that we were all in it together, and we knew what we had to do. While your father was overseas, I spent part of the war working in the Armstrong factory, making the rubber landing craft that our soldiers would need to land on the beaches. Later on, I went to work at New Ha-

ven Hospital as a nurse. There were almost no young men left at home to work in the factories, so women and girls took their place.  
"Your father wrote me letters every week, and told me not to worry, because he was in no danger at all, and that he would be coming home soon.  
"Your grandfather was the foreman of the Winchester machine shop, in the factory where they made the rifles and ammunition for the soldiers. Your grandmother worked for the Red Cross, organizing blood drives, because there was never enough blood for the military hospitals. Everyone pulled together, because we knew that we had to -- our boys in uniform were depend-



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

ing on us.  
"Food and gasoline were rationed, so most people walked or took the streetcar. We grew Victory Gardens, in order to make up for the vegetables that couldn't be gotten at the store.  
"The two buckle companies were hard at work, making buckles and fasteners for our servicemen's uniforms and equipment, and there was a cannon factory on Wood Street that made cannons for the Army.  
"Some of my friends from school worked at the AC Gilbert factory in New Haven, where they had stopped making toy trains, so that they could make the instruments for the bombers."

And then, mother took her 1942 West Haven High School yearbook down off the shelf. Carefully, she laid her finger beneath one photo after another, saying, "This boy went to the Pacific, and was killed there. This boy was fighting the Germans in France and never came home. This boy lost a leg. This boy came home and he looked the same to us, but inside...he...wasn't the same anymore..."  
They were boys, all of them, and clearly they were called upon to shoulder an enormous burden that was far beyond their years.  
This was pretty intense stuff for an eight-year old to hear and absorb, and the stark memory of that day and that story has stayed with the boy for more than 60 years.  
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Pvt. DANIEL R. "BOB" SHINE

# Museum map relates Gettysburg casualties

By Dominic Konareski  
Voice Writer

The West Haven Veterans Museum has a new addition to their Civil War section. In late July, the museum announced that they had acquired a map detailing the Battle of Gettysburg, where two New Haven Grays officers lost their lives in battle. The officers, Lt. Col. Henry Merwin and Capt. Jedidiah Chapman, Jr., have their death location marked on the map. Members of the New Haven

Grays fought at the Battle of Gettysburg as part of the 27th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Overall, when the Grays entered the battle, the regiment only had an estimated 75-160 men across the remaining companies as most of the regiment had been captured a month earlier at Chancellorsville. The 27th was led by Lt. Colonel Henry Merwin, who was one of the two key Grays casualties in what overall included 10 killed and 23 wounded for a near 50% casualty rate.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the United States Army consisted of some 16,000 soldiers, with the majority of them stationed west of the Mississippi River. After the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter on April 12th, 1861, it became clear to President Lincoln that the Union Army would need more men. The immediate post-attack on Fort Sumter would see President Lincoln call for 75,000 volunteer soldiers to help fight the Confederate Army off.

See Map, page 15

Legal Notice

WEST HAVEN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the Democratic party will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 for nomination to the office indicated below.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party endorsed candidates are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

| OFFICE   | PARTY    | CANDIDATE    | ADDRESS                             |
|----------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Governor | Democrat | *Ned Lamont  | 4 Ashton Dr, Greenwich, CT 06831    |
| Governor | Democrat | Josh Elliott | 28 Cobblestone Dr, Hamden, CT 06518 |

Early Voting-Location 355 Main ST Lower Level

August 03, 2026 - 10:00am to 6:00pm  
August 04, 2026 - 8:00am to 8:00pm  
August 05, 2026 - 10:00am to 6:00pm  
August 06, 2026 - 8:00am to 8:00pm  
August 07, 2026 - 10:00am to 6:00pm  
August 08, 2026 - 10:00am to 6:00pm  
August 09, 2026 - 10:00am to 6:00pm

Election Day Voting – Tuesday, August 11, 2026 6:00am-8:00pm

| District | Location          |                              |
|----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1        | City Hall         | 355 Main Street – (Basement) |
| 2        | Savin Rock School | 50 Park Street               |
| 3        | Washington School | 369 Washington Ave           |
| 4        | UNH Student Hall  | 898 First Ave                |
| 5        | Carrigan School   | 2 Tetlow Street              |
| 6        | Forest School     | 95 Burwell Rd                |
| 7        | Molloy School     | 255 Meloy Rd                 |
| 8        | Mackrille School  | 806 Jones Hill Road          |
| 9        | Seth Haley School | 146 South Street             |
| 10       | Pagels School     | 26 Benham Hill Road          |

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following location 355 Main Street, 3rd Floor  
Dated at West Haven, Connecticut, this 6 day of July, 2026  
Town Clerk John Lewis  
Town of West Haven



The map detailing the New Haven Grays at Gettysburg.

## Commission: Mullin named new officer

Continued from page 3

Association and has participated in numerous community clean-up projects throughout the city. Commission Chairman Steven R. Mullins welcomed Mullin’s appointment, noting that her administrative expertise, attention to detail, and long-standing commitment to public service make her exceptionally suited for the position. “The Recording Secretary plays a vital role in preserving the official history of the Commission’s work,” he said. “Kim-Marie’s professionalism and organizational skills will be a tremendous asset as the Commission continues serving West Haven’s large rental community.” Re-established in 2024 by Mayor Dorinda A. Borer, after a 30-year hiatus, the West Haven Fair Rent Commission helps protect tenants from excessive rent increases and unlivable housing conditions. The Commission hears complaints on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 355 Main St. Renters can file complaint applications in the Office of Town and City Clerk John Lewis on the first floor of City Hall. For additional information regarding the City of West Haven Fair Rent Commission, please contact the Corporation Counsel’s Office at: (203) 937-3600.

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1. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries border Argentina?
2. GAMES: What is a perfect score in a bowling game?
3. TELEVISION: In the animated series "Family Guy," what kind of creature is often fighting with Peter?

# Festival: *Concerts highlight ‘26 edition*

lined up to take a five-minute flight aboard two helicopters up and down the West Haven shoreline.

West Haven’s Police and Fire departments handed out informational materials and promotional items at their tables.

Firefighters of the West Haven Fire Department, led by Fire Marshal Roger Sicotte, demonstrated the department’s 35-foot smoke trailer and showed children what to do in case of a fire.

To help festivalgoers stay cool and hydrated, the Fire Department set up a cooling tent and misters, and the Regional Water Authority set up its Water Wagon.

The kids zone featured Bache the Clown, crafts, face painting and games, including a beach scavenger hunt and a sandcastle contest sponsored by Surfside Veterans.

The zone also included a children’s concert by West Haven’s own Judy Pancoast. The Grammy-nominated recording artist hosted a meet-and-greet after the concert.

West Haven’s finest made it two in a row, winning the second annual cornhole tournament against the city’s bravest for bragging rights until next year’s contest.

West Haven firefighters demonstrated the Jaws of Life tool by prying open parts of a vehicle to free those trapped inside.

Members of West Haven Professional Firefighters Local 1198 held their annual fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. All proceeds went to MDA, including sales from beverages, popcorn and chips and ticket sales from a bounce house, a dunk tank, a speed pitch and raffles.

Night 2’s musical opener, Bo and the Hot Heads, featuring music scene veterans Rich Weber, Rob Hames, Lou D’Amato and Max Cappello, performed energetic covers of party rock anthems that also got people on the dance floor.

West Haven’s flagship festival was established in 1982 by the Chamber of Commerce — initially under the direction of Brian M. Stone, David Gesler and Michael Shiner and later by John L. Perrone and wife Mary Perrone — to bring organizations, clubs, businesses and families together for a summer event that celebrates life in one of America’s oldest coastal communities.

From the dawn of the Savin Rock House hotel in 1838, the Rock had long been a resort hub until it was officially incorporated as an amusement park by the Savin Rock Park Co. on Memorial Day 1925, when it opened to 300,000 visitors and 66,000 automobiles in one spectacular day.

For the next four decades, the famous seaside park captured the hearts and imaginations of “Rock rats” young and old. “The playground of New England” shuttered on Sept. 21, 1966, to pave the way for the Savin Rock Urban Renewal Project.

Photos by Lindsay Katz

## Fest fun!

Music has always been a big part of the Savin Rock Festival from its inception in 1982. This year four bands took the stage at the Old Grove Park Cover bands Bohemian Queen and Bee-Gees Gold, as well as B and the Hot Heads and the ever-popular Rum Runners. For those so inclined, there was dancing. And for those looking for something else, the helicopter rides returned and were a daylong attraction.

