

THE WESTIE WIRE

Brought to you by University of New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission

Interview With Mayor
Rossi - pg.2

Canal Dock Boathouse
Opens on Long
Wharf - pg.3

The West Haven
Community House - pg.3

Business Spotlight - pg.5

Student Spotlight - pg.6



Letter From The Chair

Dear Fellow Westies,

My name is Marcin Stankevitch and I am the chairman of the University of New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission or MAC. The MAC is a student run organization which is advised by Dr. Chris Haynes and works closely with the Office of the Mayor in West Haven. Our main goal is to foster a deeper relationship between the University of New Haven and the City of West Haven which we do through events like WestFest, the West Haven Food Shuttle, and this Newsletter.

The Westie Wire newsletter is an initiative started in the Fall of 2016 which aims to educate students about the City of West Haven and to educate residents of West Haven about our campus. In this newsletter we highlight local West Haven businesses and organizations that are staples of the community. In addition, we discuss aspects of the University of New Haven campus to give West Haven residents some insight as to what the University has to offer.

I would especially like to thank our sponsors Casa Bianca Pizza, Saoco Restaraunt, Elm Diner, and ID Brazil for being supportive members of the West Haven community. Most importantly, I thank you, the reader, for supporting the mission of the MAC and the hard work of our commission members.

Thank you,

Marcin Stankevitch

Chair – The Mayor's Advisory Commission



Interview With Mayor Rossi

By Keyri Ambrocio

We asked West Haven's Mayor Nancy Rossi a few questions about her experience as mayor and about her work with the University of New Haven to gather more insight into her goals for the city of West Haven.

*** What is the most surprising thing you've learned being West Haven's mayor?**

The most surprising thing I have learned in my time as mayor is how much people, in city hall and residents, care about getting involved in bettering our City. I think that too many people forget about the importance of local government and how local officials can have the biggest impact in the lives of citizens. Talking with residents or seeing new community groups form, such as West Haven United, tell me that there are so many people who want to see West Haven succeed and are willing to help do the work to get it there.

*** What has been your biggest challenge as mayor of West Haven? Your biggest accomplishment?**

The biggest challenge I have faced during my time as mayor, was entering the Mayor's office with a city facing a large deficit. This is something I knew my administration had to fix and I am confident that we have taken the necessary steps to get West Haven back on track.

I think my biggest accomplishment so far as mayor has been preventing the city from entering Tier IV. Upon entering the Mayor's Office, the City was in great financial distress and under the watch of the State's Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB). Entering Tier IV would mean that the City of West Haven would lose fiscal control of the city. Through proper planning and budgeting we were able to prevent this from happening.

*** What motivated you to run for the office of mayor?**

What motivated me most to run for mayor was the irresponsible spending and the large deficit that was present in the city. I was confident that I could do a better job at handling the city's finances and make the decisions necessary to ensure our financial future in West Haven will be secure.

*** How has the University of New Haven affected your job as mayor?**

The University has always been a major partner in the community and I believe that they have the best interest of West Haven in mind. The University has taken many steps to help develop our city and the students and professors give back through community service and by assisting the city with research, projects, and so much more. I'm glad that the University of New Haven can call our city home.

*** How do you envision working with the University of New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission?**

I envision working with the Mayor's Advisory Commission to further the goal of collaboration between the University and the City. Working with motivated students is always a pleasure and I enjoy participating in events such as WestFest and the West Haven Food Trail. Dr. Haynes and his students have been great assets to help build the West Haven community.

*** What are the benefits of having a University located in the City of West Haven?**

I think one of the major benefits that the University of New Haven brings to West Haven is the bright students who not only do work in West Haven but are able to gain careers beyond college that benefit so many people. The students at the University of New Haven are an important part of West Haven and thankfully they have chosen our City to call home for four years and beyond! Some of these students have also been able to work in my office, and throughout the city, to help foster cooperation between the University and the City.

The University has also invested in our city tremendously, both on campus and throughout the city. Additionally, students and staff at the University have a positive impact on our economy because they frequent local businesses and support local events.

*** What are your current goals for the City of West Haven?**

My main goal has been to turn around the City's finances. I am confident that through my work on the City's budget and by working with the State's Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB), my administration has taken the necessary steps to get West Haven back on sound financial footing.

I also want to see West Haven flourish economically in all areas of the city. Seeing developers take interest in West Haven is something that I like to see and want to continue that trend by working closely with anyone willing to invest in our city.

Canal Dock Boathouse Opens In Long Wharf

By Russell Rea Trebisacci

It has been almost four hundred years since the first Puritan settlers of New Haven sought to exploit the shoreline's potential as a port, and twenty years since the city has sought to reunite with those waters.

The construction of the Canal Dock Boathouse has been visible from I-95 for some time. Now that the building is complete, if you happen to be driving by Long Wharf, you'll be able to see the new Canal Dock Boathouse, which opened this September.

The Canal Dock Boathouse will host sailing opportunities and fitness classes that include indoor or outdoor rowing instruction. In addition to this, the boathouse will provide equipment storage to its members.

The building hopes to revitalize the waterfront by reaching out to residents and schools around the area, including The University of New Haven, which plans to house a new marine bio lab in the facility.

"Students are excited to have access to this state-of-the-art facility," says Dr. Carlile, associate professor and coordinator for the marine biology program at The University of New Haven. "We will be able to do many lab exercises and student projects by just walking out the door! The boathouse itself is also next to a mud flat and just down the street from a salt marsh. These are two habitats that we frequent in several of our courses."

If you're a marine bio student, you can look forward to multiple "hands on and field classes, including Oceanography, Marine Botany, Marine Ecology, Aquaculture courses, and student research projects," says Dr. Carlile.

Now, "our students will be able to learn and practice new techniques on a scale that we aren't currently able to offer on our main campus."

The West Haven Community House

By Jennifer Vidito

The West Haven Community House, a private non-profit organization, aims to serve the West Haven community. Through their current three programs, they work to enhance and support children, families, and individuals with disabilities within the community. They provide professional services promoting development at both individual levels and within-group relationships. The West Haven Community House promotes diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness among members of the community through its many programs



SAOCO

COLOMBIAN RESTAURANT
456 FOREST RD, WEST HAVEN CT
203-389-0038



STUDENTS RECIEVE 10% DISCOUNT



and services. For the last 70 years, the organization has made a lasting positive impact on the West Haven community.

In 1939, Pauline Lang, along with other community volunteers, facilitated a variety of West Haven public meetings for residents to discuss the issues West Haven faced. It became transparent that West Haven needed a community center to enhance the quality of life of all West Haven residents and to serve as a positive en-vironment for children. To create this vision, a capital campaign was undertaken and in August of 1941, the West Haven Community House Association was incor-porated. Located on Elm Street, the Community House became West Haven's very first community center. Since its beginning, the Community House has been renovat-ed to accommodate the increasing demand and needs of the community. One such renovation is the Disabilities Services center located on Campbell Avenue and resi-dences for adults with intellectual disabilities among the community. They have grown and expanded throughout the years, offering a variety of events and after-school programs, including programs for children, teens, fami-lies, and adults with disabilities. Currently, there are three programs and services for members of the com-munity: Head Start, Children and Youth Services, and Community Connections. Head Start is a school readi-ness program for preschool-aged children of income eligible families. Children and Youth Services serve school-aged children through a before and after school program and a summer program. Additionally, Com-munity Connections has arranged residential and Day Service Programs for adults with intellectual disabilities.

The Community House's programs have proven valuable to the West Haven community. Through their Head Start program, which provides children with quality preschool education, the Community House has prepared 144 children for success in school.

The Community House has also provided children and youth services by assisting more than 300 working families with affordable childcare before and after school and during summer vacations so that parents are ensured of their child's safety and well-being while they are working. Their Community Connections program, which aids adults with intellectual disabilities through day services and residential services, has assisted more than 100 individuals in West Haven with the increase of independence, improving their daily life, and community inclusion.

This organization is essential because it provides aid to the specific needs of the West Haven community to nearly 1,000 individuals and families. The institution constantly evaluates West Haven's specific characteristics through their community-wide needs assessment. This assessment helps to identify the most critical problems children and families in West Haven face so that they can continue their efforts towards sustainability. Patricia Stevens, executive director of the Community House expressed, "The West Haven Community House is like a trusted family member ensuring that loved ones are safe and thriving. For more than 77 years, our programs focus on providing learning opportunities that accommodate the different stages of development which, in turn, produce successful individuals and families and a stronger and more caring community."

The Community House plans to expand their programs into the Allintown area in order to make their services more accessible. The Community House also hopes to continue to enhance their Children and Youth Services to include middle and high school students and are currently piloting programs that "Teach Kids Music" in partnership with the Rockhouse School of Music Foundation in hopes to engage younger children to develop a passion for music.

The West Haven Community House has several partnerships with the University of New Haven. The Community House hires many students to work in afterschool programs and provides a variety of internship and volunteer opportunities to participate in their Head Start and Community Connections programs. The Community House also collaborates with the President's Public Service Fellowship for its summer programs and a variety of University of New Haven courses for community service projects. Hundreds of university student-athletes, fraternity/sorority groups, and other service organizations have assisted within the Community House's Family Fun Walk fundraiser, recently renamed, "Rock & Stroll" event held in late September. The University of New Haven also provides financial support through their sponsorship of events and through their active board members, Ron Quagliani and Gayle Tagliatela.



To support this local community non-profit organization, you can donate either your money or your time by becoming a volunteer by contacting the Community House via email at info@whcommunityhouse.org or donating either at their website, www.whcommunity-house.org, or mail in a donation to 227 Elm Street, West Haven, CT 06516. You can also support the West Haven Community House by attending their special events, contributing to their annual fund campaign, and advocating for their services with friends, family, and neighbors.

203-843-4377

KAMBR2@UNH.NEWHAVEN.EDU

Interested in Advertising?
CONTACT KEYRI FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Business Spotlight: Casa Bianca Pizza

By Keyri Ambrocio

Casa Bianca Pizza has been a highlight of West Haven’s community since 1999, providing quality Italian food at an affordable price at its location in 217 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516. Shawn Ed has been Casa Bianca’s owner since 2016, creating new and exciting innovations. Shawn uses the same recipes and the same food as previous owners but has also focused on establishing close ties with the West Haven community.

Casa Bianca Pizza is open from 11am-11pm on Sunday and 11am-12pm from Monday to Saturday. Casa Bianca Pizza’s advertises their unbeatable prices, such as their famous everyday \$7.99 large cheese pizza. Casa Bianca Pizza also offers 10% off discounts to University of New Haven students, senior citizens, policemen, and firefighters, and 15% off for all University of New Haven student pickup. In the past two years, Shawn has introduced new, delicious food items including two new pizzas: grilled chicken pizza and grilled veggie pizza, four new buffalo chicken flavors: sweet teriyaki, garlic parmesan, red chili, and mango habanero, grilled hash browns, blue apple salad, and garlic knots. Among these innovations is the creation of an online ordering system, mobile app, and the use of delivery services, such as UberEats, GrubHub, DoorDash, Slice, and Eat24. Casa Bianca Pizza has also undergone stunning exterior renovation with its newest remodel.

Shawn Ed stresses the importance of giving back to the West Haven community, saying, “I not only want to profit from my restaurant but also want to build strong ties with the West Haven community by giving back to its people through discounts, affordable prices, and donations”.

Shawn Ed stresses the importance of giving back to the West Haven community, saying, “I not only want to profit from my restaurant but also want to build strong ties with the West Haven community by giving back to its people through discounts, affordable prices, and donations”. Shawn Ed is not only a member of West Haven’s Chamber of Commerce but also a sponsor to many West Haven schools, organizations, and events. Casa Bianca Pizza is a sponsor of West Haven’s DMV Express, University of New Haven’s basketball, football, and girl’s dance team, Savin Rock Community School’s PTA, West Haven High School’s PTA, West Shore Fire Department, St. Louis Church Summer Program, American Legion Baseball, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics CT, West Fest, and West Haven Fireworks.

Shawn Ed has improved Casa Bianca Pizza greatly as its third owner and has been able to open a new Casa Bianca Pizza location. In early November, Casa Bianca Pizza opened its second location at 669 Main Street, Ansonia, CT 06401. Shawn Ed looks forward to working toward his vision of Casa Bianca Pizza as a franchise with several locations in the next coming years. You can visit the pizzeria’s Facebook page “Casa Bianca Pizza West Haven” or on their website www.casabiancapizzawesthaven.com and call them at (203) 931-0666.

Stop by either of Casa Bianca Pizza’s locations at **217 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516** or **669 Main Street, Ansonia, CT 06401** to try their authentic, appetizing Italian food.



Meet Tim Anop

By Keyri Ambrocio

Tim Anop is a junior at the University of New Haven, from central Connecticut, majoring in criminal justice. Tim is passionate about history and politics. He is an avid golfer and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Tim chose the University of New Haven for its criminal justice program and says he is pleased with how the University has helped him with his personal growth. The criminal justice program revealed different aspects, like the political science program, to Tim and has assisted him in becoming more outspoken and engaged within the community.

Tim is taking advantage of all of the educational opportunities that the University of New Haven has to offer. As the vice president of the College Republicans, Tim has made an effort to create a safe environment for students to express their ideas and beliefs. Tim stresses, “It is important to care about the community as a whole and not just political ideals.”. The College Republicans not only aims to create a safe space for students but also to break any stereotypes related to Republicans. Their main goal is to educate the student body on what it means to be a Republican, as well as the conservative ideology of fiscal responsibility and limited government.

The College Republicans play a strong, active role on campus and within the outside community of West Haven. They work on campus closely with the political science department in the creation of discussions and panels for the student body. Tim emphasizes that the largest service that the College Republicans provide on campus is their environment of acceptance for all. In the West Haven community, the College Republicans collaborates with the West Haven Republican Town Committee and Republican candidates to promote their ideology. With the election season over, the College Republicans plan to participate additionally in community service for the town of West Haven.

Tim has shown leadership in his work with state representative Rob Sampson in his successful state representative campaign in Southington, Connecticut. Tim has been exposed to different aspects of running a successful campaign, such as marketing and constituent outreach. As one of two field managers, Tim had many responsibilities that ranged from coordinating ground game, canvassing and constituent outreach, to designing campaign mailers and helping maintain the campaign budget. He enjoyed reaching out to constituents and expressing his representative’s political ideals by attending various campaign events.

In the future, Tim hopes to pursue a career as a lobbyist to further express his views and work in future electoral campaigns. He might even consider running for office. It is clear that Tim’s experience at the University of New Haven will immensely benefit his future career goals. It is clear that Tim’s experience at the University of New Haven will immensely benefit his future career goals.

id Brazil
Churrascaria & restaurant bar

241 Elm St
West Haven, CT 06516
FULL BAR SERVICE

TUESDAY CLOSED
DOORS OPEN @ 12PM DAILY

LUNCH
\$7.99 lb
IN OR TAKE OUT
DINER STARTS AT 4PM
\$8.99 lb

Taste the real Brazilian Flavors

ALL YOU CAN EAT LUNCH
\$10.99
MONDAY TO THURSDAY
SUPPER ONLY

RODIZIO
ALL DAY EVERY DAY
\$29.95

ALL YOU CAN FIT
\$6.00
AFTER 5:00PM
MALL COUNTRY

www.idbrazil.com
Tel: 203.932.4000 Fax: 203.932.0092
idbrazilrestaurant@yahoo.com

Special thanks to College Republicans for helping with distribution.



Westie Wire Staff

Chris Haynes
Faculty Director

Keyri Ambrocio
Director & Editor

Karina Krul
Managing Editor

Russell Rea Trebisacci
Designer

Marcin Stankevitch
U New Haven MAC Chair

Jennifer Vidito
Staff Writer