Express yourself in our Letters to the Editor



To submit a letter: **Letters to the Advisor should include the writer's name, address and phone number. The writer's signature should appear at the end of the letter. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters will be accepted through Wednesday at 5pm. We will extend the deadline if circumstances allow and providing we have space available. Letters must be no longer than 400 words due to space limitations. The Advisor does not edit letters which are published as they are received. If a letter is questionable, the writer will be contacted for verification. The Advisor reserves the right to not publish letters that may be personally offensive.**

What Conspiracy?!

To The Editor: May 29, 2025

I am responding to a recent letter from Michael Nappe, a member of the North Haven Democratic Town Committee (DTC). (I am a lifelong Democrat). Mr. Nappe said there is a "conspiracy theory revealed by some folks" that children were used "as bait" to get parents to vote in the budget referendum. My response: What conspiracy?! A PTA flyer advertised a free popsicle party on the Green from 4-6 PM on Referendum Day. The flyer said "PTA will be handing out popsicles to children with voting adults." Dot Logan, a fellow DTC member, wrote that it was a simple message for parents to vote "and then bring your child to the Green for a popsicle." Dot is correct. There was no conspiracy, Mr. Nappe, it actually happened.

I am clearly one of the "some folks" that Mr. Nappe was referring to. I wish people would actually listen to what I say. At the May Board of Finance meeting, (attended by Mr. Nappe), I said the popsicle party was a smart marketing maneuver. I was thankful for the large voter turnout, the largest by far in at least 20 years. I just hope all those new voters will keep voting, and not just because of a free treat for the kids.

I never said a yes vote was required to attain a popsicle, as Mr. Nappe claimed. However, two signs bothered me. The PTA Facebook page posted a photo of a child holding a sign that said "Vote Yes Now you get a free pop." The second sign was displayed on the commercial popsicle truck giving out the treats that said "Vote Yes," with images of popsicles. We consider the right to vote as one of our most cherished freedoms. I said these two signs went over the line and impacted the sanctity of the vote. That is all I said. It seemed like a bad optic for the Town. It reminded me of the over-commercialization of Christmas. That is my opinion.

I also had concerns that children were holding signs very near the road. It looked dangerous to me.

Mr. Nappe referenced "middle aged bureaucrats." How typical! Previously, a DTC member wrote a sexist remark that I should listen more and talk less. Now, an attack on my age. What will be next?

Respectfully submitted, Sally J. Buemi, Third Selectman, North Haven

The Board of Finance Has Thinkers Too...

To The Editor: May 28, 2025

I would like to respond to the May 20th letter by Selectman Sally Buemi which I believe misrepresented the demanding work that was put into this year's budget by the Board of Finance (BOF) and its members. Specifically, Ms. Buemi calls out its Republican members who she claims failed the challenge of balancing the needs of the Town with what the taxpayers can afford. In fact, she claims, erroneously, that she did not see any meaningful scrutiny of the budget requests.

Each year, all the department heads meet with the BOF and present their budget requests. These workshops are held after our regular meetings and on two Saturday mornings. These workshops require the members to review the departmental budgets beforehand and allow them to query the department heads on their needs and wants. These meetings can run several hours each. This year the last of those meetings took place on February 19th. Between February 19th and our regular March meeting (also the 19th) the members prepared their list of "decrements", i.e.-suggested reductions to the budget. Members may so individually or may caucus within their party. Historically the Republican members meet on one or more occasions to discuss and agree on any proposed cuts.

At the March BOF meeting the Republican members presented proposed cuts across 40-line items of $2,403,902. Nancy Barrett, a minority member, proposed cuts from 24-line items of $2,843,752. Importantly, $1,400,000 of her cuts were to come from the Board of Education (BOE). Keep in mind, the department heads within the BOE initially submitted to Superintendent Stirk a requested 14.8% increase. Mr. Stirk requested revisions and submitted a budget request to Mr. Freda with a 10.7% increase. Mr. Freda asked the BOE to look at their budget once again and that resulted in the budget, as submitted to the BOF, asking for a 7.0% increase.

So, the Republican and Democratic members went through the same process, each submitted their proposed cuts. The sum of each party's cuts was within striking distance of each other, although notably Ms. Barrett's cuts inordinately penalized the BOE. So, how does Selectman Buemi conclude the Republican members failed the taxpayers of North Haven? Did her Democratic colleague fail similarly? Maybe the Democratic failure was greater given its overreliance on cutting the BOE?

Ms. Buemi also criticized the BOF for not adequately scrutinizing the non-tax revenue side of the budget. Let me give you some information which will be helpful here. There are only twenty-seven lines of addressable town revenue, you cannot count the eight lines of federal and state funding, the BOF has no ability to impact those lines. Using fiscal 2026 budget numbers, these twenty-seven lines total $4,467,000 out of a budget of $137,612,317 or 3.2%. Over half of these lines (14) are for under $10,000. In fact, six lines account for $3,795,000 or 85% of the addressable town income. These are Building Office fees, short-term interest, Town Clerk fees, Fire fees, Town miscellaneous receipts and payment in lieu of taxes.

Ms. Buemi is a regular attendee at the BOF meetings. She knows well these six revenue lines were discussed numerous times during the budget process. Additionally, these same revenue lines were commented on and questioned at every one of our regular meetings. I examined each of these revenue assumptions throughout the budget process. I commented on them again during our May 21st meeting. Remember, these are assumptions and if we are wrong and miss our budget, there is little we can do. If expenses are running over budget, the town has levers to manage through that, withhold purchases, cut back on discretionary items, defer capital expenditures, freeze hiring. If revenues come up short, the town has almost no ability to force them to come in.

A year from now, some revenue lines will come in over budget and some under budget, just like expenses will. On balance, I am comfortable with the revenue assumptions in this budget. I am also fully confident that this BOF and its Republican majority, did its utmost best to represent the interests of the town. No one, not I, not the other members of the BOF want higher property taxes. Yet, we all understand that living in this great town comes with responsibility and cost.

Ultimately, it is the voters of the Town of North Haven that got to make the final budget decision and that they did. Convincingly, by a margin of 65% for and 35% against.

Respectfully, Timothy Doheny, Chairman,
Board of FinanceTown of North Haven

Friends Of The North Haven Library Receives Award From Liberty Bank



Pictured: An award of $1825.00 to the Friends of the North Haven Library was accepted last week by Kristin Cusano, Treasurer.

North Haven: The award was given by Liberty Bank "Join Us in Giving Back" contest. The contest invited community members to vote for their favorite local causes.

The award will go to purchasing supplies, launching new programs or expanding outreach.

We thank everyone who voted for us!

Senator Cicarella Proudly Votes "Yes" To Support State Trooper Salary Increases



State Senator Paul Cicarella

Senior Deputy Republican Leader Paul Cicarella **(R-North Haven),** ranking member of the Public Safety and Security Committee, has proudly voted "yes" to support salary increases for Connecticut's state troopers.

"I will always support the work done by our state troopers, who run toward the chaos every day when they put on their uniforms. The challenges they face, the risks they take, and the stress on their families are extraordinary. Amidst this chaos, our troopers go to work each day not knowing if they will come home. They do this because they want to help and are committed to serving others. These increases show that we appreciate their efforts.

"We have many vacancies within our State Police force that need to be filled. We must recruit—and retain—the best. These increases will help address the staffing shortage and continue to support the recruitment of top talent while keeping our communities safe," he said.

FOR SALE: Ladies bathrobe, pink, S.P.A. (Brookstone), original, never opened package, universal size $12; (203) 606-0932

FOR SALE: Six glass soda bottles within cardboard Pepsi carry-case $55; Gulf gasoline porcelain sign $45; (203) 239-8060 •

WANTED: Collector wants to buy early historic New Haven County related items, maps, books, engravings, paintings, paper items or actual products; (203) 915-7662 •

FOR SALE: 32" TV, flat screen, Visio, works $35; (203) 915-9458 •

FOR SALE: Da Vinci 12" black plastic slate roof tiles, new in factory strapped bundles $100; call Jerry, (203) 804-8400 •

FOR SALE: Stanley outdoor plant hangers/shelf brackets, brand new, sealed, with hooks, hardware, 2 prs./$6; (203) 606-0932

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Income cannot exceed $63,700/year for 1 Person, $72,800/year for 2 People.

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Blood Pressure Clinic	Weekly Movies
Town Shopping Bus Availability	Ice Cream Socials
24 Hour Staff Coverage	Pet Therapy
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*Most services listed above included in monthly rent.

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