

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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.

Democratic Elected Officials Shouldn't Be Perpetual "Naysayers"

To The Editor: April 23, 2025

I was surprised and saddened to see that my attempt to encourage residents to vote in favor of the proposed town budget was twisted into a series of false, negative and personal attacks in last week's Advisor. Asking that our elected officials listen to their constituents is the bedrock of effective and responsive representation.

So, let me set the record straight: as a proud Democrat, I'm incredibly frustrated with several of our Democrat representatives, because I don't see myself, my family, my party or our community well-represented in our town. Democrats cannot simply be a party of "no" – or "no new taxes" in this case. We have to be a party that stands for something, that advances a positive vision for our town, and that makes a good faith effort to work across party lines with Republicans and Independents to find common ground.

No one wants to pay more taxes – and it's understandably difficult to ask residents to pay more for the same services today than what it cost them yesterday. While our town consistently does more with less, costs inevitably go up, and many of our expenditures are fixed. That's why the proposed budget increase is necessary to sustain the current level of services our town provides and to support our schools, police department and fire department. It is a budget that is responsible and reasonable – and, if we fail to pass it, the impact could be devastating and result in cuts to critical services for North Haven children, families and seniors.

We live in challenging economic times, and if we all pitch in and come together as a community, we will be able to better weather the storm and protect and preserve the town we all love and cherish. That's why I'm urging my fellow residents to VOTE YES on the proposed budget on May 20th – and that's what responsible governance and leadership looks like.

Our Democratic elected officials shouldn't just be perpetual naysayers and critics, they should be constructive, solutions-oriented and lead. They should listen to the ideas and concerns of their fellow residents, be clear about their own policy positions and priorities, and then advance a positive agenda for our town.

Respectfully,
David Cohen, North Haven

A Response to Mr. Cohen's April 15th Letter

To The Editor: April 23, 2025

I offer this response to the April 15th Letter to the Editor submitted by David Cohen. In addition to sharing his opinions about the proposed town budget, Mr. Cohen also launched a self-serving attack against me. His libelous accusation that I "sought to malign the character of our Republican First Selectman", is both false and ridiculous. I challenge Mr. Cohen to prove that the budget data that I have shared with the public was "misinformation" or provided in "bad faith". By contrast, Mr. Cohen used fear tactics, referencing threats of "cutbacks on critical services", especially if the budget is defeated. BOE advocates, including Cohen, use the per pupil expenditure (PPE) comparisons to justify the proposed education budget increase. However, at the April 7th Budget Public Hearing, Superintendent Stirk agreed with me when I said that the PPE figure is meaningless, given the way it is calculated.

Moreover, during the April 16th Board of Finance meeting, Mr. Cohen aggressively disapproved of any budget criticisms from his fellow Democrats. Perhaps he was daydreaming during the part of the meeting in which I demonstrated Democratic values by advocating on behalf of the North Haven working class and the senior citizens living on fixed incomes and praised the dedicated first responders. Mr. Cohen also didn't notice that I was the only BOF member who actively tried to make changes to the proposed budget and improve the chances that it would pass at the referendum. I find it interesting that Mr. Cohen did not object to the Republican BOF members who passively approved the budget "as is", boldly risking budget rejection by the referendum voters. Remember folks, Mr. Freda stated at the Budget Public Hearing that he believes there is only a 50-50 chance this budget will pass at the May 20th Referendum.

One last point, at the April BOF meeting, Mr. Cohen flip-flopped on his initial support for adding 4 firefighters to the proposed budget—saying to the audience: "you are in good hands with the North Haven Fire Department". It seems to me that his allegiance to Mr. Freda is stronger than his dedication to the Fire Department. So, perhaps in addition to "standing firm with his Republican friends", David Cohen should just go ahead and "switch parties", as he threatened to do.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nancy E.V. Barrett, MBA, North Haven

Invest in Our Shared Future

To The Editor: April 23, 2025

Budget conversations in North Haven often center around what's right in front of us: fixing the Rec Center roof, keeping town staffing levels appropriate, ensuring there are no cuts to teaching positions. All important, but when each of us picks a priority and draws a line on what we're willing to fund, we risk missing the bigger picture.

The real question isn't just what we're spending—it's what our budgets are building.

Education spending isn't a cost—it's an investment in the kind of town we want to be. Every dollar we invest in public education returns many times over in economic growth, public safety, and civic engage-

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR PERMIT

This is to give notice that I, LESLIE E. FORBES, of 30 SO. TURNPIKE RD., WALLINGFORD, CT 06492-3458 have filed an application placarded 04/10/2025 with the Department of Consumer Protection to add live entertainment for my existing NON PROFIT CLUB LIQUOR permit located at 23 PRINCE ST., WALLINGFORD, CT 06492-4119. The business is owned by: MAJOR RAOUL LUFBERRY VFW POST #591. Live Entertainment Added: Disc Jockeys.

ment. According to the Learning Policy Institute, every \$1 invested in quality early education alone yields up to \$7 in long-term savings through reduced social service needs and increased tax revenue. Those dollars don't just support today's classrooms, but tomorrow's property values, workforce development, and community health.

Our school system is highly ranked, contributing directly to our town's appeal for families and businesses. But we continue to ask our schools to do more with less. Cutting more corners now risks a future where North Haven becomes a less desirable place to put down roots. Conversely, continued and strategic investment pays in dividends.

And it's not just education. The town budget shapes the infrastructure that underpins our quality of life—public safety, parks and recreation, road repairs, and senior services. These services are not luxuries; they're the foundation of a safe and thriving town.

But here's the truth: to be successful we must fix Connecticut's upside-down tax system. For too long, everyday families have shouldered the burden while billion-dollar corporations and the ultra-wealthy pay far less than their fair share. We need real tax justice at the state level, and we need our state leaders to fully fund public education, infrastructure, and local aid—not just promise it. Working people deserve more than scraps from Hartford. We deserve our fair share.

Please vote on the budget on May 20th and remember- budgets are moral documents. They reflect not just what we can afford, but what we value. If we want North Haven to remain a place where families thrive, businesses grow, and community flourishes, we must be willing to invest in more than just fixed roofs—we must invest in the people under them.

Brandi Mandato, North Haven

Listen to and Address Concerns About Potential Cuts

To The Editor: April 24, 2025

I am writing to echo the call to vote YES at the May 20th budget referendum made by David Cohen in a recent letter.

In her own letter, North Haven's third selectman, Sally Buemi, attempted to correct David on multiple trivial points and categorized his suggestion that she listen more and talk less during public comment as sexist. I fully believe that Selectwoman Buemi has experienced myriad instances of sexism throughout both her personal and professional life. I believe that the suggestion of "talking less" could have struck a nerve based on her lived experience.

I also believe context matters. As the highest ranking elected Democrat in North Haven, Selectwoman Buemi holds a position of authority over town residents. She is privileged to have "a seat at the table" and the responsibility to represent her constituents. Selectwoman Buemi spoke for 20 minutes - nearly 15% of the total public comment time - during the budget hearing. The entire purpose of a public hearing is for the PUBLIC to have the opportunity to express their views and to be heard by their elected officials – not the other way around. In this context, to level the charge of "sexist" against David or any resident for urging our elected representatives to spend more time listening to their constituents and less time talking is absurd.

It is also a very convenient distraction from David's actual points, shirking any accountability as a Democratic representative. Time and time again, I have seen Selectwoman Buemi cast doubt on the work of our district leadership and enter into Board of Ed budget discussions from a place of criticism and conspiracy rather than advocacy. To any objective observer, David's opinion on the importance of passing the budget, shared by many other speakers at the public hearing, was stated clearly. All our elected officials in North Haven, including Selectwoman Buemi, need to listen to and address the concerns about potential cuts.

Ultimately, I want North Haven children to attend schools that receive the funding they need to thrive. I want emergency services to be able to reach North Haven residents quickly. I want our community to have access to all the services that help make a community like ours strong and vibrant. Our ongoing budget situation makes these things more of a hope than a given - so I especially want our elected officials to work towards real solutions rather than spending time politicking in the local papers about the minutiae of personal grievances.

I strongly encourage all residents to vote Yes on May 20th.

Respectfully,
Eileen Honan Stabbe, North Haven

WANTED: Antiques or collectibles, highest prices paid for paintings, furniture, glassware, pottery, documents, photographs, bottles, anything old, one piece or entire estates, cash paid; (203) 915-7662

FOR SALE: Drive walker, bought at Apex, handles with rubber grips, folds, sturdy, blue, great cond., used mainly inside \$50; (203) 214-5885

FOR SALE: Craftsman 21" push mower, easy start, B&S engine, oil changed, blade sharpened \$80; (203) 214-5232

FOR SALE: Princess House glass coffee mugs, exc. condition \$25; crystal stem Margarita glasses, never used, (10) \$35; (203) 239-7916

FOR SALE: DVD/VHS televised poker, call (203) 361-7943

THE ADVISOR April 29, 2025 PAGE 5

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Granny's Attic Antiques

342 State St., North Haven
Furniture - Glassware - Jewellery

We buy one item to the whole estate

We run Estate Sales and Clean Outs

Moving or down sizing and don't know how, call us we will help

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WANTED: Antique country store items, old tins, bins, signs, boxes or anything related; (203) 915-7662

FREE: Used screen tent, poles, stakes; (203) 269-3403, leave message

FOR SALE: Large Broyhill slate blue sectional couch with storage ottoman, comfortable, good cond. \$300; (203) 671-5394

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HAMDEN

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE PERSONAL ITEMS BEING STORED BY THE TOWN OF HAMDEN AFTER A LAWFUL EVICTION ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL STATUTES OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT 47A-42-C

NAME(S)	ADDRESS	EVICTION DATE
Bobby Coker	370 Mix Ave. Apt 3E	03/12/2025
James Spann	306 Pine rock Ave D4	03/18/2025
Tavonn Jenkins	650 Mix Ave. Apt 5K	
Linda Flowers a/k/a Jane Doe	10 Kaye Plaza Apt E17	03/19/2025

Anyone wishing to reclaim their belongings must do so by 4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Call Ace Van & Storage at 203.271-1555.

Items not claimed by that time will be sold at auction on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 9:00 am at Ace Van & Storage, 210 Realty Dr., Cheshire, CT.

Auction will be by lot only, with a minimum bid of \$25.00. Bids must be paid in full by cash at the conclusion of the bidding process. Successful bidder must have items cleared by 4:30pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

Items not sold will be disposed of immediately after the auction. Anyone owing fees to the Town of Hamden are prohibited from bidding in this auction. Anyone purchasing orders must have appropriate transportation for immediate removal.

Think Spring!

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