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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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.**

North Haven Planning and Zoning Power Grab

To The Editor: May 21, 2025

North Haven residents need to fight the power grab by our Planning and Zoning Commission.

Last fall, North Haven's Planning and Zoning Commission voted to make cannabis dispensaries illegal in town. They did this along a party line vote at 11:30 at night, after a public hearing that was not publicized. A petition from more than 100 residents did not change their minds, and the company that wanted to open this new business is now suing the town.

North Haven has traditionally been a town that seeks community input on most decisions. Our entire town votes on our budget every year. When new Senior Housing was being discussed near Clintonville School, there were community meetings and mock-ups showing the project and its impacts. We even had a town meeting in January about new trash cans!

And yet, Republicans on the Planning and Zoning Commission decided that they didn't need to hear from North Haven voters before making their decision. There are more than thirty cannabis dispensaries in Connecticut already, but these three P&Z members decided that this kind of business isn't welcome in town.

Planning and Zoning Commission members will be on the ballot this fall. When you vote, ask: does this candidate want to represent me? Or do they want to make rules for the whole town in the middle of the night?

Steve Gifford, North Haven

A Win For Our Town

To The Editor: May 22, 2025

Passing the North Haven budget is a win for our town. We collectively approached this budget cycle with a sense of urgency. Turnout was higher than it's been in years, lines were out the door most of the day.

I spent the day at the polls talking to voters and asking them what they thought about this year's budget and the direction of our town. Responses ranged from concerns about rising costs to services being cut and the desire to invest in our future. What emerged from this vote is a bipartisan coalition of parents, teachers, seniors, working class voters, small business owners, public servants and Democrats, Republicans and Independents joining together to support this budget and the long term investment in our town.

Good investments pay dividends, and there is no better investment than one in ourselves. There's a reason why North Haven is such a desirable place to live and why so many choose to call North Haven home generation after generation.

I am proud to call North Haven home.

Sincerely,
David Cohen, North Haven

Keep Showing Up and Coming Together For Our Community

To The Editor: May 22, 2025

On May 20th North Haven voters turned out to the polls in record numbers, the highest in over a decade. Almost twice as many voters showed up to this referendum as did last year at the first budget vote. Over five times more showed in 2025 than in 2022. We've still got a long way to go to engage the full voting public in the participatory budgeting process, but this is movement in the right direction.

When voters show up as they did this week, it's clear they are looking to ensure our town continues to invest in its residents, its infrastructure, and its services. This spirit was on display both inside the polling places, where lines stretched out the door (perhaps a first for a referendum vote) and outside, where parents shepherded their little ones from the polls to the town green to get a popsicle from the PTA and encourage future participation in the democratic process. This sense of community engagement and participation was inspiring and uplifting, a testament to a town who takes its civic responsibilities seriously and shows up to maintain its quality of life.

That being said, many will have difficult days ahead. For far too long the municipal burden on funding things like education has been heavy, and North Haven is at a particular disadvantage, ranking 139 out of 169 CT towns in per pupil state money by the School Finance Accountability Project. The tax burden in our state disproportionately falls on folks who can't afford to pay more. Our state representatives consistently vote against the interest of working families who need higher wages and the job security that comes with strong unions, consumer protections from scams and price-gouging, access to affordable housing or cheaper rent, and relief in the form of better access to healthcare or better-regulated utilities. Nation-wide tariff-induced squeezing is right around the corner.

All of these costs make today's dollar go a shorter distance than it used to. That's why we've got to keep coming together, as North Haven did this week, to demand better from our town, our state, and our country. We've got to keep showing up for our friends and neighbors in need, lending a helping hand, and giving back to a community that offers us so much. The future is ours if we continue to show up to meet it.

Sincerely, Tim Gabriele
Chair, North Haven Democratic Town Committee

A Creative Idea With a Simple Message

To The Editor: May 22, 2025

I'm writing this letter to thank the North Haven PTAs for their creative idea of sponsoring a Popsicle giveaway on the Town Green on May 20th. Their message was simple, parents please vote at the Rec Center and then bring your child to the Town Green for a popsicle.

Every year, the town referendum consistently results in a low voter turnout and thanks to the PTAs' energy, thoughtfulness and planning, our town showed a much higher turnout (15%). As a retired teacher, I would like to comment. Thank you, PTAs for the up-close and best civics lesson that you provided for our children and future voters! Well done.

Dorothy Logan, North Haven

700 Popsicles to Sway Votes?

To The Editor: May 22, 2025

Last Tuesday a significant percentage of registered voters came out to vote on the 25-26 budget. With a difference of about 700 votes, the citizens of this town approved the budget. This is a bittersweet decision yet a very good one going forward. I understand there are those facing a significant rise in taxes that may be difficult, for them I hope there can be a path created in the future that assists them in meeting their obligation. For others the burden of increased taxes is also difficult, however the investment in operations, services & education is a value option that, in the long run, will show benefits. I would also like to believe an increase this year will "catch us up" where next year's budget may reflect a modest increase designed around the rate of inflation. Time will tell.

There is a small unfounded conspiracy theory being revealed by some folks that the Montowese PTA used the children in town as bait for votes by giving away free popsicles to those parents that voted. Claims have been vocalized that a yes vote was required to attain said popsicle, though there is no way to prove that yes vote, seems a silly notion to me. To validate the point, pictures and/or video being taken of the children at the event, while not being illegal, is in very poor taste especially without parental knowledge. Another misguided stone throw to usurp the right to vote against their slanted agenda. Besides, I highly doubt there were 700 popsicles available to sway the vote, if you talk it through, it seems implausible.

Maybe at the end of the day, the majority of voters did not believe your reasoning to oppose so let the crying and whining of disappointment be reserved for upset young children not for middle aged bureaucrats.

Michael Nappe, North Haven

Sally Buemi With Anthony C. Greco At World War II Ceremony In Hartford



Pictured: Third Selectman Sally Buemi with World War II Veteran Anthony C. Greco, of North Haven.



Pictured: Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz presents Anthony C. Greco with a Victory Medal and Certificate.

North Haven: On May 19th, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz hosted the Connecticut World War II Veterans Recognition Ceremony at the State Armory in Hartford. The ceremony celebrated the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Seventy World War II veterans from Connecticut attended this wonderful event. Mr. Anthony C. Greco, of North Haven, was one of the honored veterans. Mr. Greco is 101 years old and he served in the US Army with the Armored Engineers. He served in the European Theatre including France, Holland and Germany. Mr. Greco has lived in North Haven since 1960. His three children, Karen, Stephen and Robert were proud to be with their Dad at this ceremony.

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These Apartments include kitchens, walk-in showers, laminate flooring and new insulated windows as well as updated heating and cooling systems. Heat, air conditioning and electricity are included in monthly rent.

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Services:	*Daily Activities:*
Resident Services Coordinator	Daily Social Hour
Hot Breakfast	Card Games
Dinner at Noon	Bingo
Light Supper	Arts and Crafts
Housekeeping	Pizza Parties
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Town Shopping Bus Availability	Ice Cream Socials
24 Hour Staff Coverage	Pet Therapy
	Sittercize

*Most services listed above included in monthly rent.

If interested, please call 203-248-9036/711 Relay CT to request an application.

For more information please visit our website: www.hamdenhousing.com

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Earth Day "Thank You" To All Who Participated

The **North Haven** Conservation Commission would like to thank all of the organizations and students from the high school Key Club and the Leo's group who participated in our Earth Day 2025 Celebration at the North Haven Park & Rec Center on Sat., April 26th.

It was a fun and informative day for all those who attended with lots of hands-on activities. We appreciate the many individuals who volunteered their time to make the event a success.

Thank you, from the North Haven Conservation Commission who sponsored the event.

Senator Cicarella Supports Responsible Budget Practices, Opposes Breaking Spending Cap



State Senator Paul Cicarella

Senior Deputy Republican Leader Paul Cicarella **(R-North Haven)** opposed an additional $284 million in Medicaid spending that exceeds the state's spending cap for the current fiscal year.

The measure, HB 6863, is a deficiency spending bill that bypassed traditional legislative scrutiny and allocates funds above the state's spending cap to address a shortfall in the Medicaid program.

"There is no crisis, and there is no need for Democrats to renege on the bipartisan promise of fiscal controls for our budget. Yes, Medicaid is important, and it's important that we address that shortfall. However, this need could have been fulfilled through Republican suggestions to use money that's already been allocated—instead of breaking the spending cap, a concept that Democrats once called 'sacrosanct.'

"Spending increases now will lead the way to future taxes on already overburdened middle-class families—we've seen this time and time again. We offered a commonsense, reasonable approach to address the problem. Every day, families face tough financial decisions. That means cutting items where appropriate or adjusting how they spend. The state government should do the same," he said.

Senate Republicans offered an amendment to de-allocate funds from state departments that are under budget—resulting in $136 million in savings alone.

Locally, Sen. Cicarella supported the Senate Republican amendment that also included a provision enabling parents of unmarried state workers killed on the job to receive their child's death benefits. This was inspired by the tragic 2024 death of Andrew DiDomenico, who was struck and killed in Wallingford while working in a CT DOT work zone by a drunk driver.

FOR SALE: Scotts 50 inch mower deck, 3-blade, exc. cond., good spindles, solid $100; (203) 214-5232

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