

WESTPORT

Developers pivot to affordable housing plan

By Brian Gioiele
STAFF WRITER

WESTPORT — From the Hamlet at Saugatuck to an affordable housing development. ROAN Ventures, the developer behind the proposed Hamlet at Saugatuck plan denied by the Planning and Zoning Commission two weeks ago, has announced it will file an affordable housing proposal under the state’s 8-30g statute. The plan, tabbed “The Alliance for Saugatuck Housing Opportunity,” calls for some 500 units, according to a ROAN Ventures release, add-

ing the state statute does not mandate public amenities, walkability and waterfront access as envisioned in The Hamlet proposal. Under the state statute, 30% of the units must be set aside as affordable. “Off-site improvements may be reconsidered to accommodate the target of delivering between 400 and 500 residential units to the community,” the release states. The commission voted 4-0 — with commissioners Neil Cohn, Michael Cammeyer and Bre Injeski abstaining — to deny the massive mixed-use development plan that included a hotel with retail and residential offerings.

“My client is very disappointed with the Commission’s denial of The Hamlet, especially after working with the Commission and Town on The Hamlet over a long period of time,” said Chris Smith, zoning attorney for ROAN Ventures. “However, my client understands that Westport has been receptive to residential communities with housing opportunity components in the past,” Smith added. According to Smith, ROAN Ventures looks forward to working with town officials to create a comprehensive proposal that “promotes housing

Housing continues on A4



Courtesy of GKV Architects

Rendering of the recently rejected Hamlet at Saugatuck proposal in Westport. The developers are now filing an affordable housing plan in its place.



Brian A. Pounds/Hearst Connecticut Media

The abandoned industrial building at 62 Cherry St. in Bridgeport, originally intended for rehabilitation as the next phase of the Cherry Street Lofts development, is now slated to be demolished.

City moves to demo undeveloped Cherry Street Lofts buildings

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — The long-delayed next phase of the Cherry Street Lofts housing complex may be permanently canceled by a wrecking ball. With the city seeking bids from demolition contractors, time is rapidly running out for Gary Flocco to break ground on the redevelopment of the four blighted structures in

question. “It is a race,” Flocco acknowledged this week. “And I understand it. The buildings are in bad shape.” He anticipates closing on the loans needed to finance construction by mid-September, before Mayor Joe Ganim’s administration can actually move forward with razing 62, 72 and 80 Cherry St. and 1325 Railroad Ave. “I’ve been in touch with the city,” Flocco said. “They are willing to work with us.”

Economic Development Director Thomas Gill, in a brief statement for this article, said, “The city’s position has been consistent that there will be no change in the demo process unless a formal commitment letter for the financing is received by the city.” Situated on the outskirts of downtown between the railroad tracks and Interstate 95, Cherry Street Lofts is a prominent renovation of

Demo continues on A6

FAIRFIELD

Vote to decide who Gerber’s successor will be has stalled

By Shaniece Holmes-Brown
STAFF WRITER

FAIRFIELD — A vote to decide who will replace the late First Selectman Bill Gerber stalled during a recent Fairfield Board of Selectmen meeting. Republican Selectman Brenda Kupchick expressed her discomfort with making such a crucial decision during Tuesday’s meeting, calling the process of choosing Gerber’s successor broken. “I thought long and hard about the item to vote to fill the remaining 27 months,” she said. “I simply feel it’s

Successor continues on A6

State leads in kindergarten vaccine rates

By Cris Villalonga-Vivoni
STAFF WRITER

With a new school year around the corner, Connecticut’s kindergarteners are leading the nation in at least one category: immunization. The state continues to rank among the top in the country for immunization rates despite a national drop in childhood vaccination, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An estimated 98.3% of kindergartners in Connecticut received the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in the 2024-2025 school year, a 0.5% increase from the previous year. Students are required to have the vaccine in Connecticut, although some exemptions are allowed. The state Department of Public Health said that, as a result, the Nutmeg state is

Vaccine continues on A6

What former CT Sun players think about possible relocation

By Maggie Vanoni
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut Sun helped make Jonquel Jones a household name. Connecticut’s 6-foot-6 star center was its most disruptive post player. She controlled the paint thanks to her strength and had a clutch 3-point shot that stunned opponents into frustration. Off the court, Jones was a fan favorite, always making time for fans, greeting them with her warm smile and friendly demeanor. She became the fran-

Sun continues on A4



Michael Reaves/Getty Images

Jonquel Jones of the Connecticut Sun, on Sept. 8, 2022, says the Sun’s lack of a designated practice facility was one of the “big” reasons why she wanted a trade out.

Trump’s homelessness order clashes with Conn. approach

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Before she was the top official at a prominent Connecticut non-profit, Jennifer Paradis was a teenager whose family plunged into homelessness due to mounting medical bills. “My high school was a series of couches and comforters on the floor and making enough money to pay for the room for rent that I lived in until I graduated college,” Paradis said. “My

Trump continues on A6



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media

A homeless encampment in January in Waterbury. Officials and advocates say the state remains in crisis mode with respect to homelessness, with wait times for emergency shelter running at nearly two months and cuts in federal funding expected.