

Eversource resists data centers

Company says they could strain Connecticut's electric grid, raise bills

By **Jordan Nathaniel Fenster**
STAFF WRITER

During Eversource's most recent earnings call, CEO Joe Nolan said the energy company is "resisting data centers" setting up in Connecticut and the rest of its territory.

"I'm really not interested in a data center coming here," Nolan said during the first quarter earnings call, held May 7.

"It's of no value to our residential customer. Actually, any customer. It's only gonna drive up the price of energy."

Jacob Lucas, vice president of transmission and system planning at Eversource, studies the impact large data centers would have on the grid. While New England's largest energy delivery company can't "voluntarily refuse service," Lucas said, the largest data centers, requiring 100 megawatts of power or more,

raise serious concerns for Connecticut and the region.

Data centers require so much energy that they can, Lucas said, drive up costs for residential customers, cause system overloads and even pull more electricity than generators can provide.

There are currently no so-called hyperscale data centers in Connecticut, or in Eversource's footprint, though Lucas said during an interview with CT Insider

that there is "significant interest, especially in Connecticut and New Hampshire."

The largest data centers, Lucas said, look for two things: a good electric infrastructure, and proximity to the fiber-optic trunk lines that transmit the data. Connecticut, which is centrally located in between New York and Boston, offers both.

"I think when the data center developers are trying to find good locations and mixing all those ingredients together, I

Eversource continues on A4

Bronin made history by toppling Larson

EAST HARTFORD — History was on the line at Goodwin University in U.S. Rep. John B. Larson's beloved hometown.

It was 10 minutes before 8 p.m. on May 11, last week's gathering of Democrats to choose a candidate for the 1st District. Town-by-town voting was underway for the 419 delegates.

The convention would endorse either Larson or his challenger, former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. It was too close to call after one round of balloting with two other candidates also receiving votes.

A Larson win at this convention would amount to business as usual, the 77-year-old veteran of 14 terms in Congress collect-

Haar continues on A4



Dan Haar

COMMENTARY



Jim Michaud/Hearst Connecticut Media
Former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin won the endorsement of the Democratic Party at the May 11 convention for the 1st Congressional District.

Stewart's supporters back Fazio

By **Ken Dixon**
STAFF WRITER

UNCASVILLE — The wounds still seemed raw this weekend for New Britain's delegation to the Republican State Convention. Their leader declined to comment, but other Republicans described some supporters of Erin Stewart as "heartbroken" and "devastated" and others feeling "disappointment" after her abrupt withdrawal from the governor's race.

Until Thursday morning, the hometown delegates had been expecting Stewart, their city's former 12-year mayor, to emerge from the convention as the party's likely gubernatorial nominee. But it all unraveled amid revelations that Stewart used a

Fazio continues on A10



Fazio



Christian Abraham/Hearst Connecticut Media

Compo Beach in Westport in June 2025. Of the 928 beach shutdowns the past 10 years, 744 were in Fairfield County.

State beaches closed 928 times over past decade, data shows

By **Austin Mirmina**
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut beaches along Long Island Sound have closed more than 900 times over the past decade, with about 80% of the closures coming in Fairfield County, according to state water quality data.

With the unofficial start of summer approaching, CT Insider analyzed a decade of closure data to see whether beach access has been affected by increasingly volatile weather patterns tied to climate change. The data — which includes only shoreline beaches — showed closures fluctuated sharply year to year, ranging from a low of 37 in 2020 to a high of 180 in 2019.

Experts say rainfall is the main driver of beach closures, as runoff carrying oil, tire particles, fertilizers, pet waste and other contaminants flows into

"It all depends on the year. If there's a lot of rainfall, there's a lot of beach closures. If it's dry, there's relatively few."

Pat Bisacky, public health services manager with the state Department of Public Health

storm drains before being discharged into the Sound or waterways that feed into it. That runoff can cause bacteria levels to rise above what is considered safe for swimming.

"It all depends on the year," said Pat Bisacky, public health services manager with the state Department of Public Health. "If there's a lot of rainfall, there's a lot of beach closures. If it's dry, there's relatively few."

Beaches in heavily developed areas such as southwestern Connecticut are especially vulnerable to rainfall.

Of the 928 beach shutdowns recorded between 2015 and 2025, 744 occurred in Fairfield County, 143 in New Haven County, 25 in Middlesex County and 16 in New London County.

The beaches with the most closures in that time period include:

Byram Beach in Greenwich with 118 closures;

West Beach in Stamford with 53 closures;

Cummings Beach in Stamford with 52 closures;

East Beach at Cove Island Park in Stamford with 49 closures; and

Quigley Beach in Stamford with 49 closures.

The beach outside Fairfield County that closed most often was Milford's Silver Sands State Park at 19.

Pavano's ex-wife gets restraining order

Former major league pitcher can remain at their Fairfield home, must turn in guns

By **Ethan Fry**
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — A judge on Friday granted a request for a restraining order from the ex-wife of former New York Yankee and Fairfield resident Carl Pavano, warning the former All-Star and World Series winner that he must surrender his firearms and could face felony charges if he assaults, threatens, harasses, follows, interferes with, or stalks the mother of his three children.

While Judge Steven Dembo said at the end of the day-long hearing that he credited testimony from Carl Pavano's ex-



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media
Former New York Yankees pitcher Carl Pavano, left, and his ex-wife Alissa Pavano walk into Bridgeport Judicial District Courthouse after a lunch break Friday



wife, Alissa Pavano, that her former spouse's conduct caused her fear or concern, he

stopped short of granting her request to keep him out of the 10,000-square-foot Fairfield

home where the couple raise their three children on alternating weeks as a condition of their divorce decree.

Three Fairfield police officers testified Friday in Dembo's fifth-floor courtroom about recent calls to the home in the Greenfield Hill neighborhood, after which Alissa Pavano took the witness stand for hours to answer questions from her lawyer, Gary Cohen, and her ex-husband's attorney, Michael T. Meehan.

She said her ex-husband's increasingly erratic behavior — including a menacing note reading "goodnight mommy,"

Pavano continues on A10