

A HOLE IN ONE

Alumni raise money for Brien McMahon **B1**



NEW BIZ

City welcomes Eno's Cheese Shop **A3**

Board accepts Tate's resignation **A4**

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Norwalk Citizen

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Autumn Driscoll / Staff Photographer

John Phelps, of Pennsylvania, shakes hands with Norwalk Fire Chief Denis McCarthy after receiving the Norwalk Community Hero Recognition at the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting Tuesday. Phelps was visiting family in Norwalk when a neighbor's two-year-old child was involved in a near drowning incident May 30. Phelps, 81, administered first aid and CPR until the arrival of the Fire Department and EMS.

Man honored in Norwalk for saving drowning girl's life

By John Nickerson

A Pennsylvania man was honored Tuesday by the Norwalk Fire Department as a community hero for saving the life of a 3-year-old girl who slipped into a children's pool in late May and nearly drowned.

John Phelps, a 48-year member of the Vernon, N.J., ski patrol who celebrated his 81st birthday Tuesday, said he was honored by the award, and thankful his training included cardio pulmonary resuscitation.

On May 30, Phelps was at his son Stanley's home on Highbrook Road in Norwalk, celebrating his grandson's third birthday, when the boy's older brother ran up on the deck and said his cousin Emily was "in the pool drinking the water."

The group ran down and pulled the little girl, who had stopped breathing, with her eyes rolled back in her head, out of the shallow water.

See Hero on A12

A job well done

Biagiarelli to collect taxes for four more years

By David Hennessey
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When Norwalk's tax collector Lisa Biagiarelli tells people about her occupation, she invariably gets one of two responses.

"They either laugh, or they'll back off and instinctively recoil," Biagiarelli said in an interview with the Citizen Wednesday.

"Everybody has a story about a run-in with the tax collector."

Earlier this month, the Common Council voted unanimously to reappoint the Easton resident to her third term as tax collector. She will serve the city of Norwalk for another four years.

Biagiarelli explained how \$290 million – between 85 and 90 percent of the city's revenue – filters through the tax collector's office each year.

"It's always been a pretty stressful job," she admitted, "particularly around July and Christmas" – the times of year when tax payments are due.

"Tax collectors don't take summer vacations in Connecticut," she said. She quickly added that her seven co-workers in the tax collector's office help to keep the job enjoyable.

But Biagiarelli, who worked previously in Easton and then Stratford as a tax collector, said the vast majority of Norwalkers pay their bills on time.

"They're very responsible about paying their taxes," she said. "About 98 percent pay when they should."

As for the remaining two percent, "When we're not dealing with the foot traffic of people making their payments on time, we're dealing with everyone else....There's always going to be people who forget, and we're always going to be dealing with the 30,000 parcels of real estate and the 90,000 people in Norwalk," she said.

"But we're very, very aggressive about collecting

See Taxes on A12

CMT scores reveal disappointing news for grade eight

Gains made overall by minority students

By David Hennessey
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Connecticut Mastery Test scores in the city of Norwalk showed losses and gains, as the outcomes from this year's test, administered in March to about 250,000 third through eighth graders statewide, were released last week. This year marked the fifth administration of the Fourth Generation CMT, which was first introduced in 2006.

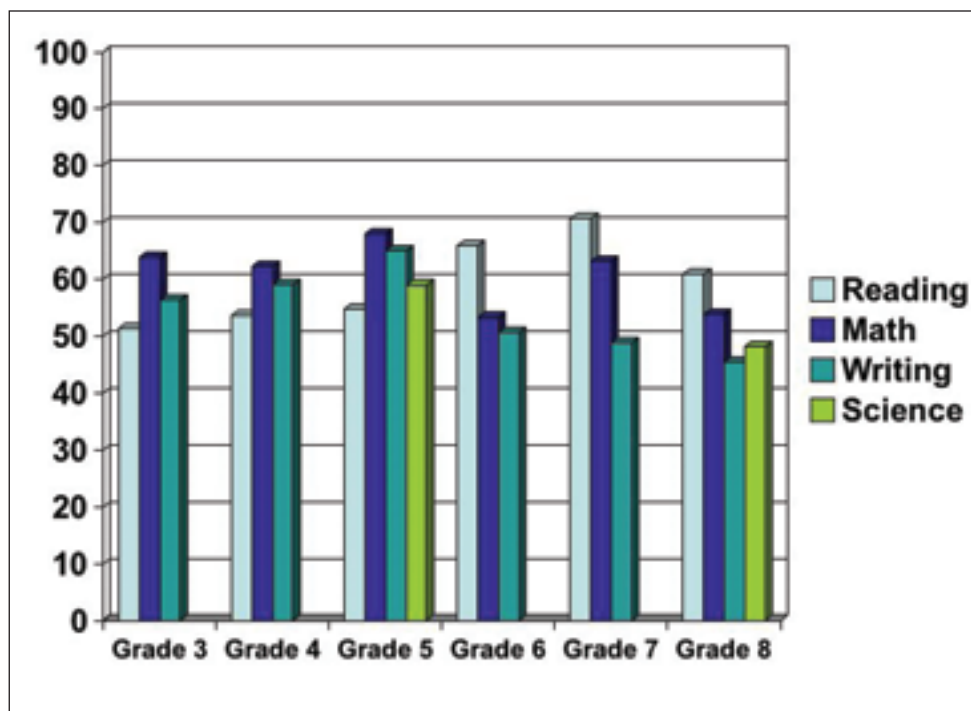
In terms of the losses, the percentage of eighth-grade students in the city at or above goal in mathematics declined from 2009 to 2010, as did similar sixth- and third-grade math scores. Students in seventh, fifth, and fourth grades saw overall improvements in at or above goal mathematics level when compared with last year, according to the CMT results. In writing, the percentage of eighth graders at or above goal sharply decreased from last year to this year (54.6 percent to 45.4 percent).

On a positive note, the percentage of seventh graders at or above the writing goal increased over five percentage points, and sixth graders saw a slight increase in their scores. The percentage of fifth graders at or above goal increased from 61.7 percent to 65.1 percent; the percentage of fourth graders at or above goal saw a similar increase, from 57.2 percent to 59.2 percent. However, the percentage of third graders at or above the writing goal decreased over the last year, from 59.8 percent to 56.3 percent.

Reading scores in the city expressed a similar mixed bag of results. The percentage of fifth graders at or above goal declined from 57.6 percent to 54.8 percent from 2009 to 2010. All other grades, however, enjoyed improvements in reading scores.

Diane Filardo, the district's testing and evaluation specialist, explained Connecticut's five different performance levels for the CMTs (below basic, basic,

See Scores on A14



This chart shows the percentage of students across all grades who reached at or above the state goal on their CMT this year. See pg A14 for 2010 CAPT results.

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Weather

TODAY MOSTLY SUNNY
Chance of showers and t-storms in afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. Sat: Partly sunny in a.m....then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs around 90. Sun.: Partly sunny, chance of showers and t-storms. Highs in upper 80s.

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