



DISCOVER WEST HAVEN

# FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor John M. Picard

The future of West Haven has never looked brighter. When my administration took office our financial situation was bleak with over \$270 million in debt and approximately a \$14 million deficit. Since then we have taken the needed steps to get us back on the road to recovery. We paid down our debt by approximately \$70 million and our deficit by approximately \$10 million by ending long-term borrowing, reducing spending, increasing fiscal accountability and evaluating revenue generating ideas.

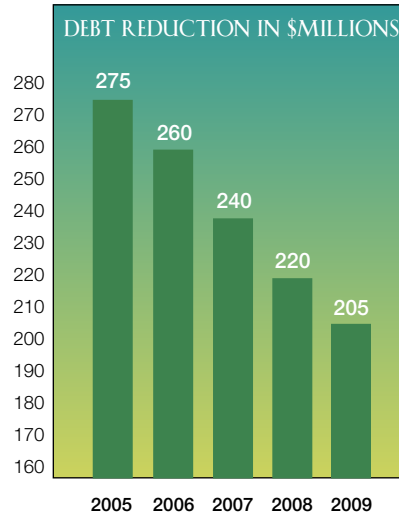
Our city has come a long way. We have enacted fiscal controls, hired top talent and enlisted the help of volunteers. We continue to develop and foster excellent relationships with our Federal and State leaders, universities, major corporations and local businesses. We applaud the efforts of our community agencies and the good work that they do in light of our current global economic challenges.

Not only have the people of West Haven taken notice of our recent accomplishments, but so have others within the state and nation.

BusinessWeek.com selected our city as the “Best Place to Raise Your Kids” in Connecticut for 2009 and the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce awarded us with their Government Leadership Award in 2008. With more work to be done, we must continue working together and choose the hard rights over the easy wrongs.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our great city.

*visit [www.discoverwesthaven.com](http://www.discoverwesthaven.com) for more information*



# MOVING FORWARD

**1 Yale University/West Campus-** helped to facilitate a smooth transition between Bayer HealthCare and Yale University on the 136 acre research campus. Received more than \$1 million in PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) revenue and approximately \$500,000 in annual voluntary contributions.

**2 Shoreline preservation-** worked with the land trust committee to ensure that the undeveloped shoreline in West Haven will be protected for future generations.



**3 West Haven named "Best Place to Raise Your Kids" in CT for 2009 by BusinessWeek**



**BusinessWeek.com, 11/08-** this high distinction was awarded to the city based on its affordability, its schools, cost of living, low crime rate, air quality, job growth, its parks, museums and shoreline, diversity and other amenities.

**4 West Haven Economic Development Task Force-** volunteers develop and facilitate various economic development initiatives in West Haven- most recently the Economic Development summit in October 2008, which showcased local and regional assets to commercial brokers and economic development professionals.



## 2005

*November* Mayor elected.

*December 5th* started in office, inherited over \$270 million in debt and approximately a \$14 million deficit.

## 2006

*December* Texas Roadhouse Restaurant ribbon cutting, part of revitalization on Saw Mill Road.

## 2007

*January* Business Pride Awards program launched.

*March* Wal-Mart opens on Saw Mill Road.

*May* awarded \$600,000 from the EPA in Brownfield grant funds at the site of the defunct Connecticut Refining Co. at 105 Water St.

*June* Yale and Bayer announce the sale of the research campus at City Hall. Voluntary contribution and PILOT programs also announced.

*July* launches new emergency communications system: Connect-CTY; the \$53,475 system, part of a one-year service fee funded through a





**5 Organized and promoted the first Greater New Haven regional familiarization tour-** to promote the regional assets of the area while placing West Haven in the thoughts of national site selectors.

**6 Building Oversight Committee-** established and appointed members to this volunteer committee to oversee current and past bids to ensure proper procedures were used and they have collected \$4 million in previously uncollected reimbursements.

**7 Community relations-** acquiring corporate donations, building professional relationships in the business community and fundraising for various foundations, associations and organizations.

**8 Fiscal responsibility-** proactively managed the City's budget and collection rate through various outlets to help reduce the inherited



state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security grant, is provided by the NTI Group Inc. of Sherman Oaks, CA; Bayer donates \$20,000 in school supplies to city schools.

*August* Serving Up Success, first regional site selector tour in Greater New Haven, spearheaded by Mayor Picard and West Haven.

*September* The historic signing of a conservation easement grants about 39 acres of non-contiguous, city-owned



properties in the Savin Rock area at Bradley Point to the Land Trust to safeguard from development. Aldi's announces West Haven as new site location.

*October* awarded \$10,000 from the Connecticut Main Street Center to create architectural and design guidelines for its central business district.

*November* elected for 2nd term.

*December* inaugurated for 2nd term.

**2008**

*January* The ACT (Attending College Tomorrow) initiative encourages students in kindergarten through fifth grade to think about their future and education beyond high school. Each grade is responsible for completing a different curriculum and activities. Bayer's contribution to the program is part of its continuing commitment to education.

As part of the program, classrooms will receive posters with each classes' college graduation year; students will experience virtual tours of colleges of interest; and schools will enlist mentors to work with students on academic and career goals.

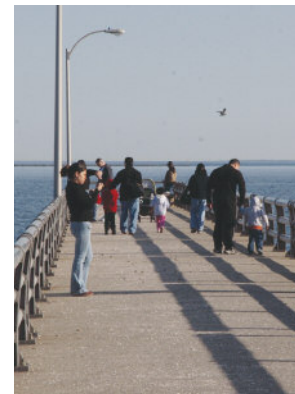
debt while putting procedures in place to prevent the misuse of the city's finances.

**9 Cultural Arts Center-** Purchased the former Masonic Temple with grant funding to establish a future arts center, which will be the first of its kind in West Haven.



## 10 Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce (GNHCC)

**Government Leadership Award-** awarded to the Mayor in October 2008 for his visionary leadership with the site selector tours and for his fiscal responsibility.



*February* ribbon cutting at UNH Rec Center; grand opening of Enthone's advanced plating applications laboratory.

*March* \$14 million expansion on Star Distributors' building begins which includes relocating its North Haven wine division and 25 jobs to the site.

*May* Friendliest City Campaign launched.

*June* Yale donates \$50,000 to the WHHS Theatre Workshop's Take a Seat program. Bayer HealthCare donates \$10,000 to Take a Seat.

*July* Awarded the municipal heart challenge winner for the 3rd consecutive year from the American Heart Association, raising over \$50,000 in the 3 years.

*August* Savin Court reopens as UNH housing, still owned by the developer, so the property will remain on the tax roles; second annual site selector tour- this year sponsored by United Illuminating Co.

*September* Yale donates \$150,000 to buy a new fire truck in West Shore; Bayer donates \$11,000 to assist in the purchase of fire hoses.



*October* economic development summit in West Haven for regional economic development personnel and commercial brokers;

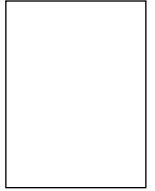
Mayor awarded GNHCC award; invited to present at the Regional Planning conference at Yale on train station and TOD (Transit Oriented District); Diabetes Walk moves back to West Haven for annual walk and WH Economic Development website is launched.

*November* Named best place in CT to raise kids by BusinessWeek for 2009.

*December* West Haven featured as the Connecticut stop for the Urban Design Workshop featuring the new train station and TOD, scheduled to open in the spring of 2012; Hampton Inn & Suites opens on Saw Mill Road.



355 Main Street  
West Haven, CT 06516  
203-937-3500



DISCOVER WEST HAVEN