

# New Haven

## ELDERLY SERVICES

John DeStefano, Jr.  
Mayor

Patricia Wallace, Director  
165 Church St.  
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New Haven



2008

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Volume 1

December 2009

Issue 1

**Atwater Senior Center**  
26 Atwater St.  
946-8558

**Dixwell/ Newhallville Senior Center**  
255 Goffe St.  
946-8541

**East Shore Senior Center**  
411 Townsend Avenue  
946-8544

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first edition of our Senior Newsletter! I am confident that this publication will provide you with useful information about what's happening in the City, activities in your community and services that are available to you.

As your Mayor, it is my job to represent the residents of New Haven and respond to any concerns that you may have. I hope that this newsletter will serve as a guide to you and help to engage you in the many events, initiatives and activities taking place throughout our City.

I also hope that you will find this newsletter to be a valuable resource that allows you to better connect with your peers as well as your representatives within various City departments and agencies. Your feedback is very important to us. So, whether you'd like to offer a program suggestion, contribute a personal story or respond to something you've read in this publication, we'd love to hear from you.

I hope you have a happy and healthy month and I look forward to next month's newsletter!

Very truly yours,  
John DeStefano, Jr.  
Mayor



### Welcome to *Vital Lives*

It is exciting to launch a publication to bring news to you about resources available to you in New Haven, and about the vital lives being lived by those of us aged fifty-five and up. We will provide a mix of facts, stories, photos, humor and a monthly calendar of events. Each month, we will hear from the Mayor John DeStefano, Jr., one or more City Department heads, Dorothy Harper, Chairperson of the Commission on Aging, Attorney Kate McEvoy, Assistant Director of the South Central Agency on Aging and a variety of volunteer writers and photographers. Mary Barnes will coordinate our writers' group. Margery Mills, a member of the Dixwell Newhallville Sr. Center, will be among those writers. Paul Bass, editor of *The New Haven Independent* graciously led a workshop to get us started and we have writers from each of the Senior Centers. We are eager to welcome poets, people with great recipes or volunteer opportunities, news of people achieving milestone events, book reviewers and those with memories of interesting moments from New Haven in other eras. We are also seeking volunteers for our news and circulation teams. We intend to distribute copies in every senior housing complex in New Haven and a variety of public spaces. If you would like to help in any of those ways, please let us know. Ads make it possible for us to bring you this newsletter at no charge. We are very grateful to those who support us with their advertising.

---Pat Wallace, Director, Elderly Services, New Haven, CT

### METRO TAXI'S "METROACCESS" OFFERS NEW FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE WHO USE WHEELCHAIRS FOR MOBILITY

In October the City of New Haven's Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities along with Metro Taxi, the state's largest, full-service taxi company, jointly launched Connecticut's first wheelchair-accessible cab. The state's first ADA-compliant taxicab is owned and operated by Metro Taxi in West Haven. Supported by a recently-passed state regulation permitting this type of wheelchair-accessible taxicab, around-the-clock service to customers who use wheelchairs

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## Gala Luncheon Held to Honor Seniors of the Year and Special Honorees

On Thursday, October 8, the Department of Elderly Services sponsored the Rose Sorrentino Memorial Senior Volunteer of the Year Luncheon at Anthony's Ocean View, attended by 170 persons. Dorothy Harper, Chairperson of the Commission on Aging of the City of New Haven, presided, and Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. presented the awards. The following men and women were selected by their peers as the Seniors of the Year for their leadership and service at their senior centers or senior housing complexes: Frank Stopka, Atwater Senior Center; Lillian Simmons, Dixwell/Newhallville Senior Center; Arlene Ferrucci, East Shore Senior Center; Ellsworth Lindsey, Tower One/Tower East; Janet Gregory, West River Senior Center. At Bella Vista, each of the five buildings has its own membership club. The honorees were: Gayle Hall, Club 311; Fanny Brooks, Club 315; James Augusto, Club 321; Yolanda Archangelo, Club 339; and Maxine Bince, Club 343. In addition three long-serving leaders were recognized with special awards, one posthumously.

### IDA WELLS

Ida Wells lived and worked in New York City. She was a telephone operator for twenty-five years for a company that provided special services to celebrities. When she retired from her first career, she moved to New Haven to Crawford Manor, and began her second career, providing care for the two young children of Dr. Stephen Morins, an Associate Professor at the Yale Child Study Center.

Ida brought much experience to that role because she raised six children of her own and is the grandmother and great grandmother of 23 children. Ida served on the board of the New Haven Housing Authority for ten years. She was president of the Tenants' Council at Crawford Manor for a dozen years. She was a member of the City's Commission on Aging for ten years. Active with AIDS Interfaith as a Standby Mother, she also made weekly dinners as part of their caring cuisine program. She is an active member of Christ Chapel.

### ROSE SORRENTINO (Award in Memoriam)

Rose Sorrentino was born in New Haven, and married her life-long love, Ernest Peter Sorrentino in 1938. They had four daughters, 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Ernie and Rose were a team at home and in business. They operated Dwight Grill and Sorrento's Restaurant on Whalley Avenue in the 1940s and 50s. In 1957 they opened and operated the Golden Anchor Hotel and Restaurant in Short Beach, Branford. Following these successful business ventures, Rose made a career change and worked at Pratt and Whitney, and later at both the New Haven Arena and the New Haven Coliseum. In 1969 Rose returned to New Haven, and began her life at Bella Vista. She was appointed to both the Commission on Aging of New

Haven, and of the State of CT. She was on the Committee of Supporters of Connecticut Hospice in Branford. At Bella Vista, she started and was the editor of the *Bella Vista Reporter*, and was the president of the 321 Club for over 20 years. She also chaired her Ward Committee for the Democratic Party and founded the City's Senior Volunteer Luncheon.

### HATTIE CELOTTO

Hattie Celotto lived in East Haven, Connecticut until 1985. Her active life on behalf of others included 40 years of service there as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Bradford Manor Fire Department. She raised her daughter there, and is the proud grandmother of 2 granddaughters. Colleen O'Connor, her daughter, was present as we honored her mother.

Upon her move to New Haven to Bella Vista, she became very active in her new community. She was elected president of her building's membership club, and was a correspondent for the *Bella Vista Reporter*. She served on the Board of the South Central Area Agency on Aging and was a member of the Democratic Town Committee. She also worked on the Annual Talent Show for Connecticut Hospice. She and Rose Sorrentino were good friends, and enjoyed work-

*(Continued from page 1) Wheel chair accessible taxi cab*

and scooters within Greater New Haven is now available. "We're very excited for New Haven to be the first city in the state to have MetroAccess service available to residents with mobility disabilities; said Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. "We congratulate Metro Taxi for taking leadership in this area. It's important that we work together to ensure that all residents have access to quality transportation services and not allow disabilities to become barriers."

The cab transported its first customer, Michelle M. Duprey, Esq., director of The City's Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities, to Union Station. "Here in New Haven we knew there was a large gap in the mass transportation available to individuals with mobility disabilities," said Duprey. "If you needed a ride on short notice, there were no options available to you. In a local study we did, transportation was cited by almost a two-to-one margin as an area that needed improvement and 31 percent of individuals with disabilities said they were not working because of the lack of affordable, convenient and accessible transportation. "That's why I believe Metro Taxi's new, wheelchair-accessible taxi will open doors for many members of the community to both employment and community activities."