



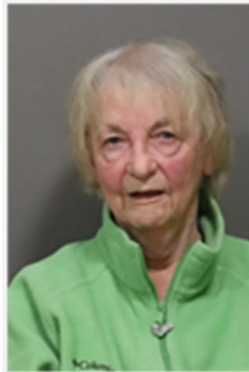
News Release – Fatal MVA Arrest

Summary:

On 11/08/24 WHPD and WHFD responded to the intersection of Oakwood Avenue and St. James Street for a vehicle vs. pedestrian collision. A north bound vehicle struck an elderly pedestrian that was crossing Oakwood Avenue in the area of the uncontrolled crosswalk. After the impact with the first vehicle, the pedestrian was believed to have been struck by a second vehicle that was south bound on Oakwood Avenue. The first vehicle remained on scene and the operator cooperated with the investigation. The second vehicle fled the scene, last seen south on Oakwood Avenue. The pedestrian sustained serious injuries and was transported to a local hospital where she ultimately succumbed to her injuries and died.

Details:

After a lengthy investigation by the West Hartford Police Department's Traffic Division, the operator of the second vehicle that fled the scene was identified as Sue Deffenbaugh of West Hartford. Deffenbaugh was arrested by warrant on 04/15/2025. The warrant carried a \$400,000 court set bond and a stipulation that Deffenbaugh not operate a motor vehicle.



Sue Deffenbaugh
9/30/41

Deffenbaugh was charged with:

Evading Responsibility Resulting in Death (14-221(a)*)

Failure to Exercise Reasonable Care Near a Vulnerable User on a Public Way (14-300i)

Deffenbaugh posted the court set bond and is scheduled to appear in Hartford Superior Court on April 24th, 2025.

If any member of the public has any information regarding this incident, or other similar incidents, please contact the West Hartford Police Department through the WHPD Tip Line/email at (860) 570-8969 / whpdtips@westhartfordct.gov.

Captain Aaron Vafiades #325



West Hartford Police Department
103 Raymond Road
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107
Phone (860) 523-5203 Fax (860) 570-8964
www.westhartfordct.gov/police