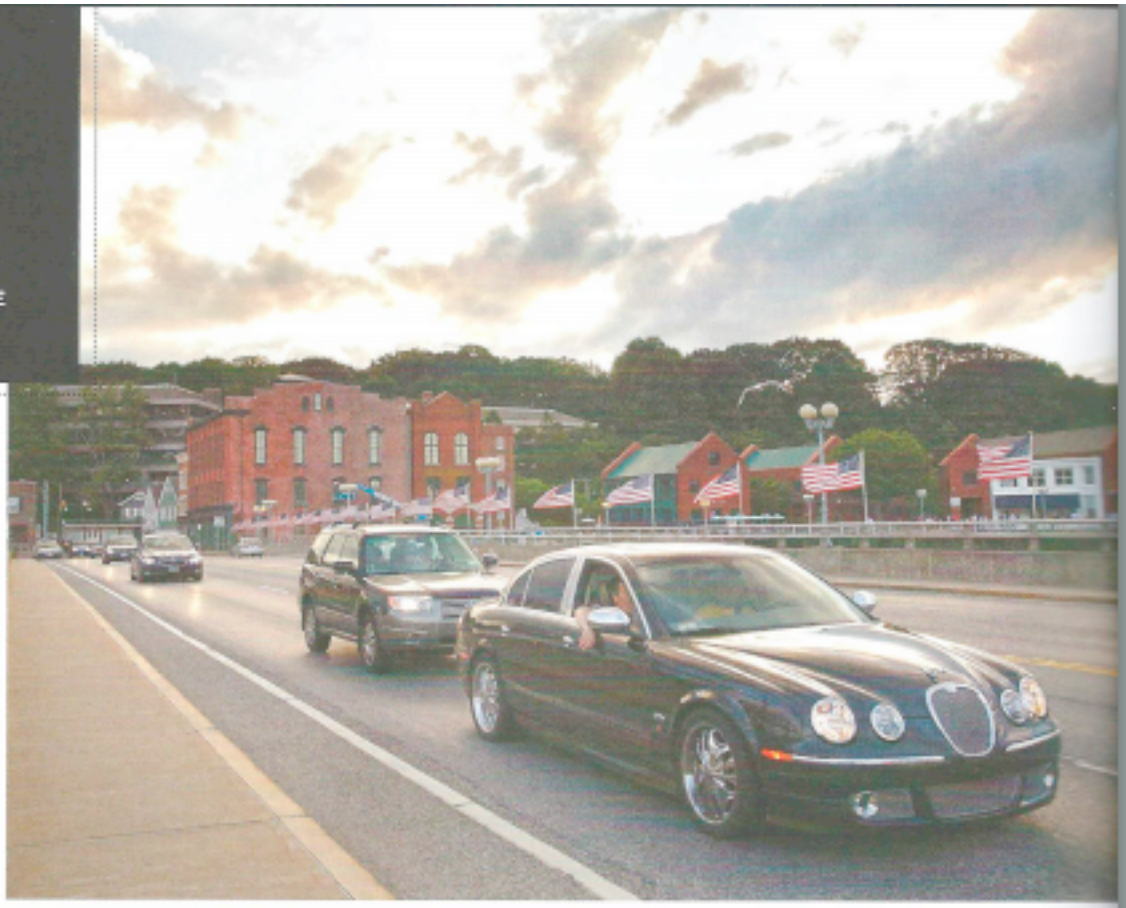
# How to Roll

BEING QUAINT AS WELL AS **FULL-THROTTLE GO-GETTERS** IS OUR SUPER POWER, **SO GET UP TO SPEED, PRONTO**



## 1 DARE TO EXPLORE

**Landmarks**, **historic districts** and **homes**, and hunting for a parking spot—let the good times roll

### HISTORIC HOMES

If you love historic properties, try to meet **Morley Boyd**, a research consultant (*cthousehistories.com*) whose family roots date back to the early eighteenth century. He specializes in historic preservation and architectural history, so we asked him for a favorite historic home or great drives for history buffs. We got both. He and colleagues Wendy Crowther, Helen Garten and John Suggs suggest Westport's newest historic asset: the **State Scenic Road**, the first of its kind in our community.

❶ Begin Westport's 1.8-mile segment at the intersection of **Route 1 and Compo Road South**—look for the blue route-marker in the shape of the State of Connecticut. "It was in this particular spot that a Revolutionary War conflict took place between 1,850 British soldiers and a handful of brave American militiamen," Boyd notes. "The heavily armed invading British force, which landed at Compo Beach on April 26, 1777, was proceeding north to destroy the Continental Army's vital supplies in Danbury when it encountered robust gunfire from members of the local militia hiding along the roadside."

❷ The route then heads along Compo Road South and past the entrance to Westport's **Baron's South Park**—"twenty-three acres of open space, including its fascinating 1950s mansion known as Golden Shadows—but also past dozens of historic eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses."

❸ A highlight is the red barn at **124 Compo Road South**. "To see why the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation recently named this building to its 'Top Ten List of Most Significant Barns in Connecticut,' take a quick, one block diversion from the Scenic Road to see the rear of the structure. Turn right on Baker Avenue, then left on Sleigh Lane—go to the end and behold what nineteenth-century Irish immigrants did with brick and stone. You won't believe your eyes."

❹ Back on Compo Road South, continue southward to the intersection at Bridge Street. Here the route turns right and crosses the historic **Saugatuck Swing Bridge**. "Built in 1884, this span is the oldest active bridge of its type in the nation and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places." (For more on the bridge, go to Westport Preservation Alliance's website at *preservewestport.com*.)

❺ The route concludes at "the doorstep of the revitalized **Village of Saugatuck**, an area that offers a wide variety of shopping and dining experiences."

## 2 ADVENTURE AWAITS

**Lifelong explorer, former president of The Explorers Club and host of *Born to Explore*, Richard Wiese, finally settled down to raise a family in Weston—when he's not introducing his TV groupies to exotic places and interesting people around the world. In January, his show premiered on public television. More at *borntoexplore.net*.**

### ROLL WITH IT

The owner of Westport Bike Rentals, **Tracy Yost** (aka The Bike Lady) is on a mission to get people biking. She offers preplanned routes, and this summer teamed up with the **Two Oh Three** (a local lifestyle brand) to create maps. "The Westport route is called The Town Jewel in honor of Compo Beach," she says. See it at *westportbikerentals.com/rent-ride-locations*.

### TAKE A BREAK

Westport Library's parking lot accesses the **Levitt Pavilion** and a walkway to **Westport Farmers' Market.** Also, find relaxing pocket parks at *westportct.gov*.