



THE WESTENDER

Vol. 1, No. 2

December 2021

Happy Holidays Westend!

A note from the Publisher:

It's starting to look a lot like the holidays! After a long and tedious year, it brings me joy to drive around the neighborhood and see so many cheerfully decorated homes.

With the pandemic (kind of) in the rear view mirror, and after a year of isolation over the holidays, this year there are many activities to choose from in the next few weeks.

We've compiled a partial list of holiday happenings, from breakfast at Mo's on the 17th to meet your neighbors and find out about upcoming events, to Voce at Immanuel House on the 19th, to the live Nativity in the Asylum Hill parking lot on the 24th, complete with Mary, Joseph and animals. See our full list on page 3.

Also, if you've been spending a lot of time at home and are thinking of doing some renovations, you may want to check out our interview with Erin Fink at the State Historic Preservation Office on page 4. She gives an overview of the program, along with some of the dos and don'ts of applying for the historic tax credit, and a big change that may be coming in July.

Every home in the West End has a story, and sometimes it's easy to forget just how lovely they are on the inside, with all of the turn of the century architectural details you don't find in modern homes. You can find a brief description of the inside of 461 Farmington Avenue on page 6. If you have a story about a West End architect or home, please share for a future edition of the Westender.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season.

Suzann L. Beckett, Publisher



Shop Local for the Holidays...at Hartford Winterfair!

Once upon a time, Downtown Hartford was THE place to go for holiday shopping. The days of G. Fox and Sage-Allen are long gone now, but a new retail revival is happening Downtown this year.

Hartford Winterfair features over 100 rotating vendors selling their unique wares at 88 and 55 Pratt Street and 196, 229 and 242 Trumbull Street. Hartford Winterfair is being held on the following days:

December 16 & 17	12pm-8pm
December 18 & 19	11am-6pm
December 20, 21, 22 & 23	12pm-8pm
December 24	12pm-4pm
December 29 & 30	12pm-8pm
December 31	2pm-12 pm

In addition to the WinteFair vendors selling everything from jewelry to children's books, other ther Downtown retail stores include Morneault's Stackpole clothing store, corner of Trumbull and Pratt Street; Hartford Prints!, 42 Pratt Street; The Tobacco Shop, 89 Pratt Street; Camera Bar, 75 Asylum Street; Harvey & Lewis, 45 Asylum Street; Naturally Cats & Dogs, 51 Asylum Street; and UCONN Barnes & Noble Book Store, 18 Front Street.



Leanna Lee Putnam of Donnybrook Gallery is one of the many vendors selling their wares at WinterFair in Downtown Hartford.



Winterfest Is Back!

Hartford Winterfest is on! Winterfest offers free skating in Bushnell Park from 11 am - 8 pm, seven days a week, through Sunday, January 9. Skates can be rented for free if you do not own a pair. There will also be free skating lessons from 10-11 am on Saturday, December 18 and Saturday, January 8. In addition, photos with Santa will be available at the Pumphouse next to the skating rink from 12-3 pm, Saturdays December 18 and Sundays, December 19. Finally, the Bushnell Park Carousel will be open Saturdays from 12-5pm and Sundays from 12-4pm. Rides are \$2 on Saturdays and FREE on Sunday, courtesy of the Friends of Jack Dollard. (Hart photo)

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The State of Foreclosures

BY JEREMY E. BAVER, ESQ.



Hello, Westenders. For the past ten years, I have directed my consumer law practice to residential foreclosure defense matters; working to keep people in their homes or negotiating graceful exits. After navigating many clients through the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, I can safely say that I have not experienced anything like what the past year has brought to the foreclosure business.

The Covid-19 pandemic affected all of us and our professions, the foreclosure industry uniquely so. Unlike 2008, there was a direct correlation between the high-risk, unaffordable mortgages and the tsunami of foreclosures that hit the courts, we still do not know how severely the pandemic will impact foreclosures.

The pandemic's economic hardships seem certain to cause an uptick in defaults and foreclosures, however, it is yet to be seen how widespread the damage will be. Many variables exist(ed) which make prognostication difficult.

For example, the federal and state governments instituted laws and measures to protect homeownership and to maintain stability: foreclosure moratoriums applied to large swaths of residential mortgages; framework that allowed homeowners with financial hardship a forbearance, or pause, of their monthly mortgage payments; rules for servicers to consider home retention options before certain lenders could institute foreclosures; and, crafted other laws and temporary executive orders to ensure people could remain in their homes.

Practically speaking, these measures put a standstill to almost all residential foreclosure action in the state for over a year. As many of these measures

ended, or are anticipated to end in early 2022, we have not seen a dramatic increase in foreclosure activity from the extended period of inactivity.

Many people took a financial hit from lost jobs, reduced hours and income, closing of small businesses, medical expenses from illnesses, and/or caring for loved ones impacted by the pandemic. Stimulus funds, unemployment compensation, student loan deferment, advanced tax credits likely helped many stay afloat, but, it would seem that those efforts cannot help everyone indefinitely.

The big banks appear to be viewing things through rose colored glasses, some claiming, '90% of customers exited forbearance programs' and 'customers who are still in forbearance, and potentially at risk of falling delinquent, is down by 90%.' However, I know from experience, as these forbearances expire, people will struggle with their lender to find a home retention option that will fit, modification processing mistakes will happen, foreclosure lawsuits will increase.

There appears to be a hesitancy by the lenders to go full-throttle with foreclosure litigation. Maybe the banks learned from 2008 and do not wish to appear responsible for devastating the American economy twice in thirteen years? Could the banks be slowly phasing in foreclosure activity to stabilize the market? Probably not, and we should be prepared that foreclosures will be on the rise again in 2022.

While this article is purposefully broad, each homeowner's situation is unique. If you find yourself struggling with your mortgage or lender, there are options to help. The CT Fair Housing Center has excellent resources for people experiencing foreclosure issues (www.ctfairhousing.org), Connecticut Judicial offers no-cost sessions with attorneys where you can discuss your foreclosure issue (jud.ct.gov/volunteer_atty_prgm.htm).



From the House: Capitol Update

By Matt Ritter
State Representative, 1st District

Good Fiscal News

Connecticut is on the right fiscal path...just look at our rainy-day fund (AKA budget reserves). We have more than \$3.1 billion, making Connecticut a national leader in budget reserves.

The Pew Charitable Trust found that, in 2020, Connecticut's reserves grew the second-fastest nationally, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

Our rainy-day fund is a critical resource in times of budgetary uncertainty. These reserves are a financial cushion when can soften the need for severe spending cuts or tax increases. With \$3.1 billion in the rainy-day fund, the state can operate essential programs and services such as education, healthcare and municipal aid in the event of an economic downturn or natural disaster. The profound growth of the rainy-day fund, from only \$138 million in 2017 to \$3.1 billion in 2021, is the result of smart fiscal policies, such as the strong bipartisan budget and saving reforms passed in 2017. Overall, our abundant rainy-day fund is great news for the future of Connecticut as we continue to pay down our debts and emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever.

Matt Ritter represents the 1st Assembly District (Hartford) in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He is also Speaker of the House.

Volunteers Needed to Assist Afghan Refugees

You may have read in the paper that Afghan refugees are starting to settle in Hartford County.

The West End Civic Association has been involved with this effort from the beginning, and Carrie Berman spoke to the membership in November about the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) and the great need for volunteers over the next few months. IRIS operates out of New Haven, but is extending its reach to Hartford. It has a history of welcoming and assisting refugee families who have fled persecution or war, and have been invited by the federal government to resettle in the US. According to their website, IRIS has helped to settle 1,200 people in the last 4 years.

They work with many local

groups, such as churches, and from all accounts expect this year's need to stretch their resources to the limit.

In response to that WECA meeting and the anticipated need articulated by IRIS, Hartford residents Sarah Martz, Jane Carroll, and others started a group called West End Welcome to assist in the effort, and many of our neighbors have stepped up to help. West End Welcome welcomed its first "family" in just the last few weeks, in the form of 3 male cousins.

West End Welcome has found them housing, and is providing support in all ways large and small as they acclimate to the community. For more information, look for West End Welcome on Facebook.

Happy Holidays & best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

ABEND / CONARY TEAM

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | New England Properties



MOLLIE ABEND, REALTOR®
860.997.0313
mabend@bhhsne.com

RICK CONARY, REALTOR®
860.539.4175
rickconary@bhhsne.com

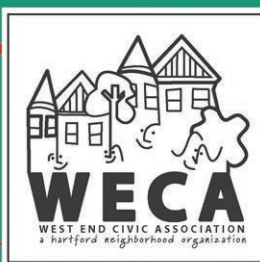
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THE WESTENDER

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Publisher & EditorSuzann Beckett
Graphic DesignerAndy Hart
Advertising Manager.....Josephine Finocchiaro
Contributing WritersMatt Ritter
.....Mike McGarry
.....Mollie Abend
.....Rick Conary
.....Patricia S. Beckett

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West End Civic Association

Meeting Schedule

West End Civic Association (WECA) meetings are currently being held via Zoom. To get the link to join in, go to: <http://wecahartford.org/events/>

January, 2022

January 19th - Public Meeting - 7:00 - 8:30 / Board meeting 8:30 - 9:00

February, 2022

February 16th - Board meeting only - 7:00 - 8:00

March, 2022

March 16th - Public Meeting - 7:00 - 8:30 / Board meeting 8:30 - 9:00

April, 2022

April 20th - Board meeting only - 7:00 - 8:00

May, 2022

May 18th - Public Meeting - 7:00 - 8:30 / Board meeting 8:30 - 9:00

June, 2022

June 15th - Board meeting only - 7:00 - 8:00

July & August, 2022

No meeting in July / August

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!

Friday, December 17

A Bright Christmas: Painting with a Twist, 45 Pratt St, Hartford. "Painting with a Twist" brings wine, art and fun together in a unique experience.

Friday, December 17, 7 – 9 AM

Mo's Midtown Restaurant, 25 Whitney St, Hartford. Explore all upcoming midtown events in Hartford, find information & tickets for upcoming midtown events happening in Hartford.

Saturday, December 18, 10 AM – 1 PM

Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. Equestrian and Therapeutic Center, 337 Vine St, Hartford. Free Admission! Join us for candy canes and hot chocolate Meet our Elves and Horses Take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus Gifts for youth ages 3-12.

Saturday December 18, 2 – 8 PM

Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Rd, West Hartford. A sequel to Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice set two years after the novel ends, MISS BENNET continues the story, only this time with bookish middle-sister Mary as its unlikely heroine.

Saturday, December 18, 3 PM

The Penthouse Cigar Shop, 570 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford. Come out for Penthouse Cigar Lounge's Annual Christmas Party with Micallef Cigars!

Saturday, December 18, 7 – 10 PM

Red Rock Tavern, 369 Capitol Ave, Hartford. "JJ The Artist" will host one 90-minute canvas paint session holiday themed. Event starts @ 7pm; painting starts at 8pm.

Saturday, Dec 18, 8 – 11 AM

Hartford City Hall, 550 Main St, Hartford. 2021 Holiday Toy Giveaway Event happening at Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street, Hartford. First come, first served.

Saturday, December 18, 7 PM & Sunday, December 19, 12 AM

Love of Christmas Party: Join us for an evening of sharing Christmas love. Lite bites, Cocktail specials, Live Music with Mike Childs and the band, DJ Bigg Mann, Dancing, Networking, Local Vendors and Giveaways. The Bushnell Performing Arts Center 166 Capitol Ave, Hartford.

Sunday, December 19, 2:30 PM

TheaterWorks Hartford, 233 Pearl St, Hartford. Christmas On The Rocks, Connecticut's twisted holiday tradition returns! Your favorite kids from Christmas stories all grown up, shaken, stirred, and served with a twist.

Sunday, December 19, 9 AM- 8 PM

Holiday Pop Up Shop: Parkville Market, 1400 Park St, Hartford. Holiday shopping and great food – who can beat that!

Sunday, December 19, 12 – 4 PM

Parker Memorial Community Center, 2621 Main St, Hartford. This year we celebrate our 8th Annual Victims Against Violence (VAV) Holiday Event. A day full of fun, laughter, and joy!

Sunday, December 19, 3 – 4 PM

Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St, Hartford. Join Voce in an



Viewing the holiday decorations in the Westend is an event in itself – admission is free and it's open seven days a week!

immersive experience of comfort and joy. Think dimmed lights, candles, stillness – coming home. We are thrilled to welcome you in-person or virtually.

Sunday, December 19, 12 – 4 PM

Chez Est, 458 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford. Loosey LaDuca Presents: Brunch in Heels Ho's For The Holidays: 12 - 3pm Showtime: 2pm Featuring performances by: Loosey LaDuca, Astra S'Lay, Erotica, Sparkle Diamond. Admission charged.

Sunday, December 19, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Sea Tea Comedy Theater, 15 Asylum St, Hartford. What if Scrooge owned a pet store? What if the Ghost of Christmas Past was a Film Noir detective? What if Tiny Tim wasn't so tiny? Find out!

Sunday, December 19, 12 – 3 PM

Bushnell Park Carousel, 1 Jewell Street, Hartford. Winterfest Hartford brings free ice skating, free skate rentals and more to Bushnell Park. 12:00pm - 3:00pm: Photos with Santa in the Pumphouse.

Sunday, December 19, 12:00 AM – 8:30 PM

359 Washington St, Hartford: Join New England Ballet Theatre in celebrating this holiday season! This brand new holiday ballet is perfect for the entire family and is a production you won't want to miss.

Sunday, December 19, 6 – 9 PM

Shefa of Grace and Rich Dae Entrepreneur Foundation Toy Give Away, 2550 Main St, Hartford. FREE EVENT. Come out and pick up toys for your tots. Registration is mandatory. 'Tis the season to give and share. Come out and enjoy the fun, gifts, raffles, food and toys for your children.

Friday December 24, 7:30 – 8:30 PM

St. George Armenian Apostolic Church, 22 White St, Hartford. Fellowship & light refreshments following the service. Santa visits St. George.

Friday, December 24

Asylum Hill Congregational Church Christmas Eve – 4:30 Live nativity in the Church parking lot – bring own chairs / blankets. 8:00 – traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting service in the sanctuary and 11:30 p.m. – In person vigil to ring in the birth of Christ. See www.ahcc.org/calendar or call 860-525-5696

Saturday December 25, 10 AM

The Apostles House, 131 Elliott Street East, Hartford. Christmas & Candlelight Service Hosted By The Apostles House, Join us in singing, dancing and also a skit

Saturday, December 25, 12 AM

Our Lady of Sorrows, 16 Greenwood St, Hartford. 12:00 A.M. Midnight Mass for Christmas Additional Christmas Masses: December 24, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m. (English) December 24, 2021 @ 8:00 p.m. (Spanish) December 25, 2021 @ 12:00 Midnight

Sunday, December 26, 2 – 5 PM

William H. Mortensen Hall, 166 Capitol Ave, Hartford. Shen Yun invites you to travel back to the magical world of ancient China. Experience a lost culture through the incredible art of classical Chinese dance, and see legends come to life.

Tuesday, December 28, 10 AM – 12 PM

Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library, 1 Elizabeth St, Hartford. Family Program: Cocoa and Crafts. Curl up with some hot cocoa at the CHS! Join us for a morning of crafts, hot chocolate, and readings of Anna Llenas' The Color Monster. After the story, make your own felt monster to take home!

Friday, December 31, 2021, 10 PM – Jan 1, 2022, 3 AM

Goodwin Park, 1106 Maple Ave, Hartford. Central Connecticut's favorite holiday light display is back! In our 11th season, Holiday Light Fantasia is a much-loved Greater Hartford tradition and this season's holiday cheer destination.

Enjoy the Holidays at The Twain House



The Mark Twain House is decorated for the holidays! A visit to the Clemens Family's historic home is a festive favorite for friends from the Hartford region and beyond. Be sure to book your tickets for a house tour or one of our popular Living History tours with a costumed resident or servant of the house. Reserve your tickets early to ensure you see "the loveliest home that ever was" at its most lovely!

We are also offering a special series of our Clemens Conversations virtual program centered around the holidays. Each program is streamed live from inside the decorated Mark Twain House - tickets are \$10. You can find more information on the specific programs here: <https://marktwainhouse.org/2021/10/06/christmas-clemens-conversations/> or on our events page marktwainhouse.org/events/



Photos reprinted with permission from The Mark Twain House & Museum, Hartford, Connecticut.

THIS OLD HOUSE

An Interview with Erin Fink, from the State Historic Preservation Office

1. What is the Historical Tax Credit program?

The Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit can provide a 30% tax credit voucher, up to \$30,000 per dwelling unit on eligible rehabilitation expenditures that meet the \$15,000 minimum expenditure level and can be directly attributed to the long-term preservation of the historic building fabric.

2. What is a tax credit voucher?

A tax credit voucher is not the same as a check/cash. The voucher can only be claimed by a C-Corporation to off-set their State income tax, so a homeowner must sell the voucher to obtain the cash. An applicant can find a C-Corp on their own, engage with a tax credit broker, or work with the SHPO office to facilitate the sale of the voucher to a local energy company. There is no set timeline for payment of the voucher.

3. What is the underlying goal of the program?

The Tax credit is intended to retain and preserve the historic character of a property. Changes to the original building (typically 50 years or older) may have

acquired historic significance in their own right and shall be retained and preserved, along with distinctive features, finishes, construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property.

4. What improvements are eligible for the tax credit?

Many types of improvements are eligible, from porch repairs, to exterior doors and steps, window shutters, chimneys, Roof and gutters, Painting (exterior and interior), carpentry (exterior and interior), abatement of hazardous materials, staircases, structural repairs and stabilization, decorative ornamentation, moldings, paneling, floors (existing wood floors, historic tiles), heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical wiring, basement, wells, Septic system and Geo-thermal system. This list is not all-inclusive.

5. What improvements are NOT eligible for the tax credit?

Items that are not eligible include, but are not limited to,

replacement of historic building fabric unless it is in-kind and the feature is beyond repair, Changes to the historic floorplan, Spray foam



insulation, new appliances or fixtures, landscaping, driveways, fences, the

owner's personal labor, non-construction costs such as architectural fees, legal fees, and financing fees,

6. What are the requirements for applying (CT resident, historical home, etc.)?

The historic home must be listed either individually or as a contributing resource in a State or National Register of Historic Places District. The Hartford Preservation Alliance maintains a list of eligible historic properties. It must be owner occupied as the primary residence for 5 years following the issue of the tax credit, it may only have 1-4 housing units, the owner must be a CT taxpayer and the historic homeowner must have a minimum of \$15,000 in qualified historic preservation expenditures approved.

7. What is the application process?

The part 1 application includes pictures of all 4 sides, outbuildings and street views to determine if the building is historic.

The part 2 application lists each project line by line and a detailed

scope of work for each. Photographs are required and an estimated amount backed by a quote is required for each project. We recommend getting at least 2 quotes for each project, but know that it's not always possible. Both the part 1 and part 2 application must be submitted BEFORE any work begins.

The part 3 application is submitted AFTER the work is completed. It includes finished project photographs and receipts or cancelled checks showing that the work was paid for in full and was done according to the approved scope of work in the part 2 application.

The part 4 application certifies that the property will serve as the owner's primary residence for 5 years or be sold to a new owner who will occupy the property during the five-year occupancy period. This is a good faith agreement. The applications can be downloaded at They should be filled in electronically and submitted by email as the SHPO office is working remotely due to the pandemic.

8 Do you have any tips for an interested homeowner?

Because there is a multi-part

Continued on page 8



Founded in 2011 by West End resident Guy Neumann, GN Construction has a strong background in project management and general contracting. We specialize in general contracting for homeowners and investor-owned properties. Between our "in house" crews and the best sub-contractors in the business, we have built a team that can help you solve practically any issue you may have in relation to your home. We do whatever it takes for your remodeling project, be it bathroom renovation, kitchen remodeling, basement, deck, sun-room, tile, floors, etc. We are a design-build operation, and we provide remodeling services for both residential and commercial customers in CT and parts of Western MA. Our one-stop approach adds a tremendous amount of value to our clients, saving them time, money, and headaches.

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School & Youth News



Watkinson School's Annual Turkey Drive

For nearly 20 years, Watkinson School's student foundation, a club that cultivates an ethos of generosity amongst the student body, has been running an annual Turkey Drive in conjunction with the United Methodist Church on Farmington Avenue. Every advisory group is assigned an item (stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberries, etc) and each student in the advisory is tasked with bringing in 10 of that item. On the day before Thanksgiving, all the items are brought to the church to create food kits for distribution. This year, the students' efforts yielded 105 turkeys and 202 bags of food being distributed to those in need. Watkinson School is a co-ed independent day school for grades 6-12/PG in Hartford's west end. To learn more, attend an info session or book a tour, details are at watkinson.or/visit.

HIU student creates library in Indonesia

(From the Hartford International University for Religion & Peace:) Imbran Bonde of Indonesia, a student in the inaugural MA in International Peacebuilding program, didn't have a chance to read *The Chronicles of Narnia* until he was in seminary.

"In my village, many children can't afford to buy books," Imbran said. "A book was a fancy thing." But rather than accept that, Imbran decided to create a small library that gives people in his village access to books and offers English classes as well. The library opened in a small house in 2020, during the pandemic, with some donated funds. While Imbran is in Hartford studying, his sister is helping him maintain the library.

Imbran, a Christian, grew up in the Poso Regency of Central Sulawesi Province. His family couldn't afford books for pleasure, and he wasn't introduced to fiction that offers "inspiration and imagination" until he was grown and studying at seminary. In his mind, there is a connection between offering children the opportunity to read and learn about the world and reducing conflict in an area known for violence between Muslims and Christians. Imbran himself experienced the trauma of having his family home burned down by Muslims, whom he was taught to hate. But his education and the experience of meeting other Muslims dispelled that hate and taught him to appreciate diversity and pluralism.

He recently contributed a chapter about trauma to a book produced by the Christian Church of Central Sulawesi. The book is written in Imbran's native language, Bahasa Indonesia. He wrote the chapter to educate local pastors about the impact of trauma, especially on young people in the region, too many of whom are committing suicide. "We have conflict, but we're not aware about trauma," he said. "We need to face the problem."

In Hartford, Imbran has been learning how to manage projects, analyze cases, and better understand the problems his community faces. He is also working with Foodshare as part of his field education and hopes to help improve farming practices when he returns home next summer. Imbran said his family and friends often ask him why he didn't choose to work as a pastor after graduating from seminary. "There are many ways to preach the word of God," he tells them. "We need to take care of the problems we have in society."

Get to Know Our Neighbor: UofH



Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford, located at 200 Bloomfield Avenue, has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. UHart is a four-year private university with approximately 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students. UHart

also offers flexible adult degree-completion programs, performing arts instruction for all ages, and youth programs. The public is also invited to campus (please see website for latest health guidelines and virtual options) for year-round performances, art exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, and athletic events. Upcoming event highlights include: *The Nutcracker* (pictured), an annual tradition from The Hartt School's Community Division, December 17-19. Many concerts and performances listed at hartford.edu/Hartt

News About Sheff

School Choice Lottery Now Open; Deadline is January 31

Now is the time to apply to the interdistrict Magnet schools and the Open Choice program. Families can apply to up to five magnet schools and also apply to attend schools in up to five suburban districts. Families living in zip code 06114 can apply to Open Choice to attend regular, non-magnet public schools in Berlin, Farmington, Newington, Plainville, and Southington. Families living in zip code 06105 and part of 06112, can apply to Open Choice to attend regular, non-magnet public schools in Avon, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Simsbury, Suffield and West Hartford.

The majority of the available seats are in PK4, kindergarten, and grade 1. It's never too early to apply as the date comes up quickly.

The Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) application deadline is January 31, 2022. For more information and to apply, visit www.ChoiceEducation.org. If you have questions or need assistance in completing your application, call RSCO at (860) 713-6990

SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in submitting an item to *The Westender*, please email to: TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com

School Calendar & Events

Watkinson School

Winter Break: 12/20/2021 – 1/3/2022 (Resumes 1/4/2022)
1/14/22: MLK Celebration, Early dismissal
1/17/22: MLK Day, No school.
2/21/22: Presidents' Day, No school.

Renzulli Gifted & Talented Academy

Winter Recess: 12/24/2021-12/31/2021
1/6/22: Three Kings Day, School closed
1/17/22: MLK Day, No school.
2/21/22: Presidents' Day, No school.

Annie Fisher Montessor Magnet School

Winter Recess: 12/24/2021-12/31/2021
1/6/22: Three Kings Day, School closed
1/17/22: MLK Day, No school.
2/21/22: Presidents' Day, No school.

Noah Webster Microsociety Magnet School

Winter Recess: 12/24/2021-12/31/2021
1/6/22: Three Kings Day, School closed
1/17/22: MLK Day, No school.
2/21/22: Presidents' Day, No school.

CLASSICAL MAGNET SCHOOL

Winter Recess: 12/24/2021-12/31/2021
1/6/22: Three Kings Day, School closed
1/17/22: MLK Day, No school.
2/21/22: Presidents' Day, No school.

Children's Museum

12/13/21-12/15/21: Closed for public entry
12/20/21-12/22/21: Closed for public entry

Board of Ed Regular Meetings

January 18th (Public meeting on proposed 2022 – 2023 budget);
February 15th; March 15th; April 19th; May 17th; June 21st

Regular meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Weaver High School. Most meetings are streamed live by J. Stan McCauley on his youtube channel. Agendas can be found at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ct/hartford/Board.nsf/Public>

CALLING ALL HARTFORD STUDENTS

HARTFORD CREATIVE CONTEST 2022

Essay

Visual Art

Poetry

3 TOPICS

Where do I find beauty within Hartford?
What does cultural diversity mean to me?
If I could travel anywhere, where would I go and why?

Grand Prize of \$500 (Lots of Prizes)

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hartfordcontest.com

DEADLINE MARCH 7TH

An Architectural Minute

461 FARMINGTON AVENUE

Did you ever wonder about the layout of 461 Farmington Avenue?

This home was built around 1900 and, at one time, was owned by the West End Civic Association and used as a Community Center. It currently houses Compassionate Care Homemakers and Companion LLC.

This lovely home harkens back to the City's heyday when Hartford, and the West End in particular, was the place to be. The story is that it was built in 1900 by Capt. Newton for his small family (his wife, son and himself). Apparently, Capt. Newton traveled frequently to Europe, which was evidenced by some of the home's architectural features.

The exterior of the house was white stucco, as it is today, with the large white Ionic Pillars and spacious porch. On either side of the stairs leading to the oversized main door there were two large Italian dark green marble planter boxes.

The front door was surrounded by narrow leaded glass windows that could be opened in pleasant weather.

The door was walnut, framed with wrought iron filagree work, the iron design mimicked the leaded glass side windows. Inside that iron was a screen which allowed the interior glass door to be swung open for ventilation in nice weather.

The front door opened into an L shaped living room, stretching from the front to the back of the house, where French doors opened onto a small enclosed porch.

The interior woodwork was walnut with paneling over the fireplace extending up to the ceiling. A wide staircase leading to the upper floor was in the back.

This carried the walnut woodworking through with spindles made of the same wal-



nut and topped by a substantial walnut railing.

The ceiling in the Living Room was plaster divided into squares framed by walnut dividers, and inside each was an extraordinary Tiffany lamp.

The frames of the lights were about 15" square and made of 1" heavy wrought iron square tubing. Each of the 4 corners had 4r short arms fitted with Tiffany multi colored light bulbs with elongated glass shades about 8" long.

The fireplace had a green Italian tile surround and hearth, also framed with walnut and a large mantel.

Opposite the fireplace, was a large bow window with a built-in window seat, covered with walnut paneling. The seat had several sections, each with had a piano hinge to provide for storage.

The seat was covered with a tufted green leather cushion.

On each side of the fireplace were French doors with patterned glass inserts leading into the dining room.

The Dining Room fireplace also had an Italian tile surround and hearth. In the middle of the plain white ceiling was a crystal chandelier.

At the back of the first floor on the south west side were the kitchen, with a servant's stairway leading to the second floor, and a small connected which was, perhaps, the pantry.

Going up the staircase was a generous wide landing half way up, with a large stained-glass window hiding the sleeping porch on the other side.

The second floor had a commodious landing; set into one was a large linen closet, also

made of walnut.

There were 2 banks of drawers on the bottom and double doors on the top, covering shelves.

There were 4 bedrooms on the 2nd floor.

A door on either side of the built-in linen closet led into large rectangle rooms, graced with canvas ceilings.

The center room overlooked Farmington Ave. with another Italian tiled fireplace, and the 4th room overlooked the back yard.

Next to the staircase was a bathroom entirely made of marble.

The walls had blue veined white Italian marble, and the floor had large blocks of white buffed marble. An oversized large claw footed tub with a center spigot dominated the room.

The staircase continued to the 3rd floor, again with a large landing with built-in cabinets on either side of a window. Behind one cabinet was a built in safe.

The walnut stairway ended on the 3rd floor with 2 bedrooms.

The attic had a large cedar closet with huge cedar drawers for storage.

The Newtons built the house in or about 1900. It's rumored that during the depression they fell on hard times and had to sell off the corner of their property (now a check cashing location).

The current owner has owned 461 Farmington since about 2014.

This is just one example of the extraordinary architecture that the West End has, and sometimes we forget that every one of the buildings that we drive by every day has a story. If your home has a story you'd like to share, please send it to TheWestender@gmail.com.

IS ESTATE PLANNING ONE OF YOUR NEW YEARS' RESOLUTIONS?

01

LIST YOUR ASSETS

Listing all your assets and their value is a good starting point. You can get a bird's eye view of your estate and start thinking about how you want to distribute it.

02

CONSIDER YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS

Make sure you consider your own potential incapacity, as well as the needs of your loved ones. Our job is to help you protect them when you're here, and when you're not.

03

THINK ABOUT BENEFICIARIES

Think about who you want to benefit, and whether you want to have bequests go outright, or if you want to leave funds in a protected trust. There are pros and cons to both.

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GET STARTED, CALL US.

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664 Farmington Avenue BBad Realty LLC to
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786 Prospect Avenue, Corrie K Sadler to James A
Aiello and Sheryl B Braun, \$480,500 11/19/21

1246 Asylum Avenue, Charles E. Brainard, Jr. and
Charles E Brainard 3rd to Mark P Beall and Laura
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Tax Reval Update

COMMENTARY BY MIKE MCGARRY

Many readers have responded to our columns on revaluation in both this publication and The Hartford News. State law demands, with current statutes, that the value of taxable property must be re-evaluated every five years. The reason for this is that conditions and values change and to be fair to everyone, those changes must be taken into account when determining property tax bills.

The problem this year is that higher demand has dramatically increased the value of homes, multi-family dwellings and apartment buildings. Then, to top off the problem, the value of office spaces has decreased somewhat, due to many people working from home.

the towel in the face of huge mortgage increases. And it's not just Hartford. West Hartford and East Hartford have similar problems.

For Hartford, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel. Based on continuing investment in the city, Hartford's current administration is finally making economic development its top priority. However, all commercial development takes time, but home and apartment values can increase dramatically virtually overnight, which they have.

The latest guess is that the city's final grand list numbers will not come in until early next year, pushing the whole process into late Spring.

This would give the mayor,

council and even state legislators time to work out some kind of legislative remedy.

Problem is...any shift of the tax burden hurts somebody and many commercial property owners are awaiting adjustments and will go to court to demand fair treatment (for them).

We think the city should look into helping whoever is hurt the most by the possible tax increases, and put into effect systems to prevent a massive increase in foreclosures and abandonment.

A further note: PAY ATTENTION! Watch for your numbers, appeal for relief with real proof of hardship or unfair treatment, if needed, and talk to your elected officials about possible remedies.

The problem this year is that higher demand has dramatically increased the value of homes, multi-family dwellings and apartment buildings.

The shift of taxation from commercial to residential could mean much higher taxes on where people live. Rents on all apartments could skyrocket as landlords pass their increased tax burden onto their tenants. Homeowners may throw in

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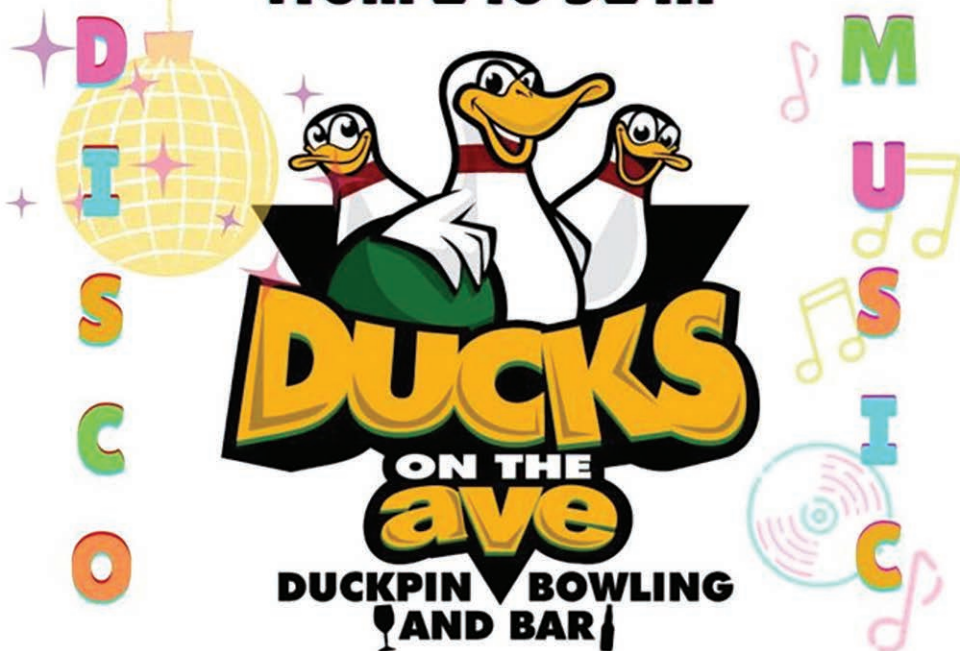
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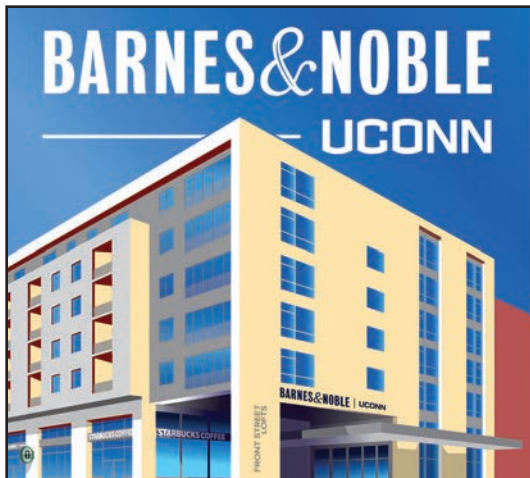
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West End Wizbangers

If you were living in the west end during the summer of 2020 and 2021, chances are you heard a marching band careening down our streets. The West End Wizbangers is a band that was born out of the pandemic, and has only grown since its conception. If you've been to the Bushnell Theater recently, you may have even heard our digital concert on the screens outside. Next summer we have even bigger plans for choreographed concerts (outside and in-studio) and of course were going to bring the music the music back to the streets. We may even add new members to form a full sized marching band! If you want more information about our performances once summer rolls around again, you can follow us on Instagram @westendwizbangers See you soon!



PROUD TO SUPPORT THE WESTENDER!

HARTFORD WOOD-N-TAP IS NOW OPEN!



FROM OUR FAMILY...



This Old House

Continued from page 4

application process, we recommend planning ahead by a few months. If the work has started, the project becomes in-eligible.

The SHPO office receives about 50 applications/month, so it often takes a full 30 days to review them in the order in which they were received.

The applicant has 5 years to complete the work before the reservation amount expired.

The COVID pandemic impacted the timing of the program and payment of vouchers. SHPO is working working to create an online application platform that will allow homeowners to login to submit applications and check

review timelines.

Of note, Eversource Energy will now charge a \$.10 administration fee for every \$1.00 in historic rehabilitation tax credits it purchases and cannot guarantee it will purchase any historic rehabilitation tax credits after July 2022. The SHPO realizes that this may come as unwelcome news to many people with current and/or pending historic rehab tax credit projects. The SHPO is committed to assisting anyone with questions about the impact of this policy on their projects.

For more information, you can reach Ms. Fink by email at Erin.Fink@ct.gov

YULE BE BUSY ALL SEASON.

*Jingle your bells at HARTFORD.COM