

Welcome to the New Westender!

The *Westender Newspaper* was a monthly publication distributed to those living in the West End of Hartford. The paper published its first issue in June 1973, and continued publishing until 1985. The *Westender* covered upcoming events in the area, notable accomplishments by its residents, and any other information pertinent to the community. Its goal was to provide “[n]o editorial bias other than a lot of community pride,” and to “act as a responsible forum for discussion, debate, and disagreement within the neighborhood, and thus to foster a stronger sense of community.” (The *Westender*, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1973).

Unfortunately, due to a myriad of factors including lack of staff, lack of funding, and an increasingly partisan news media, the *Westender* stopped publication in late 1985. Shortly thereafter, in the Spring of 1986, the community, still recognizing the need for a local publication, began the *West End II*, a brief text-only newsletter distributed to the West End. This quarterly publication continued for several years until it was also shuttered due to lack of staff and funding.

We believe local papers like the *Westender* are important because they create a sense of community that is different than that found on Facebook and similar social media platforms. In our busy worlds, neighbors rarely see neighbors out and about, and a local paper allows us to communicate about issues that the larger papers, such as the *Courant*, tend to ignore.

We are resurrecting the beloved *Westender* in order to try to regain some of that sense of community that the West End has lost in recent years and particularly over the last 2 years while shuttered in our homes during the pandemic.

We hope you enjoy it, and look forward to hearing from you on all matters, large and small.

UCONN Law School Celebrates Centennial



The University of Connecticut School of Law kicked off its centennial celebrations with a Founders' Day event on its Elizabeth Street campus on Oct. 25.

The event marked 100 years to the day since the Hartford College of Law held its first class in rented rooms in downtown Hartford. The school, founded by George and Caroline Lillard, moved several times over the years before settling in 1984 into the Collegiate Gothic buildings formerly occupied by the Hartford Seminary. The law school became part of the University of Connecticut in 1948.

UConn Law Dean and West End resident Eboni S. Nelson, who took office in 2020, welcomed the crowd of students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends at the outdoor ceremony. She spoke of the law school's growth over the past century and its enduring commit-

ment to justice for all people.

“That small night school for insurance workers who desired a legal education has grown into a preeminent law school that has been committed to protecting the rule of law and advancing justice in local, national and global communities,” Nelson said. “Being of service and expanding access to justice have been goals of UConn Law since its founding, and that important work continues today.”

Other speakers marking the occasion included Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, whose mother Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz was the law school's first female tenured professor, and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. Interim UConn President Andrew Agwunobi, Provost Carl Lejuez, Trustee Marilda Gandara, Assistant Dean Karen DeMeola and Attorney Tara Trifon also gave

Continued on page 6

Hartford Seminary Changes Name and Broadens Mission



Hartford Seminary, a 187-year-old graduate institution that fosters interreligious education, religion research, and global peacebuilding, is changing its name and broadening its mission.

Going forward, the institution will be called Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, or simply Hartford International University (HIU). The name change is the culmination of a 2-year-long strategic planning initiative that positions the university as a global leader in interreligious education, peace studies, and religion research. A new area – executive and professional education – will bring the university's expertise to a wide array of workplaces and institutions.

“We initiated the name change to better reflect the expanded, international scope of our rigorous academic programs, research, and partnerships,” said university President Joel N. Lohr, Ph.D., who arrived in Hartford in 2018 and led the strategic initiative.

deepening humanity's understanding of different faiths and how we can thrive together,” Clare Feldman, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said.

The university's new outreach through executive and professional education will bring its message to a much wider community.

“Our mission is even more relevant today,



Governor Ned Lamont speaks at the announcement of the school's new name.



Hartford International University President Joel N. Lohr

“We're excited about our future here because the world today, more than ever before, needs the kind of education we provide,” he said. “The goal we've set for ourselves is to show that religion and peace are deeply connected. Or, put another way, there will be no peace in this world until there is understanding among religions.”

New Name. Bigger Mission. Same Commitment.

What won't change is Hartford International University's deep and long-standing commitment to interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding.

“Hartford International continues to be a pioneering, interreligious school devoted to

where our neighbors increasingly reflect the diversity of our world,” President Lohr said. “We speak different languages, eat different cuisine, dress differently, and practice different faiths or no faith at all. We see this as a critical – and missing – part of the diversity, equity, and inclusion conversation. Employees shouldn't have to check an important piece of their identity at the door.”

The new Hartford International University logo has five geometric shapes that come together to form an ascending dove. The five colors of the logo represent the colors found in the flags of the world.

“We've created a mark that should evoke a universal response – one of hope, peace, and unity,” President Lohr said. “The Ascending Dove logo symbolizes our students journeying out into the world and then back to their communities as messengers of peace and respect. Ours is a message of hope, showing the world what interaction between religions could be.”

For more information, please review the attached fact sheet and visit hartfordinternational.edu. Watch our name change video at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEBL3NjCm-A>

REVALUATION: A Tough Scenario

Sometime this fall, the reality of the effects of current revaluation will finally hit home.

Here are the facts: Unless some mitigation legislation passes both the state legislature and the city council early in 2022, and the City takes advantage of options, taxes on homes and apartments will go up dramatically.

Homeowner example: If your home went up in value 35%, your taxes will go up 35% at least.

If your home was valued at \$100,000 two years ago and it would sell for \$180,000 now, your taxes will go up from \$2,600 to \$ 4,900.

Renters Example: If the value of your building went up 50% (some have), your rent will pay the extra tax bill. Estimates are \$150 to \$250 per month for a nice unit.

Underlining the shift of the burden from business taxes to household taxes may be due to the drop in office rentals throughout the city. COVID-19, home offices, and technology (cutting needed space) will reduce the income, therefore the taxable value of the grand list. Also, Travelers' move back to the renovated main offices will leave gaps all around downtown. Less office space also means a decrease in business personal property taxable items.

There is hope that the residential values will increase the grand list, as car values have. However, even a 5% increase, plus the additional \$25 million in state aid (thanks to Matt Ritter) could only mean a modest mil rate decrease. That means minimal help for residential taxes affected by the rise in values.

So, the only help is some legislative action. For example, the City Council can phase in the increased evaluations. But this eliminates

most of the grand list increase. How about some state aid? We just got more pilot and school aid – could Representative Ritter pull it off again? Would the rest of the state stand for it? The Governor talks about increased income tax credits but that doesn't help renters or many low income seniors who pay little or no state taxes.

State Representative Matt Ritter,

Company. If you feel aggrieved, you have chances for review, appeal and even court action."

The company that did the revaluation will review, with the taxpayer, starting in December, their assessments. They listen to the opinions offered, and may find mistakes leading to over-evaluation.

If one is not satisfied, from February 1, 2022 to February 20, 2022, tax payers can file an appeal. It is best to go personally to the Assessors Office (City Hall, 550 Main Street, Room 108). They can also file online (assessment@hartford.gov)..

The Board of Assessment Appeals meets in March or April, every work day from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The board reviews every case. Taxpayers are advised to bring proof of the appeal: appraisals, work estimates, photos, bills of sale...whatever makes a fair discussion of value. Several weeks after the hearings, applicants will receive the decisions of the board. Those not satisfied can then appeal to

the Connecticut Superior Court. Legal representation is suggested if the amount of taxation merits such expense.

All taxpayers should be aware of the various exemptions or credits available; seniors, disabled, military and distressed properties.

One way the City could help seniors with modest incomes is to increase the available credit off their taxes from \$500 to \$1,000. It is the same for veterans and disabled with different dollar assessment figures. Distressed properties are case by case.

For all the above, taxpayers must apply with proper documentations. For details, contact the Assessors Office. (Phone: 860-757-9640; Email: assessment@hartford.gov)

TIMELINE

- 1 **Assessment numbers**
Late November/Early December
- 2 **Meetings with assessment company**
Early December
- 3 **Appeal filed in Assessors Office.**
February 1 – 20.
- 4 **Board of Assessment hearings.**
March or April (every working day)
- 5 **Superior Court Case Hearing**
Within two months of Board of Assessment Appeal action

Speaker of the House of Representatives, recently said, "Legislation will probably pass during this coming session, giving towns and cities many options," like delaying revaluation or other potential mitigation.

Until all the commercial numbers (and appeals and court cases) are in, hold your breath. High taxes will mean lower values but we'll be stuck with higher values for five years (next re-val) unless something changes. Good luck.

OTHER OPTIONS: What taxpayers can do

Councilman John Gale admonishes all tax payers, commercial and residential to "pay attention to all correspondence from the Assessors' Office and the Tyler Revaluation

Interested in Curbside Gardens for the West End?

Would you like the West End to have curbside gardens (the space between the street and the sidewalk) planted with native and pollinator-friendly flowers? Our environment needs more native and pollinator friendly plants. Curbside gardens can be a part of both beautification, and improving our environment. Streets that do not have a lot of on street parking are suitable for curbside gardens. Talk to you neighbors about their

interest in having curbside gardens. Blocks will be selected to participate in this pilot project based on residents' commitment. Grants or donations may be available for soil, plants and mulch. Volunteers will be needed to help identify plants that are most suitable; remove curbside grass and prepare soil; add plantings and mulch. Let's make this happen one block at a time!

Val Bryan (vjrbryan@att.net)



From the House: Capitol Update

By Matt Ritter
State Representative, 1st District

October Brings New State Laws

Several new laws in Connecticut took effect in October, and I am proud to say they will have a positive impact on the daily lives of thousands of residents. These new laws are a result of the hard work of the General Assembly during the 2021 session as legislators worked together to push for change that benefits all Connecticut residents and helps move our state forward.

Here is a selection of some of the new laws that took effect on October 1, 2021:

- To better protect women in the workplace who are also breastfeeding their babies, this new law requires employers to provide a private room or location with an electrical outlet for women to express milk. Employers must also provide a refrigerated space to store the breast-milk. The law also protects breastfeeding employees from workplace discrimination.
- Reducing gender discrimination is the goal of this new law that requires employers to offer equal pay for "comparable" work regardless of gender. A separate provision also requires employers to offer prospective applicants and employees with a scale of pay among those with similar tasks.
- Current state law prohibits the use of any hand-held mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle. As of October 1, penalties for the dangerous practice of texting and driving increased in an effort to reduce distracted driving. For the first violation, offenders are now fined \$200 (previously \$150). For a second violation, offenders are fined \$375 (previously \$300). A third or subsequent violation brings a fine of \$625 (previously \$500).
- Crossing the street should be safer with a new law that clarifies the rules for pedestrians in crosswalks by requiring that drivers must slow down or stop if a pedestrian is in a crosswalk or indicated that they are going to cross.

Your voice is an important part in the legislative process and has an impact on what new laws are considered each year, so please stay active and stay in touch with your state legislator.

As your representative I am here to help and listen to your concerns, so please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, on Facebook @RepresentativeMattRitter or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.



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/>

November, 2021

November 17th - Public Meeting - 7:00 - 8:30 / Board meeting 8:30 - 9:00

December, 2021

No meeting in December

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

THE WESTENDER

Published by The Westender, LLC

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 Advertising Manager.....Josephine Finocchiaro
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Austin House Gets a Touch-up



View of the Austin House from Scarborough Street. (Courtesy of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art)

The Wadsworth Atheneum's legendary director, A. Everett "Chick" Austin, Jr. and his wife Helen Goodwin built the Austin House in 1930. Eighty-six feet long and only eighteen feet deep, the house is a National Historic Landmark located at 130 Scarborough Street, Hartford. This fall the building is receiving needed upkeep. The Wadsworth is working with Consigli Construction, Inc. to seal and repaint the exterior. Having undergone analysis, the paint color being applied is identical to the original colors chosen by Helen and Chick.



The Austin House receives a fresh coat of paint, identical to original colors. (Courtesy of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art)

A magician, actor, artist and Harvard-trained museum professional, Chick, as Austin was widely known, designed the house to reflect a distant view of Scamozzi's Villa Ferretti, built in 1596. The architecture simultaneously celebrates a rediscovery of the baroque aesthetic and the emergence of modernism in the early twentieth century. Many of the interior architectural features were acquired by Chick and Helen on their 1929 honeymoon grand tour abroad—such as a Bavarian bed niche that dominates the dining room and large armoire doors leading into the living room.



The Austin House's striking circular stairway. (Courtesy of The Hartford News)

Chick was a lightning rod for the American modernist movement. At his home, and at the Wadsworth, he entertained many notables of the era, including George Balanchine, Alexander Calder, Salvador Dali, Buckminster Fuller, George Gershwin, family friend Katharine Hepburn, Edward Hopper, Lincoln Kirstein, Angela Lansbury, the Rockefellers, Gertrude Stein, composer Virgil Thompson, and more.

Helen Austin gifted the house to the Wadsworth in the 1980s, and it underwent an outstanding renovation in the 2000s with a stellar team of distinguished preservationists. As with any historic structure, care and maintenance are significant to long-term preservation. The work being done today is a part of a larger vision for this notable historic structure, and over the next few years, the Wadsworth plans to undertake other major preservation efforts at the Austin House.

Realty Check
By Mollie Abend & Rick Conary,
Realtors, Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices, New England Properties

The Connecticut real estate market is very active, and Hartford's West End is no exception.

With high buyer demand, low interest rates, and migration into the area from out-of-town buyers, we have seen homes sell quickly and for higher prices over the past 18 months. The cultural diversity, architectural charm and sense of community has made the West End popular with not only out of state buyers, but with local buyers as well.

People from neighboring suburbs are moving into the West End, as well as individuals moving back after living elsewhere for a period. People are

Over the past 18 months, over 70 single family homes have sold in the West End, up from just over 45 homes in the 18-month period prior to that.

finding value in the neighborhood and a selection of homes that are hard to find elsewhere.

Over the past 18 months, over 70 single family homes have sold in the West End, up from just over 45 homes in the 18-month period prior to that. Home values are up over 22% with a median sales price of \$460,000 versus \$374,750 for the prior period. And the time homes sit on the market is down over 70% to 41 days compared to 137 days.

It's been a strong market in the West End and Greater Hartford in general. Although we have seen a slight slowdown recently, we don't see this trend changing dramatically based on indications in the market. Although activity may start to level off, if the overall housing market stays strong, and all indications are that it will, the West End should continue to see strong sales activity as well.

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SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in submitting an item to The Westender, please email to: uzannb@beckett-law.com

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PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY

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TOPICS

Choose One:

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?

GUIDELINES

Accepted submissions can be in the form of an essay, poem, or artwork. All entries must relate directly to one of the above topics and follow these guidelines:

ESSAYS: Must be TYPED on standard 8.5 X 11" paper. Must be a minimum of 400 words and must not exceed 1,200 words.

POETRY: Must be TYPED on standard 8.5 X 11" paper. Must not exceed 2 pages.

VISUAL ART: Must be on paper or canvas no larger than 18 X 24". ALL ARTWORK must be delivered to one of the addresses below and must include a paragraph explaining how it relates to the prompt.

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE ENTRANT'S ORIGINAL WORK, NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

SUBMISSIONS

Each submission must include: The student's name, age, grade, school, teacher's name, complete home address, valid email, and working phone number. **We must be able to contact you!** All entries except for art may be submitted electronically on HartfordCreativeContest.com or by mail at, Beckett Law Offices, 543 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 or The Mark Twain House & Museum, 385 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT 06105. Open to all Hartford residents grades 4 - 12, as well as non-Hartford residents attending Hartford schools.

JUDGING & AWARDS

All work will be evaluated based on content, creativity and originality. Entries in each category of essays, poetry and artwork will be divided into 3 grade-based sub-categories: Grades 4 - 6, 7 - 9, and 10 - 12. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards given in each category.

AWARD CEREMONY

There will be an award ceremony in mid-May. We will announce the date and time in April.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



School & Youth News

Watkinson Rams from the West End: Excited to Compete!



High school basketball players all over the country are gearing up for the 2022 basketball season. For some athletes, this is the first indoor, interscholastic basketball competition in nearly 18 months. That is the case for West Enders Marcus Vega and Will Furneaux, both of whom attend Watkinson School. Marcus, a freshman, is excited. "We have been playing together outside for a long time. It's exciting to finally have the opportunity to play competitively with my friends!" Watkinson's athletic program worked to provide its athletes meaningful opportunities to develop both their skills and their athletic mindset during quarantine.

Will, a senior, adds, "We have a long tradition of holding each other accountable which is hard to find in a team and I'm looking forward to the season!"

Watkinson's athletic program boasts 17 interscholastic teams and the school prides itself on having almost 80% of its athletes play more than one Varsity sport; some play three. If a student wants to be an athlete AND an artist, actor or musician, Watkinson's philosophy and schedule make that possible.

Watkinson School is a co-ed independent day school for grades 6-12/PG in the west end of Hartford. To learn more, attend an upcoming in-person or virtual info session (watkinson.org/visit).

Noah Webster Update, Nov. 2021



Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School is back in full swing this fall! All our students are fully in-person this year. We currently have an enrollment of 620 students in grades Pre-K 3 to 8th grade. Last year was a tough year as we worked through the full year of COVID restrictions. We had about 55% of our students fully in-person last year and 45% remote. Our teachers did an amazing job of balancing in-person, virtual and hybrid (students in-person and online at the same time) learning last year helping our students to continue to grow academically and socially. We have had some COVID cases but to this point do not have any evidence of spread within the building as mask wearing, social distancing, classroom cohorts, quarantines and

vaccines have helped to keep our students safe. Our staff, students, and families have all worked hard to maintain a safe environment.

With the return to fully in-person learning we face the challenge of re-introducing and re-engaging students and families with Noah Webster. The last full, regular school year was 2018-2019 when our current 3rd grade students were in kindergarten! Our students, staff and families have been through a lot in this time but we have felt the enthusiasm to return to in-person learning. While we still follow COVID safety protocols we are able to engage with small group learning again in classrooms. We can harness what we have learned from online learning to support students in addition to our traditional in-person methods. Students can participate in art, music and PE in familiar ways. This year we have also been able to reinstate Mandarin as our world language for all students. We will continue to add activities this year through after school programming, guest speakers and presenters and field trips. While school in the time of COVID is not easy I am proud of our staff, our students, our families and our community for bringing enthusiasm and willingness to work together to provide a positive learning environment for all our students!

Gus Jacobson, principal

Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy



Dr. Joseph Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy, located on 85 Woodland St, Hartford CT is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Hartford residents may apply directly to the school, and do not have to participate in the RSCO lottery. Renzulli Academy offers unique

programming that centers around the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM), which includes enrichment clusters, general exploratory activities, individual and small group investigation of real problems. In addition, Renzulli offers foreign languages, field trips, in-school performances, and advanced course work. Renzulli Academy embraces the belief that engagement, enthusiasm, and enjoyment increase academic achievement, and provides follow-up advanced learning for children based on their interests.

Please visit our website at www.hartfordschools.org/renzulli or call the main office at 860-695-2140 for an application and/or more information.

Classical Magnet School



Classical Magnet School is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Classical is a small, liberal arts magnet school located in the West End of Hartford serving students grades 6-12 from Hartford and 24 suburban towns. Our rigorous program of studies includes Latin, Philosophy, Calculus, Anatomy & Physiology, Ancient Greek, and American Literature. In addition, we offer a strong art and music program with electives that include band, guitar, piano, choir, ceramics, painting, and digital photography. Our theater program is one of the best in the region. You're invited to join us in our Black Box Theater this March to see The Addams Family musical where in addition to performing, students are

responsible for the lighting, sound, costumes, and set design.

Our competitive athletics program includes Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Track, Baseball, Softball and Tennis. Many Classical students play varsity sports while participating in Student Senate and the arts resulting in well-rounded students who are prepared for success in college. Please join us for Open House or contact Heather Vega at hvega@hartfordschools.org for more information.

Virtual Open House- Wednesday, December 8 at 6:00

In-person Open House with school tours- Wednesday, January 19 at 6:00

Annie Fisher Montessori Magnet School



Annie Fisher Montessori Magnet School, located at 280 Plainfield Street in Hartford, is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year through the RSCO lottery.

Annie Fisher Montessori is an AMI recognized PK3 - 8 public Montessori school, featuring multi-age classrooms, individual and small group lessons, hands-on learning, outdoor exploration, and integrated academic and social curriculum. Science and making connections to real life applications is central to the Montessori curriculum. Our Erdkinder students (7th and 8th grade) take frequent trips to their classroom at Auer Farm and most recently learned about bats and built bat houses to be used there.

Discover what we have to offer at one of our virtual or in-person open houses:

Tuesday, January 7, 2:00 pm - Virtual

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://hartfordschools.org.zoom.us/j/9585656565>

Tuesday, January 18, 5:00 pm - In Person

Tuesday, January 25, 2:30 pm - Virtual

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://hartfordschools.org.zoom.us/j/9585656565>

Children's Museum Update



The Children's Museum continues to be actively working toward identifying a suitable site in Hartford for relocation of its facilities. In April of this year, it was awarded a study grant by the State through OPM/DECD to assess the suitability of up to eight sites and to hire a Development Consultant to help plan a Capital Campaign. Both tasks were launched and their respective initial phases essentially completed. Of the eight sites reviewed, three have been chosen for further consideration and were discussed at the WECA meeting on November 17th. The Capital Campaign planning has focused to date on the gathering of pertinent information and is now turning its attention to defining the action elements of the campaign.

Memories Of Noah Webster School

PATRICIAS S. BECKETT, PROUD GRADUATE OF NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1950

In 1945 my parents moved our family to 176 Kenyon Street in the west end of Hartford.

That fall I was enrolled in the neighborhood school, Noah Webster. The front entrance along Cone Street looked pretty much the same then as it does now. Parents and visitors entered through that entrance.

Students lined up every morning in the back of the school to join our classmates and enter the building.

Most kids walked to school from their homes in the neighborhood. But a few lived all the way up on Scarborough Road which was quite a hike to and from school. At least two or three kids on that street had families with chauffeured cars so they were driven to school and dropped off along Whitney Street next to the playground each morning. Governor Bowles was governor at the time, his family lived in the Governor's residence, since he believed in educating in public schools, he sent his kids to Noah Webster they also arrived in a chauffeured car.

There was no hot lunch program at the time which met that we had a longer lunch period to give us time to hurry home for lunch and get ourselves back to school. In our class, my mother was one of two or three working mothers, the rest being home as full-time housewives. Sometimes I was invited to a classmate's house to share lunch, other times I was given money and went to the corner drug store with a lunch counter where I ordered my usual lunch of a grilled cheese sand-

wich, a glass of milk. And a piece of blueberry pie. Later my mother stayed home and then I was one of the students who went home for lunch.

Noah Webster was sometimes described it as similar to a private school. The enrollment was not as large as today. Each grade filled one classroom. Some classrooms were empty. In some cases, teachers could spread out from their own classroom to the next empty room and use it for some extra purpose.

One teacher used the room next to her for an unusual purpose. If one of the children, mostly a boy, would misbehave, she would take a bag of dried peas and empty on the floor in the room. Then the misbehaved child would have to pick up every dried pea before he/she could come back to the classroom.

Special teachers came to us for music, art, and handwriting all taught within our own classrooms. Handwriting was an important subject.

We were taught cursive writing by a special teacher who put chalk lines on the black board and demonstrated how to form letters while we copied that sample onto our papers.

Then she would come around and check our work. If we were ambidextrous, as I was, we were encouraged to make our right hands our dominant writing hand. Four of us chose our right hand. One boy chose his left and remained a lefty for life.

Early on I met a friend at school who gave me her telephone num-

ber. I came home excited to try a phone call. Until then we had not had a telephone in our house, telephones were in short supply during WWII in the town I previously lived in. I came home to look at my phone and wondered how to use it. Our phone was a goose neck affair, with a funnel looking speaker at the top of a long stem, maybe 6-8" tall with a dial attached to the bottom of the phone.

The receiver was on a hook attached to the stem. I looked at that phone for about 20 minutes until I got brave enough to actually pick up the receiver and make my first ever call to my new friend who lived down the street from me.

Mildred Lake is the principal I remember well. She would come into our classrooms and remind us not to litter. If a neighbor complained to her that they had to pick up gum or candy wrappers along their sidewalks, Miss Lake would remind us to pick up any papers like that and put them in our pockets to bring home and dispose of them in our own wastepaper baskets there. She also stressed that we were not to walk on lawns, which might make paths in the grass next to neighbor's sidewalks. It was very important to her that we all exhibit responsible behavior in respecting the property of others.

She arranged special programs for us in the auditorium, I remember a program on seeing eye dogs, the Vienna Choir Boys, Oberammergau Passion Play among others. Looking back, I see that she really worked to make us

more aware of a world beyond where we lived.

Every year there were probably 4 afternoon performances at the Bushnell Memorial which were specially designed for children. It might be the symphony where different musicians showed their instruments and then put them all together in a musical performance, or it might be something entirely different. The tickets for kids were, I think, about 35c each. Our teachers would collect our money as we brought in our nickels and dimes to get to the grand total.

Teachers also collected weekly for our bank books. One of the local banks had a program where kids could start saving accounts by depositing small amounts of money weekly in special envelopes that went to the bank and were sent back weekly.

We'd bring in anything from a dime to a half dollar and our teachers would collect them weekly to be sent to the bank and then return the books to us later in time to collect for the next week. The "books" were a single sheet of folded cardboard that recorded all the transactions- deposits - interest- and balances. I guess it was a way to teach us to be saving some of our money.

In the older grades we sometimes had visiting parents or professionals come into our classrooms to teach us some relevant skill or give us information. I remember one Dad came in and showed us some basics of banking, like how to write a check and record it, review state-

ments, etc. I think he even gave us samples to practice on. Another time there was a woman doctor who came in to talk to the girls.

We were near the Hartford Seminary where missionaries came for classes every four years or so. I believe one Mom came to tell us about living in Brazil. By seventh and eighth grades teachers were concerned about getting us ready for high school where would have to change classes and classrooms. They started having us move between two classrooms where the teachers divided the subjects between them. One room was a home room where math might be taught, but then we'd move to the next room where we had social studies, and back and forth for the school day. Each subject was taught, by same two teachers, but each teaching particular subjects.

Each graduating class planted a rose bush along the fence on Whitney Street. Miss Lake would have the 8th grade out by the fence where we could help and/or watch our rose bush get planted.

Our class decided to take our own unofficial and not approved class trip.

We decided to go to Riverside Park. Several parents drove us up, we got there before the park opened, none of us had thought to check the opening times.

We got in, I had my first and only roller coaster ride and played many of the games and activities offered. Most of us went and I think had a good time.

Graduation was in the 3rd floor auditorium and was a big affair, we made our own programs to give to all our friends and families who attended.

We lost some of our classmates in 7th grade when a number of them were sent to local private schools or a boarding school. Most of us stayed until the end of 8th grade. At that point a number of us went on to Oxford/ Kingwood, Chafee/ Loomis/ or Mt. Saint Joseph or other local private schools. In those days all those schools remained all girls or all boys' schools. A handful of us went on the Hartford Public High School.

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UCONN Law

Continued from page 1

remarks.

The Founders' Day event kicked off a yearlong celebration. Other events will include a conversation with Nelson and past deans on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 5:30 p.m. The event, titled Deans' Impact at UConn School of Law, will feature Timothy Fisher, Jeremy Paul and Nell Jessup Newton. Professor R. Kent Newmyer will provide opening remarks. A golf tournament is planned for May 19, 2022, at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, Connecticut, and a final celebration is scheduled for June 11, 2022, at the Hartford Convention Center.

More information about the law school's centennial celebrations is available online at centennial.law.uconn.edu.



The Westend...Once Upon A Time

Photos of Downtown Hartford are relatively plentiful but pictures from the city's neighborhoods, like this one of the Colonial Theater on Farmington Avenue in the West End, are rare. Since the marquee says "Lost at the Front" is playing, the picture must have been taken around 1927, shortly after the theater opened. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library)

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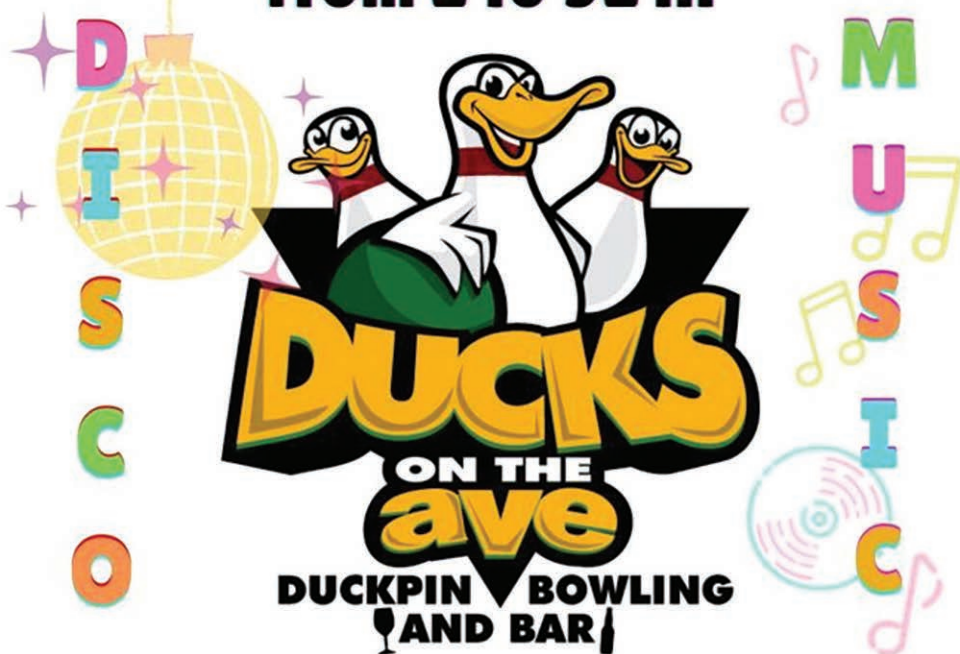
COATS FOR KIDS!



Friday, November 26, 2021 • 10 AM - 12 Noon
Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford
 Use Asylum Avenue Entrance

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph Knights of Columbus, Council #11405 will distribute free winter coats to children (with parent and/or guardian). One coat per child; first come, first served.

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West End Porchfest: New Annual Tradition Returns In-Person
 HARTFORD – On Sunday, September 12, 2021, from 1 to 6 PM, the West End Civic Association (WECA) will be sponsoring the West End Porchfest.
 Now in its third year, the West End Porchfest returns in person after being held virtually last year. Porchfest is a free music festival held on neighborhood porches in Hartford’s historic West End neighborhood. These events are independently organized in more than 100 communities throughout

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