

TANGIERS: A West End Favorite for Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Cuisine

BY DONOVAN WILSON

Tangiers is a Mediterranean market begun by Mr. and Mrs. Latif in 1995, and continues to be run by their 3 sons today. Mr. and Mrs. Latif believed there was a need for Mediterranean and Middle Eastern prepared foods, hot foods and groceries to Hartford. “We started selling foods the regular grocery stores didn't have,” said Zach Latif, one of the three current co-owners.

You may wonder about the origin of their



name. The story is that the older Mr. Latif used to travel the world and once visited a city in Morocco named Tangiers. He fell in love with the City and vowed that someday he would open a Middle Eastern market and call it Tangiers. When he finally opened his shop, he started simply with hummus and falafel but quickly launched more extensive offerings from there. As the shop grew, he introduced more and more prepared foods and the rest, as they say, is history.

Most West Enders remember Tangiers' beginnings on the corner of Prospect and Farmington, before they moved to the current location in 2014. “It's been almost 8 years and we really love it here,” said Zach Latif.

Tangier's focus has been both frozen and fresh grocery products from a variety of countries including Greece, Israel, Turkey, Syria, India and France. Latif said “One day we counted how many countries we had stuff from and it was some ridiculous number”.

The elder Latif's motto was “Special foods for all people” and his sons continue to live by that motto. The current location's larger space allowed them to increase the variety of their offerings and expand their assortment of their most popular foods. They began offering fresh produce and also greatly expanded the nut selection, as well as their frozen and dairy sections. When COVID-19 hit, and more people began to shop local, their changes paid off.

However, COVID-19 still hit them hard, especially in the beginning as they saw businesses around them start to close. The Latif brothers quickly pivoted to meet the new normal by updating their website, expanding their

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CT Sun Shines at the Village

Connecticut Sun guard Natisha Hiedeman (center) plays a game of hoops with Logan Wallace, Jadeanne Stack, Jayden Torres and Kendal Hurst during a basketball clinic at the Village for families and Children Monday afternoon. Utilizing aspects of a sports-based therapy program already in place at The Village thanks to a partnership with Doc Wayne Youth Services, ESPN, and Arbella Insurance Foundation, the basketball clinic served over a dozen children in The Village's Extended Day Treatment (EDT) program who have been affected by significant trauma, including abuse and violence, that has been compounded by the pandemic as they develop healthy coping skills, learn trust and teamwork and feel more confident to engage in sport and fitness. In addition to Hiedeman, CT Sun player Dijonai Carrington and Morgan Tuck, former Connecticut Sun forward and four-time UConn women's basketball NCAA champion, now Director of Franchise Development for The Sun, also participated in the clinic. (Hart photo)

CT Aero Tech School Molds Students for Readiness in Aviation

BY DONOVAN WILSON

The CT Aero Tech is an FAA approved school at Brainard Airport (an extension of Bristol Technical Education Center) is leading the charge in teaching students how to succeed as Aviation Maintenance Technicians. The school began in 1938 in Danielson, CT as the Ellis Aviation School, before moving to Brainard 14 years ago to be more centrally located, which has been successful attempt in increasing its size.

Dawn Graham, the department head of CT Aero Tech, has 40 years of background in aviation, including stints at both Sikorsky and Bombardier. “In order to work on aircraft, you need this certificate,” said Dawn Graham, referring to the A&P license.

The program takes 2 years and is split into three 7-month blocks. Those blocks include general studies (math and English), airframe (working on the body of an aircraft) and powerplant (working on the engine of an aircraft). The students need to take and pass a total of 9 tests, which include written, oral and practical exams. CT Aero Tech emphasizes hands-on learning, so while approximately 2 hours per day is in the classroom, the rest is spent in the hangar, working with aircrafts and related machinery. It students have gone on to work at Sikorsky, Pratt & Whitney, and Electric Boat, among other employers.

CT Aero Tech identifies itself as a post secondary school. The only requirements are to be over 18, have a high school diploma and pass an English exam. Graham said “... We have students of all ages”. The current class of 15 has 4 students under 30 and the rest are over 30, training for a new career.

The school's hangar stores several airplanes, system boards, and a helicopter for students to work on and gain experience. “This program molded me,” said Matthew Antoine, a current student at the school. Both Antoine, 20, and Mateusz Piwowarczyk, 30, are current students at CT Aero Tech.

Antoine enrolled because he wanted to learn a trade and saw an article for the school, and then attended an open house where he met attendees from the National Guard. Piwowarczyk originally intended to go into the automotive trade, but changed to aircraft when he realized the future potential, both monetarily and for job satisfaction would be significantly higher. Starting pay for A&P techs is about \$32.00 per hour.

Current tuition at CT Aero Tech is \$7,250, while its competitors can be closer to \$30,000. Antoine pointed out the great

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Joey Marsocci & The Curioporium

BY DONOVAN WILSON

If you're on Facebook, you must have seen Joey Marsocci's references to the Curioporium from time to time, and wondered what the heck that was about. Well, the Curioporium is a very original, very cool, comedy / horror show live experience. You won't find it anywhere but in Hartford.



It's co-creator, Joey Marsocci, has lived in Connecticut for 12 years with the last 6 being in the West End. You may have seen his work portraying The Grinch at Christmastime. Or Beatlejuice. Marsocci is one of those under-the-radar West Enders that are endlessly fascinating and bring so much to the community. He has a background in theme park design, having lived quite some time in LA, and went to school for theme park design, film, and animation. He excels at all, but has settled (at least for now) into a fascination with “steam punk design”. That, if you don't know, is an art form based in the combination of machinery and elegance, which is often characterized by setting a story and using inventions that are both fantastical and magical.

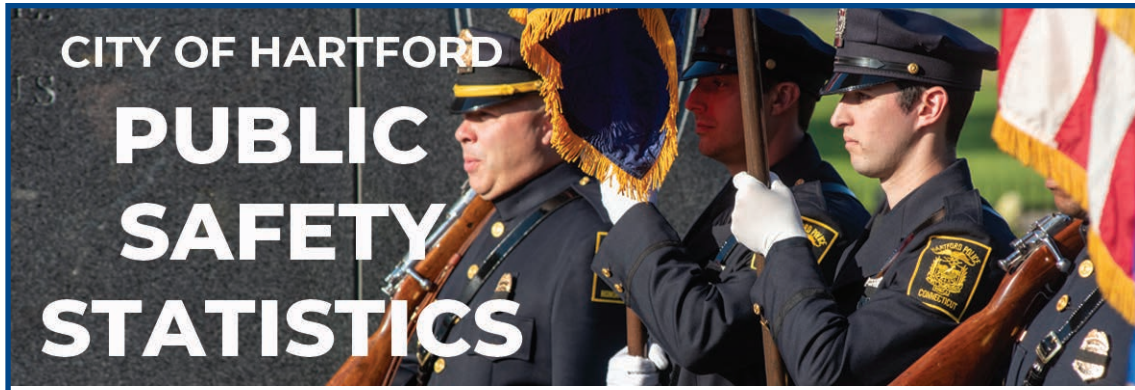
Marsocci shares his passion for steam punk through his writing as well as his performances. He has had numerous shows all around Hartford, including at The Mark Twain house as well as internationally – he's exhibited everywhere from the Oxford Museum in England to the Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas.

“When people think of steampunk, they think of painted nerf guns and goggles,” said

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**CITY OF HARTFORD
PUBLIC SAFETY
STATISTICS**

**Hartford Police Department
Part 1 Crime Activity: Northwest District
Week of April 3 – 9, 2022**

**HARTFORD POLICE 2022 WEEKLY REPORT
NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

Crime Activity Week of April 03, 2022 to April 09, 2022

PART 1 CRIME	WEEK			28 DAY PERIOD			YEAR TO DATE			2 YR	3 YR	4 YR	PREVIOUS WEEK	
	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change	2020	2019	2018	2022	% change
MURDER	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	300.0%	2	2	0	0	0.0%
RAPE	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	100.0%	0	3	2	0	0.0%
ROBBERY	0	0	0.0%	1	2	100.0%	10	10	0.0%	10	13	21	0	0.0%
AGG ASSAULT	4	1	-75.0%	12	2	-83.3%	34	11	-67.6%	20	29	45	0	100.0%
BURGLARY	1	1	0.0%	1	10	900.0%	5	27	440.0%	21	19	29	6	-83.3%
LARCENY	17	7	-58.8%	63	27	-57.1%	157	137	-12.7%	145	146	122	10	-30.0%
AUTO THEFT	4	0	-400.0%	9	9	0.0%	30	21	-30.0%	34	16	30	2	-200.0%
TOTALS	26	9	-65.4%	86	50	-41.9%	236	210	-11.0%	232	228	249	18	-50.0%
SHOOT INCIDENTS	0	1	100.0%	1	1	0.0%	3	7	133.3%	7	7	9	0	100.0%
SHOOTING VICTIMS	0	1	100.0%	1	1	0.0%	3	7	133.3%	7	7	9	0	100.0%

**Hartford Drug Central at Hot Mamas:
Things Aren't Working Out So Well in Town**

COMMENTARY BY BILL DIMAURO KATZ

Wow. Some hot action at Hot Mamas a few weeks ago. Located at the same spot where ole crazy Billy Grasso once held mafia court (and who was knocked off by his own gang and dumped in the Connecticut River) recently became ground zero for drug distribution. State and local police and the FBI busted whoa whatever illegal activity marketplace was selling a pot-pourri (no pun intended) of smoking weed, candy weed, cocaine, THC extract, fentanyl and even codeine cough medicine also known as purple drank or sizzurp (more on this later.) In addition, a few pounds of hallucinogenic mushrooms and THC candy were also seized. And this is on the road I live on.

Mama Mia. Wait! Don't throw the stuff out. Save it for our Hartford city council and mayor to munch on and drink. Maybe then after a few magical mushroom trips and smoke-filled back room strategy sessions, they'll finally begin to see that not all is going well in our communities.

Ghetto land has merged with gangland all across the city and litter is seen up and down most every street in town. Dilapidated houses are found in every locale. Street signs — those not missing, are desecrated with graffiti and a poor Trinity College student lost her life from a hit and run driver while innocently crossing New Britain Avenue. Another blow to Trinity's reputation as a desirable place to send your child to college; another blow to Hartford's reputation as a safe place to visit a restaurant; see a show at the Bushnell. Let's not forget the increasing frequency of drive-by shootings all

the while council builds bike paths. And the only thing they can do now is pass a recommendation to close the historic Brainard Airport and turn it into another boondoggle of a sinkhole money project similar to former Mayor Pedro Cigars 90 million dollar fiasco to build a ballpark.

Nero fiddled while Rome burned. Don't they ever learn? The studies have already been commissioned. The land is untenable for development. Council and mayor want to waste million and a half of our hard-earned tax dollars on another state study so the results can be manipulated to agree with their new fangled program. Maybe by taking a few hallucinogenic trips while sipping purple drank and bogarting a couple of joints in the back rooms, they will come to their senses and do some honest bidding for Hartford residents. Closing Brainard Airport is nothing more than a land grab being orchestrated by MDC chairman and master puppeteer Billy DiBella (a power hungry Old Saybrook resident no longer living in Hartford and btw, my distant cousin if the truth be known) through his obedient tin soldier, MDC employee and corporate ladder climber, local councilman James "Jimmy" Sanchez.

So drink up. Don't throw out the Hot Mamas contraband. And take the blinders off. I have a feeling a little drug-fueled monthly fiesta before council meetings will bring a new-found sense of responsibility to local leadership since nothing else seems to be doing it.

As Joan Rivers once said, "Can we talk?"



**From the House:
Capitol Update**

By Matt Ritter
State Representative, 1st District

Time to Enjoy Outdoor Dining Again

One of the hardest hit sectors of our economy hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic has been the restaurant industry. To help restaurants during this time, the legislature had temporarily eased restrictions on how and where outdoor dining can be offered.

This was important so each city and town, and potentially individual restaurants, wouldn't have to seek changes to local ordinances and zoning rules. That law was set to expire on March 31.

Last month, as spring approached, the legislature approved extending outdoor dining provisions by an additional 13 months through April 30, 2023. When these provisions were first implemented in 2020, it allowed restaurants to safely stay in business when the number of people allowed inside buildings was restricted, keeping restaurant workers employed and customers safe.

This extension has the resounding support of the Connecticut Restaurant Association, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, and residents throughout the state who have enjoyed having the option to dine out safely while supporting their favorite local restaurants. The bill passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis.

Connecticut restaurants stepped up in support of healthcare workers, first responders, and the public by staying open for take-out at the height of the pandemic. Now they need our support as many restaurants are still trying to recoup their losses.

The restaurant industry is an important part of our economy, employing thousands of Connecticut residents, and many are locally owned small businesses. Being able to offer outdoor dining is a critical tool to their continued future viability.

As the weather gets warmer and the beauty of Connecticut's changing seasons beckons us to spend more time outdoors, get out and enjoy the fresh air and a meal at your favorite restaurant.

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 @Representative MattRitter or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.

Letters to the Editor

Response to Article on NATO and Ukraine

I read the commentary [by Bill Katz] about Ukraine and NATO in the March 2022 edition. He seems to think that avoiding the massacre by the Russians was as simple as just saying no to NATO.

I am not fully informed on the history of this complicated relationship between Russia and Ukraine. But I know that literally for centuries Russia has tried and mostly succeeded in turning Ukraine into its colony, and for centuries there was resistance in Ukraine to this status. This was centuries before NATO.

The most recent atrocity by Putin is nominally because of NATO but essentially because Putin again wants to make Ukraine a colony of his most recent version of Russian Empire. He doesn't want membership in NATO to stand in his way. The problem is that Ukrainians don't want to be part of his Mother Russia Empire. And Putin himself says that Ukraine is not a country, that's why he has a right to grab it for his empire. So it is not NATO really. Saying no to NATO is only code for submitting to colonial status once again.

We will see how this ends. At the moment it is a horror of course, there Bill Katz and I totally agree. But his concern is certainly very welcome

Nina Sakun
Hartford CT

Letters to the Editor

The Westender welcomes letters to the editor on issues and subjects we feel are of interest to our readers. Please keep your letters to 600 words or less and mail to:

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Celebrating Mother Earth & the Father of Landscape Architecture

Starting next week and continuing through April 30, a series of events will be held throughout Hartford to celebrate Earth Day 2022 and the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, the Hartford native widely regarded as the “Father of Landscape Architecture.” Earth Day was first held in 1970 as a way to encourage respect and care for our planet. It is considered the birth of the modern environmental movement. Olmsted co-designed Central Park in New York City as well as dozens of major parks throughout the United States.

Through June 9

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, will host an exhibit, “Returning Home to Hartford – Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscapes for the Public Good,” An opening program featuring John Alexopoulos, associate professor of landscape architecture at UConn, will be held Thursday, April 21 from 4-6 p.m. For more information, call 860-695-6297 or email hhc@hplct.org.

Friday, April 22

Day-long Earth Day celebration hosted by Poets for a Greener World, Celebrate Earth Day, the Connecticut Literary Festival, the CT Poet Laureate Margret Gibson, and Real Art Ways (RAW). Events will be held at or near RAW, 56 Arbor Street, Hartford. In-person events are: 9:30am-Noon Parkville Neighborhood Cleanup; 12 Noon- 1 pm: Volunteer Picnic; Will K. Wilkins bench dedication and tree planting, 2pm-3pm; film screening of *Call Of The Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom Of Trees*; 3 pm – 4 pm Riverwood Poets Reading from *Waking up the Earth*; 4 pm – 5 pm Teaching the writing of poetry about nature and climate emergency; 5:30 pm – 6 pm: *Poetry and Science: Writing about the Natural World*; 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm CT Poets Reading; and 7:30 pm- 8:30 pm Poetry Reading and Conversation with Margaret Gibson.

Friday, April 22

UConn Olmsted 200 Symposium: *Building Sustainable Cities: The Olmsted Legacy in Connecticut*, hosted by the UConn Hartford campus at the historic Hartford Club, 46 Prospect St. The symposium will be filled with conversation about Olmsted’s forward-looking legacy connecting parks and landscaping to urban health. Program starts at 8:30 am. The symposium is open to the public and registration is free, but due to limited space, prior registration required tinyurl.com/22jex9w. For the complete schedule of speakers, go to: cities.hartford.uconn.edu/Olmsted.

Friday, April 22

3 PM: Earth Day Climate Strike, Connecticut State Capitol. Join Sunrise CT as they demand immediate and drastic climate action from the CT State Legislature and Governor Lamont. The event will start at 2pm with an opportunity to meet organizations, participate in mini-trainings, and create signs and

other artwork. At 3pm, the strike itself will begin with speakers and musicians. RSVP at bit.ly/ctearthday2022 to receive more details as the date approaches.

Saturday, April 23

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Isham Terry House, Old North Cemetery & Keney Clock Tower, 211 High St. Frederick Law Olmsted was born, buried and shaped by Hartford. The city was one of the nation’s leading centers of culture, religion, industry and technology throughout the 19th century – during his Olmsted’s early years. This program involves lectures by two Olmsted scholars and a pilgrimage from Keney Clock Tower (an Olmsted-designed site) to his burial place in Old North Cemetery. Hosted by Connecticut Landmarks, Historic Hartford & Friends of Keney Park

Saturday, April 23

9 AM: cleanup in Pope Park, meet at Arroyo Recreation Center in the park. Friends of Pope Park and Knox, Inc. are the organizers. Contact David Morin, 860-830-5292 for more info.

Saturday, April 23

1 PM – 4 PM: Free Community Climate Event, 383 Edgewood St. Join environmental groups from around Connecticut for a day of food, fun, education, and mutual aid to celebrate Earth Week! Music by Mixashawn, NBS Malay, Hartford Proud, Tenaya Taylor, MC. Wear a mask. Rain or shine. Contact info@naghartford.org for details.

Tuesday, April 26

7 PM: A lecture entitled *Architects of an American Landscape: Reimagining America’s Public and Private Spaces* will be held at the Mark Twain House & Museum. The Twain House, the Bushnell Park Foundation and the National Association of Olmsted Parks will host Hugh Howard and Donald Poland for an IN-PERSON discussion of America’s first great architect, Henry Hobson Richardson, and its finest landscape designer, Frederick Law Olmsted and their immense impact on America. To be held on the 200th anniversary of Olmsted’s birth, this talk will be a deep dive into the reimagining of America’s public and private spaces. Tickets are \$5 and can be redeemed at the Museum Store for \$5 off a signed copy of the book. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s364mkz>.

Wednesday, April 27

5 PM: The documentary *Olmsted and America’s Urban Parks* will be screened at Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street. Free admission. Reception to follow documentary screening. All visitors to Real Art Ways are required to show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test taken within the last 72 hours, with a corresponding photo id. This event is part of the Olmsted200 celebration, and the free reception and the free film are cosponsored by UCONN and Trinity College.

April 30

3 PM: A lecture on *Why We Need*



New National Parks: A Natural Extension of Olmsted’s Vision, will be held at Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street. Free admission. The lecture will be presented by Michael Kellett, cofounder and Executive Director of RESTORE: The North Woods, a Massachusetts and Maine-based conservation organization. With more than 30 years of experience working to create parks,

save forests, and protect wildlife, Kellett will review our current challenges and suggest strategies for solving them with the proven power of public parks. The evening will feature a reception. All visitors to Real Art Ways are required to show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test taken within the last 72 hours, with a corresponding photo id.

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9:30 – 12	PARKVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP	4 – 5	TEACHING THE WRITING OF POETRY ABOUT NATURE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY
12 – 1	VOLUNTEER PICNIC AND WILL K. WILKINS BENCH DEDICATION & TREE PLANTING	5:30 – 6:30	POETRY & SCIENCE: WRITING ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD
2 – 3	FILM SCREENING OF <i>CALL OF THE FOREST: THE FORGOTTEN WISDOM OF TREES</i>	6:30 – 7:30	CT POETS READING
3 – 4	RIVERWOOD POETS READING FROM <i>WAKING UP TO THE EARTH</i>	7:30 – 8:30	POETRY READING AND CONVERSATION WITH MARGARET GIBSON

connecticutliteraryfestival.org

Hartford Youth Sport Collaborative

SPRING INTO SPORTS!

The Hartford Youth Sport Collaborative (HYSC) is a collective of Hartford based youth-serving sport organizations who have come together to improve the quality and

accessibility of organized sports and recreations programs across the city. We hope to build collaborations and partnerships that will have a city-wide impact in advancing and

sustaining the sport-based youth development landscape in Hartford. To register (unless otherwise indicated) go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p88fe3c>.

Spring 2022 Youth Recreational Programming

PROGRAM	DATES	LOCATION	DAY/TIMES	AGES
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Baseball

Mayor Mikes Little League	4/15 - 6/30	Hyland Park	TBD	5-12
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Baseball activities for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 (as of August 31st). These include a T-Ball division, clinics, personal instruction, and recreational play.

Basketball

CT Scholars-Basketball	4/26 - 6/15	TBD	Tues 6pm-7pm	5-8
CT Scholars-Basketball	4/26 - 6/15	TBD	Wed 6pm-7pm	9-13

Youth basketball program for boys and girls of all skill levels. Skills training and open runs. Children ages 5-13.



Hoopwave Basketball	4/23 - 6/11	TBD	Saturdays 10am	8-9
Hoopwave Basketball	4/23 - 6/11	TBD	Saturdays 11am	10-11
Hoopwave Basketball	4/23 - 6/11	TBD	Saturdays Noon	12-14

Competitive rec basketball program for boys and girls. Children ages 8-14

Spectrum Sports - Basketball 4/27 - 6/15 TBD Wed 6pm - 8pm 13-18
 Rec basketball program for high school aged youth who fall under the umbrella of autism spectrum disorders. Youth ages 13-18. Email for more info: terrence.e.blue@gmail.com

Double-Dutch

JADHA Foundation Double Dutch	4/28 - 6/16	49 Charter Oak Ave	Thur 5:30pm - 7pm	5-14
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Program designed to introduce youth ages 5 to 14 to the sport of double dutch and develop skills and fitness. Youth will be encouraged to develop healthy exercise and eating habits while engaging in team oriented sport.

Football

Hartford Hurricanes Football	4/23 - 6/11	Annie Fisher	Tue 6pm-8pm	5-14
Hartford Hurricanes Football	4/23 - 6/12	Annie Fisher	Sat 10am-12:30pm	5-14

Program is designed to help youth stay fit and train for Football and Cheer. Sessions will include clinics and competitions. Connect for more info: (860) 501-9899. Register In-Person on first day. Email - HartfordHurricanes@gmail.com

Wildcats Football	4/23 - 6/11	Colt Park	Sat 10am-1pm	7 - 14
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Youth football program. Children ages 7-14

Soccer

Hartford Soccer Club	4/23-6/11	UConn Law	Saturdays 9am	3
Hartford Soccer Club	4/23-6/12	UConn Law	Saturdays 10am	4
Hartford Soccer Club	4/23-6/13	Colt Park	Saturdays 9am	5-6
Hartford Soccer Club	4/23-6/14	Colt Park	Saturdays 10am	7-9
Hartford Soccer Club	4/23-6/15	UConn Law	Saturdays 11am	10-14

Soccer Basics (ages 3-4): emphasizes fun and play while learning the basic skills of soccer. *ONLY AT UCONN LAW* Rec Soccer (ages 5-14): emphasize fun while focusing on soccer skills, team work, and playing the game.

Hartford Premier Development League Soccer	4/23-6/11	Cronin	Sat 10am-Noon	4-16
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HPDL Spring Soccer Clinic. Learn skills such as: Passing, dribbling and shooting.


Track

Hartbeat Track Club & 2-4-1 Sports Running	4/26 - 6/14	Bushnell Park	Tue 6pm-7pm	8-13
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Program designed to introduce kids to running in a fun and interactive way, build confidence and motivation to continue the sport of running, and support the development of running skills so kids can continue engaging in the activity over the course of their lives.


Capital City Track Club	4/27-6/15	Weaver	Wed 6pm-7:30pm	9-14
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Track and Field Program for boys and girls of all skill levels.



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School & Youth News

Noah Webster Notes: April 2022

BY GUS JACOBSON, PRINCIPAL



The arrival of spring brings with it the hope of a more engaged and open Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School. At the end of March the district halted the mask mandate for students, staff and families. While we still have many students and staff in masks it is a hopeful sign of a return to more opportunities and options for our families. We held our first in-person Town Meetings for families of honored students earlier this month. Our Parent Teacher conferences at the end of April will be in-person for the first time since February 2020. We also plan to hold in-person concerts and our annual promotion ceremony later this spring. We are excited to welcome in families and show off the hard work of our students and staff.

Through the planning of Mrs. Henriques and our social work interns, we held a Cultural Awareness Week from April 4 - April 8. This included daily announcements and special activities highlighted by a door decorating contest. Each classroom selected a country to learn about and honor. The student work was awesome and the results stunning. You can see all the doors at this link. Our students participated in a scavenger hunt to see each other's work and we did have a contest. It was a fun week and great way to bring spirit into the school while recognizing all the diverse cultures represented in our community.

Next week we anticipate that the state will run the magnet lottery. We look forward to welcoming new students to our school and family. Families that applied will be notified by email as soon as the lottery runs with the results. Please reach out to the school if you have any questions at (860) 695-5380. Finally, in partnership with Hartford Public Schools with Griffin Health, the CT Department of Public Health, and the Hartford Health Department we will be hosting a free vaccine clinic at Noah Webster on Friday, April 22 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. This is open to the public. You can find the complete list of clinics being held the week of April 18 at the following website: Free Vaccine Clinics. Have a great start to spring!

News & Notes from Renzulli Academy



March was a busy and exciting month for students and staff at Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy. We won the March Madness Attendance Competition and will receive prizes from the district! Additionally, Romeo Ventura, a 6th grade student, was the Renzulli spelling bee champion and went on to participate in the state spelling bee at St Joseph University. Other students from Renzulli took home three awards during the CT History Day

Competition! Dorian Ciscel won 1st place in the Junior Individual Exhibit for his work on "The Korean War: Causes, Viewpoints, and Effects". Amaris Derosia, Adrianna Walton, and Aniyah Mendes won 2nd Place in the Junior Group Exhibit for their work on "Debating Women's Rights". Third Place in the Junior Group Exhibit went to Zihao Zhou and Jackson Miller for their exhibit titled: "SALT: Strategic Arms Limitation Talks" Congrats to all of them!

In other news, Renzulli held a well-attended in-person Open House for prospective students on April 4th. Our next Open House is scheduled for May 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Hartford residents do not have to apply through Open Choice lottery and can just submit an application. Come join us and hear about our unique programming! We are located on 85 Woodland St., Hartford CT.

Watkinson Teacher Thriving In The West End

Arielle Martins has lived and worked in the West End for 8 years. A geometry teacher at Watkinson School, Arielle describes, "I love living and working in this area of Hartford. Both my school and my neighborhood are close-knit communities that value civic engagement, diversity, good food, and the arts."

Reflecting on the opportunities that have been afforded to her as a West End resident, Martins has particularly loved teaching at Watkinson School. There, in addition to teaching math, Martins has led an international service-learning trip to the Dominican Republic, started an afternoon Barre activity for students, participated in countless professional development opportunities, and currently serves as the faculty representative to the school's Board of Trustees. Outside of work, Martins plays viola with the West Hartford Symphony Orchestra.



"I really love teaching, and Watkinson has been the perfect home for me. It is a deeply kind community that values the presence of each and every student. I love that I have autonomy to teach and reach every student in the way that best serves them. It creates a class-

room built on mutual respect and an environment where both the kids and I can thrive."

Watkinson School, a co-ed private school for grades 6-12/PG located in the West End, is Hartford's oldest independent school.

Classical Magnet Ready for a Busy Spring!



- Welcome event for accepted families on April 26 from 5:00- 7:00! -RSCO lottery notifications are expected the week of April 18. Accepted students and their families are invited to campus for tours, support with registration, and an opportunity to meet Classical students, parents and staff. Families who attend will receive Classical swag and pizza.
- Parent Teacher Conferences- All conferences will be held in person on April 26 from 5:00-7:00 and April 27 from 12:00-3:30. Pizza and raffle prizes for parents who attend. We are excited to welcome our families back to campus!
- National Junior Classical League Honor Society- We have 102 students being inducted on April 26 at 7:00.
- Celebration: Our awards assembly to recognize excellence at Classical will be Wednesday, June 1 at 6:00.
- Sports- Varsity baseball, softball, and track and field are off to a great start this season. Please check the website for schedules to attend and cheer for our Gladiators.
- Enrichment: Spring enrichment includes E-Sports, Theater, Chess Club,

Fundraising Club, Classic Black Movies, and Middle School Gaming. We have late bus transportation at 4:30 to provide rides home for students who participate.

- High Meadows Trip- May 23 all day
- Graduation- June 16 from 6- 7 at Classical

Upcoming Field Trips

- April 25- 9th grade touring Western CT State University
- April 26- 11th grade touring Springfield College
- May 20- 6th and 7th grade trip to the CT Science Center
- May 26 & 27th- 6th and 7th grade trips to the Wadsworth
- May 27- Band students compete in the Fantastic Festival at Lake Compounce

Senior Activities

- Prom: May 20 from 6 - 10 at The Tavern at Keney Park



Research shows happiness affects how your child develops, connects, and succeeds.

Get our FREE guide for parents: watkinson.org/happy

Watkinson School Co-ed day school, grades 6-12/PG.

A Reality Check on Closing Brainard

BY TOM SWARR

State Senator John Fonfara has pushed a bill through the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to fund a study of barriers to closing Brainard Airport for economic development. For the moment, let's pretend the FAA has nothing to say about closing airports. Let's just do a reality check on redevelopment.

Those arguing for closure have visions of a marina, upscale shopping, and riverfront condos to fatten Hartford tax rolls. Arguing the airport was elitist and served only wealthy suburban pilots, and then proposing a marina never seemed

for redeveloping 300 acres of Rentschler Field. Some 263 acres will be used for two warehouses, and another 18 acres for two buildings for high-tech manufacturing and research and development. Just an 18.35-acre parcel, occupied by Cabela's, is designated for non-specific retail and mixed-use developments. What will we build in South Meadows to out-compete Goodwin, Rentschler, Evergreen Walk, or Blue Back Square? The only analysis offered was that those 200 acres of Brainard multiplied by Hartford's mill rate will yield \$2.2 millions of

Harvard Graduate School of Design has produced a field guide for the conversion of abandoned airports to a variety of new uses, from public parks and ecological corridors to energy farms and new urban districts. The guide cautions "multi-use developments are inevitably complex, involving public and private partnerships, FAA assurances and obligations, extensive site preparation, as well as financing through an assortment of grants, bonds, private capital, and tax abatements." It is also noted that "the participation and engagement of the public is very important over the course of an airport's transformation." There has been little to no engagement of the Hartford community regarding the closure of Brainard. During the public hearing on SB-463, it was argued that the vote of the Hartford City Council demonstrated community support for closure. Claiming the Council speaks for the entire community is a stretch. In the 2019 municipal elections, no current council member was supported by more than 13.8% of the registered voters (and some by only 3-4%).

And those FAA "assurances and obligations" stipulated in 49 U.S.C. § 47107(a) and implemented in FAA Order 5190.6B

(FAA Airport Compliance Manual) are yet another reality check. It is worth noting that the Manual explicitly states that the "non-aviation interests of the sponsor or the local community – such as making the land available for economic development – does not constitute an airport benefit that can be considered in justifying closure. The state would be required to reimburse the FAA for any unamortized grants and the fair market value of the property, ~\$45 – 50 million. In addition, there would be costs associated with tenant lawsuits and transferring services provided by Brainard to other airports to ensure



closure would "protect, advance, or benefit the public interest in civil aviation."

It is time for the proponents of closure to provide even a conceptual plan that lays out the necessary investments and timeline for alternative uses of Brainard that could be compared to the option of investing in Brainard to increase its value to Hartford and the region.

The only analysis offered was that those 200 acres of Brainard multiplied by Hartford's mill rate will yield \$2.2 millions of tax revenue. That kind of analysis would also tell us if we gathered nine women, we could have a baby by the end of the month.

to make much sense. It makes even less sense now that the state is helping to fund Goodwin's proposed marina on the east side of the river. Goodwin's \$4.5 million investment is hoped to catalyze "broad-scale development, including restaurants, retail, apartments, and possibly a hotel." East Hartford planning and zoning recently approved two applications

tax revenue. That kind of analysis would also tell us if we gathered nine women, we could have a baby by the end of the month. The real world is a bit more complicated. Time matters.

Brainard is just one of many airports under threat of redevelopment. The size and centrality of older municipal airports makes them attractive targets. The

WEST END CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Architectural History & Resources Committee

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, April 25 at 7:30 pm

Zoom Link: <https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/1885>

Help us identify, explore and implement the most important and relevant projects we should undertake at this time.

CT Aero Tech

Continued from page 1

opportunities the school provides to meet new people and work on new things and have new experiences. Piwowarczyk loves the small classes which allow for one on one time

with the professor.

If you or anyone you know has an interest in attending the school, there will be an open house May 14th from 9 am to 12 pm. Visit their website for more details <https://ctaero.cttech.org/>



(Above) CT Aero Tech students Mateusz Piwowarczyk and Matthew Antoine get hands-on training at Brainard Airport. (Below) planes parked in the airport's hanger.



Tangiers

Continued from page 1

outside patio and even offering West End deliveries. These changes, along with their pride in high-quality food, very clean conditions and open kitchen, helped them through

those challenging times. The brothers' efforts over the past few years has enabled Tangiers to survive and thrive. Hopefully, we'll all enjoy Tangiers for many years into the future. Stop in and check them out!

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The Westender is seeking local residents who would be able to deliver the paper on the 3rd Thursdays and Fridays of the month. Rates negotiable. For more information, Email to: TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com

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Parkville Market's Musical Mondays Curiorium

Last year, Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street, hosted a very popular Irish music session, and it's continuing this Spring on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the Market's bar, "The Local."

Now the Market is broadening its musical offerings with a Jazz night headlined by the world-famous bass player (and Hartford favorite) Nat Reeves (right).

The "Nat Reeves' Jazz Club" started Monday, April 18, and will be held the first and third Mondays of the month. Reeves plans to bring in numerous Jazz musicians as well as provide a showcase for rising stars.

There will be five initial presentations: April 18, May 2 and 16, June 6 and 20. The club will then take a break so as not to compete with the long-running Monday Night Jazz Series in Bushnell Park. But it'll kick off again in late summer, hopefully in the the market's new addition.



Continued from page 1

Marsocci. His goal is to make steampunk on a much bigger, grander scale than that and has used his interest in East Coast haunted houses as his inspiration. He loves working on pieces with interactive elements, intended for the audience to immerse themselves. "One of the things I love being able to do is pull people into an environment and leave the real world behind", says Marsocci.

His most recent immersive work

is the fore-mentioned Curiorium. A friend of a friend, Nathan Nunez, started the Curiorium and ran it for several years before the pandemic hit. Around that same time, Marsocci, approached Nunez with the idea of making Curiorium an interactive, immersive and live experience in addition to a store.

The two decided to collaborate and the Curiorium reopened to fabulous reviews last July. Marsocci's vision has come to life, as he performs two major characters: Dr Grymm (mainly heard but not

seen) and Grymm's brother, Alloisius Doyle. "This place is in our backyards and most people don't even know it" said Marsocci. Customer reviews consistently rave about the quality of the shows with adjectives like "intriguing", "entertaining", and "amazing" being the most common. If you haven't seen one of the shows yet, put it on your must-dos. Definitely worth a visit.

You can find Dr Grymm and Alloisius Doyle at the Curiorium at 1429 Park Street, or call 860-937-55836.

Westend Real Estate Transactions

- Feb 28 - 31 Woodland Street, Lot 12U, John Gettier to Christopher Garrity and Michelle Garrity
- Mar 1 - 31 Woodland Street, Lot 8F Emilia Cutteridge to Susan Blain \$105,000
- Mar 1 -62 1/2 Sisson Ave, Equity T Co to Carlos Zapata and Davann Chhem \$123,000
- Mar 4 31 Woodland Street, Lot 7P John C Lafalce RET 2004 and John Lafalce, Jr. to Bualong Ramiz \$105,000
- Mar 1 230 - 232 Farmington Ave, Lot C4, Schroffner & Association LLC to Eugeniusz Ziolkowski and Lucyna Ziolkowska, \$48,000
- Mar 3 256-358 Oxford Street, Philip Fichera RET and Martin Hawkins to Zhiliang Ye, \$385,000
- Mar 29 203 - 207 Sisson Avenue, T Properties LLC to Porchlight Group LLC \$345,000

REAL ART WAYS

Eager Ecological Engineers:

Beaver Ponds in Southern New England

A 5-part docuseries by Ray Asselin

7PM screenings
Really Wild Wednesdays
(preceded by a reception, followed by a Q&A)

Early Spring: May 11
Late Spring: June 8
Early - Mid Summer: July 13
Mid - Summer to Fall: September 28
Fall to Winter: November 30

MORE INFORMATION: REALARTWAYS.ORG

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PROBATE

if you've lost a loved one, let us help you navigate the probate process.

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Now that the pandemic is reaching its end, you may find yourself behind on your mortgage or bills. Don't play ostrich - we may be able to help you save your home. Call us for more information

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University of Hartford Events and Opportunities



Hartt 100 Orchestra Concert at The Bushnell — Friday, April 29

As part of The Hartt School's Hartt 100 Celebration at the University of Hartford, the community is invited to the Hartt 100 Orchestra Concert on Friday, April 29. The pre-concert reception will honor Hartt Retirees and the program includes works from Rossini, Mussorgsky, and Sibelius. The concert will also feature baritone Thomas Cannon, assistant professor of voice at The Hartt School. Get tickets at hartford.edu/hartt100

UHart Summerterm Registration Now Open

Home from college this summer and looking to continue your studies? Students can now register for summer courses at the University of Hartford. Our courses offer flexibility in your schedule and at a competitive per-credit rate. Classes start May 16. Learn more at

hartford.edu/summerterm

Hartt Community Division Summer Programs —Registration is now live!

Students of all ages can further their training in music and dance this summer through HCD's summer programs or through private lessons. Learn more and register at hartford.edu/hcd

UHart Architecture Summer Institute — Application deadline is May 1

This unique pre-college program offers rising high school juniors and seniors a three-week, immersive experience in architecture and design. The program is for any student interested in design, art, architecture, construction, or graphics. Learn more about the program at hartford.edu/futurearchitect

Samba Fest Returns to Trinity April 23

Music, dance & community drumming highlight unique Hartford event

The 14th edition of Samba Fest will welcome community members from near and far as one of Hartford's signature events returns—live and in-person—to the Trinity College campus on Saturday, April 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Situated on Trinity's Jacobs Life Sciences Center Quad, 240 New Britain Avenue in Hartford, Samba Fest is a free, rain-or-shine event open to the public.

This year's headlining artists traveling from Brazil to perform at Samba Fest include multiple Latin Grammy Award-winning guitarist and composer Yamandu Costa (with special guest Richard Scofano on bandoneón) as well as innovative percussionist Serginho Silva and his Ensemble.

In the week leading up to Samba Fest, Serginho Silva also will offer a free drumming workshop, open to all, at Park Street Library @ the Lyric (603 Park Street, Hartford) on Wednesday, April 20, at 4:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required.

Other Samba Fest performers will include the Trinity Samba Ensemble with special guest José Paulo, directed by Galm; Trinity Steel, directed by Curtis Greenidge; and African-inspired drumming and dancing with Friendz World Music.

Attendees will have opportunities to participate in the music and dance by taking dance workshops with Capoeira Esperança, led by Mestre Efraim Silva with



Trinity College Music Professor Eric Salm directs the school's Samba Orchestra.

Professores Robozinho and Fominha or joining a 'Big Bang' community drumming encounter, slated to kick off at 11:30 with an open rehearsal, which will lead into the big drumming celebration from noon to 12:30 p.m. Said Galm, "Buckets and sticks will be available, but those who can bring their own are encouraged to do so." Community drumming presentations will take place from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., featuring Hartford's Proud Drill Drum & Dance Corp, Wilby High School in Waterbury, directed by Eric Brummitt, and others.

An array of family-friendly activities, crafts, and games will be available at Samba Fest, plus food trucks will be on site with a variety of menu offerings.



Grammy Award winning musician Yamandu Costa will headline this Saturday's Samba Fest at Trinity College.

Said Eric Galm, professor of music and ethnomusicology, chair of the Music Department, and co-director of the Center for Caribbean Studies at Trinity College. "Samba Fest is a way to pay tribute to the many communities represented throughout Greater Hartford, celebrating Hartford as a dynamic Caribbean-influenced city. I also strive to incorporate some of my academic courses into the festival, and students from the "Music and Human Rights" course are developing an interactive activity to invite people to rethink connections between national anthems and human rights."

The Trinity Samba Ensemble is a group formed in an academic course that teaches Brazilian culture through its music and rhythms. The Samba Ensemble's repertoire derives from the batucada, a drumming group that plays samba music during Brazil's carnival celebrations, and the group performs participatory call-and-response songs in Portuguese and English. Trinity Steel is a group, also formed in an academic course, that performs reggae, Motown, and other popular global styles filtered through a calypso rhythm. Capoeira Esperança is an Afro-Brazilian dance group that specializes in capoeira, a dance incorporating martial arts that was developed in Brazil by descendants of enslaved Africans. The group will also conduct a dance workshop of maculelê, a stick dance developed in the fields of northeastern Brazilian sugarcane plantations.

For directions and parking information, visit sambafest.com.

SHEFF MOVEMENT

Quality Integrated Education For All Children

MONTHLY MEETING

April 23, 2022
10-11:30AM ET

The Work Continues...

In support of the goal of transparency and accessibility of information for families, CSDE will demonstrate three dashboards that will launch on the new public EdSight portal:

- The **Sheff Magnet Schools dashboard** provides data at Sheff Magnet schools for a selected resident town and student group.
- The **School Choice dashboard** compares statewide data for different school choice types and student groups.
- The **Resident Town dashboard** allows the user to compare school choice types for students within a selected resident town.

The Work Continues, CT Department of Education Presentation on the Sheff Choice Schools Dashboard.

MEETING DETAILS

Saturday, April 23, 2022
10AM - 11:30AM
VIA ZOOM

To receive Zoom log-in information, email sheffmovementcoalition@gmail.com.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Introduction of Speakers
3. CT Department of Education
Keith M. Norton, Chief Strategic Planning Officer
Ajit Gopalkrishnan, Chief Performance Officer
4. Sheff Movement Updates