



GET ONBOARD!!!

Hartford Public Schools First Day of School: Monday, August 29
Capital Region Education Council (CREC) Schools First Day: Wednesday, August 31



THE WESTENDER

Vol. 2, No. 6

AUGUST 2022

West End Porchfest Returns September 18

Porches throughout the West End will become impromptu stages on Sunday, September 18, for the 3rd Annual West End Porchfest from 1 - 6 pm.

Porchfest was first held in Ithaca, NY in 2007 as a way to build community bonds and showcase local musicians. Since then it has spread to over 130 communities in the United States and Canada. The first West End Porchfest was held in 2019 with 20 bands playing at 20 locations. After a year off due to the COVID pandemic, the event returned last year.

Plans for West End Porchfest 2022 are still being finalized. For the latest information, go to <http://westendporchfest.org/>.

Like last year, the event's headquarters will be at Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School at the corner of Whitney Street and Cone Street, where information and a map of the event will be available. Performances will also be held at the school.

Musicians who have signed for the event include Chadwick Thomas and Morgan Pope, Greg Wilfrid, Heather McLarney, Sink or Swim, Earl Champagne, BrightWave, Meetinghouse, Sam Moffett, Nikita, Brett Trotter, Florence Wolff Nicholson, Dylan Barnes, Jim Mercik and Kenyon, according to a recent article in the *Hartford Courant*.



Porch Fest 2021 on Warrenton Avenue (above) and at Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School (below). The school will serve as the headquarters of this year's event on September 18.



Organizers of West End Porchfest 2022 are currently seeking West End homeowners to provide performance venues for the event. It doesn't have to be a porch. Stoops, yards, driveways and any space that allows for a street-facing performance will work. The space must be made available on Sunday, September 18, between 1 pm and 6 pm. Volunteers to staff the event are also being currently sought, as are musicians.

If you would like to volunteer your talent, time or space, please go to the event website at <https://westendporchfest.org/>.



West Side Square Opens!

West End residents Quan and Rebeca Quatch, owners of the new West Side Square cut the ribbon to officially open their food truck court on Friday, August 5. Hartford City Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti is to Quan's right, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin is to Rebeca's right. West Side Square is located at the northwest corner of Farmington Avenue and Girard Avenue. The site had been vacant for several years since its former occupant, a Shell Gas Station, closed down and was demolished. West Side Square is currently open Wednesday through Sunday from 4 - 9 pm. Food can be eaten on-site or taken home. Four food trucks will be selling their wares on a rotating basis. Quan and Rebeca had originally hoped to open West Side Square in June but were held up by the city's lengthy permitting process. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford Mayor's Office)

MEET MICHAEL ORETADE

An interview with the Green Party candidate for District 1 State Senate

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Having petitioned his way onto the November ballot, 29-year-old Hartford native, activist, and educator Michael Oretade is challenging Democratic State Senator John Fonfara – who is 66 and running for his 14th term – in a bid to represent the people of South Hartford and a portion of Wethersfield at the State Capitol. It's a "David vs. Goliath" effort, an uphill battle, but newcomer Oretade is optimistic, and recently spoke with me about his vision and goals for District 1. This interview was originally published in The Hartford News on August 4, 2022.

Hartford News (HN): Michael, how is your campaign for State Senate progressing?

Michael Oretade (MO): I've been engaging with the community, canvassing daily, and my goal is to knock on 20,000 doors. I've done 2,000 already and plan to have 5,000 done by the end of August. I'm already on the ballot, but if I can get 1,500 petition signatures, I will qualify for election grants that



would financially bolster my campaign.

HN: Senator Fonfara is running for his 14th term, and prior to that was a member of Connecticut's House of Representatives for 10 years. In light of that, how do you view your chances to unseat the incumbent?

MO: I think we get a sense of how we need new representation. He might be a little out of touch with his base. A lot of career politicians don't need to engage; they're not worried at all. Senator Fonfara mails

Continued on page 7

In This Issue:

Updates from State Rep. Ritter	2
Hartford Memories from Bill Katz.....	2
School & Youth News	3
Hartford Events Calendar.....	4 & 5
Political Commentary from Mike McGarry	6
New Exhibit at the Wadsworth Atheneum	7
Poetry Corner	8



Soaring High in Elizabeth Park

On Saturday, July 30, Connecticut Ballet presented its annual Ballet Under The Stars performance in Elizabeth Park. Shown above is Jafet Reynoso performing in the ballet Paquita, originally choreographed by Joseph Mazilier to music by Edouard Deldevez and Ludwig Minkus. Ballet Under The Stars is held in honor of the late Marge & Michael Wilder, longtime supporters of Connecticut Ballet. (Hart photo)

Is Donald John Trump a Flight Risk?

COMMENTARY BY BILL DIMAURO KATZ

day, August 9, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents raided the Mar-a-Lago compound of Donald Trump or as Ivana used to say, "The Donald." And so The Donald was busted. And as former President Trump stated, "They even broke into my safe." But "they" likely didn't find any money unless he had stashed a few suitcases full for a quick getaway to Putin's Moscow, the only country that might take him besides North Korea. (More on Moscow later.)

Well, now isn't the time to be acquiescent to events but I'm reminded of Olivia Newton-John's (who died recently) hit 1970s song, "Have You Never Been Mellow" as a sound track to a future movie showing FBI agents raiding the Florida compound while a Trump actor shoves documents down the toilet.

In the opening story of my book, "Donald's Vanity Tantrums," I write about the first press conference after being elected president. The conference descends into press demands about certain absolutely disgusting events that allegedly happened in the presidential suite of a Moscow hotel. And I subtitled it, "The Golden Shower Caper." There is no need to be detailed. One of my editors at the time insulted me because I brought up the subject but I kindly explained to her that the subject had already been breached in the news.

In the time of Richard 'Slippery Dick' Nixon, it was The Plumbers that broke into the Watergate Hotel in an attempt to steal documents from the Democratic Party headquarters. These Plumbers so named, or alternately known as Room 16 Project, was formed after the leaked Pentagon Papers revealed classified information about the Nixon administration. They, The Plumbers, have subsequently and figuratively made a cameo appearance in the Trump world as Trump flushed top secret documents down his own

toilets.

In my book, another passage titled, "It's a Dark and Stormy Night," the ghost of Richard Nixon returns to admonish Trump for all his failings and warns him that it's the small transgressions that bring you down. On Monday, August 9, the FBI under the jurisdiction of Attorney General Merrick Garland, at least one investigation has crescendoed with the unauthorized removal of federal documents.

18 U.S. Code S2017. Concealment, removal, or mutilation generally provides:

(a) Whoever willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, or destroys, or attempts to do so, or, with intent to do so takes and carries away any record, proceeding, map, book, paper, document, or other thing, filed or deposited with any clerk or officer of any court of the United States, or in any public office, or with any judicial or public officer of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

Predictably, Trump will lash out and call on his neo-confederate supporters and fellow spineless reptile Republican office holders to rally around not the flag pole but the snake hole.

Albert Einstein once admonished, "Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity. And I'm not sure about the former."

I'm not referring to Donald Trump but to his supporters. My book, "Donald's Vanity Tantrums," is available on all online platforms and Barnes and Noble, Hartford. And I have them available text: 860-956-2844



From the House: Capitol Update

By Matt Ritter
State Representative, 1st District

Connecticut Stands Strong for Women's Rights

In a shocking but somewhat expected 6-3 decision last month, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade case and eliminated the constitutional right to an abortion after nearly 50 years.

Despite this very disturbing decision, it is important for everyone to know that your state legislature had previously ensured a women's right to reproductive healthcare in Connecticut would continue under our state's laws.

The Connecticut General Assembly passed the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act during the 2022 legislative session, which includes legal protections for medical providers and patients traveling to Connecticut seeking abortion care. In addition, this legislation also allows for advanced practitioners for whom abortion care is part of their scope of practice to perform abortions.

Governor Lamont has already signed this bill into law, putting our state at the forefront of protecting reproductive rights. Connecticut also codified Roe V. Wade into our state Constitution in 1990.

A national analysis by the Guttmacher Institute, a national reproductive health research group, counts 26 states as "certain or likely to ban abortion" under all or most circumstances or early in the gestation period, such as abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Half of those states already have so-called "trigger laws" to ban abortion immediately upon Roe's reversal.

This harmful Supreme Court opinion also casts potential doubt on the future protections of same-sex marriage, other LGBTQ rights and access to contraception. Be assured, I will do everything in my power to make sure this does not happen in our state.

Fighting for the right to choose, protecting practitioners, and keeping Connecticut a safe place for all will always be at the top of my priority list.

State Invests in Hartford

Connecticut is making major new investments in a variety of community projects in Hartford. We've targeted funding to the City of Hartford, the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), Connecticut Science Center, as well as a number of local neighborhood non-profits to help with their missions.

Among the City of Hartford grants is funding for:

- Brownfield remediation - \$2 million
- The hARTline linear park project connecting Hartford and Bloomfield - \$1.5 million
- Property improvements on Magnolia and Irving streets - \$1 million

Included in the CRDA funding is \$5.5 million for redevelopment of the former Fuller Brush factory in north Hartford into new housing units. The Connecticut Science Center is slated to receive \$10 million for renovations and technology upgrades.

This is a much-needed infusion in upgrading our physical infrastructure for the benefit of everyone who lives in and visits Hartford, which in turn will help encourage further investment and economic growth in our City. I'm proud to have been able to help secure this funding and grateful for the work and support of my colleagues in the Hartford legislative delegation throughout the process."

Specific non-profit grants are designated for the:

- Elizabeth Park Conservancy - \$1 million
- Northside Neighborhood Alliance - \$500,000
- YMCA of Greater Hartford, Albany Ave. location - \$500,000
- Boys & Girls Club of Hartford, Northwest location - \$500,000

Each grant will help these community-based organizations move their important mission forward which will not only enhance the quality of life in the neighborhoods they are located but benefit all residents throughout the City. These non-profits have a proven track record of improving the lives of the people they serve.

I want to thank Governor Lamont and Secretary Beckham for working closely with me and the Hartford Delegation to advance this funding. The money was approved Friday at a meeting of the State Bond Commission.

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.

THE WESTENDER

Published by The Westender, LLC

Publisher & EditorSuzann Beckett
 Graphic DesignerAndy Hart
 Advertising Manager.....Josephine Finocchiaro
 Contributing WritersMatt Ritter
Donna Swarr
Donovan Wilson
Bill Katz

The publisher does not assume responsibility for errors, omissions, and changes in advertising or editorial material. Advertising rates are available upon request. Deadlines: advertisements, news releases and articles must be submitted by 5 pm on Monday for publication on Thursday. Rights and Permissions: The entire contents of the Westender are copyright 2022 by The Westender, LLC and no portion may be reproduced in whole or in part by any means without specific written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

School & Youth News

Back-To-School Celebrations!

Urban League Back-To-School Party August 21

The Urban League of Greater Hartford will hold a Back-To-School Community Day from 11 am - 2 pm on Sunday, August 21, in the parking lot of its headquarters at 140 Woodland Street. There will be games, activities, food and a give-away of bookbags filled with school supplies while they last. Child must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to receive a bookbag.

Angel of Edgewood Extravaganza August 27

Angel of Edgewood will hold its "Back-to-School Extravaganza" on Saturday, August 27, from 9 am - 2 pm in the LAZ Parking Lot at 330 Market Street, just north of Downtown Hartford. There will be numerous activities including a bounce house, posh paint, sports and games, interactive play and more as well as live entertainment from John the Violinist, The FLYY Movement and Stadium of Dance plus local food trucks and the Ice Cream for a Dream truck. There will also be a community lunch sponsored by Chef Walt's. The event is free and open to all schoolchildren and their parents/guardians.

Free Eye Exams and Eyeglasses for Children at HPL



Hartford Public Library is partnering with the nonprofit Vision to Learn to provide free eye exams and free eyeglasses to city youth this month at library locations across Hartford, just in time for the start of the school year.

The program is open to children ages 5 to 18. No insurance is necessary. Appointments are required and can be made by calling the library at 860-695-6300.

According to Vision to Learn, an estimated 40,000 children in Connecticut's Alliance School Districts, a group that includes Hartford Public Schools, go to school each day without glasses needed to see a whiteboard, read a book or participate in class.

Once an appointment is made, the child and an accompanying adult will visit the library during

their allotted time for a free eye exam conducted on site by Vision to Learn's trained experts. Children who are in need of eyeglasses will be provided with a pair free of charge.

Vision to Learn visited two Hartford Public Library locations earlier this summer, providing dozens of children with eyeglasses.

The schedule for Vision to Learn's August visits is as follows:

- Monday, August 22: Camp Field Library, 30 Campfield Ave.
- Tuesday, August 23: Park Street Library @ the Lyric, 603 Park St.
- Wednesday, August 24: Downtown Library, 500 Main St.

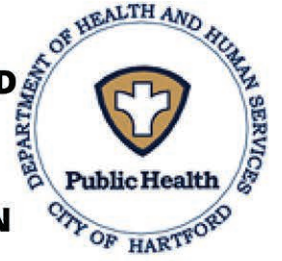
Free Youth Cricket Lessons



Through September, the Police Athletic League (PAL), Sportsmen's Athletic Club, Cricket Hall of Fame, West Indian Foundation will be offering free cricket lessons for boys and girls ages 8-17 at the Keney Park Cricket Fields (use Windsor Street entrance). The lessons will run from 5-7 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. Although not very well-known in the United States, cricket is considered to be the second most played sport in the world, behind soccer (football), and is particularly popular in England, India, Pakistan, Australia and throughout the islands of the West Indies. For more information, call George Steir at 860-794-4482.



**CITY OF HARTFORD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
WIC PROGRAM
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN**



WIC IS THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN



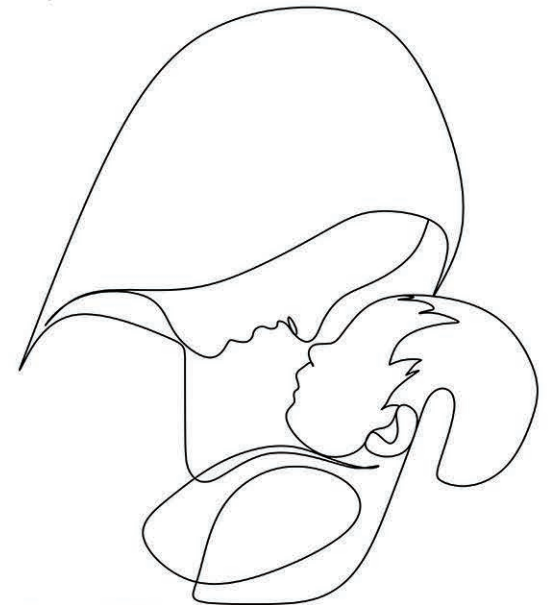
WHO QUALIFIES?

- PREGNANT WOMEN
- POSTPARTUM WOMEN
- INFANTS
- CHILDREN UP TO AGE 5
- INFANTS AND CHILDREN OF FATHERS, FOSTER PARENTS AND LEGAL GAURDIANS

TO QUALIFY YOU MUST MEET THE INCOME REQUIREMENTS AND RESIDES IN CONNECTICUT.

WIC PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:

- AN eWIC CARD TO BUY NUTRITIOUS FOODS.
- NUTRITION EDUCATION FROM NUTRITIONISTS AND TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.
- BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT AND INFORMATION.
- REFERRALS TO HEALTHCARE AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS.



TO APPLY, CONTACT HARTFORD WIC AT:
(860) 757-4860 (175 MAIN ST LOCATION)
(860) 757-4780 (131 COVENTRY ST LOCATION)

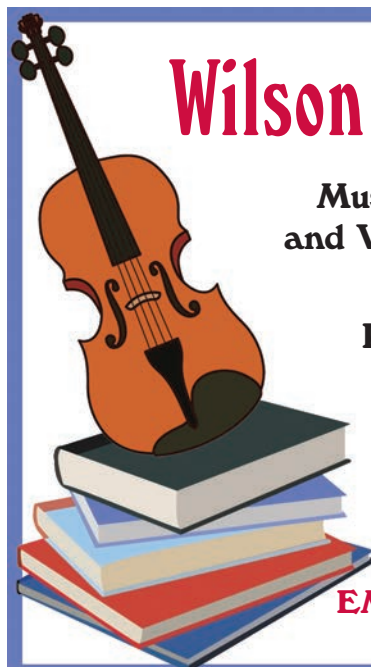
Support Your Neighborhood and Grow Your Business at the Same Time!

ADVERTISE IN...



Call 860-296-6128

or email TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com for more ad rates and more information.



Wilson Music & Tutoring, LLC

Musical Instruction in Piano, Violin, Steel Pan and Voice. Musical training for record producers.

Tutoring in English, Spanish, Math, Reading Comprehension, Essay Writing PSAT and SAT Preparation.

Flexible Scheduling, Reasonable Rates

Call Dr. Emmett Wilson:

860-424-2903 • 860 727 8146

Or Miss Saleena Holder: 860-416-1137

EMAIL: WilsonMusicAndTutoring@gmail.com

www.wilsonmusicandtutoringllc.org



August 18 Hartford Steel Symphony at CHS



The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), One Elizabeth Street, Hartford, will present a special free concert by the Hartford Steel Symphony on Thursday, August 18 from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Grounds are open for seating and picnicking from 5:00 pm, and music is from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. All of the CHS outdoor concerts are free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and food, and

a food truck will be available onsite. In case of rain, the concerts will move indoors to our auditorium. All our summer concerts will be livestreamed to the CHS YouTube Channel.

August 18 Creative Cocktail Hour at RAW



Real Art Ways (RAW) will present its monthly social event, Creative Cocktail Hour on Thursday, August 18, 6-10pm.

Everyone is welcome at Creative Cocktail Hour. It is a gathering of people at all ages from different walks of life, black, white, latino, city, suburb, LGBTQ+. Held on the third Thursday of every month at Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street, Hartford. In August, Creative Cocktail Hour will feature a mix of musicians and artists, and things to do, including: Live music by Nikita, Hartford-based soul, funk, and r&b group; live music by DJ Sonia Sol, CT based singer and DJ; food truck; hands-on art making activities, good for adults and kids. Visitors will experience five separate exhibitions in Real Art Ways' galleries: *Duty-Free Paradise* by Lani Asunción; *Supernature* by Benjamin Spalding; *Duality: In Unplain Sight* by Heather Heckel; *Dreaming in Black and White* by Deep Pool; *Disbonest Dancers* by Jesús Hilarios-Reyes. Tickets for Creative Cocktail Hour are \$15 general admission (only \$10 for Real Art Ways members). For more information and tickets visit: www.realartways.org.

Friday, August 19 Salsa Social on Pratt Street



Salsa dancing returns to Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford on Friday, August 19, from 5-8 pm. Approximately 600 people attended last month's Salsa Social. In the event of rain, Friday's event will be held a week later, Friday, August 26, at the same time. Salsa socials are presented by the Hartford Business Improvement District (BID). The final Salsa Social for this year will be on Friday, September 9 (rain date: Saturday, September 10) from 5-8 pm on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford. Salsa Socials are free and open to the public.

Saturday, August 20 KCC Presents *Negra,* *negra, negra soy*



At 4 pm on Saturday, August 20, Kamora's Cultural Corner, 75 Sterling Street, Hartford, will present *Negra, negra, negra soy* (Black, black, black I am). This original performance was created by the afro-feminist arts collective Kukily and directed by local Connecticut artist Colleen Ndemeh Fitzgerald. It brings together Black women from the Hartford area to share their stories, words, and creative expressions for an incredible one-night show.

Saturday, August 20 Riverfront Dragon Boat Races & Asian Festival



Paddles up! Riverfront Recapture's highly popular Asian Festival & Dragon Boat Races will be held from 8 am - 4 pm on Sunday, August 20, at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, 300 Columbus

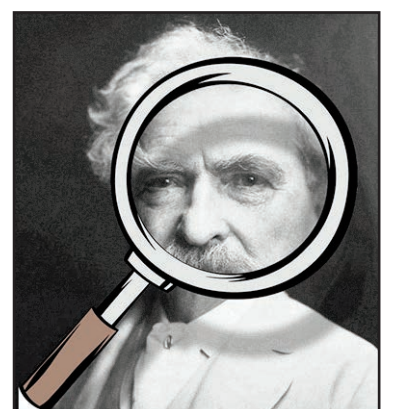
Boulevard, Hartford. Come cheer on your favorite team and celebrate Asian and Pacific Island cultures through traditional music and dance, hands-on arts activities, food, and martial arts at this free, family-friendly annual event.

Sunday, August 21 Hartford Puerto Rican Parade



Hartford's annual Puerto Rican Parade will start at 11 am on Sunday, August 21, from the corner of Wawarame Street and Wethersfield Avenue and will continue up the Avenue to Main Street and end in Bushnell Park where the El Coqui Festival will be held. With close to 3,000 marchers and thousands of spectators, the parade is the largest in the region. Performers in the El Coqui Festival will include: Charlie Aponte and his Orchestra; Richard "El Flaquito" and Rika Swing; Suvanna and her Band Son D Barrio; Joseph Romaldo The New Sensation of Bachata; HipHop Jibarito and his Orchestra Nosfuimos; The Giants of the Plenary and their Bomb Show; Carlos Juan "The Lunatico" and his typical outfit; and much more! The Puerto Rican Parade is presented by the Connecticut Institute for Community Development (CICD).

August 27 Get A Clue at the Mark Twain House



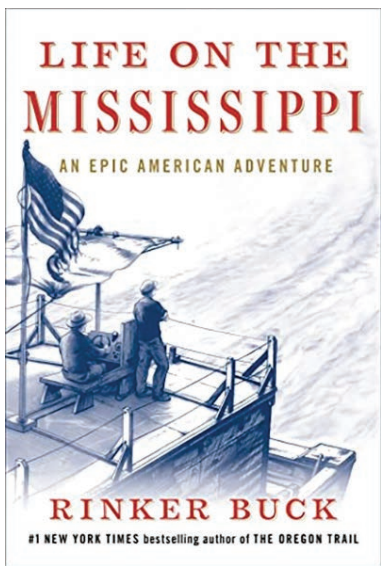
On Friday, August 26, at 7pm, the Mark Twain House & Museum, 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, will present *Get A Clue*, an interactive murder-mystery tour with Sea Tea Improv. Who killed Pap Finn?? Was it Tom Sawyer in the Billiard Room with the wrench? Queen Guinevere in the Conservatory with rope? The Prince (or was it the Pauper??) in the Library with the revolver. We need YOU to solve this mystery on a hilarious, interactive tour of The Twain House! Tickets are \$27 for adults (discount available for MTH&M members)/\$19 for children. Reservations are required,

please go to: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35359/production/1127590>.

Starts August 27
Outdoor Horror
Movie Series on
Constitution Plaza

Hartford.com and the Hartford Business Improvement District (BID) are welcoming the Halloween season to downtown Hartford early this year with the return of their popular free outdoor horror movie series, Spooky Popcorn. The movies, will be shown on Constitution Plaza for six consecutive Saturday nights and feature such classic films as *The Babadook* (August 27), *Children of the Corn* (September 3), *It: Chapter One* (September 10), *The People Under the Stairs* (September 17), Korean-language film *Train To Busan* (September 24), and *The Lost Boys* (October 1). Please bring your own blankets and chairs. Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages are permitted. Children under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Hartford.com will also be hosting the Bizarre Bazaar, a two-day local vendor fair on Pratt Street on Saturday, October 22 and Saturday, October 29 from 12-4 pm and will feature local artists, crafters, and artisans; live music, and pumpkin painting sponsored by Painting With a Twist. For more information visit Hartford.com/Spooky.

Thursday, Sept. 8
Author Talk: Life
on the Mississippi



The Mark Twain House & Museum, 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, will present Rinker Buck on *Life on the Mississippi: An Epic American Adventure* at 7 pm. Bestselling author and former *Hartford Courant* journalist Rinker Buck returns to Hartford to discuss his latest adventure, very much inspired by Mark Twain's own adventures on the Mississippi. Former MTH&M Communications Specialist and *Hartford Courant* Arts Editor Donna Larcen joins Rinker onstage in conversation. The eagerly awaited return of master American storyteller Rinker Buck, *Life on the Mississippi* is an epic, enchanting blend of history and adventure in which Buck builds a wooden flatboat from the grand "flatboat era" of the 1800s and sails it down the Mississippi River, illuminating the forgotten past of America's first western frontier.

There will be a book signing immediately following the discussion. Each registrant will receive \$5 off the purchase of *Life On The Mississippi*. In person event; \$5 admission. Go to marktwin-house.org to register.

Friday, Sept. 9 &
Saturday, Sept. 10
Hartbeat Music
Festival



Riverfront Recapture's showcase of local music talent will be even bigger and better – it's been expanded to two days with bands performing Friday, 5 – 9 pm and Saturday, 10:30 am – 9 pm at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, 300 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford. This year's scheduled line-up includes: A Marquise, Among The Acres, Austin James + the Nomads, The Balkun Brothers, The Bap Pack (Hydro 8Sixty, Klokwise, Tang Sauce & Self Suffice), The Bargain, The Cat Attic, The Dwonztet, Ghazi Omair, Goza, Gracie Day & The Phantom Limbs, Hannah's Field, Ian Matthew, The Jake Kulak Band, Jason Ingriselli & The Miles North, Joey Batts, KC Sisters, Laini & the Wildfire, Lemon Street, Lush Honey, The New Mosaic, Nikita, Prince Negasi & Souls of Zion, The Professors of Sweet, Sweet Music, Sean O' Reilly, Stephen Peter Rodgers, Thabisa Music, Zikina.

Saturday, Sept. 10
Hartford Pride Fest



Connecticut Latinos Achieving Rights & Opportunities (CLARO) will present Hartford Pride Fest on Saturday, September 10 on Pratt & Trumbull Streets, Downtown Hartford. The annual festival and concert is a family-centered event showcasing entertainment, food, local businesses, giveaways, activities, and numerous community organizations. Vocalist CeCe Peniston will headline this year's concert. There will also be a show by female impersonators hosted by Robin Fierce. Free and open to the public.

Brass Band Bonanza August 20
at Real Art Ways



Real Art Ways (RAW) will present a day with five different brass bands titled the Hartford Brass Band Bonanza on Saturday, August 20 from 12-6pm. Real Art Ways is located at 56 Arbor Street, Hartford. This event is free and open to the public. Support for the concert comes from the Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Fund.

This concert will feature five brass bands - The Hartford Hot Several, The Expandable Brass Band, Hartford's Proud Drill Drum and Dance Corp., Fly By Brass Band, and Papo Vásquez Mighty Pirates Top Brass. There will also be a food truck to be announced at a later date.

- 12pm: The Hartford Hot Several is a funky marching band that brings brass, ruckus, and joy to all the parties. Founded in 2012, their motto is to "show up whenever we want, wherever we want, to play some tunes to make you smile and dance!"
- 1pm: The Expandable Brass Band is dedicated to spreading joyful music to the people of Western Massachusetts and beyond. Their mission is to play in support of others working on important social issues within the local community.
- 2pm: Hartford's Proud Drill Drum and Dance Corp. integrates sound, movement, and artistry to expose youth to bigger and greater opportunities so that they excel academically, socially, and artistically throughout life.
- 3pm: Fly By Brass Band is a 12 piece brass band out of the greater Boston Area. Born of the local Honk scene, their focus is bringing live horn harmonies to the people. Their sound ranges from second-line inspired jazz to upbeat rock.
- 4pm: Papo Vásquez is a trombonist, composer, and arranger. He has 40+ years of career spanning Jazz, Latin and Afro Caribbean music. He is a national Endowment for the Arts Master Artist and Grammy Nominee for his group Mighty Pirates. Papo Vásquez Mighty Pirates Top Brass blends multi-faceted compositions and trombone style with rhythms of Afro Caribbean origins and jazz. For this performance, Mighty Pirates' music has been re-arranged to include a full Brass section, including two trumpets, one tenor sax and one trombone. New music was composed for this event and includes Bomba, Plena, Mambo with Jazz Improvisation.

Saturday, Sept. 10
LEVAS Gospel
Festival



The 27th annual Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) Gospel Festival will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 12-6 pm, at the Tomas D. Harris Performance Pavilion in Bushnell Park, Downtown Hartford. Bushnell Park. Headline acts for this year's concert are gospel vocalist Bonita Burney-Simmons and saxophonist Nelson Garcia. Several local groups and individuals will also be performing.

Thursday, Sept. 15
Author Talk: Night
Boat To New York

Journalist and Connecticut River Historian Erik Hesselberg joins Connecticut River Museum Curator Amy Trout for an illuminating conversation on a topic that Mark Twain would have surely

enjoyed: steamboats! *Night Boat to New York: Steamboats on the Connecticut, 1824-1931*, is a portrait of the vanished steamboat days—when a procession of stately sidewheelers plied between Hartford and New York City, docking at Peck's Slip on the East River in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge. At one time, Hartford could boast two thousand steamboat arrivals and departures in a year. Altogether, some thirty-five large steamboats were in service on the Connecticut River in these years, largely on the Hartford to New York City route. These Long Island Sound steamers, unlike the tubby, wedding cake dowagers of Western waters, were long, sleek craft, with sharp prows cutting a neat wake as they cruised along. Departing each afternoon from State Street or Talcott Street wharf in Hartford, the "night

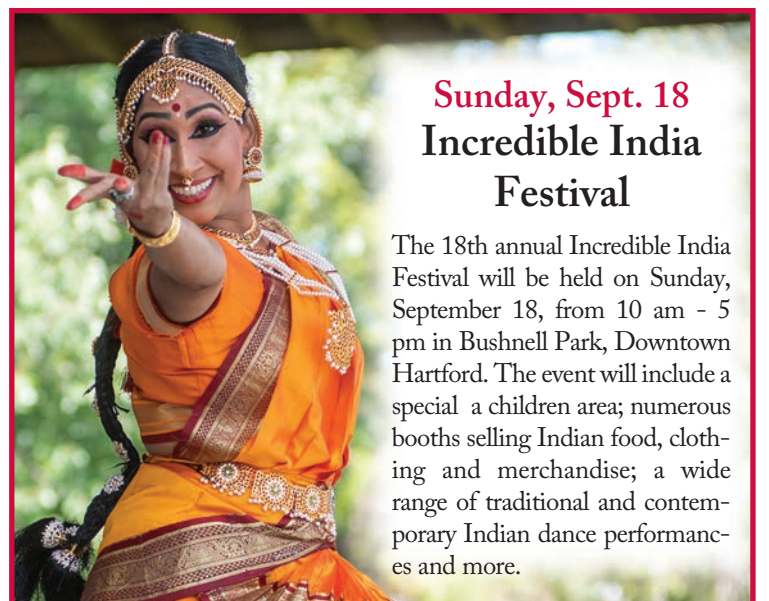
boats" reached New York at day-break, inaugurating a pattern of city commuting that continues to this day. Each registrant will receive \$5 off the purchase of *Night Boat to New York*. In person event; \$5 admission. Go to marktwin-house.org to register.

Friday, Sept. 30
Octoberfest!
Ukrainian
Fundraiser

The Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, will host a special Octoberfest fundraiser for the people of Ukraine as it suffers through invasion from Russia. A wide range of beers and Ukrainian food will be available.

Sunday, Sept. 18
Incredible India
Festival

The 18th annual Incredible India Festival will be held on Sunday, September 18, from 10 am - 5 pm in Bushnell Park, Downtown Hartford. The event will include a special children area; numerous booths selling Indian food, clothing and merchandise; a wide range of traditional and contemporary Indian dance performances and more.





West End Blend in the Spotlight



West End Blend (including lead vocalist Erica T. Bryan, shown above) was the second act to headline the new Hartford Live music series on Thursday, August 11, at the Old State House, 800 Main Street, Downtown Hartford. Hartford Live is produced by GoodWorks Entertainment in conjunction with the City of Hartford and Infinity Music Hall. Concerts run from 6 - 9 pm. In addition to a diverse lineup of musical acts, Hartford Live also features a beer garden, food trucks, and other vendors. Next Hartford Live concert is Neighbor & Neal Francis (left) on Thursday, August 18, followed by Jose Paulo & Friends Present: The Rio Samba Show on Thursday, August 25. Concerts will also be held on September 8 and 15 but the acts have yet to be announced. For updates and more information, go to: <https://goodworkslive.com/2022/07/14/hartford-live-free-summer-concert-series/>.



Adam Cloud: Proud to Say No

Retiring City Treasurer – and Westend resident – Adam Cloud can look back on his 11 years of service in elected office with pride. Protecting pensioners, City parks and trust funds, managing the City's cash and overseeing all of the City employees' retirement plans. Additionally, Cloud worked tirelessly to improve Hartford's bond rating and was responsible for structuring the bond offering that built the Yard Goats stadium. However, it seems he is most proud of his steadfast commitment to serve as a resource and at times a voice of opposition to policies that were not in the best interest of the City. Cloud strove to keep the independence of his office and the trust of those who elected him and sometimes that meant saying no.

It seems that many ideas and concepts that may look promising on the surface lose their underpinnings upon close examination, especially in terms of the City of

Cloud has a long history of service to the City of Hartford dating back to the 1990's when he served as the Chairman of the City's Redevelopment Agency, a Commissioner of the MDC, acted as the Financial Advisor to the City on all debt issuances, the Treasurer of the Democratic Town Committee and as the Assistant City Treasurer before being elected on his own right in 2011. Cloud won three consecutive 4-year terms as Treasurer and was the longest serving elected official among all that currently serve the City. Throughout his time as Treasurer, Cloud helped and mentored many members of the Council and is very proud of the strong relationship that was built between he and Mayor Bronin. Hopefully, as a private citizen, he will stay as a player in city politics and policy.

Cloud has endorsed the city's longtime Assistant Treasurer Carmen Sierra, who has worked

It seems that many ideas and concepts that may look promising on the surface lose their underpinnings upon close examination, especially in terms of the City of Hartford's fiscal stability.

Hartford International
UNIVERSITY FOR RELIGION & PEACE

Hartford Seminary Is Now Hartford International University for Religion and Peace

Learn more about our degree programs, public events, and consulting services.
hartfordinternational.edu

77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2260 | (860) 509-9500
email: info@hartfordinternational.edu

Hartford's fiscal stability. For example, preventing bankruptcy was a top priority for Cloud. By working with the State legislature (especially Speaker of the House Matt Ritter), he was instrumental in the creation of the contract assistance agreement that helped stave off bankruptcy by having the State pay the outstanding debt service on the City's general obligation bonds which freed up approximately \$50m a year in expense for the City.

Cloud was a strong advocate for an increase in PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) payments to the City. These payments are made to municipalities to make up for tax revenue lost by the city because so much of its land is occupied by state offices, hospitals, non-profit agencies, churches, etc. and therefore tax exempt. He argued strongly and effectively that the state never lived up to its PILOT obligations, causing Hartford to raise property taxes to the point of counter-productivity. For an example, housing backed by the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) is taxed as residential (1-3 units) rather than commercial (4 or more units). Otherwise, no investor would even look at Hartford with its 70+ mill rate (with the current reval, the rate dips a bit below 70, but is still well above that of competing cities and towns).

close with him on every aspect of the office's initiatives including legislative policies, pension management and management of the day-to-day office operations and staff, to serve out his term through the next election.

The Treasurer's office – the third leg of the stool, with the other two being the mayor's office and city council – is critical in the hard-fought battles over dubious policies that affect our bond rating and pension obligations. Cloud is confident Sierra will continue to efficiently manage the office of the City Treasurer, serve as a dedicated steward of the city's \$1 billion pension plan, as well as understands the politics of this City. Sierra is a well-known personable civil servant who has decades of experience in public service including the last decade as the city's number two person in the Treasurer's office. Sierra has a Masters Degree in Management from the University of Hartford and was selected by Harvard for a Certification program in Public Policy.

So, Adam Cloud, good luck in whatever ventures await you, and let's hope you're not missed too much! And, as we look forward to next year's municipal elections, the voices of veteran politicians like Cloud will have a major effect. It will be interesting to see what he will have to say.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Westender Seeks Delivery Workers!

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



Katz Framing Company

Complete Picture Framing
Services. Private Studio

*"Always Open
Never Closed"*

166 Linnmoore St.

Contact First:

bkatz321@gmail.com

860-956-2844

THE ART OF COOL

A feast for the eyes and the soul when temperatures rise

BY DONNA SWARR

Baby it's hot outside, so what can we do inside, where it is cool? The museums in Connecticut are free this summer, and you might wonder what they have to offer. The Wadsworth Atheneum at 600 Main Street is free to Hartford residents year-round through their Wadsworth Welcome program. They offer a lot of great programming, and currently there are three exhibits that you will want to see: "Anika Noni Rose", "Hamilton the Art of Remaking History", and "Creative Connecticut". What surprised me was the amazing costume and textile infusion into all of the exhibits.

The Amistad Center for Art & Culture is exhibiting Anika Noni Rose until September 18, 2022. Anika Noni Rose is an actor, dancer, singer and a graduate of Bloomfield High School. This exhibition will display memorabilia from Rose's personal collection of her career from childhood to the present day. She was the voice for Tiana in the Disney film *The Princess and the Frog*, the first African-American movie lead for Disney. There is a drop dead gorgeous blue and silver sequins dress. She has appeared in other movies, several Broadway productions, and is the winner of a Tony Award, and a host of TV series.

Want to infuse your children or your own knowledge base with a little history? The Wadsworth has the perfect exhibit, "Hamilton, the Art of Remaking History", which runs June 24 – September 11. The award-winning musical "Hamilton" was on stage at The Bushnell this summer, and when you visit the Wadsworth you'll see how historic imagery influenced the show's costume and set designs. The exhibit features items that relate to the era reimaged in "Hamilton", including paintings by John Trumbull and Gilbert



Stuart, silver pieces, and rarely seen archival letters to Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth. The quilt on display is a gem, and the quality and condition of the dresses and menswear will astound you. It provides 'fresh look at the past through the lens of the present'. It's definitely a different perspective than what we've seen from the Revolutionary period in the past.

Don't walk past the rotating installation in Creative Connecticut, which is in the lobby. Creative Connecticut is where various contemporary makers and their creations are being featured. Hartford-born designer Travis Terry founded IEMBE, a dynamic new brand creating clothing and accessories. The name IEMBE plays on the phrase "in my bag," that is, to be completely absorbed in an activity or a mental zone to the point of being unbeatable. Created from vegan leather, a sustainable, cruelty-free polymer, and in a range of bold colors, Terry calls it a versatile "4-in-1 bag...a purse, a bookbag, a shoulder bag, or just a clutch." Terry, an example of Connecticut creativity, still lives and works in Hartford and believes that

"Just because you're from Connecticut, does not mean you can't make your dreams come true."

Will your group include children? Don't miss Second Saturdays for Families. This month's programming is Sight and Sound on August 13th, noon– 2:00 p.m. Explore how Naama Tsabar creates objects that function both as artworks and musical instruments. Design a musical instrument of your own and watch a presentation by our friends at the Connecticut Science Center as they unravel the mysteries behind sound. Find the Ice Cream for a Dream truck for free ice cream while supplies last. The Wadsworth Atheneum is open Thursday-Sunday from noon–5:00 p.m.

Michael Oretade

Continued from page 1

out his campaign postcards and only appears at community conversations during election season. Long-term incumbent's concerns are mostly about maintaining and increasing campaign donations.

HN: You've been canvassing in Wethersfield, a majority white area. How has your reception been? Will getting votes there be a big hurdle?

MO: A lot of people there said it was time for new blood, and change. A few said "I'm a fan of Fonfara", but I get it—a lot are staunch Democrats.

HN: Looking ahead, if you win in November, what committee assignment as a State Senator would you most want where you feel you could provide significant input?

MO: The Environmental Committee. That's where I'd want to start, having already been building a relationship with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). After that, the Housing Committee.

HN: Can you elaborate on that?

MO: I strongly believe in transitional housing for the homeless and formerly incarcerated. We need more realistic solutions to that issue in Connecticut. As a people, we need to be more cognizant and help them. No matter what political party, we can agree that stable hous-

ing brings autonomy that is important for all individuals.

HN: How do you feel the State's social equity licensing initiative for the sale and cultivation of legal cannabis is going?

MO: They're botching it. There's so much corporate BS, with those entities—some from out of state—getting first dibs. For them, there's no lottery and no caps—none of that business. It's almost like a full-ride scholarship. If it were up to me there would be no lotteries. Anyone who was previously adversely affected by cannabis prohibition should have had those first dibs. It isn't equitable. When we get people with big corporate ties in elected office, there won't be systems in place to help the little guys.

HN: Senator Fonfara has been adamantly in favor of closing Brainard Airport, and supportive of Hartford's plan to redevelop that South Meadows acreage with upscale housing, retail and a marina. If elected, Brainard and the land it's on would be in your district. What are your thoughts on that plan?

MO: There are already more than 350 jobs supported by the businesses at Brainard Airport. Closing Brainard and eliminating those jobs for area residents is not like eliminating jobs at huge employers like the coal and big oil industries. As for retail, everything is moving toward E-commerce now. And those who have complained about noise from

the aircraft won't have to worry about that much longer, as aviation is on the cusp of shifting from fuel to quiet and non-polluting electric systems. Brainard should stay open.

Hartford Farmers Markets



MONDAYS

KNOX Farmers Market, 75 Laurel Street,
11:00AM – 2:00PM. Through Oct 31

TUESDAYS

West End Farmers Market, 385 Farmington Avenue,
4:00 – 7:00PM .Through Sep 27; 3:00 – 6:00PM from
Oct 4 –25. Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

WEDNESDAYS

North End Farmers Market, 80 Coventry Street,
9:00AM – 12:00PM. Through Oct 26. Offers special
savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

Homestead Farmers Market, 22 Homestead Avenue
11:00AM – 4:00PM. Through Oct 12
Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

THURSDAYS

Broad Street Farmers Market, 539 Broad Street,
11:00AM – 2:00PM. Through Oct 27.
Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

FRIDAYS

Old State House Farmers Market, 800 Main Street,
10:00AM – 2:00PM. Through Oct 28

SATURDAYS

Promise Zone Community Farmers Market, 425 Woodland
Street. 10:00AM – 1:00PM. Through Oct 29

*All markets accept SNAP/EBT, WIC farmers market checks
& Seniorfarmers market checks!*

IF YOU NEED AN ATTORNEY,
WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

call Today.

(860) 236-1111



Beckett
LAW
LLC

Attorney Suzann L. Beckett

Suzann Beckett is CEO and Founder of Beckett Law LLC. We are locally owned and operated, right here in the West End of Hartford.

PROBATE

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

ESTATE PLANNING (WILL / TRUSTS)

We work with families of all types, to protect loved ones when you're gone, as you protect them while you are alive and well. Whether you are young, seeking to name a formal guardian for your children, or older and looking to pass your hard-earned assets to the next generation, we're here to help you accomplish your desires. Working to help families organize their loved ones estate & assets after passing. Lifting the burden of probate off of families.

BANKRUPTCY

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

PEACE OF MIND.
NOT A PIECE OF PAPER.™

DOME SWEET DOME

Colt Dome serves as inspiration for a new RAW exhibit

BY DONNA SWARR

There is a wonderful Coltsville-inspired art exhibit at Real Art Ways. It opened on Thursday, July 21st and will run until October 16th. The artist, Heather Heckel, has received 16 art residencies through the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. She is also a Real Art Award recipient. The Coltsville exhibit, "Duality in Unplain Sight", is a series of historical structures and arms. The exhibit brochure states that "Sam Colt sold weapons to both sides of conflicts, and I (the artist) wanted to emphasize this duality--among others--through double imagery, symmetry, and balance: Win/Loss, Life/Death, Friend / Enemy, Exploitation/Profit." Heckel has her own web page where you can see digital versions of the artwork: <https://www.heatherheckel.com/residencies.html>. On the website, the artist commented that Samuel Colt "...often used European styles of architecture to provide his immigrant workers with a sense of familiarity."

When I first approached the artwork, I noticed the clean colors, the simple shapes. When I examined them more closely, intricate designs emerged. The artist's medium is colored pencil, which she uses as "dry paint which allows accuracy through blending". Of course, several of the images are very familiar to those of us who live in the Coltsville area, including the Colt Dome, Sam Colt Memorial, Potsdam Cottages, and Armsmear. In addition, lesser-known architecture, the Gardener's Cottage and the Carriage House, are used as subjects. You might want to wander over to Colt Park to check them out. They are located along the Stonington Street walkway across from Groton Street.

Real Art Ways is open Wednesday through Sunday from 3 p.m.-9 p.m. at 56 Arbor Street in Hartford.



Poetry Corner



Author's Note: Received the June issue [of The Westender] here at 74 Tremont, where Ruth and I brought up our kids and have resided since 1972. Here's a poem about an occasion my neighbors may recognize.

Rubbish Sonnet

It's the day before trash day and under the sink
 There's a bagful of garbage that's starting to stink.
 In the barrel the refuse gives off a sharp smell
 Cause it's summer and kitchen waste doesn't keep well.
 For the recycling plant there is plastic and tin
 Filling separate bags in a separate bin.
 On our street there's a guy who gets dirt on his face
 Plucking bottles and cans from unwelcoming space.
 If your car's at the curb for the parking cop's pleasure,
 He'll knock on your door as a neighborly measure.
 The bin-grabbing truck is the day's special feature
 Manhandling the cans with its prehensile reacher.
 No more sweating crews as once emptied the trash,
 How they hustled and whistled. What strength! What panache!

I published a little book of poems on Amazon a couple of years ago under my pen name Guy Touquet, entitled *Cooking with Hair*.

Steve Fournier

SUBSCRIBE!
 TO THE
THE WESTENDER

Only \$10/year
(12 issues)

Email to
TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com

Yoga In Our City Classes

This Summer, ConnectiCare is once again hosting Yoga in our City throughout the state. Classes will be held every day of the week through October 9.

Mondays 5:30 pm*	Bushnell Park
Tuesdays 5:30 pm	Elizabeth Park
Wednesdays 5:30 pm*	Bushnell Park
Thursdays 5:30 pm*	Elizabeth park
Fridays 5:30 pm	Keney Park
Saturdays 10 am	Pope Park
Sundays 10 am	Colt Park

* Classes led by bilingual (English/Spanish instructor).

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a wedding or engagement coming up? Did your son or daughter make the honor roll? Did you open a business or get a promotion? Do you want to write a letter to the editor on an issue that's important to you? Do you have a poem you'd love to see published? Then if you live or work in Hartford's Westend neighborhood, you're in luck! Submit your item to *The Westender* newspaper and before you know it, it'll be in print for everyone to see.



To submit your item, please email to: TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com