

## Mo's Midtown Changes Hands

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Pedro Urena and his family have officially purchased Mo's Midtown and are now running the popular restaurant located at 25 Whitney Street. The former owner, Stan Nowak, is working to make the transition as smooth as possible and, as of last weekend, even helping out with the cooking.

There will be a few changes in the menu and weekly - even daily specials - including a batch of dishes from the Dominican Republic, Pedro's homeland. Old customers should cut the new employees a little slack as they get the routine down, especially on busy weekends.

Our best memories of Stan's tenure at Mo's are the conversations over that second cup of coffee with political friends, business associates - and loafers (like your correspondent). All that, hopefully, will stay the same, possibly with extra hours and days (7 am - 4 pm; open Mondays, closed Tuesdays) to forestall going into the office. The recent pandemic was certain-



Pedro Urena is the new owner of Mo's Midtown on Whitney Street. Urena is looking to expand the hours and days of operation at Mo's and adding a few traditional dishes from his native Dominican Republic to the menu.

ly not kind to restaurants. Now, as things get back to normal, let's hope, that, small, family-owned restaurants continue to be a part of our neighborhood. But let's do more than hope, let's make the

cash register ring at Mo's. You'll be supporting a small business. You'll be supporting the neighborhood. And you'll be chowing down on the best breakfast in town!

## CVS Going, Going... Gone (May 1)

BY MIKE MCGARRY

We are amazed that, as of April 13, the news that the Farmington Avenue CVS is closing has not "hit the bricks," other than in The Hartford News.

We have been told that the mayor has, quietly, talked to Aetna/CVS about the situation but he hasn't been public about it, nor have any of the mayoral candidates. In fact, one candidate said, "It seems that any criticism of such a move [closing the store] might endanger the current home base of Aetna." That seems far-fetched to us.



Looks like the proposed closing is just part of the shift by drug store chains to stand-alone stores with drive through windows. And, if truth be told, the high volume of theft at the Farmington Avenue CVS probably played a role as well.

But, regardless of the reasons, it's very sad to see the empty shelves and the disappointed customers who relied on this drug store for much more than drugs, including food, healthcare products, school supplies and even hardware. The elderly, those with limited mobility and those without cars are stuck. Yes, there are similar stores a few blocks away, but a few blocks is a long way if you walk with a cane or use a mobility scooter. But such hardships don't show up in the numbers being crunched at corporate headquarters.

As a regular customer, we'll miss the store's friendly staff (and wish them well), the weekly specials and the convenience that CVS has brought to the West End for so many years.

So, what is next for this prime location? We'd all like to see a small-scale supermarket, perhaps with a meat counter, deli and bakery. Maybe something like Hall's Market on Park Road or a revival of Cheese & Stuff. If such a store can offer fairly reasonable prices for neighborhood residents and something unique to draw in customers from a wider area, we think it would have a good chance of succeeding. Hall's certainly has, and Tangiers has also been able to build up a loyal customer base. And let's not forget, Cheese & Stuff was successful until it was sold to a national chain and the corporate number crunchers decided to close it.

And the West End Civic Association and the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association should play a key role in not only selecting and approving a new tenant for the location, but also in supporting it once it opens. Some might see such support of a for-profit business to be beyond the purview of neighborhood groups, but such stores are vital to a healthy neighborhood, and that's what we all want. Isn't it?

## City of Hartford Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Showing us the money, how much, where it's going and when

BY DONNA SWARR

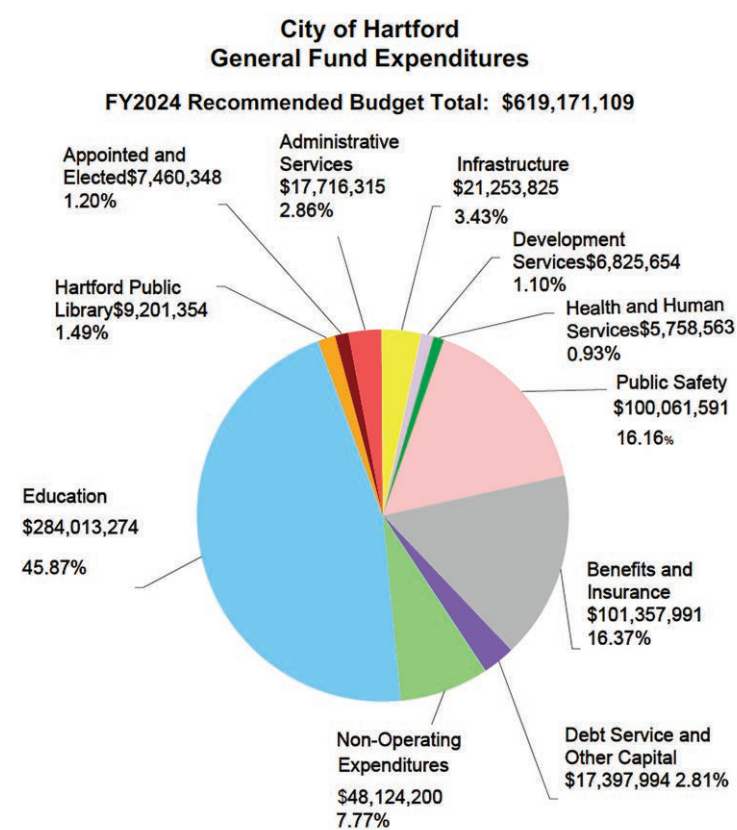
On March 27th, Mayor Luke Bronin submitted Hartford's operating and capital budgets to the City Council for the fiscal year July 1st, 2023-June 30th, 2024.

In the Mayor's letter, he stated that the budget includes no new borrowing. The budget will also expand hours of service and programming at city recreation centers and libraries, increase staffing for the housing inspection team, the fire marshal's office, and the 9-1-1 dispatch center.

New positions are being added to public works, to receive additional resources to care for our parks, streets, and facilities. The budget reflects the new collective bargaining agreements, including the increases in wages necessary retention and recruitment.

The mayor's final proposed budget of \$619.17 million for Fiscal Year 2024 prioritizes core city services while making responsible investments to improve quality of life. These include new tax relief expanding the senior citizen tax credit by \$250 to \$1,000. The Hartford Public Schools line item is projected to be flat.

Additional Public Health and Safety Staff includes 3 more Housing Inspectors, 4 more Fire Marshal Inspectors, 4 more 9-1-1 Dispatchers and 1 more Supervisor; expands the Public Works team; adds 15 new staff for Blight Remediation, Parks, Facilities,



Engineering, Street Services, and Waste & Recycling; increased funds for staffing expanded hours and programming at recreation centers; adds library staff and part-time staffing for expanded days and hours of operation at the branches.

Brief descriptions of the recommended 2024 capital projects include basic information regarding each project. The project details include a forecast of new funding authorizations that are anticipated

through the 5-year planning period. They are:

- Repair or replacement of City building roofs, \$300K each year over the next 5 years. Funds are needed to facilitate the testing and repair of various roofs in 2024.
- Deteriorated and/or failing building components that are in need of replacement. This

Continued on page 8

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CITY OF HARTFORD  
**PUBLIC SAFETY STATISTICS**

**Hartford Fire Department  
WEST END INCIDENT REPORT**

1st Quarter, 2023

| WEST END  | JAN | FEB | MAR | CITY |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Incident  | 137 | 136 | 128 | 2466 |
| EMS (Medical)   | 105 | 84  | 92  | 1720 |
| Rescue (Elevator rescue, extrication from vehicle)        | 0   | 1   | 2   | 23   |
| Hazardous Materials (gas leak, carbon monoxide incident)  | 1   | 0   | 1   | 16   |
| All Fires (Building, Vehicle, Outside)                    | 1   | 5   | 3   | 34   |
| Service Calls (Water Problem, Power lines down)           | 19  | 21  | 13  | 339  |
| Fire Alarm (Alarm activation, unintentional, malfunction) | 7   | 17  | 12  | 187  |

**Hartford Fires (March)**

- **March 10:** 86 Webster St (Large apartment complex/65 people were displaced). **Fire Marshal's Report:** The most probable cause was a bathroom vent fan, which was either dirty, overheated, or malfunctioning. See FMO tips below.
- **March 12:** 320 Farmington Ave (Large apartment complex/10 people were displaced). **Fire Marshal's Report:** The most probable cause was a light fixture that malfunctioned. Light fixtures flickering or breakers frequently tripping is a sign of possible electrical problems.
- **March 18:** 1068 Capitol Ave-Mattress Fire (3 people displaced). **Fire Marshal's Report:** Mattress caught fire due to an electrical power strip that appeared to be tampered with.



**West End Blood Drive A Success!**

On Saturday, April 1, the West End Civic Association held its second annual West End Blood Drive in honor of David Klein (right) at Noah Webster school. A long-time resident and neighborhood supporter, David recently battled Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), and is now advocating to reinforce the supply of blood available for all patients in need. The drive was a success, exceeding the requirements for a successful drive by 14 units and collecting 10 more units than last year's drive. Shown above with Klein are his wife, Jan (front, center) and blood drive committee members Nealie Newberger, Lindsay Erwing, Lilly Miller and Sarah Martz. Neira Kadric (not pictured) was also on the committee. (Hart photo)

**THE WESTENDER**

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**From the House:  
Capitol Update**

By Matt Ritter  
State Representative, 1st District

**How Does Batterson  
State Park Sound?**

I am pleased to report on a new plan to bring Hartford-owned Batterson Park back to life for residents to enjoy once again. The 500-acre site, which straddles the towns of Farmington and New Britain, has been closed to the public since 2015 and has deteriorated into an unusable state of disrepair.

Our vision is to transform Batterson into Connecticut's newest state park through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program. To do this, I am working closely with Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart, Farmington First Selectman C.J. Thomas, members of the state legislative delegations from all three towns as well as our Hartford City Council.

Batterson Park is a lost natural gem with incredible potential, and the COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the need for more outdoor spaces that families and residents can enjoy. Historically, Batterson was a popular summer destination for thousands of day visitors dating back to the 1950s through the early 1980s, who enjoyed swimming in the large lake, picnicking and a variety of recreational amenities, including food concessions, a pavilion, and basketball courts.

State parks with swimming available are rare in the Greater-Hartford area. While Batterson is only 7 miles from Hartford, the nearest state parks to Hartford currently with swimming are Stratton Brook in Simsbury (14 miles) and Gay City in Hebron (18 miles).

A total of \$10 million has already been budgeted for renovations, and upkeep and staffing for the park would be maintained by the state. Our Passport to Parks program will provide all residents free access to a new Batterson State Park. My goal is to help turn Batterson back into the recreation and environmental asset it once was.

I'll end with a bit of a history lesson. The 165-acre lake at Batterson was originally used as a drinking water reservoir before the Hartford Water Department donated the tract to the City Parks Department in 1928. The park was named after Hartford's mayor at the time Walter Batterson.

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](mailto:Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov), on Facebook at [facebook.com/SpeakerMattRitter](https://www.facebook.com/SpeakerMattRitter) or by phone at (860) 240-8489.



**March 24:** 30 Woodland, Lot 5G, Valerie Smith to Joan Harris. \$108,000

**February 27:** 194 Kenyon. Elenor Blake to Shane Chase and Isabel Camino. \$506,000

**February 24:** 30 Woodland Street, Lot 10K, Vera Gerard to Gregory Grinsfelder and Heidi Grinsfelder. \$101,622

**February 17:** 1468 – 1470 Albany Ave, Clyde Billington Jr to Uptown Buildings, LLC. \$300,000

**February 16:** 60 Elizabeth, Mary P Guinan to US Bank. \$397,746

**February 2:** 31 Woodland Street, Lot 8J, Stella Properties LL and Jill Tryon to Dalton Thomas and Annette Thomas. \$105,000

**February 1:** 373-375 Sigourney Street, Nationstar Mortgage to Theodore Morrison. \$168,000

**January 31:** 54 Terry Road, Helene Hirschfeld to Noel Nembhard. \$625,000

**January 27:** 714 Prospect Ave. Dwayne D. Busby and Gabrielle Busby to Benjamin Rackley 2nd and Kimberlee Rackley. \$610,000

**January 20:** 44 Oxford, Shermane Davis to Courtenay Jackson. \$340,000

## My Cat Babe and Donald Trump have Something in Common

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

Recently, I prepared to have a spaghetti dinner but I couldn't find the bowl that I normally use. I looked high and low for the bowl. I walked through every room in my house searching for it. I opened every kitchen cabinet. I even went into the basement on the off chance that I decided to eat my pasta in my unfinished basement. No bowl. Could I have put the bowl somewhere during a sleep walking episode? I never thought I had a sleep walking problem but one shouldn't rule out any such possibilities. Nothing. The bowl was gone. Then, as I sat back in my studio with my feet up on my desk, I looked up at a shelf and there was the bowl. After eating my pasta one evening, I had placed it there a week ago so one of my cats couldn't get at the remaining tomato sauce and olive oil. Babe has a voracious appetite and he will eat anything he can get his paws on. And if he had gotten hold of my pasta dish, he would have had another diarrhea episode around the house. And cat diarrhea is no fun to wipe up.

This all reminds me of the need to keep private citizen Donald Trump away from the White House lest he again, crap all over the institution as he did the first go 'round. He was so unfit and unstable that certain military chiefs had to insure he couldn't get his hands on the nuclear codes during his last days in office. Those who were and are his supporters conveniently forget these moments. But I will never forget how much Trump crapped all over America.

Every word out of his mouth was a lie. He befriended our enemies and made life difficult for our friends. He hired the worst creeps into administrative positions. He likely gave up national secrets to Putin. He encouraged an insurrection when he didn't get his way to be re-elected. He deregulated as much as possible and in case you forget, regulations are put in place to protect its citizens. He reduced taxes for the wealthy corporate community and now that we have runaway debt, the republicans are doing a blame game on the democrats. Par for the course.

Let's not forget that Trump has something in common with my cat, Babe, who was found almost newborn and deprived of food in my driveway on a cold December morning a few years ago. He's a wonderful cat now. But if he gets anywhere near some remaining oil in the frying pan or anywhere near my pasta bowl, he will lick it up until he splats diarrhea all over the floors of my house — just like Trump will do if he is re-elected by those who think he has their best interests at heart.

By the way, he doesn't have their interests at heart. He has no heart. A narcissistic personality disorder reveals that truth.

*(From the forthcoming edition, "Donald's Vanity Tantrums" Contact bkatz321@gmail.com for details)*

## Neighborhood News & Notes

REPRINTED FROM THE WEST END CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### Kenyon Street Walking Tour

On Sunday April 23 at 2p, the West End Civic Association's Architectural History & Resource Committee will hold their first walking tour of the year. Led by Robert Brock, Deputy Director of Connecticut Landmarks, this will be the first in a potential series of West End North Historic District walking tours. The one hour tour will discuss the history and architecture of Kenyon Street, focusing on eight of these historic homes and include some of the stories of the people who called them home over the years. The rain date will be Sunday April 30.

### MDC Clean Water Project Outreach

The MDC is planning a public meeting for mid-April to discuss their goals and intentions for addressing sewage discharge into local waterways. The North Branch of the Park River features prominently in their plans, as they are talking about dredging the river. Meeting information will be distributed once the time and place are finalized.

### Nook Farm Walking Tours:

The Harriott Beecher Stowe Center has relaunched their Nook Farm Walking Tour with both guided tours and self-guided audio tours. The guided tours begin at 3p on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and require a minimum of 4 people. The program is \$15 per person, but free to Hartford residents.

### Construction in Farmington Avenue:

The MDC will be working this week from 5a to 3p on Monday through Thursday. Genovesi will continue installing the 24" water main progressing west along Farmington Ave. Traffic will be maintained, one lane in each direction. Parking restrictions may be in place at times.

### West End Springfest May 20

The inaugural West End Springfest will take place May 20th (rain date May 21st) from 12p - 7p at West Side Square, featuring food trucks, live music, and more. Bands scheduled to perform include The

Professors of Sweet, Sweet Music (P.O.S.S.M.), Big Joe and the Stolen Hearts, Audio Jane, and Walking Cosmo. This is a free event.

### Designer named for Elizabeth Park East Lawn Project

The City of Hartford has selected Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architects as the design team for the Elizabeth Park East Lawn project. The firm has offices in Cambridge, MA and New Haven, CT. One of the principals grew up in West Hartford and "lived" much of her childhood in Elizabeth Park, on both sides of Prospect! The contract is in process. It is expected that there will be a project kickoff meeting sometime in April.

### 13 Blackbirds Submissions

The call for submissions for issue 2 of the 13 Blackbirds Arts and Literary Journal is open. In terms of guidelines: anyone can submit, any topic of your choice, no min/max word count, all genres welcomed (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, artwork, photography, etc.). Submit to 13blackbirdalj@gmail.com by April 15, 2023.

### Securing Healthcare Coverage:

A Federal policy that guaranteed continuous Husky/Medicaid coverage during the pandemic is ending, and thousands of CT residents could be affected. Making sure your Department of Social Services information is up to date and verified is a critical step to ensuring that you maintain Husky and SNAP eligibility. Separately, a State law offers all children ages 12 and under healthcare coverage regardless of their immigration status.

### City's Senior Homeowner Rehabilitation Program

The City launched a forgivable loan program to give seniors (aged 65+) up to \$10,000 for exterior repairs and improvements to owner-occupied properties of between 1 and 4 units. More information is available on the Housing Division's page of the City website.

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Season Starts Saturday, April 1, 2023



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# School & Youth News

## It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Noah Webster Girl Scout Troop 10048 is hard at work selling their cookies! And this year it's easier than ever to help the troop out as there are several cookie booths scheduled in the next few weeks where you can pick some up.

The Troop is currently earning money for their next camping trip/outing is May 13-May 14 at Bonnie Brae Camp in Massachusetts so please come out and support them!

- Saturday, April 15: Lowes Hardware, 325 Cottage Grove Drive, Bloomfield
- Thursday, April 20: Noah Webster School, 5 Cone Street, Hartford, 3:40pm-4:15pm
- Saturday, April 29, Bushnell Park Carousel, 1 Jewel Street, Hartford, 12:00pm-2:00pm
- Thursday, May 4: Noah Webster School, 5 Cone Street, Hartford, 3:00pm-4:15pm

## Yard Goats-Eversource Student Reading Challenge

The Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Club, the Double-A Eastern League affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, in partnership with Eversource, New England's largest energy delivery company, has announced the return of a student reading challenge for the 2023 season. Students (K-8th grade) who read five books outside of the school curriculum will earn two tickets to a Yard Goats game at Dunkin' Park in Hartford.

A parent or guardian must register students on the Yard Goats website (yardgoatsbaseball.com) from now until May 6th, and students will have until July 15th to complete their

books. One lucky student will be selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

The Yard Goats encourage all school principals, teachers, and parents to share this exciting program with their students.

The Yard Goats introduced the reading challenge with a video of "Energy Island" by Allan Drummond, which is available on yardgoatsbaseball.com, and can be shown in class. Energy Island is an inspiring true story about a community in Denmark that came together to form its own source of power using the renewable resource of wind.

## Freshly Squeezed Discussion Series returns to Watkinson School April 18

On Tuesday, April 18, will present the latest in its Freshly Squeezed panel discussion series.

Based on the premise that everyone loves a juicy conversation and in the best tradition of

Connecticut conversation, Freshly Squeezed is a series of nimble, participatory and personal discussions. These low-cost lectures not only feature smart panelists discussing fascinating topics, they also include an optional pre-show community dinner in Watkinson School's Feringa Dining Hall. All of the revenue from ticket sales benefits the education programs at Hartford Stage. The discussion series is generously sponsored by Fiduciant Advisors.

The latest installment in series is entitled "We're Counting On Young People to Change the World." How often do you hear the imposing burden of changing the world laid on young people? Yet, something's got to give — environmentally, economically, interpersonally — and young peo-

ple will play an important part. What skills will be essential for them to lead, make change, and play the role they can to heal systemic issues? Who is helping them to develop these skills? Young peo-

- Yolande Spears — a veteran Arts-in-Education professional and SVP of Education at The Bushnell.

- Facilitated by Connecticut's Commissioner on Early Childhood Beth Bye.

Watkinson's Head of School Teri Schrader says, "We are so eager for parents, community leaders, educators — everyone who cares about the challenges we're facing these days — to have the opportunity to think and talk together."

The forum is at 7pm and is preceded by an optional pre-show light meal at 5:30pm prepared by Chef Jon



Beth Bye, Facilitator

Jackie Santiago-Navarro, Panelist



Teri Schrader, Panelist

Yolande Spears, Panelist

ple are powerful and perhaps the world's greatest asset. Together, let's examine what happens when organizations get serious about educating young people to be smart, have courage, and lead boldly, with heart.

### Panelists will include:

- Jacquelyn Santiago Nazario — a champion for youth equity, a dynamic youth development trainer, and CEO of Compass Youth Collaborative
- Teri Schrader — a nationally-regarded expert in progressive schooling and Watkinson's Head of School, and

Birney.

Pricing Options: forum with dinner and 1 wine voucher: \$25; forum (no dinner): \$10. All proceeds from ticket sales benefit the education programs at Hartford Stage.

The panel discussion is held in the Foisie Family Amphitheater at Watkinson School. Seating is very limited and general admission, so order today. Purchase tickets online or by calling 860-570-8160.

*Watkinson School is Hartford's oldest co-ed independent day school for grades 6-12/PG. Our next info session for prospective families is April 21 at 9am.*



## KIDS COMMUNITY MUSIC CAMP Summer Session

- Violin Group Exploratory Class
- Bucket Band
- Singing
- Dance
- Performance Opportunities
- Visual Arts
- Guest Artists



### FIVE FUN FILLED DAYS For kids entering grades 3 through 5

**DATE:** August 21-25, 2023  
**TIME:** 9:00am - 3:00pm  
**COST:** \$30 per child, Assistance available  
**LOCATION:** St. John's Episcopal Church  
 679 Farmington Ave (near Prospect)  
 West Hartford, CT 06119

Every child will enjoy physical movement along with free nutritious snacks and lunch

Registration information at:  
[www.reddoormusic.org/camp/](http://www.reddoormusic.org/camp/)  
 or call: 860-523-5201



Want to know why Watkinson's Class of 2022 was offered \$2.5 million in merit scholarship college aid?

*"My son has found an exceptional peer group and teachers who respect and encourage him unconditionally."*

— Current Upper School Parent from West Hartford



**97%** of Watkinson students agree or strongly agree that they are encouraged to think critically and problem-solve

— NEASC 2022 Reaccreditation Survey

**That's why.**  
 Schedule a visit today.  
[watkinson.org/visit](http://watkinson.org/visit)

## First-of-its-Kind 'Iftar-Model Seder' Draws a Crowd to Hartford International University

On Sunday, March 26, members of the Hartford International University community from a range of faiths experienced a unique inter-religious celebration: the "Iftar-Model Seder." The event idea was born from a simple conversation but quickly grew up into a significant event that received media coverage and wide attention.

This year, the Muslim lunar month of Ramadan and the Jewish lunar month of Nissan with the Passover festival coincide. It is a rather unusual confluence that will happen again in 31 years.

The overlap occurred because the Islamic Lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than the solar calendar used in the Western world, so Ramadan starts about 11 days earlier each year. On the other hand, Passover falls on the 15th day of Nissan, the first month of the Jewish lunar calendar, always in March or April in the solar calendar.

An eight-day celebration, Passover is always in the Spring because it commemorates the Jewish people's liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt, which is believed to have happened in springtime. Ramadan is a month-long celebration commemorating when the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. Muslims fast to give thanks for the blessing of revelation, reflecting on the Qur'anic teachings.

Acting Dean Dr. Deena Grant and Director of Field Education Aida Mansoor did not let this unusual event pass without harnessing it to create what they called a "truly interreligious experience."

"Oftentimes we talk about inter-religious dialogue, but here's an opportunity to do...interreligious practice, interreligious life," Dr. Grant said.

Aida said the main goal was for people to learn about each other's faith. "And of course, that's one of the focuses is to get people together to understand one another and to deepen understanding and respect of one another," she said.

### The presentations

Dr. Grant gave an opening pres-



Attendees of the Iftar-Model Seder on Sunday, March 26 at Hartford International University on Sherman Street.

entation and emphasized, "We are not trying to merge our two traditions; we are rather celebrating them in the company of one another. And hopefully learning from one another and perhaps gaining some insight into how people Jewish and Muslim alike seek to connect with God through our traditions, rituals, and narratives."

Pointing out the similarities in different traditions, Aida said, "There is a tradition that states that the prophet Abraham, peace be upon him, was given revelation on the first night of Ramadan. The first revelation of the Torah was revealed on the 6th night of Ramadan, the first revelation to Jesus was on the 13th night of Ramadan, and the 1st revelation of the Qur'an was during the last 10 nights of Ramadan."

### Planning the event

Given that attendees of this event might have been in their first Iftar-Seder celebration, a 23-page Haggadah was created to uniquely include practices and teachings related to Ramadan. The Haggadah, which means to tell, is a Jewish text used during the Passover Seder. The Seder, held on the first two nights of Passover, is a ritual meal and service commemorating the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. The Haggadah guides participants through the stages of the meal and retells the story from slavery to freedom.

This event was carefully planned. For Jews, meat needs to be prepared according to Kosher laws, which Muslims consider acceptable. However, Jewish dietary laws don't permit the consumption of non-kosher halal food. So, the main meal was salmon, which is regarded as Kosher and is accepted by Muslims as well.

Also, part of the event was called a "model" Seder. This means the Seder wasn't celebrated within the first two nights of Passover. "It wouldn't be possible for us to do an actual Seder on the night of Passover here, because people wouldn't be able to come onto campus," Deena said to The Hartford Courant. Since Orthodox Jews are not permitted to drive once Passover begins, the Seder was held as a model before the start of Passover on April 5, 2023. The Iftar was authentic; Muslims break fast at sundown every day during Ramadan.

## Spring Into Youth Sports!

### Hartford Youth Sport Collaborative

Hartford youth between the ages of 5 and 18 are invited to come outside and get active this Spring! The City of Hartford and the Hartford Youth Sport Collaborative are partnering to bring FREE rec sports programs throughout the city. All skill and experience levels welcome. Registration is free but spots are limited, so sign up today at [bit.ly/HYSCsports](http://bit.ly/HYSCsports). There will be 12 sports to choose from at 29 sites throughout the city: Dance, Cheer, Baseball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Basketball, Boxing, Double Dutch, Golf, Fencing, Football and Soccer. All programs will be run by members of the Hartford Youth Sport Collaborative

### Minnie Gonzalez Youth Baseball

Registration is now open in the Minnie Gonzalez Youth Baseball League (MGYBL) to boys and girls ages 4 - 15. Registration will be held every Saturday through May 6 from 12 - 2 pm at the Parkville Community Center, 11 New Park Avenue, Hartford. Registration fee is \$50 (includes insurance) and you must present the child's birth certificate. Players must have their own glove, protective cup and rubber cleats; uniforms are provided.

### Lions Spring Soccer

Lions Spring Soccer will hold its 2023 program at Global Communications Academy, 85 Edwards Street, Hartford.

- Ages 3 - 5: Mondays & Wednesdays 5 PM - 6 PM
- Ages 6 - 9: Mondays & Wednesdays 5 PM - 6 PM
- Ages 10 - 14: Saturdays 10 AM - 11 AM (Games or Practice),
- Travel Teams, Mondays & Wednesdays 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM, Fridays 5 PM - 06:30 PM, Saturdays 12 PM - 1:30 PM (Games or Practice).

Registration Link [www.hlsasoccer.org](http://www.hlsasoccer.org). FREE for residents, \$40 for non Hartford residents.

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## MDC To Perform Sewer Inspections & Flow Metering

Work to gather data in advance of Drainage Study

Beginning next week, the Metropolitan District's (MDC) consultant CDM Smith and their subcontractors will be working in the Blue Hills / Granby, Asylum Hill and West End neighborhoods to perform video inspections and flow metering of the existing combined sewer systems.

Flow metering devices will be installed throughout the project area and monitored periodically over the course of 10 to 12 weeks. Some of the work is located on public easements off the road. At times, it will be necessary for staff to walk within the easement areas to conduct the work. Entry into buildings is not required and field staff will have proper identification.

The data from the inspections and metering will be used to initiate and perform the preliminary work associated with a planned drainage study of the area. The purpose of the drainage study is to provide the necessary information to begin engineering design of future sewer separation projects.

The work is part of the MDC's Integrated Plan, which is designed to not only meet regulatory goals of the Clean Water Project, an over \$2 billion wastewater system upgrade focused on eliminating combined sewer overflows to local waterways, but to prioritize repairs and improvements of the existing sewer infrastructure in MDC Member Towns.

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## Hartford Public Library BABY GRAND JAZZ SERIES

Hartford Public Library's Baby Grand Jazz Series is being held at Center Church, corner of Main and Gold Streets in Downtown Hartford, due to extensive flooding at the Downtown Library. Concerts will be held at Center Church every Sunday through April 23. The final concert on April 30 will be held at 1 pm the Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Avenue, Hartford. Doors open at 2 pm and the concerts start at 3 pm.

### This Sunday, April 16 Blackman, Murray & Russo Trio

(There will be no Baby Grand Jazz Concert this Sunday, April 9, due to the Easter holiday). Baltimore based pianist and award-winning composer Alan Blackman and his various groups have performed at Blues Alley, the Kennedy Center, and many festivals and venues from San Francisco to New York. Recent performances have been with Donny McCaslin, Gilad Hekselman, Vardan Ovsepiyan, Ferenc Nemeth, Mike Pope, Tom Guarna, Joe Locke, Warren Wolf, Tim Green, Michael Formanek among others. Original arrangements and performances of his music have been featured on NBC's *This is Us*, NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, and *Grey's Anatomy* as well as Stephen King's film, *1408*. The trio also features Max Murray on bass and Frank Russo on drums.



### Every Monday! Monday Music at Parkville Market

This Spring, Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street, Hartford, will host a Monday Night Music series alternating Jazz and traditional Irish Music. Fiddler Jeanne Freeman will lead the Irish sessions while world-renowned bassist Nat Reeves will lead the jazz concerts, with special guests "sitting in" each night.

April 17 Jazz: Matt DeChamplain with Hall High musicians  
April 24 Irish Music  
May 1 Irish Music  
May 8 Jazz: Mary DiPaolo  
May 15 Irish Music  
May 22 Jazz: Zaccai Curtis  
May 29 Jazz: Joe Warner with The Dynamic Miss Faye Carol: Billie Holiday Remembered  
June 5 Jazz: Jimmy Green  
June 12 Special Final Irish Music Concert  
All concerts run from 6:30-8:30 pm

and are free. Performances will be held outdoors if weather permits; and indoors at Parkville Market's 2nd floor bar, The Local. For more information, please go to: [ParkvilleMarket.com](http://ParkvilleMarket.com)

### Thursday, April 13 Paint & Sip Night at the Twain House

Thursday, April 13 at 6pm ET - The Mark Twain House & Museum will host a Paint & Sip Night with Artist Julie Phillipps at 6 pm on Thursday, April 16. The Clemens family spent two summers at artist colonies in the mountains - one at the Onteora Club in the Catskills, and one on the slopes of Mount Monadnock in Dublin, New Hampshire. The family's circle of friends at both locations included well-known artists such as, Abbott Thayer, J. Carroll Beckwith, and Candace Wheeler. Tickets include supplies and instruction to paint a watercolor raven and two cocktail-tasting drink tickets. Additional cocktails can be purchased from the bar. In-Person Event! \$50 / \$45 for MTH&M Members. Learn more & register at <https://market->

[wainhouse.org/event/paint-sip-night/](https://wainhouse.org/event/paint-sip-night/)

### Friday, April 14 & Sunday, April 16 Music of Persia

Ever since 22-year-old Masha Amini was killed at the hands of "morality police" in September 2022, protests have emerged across Iran (once known as Persia) as the fight for women's rights is renewed. Cuatro Puntos, a Connecticut-based organization with the mission of uplifting silenced, persecuted, and under-represented musicians, has been working with Iranian musicians and composers since 2017. This month Cuatro Puntos Ensemble, a string quartet, is releasing an album called *Sounds of Persia* and is also playing two concerts of music in Hartford by living Iranian women composers. The first concert will be held this Friday, April 14, at 4:00 pm, at Trinity College Library, 300 Summit Street, Hartford. The second will be held on Sunday, April 16, at 3:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. The concerts are free. Suggested donation is \$20.

### Saturday, April 22 Pratturday Night Live Downtown

The Pratturday Night Live music series is kicking off with an Earth Day celebration! Down to Funk will be playing your favorite hits from 7-9 pm on Saturday, April 22 on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford, all centered around Earth Day. Pratt Street businesses will also be selling Earth Day food and drink specials for you to enjoy! Free admission.

### Saturday, April 15 & Sunday, April 16 Remembering G. Fox & Co.

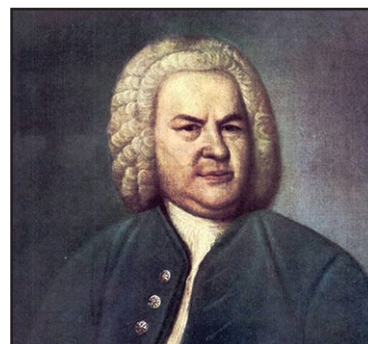
The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford will give a behind-the-scenes tour of its collection of memorabilia from Hartford's most iconic department store from 11 am - 12 pm and 2 - 3 pm on Saturday, April 15, and 2-3 pm on Sunday, April 16. The CHS archives contain hundreds of goods sold over the years at G. Fox & Co., ranging

from wedding gowns to toilet paper! You'll also learn about Beatrice Fox Auerbach, the pioneering businesswoman who led G. Fox & Co. through its golden age. Tickets must be purchased in advance online. You can purchase your tickets at <https://cthistosoc.yapsody.com/event/index/760515/remembering-g-fox-co>. \$10 for CHS members, \$15 for non-members. Ticket includes admission to the museum's galleries.

### Saturday, April 15 & Sunday, April 16 Wadsworth Atheneum Film Screening

The Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Hartford, will present the Connecticut Premiere of *When Time Got Louder* at 2 pm on both Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16. This coming-of-age drama follows Abbie (Willow Shields) as she departs for college, leaving her parents, Mark (Lochlyn Munro) and Tish (Elizabeth Mitchell), and her brother, Kayden (Jonathan Simao), who has a non-verbal form of autism. As she explores her independence, Abbie is torn between her new life and the guilt of leaving her brother - as her family struggles to care for him in her absence. *When Time Got Louder* is a story of a family's resilience and unconditional love. Directed and written by Connie Cocchia. 1 hour 54 minutes. Not rated. Tickets are \$9; \$7 seniors and students with ID; \$6 members and Wadsworth Welcome.

### Saturday, April 15 Music by Bach at Good Shepherd



On Saturday, April 15, the Church of the Good Shepherd, 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford will present "The Lone Violin" at 6:30 pm. The concert will feature the music of Johann Sebastian Bach played by Brunilda Myftaraj. A reception at 6 pm in the church chapel will precede the concert. The event is free and open to the public. Call (860) 525-4289 ext.10 for more information.

### Sunday, April 16 A Night of Jewish Music and Comedy

On Sunday, April 16, Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, will present "CHUTZPAH! A Celebration of Jewish Showstoppers" at 6:30pm. The show will feature Nu Haven Kapelye Klezmer Big Band and Meet The Goldbergs, a tribute to the groundbreaking Jewish sitcom that aired in the 1940s and 1950s, presented by Leona Schwartz. The

evening will be hosted by Alissa Wurtzel, CEO of Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, and produced by Pierre Sylvain. For tickets go to [CharterOakCenter.org](http://CharterOakCenter.org).

### Wednesday, April 19 Elizabeth Park Lecture on Public Gardens

The third and final of the Elizabeth Park Conservancy's 2023 Garden Lecture Series will be held on Wednesday, April 19, from 11 am - 2 pm in the Park's Pond House Cafe, 1555 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford. One of the last surviving estates in the five boroughs of New York, Wave Hill has developed over the last half-century into one of the foremost public gardens in the United States. Join author Thomas Christopher for a photographic tour of the Wave Hill gardens, and share in the many lessons these have to teach about designing and maintaining a more beautiful landscape. Cost is \$45 for the lecture, lunch and book.

### Thursday, April 20 Remembering a Seminal Dance Performance at the Wadsworth

The Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Hartford will host "Remembering A Dance, Yvonne Rainer And Emily Coates In Conversation" on Thursday, April 20, at 6pm. In 1965, choreographer and filmmaker Yvonne Rainer premiered *Parts of Some Sextets* at the Atheneum with a cast of ten performers and twelve mattresses. The work marked a pivot in the artist's approach to movement and helped usher in a radical shift in contemporary dance. Nearly six decades after its presentation here, the work's impact continues to be felt through a recent revival and continued scholarship. Rainer returns to the Wadsworth to discuss the piece with dancer, choreographer, and longtime collaborator Emily Coates. The artists reflect on Rainer's pioneering career, the pivotal performance at the Wadsworth and consider the landscape of contemporary dance. A book signing follows the conversation. Free with required reservation; go to <https://www.thewadsworth.org/>.

### Saturday, April 22 Earth Day Concert at AHCC

On Saturday, April 22 at 3pm at Asylum Hill Congregational Church (AHCC), 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford will present a special Earth Day performance of *A Passion for the Planet* by Geoffrey Hudson. The work will be sung by by CONCORA, who will be joined by students from Illing Middle School of Manchester, Litchfield High School, and Connecticut Children's Chorus Youth Choir. Soloists are baritone Jermaine

Woodard, Jr., and soprano Louise Fauteux. The final movement invites the entire audience to join in singing. Suggested donation at the door (cash, check, or credit card) is \$20. Proceeds will benefit the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice.

### Saturday, April 22 Rug-Hooking Demonstration at the Wadsworth

Artists in New England have fashioned hooked rugs since the early nineteenth century in a tradition that continues to thrive and develop. On Saturday, April 22, from 1-3pm, drop in and visit with Michele Micarelli, an internationally-recognized rug hooking artist based in New Haven as she demonstrates the process of transforming hand-dyed wool and fabric scraps into elaborate hooked rugs. Free with admission.

### Sunday, April 23 Music in the Wadsworth Galleries

Entwined Early Music Ensemble returns to the Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Hartford, for Music in the Galleries on Sunday, April 23, 12:30-1:30pm. The group will perform an informal program of seventeenth-century music from the Dutch Republic. Enjoy the works on view in the Chasing Rembrandt exhibition and the nearby Dutch art galleries while listening to the sounds from the time of Rembrandt and the other Dutch masters.

### Tuesday, April 25 "Birds in the City" at Infinity Hall

Forget the musicians, live birds will take center stage at Infinity Hall, 32 Front Street, Hartford, on Tuesday, April 25, from 5:30 to 8 pm. "Birds In The City" Night Out will be presented by Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education. The group will display live birds of several species and discuss their special characteristics. For instance, did you know that the eyesight of a red-tail hawk is eight times better than a human? There will also be food from Bear's Smokehouse and Craft Beer by Urban Lodge Brewing Company. To purchase tickets, go to [tinyurl.com/2p8drfy8](https://tinyurl.com/2p8drfy8)

### Thursday, April 27 Happy Hour for Introverts (Extroverts Welcome Too!)

Stop by Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Road, West Hartford for the Silent Book Club. Bring a book. The first 30 minutes are to mingle, enjoy complimentary cheese and a glass of wine; then an hour to read quietly. The final half hour to chat with other readers if you choose. No pressure. Thursday, April 27. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 Admission includes a \$5 gift card to Riverbend Book Shop. Sponsored by Presidents' College, the University of Hartford's Lifelong Learning Program for adults 50+. Go to [www.hartford.edu/pc](http://www.hartford.edu/pc) to register or call 860.769.4495..

### April 28-30 Wadsworth Atheneum's Fine Arts & Flowers

Spring is here, and that means Fine Art & Flowers is just around the corner at the Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Downtown Hartford. From April 28-30 stunning floral arrangements by florists, garden clubs, and interior designers are shown alongside the works of art that inspired them. Exciting programs and live entertainment take place throughout the weekend. Visit [thewadsworth.org/flowers](http://thewadsworth.org/flowers) to learn more and plan your visit. \*A \$5 surcharge is added to all admissions during this springtime fundraiser.

### Sunday, May 7 Dance In The Presence of Trees

Celebrate the season of growth and renewal with the Justice Dance Performance Project (JDPP), on Sunday, May 7, 2023 (rain date Sunday, May 21). Activities from 2:30-4:00 pm; performance and talk back from 4:00-5:00 pm at Bushnell Park (GPS address: 14 Trinity Place) Downtown. Bring the family for tree-themed arts activities including storytelling, art, and an innovative poetry walk through the Park. The day will culminate with the outdoor premiere of In the Presence of Trees: Spring, the JDPP Ensemble's stunning new site-specific dance theater performance. A talk back with artistic director, visual designer, and performers will follow the show. Free; register at [give.jdpp.org/SpringTrees](http://give.jdpp.org/SpringTrees)



## CINESTUDIO

Trinity College, 200 Summit Street, Hartford  
[cinestudio.org](http://cinestudio.org) • (860) 297-CINE (2463)

### Rare Objects

In moving the setting of Kathleen Tessaro's acclaimed novel from Boston during the Great Depression to present day New York City, *Rare Objects* is a powerful reminder that immigrants have always been seen as the inferior "other." Director Katie Holmes' third film stars Julia Mayorga (*American Rust*) as Benita, the daughter of immigrants who ends up in a psychiatric facility for being "out of control." She forms a bond with Diana, a wealthy, mysterious patient (Katie Holmes), who encourages Benita to look ahead and build a new life. Making the plunge, Benita takes a job at an antiques store run by an elusive eccentric played by Alan Cumming. It is nothing less than the trauma of her past that she must overcome, with the hope that her new friends are not enemies, but a lifeline to self-acceptance. April 14, 7 pm; April 15, 7 pm; April 16, 2 pm; April 17, 7 pm; April 18, 4 pm & 7 pm; April 19, 7 pm; April 20, 7 pm. (123min. R) 2023 Katie Holmes, director

### The Trial



Film fans, save the date/s to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of *The Trial*, in a new 4K restoration of the original 35mm film directed by Orson Welles! *The Trial* brings Franz Kafka's classic of a man accused by the state for a vague crime to the silver screen with verve and style. Set in 1960s London, Anthony Perkins (*Psycho*) is marvelously edgy as Kafka's Josef K., arrested in the middle of the night without explanation. As his persecution intensifies and execution looms, Josef K. hires a barrister (Orson Welles) who is more malevolent than helpful. Given freedom to experiment with lighting, camera movement and editing, Welles' film, like *Citizen Kane*, still inspires filmmakers around the world. April 21, 7 pm; April 22, 2 pm & 7 pm; April 23, 5 pm; April 24, 7 pm; April 25, 7 pm; April 26, 4 pm; April 27, 7 pm. (119min. NR) 1962 France/Italy/West German Orson Welles, director

## REAL ART WAYS

56 Arbor Street, Hartford • [realartways.org](http://realartways.org)

Regular Admission: \$12; Real Art Ways Members: \$7; Senior & Student Members: \$6; Seniors (65+): \$8; Full-Time Students (With ID): \$8.

### Mafia Mamma

April 14, 2:55 pm, 5 pm, 7:05 pm; April 15, 2:55 pm, 5 pm, 7:05 pm; April 16, 2:55 pm, 5 pm, 7:05 pm; April 19, 2:55 pm; April 20, 2:55 pm, 5 pm, 7:05 pm.

A mild-mannered suburban mum unexpectedly inherits her late grandfather's mafia empire in Italy. Guided by the firm's trusted consigliere, she hilariously defies everyone's expectations as she finds herself stuck in the middle of a deadly mob war. Starring Toni Collette and Monica Belluci. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke.

### Science on Screen

### The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind One Night Only: Wednesday, April 19, 6:30pm

Presentation at 6:30 with Dr. Steven Nathan of Eastern Connecticut State University, followed by a 7pm screening. A 13-year-old boy is thrown out of the school he loves in Malawi when his family can no longer afford the fees. Against all odds, he sneaks into the library and learns how to build a windmill to save his village from a famine.



# CATALYST QUARTET

presents The Global Influence of Latinx Composers

**Friday, April 21, 2023 7:30pm**



- Free admission
- In-person and livestreamed
- Donations welcome (suggested donation: \$20)

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679 Farmington Ave (near Prospect)  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
[RedDoorMusic.org](http://RedDoorMusic.org)

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## Coming & Ongoing Events at Hartford International University

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### Free Yoga Classes

The Center for Transformative Spirituality has launched a free, weekly yoga class here at HIU every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ending on May 5. This class is open to people of all ages and fitness levels: truly, all are welcome. Bring your mat (a few mats will be provided if you don't have one); chair-yoga options will be available for those who prefer.



### Film Screening: Hebridean Treasure

As part of the partnership between HIU and The School of Earth & Soul, a special showing of the film "Hebridean Treasure" on Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Some of the most talented young artists of Scotland tell the story of an enchanted Hebridean world that was lost but is being found again in a new sense of the earth as sacred.

### Symposium: "The Name Of God"

This year, HIU's 2nd Sacred Languages Symposium: focuses on how the "The Name of God" has been conveyed and understood as holy. The discussion will be held on Monday, April 28, from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Come to learn and engage in these interactive presentations. Participants do not need to have any background in languages, but only an interest and curiosity to learn.

### The School Of Earth & Soul

This is the second of three consecutive summers that Hartford International University will host The School of Earth & Soul (formerly The School of Celtic Consciousness). Celtic Wisdom 2 will be held from July 7-9, 2023. Please note: The programs are numbered (Celtic Wisdom 1, 2 and 3) but can be taken individually or in any order.

## City Budget

Continued from page 1

project provides for the systemic replacement of failing building components over the course of many years; \$1.5 million

- Firehouse compliance with Civil Rights Act where equal facilities are needed for men and women, as well as some environmental hazards that need remediation. Firehouse #11 will be the first to receive a full upgrade. FY2023 Funds will be used complete the construction; \$2.7 million allocated for 2024.
- Experienced architectural firm to design and develop construction documents for the firing range. This project will bring the range up to standard for use, modernize the facility to reduce potential liability/harm permit, year-round usage, and provide a safe operating environment for employees, residents, and visitors outside of the buffer zone; \$75,000 in 2024
- Replacement of outdated fire alarm system in firehouses with a hard-wired system that will allow for a signal strong enough to notify personnel of emergency incidents within the city; \$75,000 in 2024
- Financial support for capital project systems-based solutions that better organize workflows, track and store information, and ensure that departments can work and communicate cross-functionally. \$200,000 projected each year over the next 5 years.
- Study and analyze the climate

change problem and develop solutions. Applications to FEMA or DEEP will be made to analyze the flooding on Granby Street in the Blue Hills area. The idea is to work with MDC to combat increasing storm duration and intensity; \$250,000 in 2024

- A systemic replacement of the City's inventory of underground fuel storage tanks as required by State and Federal regulations will take place; \$2.05 million in 2024, decreasing over 5 years
- Repair of deteriorated sidewalks throughout the city with a set-aside a contract for minority contractors to be awarded; \$350,000
- Annual recurring funding to plant trees and remove decaying ones; \$350,000 the first year, increasing over a 5-year period
- Correct standing water problems at four locations on Park Street. Water cannot drain properly, so it pools creating a health and safety hazard; \$200,000 in 2024
- Upgrade citywide radio infrastructure to industry standard. System will support HPD, HFD, HPS and other departments; \$3.8 million 2024, less the following year.
- This program supports street pole light replacements caused by vehicular accidents through the subrogation process; \$300,000 in 2024
- Design enhancements for recreation and safety along the riverfront. The trail will link to the former Russo property to the north - which Riverfront Recapture recently acquired - and further to trails in Windsor; \$120,000 in 2024
- Segment of multi-use path along the south branch of the Park River, ultimately extending from Hamilton Street to Newfield Avenue. The completed trail will be able to connect to the West Hartford

Trout Brook Trail, Parkville, Pope Park, and the City's bicycle network; \$212,000 one time

- Study to analyze accident-prone streets to improve traffic flow, roadway, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety. The project is currently in the design phase, FY2023 funding will support the construction; \$140,000 in 2024
- Reduce traffic accidents and improve drivability and mobility at New Britain Avenue and White Street through the construction of a roundabout at the intersection; \$2.1million over next 2 years
- Modernization project from a technology standpoint and efficient for managing traffic flow or addressing real time situations. FY2023 Funds are for design only; \$200,000 in 2024
- Reduce traffic accidents and improve drivability and mobility at New Britain Avenue and Newington Avenue intersection through the construction of a roundabout. The FY2023 funds will be used to collect vehicular crash data and retain a traffic engineering consultant to design the roundabout. A public outreach program will be developed during the design; \$200,000 in 2024

There are many embedded documents in the plan, which contain some valuable information: a city directory, current city demographics, and the top taxpayers and employers. There will be a public hearing on the budget at Weaver High School on April 5th. Departmental presentations & budget meetings for City Council will be held April 6th - April 25th. The final public hearing on the budget will be held on April 26th. To view the mayor's letter, summary documents, the entire budget package, or updated information about the budget meeting dates and times, go to <https://www.hartfordct.gov> and click on the FY24 BUDGET PROCESS tab.

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### Attorney Suzann L. Beckett

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#### 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



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