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The Hartford News

November 19 – 25, 2026

FREE

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WINTERFEST KICKS OFF HARTFORD'S HOLIDAY SEASON NEXT FRIDAY

In 2010, Mayor Pedro Segarra launched Winterfest in hopes that free skating in Bushnell Park would unite the region and bring people back to Hartford for the holiday season.

Some thought it would flop. Some thought it would fizzle. Some thought it would last a year and then be forgotten. Few thought it would be a hit from the start – but it was.

Now in its 16th year, Winterfest 2026 will start next Friday, November 27, with free skating from 11 am - 8 pm. After that free skating and skate rentals will continue through Sunday, January 3.

The rink, located next to the Pumphouse in the southeast corner of Bushnell Park in Downtown Hartford, will be open seven days a week. from 11 am - 8 pm, except on Christmas Eve, December 24, when it will be open from 11 am - 4 pm; New Year's Eve, January 31, when it will be open from 11 am - 6 pm; and New Year's Day, when it will be open from 12 - 4 pm. The rink will be closed on Christmas Day.



In addition to free skating, Winterfest will also include several special events.

Free Skating Lessons

Saturdays, December 5, 12 and 19 and January 2. 10 - 11 am.

Want to learn how to skate this winter? Head to the Winterfest Hartford rink in Bushnell Park for FREE ice-skating lessons. Lessons are open to future skaters of all ages, and the skates are free too.

Santa's Workshop,

Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13, 12 - 3 pm

Winterfest Hartford wouldn't be complete without a visit to Santa. Each family receives 1 free 5×7 printed photo.

Giant Games

Saturday, December 5, Sunday, December 6, Saturday, December 12, Sunday, December 13, 12 - 3 pm

Bring your a-game and your mittens to play chess, giant Jenga and more on the Pumphouse Patio.

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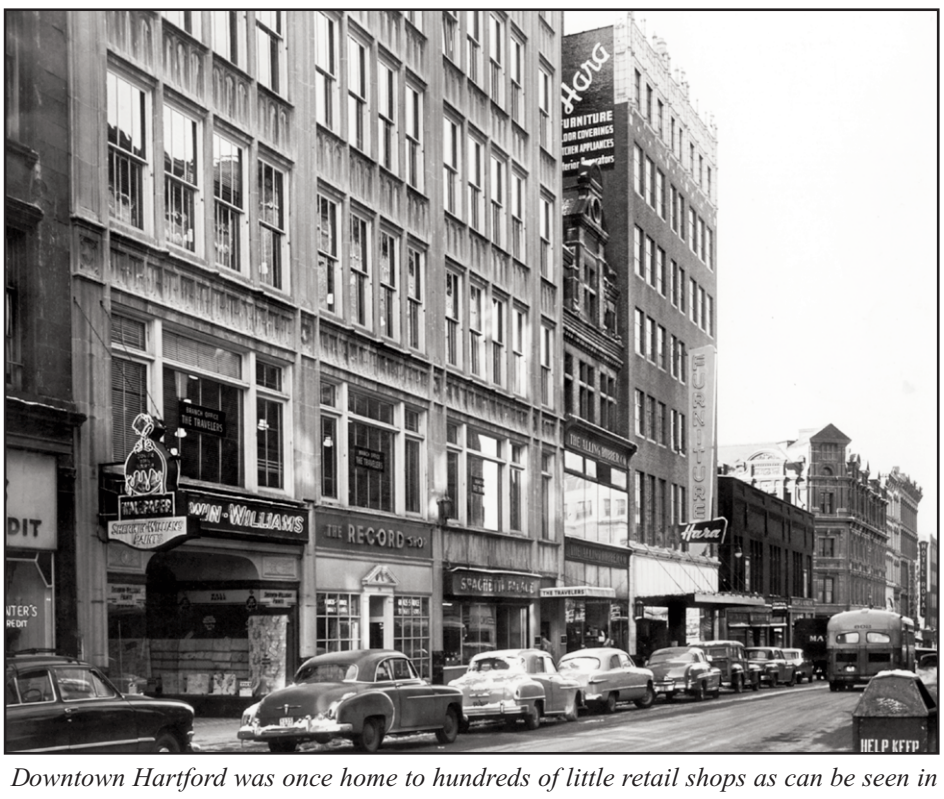
Owls Honor Their Own



On Saturday, November 14, the basketball court at Hartford Public High School (HPHS) was renamed in honor of Marcus Camby, one of the school's greatest players and a superstar in the NBA. Marcus himself couldn't make the event, Due to the nationwide airline shutdown on Friday, so his mother, Janice, stood in for him and was presented with a special jersey by Aisha Petteway, Hartford Yard Goats. Executive Director Of Community Relations. In addition to Camby, former HPHS teacher and coach Joella Marshall (shown at right), track star Jennifer Marshall-Nealy, and basketball great Kendrick Moore were also honored at the event, as well as members of the school's elite 1,000-Point Club. (Hartford News photos)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



Downtown Hartford was once home to hundreds of little retail shops as can be seen in this photo of the south side of Asylum Street in 1958. All the building in the foreground were demolished to make way for City Place I and II. At right is the Goodwin Building (corner of Asylum and Haynes Streets). Originally built in 1881, it was completely remade in the building boom of the 1980s. Now only the decorative terra-cotta walls of the building remain and the Goodwin Building rises out of it. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

NEWS BRIEFS

KTN Meets Tonight

Know Thy Neighbor (KTN) will meet on Thursday, November 19, at 6 pm, at Hartford Communities That Care, 2550 Main Street. Lite dinner will be available starting at 5:30 pm. The group is currently focusing on issues faced by Hartford youth and on how they can contribute to making a positive difference. On November 19 they will be joined by special guests who will share their direct experience and will offer advice on how KTN can help. We are headed towards action and your participation is vital to this process, so come join us and let your voice be heard! All are welcome! See more info at https://www.ktnhart

Volunteers Needed Saturday for Gardening at Kamora's Corner

This Saturday, November 21, gardening volunteers are needed at the Sterling Street Sanctuary and Nature Reserve (AKA Kamora's Corner), 175 Sterling Street, Hartford. Louisa Barton Duguay is leading a morning of planting and creating a new pollinator garden. from 10 am - 12 noon. She will be putting in pollinators, and if enough volunteers come out, the group will also remove some mugwort to make room for the goldenrod to expand. Bring yourself, your willingness to learn, and some clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

Community Dinner of Thanks Saturday

You Are Invited -- All are welcome on Saturday, November 21, from 11 am to 3 pm at Greater Refuge Church of Christ, 370 Garden St, Hartford. Join us for food, fellowship & gratitude. For more information, call 860-527-5960.

Pre-Thanksgiving Community Meal Saturday

North United Methodist Church, 1205 Albany Avenue (corner of Woodland Street), will host a Pre-Thanksgiving Meal this Saturday, November 21, from 12 - 4 pm. All are welcome!

Knox Harvest Market Saturday

KNOX, Inc. will hold its annual Harvest Market from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, November 21, at the organization's greenhouse at 75 Laurel Street, Hartford. The market will feature local vendors, live music, tasty food, family-friendly activities, and more! Whether you come by yourself, plan a day with your friends, or make it a day of fun for

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Hartford, When Are We Going To Stand Together And Demand Better?

COMMENTARY BY JENDAYI SCOTT

When are we going to unite in solidarity and stop the bleeding? The loss of resources, the financial strain, the violence, and the continued suffering of a community that has already endured far too much!

Our children deserve neighborhood schools! They deserve opportunity, stability, and access to a quality education right here in Hartford!

And if the courts won't allow Hartford Public Schools to recruit students back into the district, then I guess we, the people, will have to do it ourselves!

The Sheff agreement was intended to expand educational opportunities and provide families with choices, not to erase Hartford's educational history, dismantle our neighborhood schools, or strip our community of its future!

Choice should never come at the expense of the very community it was meant to serve!

We are wiser. We are stronger. We are resilient. We come from generations of fighters who demanded opportunity, equity, and the right to be heard!

I have consistently stood in support of Hartford Public Schools, our superintendent, Dr. Andraé Townsel, our educators, our children, and the legacy of this city because I know the greatness our educational system is capable of achieving!

But we cannot keep having the same conversations, pointing fingers, expressing frustration, and expecting different results without taking action!

People are asking, "What are Hartford's problems? What are the concerns of the people?"

My question is, how in the hell can you live in this city and not recognize the problems but claim you're capable of bringing change?

You cannot fix what you refuse to acknowledge! Taking responsibility for solutions is where real change begins!

This is bigger than one lawsuit! This is about the future of Hartford, the strength of our neighborhoods, our people, and the opportunities we create for generations to come!

Our children should never be caught in the middle of competing interests, political disagreements, or battles over resources. Their education and well-being must remain the priority, not the cash cow this system has

This work requires us to organize, show up , hold decision-makers accountable, support our schools, and stand together despite our differences!

One band! One sound!

Our grandparents, our parents, and generations of immigrant families who came to Hartford, worked, sacrificed, and helped build this city fought too damn hard for us to become a generation of spectators!

We will not sit quietly while decades of failed leadership, political complacency, and policies stemming from Sheff v. O'Neill continue to reshape our educational landscape at the expense of Hartford's neighborhood schools.

We inherited their strength, their sacrifices, and their courage to fight, NOT the obligation to remain silent while everything they worked so hard to build is dismantled!

LET'S GO!

#HartfordStrong,#HartfordPublicSchools #OurChildrenOurFuture,#CommunitySolidarity #EducationMatters, #HartfordCT, #CollectiveAction.



Wadsworth Celebrates Puerto Rican Culture

Nigel Bello (left) plays alongside his father, Nelson Bello at the opening reception for the Wadsworth Atheneum's new exhibit, "The Sense of Beauty: Six Centuries of Painting from Museo de Arte de Ponce," a traveling exhibition from Puerto Rico that showcases works of art from the 1500s to today. (Hartford News photos)

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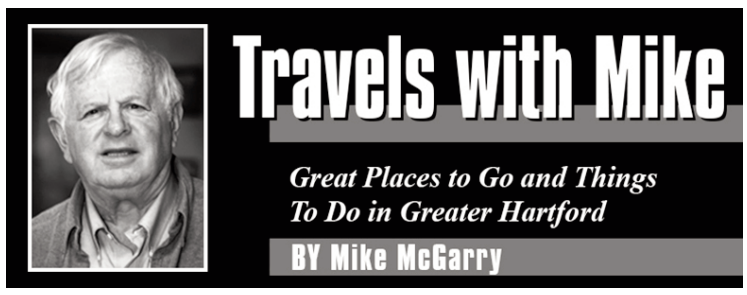

Celebrate the Harvest with KNOX

Your servant has a long history with KNOX, Inc. (previously known as the Knox Park Foundation).

Back in the early 1990s, my family was one of the many diverse gardeners at the Niles Street Gardens (now known as the Aetna Community Garden). Back then, it was coordinated by Marshall "Doc" Dockman. Doc, with a small trailer on-site, was our guru, teaching and encouraging new gardeners like Ed Conran and yours truly.

The two of us, along with former Huntington Street resident George Dean, we soon became the backbone of the Niles Street Garden for many years – with Doc's help, of course.



The baskets runneth over at the KNOX Harvest Fair!

For many years, George would collect extra produce from the big fields out in Windsor and he'd share the corn and squash he'd gathered from mid-summer through the fall.

Both Doc and George are now long gone, but the traditions continue. Many current "farmers" at the Niles Street Garden continue to share tips, stories and produce with neighbors, family and friends. After helping to procure KNOX's current greenhouses on Niles Street, and the land on Niles Street for KNOX, your servant now oversees that fertile acre located behind West Middle School.

So why all this talk about KNOX? Because the organization is hosting its annual Harvest Fair from 10 am to 2 pm this Saturday, November 21, at the greenhouse at 75 Laurel Street, Hartford.

Of course, there will be lots of fresh produce, much of it grown by KNOX's urban farmers, and locally made food items (see list below), But there always a lot more. KNOX's former Executive Director, Ron Pitz, used to bring along his band and that was a real treat.This year's live music line-up will conclude "She's With Him: at 10 am; "Bog Joe and the NOLA Hearts as 11:25 pm; and Riley Cotton & Michael Sanford Day at 12:50 pm. You'll also have a chance to meet an alpaca up close, get gardening tips from the farmers and more.

KNOX Harvest Fest Vendors

KNOX Farmers

- Red, Gold & Green (produce, hot sauce)
- Park River Farm (candles)
- Jasian Greens & More (produce)
- Farm With Me, LLC
- Michael Buchanon
- Feel The Soul
- David Pontrelli

Other Vendors

- Decorate with Donna (floral decor, wreaths
- Round Hills Alpacas (knit socks & hats)
- Island of Misfit Crafters (prints, cards, ornaments)
- Blue Earth Compost (compost services)
- Wildcraft Wellness (plant-based wellness items)
- Balkun Prints (linens, journals, etc.)
- Ital Juicery (juices)
- Ital Soap Company (body care products)
- Gemstone Bliss Jewely (bracelets)
- Narelle Ankh Khepera (vegan cookies, teas)
- Spitz (prepared foods)
- VeegMyEats (vegan baked goods)
- Kate Stephen Jewelry
- Sasha's Whole Earth

So stop by KNOX at 75 Laurel Street this Saturday, parking and admission are free!



Inside Hartford Sports

Going Beyond the Boxscores for the Stories That Really Matter

BY NICK LEBRON

Against the Odds: SMSA Volleyball's Elite Eight Run Proves Heart Can Compete with Resources



Picture provided Roberto Martir; Composite by Nick Lebron

There is something special about watching young athletes accomplish something that many people never expected. Not because they had every advantage, the best facilities, or access to expensive training programs, but because they believed in themselves, trusted one another, and put in the work. That is the story of the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) girls volleyball team, whose remarkable season included a conference championship and a trip to the Elite Eight of the state tournament. Their season ultimately ended with a 3–0 loss to Coventry, but the final score hardly tells the entire story of what these young women accomplished.

For senior Lucynda Martir, this season represented years of dedication, sacrifice, and a belief that hard work would eventually pay off. When asked what made this season special, Martir pointed immediately to winning the conference championship. For her, that accomplishment validated the countless hours spent practicing, competing, and working toward a common goal. All the hard work and dedication had finally paid off. But like most competitive athletes, Martir also understands that success can come with disappointment. Reaching the Elite Eight was a bittersweet experience. She was proud of how far the team had come, yet believed that with a few adjustments, SMSA could have defeated Coventry and advanced even further.

That competitive spirit is precisely what makes this team's accomplishments so meaningful. These young women were not simply satisfied with participating in the postseason. They believed they belonged there, and they believed they could win.

More Than Teammates: A Sisterhood

Every successful team needs leadership, but leadership does not always come from the loudest voice or the player who scores the most points. Martir entered her senior season wanting to become a leader herself. She credited teammate and captain Melanie Rodriguez with stepping into that leadership role and helping guide the team throughout the season. She also identified Kandice Rios as the glue that held the team together. That description speaks volumes about the importance of team chemistry. Volleyball is a sport that demands communication, trust, and an understanding that no single player can accomplish anything alone. Every serve, dig, set, and spike depends on teammates working together. For SMSA, that connection helped transform a collection of individual athletes into a championship team.

The Uneven Playing Field

Perhaps the most compelling part of my conversation with Martir had nothing to do with the conference championship or the playoff loss. It was her perspective on the opportunities available to young volleyball players. Martir pointed out that athletes from other programs often have advantages that SMSA players do not necessarily enjoy. Some have access to gymnasiums and organized volleyball programs throughout the year. Others have the financial resources to participate in Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) or other competitive club programs, allowing them to develop their skills well beyond the traditional high school season. Those opportunities matter. Year-round training means more repetitions, more competitive experience, and additional opportunities to improve. For families who can afford club fees, transportation, and the associated expenses, the pathway to athletic development can look very different. For many urban student-athletes, those same opportunities are not always readily available. Yet despite those challenges, SMSA won a conference championship and advanced to the Elite Eight. Think about that for a moment. These young women

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CRUISING with Yadira

A fresh look at events and happenings in Hartford

BY Yadira Maldonado

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Opening Doors, Changing Lives: The Impact of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants

In a community as diverse as Hartford, our strength is found not only in our differences but in our willingness to support one another. Every day, individuals and families arrive in Connecticut seeking something many of us may take for granted: safety, opportunity, stability, and the chance to build a better future.

For refugees and immigrants, starting over is rarely easy. Beyond the excitement of a new beginning are challenges involving housing, employment, language barriers, education, healthcare, and adapting to an unfamiliar environment.

For more than a century, the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) has built a legacy of supporting newcomers as they navigate the transition into their new communities. Through refugee resettlement, immigration legal services, workforce development, educational assistance, language programs, and specialized support for vulnerable populations, the organization helps individuals and families move toward independence and stability.

Refugees and immigrants contribute to Connecticut's workforce, strengthen local businesses, enrich our neighborhoods, and bring experiences and talents that make our communities stronger.

But the importance of this work goes beyond the services themselves.

It is about helping a parent find employment and provide for their

Continued on page 6

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Starting Tonight
Yoga on Park St.

Yoga's back at Park Street Library @ the Lyric, 603 Park Street. Session will be held every Thursday from 5 - 3 pm every, hosted by Yoga In Our City. Free and open to the persons of all skill levels.

Saturday, November 21
Hakuna-Ma Hanukkah!

Charter Oak Cultural Center will present Merriam's Hakuna-Ma Hanukkah! at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church, 136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. Kickstart the holiday season with a sensational night from Merriam Levkowitz, America's Favorite Drag Bubbe! Merriam will take the stage and entertain us with Hanukkah-themed musical parodies, stand-up, and improv. Tickets are $25. No one turned away for lack of funds.To purchase tickets, go to: https://events.humanitix.com/merriamhanukkah.

Saturday, November 21
Music, Puppetry and Peace at Trinity Episcopal

Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigourney Street, Hartford will present "*From Shadow To Light: A Call For Peace* at 6 pm. The event will include a concert featuring singers from The Choir School of Hartford, the Choirs of Trinity Hartford, Old St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and Wapping Community Church as well as a UConn Shadow Puppetry show.Free and open to the public.

Friday, November 27
Parkville Market's RnB Under the Stars

Stop by Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street, Hartford, for classic slow jams to feel-good favorites from 7 - 11 pm. Gather your crew, grab a drink, and sing along. Free and open to the public.

Saturday & Snday, November 28 & 29
Remembering G. Fox & Co. at CT Museun

The Connecticut Museum of Culture and History (CMCH), 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford will host its highly popular "Remembering G. Fox & Co." tours on Saturday from 11 am - 12 noon and on Sunday from 1 - 2 pm. Go behind the scenes and discover the museum's collection of memorabilia from Hartford's most iconic department store. The 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 are $15, $10 for CT Museum members. To purchase, go to: https://bit.ly/4fgAh2J/. Order now, these tours sell out every year!



December 1-4
Dead Language, Live Music

Dead Language Beer Project, 1429 Park Street (rear), Hartford will present a series of live music performances to kick off December. All shows will run from 6:30 - 9 pm. No cover charge. Sponsored by the Richard A. Garmany Fund through the Hartford Gives Fiundation..

Tuesday, Dec. 1
Irish Session: Traditional Irish music by some of the finest players in the region.

Wednesday, Dec. 2
Folk Music: Favorites from the coasts of New England to the Appalachian Mountains.

Thursday, Dec. 3
Soldiers' Songs: Songs from the homefront from the Revolutionary War up to Vietnam.

Friday, Dec. 4
Great American Songbook: Classics from Billie, Ella, Duke and more!

Friday, December 4
Other People's Poems

Radio personality Chion Wolf will host the next installment of Other People's Poems on Friday, December 4, from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at Hartford Flavor, 30 Arbor Street (rear), Hartford. Read a poem- which someone else wrote – that you love, so that you can feel all fuzzy and warm on the inside. Also, you are not legally required to read a poem. You can come cheer everybody on. Here's how it works: Sign up for a slot starting at 6:30pm (there are 25 slots). Poems may be read from a page, a screen, or from memory. If you have your poem memorized, you win a loofah. Yup, you read that right. Please only read one poem, save the other for next time.Free and open to the public.

Saturday, December 5
Holiday Craft Fair & Fundraiser

Art + Soul Hartford will hist a Holiday Artisan Market at Hartford ArtSpace, 555 Asylum Street, Downtown Hartford from 11 am - 4 pm. The event will lso raise funds for Sergio's Feral Friends. Explore handmade jewelry, pottery, candles, artwork, and even dog-friendly treats from local makers while giving back to animals in need.

Saturday, December 5
Analeh Toy Drive

Analeh, a television program focused on health, especially in the Hispanic Community, will host its 17th annual toy drive from 1 - 5 pm at the Hartford Hospital Educational Resource Center, 560 Hudson Street, Hartford. Toys will be distributed to children in need through local social service organization. To register, go to: bit.ly/4sAd7d0.

Saturday, December 5
Bushnell Park Tree Lighting

Get into the holiday spirit with Mayor Arunan Arulampalam and Hartford City Council Members at the second annual tree lighting ceremony in Bushnell Park. Gather for caroling and merriment before the tree is lit and be sure to skate for free before and after the ceremony—the rink will be open until 8 p.m.

Monday, December 7
Back to The Times Carol Sing

UCONN Hartford will host its annual Community Carol Sing starting at 5:30 pm. The event will be held at the historic Hartford Times portico, located at 10 Prospect Street, behind Hartford City Hall. Enjoy an evening of caroling, student music, and the soft glow of holiday lights. Complimentary hot chocolate adds extra warmth as friends, families, and neighbors gather for a nostalgic seasonal tradition The event is supported by UConn Hartford, the University of Hartford, and the Greater Hartford Consortium of Higher Education. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, December 12
Jazz Society Holiday Concert

The Hartford Jazz Society (HSJ)will hold a special concert and fundraiser a 6 pm at the Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Avenue, Hartford. The event will be held in honoer of Rene McLean and will feature Linda Ranson & Friends. Tickets are $75 ($60 for HSJ members) For tickets and more information, go: HartfordJazzSociety.com.

Saturday, December 19
Cornhusk Doll Workshop at Stowe Center

Join Jessica Dickens for a hands-on workshop exploring the history of corn husk dolls, their cultural significance, and their place in literature and the lives of Black children across generations.The workshop will run from 1 - 3 pm at the Stowe Center for Literary Activism, 77 Forest Street, Hartford. Jessica will guide participants in making two dolls: one to keep and one to give away in the spirit of holiday giving. Along the way, she will share an excerpt from This Here Is Love by Princess Joy Perry, inviting reflection on the connections between storytelling, history, and handmade traditions.Leave with your creations, a history handout, a reflection prompt, and a copy of the reading excerpt, plus an invitation to share what you've learned through the gift of a doll.

Maria Sanchez Banquet Dec. 5

The Connecticut Institute for Community Development (CICD) Puerto Rican Parade will hold its 2026 María C. Sánchez Awards Banquet on at 6 pm on Saturday, December 5, at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Bloulevard, Hartford. Oscar Arango will host this year's event.



For more than 35 years, CICD has recognized individuals and organizations whose leadership, service, and contributions to education and Puerto Rican arts and culture have made a lasting impact on the community.

Seven honorees will be recognized in the following categories:

- Leadership: Dr. Daisy Torres-Hill
- Youth Leadership: Darelys Santiago Figueroa
- Education: Dr. Christina Rivera
- Youth Services: Nick Lebron
- Community Services: Noelia Ortiz
- Arts & Culture: Cositas Mami Never Told Me podcast
- President's Award: Veronica Y. Ruiz

The awards are presented in memory of María C. Sánchez, a native of Comerío, Puerto Rico, whi arrived in Hartford in 1953 and became a pioneering leader in the city's Puerto Rican community. In 1964, she co-founded Hartford's Puerto Rican Day Parade and its Miss Puerto Rico of Hartford cultural pageant, as well as La Casa de Puerto Rico and the Society for Legal Services. She also served on Hartford's Board of Education for 16 years and, in 1988, became the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the Connecticut State General Assembly.

To purchase tickets: https://givebutter.com/c/maria-c-anchez-banquet-hi7jls



Homegrown Artists at The Wadsworth

On Saturday, November 14, Hartford natives, Luis Cotto (right) and Victor Pacheco (left) gave an artist talk at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Downtown Hartford. They shared their creative journeys, which at times intersected in a variety of ways. Each artist has several works in the "¡Batey Boricua! Creamos Nuestro Espacio | We Create Our Space" exhibit in Avery Court. The Batey was a sacred space for gathering used by the indigenous Taíno peoples of Puerto Rico. The exhibit recreates the intention of the Batey as a space for active discussion and dialogue. There are many Hartford area artists in the exhibit: Andres Chaparro, JOËL Cintrón, Tiana Correa, Eland Malua Cruz Jones, Miguel José Matos, Mercury and Chris Roque. Other Connecticut artists include: Imna Arroyo, Taína Cruz, Pablo Delano, Kwamé Azure Gomez, Daniel Mena, Ricardo Rivas. New Jersey based Eland Malua Cruz Jones and New York based Jaryana Herrera and G. Rosa-Rey (who grew up in Hartford).The exhibit will be on view until February 7. Admission to the Wadsworth is free for Hartford residents.

— By Donna Swarr

Congratulations Nick Lebron!

***Hartford News* Sports Columnist Nick Lebron will be honored at this year's Maria Sanchez Awards Banquet for his longtime support of Hartford's youth. Great job Nick!**

— From the staff of *The Hartford News* —

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Refugees and Immigrants

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children. It is about giving a young person access to educational opportunities. It is about helping families navigate unfamiliar systems and giving individuals the confidence to rebuild their lives.

These efforts benefit all of us.

Refugees and immigrants contribute to Connecticut's workforce, strengthen local businesses, enrich our neighborhoods, and bring experiences and talents that make our communities stronger. When people are given opportunities to succeed, the entire community moves forward.

However, creating welcoming communities requires collective responsibility. Nonprofit organizations cannot do this work alone. Local government, employers, healthcare providers, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and residents all have an important role in building partnerships and expanding opportunities.

As we continue to discuss Hartford's future and the needs of our surrounding communities, we should recognize the organizations working every day to address some of our most important social challenges.

CIRI is an example of what happens when compassion is combined with action, commitment, and opportunity.

Ultimately, a person's birthplace should never determine their ability to contribute, succeed, or pursue a better future.

A stronger Hartford begins when we recognize the potential in every person, open doors to opportunity, and remember that helping one family build a better future helps strengthen an entire community.

Learn More and Get Involved

Connecticut Institute for Refugees & Immigrants (CIRI)

Hartford Office:

75 Charter Oak Ave., Rm. 2-180

Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 692-3085

Website: https://cirict.org/

SMSA Volleyball

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competed against programs whose athletes may have access to additional training and resources, and they still found a way to establish themselves as serious postseason contenders. Their success should be celebrated, but it should also lead us to ask an important question. What could our Hartford student-athletes accomplish if they had equitable access to facilities, training, and competitive opportunities throughout the entire year?

Building on Success

Over the past several months, I have written extensively about the future of high school athletics in Hartford and the importance of creating stronger opportunities for our young people. More recently, I highlighted the impressive season of the Prince Tech girls volleyball team, another example of the talent, determination, and competitive spirit that exists within our city. SMSA's success reinforces that same message. Hartford does not have a shortage of talented young athletes. What we must continue to examine is whether we are providing them with the resources and opportunities necessary to maximize that talent. Imagine what stronger partnerships between schools, recreation programs, community organizations, and local businesses could accomplish. Imagine year-round access to gymnasiums, affordable club volleyball opportunities, and additional developmental programs that would allow our athletes to compete without placing significant financial burdens on their families. These are not unreasonable aspirations. They are investments in young people who have already demonstrated what they can accomplish.

A Legacy Beyond the Final Score

For Martir and her fellow seniors, there will be no more opportunities to put on an SMSA volleyball uniform together. That reality makes the end of any senior season emotional. But their legacy should not be defined by a 3–0 loss to Coventry. It should be defined by a conference championship, an Elite Eight appearance, and the example they established for the younger players who will follow in their footsteps. Melanie Rodriguez's leadership, Kandice Rios's ability to bring teammates together, and Lucynda Martir's appreciation for the obstacles they overcame represent something far more meaningful than a single volleyball season. They represent what is possible when young people commit themselves to a shared purpose. And while the final chapter of this season may have ended earlier than these young women hoped, their accomplishments have helped establish a foundation for the future of SMSA volleyball. The challenge now belongs to the next generation of players, the school community, and those of us who advocate for Hartford athletics.The players have demonstrated what they can do.

Now it is our responsibility to make sure the opportunities available to them match their potential.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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AKA JoAnn Pons Horanieh
(26-01080)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 9, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Leah M Horanieh
c/o Paul A Keily,
Keily Mira Law, LLC,
968 Farmington Ave., Ste. 208,
West Hartford, CT 06107

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
Romaine A Bartlette, AKA
Romaine Alison Bartlette
(26-01158)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 16, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Romaine J Bartlette
c/o Joseph Daniel Coyne,
Law Offices Of Draghi &
Coyne, LLC,
18 Main Street, P.O. Box
90, Ellington, CT 06029

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
Norma Veronica Murphy
(26-01149)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Charmaine R Chambers,
407 Granby St.,
Hartford, CT 06112

Roxann Marie Ellis,
122 Westphal St.,
West Hartford, CT 06110

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
Samuel Greene, Jr,
AKA Samuel Greene
(26-00925)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 10, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Samuel Glen Greene
c/o Mary Anne Charron,
Charter Oak Law Group, LLC,
Mary Anne A Charron,
34 Jerome Avenue #120,
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Winterfest

Continued from page 1

Ebony Horsewomen

Christmas Village Saturday, December 12, 11:00 AM
4:00 PM

Enjoy a 20-minute hayride through Keney Park and hot chocolate! Hay rides will depart approximately every 20 minutes.

Winterfest is managed by the iQuilt Partnership and is supported by donations from corporations, organizations and individuals. To make a donation, go to https://donate.stripe.com/9B628q2KT38K9Er253dUY00. For more information go to: https://www.winterfesthartford.com



News Briefs

Continued from page 1

the whole family.

Thanksgiving Day Community Meal at Hands on Hartford

Hands On Hartford (HOH) will host their annual Thanksgiving Meal for the community on Thursday, November 26, at 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, from 11 am - 1:30 pm. The menu will include turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, 860-728-3201. Sponsored by Talcott Financial Group and First Church of Windsor.

City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving Closing

City Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Trash and Recycling Collection will be delayed by one day.

Register Now for Winter Break Camps

The City of Hartford Recreation Division will host Winter Break Vacation Camps at Arroyo and Parker Centers: Registration is open through December 12, The camps will run December 28–31, from 8 am to 4 pm. *Important Note:* Spaces are limited. Proof of Hartford residency and proof of age are required. To register, go to: hartfordct. myrec.com.

Toy Drive December 5

@TheBethHustle 9th Annual Toy Drive, organized by Clarissa Heredia, in collaboration with Hartford Guardians Inc. and the City of Hartford, will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0–14 on Saturday, December 5, from 6–8 at J Restaurant Bar, 140 Huyshope Avenue, Hartford. Guests who donate a toy can enter a raffle for a chance to win a prize!

ACCESS HEALTH CT OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD Underway

Access Health CT (AHCT), Connecticut's official health insurance marketplace, will hold its 2027 Open Enrollment Period through January 15, 2027. This is the time of year Connecticut residents can shop, compare, and enroll or renew their health insurance plan. Customers can also enroll in dental insurance. Customers should know when they enroll determines when their insurance starts. If you enroll by December 15, 2026, they will have insurance starting Jan. 1, 2027. If you enroll between Dec. 16, 2026 and Jan. 15, 2027, you will have insurance starting Feb. 1, 2027. Financial help is available to those who qualify. For more information, go to: https://bit.ly/3UiLicv

Donate Now to the City of Hartford Toy Drive

The City of Hartford is currently collecting toys for its annual distribution to Hartford children in December.

From now through November 30, new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children and teens ages 9-18 can be dropped off at the following locations in Hartford:

- Upstate Lounge and Cafe, 537 Farmington Avenue (check theupstatelounge.com for hours)
- Blooms Bake Shop, 80 Pratt Street, (check bloom-bakeshopct.com for hours)
- Department of Developmental Service, 260 Constitution Plaza, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.
- Hartford Parks & Recreation Depart., 311 Jennings Rd, Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm.
- Urban Lodge Brewery, 88 Pratt Street. (Check urban-lodgebrewing.com for hours).
- Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street, Room 001, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm.
- Urban League of Greater Hartford, 140 Woodland Street, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.
- Hartford Public Safety Complex, 253 High Street, Open 24/7.

If you, your church, your organization or your school are having a public event and would like to see it publicized in the Hartford News, email the details to: Hartfordnews@aol.com.

Clases de Inglés GRATIS en la Biblioteca Pública de Hartford

Las clases se ofrecen por la mañana días de semana, por la tarde y los sábados por la mañana. Ubicación: Sede Central, 500 Main Street, Hartford. Una clase especial en línea está diseñada para padres con hijos menores de 5 años.

¡No pierda esta oportunidad! La inscripción termina pronto.

Para más información envíe un mensaje de texto o llame: 860-929-6095 o 860-916-7417 ¡Todas las personas inmigrantes son bienvenidas!

FREE English Classes at Hartford Public Library

Classes are offered weekday mornings, evenings, and on Saturday mornings. 500 Main Street, Downtown.

A special online class is designed for parents with children under 5.

Don't miss this opportunity! Registration ending soon.

For more information text/call 860-929-6095 or 860-916-7417. All immigrants are welcome!

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
Dorothy M Donar,
AKA Dorothy Mae Donar
(26000770)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lora A Donar,
23 Brewster Road,
Windsor, CT 06095

CRCOG Avisos de licitación

Todos los avisos de licitación del Capitol Region Purchasing Council están disponibles en https://crcog.bonfirehub.com/. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con la oficina del CRPC al 860-724-4292.

CRCOG Bid Notices

All bid notices for the Capitol Region Purchasing Council are available at https://crcog.bonfirehub.com/. If you have any questions, please contact the office of CRPC 860-724-4292.

PROPERTY AUCTION

The City of Hartford auctioned the following properties in Hartford to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges on November 6, 2026:

- 79 Bonner Street a/k/a 79-83 Bonner Street owned by Guillermo I. Aquino and Mary B. Acosta was sold to Commercial Funding LLC of 200 Pemberwick Road, Greenwich, CT 06831 for $440,000.00.
- 446 Franklin Avenue owned by Daniel Garcia and Ana Garcia or her Estate was sold to MDP Enterprises LLC of 135 Bridge Street, Middletown CT 06457 for $120,000.00.

The redemption period expires on May 5, 2027. If redemption does not take place by the date stated and in the manner provided by law, the delinquent taxpayers, and all mortgagees, lienholders and other encumbrancers who have received actual or constructive notice of such sale as provided by law, are hereby notified that their respective titles, mortgages, liens, restraints on alienation and other encumbrances in such properties shall be extinguished.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Hartford News
30 Arbor Street, Ste. 106-H
Hartford, CT
Phone: 296-6128
Hartfordnews@aol.com

COST

First Week: $15

$10 for each following week

EMPLOYMENT

Sewers wanted.

Hand or machine, experience needed. Call 860-803-7260.

AVON IS CALLING...

For a brochure with thousands of quality products, call Robert at 860-308-5455. We also have hair relaxers and coloring kits for just $5.00/box.

Part-Time Workers

Handyman and part-time workers wanted. Call 860-803-7260.

TO SELL / TO BUY

For Sale

Complete storage unit of miscellaneous items. $750 or best offer. Call Josephine, 860-560-6762.

Cash for Cars & Trucks

We buy junk cars and trucks. We sell and install used parts. Full body work. Used cars and trucks for sale. Corona's Auto Parts. 608 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. 860-296-2528.

Dealer Auction Cars

I'll take you to a dealer-only auction, you pick out the car you like, I'll buy it and sell it to you with a modest mark-up. These are great cars starting at $1,000! Auctions every week. Call Sal 860-713-8348.

SERVICES

Need a skilled counselor?

Contact Licensed Counselor and Certified Educator Orlene. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and a Certified Addiction Counselor. From Depression and Anxiety to drug problems and gambling, Licensed Orlene is the person to call. She can be reached at Phone #: 860-339-9614 or by visiting her in the Collin Bennett Building at 1229 Albany Avenue, Room 301A, Hartford 06112.

Thinking of Getting Married?

Justice of the Peace available anytime. Nice settings can be arranged. Modest fee. Call Mike at 860-422-7937.

REAL ESTATE

LG Pest Control

Certified pest controller specializing in bed bugs, roaches, rodents, ants, fleas, racoons & squirrels. Funigador de cucaroaches, de ratones y chinchas. Call for appointment 860-597-0942.

Apartments for Rent

Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or 860-890-3483.

For Rent: New Haven

2 bedrooms, 258 Fairmont Ave. $1,575 monthly. Resident pays all utilities. Elect.stove. Private entrance. Terrace. Off-street parking. W/D hook-ups. Off-street parking. Section 8 welcome. Contact Christine at 860-985-8258.

For Rent: New Haven

2 BRs, 241 Quinnipiac Ave., $1,600 monthly. Heat, hot water & cooking gas included. Private entrance. Basement with W/D hook-ups. Off-street parking. Section 8 welcome. Contact Christine at 860-985-8258.

West Hartford

107P Hillcrest Avenue, 1 bedroom, $1,250 includes heat, hot water cooking gas, appliances, private entrance, off street parking, onsite laundry. Section 8 welcomed. Contact Christine at 860-985-8258.

For Rent:295 Garden Street, Hartford

First Floor - Apartment for Rent. Large well maintained 3-bedroom apt on first-floor in quiet building. Cold flat. 295 Garden Street, Hartford - $1,450 per month. Tenant pays electric and gas. One and half month's security required. Section 8 tenants welcome. Call (860) 882-3650, leave message.

West End

22 Evergreen Avenue, 1 bedroom, heat and hot water included, hardwood floors, appliances, onsite laundry, street parking. $1,100-$1,175. Section 8 welcomed. Contact Christine at 860-985-8258.

Apartments for Rent, Hartford

1-bedroom, furnished. No washer/dryer hook-ups. refrigerator included. ALSO: 3 bedroom apartment. No washer/dryer hook-ups. Refigerator and stove included. For more information, call 860-966-4473.

Room for Rent

Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. $130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

Super/ Handyman wanted for North End Buildings

Experienced and reliable super/handyman wanted to oversee multiple 6 family apartment buildings on the North End. Must be experienced with tenant apartment repairs, able to deal with tenants, must have own transportation and reliable phone contact. Immediate. References required. Call (860) 882 3650. Leave message for owner.

Room for Rent

Furnished room, utilities included. Hartford area. Reasonable rates. Call 860 263-9134.

Apartment for Rent

3 bedrooms apt, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor available on Magnolia St Htfd.
Pictures and details please contact Angela Daniels 860-655-2921.

Apartment for Rent

Fully redone large 2-bedroom apartments on the second and third floors in quiet buildings. Cold flag. 168 Homestead Avenue/249 Garden Street, Hartford - $1,550 and $1,350 per month. One month's security required. Section 8 tenent welcome. Call (860) 882-3650. Leave message.

Room for Rent

$175/week. Kitchen privileges. Need steady income. Call 860-965-7688.

ADVERTISE

In The Hartford News! Call 860-296-6128 to find out how!

El Informativo Latino

Comer más frutas y verduras está relacionado con un menor riesgo de depresión

Las personas que consumen mayores cantidades de frutas y verduras pueden enfrentar un menor riesgo de desarrollar depresión con el tiempo. Una revisión masiva de investigaciones observacionales encontró que comer más productos está consistentemente relacionado con mejores resultados en salud mental, lo que sugiere que la dieta podría desempeñar un papel en la prevención de trastornos depresivos. Los hallazgos fueron publicados en el Journal of Affective Disorders.

La depresión afecta a millones de personas en todo el mundo y representa una de las principales causas de discapacidad. Los profesionales de la salud mental han mirado cada vez más hacia los hábitos de vida diarios, como la nutrición, para encontrar formas de reducir el riesgo de trastornos del estado de ánimo. Las frutas y verduras contienen vitaminas, fibra y compuestos llamados antioxidantes que ayudan a proteger el cerebro y el cuerpo del daño celular. Este daño celular se conoce como estrés oxidativo.

Una alta ingesta de fibra también apoya el microbioma intestinal, que es la comunidad de bacterias que viven en el tracto digestivo. Ciertos tipos de fibra dietética actúan como prebióticos, alimentando a estas bacterias beneficiosas. Un microbioma intestinal más saludable puede reducir la inflamación generalizada en el cuerpo, que ha sido cada vez más identificada como un contribuyente biológico a los trastornos depresivos. Estas bacterias se comunican con el cerebro a través del eje intestino-cerebro, una vía biológica que influye en la producción de sustancias químicas que regulan el estado de ánimo, como la serotonina.

Investigaciones anteriores sobre la dieta y la depresión han arrojado resultados mixtos. Algunos estudios previos solo se centraron en grupos de edad específicos, como los adultos jóvenes, donde la asociación protectora parecía más débil. Otras investigaciones se centraron principalmente en suplementos de nutrientes aislados en lugar de alimentos integrales, lo que a menudo no logró producir beneficios consistentes en la salud mental. Muchas revisiones pasadas también combinaron diferentes tipos de diseños de estudio, lo que dificultó llegar a conclusiones firmes.

Para obtener una imagen más precisa, un equipo de investigadores liderado por Nazanin Zamanian y Sepide Talebi de la Universidad de Ciencias Médicas de Teherán realizó una revisión sistemática y un metaanálisis. Un metaanálisis combina datos de múltiples estudios independientes para identificar tendencias generales. El equipo se centró específicamente en estudios de cohortes prospectivos. Este tipo de investigación sigue a grandes grupos de personas sanas durante muchos años para ver quién desarrolla una condición y quién no. Los investigadores comenzaron buscando en múltiples bases de datos académicas estudios observacionales a largo plazo que rastrearan la dieta y la depresión. Identificaron 13 estudios de cohortes prospectivos relevantes que involucraban una muestra masiva de 385,449 adultos. Los estudios se llevaron a cabo en una amplia variedad de áreas geográficas, incluyendo Estados Unidos, Australia, Francia, España, China y Japón. Los participantes fueron seguidos durante diferentes períodos de tiempo, que variaron de dos años a casi dos décadas.



Feliz cumpleaños

Queremos Felicitar en sus Cumpleaños al Sr. Victor Roman , 51 años ,Maria Antonella Roman y Maria Valentina Roman sus 14 años .Que Dios los bendiga y que siempre haya properidad y sus dias se multipliquen en la Tierra . Muchas felicidades en su Cumpleaños de parte de amigos , padres Victor y Maria y La Iglesia Renovacion .Muchas bendiciones . By Iris Rodriguez



Overview

The Westland and Garden Street Area Sewer Separation Project involved several key improvements, including replacement of sewer main, lining of sewer main, a storm drain install, water main replacement and private property stormwater connections. The project directly benefited 135 properties on Westland Street, Garden Street, Risley Street and Love Lane and also allowed for additional properties to benefit on nearby Martin Street. The project was completed in fall of 2026 and involved private sewer lateral renewal and basement protections as part of the MDC's Integrated Plan with CT DEEP, helping achieve environmental regulatory goals while providing a community benefit.

Key Facts

- ✓ **$22 million** Project cost
- ✓ **135** Properties
- ✓ **27%** of workforce hours were Hartford residents
- ✓ **3 million** gallons of combined sewer overflows reduced annually

Work Completed

- » **1,750 feet** of new sewer main
- » **4,150 feet** of sewer main lining/ renewal
- » **3,500 feet** of new storm drain
- » **1.2 miles** of water main replaced
- » **87** sewer laterals / private property house connections lined
- » **48** basement protection improvements installed
- » **123** water services renewed



Garden Street



Westland Street, Garden Street and Love Lane Intersection



Westland Street and Street and Love Lane: Installation of a storm drain Junction Chamber which connects the new storm drain infrastructure into the existing storm main.