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Vol. 16 - July 2025

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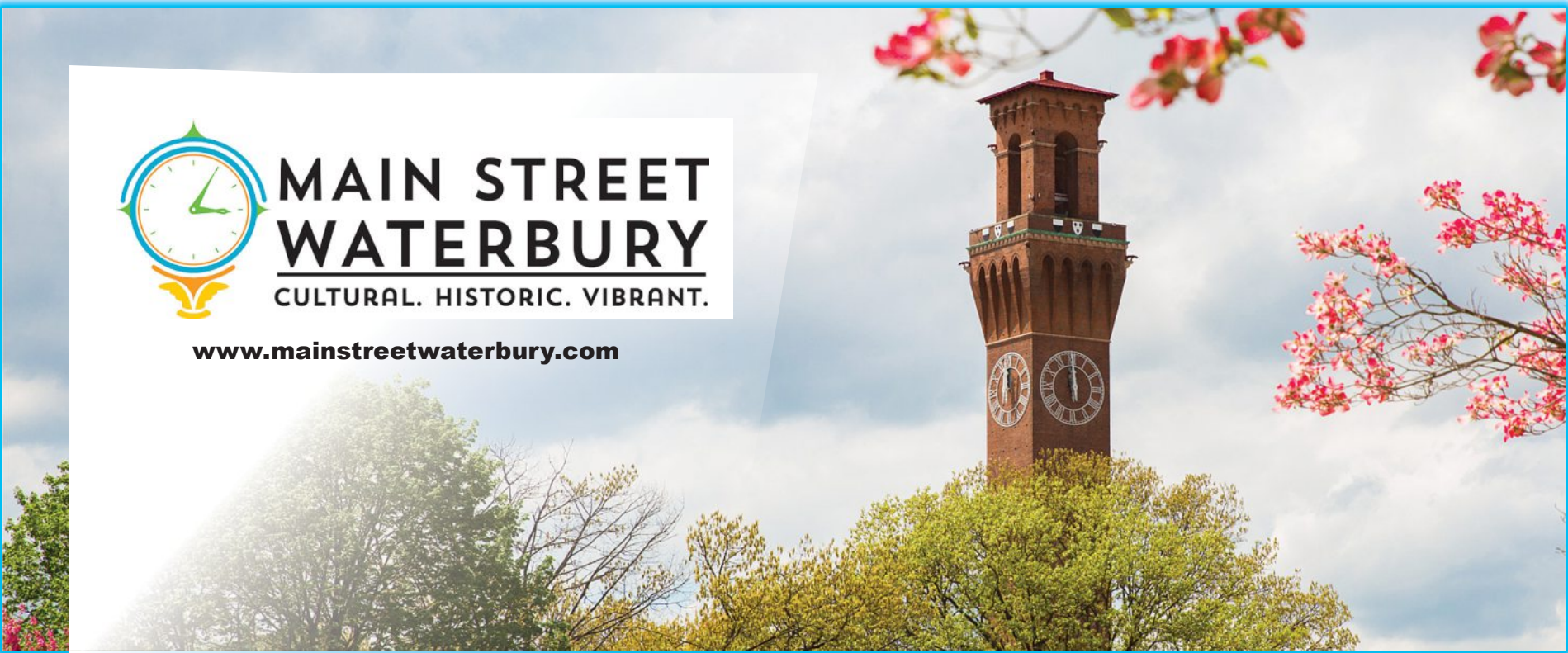
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CELEBRATING DOWNTOWN



Cover & Inside Photo: Waterbury Clock Tower by Derek L. Ward

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Celebrating Six Years of Jazz in 2025!

FREE CONCERT

Saturday, August 2
4 - 10 PM

LIBRARY PARK

Grand Street, Waterbury

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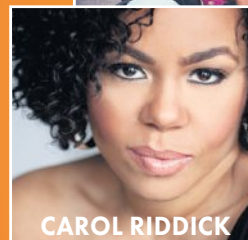
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HAWLEY**



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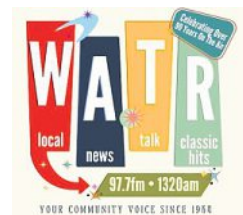


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Waterbury's Palace Theater: A Century of Live Performance and Community Connection



By **Peggy Terhune &
Andrea Nyquist**

For over one hundred years, the Palace Theater has invited audiences to share the unique and powerful experience of live performances. From main stage shows that include touring shows, concerts, and comedians, to more intimate conversations with authors and performers, these presentations tell powerful stories in a myriad of ways and with a wide array of voices.

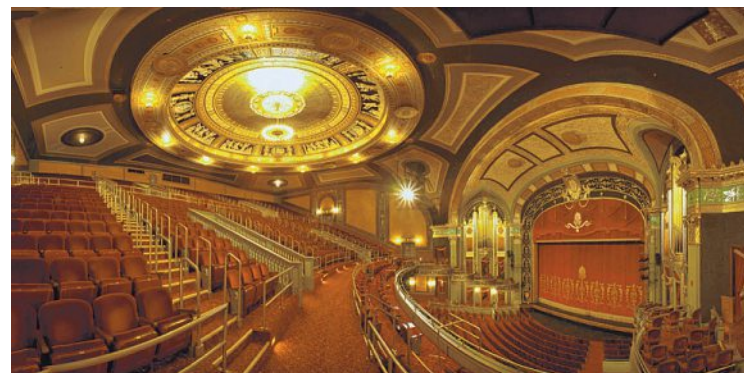
The 2025-2026 Palace season celebrates the stories of our shared experience through music,

dance, conversation, comedy, and drama. "A live performance on the Palace's stage with an in-person audience is special. No two performances are ever identical, and the audience becomes part of the performance," says Palace CEO Frank Tavera. "This year's season offers a full calendar of more than one hundred events with performers ranging from comedy to Broadway, classical music to rock concerts, children's events to local speakers - and much more."

The Webster Bank Broadway Series line-up for the upcoming season tells its stories through marvelous characters in a variety of shows, from musicals to plays to performance art: witty Regency heroines (Austen's

Pride: A New Musical of Pride and Prejudice), a rock'n'roll icon (Tina: The Tina Turner Musical), six suspicious dinner guests (Clue), a band on the verge of stardom (2024's Tony Award-winning play *Stereophonic*), a fast-talking salesman and a charming librarian (Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*), and three blue musicians (Blue Man Group).

The Main Stage will also host a range of concerts, from the undisputed "Queen of Reggaetón," Ivy Queen, to the multi-platinum award-winning rock band America. For family fun, offerings include Blippi: Join the Band Tour and Stardew Valley: Symphony of Seasons, along with Jurassic Park in



Concert with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra.

Off the Main Stage, the Palace shines a light on events that explore local connections. Designed to inspire, educate, and encourage conversation, the Spotlight Series focuses on remarkable people while showcasing the art of storytelling. *I Wrote That* Author Talks offer insight into the creative process of writing, *2ND ACT* features the extraordinary things people do in the second half of their lives, while *Immigrant Stories* presents first-person accounts of moving to a new country and starting over. New to the series this season

are *CommUNITY Storytime* events for families, featuring children's authors presenting interactive, age-appropriate activities to complement their stories. Also new this year is *Upstaged*, a collection of dramatic performances presented in an intimate setting.

There will always be stories waiting to be told, and the Palace looks forward to continuing to collaborate with artists and audiences to bring these stories to Waterbury!

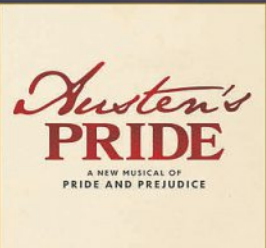
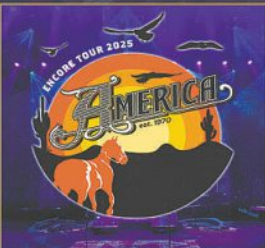
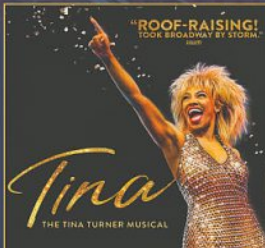
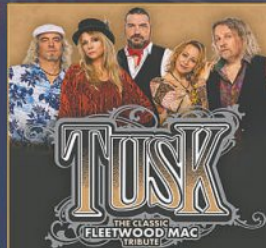
For more information on the Palace Theater and all the 2025-2026 shows and events, please visit www.palacetheaterct.org.



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AUSTEN'S PRIDE SEPTEMBER 26-27	AMERICA OCTOBER 17	IVY QUEEN OCTOBER 18	TINA NOVEMBER 1-2	TUSK NOVEMBER 15	BLIPPI DECEMBER 6



BUSINESSES

- B1 AJA African Hair Braiding
- B2 A.K.A.N. West Ind. & Am. Variety Store
- B3 Boost Mobile
- B4 Botanica Y Templo Inke-wewe
- B5 Cricket Wireless
- B6 Earthship Studios
- B7 Family Dollar
- B8 Grand News
- B9 PinkHaus Nail Salon
- B10 I.O.B Blow Dry Bar
- B11 JN Beauty Barber
- B12 La Sabrosa Nails
- B13 Main Street Insurance/ Liberty Tax
- B14 Mar-Vic Cleaners & Tailors
- B15 iDance Studio
- B16 Master Barber CT
- B17 Metro PCS
- B18 MinuteMan Press
- B19 Mohican Mini Mart
- B20 New Millenium Barber Shop
- B21 No Mean Girls Allowed Co. Beauty Bar
- B22 One Touch Repair
- B23 Palacio Salon
- B24 Rendezvous Apparel
- B25 Santander Bank ATM
- B26 Southbury Driving Academy
- B27 TD Bank
- B28 The Black Cat Spirit Shop & Botanica
- B29 Tristan's
- B30 Urban Beauty Supply
- B31 Walgreen's Wellness
- B32 Waterbury Gulf Gas
- B33 Waterbury Pharmacy
- B34 Webster Bank
- B35 Webster Bank ATM

- Hair Braiding
- Clothing
- Telecommunications
- Religious Goods
- Mobile Phones
- Tattoos, Yoga & Wellness
- General Goods
- Convenience Store
- Nail Salon
- Beauty Salon
- Barber Shop
- Nail Salon
- Insurance & Tax Prep.
- Dry Cleaner
- Dance Studio
- Barber Shop
- Mobile Phones
- Local Printer
- Convenience Store
- Barber Shop
- Beauty Salon
- Electronic Repair Store
- Beauty Salon
- Clothing Store
- ATM
- Driving School
- Bank
- Cultural Gifts Store
- Clothing Store
- Beauty Supply Store
- Pharmacy
- Gas Station
- Pharmacy
- Bank
- ATM

FOOD

- F1 Boru's Bar
- F2 Central Square CT
- F3 China One
- F4 Diorio Restaurant & Bar
- F5 Domenick & Pia
- F6 Dunkin'
- F7 Extry Sweet Dominican Cakes
- F8 Golden Wok
- F9 Grand Street Tavern
- F10 La Cazuela
- F11 Louie's Pizza House
- F12 Pizza Express
- F13 The Vault
- F14 Seven Villages Restaurant
- F15 Signatures Restaurant
- F16 Spirit Café
- F17 The Bagel Exchange
- F18 The Green Deli & Convenience
- F19 The House Of GOATS
- F20 The Patio Bar & Café
- F21 Cuppa Tea
- F22 Via al Paraiso
- F23 Sweet Bella @ The MATT

- Food & Drink
- Live Music Bar
- Chinese Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Coffee/Breakfast
- Bakery
- Chinese Restaurant
- Food & Drink
- Dominican Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Food & Drink
- Diner
- European Restaurant
- Café
- Coffee/Bagels
- Deli
- Restaurant
- Food & Drink
- Tea/Breakfast/Lunch
- Latin American Restaurant
- Breakfast & Lunch Café

PARKING

- P1 Buckingham Ramp Garage
- P2 Center Street Garage
- P3 Center Street Surface Lot
- P4 Field Street Entrance
- P5 Marriott Garage
- P6 Municipal Parking
- P7 Scovill Street Garage
- P8 UConn Garage

- Municipal Garage Parking
- Privately Operated Public Parking
- Privately Operated Public Parking
- Pay Station Public Parking
- Municipal Garage Parking
- Public Parking
- Municipal Garage Parking
- Campus Parking

POINTS OF INTEREST

- I1 Brown Building Living
- I2 Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
- I3 Courtyard by Marriott
- I4 Greater Waterbury YMCA
- I5 Mattatuck Museum
- I6 Palace Theater
- I7 Post University
- I8 Shakesperience Productions
- I9 Silas Bronson Library
- I10 The Afro-Caribbean Cultural Ctr.
- I11 U.S. Post Office
- I12 UConn Waterbury
- I13 Pa'lante Theater

- Dormitory
- U.S. Government
- Hotel
- Health & Wellness
- Art Exhibitions
- Music & Performing Arts
- Online Education Hub
- Theatre Company
- Library
- Cultural Center
- Postal Service
- College Campus
- Performing Arts



**MAIN STREET
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Source: TheWaterbury.com

Main Street Waterbury Honors Community Leaders at 2025 Partnership Awards



By David Huck
Main Street Waterbury
Communications Director

Main Street Waterbury hosted its 2025 Community Partnership Awards and Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, celebrating local leaders whose efforts continue to invigorate downtown Waterbury. Held at the Mattatuck Museum, the evening brought together more than 100 community members, partners, and dignitaries to honor three individuals whose work exemplifies Main Street Waterbury's mission of advocacy, collaboration, and revitalization.

At the event, Waterbury Mayor Paul Pernerewski, Jr. presented the 2025 Community Partnership Award to Dr. Fumiko Hoeft, Campus Dean and Chief Administrative Officer of UConn Waterbury. An internationally renowned researcher and multi-disciplinary faculty member, Dr. Hoeft was celebrated for her leadership in bridging higher education and downtown development.

Since joining UConn Waterbury in 2022, Dr. Hoeft has advanced key partnerships with city stakeholders, spearheaded community initiatives like the W.I.S.H. Fest, and led the campus's expansion into the newly renovated 36 North Main Street. Mayor Pernerewski commended her for championing collaboration and calling Waterbury a city with "massive potential."

"Her leadership, insight, and optimism continue to shape UConn Waterbury and downtown for the better," Mayor Pernerewski said during his remarks.

Main Street Waterbury Board Chair Susan Sprano was presented with the 2025 Advocate of the Year Award by 2024 recipient

Lynnette Letsky Piombo. A lifelong Waterbury resident and former longtime advertising director at the Republican-American, Sprano has been a consistent force behind downtown revitalization efforts. "From the Brass City Brew & 'Que and Wine on Main to our Holiday Business Decorating Contest, Susan has rolled up her sleeves at every turn," Letsky Piombo said.

Sprano has been a part of the Main Street Waterbury since its beginnings—serving as a board member, committee chair, volunteer, and most recently, chairwoman. Piombo said that because of Sprano's efforts, downtown Waterbury is a much brighter place. "From serving on the board and rolling up her sleeves at events, to promoting Main Street's mission across countless platforms, she exemplifies dedicated advocacy in every sense," she said.

Sprano's civic involvement includes support for numerous organizations, from the United Way and Waterbury Rotary to the Palace Theater and the Mattatuck Museum. In her more than three decades at the Republican American, Sprano helped to bring increased visibility to area businesses in her role as advertising director, particularly when she served as a liaison for Main Street Waterbury's Celebrating Downtown special supplement.

Introduced by 2024 Volunteer of the Year recipient Zachary Keith of the Waterbury Development Corporation, the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Heather Price, Director of Community Innovation at UConn Waterbury. A proud alumna of UConn Waterbury, Price was recognized for her leadership in engaging students with the downtown community through initiatives like "Walkbury," which introduces UConn affiliates to local businesses

via guided tours and exclusive promotions.

Keith described Price as "a bridge builder who brings passion, purpose, and creativity to everything she does," noting her deep commitment to civic engagement and education.

The event opened with remarks from Sprano, who acknowledged past award recipients and highlighted Main Street Waterbury's expanding impact. Director Dan Pesce reported on the organization's recent successes, including programs like the Central Business District Improvement Program, the Holiday Window Decorating Contest, and the rotating downtown Happy Hour series.



Susan Sprano, Dr. Fumiko Hoeft, and Heather Price at the Community Partnership Awards on May 14.

Pesce also announced that Main Street Waterbury once again earned national accreditation—making it one of only three such programs in Connecticut—thanks to its work in design, economic vitality, promotion, and organization.

"Our ability to be successful here in Waterbury is due to the strong partnerships we have in our community," said Pesce, thanking city offi-

cials, sponsors, and local agencies.

The Stephen R. Sasala II Community Partnership Scholarship—named in honor of the late Waterbury Regional Chamber CEO and Main Street Waterbury Board Chair—was awarded to Desteny Martinez of Waterbury Career Academy. She will attend the University of New Haven in the fall.

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Pia

Rebuilding Downtown Waterbury



By Zachary Keith
Waterbury Development
Corporation

Throughout the past year, the City of Waterbury has completed the second phase of renovations to its aging underground utilities as part of a larger downtown redevelopment initiative. Additionally, the replacement of the 1880-era water mains on South Main Street (Scovill Street to the Green) and North Main Street (the Green to Phoenix Avenue) has been finished. At the same time, the City is replacing downtown traffic signals under a CMAQ project, which will help improve traffic flow. These upgrades set the stage for the streetscape improvements now underway. Between 2025 and

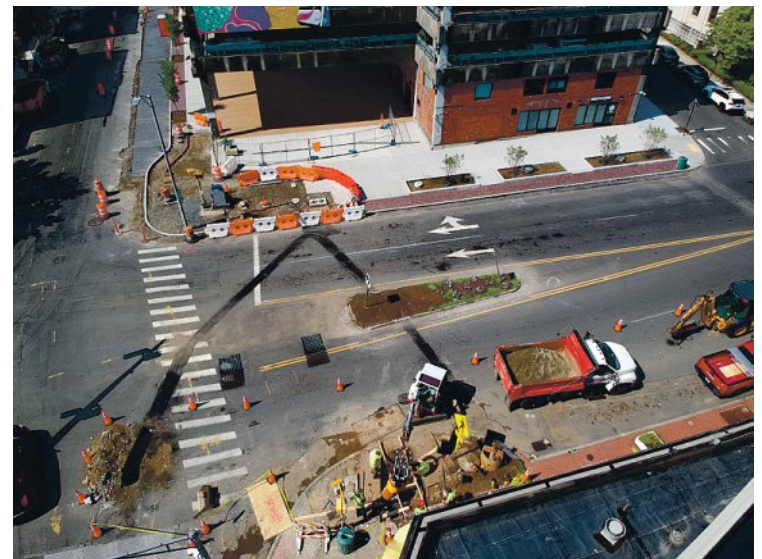
2026, the streetscapes on Bank Street (Highway to the Green), South Main Street (Scovill to the Green), and North Main Street (Exchange Place to the north side of the Green) will be completed, incorporating the same design features as East Main Street.

Next time you're planning to have a bite to eat at Diorio's or catch a show at the Palace Theater, park at the ramp garage and take notice of the new plaza at the garage, along with the wider sidewalks and updated awning at Diorio's. The City is taking a multi-faceted approach to make the historic downtown a better place for those who live, work, and visit.

Coinciding with these street overhauls is the renovation of the historic Odd Fellows Hall at 36 North Main Street, fronting

the Waterbury Green Hub. This building underwent a major transformation to welcome the UConn School of Nursing and a first-floor medical office. The project was made possible through a public-private partnership involving the CT DECD, City of Waterbury, WDC, and the private developer Greenhub. The historic 36 North Main Street building was recently rededicated as the Neil O'Leary Building during a ribbon cutting on April 24, 2025.

Also underway is work on West Main Street from the Green to Riverside Street. The Waterbury Development Corporation is working with SLR to complete the design for utility replacements along this stretch, which will take place ahead of the City's RAISE project that will extend streetscape features fur-



ther into downtown. As part of this effort, the City was awarded \$4 million in CIF Round 6 funds for the utility project and has applied for an additional \$4 million under CIF Round 7.

These capital improvement projects are part of a unified effort to transform the City's Central Business District, complementing completed work such as the renovations to the Waterbury Green, Prospect Street parking lot, East Main Street, Howland Hughes, Library Park, Palace Theater, Rectory Building, and more. In addition, private developers and investors like Mike Batista and Kirk

Mariolis are investing significant resources into acquiring and redeveloping vacant buildings in our historic downtown. We see tremendous opportunity for Waterbury to be reinvigorated as a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community and local entrepreneurial hub. These projects highlight the City's integrated approach to addressing critical infrastructure while leveraging investment for economic development. Through collaboration and continued public and private partnerships, we will keep welcoming new businesses, residents, and energy into the downtown we all care about.



Rozael, (American, b. 1966) El Oso Me Preguntó (The Bear Asked Me), 2016 Archival print with unique gold leaf overlay
Edition of 8. Bank of America Collection. Courtesy of Rozael.

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A Message from the Chief of Police



Fernando Spagnolo

Chief of Police

“To protect with vigilance and serve with impartiality, while engaging in a strong partnership with the community”

On behalf of the Waterbury Police Department, we want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude and continued commitment to the people of Waterbury. Our department is proud to serve a city with such rich history, cultural diversity, and resilient spirit. We recognize that strong, trusting relationships between law enforcement and the community are essential to ensuring public safety and well-being. Whether through neighborhood patrols, youth outreach, community events, or our partnerships with local organizations, we are working every day to strengthen those bonds and create a safer and more united community.

Police personnel continue to provide uninterrupted services to the City of Waterbury. We continue to seek our best practices to implement in order to serve the city in the best way possible. We continue to work hard and add to the ranks of our sworn personnel. With the support from the Mayor's Office as well as Human Resources we can proudly say that we are at 297 sworn personnel. From May 2024 to May 2025, we have added Thirty (30) officers to our ranks. Eight (8) of those officers are lateral transfers from

other Police Departments around the State and Country. The Waterbury Police Department continues to see personnel movements, such as adding a Captain's position to the ranks and a Deputy Chief position, who is in command of the patrol division. The patrol division also welcomed a much-needed schedule change to help with the well-being of our officers. We continue to work strongly with our federal partners on a daily basis. Our commitment to this relationship as well as our Real Time Crime Center has drastically helped in the reduction of violent crime in our city. Our PAL (Police Activity League) program is nationally recognized as being a leader in youth mentoring, as we partner at risk youth with officers, firemen, teachers and community leaders. We continue to work with the Department of Education and hold regular meetings on how we can collectively come up with ideas and solutions to better serve our youth.

As Chief, I remain committed to leading the Waterbury Police Department through the principles of community-oriented policing, with an approach that is inclusive, collaborative, and grounded in respect. Waterbury is a vibrant and diverse city- a true reflection of cultures, races, and religions coming together and we are proud to serve such a rich and dynamic community. We value the perspectives and contributions that each individual and group brings to our city. We pledge to bring our very best to the table every single day—with professionalism, compassion, and dedication to public safety. I encourage residents to reach out to me or any member of my staff with ideas, feedback, or ways we can strengthen our partnership. Together, we will continue to move Waterbury forward, safer, stronger, and more united than ever.

Downtown Waterbury Update from City Hall



Joseph McGrath
*Director of Economic Development
City of Waterbury*

Over the past two years, Mayor Paul Pernerewski, the City's Office of Economic Development, and community partners have remained laser-focused on revitalizing Downtown Waterbury, ensuring it meets the needs of residents today while laying a strong foundation for long-term growth and success.

One significant milestone is the completion of renovations at 36

North Main Street, owned by Green Hub Developers. This beautifully restored building is now part of the UConn-Waterbury campus. Once a long-vacant and deteriorating structure, it will soon house nursing programs, a robotics station, and modern lab spaces, providing students with state-of-the-art resources to thrive throughout their academic journey.

Another major transformation underway in Downtown is the demolition of the former Miller & Peck building, which had sat abandoned and neglected for many years. Once the site is cleared, the vision is to develop a new mixed-use building featuring ground-level storefronts with apartments above, bringing more life and activity to Downtown. This plan aligns with a broader trend: significant private investments to convert outdated office spaces into much-needed housing. By the end of this year, we expect to see approximately 150 new market-rate apartments becoming available, with a goal of an additional 200 market-rate units by 2026, helping to address the City's housing shortage.

Continuing our mission to next

year, additional development is expected along Freight Street, with new mixed-use and transit-oriented projects on the horizon. At the same time, the State is planning to upgrade the train station's waiting area, giving it a fresh, modern look for commuters and visitors alike.

As new developments materialize, the City remains committed to investing in our over 100-year-old street infrastructure. Bank Street, South Main Street, North Main Street, and soon West Main Street will have experienced major upgrades to its underground utilities—work that will continue over the next few years to support new businesses and ensure long-term sustainability.

Downtown Waterbury is on the rise, with private investors breathing new life into our architecturally beautiful buildings and transforming them into vibrant, usable spaces. From housing and transportation to economic opportunity, we are witnessing a true renaissance, one that's creating lasting benefits for our residents, businesses, and everyone who visits our thriving city center.

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Waterbury Is Using the Power of Its Stories to Generate Results



By Grant Copeland
WORX / The Waterbury

“Let me tell you a story.”

This simple phrase is the cornerstone of communication and has become the beating heart of a sustained effort to change the optics of Waterbury. For organizations in Downtown, and for all who are proud to call Waterbury a part of their lives, we are raising the city's profile while continually attracting interest in business investments and commercial properties.

By professional title, I serve as the President and Chief Creative Officer of WORX – a

Prospect-based marketing agency and devoted partner to the Waterbury community since 1987. One of my proudest roles is as the brand architect for the City of Waterbury, a relationship that officially began in 2018.

The team at WORX started with research to uncover narratives about the former Brass City through discussions with community leaders and surveys of residents. Nearly 400 contributors highlighted Waterbury's strong businesses, nonprofit organizations, local programs, and individuals who share a work ethic and drive to showcase what makes the city special.

That was the good news.

The bad news came when we

researched several dozen other cities around the country and examined how they approached marketing themselves for growth. While we investigated, a study from an industry consulting firm was found which revealed that 86 percent of city branding efforts fail, largely for two reasons: First, an inaccurate portrayal of the city's assets; and second, a lack of long-term investment in marketing.

To simplify what was a complex strategic matrix, we centered the branding and marketing strategy for Waterbury on storytelling. Real leaders. Where they have come from. Why they are investing in the City. And how they plan to help it grow.

The City of Waterbury has committed resources to pro-

moting this unique storytelling strategy. In November 2020, aligned with the vision of then- Mayor Neil O'Leary and his team, the economic development marketing initiative called The Waterbury – a nod to the Timex watch which sold millions due to its functionality and durability – launched to a fair amount of skepticism. That uncertainty quickly subsided as The Waterbury began connecting with audiences through multiple channels, including a new website, social media platforms, videos, podcasts, articles, digital advertising, and technology tools. Today, with the commitment of Mayor Pernerewski and his administration, The Waterbury continues to engage local citizens, the regional and statewide business community, and investors on a national scale.

CEO of Post University, and Frank Monteiro – a born-and-bred Waterburian and President of Post-owned healthcare simulation company, Sentinel U – have helped elevate Post University to a leadership position in online education for local students and global learners. Frank Tavera, at the helm of the Palace Theater, continues to bring Broadway shows, world-class performers, and community events to a venue described by many as a masterpiece.

A docuseries and book called 3x10: How Waterbury Rebuilt Itself as a City of Strength was released in 2024 and offers a detailed look at Waterbury's fiscal and cultural resurgence. The videos have been viewed by thousands online, and the book has been purchased by people from across the country.

That said, marketing Waterbury is only as valuable as the positive results it generates.

Here's one big result: Several hundred million dollars worth of commercial property transactions have been influenced by The Waterbury – not the least of which is the upcoming 3.2-million-square-foot Amazon logistics center.

The WORX research in 2018 revealed something else: Many people equate a city's vitality with the optics of its Downtown area. This may be a harbinger of even more interest in Waterbury – as infrastructure is being upgraded, large stretches are being prepared for new development, and major investments are being made in key buildings throughout Downtown. Businesses, community organizations, and citizens are working together – and even more amazing stories are about to be told.



Matt Byrne

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In addition to the municipal support, the “Let me tell you a story” strategy is working because of its authenticity and its depth.

Many of the individuals featured as “Visionary People” on The Waterbury are doing their great work right in Downtown. Dr. Fumiko Hoeft, a world-renowned neuroscientist and campus director of UConn Waterbury, is leading the expansion of the University's nursing and allied health programs – a centerpiece of which is the awe-inspiring rehabilitation of the former Odd Fellows Hall into a new educational and collaborative space. Joe Gramando, a developer with a penchant for historic buildings, played a pivotal role in reviving the Odd Fellows Hall, Howland-Hughes Building, and Brown Building. Bob Burns, Executive Director of the Mattatuck Museum, has led an explosion of programming for art lovers, families, and people from all walks of life. John Hopkins, President and

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UConn Waterbury Expands Downtown Presence with New Neil O'Leary Building



By Heather Price
*Director of Community
 Innovation
 UConnw Waterbury*

UConn Waterbury's footprint downtown has grown over 22% with its recent expansion into the historic Odd Fellows Building at 36 North Main Street. Renamed the Neil O'Leary Building, the site marks a dynamic new chapter for both the University and the community – blending history, education, and innovation in the heart of the city.

Former Mayor Neil O'Leary long envisioned UConn's expansion into this prominent downtown space. After more than a decade of dreaming, and later collaboration with UConn and state leaders, his vision has come to fruition. Following 18 months of renovations, UConn began leasing the first five floors, approximately 26,300 square feet, from Green Hub Development III, LLC in January 2025.

The renovation was made possible through a combination of private investment and a state grant awarded to the City of Waterbury. Modern upgrades were carefully balanced with the preservation of the building's rich architectural history, including its Venetian Gothic façade overlooking the Waterbury Green and the ornate ceiling in its former banquet hall.

On April 24, 2025, about 200 people gathered for a celebratory ribbon-cutting and building dedication to honor Neil O'Leary's leadership in preserving and repurposing the 130-year-old structure. The evening event featured

an open house and remarks by local and regional leaders, including Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, U.S. Representative Jahana Hayes, Mayor Paul Pernerewski Jr., and others, many of whom praised the transformation as a symbol of Waterbury's renewal.

Programming in the building began as early as January 2025, with local high school students among the first to benefit from the new space. The launch of the Waterbury Robotics Institute, a collaboration between Waterbury Public Schools and First Robotics, introduced students to hands-on STEM learning. Using the large second-floor collaborative room, students worked alongside UConn students and faculty to test and demonstrate robotic designs, gaining real-world exposure to science and technology careers. Students enrolled in UConn's Certificate Entry into Nursing (CEIN/BS) program also began using the new clinical simulation spaces this past winter.

Starting in Fall 2025, UConn Waterbury will fully activate the building with a wide range of interdisciplinary programs designed to meet growing workforce needs across the region. In addition to nursing and allied health, the building will include clinical and cognitive neuroscience laboratories, a maker space and incubator studio, as well as collaborative learning and meeting spaces.

The building will also feature robust offerings in the humanities and social sciences. It will house the HACER Lab, a hub for humanistic inquiry, research, and pedagogy developed with Waterbury students and local partners. It will also

serve as the home for the Ideas + Impact initiative and other learning communities focused on topics such as social impact, health equity, and sustainability. Additionally, the Haskins Global Literacy Hub – a collaborative effort with Yale University, UConn Global Affairs, and UConn Waterbury – will operate from the building, conducting cutting-edge research and educational programming aimed at advancing global literacy.

Located just steps from UConn Waterbury's East Main Street campus, the Neil O'Leary Building strengthens the University's role as an educational, economic, and civic anchor in the downtown district. By combining forward-thinking academic initiatives with deep community engagement, the University



continues to invest in the success of its students and the vibrancy of the city it calls home.

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