

# *Celebrating* DOWNTOWN

Vol. 14 - July 2023  
Special Section of the

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# Celebrating DOWNTOWN

## Main St. Waterbury



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Inside Photo: Waterbury Clock Tower by Derek L. Ward

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### Vision Statement

"Downtown Waterbury, an easily accessible regional center and neighborhood in which to live, work, and play."

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**Susan Sprano**

Chairwoman,  
Main Street Waterbury

*Main St.*  
**Waterbury**



On behalf of Main Street Waterbury, we are pleased to present the 14th issue of Celebrating Downtown, a resource guide, a look back at the major events of the last several months, and a preview of what's to come.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Anabela Maia, who served Main Street Waterbury first as a volunteer and then as marketing director until 2023. Anabela was a major bridge between downtown merchants and decision makers and the organization and the community greatly benefitted from her passion and dedication.

As you browse through these pages, you'll learn more about the many exciting destinations, events, and projects taking place downtown. As a developer who recently purchased nine properties downtown mentioned, there's gold in the Brass City. We are proud to be able to showcase the downtown area as a vibrant asset to the community and region.

With the support of the City of Waterbury and the new relationship with the Waterbury Regional Chamber, Main Street Waterbury has continued its efforts as a driving force to reinvigorate community engagement and enhance economic development in the central business district. This strategic managerial partnership with the Chamber has infused new resources and staff who are dedicated to carrying out Main Street Waterbury's mission into the organization.

Signature events like the Brass City Brew & 'Que, Brass City Jazz Fest, the colorful downtown banner program, downtown holiday stroll and window decorating contest, and monthly happy hours continued over the last year—drawing visitors to our storefronts, sidewalks, parks, and other landmark destinations. Just recently, Main Street also recognized three community leaders during our Community Partnership Waterbury Awards and Annual Meeting who have played key roles in advocating for and championing all that downtown Waterbury has to offer. Main Street Waterbury was also fortunate to give back in other ways, with the awarding of the Stephen R. Sasala Scholarship to a local high school student.

For the 17th consecutive year, Main Street Waterbury has earned accreditation from the National Main Street American program—a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, recognizing the organization's efforts to reinvigorate community engagement and enhance economic development in the central downtown district.

Read on to learn more about these initiatives and other exciting news from the downtown area. A special thank you to the many passionate individuals who have lent their voices in this issue to help us celebrate all that we have downtown.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event or at your favorite downtown merchant!

*Susan Sprano*



# Chamber Drives Economic Development Within the Central Business District



**Anabela Maia**

*Program Director Central Business District Investment Program*

The Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce Foundation, working in partnership with the City of Waterbury, launched an economic investment program in the late summer of 2022 that's aimed at helping Central Business District (CBD) property owners lease their vacant storefronts.

The initiative, the Central Business District Investment Program (CBDIP), uses \$1.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to establish a matching grant program to support property owners within the district who were negatively affected by the COVID pandemic. The Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce Foundation is an affiliate of the Waterbury

Regional Chamber. GWCC Foundation staff are directing the program. An oversight and approval committee, comprised of City and Chamber Foundation officials, is responsible for reviewing and awarding the grants.

Under the program, eligible property owners can receive up to \$100,000 to be used for interior or exterior real estate improvement costs for vacant ground floor-level space. Property owners who meet the eligibility and have vacant storefronts can access the grant of \$50 per square foot, up to the \$100,000. Any grant awarded to a property owner must be matched at 100 percent by the owner of the property, the tenant, or a combination of both entities. Properties must be located within the CDB area as zoned by the city of Waterbury.

Since applications opened on August 1, over 53 entrepreneurs with either existing small businesses

or start-ups have shown an interest in placing their "OPEN" signs in the downtown Waterbury area, which shares the same boundaries as the CBD zone. The majority are continuing to develop their business plans, obtain funding, and tap into organizations such as the Small Business Development Center and the Women's Business Development Council, which assist with additional resources around potential loans, business planning, marketing, and more to ensure success. Once a business owner locates a vacant retail space, they can then negotiate a lease, discuss the real estate improvements, and upgrades necessary as part of the process and acquire quotes to be presented as part of the full application submitted by the owner of the property.

There are currently 30 vacant ground floor spaces available for lease throughout the Central Business District, which includes Bank Street, Grand Street, East Main,



**CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**  
INVESTMENT PROGRAM

West Main, North Main, South Main, Freight Street, Leavenworth Street, and Scovill Street.

There are currently grant applications pending submission with all documents by property owners that would enable vacant space to be leased and contribute to the overall vitality of the neighborhood and the community at large.

Inquiry submissions for businesses looking for vacant space is currently open and can be found at [www.waterburychamber.com](http://www.waterburychamber.com). For questions about the program, contact Anabela Maia, at [amaia@waterburychamber.com](mailto:amaia@waterburychamber.com)

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# Waterbury's Newest Investor



**Interview conducted by  
Steve DelVecchio**  
*Main Street Waterbury  
Administrator*

Kirk Mariolis is part of a Long Island-based family investment business that holds properties across Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. The family recently purchased nine properties in Waterbury, including eight properties in the downtown area. Mariolis recently sat down with Main Street Waterbury to chat about his projects and vision.

## Why did you choose to invest in Waterbury?

We just drove by. My father saw that Tony's Men Shop was for sale, was interested, and we bought it. That's where it all started.

## What are some of the projects that you are working on right now?

Tony's Men Shop at 111 Bank Street. We're working on that right now. 76 Center: We're revamping all the offices and bringing them all up to date. 115 South Main Street: we just got all the plans finalized there. We blew out all the storefronts and made bigger window openings. We're prettying it up; we've gutted it all out already, so we're going to start that one soon.

## A common complaint among residents are issues around panhandling and homelessness. Have you run into any of those issues?

There's no city that doesn't have any panhandling or homelessness. So that's not a problem.

## Out of the projects that you are working on now, which one are you most excited about?

115 South Main Street. We're do-

ing 21 high-end, luxury apartments. We're talking to Starbucks right now to bring them down there to that location. It's a huge store that we built out. So we're going to have them take a look at it and see if they'll approve it and we'll build out to their exact specifications. At the moment, we split out a big section for them to see if that's what they want. I want to bring Starbucks back down. I want to liven up this area. You have parking garages—there's so much here. There's so much potential. All we have to do is invest some money and build it.

The biggest problem in Waterbury, which I've discussed with [Director of Economic Development for the City of Waterbury Joe McGrath] is that we aren't catering to the hospitals. We're not catering to the college students. And we're not catering to the businesses. City Hall is right here. You have three cafés. What else? One pizzeria? Two? You're not catering to them. Cater to the people around you to bring business in.

## How has your experience been working with city and business leaders in Waterbury?

Over here, you get support and help from the local government, the building department. You ask, "Guys is it possible to sit down and do this?" And it's, "Yup, tomorrow morning let's sit down. Bring plans. Let's take care of it and work everything out." It's been difficult in other areas, such as Hartford, where we are actually selling our properties there and taking the money and investing it here in Waterbury. I can't complain; everything has been very good and I enjoy making investments here.

Everything is here. I feel that there is a percentage of people that feel they don't love Waterbury. And I don't know why, but they try to throw the blame everywhere else: on the officials, on the police, on the this, on the that. For some unusual reason, they're bitter about their neighborhood, which is bad. Everybody should be excited for what's going on and not be bitter but find the good in



*Developer Kirk Mariolis and his family purchased nine properties recently in Waterbury.*



*Kirk Mariolis of M4 Investment Group LLC., talks about his family's investments in eight buildings in downtown Waterbury including the building at the corner of Center Street and Leavenworth.*

everything.

This area could flourish. Waterbury is in the center of Connecticut. You're one hour and a half to two hours away from New York and an hour and a half to two hours away from Boston. You have colleges throughout all of this area. Take advantage of what we have. I want to make this a hub—a "little Man-

hattan;" people stopping and going, walking around to every store, eating, drinking, and hanging out.

Time will always repeat itself. Look at your past and you'll see your future. It was here and it could come again. You have to help it—push it. Like Al Bundy said: "You will build it, they will come." Our motto is: "No stressing, just 'gotta get it done."



# Something for Everyone at the Silas Bronson Library



**Jessica Svedrovic**

*Head of Adult and Information  
Services, Silas Bronson Library*

At the Silas Bronson Library, our dedicated Adult and Information Services staff are committed to providing the Waterbury community with valuable resources and services. We believe in offering “something for everyone.” From the latest bestsellers to engaging programs, our library caters to diverse interests and needs.

Step into our Main Reading Room where you will discover a vast collection of fiction and nonfiction books. Many of these titles are also available as audiobooks on CD or in large print format. Additionally, you can explore our DVD collection, featuring movies, TV shows, and documentaries. If you're interested in video games, we have those too! For those looking for a quiet place to study or get work done, we provide tables and Wi-Fi access. Do not hesitate to approach our friendly librarians at the reference desk for assistance, whether it's finding something specific or seeking book recommendations.

If your home printer is out of order or you require computer and internet access, visit the East Wing of the library. There you can utilize our computers and copiers for internet browsing, printing, and copying. We offer classes in our dedicated computer classroom where you can enhance your skills in keyboard usage, internet navigation, Microsoft Word, and more.

If you're conducting Waterbury research or seeking information about a relative that lived in the area, we have genealogy and local history resources available. In the Main Reading Room, you can access digital microfilm readers to search through past newspapers such as the Waterbury American, Waterbury Republican, and



*Front of the Silas Bronson Library, located at 267 Grand St.*

Waterbury Democrat. Our knowledgeable librarians can guide you in utilizing our extensive print collection and we provide online resources through the Genealogy and Local History page on our website. Whenever you need research assistance, our librarians are eager to help you.

Throughout the year, we organize a wide range of entertaining and educational programs specifically designed for adults including craft-making workshops, musical performances, author talks, and more. You can find all of the details for our programs in our quarterly newsletter and on our website.

To make the most of our services and resources from the comfort of your home, visit our website at [www.bronsonlibrary.org](http://www.bronsonlibrary.org). There, you can check out ebooks and audiobooks using your library card and apps like Libby or Palace for convenient reading. You can also explore the Mango app to learn a new language. Our website provides access to databases such as NewsBank and Black Life in America for searching news articles. Additionally, you can



*The new fiction bookshelf at the Silas Bronson Library.*

expand your knowledge by enrolling in one of the numerous courses available through UniversalClass. All of these resources and more are completely free to use with your library card.

At Silas Bronson Library, our librarians and staff are dedicated to connecting the Waterbury

community with the information and resources they need. Whether you're searching for your next captivating read, for a fun way to spend your time, or for a productive work environment, there is something for everyone at our library. Visit us today and experience the wide range of opportunities available at Silas Bronson Library.



# Main Street Waterbury Recognizes Three Community Leaders



**By David Huck**  
Main Street Waterbury  
Communications Director

On June 13, Main Street Waterbury recognized three community leaders during its Community Partnership Awards and Annual Meeting that was held at the Palace Theater and attended by over 100 people.

During the event, the 2023 Community Partnership Award was presented to Greater Waterbury YMCA CEO Jim O'Rourke; the Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Marya DiPerna, the Assistant Director of Events at Post University; and John Famiglietti, Owner/Broker of Commercial Connection, LLC was honored with the Advocate of the Year.

Michael O'Connor, the Regional President for Webster Bank and the 2021 Community Partnership Award recipient, introduced his friend, O'Rourke. O'Connor said that O'Rourke has an impressive mix of passion for helping individuals in need—making sure they know they matter, along with a focused business acumen to help keep the organization flourishing. He also has infectious enthusiasm, always ready to take on tasks and see them through to completion, never asking for anything in return, knowing that it's for the common good, O'Connor said.

"The bigger thought—the strategy that he brings to the Waterbury YMCA is what sets him apart for us. We have been able to help other nonprofit agencies because of his leadership," O'Connor said. He's also been an impressive mentor for his employees, helping to teach them important professional and personal lessons and skills, knowing that one day, his time as leader will eventually come to an end, as all good leaders must recognize, O'Connor said.



Award honorees John Famiglietti, Marya DiPerna, and Jim O'Rourke have a little fun striking a pose following the 2023 Main Street Waterbury Community Partnership Awards.



Main Street Waterbury honored John Famiglietti, the Owner/Broker of Commercial Connection LLC, with the Advocate of the Year award in recognition of his efforts to promote the nonprofit advocacy organization.

"Jim is one of the most impressive non-profit leaders that I've ever had the opportunity to work with," O'Connor said, calling O'Rourke "a catalyst for change" in the Waterbury area, as he has a direct impact on the wellbeing of over 22,500 individuals each year.

Famiglietti was honored for his passion in sharing the mission and efforts of Main Street Waterbury.

The commercial owner/broker has consistently recruited new members for Main Street Waterbury's Economic Vitality Committee and is always sharing and talking about Main Street Waterbury's efforts, its mission, and events to attend. Following a post-pandemic hiatus, Famiglietti advocated for the return of the Main Street Waterbury Happy Hours to help give a little boost to downtown bars and restaurants

who were struggling to get back to normal.

"He is always sharing and talking about Main Street Waterbury's efforts, its mission, committees, and events to attend," Main Street Waterbury Chairwoman Susan Sprano said. "He never misses a beat when given the opportunity to elevate the organization and the value it brings to the business owners, property owners, and potential investors."

The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to DiPerna, who was described as someone who is deeply dedicated to seeing Waterbury succeed. After she accepted the award, she noted how she has instilled the same spirit of volunteerism in her household, encouraging her children throughout the years to volunteer for at least three hours each month.

"As the Assistant Director of Events at Post University, Marya blends her passion for the Waterbury community and its people and connects them to the university," Sprano said. DiPerna is the Chairwoman for Main Street Waterbury's Promotions Committee and in that role she has helped recruit new volunteers and encouraged more community members and local organizations to donate their time and resources to help in bringing many events to the area. These events have included the Brass City Brew & 'Que, the Community Partnership Awards, Cigar Night, Holiday Stroll, and more.

Post University was a Platinum Sponsor and Webster Bank was a Gold Sponsor for the event.

John Hopkins, the CEO and President of Post University spoke during the awards ceremony. He applauded the honorees, the work of Main Street Waterbury and the Waterbury Regional Chamber, and one of his employees, DiPerna, saying she brings volunteerism to a "whole different level."

"I think you've realized that a life in service to others leads to a life of





Main Street Waterbury Chairwoman Susan Sprano (left) looks on as Post University Assistant Events Director Marya DiPerna and Volunteer of the Year honoree talks about the importance of giving back to others.



Maria Collazo of the Greater Waterbury YMCA looks on as her colleague Jim O'Rourke reminisces about his time working at the organization.

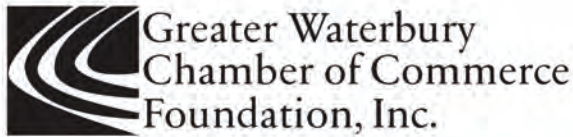
love and enrichment for you, and that holds true for John and Jim, as well," Hopkins said. "Someone said this to me a long time ago: 'Volunteerism—you don't get paid for it, but that doesn't mean you are worth-

less. It means you are priceless'."

Also during the event, Main Street Waterbury Committee Member Lynnette Piombo presented the Stephen R. Sasala II Community

Partnership Scholarship to Raeanna Byrnes of Holy Cross High School. Byrnes will be attending Springfield College, where she will study sociology.

Area dignitaries who attended include Senator Joan Hartley, who provided citations for the award winners and scholarship recipient, along with Board of Aldermen President Paul Pernerewski.



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[waterburychamber.com](http://waterburychamber.com)



# A Message from the Waterbury 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”**

Over the course of the last year, the Waterbury Police Department has worked hard to maintain engagement and collaboration with our community. The men and women of the Waterbury Police Department continue to provide uninterrupted services to the City of Waterbury. We continue to seek out best practices to implement in order to continue to serve the City in the most efficient and best way possible. We have seen attrition amongst the ranks of our sworn personnel due to retirements and resignations. Due to this, many things happened within the Waterbury Police Department to include but not limited to personnel movements, recruitment drives, addition of lateral hires to recruitment, continuing to increase the capacity of our Real Time Crime Pandemic

Center, continuing to speak on the increase in crime that we are experiencing, working with local, state and federal partners, participating in DEA's Drug Take Back Day twice a year. We also work to positively impact our youth through a mentoring program at PAL with our officers, firemen, and teachers, and working with the Department of Education to provide wrap around holistic services for our youth, and continue to problem solve and try to come up with real common sense solutions to the issues and concerns we all have with what is going on not only in Waterbury, but our nation.

We continue to work with BerryDunn on our police efficiency study, and eagerly await that report so we can get an outside view into the workings of our police department and services we provide to our community, and how we can improve upon what we provide. I want to thank all of you reading this that took the time to participate in those meetings held by BerryDunn in our community in the beginning of the study.

I continue to lead my



department with a philosophy of community-oriented policing with an all-inclusive approach. The City of Waterbury is truly a melting pot of cultures, races, and religions for which we are lucky to have. The Waterbury Police Department appreciates all of the richness that each brings to the table and we continue to work with every one by

bringing our very best to the table each day. I welcome members of the community to reach out to my staff and I in order to bring ideas on how we can better protect and serve together. And I thank those in the community and surrounding communities that have reached out. The Waterbury Police Department cannot do this alone: It truly takes each and every one of you to assist us with our mission “to protect with vigilance and serve with impartiality, while engaging in a strong partnership with the community.”

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# Downtown Waterbury Update



**Joseph McGrath**  
*Director of Economic  
 Development  
 City of Waterbury*

Mayor Neil O’Leary and the Office of Economic Development continue to work with private and public investors to meet the objectives of “The City of Waterbury’s Downtown Strategic Plan.” Strong leadership, careful planning, and input from residents, businesses, students, and elected officials enabled us to make positive strides in increasing property values and bringing jobs to our city’s Central Business District.

Our mayor’s on-going efforts to beautify downtown

Waterbury continue to elicit positive feedback from visitors, pedestrians, businesses, students, churches, non-profits, and new investors. With the completion of the magnificent East Main Street Streetscape project, the continued massive brownfield cleanup of Freight Street, the Waterbury Regional Chamber’s Central Business District Investment Program, the \$23.1 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE) Grant, and the improvements to our train and rail system, the momentum to rebuild and rejuvenate downtown is consistently moving forward.

Under the project management of the Waterbury Development Corporation, we will continue to complete our Downtown Streetscape projects on Bank, South Main, and North Main streets. These infrastructure improvements will ensure that the upgraded services provided will be reliable for years to come. The

Central Business District Investment Program offers a matching grant program to landlords to renovate vacant first-floor retail storefronts for new tenants. The RAISE Grant will fund the continuation of Waterbury’s section of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail, the West Main Street renovation, and electrical charging stations at downtown Waterbury’s train station. Brownfield remediation continues to be a top priority in our Central Business district with the scheduled demolition of 170 Freight St. The completion of this demolition and remediation of this property, along with the property at 130 Freight St., will allow our city to market 20 acres of highly desired land, creating hundreds of jobs.

Enhancements to the Waterbury Rail Line, improvements to the Waterbury Green, and Library Park, along with historically beautiful, architecturally designed buildings, are creating multiple real estate opportunities. A local investor

is in the process of renovating five buildings, and a Long Island investment group recently purchased nine buildings, all in the heart of downtown. Both investors are in the process of converting these buildings to mixed use, with commercial on the ground level and market-rate apartments above. Momentum is building downtown!

The Mayor and the Office of Economic Development will continue to work with private and public investors who are convinced that Waterbury is a prime location for future opportunities, both residential and commercial. Our city is centrally located between Boston and New York and offers historic building stock, improved rail and bus lines, downtown student housing, and an affordable cost of living. Mayor O’Leary will be sure to keep you informed of updates through the newspaper, social media, and his monthly radio show.

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# Mayor, Police Chief: Progress Continues Downtown



**David Huck**  
Main Street Waterbury  
Communications Director

More than 30 downtown business owners and community members attended an open forum organized by Main Street Waterbury at City Hall in early June, during which Mayor Neil O’Leary and Police Chief Fernando Spagnolo gave an update on downtown projects and trends. Both leaders said that the quality of life for both residents, workers, and business owners is on the rise.

“Our commitment to the downtown remains the same,” Mayor O’Leary said. “We’re excited about some things that we have in the hopper, things that I think are going to be enormously significant for downtown Waterbury that’s going to be up and coming news over the next several months, I’m hoping. We’ve been working on some of these things for several years and they seem like they are getting traction because people are finally getting out of that funk of COVID. Our commitment



Mayor Neil O’Leary spoke with downtown business owners during a community meeting held in June at City Hall that was organized by Main Street Waterbury.

to the growth and sustainability of downtown Waterbury hasn’t changed.”

Mayor O’Leary also took the opportunity to recognize the many business owners who worked hard to keep their operations going despite the difficulties of the pandemic. “You’ve hung in there. It hasn’t been easy and we know

it,” Mayor O’Leary said. Currently, the City and the Waterbury Regional Chamber offer a variety of incentive packages for business owners to make investments in their properties and to attract new tenants to vacant spaces. And investors are coming: Kirk Mariolis has purchased nine properties in Waterbury since 2021—eight of them in the

downtown area, including the former John Bale Book Co. on Grand Street and the “Broadcast Center” building on South Main Street.

More development and activity will come downtown as foot traffic increases. Like many other communities, two years of a major pandemic and remote work drastically changed the downtown landscape. “We are really trying desperately to get employers to get people to bring back to work,” Mayor O’Leary said, citing several major downtown employers who his administration has had conversations with.

Also during the meeting, Mayor O’Leary provided an update on several of the downtown infrastructure projects that are taking place. The re-opening of Diorio Restaurant & Bar, located at 231 Bank St., has been delayed due to the \$12 million state-funded construction project taking place on South Main and Bank Streets. Similar to the work recently completed on the East Main Street corridor, the project involves new gas lines, sewer, electric, and



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- 2150 East Main St., (203) 575-0516
- 715 Lakewood Rd., (203) 759-1122
- Waterbury Hospital, (203) 573-6041
- Women's Health & Shoulder/Hand Center, 134 Grandview Ave., (203) 575-2593

**SURROUNDING AREA**

- 305 Church St., Naugatuck, (203) 723-4010
- 690 Main St. South, Suite 5, Southbury, (203) 267-4060
- 1625 Straits Tnpk, Middlebury, (203) 598-0400
- 84 Oxford Rd., Rt. 67, Oxford, (203) 881-0830
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laterals, as the majority of the infrastructure is over 100 years old. The work unfortunately is an inconvenience but needs to get done, Mayor O’Leary said.

“If you go into my office, you can see what they are taking out of the ground. These valves don’t work. The pipes are completely occluded, and the water pressures isn’t what it should be. It’s not only a safety issue, it’s a health issue,” Mayor O’Leary said. “If those pipes break in downtown Waterbury—and there are some pretty significantly sized mains down there—there would be significant flooding that would impact all of you in a pretty serious way.”

The improvements include upgrades for the sidewalks, streetlamps, bus stops, and other features. Particularly in the South Main Street area, the goal is to make the area more inviting, brighter, and safer. The City is working with landlords to clean up some of the blighted properties.

“East Main Street came out beautiful, so will Bank Street. So will South Main,” Mayor O’Leary said.

**Police Chief: New Community Policing Initiatives on the Way**

Chief Spagnolo said he is looking to increase the presence of police officers walking downtown, particularly at night when there are more individuals as a result of the influx to bars, clubs, and restaurants. Curtailing that is staffing limitations within the Police Department, as resources must often be redirected to other situations, as the department receives a large volume of calls every day.

The Police Department recently undertook an efficiency study, which is at

the desk of Mayor O’Leary for review. The report contains more than 50 recommendations, among them addressing staffing shortages, Chief Spagnolo said, “Shortly, 13 officers are coming off of 10 months field training will be headed to street patrols and another 15 individuals were set to graduate from the Police Academy late last month, helping the department to build its ranks back up.”

“Our biggest concern is public safety and balancing a safe downtown area along with developing relationships with business owners and property owners in the downtown area and trying to meet or exceed their needs,” Chief Spagnolo told the crowd of business owners.

Another initiative that the Police Department has taken on is collecting contacts for individuals at downtown businesses and developing a better relationship with them, including in person. This is being done in conjunction with an effort to increase the presence of officers on bicycles in the downtown area. The Police Chief said that this would be a proactive bicycle patrol unit, not taking calls but building and fostering relationships with downtown merchants.

“We have come up with plans and partnerships to address panhandling and trespassing,” Chief Spagnolo said, citing new signs going up that he hopes will be another step in addressing some of the concerns of downtown business owners. “We recognized a long time ago that we can’t just enforce the law and arrest our way out of problems and issues, we need to part of solutions, we need to be part of outreach to try help people who are sometimes in an unfortunate situation or in a bad place, to try to give



*Waterbury Police Chief Fernando Spagnolo says efforts are being made to build better relationships with downtown business owners in an effort to improve quality of life issues.*



*Police chief Fernando Spagnolo said he is looking to increase the presence of police officers walking downtown, particularly at night*

them the assistance they need,” Chief Spagnolo said.

The Department is also investing \$750,000 in funding towards new video surveillance safety cameras, which will bring the total number of cameras that officers have access to over 3,500 cameras. As for the uptick in ATV riders, the Police Chief

reminded attendees that officers by law can’t chase unruly riders, as it poses a dangerous situation for law enforcement, the public, and the rider. The best way to help combat the issue? Tips. Residents can contact the Waterbury Police Department via the anonymous tip line at 203-573-6662 or by emailing [atvtips@waterburyct.org](mailto:atvtips@waterburyct.org).



# A Season of Voices and Stories



**Andrea Nyquist**

*Marketing, Sales, & Public Relations  
Officer, Palace Theater*

**Peggy Terhune**

*Communications Manager,  
Palace Theater*

The story of the Palace Theater is very much the story of Waterbury itself. Spanning more than 100 years, the Palace's journey embodies resilience, engagement, and forging a future together with the people it serves. Theater founder and impresario Sylvester Poli designed a storybook setting in which audiences could enjoy the transformative experience of watching live performances on stage. He gave the people of Waterbury a refuge from their difficulties and the potential to inspire new possibilities.

To this day, the Palace Theater in Waterbury remains Connecticut's most beautiful venue. Poli's vision has grown over time to include a focus on programming reflecting the wider interests of the community, offering stories from different cultures and traditions to all audiences. The Palace not only brings the best of Broadway, comedians, and concerts to Waterbury, it also offers smaller, curated events that provide opportunities for local and regional authors, musicians, and spoken word artists to find their



voices.

"As a community center, our goal is to break down barriers to enjoying the arts in this building," explains Frank Tavera, Palace Theater CEO. "Bringing performances to our stage that showcase many voices and life experiences reinforces the Theater's ongoing mission."

The upcoming season features a wide range of genres, artists, and perspectives that entertain and encourage thought-provoking conversations. It features an adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning masterwork "To Kill a Mockingbird," the uplifting story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan in "On Your

Feet!" and the powerful new play "The Kite Runner," based on Khaled Hosseini's best-selling novel. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, a mesmerizing new production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" returns to the Palace's Webster Bank Broadway Series. Bookending the holidays, "El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico" will bring the island's salsa beat to Connecticut, and "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" re-imagines Tchaikovsky's holiday classic into a contemporary dance spectacular.

This season's 2nd Act Series and the "I Wrote That!" Author Talk Series gather distinguished writers and storytellers with ties to Connecticut and include a

Connecticut news anchor, a Tony Award-winning Broadway director, an imaginative storyteller, a New York Times best-selling author, and two remarkable Connecticut farmers.

As the 2023-2024 Season opens, the Palace Theater is proud to present stories, music, and entertainment that reflect the rich and varied culture of our community. New and returning patrons are invited to enjoy this unique gathering place and help tell the continuing story of Waterbury.

For more information on the Palace Theater's 2023-2024 shows, visit [www.palacetheaterct.org](http://www.palacetheaterct.org).





OCTOBER 10 - 12



NOVEMBER 2



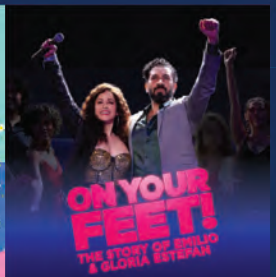
NOVEMBER 3 - 5



NOVEMBER 18



DECEMBER 10



DECEMBER 15 - 16



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# Brass City Jazz Fest, Brass City Brew & 'Que Return to Downtown Waterbury



**David Huck**  
Main Street Waterbury  
Communications Director

On Saturday, August 5, the Brass City Jazz Fest returns to downtown Waterbury.

This free, all-day contemporary jazz festival brings together some of the country's and region's top performing artists, including headliner jazz keyboardist Chris "Big Dog" Davis, a two-time Grammy nominated composer and producer with 20 Billboard #1 hits to his credit.

Other performers include world-renowned bassist Gerald Veasley, Billboard's Smooth Jazz & Sirius XM Watercolors Hit-Maker Carl Cox, guitarist Ray "The Weeper" Fuller, multi-instrumentalist and jazz educator Marcia Miget, and Billboard charting vocalist Rebecca Jade.

The festival, which runs from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Library Park, will also feature a variety of artisan and business vendors, as well as food and drink options.

The headliner, Davis, grew up in Waterbury and started playing piano at age four. He played every day at the Refuge Church of Christ, where his mother was the choir director. He recorded his first record at age 16 and went on to study at The Hart School. Throughout his musical career, he has appeared on the Arsenio Hall Show, The Tonight Show, and The Rosie O'Donnell Show. He has worked for several decades as a producer and recording and touring musician, including alongside funk legends George Clinton, Brian McKnight, Maysa, and many others.

"The Brass City Jazz Committee, in conjunction with Main Street Waterbury, worked diligently to put together an all-star jazz line up that will delight audiences of all ages," said Event Chairman Al Taylor. "We can't wait to fill downtown Waterbury with



Chris "Big Dog" Davis, a Billboard charting jazz keyboardist, will headline the 2023 Brass City Jazz Fest

the sweet sounds of jazz!"

In 2022, the Brass City Jazz Fest attracted thousands of jazz fans from across the region, drawn in by a stellar line-up of musicians, including #1 Billboard charting saxophonist Paul Taylor, who closed out the night with a captivating performance that had attendees up and out of their chairs and dancing the night away.

The Brass City Jazz Fest is hosted and produced by Al Taylor of ACT Jams Productions and the Assistant Programmer of SmoothJazzCD1019.com. Taylor is also the curator of "The Groove Show," a weekly contemporary jazz syndicated radio show.

For more information, visit [www.brasscityjazzfest.com](http://www.brasscityjazzfest.com)

## Brass City Brew & 'Que

The Brass City Brew & 'Que, one of Connecticut's largest craft beer tasting festivals, will be held this year on Saturday, October 7, 2023, on Grand Street alongside Library Park in downtown Waterbury.

This highly anticipated festival, which was established in 2006, brings together beer enthusiasts from all over New England to sample more than 200 different types of beers, including many brewed right here in Connecticut. In addition to brew samples, there will be barbequed-inspired food options available for purchase from Connecticut food vendors, and the opportunity to



Above and below: The 2022 Brass City Brew & 'Que made a return to downtown Waterbury after a two year absence because of the pandemic and drew thousands to Grand Street.



hear live music from the Rob Glassman Band, a popular Grateful Dead and classic rock cover band.

A VIP admission ticket provides access to the festival at noon, which is one hour before it opens to the public. The VIP ticket also includes a commemorative tasting glass, \$5 food voucher, and a special VIP-only t-shirt.

Victor Shah of Wolcott's Mountain Top Liquors is the event host in coordination with Main Street Waterbury. "We are looking forward to another successful Brass City Brew & 'Que," said Shah. "We are carefully curating a fine selection of libations for attendees

to enjoy. This not only includes locally crafted and award-winning brews from other parts of the country and world, but we will have other popular options like spiked seltzers, vodka sodas, whiskey, and more."

Grand Street and the area around Library Park will be filled with sweet smells of barbeque, as homegrown backyard barbeque teams will once again be competing in an amateur pit-master barbeque competition (viewing access only).

For more information or details on sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.brasscitybrewandque.com](http://www.brasscitybrewandque.com)



# UConn Waterbury's Health Sciences Programs Preparing Students for In Demand Career Paths



**Tamara Kaliszewski**

*Assistant Professor in Residence  
UConn Waterbury*

The Department of Allied Health Sciences at UConn Waterbury completed its third academic year on campus this May. In health-related areas, students have received classroom instruction, research mentoring, and career and graduate school advising. Students are also taking advantage of learning opportunities outside of the classroom that are part of partnerships created with Waterbury community and healthcare agencies.

To date, approximately 50% of Allied Health Sciences Waterbury majors express a career goal of registered nursing, and many students apply to Accelerated BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) twelve-month programs after graduation. The Certificate Entry Into Nursing (CEIN) programs at UConn Waterbury, Storrs, Avery Point, and Stamford are top-rated Accelerated BSN programs in Connecticut. In response to our students' significant interest in these programs and the high demand for nurses in the state, UConn's Department of Allied Health Sciences and the UConn School of Nursing have developed a plan of study that will allow Allied Health majors to complete both programs in 4 half years. They will earn a BS in AHS in 3 half years and complete the BSN as well as requirements for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in one year. This is exciting coordinated effort between Allied Health Sciences and the School of Nursing will help bring talented students to nursing positions

in Waterbury.

In addition to accelerated nursing, common paths for UConn Allied Health Sciences students include medical school, physical therapy programs, physician assistant programs, master's in public health programs, occupational therapy programs, and direct entry into the workforce in settings such as hospitals, healthcare facilities, research labs, and pharmaceutical companies. To prepare for any of these career choices, students benefit from experiential learning, where they learn by doing and reflecting. This is typically accomplished outside of the classroom.

Partnerships between Allied Health Sciences and healthcare providers in the city of Waterbury and surrounding regions have been key to providing high quality experiential learning for our students. Allied Health Sciences faculty members emphasize the importance of experiential learning as a component of each student's curriculum. When in these settings, students work with community members and healthcare providers, apply knowledge learned in the classroom, practice professional development and career readiness skills, assess interest and aptitude for different healthcare roles, and observe the impact of healthcare and health promotion in the community. Current partners include Access Rehab Centers, Waterbury Department of Public Health, Waterbury Public Schools, Saint Mary's Hospital, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, New Opportunities Inc, Center for Human Development, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and UConn Health. Students have also completed research projects in the growing number of opportunities and labs on campus in the Allied Health, Psychology, and Biology departments, as well as with faculty at UConn Health.



*UConn Waterbury Allied Health Sciences students welcomed healthcare track students from Waterbury Career Academy for a campus tour, class visit, and student panel in April.*



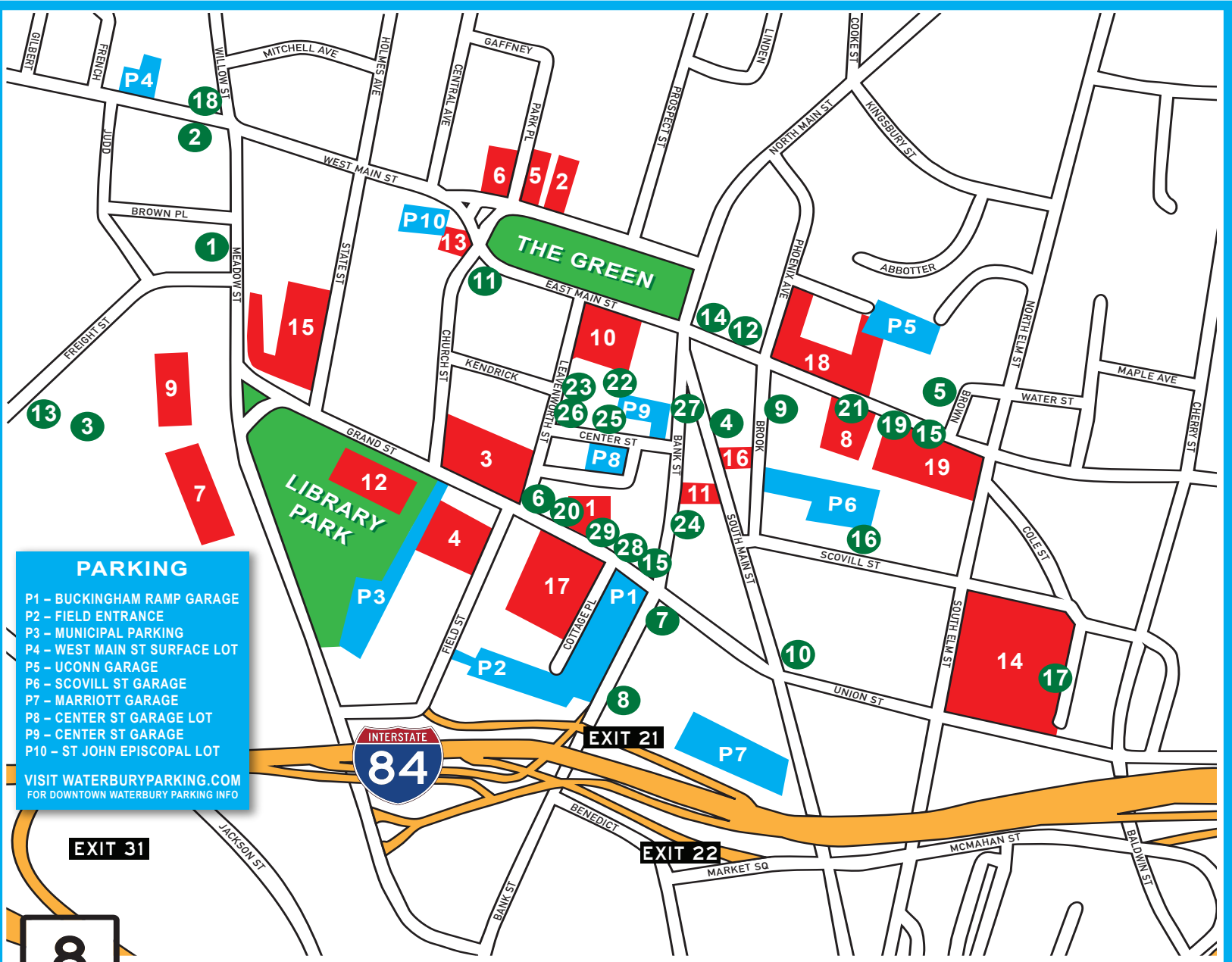
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**RESTAURANTS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Baker & Honey                              | 16. House Of Goats                        |
| 2. Borus Bar & Grill                          | 17. Jazzman Cafe at Saint Mary's Hospital |
| 3. Brass Tacs Café                            | 18. La Cazuela                            |
| 4. Central Square                             | 19. Louie's Pizza                         |
| 5. China One                                  | 20. Nature Love Juice Bar                 |
| 6. City Pizza & Espresso                      | 21. Palace Theater Poli Club              |
| 7. Courtyard Marriott Bistro Bar              | 22. Seven Villages Restaurant             |
| 8. Diorio's Restaurant & Bar                  | 23. Signature's Restaurant                |
| 9. Domenick & Pia's Pizza                     | 24. Spirit Café                           |
| 10. Dunkin' Donuts                            | 25. The Bagel Exchange                    |
| 11. Extry Sweets Dominican Cakes              | 26. The Gathering Room                    |
| 12. Ez Market                                 | 27. The Green Deli & Convenience          |
| 13. Freight Street Grill                      | 28. The Turf Bar & Grill                  |
| 14. Grand News Deli                           | 29. Via Al Paraiso                        |
| 15. Greenland Market Convenience & Smoke Shop |   |

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Afro-Caribbean Cultural Center        | 11. Shakesperience Productions                |
| 2. Basilica of the Immaculate Conception | 12. Silas Bronson Library                     |
| 3. Chase Municipal Building              | 13. St. John's Episcopal Church               |
| 4. City Hall                             | 14. Saint Mary's Hospital                     |
| 5. Greater Waterbury YMCA                | 15. State of Connecticut Superior Court       |
| 6. Mattatuck Museum & Art of Yum Café    | 16. The Black Cat Spiritual Store & Botanical |
| 7. Metro North Railroad Station          | 17. U.S. Post Office                          |
| 8. Palace Theater                        | 18. UCONN Waterbury Campus                    |
| 9. Republican-American Newspaper         | 19. Waterbury Arts Magnet School              |
| 10. Rowland State Government Center      |   |





# Exchange Place Utility Improvement Update



**Zachary Keith**  
Economic Vitality Committee  
Chairperson

Continuing our efforts from the East Main Street streetscape project, the City of Waterbury is now replacing the water mains and services to each building on Bank, South Main, and North Main streets. Before construction for a “Complete Street project” like the one done on East Main Street, we want to ensure that all of the underground utilities are replaced or repaired to provide a top-quality foundation for the future Complete Street renovation.

The contractor that has been selected to perform this important improvement to our Downtown is C.J. Fucci. As this project continues underway, the safety of our Downtown residents and merchants are our utmost priority. To maintain optimal safety, there will be concrete barriers, signage, police officers, and flaggers to help with traffic flow and to protect everyone.

Phase one of this project is almost complete, which focuses on the stretch of Bank Street between the highway and Grand Street. This phase is replacing the eight-inch water main which is from 1911 and was scheduled to be



*The City of Waterbury is currently replacing water mains that are over 100 years old located on Grand Street as part of an infrastructure improvement project taking place downtown that's set to be completed in 2024.*

completed by July 13.

Following the completion of phase one, the contractor will continue up Bank Street up to Exchange Place, replacing the 12-inch water main which also dates back to 1911. This phase will be completed by the end of November 2023. Interestingly, as we have been replacing Bank Street water mains, we have been removing the original trolley tracks that were installed a few feet above the water mains.

In April 2024, the contractor will begin replacing the 12-inch water

main on South Main Street, which was originally installed in 1883. Then, in July 2024, the contractor will begin replacing the water main on North Main Street, which dates to 1883. This is the first time these water mains will be replaced in 140 years.

Within all four phases of this project, the sanitary sewers and sewer laterals will be completely relined. These sewers and sewer laterals were originally installed between the years of 1882 to 1884. Finally, the contractor will be making repairs to the storm system as needed on all three roads.

Once each phase of the project is completed, these three streets will undergo a complete street design as East Main Street did last year. The streetscape design will equip these streets with new crosswalks, lights, and sidewalks. As we continue to improve downtown Waterbury and bring the city into the future, these utility improvements help bring us better water and service. Although this important work cannot be seen, water flow and quality of life will be drastically improved when this project is completed.



# Mattatuck Museum Offering Exciting Programs All Summer Long



**Luke Marshall**

*Marketing and Media Coordinator  
Mattatuck Museum*

It's going to be a wild summer at the Mattatuck Museum with Andy Warhol: Endangered Species on view through September 10th. If you haven't been to the Museum since its reopening in 2021 after an extensive renovation, this summer is the perfect time to visit the new space. Enjoy exciting programs and events all summer long including bus trips, conversations with artists, community events, and more.

Celebrating its 145th anniversary this year, the Mattatuck Museum

is an American art and regional history museum in the center of Downtown Waterbury which started out as the Mattatuck Historical Society in 1877.

**Andy Warhol: Endangered Species** includes screen prints of ten animals that were recognized in the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Presented in Warhol's signature pop style, these images elevate the animals to the status of icons. The exhibit is a call to remember that we share this planet, and it is our responsibility to make choices that protect and support all living beings. The exhibition includes interactive tactile panels, which allow visitors to experience what the surface of these works would feel like.



*The Mattatuck Museum is ready for a wild summer with Andy Warhol: Endangered Species on view through September 10th. Check the website, [www.mattmuseum.org](http://www.mattmuseum.org), for more information.*

Also on view this summer are four exhibitions focused on a variety of subject matter from the extraordinary contributions of female artists in American abstract artists: vibrant and captivating paintings by Nigerian artist Ifeyinwa Joy Chiamonwu celebrating physical and traditional heirlooms passed down by family and the ancestors of the Igbo people, work by artist Thomas McKnight inspired by stories and characters from ancient Greek myth, and a celebration of the life and legacy of Major League Baseball player Roberto Clemente.

The Mattatuck Museum is a community resource for art and history education. The MATT has developed a host of fun and engaging programs inspired by these exhibitions. Travel with the Mattatuck to Roger Williams Zoo in Rhode Island and participate in art activities and special animal encounters for only \$10 per person, thanks to a grant from Art Bridges. Hear from Nigerian artist Ifeyinwa Joy Chiamonwu as she discusses her background and inspiration for her work. Sip a Litchfield Distillery cocktail while former Andy Warhol Museum Director, Eric Shiner, and

Mattatuck Director Bob Burns, discuss all things Andy Warhol. Spend the day at Bannerman Island on a cruise and guided walking tour of the Island or bring the family to the Andy Warhol Birthday Bash and celebrate the day with live bird encounters, card making, scavenger hunts, and more. There is something for everyone this summer at The MATT, so head down to the Museum and get wild!

To learn more about these programs and others, visit the Museum's website at [mattmuseum.org](http://mattmuseum.org)/calendar.

**Andy Warhol: Endangered Species** is organized by Art Bridges with works drawn from the collection of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Support provided by Art Bridges. **Blurring Boundaries: The Women of American Abstract Artists, 1936-Present** was organized by The Clara M. Eagle Gallery, Murray State University, Murray, KY and the Ewing Gallery, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

**Wild Summer**  
at the  
**MATTATUCK MUSEUM**

**ANDY WARHOL**  
ENDANGERED SPECIES  
ON VIEW THROUGH **SEPTEMBER 10**

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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023**  
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**2:30 PM REBECCA JADE**  
**3:30 PM MARCIA MIGET**  
**4:30 PM RAY "THE WEEPER" FULLER**  
**6:00 PM GERALD VEASLEY**

**FEATURING CARL COX**  
**8:00 PM CHRIS "BIG DOG" DAVIS**  
**FEATURING CARL COX**  
*Lineup and times subject to change*  
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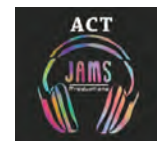


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*Waterbury celebrates*  
*Feast day of Blessed Michael McGivney*  
**13 August 2023**  
*Veneration of his Relic*

after all Masses at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception:  
4:15pm Sat Vigil, 6:30am, 8am, 10am, 12pm & 6pm

*Mass atop Holy Land Waterbury*

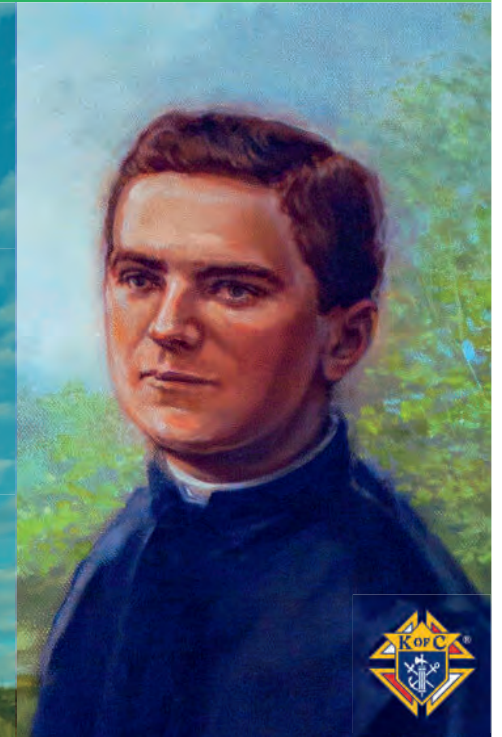
*Sun, 13 Aug 2023*  
*at 8am*

*Fr. Jim Sullivan*  
*Celebrant*

Gates open  
at 6:30am

Pray for dry weather,  
NO rain date

60 Slocum Street, Waterbury CT



Parking atop Holy Land | K of C Sheridan Council #24 members on hand to assist  
Please bring own portable chair & wear suitable outdoor attire

*14 Aug 2023 - "In the Footsteps of Fr. McGivney" Bus Tour*

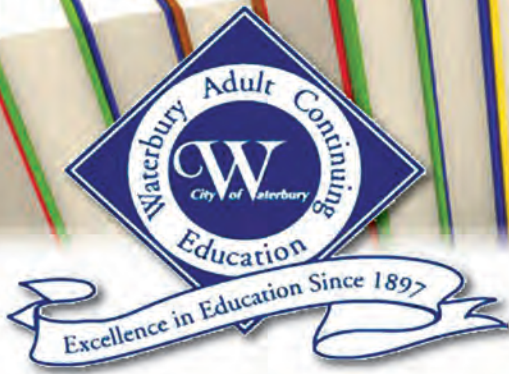
*Sponsored by Fr. McGivney Guild | Guided by Sr. Veronica of Sisters of Life*

The FREE bus tour will stop at sites significant in Father McGivney's life in Thomaston and Waterbury, including St. Thomas Church, where he was pastor; Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, his childhood parish in Waterbury, and Old St. Joseph's Cemetery, location of the McGivney gravesite.

Bus from/to 524 Hamilton Ave. Commuter Lot (approximately from 8:45am to 4pm)

To reserve your seat, please email Father McGivney Guild at [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org)





# Waterbury Adult Continuing Education



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- ◆ **Art** – Job ID # 2333  
Certification # 042 PreK-12
- ◆ **Science** – Job ID # 2538  
Certification #'s 034, 033, 032, or 031  
Grades 7 – 12
- ◆ **English** – Job ID # 2565  
Certification # 015 Grades 7 – 12
- ◆ **Math** – Job ID # 2462  
Certification # 029 Grades 7 – 12
- ◆ **GED Math** – Job ID # 2464  
Certification # 029 Grades 7 – 12 or #  
107 External Diploma Program/No Credit  
Mandated Program
- ◆ **School Counselor** – Job ID # 2463  
Certification # 068

### EVENING POSITIONS

- ◆ **English** – Job ID # 2537  
Certification # 015 Grades 7 – 12
- ◆ **English** – Job ID # 2545  
Certification # 015 Grades 7 – 12
- ◆ **English as a Second Language (ESL)** – Job ID # 2504  
Certification # 088
- ◆ **GED Math** – Job ID # 2569  
Certification # 029 Grades 7 – 12 or #  
107 External Diploma Program/No Credit  
Mandated Program
- ◆ **Math** – Job ID # 2570  
Certification # 029 Grades 7 – 12
- ◆ **Spanish GED** – Job ID # 2566  
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Registering Students by Appointment Only - Email: [wae@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:wae@waterbury.k12.ct.us)

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