

Celebrating DOWNTOWN

Vol. 13 - September 2022
Special Section of the

RepublicanAmerican

Main St.
Waterbury





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 P2 - FIELD ENTRANCE
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 P7 - MARRIOTT GARAGE
 P8 - CENTER ST GARAGE LOT
 P9 - CENTER ST GARAGE
 P10 - ST JOHN EPISCOPAL LOT

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RESTAURANTS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Baker & Honey | 17. Greenland Market |
| 2. Borus Bar & Grill | 18. Convenience & Smoke Shop |
| 3. Brass Taos Café | 19. House Of Goats |
| 4. Café 457 | 20. Jazzman Cafe at Saint Mary's Hospital |
| 5. Central Square | 21. La Cazuela |
| 6. China One | 22. Louie's Pizza |
| 7. City Pizza & Espresso | 23. Palace Theater Poli Club |
| 8. Courtyard Marriott Bistro Bar | 24. Pizza Express |
| 9. Diorio's Restaurant & Bar | 25. Seven Villages Restaurant |
| 10. Domenick & Pia's Pizza | 26. Signature's Restaurant |
| 11. Dunkin' Donuts | 27. Spirit Café |
| 12. Extry Sweets Dominican Cakes | 28. The Bagel Exchange |
| 13. Ez Market | 29. The Gathering Room |
| 14. Freight Street Grill | 30. The Green Deli & Convenience |
| 15. Golden Wok II | 31. Turf Bar & Grill |
| 16. Grand News Deli | 32. Via Al Paraiso |
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POINTS OF INTEREST

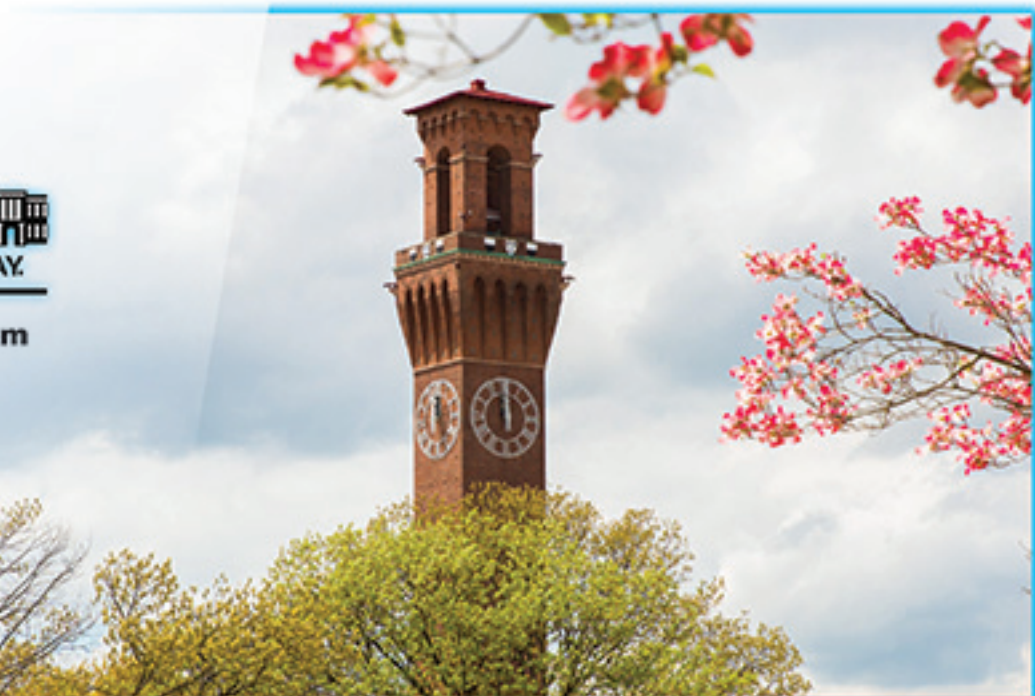
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|--|---|
| 1. Basilica of the Immaculate Conception | 10. Shakesperience Productions |
| 2. Chase Municipal Building | 11. Silas Bronson Library |
| 3. City Hall | 12. St. John's Episcopal Church |
| 4. Greater Waterbury YMCA | 13. Saint Mary's Hospital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

Celebrating DOWNTOWN

On the Cover: ACQUIRING FROM Derek L Ward
courtesy of Derek L Ward

Inside Photo: Waterbury Clock Tower by Derek L Ward

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Cheryl Wallace-Smith, Webster Bank

Marketing Director: Anabela Maia

Committee Chair:

Design: Anabela Maia

Promotion: Marya DiPerna

Economic Vitality: Zachary Keith

Organization: Open

Vision Statement

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

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Lynn G. Ward

President & CEO,
Main Street Waterbury
Waterbury Regional Chamber

Main St. Waterbury



On behalf of Main Street Waterbury, we are pleased to present the 13th issue of Celebrating Downtown. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank former Main Street Waterbury CEO Carol Rosa, who departed from the organization earlier this year. Carl played an important role for many years in promoting downtown Waterbury and helping to organize efforts and partnerships that have led to its economic revival.

As many of you know, in March of 2022, Main Street Waterbury announced a new managerial arrangement with the Waterbury Regional Chamber, under which leadership at the Chamber began taking on the responsibility of day-to-day operations for the 501c3 non-profit.

With the support of the City of Waterbury and the new organizational arrangement, Main Street Waterbury is in a position to becoming a driving force for creating an inviting, vibrant, and growing downtown, for residents, business owners, workers, and visitors.

For the 16th consecutive year, Main Street Waterbury has earned accreditation from the National Main Street Center, recognizing the organization's efforts to reinvigorate community engagement and enhance economic development in the central downtown district.

As you will read later on, Main Street Waterbury carried on the tradition of signature events, like the Brass City Brew & 'Que, while other programs like the Community Partnership Award and the Stephen R. Sasala Scholarship will continue uninterrupted. Hosting the Brass City Jazz Fest was a new initiative this year and we are looking forward to a bigger and better event in 2023.

We are also excited to see the recently-launched Central Business Development Initiative program come to fruition. This economic investment program, which uses \$1.5 million in American Relief Plan Act Funds made available by the City of Waterbury, is aimed at helping central business district property owners lease their vacant storefronts. The matching grant program has already received a number of applicants. Businesses of all sizes will benefit from this program, as these planned-investments will bring new life to vacant, downtown storefronts, providing a ripple effect across the community.

We have many exciting initiatives in the works and we look forward to sharing all the good news that's to come for the downtown business district. Stay tuned!

Lynn Ward

Chamber Drives Economic Development Within the Central Business District



Joseph Violette
Public Policy & Economic
Development Director,
Waterbury Regional Chamber

In July, the Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce Foundation, working in partnership with the City of Waterbury, received unanimous approval from the Board of Alderman to launch a new economic investment program aimed at helping central business district property owners lease their vacant storefronts.

The initiative, named the Central Business District Investment Program (CBDIP), uses \$1.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act

funds to establish a matching grant program that will 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, are 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 buildout costs for vacant ground floor-level retail space. Property owners with vacant storefronts are eligible for a grant of \$50 per

square foot, up to \$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 parties. Properties must be located within the Central Business District. The central business district shares the same boundaries as the Main Street Waterbury district.

“This initiative will provide a significant incentive for property owners to make improvements to existing ground floor spaces in need of upgrades and offers opportunity for small businesses to lease vacant storefronts,” said Lynn Ward, CEO and President, Waterbury Regional Chamber. “We are grateful to Mayor Neil O’Leary the City of Waterbury for partnering with the Chamber



CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
INVESTMENT PROGRAM

to make these much-needed funds available. When vacant storefronts begin coming to life again, the ripple effects across the local economy and community at-large will be significant.”

Applications are currently open and can be found on waterburychamber.com. For questions about the program, contact Joseph Violette, at jviolette@waterburychamber.com or 203-757-0701 ext. 319.



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Goodness is Growing for Main Street



Christine Schilke
Communications &
Strategy Director,
Connecticut Main Street

Despite a rough couple of years, the renewed dedication to Connecticut's downtowns and Main Streets continues to grow. Thanks to an abundance of federal and state funding, many long wished-for projects are beginning to come to fruition while new opportunities are available to the property owners, small businesses, and arts & cultural organizations that form an integral part of our beloved downtowns.

For instance, the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) recently announced the new \$150 million CT Small Business Boost Fund. This public-private partnership provides low-interest loans, ranging from \$5,000 to \$500,000, to small businesses and nonprofits. The

flexible funding can be used for a variety of purposes such as equipment, payroll, utilities, supplies, marketing, and more. For small downtown businesses looking to make needed renovations or refine their products and services, these loans can provide a much-needed boost. Meanwhile, CT Humanities is supporting the arts & cultural organizations that bring vibrancy to our downtowns through its CT Cultural Fund. This program provides vital, non-competitive general operating support grants to the museums, cultural, humanities, and arts organizations that contribute a unique and lively atmosphere to our commercial districts.

At the local level, several cities are using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in their downtowns through façade programs for property owners. The aim is to make the properties more attractive to small businesses, in turn spurring economic development. The Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce is similarly working to help its businesses thrive by

directing up to \$1.5 million of ARPA funds to property owners who were affected by Covid. The Central Business District Investment Program will provide matching grants to building owners who want to prep their storefronts and spaces for tenants.

At Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC), we're also benefiting from receiving an allocation of ARPA funds, using those monies to better serve our members. As the state's leading downtown resource, we're thrilled to be able to expand the amount and types of assistance we can offer to Connecticut's downtowns and Main Streets via our member communities.

Our first order of business was to add three key new staff, including one that will be familiar to many in Waterbury – "Mr. Main Street" himself, Carl Rosa! Carl joined the CMSC team in December 2021 as our new Field Services Director. In this role, Carl is bringing his nearly two decades of experience at the helm of Main Street Waterbury to our 80+ members across the state. In addition, our new Education & Training Director, Kristen Lopez, is ramping up the amount and types of training and educational programs we offer, bringing national and local experts to our downtowns. Our new Development Director, Brian Thomas, is working to expand and diversify our financial foundation, ensuring we'll be able to produce the valuable resources our members expect well into the future. And finally, our new



Executive Director, Michelle McCabe, is filling a key vacancy that had been held admirably by CMSC's Kimberley Parsons-Whitaker, who served as Interim Executive Director for nearly a year. Michelle will be taking the lead on our advocacy efforts, making sure our members' voices are represented at the capitol.

While the challenges our downtowns face remain many, there are also many reasons to celebrate, and many individuals and organizations who should be celebrated for the work they do to make our downtowns the wonderful places they are. People like Anabela Maia and others at Main Street Waterbury, who are bringing people together through fantastic, fun events like the recent Brass City Brew & 'Que and the Brass City Jazz Fest.

Locally and statewide, the good news is growing as critical new resources are invested in our community centers. And there are lots of ways you can get in on the goodness too! Visit a downtown, shop in a local business or dine in a local restaurant, go to a show or see an exhibit. I promise, you'll get as good as you give!



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Founded in 1922, Charles Heaven & Co. CPAs holds the distinction of being the oldest accounting firm in the Waterbury area. Its founder, Charles Heaven, born and raised in Birmingham, England, immigrated to Connecticut as a public accountant. Although much has changed, we are still independent auditors, as well as financial and tax advisors to individuals, businesses, government and the not-for-profit community strictly adhering to the hallmarks of this profession: independence, objectivity and integrity.

PARTNERS CURRENT AND RETIRED:

Enrico Melaragno **Bart Cutrali** **Erica Melaragno Frick**
Douglas Heaven **Norman Heaven**
Roy Bachinsky **Robert Sweeney** **Charles W. Heaven**

207 Bank St #5, Waterbury, CT ■ 203-753-4101

Visit these websites -

- CT Small Business Boost Program: www.ctsmallbusinessboostfund.org/
- CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants: www.cthumanities.org/grants/ct-cultural-fund-operating-support-grants/
- Central Business District Investment Program: www.waterburychamber.com/central-business-district-investment-program.html
- Connecticut Main Street Center: www.ctmainstreet.org
- CMSC Members: www.ctmainstreet.org/how-we-help/membership/
- CMSC Educational Events: www.ctmainstreet.org/events/
- CMSC Advocacy: www.ctmainstreet.org/what-we-do/advocacy/
- Main Street Waterbury: www.mainstreetwaterbury.com/
- Brass City Brew & 'Que: www.brasscitybrewandque.com/

“You’ve Got A Friend”



Clivel Charlton
Head of Youth Services,
Silas Bronson Library

The Silas Bronson Library Teen and Young Adult staff are here to help you - “you’ve got a friend” when you come to us. All teens are accepted and celebrated at the library.

Do you want or need something educational? We have books and programs to help. Let us help get you college ready. We offer FAFSA workshops in conjunction with Naugatuck Valley Community College and college application workshops. If you need SAT or ACT prep materials, we have those. If you are taking AP classes, we can help get you the books and materials you need to get that 4 or 5!

Teens often find the library as a refuge. We recognize our responsibility to serve as a place for Teens and Young Adults to develop and grow into productive adults. Silas Bronson Library is a great place to come to, away from home. The Teen’s Services Division of the Silas Bronson Library provides a safe, nurturing and culturally stimulating environment for teens. Teens and Young Adults can visit the TeenZone area to socialize, exchange ideas, and learn from one another.

Our Teen Advisory Committee, open to all teens, fosters responsibility and leadership. Teen participants share ideas for new programs, books, games, and activities at the library, and have the opportunity to volunteer for special library programs.

The TeenZone is a safe environment for learning or broadening one’s horizons through reading and other activities. Search through a plethora of books, video games, and movies. You can read and watch them here or bring them home for a week or two. If you need community service hours, we can help connect you with opportunities. We can help get you job ready for your first interview or your first job. Our staff is ready to assist or help you find the information to get you what you need.

Our Teen librarians support parents, teachers, and caregivers in creating more kind, positive, and thriving individuals. Silas Bronson Library has many programs and activities to captivate our youth. We have Geekdom programs from self-professed geeks, fans of everything from chess to anime to Star Wars. If you prefer crafts, we have classes and meet-ups for those. Join us for a puzzle or a board game. If you are shy and just prefer to watch, that is okay with us too.

The Teen Services staff strives to ensure equity amongst Waterbury’s diverse young adult population. Our staff understands the responsibility bestowed on us, and help young adults in our Waterbury community who walk through our doors, participate in library programs and activities, and utilize the library’s materials and services, become productive and outstanding citizens of Waterbury. Our staff is here to act as mentors, to encourage and to support all young adults of Waterbury.

Come in and meet our friendly staff. Introduce yourself. Get to know us and let us get to know you. “Ain’t it good to know you’ve got a friend?”



Front of the Silas Bronson Library.



TeenZone area inside the Silas Bronson Library.

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Mattatuck Museum Brings To Life A Reimagined Space In Downtown Waterbury



Stephanie Harris
Chief Experience Officer,
Mattatuck Museum

A cultural beacon in the heart of the City, the Mattatuck Museum is proud to welcome visitors into their beautiful new building. Boasting a rooftop terrace, café, renovated interiors, and ample free parking, a visit to the Museum will not disappoint. This fall, the Mattatuck is celebrating an exciting roster of new exhibitions and programs including *Walker Evans American Photographs* celebrating the photographer's landmark solo exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1938. A leading figure in the history of American documentary photography, Walker Evans is today considered one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. In the 1930s, Evans traveled extensively throughout the Eastern United States, creating a collective photographic portrait of the region during a decade of profound transformation. On view through December 21, 2022, *Walker Evans American Photographs* is based on an exhibition originally organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York and organized by Sarah Herman-

son Meister, former Curator, with Tasha Latek, Collection Specialist, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Support provided by Art Bridges.

In addition, the museum will present three additional exhibitions focused on a variety of subject matter from school ephemera, vibrant and captivating paintings including: *Local Legacy: Chase Collegiate Archives 1865-2020*, *Work It! Women Artists on Women's Labor*, *Elemental: Art as Advocacy*, and *Schandra Singh: Fractured Facades*.

Local Legacy celebrates the history of Chase Collegiate through its archive, which is now housed at the Mattatuck Museum. Throughout its history, the school was a landmark for educating local youths-inspiring leadership, lifelong learning, and a sense of community. The exhibition celebrates this lasting legacy through photographs, objects, and ephemera from the Chase Archive. Ongoing stewardship of Chase Collegiate School's archival materials at the Mattatuck Museum is supported by the Chase Collegiate School Foundation, Inc.

The word "labor" has many connotations: to bear children,



to work, to struggle. *Work It! Women Artists on Women's Labor* explores how art can speak to the variety of ways that women labor in American society. Featuring modern and contemporary female-identifying artists working in a variety of media, this exhibition touches on working outside the home, marriage, domestic labor, bearing and rearing children, beauty expectations, emotional labor, and many other issues. Several objects in this exhibition have been generously lent by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art as part of Art Bridges' Collection Loan Partnership.

Elemental: Art as Advocacy features the work of the four artists who comprise the Elemental Artists' Collective: Debra Claffey, Patricia Gerkin, Donna Hamil Talman, and Charyl Weissbach. Each artist has her own aesthetic, but they are united by their artwork as a platform for environmental advocacy.

2022 *MIXMASTER* winner *Schandra Singh* creates dynamic, provocative paintings that comment on the social and political uncertainty that exists. The oversized, distorted faces that fill Singh's canvases confront viewers with their emotions, alternately

inspiring empathy, and mockery; as she writes, "I hope in my work to challenge the viewer by not didactically presenting one way, but by addressing my fears to express a human condition."

The museum has planned an exciting lineup of fall program offerings to complement these exhibits including cooking lessons, artist talks, kids' workshops, live music, and holiday celebrations. To learn more about these fall programs, please visit mattmuseum.org/calendar.

The new Mattatuck Museum has brought to life a reimagined space that continues to be a welcoming, inclusive, stimulating, and enriching community anchor.

The Mattatuck Museum is located on the Green in Waterbury, CT at 144 West Main Street. The Museum is open for timed admission, Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The museum is always free for members and Waterbury Public School students thanks to support from Hubbard-Hall, Inc. Reduced rate and free admissions are also available. Visit www.mattmuseum.org for more details. We hope to see you soon at the Mattatuck Museum.

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Waterbury Photograph Collection, CT-02. Max R. Taurig Library and Archive, Mattatuck Museum.



Debra Claffey, *Indigo Vetch III*, 2022, oil monotype and encaustic on panel, 24 x 24 x 1.5.



Schandra Singh, *Gift Shop*, oil on linen, 79 x 108.

MATTATUCK MUSEUM

144 WEST MAIN STREET, WATERBURY, CT
MATTMUSEUM.ORG

WALKER EVANS AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS

SEPTEMBER 18–DECEMBER 31, 2022

Walker Evans (American, 1903–1975). *Couple at City Hall* (New York, 1932) (black and white gelatin silver print), 1991 by Charles Rodemeyer. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Gift of the artist, 1975. © 2021 Walker Evans Archive, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Walker Evans (American, 1903–1975). *Parked Car, Small Town Main Street, 1932*, Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969 by Charles Rodemeyer. © 2021 Walker Evans Archive, The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist.

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 couple of years, the Waterbury Police Department has worked hard to continue to engage and collaborate with our community. All of us have seen the changes brought on due to the COVID pandemic; however, none of the men and women in blue have let that interfere with police services or our love for the City of Waterbury. We have remained dynamic, seamlessly changing in the face of adversity to continue to provide services to our community. Many things have happened within the Waterbury Police Department to include but certainly not limited to personnel movements, recruitment drives, continuing to increase the capacity of our Real Time Crime Pandemic Center, continuing to speak on gun control to Governor Lamont, Commissioner Rovella, and the U.S. Senate, participating in DEA's Drug Take Back Day, continuing the mentor program at PAL with our officers and youth, and

implementation of Body Worn Cameras and In car Cameras to further promote transparency in the police services provided.

There has been a lot of movement within the Waterbury Police Department to include promotion of Detectives and Lieutenants. As typically occurs, the cycle of retiring police officers has brought about many personnel changes to also include assigning a new Acting Assistant Deputy Chief (AADC), Officer in Charge of the Juvenile Division, Vice and Intelligence, Gang Task Force, Crime Prevention Unit, Internal Affairs, and Training Division. Additionally, in the upcoming months there will be promotional tests given, which will in turn lead to more movement within the department. With these changes, there will be fresh ideas and incentive for our officers to continue to strive to be the best they can for the citizens we serve.

Recruiting the finest for our department is underway. Members of the department have been going to community organizations, career fairs, and in collaboration with Human Resources put on a community event at City Hall for community members to come forward to let us know how best to recruit those who are reflective of the communities

served. Unfortunately, we have not had many individuals wanting a law enforcement career. However, this has not lessened our department's drive to show the benefits of being part of our team.

The testimony I gave before the U.S. Senate in March of 2021 was a humbling and invigorating experience where I proudly represented my department, the City of Waterbury, and State of Connecticut. Part of my testimony discussed common sense gun laws that the State of Connecticut passed over the years, but also touched upon



what we have done in Waterbury. The conversation continued for me on a state level when I was invited by Governor Ned Lamont to speak at his roundtable on Senate Bill 16. This was a discussion around areas of violent crime, gun violence and juvenile crime. The Waterbury Police Department has invested and will continue to invest in community solutions to prevent gun violence, and partner with local leaders, institutions, and nonprofits to help remove the root causes of violence. This includes youth violence prevention programs, including one-on-one mentoring for high-risk youth, and providing mental health and substance abuse recovery services to members of our community. It also includes an annual gun

buyback program in collaboration with our faith based community members. Our gun buyback program gets about 100 firearms off the street each year assisting with keeping those firearms off of our streets, and because violence has no borders—the streets of other communities. Due to the fact that violence has no borders, I continue to work hard and collaborate with surrounding law enforcement leaders, non-profit organizations, and faith based leaders to share our resources with each other in order to promote continuity in an effort to combat the rise in violent crime to include gun violence.

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 continues 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."

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.

The Mayor's on-going efforts to beautify downtown Waterbury continue to elicit positive feedback from pedestrians, businesses, students, churches, non-profits, and visitors. The East Main Street streetscape project is completed and includes

the replacement of a 100-year-old water main, an aesthetically pleasing corridor, new pavement, printed cross walks, new benches, new lighting, and new bus shelters.

The City, under the project management of the Waterbury Development Corporation, is committed to providing similar improvements on South Main, North Main, and Bank Streets. These improvements will ensure that the services provided will be reliable for years to come.

This year our Waterbury Regional Chamber, in partnership with the City of Waterbury, established a matching grant program aimed to strengthen the vitality of our Central Business District and create a positive impact on attracting private investments. Eligible property owners in the Central Business District with vacant storefront properties impacted by COVID can apply for matching funds to clean up and/or build out new or existing ground-floor retail spaces. We are optimistic that our downtown landlords will embrace this opportunity and continue to bring vibrancy back to downtown Waterbury.

Brownfield Remediation continues to be a top priority as evidenced by the completed demolition of 130 Freight Street and the planned purchase of 170 Freight Street. When

remediation is complete this project will allow our city to market 20 acres of highly desirable land in the Central Business District, creating hundreds of jobs.

The Freight Street, Meadow Street, and Jackson Street renovations funded by a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant have been completed. Construction of the Greenway in the City's south end will be completed in 2022.

Building on the momentum of this project, the City applied for and was subsequently awarded a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant in the amount of \$23.1 million. These funds will be used for the continua-

tion of the City of Waterbury's section of the Naugatuck Greenway Trail, West Main Street Renovation and Streetscaping Improvements, and the addition of electrical vehicle charging stations at the Downtown Waterbury Train Station.

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 in 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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Design: A Key to Success



Anabela Maia
Design Committee
Chairwoman

The Design Committee has been involved in a number of projects geared towards improving the visual qualities of the downtown area. The Design Committee works to improve the appearance of downtown so that it is perceived as clean, safe, and friendly while preserving its historic appeal.

One of the longest running projects is the Holiday Window Décor Competition. The committee encourages and inspires downtown business owners to decorate their storefronts for the festive season. This adds a cheery look to downtown during that time of year when the sun sets before the workday is over. In the Winter of 2019 and inspired by New York's Rolf's holiday-themed bar, local bars, were added to the competition which allowed the fun holiday-theme to expand to bars in downtown Waterbury.

The Holiday Window Décor Competition is held every December. Last year, a Holiday Wandering Stroll was added for a special after-work shopping

experience where businesses extended their holiday shopping hours and offered festive treats and cheery holiday beverages to shoppers. This open-house type of shopping experience included the PAL Choir, carolers, Santa Claus and fortunes for the new year from Cyril the Sorcerer. Participating businesses included the Palace Theater, the Mattatuck Museum, Spirit Café, City Pizza and Espresso, Signature's Restaurant, Mar-Vic Cleaners, AKAN Retail Clothing and more. Follow us on the Main Street Waterbury Facebook page for this year's competition, how to vote for your favorite decorated storefront window and details on the Holiday Wandering Stroll.

Members of the Design Committee have long advocated for the improvements along South Main Street, a long-neglected area of downtown. The committee's efforts resulted in the addition of planters and murals to South Main Street dating back to 2014, and today we see infrastructure projects and a newly paved street.

The Bike Rack Program introduced in 2014 brings whimsical, colorful art deco and continues to be used throughout the downtown area. We recently captured the vibrant yellow bike



Decorated Window, Winner 2021

rack design being used outside of the Buckingham Garage located at the corner of Bank and Grand Street.

In partnership with the Waterbury Development Corporation, the committee introduced a series of window banners that served to beautify empty storefronts and brighten ideas for businesses looking for retail space in the downtown area. Since its introduction several spaces have been taken under the wings of investors and are currently



Bike Rack at the Buckingham Garage

undergoing renovations. With the new Central Business District Investment Program program under the direction of the Regional Chamber, the downtown area's vacant storefronts will benefit to further beautify and attract businesses into downtown. (Read more about this program from Joseph Violette in this publication)

The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. To join the committee or others visit www.mainstreetwaterbury.com.



Decorated Window, Post University Downtown, 2021

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Focus on Collaborative Projects for Economic Growth



Zach Keith
Economic Vitality Committee
Chairperson

The Economic Vitality Committee of Main Street Waterbury has a goal of strengthening the economic base in Downtown by promoting existing businesses, recruiting new businesses, and converting unused space into productive property. In addition, this committee assists with marketing, advertising, and promoting long-standing and new businesses, as well as current available properties downtown that are for sale or lease.

During the past year, the Economic Vitality Committee has continued to update the available properties list. Main Street Waterbury recently incorporated the Freight Street district into its corridor to align with the City of Waterbury's Central Business District (CBD). Main Street Waterbury has also been running a YouTube series called the Heart of Waterbury. This series interviews and spotlights different downtown businesses in each episode.

The committee has also started back up with its Monthly Main

Street Waterbury Happy Hour, as a way to bring the community and those who work downtown together to support the restaurants and bars that were adversely impacted over the last few years. We invite you to join us every first Thursday of the month at a new location. October's Happy hour will be at the House of Goats, now under new management, located at 23 Scovill St., on October 6 from 5-7p.m.

The City of Waterbury has focused on downtown revitalization and growing the grand list through economic development initiatives and projects. Visitors will be drawn to the downtown by the significant revitalization efforts in the area to date. This past year, East Main Street was repaved with new sidewalks, lights, signals, benches, and rapid flashing beacons. Additionally, the former Prospect Street ramp garage that had been demolished was created into a brand new surface parking lot this past year. Another area the City will be focusing on is Freight Street, which will help position this area for future economic development! Currently, 130 Freight Street is fully demolished and the abutting lot, 000 West Main Street will be demolished in the near future. The City has also purchased 170 Freight Street which will greatly contribute

to the economic development of this district. The other areas the City continues to focus on are repaving the Silas Bronson Library parking lot as well as completing the paving of Grand, South Main and West Main Streets.

Several upcoming initiatives are

planned in the downtown district, and investors are continuing to purchase downtown buildings for mixed use. Over the past year, The City has continued growing in economic health, which emphasizes their AA- bond rating.

We look forward to a healthy vibrant future downtown!



View of the newly renovated East Main Street taken from the roof of the Brown building. Photo Credit: Efrain Torres.

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A New Century Begins



Andrea Nyquist

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

Peggy Terhune

*Communications Manager,
Palace Theater*

2022 has been a year of celebration for the Palace Theater, marking its 100 year anniversary and a welcome return to live entertainment in a post-pandemic world. The year highlighted the history of Palace with events like the screening of documentary film *Mr. Wonderland*, about the life and work of our founder, Sylvester Poli, and *Concert Legends*, an evening of conversation and musical tribute to the legendary bands that played the Palace in the 1970s and 80s. This past year also illustrated the resilience of the Greater Waterbury community as we were reminded of the importance of being together and enjoying shared experiences, attending theater, films, or concerts together.

When Sylvester Poli built the Palace, each detail was significant to him because he wanted to create a place for the people of Waterbury to gather and escape the pressures and difficulties of everyday life. Poli's Palace opened in 1922, offering the best entertainment of the day in an opulent setting. As the years and decades progressed, the Palace continued to present the brightest stars of stage and entertainment.

Now, as a new century begins, we feel the echo of history. The challenges facing our community are very real. However, the Palace Theater has the unique opportunity to reimagine Poli's vision for new

generations of patrons.

The elegant lobbies, crystal chandeliers, and gold detailing still set the stage for guests to enjoy their favorite live shows or host a special event in grand style. It is an atmosphere that provides a welcome break from the stress of work, school, and daily life. This year, the Palace will present fresh productions of award-winning Broadway favorites like *My Fair Lady*, *Cats* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, a return of a fan-favorite, *Chicago*, as well as a brand-new show, *R.E.S.P.E.C.T.* Iconic bands and artists will grace the stage and comedians like Anthony Rodia and Lewis Black will make us laugh. After our successful showing of *The Wizard of Oz* last year, we are continuing our partnership with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra to present another beloved family film, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, with live symphonic accompaniment.

As we enter this new era, the Palace Theater is reaffirming its role as a focal point of cultural activity and educational outreach that enriches the local community and engages a multitude of audiences. The 2ND Act Series challenges our notions of aging, while the "I Wrote That!" Author Series explores storytelling from multiple perspectives. To ensure that future generations have access to the arts, we are proud to partner with Waterbury Public Schools to offer middle and high school students enriched theater arts experiences and interactive career exploration through our after-school programs.

As our 2022-2023 Season opens, we welcome audiences to the next hundred years at Waterbury's Palace Theater!



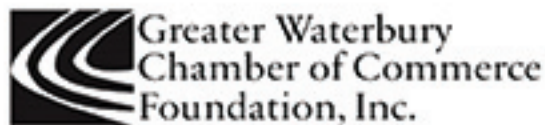
Panoramic view of the Orchestra dome.



Palace Theater Lobby.



Fiddler on the Roof The official North American tour of Fiddler on the Roof, photo by Joan Marcus.



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Main Street Waterbury Hosts Return of Brass City Jazz Fest and Brew & 'Que



David Huck
Main Street Waterbury

After a two year absence due to the COVID pandemic, two of Main Street Waterbury's signature events - the Brass City Brew & 'Que and the Brass City Jazz Fest - returned to the downtown area, welcoming hundreds of attendees.

"These events not only put Waterbury on the map, but they also bring individuals to the downtown area. When they visit, they are supporting local merchants and destinations, providing a boost to the local economy," said Susan Sprano, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Main Street Waterbury. "In turn, the events also help to support the mission of Main Street Waterbury and enables the organization to provide the resources for initiatives like restaurant guides, directories, special events, and more."

The Brass City Jazz Fest, held on August 6 in Library Park, attracted 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.

Other performers included jazz bassist David Dyson and internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Lori Williams who performed with Unit 3 Deep, Willie Bradley, jazz flutist Sherry Winston, saxophonist Doug Jones, and Taylor Sorice. Music kicked off at 2 p.m. and went well into the evening, with Paul Taylor playing the final set until 10 p.m. Waterbury resident, on-air personality, and artist promoter Al "DJ ACT" Taylor helped to organize and produce the event. In between acts, Taylor shared his jazz expertise and provided announcements to the

crowd, who were dispersed on blankets and chairs across Library Park.

"We had a very successful event that featured a large, lively crowd and quality performances by a variety of world-class performers," Taylor said. "It was an incredible day for the City of Waterbury."

In addition to the music, the jazz fest also featured a variety of vendors all along Grand Street, as well as food vendors and drink options, including from Waterbury's The Art of Yum.

The event was presented by ACT Jams Productions, Main Street Waterbury, and the City of Waterbury. The Brass City Jazz Fest got its start in 2018 when Taylor teamed up with recently-retired New Opportunities, Inc.'s President and CEO Dr. James Gatling, a friend and also a jazz aficionado, to bring his vision for more musical activity to Waterbury.

The Brass City Brew & 'Que, one of Connecticut's largest craft beer tasting festivals, was held on Saturday, Sept. 10 on Grand Street along Library Park, drawing many new attendees, including individuals from New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. For this year's event, there were two options for attendees: a VIP admission ticket, which provided access to the festival one hour before for the general public, along with perks like a tasting glass, \$5 food voucher, and a special VIP-only t-shirt. General admission began at 1 p.m.

"Beer lovers were able to enjoy more than 200 different types of brews that were produced locally, as well as internationally, and in other parts of the country. Attendees also had the option to try spiked seltzers, vodka sodas, and even a root beer whiskey—which was a huge hit," said Victor Shah of Wolcott's Mountain Top Liquors, which helped to produce the event with Main Street Waterbury. "Our volunteers and brewers worked hard to



The 2022 Brass City Jazz Fest drew large crowds from across the region to Library Park in downtown Waterbury to hear local and national jazz performers.



Hundreds of attendees from across Connecticut and New England attended the 2022 Brass City Brew & 'Que, which is now in its 16th year. Beer lovers had the opportunity to sample over 200 different types of beer, as well as spiked seltzers, and spirits.



#1 Billboard Charting artist Paul Taylor closed out the 2022 Brass City Jazz Fest with an exciting performance that had attendees on their feet and dancing.

make the return of the Brass City Brew & 'Que a great success. We had great weather, large crowds, music, and many new breweries that joined us this year."

Among the area breweries that were in attendance included Alvarium, Black Hog, Brass Works Brewing, Clocktown Brewing, Connecticut Valley Brewing Company, Counterweight, Two Roads Brewing Co., and Witchdoctor Brewing Company. New to the event this year were Captain Lawrence Brewery from New York, Jack's Abby Craft Lager from Massachusetts, and Stoneface Brewing Co., from New Hampshire. Local distillers Continuum Distilling of Waterbury and Full Moonshine of Canton were also on hand providing samples of their spirits. Attendees had a selection of food to choose from while at the event, including Waterbury's Hindsight BBQ, Texas Roadhouse, and freshly made pretzels. Other vendors included I Want Pig Candy (candied bacon), The Smoke Easy Cigar Parlor, and Sacred Heart University's Brewing Science program.

In addition to the beer sampling, attendees enjoyed music from 90's alternative rock cover band Sex & Candy, as well as the Rob Glassman Band, which performed mostly Grateful Dead covers. The event also featured the Post University Game Zone, where attendees challenged friends and others to a round of cornhole, Jenga, and other fun games.

Grand Street and the area around Library Park was filled with the sweet smells of barbecue, as home-grown backyard barbecue teams competed in an amateur pitmaster contest, serving up barbecue ribs, chicken, and other meats. Team Meat Sweats was crowned Grand Champion—their second time earning that title.

The Premier Sponsor for this year's event was Blasius Cadillac and the Main Stage Sponsor was Chatfield's True Value Hardware. For details on the 2023 Brass City Brew & 'Que, stay tuned to www.brasscitybrewandque.com

Downtown: A Showcase of the Center of the Community



Gloria Cepeda dancing to authentic folklore music from Puerto Rico during Make Music Day.



Marya DiPerna
Chairwoman,
Promotions Committee

As we focus on celebrations and accomplishments, Main Street Waterbury (MSW) has had some great success this year, with more to come in the near future. Early in the year, MSW produced a restaurant guide, that is easily accessible through a QR code and featured downtown restaurants and more using an online flipbook.

We utilized Make Music Day (June 21), an international movement that brings free community-wide musical celebrations to the outdoors, to match musicians of every kind and level to come to the sidewalks of downtown and show off their love of music. The City of Waterbury encourages the community to sign up as a venue or a musical participant through the Make Music Day

website. Grand and Bank Streets were filled with sounds of music ranging from a cellist, a piano truck and an authentic folklore and ancestral group, "Bomba y Plena" with dancers and singers that performed in front of The Black Cat Spiritual Store and Botanica located at 108 Grand St., across from the U.S. Post Office.



Bomba Y Plena musicians and singers with Roberto and Gloria Cepeda during Make Music Day June 21 on Grand Street.

Also in June, MSW showcased many downtown storefronts in a Sidewalk Sale on June 24 including The Black Cat Spiritual Store and Botanica, Mary's Spirit Shop, Grand News Deli, Akan Retail Clothing and Typsy Gypsy, whose hand-made jewelry can be found at The Black Cat Spiritual Store. These merchants displayed their finest as our downtown patrons perused the area. There was also a special guest appearance by the City's Recycling coordinator, CJ May offering education and magical performances.



A stretch of Grand Street during the Sidewalk Sale featuring several merchants.

Jazz Fest made a return appearance on August 6 in Library Park, as did The Brass City Brew and 'Que, now in its 16th year on September 10. Both of these events attract people to Waterbury and into the downtown area, which helps drive repeat visits and economic growth.

Main Street Waterbury plans to bring back Wine on Main in 2023 and showcase seven restaurants and bars in Downtown Waterbury featuring wines from around the world. Participants are ushered by "Flight attendants" with their passengers and "take off" from a designated location and travel to various restaurants aka countries, where they are surrounded by delicious wine and foods provided by some of the top food establishments and bars in downtown Waterbury.

Keep an eye out for the 2nd Annual Holiday Wandering Stroll this December, (date to be announced) where you can enjoy the beautifully decorated downtown windows and some tasty treats and beverages along the way. Stay tuned for more promotional programs.

UConn Waterbury Continues to Grow Community Relationships



Taylor Hunt
Administrative Assistant
to the Director
UConn Waterbury

In 2020, right before the pandemic hit, I made the decision to transfer from UConn's main campus in Storrs, to the UConn Waterbury campus. As a recent graduate from this campus, I can honestly say that transferring to UConn Waterbury was the best decision I could have made for myself. The smaller class sizes allowed me to build relationships with my professors and peers, helping enhance my academic experience. All of my professors cared so deeply about student success and were all willing to do whatever they could to make sure every student had the academic tools needed to succeed. This campus provided me with so many opportunities as a student and a graduate. During my undergrad I was able to gain student employment on campus and work with the Office of Student Services as an orientation leader. This position opened the doors to many other leadership opportunities on campus, as well as being able to form connections with different faculty and staff members. After I graduated this past May, I was given the opportunity to come back to UConn Waterbury full time and work in the Director's office. I am truly grateful for my experience at UConn Waterbury as it has given me the ability to learn so much both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

The UConn Waterbury campus provides students with the best of both worlds while giving them the benefits of a small college feel backed by the resources of a distinguished university. UConn Waterbury has several different programs that allow

students to stay in Waterbury all four years to complete their degree, including business administration, business data analytics, psychological sciences, and more. As of Fall 2020, students can now complete all Allied Health Sciences graduation and major requirements at our campus. The location of the Waterbury campus allows students in this program to gain real world experience through internships and partnerships with the Waterbury healthcare community. The campus has also introduced a new research program within the allied health program to allow undergraduate honors students in this field the ability to conduct thesis research.

As of Fall 2022, UConn Waterbury has partnered with Spirit Cafe, a local Waterbury business, to provide UConn students with food at a reduced price. Spirit Cafe, which is located on Bank Street in Waterbury, now has a second location directly across the street from the main campus building. This location is only accessible for UConn students. It adds a comfortable atmosphere where students can go to eat, study, and socialize.

UConn Waterbury is under new leadership as Dr. Fumiko Hoeft has been named interim campus director. Dr. Hoeft is no stranger to UConn as she is the director of UConn's Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC) and one of the University's top researchers in the field of neuroscience. She understands just how much of an important role UConn Waterbury plays in our community. She believes that the diversity within not only the campus itself but the city as a whole allows for strength and opportunity and builds a strong sense of community. Dr. Hoeft is enthusiastic about the future and furthering community relations between UConn Waterbury and the city.



UConn Waterbury Campus

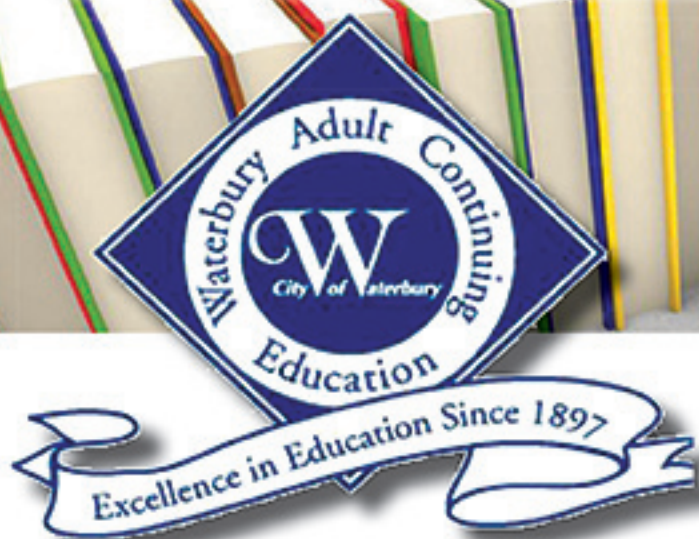


Students in the lab at the UConn Waterbury campus April 19, 2022.



Dr. Fumiko Hoeft speaks at an event to announce her appointment as interim director at the Waterbury campus multi-purpose room on May 19, 2022.

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1



3

4



5

- 1: Honoring our community emergency responders at our annual First Responders Appreciation Day picnic
- 2: Engaging young readers through enrichment programs as participants in Leadership Greater Waterbury
- 3: Colleagues provide Thanksgiving meal baskets to Waterbury families in need
- 4: Tree planting to honor the unwavering dedication and compassion of nurses during Nurses Week
- 5: Introducing Waterbury students to careers in health care through the Summer Shadowing Program



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