

CELEBRATING DOWNTOWN

Vol. 17 - July 2026

Special Section of the
RepublicanAmerican



**MAIN STREET
WATERBURY**

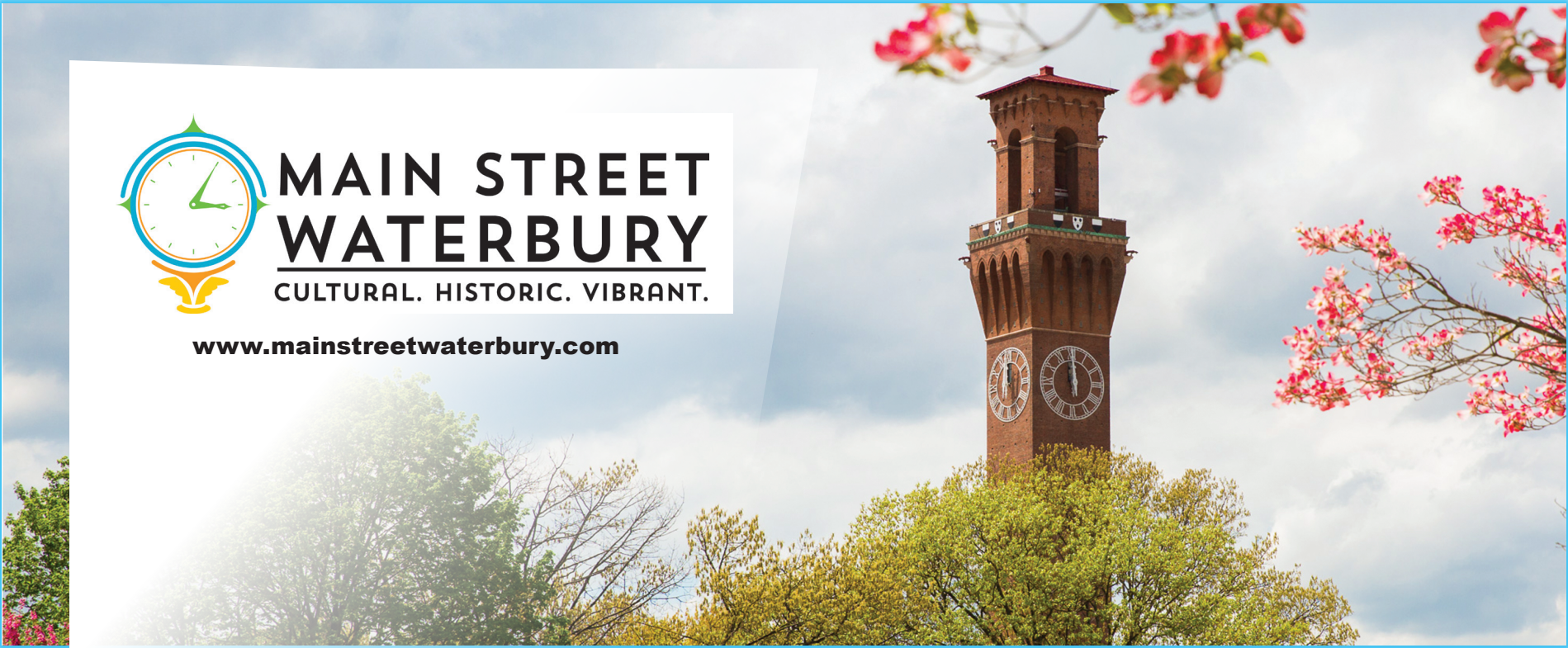
CULTURAL. HISTORIC. VIBRANT.

**Main Street
Waterbury Honors
Community Leaders**

**Connecting Downtown
Through Infrastructure
and Investment**

**The Main Street
Approach in
Downtown Waterbury**

CELEBRATING DOWNTOWN



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

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- B2 A.K.A.N. West Ind. & Am. Variety Store
- B3 Boost Mobile
- B4 Botanica Y Templo Inke-wewe
- B5 Cricket Wireless
- B6 Earthship Studios
- B7 Grand News
- B8 PinkHaus Nail Salon
- B9 I.O.B Blow Dry Bar
- B10 JN Beauty Barber
- B11 La Sabrosa Nails
- B12 Main Street Insurance/ Liberty Tax
- B13 Mar-Vic Cleaners & Tailors
- B14 Master Barber CT
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- B17 Mohican Mini Mart
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- Hair Braiding
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- Telecommunications
- Religious Goods
- Mobile Phones
- Tattoos, Yoga & Wellness
- Convenience Store
- Nail Salon
- Beauty Salon
- Barber Shop
- Nail Salon
- Insurance & Tax Prep.
- Dry Cleaner
- Barber Shop
- Mobile Phones
- Local Printer
- Convenience Store
- Barber Shop
- Beauty Salon
- Electronic Repair Store
- Beauty Salon
- Clothing Store
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- Cultural Gifts Store
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- Bank
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- F2 Brenda's Baby
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- F4 Diorio Restaurant & Bar
- F5 Domenick & Pia
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- F10 Louie's Pizza House
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- F19 The House Of GOATS
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- F21 The Vault
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- Food & Drink
- Restaurant
- Chinese Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Coffee/Breakfast
- Chinese Restaurant
- Food & Drink
- Dominican Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Smoothie Shop
- Bakery
- Diner
- European Restaurant
- Café
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- Coffee/Bagels
- Deli
- Restaurant
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- Food & Drink
- Latin American Restaurant

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

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

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- I1 Brown Building Living
- I2 Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
- I3 Courtyard by Marriott
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- I5 Mattatuck Museum
- I6 Palace Theater
- I7 Post University
- I8 Shakespeare Productions
- I9 Silas Bronson Library
- I10 U.S. Post Office
- I11 UConn Waterbury

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



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Source: TheWaterbury.com

The Palace Theater: An American Stage in the Heart of Downtown Waterbury



**By Peggy Terhune &
Andrea Nyquist**

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, communities are reflecting on the places that define our shared history and cultural identity. In Downtown Waterbury, the Palace Theater stands as an enduring symbol of American artistry, resilience, and community connection.

Since its opening in 1922, the Palace has been a place where people have come together to experience the magic of live performance. Designed in the opulent style of the great American movie palaces, it quickly became a cultural cornerstone for Waterbury and the surrounding area. Despite facing closure in 1987, the theater's remarkable restoration and

reopening in 2004 underscored a deeply American ideal: communities can come together to preserve what matters most and reimagine it for future generations.

The Palace Theater's stage has welcomed some of the most iconic performers in American history, helping to connect Waterbury to the broader story of American entertainment. Legendary crooner Tony Bennett twice graced the stage with his timeless voice, celebrated musical artists B.B. King and Aretha Franklin brought the soul of American music to life, while audiences danced the night away at El Gran Combo and Ivy Queen. Beloved characters like Elmo and Rudolph have delighted younger audiences, reminding us that the Palace is a place for all generations. These performers, spanning genres and eras, reflect the rich diversity of the American experience, each contributing to a national cultural tapestry that

continues to evolve.

Today, the Palace remains a vibrant hub in Downtown Waterbury, offering a dynamic lineup of programming that blends Broadway excellence, live music, comedy, and family entertainment. Upcoming events in the theater's current season highlight this variety, including touring Broadway productions that bring world-class storytelling to local audiences, concerts featuring nationally recognized artists, and family-friendly shows that create lasting memories for younger theatergoers. Seasonal highlights and special community events continue to draw audiences from across the region, reinforcing the Palace's role as both an economic and cultural engine for downtown.

Yet what truly sets the Palace apart is its role as a gathering place. In an era where meaningful connection can sometimes feel fleeting, the theater provides



a shared experience, one where strangers sit side by side, united by the power of performance. Whether it's a student attending their first show, a family making a night of it, or longtime patrons returning to a beloved seat, the Palace embodies the inclusive spirit at the heart of the American story. As Waterbury celebrates its downtown and the nation prepares to celebrate 250 years, the Palace Theater offers a powerful reminder that our history

is not only preserved in archives but lived in spaces where stories unfold night after night. Its legacy is one of reinvention, creativity, and community pride.

With its rich past and vibrant future, the Palace Theater continues to shine as one of Waterbury's greatest treasures. It is more than a building. It is a stage where America's cultural story plays on, bringing people together and inspiring generations, one performance at a time.

Celebrating 20 Years of Beer Fest



By Dan Pesce
Director
Main Street Waterbury

In 2006, the Brass City Brew Fest began with a simple question: Could Waterbury host a beer fest downtown?

Twenty years later, the answer is clear. On September 12, 2026, Main Street Waterbury will celebrate the 20th Annual Brass City Brew Fest, a signature event that has welcomed thousands of attendees to Downtown Waterbury and become a favorite on the city's annual calendar.

From the beginning, the event came together through the right mix of location, planning, and community support. Library Park provided the perfect setting, while the dedicated Brew Crew volunteers brought the coordination, energy, and commitment needed to make the event work year after year.

Designed as a craft beverage tasting event, the Brew Fest gives attendees the opportunity to sample a wide variety of beers, ciders, seltzers, and other beverages from participating breweries and vendors. The event highlights the creativity and variety of the craft beverage industry while

giving attendees a fun and social way to discover new favorites.

Local food vendors serve crowd favorites, live music fills Library Park, and attendees enjoy the social atmosphere and activities that have helped make the Brew Fest a true downtown experience.

On event day, crowds move through downtown before and after the festival, often continuing the celebration at nearby restaurants, bars, and businesses.

For Main Street Waterbury, the Brass City Brew Fest is also an important fundraiser. Proceeds support the organization's work to promote and strengthen Downtown Waterbury through events, beautification efforts, business support, partnerships, and initiatives that help create a cleaner, safer, more welcoming, and economically vibrant downtown.

What started as a simple "Can we?" has grown into an "I'll be there" event for many Waterbury residents and visitors. Twenty years later, the Brass City Brew Fest continues to bring people together in the heart of downtown, celebrating local flavor, community pride, and the continued momentum of Downtown Waterbury.

To purchase tickets, visit www.brasscitybrewfest.com.



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On behalf of Main Street Waterbury, we are proud to present this new issue of Celebrating Downtown.

Now in our 22nd consecutive year as an accredited Main Street America program, Main Street Waterbury remains dedicated to keeping Downtown Waterbury clean, safe, friendly, and vibrant. This milestone reflects the hard work, talent, and generosity of our volunteers, donors, partners, and stakeholders who share our mission of building a vibrant, welcoming downtown for everyone.

Over the years, our volunteers have contributed tens of thousands of hours in support of Downtown Waterbury's continued revitalization. Through design, promotion, organization, and economic vitality, their commitment has helped strengthen our historic commercial district and move our downtown forward.

Over the past year, signature events such as the Brass City Brew Fest and Brass City Jazz Fest have brought thousands of visitors downtown, supporting local hotels, restaurants and shops.

At the same time, downtown is experiencing meaningful progress on multiple fronts. Infrastructure upgrades — from roads and sidewalks to lighting and landscaping — are improving safety, accessibility, and the overall downtown experience. New private development is also bringing fresh investment, energy, and opportunity to our central business district.

Together, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to making Downtown Waterbury a more attractive, dynamic, and sustainable place for residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.

We hope this guide updates you on the many initiatives taking place downtown and inspires you to join us in advancing our mission for a stronger, more vibrant Downtown Waterbury.

Dan Pesce

Heather Price



A Message from the Chief of Police



Fernando Spagnolo

Chief of Police

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

The Waterbury Police Department continues to stand on its promise and commitment to *protect with vigilance and serve with impartiality, fostering strong community partnerships through professional law enforcement and proactive crime prevention.* We continue to strive toward strong relationships and trust with each other to make our city safer and foster an environment of acceptance. In doing so, we have continued to strengthen and cement our partnerships with local organizations who assist us in our daily outreach with the community as a whole.

Although we have seen a steady volume in our calls for service, we make every effort to give timely attention to all the citizens of Waterbury that we serve and meet their needs, to assist in any way we can. Our quality-of-life issues within the city continue to be something we monitor and address, bearing in mind that we want Waterbury to be a great place to live, work and worship.

The officers in the department continue to improve upon themselves with training and interaction with our residents to continue the familiarity of community service policing that is so important for us as a department.

With consistent and constant support from our Mayor, Paul Pernerewski and his entire staff,

along with our Human Resources Department, we are proud to increase our numbers presently to 306 sworn personnel, which includes lateral transfers from other departments. While we are experiencing some minor loss of officers due to service retirements, we will do all that we can to keep our staffing levels adequate and to provide our residents with the services and assistance they have come to deserve and respect.

The Waterbury Police Department is always striving to help those in our community and surrounding towns in combatting crime and gun violence. With that in mind, we are presently working with the Boston Consulting Group & Dalio Education, who is in the early stages of providing a Gun Violence Problem Analysis which we will use to help support the Waterbury community's violence intervention efforts. We have included all community organizations and actors who help contribute to prevention efforts in our city. The Waterbury Police Department has always tried to take a proactive approach to concerns that deeply affect our communities.

Our Police Activity League continues to be an important part of the Waterbury community, leading the way by providing youth mentoring, partnering officers, firemen and community leaders with at-risk youth, proactively reducing the harm and risk of children having negative outside influences.

As I continue into my 34th year in law enforcement and my eighth year as Chief of the Waterbury Police Department, my approach remains on leading the department through the principles of community-oriented policing and taking a strong stance on violent crime. We are always in search of feedback and solicit suggestions to better serve our rich and diverse city. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve the city and its residents.

Downtown Waterbury Update from City Hall



Joseph McGrath
Director of Economic Development
City of Waterbury

Under the leadership of Mayor Paul Pernerewski and the City's Office of Economic Development, we continue to focus on and act to transform our downtown. If you drive or walk through our downtown, you will encounter ongoing construction to improve our streets, sidewalks, under-

ground infrastructure, and new lighting and crosswalks, ensuring upgrades and long-term sustainability.

Encouraging private developers to continue converting unused office space into market-rate apartments remains a top priority of this administration. One hundred and fifty new apartments in our Central Business District have been completed and are fully occupied. Progress continues with apartment conversions underway on South Main Street, North Main Street, Bank Street, Scoville Street, and Cole Street.

In an effort to ensure our elderly population continues to have long-term, affordable housing options in Downtown Waterbury, we are pleased to announce that Related Companies has purchased both Josephine Towers and Plaza on The Green, apartment buildings totaling 282 apartments. These buildings, constructed

over 45 years ago, will undergo significant improvements to their structures and systems over the next few years, with minimal disruption to current residents.

I am pleased to announce that the city recently joined the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority as a member to help establish a development district within a half-mile of the train station, which encompasses our Central Business District. The purpose is to encourage residential housing through the development and redevelopment of property while stimulating the economy within the transit-oriented development district. We pledge to work with current and new property owners and developers, along with the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority, to deliver vibrant, multidimensional growth to our city successfully.

Celebrating Seven Years of Jazz in 2026!

FREE CONCERT

Saturday, August 1
4 - 10 PM

LIBRARY PARK

Grand Street, Waterbury

Hosted by Al Taylor, ACT Jams Productions

#1 Billboard Artists



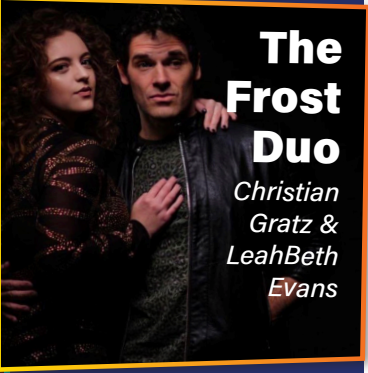
Lemek and
Quintin Gerard



Ellis
Hamilton



Lao Tizer Band
Featuring
Elliot Yamin
from American Idol



The
Frost
Duo
Christian
Gratz &
LeahBeth
Evans

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Lambda Rho Chapter
Patrick Ridenhour & Family

Celebrating Downtown: Art, Culture, and Community at the Mattatuck Museum

This summer, the Mattatuck Museum is bringing art, history, and creativity to downtown Waterbury with an exciting lineup of exhibitions, events, and programs that invite residents and visitors alike to connect through culture and community. Located on the Green in the heart of the city's historic and architectural district, the Museum serves as a cultural anchor where discovery, inspiration, and connection come together.

As Waterbury continues to invest in its downtown revitalization, the Mattatuck Museum remains at the center of the city's cultural life, drawing thousands of visitors each year while creating opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the arts. Whether you're planning a family outing, meeting friends for lunch, exploring local history, or attending a special event, a visit to the Museum offers a unique way to experience the vibrancy of downtown.

This season's exhibitions provide something for every interest. Visitors can explore *Psychedelic Splendor: The Concert Art of AJ Masthay & Helen Kennedy*, a colorful and immersive exhibition featuring contemporary concert posters and artwork inspired by the music community. Sports fans can enjoy *Ted Williams: The Splendid Splinter* in Waterbury, which examines the legendary baseball player's connection to the Brass City. History enthusiasts can discover *Theodate Pope's Highfield: A History*, highlighting one of Connecticut's pioneering female architects and preservationists. The Museum also presents *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe ¡Taino Vive!*, a Smithsonian

traveling exhibition exploring the enduring legacy and living culture of the Taino people throughout the Caribbean.

Beyond the galleries, the Museum offers an active calendar of programs designed to bring people together. Family art workshops, tai chi, history lectures, gallery talks, community celebrations, and hands-on activities ensure there is always something new to experience. Summer camp programs provide creative opportunities for children, while adult learners can participate in educational programs that explore art, history, and culture from multiple perspectives.

A highlight of the season is the Museum's Summer Spectacular Family Fun Day on July 11 from 1–5 p.m. This free celebration marks the opening of three major exhibitions: *Psychedelic Splendor: The Concert Art of AJ Masthay & Helen Kennedy*, *Theodate Pope's Highfield: A History*, and *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe ¡Taino Vive!*. The festivities begin with opening remarks and an exhibition blessing ceremony performed by the Higuayagua Tribe, supported by the City of Waterbury Arts and Tourism Commission. Families can enjoy a museum-wide scavenger hunt, hands-on art activities, create their own backstage passes, and participate in a workshop presented by the Afro Caribbean Cultural Center. The event reflects the Museum's ongoing commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for families to learn, create, and celebrate together.

The Museum's location makes it an ideal destination for a day downtown. Visitors can

easily combine their Museum experience with dining at local restaurants, shopping at nearby businesses, or exploring landmarks such as Library Park, the Waterbury Green, and the city's impressive collection of historic architecture. Convenient access to public transportation also makes the Museum an accessible destination for regional visitors.

One of the Mattatuck Museum's defining strengths is its commitment to accessibility and community engagement. Through initiatives such as Access for All, partnerships with local organizations, and free or low-cost programming opportunities, the Museum works to ensure that art and history remain accessible to everyone. These efforts help create a welcoming environment where visitors from all backgrounds can learn, connect, and feel represented.

As downtown Waterbury continues to evolve, the Mattatuck Museum remains a place where people can gather, celebrate, and explore. Whether you're a longtime resident or discovering downtown for the first time, the Museum offers experiences that inspire curiosity, spark conversation, and strengthen connections.

This summer, make time to celebrate all that downtown Waterbury has to offer. Visit the Mattatuck Museum and discover the exhibitions, programs, and experiences that make it one of Connecticut's most vibrant cultural destinations.

Free parking is available behind the Museum and in nearby public lots. For more information about exhibitions, programs, and events, visit mattmuseum.org.

Connecting Downtown Through Infrastructure and Investment



Zachary Keith
Waterbury Development Corporation

Downtown Waterbury continues to see visible progress as major infrastructure and streetscape projects move forward across the Central Business District. Over the past year, the City of Waterbury completed streetscape improvements on Bank Street, from the Green to the I-84 and Route 8 access ramps, and began similar work on South Main Street, from Scovill Street to the Green. Later this summer, improvements are expected to begin on North Main Street, from Exchange Place to the north side of the Green. These projects build on the design features already introduced on East Main Street and are helping to make downtown more attractive, accessible, and welcoming for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. The City has also upgraded downtown traffic signals to improve circulation and traffic flow.

Additional work is also underway on West Main Street, from the Green to Riverside Street. The Waterbury Development Corporation, working with SLR, has completed design work for utility replacements along this corridor. That work will take place ahead of the City's RAISE project, which will extend streetscape improvements further into the downtown area. As part of this effort, the City was awarded \$4 million in CIF Round 6 funding to support the utility project.

The CT DOT has also begun renovating and converting the former baggage room at the Waterbury train station into a modern waiting room, along with work on a new platform. These improvements build on previous investments in Freight Street, Jackson Street, and Meadow Street. WDC, on behalf of the City, is also managing remediation work at 130 Freight Street, 170 Freight Street, and 000 West Main Street. Together with the City's membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority, these investments will help support the future redevelopment of properties within a half-mile of the train station.

Taken together, these capital improvement projects are part of a coordinated effort to strengthen Waterbury's Central Business District and build on completed work throughout downtown. Through continued public and private investment, Downtown Waterbury is positioned to welcome new businesses, attract new residents, and bring renewed energy to the downtown we all care about.





By Christine Schilke

Senior Director of

Communications & Marketing

Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC) has entered a new phase of reflection and refinement after three years of rapid expansion that included the creation of our transformative data-driven Main Street Management Assessment tool, multiple new local and regional programs, nearly two dozen new member communities, an increase in expert-led events, and additional new staff. Our deep work with our 125 member communities, municipal governments, and regional organizations gives us a front row seat to what's working in Connecticut's downtowns, what communities need most, and how CMSC can continue evolving to meet those needs. From our statewide vantage point, one truth has come into sharp focus: the presence of dedicated people and organizations to manage a downtown isn't just helpful, it is essential.

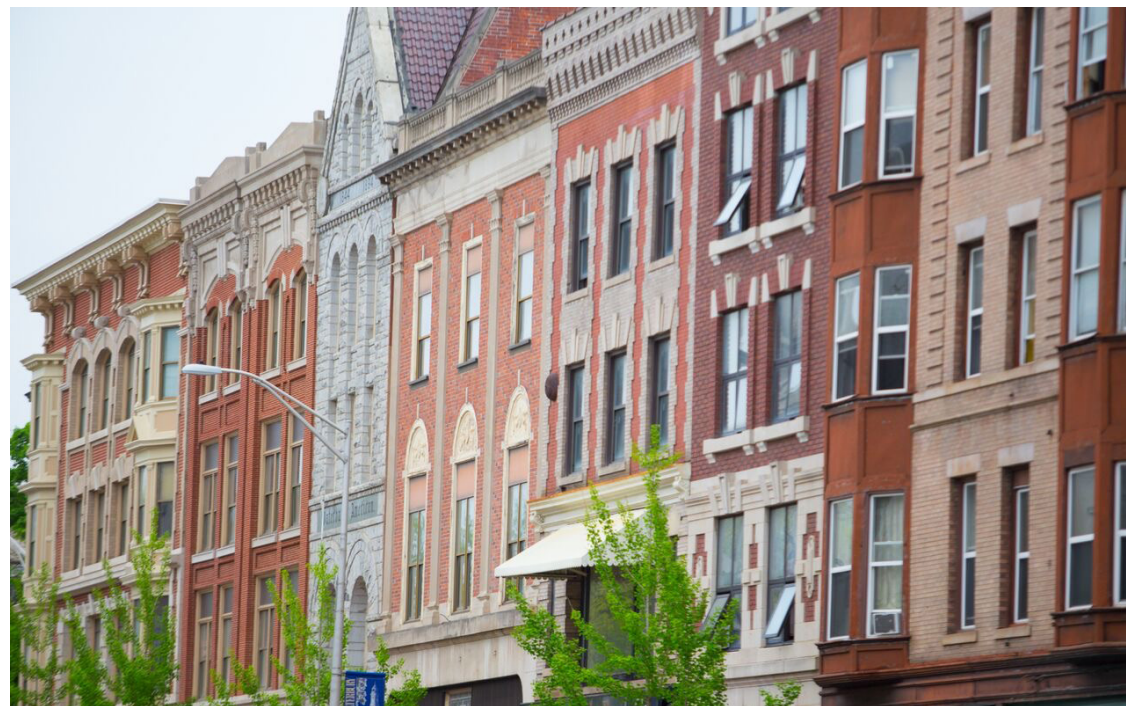
A well run Main Street program is NOT a luxury; it is the structural framework that allows a downtown to flourish and evolve. Managed downtowns are the connective tissue that link the backbone of public investment and private development with a thriving community.

Without this intentional stewardship, even the most promising infrastructure improvements or new developments struggle to reach their full potential.

Main Street Waterbury (MSW) is a wonderful example of the vital role main street programs serve. Now celebrating over two decades as a nationally accredited Main Street program – one of only three in Connecticut – MSW demonstrates the depth of impact that a high performing downtown management organization can have. Their accreditation reflects not only their professionalism, but also the breadth of support they provide to downtown Waterbury. City leaders, state partners like Senator Joan Hartley, and local stakeholders recognize MSW as an essential force in the district's ongoing transformation, now under the steady hand of Executive Director, Dan Pesce.

Their recent Community Partnership Awards ceremony underscored the strong relationships and shared commitment that fuel their work.

While the City of Waterbury continues to invest in major infrastructure upgrades, such as the streetscape improvements on Bank Street, East Main Street, and South Main Street (the latter currently underway), and new housing and development projects across downtown, it is MSW that ensures these investments translate into a cohesive, welcoming, and



Contributed Photo

vibrant place. They are the ones making sure sidewalks are clean and attractively lined with new banners, public art is thoughtfully placed, signage is clear and inviting, and the business mix reflects both community needs and economic opportunity. They help entrepreneurs navigate permitting and access funding, support property owners in improving their storefronts, and create opportunities for residents and visitors to connect through events like their popular Downtown Happy Hours.

These efforts create the conditions that attract investment, grow foot traffic, and strengthen community pride. Banners on light poles reinforce downtown iden-

tity; façade programs help businesses put their best face forward. Consistent communication with building owners and merchants builds trust and momentum. This is the everyday work of main street management—and it is indispensable.

As a CMSC member, MSW also benefits from tools and support that help them operate at the highest level. Our annual Main Street Management Assessment provides a year over year snapshot of their progress, allowing them to track improvements and plan for strategic, incremental success. Our customized recommendations, best practices resources (such as our new tactical handbook, Stronger

Streetscapes: A Blueprint for Façade Planning that Works), and technical assistance help them implement initiatives with confidence. And our statewide network ensures they remain connected to peers, partners, events, and ideas that strengthen their work.

CMSC and MSW share a long history of collaboration and mutual respect. We are continually inspired by the dedication, professionalism, and deep love for downtown Waterbury of their staff, volunteers, and Board members. The growth and success of MSW reflects the power of strong relationships, strategic planning, and careful curation – the very elements that allow downtowns to thrive.

Main Street Waterbury Honors Community Leaders at 2026 Partnership Awards



By David Huck
Main Street Waterbury
Communications Director

Main Street Waterbury hosted its 2026 Community Partnership Awards and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, celebrating local leaders whose service, advocacy, and commitment continue to strengthen downtown Waterbury. Held at the Palace Theater, the evening brought together community members, partners, dignitaries, past honorees, sponsors, and friends of Main Street Waterbury to recognize three individuals whose work reflects the organization's mission of partnership, revitalization, and civic engagement.

The 2026 Community Partnership Award was presented to State Senator Joan Hartley, whose distinguished career in public service has had a lasting impact on Waterbury and the surrounding region. The award was presented by Dr. Fumiko Hoelt, Campus Dean and Chief Administrative Officer of UConn Waterbury and recipient of the 2025 Community Partnership Award.

Throughout her career, Senator Hartley has helped advance initiatives that directly support downtown Waterbury and the region. She co-authored

Connecticut's early school readiness legislation, which became a national model, and championed expanded four-year degree programs at the UConn Waterbury campus. She also helped establish UConn Waterbury as an Allied Health Center of Excellence, strengthening educational opportunity and workforce development in the heart of downtown.

In accepting the award, Hartley reflected on the role Main Street Waterbury has played in shaping the momentum now visible across downtown. She called the organization the "heartbeat" of Waterbury and said meaningful change often begins with the small, consistent improvements that help people see and feel progress.

"Every day that big change starts small," Hartley said, pointing to the banners, planters, streetscapes, and programming that help bring energy into the city center. "You bring this community together, you build the traction and the connection of bringing us together, and making people feel welcome here."

Hartley also acknowledged the scale of public and private investment now underway across the city, noting that Waterbury is under construction in nearly every direction. While she said the disruption is real, she emphasized that

the work is part of a larger and carefully planned effort to invest in the city's future.

"It is coming together," Hartley said. "It makes such a difference. And so it's streetscapes, it's the combination of working with the city and the state, of leveraging our money and our resources, and doing it wisely."

Main Street Waterbury also presented its 2026 Advocate of the Year Award to Lindsey Rosa, Development Coordinator at the Palace Theater and Secretary of the Main Street Waterbury Board of Directors. The award was presented by Marya DiPerna of Post University, the 2023 Volunteer of the Year recipient.

Through her service on the Main Street Waterbury Board of Directors, Rosa has been a strong voice for downtown revitalization efforts, consistently championing the positive impact of Main Street Waterbury's mission and helping carry that message into the broader community. She is also one of the original founders of the B4 Project, a public art initiative created through the Leadership Greater Waterbury program in 2025. The project highlights local artists by transforming electrical boxes into murals that celebrate Waterbury's culture and history.



Contributed Photo

Through her work at the Palace Theater and her volunteer leadership with Main Street Waterbury, Rosa continues to build connections that help the downtown community thrive.

The 2026 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Alexandra "Ali" DeGirolamo, Mayoral Aide to Mayor Paul K. Pernerewski, Jr. DeGirolamo was honored for her selfless commitment to giving back to the community and for her support of Main Street Waterbury's events and programs.

DeGirolamo's service includes involvement with organizations such as UNICO, Young Professionals of Waterbury Region, the Exchange Club of Waterbury, Holy Land USA, the Business Women's Forum, UConn Career Readiness, and many others. From organizing food, hygiene, and professional clothing drives to supporting mentorship programs, community art initiatives, and charitable causes, her volunteer efforts reflect compassion, leadership, and a genuine spirit of service.

Main Street Waterbury has seen that dedication firsthand through her support of the Brass City Jazz Fest and Brew Fest, where she has assisted with planning and day-of logistics to help ensure those signature downtown events run smoothly. She was recognized for stepping forward whenever help is needed and for making a positive impact throughout the Waterbury community.

The evening also included the presentation of the Stephen R. Sasala II Community Partnership Scholarship, which was awarded to Danny Prodani, a senior at Holy Cross High School. Prodani will attend the University of Connecticut in the fall.

The program opened with remarks from Heather Price, Chairwoman of the Main Street Waterbury Board of Directors, who welcomed guests and recognized dignitaries, community leaders, and past award recipients in attendance. Mayor Paul Pernerewski, Jr. also offered welcoming remarks.

