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The Hartford News

Nov. 25 – Dec. 3, 2025

FREE

# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS!



*Winterfest skating in Bushnell Park returns Friday, November 27 (see page 5).*

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# Governor Lamont And Mrs. Lamont Invite Public to Tour The Governor's Residence For The Annual Holiday Open House

***2025 Open House Will Be Held Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5***



Governor Ned Lamont and First Lady Annie Lamont are inviting Connecticut residents to attend the 36th annual Holiday Open House at the Governor's Residence, which will be decorated for the season and open to the public for tours.

The open house will be held on Friday, December 4, 2026, and Saturday, December 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. The Residence is located at 990 Prospect Avenue in Hartford. There is no admittance fee and tickets are not needed. The Governor's Residence is ADA accessible. Santa Claus will be on-site throughout the event greeting visitors as they arrive.

Because there is limited parking on-site, free shuttle bus service will be provided thanks to the generosity of the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Each day, Guests can park their vehicles at Tangiers Market, located at 550 Farmington Avenue in Hartford, and the shuttle bus will operate on a continuous loop to and from the Governor's Residence every 15 to 20 minutes. The first bus begins at 10:00 a.m. and the last bus will depart the Governor's Residence at 1:30 p.m.

"Annie and I love having the opportunity to continue this Connecticut tradition and celebrate the festivities by showcasing our own seasonal Christmas trimmings, as well as those that were so generously donated by Connecticut growers and small businesses," Governor Lamont said. "We invite everyone to join in the spirit and celebrate the season."

## Decorations donated by generous Connecticut businesses and organizations

In addition to the Lamont family's personal decorations, all the Christmas trees, wreaths, seasonal greenery, ornaments, dining room sets, and artwork on display at the Governor's Residence have been generously donated at no cost to the state. This year, those donations come from:

- Jones Family Farm in Shelton (Christmas trees)
- Wesleyan Potters in Middletown (Entrance Christmas tree)
- Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation and Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association (plants, wreaths, roping)
- Kathryn Hunt Studio in West Hartford (Dining room decorations)
- Front Door Designs in Winsted (Library mantle and sunroom décor)
- Futures School of West Hartford (Handmade ornaments created by students and staff on Christmas tree in sunroom)
- The Weekend Home in Avon (Living room décor)
- Garden Club of Hartford (Flowers)
- The West Hartford Garden Club (Flowers)
- New Britain Museum of American Art (Artwork)
- Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Artwork)




## Annual Governor's Residence Conservancy ornament available

During the open house, the annual Governor's Residence Conservancy ornament will be available for purchase. The ornament is a tradition for the Governor's Residence that features a well-known Connecticut landmark each year.

The 2026 ornament features an image of Jacobson Barn, the historic 19th-century barn located on the northern edge of the University of Connecticut campus on Horsebarn Hill Road in Storrs. The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

This year's ornaments are available for $30, and a limited number of previous years' ornaments will be available for $15. Proceeds benefit the Governor's Residence Conservancy, a nonprofit organization responsible for the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the Governor's Residence and its grounds.

## Live music will be performed by local musicians

Throughout the open house, local musicians will provide live entertainment. The performance schedule is as follows:

### Friday, December 4

- 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: Renaissance, a choral group from Renbrook School in West Hartford
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: CREC High School String Ensemble from the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Hall High Choraliers of Hall High School in West Hartford

### Saturday, December 5

- 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: Northwest Catholic Choir of Northwest High School in West Hartford
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Cantabile Flute Choir, an ensemble of flutists based in Bristol
- 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Marcel n' The Metropolitans, a jazz trio consisting of Jeremy Osterling on saxophone, Matt Bellevue on guitar, and Keith Burns on upright
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Plainville Wind Ensemble

## Donations to benefit local causes encouraged

While there is no admittance fee, guests are encouraged to bring donations to the open house that will benefit several causes.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation and Connecticut State Police will be accepting donations of new and unwrapped toys to benefit Toys for Tots. A CTfastrak bus will be parked outside of the Governor's Residence both days of the open house, which will be used to collect toys.

Additionally, monetary donations will be accepted to benefit the Governor M. Jodi Rell Operation E.L.F., an annual fundraising campaign of the Connecticut National Guard that supports military families who are enduring the hardship of separation due to deployment, including those whose loved ones are deployed, preparing for deployment, or recently returned from deployment. The goal of the campaign is to lessen the financial stress these military families can face resulting from their loved one's call to active duty.

Suggested donations for Operation E.L.F. include:

- Financial contributions through checks that can be made payable to the Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc. (in the memo field, please write "Operation E.L.F.")
- Gift cards for local grocery stores, department/home goods stores, pharmacies, gas stations, etc.
- Contribution of services such as fuel oil, snow removal, and home maintenance services.

# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

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2026 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve**
Thursday, December 24
**4pm · Midnight**
3:15pm prelude 11:15pm prelude

**Christmas Day**
Friday, December 25
**8:30am · 11am**

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# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

# WINTERFEST SKATING RINK OPENS NOVEMBER 27

***Greater Hartford's Most Popular Holiday Tradition Returns with Free Skating, Skate Rentals, Skating Lessons and More in Bushnell Park!***





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

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

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

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

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

## Free Skating Lessons

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

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

## Santa's Workshop

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

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

## Giant Games

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

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

## Ebony Horsewomen Christmas Village

**Saturday, December 12, 11 am 4 pm**

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

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

*Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra (above) created Winterfest in 2010. The rink has been open for the holiday season every since, with the exception of 2020 due to the COVID epidemic. Each year, the iQuilt Partnership, which manages the ice rink, has had to raise funds from businesses, organizations and individuals to keep it open for another season. However, on Tuesday, November 24, State officials announceda proposed $3 million grant to make the rink a permanent feature in Bushnell Park, the oldest municipally funded public park in the nation. In addition to skating, the park is decorated for the holidays during Winterfest, and its grand Christmas Tree with the State Capitol in the background is one of the city's most spectacular sights during the holiday season.. (Hartford News photos)*



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# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

## AT THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM

# Festival of Trees & Traditions December 3 - 13

Celebrate the season and support The Wadsworth during this favorite holiday fundraiser at the Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Hartford.

Each year, community members, artists, and volunteers from local organizations donate trees and holiday décor, turning the galleries into a festive winter wonderland. Profits from the sale of donated holiday items help fund the museum's special exhibitions and educational programs. Bring home the holiday cheer or donate your purchase to a local charity.

The Festival of Trees & Traditions is organized by the Friends of the Wadsworth.

### Days & Hours

- December 3–13, 2026
- Wednesday-Friday 11 am–5 pm | Saturday & Sunday 10 am–5 pm
- Thursday, December 10 — open late until 7 pm

*Note a $5 fundraising surcharge will be applied to all admissions during the Festival.*

### Admission

Members: $5; Hartford Residents: $5; Adults: $29; Seniors: $25; Students: $20; Youth (age 13-17): $20; Children (age 12 & under): $5

***Please note:*** *These prices reflect a $5 fundraising surcharge that is added to all museum admissions during Festival of Trees & Traditions.*

Groups of 10 or more will receive a discount by reservation only. To schedule a group visit, call (860) 838-4046 or email tours@thewadsworth.org.

### Programs and Entertainment

*All free with admission unless otherwise noted.*

**Festival of Trees & Traditions Preview Party:** Wednesday, December 2, 6-8 pm, Tickets $45; $35 members. Registration required. Be among the first to explore this year's festive displays, with seasonal treats, entertainment, and a visit from Santa.

**Kwanzaa Display** (Ongoing) The Amistad Center's annual Kwanzaa installation honors the holiday's seven principles (Nguzo Saba) as visitors of all ages are invited to explore the history and contemporary significance of Kwanzaa while participating in activities that celebrate community, creativity, culture, and collective responsibility throughout the holiday season.

**Cantabile Flute Choir:** Thursday, December 3, 1-1:45pm .

**Westminster School Chamber Choir,** Thursday, December 3, 3:30-4:15pm.

**Mr. & Mrs. Claus,** Friday, December 4 | 11 am-4 pm.

**AARP Day at The Wadsworth,** Friday, December 4 | Noon-4 pm | 2 complimentary tickets per AARP member. Registration required through AARP's website. Limited availability.

**Hartford Youth Chorus.** Saturday, December 5 | 11:45 am -12:30 pm.

**The Troubadours,** Saturday, December 5 | 1-1:45pm.

**Cantabile Flute Choir:** Saturday, December 5, 2:15-3:00 pm.

**West Hartford Women's Chorale,** Saturday, December 5, 2:15-3:00 pm.

**The Glastonbury Ukulele Band,** | Saturday, December 5, 3:30-4:15pm.

**Yule Film Festival,** Saturday, December 5 | 4 pm, $10 online; $15 at the door; $10 FOTT Ticket holders. Registration encouraged.

**Creative Dance Center,** Sunday, December 6, 10:30-11:15 am.



**Southeastern CT Community Orchestra Woodwind Quintet,** Sunday, December 6, 1-1:45 pm.

**Elizabeth Lyra Ross,** Sunday, December 6, 2:15-3:00 pm.

**Capitol Trombone Choir,** Sunday, December 6, 3:30-4:15pm |

**Festival of Lights,** Monday, December 7, 4:30-6 pm | Free, registration encouraged.

**Bacon Academy Carolers.** Thursday, December 10, 11:45 am - 12:30 pm.

**Manchester High School Chamber Orchestra,** Thursday, December 10, 3:30-4:15 pm. |

**Ballet Hartford,** Thursday, December 10, 4:45-5:15 pm.

**Cubs Learning Hub,** Thursday, December 10, 6:00-6:45 pm.

**Mr. & Mrs. Claus,** Friday, December 11, 11 am-4 pm.

**Choralaires,** Friday, December 11 | 1:00-1:45 pm .

**Julie McKenna and Group,** Friday, December 11 | 3:30-4:15 pm.

**Second Saturdays for Families: Winter Wonderland,** Saturday, December 12, Activities 10 am-2 pm. Free admission all day. Registration encouraged.

**A Charlie Brown Christmas Quartet**, Sunday, December 13 | 10:30-11:15 am.

**Hartford Children Flute Ensemble,** Sunday, December 13, 11:45 am-12:30 pm |

**SRL Irish Dance Academy,** Sunday, December 13, 1-1:45 pm..

**The Sweetest Key,** Sunday, December 13, 2:15-3:00 pm |

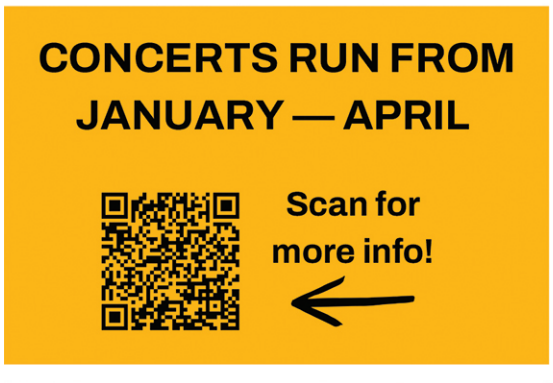
**Granby Memorial High School Chamber Singers,** Sunday, December 13, 3:30-4:15pm.

**Wethersfield High School**















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# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

## Boar's Head Festival Returns

### *Hartford's Live Holiday Spectacular to be Performed at Asylum Hill Congregational Church January 9 & 10*

For 60 years, the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival at Asylum Hill Congregational Church (AHCC), 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, has been Hartford's premier holiday event. The show brings together over 100 costumed performers, a full choir, a brass ensemble, bagpipes, and AHCC's magnificent 4,000-pipe organ to retell the Christmas and Epiphany story.

From herald trumpeters and acrobats to live sheep, goats, and camels, this timeless event fills the sanctuary with joy, light, and peace.

### Dates and Times:

- Saturday, January 9, 3 pm
- Saturday, January 9, 6:30 pm
- Sunday, January 10, 1:30 & 5 pm

All tickets are reserved and must be purchased in advance. Children under 5 years old will not be admitted.

To purchase tickets, please go to: https://ahcc.regfox.com/boars-heal-yule-log-festival

Join us for the most spectacular event of the holiday season!

### The Show

As you might expect, months of planning are required to present the Festival. In the heat of the summer, the work on costumes begins. During the final weeks of December the choir rehearses and sets are built. On opening night and throughout the weekend, the Parish House is ablaze with lights and activity. In the kitchen, a dedicated crew arranges thousands of homemade cookies and tea sandwiches, and mixes 150 gallons of delicious punch. Upstairs, makeup crews perform their art, and all around is hustle and anticipation, as cast managers watch the clock to ensure everyone gets lined up for the procession.

The sanctuary is decorated as if for a great banquet.

Upon entering, attendees are greeted by a brass ensemble, a mime, a juggler, a magician, stilt walkers, a puppeteer, a plague doctor, and jesters. These recall the Christmas entertainment provided by the Lord Mayor of London, where these festivities originated in the late 15th century and continue to this day. The Festival begins as bagpipers catch our attention and we watch a traditional highland dance. A narrator provides background for the lighting of the Yule Log, which gives way to a grand procession of lords and ladies who await the arrival of the High King and Queen of the Realm, who enter with great fanfare, and are accompanied by a student on horseback, who killed an attacking wild boar. In our festivities today, to celebrate and honor the student, they are invested as a knight into the Most Noble Order of the Asylum. A fanfare and singing herald announce the arrival of the boar's head, symbolic of Christ's triumph over evil, accompanied by the royal hunter and his attendants, full of pride. A great procession of cooks and staff follows, bringing forth a great feast. Then follow King Wenceslas and his page reminding us to help those in need, as they help welcome a peasant into the royal hall.

The festival builds in intensity to a rousing rendition of Deck the Hall. The entrance of dancers, accompanied by a grand Gloria, signals a spiritual change as the manor hall becomes a great cathedral for the worship of the newborn King. We prepare ourselves for Epiphany as a small child brings a lighted candle into the darkened church, symbolizing the coming of the light of Christ. We witness the arrival of Mary, Joseph, and a donkey, as we listen to the ageless melodies of O Little Town of Bethlehem and Once in Royal David's City. In praise of the newborn Christ child, we hear Gaudete, and see a lively, Medieval dance. The shepherds, instructed by the angel, take their sheep and find the Holy Family, as the three

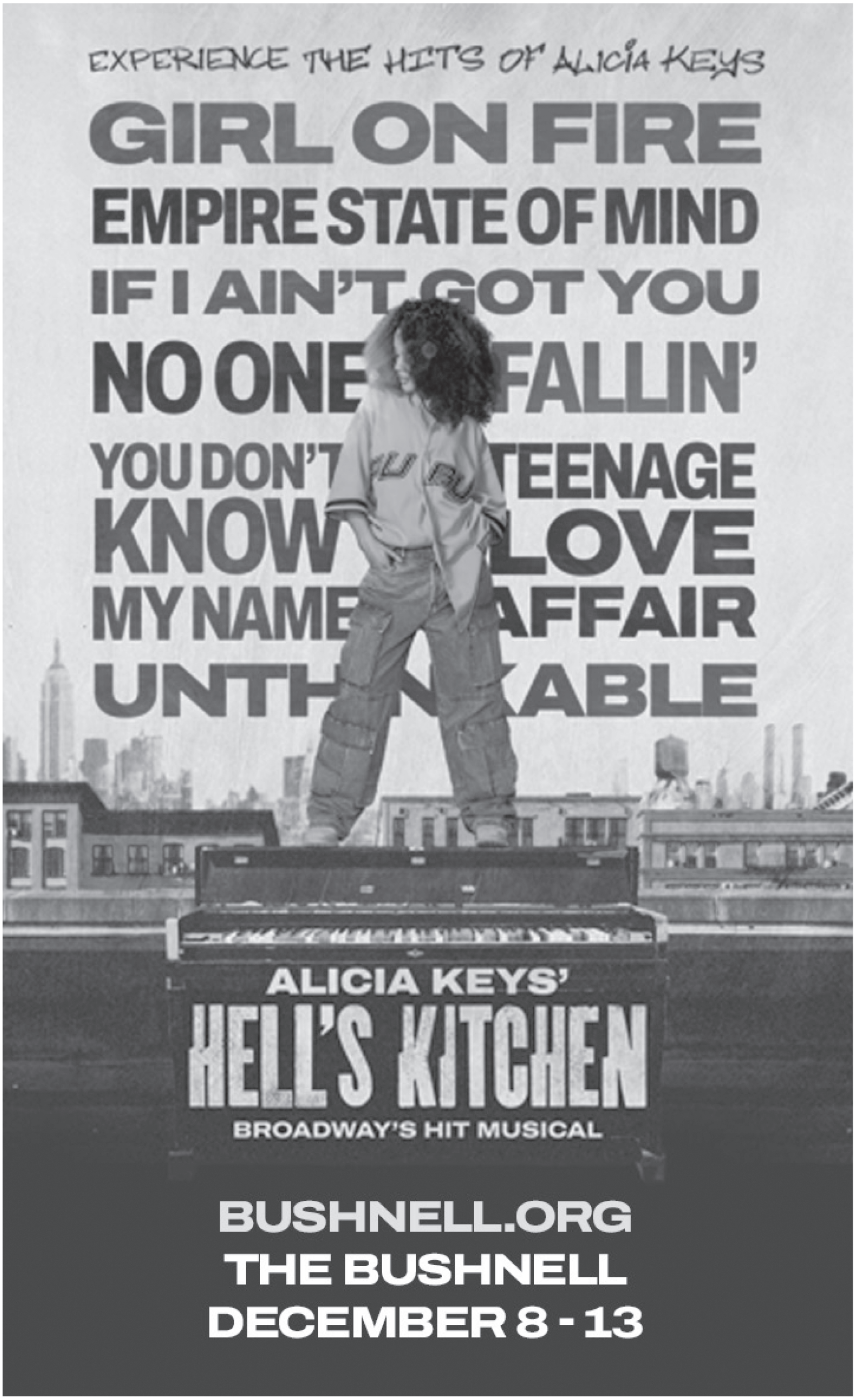


kings and a full-size camel arrive in majesty and splendor, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

When "all mortal flesh" have assembled, they kneel in adoration – lords and servants, shepherds and kings – before the Lord of lords! As the church is darkened and the Epiphany star shines brightly, the Yule sprite returns, and together the child and a simple monk of the church carry forth Christ's light to all people.



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# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS





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**Dec. 3** **Soldiers' Songs**
Songs from the homefront from the Revolutionary War up to Vietnam.

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

**Dead Language Beer Project**
**1429 Park Street (rear), Hartford**

Seating: First Come, First Served. FREE! Good-will offerings accepted!

Sponsored by the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation.

## Analeh Toy Drive Dec. 5

The 16th annual Analeh Toy Drive will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 1 - 5 pm at Hartford Hospital's ERC Center, 560 Hudson Street, Hartford.

There will be holiday music, live dance performances, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus.

Suggested donation is an unwrapped toy for a child ages birth -12 or a gift card to purchase one.

Toys will be distributed to local community organizations, including Mercy Housing in Hartford; the West Haven Early Childhood Program and the Care Center of Holyoke, MA.

For more information, call 860-881-6088 or email analehTVshow@gmail.com. Analeh, a Spanish language television program hosted by Ana Alfaro promotiong health and wellness in the Hartford Community.
















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## OBITUARY

# Dr. David Jerome McKenna





Dr. David Jerome McKenna, 97, of Vero Beach, Florida, formerly of West Hartford, Connecticut, and Stratton Mountain, Vermont, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2026, with his devoted family by his side.

Born on October 3, 1929, in Springfield, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Dr. Paul and Catherine (McCormick) McKenna. David was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather whose greatest joy and proudest achievement was his family. He lived a life centered on faith, service, and the people he loved. His keen sense of humor and warm presence put those around him at ease.

He graduated from Wilbraham Academy and Georgetown University before earning his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed specialty training in orthodontics at Columbia University. David served in the United States Army, attaining the rank of Captain. From 1956 to 1960, he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Field Hospital in Munich, Germany, where he served as an orthodontist and dentist in the Medical Corps, caring for military personnel and their families. From 1956 to 1957, he also shared his skills and compassion by providing medical services for refugees fleeing the Hungarian Revolution.

Following his military service, he established McKenna Orthodontics in West Hartford, Connecticut, treating patients throughout Hartford County. He practiced alongside his brother John and later his nephew Paul, continuing a multi-generational family tradition in orthodontics. He also served as president of the Connecticut Dental Association and was active in numerous professional and civic organizations. Through his gentle care and professional skill, he touched the lives of countless patients and families.

David was a man of strong faith and a dedicated parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Longmeadow, St. Peter Claver in West Hartford, the Chapel of the Snows in Stratton Mountain, and Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach. He also enjoyed skiing, golf, and cheering for his beloved Boston sports teams. Above all, he cherished time with his family—whether gathered around the table, on the slopes, on the golf course, or simply sharing quiet moments. Faith and family were always the true center of his life, and he lived with gratitude, warmth, and unwavering devotion to those he loved.

He was predeceased by his cherished first wife, Janet (Finnan) McKenna, with whom he shared a full life raising their five children. He was also predeceased by his brothers Paul McKenna and wife Nancy, George McKenna and wife Rita, his sister Catherine and Dukes Wooters and her first husband Robert Langdon, and Nancy Jo McKenna. He is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara (Holmen) McKenna of Vero Beach, Florida; his five loving children, David McKenna Jr. and his wife Jody of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Kathleen McKenna Fisher and her husband Mark of North Easton, Massachusetts; Mark McKenna and his wife Wendi of Stratton Mountain, Vermont; Daniel McKenna and his wife Maura of South Londonderry, Vermont; and Janet McKenna Schwalm and her husband Peter of Northborough, Massachusetts; and his brother John McKenna of Palm City, Florida.

He is also survived by 16 loving grandchildren: David McKenna (Candace), Kailey McKenna Stone (Peter), Tara Fisher Oh (John), Tug Fisher (Caroline), Caroline Fisher, Mallory Fisher, Mark McKenna Jr. (Zoe), Christopher McKenna, Maggie McKenna, Jack McKenna, Matthew McKenna, Matt McKenna, Chris McKenna, P.J. Schwalm (Nicole), Kevin Schwalm (Lauren), and Brian Schwalm, and by nine beloved great-grandchildren, who brought him immense pride and joy.

David will be remembered for his dedication to his patients and profession, his honorable military service, his lifelong faith, and, most of all, the deep and abiding love he gave his family. He lived a life of service, commitment, and steadfast devotion, and his memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of David McKenna to support The Molly McKenna Magic Wand Fund: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284, or via danafarber.jimmyfund.org/goto/MollyMcKennaMagicWandFund

Family and friends are attended a Liturgy of Christian Burial, meeting directly at St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, on Monday, November 23, 2026 at 10:00 am. Burial followed at St. Jerome Cemetery in Holyoke. Arrangements are with the Byron Keenan Funeral Home & Cremation Tribute Center, 1858 Allen Street, Springfield, MA 01118.

# HARTFORD HOLIDAYS



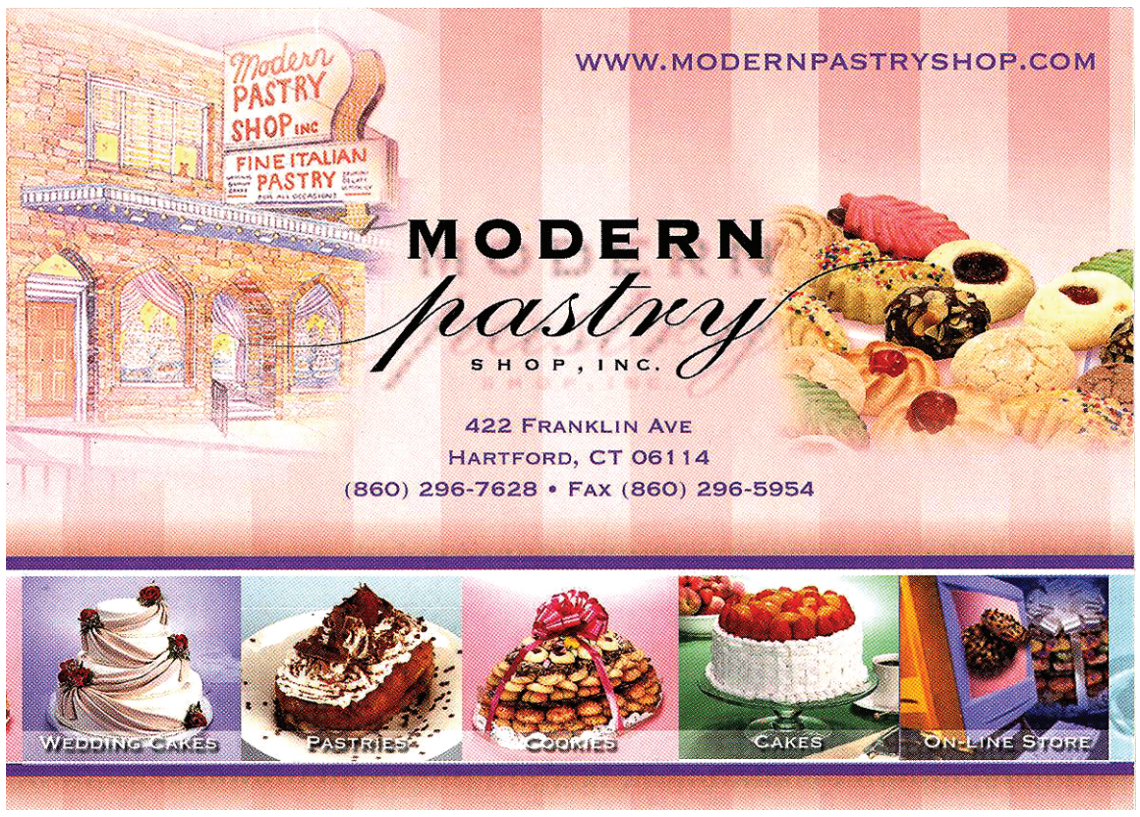
## Back to the Times Carol Sing Dec. 7

*One of Hartford's most wonderful holiday traditions is back for another year. Join UConn and University of Hartford for carol singing on the steps of the old Hartford Times building, aka UConn Hartford. Gather at 5 pm; caroling begins at 5:30. People of all faiths are welcome. (Hartford News photo from last year's event)*

## MARG Holiday Meet & Greet December 10

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will host its annual Holiday Meet & Greet on Thursday, December 11, in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford, starting at 6 pm. All are welcome.

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Saint Augustine Food Pantry and school supplies for Hartford students. You are also asked to bring a dish for the pot-luck supper. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-883-0383.




# Westland and Garden Street Area Sewer Separation Project

MDC

## Overview

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

## Key Facts

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

## Work Completed

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



Garden Street



Westland Street, Garden Street and Love Lane Intersection



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

HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

# Real Art Ways Holiday Parranda December 5

***Event to be held at Litebox Studios,1029 Park Street, Hartford***

Real Art Ways will present trombonist, composer, and arranger Papo Vázquez and his New York City ensemble, the Mighty Pirates Troubadours, for its annual concert and holiday parranda on Saturday, December 5, at Litebox Studios, 1429 Park Street in Hartford. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and music begins at 7:00 pm.

The event is usually held at Real Art Ways itself at 56 Arbor Street, but the building is currently in the midst of an extensive renovation and espansion project, so it has been moved around the corner to Litebox.

Litebox Studios will offer a full bar onsite, with light bites and beverages available for purchase separately. Table seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis; advance ticket purchases are highly encouraged. Go to RealArtWays.org.

Parranda de aguinaldo (Christmas folk music) is an Afro-Indigenous musical form played during the holidays in Caribbean and Latin American countries including Puerto Rico, Cuba, Trinidad, and coastal areas of Venezuela. Real Art Ways' Parranda is a participatory event: general admission is $10, and patrons who bring an instrument and play along will receive free admission.

While Real Art Ways undergoes major construction for its $24 million expansion project, the organization continues to present special live events and film screenings at partner venues throughout the Hartford region.

### About the artists:

With a career spanning more than four decades in jazz, Latin, and Afro-Caribbean music, Papo Vázquez is a National Endowment for the Arts Master Artist and a Grammy nominee for his work with the Mighty Pirates Troubadours. Blending multi-faceted compositions and a signature trombone style with Afro-Caribbean rhythms, Vázquez has performed alongside legends including The Fania All-Stars, Ray Barretto, Willie Colón, Eddie Palmieri, Larry Harlow, Héctor Lavoe, Tito Puente, Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra, Chico O'Farrill, Ray Charles, Slide Hampton's World of Trombones, and Jerry González's Fort Apache Band.



The lineup of performers on December 5:

- **Papo Vázquez : Trombone, Leader**
- **Quique Gonzalez – Vocals**
- **Ivan Renta: Tenor Saxophone**
- **Rick Germanson: Piano**
- **Carlos Mena: Bass**
- **Alvester Garnett: Drums**
- **Carlos Maldonado: Percussions**
- **Cristian Rivera:** Percussions

*Admission: $10 General Admission | Free for patrons who bring an instrument to play along*

*For more information and to purchase advance tickets, visit www.realartways.org/event/2026-holiday-parranda/*

Real Art Ways 2026 Parranda is supported by Ascend Bank. Original artwork was created by artist Andres Chapparo.

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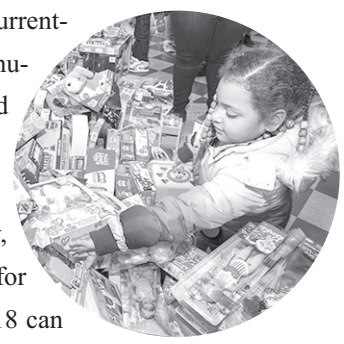
## Donate Now to the City of Hartford Toy Drive



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

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

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



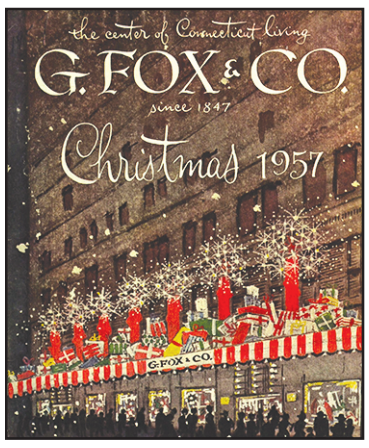

**Friday, November 27**

## Parkville Market's RnB Under the Stars

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

**Saturday & Snday, November 28 & 29**

## Remembering G. Fox & Co. at CT Museun




The Connecticut Museum of Culture and History (CMCH), 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford will host its highly popular "Remembering G. Fox & Co." tours on Saturday from 11 am - 12 noon and on Sunday from 1 - 2 pm. Go behind the scenes and discover the museum's collection of memorabilia from Hartford's most iconic department store. The archives contain hundreds of goods sold over the years at G. Fox & Co., ranging from wedding gowns to toilet paper! You'll also learn about Beatrice Fox Auerbach, the pioneering businesswoman who led G. Fox & Co. through its golden age. Tickets are $15, $10 for CT Museum members. To purchase, go to: https://bit.ly/4fgAh2J/. Order now, these tours sell out every year!

**December 1-4**

## Dead Language, Live Music

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 1**

**Irish Session:** Traditional Irish music by some of the finest players in the region.

**Wednesday, Dec. 2**

**Folk Music:** Favorites from the coasts of New England to the Appalachian Mountains.

**Thursday, Dec. 3**

**Soldiers' Songs:** Songs from the homefront from the Revolutionary War up to Vietnam.

**Friday, Dec. 4**

**Great American Songbook:** Classics from Billie, Ella, Duke and more!

**Friday, December 4**

## Other People's Poems

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

**Saturday, December 5**

## Holiday Craft Fair & Fundraiser

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

**Saturday, December 5**

## Analeh Toy Drive

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

**Saturday, December 5**

## Bushnell Park Tree Lighting

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

**Monday, December 7**

## Back to The Times Carol Sing

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

**Saturday, December 12**

## Jazz Society Holiday Concert

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

**Saturday, December 19**

## Cornhusk Doll Workshop at Stowe Center

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



# Hartford Holiday Memories: ParandaTime!

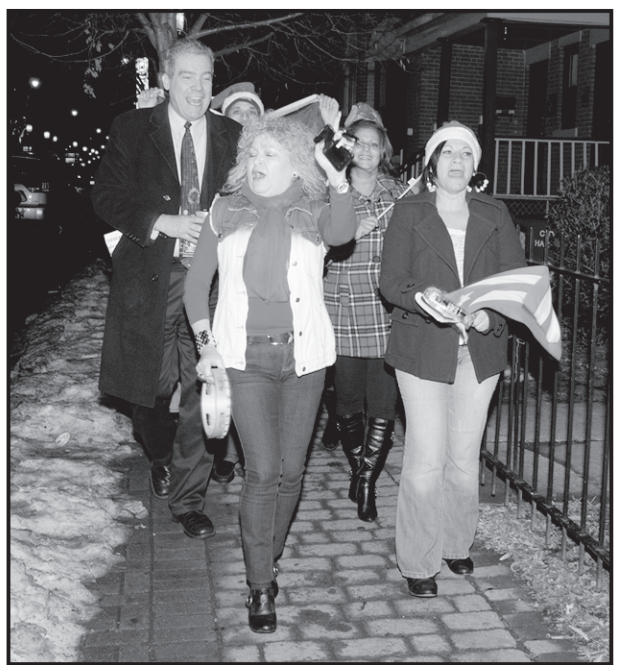
***Hartford's Puerto Rican community has added a lot to the city's culture, and the Parranda is one of the best. A Parranda is basically the same as Christmas Caroling, although businesses are visited as well as homes. It really brings a ray of sunshine into the dark and cold New England winter!***













# Maria Sanchez Banquet December 5

***Annual Event Honors "Godmother of Hartford's Puerto Rican Community"***



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

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

Seven honorees will be recognized in the following categories:

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

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

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

## Auto Auction

The following vehicle(s) will be auctioned off at Flanders Brake and Alignment 511 Franklin Ave, Hartford CT 06114 on Thursday December 3, 2026 @ 10:00 am.

- VIN # 5NPE24AF5FH044193 (2880)
- VIN # KM8K5CA52KU310079 (2787)
- VIN # 5NPEB4AC4DH615143 (2650)
- VIN # 5FNYF6H85GB048717 (2382)
- VIN # KMHCT5AE1GU244122 (2791)
- VIN # 1HGCR6F36EA008954 (2762)

The seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The vehicle(s) are sold as is with no guarantees.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**ESTATE OF**
**Leslie Ann Fonseca**
**(26-01179)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 23, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Melissa Fonseca, Lori Dullary,
c/o Patrick Edward Scully,
Scully Nicksa, & Reeve LLP,
79 Main Street,
Unionville, CT 06085

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**ESTATE OF**
**Rona Slappy,**
**AKA Rona M Slappy**
**(26-00920)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 19, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Violet Smith,
84 Thomaston Street,
Hartford, CT 06112

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**ESTATE OF**
**Tiffany Nicole Reiff,**
**AKA Tiffany N Reiff**
**(26-00985)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Michael P. Livieratos,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lisa Ronzello
c/o Paul J Small,
GLG Law,
60 Church Street, 4FG,
Wallingford, CT 06492

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## REAL ESTATE

### Apartments for Rent

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

### For Rent: New Haven

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

### For Rent: New Haven

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

### Apartments for Rent

Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms avaialable. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Studios $900-$1000; 1Bedroom- $1100-$1200; 2Bedroom-$1300-$1400; 3Bedroom-$1500-$1700; 4 Bedroom-$1800-$2000. Call 860-549-3000.

### Apartamentos Para Alquiler:

Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios desponibles. Estacionamiento didponible. ** Aceptamos Section 8**. Rates Starting at: Studio- $615; 1BR-$700; 2BR- $800; 3BR- $900; 4BR-$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.

### West Hartford

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

### Room for Rent

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

### For Rent:295 Garden Street, Hartford

Third Floor - Apartment for Rent. Large well maintained 3-bedroom apt on 3rd floor in quiet building. Cold flat. 295 Garden Street, Hartford - $1,250 per month. Tenant pays electric and gas. One and half month's security required. Section 8 tenants welcome. Call (860) 882-3650, leave message.

### West End

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

### Room for Rent

Hartford area. Reasonable rates. Call 860 966-4473.

### Apartments for Rent, Hartford

4-bedrooms, furnished. No washer/dryer hook-ups. refrigerator included. ALSO: 3 bedroom apartment. No washer/dryer hook-ups. Refigerator and stove included. For more information, call 860966-4473 or 860-558- 3916.

### Apartments for Rent, Hartford

2-bedroom in Hartford's South End. Fridge & stove included. Cold Flat. One parking space. Call 860-818-5590.

### Apartment for Rent, Hartford

3=bedroom apartment in Hartford's South End. Call 860-839-9801.

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# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## OPEN HOUSE AND WORKSHOP

**State Project No. 63-744**
**River Gateway Study**

**Hartford Public Library – Main Branch**
**Travelers Center for Arts & Culture Room**
**500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103**

**Monday December 7, 2026, 3:00–7:00 p.m.**

**Attend & Learn More: portal.ct.gov/RiverGateway**

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) invites community members and stakeholders to an open house and workshop for the River Gateway Study.

River Gateway is a core component of the Greater Hartford Mobility Program (GHMP). The goal of this study is to improve Hartford's connections to the Connecticut River and East Hartford, reconnect downtown to surrounding neighborhoods, and address traffic operational deficiencies on I-91 and the Whitehead Highway. The study will evaluate potential improvements to connections across I-91, the Whitehead Highway, local and regional transportation networks, and a potential new local bridge across the Connecticut River.

The project team will introduce the study, share information on existing conditions, and gather input on transportation needs, constraints, opportunities, and desired connections within the study area. Participants will be able to review materials, ask questions, and provide comments in an interactive, station-based format. This is a drop-in style, in-person workshop, and will not have a virtual component.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions following the meeting. Please submit comments and questions to **DOTProject63-744@ct.gov** or 860-594-2020. Please reference Project No. 0063-0744 in the email or voicemail.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

The meeting location is ADA accessible.

Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Kevin Burnham at **kevin.burnham@ct.gov** or 860-594-3485.

Individuals with hearing/speech disabilities can dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

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