



Spring Issue

In this Issue:

- Jobs Grant Program
- Extend Revaluation Appeal
- Tax Preparation Services
- Input on Police Chief Search
- State of the City Address

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Mayor Segarra joined Congressman John Larson in March to support legislation that would provide funding for transportation improvements and create much-needed jobs in the region. Congressman Larson, shown speaking, and the Mayor were joined by several members of the building trades.

Mayor Segarra Announces Plan to Extend Revaluation Appeal Process

This year's tax legislation, while a relief to commercial taxpayers, has made the revaluation process very complex. To alleviate some of the confusion and to assist all property owners, Mayor Segarra asked the Assessor to ensure the validity of revaluation and property values and extend the deadline to file revaluation appeals. The property tax legislation, passed in 2011 by the Connecticut General Assembly, continues the practice of assessing residential property at a lower percentage of value than commercial property. Without the law, residential

Mayor Segarra, First Lady Cathy Malloy Acknowledge Jobs Grant Program

In February, Mayor Segarra and Greater Hartford Arts Council Chief Executive Officer Cathy Malloy joined workers at the Isham-Terry House to acknowledge the job creation efforts of the 2012 GHAC Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant. The Isham-Terry House an Italianate villa purchased by Dr. Oliver Isham in 1896, was occupied by Isham's sisters Julia and Charlotte until the 1970s. Despite the changing times, the sisters made very few changes in the house, thereby preserving its historic character. The revitalization was funded in part through an award to Connecticut Landmarks, one of 16 recipients of the Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant. In addition to restoring one of Hartford's historical treasures, the Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant will provide job opportunities for local small businesses and residents. Last year, the grant program resulted in the retention of three jobs, the expansion of 12 jobs and the creation of 109 new jobs, including 26 youth employment positions. Additionally, grantees purchased more than \$149,000 worth of materials and services from Hartford businesses. Established by the City of Hartford and administered by the Arts Council, the Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant Program provides funds to arts and culture programs and projects. As a result, these entities employ local residents, create business opportunities and promote economic development across sectors. The Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant will fund a total of \$370,138 for these efforts through the Greater Hartford Arts Council, a national leader in connecting the public to arts and entertainment.

Mayor Delivers State of the City Address

In March, Mayor Segarra delivered his State of the City address, focusing on the City's truths, its achievements and its challenges ahead. Specifically, the Mayor spoke about the newly appointed Hartford Board of Education members, the success of the iQuilt Presents Winterfest, and the affirmation of the City's bond ratings, which predict a stable outlook for Connecticut's Capital City. He also discussed the difficult fiscal situation facing the City in the next fiscal year, created in part by changes to the City's tax structure and a significant decline in property values. City administrators and the Mayor will be exploring a host of options to close the budget gap and will communicate those changes to the public in the most transparent way possible. "We must all commit to working in the best interest of our citizens to curtail spending while ensuring the provision of basic services and preserving quality of life," Mayor Segarra said.

Tax Preparation Services for Working Families

Tax filing day is April 15th, and for many families free help is available. There are



In February, mayor Segarra

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taxes would have risen dramatically. The legislation also altered the City's tax structure and caused uncertainty among property tax owners. To ensure that the community fully understands the changes and potential impacts, Tax Assessor John Phillip and Tax Collector Marc Nelson will conduct community outreach, providing printed materials in public libraries, City departments that are frequented by the public and various businesses. In addition, two community presentations will be held in early March. For more information on the revaluation and appeals processes, interested parties can contact the Tax Assessor's Office at 860-757-9630.



Hartford was designated a HeartSafe community for its commitment to training City staff and residents in CPR and provided life-saving equipment in locations throughout the City. Celebrating the designation are from left to right: Acting Health and Human Services Director Raul Pino; Mayor Segara; and CT DPH Commissioner Dr. Jewel Mullen..

several Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in the City, which can provide free tax preparation services, including electronic filing and direct deposit. The sites are staffed with IRS trained and certified volunteers who can assist families with preparing and submitting their federal and state returns, and determine their eligibility for tax credits and refunds, including the new state Earned Income Tax Credit. VITA sites are operated by the Hartford Asset Building Collaborative under the management of Co-opportunity Filers who visit these sites can also obtain information on asset-building and assistance in completing the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). To locate a tax site or schedule an appointment, tax filers can call 2-1-1, the United Way's free information and referral hotline.

In February, Mayor Segara hosted a Black History Month reception for all currently elected Black elected officials in Hartford. Among the attendees were State NAACP President Scot X. Esdaille (left) and Michael Bivins, formerly of New Edition and Bell Biv DeVoe.

Search Firm Seeks Community Input on Selection of Police Chief

As the City continues searches for a new Police Chief, the firm selected to conduct the search is looking for your input. Strategic Policy Partnership is seeking feedback from residents on the qualities and characteristics the new Police Chief, and what issues the incoming Chief should focus on. Residents can submit their comments by emailing hartford@policy-partners.com, or through the City's website at www.hartford.gov. All information will go directly to the search firm and will not be viewed by City employees.

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