

HARTFORD HAPPENINGS

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Supporting Our Seniors 1

Pics and Pieces 2-3

Honoring Keith Carr 4

Raising the Roof 4

Save the Dates!

- The Planning and Economic Development Committee meetings are regularly scheduled for 6:00 p.m. the first Tuesdays of the month in Council Chambers.
- The Legislative Affairs Committee's meeting are regularly scheduled for 6:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesdays of every month.

Dates are subject to change.



Northend Senior Center Director **Karen Bailey-Addison** (right) and NESC Advisory Committee Chairwoman **Roberta Jones** (left), were instrumental in developing a fiscally prudent budget that kept needed services in place.

Seniors at the North End Senior Center have long been advocates not only for their own needs, but also for the best interests of the City as a whole. In recognition of the budget crisis facing the City, the Northend Senior Center Advisory Committee worked to propose a budget that would allow them to maintain the services with which they had become accustomed, while also reducing city funding.

“This really was about us wanting to be proactive partners with city officials in determining what’s best for the senior center members,” said advisory committee chairwoman **Roberta Jones**. “Some of our seniors have significant needs, and we wanted to make sure those needs continued to be met.”

When Matt began receiving calls from senior center members voicing their concerns about possible changes, he worked closely with the advisory committee and his Council colleagues to develop a resolution that would incorporate the committee’s recommendations while keeping costs level. The resolution, which passed in September, kept the Center’s committed staff in place, and maintained social work and therapeutic services.

“We all know these are very tough times for the city, and I am extremely grateful to the Northend Senior Center Advisory Committee, SAND, and the staff of the Center and the Department of Health and Human Services for working together to resolve this situation in the best interests of our senior residents,” Matt said.

PICS AND PIECES



On August 26, Matt spoke at a rally to protest cuts to several state funded mental health and addiction services, including at Blue Hills Substance Abuse Services, where the rally was held. "It's in difficult economic times that we need these services the most," Matt said.



In September, Matt recognized Hartford resident **David Greer**, Strategic Planning/M&A Manager at United Technologies-Pratt & Whitney. Greer was selected by the Hartford Business Journal as one of its 40 Under 40.



In September, Matt talked with members of Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE) about downtown Hartford issues. HYPE seeks to help young professionals become better engaged in community life and become ambassadors for the area.



In September, Matt joined his family and friends for the Ritter Family Fund annual golf outing. The event raises funds each year for the Noah Webster Microsociety Magnet School in Hartford. Pictured from left are: John **McClutchy**; **Lori Samele-Bates**, State Rep. and Minority Leader **Larry Cafero**; **Tom Ritter**, Matt; DSS Commissioner **Michael Starkowski**; former UConn Men's Basketball Coach **Dee Rowe**; and **David Greenberg**. Matt, his father, and his sister **Jessica**, all graduated from the school.

Changes in the Clerk's Office

In September, we lost our good friend **Daniel M. Carey** (below), who had served as Hartford's Town and City Clerk for 15 years. Danny was always ready with a smile and eager to help anyone who came to the office, whether it was for a title search or to get information on the rules for running for office. Danny's passing left a huge void, one that will never be filled. However, in October, we welcomed **John Bazzano** (below left), Danny's close friend and former Chief of Staff to **Mayor Mike Peters**. We also said goodbye to **Julie Serrano** and **Lydia Cora**, but we congratulated **Kelly Bilodeau** (below right) on her well-deserved promotion to Assistant Town Clerk. Congrats John and Kelly!



In October, Matt invited a group of fifth-grade students from Kingswood-Oxford School to visit City Hall as part of the school's community service program. Students also heard from new Town and City Clerk **John Bazzano**, below.



Councilman Matthew D. Ritter
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 757-9565

Let us know what you think!
comea001@hartford.gov

Did You Know?

Maria Sanchez, considered by many to be the godmother of the Puerto Rican community, was the first Puerto Rican elected to public office in the City of Hartford? She was elected to the Hartford Board of Education in 1973.

HONORING KEITH CARR

Longtime community leader **Keith Carr**, who died in January 2008, was known for many things. His advocacy on behalf of the West Indian community is legendary. His commitment to educating the Greater Hartford community about West Indian culture resulted in the expansion of the West Indian Social Club and the subsequent formation of the West Indian Foundation, where he served as executive director for five years. He also worked tirelessly to develop cricket and arts programs for area youth.

Given his long list of achievements, it was only fitting that those who come after him should know the impact he made. In September, Matt and his colleagues recognized Carr's imprint on the city by naming the corner of Albany Avenue and Main Street *Keith L. Carr Corner*. The street-naming was celebrated with an unveiling in early November.

The Keith Carr Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at the West Indian Foundation. Donations can be made in care of the Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 32094, Hartford, CT 06132.

RAISING THE ROOF



The Laird family, from left to right: Donna Yvette Jackman, Mattie Laird's daughter; great-grandson Chevaughn Robinson; Laird; great-grandson Michael Robinson; and grandson Clayton Jackman, a student at the CT Culinary Institute.

Photo courtesy of The Hartford Courant

When Mattie Laird and her family were featured in **Helen Ubinas'** weeklong profile of Garden Street, she didn't expect to receive a letter from a Councilman. But she said she never dreamed she would receive the blessing that came after that letter. "His letter said if I needed anything to call his office.

So I did," said Laird, who has lived on Garden Street for more than 40 years. What Laird needed was a roof. Enter Matt, who with his aide Andrea, reached out to the City's Housing Division. **Brian Mathews**, who manages the City's Housing Preservation Loan Program, worked with Andrea and Laird to obtain a loan for the homeowner to

repair her roof. In October, Laird learned that her loan was approved, and the work should be completed in time for the holidays. For more information on the Housing Preservation Loan Program, call 757-9031.