

HARTFORD HAPPENINGS

A MESSAGE FROM MATT

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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.



It has been a great experience working as your Councilman. I believe very strongly in being accountable to the community, and I want to be sure you are aware of some of the issues I have worked on since I was elected to the City Council:

- I successfully pushed to increase hours at all library branches in the City.
- As Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee, I have hosted ongoing conversations between City and State officials. State support is key to getting the funding Hartford needs.
- As Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, I brought City and non-city officials together, which helped keep the Big East Women's Basketball tournament in Hartford. As a result, the tournament will be here through at least 2011, bringing thousands of visitors and millions of dollars to the City each year!
- Along with my Council colleagues, I have supported Police Chief Daryl K. Roberts' efforts to reduce crime by increasing the number of police officers and supporting new quality of life initiatives.
- I advocated for and was successful in establishing a Freedom of Information Advisory Commission, because openness and transparency are imperative to good government.

I want to make sure that I am addressing the issues that matter to you. If you would like information on these or other issues, or if there is an issue I can assist you with, please don't hesitate to call my City Hall office at 757-9565 or email me at mattritter@hartford.gov.

PICS AND PIECES

Congratulations to the 2009 Fox Scholars!

Martine Aurelien, Classical Magnet
Mubic Becirovic, Sport and Medical Sciences
Alexander Daniels, University HS of Science & Engineering.
Emanuel Dillon, Weaver High School
Angela Dunnham, Weaver High School
Linnea Ionno, HPHS Engineering & Green Technology
Jennifer Kelley, Bulkeley High School
Ersa Llakmani, Bulkeley High School
Shani Legore, Weaver High School
Emma MacDonald, Bulkeley High School
Charlotte Mansfield, Classical Magnet
Megan Maule, HPHS Law and Government
Jerone Mitchell, University HS of Science & Engineering
Matthew Noble, HPHS Engineering & Green Technology
Gledis Progonoti, Bulkeley High School
James Romanik, Classical Magnet
Venice Sterling, Pathways to Technology Magnet



In April, the **Northend Senior Center** welcomed the **North Carolina A&T** choir to serenade center attendees. The group, which also performed at Bethel AME Church, was touring the Northeast. Those in the audience included Hartford basketball legend **Doc Hurley** (lower right), who lettered in football, basketball and track in the late 1930s. He also served as a Weaver High School vice principal for 20 years.



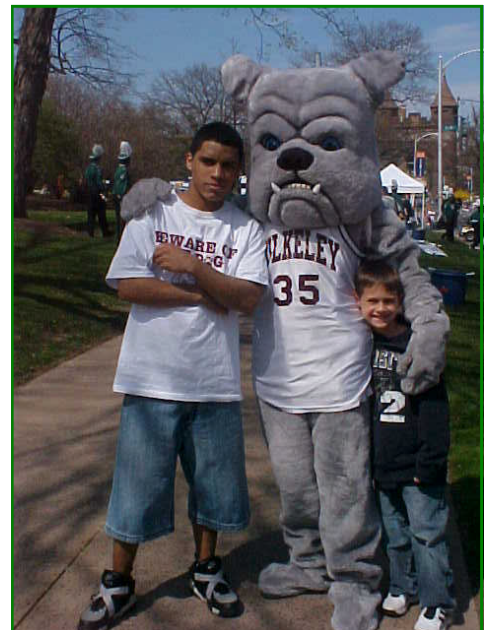
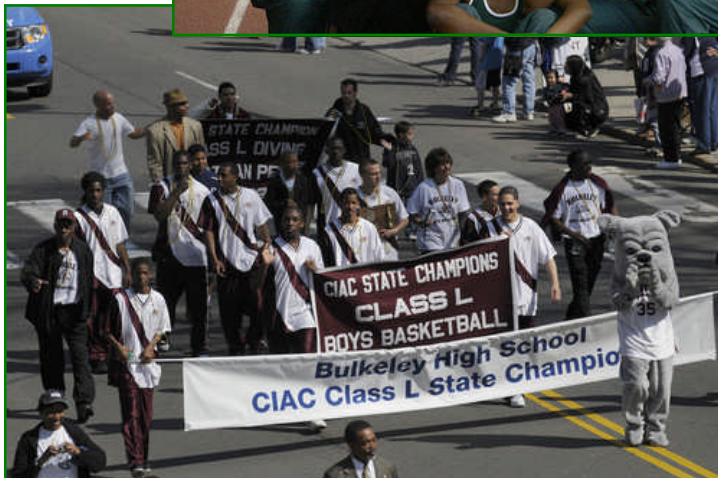
Paul Lemay, who passed in January, was the driving force behind the Hartford Fiddle Fest and the Peace Train Foundation. In April, Matt and councilman **Luis Cotto** (far right) presented a proclamation in Lemay's honor to Fiddle Fest organizer **Cheryl Daniels**. Cheryl was accompanied by Hartford artist **Carlos Hernandez-Chavez**.



In March, Matt's aide **Andrea** attended a reception co-hosted by the George Crawford Law and CT Asian Pacific American Bar Associations. While there she congratulated fellow CT NAACP Executive Committee member and newly appointed Superior Court Judge **Dawne Westbrook**.

Our Sports Teams Rock!!!

This has been a fantastic spring/summer for Hartford sports teams. Our **Bulkeley High School Boys Basketball Team** won the State Championships; the Noah Webster Wizards (of which Matt was a team member in '94-95) won the City championships; the **Weaver Girls Track Team** won their state title; and Hartford High's **Javier Vargas** was the diving champ. Thanks to Matt, teacher **Susan Frazer**, and **Mike Zaleski** of the Hartford Business Improvement District, Vargas, the Wizards and the Bulkeley team marched in the UConn Victory parade. Photos of the various athletes are here, along with Matt and Bulkeley co-captain and team player of the year **DeShawn Hamlet** (below right).



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Let us know what you think!
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Did You Know?

Keney Tower is the only freestanding tower in the City. It was built on the site of a wholesale grocery business owned by brothers Henry and Walter Keney.

LIFE EVERY VOICE!

For 14 years, **Carolyn Brooks Burton** has been the driving force behind the Lift Every Voice And Sing (LEVAS) Gospel Fair in Bushnell Park. This year's event, which will take place on September 12, 2009, is dedicated to the memory of **Rev. Timothy Wright**, who was known as the "Godfather of Gospel" and passed in April. The gospel fest will include a 9/11 Remembrance, basketball tournament, youth activities and a health fair, in addition to other activities.

LEVAS' mission is to promote the spirit of community through the arts. The event, which is free and open to the public, will also partner with the Annual Grandparents Day Festival on the 12th. This celebration recognizes grandparents raising grandchildren in the city. For more information, call 547-1426, ext. 7572.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



For years, various neighborhoods in the City have acknowledged their partnerships with local police through the National Night Out program. A crime and drug prevention event that has been running for 26 years, National Night Out gives residents a vehicle to interact with officers and command staff and discuss ways to create safer and healthier communities in a

*Matt participated in a number of National Night Out events throughout the City in August, including at the Boys & Girls Club on Sigourney Street; the Tuscan Homes; and at Adams Street and Albany Avenue, where he and **Chief Daryl K. Roberts** (above) received Night Out t-shirts. At left, Matt discusses revitalizations efforts in Upper Albany with **Pat Williams** and Acting Public Works Director **Kevin Burnham** (right).*



celebratory environment.

"National Night Out is a terrific tool in terms of real community policing, a philosophy I know Chief Roberts believes in," Matt said. "It's always a great opportunity to catch up with people all over the city."

While the grills were in full swing at Tuscan Homes and Albany Avenue, **Sam Gray** of the Boys & Girls Club had a host of activities and information booths, from recruiting for new Hartford schools to moon bounces and music. National Night Out occurs every year in August.