

HARTFORD HAPPENINGS



Happy Holidays!

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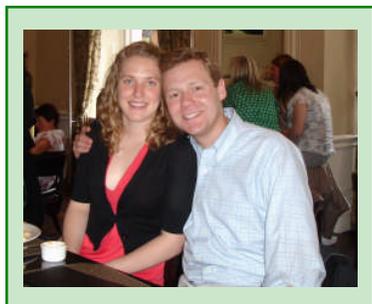
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Save the Dates!

- 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.

LOOKING TOWARD 2009



Dear Friends:

As my first year on Council comes to a close, I want to first thank you for all your support and encouragement. We've had much to celebrate—and some serious challenges to face. To be sure, there are other hurdles ahead. I am certain however, that we can overcome even the toughest circumstances if we work together.

In my role as your Councilman, I was fortunate to receive support for a number of efforts to improve our city. I introduced a resolution to explore the relocation of the city's school bus fleet, but I am hopeful that the buses will be relocated sometime next year. Responding to the voices of so many residents, my colleagues and I co-sponsored a resolution to begin the charter revision process. The Charter Revision Commission was empanelled in Sep-

tember, and public hearings have begun and will continue in the coming months. Moreover, in the hopes of keeping the Women's Big East Tournament in the city, I submitted a resolution to alleviate some of the costs associated with the events. In addition, a number of amendments to our municipal code have been adopted or proposed, including the formation of a Freedom Information Advisory Board and the continuation of the Historic Preservation Commission ordinance.

On a personal note, I have been just as blessed. In June I became engaged to Marilyn. In addition, we added Dublin, our goldendoodle, in December. My sister Jessica also got engaged to her fiancé, Joe.

During this season of thanksgiving, I hope that you, your family and loved ones are celebrating the many blessings we have, and looking forward to the joy of the new year. On behalf of my family, best wishes to all of you this holiday season.

Best,
Matt



PICS AND PIECES



Noah Webster first-grader Julian Tyler Ellington won a trip to appear on the Ellen (Degeneres) Show in November after creating the underwater seer, a device that allows him to view and magnify objects under-water. After the show offered to fly only Julian and his mom to California, Matt and the Ritter Family Foundation purchased another ticket so his father could attend as well. Above are from left Julian's mom, Julian, Matt and his fiancée, Marilyn Katz.



The Watkinson School Boys Varsity Team had quite the winning season this year, racking up four championship titles. Among them was the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council's (NEPSAC) Championship, the school's first New England title for soccer. In December, Matt recognized the team with a proclamation declaring December 8th Watkinson School Soccer Boys Varsity Team Day.



UConn launched its Office of Service-Learning in 2007 to encourage community and civic engagement. In November, Matt spoke to a group at a presentation hosted by Julia Mastronardi-Yakovich, the Office's Program Coordinator at the UConn West Hartford branch.



In November, Matt attended the Urban League of Greater Hartford's Equal Opportunity Dinner. Among the fellow guests were from left: Tom Phillips, CEO of Capital Workforce Partners; Kevin Kinsella, VP of Hartford Hospital and Thomas Marchozzi, the hospital's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Congratulations President-Elect Barack Obama!!!



History was made on November 4th, as Barack Obama was elected the nation's 44th President. There were plenty of celebrations, and lots of joy to share with friends. Among the folks Matt hung out with are clockwise from top left: Hartford area Habitat for Humanity Board President Eric Crawford; retired city employee Ellen Nurse; and Hartford Federation of Teachers Vice President Josh Hall (left) with a fellow HFT member. Below, President-elect Obama greets attendees during his visit to Hartford at the XL Center.



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Let us know what you think!
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Did You Know?

Trinity College was not always at 300 Summit Street. It had to be moved from its original location to create space for another Hartford landmark—the State Capitol.

FOR OUR FINEST, BRAVEST

Hartford's Police Officers and Firefighters put their lives on the line daily to protect and serve our residents. In the tragic instance that they make the ultimate sacrifice, Matt wanted to ensure that their families would receive some measure of support. So in November, he proposed an ordinance that would provide a tax abatement to surviving spouses of police and fire personnel who die in the line of duty. Authorized by state statute, the measure would allow a tax credit of \$500 on personal property. "This is one small way we can honor the dedication and commitment of our public safety officers," Matt said. Both Police Chief Daryl K. Roberts and Fire Chief Charles Teale support the measure, as does Police Union President Richard Rodriguez. The full Council will consider the ordinance in January. Matt is also exploring the possibility of including Public Works and Health and Human Services personnel in the proposed benefit.

CROSS-TOWN CONVERSATION

For months, Hartford resident Anton Rick-Ossen has been working to garner support for a cross-town bus route, which would travel between the North and Southwest areas of the city. The route would eliminate the need for residents from most neighborhoods to take more than one bus; currently, most citizens have to take a bus downtown and transfer to reach their destination in another city neighborhood.

Rick-Ossen sought Matt's support for the measure, and in response, he reached out to the Hartford delegation—Sens. Eric Coleman and John Fonfara; Reps. Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, Ken Green, Doug McCrory, Minnie Gonzalez and Kelvin Roldan; and Rep.-Elect Hector Robles. In his letter, Matt asked the state officials to consider adopting measures that would support the establishment of the bus route. "While creating bus routes is not managed at the municipal level, I support Anton's efforts," Matt said. "I'm hopeful that our state leaders can take the necessary steps to make this happen."

For more information on the cross-town bus route, email Anton Rick-Ossen at antonrickossen@gmail.com.