



SPRING 2013



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Produced by Chris Pleasanton



RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE

The Hartford Community Court
and Riverfront Recapture
working together to preserve
Hartford's waterfront
(see more on pg. 10)

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THE 2-DAY RULE BY JUDGE NORKO

One of the most important policy decisions made in the development of the Hartford Community Court was to require all defendants whether held by the police, released from custody or issued a summons, to be arraigned within 48 hours of the arrest.

We developed this policy for three reasons. First, many people who come before this court are facing significant obstacles, most frequently substance abuse, mental health issues, and a lack of resources. The Hartford Community Court has a wide array of social services available to in-need persons and we want to connect them with appropriate services as soon as possible so as to prevent a further decomposition in the person's mental and physical health as well as their social condition. Second, we want people to understand that there will be an immediate and meaningful...

(Continued on Pg. 2)



"People who commit quality of life crimes should be brought before the court quickly so it can provide both an immediate accountability and social services opportunity."

Hon. Raymond R. Norko

(Pictured above with the Community Court
Clerk's Office: Gloria Hall, Valerie S.
Myrick, Linda Ruffino, Joyce Williams)

Community Court Statistics

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	TOTALS
Total Arraignments	528	402	519	1,449
Community Service Hours	3,297	2,098	2,320	7,715
Value of CS (\$8.25 Min Wage)	\$27,200	\$17,308	\$19,140	\$63,648
Social Service Referrals <small>non DMHAS</small>	74	44	112	230
Appearance Rate	92%	91%	91%	91% AVG
Suburban Caseload	26%	19%	22%	23% AVG

THE 2-DAY RULE CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

judicial response for these crimes that contribute significantly to deterioration of our neighborhoods. Third, we want to do as much as possible to ensure people will appear for their court date. The Hartford Community Court takes a person's non-appearance for court very seriously and will issue a failure to appear warrant for those who do not.

It is my view that delaying a person's initial court appearance more than a few days will greatly limit the courts ability to provide needed social services assistance and to provide a meaningful response to community expectations that people are held accountable for quality of life violation. Having a longer wait time before arraignment will also increase the likelihood of a defendant's non-appearance.

I am happy to report that the 2-day arraignment rule has proven to be a success at the Hartford Community Court. Since 2000, when we first starting tracking appearance rates, we have handled over 117,000 arraignments with an appearance rate of 92%. The success of this policy can be directly attributed to the professionalism and hard work of the Hartford Police Department who make sure the arrest reports and summons are brought to the court; and to the Community Court Clerk's Office who process the cases and get them on our docket in time.

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MEDIATION

Mediation has been an important tool at the Hartford Community Court since opening in 1998. The ability of the court to bring disagreeing parties together in a neutral, but structured environment to resolve their matter without overburdening the GA court has served to improve efficiency. And, because many of the differing parties know each other and will continue to be in close proximity to each other, resolving their matter serves to reduce the likelihood of future disputes, which could result in criminal charges.

With the unfortunate closure of the Hartford Area Mediation Program in 2011, the Hartford Community Court has worked to find a way to fill the gap for mediation services through the use of volunteer mediators and has been fortunate to find an answer in Attorney George Kelly and Attorney Greg Goodstein.

Attorney Kelly's history with mediation goes back to the early 1980's when, as a staff attorney for Aetna, he was instrumental in the development of the Hartford Area Mediation Program. He continued to serve as a volunteer mediator with HAMP over the ensuing years and, upon its closure, reached out to the Community Court to develop an alternative volunteer mediation program.

Attorney Goodstein also expressed interest in participating with the project. Soon thereafter, in collaboration with Judge Norko, Assistant State's Attorney Tom O'Brien and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton, Attorneys Kelly and Goodstein began coming to the Hartford Community Court one day per month taking mediation referrals from Attorney O'Brien. They meet with the defendants and contact the complainants or co-defendants to discuss the issues at hand and bring the parties to an agreement to resolve the matter. They also attempt to resolve any other underlying issues that may result in future conflict.

Currently, the court is referring seven to 10 cases per month with a resolution rate of about 80%.



***“Mediation is one of the best tools
the court can use to
productively resolve disputes
and set the foundation to prevent future
disputes and crimes .”***

Hon. Raymond R. Norko

(Pictured: Greg Goodstein & George Kelly)

CCSU STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Criminal justice students at Central Connecticut State University, led by Assistant Professor Susan Koski, are making a big impact helping women with cases at the Hartford Community Court. On November 28, 2012, Professor Koski and CCSU students Ben Todd and Evan Goddard delivered more than 100 care packages containing soap, shampoo and other personal-care items that will be given to women in need at the court. All of the items were donated by CCSU criminal justice students.

"Many of the women we are working with, especially those being released from custody, have little to nothing to their name," Judge Norko said. "The personal-care items the CCSU students put together will go a long way to helping them stabilize their situations and regain personal dignity as they reestablish themselves in the community."

(R to L) Yanira Rodriguez, Evan Goddard, Professor Sue Koski, Ben Todd, Chris Pleasanton.



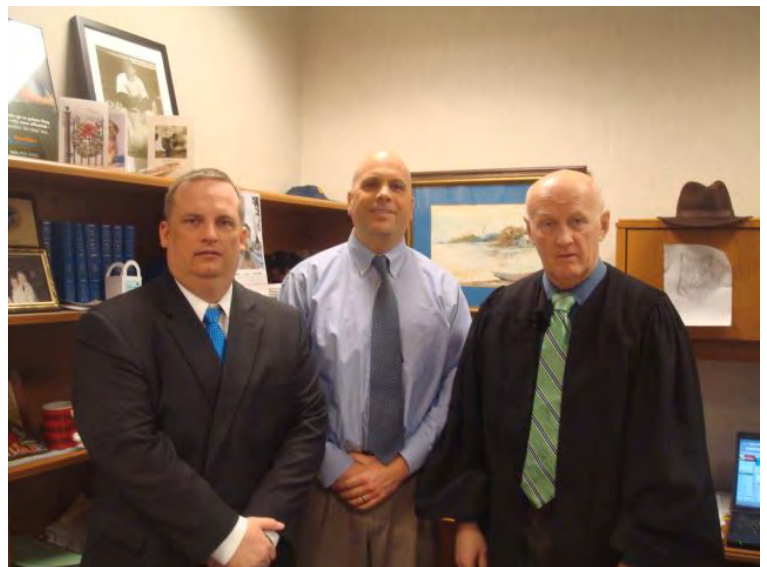
NCCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS VISIT

The Hartford Community Court was pleased to host visits by Northwest Connecticut Community College criminal justice students on February 19 and February 22, 2013 marking the twelfth year NCCC students have visited the Community Court.

The NCCC students, accompanied by Assistant Professor Mike Emanuel, met with Judge Norko and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton to learn about the court's background and processes. They then observed the court in session and participated in follow-up Q&A sessions with Judge Norko and Mr. Pleasanton.

"We are pleased to have the NCCC students visit the Hartford Community Court," Judge Norko said. "The school has an excellent criminal justice program and I am very impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the students."

(R to L) Chris Pleasanton, Professor Mike Emmanuel, Judge Norko



ATR III SUCCESS AT COMMUNITY COURT

The Access To Recovery III Program, provided at the Hartford Community Court by Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc., provides case management assistance to qualified individuals with various needs including housing, vocational training, and recovery management services. The recent ATR III Portal Report Card covering October 2010 through September 2012 shows that the services provided through ATR III are having a positive impact on the lives of referred Hartford Community Court defendants.

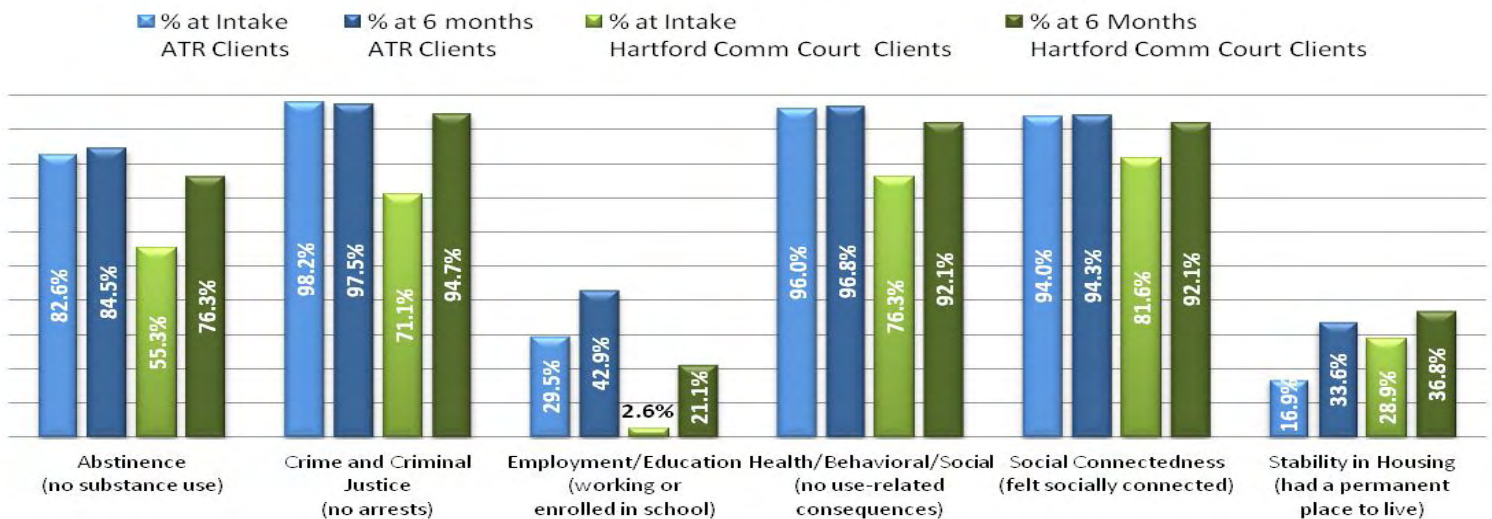
The six-month follow-up report indicates Community Court defendants reduced their substance use by 20 percent, their rate of re-arrest decreased by 23 percent, 19 percent more of them were employed or enrolled in school. Their Health and Behavioral standards improved from by 16 percent, about 11 percent reported feeling more connected to family and community which will ultimately serve to reduce the likelihood of future involvement in crime. Finally, 8 percent secured improved housing . The monetary value of services provided to Hartford Community Court referrals through ATR III is \$25,126.

While the Hartford Community Court comprises only 1% of the ATR III program referrals (other referrals are made through probation, DCF, the National Guard, and DMHAS), the impact has been significant.

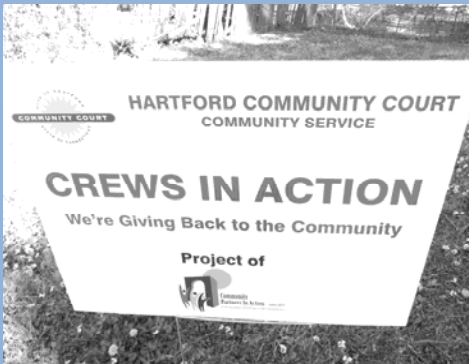
“The ATR III Program is a high-value program. Just looking at the improvement in recidivism among referrals; even if we helped keep a dozen or so persons from being arrested on new charges and spending time in jail, the program will have spent its money wisely and community conditions will have improved.”

Hon. Raymond R. Norko

Follow-Up GPRA Change



COMMUNITY SERVICE 2012 CPA PROGRAM OF THE YEAR



The Community Service Program at the Hartford Community Court was named Community Partners in Action's 2012 Program of the Year during CPA's annual meeting at the Pond House Café in Elizabeth Park. CPA Program Manager Deborah Barrows, along with Crew Leader Samantha Benjamin, Administrative Assistant Danniella Guzman, and Field Supervisors Thad Douglass, Melvin Kelly, Alice Gibbs, Geoffrey Green, and Elizabeth Rosa were recognized for their work before more than 100 people in attendance.

Since 1998, the Community Court's Community Service Program has been working with offenders charged with quality-of-life crimes who are required by the Court to perform community service to pay back the community for their violation and resolve their cases. The performance of community service not only constitutes punishment for criminal behavior, but its visibility to those in the community makes it clear that the court system is providing recompense for the quality of life crimes that contribute to neighborhood deterioration. Mrs. Barrows and her staff also support Presiding Judge Raymond Norko's philosophy of treating people with respect. Their commitment to being responsive to client needs, beyond the supervision of community service, has evolved over this past year. Their efforts include initiatives that help offenders with basic needs and allows them to work on more broad-reaching, fulfilling projects. It is for this excellence and initiative that the Community Service Program at the Hartford Community Court was named CPA Program of the Year.

In addition, Ms. Barrows was awarded "Boss of the Year" by her staff, who presented her with a beautiful plaque. Judge Norko was also recognized by CPA for his lifetime commitment to justice, which was accepted on his behalf by Court Planner Chris Pleasanton. CPA also recognized George Dillon of Community Health Services for his commitment to help people in need through his work at CHS and the Court.

2012 CPA PROGRAM OF THE YEAR CONTINUED



(Top Left to Right) The CPA Community Court Community Service Team, CPA Program Manager Deborah Barrows gets "Boss of the Year" award from her team, Chris Pleasanton accepts CPA Lifetime Achievement award for Judge Norko, (At Left) CHS' George Dillon receives the CPA Community Service Recognition award from Deborah Barrows and CPA Executive Director Maureen Price-Boreland, Esq.

***"Congratulations to Deborah Barrows and the
Community Service Team for being named
CPA Program of the Year.***

***Their efforts and excellence are essential to the
success of the Hartford Community Court."***

Hon. Raymond R. Norko



RAISING BREAST HEALTH AWARENESS

One of the core goals of the Hartford Community Court is to connect people with the myriad of social services available in the Greater Hartford area. From job training to food stamps to inpatient substance abuse treatment, the court works with many agencies and non-profit providers to serve as a forum for people to connect with services to improve their lives, their health, and their connection to the community. Over the past year, Awilda Maldonado, an outreach worker from one of the court's long-time collaborators, the Hispanic Health Council, has been coming to the court every Thursday to raise awareness of women's breast health and to refer at-risk, uninsured women under the age of 40 for clinical breast exams and women over 40 for mammograms. The Hispanic Health Council program is funded by Komen Connecticut.

"Early detection can save your life," Ms. Maldonado said. "The need to raise awareness in Connecticut, especially in urban communities, is imperative."

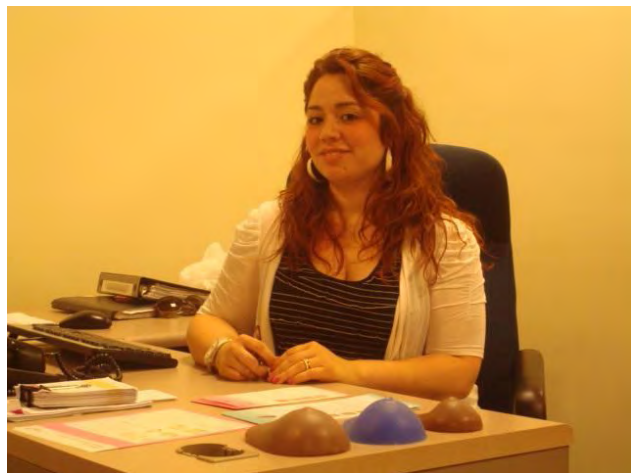
Connecticut has the second highest breast-cancer rate in the nation. In addition, Hartford, Bridgeport and Glastonbury have the highest rates of late detection in the state.

In addition to performing outreach at the Community Court, Ms. Maldonado can also provide one on one education to women on how to perform self-exams. To schedule an appointment with Ms. Maldonado, please call her directly at (860) 527-0856 ext. 266.

The Hispanic Health Council also conducts a Spanish-language Cancer Support Group for Latina Women every Monday from 10 a.m. until noon at 175 Main Street in Hartford. For more information about Hispanic Health Council programs, please visit their website at www.hispanichealth.com.

"The Hispanic Health Council is a jewel in the Hartford community and they are a great partner to the Hartford Community Court. We appreciate their willingness to raise awareness and connect the court's population to care for this and other important health concerns."

Hon. Raymond R. Norko



Awilda Maldonado, Hispanic Health Center

Atención!
WOMEN 40 YEARS OF AGE & OLDER

FREE MAMMOGRAMS

at the
Hispanic Health Council
175 Main Street, Hartford
On Wednesday, June 12, 2013
Have medical insurance?
Bring your insurance card with you.
Questions? Want to make an appointment?
Call us at
(860) 527- 0856 Ext. 266 or 225

Don't know if you should get a mammogram?
Call us if:

- you haven't had a gynecology exam within the last year
- it's been more than a year since your last mammogram
- you haven't ever had a mammogram



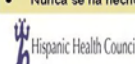
¡Atención!
Mujeres de 40 años y adelante

MAMOGRAFÍAS GRATIS

en el
Concilio Hispano de la Salud
175 de la Calle Main en Hartford
El miércoles,
12 de junio del 2013
¿Tiene seguro médico?
Traiga su tarjeta de seguro a su cita.
¿Preguntas o quiere hacer una cita?
Llámenos al
(860) 527- 0856 Ext. 266 o 225

¿No sabe si debe hacerse una mamografía?
Llámenos si:

- Hace un año o mas que no ha visitado una clínica de ginecología
- Hace mas de un año que no se hace la mamografía
- Nunca se ha hecho el examen de mamografía



GOOD LUCK TO DANNIELLA GUZMAN!

The Hartford Community Court would like to offer our best wishes to longtime Community Partners in Action Administrative Assistant Danniella Guzman who recently took a position with the Judicial Branch as an administrative clerk in Juvenile Probation where she will be responsible for performing intakes of referred defendants.

Danniella has worked at the Hartford Community Court as a Community Partners in Action administrative assistant on the Community Court Community Service team for more than five years. She was responsible for performing post-arraignment intakes of defendants assigned to perform community service. She also assisted in monitoring daily attendance on the community service docket, and helped compile monthly reports for the program.

Thank you, Danniella, for your five years of hard work and friendship at the Hartford Community Court! We will miss you.



“Danniella did an excellent job with us at the Hartford Community Court and we would like to wish her the best in her new position at the juvenile probation department.”

***Deborah Barrows
CPA Program Manager,
Community Service Program***

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT PICTURES



COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WORK: (Left) Cleaning litter on Wethersfield Ave. (Middle) Spring Cleaning the HPD stables (Right) Spreading mulch at Riverfront Recapture (Please note: Defendant's faces are obscured to protect their privacy)

RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE PARTNERSHIP

With the approach of spring, the Hartford Community Court and Riverfront Recapture have renewed their commitment to working together to improve conditions along Hartford's vital riverfront so it can be enjoyed by all of Hartford's residents and visitors. Riverfront's Craig Mergins recently visited the Community Court to meet with Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton and Community Service Crew Leader Samantha Benjamin to discuss collaborative efforts and arrange a schedule for the summer projects.

The Hartford Community Court and Riverfront Recapture have worked together for years on efforts including litter clean-up, graffiti removal, maintenance of the park's trails, and special event assistance

"Working at the Riverfront site is an ideal project for us," said Ms. Benjamin. "The work benefits the entire city and the defendants performing community service really develop a sense of contributing to the community by working on these projects."

Riverfront Recapture has worked for decades to restore Hartford's connection to the river, once lost due to highway placement and neglect. In addition to improving access to the river and developing the park area and walking trails, Riverfront Recapture hosts numerous events including concerts, charity walks, Hartford's Movies in the Parks series, boat races and other cultural events, most of which are free to everyone.

"The riverfront is one of the great jewels of Hartford," Judge Norko said. "We are proud to work with Riverfront Recapture to help make it a place everyone can enjoy."

For more information on Riverfront Recapture and the event schedule, please visit their website at www.riverfront.org or call Craig Mergins at (860) 713-3131 ext. 325.



"Having this partnership with Hartford Community Court is so critical for Riverfront Recapture because it encompasses the missions of both organizations. It provides Hartford Community Court to have a strong opportunity to work within Riverfront Park system which provides tremendous support during the entire season".

***Craig Mergins
Assistant Director of
Community Relations &
Park Operations Riverfront Recapture
(Pictured with Samantha Benjamin)***

COMMUNITY SERVICE SITES

January 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 New Year's Day	2 Foodshare Regional Market, Washington St., snow removal	3 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Park & Main	4 Foodshare Regional Market, Windsor St., Flatbush Ave., Sherbrooke Ave.
7 Foodshare Regional Market, Russ St., Putnam St., Babcock St.,	8 Ebony Horse Women, Niles St., Gillette St., Albany & Main, Laurel St.	9 Hispanic Health Council, Gray St., Foodshare Regional Market, Loomis St., Fales St., Kenyon St.	10 Foodshare Regional Market, Chesnut St., Edwards St., Walnut St., Williams St.	11 Preston St., Otis St., Clifford St., Forrest St., S. Marshall St., Tremont St., Beacon St.
14 Foodshare Regional Market, Imlay St., Harold St., Laurel St., Booth Bay St., Baltic St., Tower Ave.	15 Ebony Horse Women, York St., Ward St., Brownell Ave., Colonial St., School St.	16 Windsor Ave., Webster St., Maple Ave., Baltimore St., Kent St., Retreat Ave., Seymour St.	17 Foodshare Regional Market, Irving St., Mather St., Cabot St., Edgewood St., Homestead Ave.	18 Capen St., Martin St., Morris St., Allen Pl., Congress St., Andover St., Palm St., Pembroke St.
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22 Ebony Horse Women, Taylor St., Sheldon St., Charter Oak Pl., Carpenter St., Kibbee St.	23 Manchester St., Simpson St., Durham St., Pomfret St., Cleveland St., Hampton St.	24 Foodshare Regional Market, Lennox St., Oakland Terr., Deerfield Ave., Holcomb St.	25 Hillside Ave., Bannister St., Groton St., Wilson St., Lisbon St., Norwich St.
28 Foodshare Regional Market, Rowe Ave., James St., Heath St., S. Whitney St., Liberty St., Brook St.	29 Capen St., Vine St., Enfield St., Orange St., Hazel St., Arbor St.	30 Cedar St., Buckingham St., Barker St., Otis St., Wadsworth St., Hudson St., Adelaide St., Bushnell St.	31 Foodshare Regional Market, Stonington St., Vernon St., Lincoln St., Allen Pl., Lisbon St.	

February 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Mobile Foodshare, Putnam St., Ward St., Lawrence St., Bonner St., King St., Julius St., Webster St.
4 Foodshare Regional Market, Rose St., Cherry St., Olive St.,	5 Crayons For Cancer, Walnut St., Chesnut St., Ebony Horse Women, William St., Edward St.	6 Crayons For Cancer, Flatbush Ave., Sherbrook Ave., Saybrook St.,	7 Foodshare Regional Market, Acton St., W. Clay St., Elmer St., Clark St., Ebony Horse Women	8 Niles St., Gillette St., Girard St., Laurel St., Farmington Ave., Whitney St., Kenyon Ave.
11 Foodshare (Charter Oak & Regional), Carpenter St., Kibbe St., Madison Ave., Bulkley Ave.	12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	13 Seyms St., Belden St., Florence St., East St., Westbourne Pkwy., Zion St., Crayons For Cancer	14 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Ashley St., Collins St.	15 Manchester St., Pomfret St., Maple Ave., King St., Julius St.
18 President's Day	19 Jefferson St., Madison St., Ward St., Lincoln St., E. Harold St., Tower Ave., Baltic St., Booth Bay St.	20 Deerfield Ave., Oakland Terr., Russ St., Putnam St., Babcock St., Lenox St., Lawrence St.	21 Foodshare Regional Market, Rutland St., Addison St., Cambridge St., Greenwich St.	22 Sterling St., Cabot St., Norwich St., Brookfield St., Stonington St., Homestead Ave., Groton St.
25 Foodshare (carter Oak & Regional), Westland St., Plymouth St., Hanmer St., Rockville St.,	26 Ebony Horse Women, Maple Ave., Winchester St., Vineland Terr., Preston St., East View St.	27 S. Marshall St., Beacon St., Windsor St., Forrest St., Colebrook St., Ridgefield Ave., Holcomb St.	28 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Battles St., Loomis St., Huyshope Ave.	

March 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Foodshare Regional Market, Crayons For Cancer, Gillette St., Niles St., Laurel St., Adams St.
4 Foodshare Regional Market, Dart St., Natick St., Chandler St., Flatbush Ave., Crayons For Cancer	5 Ebony Horse Women, Broad St., Roxbury St., Mapleton St., Arbor St., Walnut St., Garden St., Hazel St.	6 Foodshare Regional Market, Bliss St., Redding St., York St., Goodrich St., Eaton St., Bolton St., Hanmer St.	7 Crayons For Cancer, Putnam St., Ebony Horse Women, Babcock St.,	8 Crayons For Cancer, Tremont St., Sherbrooke Ave., Broadview Terr., Forrest St., S. Marshall St.
11 Foodshare Regional Market, Crayons For Cancer, Stonington St., Norwich St., Colonial St., Groton St.	12 Liberty St., Brook St., William St., Edwards St., Chesnut St., Cone St., May St., Ferns St., Farmington Ave.	13	14 Foodshare Regional Market, Gray St., Euclid St., Evergreen St., Fales St., Baltic St., Booth Bay St.	15 Mobile Foodshare, Ashford St., Rosemont St., Addison St., Imlay St., Vineland Terr., Laurel St.
18 Foodshare Regional Market, Woodstock St., Branford St., Flower St., Asylum Pl., Baltic St.	19 Ebony Horse Women, Ward St., Jefferson St., Chatham St., Sharon St., Hebron St., Plainfield St.	20 Newton St., Chadwick St., Amity St., S. Whitney St., Heath St., Madison Ave., St. Francis St.	21 Foodshare Regional Market, Magnolia St., Mather St., Irving St., Morris St., Alden St., Congress St.	22 Colonial St., Brownell St., East St., Seyms St., W. Clay St., Clark St., Sergeant St., Collins St., Ashley St.
25 Foodshare Regional Market, Woodstock St., Branford St., Tower Ave., Pershing St., Baltic St.	26 Ebony Horse Women, Vine St., Enfield St., Capen St., Bannister St., Wilson St., Hillside Ave.	27 Van Block Ave., Sequassen St., New Park St., Nepaquash St., Cherry St., Lawrence St., Loomis St.	28 Foodshare Regional Market, Ebony Horse Women, Winship St., Westbourne Pkwy., Preston St.	29 Good Friday

STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

HARTFORD COMMUNITY COURT



SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

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