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Backgrounder

HARTFORD – A SMART CHOICE FOR LIVING

The extraordinary renaissance now underway in Hartford makes this vibrant metropolis a smart choice for living. The reasons are manifold:

- Access is fast and easy.
 - Hartford’s Bradley International Airport is one of the nation’s fastest-growing airports and the second-largest in New England.
 - Hartford offers easy access to four major interstates – I-84, I-90, I-91 and I-95 that travel the entire East Coast and westward – and the region is just 125 miles from New York and 109 miles from Boston.
 - Downtown Hartford’s bus and train depots connect to major Eastern and Canadian markets;
- Housing options range from stately Victorian homes to apartments overlooking the Bushnell Park on the Connecticut River;
- The Connecticut River and abundant parkland adds recreational opportunities nearby;
- Progressively more corporations are opening up headquarters, branch offices or distribution centers here;
- Two of the nation's top 100 hospitals are located here;
- Education has long been a prime focus. Greater Hartford in the middle of the Knowledge Corridor, a 30-mile geographical region that stretches north to Springfield, Massachusetts, and is home to 32 higher education institutions, including Trinity College, the University of Hartford, Wesleyan, the University of Connecticut, Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts;
- Dynamic neighborhood communities provide a fascinating cultural mix;
- A thriving arts and cultural scene places the city in the top 6% of all American cities;
- A growing entertainment district makes the city come alive at night.

Information on the Hartford region as a place to live is offered here in the following order:

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Details are provided in separate backgrounders on the following: arts and culture; working in Hartford; insurance and financial services; education; transportation; and neighborhoods.

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Hartford 2000

www.hartford2000.org

Hartford 2000 is a coalition of Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ) Committees and the city of Hartford that shares ideas, resources and information. It works cooperatively to revitalize Hartford's neighborhoods. The mission of Hartford 2000 is to strengthen the individual and collective power of the NRZs.

Hartford Community Information Database

www.hartfordpl.lib.ct.us/comminfo.htm

Developed by the Hartford Public Library, this searchable database offers point-and-click access to information on thousands of businesses, services and neighborhood organizations in the Hartford region. From day-care centers to senior services, from churches to sports and recreation, it's all here.

Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART)

www.hartnet.org/hart/

HART is a coalition of neighborhood groups, block clubs, seniors, church groups, tenants and issue groups, which brings together residents from the entire community to identify common problems, create strategies for solutions and develop programming for gaps in the public service delivery system.

Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA)

860.244.9390/ninaken@sbcglobal.net

A coalition of six member companies, including The Hartford, Aetna, Mass Mutual Financial Group, ING, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and Webster Bank. The members work together to improve safety in Hartford's Asylum Hill neighborhoods and increase homeownership.

Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA)

www.sinareports.com

A coalition of five major Hartford institutions, including Hartford Hospital, Institute of Living, Trinity College, CT Public Broadcasting and CT Children's Medical Center, that works cooperatively with the community to develop leadership and improve the economic, physical and social characteristics of Hartford's Frog Hollow, Barry Square and South Green neighborhoods.

Hartford's Neighborhoods (Map and Pictorial)

<http://hartford.omaxfield.com/neighborhoods.html>

Get detailed information and photos of the 17 neighborhoods that make Hartford such an eclectic mix of cultures, architecture, business and history.

TOWN PROFILES

State of Connecticut Town Profiles

www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1106&q=251024&ecdNav=|

This Web site contains statistics on demographics, economics, education, government, housing, labor and quality of life for all of Connecticut's 169 towns.

Towns and Cities of the Region

The Hartford region includes 36 communities. Among them are the towns of Andover, Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bolton, Burlington, Canton, Coventry, Cromwell, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, New Britain, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks. Each has a unique mix of people, cultures and customs. Click on the links below to get information on local governments or simply see what each town has to offer.

Andover	andoverct.org
Avon	www.town.avon.ct.us
Berlin	www.town.berlin.ct.us
Bloomfield	www.bloomfieldct.org
Bolton	http://bolton.govoffice.com
Burlington	www.munic.state.ct.us/BURLINGTON/burlington.htm
Canton	www.townofcantonct.org
Coventry	www.coventryct.org
Cromwell	www.cromwellct.com
East Granby	www.eastgranby.com
East Hartford	www.ci.east-hartford.ct.us
East Windsor	www.eastwindsor-ct.gov
Ellington	www.ellington-ct.gov
Enfield	www.enfield.org
Farmington	www.farmington-ct.org/intro.php
Glastonbury	www.glasct.org/Home/
Granby	www.granby-ct.gov
Hartford	www.hartford.gov
Hebron	www.hebronct.com
Manchester	www.ci.manchester.ct.us
Mansfield	www.mansfieldct.org
Marlborough	www.marlboroughct.com
New Britain	www.new-britain.net
Newington	www.ci.newington.ct.us
Rocky Hill	www.ci.rocky-hill.ct.us
Simsbury	www.town.simsbury.ct.us
Somers	http://town.somers.ct.us
South Windsor	www.southwindsor.org
Stafford	www.staffordct.org
Suffield	www.suffieldtownhall.com
Tolland	www.tolland.org

Vernon	www.munic.state.ct.us/VERNON
West Hartford	www.west-hartford.com
Wethersfield	www.wethersfieldct.com
Windsor	www.townofwindsorct.com
Windsor Locks	www.munic.state.ct.us/WINDSOR_LOCKS/windsor_locks.htm

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

African-American Organizations

State of Connecticut African American Affairs Commission

www.cga.ct.gov/aaac

The mission of the African American Affairs Commission is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the state of Connecticut.

Urban League of Greater Hartford

www.ulgh.org

A proud affiliate of the National Urban League, ULGH has been a community frontrunner in assisting African-Americans and other community members to achieve social and economic equality through programs in education, housing and economic development, community health, training and employment, and youth and family services.

University of Connecticut Institute for African American Studies

<http://vm.uconn.edu/%7Eaasadm03>

The Institute for African American Studies works to enlighten and inform the University of Connecticut community, the state of Connecticut, the nation and the world about the history, culture, contributions and experiences of people of African descent in the United States.

Asian Organizations

University of Connecticut Asian American Cultural Center

www.asacc.uconn.edu

The center's mission is to serve as an informational resource center regarding the Asian American experience and to create an appreciation and understanding of the diverse Asian cultures represented within the community.

Hispanic/Latino Organizations

Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education

www.calahe.org

The Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education is dedicated to promoting and advocating full access, retention and participation of Latinos/Latinas in all aspects of higher education.

Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA)

www.ctbar.org/public/hispanicbar/hispanic.shtml

The CHBA, an affiliate of the Hispanic National Bar Association, has been a principal force behind the increased representation of Hispanics in all sectors of the legal profession and has served as the voice for Hispanic attorneys for the past 25 years.

Hispanic Professional Network, Inc. (HPN)

www.hpn-ct.org

HPN serves as the central point of electronic communication for Hispanic professionals and organizations with the goal of assisting the state's Hispanic community develop professionally, financially, socially and culturally.

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC)

www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

LPRAC develops and recommends policy to the governor and the state legislature as part of its commitment to the advancement of the Latino and Puerto Rican community in Connecticut.

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers-CT Chapter (SHPE-CT)

www.shpect.com

SHPE-CT promotes careers in engineering through professional development and youth education initiatives in an effort to forge strong and lasting bonds between the Latino community and Hispanic engineering professionals.

University of Connecticut Institute for Puerto Rican and Latin American Studies

<http://prlsi.uconn.edu>

The Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies serves as a multipurpose interdisciplinary research and teaching program with a focus on the Puerto Rican, Mexican and Latin American origins of populations in Connecticut, the continental United States and Puerto Rico.

University of Connecticut Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center

www.latino.uconn.edu

The center's primary goals are the development of programs that reflect and strive to address the concerns of Latinos in the areas of education, empowerment, socio-economic development, outreach, recruitment and retention; and to educate the non-Latino community about the socio-cultural facets that make up the Latino community.

Gay/Lesbian Organizations

The Aetna Network of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Employees (ANGLE)

<http://wilson.ctstateu.edu/lib/archives/other/Angle.html>

As one of the first corporate-recognized and -supported employee groups in Connecticut, ANGLE serves to provide educational opportunities for all employees to increase understanding of the GLBT community, thereby fostering a safe and supportive environment which enhances recruitment and retention.

Connecticut Pride Committee

www.connecticutpride.com

This committee produces events that promote awareness, tolerance, acceptance and equality for GLBT individuals, their friends and families to provide a safe space, a healthy sense of family and identity, and to save lives.

Gay/Lesbian & Supporters Network at Travelers

<http://qlsnat.homestead.com>

A gay/straight employee network providing visibility and input to the corporation regarding the gay/lesbian workplace and marketing issues, fostering an open culture in the workplace, promoting acceptance of all types, supporting all phases of being out (or not) in the workplace and enabling supporters and advocates to be heard.

The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC)

www.hglhc.org

The HGLHC provides comprehensive education, support, advocacy and specific medical services which meet the health care needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Connecticut.

PUBLIC PARKS

Connecticut Parks

www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/index.htm

This site offers an online directory for Connecticut's forests and state parks. Get photos, directions, information and details on activities.

Hartford Parks

www.healthy.hartford.gov/OpenSpace/OSParks.htm

This online directory covers all parks in the city of Hartford. Click on the name or the map to get full details and directions to any of the parks.

HEALTH

Hospitals

Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC)

www.ccmckids.org

The only freestanding facility in the state completely devoted to the care of children, CCMC is home to the University of Connecticut School of Medicine residency program in pediatrics and ranks among the nation's top 20 children's hospitals.

Hartford Hospital

www.harthosp.com

Get point-and-click access to health and referral information from one of Connecticut's top hospitals. Search for employment opportunities, send a patient a greeting or access volunteer opportunities.

Institute of Living

www.instituteofliving.com

Part of the Hartford Hospital Affiliate Network, the Institute of Living is one of America's leading centers for research and education in the fields of behavioral, psychiatric and addiction disorders.

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center

www.stfranciscare.org

Access health and referral information, and explore employment and volunteer opportunities. St Francis was named one of the 100 Top Hospitals® in the United States by Solucient, a leading source of healthcare business intelligence.

University of Connecticut Health Center

www.uchc.edu

Get detailed information on John Dempsey Hospital or learn how to enroll in the UCONN School of Medicine or the School of Dental Medicine.

FAITH

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut (ABCCONN)

www.abcconn.org

Access the network of 130 Baptist churches, working as a link between local congregations, American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and other faiths.

Archdiocese of Hartford

www.archdioceseofhartford.org

Established in 1843, the Hartford Archdiocese is comprised of more than 216 parishes and 700,000 Catholics. Go online for recent news, parish and diocese contact information.

Capitol Region Conference of Churches

www.conferenceofchurches.org

Access the 104-year-old intermediary agency that provides training and consultation services for faith communities and their leaders, government agencies, philanthropic groups and other non-profit organizations.

Center City Churches

www.ccchartford.org

Established in 1969, Center City Churches provides assistance to those in need in the Hartford region through programs that include soup kitchens, senior centers and after-school programs.

Connecticut Church Directory

www.American-Churches.com/CT

Search for churches by denomination in this directory.

Episcopal Diocese of CT

www.ctdiocese.org

Access recent news and information on missions, bishops and events offered by the Episcopal Diocese of CT.

Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center (GHJCC)

www.ghjcc.org

Find out how to become active at the GHJCC, which is dedicated to the enrichment of

community life, the advancement of family and individual living, and the perpetuation of Jewish heritage.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research at the Hartford Seminary

http://hirr.hartsem.edu/org/faith_denominations_homepages.html

Through rigorous, policy-relevant research and anticipation of emerging issues, the institute serves as an important bridge between the scholarly community and the practice of faith.

Hartford Seminary

www.hartsem.edu

Committed to the pursuit of knowledge and academic excellence, the understanding of religion and spirituality, and the exploration of issues of gender, race and class, the Hartford Seminary affirms the goodness of religious differences that exist in the world and supports faithful living in a pluralistic and multi-faith environment.

Inter-Religious Eco-Justice Network

www.irejn.org

The network encourages faithful living that reflects a balanced relationship between humankind and the environment.

Islamic Center of Connecticut

<http://members.cox.net/ahmedheissa/icmain.htm>

Access links to important Islamic dates, news and Hartford area event information.

Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford

www.jewishhartford.org

The Jewish Federation builds, perpetuates and enhances Jewish life in Greater Hartford, Israel and the world. The organization works in partnership with local, national and international Jewish charitable organizations, social-service agencies and educational institutions.

United Church of Christ

www.ctucc.org

The Connecticut Conference is the regional representative for United Church of Christ churches and associations of those churches. It provides pastoral support, placement and other support services to the local churches, and acts as a liaison between the churches and the national denomination.

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