

Hoffman DECADERS

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

Local Family Businesses



Child-Started Charities
See page 8



now there's four. the merrier the more.



prius family



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Hoffman DECADES

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On the cover: Munson's Chocolates' Karen Munson and her husband, Jim Florence (Nick Caito photo)

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Welcome

TO OUR SPRING/SUMMER 2015 ISSUE OF *DECADES*!

Good news! It's already time for another issue of *Decades*, the lifestyle magazine published by the Hoffman Auto Group, with dealerships in East Hartford, Avon/West Simsbury and New London. Connecticut residents had to downshift for a long and hard winter, but now we can all look forward to several months of warm weather. This latest issue of *Decades* will help you shift into another gear.

We welcome four new contributors in this issue. For our cover story, Ken Liebeskind introduces readers to seven Hartford-area family businesses that have withstood the test of time even as they have been passed down through the generations. For our other main feature, Monica Roy tells the heartwarming tale behind several charities that were started by children. In keeping with the improving season, Lily Fisher provides inspiring tips on backyard utilization and beautification. Finally, Lynn Fredricksen gives us the 411 on the benefits of buying a pre-owned vehicle from the Hoffman Auto Group.

That's not all. Robert Bailin returns, providing both our Details column on the latest in automotive technology and our Calendar highlighting some of the best activities in the months to come. But for a really detailed list of suggestions on how to make the most out of your free time, check out our piece on the eastern Connecticut shoreline, written by food writer, Ellis Parker. Our photographer, Nick Caito, contributes to both our family businesses and child-started charities features. Arranging it all professionally and making it all look pretty is designer Kate Dawes.

Thanks for checking in with us again. Remember, Hoffman Auto Group and our lifestyle magazine, *Decades*—take you where you want to go!



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Hoffman DECADES

VOLUME X, Number 1

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Got a car question? Check out the Hoffman YouTube channel for the answers!



You Tube



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Arthritis Foundation Hosted “Women on the Move” 2014

The Arthritis Foundation, New England Region, hosted the first “Women on the Move” breakfast at the Marriott Hotel in Hartford in October. As part of the Hoffman Auto Group sponsorship, several representatives of the Hoffman team attended and were inspired by the information shared. National Champion UConn women’s basketball associate head coach, Chris Dailey, was the guest speaker. With about 150 in attendance, Dailey shared anecdotes about her 30 years working with Geno Auriemma at UConn. She spoke about the importance of being upfront and direct with co-workers. Likewise, as a coach, she emphasized the success of the team over the individual, both on the court and in the office.

(Left to right: I. Bradley Hoffman, Jill Konopka, Elizabeth McFarlane, Chris Dailey, Dave Federman, Steve Evangelista, Alison Bibbins Ward, Rose Swiatkiewicz and Scott Goodwin)



Hoffman Employees Celebrate Champions With YMCA – Johnny Damon

Once again, the Hoffman Auto Group sponsored the YMCA Celebrates Champions event in October. This year, two-time World Series Champion, Johnny Damon, was the guest speaker and even shared some time with VIP attendees. The yearly event honors the champions in our lives and community and is a major fundraiser in support of programs for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The evening was filled with fun and excitement as the champions in our lives were recognized with unique auction items and other special gifts. Each year, this event elicits inspiring and thought-provoking words that showcase the benefits of the YMCA for the many youths who participate in their programs.

(Johnny Damon and Kathy Halpner, Human Resources Consultant, Hoffman Auto Group)



Hoffman Dealerships #GoRed For Women in Support of American Heart Association

The Hoffman Auto Group continued its annual support of the American Heart Association’s “Go Red For Women” event in 2015. On Friday, February 6, Hoffman employees wore red to demonstrate their support and to rally together to increase awareness for women’s heart health. Go Red For Women has successfully been educating women on the risk factors for heart disease and strokes, helping to reduce death rates by 34% in the last decade. Heart disease and strokes kill 1 in 3 women yet they are 80% preventable. We encourage everyone to learn the facts, educate themselves and others in healthy living choices and support the American Heart Association. You can read inspirational stories and discover ways to become involved at www.goredforwomen.org



Hoffman Supports Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to Keep Our Streets and Loved Ones Safe

The Hoffman Auto Group continued its partnership with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for the 20th consecutive year by “tying one on for safety.” Each December, Hoffman ties red ribbons on every one of its vehicles to raise awareness and funds for MADD. Over 2,000 red ribbons decorated vehicles at the 10 Hoffman dealerships. Portions of the proceeds from every vehicle sold during the month of December 2014 contributed to the \$12,105 donated to MADD this year. The money raised by the Hoffman Auto Group directly impacts the local community by providing funds to the organization while helping raise awareness about the programs and services offered by MADD CT.

(From left: Zachary R. Hoffman, Sales Manager—Hoffman Toyota, I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman, Janice Hoggie Margolis, Executive Director, MADD, Paula D’Agostino, Program Director, MADD, Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Co-Chairman, Matthew S. Hoffman, Vice President, and Jonathan T. Hoffman, Manager—Fixed-Operations)

The Hoffman Auto Group Proudly Supports the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center With a Donation to the Adolescent Endowment Fund

The Hoffman Auto Group is pleased to partner with the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center with a donation of \$40,000 to the Adolescent Endowment Fund. The support of charities involving the arts, education, social well-being and health/medicine, such as CCMC, is made possible due to funding raised from the Burton & Phyllis Hoffman Foundation. In 2014, a total of \$120,000 was raised for charitable causes in greater Hartford, of which \$40,000 was allocated to CCMC and its efforts on children’s behalf. “We’re happy to support so many great organizations and continue the work of our father Burton C. Hoffman. We look to continue to give more and more and touch as many lives as we can through our support,” said I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman of the Hoffman Auto Group. His brother and Co-Chairman Jeffrey S. Hoffman said, “Community involvement is a cornerstone of our business, of who we are as a company and as a family. We plan to continue giving for years to come.”

(From left: Jonathan T. Hoffman, Matthew S. Hoffman, Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Martin Gavin, President and CEO, CCMC, I. Bradley Hoffman and Zachary R. Hoffman)



Hoffman Auto Group Co-Chair, I. Bradley Hoffman, Named 2015 AIADA Chairman



The American International Automobile Dealers Association (AIADA) is a lobbying group and industry association representing 10,000 U.S. auto dealerships that sell foreign nameplate vehicles. As chairman, I. Bradley Hoffman will lead the efforts in 2015 to urge Congress to reauthorize trade promotion authority as well as address actions by the U.S. Consumer Federal Protection Bureau to ensure automotive dealers’ rights are respected. With a determined focus Bradley assured, “it

will be the year we pass Trade Promotion Authority to ratify trade agreements with Japan and Europe. It will be a year to face forward.” Having served on the AIADA Board of Directors for over 20 years, Mr. Hoffman serves on numerous automotive boards. He is a member of the Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association (CARA) Board of Directors. He is also the Past President of the Greater Hartford Automobile Dealers Association (GHADA), past chairman of the Automotive Free International Trade Political Action Committee (AFIT-PAC), a past member of the Audi National Dealer Council, the Lexus Dealer Council and the Lexus Dealer Advertising Association (LDA). In 2003 he was chosen as Connecticut’s Dealer of the Year and was recognized as a finalist in the *Time Magazine* Dealer of the Year competition. *(I. Bradley Hoffman, 2015 AIADA Chairman with Larry Kull, 2014 AIADA Chairman. Photo courtesy of CBTNews.com)*



Happy Feet Make Happy Kids

On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, Hoffman Toyota visited the Maria C. Sanchez Elementary School in Hartford to present a \$1,000 donation for the purchase of new sneakers, socks and uniform pants for children in need. Hoffman Toyota partnered with the school to help address the needs of children in the Hartford community. Eligible students will be given the new shoes so they can focus on their studies rather than worry about their well-being. These shoes and other donated items have the important effect of improving the children’s self-esteem. Hoffman Auto Group feels it is an honor to contribute to the betterment of the lives of children in the community and encourage them to focus on their education and future!



The Hoffman Auto Group Featured On Automotive News’ Best Practices

The Hoffman Auto Group was featured in the leading automotive industry publication, *Automotive News*, as a dealership that exemplifies best practices in customer experience and satisfaction. Editor/news anchor, Tom Worobec of *Automotive News*, spent a full day interviewing and capturing footage showcasing the Hoffman Auto Group’s commitment to customers. Frequent new owner technology events, exclusive Porsche track day at Lime Rock Park or larger events at locations like the Connecticut Science Center provided customers an opportunity to experience our products and meet our staff. Visit the following link to view the best practices article and video documentary. <http://www.autonews.com/article/20141027/VIDEO/310279981/racing-tech-events-draw-crowds-to-hoffman-stores>.

The Hoffman Auto Group Gears Up for 2015 With Insights into Gen Y With Jason Dorsey

Approximately 250 Hoffman Auto Group employees joined together at the beautiful Infinity Music Hall & Bistro, Hartford for the 2015 Hoffman Auto Group Kick-Off Meeting. Taking a close look at the 2014 year-end results with a focus on what is to come in 2015 and beyond, Bradley Hoffman presented the vision and scope of a successful future. Guest speaker Jason Dorsey, an authority on Millennials and Gen Y, presented valuable statistics and trends relating to the changing demographics of consumers and employees with the introduction of the millennial generation. His research-driven approach to solving generational challenges provided both misconceptions and solutions to developing successful connections with the Gen Y crowd. Hoffman employees were inspired and energized to have a clear understanding of their customers so as to continually provide exceptional customer service.



DETAILS

By Robert Bailin

Garmin Dash Cam™ 20

Garmin Dash Cam 20 is an easy-to-use, high-definition driving recorder with 2.3-inch LCD display. The driver's "eyewitness that never blinks," it records both audio and video, with GPS for detailed time and location data pinpointing exactly where and when events occurred. Mount the camera to your windshield and record your drive in 1080p, 720p or VGA at 30fps in a continuous loop (up to 48 min. at full HD), using the included 4 GB microSD™ card. Add a larger microSD card (up to 32 GB) for up to 8X the capacity. Play back the footage on the LCD display or review later on your computer. An integrated microphone records the sounds inside your vehicle. Incident Detection (G-sensor) automatically saves footage of collisions and incidents.



A snapshot feature allows you to take still images, as well as remove from vehicle to capture collision damage. \$249.99. buy.garmin.com.

Heininger HitchMate Adjustable TireStep

The top of your truck or SUV, the back of the engine compartment and wiper blades—what do these all have in common? The answer is they're extremely hard to reach. So the next time you need to extend your reach by a couple of feet, reach into your trunk and pull out a foldable HitchMate TireStep. Unfold it and set it over the top of the tire closest to your project—and you're in business.

The HitchMate TireStep is manufactured to be sturdy and durable so you can work on your engine, change the wiper blades, clean otherwise inaccessible spots and load your roof rack on even the tallest vehicles. It adjusts to three positions to fit both the tire's width and height so that it can fit all tires up to 12.5" wide (any diameter). The entire unit is finished in a black powder coating, and its 22" wide x 10" deep stepping pad holds up to 400 pounds. Folds flat for easy storage in its soft storage bag (included). \$35 at Amazon. www.heininger.biz.



Rola® Platypus® Expandable Roof Top Bag

The Rola Platypus Expandable Roof Top Bag is a great way to utilize the space on top of your car and free up the trunk. If you drive a hatchback or a small compact, this rooftop bag is a "must have." The weatherproof materials will keep the snow and rain out and the 10–15 cubic feet of space will transport a lot of stuff. Carefully designed belts, buckles and cinch cords will keep this secured to your roof for freeway driving.



The Rola Platypus measures 39"L x 33"W x 14"H, and can expand like a suitcase to 49"L x 33"W x 18"H by unzipping a bottom zipper. It is made of premium materials, weighs about 13 pounds, and its thick, padded bottom protects the rooftop of your vehicle. For extra security, the eight tie-down straps and zipper flaps secure the top zipper and protect the bag's contents from casual theft and the elements. Hook-and-loop fasteners secure the ends of the straps. \$84.85 at Amazon. www.rolaproducts.com.

Navdy® Heads-Up Display (HUD) Device

Navdy is a heads-up display device for your car that lets you view and respond to critical information without taking your eyes off the road. Its core features include: turn-by-turn navigation; current speed display; ability to play, pause and skip music; safer text message display and response; and ability to accept and initiate calls without looking at your phone. It works by projecting an image onto a transparent, 5.1" wide plastic lens that magnifies the image and makes it appear 15" wide, floating outside the car's windshield. The image is focused in the distance so that the driver never has to look away from the road. While you're driving, you can control Navdy entirely with touchless gesture controls and voice commands. You can configure all of Navdy's settings through its iOS/Android app on your phone. It attaches to your dashboard with a portable, bendable, non-marking friction mount, with a magnetic connection to the device. \$299 pre-order. www.navdy.com.



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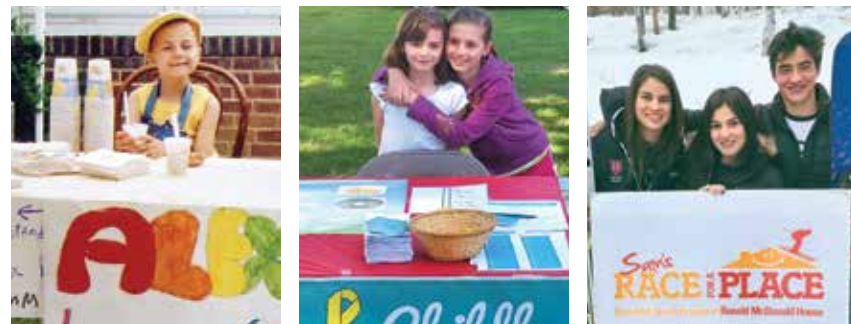
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Charity Begins at Home, Sometimes With Our Youngest Family Members

By Monica Roy



The expression “out of the mouths of babes” is a saying commonly used to denote words of truth, observation and even wisdom that spring from young minds. It’s a saying that can make us pause in our busy lives long enough to realize that the unfiltered words and ideas of children can teach us all a great deal about life, laughter, inspiration and simply telling it like it is. Some of life’s greatest lessons can come from the mouths and minds of babes, and right here in Connecticut there are children who are living and have lived lives of example—children who can also remind us that one of the most fulfilling ways to live life is to give back.

Childhood Cancer Kids was started in December of 2014 by Sierra Preveza. Sierra had just celebrated her one year “chemoversary” (the one year mark from her last treatment for kidney cancer) and was only seven years old when she decided she wanted to help other kids get through their cancer treatments. One of the more difficult things that Sierra had to deal with during her chemotherapy was the stress and anxiety brought on by her treatments. With the help of her yoga instructor mom, Kim, Sierra practiced breathing techniques to help her cope with her procedures.

One of Sierra’s toughest challenges was the painful tapping of the port maintained in her chest for administering chemotherapy. Before developing new breathing techniques with her mom, two nurses were required to hold Sierra during the procedure. After using their yoga-inspired breathing techniques, Sierra’s port could be tapped without any restraint – the effect was that powerful.

After completing her cancer treatment, Sierra started Childhood Cancer Kids to help teach other kids how to use yoga breathing to facilitate their treatment

procedures as well as to raise both awareness of and funds for the fight against childhood cancer. Sierra and her 10-year-old sister, Emalena, are the heart and soul of the organization supported by their mother and their still relatively new community in Madison, Connecticut. The Preveza family moved to Connecticut from Boston just months after Sierra was diagnosed.

With the support of Madison Youth Football, Sierra and Emalena raised funds to provide yoga kits for children undergoing cancer treatment. The yoga kits contain a yoga mat, a Hoberman’s Sphere (which is simply a cool toy to most kids), bubbles and a guidebook with pictures of Sierra and Emalena demonstrating yoga poses and breathing techniques. The kits are designed to help kids with cancer get through their physically and emotionally draining therapies. Sierra’s efforts led to her being named America’s Kindest Kid in December 2014 by the *Sprout* Network. She is now honored

to be its 2015 CKO, Chief Kindness Officer, and even made an appearance on the *Today Show* to mark the award.

Sierra, Emalena and their mom, Kim, are currently working to produce a video demonstrating yoga and breathing techniques for children fighting cancer. They are also focused on raising awareness of National Childhood Cancer Month, which occurs every September. For an organization just a year old, Childhood Cancer Kids is off to a strong start. In its first year, it raised \$10,000 for research and Make a Wish and distributed over 20 yoga kits to kids undergoing cancer treatment. Now it’s looking to expand its support by getting more towns and communities involved.



Sisters Emalena (left) and Sierra Preveza of Childhood Cancer Kids

Photo by Nick Caito



Alex Scott (1996–2004), founder of Alex's Lemonade Stand

Most people have heard of [Alex's Lemonade Stand](#), one of the largest charities for childhood cancer. What many don't know is that Alexandra Scott, the little girl who started Alex's Lemonade Stand, was from Connecticut and that her first lemonade stand was right here in West Hartford. Like Alex, there are many children in Connecticut who have made giving back a part of their lives and who inspire others to give of themselves. Here's a chance to get to know them, what inspired them and take away a small reminder of not only the joy and satisfaction that giving of yourself can bring, but also that children have so much to teach us about the best ways to live a full life.

Alex Scott was an amazing little girl who turned her own struggle with cancer into inspiration for children and adults all over the world. After undergoing treatment in Connecticut where she was born, Alex traveled to Philadelphia when she was three to undergo an experimental treatment. During this treatment, Alex was injected with radioactive medicine to treat her cancer from the inside out. When she was released from the hospital, Alex proceeded to tell her mom, Liz, two things: that the treatment worked and that she wanted to go shopping for a Christmas dress! When Liz asked Alex how she knew the treatment worked, Alex responded that she knew from the way she felt. An MRI back in Connecticut confirmed that Alex's disease was at its lowest level since her original diagnosis.

A month after receiving a stem cell transplant at the UConn Medical Center, Alex started talking about opening a lemonade stand. It was January, so her parents postponed the thought. Undeterred, when the weather warmed, Alex brought up the lemonade stand again and again.

Liz finally asked Alex why she wanted it so badly, and this is what led to the "out of the mouths of babes" moment for Liz and her husband, Jay. Alex didn't want to buy anything for herself. She wanted to raise money to give the hospital in Philadelphia so that other kids could receive the life-extending treatment she had. That was all the Scotts needed to hear, and the very first Alex's Lemonade Stand was held in West Hartford Center in 2000 when Alex was just four-and-a-half. Alex and her brother raised an amazing \$2,000 on the very first day!

Alex and her family moved from Connecticut to Philadelphia in 2001. It was there that Alex grew her lemonade stand to a whopping \$700,000 three years later. It was Alex's community support and the resulting publicity she received that

helped Alex's Lemonade Stand grow so quickly. In 2004, this dedicated and tenacious little girl told a reporter that she planned to raise one million dollars that year. When her parents asked her what made her think she could raise that kind of money, Alex answered, "If people continue to help me, I think I can do it." Even at her young age and still sick with cancer, Alex recognized the momentum she was able to generate by uniting people through a common cause. It was this little girl with the big heart and incredible vision despite her illness that led a local sponsor to take Alex's Lemonade Stand over the one million dollar mark just weeks before Alex succumbed to her cancer.

Today, the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation is responsible for funding over 475 cancer research projects in 102 hospitals in the United States and Canada. Over 8,000 Alex's Lemonade Stands are held each year in thousands of schools and neighborhoods in every state and all over the world. Connecticut remains one of the foundation's strongest supporters. Back in Philadelphia, the Scott family hangs the Connecticut flag outside their home as a sign of its roots in Connecticut and its support of the UConn Huskies.

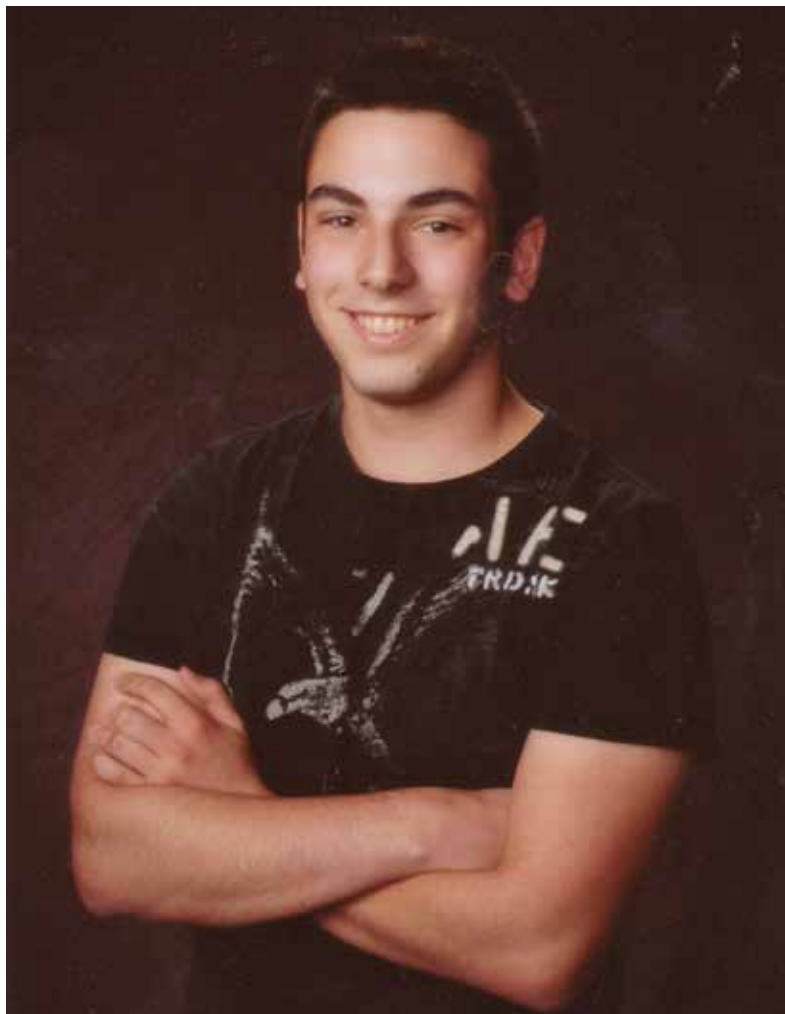
[Sam's Race for a Place](#) began through young adolescent Samantha Udolf's simple desire to give her time to a Ronald McDonald House (RMH). A West Hartford resident, Sam was inspired by the work the RMH did for kids in need of medical treatment and began donating her time to the Springfield, Massachusetts RMH. Kids receiving orthopedic surgery at area hospitals stayed at RMH through their recuperation



Dylan, Claudia & Sam Udolf of Sam's Race for a Place

Photo by Nick Caito

www.hoffmanauto.com



Jonathan Berman of Connecticut Kids for Charity

periods. Sam and her siblings, Claudia and Dylan, would come up with fun activities for the kids, including art projects and birthday parties. Their upbeat company and the fun activities made all the difference in the world to the kids at the Springfield RMH, who needed a home away from home while they received treatment and healed.

After dedicating their Sunday afternoons to the Springfield RMH, it didn't take the Udolf kids long to realize that virtually all of the funds the organization received went directly to food. And so, the fundraising began. As an avid skier and two-time Junior Olympian who started racing at the age of eight, Sam simply combined two things she loved: her passion for skiing and her devotion to the RMH. Fundraising at her skiing events made perfect sense—and Sam's Race for a Place was started in 2008.

With the permission of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, Sam started selling Sam's Race for a Place tee-shirts and sweatshirts at her ski events and accepting donations. Today, all three of the Udolf kids raise awareness and funds for the Springfield RMH through their chosen sports: Sam through skiing, Claudia through squash and Dylan through snowboarding. And the Udolf children are not your average competitors. Sam is currently captain of her ski team at Harvard University—as a junior. Claudia is a freshman on the Tufts University squash team. Seventeen-year-old Dylan is a professional snowboarder competing around the country while attending school and spending time at the Springfield RMH when he can. Both Sam and Dylan wear racing

suits in the RMH colors as a constant reminder of their efforts to help children recover from difficult surgeries while being away from home.

With Sam and Claudia away at college, Dylan is currently the most active Udolf child for Sam's Race for a Place. Dylan maintains the Sam's Race for a Place blog, and this past February he announced a donation that took Sam's Race for a Place over the \$60,000 mark for donations since 2008. Parents Robert and Danielle are amazed at what their kids have achieved simply by following their passions.

Connecticut Kids for Charity was started in 2004 by Jonathan and Daniel Berman of Stamford, Connecticut. Inspired to share the lifestyle of giving back that they learned by volunteering at a local soup kitchen with their family, Jonathan and Daniel started Connecticut Kids for Charity to help other kids learn the value of community service.

Realizing the impact that small fundraising efforts can have on children in need around the world, Jonathan and Daniel focused on fundraising for UNICEF by rallying their school communities behind Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. This simple act of coordinating support for a cause led to a Stamford school raising \$800 in 2004, followed by \$3000 raised by two schools in 2005. By 2006, kids in the Stamford public and private school systems were raising \$10,000 per year.

Jonathan and Daniel Berman are young men now and continue to volunteer as time allows. Daniel graduated from Johns Hopkins University and Jonathan is a student in chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Jonathan and his friends are still involved with community service through the Yerwood Center in Stamford, which supports the education and personal development of area youth.

When asked what he would say to other young people about getting involved with community service, Jonathan suggested that kids would benefit from finding a way to combine an activity they love with helping other people. The Bermans are a family of foodies, so volunteering at a soup kitchen where they could cook made a lot of sense. Jonathan and Daniel Berman internalized their family value of community service and created Connecticut Kids for Charity to share it with their friends and community.

The Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer is the oldest charity represented here and was started by grown-ups, but it was inspired by a little boy in a big way. Tommy Mozdierz had a passion for trucks and a life that was way too short. He died of cancer just two weeks before his fifth birthday in 1953. One of the earliest cases of childhood leukemia, there was no treatment and Tommy died within four months of his diagnosis. His death gained the attention of the state and his New Britain community.



Tommy Fund president Pete Parente poses with fellow board members (left to right) Denise Carr, Jennifer Cohen and Marisol Lassalle

Of course, Tommy's love of trucks included firetrucks and the firemen who drove them. After all, firetrucks are the coolest and firemen are awe-inspiring heroes – especially to kids. In 1953, the members of the New Britain Fire Department were the heroes for the Mozdierz family. Their efforts raised almost \$1,000 to help Tommy's family pay for his expenses, and they raised another \$7,000 to begin funding childhood leukemia research at Yale University.

After the first few years of fundraising, the Tommy Fund went dormant but was revitalized in the 1970s by Tom Brunnock, an attorney, and Dave DeRosa, a restaurateur. Both were fathers of children being treated for cancer at Yale-New Haven Hospital. When they decided to start fundraising for childhood cancer research, they discovered that the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer already existed and brought it back to life.

Today, the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer is run by a 15-member volunteer Board of Directors, which still includes Tom Brunnock. The annual fundraising activities include a Family Day and Casey's Victory Crusade Motorcycle Ride. The Family Day attracts 600–700 people each year and raises \$25,000–\$50,000. Activities include a 5K Road Race, a kids' walk and other fun activities in a carnival-style setting.

The Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer started out raising money for research, but as needs changed the focus turned to

childhood cancer survivors and their families. A child with cancer is considered a survivor from the first day of his or her diagnosis. The Tommy Fund is now dedicated to helping kids and their families adjust to the life changes required to support the treatment of a child with cancer. The funds help 250–300 families per year with things as small as parking fees and providing meals to things as big as providing temporary mortgage relief when parents take a leave of absence from work in support of their child. No other organization associated with Yale-New Haven Hospital provides the type of family assistance that the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer provides. It's the strong work of the fund's dedicated Board of Directors with the support of the Connecticut community that allows the Tommy Fund to provide vital services to children and families that visit the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven.

These eight incredible kids who started four charities and the one little boy who inspired decades of charitable giving are all from Connecticut. May they all inspire us to ask ourselves what we can do to give back to our communities. Or, even better—can we help our kids tap into what they are passionate about and inspire them to use that passion in service to others? After all, the lesson that these Connecticut kids have instilled in us is that a few simple ideas paired with a few simple actions can grow into communal acts of compassion and generosity with the best kinds of outcomes. **H**

Keeping It All in the Family— Seven Multi-Generational Businesses

By Ken Liebeskind

Photography by Nick Caito

In these unsentimental times, there are all too many examples of children who don't wish to follow in their families' footsteps but would rather find their own paths. How heartwarming it is to recognize seven multigenerational businesses that, like Hoffman Auto Group, have withstood the test of time.

Carbone's Ristorante,
588 Franklin Ave., Hartford
Carbone's Kitchen,
6 Wintonbury Mall,
Bloomfield

Hartford's best known Italian restaurant is Carbone's Ristorante, the Franklin Avenue eatery that dates back to the 1930s when, said Vinnie Carbone, the current owner, his grandfather and uncle had an idea. "They owned an Atlantic Richfield gas station with the Bulkeley ball stadium across the street and they saw guys leaving the games and thought it would be a good idea to serve sandwiches and beer," he said. "They opened a little place called Southern Plantation in 1938—we couldn't use the Italian name then. That's how we started, and little by little we changed people's view of Italian food."

It wasn't until 1960 that the name was changed to Carbone's, and the family soon garnered a reputation for tableside preparation of gourmet Italian food that continues to this day. "We prepared Caesar and spinach salads at the table and specialized in veal and pasta dishes," Carbone said. "Everything's homemade from bread and desserts to pasta. We make our own pasta and also use local products. We just got clams back after the harshness of the winter."

Carbone's is often said to be located in Hartford's Little Italy, but Carbone said that is a misnomer. "The neighborhood and city have changed over the years and many other groups are here. We remain true to the people who appreciate the soulfulness of a family-run business, which has a special meaning to the people. Chains come in, but we cling to the tradition and treat it like it's brand new all the time."

Dine at Carbone's and you may rub shoulders with celebrities,



Representing the second through fourth generations of ownership, (left to right) Kathryn Carbone, Vinnie Carbone, Guy Carbone and Nicole Carbone pose in their Hartford restaurant, Carbone's Ristorante

whose photos line the walls, from entertainers Dustin Hoffman and Sammy Davis, Jr. to sports stars Lawrence Taylor and Phil Simms. Carbone's has been acclaimed as the best Italian restaurant in the state by *Connecticut Magazine* and *Hartford Magazine* and received praise from diners, including, "Best Italian food in the south end of Hartford. This place serves food like it should be served with gusto," from a diner at Dine.com.

Carbone's enduring popularity prompted the family to open Carbone's Kitchen in Bloomfield in 2012. The restaurant is "a casual version of Carbone's in the suburbs," Carbone said. "They don't do tableside—it's more informal trattoria-style. Bloomfield is having a resurgence when it comes to new restaurants. It's the right location at the right time." Carbone's Kitchen is open every day, while Carbone's closes Sundays. For the best Italian food in Hartford and its suburbs, try dining at one of the Carbone family restaurants.

Burnside Ice Co./Olde Burnside Brewing 776 Tolland St., East Hartford

If you want ice or cold beer, Burnside Ice Co. and Olde Burnside Brewing are your best bets in Hartford. The ice company produces crushed, cubed and block ice and is the only company that makes 300 lb. block ice in Connecticut. The brewery makes Ten Penny Ale, a traditional brew with a Scottish twist that is sold in four packs at local stores and can be sampled at tastings in the beer garden on Tolland Street.

The family business was started in 1911 by Albert McClellan, who died in 1951. His grandson, Robert McClellan, runs it today. Albert began by harvesting ice from a pond on land that is now part of the East Hartford Golf Course. After the ice house burned down, a new building was constructed in 1933 where the company continues to operate. Albert originally delivered harvested pond ice via horse and wagon, but in 1932 the company began using an ice compressor that created block ice from cans of water. "We have a working antique that's the only way to make block ice and we want to keep everything as original as we can," Robert McClellan said. Today, the company also makes Frosty Nuggets

Ice Crystals hygienically produced and packaged in resealable bags as well as bags of cubed ice.

Ten Penny Ale derived from the fresh water that was initially used to make ice. "We drilled a well in 1964 to cool the machinery and it was a good water source, so in 1991 we put spigots in front of the building to sell natural water," McClellan said. "People came by and filled up five-gallon buckets and a customer said it would make good-tasting beer. We were looking to get into something to work in synergy with the ice business, so we hired Ray Ballard as the first brewmaster. We found a brewery in Wyoming that was closing and used four trailer trucks to get the equipment to Connecticut. We brewed our first batch of beer in 2000." The beer is brewed with specialty malt from England and the pure water found on the property that produces "the depth of color and flavor that create our world-class brews," McClellan said.

The Burnside Ice Co. was honored by the UConn Family Business Program with the Connecticut Family Business of the Year Award, first in the small business category. McClellan is the second generation of his family to run the business, and the family business will continue. "My sons are in the business with me," McClellan said.

Bob McClellan, center, of Burnside Ice Co. and Olde Burnside Brewing, poses with his son Jason McClellan (right) and 10-year-old grandson Cameron McClellan



Munson's Chocolates 62 Isham Rd., West Hartford

A Hartford success story, Munson's Chocolates has expanded to 10 locations in Connecticut ranging from Farmington to Mystic, and will celebrate its 70th anniversary next year. Karen Munson, who owns the business with her husband Jim Florence, is the third generation of the Munson family to operate the fabled candy maker.

"It was founded by my grandparents, Ben and Josephine Munson, in 1946 and originally called The Dandy Candy Company," she said. "It was started after the Depression as a way to make ends meet. It started in a small tailor shop making sugar wafers—and the rest is history." The history includes over 20 years in Hartford as an original tenant of the Hartford Civic Center. Today, its West Hartford shop serves the Hartford area and Munson's is Connecticut's largest retail chocolate manufacturer.

Munson's makes all of its products at its headquarters in Bolton. "We're unique because we make everything we sell," Munson said. "We make over 200 items, including our popular signature candies, the toffee butter crunch, pecan caramel patties and chocolate nut barks." If your mouth isn't already watering, we can tell you about the new holiday items, including a peanut butter, potato chip and pretzel confection for Easter and eggnog, cinnamon and Baileys truffle cups for Christmas. Regular customers are asked to sample the new products. "We survey customers and ask their feedback and do surveys in stores," Munson said.

While the company has grown considerably since the early days, the standards that began with the first pound of candy remain. "Everyone knows if you want superb chocolates, you simply have to go to Munson's," she said. Fans of Munson's chocolates think they're peerless. "The chocolate, bar none, is the best in the world," one devotee said. "I've traveled to Europe and



Karen Munson, third-generation owner of Munson's Chocolates, poses with her husband Jim Florence, Munson's vice president of sales and marketing

bought chocolate in Sweden. Munson's is still the best."

Munson's Chocolates in West Hartford is open seven days a week. You can also shop online at munsonschocolates.com.

Mozzicato DePasquale Bakery & Pastry Shop 329 Franklin Ave., Hartford

Delicious Italian pastries and breads are proudly offered at Mozzicato DePasquale Bakery & Pastry Shop on Franklin Avenue in Hartford and satellite locations in Wallingford and Plainville.



(left to right) Parents Gino and Gisella Mozzicato, pictured with their son Rino and daughter Gina in their original bakery on Franklin Avenue, Hartford. Their third child, Paolo, is not pictured.

Gina Mozzicato and her brothers, Paolo and Rino, operate the business that was founded by their parents, Gino and Gisella, who emigrated from Italy in 1968 and launched the Mozzicato Pastry Shop in 1973. In 1975, they purchased DePasquale Bakery, a business founded in 1908 that specialized in breads and rolls, and combined the two product lines.

"My parents started from zero and have managed to fill the business with a wonderful clientele of customers and built a brand that my brothers and I are proud to carry on," Gina said. "It's a family business but not only a business, it's a lifestyle, because in the food business you work nights, weekends and holidays so it becomes a part of your family life. The customers become friends and the family becomes part of people's traditions, which is very rewarding and makes it all worthwhile."

The products are made from authentic Italian machines. "We travel to Italy to buy specialized machines to make our products and the cannoli machine is one of only four in the United States," Gina said. "We used to make all the pastries by hand, but we sell a lot more cookies now."

The bakery specializes in authentic Italian baked goods, introducing new items based on Italian recipes. "We have cappuccino cakes and pies with Nutella, a chocolate hazelnut spread that's well known in Italy and is becoming popular in the U.S.," she said. "When we travel to Italy we see what they're making, come back and make what's new and introduce it to our customers."

Mozzicato Caff , a gathering place with an authentic Italian atmosphere modeled after the many caff s of Italy, was opened in 1978. It offers Italian cappuccino, espresso, pastries, stuffed breads and a full bar for after-dinner drinks and cordials. It's open until 11 p.m. weeknights and 1 a.m. on weekends and is frequently visited after dinner and movies for coffee and dessert.

Mozzicato has repeatedly been voted "Best Bakery in Connecticut" by *Connecticut Magazine* and the *Hartford Advocate*.

It is warmly known as a family business built on quality Italian baking, and its clientele continues to grow in Connecticut and beyond. "We're always looking to expand our wholesale business and we'll eventually expand the retail business," Gina said. "We'll keep building a strong customer base and expand our online business."

Connecticut Lighting Centers, 160 Brainard Rd., Hartford Southington Showroom, 235 Queen St., Southington

Connecticut Lighting in Hartford isn't just a single retail store, it's part of a lighting concern that also includes Restoration Lighting Gallery across the street that specializes in vintage lighting and restoration repairs. The company also owns a showroom in Southington, giving it three locations that qualify it as the Hartford area's largest source of residential and commercial lighting.

David Director currently runs the family business that was started by his father, Arthur, in 1972. His son, Todd, joined the company in 2011, making it a three-generation family operation. "We started as a general lighting store that dealt in retail and builder business, and over the years we've grown into a larger business with lighting, fans, home accessories, hardware and shades," Director said. "We do business all over the country and don't just sell lighting, we sell solutions."

Connecticut Lighting is a customer-centric business that goes out of its way to provide first-class service. "Our business has been built on honesty, integrity and our focused drive to satisfy our customers' needs,"



David Director, President of Connecticut Lighting Centers, poses with his son, Todd, in the Hartford store

Director said. "We'd rather sell you something for \$100 than \$1,000, if it's the right thing."

The company sells over 200 lines of chandeliers, pendants and every type of lighting, and offers a variety of contemporary LED lighting. "We offer more compact fixtures with neat shapes where the lighting is integrated into the fixture. The LED light bulb will take the place of incandescent lights and instead of burning at 60 watts it will

burn at 6. It's the biggest thing going on." There are a variety of LED lights available and customers must be careful which ones they purchase, which is a great reason to buy from Connecticut Lighting. "It's buyer beware and that's why you have to trust who you buy from," Director said. "We offer a five-year warranty on LED lighting that's not from the manufacturer, it's from us."

Lighting safety is also an important issue at Connecticut Lighting. "If you were going to buy a child's light, you want to know if it's safe, what kind of paint was used and if it passed a safety test. Those are the things we're looking for," Director said. "If lights don't meet the standards we're not going to carry them. Even if we lose out on sales we feel it's in the customer's best interest."

Whether you're looking to buy a new LED lighting fixture or a vintage lighting fixture like a fleur-de-lis cast brass chandelier, Connecticut Lighting is the Hartford area's best source. The Directors and a team of highly qualified lighting professionals are dedicated to providing high-quality lighting products that will light up your world.



((Left to right) Stuart Lewis, William Wood and James Lewis from Harvey & Lewis Opticians. Stuart and James hold a copy of the *Saturday Evening Post* featuring an illustration Norman Rockwell made from their original Hartford location, as well as a letter from Rockwell.

Harvey & Lewis Opticians 45 Asylum St., Hartford

The old Harvey & Lewis Opticians on State and Main in Hartford opposite the Old State House was torn down in the 1980s, but fortunately the gargoyles were saved and last October they were returned to the current store on Asylum Street. The four gargoyles, which display elements of the optician's trade—a pair of binoculars, a pair of sunglasses, a broken pair of glasses and a box camera—are a keen reflection of Hartford's retail giant. "It's a great connection to Hartford's history and how great it is to be part of such a great city," Jim Lewis said.

Lewis' great-grandfather, Robert Lewis, started the business in 1890, and in 1927 oversaw the building of the seven-story skyscraper, which was one of the earliest Art Deco design buildings in the nation. "We're the oldest retailer downtown and the largest seller of contact lenses in Connecticut," Lewis said. "We do all our own lens grinding in our laboratory using Connecticut machines, so our lenses and machines are made in Connecticut."

As if the gargoyles aren't enough for the history books, Lewis said, "We were the original setting for the Norman Rockwell painting *New Glasses*," that appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1956.

Harvey & Lewis doesn't just sell high fashion eyewear, it partakes in community service. "This is our 125th anniversary, and to commemorate the event we're raising funds for the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation," Lewis said. "Proceeds from our cleaning products go to the organization, which raises dogs for the blind. It takes \$45,000 to pay for one dog. We've raised \$3,000 so far, and it's our goal to raise enough to pay for one dog that goes to the recipient at no cost."

The firm expanded beyond Hartford, from New Haven to Springfield, and currently has nine Connecticut locations, including new ones at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, the Shoppes at Farmington Valley in Canton and a merger with Enfield Opticians in Enfield.

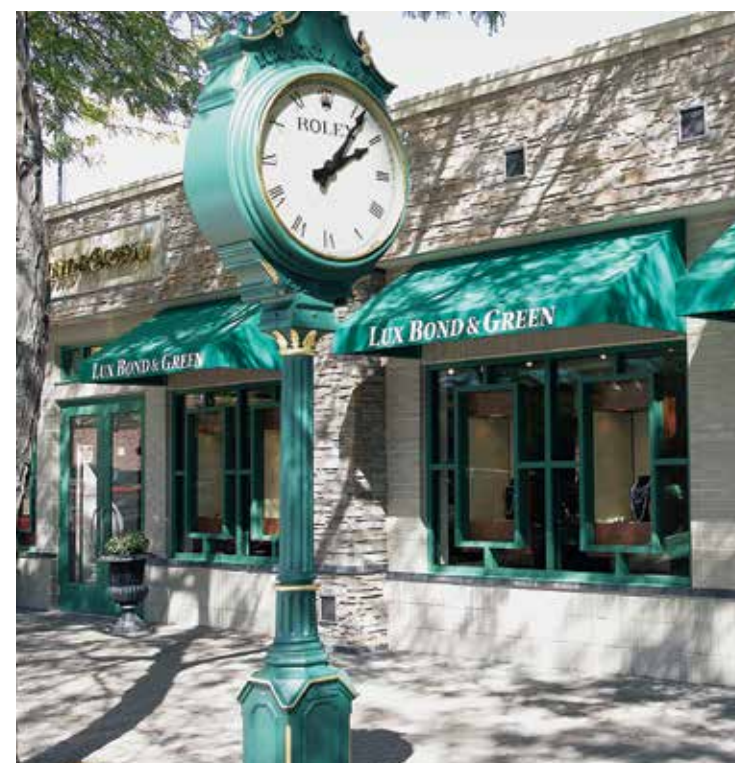
Lux Bond & Green 46 LaSalle Rd., West Hartford

The Green family, which opened its first jewelry store in Waterbury in 1898 after selling items from a horse and cart, is proud to feature seven stores in New England today, including its flagship location in West Hartford.

John Green, who runs the business with his wife Norma, his brother Marc and his sister-in-law Sheryl, looks back to the early days when his great-grandfather, Morris Green, launched the business.

"He started in Waterbury, which was one of the biggest industrial centers in the U.S. at the time. He sold gold eye frames, pocket watches and fixed jewelry," Green said. "The second generation came to Hartford in 1932 and bought out Lux & Bond Jewelers in 1933. The third generation bought out Philip H. Stevens Co., which was also on Pratt Street, in the 1960s. In 1967, we became Lux, Bond, Green & Stevens, but we closed a store in the early 2000s and we are Lux Bond & Green today. It's still a long name, but a great tradition in our community, and it's still family owned and operated."

The company offers a variety of watches, jewelry and gifts. "We



The Lux Bond & Green flagship store in West Hartford

specialize in high-quality products in all price ranges, from \$25 to \$250,000," Green said, noting that the most expensive items are diamonds, ruby and sapphire rings and Patek Philippe mechanical watches.

"We build relationships with our customers and we're still doing that today," he said. "We're a non-commissioned store, which is rare in our business. It's about creating memories for our customers, not making sales."

If you visit the West Hartford store, you may be able to meet a jewelry designer like Roberto Coin. "The most famous international designers come to our stores because of our long relationship with them," Green said. "We're one of the small cities, but they continually come to see us. Our relationship with brands is just as important as our relationship with customers."

The Green family is proud of its reputation for exceptional customer service, fabulous values and extraordinary inventory. "It sets us apart from other family jewelers," Green said. "Whatever the occasion, our dedicated staff will assist you with a great experience and memorable selection." **H**



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48 Hours—What to Do on the Connecticut Shoreline

By Ellis Parker Photography by Ellis Parker

Living in easy striking distance of the Connecticut Shoreline, it’s easy to take it a bit for granted. When we have the gift of a couple of days off during the work week or an entire weekend, we tend to set our sights on vacation targets a bit farther away: like Block Island, Newport, Cape Cod or even the Maine coast. But with only 48 hours or so to enjoy some “you time,” why not maximize your mini-vacation by staying close to home and reducing travel time?



New Spring Menu Items at Fresh Salt in the Saybrook Point Inn & Spa.

We understand that the Connecticut Shoreline actually runs the breadth of the Nutmeg State. But when people refer to the Connecticut Shoreline, they generally mean its freer and breezier eastern stretches, and not New Haven, Bridgeport or the Gold Coast. So as we make some recommendations on where to stay, what to eat and what to do, we’ll just be looking at towns on or close to the shoreline from Branford to Stonington with doglegs up the Connecticut and Thames rivers. (We’ll be completely omitting the casinos, a topic for another day.) Our recommendations will be exemplary, not exhaustive. Remember that some activities are dependent on season and always call ahead to confirm.

Lodging, Dining and Spa all in one— *An easy way to maximize your 48 hours is to choose a place that has everything you need:*

- **Madison Beach Hotel**, 94 West Wharf Rd., Madison; 203-245-1404; madisonbeachhotel.com
- **Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa**, 625 North Rd., Groton; 860-446-2600; marriott.com
- **Saybrook Point Inn & Spa**, 2 Bridge St., Old Saybrook; 800-243-0212; saybrook.com

- **The Spa at Norwich Inn**, 607 W. Thames St., Norwich; 860-886-2401; thespaatnorwichinn.com
- **Water’s Edge Resort & Spa**, 1525 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook; 860-399-5901; watersedgeresortandspa.com

Quaint Dining and Lodging— *Stay in an historic colonial setting while enjoying fine dining on premises:*

- **Bee & Thistle Inn & Lounge**, 100 Lyme St., Old Lyme; 860-434-1667; beandthistleinn.com
- **Copper Beech Inn**, 46 Main St., Ivoryton; 860-767-0330; copperbeechinn.com
- **Inn at Mystic**, 3 Williams Ave., Mystic; 860-536-9604; innatmystic.com
- **Old Lyme Inn**, 85 Lyme St., Old Lyme; 860-434-2600; oldlymeinn.com

New American Dining— *These are some great options for upscale American fare:*

- **Aspen**, 2 Main St., Old Saybrook; 860-395-5888; aspentct.com
- **Gabrielle’s**, 78 Main St., Centerbrook; 860-767-2440; gabrielles.net
- **Home**, 1114 Main St., Branford; 203-483-5896; homerestaurantct.com
- **Oyster Club**, 13 Water St., Mystic; 860-415-9266; oysterclubct.com
- **River Tavern**, 23 Main St., Chester; 860-526-9417; rivertavernrestaurant.com

Seafood Restaurants— *These seafooders are among the shoreline’s best:*

- **Bill’s Seafood**, 548 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook; 860-399-7224; billsseafood.com

- **Dog Watch Café**, 194 Water St., Stonington; 860-415-4510; dogwatchcafe.com
- **Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant**, 22 Chesterfield Rd., East Lyme; 860-739-8866; flandersfish.com
- **Lenny’s Indian Head Inn**, 205 S. Montowese St., Branford; 203-488-1500; lennysnow.com
- **Nellie Green’s**, 50 Maple St., Branford; 203-483-8400; nelliegreens.com
- **S & P Oyster Company**, 1 Holmes St., Mystic; 860-536-2674; sp-oyster.com

Seafood Shacks— *If you feel there’s nothing like eating fresh seafood at a picnic table, these seasonal places are for you:*

- **Costello’s Clam Shack**, 145 Pearl St., Noank; 860-572-2779; costellosclamsback.com
- **Lobster Landing**, 152 Commerce St., Clinton; 860-669-2005
- **Lobster Shack**, 7 Indian Neck Ave., Branford; 203-483-8414; lobstershackct.com

- **The Place**, 901 Boston Post Rd., Guilford; 203-453-9276; theplaceguilford.com

French Fare— *Nothing quite says special occasion or romantic getaway like fine French food:*

- **Bar Bouchée**, 8 Scotland Ave., Madison; 860-318-8004; barbouchee.com
- **Café Routier**, 1353 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook; 860-399-8700; caferoutier.com
- **Chamard Bistro**, 115 Cow Hill Rd., Clinton; 860-664-0299; chamard.com
- **La Belle Aurore**, 75 Pennsylvania Ave., Niantic; 860-739-6767; labelleauroract.com
- **Le Petit Café**, 225 Montowese St., Branford; 203-483-9791; lepetitcafe.net
- **Restaurant L & E**, 59 Main St., Chester; 860-526-5301; restaurantfrench75bar.com

Italian Fare— *Fine Italian food is also a popular shoreline dining option:*

- **Bravo Bravo**, 20 E. Main St., Mystic; 860-536-3228; bravobravoct.com
- **Café Allegre**, 725 Boston Post Rd., Madison; 203-245-7773; cafeallegre.com
- **La Foresta**, 163 Rt. 81, Killingworth; 860-663-1155; laforestarestaurant.com

- **Rustica Ristorante**, 189 Middlesex Ave., Chester; 860-526-9021; rusticact.com

World-Class Pizza— *There is pizza on the shoreline that can hold its own anywhere:*

- **Al Forno**, 1654 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook; 860-399-4166; alforno.net
- **Bufalina**, 1070 Boston Post Rd., Guilford; 203-458-1377; bufalinact.com
- **OTTO**, 89 Main St., Chester; 860-526-9445; ottochester.com

Great Burgers— *Though some are not burger joints, these burgers rate among Connecticut’s best:*

- **Bar Bouchée**, 8 Scotland Ave., Madison; 860-318-8004; barbouchee.com
- **Haywire Burger Bar**, 730 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook; 860-391-8479; haywireburgerbar.com
- **Jack Rabbit’s**, 254 Main St., Old Saybrook; 860-510-0048; jackrabbitsct.com
- **Restaurant L & E**, 59 Main St., Chester; 860-526-5301; restaurantfrench75bar.com
- **The River Tavern**, 23 Main St., Chester; 860-526-9417; rivertavernrestaurant.com



Stony Creek Trolley Trail



On the Connecticut River, a man and his best friend paddle past riverboat passengers for a photo op

Fun & Funky Joints—

These are the kinds of places that locals frequent and outsiders miss:

- **Cuckoo's Nest**, 1712 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook; 860-399-9060; cuckoosnest.biz
- **Engine Room**, 14 Holmes St., Mystic; 860-415-8117; engineroomct.com
- **Mia's Prime Time Café**, 1 W. Broad St., Pawcatuck; 860-599-3840; miaspt.com
- **Moxie**, 52 Wall St., Madison; 203-421-6963; moxie-bar.com
- **Red House**, 158 Main St., Deep River; 860-526-2600; redhousect.com

Breakfast Nooks—

These are great homey places to enjoy breakfast:

- **Abby's Place**, 37 Pratt St., Essex; 860-767-0560; abbysplacect.com
- **Cristy's**, 1261 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook; 860-399-4211
- **Cristy's Madison**, 73 W. Wharf Rd., Madison; 203-245-7377; cristysmadison.com
- **Hidden Kitchen**, 705 Boston Post Rd. C4, Guilford; 203-458-7806; biddenkitchenguilford.com
- **Kitchen Little at Mystic River Marina**, 36 Quarry Rd., Mystic; 860-536-2122; kitchennlittle.org

Brunch Buffets—

These places are famous for their brunch offerings:

- **Anthony's of Guilford**, 2392 Boston Post Rd., Guilford; 203-453-4121; anthonyys-guilford.com
- **Fresh Salt at Saybrook Point Inn & Spa**, 2 Bridge St., Old Saybrook; 860-388-1111; saybrook.com
- **La Luna Ristorante**, 168 N. Main St., Branford; 203-483-9995; lalunact.com

- **The Restaurant at Water's Edge**, 1525 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook; 860-399-5901; watersedgeresortandspa.com
- **The Wharf at Madison Beach Hotel**, 94 West Wharf Rd., Madison; 203-245-1404; madisonbeachhotel.com

Bakeries—

Why not inject a sweet note into your shoreline visit?

- **G Café Bakery**, 1008 Main St., Branford; 203-208-0930; wholeg.com
- **Hen & Heifer**, 23 Water St., Guilford; 203-689-5651; benandbeifer.com
- **Meriano's Bake Shoppe**, 200 Boston Post Rd., Madison; 203-453-2924; merianosbakeshoppe.com
- **Sweetie's Bakery & Café**, 191 Bank St., New London; 860-437-0130; sweetiesbakeryandcafe.com
- **Take the Cake**, 2458 Boston Post Rd., Guilford; 203-453-1896; originaltakethecake.com

Breweries—

Breweries can make a fun stop on a brief vacation:

- **The Beer'd Brewing Co.**, 22 Bayview Ave. #15, Stonington; 860-857-1014; beerdbrewing.com
- **Cottrell Brewing Company**, 100 Mechanic St. #22, Pawcatuck; 860-599-8213; cottrellbrewing.com
- **DuVig Brewing Company**, 59 School Ground Rd., Branford; 203-208-2213; duvig.com
- **Thimble Island Brewing Company**, 53 E. Industrial Dr., Branford; 860-208-2827; thimbleislandbrewery.com

Ice Cream—

After a summertime dip in the water, ice cream is the next best way to cool down:

- **A.C. Petersen Farms**, 113 Shore Rd., Old Lyme; 860-434-1998; acpetersenfarms.com
- **Ashley's Ice Cream**, 1016 Main St., Branford; 203-481-5558; ashleysicecream.net
- **Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream**, 2 W. Main St., Mystic; 860-572-7978; mysticdrawbridgeicecream.com
- **Old Lyme Ice Cream Shoppe & Café**, 34 Lyme St., Old Lyme; 860-434-6942; oldlymeicecreamshoppe.com
- **Tissa's Le Souk du Maroc**, 2 Pennywise Ln., Old Saybrook; 860-395-1781; diningattissas.com

Wineries—

Here are some options from the Connecticut Wine Trail:

- **Chamard Vineyards**, 115 Cow Hill Rd., Clinton; 860-664-0299; chamard.com
- **Jonathan Edwards Winery**, 74 Chester Main Rd., North Stonington; 860-535-0202; jedwardswinery.com
- **Saltwater Farm Vineyard**, 349 Elm St., Stonington; 860-415-9072; saltwaterfarmvineyard.com
- **Stonington Vineyards**, 523 Taugwonk Rd., Stonington; 860-535-1222; stoningtonvineyards.com

Major Beach Facilities—

These are great beaches that can accommodate large numbers:

- **Hammonasset Beach State Park**, Madison
- **Ocean Beach Park**, New London
- **Rocky Neck State Park**, Niantic

Thimble Islands Cruises—

Take a tour of these historic islets once labelled "The Hundred Islands" on maps:

- **Captain Bob Milne on the Volsunga IV**; 203-481-3345; thimbleislands.com
- **Captain Dave Kusterer on the Islander**; 352-978-1502; thimbleislander.net
- **Captain Mike Infantino on the Sea Mist II**; 203-488-8905; thimbleislandcruise.com

Sport Fishing—

The Connecticut shoreline can be your launching point for a variety of fishing opportunities:

- **Bluefin Sportfishing Charters**, Clinton; 877-259-9920; bluefincharters.com
- **Captain Bruce Sportfishing**, Groton; 860-235-6095; captainbrucesportfishing.com
- **Islander Sport Fishing Charters**, Old Saybrook; 203-376-1753; islandersportfishingcharters.com

(Not So) Secret Spots—

Town regulations (more vigorously enforced in summer) may apply to some of these lovely spots to enjoy some fresh air:

- **Branford Point/Parker Park**, Branford
- **Chaffinch Island Park**, Guilford
- **Founder's Park**, Old Saybrook
- **Grass Island**, Guilford
- **Niantic Bay Boardwalk**, East Lyme
- **Stony Creek Trolley Trail**, Branford
- **Westwoods**, Guilford

Historic Villages—

These picturesque villages reward exploration:

- **Chester**
- **Mystic**
- **Stonington**
- **Essex**
- **Old Lyme**

Museums—

Here are a few of the many museums worth exploring:

- **Florence Griswold Museum**, 96 Lyme St., Old Lyme; 860-434-5542; florencegriswoldmuseum.org
- **Gillette Castle State Park**, 67 River Rd., East Haddam; 860-526-2336; ct.gov/deep/gillettecastle
- **Mystic Seaport**, 75 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic; 860-572-0711; mysticseaport.org
- **Submarine Force Museum & U.S.S. Nautilus**, 1 Crystal Lake Rd., Groton; 860-694-3174; ussnautilus.org

Theaters & Concert Venues—

Take stock of a shoreline teeming with theatrical and musical opportunities:

- **Eugene O'Neill Theater Center**, 305 Great Neck Rd., Waterford; 860-443-5378; theoneill.org
- **Garde Arts Center**, 325 State St., New London; 860-444-7373; gardearts.org
- **Goodspeed Opera House**, 6 Main St., East Haddam; 860-873-8668; goodspeed.org
- **Ivoryton Playhouse**, 103 Main St., Ivoryton; 860-767-7318; ivorytonplayhouse.org
- **Katharine Hepburn Theater**, 300 Main St., Old Saybrook; 860-510-0453; katharinehepburntheater.org

Other Organized Activities—

Here are some other great suggestions:

- **Brownstone Park**, 161 Brownstone Ave., Portland; 866-860-0208; brownstonepark.com
- **Camelot Cruises**, 1 Marine Park, Haddam; 860-345-8591; seenewengland.com
- **Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Ride**, 1 Railroad Ave., Essex; 860-767-0103; essexsteamtrain.com
- **Mystic Aquarium**, 55 Coogan Blvd., Mystic; 860-572-5955; mysticaquarium.org

Other Suggestions—

A few more activities, limited only by your imagination:

- Antiquing
- Beachcombing
- Biking
- Birding
- Clamming
- Consignment shopping
- Crabbing
- Cross-country skiing
- Dancing
- Fishing
- Frisbee
- Geocaching
- Golf
- Ice fishing
- Kayaking or canoeing
- Kite flying
- Lighthouse visiting
- Listening to live music
- Outlet shopping
- Painting or photography
- Picnicking
- Sand sculpting
- Scuba diving or snorkeling
- Sunset watching
- Swimming





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Used Car and Truck Buying 101

Advice from the Experts

By Lynn Fredricksen



Many buyers set their sights on new vehicles, but nowadays used vehicles, especially certified ones, provide consumers with the opportunity to secure a very high-quality vehicle from the get-go.

When it comes to buying a used car or truck, many people haven't a clue where to start. That's where the folks at Hoffman Auto Group come in. With three campuses offering everything from Hondas and Toyotas to Audis and Porsches, the team at Hoffman is ready to help. Even the most apprehensive first-time buyers will find just the right ride.

"The first thing we do is qualify their needs and wants," says Kevin Warriner, Sales Director, Lexus, Audi, Porsche, Ford and Lincoln for Hoffman Auto Group. "What are they looking for? What do they want? Is it safety? What's important to them?"

It is also important for customers to know their budget. Pre-owned vehicles tend to be priced lower than new ones, so that plays a factor as well, according to Warriner, who has been matching people of all ages with their ideal vehicle for years.

While many people come to the dealership with an idea of the type of vehicle they'd like to own and which features they want, for most it comes down to reliability. Everyone wants a reliable vehicle. That's where the certification process comes into play.

"After they decide what they're looking for, the second step is to look for that certified vehicle," says Tyrrell Dabrowski, Sales Director for Hoffman Toyota and Hoffman Honda in Avon/West Simsbury. "When purchasing a certified vehicle you have the peace of mind that the vehicle will include a warranty."

As Warriner explains, the certification process is extremely thorough, helping assure buyers that they are purchasing a car or truck that is less likely to need expensive repairs after the transaction is completed.

"Across the chain, we are big into the certification process," Warriner says. "It's sponsored by the manufacturer. What that does is it assures the customer that the vehicle went through a rigorous process in the shop."

According to Warriner, vehicle manufacturers are quite strict with what they'll consider to be a certified vehicle. For example, while the State of Connecticut has certain mandates to assure vehicle safety, the manufacturers' mandates go well above and beyond them.

"If there's 50 percent or less wear left on the brakes we are going to replace them," Warriner says. "Tires, too. When you're buying a certified car or truck, you are buying something you won't have to worry about. The one thing people do not want to deal with is headaches. The certification process takes a lot of that away."

While the Hoffman dealerships do not deal exclusively with certified pre-owned vehicles, buying from a Hoffman dealership carries its own kind of security.

"We are diligent about making sure that whatever goes on the road is 100 percent safe," Warriner says. "And we certainly don't want someone to be hit with a bill three or four months after buying the vehicle."

Both Warriner and Dabrowski are seasoned professionals with an extensive automotive history at Hoffman Auto Group. Over the years, they have learned that in addition to having a good product, strong relationships are equally important. Both take pride in knowing they've dealt with many of the same customers for years.

"We make sure our customers are happy and that they are well taken care of," Dabrowski says.

In fact, many of the pre-owned vehicles offered for sale at one of their dealerships are quite likely to have been purchased there as a new vehicle. This bodes well for both the dealership and the customer.

"We do so much repeat business, when a customer comes back in and has a 2013, I know the vehicle," Warriner says. "I know they've serviced it with us since the day they bought it. It gives people peace of mind to know that we can pull up its history and pass that along to the next person."

When a customer returns to a dealership—and to a particular sales person—it is a clear indication of great relationship building.

"Customer satisfaction is the most important thing," Warriner says. "If you're keeping people happy, they're telling other people. It's

just amazing the relationships you build over the years. Some of my closest friends now are customers I sold to years ago. It's funny how it works."

It also gives people peace of mind to know how involved Hoffman Auto Group is in the community. In addition to being honored numerous times for overall excellence as a company, Hoffman has long supported a multitude of community groups, charities and civic organizations.

"Everything the Hoffman family does in the community resonates with people," says Warriner. "They offer so much support to the community through their philanthropic endeavors as well as their employees volunteering their time to the organization's many charitable causes. That puts people at ease. They walk through the door and feel like they are dealing with a friend." **H**



Backyard Beautification for Better Living

By Lily Fisher



Barbara and Carl Harris love to take advantage of the great outdoors, but they don't have to travel far to enjoy a sunny afternoon or an evening under the stars. During the summer season, the Harrises entertain, swim, cook, relax and even sleep just steps away from their Guilford home.

In good weather, their backyard becomes an extension of their Guilford home. The couple has spent years tweaking the design and amenities yet says that the area is still a work in progress. The project

began when Carl, who loves to cook, decided he wanted to install a wood-fired pizza oven. His research led not only to the installation of an Italian-made oven but also to a side business importing and installing them.

"We had a pool, and we had a cheesy little grill," Harris says. "My backyard has evolved over 12 years, little by little, from the grill to the pizza oven, a rotisserie and a sauté station. It's now a full-blown, 4,000-square-foot entertainment center." Spread over four levels, the terraced outdoor area is a mix of textures, including slate, bluestone, natural granites and wood. Large teak tables—one is roomy enough for 14 guests—weather naturally and provide plenty of seating for the family and friends who gather frequently for an al fresco meal. The couple even sleeps outside on chaises under mosquito netting when the weather is warm and fair.

The Harrises are among a growing number of homeowners who are creating living space beyond the walls of their home. Designs that incorporate pools, cooking equipment, audio systems, lush landscaping, and dining, relaxing and activity areas are lending a resort-like feel to the backyard.

"The 'staycation' has really created this backyard living," says Harris who, through his New Haven-based EleMar stone and granite warehouse and Tuscany Fire wood-fired ovens businesses, has designed and outfitted al fresco entertainment centers for clients. "We saw this [trend] start after 9/11 when more people came to us and said, 'We're not going away, we're staying home with the family. We want outdoor entertainment with a pool, a jacuzzi, TV and a sound system.'"

As a landscape designer, Scott Hokunson has seen the rise of the "outdoor room where people can entertain" and agrees that its roots are

in the staycation. At its most basic, the open-air space might use a trellis or hedge as walls and ornamental trees to create a canopy. A stone patio, comfortable seating areas and native plantings create a simple room. At the other end of the spectrum is the more lavish entertainment center, complete with a pool and an outdoor kitchen including stainless steel cabinetry, cooking facilities and a dishwasher. "It is the type of thing that when you go outside, you don't have to go back in to get utensils or anything else you need," says Hokunson, who owns Blue Heron Landscape Design in Simsbury.

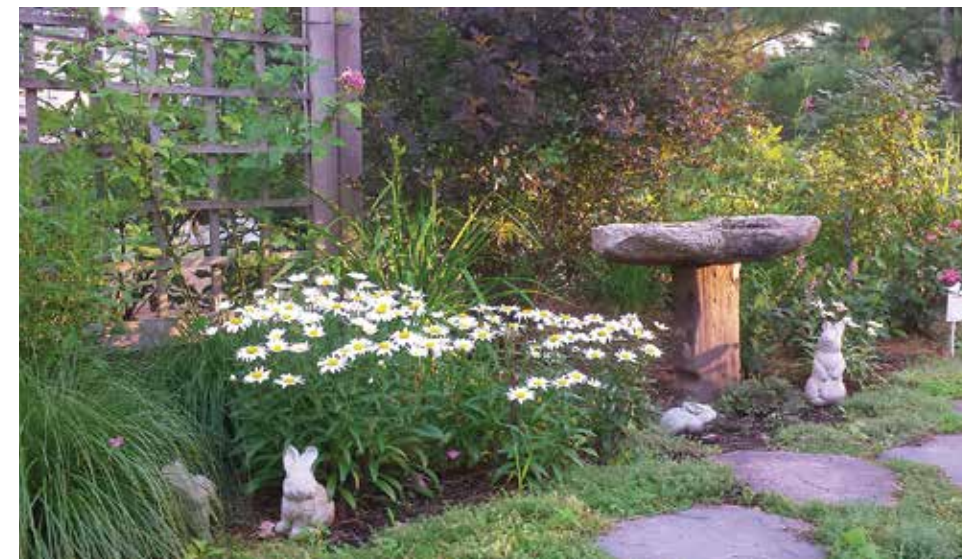
Greenery, both edible and ornamental, is an integral part of any yard beautification. For a variety of reasons, particularly the natural, organic movement, more homeowners are turning to vegetable gardening. "People are growing their own food on their property, either in the traditional 20-by-40-foot garden, a French parterre garden or mixed edibles in a perennial bed," Hokunson says. "They are planting [edibles] among their landscaping. Front yard vegetable gardens also are getting huge." Container gardening using vegetables, perennials or succulents is also making a comeback. Perfect for small spaces or to make a statement when strategically placed in a patio setting, these containers can be re-planted throughout the season.

The organic movement has spawned another trend, Hokunson points out. "People are looking toward native plants, capturing rain water for rain gardens and using pollinating

plants that attract butterflies," he says. "There's been a huge shift in the past six to eight years."

While shrubs, flowers, trees and succulents can add colors and textures to the landscape, designers are incorporating other static materials that remain beautiful year-round. "Corten steel, an architectural element mostly used in high-end arch installation, is a coming trend," Hokunson says of the material that weathers to a rusty orange color. The steel has sculptural uses as an edging or a design element on walls. "It goes well with every element—plants, stone—and can have a modern or old-fashioned look."

A pool often anchors a backyard transformation, and Rich Tanguay, owner of Tanguay Pools in Southington, has seen his share of trends





since he installed his first pool in 1964. The oblong painted concrete pool of the '60s, surrounded by a chain link fence, has given way to free-form shapes and ornate aluminum fences, he says. Amenities such as cabanas, outdoor showers, cooking units and awnings extend the pool area as an entertainment center.

Technology has entered the waters as cell phones can program or activate a pool heater or lighting. While pool liners add permanent color

to the interior, automated LED lighting allows the pool owner to change the color at a whim. An automated program can start a patriotic light show, which changes from red to white to blue, or a disco-style show, Tanguay says.

The sports pool is attracting homeowners who want a pool for more than swimming. "About 70 percent of our pools are sports pools," Tanguay says of the variation that is shallow on both ends and deeper in the middle. "It's for people who want to play games like dodgeball in the pool."

The pool often is the focal point of the landscaping of a backyard, Tanguay adds. Waterfalls and fire pits have become popular accessories for their entertainment value, and native stone and plantings encircle the pool. He has seen clients arrange for full-grown palm trees to decorate the pool area in true resort style. Planted in 20-gallon pots, the trees are set into the ground and rented for the warm-weather season. In the fall, the palms are removed and stored.

The latest backyard wrinkle appeals to the beer enthusiast who appreciates craft ales or enjoys home brewing. From the outside, the free-standing beer shed looks like it should house the lawnmower and other equipment. Instead, the interior is outfitted as a mini-bar, complete with shelves for displaying bottles, refrigeration and a counter with bar stools.

The bar shed is just one of the innovative amenities that will continue to pop up as homeowners spend more time outdoors and devise new reasons to stay outside. *H*



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HAPPENINGS

By Robert Bailin

Greater Hartford hosts a variety of special events throughout the year — from street festivals and art shows to major concerts and sporting events. Here is a sample of events that may be of interest to you.

June 12–27. “The International Festival of Arts & Ideas.” The International Festival of Arts & Ideas is a 16-day extravaganza of performing arts, lectures, and conversations that takes over theaters and open spaces in New Haven each June. More than 80% of Festival events are completely free! Events include Motown singer Darlene Love in concert on the Green; Machine de Cirque, an exciting new ensemble of young acrobats out of Quebec’s vibrant and innovative circus arts scene; Perfect Catch, a Throw-mantic Comedy featuring the expert juggling team of Michael Karas and Jen Slaw; Afropop superstar Angélique Kidjo; Yale International Choral Festival featuring choirs from around the world; and dozens of other shows, exhibits, talks and concerts. See website for events calendar. Ticketed events: \$35 and up. *Various locations downtown, New Haven; 888-ART-IDEA; www.artidea.org.*

June 15. “17th Annual Burton C. Hoffman Golf Classic.” The BCH Classic will be held at the picturesque Tumble Brook Country Club in remembrance of Hoffman Auto Group’s second-generation owner, Burton C. Hoffman. The BCH Classic has raised over one million dollars thus far and plans to continue. The proceeds from the Burton & Phyllis Hoffman Foundation will go towards charities involving the arts, health/medicine, education and social well-being. Burton was very passionate about giving back to the greater Hartford community. The tradition continues through the efforts of Phyllis and her entire family, impacting the lives of many. For sponsor information contact Lori Principe at the Hoffman Auto Group. Monday, 10:30am–7:30pm. *Tumble Brook Country Club, 376 Simsbury Road, Bloomfield.*

June 20. “Klingberg Vintage Motorcar Festival.” Thanks to our sponsors, scores of volunteers and more than 300 antique car owners that will show their works of art, not only will this be an exciting event to attend but it will raise significant funds in support of Klingberg Family Centers’ work with children and families. We will again focus on the important role dads play in the lives of their families, making this event a wonderful way to celebrate Father’s Day weekend. The Vintage Motorcar Festival continues to gain notoriety for its emphasis upon featuring Concours d’Elegance quality vehicles. In 2014 there were more than 25 early brass-era cars and horseless carriages on display, as well as a variety of pre-WWII war cars. The line-up of automobiles for 2015 promises to be just as great, with some unusual surprises. Saturday, 9:30am–3pm. \$15. Seniors \$10, children 12 and under free. *New Britain Rock Cats Stadium, 635 South Main Street, New Britain; 860-832-5526; klingbergautoshow.org.*

June 20–28. “Travelers Championship.” For one week, the golf world turns its attention to the Travelers Championship, a world-class golf experience and family-friendly event. It is one of the PGA Tour’s most well-attended events with 156 players, a \$6.4 million purse and \$1.152 million winner’s share. Daily pre-round events include the Opening Ceremony, the Players Pro-Am, Family Day, the Celebrity Pro-Am, a

Celebrity Mini-Golf Tournament and a Powerstation Events Concert Series after play. Monday–Sunday, all day. \$23–\$85, kids 15 and under free with a ticketed adult. *Tournament Players Club at River Highlands, 1 Golf Club Road, Cromwell; 860-502-6800; www.travelerschampionship.com.*

June 23–28. “Kinky Boots.” With songs by Grammy- and Tony-winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, this joyous musical celebration is about the friendships we discover, and the belief that you can change the world when you change your mind. Inspired by true events, *Kinky Boots* takes you from a gentlemen’s shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan. Charlie Price is struggling to live up to his father’s expectations and continue the family business of Price & Sons. With the factory’s future hanging in the balance, help arrives in the unlikely but spectacular form of Lola, a fabulous performer in need of some sturdy new stilettos. Tuesday–Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 2pm & 8pm; Sunday, 1pm & 6:30pm. \$21–\$92. *William H. Mortensen Hall, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; 860-244-2999; www.bushnell.org.*

June 26 – July 24. “Talcott Mountain Music Festival.” Pack a picnic, attend with family and friends, relax under the stars and enjoy Friday summer evenings with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Carolyn Kuan and distinguished guest conductors. June 26: Mambo Kings; July 3: Celebrate America; July 10: 20 Seasons in Simsbury; July 17: Classical Night Fever; July 24: The Music of Queen. Friday, 7:30pm. \$5–\$45. *Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows, 22 Iron Horse Boulevard, Simsbury; 860-987-5959; hartfordsymphony.org.*



South of Scranton by Peter Blume

July 3 – September 20. “Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis.” This is the first retrospective of the American artist Peter Blume (1906–1992) since 1976. Organized by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the exhibition reveals Blume’s central role in the development of American modernism and examines the artist’s impact on late 20th-century narrative painting. Wednesday–Friday, 11am–5 pm; Saturday–Sunday, 10am–5pm. Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Students \$5, Children (age 12 & under) Free. *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street, Hartford; 860-278-2670; www.thewadsworth.org.*

July 15. “History of the Eagles: Live in Concert.” The Eagles have added a concert at the XL Center in Hartford to the band’s summer 2015 “History of the Eagles” tour. The tour, which kicked off July 6, 2013 following the release of the band’s acclaimed, top-selling documentary of the same name, features classic Eagles’ songs spanning their entire career, including some that have never been performed live. The Eagles have sold more than 120 million albums worldwide, earning five #1 U.S. singles and six Grammy Awards. Their *Greatest Hits 1971–1975* is the best-selling album of all time in the U.S., exceeding sales of 29 million units. Wednesday, 8pm. \$49.50–\$179.50. *XL Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford; 860-249-6333; www.xlcenter.com.*



July 17 – August 8. “Enron.” What do light sabers, Velociraptors and a criminal trial all have in common? They are all integral parts of Lucy Prebble’s smash London hit *Enron*. One of the most infamous scandals in financial history becomes a surreal theatrical epic and cautionary tale combining vaudevillian style with classical tragedy and savage comedy. Friday–Saturday, 8pm. General admission \$20, seniors and students \$15. *Hole in the Wall Theater, 116 Main Street, New Britain; 860-229-3049; www.hitw.org.*

July 18–26. “Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show.” The Ringmaster welcomes you aboard an authentic Circus Train ride from off-site parking to the event grounds at Essex Steam Train. Experience the thrills of an Acrobat Show in the “Big Top Tent.” Partake in the circus midway including amusement rides, clowns, a petting zoo, live entertainment and circus food. Saturday–Sunday, 9:30am–3pm. Age 2 and older, \$20. *Essex Steam Train, 1 Railroad Avenue, Essex; 860-767-0103; essexsteamtrain.com.*

July 19. “5th Annual Fidelco Ride for Independence.” Rev up your engine for the fifth annual Ride for Independence to benefit the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. Join us as we celebrate the freedom and independence that Fidelco Guide Dogs bring to men and women who are blind across North America. This family-friendly motorcycle fundraiser offers something for everyone. Riders enjoy a scenic, escorted route

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through the beautiful Farmington Valley before arriving back at Fidelco for a gourmet barbeque lunch, live music and more! Non-riders are encouraged to attend to cheer on our riders, join us for lunch and enjoy the vendors, entertainment and on-site K-9 demonstrations. Sunday, 9am–2pm. Riders \$40, Non-riders \$15 (children under 12 free). *Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield; 860-243-5200; www.fidelco.org.*

July 23 – August 16. “My Paris.” A new musical about the life and times of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, the artist who captured the gaiety, color and heart-break of Montmartre, Le Can-Can, and the world of Le Moulin Rouge. Inhabited by the colorful people he painted, it's the story of a great artist who loved a world that never quite loved him back. Music and lyrics are by legendary French performer Charles Aznavour. Wednesday, 2pm & 7:30pm; Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 3pm & 8pm; Sunday, 2pm & 6:30pm. \$46. *The Norma Terris Theatre, 33 North Main Street, Chester; 860-873-8668; www.goodspeed.org.*

August 21–29. “Connecticut Open.” The Connecticut Open is owned by the State of Connecticut and is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The event has always existed to give back to the community, and has always been much more than a tennis tournament: It is a leading example of leveraging a large-scale international sporting event to generate millions of dollars in regional economic impact and build community pride, spirit and engagement, especially among youth. The women's-only WTA event will feature five different competitions including WTA qualifying, WTA singles, WTA doubles, Men's Legends and the US Open National Playoffs Championship. See website for gate opening and match starting times. Daily tickets \$7–\$61. *Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale, 45 Yale Avenue, New Haven; 855-464-8366; www.ctopen.org.*

August 30. “New Britain Rock Cats Last Game Fan Appreciation Day.” After 19 years at New Britain Stadium, come out and celebrate the final regular season home game of the New Britain Rock Cats. As with all Fan Appreciation Days, all fans are encouraged to go out on the field before the game to run the bases and meet with the Rock Cats' mascot, Rocky. Sunday, 1:35pm. \$8 (General Admission)–\$22 (MVP) per person; Reserved seats for seniors, children under 12 and active military, \$8. *New Britain Stadium, Willow Brook Park, 635 South Main Street, New Britain; 860-224-8383; www.rockcats.com.*

September 5. “Bear's Smokehouse New England BBQ Championships.” Riverfront Recapture has partnered with Hartford's new celebrity restaurant owner, Jamie “The Bear” McDonald to bring you the Bear's Smokehouse New England BBQ Championships. Up to 30 cooking teams will compete for \$20,000 in prize money at this Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) sanctioned event to benefit Riverfront Recapture. Indulge in a mouthwatering, all-you-can-eat savory barbecue, sample thirst-quenching craft brews from Connecticut and vote for your favorite cook team. Saturday, 6–10pm, VIP BBQ experience 5pm. Adults (21 and over) \$60, VIP \$95, Designated driver \$35. *Riverfront Boathouse, Riverside Park, 20 Leibert Road, Hartford; 860-713-3131; www.riverfront.org/bbq.*

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