

# *Hoffman* DECADES

WINTER 2016-17



HOFFMAN AUTO GROUP HONORS CONNECTICUT'S  
**Top Student-Athletes**

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COMMUNITY AND AN INSIDE LOOK AT WHO "HOFFMAN" IS.**



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# Hoffman DECADES

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# Welcome

TO OUR WINTER 2016-17 ISSUE OF *DECADES*!

At the Hoffman Auto Group, we eagerly anticipate each new issue of our lifestyle magazine, *Decades*. As each issue rolls out hot off the press, we're grateful for the opportunity it affords to reach out to our current and future customers and community/business partners.

We're particularly excited about this issue. It features many new contributors presenting a variety of interesting topics. At Hoffman Auto, we are not just about cars. We care deeply about the communities we serve. Our feature story by Kathleen Cei illustrates the depth of our community involvement. Hoffman Auto goes the extra mile in teaming up with various community partners in support of worthy causes to keep the spirit of giving alive and well.

Editor Ellis Parker introduces two student-athletes—footballer Tarik Black of Cheshire Academy and cross-country runner Katherine DeLoreto of Tolland High School—whom we are honoring as our Connecticut athletes of the year. In an unusual step, we also honor the runners-up in their sports, who happen to be their teammates. The four honorees are photographed by frequent contributor Nick Caito. In a complementary story, superfan Nick Cretella looks at 30 of the brightest moments, and 10 of the darkest moments, in Connecticut sports history.

New contributor Gil Walker presents a round-up of the most promising new restaurant openings this year. In addition, Brett Solomon presents a round-up of some of the most appealing new models in our dealerships, and also authors our Details column, which highlights ways customers can customize their cars as they come from our dealerships.

Parker also highlights the good work of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center by asking some of its recent patients what the holidays mean to them. Regular contributor Robert Bailin assembles our Happenings calendar. And making it all look dazzling is longtime designer Kate Dawes.

If you're not already a customer, we look forward to introducing our family to yours.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MUSTO

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## Hoffman Honda Recognizes Newest Master Technicians and Celebrates 40 Years!

Hoffman Honda is proud to provide the expertise of four Master Technicians to our customers! Master techs complete hundreds of hours of coursework and hands-on training over several years. Hoffman gladly supported all four, most recently Josh Villafane. Providing superior service to our customers, Honda master techs are experts in every model and a valuable resource to our team. In the Northeast region, there are 298 Honda techs, over 10% of whom are master techs. Hoffman Honda is proud to have four certified master techs representing over 13% of the master techs in the region. Our customers deserve, and receive, the best!

Additionally, in June Hoffman Honda celebrated 40 years in business. It was Hoffman's first foray into Japanese brands, paving the way for Toyota and Nissan and building the Avon Auto Park into what it is today. (left to right: )Todd Drowson, American Honda Motor Company district sales manager; Jeffrey S. Hoffman, co-chairman; I. Bradley Hoffman, co-chairman; Matthew S. Hoffman, vice president; Jonathan T. Hoffman, manager fixed ops; Suzy Henry, district parts/service manager, American Honda. Read full story at <http://bit.ly/hoffmanhondamilestones>



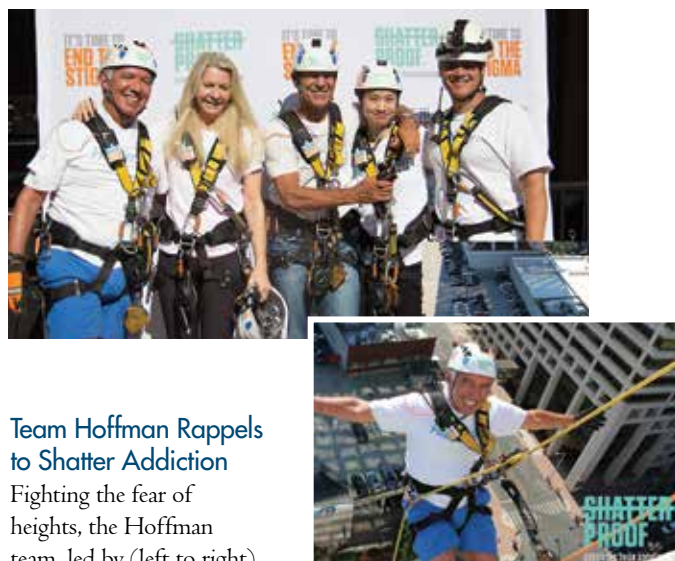
Hoffman Honda Master Techs.



## Hoffman Audi of New London Team Awarded Coveted Audi Magna Award Again!

Hoffman Audi of New London celebrated in style at Michael Jordan's Steak House at Mohegan Sun. Thank you to our customers who give us the opportunity to serve them every day and deliver an exceptional client experience! Magna Society is a distinguished honor, created by Audi of America, to identify and recognize dealerships that consistently provide exemplary service while exceeding business objectives and sales targets. To qualify for Magna Society, dealerships must show they are engaged in sales and service programs that adhere to specific business processes. Their facility and staff must also properly represent the Audi brand and culture. "I'm proud of our committed and

dedicated sales and service teams who invest in every customer, ensuring we exceed their expectations. Our employees are provided the best training and education to uphold the caliber the Audi Magna Society award demands," said I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman, Hoffman Auto Group.



## Team Hoffman Rappels to Shatter Addiction

Fighting the fear of heights, the Hoffman team, led by (left to right) Jeffrey S. and Nancy Hoffman, Todd Hoffman, Carolyn Kuan, music director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and Sam Pines, rappelled over the Hilton Hartford to raise awareness for Shatterproof and help end the stigma of addiction. Many families and individuals suffer in silence, but as a society of compassionate people we collectively have the ability to reduce the stigma and shame by joining together in support. Visit [shatterproof.org](http://shatterproof.org) and join Hoffman Auto Group in the fight to end addiction. See photos here <http://bit.ly/hoffmanshatterproof>



## Waterbury Police Activity League (PAL) Celebrates Ten Years!

BMW of Watertown's newest community partner, Waterbury PAL, celebrated its 10th Anniversary in June at the Country Club of Waterbury. Waterbury PAL provides local youth with positive guidance through after-school activities designed to develop healthy minds and bodies, encourage leadership skills and help with homework. Promoting partnerships between local youth, law enforcement and the community, Waterbury PAL has been successful in changing lives by helping young people reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. Proceeds from the 10th anniversary ensure PAL continues its successful life-changing mission. Read more <http://bit.ly/waterburypalpartnership>. Left to right: Fred Spagnolo, Deputy Chief, Waterbury PD, Vernon Riddick, Chief, Waterbury PD, Cathy Smith, Co-chair, Waterbury PAL and Susan Lane, Director of Public Relations & Community Engagement.



### Hoffman Service Team Connects with Lincoln Tech Students

In August, service and body shop managers from every Hoffman dealership connected with over 200 energized students at Lincoln Tech for the Second Annual Hoffman Day. Students learned firsthand about working in the automotive industry from Hoffman service managers during group and breakout sessions. Students interacted with managers as they examined vehicles representing many brands on display. They were presented information about the robust community engagement and support Hoffman Auto Group provides in the surrounding towns, one of the driving forces behind our success. Over the last five years, Hoffman Auto Group has hired nearly 25 qualified graduates of Lincoln Tech, and we are pleased to continue this partnership and provide competitive employment opportunities.



### Hoffman Audi Brings Smiles to CT Children's Medical Center

Connecticut Children's Medical Center's fleet of motorized cars increased by two, with a recent donation from Hoffman Audi. Kids at CT Children's will ride in style in a mini Audi R8 as they head into surgery. Hoffman Audi Service Manager Elliot Matos presented the mini R8s to CT Children's and taught some kids how to drive. "We had a lot of interest from customers wanting to buy the mini cars for their children," said Matos. "Although we would have liked to accommodate these requests, I thought the cars would serve a greater purpose at the Children's Hospital. It's the Hoffman thing to do." Read more <http://bit.ly/hoffmanaudiR8donation>



### Hoffman Audi Continues Support of Special Olympics CT Northern Time Trials

On Sunday, May 15, Hoffman Audi gathered employees and invited students and staff from Goodwin College to volunteer at the Special Olympics CT Northern Time Trials. Held again at Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, our team of 141 volunteers assisted over 650 athletes with their aquatics and track and field qualifying events. "It has been our pleasure to support the Special Olympics in a variety of ways for many years," remarked Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Co-chairman, Hoffman Auto Group. On this special day, our hearts were warmed by the joy expressed by athletes as they competed and prepared for the Summer Games. Congratulations to all of the athletes and their families for another successful competition! See full story coverage here <http://bit.ly/hoffmansoct2016> (left to right:) Beau Doherty, President, Special Olympics CT, Nancy Hoffman, Matt Glad and Jeffrey Hoffman.



### Buddy Bash Made A Splash for Hartford Camp Courant

Founded in 1894, Hartford's Camp Courant is currently the oldest and largest free summer day program in the nation. Camp Courant is the only summer camp serving Hartford youth that provides transportation, preventive and acute health services, two nutritious meals a day, and recreational, educational and developmental activities, all at no cost to the camper or his or her family. Hoffman Auto Group continues to support Camp Courant because we believe in its mission to provide summer camp activities for Hartford children, particularly those from low-income households. Hoffman's executive leadership team attended opening day ceremonies and welcomed hundreds of children as they stepped off of the buses for the first day. In September 2016, Camp Courant hosted another successful Buddy Bash, a yearly event to raise the funds necessary to continue to provide a free summer experience for Hartford's children. This year's event netted over \$200K, thanks to the local businesses and individuals who sponsored and donated. <http://bit.ly/campcourantbash> 



By Brett Solomon

When you peruse the new car inventory at a Hoffman Auto Group dealership, you don't have to compromise on getting the exact vehicle features you want. For example, you may be eyeing a new 2017 Ruby Red Metallic Ford Mustang convertible, but find you are not thrilled with its standard black interior. Well, you can have your cake and eat it too. Check out these ideas for vehicle personalization that won't break the bank and will ultimately deliver the biggest smile to your face when you pick up your new ride...

## Heated Seats

When the weather gets cold, especially in the northernmost parts of Connecticut, nothing feels as welcome and luxurious as heated seats. Although heated seats are becoming standard equipment on most well-optioned vehicles, some vehicles leave the factory without them. Hoffman can upgrade regular seats with the same technology the vehicle manufacturer uses. This especially makes sense for customers who prefer a cloth interior but also crave a warm backside. Hoffman can have the work completed before you pick up the vehicle, and the switches will mimic the controls on fully-loaded models with OFF/HIGH/LOW settings.



## Rear Parking Sensors

Some sage driver's ed advice is never back up farther than you need to. But even backing up just a necessary amount can risk unwanted property damage—or worse. In 2018, it will be mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to have a back-up camera installed on all vehicles leaving the factory.

Even better equipped vehicles will add a warning chime to the back-up camera camera to signal if danger is detected. Hoffman Auto can add reverse parking sensors to all vehicles, even if they didn't come that way from the factory. Parking sensor systems use ultrasonic proximity detectors embedded in rear bumpers that measure the distance to nearby objects. The system then warns the driver by audible means of the risk of collision. The audible feedback to the driver indicates the distance to the obstacle—it will beep faster as you get closer to the obstacle. Whether it be an out-of-sightline fire hydrant or a small child, gratitude is what you'll feel if the technology is ever needed.



## The Connected Car via DroneMobile

The ability to communicate with your vehicle via your smartphone makes a lot of sense. Your vehicle can alert you when it's time to be serviced. The DroneMobile ([www.dronemobile.com](http://www.dronemobile.com)) can be integrated into any vehicle. And in certain models you can even 'push' directions from your smartphone right to the vehicle's infotainment screen. That way, when you get to your car, you can pull out without first having to program the navigation system. DroneMobile takes this concept from the car manufacturers a step further. When installed, the unit gives you the ability to lock or unlock the car, remote start the engine, and receive GPS tracking updates right on your phone. Lock your keys in the car? No worries; a few keystrokes on the DroneMobile app, a signal is sent, and the car is magically opened. When the Hartford Line commuter rail is ready for passengers in January 2018, you can be on the train in Windsor Locks, send a command from your phone and have a warm vehicle waiting for you when you pull into Hartford. Teenage drivers have you worried? The DroneMobile app can alert you to violations of speeds you can predetermine, and will alert you with a text message if your kid crosses a boundary you have established through technology known as geofencing. DroneMobile allows you to have connectivity and convenience integrated with your new vehicle and controlled from your smartphone.





## Katzkin Leather Upgrade

Perhaps your car seats are cloth, or perhaps, as mentioned earlier, you just aren't thrilled with standard black leather. Through Hoffman Auto, Katzkin Leather offers a customization program that allows you a comprehensive choice of colors and textures for your interior. These are not slip-on seat covers, but a full manufacturer-certified replacement leather that meets or exceeds the quality of the original interior. And if you really want to drool, check out the Design Selector on the Katzkin website ([katzkin.com](http://katzkin.com)) to daydream about luxurious custom red leather with contrasting stitching and patterns, delivering the experience of an Audi R8 at a very reasonable price point. Moreover, such enhancements can be financed within your vehicle loan, making them even more manageable. *H*



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# HOFFMAN— MORE THAN JUST CARS

By Kathleen Cei

Reading to school kids, 5K walks and keeping score at Special Olympics events may not be the first images that come to mind when you think of an auto dealership, but at Hoffman Auto Group the connection between cars and caring is clear.

Four generations of Hoffmans have been keeping the spirit of giving alive and well. Today, co-chairmen Jeffrey and Bradley Hoffman and vice president Matthew Hoffman not only provide much-needed funding to local programs in support of education, arts, health and social well-being, but they also serve on numerous nonprofit boards (such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford County, Mandell Jewish Community Center of Greater Hartford, Junior Achievement and more) and take the time to get involved personally in their mission.

“When children and families do well, we all thrive,” says Jeffrey S. Hoffman. “When communities are strong, local businesses also succeed. People prefer to do business with companies that give back and genuinely care about the places they live and work. The Hoffman family and our dealership employees enjoy help-

ing others in a variety of ways. It is the right thing to do, and it feels good to help people.” Not only do Hoffman Auto employees and community partners get actively involved in volunteerism (like the Goodwin College students and staff who joined with Hoffman

staff to volunteer with Special Olympics), but customers do, too.

While you can certainly look to Hoffman Auto Group’s corporate blog, “Driven CT” (<http://drivenct.com>), as a great source for tips on maintaining and getting the

Back: Susan Lane, Lori Principe, Jonathan Hoffman  
Front: Kevin Warriner, Tyrrell Dabrowski, Matthew Hoffman, Jeffrey Hoffman





"It's through a collaborative effort that our communities thrive."



Zachary Hoffman and Bradley Hoffman

most out of your vehicle, also on the site (and promoted through Hoffman Auto Group's multiple social media platforms) are engaging stories about the plentiful local organizations supported by the dealer group, including lists of volunteer opportunities for all viewers to choose from. Each month, the blog highlights a different community partner for a more in-depth view. This provides an excellent channel of communication for the dealership to connect with the community and customers in meaningful ways beyond the vehicle purchase or servicing experience. Hoffman Auto Group values the voice of its customers and tailors DrivenCT.com with them in mind.

"From an employee's perspective, to see the personal dedication from owners of the company is very inspiring," says Susan L. Lane, Director of Public Relations & Community Engagement. "The Hoffman family sets the bar high both in how it leads the company to successful new heights and its commitment to family and community."

Of course, at the heart of the Hoff-

mans' success is "their business acumen and passion to sell and service vehicles," notes Lane, "and they do those things very well. They have grown a business that is not merely sustainable, but is growing while impacting the community. The more we thrive as a company, the more we are able to accomplish in the community."

"I consider myself very fortunate to work for a company that 'gets it,'" Lane continues. "We connect with our customers and community in meaningful ways that make a significant impact in the lives of our neighbors. It's about listening to what they desire and finding creative ways to enhance their experience."

Among the most memorable moments from community events they have attended, I. Bradley Hoffman cites a particularly powerful speech from a Boys & Girls Club honoree, reflecting on her path from a young girl learning English to the eloquent and confident, scholarship-winning, college-bound student speaking to a room full of VIPs at the Club's annual Opening the Door Celebration. Hoffman stated, "It is



one of the many reasons I have been personally involved in the Boys & Girls Club for many years. The impact it makes on the lives of kids in Hartford and beyond is truly amazing." Bradley Hoffman is the incoming Board Chair for the Hartford County branch this year.

The community partnership from Hoffman Auto Group that especially resonates with Lane is its support of Susan G. Komen Southern New England. "I'm a breast cancer survivor," says Lane. "It means a lot to have the company I work for not only stand by me, but invest in the lives of other survivors. These women are our mothers, sisters, daughters and friends." Though Hoffman had previously given financial support to Komen Connecticut's (now known as Komen of Southern New England) annual Bushnell Park Race for the Cure, October 2015 presented a unique sponsorship opportunity: Rappel for the Cure.

"When Komen created an event to raise funds and awareness with a thrilling rappel over State House Square, there was a big tie-in for me," explains Lane. When she was first diag-



nosed, she visited a climbing guide friend in Maine and did something she had never done before. "I actually climbed over 300 feet up the side of a mountain with views of the ocean far below, and rappelled back down. I just didn't want to think about cancer. And I'll tell you what," she laughs, "when you're on the side of a cliff, standing on the little rock ledge and looking out over the ocean—you don't think about

cancer! You think about just getting back down safely. This experience made me realize I was stronger than I gave myself credit."

So Lane jumped at the chance to go over the edge again. This time, in State House Square, as she rappelled 14 stories, not only did she have the full support of Hoffman Auto Group (serving as the event's main Landing Zone sponsor) but she also had the personal



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# The new 2016 Nissan SUV line-up is here!

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2016 Murano

2016 Pathfinder



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support of Bradley Hoffman (who reportedly was quite happy to be on terra firma) cheering her on. "It was funny," Lane recalls, "Bradley said [to television reporter Kara Sundlin], 'I'm living vicariously through Susan, I am not doing this'—but obviously he showed his support and cared very much. I can't say enough about [the Hoffman family]—they are all so caring and giving. The event had great meaning to me, and has a ripple effect in the community, to show our support in such a powerful way."

Passion for people, and helping them live out their lives with joy, peace and focus, is what fuels Hoffman Auto Group. *H*

## Cadre of Caring

When Director of Public Relations and Community Engagement Susan L. Lane is on the scene representing Hoffman Auto Group at charitable events around Greater Hartford and Waterbury, she finds herself in great company. She's with an inner circle of caring colleagues from other area businesses who hold similar roles and have similar goals of supporting and connecting with the community. Many of these colleagues have become good friends of the Hoffman family.

Included in this "cadre of caring" are people like Comcast's Karen Perham-Lippman (Manager of Community Investment); iHeartMedia's Renee DiNino (Director of Community Affairs and On Air Programming); Webster Bank's Jim Smith (Chair and CEO) and his wife, Cathy Smith, Kathryn "Kathy" Luria (Senior Vice President, Community Affairs), and Jeff Klaus (Regional President); Aetna's Chris Montross (Senior Managing Director, Community Relations and Urban Marketing); Hartford Business Journal's Joe Zwiebel (Group Publisher) and Donna Collins (Associate Publisher); the City of Hartford's Mayor Luke Bronin and Bonnie Malley (Chief Operating Officer); and countless more.

"We're all out there showcasing the great things in our community and our investment," says Lane. "We're boots on the ground committed to helping to fulfill the missions of the organizations that we support. It's through a collaborative effort that our communities thrive."



## INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW RIDGELINE



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# 30 Top Moments in Connecticut Sports History

by Nick Cretella



*Willie Pep  
6/2/44*

## BOXING:

■ In 1999, Hartford's Willie Pep was anointed the "#1 Featherweight Boxer of the 20th Century" by the Associated Press and the "#1 Featherweight of All Time" by the International Boxing Research Organization in 2005. Pep was World Featherweight Champion twice between 1947 and 1950.

■ On September 15, 1989, Hartford's Marlon Starling won the WBC World Welterweight Title at the Civic Center for the second time. Starling had a great career and fought many of his most important bouts at the Civic Center, compiling a 45–6–1 record. He was victorious in 10 championship bouts, winning or defending his Welterweight Championship.

## COLLEGE BASEBALL:

■ On May 21, 1981, Yale Field was the site of what's considered by many to be the greatest college baseball game ever played, an NCAA Northeast Regional tilt between Yale University and St. John's University. Attendance was

estimated at 2,500–3,000 fans. Yale's Ron Darling pitched a no-hitter through 11 innings but lost the game 1–0 on a

double steal in the 12th inning. St. John's Frank Viola was the opposing pitcher. Ironically, they would later become teammates when they both played for the NY Mets.

■ On May 20, 2001, Frank "Porky" Vieira, baseball coach at University of New Haven since the program's inception in 1962, won his 1,000th game. Vieira finished his career with an outstanding 1,127–324–6 record. Along the way, he coached many tremendous

players at UNH, including NL Cy Young Award winner Steve Bedrosian of the Philadelphia Phillies, first-round draft pick Cameron Drew of the Houston Astros, and Dave Wallace, a pitcher who became a World Series champion as a professional pitching coach with the Boston Red Sox.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL:

■ UConn hired Geno Auriemma in August, 1985 and a dynasty was born. Since then, the UConn Women's Basketball Team has won 11 NCAA National Championships. Auriemma has won 7 Naismith Awards for National Coach of the Year. He has won at UConn at an 87.7% clip. Auriemma has also won two Olympic gold medals as coach of USA Women's Basketball. All of these statistical accomplishments are "so far"...

■ In 1986, UConn hired Jim Calhoun as head coach of the Men's Basketball





Team. Calhoun led the Huskies to three NCAA titles. The retired Calhoun is widely regarded as one of the greatest college basketball coaches of all time.

■ On March 22, 1990, UConn's Tate George caught a 92-foot pass from teammate Scott Burrell, turned and shot the winning basket in the final second to defeat Clemson 71–70 and propel the Huskies to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

■ In 2004 and 2014, both the UConn Men's and Women's Basketball Teams won NCAA National Championships during the same season.

■ The 2016 UConn Women's Basketball Team won an unprecedented fourth consecutive NCAA National Championship under Auriemma.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL:

■ The Yale Bowl opened on November 21, 1914 with a capacity of 70,896. The first bowl-shaped stadium in the U.S. became an official National Historic Landmark in 1987. It not only hosted Yale athletic events but outdoor concerts until local residents squashed the concert series a couple of decades ago. The New York Giants were temporary tenants for two seasons in the mid-1970s while Giants Stadium was being built. Giants Stadium has since been replaced, but the Yale Bowl rolls on, impressive and inspiring. The edifice was the inspiration for its younger West Coast cousin, the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. The Yale Bowl hosts fewer people these days for most Yale Football games, but every other November it takes on special life as people pour in for "The Game," Yale versus Harvard, one of the oldest and greatest rivalries in college sports. In 2014, Yale welcomed back many of the great athletes who competed on its hallowed grounds to celebrate the Yale Bowl's 100th anniversary.

■ On November 5, 1955, after a pointed motivational talk from Yale Coach Jordan Oliver, the 19-point underdog Bulldogs, who the previous year were undefeated before being crushed by Army 48–7, upset their nationally-ranked opponent Army, who had habitually made

mincemeat of Ivy League competition, in front of a crowd of 61,000 by a score of 14–12. It was the 40th meeting between the schools, but the next meeting would not occur for another 30 years as the Ivy League began full competition in 1956 and Penn replaced Army on Yale's schedule.

■ In 1965, Yale hired legendary coach Carmen Cozza to take over the Yale football program. Cozza stayed for 32 glorious seasons, compiling an overall 179–119–5 record. In the Ivy League, Cozza's squads registered a 135–85–5 record, with 10 conference championships. Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2002, Cozza finished his career with a 16–15–1 record against archrival Harvard. While at Yale, over 99% of Cozza's players received degrees. He coached five Rhodes Scholars and 96 All-Ivy players.

■ In 1999, UConn hired Randy Edsall to lift its fledgling football program from NCAA division I-AA to I-A. Edsall did a marvelous job building the program, taking the Huskies to Arizona in 2011 to play in the Fiesta Bowl.

■ With Larry Kelly (end) in 1936 and Clint Frank (halfback) in 1937, Yale University had college football's first back-to-back Heisman Trophy winners, a feat repeated by only two other schools (Army's Doc Blanchard in 1945 and Glenn Davis in 1946, and Ohio State's Archie Griffin in 1974 and 1975).

## COLLEGE SQUASH:

■ On January 18, 2012, Yale ended Trinity College's squash program's 252-game winning streak in a match at Yale in New Haven. The Bantams had won 13 consecutive National Championships, the loss to Yale ending the longest intercollegiate sports winning streak in U.S. history.

## GOLF:

■ In July 1956, the soon-to-be-legendary Arnold Palmer won his first-ever U.S. tournament, the Insurance City Open at Wethersfield Country Club, in exciting fashion. Palmer, who passed away September 25, defeated Ted Kroll on the second playoff hole.

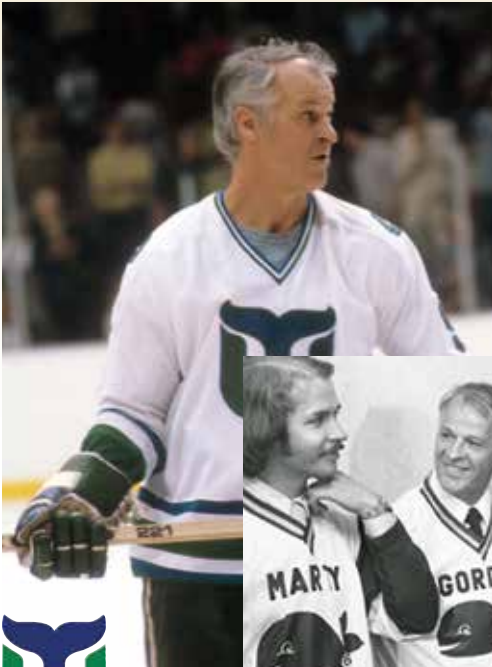
■ 48-year-old Waterbury native Julius Boros won the 1968 PGA Championship at The Pecan Valley Club in San Antonio, TX, becoming the oldest Major Championship winner in golf history. It was Boros' third major win.

■ In 2007, the white knight of Connecticut major pro sports, the Travelers Companies, rode to the rescue under its red umbrella as it became the new title sponsor of the PGA Tour stop in Cromwell. The Travelers' commitment, and a fortuitous PGA schedule opening, allowed the tournament to live on. The PGA has had a tour stop in the Greater Hartford area since 1952.



■ In 1967, Charlie Sifford rose to the top of an illustrious field to become the first African-American champion of a PGA tour event. This momentous victory took place at Wethersfield Country Club, site of the Greater Hartford Open.

■ On August 8, 2016, Jim Furyk set the PGA single-round scoring record at the Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell as he authored a 58!



## ■ HOCKEY:

■ The Hartford Whalers became an NHL Franchise in 1979, giving Connecticut its first true top-level professional team.

■ Bob McVey, of Hamden and Harvard, won the gold medal as a member of the 1960 Olympic team that gave us “The Forgotten Miracle” at Squaw Valley, Calif.

■ On November 9, 2009, Brian Leetch of Cheshire was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Ont., a watershed moment for Connecticut hockey programs from mites to high school. Leetch spent 18 seasons in the NHL. In 1989, he was awarded the Calder Trophy as the league’s top rookie. Recognized as one the best defensemen of all time, he won the Norris Trophy twice for being the top defense player of the year. He was also the first American to win the Conn Smythe Trophy,

emblematic of the MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs, arguably the most difficult tournament in sports. The culmination of his storied career, Leetch was an NHL Stanley Cup Champion in 1994.

■ Jonathan Quick, who played high school hockey in Hamden and at Avon Old Farms School, won the Stanley Cup twice as goaltender for the Los Angeles Kings (2012 and 2014). In 2012, Quick won the Conn Smythe Trophy as MVP of the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs as he led the Left Coast to the crown. He had three shutouts and a 16–4 record during the playoff tournament. Quick also won a silver medal as a member of the 2010 U.S. Olympic team in Vancouver, B.C.

■ In April of 2013, the Yale Hockey Team won the NCAA National Championship in Pittsburgh, Pa. The team they defeated in the title game was Quinnipiac University. The Yale and QU campuses are a mere 8 miles apart along Whitney Avenue in New Haven and Hamden. Yale and QU regularly play before sold-out arenas. When the two ECAC rivals square off twice a year, tickets are almost impossible to obtain. Quinnipiac returned to the title game again last spring in Tampa, Fla., losing to the University of North Dakota. The epicenter of college hockey may very well be here in Connecticut.

## ■ LITTLE LEAGUE

### WORLD SERIES:

■ On August 26, 1989, 13-year-old Chris Drury pitched Trumbull, Conn. to a Little League World Series Championship over Kaohsiung City, Taiwan in Williamsport, Pa. Drury went on to play hockey at Boston University, where he won the hockey “Heisman,” the Hobey Baker Award. In his rookie season for the Colorado Avalanche, he recorded 44 points and won the Calder Trophy as the league’s top rookie, becoming the first player to win the Hobey Baker Memorial Award and the Calder Memorial Trophy. Following a career in which he became known for clutch playoff play and

was a Stanley Cup Champion (for the Avalanche in 2000–2001) and two-time Olympic silver medalist, Drury was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2015.

## ■ SKATING:

■ In 1976, Greenwich native Dorothy Hamill, christened “America’s Sweetheart,” won the gold medal at the Innsbruck, Austria Olympiad for her figure skating prowess.

## ■ SKELETON:

■ In 2002, West Hartford native Jimmy Shea, Jr., a third-generation Winter Olympics competitor, won the gold medal for skeleton racing in Salt Lake City. He was also the first American to win a World Cup race and a World Championship in the sport, retiring in 2005 with more World Cup victories than any other American.



## ■ TENNIS:

■ On July 25, 1987, John McEnroe and Boris Becker participated in what’s believed to be the longest match in Davis Cup history involving an American team. Played at the Hartford Civic Center, the marathon match started at 4:37 pm and finished at 11:17 pm, the 19-year-old Becker finally prevailing over 28-year-old McEnroe.

■ In 1991, the Connecticut Tennis Center opened in New Haven on the Yale campus. Eventually expanding into a 15,000-seat venue, the stadium has provided key support of professional tennis in Connecticut and hosted many of the world’s top players, especially in professional women’s tennis. **H**



# 10 Darkest Moments in Connecticut Sports History

by Nick Cretella



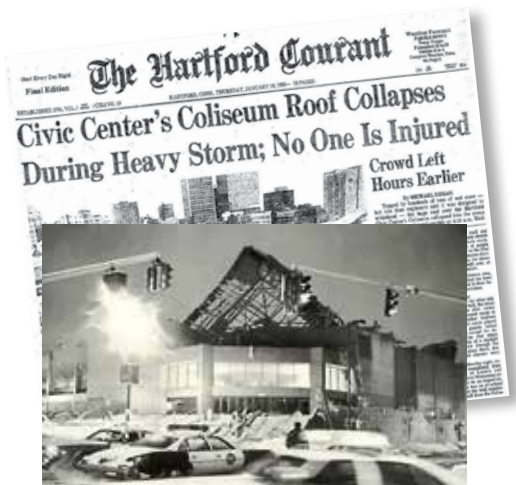
■ On November 23, 1968, Harvard “defeated” Yale 29–29. A heavily-favored Yale team led

Harvard 22–0, and 29–13 with just 42 seconds remaining at Harvard Stadium. Harvard rallied to even the score at 29–29, forever to be known as “The Tie.” This contest

is considered by many the most famous game in Ivy League football history. The storied rivalry pre-dates the Ivy League and goes back to 1870, when the two schools first met on the gridiron.



■ In 1973 and 1974, the New York Football Giants, finding themselves without a home while Giants Stadium was



being built and Yankee Stadium was under renovation, used Yale Bowl as their home field for two seasons. The Giants left Yale a year ahead of their expected departure, having earned a dismal combined home record of 1–11 at the Yale Bowl.



■ On January 18, 1978, the Hartford Civic Center arena roof collapsed just hours after a UConn basketball game was held there. Fortunately, no one was injured.

■ On April 9, 1986, the Hartford Whalers lost a heartbreaking Game Seven of the Adams Division finals in overtime to the Montreal Canadiens at the Forum in Montreal. The Canadiens went on to capture the Stanley Cup. The Whalers were the only team during the tournament to extend Montreal to seven games.

■ On March 24, 1992, the Whalers lost another heartbreaking Game Seven to the Canadiens at the Forum, this time in double overtime in the Adams Division semifinals.

■ On April 13, 1997, the Hartford Whalers played their last game in Hartford. The City and State lost its only major league sports franchise when the State and Whalers' ownership could not reach agreement upon a modern new facility. (There was speculation



## BUILT FOR THE ENDLESS WEEKEND.

The 2017 Tacoma delivers unwavering capability and the good looks to match. Chiseled character lines and muscular fenders help show off Tacoma's strength, and an available hood scoop and aggressive grille hint at the power that lies under the hood. It's attitude amplified, and it shows everyone that this off-road icon is ready to rock.

# TACOMA



2017 Toyota Tacoma

### Hoffman Toyota

Route 44, Avon/Canton Line

860.651.3725/hoffmantoyota.com



# Hoffman

*Driven by trust.™*





Connecticut Governor John Rowland and Patriots owner Robert Kraft in 1998.

that our Governor was preoccupied courting the New England Patriots.) In 2006, the reinvented team won the Stanley Cup as the

Carolina Hurricanes, a bitter pill to swallow for Whalers' fans.

■ In November 1998, Connecticut tried to lure the New England Patriots to a newly proposed riverfront stadium that would be built entirely with public funds. Patriots' owner Robert Kraft pulled out of the plan just two days before there would have been financial penalties for the Patriots, who eventually got a new stadium built in Foxboro, Mass., leaving Connecticut sports fans feeling used as a bargaining chip.

■ In 2007, Buick pulled its sponsorship of the Hartford PGA Tour stop, leaving the tournament in a precarious position and nearly losing a major professional sporting event that had run continuously in Connecticut since 1952.

■ On January 8, 2011, Randy Edsall, the UConn football coach who engineered the upgrade of the UConn program to NCAA Division I-A status, left the team in the middle of the night to sign a contract with the University of Maryland. Just moments following the Huskies' 48–20 loss to Oklahoma at the Fiesta Bowl, the first BCS Bowl game in UConn history, Edsall flew to Maryland for his interview and did not return to Connecticut with his players. The coach who had led the program to promising new heights was gone.

■ On December 13, 2012, the basketball-only schools of the Big East dissolved the conference, leaving UConn looking for a new home. The Big East Conference was established in 1979, and for many years was arguably the preeminent league in college basketball. *H*

# The 2017 Lincoln Continental.

## SO MUCH CAN HAPPEN IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.



L I N C O L N



2017 Lincoln Continental

**Hoffman Lincoln**

600 Connecticut Blvd., East Hartford  
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# HOFFMAN AUTO GROUP HONORS CONNECTICUT'S Top Student-Athletes

By Ellis Parker

Photography by Nick Caito



Top Female Athlete  
Katherine DeLoreto, Tolland High School



Runner-up Female Athlete  
Hayley Collins, Tolland High School


This autumn, we decided to honor a male and a female returning high school senior as our student-athletes of the year. An honoree would have to be at the pinnacle of his or her sport and certified by his or her coach as an upstanding student and citizen. After reviewing many deserving athletes from the area, we settled upon the top-ranked football athlete in Connecticut, Tarik Black of Cheshire Academy, and the top returning girls' cross-country runner, Katherine DeLoreto, of Tolland High School, who finished second in the Fall 2015 State Open to Hannah DeBalsi of Staples High School, now attending Stanford University.

But we detected an odd symmetry that we couldn't resist. According to 247Sports, the second-ranked football athlete in Connecticut was C.J.

Holmes, Black's teammate and longtime friend from the same Hamden neighborhood. And the second returning female cross-country runner in Connecticut was Hayley Collins, DeLoreto's teammate and training partner. It was quite a coincidence that the number two athletes in both sports by the measures we were using were attending the same schools! But we realized it wasn't entirely a coincidence, because these athletes have been pushing each other to greater heights for years. So we decided to take the unusual step of recognizing these worthy athletes with runner-up honors.

Postscript: In the Fall 2016 State Open, the friendly competition between the runners remained close, with Collins finishing second and DeLoreto third.



A full-page photograph of two football players in action. The player on the right, Tarik Black, is wearing a blue jersey with "CHESHIRE" and the number "17" in white, and brown pants. He is wearing white gloves and has a blue wristband on his left wrist. He is jumping with his mouth open, reaching for a brown football. The player on the left, C.J. Holmes, is wearing a blue jersey and light grey pants. He is also jumping, reaching up with his right hand towards the football. The background shows a grassy field, trees with some autumn-colored leaves, and a clear blue sky.

Runner-up Male Athlete  
C.J. Holmes  
Cheshire Academy

Top Male Athlete  
Tarik Black  
Cheshire Academy



## Male Athlete of the Year Tarik Black, Cheshire Academy

It's impossible to meet Black and not immediately be impressed with his charm and easy, graceful athleticism. A six-foot-three wide receiver with 4.4 40 speed, Black is a four-star athlete who has been courted by many of the top football powers and has narrowed his choices to Michigan, Stanford and Alabama. His coach, David Dykeman, testifies, "Tarik is a phenomenal student. He's a great person in our community. He's the complete package, the true student-athlete."

Black says he and Holmes, both team captains, have been "friends from a young age." He prefers leading by example to being overly vocal. He will out-speed you on the field, and there's plenty of tape to prove it. He is most grateful to his mom, he's a big LeBron James fan and he sees himself as a business major in college.

## Female Athlete of the Year Katherine DeLoreto, Tolland High School

Standing in front of DeLoreto, you might not realize what an accomplished cross-country runner you have encountered. Her coach, Judi Lafontaine, who has enjoyed unparalleled success at Tolland High School, acknowledges that DeLoreto has more the powerful build of an 800-meter runner than the wispy build of a long-distance specialist. And indeed, DeLoreto excels in the middle distances in track.

Lafontaine describes DeLoreto as her "most competitive athlete" and Collins her "most dedicated." DeLoreto says she and Collins are "really good friends and training partners" since seventh grade. DeLoreto is both a vocal leader and a leader by example, "and," chimes in Collins, "a great motivational speaker in front of our whole team." DeLoreto would rather out-speed than outlast. She's grateful to her dad, admires U.S. Olympic runner Brenda Martinez and intends to study education and psychology in college.



## Runner-Up Male Athlete C.J. Holmes, Cheshire Academy

Holmes is a three-star athlete who has already committed to Notre Dame. Although he modestly says "I'm just a kid from a small town with a great support system," in actuality he's a Swiss Army knife of a player, capable of playing running back, receiver, defensive back and a number of other positions. Asked whether he prefers to out-speed or outlast, he exclaims, "Both!" He's most grateful to his grandfather, he is a big fan of safety Tyrann Mathieu of the Arizona Cardinals and he intends to major in business and marketing in college.


## Runner-Up Female Athlete Hayley Collins, Tolland High School

Collins sees herself as more a leader by example than a vocal leader. Her philosophy is outlast, rather than out-speed. In track, she runs the 3200 and she's interested in the steeplechase as well.

She's grateful to her dad, she's a big fan of Deena Kastor, who holds the American marathon record, and she hasn't decided what to study, but leans toward attending the University of New Hampshire. Says Lafontaine, "Hayley is the most dedicated runner Tolland has ever seen." *H*







Chilean seabass and watermelon radish in watermelon sauce at Bread & Water...

# 22 New Restaurants You Should Know About

By Gil Walker

2016 has been a banner year for restaurant openings. Obviously, there has been some attrition as well, as most new restaurants take over old restaurant spaces. However, some restaurants convert locations that have never been prior restaurants as the Connecticut dining scene continues to expand.

We include 22 new dining establishments that we think you really should know about. We recommend that you call ahead before visiting any of these, not only because reservations tend to be a good idea but also because some had not yet opened as we went to press.

❑ **4 Eat & Drink** (*Opened in January*) This cozy tapas nook has gained a reputation for its signature cocktails, premium wines, rotating list of craft beers and tasty global small plates menu prepared from scratch with ingredients obtained locally as much as possible.

838 Farmington Ave., Farmington; 860-255-7674;  
4restaurantct.com

❑ **Bread & Water** (*Opened in March*) Located in a building that once served as a town jail, this offbeat gem offers a highly creative menu by chef Carl Ciarcia III that sources beautifully and changes monthly.

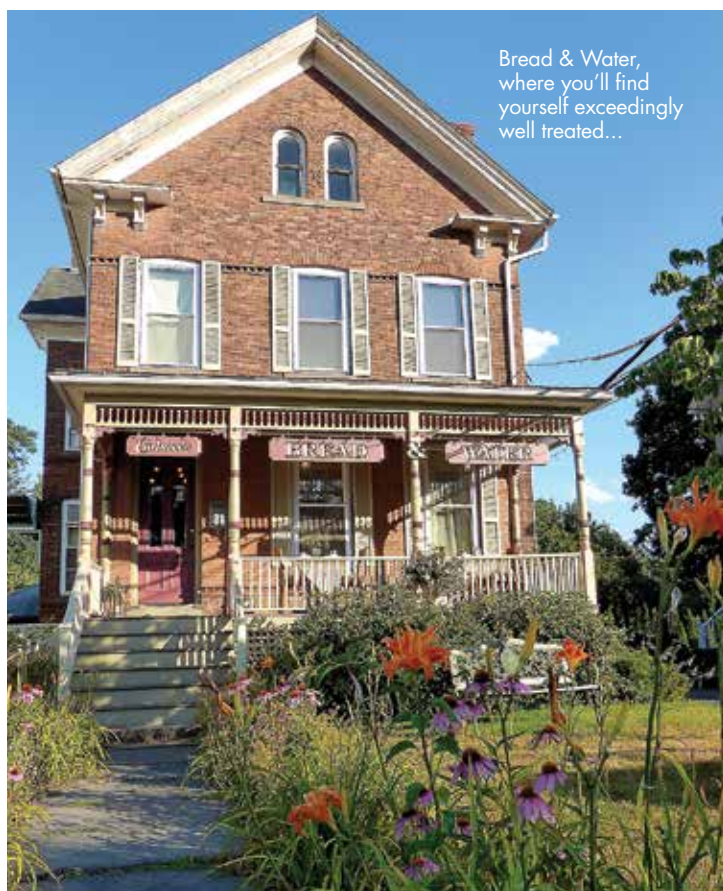
51 Warwick St., Middletown; 860-852-5944;  
breadandwater51.com

❑ **Café Fiore** (*Opened in May*) Quality and value combine in this stylish yet comfortable Italian restaurant owned by Rusit Cecunjanin that doesn't shoot for the moon but just seems to get everything right.

420 E. Main St., Branford; 203-208-4690;  
cafeiorebranford.com

❑ **Close Harbour Seafood Market & Restaurant** (*Reopened in May*) Strictly speaking, Close Harbour, a fish market and adjacent restaurant, isn't new, but it might as well be after owner Bill Close rebuilt after a 2015 fire, giving locals seeking seafood an attractive and delicious alternative to a trip to the shore.

959 Meriden-Waterbury Tpk., Southington; 860-621-7334;  
closeharbourseafood.com



❑ **D'Vine Bistro** (*Opened in April*) This French-American fusion restaurant situated across from the Guilford Green offers the sophisticated fare of chef Pedro Garzón in an equally urbane setting.  
25 Whitfield St., Guilford; 203-689-3251; [dvinebistro.net](http://dvinebistro.net)

❑ **Fire at the Ridge** (*Opened in January*) Popular Season 6 *Hell's Kitchen* alum Kevin Cottle has opened a year-round restaurant at this revived ski resort, and even before snow coats the slopes it's a great place to combine his new fall menu with the palette of fall colors on display at Powder Ridge.  
99 Powder Hill Rd., Middlefield;  
860-852-5444;  
[fireattheridge.com](http://fireattheridge.com)

❑ **Herd** (*Opened in April*) Have you Herd about this new Middletown restaurant opened by four friends from different backgrounds who banded together to create a festive restaurant with an edgy but enticing menu?  
200 Main St., Middletown; 860-346-4373;  
[herdonmain.com](http://herdonmain.com)

❑ **Ideal Tavern** (*Opened in July*) Named after local community fixture Ideal Forging, this tavern has certainly forged ahead with chef Joseph Lucci's elevated versions of classic

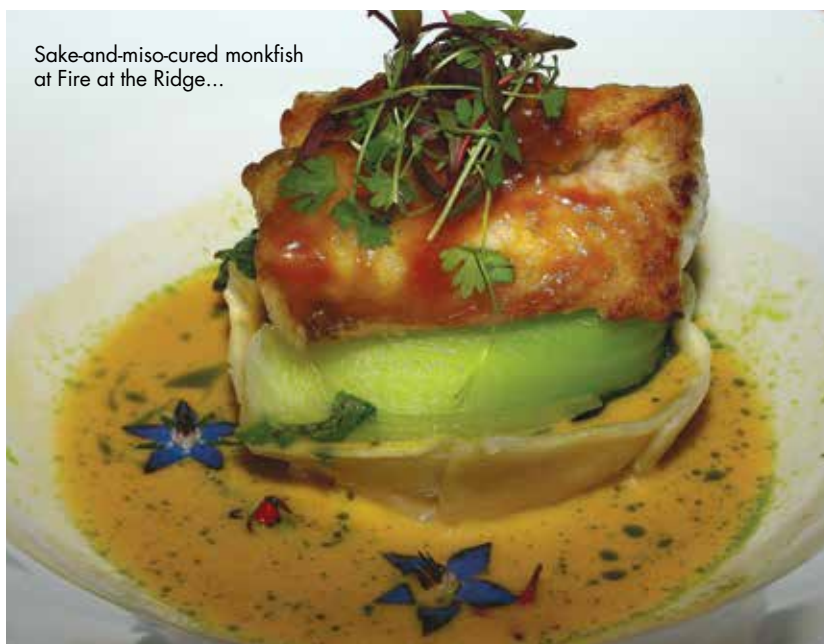
comfort foods offered in a rustic yet sophisticated setting.

142 Center St., Southington;  
860-863-5444; [idealtavern.com](http://idealtavern.com)

❑ **INDIA** (*Expected beginning of December*) Prasad Chirnomula, one of Connecticut's most charismatic culinary stars, opens his latest restaurant in West Hartford's Blue Back Square, a farm-to-table Indian restaurant with global aspirations in the mold of its older New Canaan sibling.  
54 Memorial Rd., West Hartford;  
860-726-4103; [indiawesthartford.com](http://indiawesthartford.com)

❑ **M/BAR** (*Opened in July*) Scott Mickelson, longtime chef of the former Paragon in Foxwoods' Grand Pequot Tower, opens, in a former gas station, a cheerful eatery featuring an array of intriguing small plates.  
30 Broadway Ave., Stonington;  
860-373-2372; [mbarct.com](http://mbarct.com)

❑ **Park & Oak** (*Expected end of November*) David Borselle, Jr., known for impressive turns at Vivo in the Hartford Marriott, Aspen in Old Saybrook, Bar Bouchée in Madison and A'Vert in West Hartford, opens an affordable small plates eatery that puts twists on American classics.  
14-16 Oakwood Ave., West Hartford;  
860-310-2099; [parkandoakrestaurant.com](http://parkandoakrestaurant.com)



Sake-and-miso-cured monkfish  
at Fire at the Ridge...





Vue 24's seared foie gras...

❑ **Present Company** (*Opened in September*) The buzz is reaching a crescendo about this new eatery, opened by ON20 chef Jeffrey Lizotte and popular ON20 and Grant Restaurant Group manager Tom Gale, in the former Mill at 2t space in Tariffville, offering a stunning seasonal regular menu and five-course prix-fixe nightly.  
2 Tunxis Rd., Simsbury; 860-658-7890; [presentcompanyct.com](http://presentcompanyct.com)

❑ **Republic at the Linden** (*Opened in August*) One of Greater Hartford's most fun-filled eateries, the Bloomfield gastropub owned by the Mill Restaurant Group replicates itself at The Linden with another imaginative menu served in another two-level space where one can observe amped-up diners from above.  
10 Capitol Ave., Hartford; 860-310-3269; [republicct.com](http://republicct.com)

❑ **Savoy Pizzeria & Craft Bar** (*Opened in October*) Considering the Max Restaurant Group already produces pretty credible stone pies at Max A Mia and Max Amore, we can only imagine what they'll accomplish when they really put their minds to pizza, Napoletana-style.  
32 Lasalle Rd., West Hartford; 860-969-1000; [savoypizzeria.com](http://savoypizzeria.com)

❑ **Stone's Throw** (*Opened in June*) This restaurant's river setting is absolutely stunning and the ownership, formerly of Stone House in Guilford, clearly understands the elements of a good restaurant, so there's reason to hope that the food will match the view.  
337 Roosevelt Dr., Seymour; 203-308-2662; [stonesthrowct.com](http://stonesthrowct.com)

❑ **Table 570 Asian Fusion** (*Expected in mid-November*) James & Sandy Chen of Han Asian Cuisine and @ The Barn in Granby bring a new Asian fusion restaurant to Simsbury on the site of the former Green Tea that's certain to be as stylish as it is delicious.  
570 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury; 860-651-4888; [table570asianfusion.com](http://table570asianfusion.com)

❑ **The Cook & the Bear** (*Expected end of November*) What do you get when you combine the talents of possibly Connecticut's best gourmet chef (Tyler Anderson) with its undisputedly best barbecue chef (Jamie McDonald)? No one knows for sure, as the once-a-week dry run at Millwright's has so far featured complementary rather than fused dishes, but Anderson and McDonald are calling it "craft barbecue" and most observers are betting it will be one of Connecticut's most intriguing and free-wheeling restaurants.  
50 Memorial Dr., West Hartford; [cookandthebear.com](http://cookandthebear.com)

❑ **The North House** (*Opened in March*) This restaurant opened with a real bang in the once-shuttered Avon Old Farms Inn, producing creative, even memorable, food, and seems to be maintaining its good standing after a recent chef change.  
1 Nod Rd., Avon; 860-404-5951; [thenorthhouse.com](http://thenorthhouse.com)

❑ **The Taste of Brazil** (*Opened in April*) Across from the New Haven Green and a stone's throw from City Hall, The Taste of Brazil brings the rodizio experience to the Elm City with a vibrant salad bar and incredible marinated and spit-roasted meats served tableside.  
135 Church St., New Haven; 203-507-2246; [thetasteofbrazilusa.com](http://thetasteofbrazilusa.com)

❑ **Tom's Urban** (*Opened in August*) With locations in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Denver, Tom's Urban features a loopy but fun menu inspired by both American regional and international dishes in a lively cocktail-fueled setting.  
1 Mohegan Sun Blvd., Uncasville; 860-862-8667; [tomsurban.com](http://tomsurban.com)

❑ **Vue 24** (*Opened in January*) Foxwoods' decision to close popular Paragon was met with initial consternation, but replacement Vue 24's lavish setting and retro continental cuisine presented with contemporary flair have won it many converts, as has its bountiful Sunday brunch.  
24th Floor, Grand Pequot Tower, Foxwoods Resort & Casino; 800-369-9663; [foxwoods.com/vue-24](http://foxwoods.com/vue-24)

❑ **Wright's Steakhouse** (*Opened in May*) This Essex eatery by restaurateur Jonathan Rapp offers not only a great selection of steaks and their accompaniments but plenty of other creative fare in a contemporary but comfortable setting.  
78 Main St., Centerbrook; 860-767-2440; [wrightssteak.com](http://wrightssteak.com)





2017 Honda Ridgeline



# Welcome to the Hoffman Auto New Model Show!

by Brett Solomon

## 2017 Honda Accord Hybrid, starting at \$29,605

After spending a week in the 2017 Honda Accord Hybrid, I can attest to how wonderful it was not to have to worry constantly about going to the gas station. Driven normally, this vehicle will easily let you travel over 600 miles between fill-ups. Also wonderful is the Honda Sensing package that is standard on all Accord Hybrid models—it includes features like Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Forward Collision Warning, Collision Mitigation Braking and Active Cruise Control. But the best part about this gas miser is it drives just like a normal Honda Accord. You just get more benefit at the gas pump.

## 2017 Honda Ridgeline, starting at \$29,475

Is it a sophisticated pickup truck or a utilitarian SUV with an exterior cargo hold? Well, it's both... Building upon the popularity of the Honda Pilot SUV, the Ridgeline offers a car-like ride not found in traditional body-on-frame pickup trucks. We love the way its rear seats can tuck themselves away to accommodate

large cargo that you can't get wet, not to mention the innovative tailgate that can open barn door-style. The bed has its own locking storage compartment that can be used for wet or dry items—feel free to fill it with ice to get the party started in your own 280-horsepower Igloo cooler! The bed can also be fitted with a speaker system to play tunes for the gathering crowd during your impromptu tailgate party.

## 2017 Honda Civic Hatchback, starting at \$20,000

Enthusiasts rejoice—this will be the year that the Honda Civic Hatchback makes its return to the United States market. Moreover, the handy hatchback will come from the factory with the 174-horsepower turbocharged engine. For those who like to row their own gears, a six-speed manual is available as well as the fuel-saving CVT. Those who like performance served with a big dose of practicality will want to check it out!



2017 Honda Accord Hybrid



## 2017 Honda CR-V,

starting at \$24,645

Normally, the larger-engine version of a car model is more expensive than the smaller-engine version. But that's not the case with the unique new Honda CR-V. The top-tier 1.5-liter turbo powerplant is a gem, offering more torque and horsepower than the 2.4-liter base model with a bonus of better fuel economy, too. (A similar gas-sipping version is found in the Civic.) Honda has thoughtfully redone the interior for more room and cargo space. Because the CR-V usually winds up in the hands of a more mature demographic than the Civic, the infotainment system has a dedicated volume knob instead of buttons. Expect wonderful EPA mileage (Honda is predicting best in class) and NCAP 5-star crash worthiness.



2017 Toyota Prius

## 2017 Toyota Prius,

starting at \$24,685

While the last generation Toyota Prius had the look of a basic transportation pod, the new model adds a dose of style that gives the owner a touch of sportiness. We are excited about the plug-in Prime model that gives you the ability to travel 22 miles before the Prius needs to turn to its gas engine. So if your total commute is less than 20 miles from home, theoretically you will never have to purchase a drop of gas! More impressive is the fact that the 2017 Prius drives just like any regular car you are accustomed to.

## 2017 Toyota Tacoma,

starting at \$24,120

Visions of off-road grandeur dancing in your head? Well, there are few vehicles, especially pick-up trucks, more prepared for that harsh environment than the Tacoma. Known worldwide for its amazing off-road prowess, the 2017 model does not disappoint. Go for the TRD Pro model, and you get FOX off-road shocks, Kevlar-reinforced tires, and even

## 2017 Toyota Tacoma



a place to mount your GoPro camera right on the windshield so you can share your off-road adventures on social media!

engine, so performance and fuel economy will be enhanced across the board.

## 2017 Porsche 718 Cayman,

starting at \$53,900

The Cayman has always looked the Porsche part. But starting at \$53K, it definitely can be considered a performance bargain to get a car with such a pedigree and handling prowess. The new instrument panel looks great and offers Apple CarPlay so your i-device can instantly be connected to the ride. The cool tech onboard is Porsche Active Suspension Management (also available in the Boxster) which lowers the ride height 10 mm, great for having fun on Litchfield County's twisting roads.

## 2017 Porsche 911,

starting at \$89,400

How could Porsche make the 911 platform even better? Just add turbochargers throughout the line-up! Yes, all of the 911 Porsches generate more power this year, but couple that power gain with timeless exterior style and your choice of coupe or convertible and it seems there are more options than ever. But for those who want the ultimate 911, the Turbo S now offers 580 horsepower on tap. Is there

## 2017 Porsche 718 Boxster,

starting at \$56,000

The changes to the Boxster exterior are subtle, but the overall effect is gorgeous. The interior is available with two-tone leather, the black-and-red managing the neat trick of simultaneously being cutting-edge and showing restraint. But the big news is under the hood. All 718 Boxster models will feature a turbocharged



2017 Porsche 718 Boxster

## 2017 Lincoln Continental



really any other option for someone wanting a supercar that can reliably be driven to the office, soccer practice and Stew Leonard's in luxury and comfort?

### 2017 Porsche Panamera, starting at \$99,990

The Porsche engineering team was left to go wild with the new Panamera, and although the shape is similar to outgoing models, the strong shoulder line and graceful integration of the rear window makes it sexy. Among the incredible technology included is an infrared camera system that alerts you to pedestrians at night and uses LED headlamps to shine more light on them. The rear-seat display controls heated seats and HVAC for the rear passengers, carrying everyone swiftly and in comfort.

### 2017 Porsche Cayenne, starting at \$59,600

The big news regarding this Porsche SUV is the addition of the Porsche Communication Management infotainment system. Similar to the new heralded unit in the 911, the 7-inch touchscreen uses the power of Google Street View and Google Earth to home in on your destination with less stress. If you opt for the Porsche Connect Plus package, you can connect your iPhone and use Apple CarPlay to have an experience in the vehicle that's similar to your smartphone experience... right on the Cayenne's screen.

### 2017 Lexus IS Series, starting at \$37,000

The beautiful new grille of the Lexus IS series deserves a look, especially in the new Graphite Glass Black Flake. There are three models—the IS 300 Turbo, IS 300 AWD and IS 350—so there's a powertrain for any situation. The new infotainment screen is now 10.3 inches and easier to use. Lexus Safety System + is available on all models and includes a Lane Departure Alert with steering assist. If you accidentally get distracted, the Lexus will have your back.

### 2017 Lincoln Continental, starting at \$58,990

This is not your grandfather's Lincoln Continental—it's a brand-new flagship for the Lincoln nameplate that Matthew McConaughey and his celebrity friends would be proud to pull up to a premiere in. The twin-turbo EcoBoost V-6 will produce 400 horsepower, while all-wheel drive will be available for snowy days. Please make sure you revel in the amazing Revel audio system, as well as the Perfect Position Seats which can be adjusted 30 different ways. For the ultimate in luxury, Lincoln will have special versions of the Continental available as Black Label for further customer customization of the interior leathers and materials. Moreover, Black Label customers receive benefits such as remote vehicle delivery and Lincoln's Culinary Collection that give owners access to fine dining with exclusive restaurant partners.

## 2017 BMW 530xi,

price TBA

The new 5 Series will be a great evolution from the last generation, and its new integrated LED taillights help define a muscular yet luxurious look. But the big news is under its skin where BMW has been using lightweight materials to redefine the sedan that created the category "sport sedan." The latest generation of the turbocharged B48 500cc per cylinder modular engine provides the perfect balance between economy and sportiness. To offer even more choice of body style, the new 5-series will also be available as a Gran Turismo hatchback. This could be the perfect vehicle for those who regularly carry long items, such as snow skis to hit the Mohawk Mountain slopes.

## 2017 BMW 540xi, price TBA

As of this writing, BMW has not let the cat out of the bag regarding the specific engine slated for the 540, but the rumor mill suggests a new 4.0-liter V8 that debuted at the Paris Auto Show in early October. What we do know is the 540 will be the precursor to the long-awaited BMW M5, where at least 600 horsepower will be on tap. This powerplant, coupled with the new lightweight body using aluminum and carbon fiber, is sure to lead to an exhilarating driving experience.

## 2016 BMW 750xi, starting at \$94,600

After being coddled as a driver of the BMW 7-series, I did not want to return the keys. But passengers are equally spoiled, especially in the rear seat. With the Executive Lounge Seating you get rear-ventilated and massaging seats, a rear entertainment package with two headrest monitors, a Samsung tablet that is integrated into the center arm rest, a first-class seating tray table for Grey Poupon, and a very cool footrest for the passenger that motorizes into place. It could possibly be one of the most comfortable seating arrangements this side of a Gulfstream. And if you do decide to eat back there, the Ambient Air Package can help eliminate any residual odors. Small cartridges loaded into the glove compartment inject scent directly into the HVAC system.

## 2017 Audi Q7, starting at \$54,800

So many owners love the Q7 because it is the perfect size for a three-row SUV. Not so big it's awkward in the mall parking lot, but big enough to take everyone to lacrosse practice



2017 BMW 540xi



if needed. The supercharged V6 is now mated to an eight-speed automatic for increased smoothness and fuel economy. But the star of the show is the opulent interior and Virtual Cockpit. It puts all of the information one needs right in the instrument cluster, which makes it easier to keep one's eyes on the road.

### **2017 Audi A4,** starting at \$34,900

Like the Q7, the all-new Audi A4 also uses Virtual Cockpit. But it's rare for a sports sedan to pack in all of the technology its big brother offers. Yet this one does. From the tight streets of Europe, a technology that can help us in downtown Hartford is Exit Assist, which will alert you if you are about to open your door into traffic. Or, even more importantly, if your child is going to open a door into traffic. We are also very excited about the return of the Audi A4 allroad that's perfect for Connecticut winters. It features increased ground clearance, better underbody protection and a bit more cargo capacity.



2017 Audi A4

### **2017 Audi R8,** starting at \$162,900

A few years ago, Ferrari decided to start moving controls from the dashboard to the steering wheel. Audi has taken this idea a step further in the R8 with the Virtual Cockpit. Check out the performance G-force meter right in the instrument cluster. Coupled with the most gorgeous Start/Stop button this side of a manettino, you know you are in for a special experience when you climb into the R8. The 5.2-liter V10 generates 610 horsepower, and the soundtrack rivals Star Wars in IMAX at the Buckland Hills theater. The new 7-speed dual-clutch transmission drives like a regular automatic when you want it to, but move the level to "sport" to pick your gears and the fun really begins!

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2017 Nissan Armada



### **2017 Ford Super Duty Truck,** starting at \$33,730

Whether you want to pull a boat, camper or horse trailer, Ford has your back with the Super Duty. You can carry 7,630 pounds in its bed. Wait, you say, that's not earth shattering. If you read that carefully, that's the bed. Behind the truck, you can pull 32,500 pounds on a trailer. The 6.7-liter Power Stroke

features 925 lb-ft of torque, so you'll be able to pull the neighbor's house should you need to. But the genius is in the implementation of technology that makes the rig easy to drive. The Blind Spot Information System, suite of onboard cameras and Ford Trailer Backup Assist make pulling big things behind the truck easy as pie.

### **2017 Nissan Armada,** starting at \$44,400

When the weather turns rough, the all-new Nissan Armada is a vehicle you can count on to get your kids to all their after-school activities. Most consumers may not realize it, but when the U.N. needs a vehicle to get around sub-Saharan Africa, they turn to an international version of the Armada known as the Patrol. The Armada comes with 9 inches of ground clearance to smash through any snowstorm. But you can option the vehicle to coddle you in leather and wood while having the peace of mind that you can travel through terrain that lesser SUVs could not traverse. Moreover, the starting price of roughly \$45K comes in at nearly half the price of the comparable Toyota Land Cruiser. *H*

2017 Audi R8



## HOLIDAYS

# Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a Great Boon to Our State's Children

By Ellis Parker

## What Connecticut Children's Medical Center Means To Us

Anyone with a heart has to feel profound gratitude for the good work of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. This leading institution, widely recognized as one of the best in the nation, tirelessly provides topnotch medical care and performs important medical research on behalf of Connecticut children.

Although its origins trace back to the Newington Home for Incurables, which was founded in 1898, this worthy institution achieved its current form far more recently. In 1996, following years of negotiation, planning and construction, Connecticut Children's Medical Center opened as the only independent, freestanding hospital in Connecticut dedicated solely to the care of children.

The 187-bed, not-for-profit children's hospital serves as the primary teaching hospital for the University of Connecticut School of Medicine department of pediatrics. Having specialized exclusively in pediatric care since its inception, it's uniquely able to address the special needs of children, whose bodies are smaller and still growing, providing them with the best care available in its state-of-the-art facilities.



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# What the Holidays Mean to Our Patients

We asked some of Connecticut Children's Medical Center's young patients, "What do the holidays mean to you?" Here are their heartwarming answers:

When I think about Christmas and Thanksgiving I think about family. My aunt and uncle come home to visit and we are together with my Nana.  
—Abbie Brouker, age 10

The holidays mean a lot to me. It means that I get to hang out with my family. Why!? Because they are really special to me because they love me.—C.J. Gibbs, age 11

The holidays mean so much more to me than Santa, tinsel and ornaments on the tree. Yes it's beautiful and pretty much my favorite time of year but for me and my family it means the gift of life. Every year that I get to enjoy it with my family, it's about blessings and those are the biggest gifts for me at Christmas time. What's even more super awesome is I get to have no school =).—by Christian Kosovic, age 12

What Halloween means to me is love and support and safe trick or treating with my Big Brother Greg.  
—by John-Anthony Washburne, age 11  
(with Ann-Marie Andriola)

The holidays mean being nice to each other and playing in the snow with my family.  
—by Bianca Mollica, age 6


The holidays are about eating good food and following fun family traditions. My mom and I love candy canes!  
—Mathew Brouker, age 12

My favorite holiday is Hanukkah. It is not only about getting presents – even though I like that part too. Hanukkah for me is about creating meaningful memories and spending time with my extended family, who means so much to me.  
—by Miriam Holtzberg, age 15

The holidays mean that I get to hang out with my family and eat yummy food.  
—by Genevieve Neiman, age 10



## How You Can Help

There are so many ways you can help us at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Visit [connecticutchildrens.org/support-us/](http://connecticutchildrens.org/support-us/) 

# 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 upcoming events for you and your family to enjoy.

**Through December 10. "Rupert Holmes' *Accomplice*."** This theatrical roller coaster will trigger screams of laughter even as audiences vow to keep its secrets hush-hush. The story begins in Dartmoor, England at the stylish weekend retreat of the affluent Derek and Janet Taylor, and both adultery and murder are in the air. But we will soon learn that all is never as it seems in this electrifying game of trickery and misdirection. Who is the hunter and who the hunted...and precisely who is the title character of *Accomplice*? 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*

**Through December 30. "Winterfest and the Tunnel of Lights."** Join hundreds of others and start a family tradition of coming for a trolley ride during the holiday season. Whether you ride a closed car or brave the cold to ride the open "electric sleigh," we promise you a good time and one that




you'll remember for years. Join your motormen in singing traditional Christmas carols as the trolley makes its way through the "Tunnel of Lights." Return to the warmth of the Visitor Center and enjoy a nice steaming cup of hot cocoa as you listen to the entertainment and admire all the model trains and displays. Leave the hustle and bustle behind and enjoy the holidays as they were meant to be enjoyed! Friday–Sunday, 5–9pm; Monday–Friday (December


26–30) 6–9pm. Adults \$12; seniors (62+) \$10; youth (2–12) \$8; children (under 2) \$3. *Connecticut Trolley Museum, 58 North Road, East Windsor; 860-627-6540; www.ct-trolley.org*

**December 2–4. "A Christmas Twist by The Illegitimate Players."** The Suffield Players present a ridiculous blend of two works by Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist*. Added to the familiar parable of Bob Cratchit, Ebenezer and his spirits are Fagin, Mr. Bumble and Tiny Tim, a gangly orphan whose crutch keeps getting stuck in floor cracks. Irreverent and inspired, this spoof mocks the silly sentimentality and commercialism sometimes found in our modern holiday, while reminding us all of the true Christmas spirit. Friday–Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm. \$19; seniors and students \$16. *Mapleton Hall, 1305 Mapleton Avenue, Suffield; 800-289-6148; www.suffieldplayers.org*

**December 2–4. "LEGO KidsFest."** LEGO KidsFest is a giant LEGO event held over three days and



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filled with fun interactive, creative and educational activities for the whole family. After seven years on the road and over 1 million guests, LEGO KidsFest will conclude its tour in Hartford, the city that launched this LEGO family experience in 2009. LEGO KidsFest brings all of the creative hands-on, minds-on fun of LEGO building and experiences together in one activity- and entertainment-packed family event for children of all ages. Experience over 3 acres of dozens of LEGO activities, including Big Brick Pile, LEGO Nexo Knights and LEGO Master Builder Lab. Friday, 4–8:30pm; Saturday & Sunday, 9am–1:30pm (Session I), 3–7:30pm (Session II). \$19 Friday & Sunday Session II, \$22 Saturday & Sunday Session I, children under 2 free. *Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford; 877-528-4757; legokidsfest.com/new-england-2016.html.*

**December 8. "A Swingin' Latke Vodka Holiday Dance."** Celebrate Hanukkah and the Holiday Season in the best way possible by sampling a

variety of tasty latkes (fried potato pancakes), sipping on vodka cocktails and joining in a fun dance lesson of the Jewish Hora & East Coast Swing. Food and entertainment provided by Alison Bogatay, Artistic Director of Allongé Dance Variations. Thursday, 5:30–7pm. Members \$7; non-Members \$15; drinks \$3/each. *The New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street, New Britain; 860-229-0257; www.nbmaa.org.*

**December 9–11. "Hartford Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Series: Merry Mozart."** Usher in the winter months with works by Mozart, Mackey and featuring guest violinist Sirena Huang. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* is recognized as one of the greatest operas of all time, and its overture, with comedic and melodramatic elements, was completed just hours before the opera's premiere in October, 1787. Huang, who first graced the HSO stage as a young child, returns with composer Steven Mackey on electric guitar for his *Four Iconoclastic Episodes*. The program concludes with Mozart's exhilarating

and transcendent *Jupiter* symphony. Plus, don't miss a holiday musical surprise! Friday–Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 3pm. Call for ticket information. *Belding Theater, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; 860-244-2999; www.hartfordsymphony.org.*

**December 18. "Trans-Siberian Orchestra: The Ghosts of Christmas Eve."** Originally produced as a TV movie for Fox Family in 1999, the TSO's rock opera *The Ghosts of Christmas Eve* relates the story of a runaway who breaks into an abandoned vaudeville theater on Christmas Eve. The work includes musical highlights from the progressive rock troupe's three previous Christmas-themed rock operas *Christmas Eve and Other Stories*, *The Christmas Attic* and *The Lost Christmas Eve*. TSO's annual Christmas tours, which have run for nearly 20 years, are known for their extravagant lighting and pyrotechnic displays. Sunday, 3pm & 7:30pm. \$41.50–\$72.50. *XL Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford; 860-249-6333; www.xlcenter.com.*

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January 12–February 12. *"The Comedy of Errors."*

From Darko Tresnjak, the director of highly praised productions of *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night*, comes Shakespeare's zaniest comedy in which two sets of twins separated at birth find themselves in the same city on the same day. Each pair is unaware the other is nearby. This leads to a string of mistaken identities, which explode into outrageous slapstick, false accusations, crackling wordplay and even demonic possession. A rollicking farce of Shakespearean proportions! Sunday, Tuesday–Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday–Saturday, 8pm; Saturday–Sunday matinee, 2pm. \$25–\$90; students \$20. *Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street, Hartford; 860-527-5151; www.hartfordstage.org.*



January 17–22. *"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical."*

Before she was Carole King, Superstar—she was Carole King, Teenage Songwriter. Her music would become the soundtrack to a generation. *Beautiful* tells the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Tuesday–Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 2pm & 8pm; Sunday, 1pm & 6:30pm. \$47.50–\$172.50. *William H. Mortensen Hall, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; 860-987-5900; www.bushnell.org.*

January 20–22. *"Northeast RV & Camping Show."*

The show will feature over 140,000 square feet of the latest in recreation vehicles, travel trailers, pop-up campers, camping supplies and accessories. It is the ideal place for camping families who are looking to purchase their first RV, looking to upgrade their present RV or for veteran campers to explore new camping adventures. Dozens of on-site campground information centers will provide attendees with literature and information about premier family campgrounds throughout Connecticut and beyond. Friday, Noon–9pm; Saturday, 10am–8pm; Sunday, 10am–5pm. Adults \$11, children 14 and under free. *Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford; 860-529-2123; www.ctrvshow.com.*



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