

**A presidential goodbye**

Carter's remains return to Washington for three days of state funeral rites. **Page 4**

**Entering mayoral race**

Deputy speaker runs to replace longtime mayor in New Britain. **Connecticut, Page 1**

**Bueckers out for a bit**

UConn star has knee sprain, will miss two to three games starting tonight. **Sports, Page 1**

**Feeling like winter**

Partly sunny and breezy with a high of 30. **Living, Page 6**

# Hartford Courant



VOLUME CLXXXIX

COURANT.COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

## Viruses spread across state

Department of Health says COVID-19 cases are still spreading across the state, with a significant increase in hospitalizations. The department also reports that influenza and other respiratory viruses are circulating, leading to a rise in ER visits and hospitalizations. Health officials are urging the public to get vaccinated and practice good hygiene to help reduce the spread of these viruses.



## WINTER PREP FOR SUMMER FUN

Small text block providing details about the winter preparation work for summer fun, including information about the Hartford Foundation's grant program and the involvement of community members.

### Session to tackle budget, more

Text block discussing a session to tackle budget and other issues, likely related to the Hartford Foundation's activities and the state's financial situation.

## Initiative promises 'meaningful' civic change

Program, a part of Hartford Foundation, set to give total of \$2.9M in grant funds to 29 towns

**Staff report**  
Joy Williams is president and CEO of an organization that he said regularly gives away \$40 million to \$50 million. But ask the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving leader about the organization's Greater Together Community Funds, and he gets truly excited and doesn't mind sharing why. Through the Greater Together Community Funds program, which includes all 29 of the towns in the foundation's area, \$2.5 million in grants have been made since 2019, he said. That's more than 650 grants, and every one of them was decided by a committee made up of volunteers from each of these towns. Now, as part of marking the foundation's centennial year in 2025, it will make another \$2.9 million investment in the Greater Together Community Funds, Williams said. In addition to support for all of its communities, the foundation wants all of them to "truly see us as their community foundation," he said. "We couldn't be more excited."

Turn to Grants, Page 2

## Trump hints at the use of military force to seize control of Panama Canal, Greenland

Text block discussing Donald Trump's hints at the use of military force to seize control of the Panama Canal and Greenland.



Small text block at the bottom of the page, possibly a footer or additional news snippets.

2 Hartford Courant | Section 1 | Wednesday, January 8, 2025

FROM PAGE ONE

The new session marks the opportunity for thousands of bills that will be debated by more than 20 different committees and dozens ranging from health and taxes to education, energy, and the environment.

Like opening day at Fenway Park or the start of the season in a line of opinion, the start of the session is a time of optimism, but also of backslapping before Republicans and Democrats begin clashing over major issues like taxes and education spending.



The initiative creates separate funds for towns in the foundation's region, including West Hartford, above.

Grants

For all of these communities, this is a permanent part of the foundation's commitment to all 29 of our towns, Williams said. "They are equally important."

How it started

The program, Williams said, grew from a 29-town series of listening sessions during which the foundation learned that "these are needs that may have not been met that were important to these communities." So in 2019, the Hartford Foundation launched an initial investment of \$2.9 million to create what was dubbed the Greater Together Community Funds.



The initiative creates separate funds for towns in the foundation's region, including West Hartford, above.

Under this parameter of a committee of local volunteers making the decisions, an example of 2023 grants in Farmington included, among many others, \$5,000 to Interval House to support Farmington victims of domestic violence; \$4,250 to Services for the Elderly of Farmington to purchase wheelchairs and walkers for the Farmington community to borrow; and \$5,000 to Greystone Foundation to provide short-term financial assistance to individuals and families who have unexpected events disruptive to household finances.

Williams said the committees in the towns receive support from the foundation staff, but there are also hundreds of volunteers helping when considering all of the communities. He noted that "many of these towns have decided to collaborate with neighbors in some regional ventures, and "not only did we say yes, it is OK, it is exactly what we hoped would come out of it."

"We learned over the past four or five years how to tweak it, how to make it more collaborative," he said. "We wanted to make it as flexible as possible."

Williams said the foundation staff did basic grant training for the committees, which do not include any elected officials and reflect the diversity of the towns. Each town has a different way of soliciting or generating ideas, he said. "Part of the excitement is actually getting to see, to watch every one of these grants as the towns make them," Williams said. "Being a part of the Bolton Greater Together Community Fund effort has been

such a rewarding experience," said Bolton committee member Shandra Scott-Brown.

"It is a way for me to really connect to the community that I live in, and it was an opportunity for me to just get involved and help others. Who doesn't like having the opportunity to meet with other people in town and give away money to service people that live in your community? It's a win-win for everyone."

Avon committee member and Avon High School student Panya Khattar said, "Inspiring people I work alongside dedicate their time and effort because they genuinely believe in the betterment of our community, they show that when larger, more powerful institutions fall short, smaller, passionate groups can step up to create real, meaningful change. It's truly 'the people doing for the people'." As a high school representative, "I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dedicated force, one that uplifts and empowers our community in profound ways."

The initiative created separate funds in each of the towns in the foundation's region, including Andover, Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

Williams said the foundation plans more major projects during its centennial year, which will be announced as they are launched. "This is the first of several significant announcements that are going to be associated with our centennial year," he said. "He said future grants also will go to the Greater Together Community Funds, but the amount hasn't been determined yet. "I never fail to appreciate and just smile when you go through that (grants) list," he said. "To me that means just that much more activity and engagement."

Viruses

My guess is that there are more cases of HMPV and that it is underreported, Dr. Roberts said. "We don't normally test for HMPV and there's no rapid test you take for it unlike COVID-19 or the flu. A patient would have to take a respiratory panel to diagnose it, but we don't tend to do those for outpatients. So my guess is that it's probably more widespread than the data

shows, Dr. Roberts said. "We don't normally test for HMPV and there's no rapid test you take for it unlike COVID-19 or the flu. A patient would have to take a respiratory panel to diagnose it, but we don't tend to do those for outpatients. So my guess is that it's probably more widespread than the data shows, Dr. Roberts said. "We don't normally test for HMPV and there's no rapid test you take for it unlike COVID-19 or the flu. A patient would have to take a respiratory panel to diagnose it, but we don't tend to do those for outpatients. So my guess is that it's probably more widespread than the data shows, Dr. Roberts said."

shows, Dr. Roberts said. "We don't normally test for HMPV and there's no rapid test you take for it unlike COVID-19 or the flu. A patient would have to take a respiratory panel to diagnose it, but we don't tend to do those for outpatients. So my guess is that it's probably more widespread than the data shows, Dr. Roberts said."

shows, Dr. Roberts said. "We don't normally test for HMPV and there's no rapid test you take for it unlike COVID-19 or the flu. A patient would have to take a respiratory panel to diagnose it, but we don't tend to do those for outpatients. So my guess is that it's probably more widespread than the data shows, Dr. Roberts said."

Hartford Courant

Table with news executives and contact information for the Hartford Courant.

Advertisement for a job opening with the text "BREAKING NEWS" and "YOUR PERFECT JOB IS WAITING".