

FEATURED BUSINESS

Park Hardware - 415 Park Street, Hartford, CT



Written by: Julia Rivera

Park Hardware has been a part of the Park Street commercial corridor for a very long time. In 1956, George Kenc opened the store. Ever since, Park Hardware has been providing the community with the tools and assistance they need to improve and maintain their apartments and homes. As an Ace Hardware affiliate, Park Hardware is able to order any item that is available in larger Ace super stores.

Currently, Kenc's two daughters, Dianne Wiemer and Anne Riccio, serve as co-owners. Dianne enjoys her job and the role that the business plays in the community. She shares, "I love working on Park Street. I go to work for fun. I love the people, the action. They all come to me, to our store." At age 88, her father also continues to be a part of the business.

Reflecting on the success and longevity of the store, Dianne referred to the hard work and dedication of the staff. She explained that they are very knowledgeable and motivated to help community members. The staff also speaks Spanish and welcomes customers from diverse backgrounds.

Park Hardware has become a cornerstone of Park Street and may be the longest, continuously operated business that has remained in its original location. The Frog Hollow community has relied on and continues to rely on Park Hardware as a stable and friendly community-oriented business.



NEWS BRIEF: EQUIPMENT DONATED TO HPD

The Hartford Police Department (HPD) officially opened the Trinity College substation, located at 130 New Britain Avenue, in June 2013. SINA committed a grant of \$5,000 to the HPD for needed computer equipment and office supplies. The sub-station is now equipped with a 60" TV, a printer, a laptop, and a tablet. Other donated items include window blinds, a bulletin board, an easel, and a podium.

SINA is committed to improving public safety in the Southside of Hartford and will continue to work with and support the Hartford Police Department.

SINA Reports

Fall 2014

www.sinainc.org



Photo By: Trinity College - Kate Bergren and her husband, Justin Eichenlaub, in front of their new home in Hartford's South West neighborhood.

Working and Living Local: Hartford Institutions Making Homeownership a Reality for Employees

Written by: Julia Rivera

SINA's member institutions - Hartford Hospital, Trinity College, and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center - are helping to make homeownership a reality in the South End through the Homeownership Incentive Program (HIP).

The MetroHartford Alliance established HIP in 2012 after studying its success in several cities throughout the country. The program provides

a financial incentive for workers in participating institutions to move to Hartford, closer to their work. HIP also makes it possible for renters to become owners. In the Asylum Hill neighborhood, NINA is working with Aetna, and Saint Francis Hospital to help employees become homeowners. In the South End, the SINA institutions have made it possible for thirteen employees to become homeowners, many for the first time.

Employees in good standing at Hartford Hospital, Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Trinity College are eligible for a \$10,000 forgivable loan to buy a home in Hartford's South End, which includes about half of Hartford's neighborhoods. This grant is forgiven in its entirety after five years of residence in the home. SINA guides participants of HIP through a process that includes finding a lender and completing all of the necessary paperwork.

So far, Hartford Hospital has dedicated \$130,000 to the program over three years and Trinity College, which launched its program in 2014, now has two participants. This summer Connecticut Children's Medical Center started its participation in HIP, when employee, Luis Loza, purchased SINA's newly constructed Cityscape Home on Zion Street.

During his interview on "El Show de Analeh" following the purchase, Mr. Loza explained, "I learned a lot during the process... and I have finally become a homeowner."

HIP benefits both the homebuyers and the communities of which their employers are a part. Participants must buy in the neighborhoods of South Central Hartford.

Continued Inside...

HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

Connecticut Children's New Primary Care Center

To better care for children and families in our community, Connecticut Children's Medical Center has moved its primary care services to a new facility located at 76 New Britain Avenue in Hartford.

Comprehensive services for our patients and families include:



- Wellness visits
- Preventive care
- Immunizations
- Treatment when your child is sick
- Mental health support
- Screenings for behavioral disorders
- Evaluation & treatment of chronic conditions

NEWS BRIEF: 17-19 Squire Street

SINA and its partner Carlos Valinho have begun the renovation of 17-19 Squire Street, a property which has been vacant and abandoned for over ten years. This property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All of its original architectural character and detail will be restored. When completed, it will be transformed into two 2-family homes which will be sold to first time home buyers.



SINA is a partnership between Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital and Trinity College. SINA's mission is to restore economic vitality and improve the quality of life for the people who live, work, play, and study in the neighborhoods of South Hartford.



Joanne Berger-Sweeney Elected Trinity's 22nd President

Jason Rojas, *Trinity College* - *Broad Street Happenings* - Summer 2014



Joanne Berger-Sweeney, Ph.D., was named in March as the 22nd president of Trinity College following a unanimous vote by the College's Board of Trustees. An accomplished teacher, scholar, neuroscientist, and administrator, Berger-Sweeney has served since 2010 as the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

Berger-Sweeney, who came to Tufts after serving 19 years as a faculty member and associate dean at Wellesley College, is the first African American and first woman to be elected president of Trinity. She succeeded James F. Jones, Jr. as president on July 1, 2014, following his retirement after 10 years of distinguished service.

Berger-Sweeney said of her selection, "I am honored and humbled to be joining the Trinity community at such an important time for the College and for American higher education. ... With the strong alumni and alumnae support base, I look forward to the successes the faculty, staff, students, and I will achieve together."

Berger-Sweeney received her undergraduate degree in psychobiology from Wellesley College, an M.P.H. in environmental health sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in neurotoxicology from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Health (INSERM) in Paris, France.

Continued from Front...

Buying a home in these communities is beneficial for several reasons. It improves the rate of homeownership in areas that have suffered substantially lower homeownership rates and struggled through the recent housing recession.

In addition, homeowners represent a source of stability in the community. It is common for homeowners to participate actively in the community and make long-term investments for the neighborhood's well-being.

Living in the South End also makes walking to work a possibility and promotes an environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Sandra Magee from Trinity's Human Resources Department shared, "By living close to work, employees save commute time and money and help to improve the environment, while enjoying easy access to the many benefits the area has to offer."

Trinity College English Professor, Katherine Bergren, was Trinity's first participant in HIP. In April, she and her husband closed on a house in the Southwest neighborhood.

"The neighborhoods around Trinity have a lot of wonderful things about them. To live in the city where I work is very important to me," said Bergren. "It went really smoothly working with SINA. There were no hitches along the way, and our neighbors are the most welcoming people we've ever met."

Criteria for eligibility for HIP varies by institution. Applications are available through the Human Resources Department. Contact Dean Iaiennaro, Director of Real Estate Development at SINA, by calling 860-493-1618 or emailing diaiennaro@sinainc.org for more information on HIP.

8th Annual REACH Awards Ceremony

On June 10th members of the Hartford community gathered at the Legislative Office Building for SINA's 8th Annual REACH Awards Ceremony. REACH Stands for "Recognition, Education, Achievement, and Community Health". The event was emceed by Steve Balcanoff of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and featured Trinity College's Director of Community Relations, Jason Rojas.

Ivan A. Backer Scholarship



From left to right:
Ivan A. Backer, Clara Ana Ramirez,
Didier A. Narcisse, and Juliana Rivera

In honor of Ivan A. Backer, SINA's first Executive Director, three scholarships were awarded to Bulkeley High School seniors who plan to continue their education in an accredited 4-year postsecondary program. Selected based on academic achievement and community service, the awardees for 2014 are Didier A. Narcisse, Clara Ana Ramirez and Juliana Rivera.

SINA Student Support Scholarship

The purpose of the SINA Student Support Scholarship program is to provide much needed financial support to students who are attending Capital Community College (CCC) and whose academic concentration is in Education or Health Care. The 2014 recipients are Kendra A. Castillo, Jennifer Farr, Manuel Rivera, and Carla C. Williams.



From left to right: Jennifer Farr, Kendra A. Castillo,
SINA's Executive Director Melvyn Colon,
Manuel Rivera, and Carla C. Williams.

Neighborhood Service Awardees

Ana Alfaro

Ana Alfaro hosts a talk show entitled "EL Show de Analeh" (The Analeh Show). It features up to twelve segments that relay important information to Latino viewers in Frog Hollow and throughout the state. It was Ms. Alfaro's passion for and commitment to the community that led to the show's creation. She has been involved in Frog Hollow for many years, assisting where possible, and currently holds a position with Connecticut Light & Power, where she works on a number of other projects that benefit the community.

Art Bouchard

A volunteer at the Make a Wish Foundation and a former Hartford Hospital security officer of fourteen years, Arthur "Art" Bouchard is very approachable and exudes warmth in conversation. His words come amply supported by a lifetime of helping others, often by chance; or, as he puts it, "being in the right place, at the right time."

Greg Secord

Greg Secord works for the Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to affordable housing development, as Director of Resource Development. Greg is also a member of the school governance council at the Burns Latino Studies Academy in Frog Hollow. Mr. Secord is currently working with a small group to create a Hartford Historical society that will advocate for Hartford's history and also serve as a convener of thirty different organizations in the city that play a role in Hartford's history. "We're trying to bring them together to do a more effective job of telling the Hartford story. It's something that needs to get done."



From left to right: Judy Dworin, Ana Alfaro, Art Bouchard, and Greg Secord

issues of social justice, seeking to spread awareness through the power of art, theater, and dance.

SINA says farewell to Ivette Quiros

After 18 years with SINA, Ivette Quiros, SINA's Office Manager, has resigned. To honor her time spent at SINA and her work within the city of Hartford, SINA presented Mrs. Quiros with a Neighborhood Service Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Annual REACH Awards Ceremony in June 2014.



From left to right: @ 2014 REACH Awards ceremony
Eddie Perez, Luis C. Cabán, Ivette Quiros, Melvyn Colón, and Ivan Backer

Ivette came to SINA around 1996 and was fundamental in running the organization's day-to-day operations. She was responsible for general administrative functions and managed the affairs of the executive office. Throughout her years at SINA, she collaborated with people from various backgrounds ranging from health care and education professionals to government officials and the business community.

On July 19th, Officer Dixon Vega and Detective Marcos Massa surprised Ivette with a well-deserved plaque on behalf of the Hartford Police Hispanic Officers Association. The plaque stated: "Words cannot properly express our gratitude for your contributions, kindness and the wisdom you brought to our association."

Ivette held the longest tenure with SINA and her institutional knowledge was invaluable. She will be missed by all.

46-48 School Street Cityscape Home for Sale



Funding for this home was made possible through the HOME program in cooperation with the City of Hartford.

- NEW beautiful Two Family Home for only **\$230,000**
- 2600 square feet with full basement
- Owners Unit is 3 bedrooms with 2 full baths
- Rental Unit is 2 bedrooms with 1.5 baths
- Located near Trinity College, Hartford Hospital, and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- \$0 Down Payment. Down payment assistance available.

If you are interested please contact RE/Max Renaissance Realtor
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