

Gardening Grant for AHNA

In May of this year AHNA received an invitation from the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to submit an application for a grant for “new or restoration gardens or landscape projects.” The grant could be up to \$20,000. Over the years, Asylum Hill has been involved in several such projects of varying size and scope and they have added considerably to the quality of life here in the neighborhood.

Once we discovered that NINA had also received an application, a small group got together to submit a joint application that included expanding on the vest-pocket gardens that were installed five years ago on Ashley St by focusing on the Asylum Sigourney intersection, the Urban League at 140 Woodland St



and AH Family Center at 60 Gillett. Also window boxes on NINA homes on Ashley and Sargeant St were incorporated into the proposal by using the Fresh Start Pallet Project team to build them. Also included were Planter Benches like the one that was recently



placed at 123 S. Marshall St. for the immigrant families that live there. We recently heard back from the club, and while we were not the selected winner for full funding, they liked our proposal well enough to grant us \$1500.00 to at least begin the work. They have also encouraged us to apply again next year.

This is especially exciting, since there is a motion recently approved by Hartford City Council to accept funds to improve traffic at that intersection, including an upgrade to the signal, bike lanes, the addition of left turn lanes, as well as milling and repaving. Look for good things to be happening at this very busy intersection!