

Things To Be Thankful For



Every article in this month's edition is a reason to be grateful, but it is far from an exhaustive list. Here are just a few more, and many are items in our Strategic Plan. This year we had our first harvest of pears from the Caritas Pear Orchard near Niles Community Garden. It was truly rewarding to see how well the trees are doing and the bounty of pears after only two years.

We now have a total of seven pollinator gardens in Asylum Hill, with more expected in the months and years to come.

There are now three Jora compost tumblers turning food waste into rich garden soil compost in the neighborhood thanks to a Love Your Block Grant this summer.

There is still nearly a month remaining to visit the 42nd Annual Prison Arts Program Annual Show at the Mark Twain House Museum. More than 200 works of art, all created by inmates in Connecticut prisons with very limited materials are on display.

Several murals were painted in Asylum Hill this year, the north wall at the corner of Marshall and Farmington, and the front of The 224 EcoSpace, with more to come in 2022. The Annual South Marshall Street Block Party resumed this year, as did the Ted Style Talks on Wednesday afternoons at Grace.

Free COVID 19 vaccines were distributed to Asylum Hill residents at many locations throughout the summer and early fall.

Ballet rehearsals and other activities are back at The 224 EcoSpace on Farmington Ave. NINA continues to add homes to Asylum Hill's housing stock with two additional town homes on Hawthorn St, and work to begin next year to convert the Plimpton House on Asylum Ave into owner occupied housing.

With State funding to complete the Farmington Avenue Streetscape project secured, work should begin soon.

With increased police presence in Asylum Hill as a goal of the Asylum Hill Strategic Plan draft, Hartford will graduate 18 new cadets to the force this year (see photo above).

Have a happy and thankful holiday season and New Year!