

## Exploring Asylum Hill - Michael Barr

40 Ashley St got it's newest owner this past November when Michael Barr, an actuary and data scientist at The Hartford, purchased his first single family house.

Originally from Long Island, Michael came to Hartford and The Hartford from college at the University of Albany. When he first got here, he was living in an apartment in Parkville, but the desire to own a house for a home got him thinking about making a move. Finding 40 Ashley St on the market was a perfect fit for him.

"It's going to need some work, still has knob and tube wiring, but I've already got new breaker boxes installed." Michael said and he has plans to finish the third floor as well.

The work will take a while, as he's studying for an actuarial test that's coming up soon, but he's in no particular hurry at the moment.

Since moving into his new home he's already attended one AHNA meeting and one 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. He seems to have enjoyed both.

Like a lot of his contemporaries, Michael thought about New York and Boston, but the reasonable housing costs won out over the big city lure, and the job offer from The Hartford made sense.

Recently he's gotten into The Hartford's volunteerism as well; he started as a Math Buddies mentor at West middle School this year and he's enjoying it.

"Working each week with the same student gives you a real feeling of commitment. Raphael and I really looks forward to our sessions each week." Michael said.



Michael is also one of the employees from The Hartford to take advantage of The Hartford's Homeownership Incentive Program (HHIP). This new benefit promotes homeownership in the local community by providing eligible employees who purchase a primary residence in the City of Hartford an opportunity to receive a \$10,000 net payment from The Hartford toward the purchase of the home. The HHIP assists employees with their home purchase while strengthening The Hartford's presence in the city and demonstrating the company's commitment to the community. Increasing home ownership in the city also helps bring stability to the community,

increases private investment and raises the overall quality of life for everyone living and working in the area. Being able to walk to work is also a plus for both Michael and The Hartford.

