



Congratulations on publishing your book! For just a split second, I envision a scenario where the Book Fairy has taken my manuscript and has gotten it published on my behalf. That brief moment is followed by a groan and the realization, expectation, that I will receive several more congrats, twenty-four more reminders that I haven't done squat with my book! These "reply all" emails always invoke an immediate, involuntary vocal response from me. It's time we employed a little etiquette when it comes to email.

- 11 *Thursday works for me!* It is altogether possible that I am waiting for a response from someone about something. All too often, I open the email to find a name that I do not recognize. I ask aloud, "Why do I care? I don't even know you!"
- 18 *Thanks for the info!* "What info? I checked, and have sent you NOTHING!"
- 19 *I prefer weekday evenings.* "So what? Who cares?"
- 12 *Thanks for all of this Susan!* I am NOT Susan!
- 24 *Thank you Robin and Michelle for making this happen!* OMG! Denise, its Denise!
- 33 *I approve!* "I do NOT approve of your APPROVAL, and I am not keeping count, so..."
- 38 Let's not forget the all too common, *I will attend!* "What, where and when, and frankly, Scarlett, I don't ...!"

Count 'em! That's potentially 180 email responses that really mean nothing to me personally, that I have to spend my precious time opening, scanning and deleting.

Below is a simple tutorial that we can all benefit from.

- **Lesson I:** There may be situations where a small cohort of 10-12 people, or less, will possibly need to know who else is included on the email as well as who can and cannot make a meeting, otherwise the sender should use blind copy, Bcc.
- **Lesson II:** When you employ Bcc, the recipient can only reply to the sender, the only person tasked with keeping a tally on who's attending and who is not.
- **Lesson III:** If you are on an email to 20 or more people, reply only to the sender. Most of the people listed don't need to know your status, and some might not even know who you are, or care one way or the other.
- **Lesson IV:** The sender should refrain from sharing everyone's email with everybody.

Applying these four simple lessons will go a long way in reducing the amount of aggravation and time we all have to spend on emails.

Be sure to vote, fill out the census, stay healthy and SMILE! We all could use a little levity. I hope this helped! Email and let me know. Just joking...

From Our Readers...

Pamela, a faithful longtime reader of the Hartford News, writes "This was taken in May 2019 when I was experiencing homelessness—sleeping on the floor at the Public Safety complex on High Street. After an exhausting day, I would stop into the lobby of the Hartford Hilton on Trumbull Street, where I would try to rest before continuing on to High Street. While there one day, I grabbed Evan, a complete stranger, and asked him to take this photo of the two of us." Later, Pamela spent some time at a Hartford women's shelter where the HN is delivered weekly, and eagerly anticipated its arrival every Thursday. She's been stably housed for some time now, and still looks forward to reading the paper every week to find out what's going on in the city. If you also enjoy reading the Hartford News, email a photo of yourself with a copy of the paper to hartfordnews@aol.com and tell us what you like about it. We will run them as space permits.



Black Lives Matter Mural Unveiled at Swift Factory

On Thursday, July 23, a new Black Lives Matter mural painted in front of the old Swift Factory in Hartford's North End was unveiled. The mural depicts the struggle of American blacks against systemic racism and its effect in America. Among those depicted in the mural is Hartford's Carl Hardrick, who has work to reduce violence – especially gang violence – in Hartford for over half a century. Shown above is the team behind the mural (clockwise from back, left): Julie Bergeron, Gerina Fullwood, John Massey and Matt Conway. Hartford artist Lindaluz Carrillo also worked on the mural but was unable to attend the unveiling. (Hart photo)

Ideas That GROW!

BY DONNA SWARR

Sometimes, the most amazing things happen when you flow with the spirit. Violette Haldane, Hartford Next Treasurer and founder of Advocacy to Legacy, LLC, is the driving force behind the asset mapping pilot project this summer. Advocacy to Legacy is a nonprofit that teaches residents how to advocate for themselves by focusing on education, health, financial literacy, and home ownership.

Each summer it supports a project, and this year it will run a pilot mapping the assets in several neighborhoods in Hartford's north end. Sometimes assets, which greatly improve a neighborhood, are not obvious; gardens are an excellent example. How do you promote or incentivize residents to have a garden in their yard? A contest! Hartford Next is collaborating with Knox, Inc., the Hartford Urban Gardeners Society, McCarter & English, and Advocacy to Legacy to support the 7th Annual HUGS Award. There are three categories: Private/Home Gardens Yard or Container Food or Ornamental Ecological Restoration; Public-Business Property including Landscaping or Planters Streetscape or Block Garden Ecological Restoration; and Community-Organization Inside or Outside Neighborhood Efforts Ecological Restoration. The Hartford Urban Gardeners Society (HUGS) Awards recognize Hartford residents, businesses, and organizations for their outstanding landscaping efforts in the city of Hartford. Over the past 7 years, dozens of residents have been recognized and celebrated for their spectacular work in their personal or business gardens. All awardees are forever recognized as members of the Hartford Urban Gardeners Society, affectionally known as HUGS.

Nominations are due by Monday, September 7th to Maria Burke, Knox, Inc., 75 Laurel St, Hartford, CT 06106. But don't wait that long! Many gardens will be at their peak over the next 3 weeks. The rules are: you can nominate yourself, or someone else, the garden must be located in Hartford; you need to please include a picture or pictures and write a short description as to why you like the garden. Nominations can be sent via mail or email.

You can also find a nomination

form at info@knoxhartford.org. All nominations must include the location of garden (address and owner's name) your contact information (the person nominating) address, phone, and email. A committee of volunteers from throughout the city will select the winners in late September. Since March, many of us have been out walking in our neighborhoods or through our parks. Now's your chance to nominate one of those gardens that you've been admiring!

WE CAN SEE YOUR PET AT NIGHT
EMERGENCIES 24 / 7
Sunday & Evening Well Care Appointments

PET E.R.

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