

in the Loop

Hartford Library Begins a New Chapter

Since it was founded in 1774, the Hartford Public Library has come to play a leading role in providing information and ideas to the citizens of Greater Hartford. Today it houses a half-million items and receives 600,000 visits a year. By the mid-1990s, it already was clear that the library's main branch, the downtown Central Library, was in need of expanding and renovating its 47-year-old building. Funds were raised to support such a project, and in October 1998 work began on \$42 million worth of capital improvements designed to bring the building into the 21st century and enable it to serve area residents far into the future.

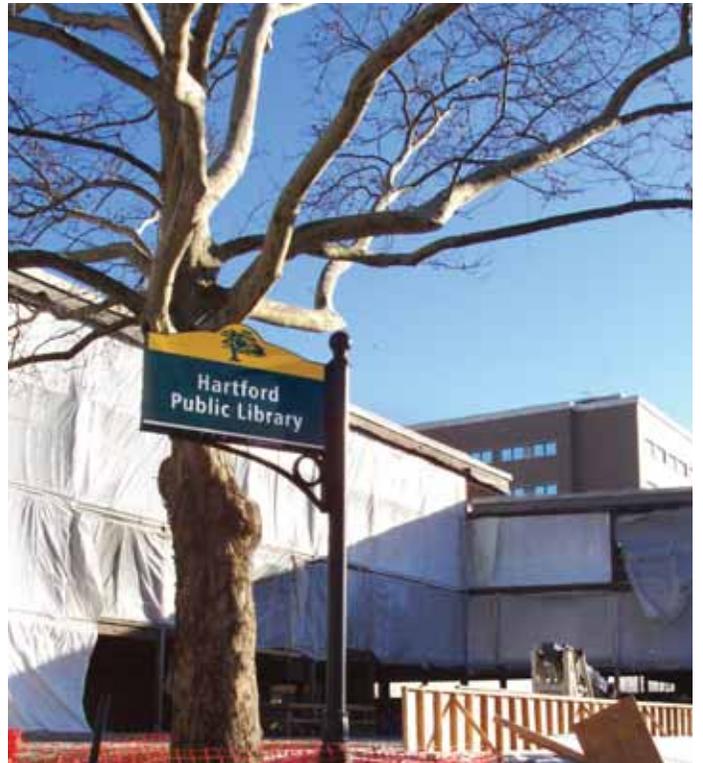
According to Chief Librarian Louise Blalock, "The new library will be a symbol of the power of information, and a gateway to learning and opportunity for everyone in the community."

Completed in March 2004, Phase I of the two-part project involved construction of a 45,000-sq-ft three-story addition. The space contains a new 9,000-sq-ft Children's Library, a much-needed community room, a new media center and several other library programs. Temporarily, however, it is also being used as a home for library activities while the original building undergoes a complete renovation – Phase II of the project.

The renovation, started last August, entails the remodeling of nearly 100,000 sq ft of space. Architectural highlights will include a four-story atrium running through the building's center and a three-story curved glass "Window of Light" facing Main Street that will literally and symbolically establish the library as a light for the city. Within the refurbished building, visitors will find a new Great Reading Room, a reference and information service area, and separate centers dedicated to consumer health information, jobs and careers, journalism and news, and computer use.

A less-visible aspect of the renovation will be replacement of all mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. As part of the infrastructure overhaul, the old library building will also add cooling service to the heating already being supplied by Hartford Steam Co. The library's new addition is also heated and cooled by Hartford Steam.

Blalock looks forward to the project's completion, slated for December 2005, with great expectations. "We



The Hartford Public Library remains open (in more ways than one!) during the renovation period. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2005, when additional services will be available to the tens of thousands who pass through the library's door each year.

anticipate that the new library will draw increasing numbers of people to the city," she explains. "It will make a major contribution to the revitalization of downtown Hartford."

Knowledge Is Power for City Energy Manager

Jean Hess may not be an engineer, but she soon may have earned an honorary degree! Hess is a principal analyst in the Public Works Department for the City of Hartford, and for the past year she has been studying energy use patterns and equipment at Hartford's City Hall and other municipal buildings.

It all began when she was assigned to manage the City's streetlights – obviously a major energy user. She evaluated the usage data and set to work to reduce energy usage and costs. She applied for energy grants, attended seminars and was able to start curbing some costs on curbside lighting.

That spurred her on to look at energy usage in City buildings as well. The City Hall uses steam from Hartford Steam Co.'s district heating system, so she contacted the company for historical data and usage trends. "It was great to go right to the source," says Hess. "Jeff Lindberg helped us gather the information we needed, and he was very knowledgeable about our equipment. He suggested we have Gordon Osborne walk through the building and do an energy survey for us, helping us determine what could be done to reduce consumption wherever possible."



Hartford's current City Hall replaced the Old State House as the heart of City government on November 4, 1915. The ceiling of City Hall's atrium is a domed cast-iron and glass skylight that covers 5,400 sq ft and has 1,785 glass panes.

During the tour, they discovered that the building has an old steam sidewalk heater – mammoth in size. Although it would be too expensive to put into use now, they noted that given the past few winters, the idea sounded extremely appealing!

A number of recommendations resulted from the tour – from locking thermostats to putting film on windows to fixing control valves. It turns out that although the control valves in the building's HVAC system aren't old, they definitely require extra attention.

As a result, the City is reviewing solution options, including a programmable logic controller (PLC), which would control heating zone valves throughout the building. It would operate based on the outside air temperature and thus optimize operations. The controller could sense if it's a colder day than usual and would start providing more heat to the building earlier – or if it could hold off if it senses outdoor temperatures have moderated. This could prove to be energy-efficient and make the building even more comfortable for City workers.

“Being proactive is so important when it comes to energy,” says Hess. “By planning and acting now, we can not only save dollars, but ensure the operation and maintenance of our historic structures for decades to come. I thank Hartford Steam for lending us a hand and continuing to consult with us as we work to improve efficiencies.” Her sentiments couldn't come at a better time: Hartford's City Hall will celebrate its 90th anniversary November 4, 2005.

Not Too Early To Think Cooling

With inches (and feet) of snow not all that far behind us, it's hard to think about the cooling season. But it's creeping up on us, so you may want to put together your air-conditioning checklist. Here's a start:

- Flush all cooling coils and piping that were laid up for winter. Drain the glycol into proper storage containers and flush the system with city water.
- Refill all in-house chilled-water systems with city water and vent the systems to release trapped air before contacting Hartford Steam to open the district cooling service valves.
- Check coils to be sure there were no freezups during the winter months.
- Clean and maintain the cooling coils.
- Close coil drain valves.
- Lubricate all pump and fan motors and bearings.
- Check all dampers, fans and louvers to ensure they work correctly.
- Calibrate controls.
- Clean and flush all chilled-water strainers.
- Set up variable-speed drives on building chilled-water pump circulators.
- Check the energy management system to ensure it's ready for the cooling season.
- Review and test cooling system setpoints and operational programs.
- Inspect, test and repair air handler and fan coil cooling control valves.

Please contact Diane Wojcik at (860) 548-7357, dianewojcik@hartfordsteam.com if you have questions and/or would like to schedule Hartford Steam to turn on your chilled-water meters and open your primary chilled-water valves. We also can secure the primary steam valve if you do not use steam during the summer months.

**Will spring soon be on the way?
Even if we get more snow, keep this in mind:**

“There's one good thing about snow,
it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.”
– Clyde Moore

♻️ Printed on recycled paper that includes 100% post-consumer fiber.

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