



## Honored to be Named Best

Thank you! We are honored to be named Connecticut's best farmers' market in 2010 ["Best of Connecticut," September]. What you do to highlight Connecticut businesses is so wonderful. I think it makes for a more closely knit feeling in our state than anywhere else. Thanks again.

*Erin Wirpsa Eisenberg  
Executive Director  
CitySeed  
New Haven*

## Capital Courses

I was pleased that you featured an article in your August issue [Education, "The Smart Set"] about adult enrichment classes being offered throughout our state. However, there is an unfortunate omission: Programs in Hartford, the state capital, are not mentioned. The Adult Learning Program (ALP), which serves the Capitol area, is sponsored by the University of Connecticut and affiliated with Elderhostel. For \$100 annually, one can take an unlimited number of courses or single lectures from among more than 50 offerings in the fall and spring. Courses run from three to six weeks, are given during the day and cover the arts, culture, travel and issues of current interest. The program has operated since 1989 and there are currently more than 200 members who enjoy learning through our program.

*Ivan A. Backer  
Co-chair, Curriculum Committee  
Adult Learning Program  
Hartford*

*Editor's Note:* The article in question did actually talk about adult-enrichment offerings in Hartford, specifically three programs run by Trinity College.

## LETTERS

## Doing Diligence on the Merritt

Thank you for your article, "Another Nightmare on the Merritt," posted on the connecticutmag.com blog "On Connecticut" in July. I admit I grimaced when I opened the page, but was pleasantly surprised by the contents. As the supervising engineer in charge of this construction project, I struggle every day with the construction staff and contractor on how to delicately work on the Merritt, implementing the necessary safety elements while maintaining the historic integrity and traffic flow. Department designers have done a wonderful job as they implement what is called "Context Sensitivity Design."

Also, it's important to note that any project on this highway system undergoes scrutiny through the Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee, which consists of various stakeholders, including town representatives, design professionals and representatives from the Merritt Parkway Conservancy.

The major stakeholders, however, are the 70,000 motorists who use the Merritt Parkway daily. So when I receive a phone call from admirers of the parkway who are crying because we are selectively removing trees or working on a bridge, I have to kindly remind them of our obligation to all stakeholders. I not only have to answer these individuals but also have to answer to my friends and family! My grandfather was a member of one of the four survey parties during the original construction and I have three uncles who worked on the Merritt at one time or another in their careers with the department.

On a closing note, this project has worked hard to partner with the Merritt Parkway Conservancy. We have an open and ongoing dialogue with the executive director, Jill Smyth, and our relationship has never been better than it is today. While some may feel the Department of Transportation "does not get it," I can assure you that there are those of us who do get it. There is not one person here who does not consider it an honor and a privilege to work on the Merritt Parkway.

Thank you again for seeing the whole picture.

*Mary K. Baier, P.E.  
West Simsbury*