CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE BOBBY SANCHEZ

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## Progress, Partnership and One City

*By Mayor Bobby Sanchez*

As summer winds down and our students return to the classroom, September is shaping up to be another busy and exciting month in New Britain.

August gave us plenty to celebrate, including significant progress in our efforts to modernize New Britain's infrastructure and improve safety throughout our City.

Since taking office, I have made securing new investments for our infrastructure a priority. In August, those efforts delivered a major win for New Britain: nearly $15 million in federal BUILD funding to transform Route 174. The project will address the challenging East Street/Newington Avenue intersection, ease congestion, improve traffic flow, and create safer conditions for drivers and pedestrians along this important gateway to our City.

Investments like this are critical to New Britain's future. Better infrastructure strengthens our neighborhoods, improves connectivity, and creates opportunities for continued economic growth.

That same commitment to safety is also driving our Speed Safety Program, which is moving forward with Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices in designated school zones. By slowing drivers down and changing dangerous driving behavior, we are working to reduce crashes and better protect our children, families, and everyone who travels our streets.

August was also all about getting our children ready for a successful school year. I had the opportunity to attend several back-to-school events throughout New Britain, where families, educators, community organizations, volunteers, and local partners came together to make sure our students had the supplies and resources they needed to start the year strong. The City also partnered with the Community Health Center, Inc. on multiple clinics to help ensure our children could return to school healthy and up to date on their vaccinations.

That spirit of partnership was on display throughout the month.

We joined with the Connecticut Department of Labor to host a multi-employer job fair, connecting residents with employers and new opportunities. We celebrated our police officers, firefighters, first responders, neighborhood organizations, and residents during National Night Out. And we continued our Listening Tour with a stop in Ward 1, hearing directly from residents about what is working in their neighborhoods and where we can do better.

September will keep that momentum going, with plenty of opportunities to celebrate our community, support our businesses, honor those who have served, and continue hearing directly from our residents.

We'll kick things off on September 3rd with a Paving Celebration on John Downey Drive, bringing together the businesses along the corridor to celebrate the completion of these much-needed roadway improvements.

On September 14th, we will pause to honor New Britain's Korean and Vietnam War veterans, recognizing their service, sacrifice, and lasting contributions to our community. The following day, our focus turns to New Britain's business community with Business 360 on September 15th, connecting local businesses and entrepreneurs with resources, organizations, and opportunities to help them grow and succeed.

Our commitment to listening directly to residents also continues this month. On September 17th, we'll bring our Listening Tour to Ward 2, giving neighbors another opportunity to share their ideas, concerns, and priorities directly with us. These conversations help ensure the work we do at City Hall reflects the needs of the people and neighborhoods we serve.

Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th through October 15th, and in a City as diverse as New Britain, we have plenty to celebrate. Throughout the month, events across the City will recognize the history, culture, traditions, and contributions of our Hispanic and Latino community.

We'll cap off the month on September 26th with our One City Celebration at Walnut Hill Park. This event is about everything that makes New Britain special: our cultures, our food, our music, our traditions, and, most importantly, our people. It is a chance for neighbors from every corner of the City to come together and celebrate what it means to be One City.

Find out more about upcoming events at https://www.newbritainct.gov/events.

Whether we are investing millions of dollars into safer infrastructure, helping someone find their next job, protecting children traveling to school, supporting a local business, honoring our veterans, or simply bringing neighbors together, it all comes back to the same goal: building a stronger New Britain for everyone.

There is a lot of work ahead, but there is also a lot to celebrate. I hope to see you out in the community this September.

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https://www.newbritainherald.com/news/mayors-corner-progress-partnership-and-one-city/article_92caa780-111d-44c1-b7fc-5821a7047ed7.html