



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107
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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: September 26 2017
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

Council Business

- *FY 2017/18 Operating Budget* – On September 16, 2017, the General Assembly adopted a state budget for the current fiscal year. Under that budget, state aid to West Hartford would total approximately \$21 million. However, the Governor has expressed several concerns with the package and will likely issue a veto. In the event that the Governor vetoes the budget and runs the state under executive order, management will set aside funds in every department to be used as an offset to any possible loss of State aid. The set-aside funds would include all projected payroll savings associated with vacant funded positions, both full and part time and proposed reductions in overtime, as well as a target transfer of 10% for non-payroll accounts. The set-aside funds would remain unavailable until there is more clarity regarding the impact of the final State Budget on the Town.
- *Council subcommittees* – The Public Safety Committee will meet at 8:00 AM on October 5th and the Finance & Budget Committee will meet at 6:15 PM October 10th.

Departmental Reports

- *Columbus Day Holiday* - West Hartford town hall, municipal offices, libraries, senior centers, community center, and public schools will be closed on Monday, October 9 for the Columbus Day holiday. There is no delay in the collection of trash and recyclable items. The Recycling Center will also be open, 7:00 AM-4:30 PM.
- *October 1 deadline for Disabled Veterans Exemption* - The Assessment Office is reminding honorably discharged veterans and active duty military persons that they may be eligible for an exemption. Under the state program, veterans and active duty military persons may be entitled to an exemption if their income does not exceed \$35,200 for a single person and \$42,900 for a married couple. The deadline for the filing period is October 1.

West Hartford also offers a local exemption program and the income limits are \$60,200 for a single person and \$67,900 for a married couple. The exemption is an assessment reduction of \$10,000 or 10% of assessed value, whichever is greater. Resident veterans who already filed with the town for their exemption, do not need to file again. For more information, visit the www.WestHartfordCT.gov/Assessment or call 561-7414.

- *Last Round of Paving* - The Town has commenced the last round of street milling and paving for this construction season. The streets slated for improvement include Middlebrook Road, Northmoor Road, Carlyle Road, Russell Lane, Old Meadow Road, Walker Lane, Flagg Road and Gifford Road. School busses and local traffic will be allowed to use these roads at all times though short delays are possible due to the construction activity.
- *Floodplain Awareness and Management* - The Department of Community Development has begun its annual public outreach effort related to floodplain awareness and management. This year's outreach targets certain flood-prone areas and properties along or near watercourses. The awareness plan provides information about flood preparedness, safety, and the National Flood Insurance Program. West Hartford is one of few municipalities in Connecticut that is rated in FEMA's Community Rating System. Because of the Town's ongoing efforts towards floodplain management, West Hartford property owners enjoy a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums. To learn more about the Town's flood plain management efforts, please contact the Town Planner at 860-561-7556.
- *Hartford Symphony Masterworks Preview* – The Noah Webster Library has commenced a forum to discuss each of the Hartford Symphony's Masterworks with music educator Dr. Wayne Pierce. You are invited to attend the next forum on Wednesday, November 8 at 7:00 PM. Learn more by visiting www.WestHartfordLibrary.org
- *Curbside Composting Pilot Program begins Oct. 5*: The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection has been tasked with coming up with a management plan that will reduce municipal solid waste production by 60% by the year 2024. That's roughly 2.3 million tons of trash per year statewide that needs to be diverted to recycling or composting. To continue work on this goal, the Department of Public Works will begin a pilot program on October 5th with over 100 households to test the feasibility of a curbside food waste recycling program. The pilot program will run 4 months is made possible by partnering with three leaders in the material management industry, Covanta Energy, Quantum Bio-Power and Paine's Inc. The results will allow the Town of West Hartford to make decisions on whether it is prudent to offer the program to all residential homes in the future.
- *Electronic waste recycling event* - To date, 22,819 lbs. of electronic waste has been collected from 314 participants during the September electronic waste recycling events at the town hall parking lot. Residents are encouraged to bring their e-waste during the final week of this program on Thursday afternoon, 4:00-7:00 PM, or on Saturday, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. \Electronic waste is defined as anything with plug!

- *Check Your Land Record for Fraudulent Lien Filings* - The Town Clerk's Office warns West Hartford residents to protect themselves from fraudulent lien filings against their properties by periodically checking the Town's on-line Electronic Land Records. Simply follow these steps:
 1. Go to www.WestHartfordCT.gov/TownClerk
 2. Click on 'Land Records' and then choose 'E-Search'
 3. Sign-in as 'Guest'
 4. Enter your last name and first name, and then click 'Search'

The final results of the query will show all property transactions under your name. Should you see the word "LIEN" associated with a business or agency that you are not aware of, please contact them and ask for a 'Release' to be recorded on your Land Record. You may also visit the Town Clerk's Office in person for assistance. The office charges \$1 per printed page.

Outside Agency News

- *CRCOG's Get Ready Capitol Region* - In the past two months alone, we have witnessed hurricane disasters around the world. During National Preparedness Month, the Town reminds residents that there is no better time than right now to be prepared. To get started go to www.GetReadyCapitolRegion.org for information on how to:
 - ✓ Make a plan that can help you and your family reunite, communicate, take shelter, or even evacuate, should a disaster strike.
 - ✓ Assemble and store a kit that ensures you and your family can survive for at least three days on your own. A good Disaster Supply Kit will include water, non-perishable food, a battery operated radio, blankets, flashlights, an emergency first aid kit, hygiene products, basic tools and supplies, medication, cash, and extra house and car keys.
 - ✓ Get important community news by signing up for West Hartford's Community Advisory Notification System found on the Town's web site.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- **Park Road Parade Days** - The Park Road Association is proud to announce "Park Road Parade Days," an exciting week of events leading up to the parade on October 7th. In celebration of the 19th annual parade, a special 19% off discount card is available for a \$20 donation that will help defray the costs of the parade. The card may be used at 15 participating restaurants, stores and businesses from Monday, October 2 through Saturday, October 7. The card is available for purchase at Effie's Restaurant, Playhouse on Park, and Zest 280 Eatery. Get yours today and support the Park Road Parade! On Tuesday, October 3, Zest 280, 280 Park Road, will host the Parade Volunteer Meeting at 5:45-6:45 PM. Those who volunteer say it is the most fun they have had in a long time! If you are interested, please call Rita at 860-522-6696. On Thursday, October 5th, Park & Oak Restaurant, 14 Oakwood Avenue, will donate proceeds from its happy hour to the parade. Join us as we raise a glass, and a fork, in celebration of the upcoming Park Road Parade. The Happy Hour is held from 4:00PM to 7:00 PM. And finally, on Saturday, October 7th, the 19th Annual Park Road Parade will be held at 10:30 AM. The parade features bands, clowns, dancers, floats, dogs of all shapes and sizes, antique cars, color guards, businesses, civic and cultural organizations and town and state officials. This year's Grand Marshal is Heidi Voight, anchor, NBC Connecticut Today. For more information, visit ParkRoadCT.com.
- *Best of West Hartford Awards Night, September 27, 5:30-8:00 PM* - Winners of this year's Best of West Hartford contest will be announced on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the annual awards show at the Cinépolis Theater in Blue Back Square. Everyone is invited to attend! The evening will kick off at 5:30 PM as guests stroll down the red carpet to the front doors of Cinépolis Theaters. Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar is providing a generous array of heavy hors d'oeuvres. The awards show includes comedians Steven Fischman and Paul Gregory, and emcee Kerri-Lee Mayland, news anchor from NBC Connecticut, and, of course, the announcement of the winners in each of the 36 categories. The show ends with the 2016 American Beatbox Champion Mark Martin, a West Hartford native. Tickets are available online on We-Ha.com. Individual tickets are \$48 each, or \$35 each when four or more are purchased. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Junior Achievement of Southwest New England.
- *Food Truck Pop-Up night, Thursday, October 5, 5:00-8:00 PM* - The final Food Truck Pop-Up night will take place at the Noah Webster House on Thursday, October 5, 5:00-8:00 PM. Reserve your spot now for your last chance to enjoy great food and drink at Noah's house. Tickets are \$10.
- *Pink Party, Thursday, October 5, 5:00-8:00 PM* - West Hartford will kick off Breast Cancer Awareness month in style with the 6th annual Pink Party! The event features live music by Shaded Soul, sampling the local flavors of the area's best restaurants, and activities for all ages. Local breast cancer survivors will hit the pink runaway in a survivor fashion show outfitted in the latest fashions from nearby retailers. Guests can enter to win prizes and may purchase \$20 SWAG

bags stuffed with donated items ranging from gift cards, cosmetics, tasty treats and more! For more information, visit PinkPartyCT.com.

- *25th Annual Jewish Book Festival begins, Sunday, October 8* - The Mandell JCC gets cooking with its kick-off signature event for the 25th Annual Jewish Book Festival featuring *New York Times* best-selling cook book author, Joan Nathan, on Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 2:00 PM at the Mandell JCC, Zachs Campus, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford. Ticket prices are \$100 per person for the pre-event lunch meet and greet, or \$40 for the keynote speech only. Contact the Mandell JCC Box Office at 860-231-6316 or visit tickets@mandelljcc.org.