



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: October 10, 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* – As expected, Governor Malloy vetoed the recent budget adopted by the General Assembly and is now running the state under executive order. Over the weekend legislative leaders at the General Assembly issued a bipartisan statement explaining that they were making progress on their budget talks. Hopefully, the General Assembly will convene a special session within the next week or two. In the interim, management has set aside funds in every department to be used as an offset to any possible loss of State aid. The set-aside funds 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 will remain unavailable until there is more clarity regarding the impact of the final State Budget on the Town.
- *Human Services Committee* – The Town Council's Human Services Committee will meet at 8:00 AM this Thursday, October 12, 2017. We will have a full agenda for that meeting.
- *MDC Budget Meeting for Town Officials* – Tomorrow, October 11th, Finance Director Peter Privitera and I will attend the MDC's second budget meeting for Town officials. We will share any public documents with the Town Council and provide a report at the next regular Council meeting.
- *October 24, 2017 Town Council Meeting* – As a reminder, I will miss the October 24th Council meeting due to my attendance at the ICMA Annual Conference. There are a number of public hearings that the Town Council will open on that night and immediately continue to the November 14th Council meeting in order to ensure that I can participate in the discussion. I will designate an Acting Town Manager during my absence, who will attend the October 24th Council meeting.

Departmental Reports

- *Essie Labrot named Town Clerk of the Year* - At the Connecticut Town Clerks Association conference on September 28th, Essie Labrot was awarded "Town Clerk of the Year," the highest award that the association bestows each year. The winner is selected by all 169 Town Clerks as the person they feel has done the most for the association and the residents of her community. Essie was one of five finalists. Of note, Essie's legislative testimony, research, presentations, and volunteerism set her apart from the other candidates.
- *Absentee Ballots for Municipal Election* - Absentee ballots are now available in the Town Clerk's office for the November 7, 2017 Municipal Election. If you will be out of town or not able to make it to the polls on Election day due to illness, disability, military service, election duties or religious reasons, you are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.
- *Renée McCue joins Town Manager's Office* – Later this month, Renée McCue will be transferring from the Community Development Department to the Town Manager's Office. She brings with her 29 years of experience in public communication and a breadth of knowledge across all municipal departments. Renée will continue her work in the same capacity while adding a new focus of communication from the Office of the Town Manager.
- *Motor vehicle tax bills* – On October 6th, the Town mailed motor vehicle tax bills to West Hartford residents based on the current statutory limitation of 32 mills. The Town had delayed the mailing of the bills since June as the State deliberated on its budget. With the State budget still uncertain, the Town needed to proceed with the billing. Motor vehicle tax bills are due November 1st and the last day to pay without penalty is December 1st. The tax office will be open on December 1, from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Should there be a mill rate change when the final State budget is adopted, the Town may issue a supplemental tax bill. We appreciate everyone's understanding regarding the timing of the motor vehicle bills.
- *Winners of the Park Road Parade* - Here are the winners of the 19th Annual Park Road Parade that was held on Saturday, October 7th:
 - Best Float: Friends of Feeney (Wolcott Elementary School)
 - Best Overall Performance: Coogan School of Irish Dance
 - Best Costume: Captain Mahogany Hains
 - Best Musical Performance: Calvary Fellowship
 - Best Community Spirit: Whiting Lane School's Rockin' Readers
- *Fire Department open house* - The West Hartford Fire Department will hold an Open House at Station #2, 20 Brace Road, on Wednesday, October 11th, 5:00-9:00 PM, during National Fire Prevention week. The event is free. Stop by to learn safety tips to protect your home and family.

- *Hartford Marathon road closures* - On October 14th, more than 7,000 runners will use West Hartford roads for the 2017 Eversource Hartford Half Marathon. Road closures will be in effect from about 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Motorists may be allowed to drive through the closed area if there is a large enough break between runners; the safety of the runners is the priority. The affected streets include Park Road, Whiting Lane, South Quaker Lane, South Highland, the Boulevard, North Quaker Lane, Fern Street, Trout Brook Drive (Northbound lanes), Albany Avenue between Steele Road and Trout Brook (eastbound lanes), Steele Road, and the interior roads of Elizabeth Park. For best access to the area enclosed by the race route, we recommend using the Sisson Avenue highway entrances and exits (#46) on I-84. For more information, please visit www.HartfordMarathon.com and click on the Traffic Alert section, or call 860-652-8866. Thank you for your support and cooperation!
- *Sunday Hours at the Noah Webster Library* – Sunday hours at Noah Webster will resume on October 15th at the Noah Webster Library, 20 South Main Street. Sunday hours will be 1:00-5:00 PM.
- *Flu immunization clinics* - Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Since every flu season is different, an annual immunization is recommended. The West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District will provide flu shots on:
 - October 18 - West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium, 12:00-2:00 PM
 - October 20 - West Hartford Senior Center, 15 Starkel Rd., 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
 - October 25 - Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Ave., 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 860-561-7900.

- *Curbside composting pilot program* - Quantum Bio-Power reported that the first load from the pilot food waste diversion program collected from more than 100 participating homes totaled one ton! The pilot program will run four months and is made possible by partnering Covanta Energy, Quantum Bio-Power and Paine's Inc. West Hartford is the only town testing a municipal source separation collection of residential food waste.
- *EV Chargers in Town Hall parking lot* - Department of Public Works recently installed a dual-head EV charging station in Town Hall parking lot. The unit was purchased with a grant from CT Green Bank. The remaining costs of the EV charger, labor and materials to install the equipment were covered by the Municipal Parking Division. The EV Chargers are available for public use and can charge up to two electric vehicles simultaneously. The location is handicap-accessible.
- *LED lighting on parking garage roofs* – The Department of Public Works, Traffic Safety Division, recently completed the conversion of the parking garage rooftop lighting from 250w metal halide lumens to 50w LED lights. The objective is to conserve electricity, prevent vandalism and improve safety at the garage roof levels. By deploying LED technology, we will minimize the long term maintenance costs associated with expensive ballast and bulb replacement.

- *Leaf bag collection begins October 23rd* - Autumn is a wonderful season until it's time to rake leaves! DPW will run its 10-week curbside leaf bag collection from October 23rd through December 29th. Leaves should be placed in 30-gallon biodegradable paper bags; plastic bags will not be collected. Please place the paper leaf bags at the curb, but not in the street. Public works recommends that you continue to mow your lawns weekly to help reduce the volume of fallen leaves by mulching the leaves in place. If you hire a local landscaper to collect your leaves by truck or a vacuum system, please remind them that leaf piles are not allowed in the street because they create serious safety issues for passing motor vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and cause local street flooding by damming the catch-basin. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Outside Agency News

- *News from The Bridge Family Center* - The Bridge wants to remind the community members that the West Hartford Teen Center is a thriving, fun place for West Hartford Teens to socialize after school for basketball, billiards, video games, and that it has Teen Night one Friday per month. The Teen Center is located in the basement of the Elmwood Community Center. The Bridge is also continuing to run its Kids in Divorce and Separation support groups at the West Hartford elementary schools. Children who are separated from a parent or caregiver due to divorce, separation, incarceration, or military service are welcome to attend this group. Please see school guidance counselors for more information.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Bottle redemption at ShopRite to benefit the Park Road Parade* - During the month of October, bring your cans and bottles to ShopRite of West Hartford, 46 Kane Street, for recycling and donate the nickel refund to the Park Road Parade. Simply bring your slip to the cashier and say "I would like to donate this to the Park Road Parade"! At the end of the month, ShopRite will present a check to the Park Road Association representing a grand total of all the bottle returns donated by store patrons. Proceeds will help with the 2018 parade.
- *Party in the Park, Thursday, October 19, 6:00-8:30 PM* - The West Hartford Art League invites you to a "Party in the Park" to support the Art League, on Thursday, October 19th from 6 – 8:30 PM at the Pond House. Live music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, live and silent auction! For tickets, contact the Art League at www.westhartfordart.org or call 860-231-8019.
- *13th Annual Celebrating Gifts of Music Benefit Concert, Saturday, October 21, 7:30 PM* - Alexa Tarantino and Friends, showcasing Tap Dancer Leo Manzari, will perform as special guests at the 13th annual Celebrating Gifts of Music Benefit Concert on at 7:30 PM on Saturday, October 21st, at the Intensive Education Academy, 840 North Main Street, West Hartford. Alexa and drummer Jimmy Macbride are graduates of the West Hartford Public Schools. Tickets are \$25. Go to www.GiftsOfMusic.us. For more information, contact Deb Berman at (860) 424-7560.
- *West Hartford United Methodist Church's Harvest Fair, Saturday, October 21, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM* - The West Hartford United Methodist Church, known as the 'Pumpkin Church,' will hold its 2017 Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 21st, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Free admission. The church is located at 1358 New Britain Ave.
- *West Hartford Symphony Orchestra presents Lincoln and Booth, Sunday, October 22, 3:00 PM* - The West Hartford Symphony Orchestra will open its 16th season at 3:00 PM, Sunday, October 22nd, with "Lincoln and Booth," a concert musical composed by the symphony's conductor, Richard Chiarappa. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students). Go to www.WHSO.org or call 860-521-4362.
- *West Hartford Hauntings* - This October, the Noah Webster House's spooky, theatrical cemetery tour returns for its 13th year. This family-friendly event takes place Fridays and Saturdays, October 20, 21, 27 & 28 at Old North Cemetery. Tours leave every 15 minutes from 6:00 to 8:45 PM and run for 45 minutes. Due to some frightening content, it is suggested that participants be age 10 or over. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.