



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: December 12, 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

- Community Planning and Physical Services (CPPS) Committee Meeting – The CPPS Committee will meet at 5:30 PM on Monday, December 18, 2017 to discuss waste management, the Trout Brook trail project, and a few other items.

Staff Reports

- *Los Imperios remonstrance* - On December 8, 2017, the Department of Consumer Protection notified the Town of West Hartford that it would not renew Los Imperios' liquor permit based on a remonstrance filed by neighborhood residents. Mayor Shari Cantor, Acting Police Chief Daniel Coppinger, and Assistant Police Chief Robert McCue all testified in support of the residents' request that Los Imperios' liquor license not be renewed. Some of their testimony was noted in the press.

The Consumer Protection decision followed the November 30, 2017 Superior Court decision that ordered Los Imperios to stop offering DJ or live entertainment without a valid West Hartford entertainment license. Based on the terms of the order, the police were prepared to close the business for the rest of the day and each following day that Los Imperios violated the order. There have been no reported problems at or stemming from Los Imperios since the November 30, 2017 order was issued. The police department will continue to monitor Los Imperios to ensure that compliance with both orders continues.

- *Park Road at I-84 Construction Update* - Construction continues at the I-84 (Exit 43-Park Road) interchange area. The Town's contractor, Paramount Construction has already excavated a significant amount of soil to begin forming the new off ramp. Large Styrofoam blocks called Geofam have arrived on site and will be stacked over an existing drainage culvert. The lightweight blocks will be used as fill material to reduce the weight over the culvert. The contractor also plans to begin construction of the modular retaining wall that will be located

between the on and off ramps. The contractor plans to work through the winter (weather dependent) between the existing on and off ramps. Staff does not expect traffic impacts until the spring of 2018. Please visit the project website at www.WestHartfordCT.gov/ParkRd for project information, project web-cam, construction updates and photos, and traffic advisories.

- *Rockledge Golf Club closes for the season* - It's been a great year for Rockledge Golf Club, primarily due the wonderful and loyal patrons who continue to support West Hartford's 18-hole, award-winning golf course. As of December 9, the course closed for the winter. The Golf Shop will remain open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for holiday gift shopping including gift certificates, golf clubs, apparel, and much more. Gift certificates are also available at the Customer Service desk in the Town Hall lobby, weekdays from 8:30AM to 4:30PM.
- *Extra patrols during the holiday* - The West Hartford Police Department wishes everyone a safe holiday, but also wants to remind residents and visitors to enjoy the holidays responsibly. The department will be deploying special holiday enforcement details throughout the holiday season and will be looking for aggressive drivers, distracted driving, seatbelt violations, excessive speed, traffic control violations, and especially motorists who are driving while intoxicated. The officers will be in both marked and unmarked vehicles. The initiative is 100% state funded, up from 80% in previous years.
- *Tips to Prevent Package Thefts* - This time of year the theft of gift packages increases in our neighborhoods. The West Hartford Police Department offers a few tips to prevent your packages from being stolen:
 - Leave instructions with parcel delivery services to keep the packages out of sight. Deliveries should be placed on a side or back porch or between doors.
 - Take in deliveries as soon as they arrive. Ask the parcel service to ring your doorbell upon delivery.
 - Track packages and insure them.
 - If you are not home, have packages delivered to your work or to a neighbor or friend who is home.
 - Pick packages up from your local Post Office or UPS center or a private mail service such as Mailboxes Etc.
 - Have Amazon purchases delivered to an Amazon Locker. One is located in the lobby of 65 Memorial Road.
 - Use home security features such as motion sensor, cameras, and lighting.

Call the West Hartford Police Department at 860-523-5203 if you see any suspicious activity such as vehicles following delivery trucks and non-uniformed personnel handling packages in your neighborhood.

- *Free Parking for One Hour* - From December 11 through December 31, 2017, the Municipal Parking office is offering everyone one hour of free parking in West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square through the mobile Passport Parking App. Diners, shoppers and anyone who is doing business in the central business district can enjoy one hour of free parking at any of the municipal parking sites including the parking garages, on-street spaces, and surface lots. Simply use coupon code 6S6IRRE upon checkout. The coupon can only be used one-time and has a \$1.50 value that is equivalent to one hour of parking with the mobile app.
- *Weekly Recycling reminder* - DPW offers a reminder that West Hartford offers WEEKLY collection of recyclable items. The more items we recycle, the less trash that goes in our waste stream. The Top 10 items to recycle are: cardboard, paper, food boxes, mail, beverage cans, food cans, glass bottles, jars, jugs, and plastic bottles. Thank you for doing your part for the environment and your community!
- *DPW's Winter Tips* - With the winter weather upon us, Public Works offers a few tips to help prevent property damage and keep roads safe.
 - Accidents can be prevented by cleaning off catch basin tops near your home to allow melted snow to flow off the street and into the drain.
 - Install reflective stakes to identify property edges and driveways to prevent plow damage.
 - Reinforce roadside mailboxes with protective shields and arrange for a seasonal inspection for durability. Reinforce your mailbox to prevent damage from snow cast.
- *Holiday Gift Card Giving* - The Social Services Office is collecting \$25 gift cards from stores such as Target and Wal-Mart now through December 15, 2017. The gift cards will be distributed to low income parents at the annual holiday party on December 19. The gift cards allow parents to tailor their presents to their child's interests. Gift cards may be dropped off in Room 306, Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM. For more information, call 561-7561.
- *Land Record fees increased* - Effective December 1, the CT General Statutes increased the land recording fee from \$53 to \$60 for the first page of a document (CGS 7-34a (d), and from \$53 to \$60 for the filing of a Foreclosed Property Registration Form (CGS 7-148 ii).
- *Holiday Closings* - The Christmas and New Year's Day holidays fall on Monday, December 25, 2017 and Monday, January 1, 2018. The collection of trash, recyclable items and bulky waste will be delayed by one day. For Christmas week, Monday's collection will be completed on Tuesday with all other days being one day later. The same is true for New Year's week. If you have questions, please check Paine's website, www.PainesInc.com or call Paine's at (860) 844-3000.

Starting December 23, 2017, the Yard Waste and Recycling Center will be closed on Saturdays. Saturday hours will resume on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

All town facilities, libraries, schools and Recycling Center will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1. Elmwood Community Center, Elmwood Senior Center and West Hartford Senior Center (Bishops Corner), and all three libraries will also be closed on Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31:

The Skating Rink will be open for public skating on December 24, December 31, and January 1.

- *Employee parking at the Town Center Garage* – In response to growing parking demand due to the increase of *restaurants* and decrease of traditional retail uses in West Hartford Center, town staff has worked with privately owned Town Center Garage (owned by Figure 8 Properties), located at 29 South Main Street, to create a reduced rate parking program available to service employees working in the Center and Blue Back Square. The program, labeled the Garage Retail Validation program (GRV), offers reduced rate parking, \$4.50 for up to 8.5 hours and \$7 for over 8.5 hours, to retail and restaurant employees whose employer has purchased a designated validation stamp from Town Center Garage. Monthly passes at a rate of \$95 + tax are also available to purchase. As of December 2017, Figure 8 Properties has issued approximately 15 garage stamps and approximately 30 monthly passes. On weekends, they are processing 25-35 cars that are using stamped validations from the GRV program. The Town's Economic Development Specialist continues regular communication with West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square businesses, and encourages all to partake in the valuable program being offered by Figure 8 Properties.

Outside Agency News

- *News from The Bridge Family Center* - Tickets to the Children's Charity Ball are selling fast. Get yours today at www.BridgeFamilyCenter.org. The Bridge is also taking registrations for the People Empowering People program and the Parent Leadership Training Institute.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Blood Drive, Wednesday, December 13, 12:00-5:30 PM* - Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. We invite you to become a hometown hero and answer the call of patients in need by giving blood with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, December 13, 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. Call 800-RED-CROSS or go to www.RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.
- *Inspiring Equity through Community Conversations exhibit* - "We All Have a Story to Tell" exhibit will showcase the stories of a diverse cross-section of community members who are inspiring equity in West Hartford on December 14 and 16, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Town Hall Auditorium. With the use of 'Live Portrait' app on mobile devices, you can see and hear the gallery images come alive. A companion book of the still photographs will also be available for purchase. For more information, contact Michelle Lacroix at michelle_lacroix@whps.org.
- *Ballet Theatre Company's The Nutcracker, December 15-18* – On December 15-18, the Ballet Theatre Company will hold its production of *The Nutcracker* at the University of Saint Joseph's. An inspiring cameo appearance will include service-members from Fox Company 2nd Battalion 25th Marines. For more information and tickets, please call 860-570-0440 or visit www.DanceBTC.org.
- *Mama D's Christmas Stocking: Where's Santa?! December 15-30* - Mama D is back by popular demand, and this time with more twists than a peppermint stick! Come celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Mama D's Christmas Stocking show featuring music, dance and comedy at Playhouse on Park. The show begins December 15 and will run on select dates through December 30. Tickets are \$25 each.

A special New Year's Eve show has been planned with dancing, hearty finger foods, and more debauchery to ring in the New Year! After the clock strikes 12, dessert and champagne will be served. Tickets are \$60, all seats reserved.
- *10th Annual Chanukah Celebration "Fire on Ice," Sunday, December 17, 4:00 PM* - Everyone is invited to celebrate Chanukah as they observe a master ice-carver sculpt a giant menorah at the "Fire on Ice" event on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00PM in Blue Back Square. The free program will feature a grand fire show, the interactive construction of a huge Lego "Dreidel," live Jewish music, an entertainer, activities for all ages, and free raffles and prizes, and food.
- *Park Road neighborhood collects Toys for Tots, now through December 21* - In the spirit of giving, several businesses on Park Road have joined efforts with WDRC's Talk of Connecticut to collect toys for the 2017 Toys for Tots drive. New, unwrapped toys can be brought to any of the 15 drop-off locations between now and December 21st or during the live broadcast on Friday, December 22nd. Go to ParkRoadCT.com for the list of drop-off sites. Cash donations are also accepted. Checks must be made payable to "Toys for Tots."

- *Winter Warming coat drive, Now through December 21* - Local businesses have teamed up to collect new and gently used coats, hats, mittens and gloves, for those in need, all ages, between now and December 21.
West Hartford Drop-off locations include:
 - Daswani Clothiers, 959 Farmington Ave.
 - Keating Agency Insurance, 10 Arapahoe Rd.
 - We Care Computers, 2437 Albany Ave.
 - Noah Webster House, 227 South Main St.
 - LIFER Fitness Studio, 20 Jefferson Ave.
 - Bartlett Brainard Products Co., Inc., 75 Talcott Rd.
 - Maximum Beverage - 333 N Main St.

- *Grand Re-Opening at Cornerstone Aquatics Center* - Cornerstone Aquatics Center, located at 55 Buena Vista Road, will hold an Open House for West Hartford residents and families on Sunday, January 7, 2018, from 12 PM to 3 PM. You're invited to tour the facility, including the newly completed, fully accessible Family Changing Rooms. Visit the weight room, or join an aqua fitness class in the Multi-Purpose Pool or Fitness Studio. Demonstration classes will be held in Water Spin, Water Yoga, Zumba, yoga and more! Fun-filled activities for the whole family. Ring in the New Year with a new fitness plan. For more information, visit cornerstoneaquatics.org, or call 860-561-8270.