



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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MEMO

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: January 23, 2018
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 & Meetings

- Community Planning and Physical Services Committee - Jan 24, 8:00 AM (Room 312)
- Human Services Committee – Jan. 25, 8:00 AM, (Room 312)

Staff Reports

- **January 11, 2018 Bond Sale** – On January 11, 2018, the Town successfully sold \$13M of General Obligation bonds at a true interest cost (TIC) of 2.577001. In addition, the Town will receive a bond premium of \$381,791.30. The winning bid was submitted by UBS Financial Services, Inc.

Overall the response was very good with 8 bids received. The winning rate of 2.577001 is well under the 2.62 rate the Town received with last year's \$17M bond sale.

The \$13 million bonds will be used to finance various capital improvements including street improvements, communications infrastructure, energy conservation initiatives, a financial management system, fire apparatus, the North Main Street bridge, police shooting range, radio system replacement, Recycling Center modernization, recreational facilities and parks, building improvements, Trout Brook Trail Phase 5, and school building improvements, security systems, and athletic fields improvements.

- **Police Chief recruitment begins** - The Town of West Hartford is currently seeking an experienced, progressive law enforcement leader to serve as the 9th Police Chief in the department's history. The Police Chief is responsible for planning, directing, and managing all functions and operations of the Police

Department through enforcement of laws and ordinances, the prevention of crime, and protection of life and property. The position will manage a \$14.8 million dollar operating budget, and work collaboratively with department personnel, other municipal departments, civic leaders, community organizations and school administrators to identify and meet the town's needs.

Required qualifications include graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement or Public Administration or a related field; Ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in Police work, including service at the division command level. The hiring salary for this position will be \$130,000-\$150,000 dependent upon the qualifications and experience.

- **CDBG Public Hearings** - It is anticipated that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be allocating approximately \$875,000 in Community Development Block Grant Program funds to the Town of West Hartford during fiscal year 2018-2019. Two public hearings are scheduled during which interested parties can learn more about West Hartford's CDBG programs and make public comment on the Town's use of these funds. The meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 6:00-7:00 PM, at Elmwood Community Center, Room 110, 1106 New Britain Avenue, and Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 5:00-6:00 PM, West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217, 50 South Main Street.

Individuals with a disability or persons needing special assistance in order to participate in the hearing process or those seeking additional information, should contact Theresa Lerner, in West Hartford's Social Services Department at (860) 561-7575 or at Theresa.Lerner@westhartfordct.gov.

- **Christmas Tree collection is now complete** - DPW has completed at least three town-wide sweeps during its Christmas tree collection. Multiple snow and ice events and trees frozen in snow have challenged the collection that began on January 2. After tomorrow, January 23rd, anyone who has a tree that has not been set out for collection, can bring their tree to the Public Works Recycling Drop-off Center, open Monday-Friday 8 AM until 4 PM, closed on Saturday until April 7, 2018.
- **January is Radon Action Month** - The state Department of Public Health (DPH) urges Connecticut residents to test their homes for radon gas during January, Radon Action Month. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium that is found in rock, soil and water. Radon can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings. The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health has free test kits and information available. For more information, please call 860-561-7900.

- **Take 3 Steps to Fight the Flu** - The State of CT Department of Public Health is alerting all residents that influenza is widespread in the Connecticut. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommends you "Take 3" action steps to fight the flu:
 - Take time to get a flu shot. The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District has flu vaccine available and can administer flu shots to individuals 4 years of age and older. Call the Health District at 860-561-7900 to arrange for a flu shot.
 - Take actions to stop the spread of germs. Avoid close contact with sick people, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and cover your coughs and sneezes. Wash your hands often (with soap and water), and clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with flu viruses.
 - Take time to get well. You should stay home for at least 48 hours after the fever subsides to avoid infecting others.
- **Silver Sneakers fitness program at the Senior Centers** - The West Hartford Senior Center at Bishops Corner and the Elmwood Senior Center are offering Silver Sneakers classes to improve cardiovascular health and balance by strengthen the muscles that are required to perform everyday tasks. Classes are 6 sessions in length and are free to Silver Sneaker participants. Contact the senior centers for more information.

Outside Agencies

- **DOT Public Information Meeting, February 7, 7:00 PM** - Everyone is invited to a Public Information Meeting on the safety and operational improvements on I-84 in West Hartford, on Wednesday, February 7, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Auditorium. (In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on February 14, 2018.)

An open forum for individual discussions with Department of Transportation officials will begin at 6:30PM. A formal presentation will start at 7:00 PM. Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project. Plans will be available in the Engineering office, Room 204, Town Hall, on January 24, 2018.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- **Transition Planning Meeting for special education students, January 24** - Please join West Hartford Special Education PTO and Pupil Services for their Annual Transition Night of all grade levels on Wednesday, January 24, at 7:00PM at King Philip Middle School Library. Gretchen Nelson, Director of Pupil Services, and school personnel will discuss the transition process and programs available to students receiving special education services in preparation of entering a new school in the Fall 2018.
- **Steel Magnolias Girls Night, Thursday, January 25** - Grab a group of your girlfriends and head to Playhouse on Park on Thursday, January 25 for Ladies Night Out at *Steel Magnolias*! Guests will enjoy a pre-show reception starting at 6:30pm, followed by *Steel Magnolias* at 7:30pm. Tickets for this event are now on sale, ranging from \$30-\$40.

Your ticket purchase includes the complimentary pre-show event including small bites, a signature cocktail, giveaways, free consultations and services by our Park Road neighbors, jewelry for sale, door prizes, and more.

Steel Magnolias runs through January 28. For tickets or more information, call the box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.playhouseonpark.org. Playhouse on Park is located at 244 Park Road, West Hartford.

- **Mayor's State of the Town address, Friday, January 26** - The West Hartford Chamber of Commerce will hold its Mayor's State of the Town address and luncheon on Friday, January 26 at noon, at the Delamar Hotel ballroom. The Mayor will discuss the past year and plans for the future. Pre-registration is required. Please go to www.WHChamber.com to register or call the chamber offices at 860-521-2300.
- **West Hartford Senior Center Fitness Center Open House, Saturday, January 27** - West Hartford Senior Center at Bishops Corner is having a Fitness Center Open House on Saturday, January 27, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Drop-in and try out a free class. Choose from Zumba, Yoga, Ageless Grace, and Silver Sneakers. The event features giveaways, prizes and healthy refreshments. All free. Sign-up for a new Fitness Membership and get your first month free. For more information, please call the West Hartford Senior Center at 860-561-7583.
- **Clothing & Household Goods drive for Hall Safe Grad, Saturday, January 27** - Everyone is invited to donate gently-used clothing and household items at the Hall High Safe Grad FUNDrive campaign on Saturday, January 27, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Hall High School's parking lot (by the tennis courts). The goal is to raise \$5,000 to support the Hall High Safe Grad Party for the Class of 2018. Acceptable donations include clothing, shoes, accessories, bedding, linens, bath items, toys, household items, and books.

- **"West Hartford A to Z" exhibit opens January 31** - On Wednesday, January 31, 2018, the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society will open "West Hartford A to Z", a bold, colorful, interactive, and whimsical exhibit showcasing over 300 years of life in town. This event is free and open to the public. Admission to see the exhibit begins at 6 PM followed by a lecture by Dr. Wilson, town historian, at 7:00 PM.
- **Instrument Petting Zoo, Saturday, February 3** - On Saturday, February 3, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra Family Series comes to the Noah Webster House for a musical and an Instrument Petting Zoo. The Instrument Petting Zoo is a musical laboratory that gives children the opportunity to see, hear, touch, and play instruments! This program is free and open to the public.