



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: February 27, 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

- March 1 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Public Safety Committee
- March 1 at 4:30 PM (Rm 217) - Design Review Advisory Committee
- March 5 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Administration & Technology Committee
- March 5 at 6:30 PM (Rm 400) - Education Liaison Committee – **RESCHEDULED**
- March 5 at 7:00 PM (Rm 217) - Pedestrian & Bicycle Commission
- March 6 at 7:00 PM (Rm 314) - Board of Education meeting and presentation of Superintendent's FY 2018/19 Budget
- March 8 at 8:00 AM (Rm 142) - Board of Assessors - **CANCELLED**
- March 12 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314) - Town Council meeting and presentation of Town Manager's FY 2018/19 Budget and Capital Improvement Program
- March 13 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) – Finance & Budget Committee
- March 19 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) – Finance & Budget Committee
- March 20 at 5:30 PM (Rm 217) – Education Liaison Committee (budget discussion)
- March 21 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Human Services Committee
- March 22 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Community Planning & Physical Services Committee
- March 27 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314) – Town Council

Staff Reports

- *UConn Community Visioning forum* – Over 300 people have signed up for one of the three community visioning forums that we will conduct tomorrow, February 28. To accommodate as many participants as possible, the Town's Planning Office has scheduled three, identical 90-minute sessions held at 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, and 8:00 PM in the Town Hall auditorium. Walk-ins are also welcome and a sign interpreter will be present at the 4PM forum. We have designed the forum as an interactive session to discuss a variety of topics including the Town's role in the property to date, a review of the existing conditions, and redevelopment

impact assessments. West Hartford Community TV will air the 4PM session live and will post the presentation on the Town's web site after the forum. In addition, a future meeting will be held in March. If you have questions, please call the Town Planner's Office at 860-561-7555.

- *Police Chief recruitment* – The application period for the position of Chief of Police closed on February 16 with 38 interested candidates, half from Connecticut and the remainder from Florida, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Tennessee, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Maine, Illinois, and California. We are reviewing the submissions now to schedule interviews later next month. I will keep the Council posted of the status of this important search.
- *Public Hearings on Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)* – Earlier this evening at the Elmwood Community Center staff conducted a public hearing to solicit public input regarding West Hartford's popular CDBG programs designed to principally benefit low-moderate income persons. We will hold a second public hearing tomorrow, February 28, from 5:00-6:00 PM at Town Hall, Room 217. The proposed budget for FY 2018/19 will include approximately \$875,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for various program activities.
- *hoopla comes to West Hartford Library* – Paid through the Library Foundation, West Hartford Library will begin offering a new digital platform mid-March. *hoopla* is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by local public libraries that allows patrons to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics, and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet or phone – and even your TV. With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. *hoopla* is like having your public library at your fingertips.
- *Second Annual How-To Festival* - West Hartford Library's second annual How-To Festival will be held on Saturday, March 24, at the Noah Webster Library, 20 South Main Street. Nearly 40 presenters will share information on gardening, quilting, fly-fishing, vegan desserts, meditation, pottery making, cake decorating, belly dancing, music, tea, and more. For a complete list of exhibitors, visit www.WestHartfordLibrary.org
- *Summer projects* – Plant & Facilities Department has begun planning for summer capital projects. The largest projects include the science labs at Hall High School and King Philip Middle School.
- *Future dates set for Celebrate West Hartford* – Leisure Services announced the dates for the two-day festival for the next two years. Celebrate West Hartford will be held on June 8 & 9, 2019 and June 6 & 7, 2020. This year's festival will be held on June 9 & 10.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Congratulations Hall Jazz Band!* Jazz at Lincoln Center announced that Hall High School's Jazz Band is one of 15 bands that will compete in the 23rd annual *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival at the Jazz at Lincoln Center's in New York on May 10 through May 12. Finalists were selected from 109 high school jazz bands across North America. Each school submitted recordings of three tunes performed from the Lincoln Center's library. Over 4,600 high school bands are members of Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2017-18 *Essentially Ellington* program.
- *Adult volunteers are needed at the Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center* in the following areas:
 - Conversational English Tutor for an adult male who would like to improve his English skills in writing and speaking
 - A volunteer tutor who can help a female student with her community college English class
 - A volunteer tutor who can work with an adult female who is just learning the English language
 - Volunteers are also needed to support the HANOC coordinator who runs a weekly playgroup for infants and toddlers with their caregiversPlease contact Candace Czajkowski, Town of West Hartford's Volunteer Coordinator, at Candace.Czajkowski@westhartfordct.gov or 860-561-7564.
- *I Am an Immigrant Too* – Maurice Casas invites you to his performance, "I Am an Immigrant Too," at the Farmington Valley Arts Center in Avon on Thursday, March 1, 7:00-8:00 PM. His work is inspired by the world's refugee crisis and by the proposed reforms to legal immigration.
- *Playhouse on Park presents Intimate Apparel* - Playhouse on Park's Main Stage Series presents *Intimate Apparel*, a historical romance by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage and set in New York City. *Intimate Apparel* runs through March 4. Individual tickets are now on sale, ranging from \$30 to \$40, all seats reserved. For tickets or more information, call our box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.playhouseonpark.org.
- *Fifth Annual Take 5 All Access Party* - West Hartford Community Television will hold its fifth annual *Take 5 All Access Party* on Friday, March 2 at 7:00 PM at the Pond House Café. The event features food, cocktails, entertainment, and a silent auction. This year the station hopes to raise \$22,000 to replace its server that keeps the channel up and running. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Go to www.WHCTV.org to register.

- *60th Anniversary of Hall High's Pops 'n Jazz* - Hall High School's 60th anniversary production of Pops 'n Jazz features its acclaimed jazz bands, dancers, actors, and singers. The show opens on March 9, with additional performances at 7:30 PM on March 10, 15, 16, and 17. Guest artists performing this year come from Hall's very own alumni that have made it in the music industry! Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and are now available online at <http://HallHighJazz.tix.com>.
- *The Rotary Club of West Hartford's Vines of March* - The Rotary Club of West Hartford will hold its 7th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction "Vines of March," on Saturday, March 10, 7:00-10:30 PM at the University of Saint Joseph. Spend the night tasting an array of red and white wines, noshing on samples from several of West Hartford's finest restaurants, winning fantastic prizes, and doing good. Tickets are \$60 per person. Go to www.WestHartfordRotary.org. Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club's charitable projects.
- *Tavern Nights: A Taste of Ireland* - Join the Noah Webster House on March 16th or March 17th for its popular Tavern Night in honor of St. Patrick's Day. This annual event includes a traditional Irish dinner, drinks, and live entertainment. The Coogan School of Irish Dance will entertain with traditional Irish dances. Tickets are \$40 (\$35 for members). Go to www.NoahWebsterHouse.org.
- *22nd Annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival* - The 22nd annual Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival opens March 8th and runs through March 18, 2018. Ticket prices range from \$12 advance purchase to \$15 at the door for most films. Tickets for the opening night film and dinner is \$50. For the full schedule of films and tickets, visit www.HJFF.org.