



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: Monday, March 12, 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 13 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) – Finance, Budget & Personnel Committee
- March 19 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Administrative & Technology Committee
- March 19 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) – Finance, Budget & Personnel meeting
- March 20 at 5:30 PM (Rm 217) – Education Liaison Committee (budget discussion)
- March 21 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Community Planning & Physical Services Committee
- March 22 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Human Services Committee
- March 27 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314) – Town Council

Staff Reports

- *UConn Community Visioning forum* – Approximately 2,700 people took the online survey to provide input regarding future uses of the UCONN property. The visioning forums were very successful as nearly 300 people attended the three sessions scheduled for February 28. Over 100 people attended the first session, followed by 90 at the second, and 60-70 more at the third. West Hartford Community TV aired the 4PM session live and a link to video is posted on the Planning Division web page. Staff presented a shortened version of the forum to the Bishops Corner Neighborhood Association on Friday, March 9 with approximately 15 people in attendance. Overall, the feedback that Town has received regarding both the survey and the forum has been positive. Staff's goal is to present the Council's Economic Development Subcommittee with a draft of the community engagement report, including a proposed vision statement, by the end of this month.

- *DPW battles Storm Elsa* - The Dept. of Public Works plan of attack for the March 7, 2018 winter storm Elsa began at 1:30 PM on March 7 when crews began pre-treating the roads. All DPW trucks and contractual resources were deployed to maintain our roads during the height of the storm's 2-3 inch per hour snowfall. All roads were cleared and passable by 9AM on Thursday, March 8, five hours after the accumulating snow had stopped. A total of 8 inches fell in town; post-storm clean-up work will continue into next week. Paine's Refuse & Recycling was able to collect 90% of Thursday's route; Friday's route was collected as scheduled.

Totals for Storm Elsa are:

- 697 staff hours worked
- 8% of the \$269,815 overtime budget was used during this storm
- 4% of the treated salt budget was used during this event to keep the roads safe before and after the storm. (Untreated salt was used for this event.)

Totals to date for ALL storm-related events this winter season are:

- 7,233 staff hours worked
 - 89% of the \$269,815 overtime budget has been used
 - 78% of the treated salt budget has been used
- *More snow and another Parking Ban* – Winter Storm Ferris is expected to drop more snow beginning at 8AM on Tuesday and continuing until late afternoon. The Director of Public Works has called for a parking ban to begin at midnight through 5:00 PM on Tuesday. The forecast has snow, heavy at times, temperatures in the 30s, and windy. Winds could occasionally gust over 40 mph.
 - *Bicycle Friendly Community Survey* - West Hartford is aspiring to earn the Silver level recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community. (We have already achieved the Bronze level!) As part of the review process, the League of American Bicyclists asks the community to participate in a short survey on your bicycling experiences. The survey link is found on the Town's homepage under News. The public has until April 8 to participate.
 - *Westmoor Park: Most Loved Place to Go for 2018* - Parents voted and Westmoor Park won the Most Loved Place to Go for 2018! Hulafrog is the go-to-website for kid-friendly activities and events around town.
 - *Top 100 Best Places to Live* - Livability.com has released its fifth annual 2018 Top 100 Best Places to Live list and West Hartford made the list, the only city in Connecticut to do so. The new rankings are the culmination of months of exclusive research into what factors most influence the livability of the United States' small to mid-sized cities. More than 30 states are represented from coast to coast.

- *Best Places to Live in Connecticut* - Niche's 2018 ranking of Best Places to Live in Connecticut placed West Hartford in first place. Niche analyzes dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews to produce comprehensive rankings, report cards, and profiles for every K-12 school, college, and neighborhood in the U.S.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- *Food Pantry in critical need of food* - The Food Pantry is almost out of rice and baked beans, and is very low on canned pasta (ex: "Spaghetti's") and canned fruit. Donations can be dropped off in the Town Hall lobby, Monday – Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM.
- *A Friendly Visitor Volunteer needed for a Homebound Veteran* - Do you have 1 to 2 hours per week to become a Friendly Visitor to a charming 95-year-old gentleman who has recently become homebound? He has lived in West Hartford his whole life and has a lot of life experiences, enjoys meeting new people, is a great conversationalist, and is very proud of his military service. To learn more, contact Barbara Roberts, Social Services Volunteer Coordinator, at barbara.roberts@westhartfordct.gov or call 860 561-7567.
- *West Hartford Art League College Scholarship* - The West Hartford Art League is offering two scholarships to high school seniors living in the Greater Hartford area who will be pursuing a major in Fine Arts at a College or University in the Fall of 2018. The deadline to apply is March 23. For more details, go to WestHartfordArt.org/Scholarships.
- *ArtBeat 2018* – West Hartford Public School's *ArtBeat* exhibit, which showcases the artistic talents of its students, is now on display at the two West Hartford Art League galleries. Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday, 1:00-4:00 PM. The opening reception has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 21.
- *Conard High School's Urinetown the Musical* - "The title is awful" but the show is terrific! Billed as a satire of musical theater itself, audiences may recognize early on that each song is a spoof of other well-known musicals. *Urinetown* is a wickedly funny, fast-paced, and touchingly honest comedic romp. The show continues on March 16 & 17 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for children and students.
- *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.

- *stop/time dance theater's 15th Year Anniversary Show* - Opening night for stop/time dance theater's 15th Year Anniversary Show is Friday, March 16 at 8:00 PM at Playhouse on Park. This year's production encompasses the spirit and vigor of stop/time dance theater as a family of talented entertainers. The show runs through March 25. Tickets range from \$25-\$40, all seats reserved.
- *Hall High School's Pops 'n Jazz concert* - Hall High's 60th anniversary production of Pops 'n Jazz continues on March 16 & 17 at 7:30 PM at Hall High School. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students. For more information, go www.HallHighJazz.com.
- *Festival of Women's Voices* - The West Hartford Women's Chorale will host "Festival of Women's Voices" on Saturday, March 24 at 4:00 PM at Conard High School. The world renowned composer, Joan Szymko, will conduct all five choirs in musical pieces she has written. A freewill donation benefits the Aurora Foundation. For more information, go to www.WHWChorale.org
- *A Night of Universal Laughter* - Couldn't we all use some laughs right about now? Well, the Universalist Church of West Hartford is hosting "A Night of Universal Laughter," a two-night improv comedy festival, on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. General admission tickets are \$15 each.
- *How-To Festival* - West Hartford's second annual How-To Festival is Saturday, March 24, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, at the Noah Webster Library, 20 South Main Street. Over 30 presenters will share information on gardening, quilling, fly fishing, vegan desserts, meditation, pottery making, cake decorating, belly dancing, and much more. For more details, visit www.WestHartfordLibrary.org.