



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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## Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: March 27, 2018  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

### **Council Business & Meetings**

- The Council's budget review process is moving along. Here is the schedule for committee meetings and public hearings:
  - March 28 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Community Planning and Physical Services Committee
  - March 29 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Human Services Committee
  - April 4 at 6:00 PM - (Rm 314) - Public Hearing on Town Budget
  - April 5 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Public Safety Committee
  - April 9 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) – Finance & Budget Committee
  - April 10 at 6:30 PM (Rm 314) - Special Services District Budget Hearing
  - April 11 at 2:00 PM (Rm 314) - Public Hearing on Town Budget
  - April 12 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Public Safety Committee
  - April 16 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) – Finance & Budget Committee
  
- The Ad hoc Subcommittee on Economic Development will meet at 5:30 PM on March 29 in Rm 312 to discuss the draft community engagement report for the former UCONN West Hartford campus and to receive a staff report concerning key economic development projects in town.

### **Staff Reports**

- *Passing of Steve Tedford* – I am sad to report that Steve Tedford, Service Response Manager for Plant and Facilities Services, passed away on March 21, 2018. Steve was employed by the Town of West Hartford for 10 years and at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 20 years. A resident of Tolland, Steve was very involved as a coach for youth sports and was their Umpire-in-Chief for years. Our condolences to Steve's family and friends; we will certainly miss him as a colleague.

- *How-To Festival* - West Hartford's second annual How-To Festival on Saturday, March 24, drew 3,379 visitors to the Noah Webster Library to learn something new. Over 40 presenters shared information on gardening, quilling, fly fishing, vegan desserts, meditation, pottery making, cake decorating, belly dancing, and much more. Kudos to the staff and all of our volunteers on a job well done!
- *Boulevard Bike Lanes* - The Engineering Division plans to repave Boulevard, from Trout Brook Drive to Quaker Lane South, this spring. As part of this project, and in accordance with our Bicycle Facility Plan adopted by the Town Council, the Town plans to install bike lanes in this section. The specific plan would require the elimination of on-street parking on the south side of Boulevard, which would provide a 5-foot wide bike lane on Boulevard in the eastbound direction. Due to limited street width and the need to maintain some on-street parking, a shared approach is planned for the westbound direction. The parking lane would be 7 feet wide with a shared 13-foot wide travel lane to be occupied by motorists and bicyclists. If no on-street parking is used in the westbound direction, a bicyclist could travel in the on-street parking lane. Staff has reviewed this concept with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission, which concurs with the approach.
- *General Permit to Discharge Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)* - As required by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), the Engineering Division plans to submit the required MS4 Annual Report. The annual report highlights progress made by the Town towards the goal of improving water quality in West Hartford and adjacent communities. The MS4 permit is a five-year permit that addresses a variety of objectives, including ordinance updates, new ordinances, stormwater testing, improved development review, construction site inspections, citizen reporting, storm drainage inventory, and public education.
- *Golf season is here!* – Good news for all the “duffers” out there, both the Rockledge Golf Club and the Buena Vista Executive Golf Course are expected to open by the end of this week!
- *Street sweeping begins* – With winter finally behind us, the Department of Public Works has begun its annual spring street sweeping program.
- *Spring Yard Waste Collection* – The Department of Public Works’ annual Spring Yard Waste Collection will begin the week of April 9. Yard Waste is defined as leaves, pine needles, pine cones, acorns, twigs, dead plant matter, and thatch. Place yard waste into 30-gallon paper biodegradable bags and put the bags at the curb by 6:00 AM on your trash collection day. The Town will hold two additional collections to give residents opportunity to recycle yard waste instead of disposing of these items into the waste stream. The next two collections will be held May 7-11 and June 4-8, 2018.

## **Outside Agencies**

- *CRCOG survey seeks areas needing improvement* - Regional “complete streets” planners in the Greater Hartford region are asking for the public’s help with developing a plan for improving road conditions for all users. Planners at the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) CRCOG define “complete streets” as streets that are “designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.” CRCOG is asking residents from the region to identify locations where they see the potential for a complete streets approach. CRCOG’s online survey is available at: <http://crocogsurvey.com/>
- *Public Safety Night* - The West Hartford Exchange Club will hold its annual Public Safety Night on Wednesday, April 4 at 5:15 p.m. at the VFW Hannon-Hatch Post 9929, 83 South Street. The Fire Department will honor Apparatus Operator Daniel D. Syme as *Fire Fighter of the Year* and the Police Department will honor Police Officer Daniel Bedford as the *Police Officer of the Year*. Congratulations to both.

## **Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- *moveBudda ranks West Hartford #6 in nation* - moveBudda, an online information and resource website that helps people who are moving to a new location, recently ranked West Hartford #6 in the nation among the 50 most popular mid-size cities to relocate to.
- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remembrance* - Join us on Tuesday, April 3, as we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the day he gave his last speech before his assassination in 1968. The event will take place at Blue Back Square at 5:00PM with a community art project followed by a reading of "I've Been to the Mountaintop," by 50 people of all ages and walks of life. The event is free and open to all.
- *Stand Up to Cancer charity walk* - The University of Hartford's chapter of Alpha Phi Omega will be hosting a 5K charity run/walk on Saturday, April 7 to benefit Stand Up To Cancer. The race will begin at 9:00AM on Isham Road in Blue Back Square. Check-in and last minute registration will be available at 8:00AM. Register to run or walk this event by going to [www.APO5k.com](http://www.APO5k.com).
- *Webster's War of the Words* - Please join us for a celebration of words and language on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society's 9th annual Webster's War of the Words. This signature fundraiser comes complete with dinner, beer and wine, fabulous silent and live auction items, and the main attraction - the word-based game show! The event will take place from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Avenue. Advance purchase tickets are \$60. After April 11, all tickets are \$75. Tickets are available at NoahWebster.Yapsody.com or by calling 860-521-5362 x10.

- *GoFundMe for Lhakpa Sherpa* - The 8-time Mount Everest climber, Lhakpa Sherpa, will attempt her 9<sup>th</sup> summit of the mountain in May 2018. Her gofundme is <https://www.gofundme.com/world-record-everest-summits-and-k2>.