



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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## Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: April 24, 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**

- April 26 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Human Services Committee
- May 1 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Public Safety Committee
- May 7 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) – Administration and Technology Committee
- May 8 at 7:15 PM (Rm 314) - Public Hearing: Application-1 Memorial Road
- May 8 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314) - Town Council

### **Staff Reports**

- *Park Road/I-84 construction update* - Construction continues on Park Road at the I-84 interchange area. The Town's contractor, Paramount Construction, has begun the construction on a modular retaining wall which will be located between the on and off ramps. By the end of April, the contractor will begin work on Park Road which will require temporary lane closures to maintain safe work areas. Work includes the installation of a 30" storm drain pipe along the north side of Park Road between Thomson Road and Raymond Road. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to avoid the project area and seek alternate routes when possible.
- *Swearing in of new Police Chief* – Vernon Riddick will be sworn in as West Hartford's next police chief on Tuesday, May 29 at 12:00 PM, in the Legislative Chambers, Room 314. Chief Riddick is expected to start in his new role on June 4, 2018.
- *West Hartford Center banners* - Municipal Parking is pleased to sponsor a selection of banners showcasing artwork created by West Hartford Public Schools students. The banners will be on display along South Main Street this summer, stretching from Town Hall to the Noah Webster Library. The portfolio of designs were submitted by students from Whiting Lane, Aiken, Bugbee, Braeburn, Wolcott, Bristow, Norfeldt, King Philip, Conard and Hall. This summer,

take a stroll and experience this unique outdoor art gallery and the creative talents of our West Hartford students.

- *Kindness Project* - The Libraries are pleased to announce the continuation of the Kindness Project, started last November. All ages can participate by picking up a Kindness Mission Board at any of the three libraries or downloading one from the library website, [www.WestHartfordLibrary.org](http://www.WestHartfordLibrary.org). Complete the activities on the board and then return it to the library and create an original square for our Kindness Quilts on display in each location.
- *New Air Compressor* – The Fire Department purchased a new air compressor that will be used to fill the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) at all five fire stations. SCBA's are a critical piece of equipment used while fighting fires. The new equipment features 6000 PSI and replaces an apparatus that was 23 years old. The new compressor is expected to last 30 years. It cost \$80,000 and was part of a \$606,000 Assistance to Firefighters grant for all new SCBA.
- *Capital Projects* – Bids were received for the Hall High School Science Lab renovation and addition and all came within the budgeted amount. Construction is slated to begin in early- to mid-May. The first step in the project is to perform enabling work for the project including a temporary access road from Hyde Road for busses to enter the site and unload. A permanent bus turn around will be installed on the eastside of the building this summer and will be operational for the start of school in the fall.
- *U Drive, U Text, U Pay campaign* - The Police Department's 2018 *U Drive, U Text, U Pay* campaign focused on preventing distracted driving has been underway since April 2 and will continue through April 30. This effort will enforce Connecticut's law that prohibits motorists using hand held cellular phones or mobile electronic devices while driving. This campaign is made possible with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office and funds up to eight extra officers per day patrolling in both marked and unmarked vehicles around the main thoroughfares including Park Rd., New Britain Ave., Farmington Ave., North Main St., and Albany Ave. Officers are also deployed around school zones, construction zones, and neighborhoods where officers observe any distracted driving. Fines range from \$150 for a first offense, \$300 for a second violation, and \$500 for subsequent violations. The campaign will run again from August 1 to August 15, 2018.
- *Second Round: Spring Yard Waste Collection* - During the week of May 7-11, the Department of Public Works will conduct the second of three rounds of Spring Yard Waste Collection. The program is stretched over a three-month period to give residents the most opportunity to recycle yard waste instead of disposing of these items into the waste stream. "Yard Waste" is defined as leaves, pine needles, pine cones, acorns, twigs, dead plant matter, and thatch. Place yard waste into a 30-gallon paper biodegradable bags and put the bags at the curb by 6:00 AM on your trash collection day. Please do not put bags at the curb before May 7.

- *UConn property* – Earlier this month UCONN informed the Town of its plans to fence a portion of the former campus site on the west side of Trout Brook Drive. The fencing plan is designed to limit access to unoccupied buildings and the areas immediately adjacent to them where UCONN has conducted its remedial measures. The location of the fencing does not conflict with any underground utilities and minimizes the risk of damage to mature trees. The reception of the fence is an important health and safety measure that is required by the state and federal regulatory agencies.
- *National Take-Back Day* - On Saturday, April 28, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the West Hartford Police Department and the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District will coordinate National Take-Back Day. The event provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for destruction. Collection activities will take place in the Department of Public Works, 17 Brixton Street. The program is anonymous and free.

### **Outside Agencies**

- *West Hartford nominated as an Opportunity Zone* - On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced the nomination of 72 Opportunity Zones in the state, including West Hartford's New Park Avenue corridor. The nominations are part of the federal government's new Opportunity Zone Program designed to encourage long term investment in low-moderate income areas. The program provides a federal tax incentive for investors to re-invest unrealized capital gains into opportunity zones through opportunity funds. Qualifying investments may include a wide range of commercial and residential investments, such as transit-oriented development, affordable housing and mixed-use development. In exchange for their investments, opportunity fund investors are able to decrease their federal tax burden through the preferential treatment of capital gains.  
The New Park Avenue corridor was one of 300 census tracts that was submitted to the State of Connecticut for consideration and is now one of 72 that has been nominated. The U.S. Department of Treasury will be announcing awards later this year.
- *Regional Complete Streets Plan* - The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has kicked off a project to develop a regional complete streets plan. "Complete streets" are defined 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 the citizens of the region to help out by identifying locations where improvements may be necessary or desirable. Go to: <http://CRCOGsurvey.com/> to share your thoughts.
- *Spirit of '44 Rosie the Riveter* – The Connecticut Chapter of Rosie the Riveter will be donating 18 rose plants and a marker recognizing the role of women workers during WWII. West Hartford's Veterans Memorial was selected to represent the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Connecticut. The Department of Public works will design, install and maintain the garden which should be ready by Memorial Day.

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Memorial Day Parade* – Organizations that have a military or veteran focus are encouraged to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28, at 10AM. Contact Renée McCue at 860-561-7521 or [Renee@WestHartfordCT.gov](mailto:Renee@WestHartfordCT.gov). Volunteers are also needed to assist on the morning of the parade and should contact Renée as well.
- *Mayor's Charity Ball* – The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Charity Ball will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 under the Grande Tent on the Town Hall lawn starting at 6:00PM. Guests can expect an unforgettable evening that includes a sit down gourmet meal prepared by the Doro Restaurant Group. During dinner, you will enjoy entertainment by Playhouse on Park, remarks from Mayor Shari Cantor and other special guests, a live auction, raising of the paddles and more. This year's emcees are Kara Sundlun and Dennis House. Guests will be dancing under the stars to the music of Locomotion. \The event's proceeds benefit two West Hartford non-profit organizations: *Playhouse on Park* and *The Town That Cares*. For tickets, go to [www.TheMayorsCharityBall.org](http://www.TheMayorsCharityBall.org).
- *Family Fishing Day 2018* - Join us at Fernridge Park on Saturday, May 5, 9:00AM to 12:00 PM, for a morning festival focused on learning how to fish. There will be learning stations to explore, raffles, casting lessons, and fishing for the whole family! Bring your own gear for a fun morning at Fernridge Park. This event is free, pre-registration is requested. Go to [www.WestHartfordCT.gov/LeisureServices](http://www.WestHartfordCT.gov/LeisureServices). This event is sponsored by the MDC and the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
- *Historic Walking Tour Series* - Celebrate Historic Preservation Month this May with a trio of walking tours on Saturdays May 5, 19 and 26 led by award-winning architectural historian Mary Donohue. West Hartford has a treasure trove of American building styles from the early 20th century featuring a wealth of architectural details - all best appreciated on foot. The May 5<sup>th</sup> tour will explore Park Road, the May 19<sup>th</sup> tour will focus on Arnoldale and Beverly Roads, and the May 26 tour will explore Elmwood.
- *West Hartford Figure Skating Club Spring Show* - The West Hartford Figure Skating Club Spring Show will be held at the Veterans Memorial Ice Skating Rink on Saturday, May 12th, 5:00-7:00PM. The event will showcase the ice skating talents of local skaters.