



## TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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### **Memo**

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: May 8, 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**

- Community Planning & Physical Services Committee – the committee will meet at 8:00AM on May 16. I will coordinate with Councilor Wenograd to finalize the agenda.
- Human Services Committee – we have a funding issue with one of our transportation program (enhanced Dial-A-Ride) that staff needs to review with the committee, preferably next week. I will coordinate with Deputy Mayor Kerrigan to set the date and post the agenda.
- Future Leaders of West Hartford (FLOW) event – you may recall an email that I sent yesterday regarding an upcoming FLOW event. This Chamber-affiliated group would like to have an opportunity to learn from you about public service, local affairs, and opportunities for involvement at the local level. The dates that I sent previously will not work and we are now looking at a morning time for the week of June 25. Staff will send some additional dates tomorrow. FLOW will host this event and help coordinate the details.

### **Departmental and Staff Reports**

- *Park Road/I-84 construction update* - Construction continues at the I-84 (Exit 43-Park Road) interchange area. The Town's contractor, Paramount Construction, has begun work on the south side of Park Road between Overbrook Road and the I-84 on-ramp. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to avoid the project area and seek alternate routes when possible.
- *Deadline approaching for Tax Relief programs* - May 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for eligible residents to apply for the Local Elderly Property Tax Freeze program and the Elderly & 100% Disabled Homeowners Program. To be eligible for these programs, West Hartford residents must be at least 70 years of age as of December 31, 2017, have a maximum annual income of \$35,300 for a single individual and \$43,000 for a married couple, and must have owned and occupied

their property in West Hartford as of Oct. 1, 2017. Please contact the Assessment Office at 860-561-7414 for an application or to learn more.

- *Second Round of Spring Yard Waste Collection* - The Department of Public Works is conducting the second of three rounds of its Spring Yard Waste Collection this week, May 7-11. DPW will hold its final collection of the spring the week of June 4-8. The Town defines "yard waste" as leaves, pine needles, pine cones, acorns, twigs, dead plant matter, and thatch. For pickup, please 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.
- *DPW Open House* – In observance of National Public Works Week, West Hartford's Public Works Department will hold its fifth annual Open House on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at its 17 Brixton Street facility. At the event children can sit in big trucks, while adults safely shred confidential papers and get all their questions answered. Attendees can enter a free drawing for 5 yards of color-enhanced mulch from Supreme Forest Products, West Hartford's Recycling Center operator. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the West Hartford Food Pantry to help a neighbor in need.
- *Fill-A-DPW Truck* – The West Hartford Public Works Department is joining hundreds of Public Works Departments from across New England to collect food to support local community food banks. West Hartford's Fill-A-Public Works Truck Food Drive will be occurring at these locations and dates:
  - May 12, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at the DPW Open House, 17 Brixton Street
  - May 19, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at Stop & Shop, 1235 Farmington Avenue
  - May 21-25, 7:30 AM-3:30 PM at DPW, 17 Brixton Street
- *First round of road improvements* – On May 14<sup>th</sup> the Town's contractors will begin the first of three rounds of milling and paving. Round 1 streets include Boulevard (Trout Brook to Quaker Lane South), Westmont (Clark Dr. to Mountain Rd.), Wendy Lane, and Ravenwood Road. In order to manage traffic around the Boulevard project area, the Town will maintain a daytime detour for approximately two weeks.
- *Results of Distracted Drive Campaign* – On April 30, 2018, the West Hartford Police Department concluded the first part of the 2018 *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* campaign against distracted driving. West Hartford officers issued 571 distracted driving infractions to motorists, as well as three infractions issued for possession of marijuana. Under Connecticut's cell phone and texting law, violations consist of fines ranging from \$150 for a first offense, \$300 for a second violation, and \$500 for subsequent violations. The Police Department will conduct the second phase of the awareness campaign in August of 2018. The *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* campaign is made possible with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office.
- *Police Awards Program* – The West Hartford Police will hold its annual Police and Citizen Awards program on Friday, May 18, 8:00 AM, Room 314. Each year, the West Hartford Police Department recognizes exemplary performance demonstrated by police officers and civilian personnel in the course of their

duties. The Police Department also recognizes citizens that have acted unselfishly by assisting the police department or fellow citizens in some way. The ceremony will air live on WHC-TV 5.

- *Hall High School Science Lab* – Work started this week in preparing the site for the Hall High School Science Lab project. Until the end of the school year, buses will be diverted to Sheep Hill, Maiden Lane, and Hyde Road during morning drop off.
- *Holiday trash delay* - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the collection of trash, recyclable items and bulky waste will be delayed one day during the week of May 28 – June 2. Monday’s collection will be picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday’s collection area will be done on Wednesday with each remaining day of the week one day later than normal. Please check Paine’s website [www.PainesInc.com](http://www.PainesInc.com) or call (860) 844-3000 with any questions.
- *American Legion’s Police Officer of the Year* – On Monday, May 7, the American Legion Post 96 honored West Hartford Police Officer Andrew Teeter, with the Hayes-Velhage Police Officer of the Year award. Congratulations, Officer Teeter, for this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for your service to our community!
- *Family Bike Ride* - Now that the Green Route portion of the Neighborhood Bike Route project has been completed, Bike West Hartford has organized a family bike ride during National Bike Month. The ride will begin at the Hall High School parking lot at the corner of Hyde Road and Maiden Lane at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 19. The ride is free and is open to children over the age of 10 (without training wheels) and adults. All riders must wear a helmet.
- *Hartford Magazine’s Best of Hartford Awards* – Each year *Hartford Magazine* polls its readers for the Best of Hartford in scores of categories. Winners were announced in the May 2018 issue of the magazine and the Town of West Hartford is happy to report that our services were among the winners.
  - Rockledge was voted “Best Public Golf Course” for the 10th consecutive year!
  - Celebrate! West Hartford - the Town’s signature event – was voted Best Annual Event and Best Festival. This year’s event will be held June 9 & 10 on the Town Hall grounds.
  - West Hartford Libraries were voted #1. Patrons gave praises to West Hartford’s main library and branches for the abundant opportunities they provide to explore, learn and connect.
  - West Hartford Senior Center in Bishops Corner won 2nd Runner-Up. The senior center offers a variety of recreational activities, fitness programs, and preventative health services to area senior citizens.

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Mayor's Charity Ball* – The countdown to West Hartford's most exciting charity event is only a few days away! The 19th Annual Mayor's Charity Ball will be held on Saturday, May 12. The gala benefits two local charities, Playhouse on Park and The Town That Cares. To learn more, please visit [www.TheMayorsCharityBall.org](http://www.TheMayorsCharityBall.org).
- *Internet Safety: Are you a Webwise Parent* – On May 15, the Mandell JCC presents its parenting series, "Internet Safety: Are you a Webwise Parent? What Every Parent Needs to Know to Protect their Children Online." Join law enforcement officer Scott Driscoll, who has spent the last decade investigating and working to protect cyber-crimes, as he discusses concerns and solutions to assist parents. The free event is open to adults only. Pre-registration requested. Please visit [www.MandellJCC.org](http://www.MandellJCC.org).
- *21st Annual Senior Day* – The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Senior Day will be held at the West Hartford Senior Center in Bishops Corner on May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The free event includes a continental breakfast courtesy of Brookdale Senior Living, prevention health screenings sponsored by the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District, 45 senior service providers, and complimentary chair massages and Reiki. Senior Day is co-sponsored by the West Hartford Senior Center and State Senator Beth Bye. Call 860-561-7583 for more information.
- *Bike to Work Day* - The West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission will celebrate Bike to Work Day 2018 on Friday, May 18 by meeting at the new Spot Coffee on Memorial Road in Blue Back Square adjacent to the Memorial Garage from 6:45 AM to 7:30 AM. DOT Commissioner Redeker, DEEP Commissioner Klee and DECD Deputy Commissioner Bollen are scheduled to appear in West Hartford and cycle with us to attend festivities at the Old State House in Hartford. Coffee and bakery goods will be served, compliments of Spot Coffee. Contact [info@bikewesthartford.org](mailto:info@bikewesthartford.org) with questions.
- *Farm Day* - Come out to Westmoor Park on May 19 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM for a free family event featuring farm activities for all ages. There will be sheep shearing, farm games, craft demonstrations, a straw jump, hayrides, butter-making and more! The event is open to all. Call 860-561-8260 for information.
- *West Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Pops Concert* - West Hartford Symphony Orchestra presents a rousing POPS Concert at 7:00 PM on Saturday, May 19. From the magical songs of "West Side Story" to the celebratory finale of "Stars and Stripes," music will fill the air of the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at [www.WHSO.org](http://www.WHSO.org) or by calling 860-521-4362.

- *The Spicebush Project* - Victoria, a junior at Hall High School, is working on her Girl Scout Award Project, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Her project is called The Spicebush Project named after Spicebush Swamp in West Hartford. The project involves restoring existing trails and adding quick response codes as trail markers. The codes can be scanned and will have the ability to tell hikers what plants or animals they might see on the trail as well as the history of park. Victoria is looking for a team of about 40 volunteers to attend a workday on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to help in this effort. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM at the Noah Webster Library, Large MeetingRoom. For more information, email Victoria at [TheSpicebushProject@gmail.com](mailto:TheSpicebushProject@gmail.com) or visit <http://TheSpicebushProject.weebly.com> or
- *Flags on the Veterans graves* - Help is needed to place American flags on the 1200+ military graves at Fairview Cemetery, located on Pleasant Street, on Saturday, May 26 at 8:30 AM. If you can help, simply come to Fairview Cemetery. Many hands make light work. This is a great educational opportunity of Boy and Girl Scouts. For more information, contact Renee McCue at 860-561-7521, or [renee@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:renee@westhartfordct.gov).
- *Memorial Day Parade* – Now is the time to sign up for the Memorial Day Parade, which will kick off at 10 AM on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Organizations that have a military or veteran focus are encouraged to participate in the parade. All veterans, with a group or alone, are invited to march in the parade. A van will be available at St. Peter Claver Church starting at 8:30 AM to take any veterans who might have trouble walking the parade route. The van will be part of the procession. Immediately following the parade, a ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial. Please contact Renée McCue at 860-561-7521 or [Renee@WestHartfordCT.gov](mailto:Renee@WestHartfordCT.gov) with any questions or for more information. Volunteers are also needed to assist on the morning of the parade and should contact Renée as well.