



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 22, 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

- June 12, 6:30 PM (Rm 314) – Public Hearing re Application 1340-1344 New Britain Avenue and 8-16 Berkshire Road
- June 12, 7:30 PM (Rm 314) – Town Council meeting

Departmental & Staff Reports

- *Oath of Office for Police Chief Vernon Riddick* - Chief Vernon L. Riddick, Jr. will be sworn in as West Hartford's next Chief of Police during an oath of office ceremony to be held at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. The ceremony will take place in the Town Hall Auditorium and a reception will follow in the legislative chambers, Room 314, at Town Hall.
- *West Hartford's New Park Avenue corridor approved as Opportunity Zone* – The US Department of Treasury has approved all 72 of Governor Malloy's nominated Opportunity Zones in the Connecticut, including West Hartford's New Park Avenue corridor. The federal government's new Opportunity Zone program is 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 these investments, opportunity fund investors are able to decrease their federal tax burden through the preferential treatment of capital gains. I would like to commend staff members Kristen Gorski and Mark McGovern for their work putting this application together; great job!
- *Seasonal mowing of former UCONN West Hartford campus* – several Councilors have asked about the status of the mowing of the former UCONN campus; staff has been monitoring the same issue. UCONN is planning to use a state-approved contractor to mow outside the fenced-in areas this coming Thursday,

May 24. The University plans continue to mow the property every two weeks for the duration of the growing season.

- *Fill-A-DPW Truck* – The Department of Public Works had a very successful food drive this past Saturday, May 19 at the Stop & Shop located at 1235 Farmington Ave. West Hartford Public Works joins hundreds of DPW agencies from across New England in collecting food in support their local community food banks. West Hartford’s Fill-A-Public Works Truck Food Drive continues during National Public Works Week, May 21-25, 7:30 AM-3:30 PM at the DPW facility, 17 Brixton Street. I would like to commend the department for conducting the food drive as well as our local Stop & Shop for its support.
- *Boulevard paving* – The Boulevard milling and paving project that began on May 14 will be completed by tomorrow, May 23. The project spans Trout Brook Drive to Quaker Lane South.
- *National Bike to Work Day* - About 30 riders joined Scott Franklin, chair of West Hartford’s Pedestrian & Bicycle Commission, to celebrate Bike to Work Day on May 18. Riders set off at 7:30 AM to bike from Spot Café in Blue Back Square to the Old State House on Main Street in Hartford.
- *Holiday trash delay* - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the collection of trash, recyclable items and bulky waste during the week of May 28 -June 2 will be one day late after the Monday holiday. Monday’s collection will be completed on Tuesday with each remaining day of the week one day later than normal. Please check Paine’s website www.PainesInc.com or call (860) 844-3000 with any questions.
- *Holiday closings* – In recognition of the holiday, Town Hall, Recycling Center, community center, senior centers, and schools will closed on Monday, May 28. The libraries will be closed on Sunday, May 27 and Monday, May 28.
- *Memorial Day parking* - In preparation for the Memorial Day parade, starting at 12AM on Monday, May 28 the Town will implement a parking ban along the parade route. On-street parking will prohibited on the west side of Pleasant St. from Whitman Ave. to Farmington Ave.; on Farmington Ave., both sides, from Walden St. to Raymond Rd.; and on North Main St. and South Main St., both sides, from Brace Rd. to Burr St. The Town will lift the parking ban following the conclusion of the parade. There will be FREE parking at ALL municipal parking facilities, ALL day, on Monday, May 28. Municipal Parking will resume normal operation on Tuesday, May 29 at 6AM.
- *Celebrate West Hartford* – Beginning Monday, June 4 the Town will commence set-up for the Celebrate West Hartford two-day festival in the Town Hall parking lot. Customer parking will be available but limited during the week of June 4-8.
- *\$5000 State Library Grant* – West Hartford Library received a \$5000 grant from the State Library to teach parents who speak a language other than English how to read to their children as part of West Hartford’s Early Childhood Education. The parent training program will span the 2018-2019 school year and will take place at the Family Resource Center at Charter Oak School and at the Faxon Library.

- *Dog License Renewals* – June is dog license month in Town Clerks' offices throughout the state. Our Town Clerk's Office will be mailing letters to over 3,000 dog owners on May 31, urging them to renew their dog's licenses. By state law, all dogs over 6 months of age must be registered and receive a dog tag annually. The annual cost for dog licenses is \$19.00 for unaltered animals and \$8.00 for neutered or spayed animals. The letter will also encourage people to sign-up for West Hartford's Community Advisory Notification System so in the future the Town Clerk's Office will be able to send an automated message by voice, text, or email instead of the costly mailing.
- *Splash Pads open May 26* – Leisure Services will open its splash pads at four locations beginning Saturday, May 26. The four locations are Beachland Park, Fernridge Park, Kennedy Park, and Wolcott Park. The splash pads will be open daily, free of charge, from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, through Labor Day.
- *Final Round of Spring Yard Waste Collection* - The Department of Public Works will conduct its final round of spring yard waste collection during the week of June 4-8. "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. The next round of yard waste collection will commence in the fall of 2018.
- *Comcast Utility Project* - The Comcast Utility Project began on Monday, May 21. Crews are working their way north on the southbound side of South Main Street from 21 South Main Street towards its completion point at 977 Farmington Avenue. Work times will be weekdays only from 6AM to 4PM. The construction will take approximately 4 weeks; however, Comcast hopes for a shorter duration.

Please note:

- All work will be performed in the street with disruption to vehicular traffic and will also impact the parking along South Main St. and Farmington Ave. during this construction period.
- Pedestrian traffic will be impacted as work will be done in the sidewalk area as service conduits will be brought to the addresses on South Main St. and Farmington Ave.
- Police officers will be used to control vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

For questions or concerns, please contact Chris Thompson, Construction Specialist, at (617) 279-1138 or email @ chris_thompson@comcast.com.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *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 in advance of Memorial Day. If you can help, simply come to Fairview Cemetery. Many hands make light work. This is a great educational opportunity for Boy and Girl Scouts. For more information, contact Renee McCue at 860-561-7521, or renee@westhartfordct.gov.
- *Memorial Day Parade* – The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 28 at 10:00 AM. This year's grand marshals are a father-daughter duo. Dawn Morris is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served as a captain in the Army's 530th Supply and Service Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Her father, Charles Carlton, is a retired U.S. Army Infantry Colonel who served two combat tours in Vietnam and Cambodia as well as other sensitive Cold War assignments during a 28-year career from 1962 to 1990. All veterans, with a group or alone, are invited to march in the parade. A van will be available at St. Peter Claver Church to take any veteran who might not be able to walk the parade route. The van will be part of the procession. The service is free. Simply go to the church between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM. All participating groups should report to their line up location by 9:30 AM. Parade information is posted on the town's web site: www.WestHartfordCT.gov/MemorialDayParade. Immediately follow the parade, a ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium at 11 AM.
- *WHC-TV 5K "Walk the Walk, So We Can Talk the Talk"* - WHC-TV is hosting its first ever 5K on Saturday, June 2. Enjoy this fun, family-friendly walk/run that will have interactive activities along the way. Walkers and runners of all ages and skill levels are invited to join us from 9AM-11AM starting from Town Hall. Afterwards, join us at Blue Back Square for a celebration party. Tickets are \$20 each per participant over 13 years old - kids and dogs are free! Visit www.WHCTV.org for more information.
- *Celebrate West Hartford* - The 32nd annual *Celebrate West Hartford* will take place on the grounds of Town Hall on Saturday, June 9th from 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday, June 10th from Noon to 6 PM. Attracting over 35,000 people each year from the greater Hartford area, *Celebrate West Hartford* also provides festival attendees with a wide range of family activities – a highly rated juried arts & crafts show, great food, entertainment, games, carnival rides, and a certified 5K road race. There is no admission charge for the event and many of the activities are free.
- *Celebrity Breakfast* - Bring your appetite and \$15 to Effie's Place Family Restaurant, 91 Park Road, on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM and you will receive your choice of breakfast served by local celebrities. The money raised will help the Park Road Business Association pay various expenses for the 20th annual Park Road Parade to be held on Saturday, October 6, 2018.