



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

50 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107
(860) 561-7440
www.westhartfordct.gov

Memo

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

- *CPPS Meeting* - The Community Planning and Physical Services Committee will meet at 5:30 PM this Thursday, June 14, 2018 in Rm 400 at Town Hall. We have a full agenda for the meeting, including a discussion with Eversource regarding its planned tree removal near its substation adjacent to Vanderbilt Park, a staff recommendation on the Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) proposal, and other important topics.
- *Finance & Budget Committee Meeting* – The Finance and Budget Committee will meet at 5:30 PM on June 25, 2018 in Rm 312 at Town Hall.
- *Town Council Meetings* – The meeting schedule for this summer is as follows:
 - June 26, 7:30 PM (Rm 314)
 - July 17, 6:30 PM (Rm 314)
 - August 14, 6:30 PM (Rm 314)

Departmental & Staff Reports

- *Celebrate West Hartford* – I greatly enjoyed my time at the 32nd annual *Celebrate West Hartford* event, which took place on the grounds of Town Hall on Saturday, June 9th and Sunday, June 10th. Police Chief Riddick and I had an opportunity to meet and greet many of our residents. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who put together another great festival!
- *Former UCONN West Hartford campus* – As discussed at the last meeting, UCONN is using a state-approved contractor to mow the property every two weeks during the growing season. Today I was informed by UCONN that it plans to locate signs warning passers-by that the areas inside the fence contain PCBs. The signs will be posted at the fence gates; five locations in all.

- *Dog License Renewals* – Just a reminder that June is dog license month in Town Clerks' offices throughout the state. 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.
- *Pools open June 23* – Beginning Saturday, June 23rd, Leisure Services will open its outdoor pools at four locations. The four locations are Beachland Park, Fernridge Park, Kennedy Park, and Wolcott Park. The pools will be open daily until August 19.
- *New Town Logo* – One of the things that I noted upon arriving to Town was that we had a number of logos in use for the municipal government. Consequently, we have embarked upon an initiative to produce a logo that matches our community's image and vision, and have retained Ryan Marketing of West Hartford to spearhead this project. Later this week the Town will conduct an electronic survey to solicit public input regarding words that best describe West Hartford; these words will provide inspiration and guidance on a new logo design. The public will also get to see and vote on the two final designs, which we expect to receive in July.
- *Tax Bills* – First installment real estate, business personal property, and motor vehicle tax bills (for vehicles registered as of October 1, 2017) will be mailed by June 25. Payment is due July 1. The last day to pay without penalty is Wednesday, August 1, 2018. The uniform mill rate for the new fiscal year is 41.00 mills.
- *Plan of Conservation & Development* – As West Hartford's Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) will expire in 2019, staff recently solicited proposals to assist with the preparation of an update of the Town's 2009 POCD. Four proposals were received and interviews are underway. Public outreach will occur late summer to early fall. The PoCD serves as an important guide for land use decision making and resource allocation for the Town.
- *Don't Trash Grass* – Last week the Town received a warning from the facility that accepts our refuse that our waste had high volumes of yard waste contamination, and grass clippings in particular. Every time a load of trash is rejected, the Town of West Hartford is fined and has to pay the clean-up costs. These costs translate into a tax expenditure that is truly controllable by all of us.

So, what can you do with grass clippings?

- Bring your yard waste to the Yard Waste & Recycling Center.
- Mow your grass twice (depending on the length) and leave the clippings in place. The nitrogen from the grass provides natural nutrients to your lawn.
- Create a home compost bin in your backyard. Intersperse layers of grass clippings with dry leaves. The result is 'black gold,' a rich fertilizer for your plants and flowers.

Outside Agencies

- *CRCOG's 45th Annual Meeting* – The Capitol Region Council of Governments will hold its 45th Annual Meeting at noon tomorrow, June 13th at 616 New Park Ave, West Hartford. This will provide the Housing Authority and the Town with a great opportunity to showcase this exciting project.
- *Sanitary Sewer Replacement & Repair on Asylum Avenue* - The Metropolitan District and its contractor, VMS Construction, are working on Asylum Avenue, between Prospect Avenue and Steele Road. The work includes replacing a portion of the sanitary sewer main and conducting lining and repair work to the existing main. The work zones will be completed in phases. Detours and lane closures will be in place but local access will be maintained. Normal traffic patterns will be restored at the end of work day. The contractor work schedule is Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM. The project began on June 4 and is expected to take approximately six to eight weeks to complete.
- *Household Hazardous Waste Collection* - The MDC will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Sunday, June 24, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Hall High School, 975 North Main Street. The event is free. For a list of items that are considered household hazardous waste, go to www.TheMDC.com.
- *Comcast Utility Project* – The Comcast Utility Project that began on Monday, May 21 is nearly complete. Crews are working to bring the service infrastructure across the street to 962 Farmington Avenue; this task should be complete this week. Comcast will then install service to individual locations on Farmington Avenue and South Main Street. This work should take approximately 1-2 weeks.
- *FOIA Training for Municipal Leaders* – The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities will hold a Freedom of Information Training workshop for municipal personnel and members of boards, commissions, and committees on Tuesday, July 10 at Harwinton Town Hall, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) applies to notice and access to public meetings, recordkeeping, and requests for information of all local government agencies, departments, institutions, boards, commissions, and authorities and their committees. The workshop cost is free to CCM members.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Awards* - West Hartford recently received two awards. Both Conard and Hall high schools received GOLD medals as members of the Top 500 high schools in the nation out of 29,000 schools that were measured. They were ranked side-by-side with Hall #443 and Conard #444. In Connecticut, Hall was ranked #11 and Conard #12.

In addition, the Travel Blog *The Crazy Tourist*, posted an article detailing the best places to live in Connecticut and West Hartford was ranked #15.

- *Distracted Driving Awareness* - A Distracted Driving Awareness event will be held at West Hartford Town Hall auditorium on Wednesday, June 27 from 5:30PM to 8:30 PM. The event includes two panel discussions and several interactive stations to explore the impact of distracted driving. The first panel discussion begins at 6:00 PM and the second at 7:15PM. The event is free.
- *2nd Annual Park to Park Walk* - The Second Annual "Park to Park Walk" will be held on Saturday, June 16th (rain date, June 23). The full route is 15 miles and covers each of West Hartford's parks starting at Fernridge at 7:00 AM and tentatively ending 3:30 PM. Walkers will travel to Wolcott, Beachland, Kennedy, Vanderbilt and Eisenhower and end back at Fernridge. The event is sponsored by Friends of Fernridge Park who have set a fundraising goal of \$7000.
- *Japan Summer Festival* – The fifth annual Japan Summer Festival is a free, one-day celebration of Japanese culture that will be held on from 12:00 – 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 16 in Blue Back Square. (The rain date is Sunday, June 17). The main event at 4:30 PM features a powerful drumming performance by UConn's Soh Daiko, hands on activities, music, dance, and crafts.
- *In The Heights* - Playhouse on Park presents Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In The Heights* from June 15 to July 29. Opening night on June 15 features a complimentary wine and cheese reception at 7:00 PM, and curtain is set for 8:00 PM. A special Tuesday matinee is planned for June 26 at 2:00 PM, with all tickets priced at \$22.50. In addition, there are two open mic nights scheduled for June 23 and July 21. Tickets are now on sale, ranging from \$40-\$50. For more information, call the Playhouse at 860-523-5900 x10, or visit www.playhouseonpark.org.
- *West Hartford Garden Club Tour* – The "June Blooms" Garden Tour featuring seven amazing gardens will take place Saturday, June 16 from 10:00AM to 4:00 PM, rain or shine. Tickets available \$20.00 in advance and \$25 on day of the tour. Tickets are available at Moscarillo's Garden Shop, Butler Florist & Garden Center, and Noah Webster House.
- *4th Annual Healthy Lifestyle Fair* - The West Hartford Chamber's 4th Annual Healthy Lifestyle Fair brings to the community the most cutting edge products and services to keep you and your family healthy. From mind to body to the environment, you and your family can live happier and healthier lives! Come learn about health and enjoy Rose Weekend at Elizabeth Park on Saturday, June 16, 11AM-3PM.

- *31st Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner* – The West Hartford Chamber of Commerce will hold its 31st Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner on Monday, June 18, 5:30-7:30 PM at the Pond House Café. Awards will be given to the Volunteer of the Year, Noah Webster Award, Ambassador of the Year, Grant recipients and Chamber member success stories will be highlighted.
- *Ferrari & Friends Concorso* - On Sunday, June 24, 2018, hundreds will descend on LaSalle Road for the 16th Annual Ferrari and Friends Concorso benefiting Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and Make a Wish. The event features more than 150 of the finest high-powered Italian sports cars, including Ferraris, Maseratis, Lamborghinis, Fiats, and Alfa Romeos.

The Concorso will kick off at 10:00 a.m. with the Parade of Children, patients from Connecticut Children’s Medical Center who will be escorted in featured automobiles as the procession travels through the streets of West Hartford to car show site. The event runs from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, is open to the public, and there is no admission charge.