



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: August 14, 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

- Aug 15 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Finance Budget Personnel Committee Meeting
- Sept 12 at 7:00 PM (Rm 314) - Public Hearing: Storm Wareter Report - Application: 1340-1344 New Britain Avenue & 8-16 Berkshire Road
- Sept 12 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314) - Town Council Meeting *(Wednesday)

Staff Reports

- *WHPD welcomes three new officers* - Three new police officers recently joined the West Hartford police force and are now at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden for 22-weeks of training. Please welcome Steven Dickman of Waterbury, Victoria Markow of New Britain, and Zachary Kaesmann of Trumbull.
- *Park Road at I-84 Construction Update* - The reconstruction of the Park Road / I-84 interchange project is progressing well. The contractor has now reached a point that will require a temporary partial closure on Park Road. Beginning this week, and remaining in place several weeks, Park Road will be limited to one lane in each direction between Raymond Road and the I-84 Exit 43 Off-Ramp. Traffic traveling east on Park Road would still be able to access the I-84 on-ramp to proceed east or west. Park Road westbound traffic, wishing to access I-84 will be detoured to the Main Street (Exit 41) ramps. Trout Brook Drive (Exit 42) is the recommended alternate to access I-84 East.
- *Maintenance shutdowns* - Cornerstone Aquatics Center is shut down for renovations, cleaning and improvements starting yesterday, August 13, through Sunday, August 26. Veterans Memorial Skating Rink will shut down for cleaning and repairs from August 27 through September 3.

- *Outdoor pools close* - On Sunday, August 19 outdoor pools at Eisenhower Park, Kennedy Park and Beachland Park will close for the season. Fernridge Pool will remain open through Saturday, August 25, 12-6PM daily. The splash pads will be open daily, free of charge, from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, through Labor Day.
- *New West Hartford Business Directory* - Through the collaborative efforts of staff from Economic Development, Library and Municipal Parking, the free-standing West Hartford Center Business Directory sign has received a facelift in both appearance and content. The sign, located at the corner of Farmington Avenue and LaSalle Road, was updated to accurately display 135 street-level businesses, categorized by dining, retail and services. Businesses located west of South Main Street are listed alphabetically with an alpha-numeric identifier corresponding to its location on the map above. Parking Division staff painted the signage structure prior to installation on August 10th.
- *Meet Miriam the new Zamboni* - The Veterans Memorial Skating Rink announced that it has added a new member to its rink family. Welcome Miriam, a Zamboni Ice Resurfer 552AC. Miriam is working alongside Christine to provide a pristine ice surface for all skating activities. Stop by to say Hi!
- *Curling comes to the Rink* – For the first time, the Hartford Curling Club has been holding instructional curling sessions this summer. Two Saturday sessions remain, August 18 and 25. The Hartford Curling Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing, promoting and encouraging the traditions and spirit of the Olympic sport of curling. For more information, visit HartfordCurling.com.
- *Holiday delays and closings* - Due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 3, 2018, the collection of trash, recyclable items, and bulky and metal waste during the week of September 3 through September 7 will be one day late after the holiday. Monday's collection will be done on Tuesday; Tuesday's collection will be done on Wednesday, with each remaining day of the week being one day later. For more information, please check Paine's website, www.PainesInc.com or call (860) 844-3000.

CLOSINGS: Town Hall, West Hartford Public Schools, the community center, senior centers, libraries, skating rink and the Yard Waste & Recycling Center all will be closed for the national holiday, Labor Day.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *20th Park Road Parade* - The Park Road Association invites the West Hartford community to sign up now for the 20th Park Road Parade on Saturday, Oct.6, at 10:30 AM. Go to www.ParkRoadCT.com and click on 'Parade.'
Volunteers are also needed. This wildly popular parade, with about 1,000 participants and over 7,000 spectators, requires a lot of helping hands. We hope you can help. Go to www.ParkRoadCT.com to learn more.
- *Voting is open for the 4th Annual 'Best of West Hartford' Awards* - Vote for your favorite business in the 4th Annual Best of West Hartford awards program. Voting is now open. Go to <https://we-ha.com/vote-now-2018-best-west-hartford/>
- *Food Pantry needs food* - The West Hartford food pantry is almost out of pasta sauce, canned corn and rice. We need your help! Donations may be left in the Town Hall lobby (Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM). If you are bringing in a large donation or have questions, please contact Nancy Stockman, Food Pantry Coordinator, at 860-561-7569.
- *Auditions for West Hartford Hauntings* - On September 4 and 6, the Noah Webster House invites the public to audition for *West Hartford Hauntings*, an outdoor theatrical tour of the town's North Cemetery that entertains over 800 people during the last two weekends in October. Auditions are held from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at the Noah Webster House, 227 South Main Street. Reserve your 10-minute audition slot by visiting NoahWebsterHouse.org.
- *Mama D's Gay Nineties Romp!* - As if Mama D and her crew weren't crazy enough, they're pulling out all of the stops with an all-new original summer burlesque show at Playhouse on Park that runs August 16-25. Go to PlayhouseOnPark.org for tickets.
- *Seamus Turco Blood Drive* - For the fourth year in a row, a special blood drive will be held on Monday, August 20 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the Town Hall Auditorium in honor of Seamus Turco, a 20-year-old West Hartford resident and Conard High School graduate, who recently completed treatment for lymphoblastic lymphoma, a blood cancer. Seamus, along with his twin brother Gabriel, and twin friends Abby and Kate Gosselin, are hosting this blood drive to help ensure that blood is available for patients in need. Seamus is doing great, and hosting this annual blood drive remains an important community service for him and his friends. Appointments in advance are encouraged. Visit www.redcrossblood.org, enter sponsor code TURCO, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.
- *10th Annual Pooch Plunge* - On Monday, August 20, the day after West Hartford's outdoor pools close for the season, Beachland Park's pool will remain open for two sessions of dog-only swims. The first session is held 4:00-5:20 p.m. and the second is 5:30-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per dog, per session. Payment can be made in cash at the gate, or in advance through PayPal from the website: <http://westhartforddogpark.org>. Proceeds benefit the West Hartford Dog Park Coalition in its quest to find a suitable location for a dog park.

- *Second Annual Movie Night at Fern Park* - Friends of Fernridge Park is hosting its Second Annual Movie Night on Wednesday, August 22 at Fernridge Park, 567 Fern Street. The feature film is *The Bad News Bears* with Walter Matthau and Tatum O'Neal. Plan to arrive around 7:15pm to select your spot on the grass by the south side of the pool fence. Or come earlier with a picnic. Friends of Fern will have entertainment and concession style popcorn to pass the time before the movie starts around 8pm. This event is FREE thanks to the generosity of Jeff Brand/State Farm, Wendy Smith from the Robin Gebrian team at William Raveis, and Nadia Kachwaha from Coldwell Banker. In the event of rain, the movie night will be moved to Thursday, August 23, 8PM.
- *Center Streets* - Folks of all ages are invited to "take to the streets" for a care-free and car-free summer morning in West Hartford Center on Sunday, Aug. 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The town will close traffic on four roads to form a rectangular loop around the central business district. Participating restaurants will offer brunch specials and free surprises, many merchants will feature discounts, and live music will be performed all morning. Children will be able to ride bikes, play hula-hoop, jump rope, and draw with chalk in streets closed to traffic.
- *Eat. Drink. Give. A Recipe for Ending Hunger* - "Eat. Drink. Give. A Recipe for Ending Hunger" will take place on Monday, Aug. 27, beginning at 6 p.m., at Grant's Restaurant, 977 Farmington Ave. The event features a six-course gourmet dinner with wine pairings. Tickets are \$125 each, and 100 percent will be donated to Foodshare. For tickets, visit BillyGrant.com/events.
- *Inaugural Restaurant Week* – From August 28th to September 3rd, restaurant patrons will enjoy a delicious meal at value pricing while supporting Foodshare at the same time. Participating restaurants will offer lunch and dinner prix fixe menus starting at \$12 for lunch and for dinner \$20, \$30 or \$40 price points which will showcase their unique offerings. Diners can also participate in an Instagram contest, sharing their pictures and experiences with #WHRestaurantWeek for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to the restaurant of their choice.
- *4th Annual Noah Webster Real Ale Harvest Fest for Charity* - The Noah Webster Real Ale Harvest Fest returns for its fourth year on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018. All proceeds from this one-of-a-kind brew fest will benefit the educational mission of the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society. The premise of this fest is simple: brewers are invited to create a cask of real ale just for the event. Last year, 25-plus breweries from around the region entered the competition. Tickets are \$50 through Sept. 6 and include unlimited samples and a souvenir tasting glass. Tickets purchased after Sept. 6 or at the door are \$60. Discounted tickets will be available for designated drivers at \$20.
- *EV Car Show* - The Electric Vehicle Car Show will be held on Saturday, September 8, at Kingswood Oxford School to promote sustainable electric vehicles in the Hartford area. Admission is FREE, however any donations made will benefit Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services of New Haven which will give refugees the opportunity to take part in interactive, mentor-based STEM programs. This event is organized by the Wyvern Robotics Team of Kingswood Oxford School in collaboration with the West Hartford Clean Energy Commission.