



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: July 17, 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

- The Town Council has a busy week of meetings. Here's the schedule for the next few weeks:
 - July 18, 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Community Planning and Physical Services Committee Meeting
 - July 19, 8:00 AM (Rm 314) – Public Safety Committee meeting
 - July 19, 7:00 PM (Rm 314) – SPECIAL Town Council Meeting
 - July 24 or 25, 6:00 PM (Rm 312) - Finance Budget and Personnel Committee Meeting
 - July 26, 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Human Services Committee Meeting
 - August 14, 6:30 PM (Rm 314) - Town Council meeting

- Community Summer Swim Team – I would like to thank our residents for coming out this evening to address the Town Council on a subject that is important to them, the Town's community summer swim team. I would like to provide a brief history and mention next steps. At the end of the 2017 outdoor pool season, Town staff reviewed all aquatics programs. Registrations were low for swim team and our statistics indicated a downward trend over the past several years. Consequently, in early winter staff conducted an outdoor aquatics survey utilizing social media, the Council Briefs, the Town's website, and direct emails to all families with an active email address that had registered for swim lessons or swim team in 2017. The Leisure (and Social) Services Department conducted a public meeting last November to gather additional comments. Our survey results indicated an overwhelming interest in additional recreational swim time and lap swim opportunities. Historically, the swim team program required the pools to close to the public from 4:30 to 6 PM each weekday and the Town charged separate admissions for afternoons and evenings. To address the declining enrollment and the concerns noted by the public in our survey, for the 2018 season Town staff relocated the swim team program to Cornerstone Aquatics Center. Cornerstone is a Town-owned, privately run facility with professional

coaches. The season runs 7 weeks at approximately \$16 per week, rather than a 5 week program at approximately \$14 per week. Staff did not make this decision lightly, and felt allowing residents – primarily families with younger children – to enjoy the outdoor pools in the late afternoons would help address the most mentioned requests in the community survey. The 2018 schedule now offers extended recreational swim hours during the week and on weekends. Additionally, the Town did not increase any aquatics fees for 2018 and eliminated separate admissions for afternoons and evenings. Leisure Services staff will review the programs again at the end of the 2018 pool season, and discuss its findings with the Council's Human Services Committee.

- *Sale of University of Connecticut West Hartford Campus* - Tonight the Town Council will meet in executive session in accordance with the CT Freedom of Information Act to discuss an offer from the University Connecticut providing the Town with the opportunity to match the terms of the purchase & sale agreement executed between the University and Seven Stars Cloud Group, Inc. for the purchase of the West Hartford campus. UCONN is extending this offer in order to voluntarily comply with the first right of refusal requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 3-14b(e). The Town Council will meet in public session to further discuss this matter at a special meeting to be held at 7PM this Thursday, July 19, 2018, in the Legislative Chambers (Rm 314) at Town Hall. The agenda for the July 19th special meeting will include a public forum section to provide members of the public with the opportunity to address the Town Council specifically regarding the University's offer to allow the Town to match the terms of the purchase and sale agreement.

Departmental & Staff Reports

- *Tax Bills* – The Town has mailed all first installment real estate, business personal property, and motor vehicle tax bills (for vehicles registered as of October 1, 2017). 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.
- *Four officers join the police force* - Four new WHPD officers graduated the police academy on June 12, 2018. The officers are currently in the first phase of their four-month field training program. The officers are scheduled to complete their training and be released to work on their own by November 2018.

Outside Agencies

- *New State Water Assessment* - As you may have seen in the press, due to a loss of federal funding the State DPH is now charging a fee to all water systems across the state, including the MDC. The fee is intended to help fund the DPH's enforcement efforts to protect the quality of drinking water. The impact on MDC customers will be a new charge of ¢33 cents per month, which will appear on MDC customer bills beginning in mid-2018. Customers will receive a bill insert further detailing the DPH Primacy Fee in mid-2018.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Most Educated City in Connecticut* - The Town of West Hartford was the recipient of Insurify's "Most Educated City in Connecticut award." Award winners were determined by an analysis of the educational achievement of individuals across the United States. To determine the most educated community in each state, Insurify analyzed over 1.4 million auto insurance applications that indicated the age and education history of each applicant. Within the data set, each individual was assigned a score based on educational attainment, and, for current students, grade point average (GPA). The results were then grouped by city, and the highest scoring communities in each state were identified.
- *Global Starts Local: Climate Change* - Join Georgetown graduate Owen Eagan for a lecture that explores climate change, bringing a worldwide problem to the local level and surveying West Hartford's role in the solution on Wednesday, July 18 at 7:00 PM at the Noah Webster Library, 20 South Main Street. Mayor Shari Cantor will deliver the opening remarks at the event. Register at the library.
- *Teddy Bear Picnic* - Elmwood Community Center will hold its Annual Teddy Bear Picnic on Wednesday, July 18, 6:00-7:30 PM, outside near the gazebo at 1106 New Britain Avenue. Bring your bear and picnic dinner to this special event that features family entertainment, music and ice cream. This is a free event. The rain location is the auditorium.
- *Charter Oak Park Lecture by Dr. Gene Leach* - Join Dr. Eugene E. Leach on Thursday, July 19 at 7:00 PM for a lively talk by on West Hartford's fun and controversial racetrack, Charter Oak Park, at the Noah Webster House, 227 South Main Street. This event is free and open to the public (suggested donation \$5 per person. Seating is limited. Reservations are recommended.
- *Blood Drive* - Atria Hamilton Heights will hold an American Red Cross blood drive at its Chapel, 1 Hamilton Heights, on Friday, July 20, 11AM to PM. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org.
- *In The Heights* - Playhouse on Park presents Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In The Heights* now through July 29. There is an open mic nights on July 21. Tickets are on sale ranging from \$40-\$50. For more information, call the Playhouse at 860-523-5900 x10, or visit www.playhouseonpark.org.
- *Pencils for Puerto Rico Fundraiser* - In an effort to make a difference in a small way to help Hurricane Maria victims, Playhouse on Park is running a pencil and crayon drive for select schools in Puerto Rico now through July 29. Bring your donations when you come to *In The Heights* show, or stop by during business hours, Tuesday-Friday 10AM-6PM, Saturday 10AM-2PM.

- *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* - Capital Classics Theatre Company presents William Shakespeare's epic adventurer *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* now through July 29. The play is held outdoors on the grounds of the University of Saint Joseph. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors, and are available online, at the door or by calling the box office at (860) 231-5555.
- *4th Annual Community Pool Party and FUNdraiser* - Friends of Fernridge Park's 4th Annual Community Pool Party and FUNdraiser will be held on Saturday, July 21 from 6:15 PM to 8 PM (Rain Date: July 22). The event will include entertainment from DJ Paul, crafts, games, and, of course, swimming! Fee is \$5/person - Cash only. Pool passes will not be accepted for this event.
- *Ballet Under the Stars* - Connecticut Ballet presents Ballet Under The Stars, the annual Marge Wilder Tribute Performance on Saturday, July 21 at 6:30pm at the Elizabeth Park Conservancy. Free admission. Rain date: July 22.
- *Taste of Blue Back Square* - More than one dozen restaurants will be participating in the Taste of Blue Back Square & The Center 2018 on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 5:30-8:30 PM in the former REI parking lot. Go to We-Ha.com and Facebook to purchase your tickets. Advance tickets are \$25 each (when you buy 4 or more), \$30 each (when you buy 2-3), or \$40 each (when you buy one) and \$40 at the door. This event sells out each year so get your tickets soon.
- *Say Things Funny: A Loving Tribute to Carol Burnett* - This summer, co-artistic Director of Playhouse on Park Darlene Zoller returns with SAY THINGS FUNNY, an original production celebrating the legendary entertainer Carol Burnett on July 30 and 31 at 7:30pm. Tickets are now on sale for this production at only \$20, all seats reserved.