



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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## Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: September 12, 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**

- The *Community Planning & Physical Services Committee* will meet at 6:00 PM, tomorrow, September 13, 2018 in Rm 407 at Town Hall. Key agenda items include an overview of the Town's tree maintenance program and sponsorship signage in Town parks.
- The *Administration and Technology Committee* will meet at 6:00 PM in Room 407 at Town Hall in advance of the Council meeting on September 25, 2018. The primary agenda item will be a demo of a proposed paperless agenda management system.
- The *Human Services Committee* will hold its next meeting at 8:00 AM on September 25, 2018; the agenda has not been finalized.

### **Staff Reports**

- *Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant* – Town staff have been notified that West Hartford will receive a Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant totaling \$103,085 to be used to install bicycle signage and on-street *Share the Road* markings on routes identified in the Town's recently adopted Bicycle Facilities Plan. The Town was awarded the full amount it requested; I would like to thank our Community Development staff members for their good work in preparing the grant application.
- *Park Road at I-84 Construction Update* - The reconstruction of the Park Road and the I-84 interchange is progressing well. The contractor has commenced paving within the concrete barriers in preparation to open the new off ramp before winter. Crews will continue to work through the winter months and detours and lane closures will remain in place during that time. The project is on target to be completed by summer 2019.

- *Fire Department Efficiency & Effectiveness Study* – The consulting team from Fitch & Associates had a productive few days in town last week, meeting and collecting data from a variety of key stakeholders including the Town Council, management, and representatives from the firefighters union. Staff will keep the Public Safety Committee informed of the status of the study and schedule a presentation of the draft report; likely for this winter. I appreciate the Council's support for this important initiative.
- *Holiday closings* – In celebration of Yom Kippur, West Hartford public schools will be closed on Wednesday, September 19. All other municipal buildings will be open and the collection of trash and recyclable items will remain on schedule.
- *ICMA board meeting and annual conference* – From September 20-26, I will be attending the board meeting and annual conference for the International City & County Management Association (ICMA), held this year in Baltimore, MD. I will designate and acting Town Manager prior to departure and provide the Council with a report on the conference following my return. With more than 4,000 local government professionals in attendance, the ICMA conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn best practices from around the country and the world. I greatly appreciate the Council's support for my professional development activities.
- *Repaving of seven roads in last round of the season* – The Engineering Division reports that the following roadways will be repaved during the final round, set to begin mid-September and be completed by early October. The roadways consist of: Hilldale Road, Fuller Drive, Parsons Drive, Asylum Avenue (Steele Road to Prospect Avenue), Sycamore Road, Sycamore Lane, and Quaker Lane South (Talcott Road to New Britain Avenue).
- *New solar powered trash receptacles in West Hartford Center* – Public Works and Municipal Parking will add nine sets of solar powered trash and recycling compactors throughout West Hartford Center to compliment the five existing enclosures that Municipal Parking installed in 2010. In addition, five more sets will be located on Park Rd at strategic locations from South Quaker Lane to Prospect Avenue. The new compactors will provide a smarter solution for waste and recycling management on public right-of-ways with high pedestrian traffic.
- *Facility improvements* – The Plant & Facilities Department completed a number of important capital projects over the summer months, including:
  - Replacement of a 30,000 square foot roof area over the main office entry at Hall High School.
  - Replacement of the last phase of a three-year roof replacement project at King Philip Middle School. The entire school now has a new roof with a 30 year warranty.
  - Auditorium renovations at Norfeldt Elementary School including new flooring, painting and all new seating and a new ADA accessible area.

- *Vanderbilt Park Discussion* - Almost 40 neighbors attended a community meeting at Vanderbilt Park last week to discuss their neighborhood park, which shares a border with an Eversource sub-station property. Eversource needs to remove tall pine trees in close proximity to the sub-station to protect against interruptions to electrical service. A planting plan proposed by Eversource was reviewed. Residents discussed other park needs and amenities with directors from the Town's Leisure Services and Public Works Departments. Follow-up from Town staff will continue with the Vanderbilt Park neighborhood. We appreciate this neighborhood's interest in partnering with the Town and engaging with each other to improve their park.

### **Outside Agencies**

- *Household Hazardous Waste Collection* - On Saturday, September 22, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, the MDC will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Department of Public Works, 17 Brixton Street. The event is free. Collect your household waste items in their original containers, place them in a box and bring them to the collection site, and MDC will handle the rest. Typical household hazardous waste includes kitchen cleaners, garage and workshop chemicals, yard insecticides, and hobby solvents, to name a few. For a complete list, go to [www.TheMDC.com](http://www.TheMDC.com) or call the MDC HazWaste Hotline at 860-278-3809.

## **Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- *#BlueUp4PF* – West Hartford has proclaimed September as Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month. Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF) is a devastating lung disease causing progressive scarring in the lungs. The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation is asking you to light up your building with blue lights to raise awareness. All participating in the blue light initiative will be featured in this year's #BlueUp4PF social media campaign, which reached 128,000 people on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in 2017. The Delamar hotel has joined with other buildings and iconic structures throughout the country by lighting its fountain with blue lights on the evenings of Monday, September 24 through Thursday, September 27.
- *Food Pantry request* - The West Hartford food pantry is very low on Canned fruit and applesauce, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, peanut butter, soup, canned pasta (ex: "Spaghetti's") and corn. The next time you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few of these items. They may be dropped off in the lobby of Town Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30 PM.
- *Feast on the Farm* - Westmoor Park will hold its annual Feast on the Farm on Friday, September 28 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The event, which has sold out each year, is the farm's largest fundraiser. The outdoor BYOB dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, a candle-lit, four-course meal and dessert prepared by Chefs Dorjan Puka, Scott Miller and Omar Arnaout of the Doro Restaurant Group. Proceeds from the event will support the park's ecology education infrastructure. Tickets are \$100/person and are available at Westmoor Park and Leisure Services (Town Hall, Room 128).
- *Last Call to sign-up for the 20th Park Road Parade* – Last call to sign up for the 20<sup>th</sup> Park Road Parade starting at 10:30 AM on Saturday, October 6. Go to [www.ParkRoadCT.com](http://www.ParkRoadCT.com) and click on 'Parade' or contact Renée McCue, [renee@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:renee@westhartfordct.gov). Volunteers are also needed. This popular parade requires a lot of helping hands. We hope you can join us. Go to [www.ParkRoadCT.com](http://www.ParkRoadCT.com) to learn more.
- *WHFD Grill & Beer Sampling* - The West Hartford Fire Fighters Association is holding their 10th Annual West Hartford Fire Department Grill and Beer Tasting event to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association of CT. The event will take place on the front lawn of Town Hall on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Tickets sold at the door. Donation of \$10 includes 10 samples of beer. Food available at an extra charge. Must be 21 year old with valid ID. Live music by Fat Grip and free parking in the Town Hall Lot.

- *Mighty Times: The Children's March* – On Sunday, September 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, join West Hartford friends and neighbors as we learn the story of how the children of Birmingham, Alabama fought segregation in 1963 through nonviolent protest and served as catalysts for positive change that impacted our entire nation. Stay for the youth led panel discussion about activism in our schools and community, feature West Hartford students. The event is held in the auditorium at the Charter Oak International Academy. All ages welcome, especially middle and high school students. This event is organized by West Hartford Beloved Community Builders.
- *Open House at Playhouse Theatre Academy* - You're invited to an open house hosted by the Playhouse Theatre Academy at The 224 EcoSpace on Sept. 15 from 1:00PM to 3:00 PM. Playhouse Theatre Academy is a theatre school managed by Playhouse on Park offering recreational classes and pre-professional training for both children and adults. All programs, classes and workshops will now be held at The 224 EcoSpace which is conveniently located for anyone in Greater Hartford area or beyond.