



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: September 25, 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

- September 27 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Human Services Committee
- October 4 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Public Safety Committee Meeting
- October 10 at 6:30 PM (Rm 312) - Finance Budget & Personnel Committee Meeting

Staff Reports

- *Absentee Ballots available on October 5* - Town Clerk Essie Labrot announced that absentee ballots will be available on Friday, October 5 in the Town Clerk's office for the November 6th Election. If you will be out of town or not able to make it to the polls on Election Day due to illness, disability, military service, election duties or religious reasons, you are eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Applications may be picked up in the Clerk's office, Room 313, or downloaded off of the Town Clerk's website. For more information on registering to vote, please call the Registrar of Voter's office at 561-7451, and for Absentee Ballot information, call the Town Clerk's office at 561-7430.
- *Police Officer Standards & Training Council appointment* – Police Chief Vernon Riddick was appointed to the Police Officer Standards & Training Council by Gov. Dannel Malloy.
- *Leaf Bag Collection* – Autumn is officially here and the leaves are beginning to fall. Public Works will conduct its annual nine-week leaf bag collection beginning Monday, October 29 through Friday, December 28. Place 30-gallon biodegradable leaf bags at the curb on your trash collection day.

- *Connecticut Bar Association awards Westmoor Park* - Westmoor Park has been recognized for its environmental education programs by the Environmental Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. The Clyde O. Fisher Award recognizes individuals or entities who have made significant contributions to the preservation or enhancement of environmental quality through work in the field of environmental law, environmental protection, or environmental planning. The award will be presented on November 8.

- *Wolcott Park and Noah Webster House receive Bond Commission funding* - The Town of West Hartford and the Noah Webster House received notice on September 21, 2018 that their requests for infrastructure improvements will be partially funded by the State Bond Commission, thanks to West Hartford's legislators Rep. Joe Verrengia and Senator Beth Bye.

The \$750,000 grant will allow the Town to upgrade Wolcott Park's lighting, parking lot, and handicapped accessible restroom building, improve its trails and routes throughout the park with ADA compliant paths, and install a new playscape.

The Noah Webster House was awarded \$302,700 for upgrades and improvements to the historic house and museum including roof replacement on the museum portion of the building, paint on the exterior of the property, a new HVAC system, renovations to the Hamilton Gallery and the downstairs bathrooms, updates to office spaces throughout the building, and improvements to the grounds, such as new fences and lighting.

- *Inspiring words survey response* – The Town received 895 responses to a survey asking people to choose the best words to describe what West Hartford means to them. These words will inspire images for a new logo. The top six of 18 words and phrases were, in order:

- Top Rated Public Schools
- Best Place to Raise A Family
- High Quality of Life
- Engaged Community
- Diverse, multicultural
- Safe

The Town plans to seek feedback on the final 2 or 3 logo designs. The survey ran September 17-23.

- *Household Hazardous Waste Collection results* – The Department of Public Works was pleased with the strong turnout of 585 vehicles that stopped by MDC's biennial Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, Sept. 22. Hazardous waste cannot be simply thrown out with the trash, flushed, or poured down the drain because it passes the problem along to the environment, polluting the air and the water. Through the MDC's HazWaste program, household hazardous waste is collected and disposed of in a safe, environmentally responsible manner.

- *Business Update* – The Economic Development Office reports the following new business developments and changes:
 - A variety of restaurants have opened around town, including The Hungry Crab located at 1144 New Britain Avenue, Pho 135 at 135 South Main Street, Health is Wealth Juice Bar at 74 Park Road and Song Restaurant at 74 LaSalle Road.
 - A Hand Up, a not-for-profit organization that assists people transitioning to independent living, has relocated to 635 New Park Avenue.
 - James P. Standish Clock Repair relocated to a larger space at 322 Park Road, rebranding as Standish Clock and Watch Repair.
 - Masthay Studios, owned by artist and graphic designer AJ Masthay, has purchased and moved into long-time vacant 252 Park Road. Masthay produces prints for a variety of well-known clients, primarily in the music industry.
 - Essential Health, focusing on health and wellness is now open at 74 Park Road. The business contains a chiropractic practice, natural food market and pasture-raised, locally sourced meat program.
 - Mobile Rescue Tech Repair, who fixes mobile devices as well as sells services and accessories for Apple products, Android products and Google Chromebooks, has opened at 63 Raymond Road in Blue Back Square.
- *Health District offers Flu Vaccines in October* - The Centers for Disease Controls recommends an annual flu vaccination for anyone over 6 months of age. Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. A flu shot is the best way to protect yourself from getting sick with the flu along with everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs. The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District has scheduled flu vaccination clinics for the month of October. No appointments are necessary.
 - Thursday, October 4, 9:30-11:30AM - At the Senior Housing Fair, Elmwood Community Center, 1109 New Britain Ave.
 - Wednesday, October 17, 12:00-2:00 PM - West Hartford Town Hall, 50 South Main St.
 - Tuesday, October 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM - Bloomfield Senior Center, 330 Park Avenue Bloomfield
 - Wednesday, October 24, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM - West Hartford Senior Center, 15 Starkel Road

Outside Agencies

- *American Legion honors Firefighter Daniel Syme* - West Hartford Firefighter Daniel Syme will be honored by American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 as the 2018 Fire Fighter of the Year on October 1, 2018. The ceremony will be held at 6:30 pm at the Flora Restaurant in the American Legion Building, 45 Raymond Road, West Hartford, CT.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Top 50 Places to Live in America* - *Money* magazine ranked West Hartford #48 in its annual Top 50 "Best Places to Live" in American ranking of cities and towns. West Hartford was the *only* town in Connecticut to make the list. The publication noted, "This northern Connecticut town of just over 64,000 people is more than just a quiet suburb. West Hartford's own attractions include a bustling downtown shopping district, restaurants and bars, hiking trails, and the majority of the 101-acre Elizabeth Park, known locally for its rose gardens. Another reason to move to town? It's relatively affordable. While family incomes here are high, the median sale price of a home in West Hartford was \$295,000 in the first quarter of 2018 — just under the median for the spots *Money* analyzed.
- *Donate your nickels to the Park Road Parade* - During the months of September and October, please recycle your cans and bottles at ShopRite, 46 Kane Street, and donate those nickels to the Park Road Parade. Simply feed your containers into the machine and at the end, use the selector to choose "Park Road Parade" instead of getting a ticket voucher. The Park Road Association thanks you!
- *Feast on the Farm* - Westmoor Park will hold its annual Feast on the Farm this Friday, September 28, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. 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. This is the farm's largest fundraiser of the year and proceeds from the event support the park's ecology education infrastructure. Tickets are \$100/person and are available at Westmoor Park and at the Leisure Services Office at Town Hall, Room 128.
- *Swedish Smorgasbord* - West Hartford United Methodist Church, 1358 New Britain Ave., will be hosting a Swedish Smorgasbord on Sunday, September 30, 4:00-6:00PM. Come enjoy mouthwatering traditional Swedish dishes and much more. Tickets are \$16 for adults, and \$8 for children 12 and younger. Tickets are available in the church office, Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-1:00PM. Call 860-521-7766.
- *West Hartford READS featuring Billy Collins* - Billy Collins, "America's favorite poet," will visit West Hartford on Thursday, October 4 for West Hartford READS. The event is free and is held at the Town Hall auditorium at 7:00 PM.
- *14th Annual Housing Fair* - To help you or a family member simplify a very difficult decision, Elmwood Senior Center has invited representatives from various retirement facilities, housing specialists and support service providers in the Greater West Hartford to share information at the 14th Annual Housing Fair on Thursday, October 4, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The event is free. Each vendor will have an abundance of information for you to take home and review. As an added feature, the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District will have a walk-in flu clinic from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

- Pink Party* - West Hartford will kick off Breast Cancer Awareness month in style with the 7th annual Pink Party! Pink Party is a party with a purpose; filling the streets of Blue Back Square with live music, entertainment and activities for all ages. Local breast cancer survivors will hit the pink runway in a survivor fashion show outfitted in the latest fashions from nearby retailers, and modeling trendy hair and makeup looks provided by various Connecticut stylists.

Guests will enjoy sampling the local flavors of the area's best restaurants, dancing to the music of local band Shaded Soul, enter to win prizes in the Pink Party raffle, and purchase \$20 SWAG bags stuffed with donated items ranging from gift cards, cosmetics, tasty treats and tons of pink goodies! For more information, visit <http://pinkpartyct.com/>
- Park Road Parade* - Bring the whole family to the 20th annual Park Road Parade on Saturday, October 6, 2018. The one-hour parade steps off at 10:30 AM, at Ringgold Street and ends at South Quaker Lane. Over 70 contingents are expected to march. The parade features bands, clowns, dancers, floats, dogs of all shapes and sizes, antique cars, color guards, businesses, civic and cultural organizations, as well as elected officials. Each year the parade draws over 7,000 spectators to the Park Road neighborhood.
- Japan Kiku Festival* – An outdoor traditional tea ceremony will be held at Blue Back Square on Saturday, 12:00-4:30 PM. Led by performers from Japan, the free event is sponsored by the U.S. & Japan Society of Connecticut. Japanese food will be available for sale.
- Understanding Hoarding Disorder* - Join Dr. David Tolin, PhD, a leading expert in the field of hoarding and cognitive behavioral therapy, on Thursday, October 11, 6:30-8:00PM, at the Town Hall Auditorium. This free event is offered to the general public to learn about the signs of hoarding, what it is, where to go for help, and steps family members can take to assist a loved one. For more information, contact Keren Paquette, 860-561-7573.