



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: October 9, 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

- October 17 at 8:00 AM (Rm 312) - Community Planning & Physical Services Committee Meeting
- October 23 at 6:00 PM (Rm 312) - Finance Budget & Personnel Committee Meeting. This meeting was previously scheduled for October 10.

Staff Reports

- *Corporation Counsel welcomes Gina Varano* – Ms. Gina Varano started today as Assistant Corporation Counsel. Gina comes to us with a wealth of experience from working for the City of Hartford and in running her own private practice. Welcome, Gina, we're very happy to have you onboard!
- *Chief Riddick recognized* – This Friday, October 12, the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers will recognize Police Chief Vernon Riddick, Jr. at its 16th Anniversary Awards Banquet held in North Haven, CT. Four Connecticut chiefs of police will be honored for making a positive impact on community policing, particularly in communities of color. The Mayor and I will attend the event to acknowledge Chief Riddick and his colleagues for their important work.
- *Absentee Ballots now available* – Applications for absentee ballots for the November 6th election are available in the Town Clerk's Office. 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.

- *Registrar of Voters Office hours during Election season* - The Registrar of Voters Office will maintain extended hours of operation now through Election Day to accommodate the public with voter registration related services. The office will be open Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-4:30 PM; Tuesday, 4:00-7:00 PM, Thursday, 12:30-7:00 PM, and Friday, 8:00 AM-1:30 PM. Keep in mind two important dates: October 30 is the deadline for in person voter registration; the office will be open from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM on that day. In addition, any person whose rights as to age, citizenship, or new residence were attained since October 30, 2018 may apply in person during on November 5, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.
- *SustainableCT* - The Town of West Hartford is one of the first Connecticut municipalities to achieve certification as a Sustainable CT community. The Town met high standards in a broad range of sustainability accomplishments to qualify for BRONZE level certification. West Hartford demonstrated significant achievement in nine sustainable impact areas ranging from thriving local economies and vibrant arts and culture to clean transportation and diverse housing. I would like to commend our staff team – Catherine Diviney, Todd Dumais, Kristin Gorski, Kim Holden, Mark McGovern, Bob Palmer, John Phillips, Renée McCue and Helen Rubino-Turco for their good work in preparing the Town’s application.
- *ICMA Annual Conference* - I recently attended the International City and County Management Association’s 104th Annual Conference, held this year in Baltimore, MD from September 23-26, 2018. The conference was both informative and timely. I attended a variety of sessions and workshops on topics such as financial stability, blockchain technology, and organizational leadership during challenging times. I am preparing a more detailed report on conference activities that I will share with the Finance & Budget Committee at its next meeting. I appreciate the Town Council’s support for my professional development activities.
- *Leaf Bag Collection* – Public Works will conduct its annual nine-week leaf bag collection beginning October 29 through December 28, 2018. Leaves should be placed 30-gallon biodegradable paper leaf bags, free of twigs, dirt and stones. Put bags at the curb on your trash collection day.
- *Leaf Voucher program improved* - The Town has improved and streamlined its Residential Leaf Voucher system. Leaf vouchers allow private contractors to dispose of leaves from residential properties at the Town’s Yard Waste and Recycling Center, free of charge. Residents using the voucher system should only be charged for the cost of transporting their leaves for disposal and for the labor charges associated with cleaning their property. Beginning on October 29, residents will be able to apply for residential leaf vouchers online, by phone or in person. The old process required residents to download the leaf voucher form, print and complete it, and then give it to private contractors. Now, residents can fill out the form electronically and submit it through the Town’s website, <https://WestHartfordCT.gov/LeafVoucher>. The new process will cut down on

paperwork, improve customer service, and ensure compliance with the Town's rules and regulations.

- *Kindness Project begins* – In the spirit of compassion and kindness, the West Hartford Public Libraries will once again host its Annual Kindness Project which encourages the public to donate specific items to help stock the shelves of the West Hartford Food Pantry, including:
 - Toiletries - soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper and paper towels
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Baby accessories - diapers, wipes, washcloths, pacifiers
 - Kitchen items - dish detergent, laundry detergent, fabric softener, towels, pot holders and can openers
 - First aid supplies and sunscreen
 - Adult gloves for men and women

The Kindness Project began on October 1 and will run through November 10. Donations can be dropped off in the specially marked Kindness Project boxes at any of the three library locations.

- *Health District offers Flu Vaccines in October* - The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District has scheduled flu vaccination clinics for the month of October. No appointments are necessary.
 - 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

- *MDC Sewer Surcharge at N. Main and Linbrook* – The MDC reports that its contractor continues to conduct sewer backup prevention assessments in the Linbrook neighborhood. Materials are being ordered for sump pump installations and other prevention devices. Mechanical and electrical work continues for replacement of hot water heaters, boilers, gas furnaces and restoration of electrical service. MDC claims staff continues to conduct additional assessments for homeowner equipment replacements. The MDC is issuing a flyer to communicate with affected homeowners. Installation, testing and inspection of the new liner is expected to occur between October 17th and October 19th. As always, schedules are subject to change based on unforeseen construction related activities.
- *Eversource power upgrades* - Sections of West Hartford that draw power from the Hartford substation will soon see an upgrade to new power infrastructure. The utility will perform work from October 17 through November 17 and from November 27 through December 12. While work is in process, there is a chance that power may be lost.

- *Volunteers needed to run Thrift Shop* - The Village for Families & Children will open their West Hartford Second Chance Boutique at 175 Park Road in early 2019. The boutique is looking for dedicated volunteers to make up its West Hartford Auxiliary to run the shop. This is an exciting opportunity to build a thrift boutique from the ground up. The Village has three other Second Chance Shops (in Glastonbury, Simsbury and Suffield) that have been successfully run over the past 50 years by volunteer auxiliaries. Last year, the thrift shops collectively raised nearly \$280,000 in support of The Village. The Village provides a continuum of behavioral health treatment and support services for children and adults, including parenting education classes, financial literacy, outpatient mental health therapy, substance abuse treatment, intensive residential treatment, and foster care. For more information on how to get involved, contact Jennifer Meligonis DeJohn at jmeligonisdejohn@thevillage.org or 860-297-0519.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Hartford Marathon road closures* - On October 13th, more than 7,000 runners will be using West Hartford roads for the 25th Annual Eversource Hartford Half Marathon. Road closures will be in effect from about 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Motorists may be allowed to drive through the closed area if there is a large enough break between runners; the safety of the runners is the priority.

The affected streets include Park Road, Whiting Lane, South Quaker Lane, South Highland, the Boulevard, North Quaker Lane, Fern Street, Trout Brook Drive (Northbound lanes), Albany Avenue between Steele Road and Trout Brook Drive (eastbound lanes), Steele Road, and the interior roads of Elizabeth Park. For best access to the area enclosed by the race route, we recommend using the Sisson Avenue highway entrances and exits (#46) on I-84. For more information, please visit www.HartfordMarathon.com and click on the Traffic Alert section, or call 860-652-8866. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

- *Understanding Hoarding* - 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.
- *Community of Concern presents Anxiety & Depression* – The Hall and Conard High School PTO’s Community of Concern presents an panel discussion on “Anxiety and Depression: What You Need To Notice and Know When Living With Teenagers,” on Thursday, October 25, 7:00-8:30 PM at Hall High School, Room E131. The panelists include Steve Boyle of Dorm Room Coaching & Consulting, Geoff Genser, LCSW, of Family Resource and Development Center, Julia Tannenbaum, Hall High School student, Latoya Watson, LCSW, of Evolve Behavioral Health, and Hayley Zinn-Rowthorn, REALize Learning.
- *Comedy Night at Playhouse on Park* - Playhouse on Park opens its Season Ten Comedy Series on Saturday, October 20, at 8pm. Tickets are now on sale for the show featuring co-headliners Paul Nardizzi and Steve Van Zandt. Tickets are \$15, all seats reserved. This event is BYOB. For tickets, call the Playhouse box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.PlayhouseOnPark.org.
- *16th Annual Jazz Brunch* - Rotary Club of West Hartford presents the 16th Annual Jazz Brunch on Sunday November 4, 12:00-4:00 PM, to benefit Gifts of Music, a non-profit organization providing musical instruments and private lessons to gifted and talented West Hartford public school students with limited financial resources. The event is held at The Hartford Club, 46 Prospect Street, Hartford. The event features The Chris Flory & Harry Allen Quartet, A Tribute to Rotarian and Former Assistant District Governor, Hap Leabman, and A Taste of France" Gourmet Brunch by Chef Leslie Tripp. Tickets: \$85 per person / \$850 for a table of 10. Contact Jim Kilian at (860) 716-5335 or email Jim.Kilian@pioneer-financial.com