



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: November 13, 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

- Nov. 14 at 6:00 PM (Rm. 312) – Finance & Budget Committee
- Nov. 27 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314) - Town Council meeting
- Nov. 28 at 8:00 AM (Rm. 312) – Community Planning & Physical Services Committee
- Nov. 29 at 8:00 AM (Rm. 312) – Human Services Committee

Staff and Departmental Reports

- *Friends of Fern Park gives Town \$20,000 for Park Improvements* – Today, the Friends of Fernridge Park presented the Town with a check for \$20,000 to help build new paths in Fernridge Park and reconstruct existing ones. The new path will lead into the park from Keeney Avenue and will connect with other new paths around the pool to form a 1,000 foot circular “promenade.” The Promenade is the centerpiece of the Friends of Fern’s long-term vision for Fernridge Park and will ultimately be lined with trees and benches to create a gathering place for park visitors to meet, stroll and play.

The path project will also link the parking lot near the tennis courts with the newly refurbished Keeney Avenue entrance path, creating a more accessible path to the swimming pool.

The park plan was developed with input from the community and assistance from landscape architect Peter Miniutti, a professor from the Community Research and Design Collaborative of the University of Connecticut’s Department of Landscape Architecture.

- *Greg Priest appointed to Fire Chief* - Assistant Chief Greg Priest was sworn in as Fire Chief on Friday, November 9, 2018. He succeeds Chief Gary Allyn who retired on November 10, 2018 after 30 years. The Town will hold a formal induction ceremony for Chief Priest at a later date.
- *Congratulations to Joe Dakers* - Congratulations to Town of West Hartford's Joseph Dakers, Sr. for being recognized as the Town Assessor of the Year by the CT Association of Assessing Officers. Joe is receiving this award for his dedication to the field of assessing and his service to the association.
- *Thank you to Morley School* - Morley Elementary schoolchildren took their annual 1.22 mile trek to Town Hall with their red wagons laden with non-perishable food for the town's food pantry on Wednesday, November 7, 2018. Schoolchildren, teachers, parents, and Principal Ryan Cleary filled 56 wagons filled with more than 3,000 food items. Thank you to the Morley community.
- *LOCK. TAKE. HIDE* - The West Hartford Police Department is asking people to lock their cars, take their keys and hide their valuables. WHPD is offering daily social media reminders through Twitter and Facebook. Follow #9pmRoutine. If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 860-523-5230. For more information on how to help deter thieves, call 860-570-8820 to speak to a Community Relations officer.
- *Delay in Trash Collection for Thursday and Friday areas* - Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the collection of trash, recyclable items, and metal will be delayed one day after the holiday. The normal Thursday collection will occur on Friday, November 23, and Friday's collection will take place on Saturday, November 24. No other collection days are effected during the holiday week. Please check Paine's website, www.painesinc.com or call Paine's, Inc. at (860) 844-3000 with any questions.
- *Holiday Giving* - With your generous support, West Hartford Social Services provides Thanksgiving meal assistance to over 400 low-income families and brightens the holidays for over 500 children through the Children's Holiday Program. You can help our neighbors in need this holiday season by donating food to the pantry or by making a monetary donation to The Town That Cares. Checks payable to 'The Town That Cares' may be sent to West Hartford Social Services, 50 South Main Street, Room 306, West Hartford, CT 06107 or by credit card on our website: www.westhartfordct.gov/TTTC. For more information, contact Social Services at (860) 561-7580.

- *Access Health Open Enrollment; Help Center held at the Main Library* – A help center has been set up at the main library to assist residents enroll in AccessHealthCT health care. Representatives are available to answer questions and help you enroll at the Noah Webster Library, 20 South Main Street, Monday through Friday, 10:30AM-5:30PM, now through December 15, 2018. AccessHealth is offering 20% off Lyft rides to all enrollment locations. Use LYFT code: WestHartfordOE.
- *Two members sought for Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission* - The West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission is looking for two new members. The purpose of the commission is to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety through education and advocacy and to recommend facility and rights-of-way improvements. The term would begin in January, 2019. If you are interested in serving on the Commission, please email Scott Franklin, the current Chair of the Commission, at sbf@franklinlaw.net.
- *Pumpkin Recycling continues through November 15* - The Town is offering a special pumpkin drop-off drive to help reduce the weight placed in our curbside trash containers. Pumpkins may be dropped off at 17 Brixton Street in a marked dumpster located on the southeast side of the main parking lot now through Thursday, November 15, 2018. The pumpkins will be taken to an organic waste processing plant where they will be turned into clean renewable energy.
- *Still time to participate in the POCD survey* – The Town of West Hartford seeks community feedback as a critical element to the process of updating its ten-year Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). There is still time to participate. The survey is found on the project website: www.PlanWestHartford.com. The POCD is a road map for the future of the community. It identifies a long-term vision, goals, strategies and action steps. The plan covers areas such as economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, open space, sustainability, environment, and Town services.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* – Playhouse on Park presents the Tony-award winning adaption by Dale Wasserman *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* now through November 18th. Tickets are available at PlayhouseOnPark.org.
- *Young Frankenstein* - West Hartford Community Theater presents the hilarious musical, *Young Frankenstein*. Performances are held at Hall High School on November 16 and 17 at 7:30 PM and Nov. 18 at 2:00 PM. Tickets are available at WestHartfordTheater.org.
- *50th Anniversary Celebration Veterans Memorial Rink* - Proudly Serving the community since 1968 the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink will hold a 50th Anniversary celebration on November 17th and November 18th from 3:15 to 4:45 PM with special 1968 roll-back admission fees of 50 cents for children, 75 cents for adults and \$1 skate rental.
- *Thanksgiving Eve Comedy Night* - Take a short break from basting that turkey and bring yourself, a bottle of wine, and your crazy cousins to Playhouse on Park for a special Thanksgiving Eve Comedy night on Wednesday, November 21, starting at 8pm. This year's show features Max Dolcelli and Angel Rentas. Tickets are \$15, all seats reserved. This event is BYOB. Visit www.playhouseonpark.org for tickets.
- *Holiday Stroll* – Join us for the annual Holiday Stroll on Thursday, November 29 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square. There will be a special tree lighting, live music featuring holiday classics, visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus, strolling Victorian Carolers, face painting, photo booth fun, food sampling, ballerinas from *The Nutcracker*, music and dancing, and the Festival of Trees at First Church of Christ, and much more! The event is free.
- *Mitten Run* – The Hartford Marathon will hold its annual Mitten Run at Blue Back Square on Sunday, December 2 at 10:00 AM. Go to HartfordMarathon.com to sign up.
- *Fire on Ice Chanukah Celebration* – The Chabad of Greater Hartford will hold its annual Fire on Ice event at Blue Back Square on Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 PM. Invigorated efforts to spread even more light and Jewish pride in response to the tragedy in Pittsburgh, hundreds of residents will kick off the holiday of Chanukah as they observe a master ice-carver sculpt a giant Menorah from a raw block of ice, at what has become one of West Hartford's mega events, and the largest Chanukah celebration in the state. This free, family friendly event also features a live concert by award-winning, Six13 Group and the "Great Chanukah Gelt Drop" in which the West Hartford Fire Department will sprinkle chocolate coins from the top of the extended ladder on its fire truck.

- *West Hartford Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert* - West Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM at West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium. The concert will feature the holiday classics and special guests. Tickets are available at WHSO.org.