



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: December 11, 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

- *Human Services Committee* – the Committee will meet at 8:00 AM on December 20, 2018 in Rm. 312 at Town Hall.

Staff and Departmental Reports

- *New Risk Manager* - I am pleased to announce the promotion of Lisa Michaud (Davis) to the position of Risk Manager, effective Nov. 14. In her new role, Lisa will have responsibility for all aspects of the Town and West Hartford Public School's Property/Casualty program including insurance/self-insurance and safety/loss control. Lisa joined the Town of West Hartford's Risk Management Department in 1993 and was promoted to Safety Analyst in 2008. Lisa's contributions to the growth and stability of our risk management programs have been critical. That experience, combined with her in-depth knowledge of our organization and operations, makes her the right person to lead the Town's Risk Management Office. Please join me in congratulating Lisa.
- *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* - We are very pleased to report that the Town of West Hartford received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This award represents the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and puts West Hartford alongside the best in the country. The credit for this significant achievement goes to West Hartford's hard-working finance team: Peter Privitera, Liz Hewitt, Barbara Rua, and Karie Hupfer.
- *Park Road at I-84 Construction Update* - The newly constructed Interstate-84 Exit 43 (Park Road) off-ramp opened to traffic on Friday, December 7, 2018. The new off-ramp provides an additional left turn lane which will help to reduce back-ups on the off-ramp. A new traffic signal on Park Road at the intersection with the on/off ramps was also put into operation and two dedicated left turn lanes were created on Park Road to accommodate the heavy volume of traffic turning left to

access I-84. Motorists are urged to use caution and reduce speeds as they travel through the interchange area and adjust to the new traffic pattern.

Opening the new off-ramp was a major milestone for this project, but there is still a significant amount of work remaining. The contractor, Paramount Construction intends to work through the winter (weather dependent) with only minimal impacts to traffic. Most of the work occurring during the winter will involve the removal of the old off-ramp and earthwork to prepare the area for landscaping. In the spring, work will resume and the intersection of Park Road and Trout Brook Drive will be reconstructed.

The Town is coordinating this project with construction inspection services provided by Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc. and oversight by the CTDOT's Office of Construction. The Project started on September 19, 2017 and is on schedule to be completed by the fall of 2019. The construction costs for the project are estimated to total \$6,800,000 with Federal funds providing 80% of the costs, and the State and Town each providing 10%. For additional information and questions, please refer to the project website:

<http://www.westhartfordct.gov/ParkRd>

- *Four grants fund training for FDA food inspections* - The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District has received four grants in the amounts of \$20,000, \$8,000, and two at \$3,000, which will be used for training purposes in preparation for the new FDA-required food inspections. These regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2019, and were last amended on July 3, 2007.

Outside Agencies

- *Toys for Tots collection* - Thirteen businesses in the Park Road neighborhood are collecting new, unwrapped toys and/or cash through Monday, December 17th. Donations may be dropped off at any of the following locations during normal operating hours. Businesses include: A Strand Ahead, A. C. Petersen Farms Restaurant, Anthony Nicole Salon, Budget Printers & Embroiderers, Cricket Press, Effie's Place Family Restaurant, Fuller Yoga, Hall's Market/Hall's Kitchen, Plan B, Park & Oak Restaurant, Playhouse on Park, ShopRite, and Victorian Day Spa. On Tuesday, December 18th, Talk of Connecticut/Brad David will broadcast live on WDRC AM 1360 from Effie's Place Family Restaurant from 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM. The public is welcome to drop of their contributions during the broadcast.
- *Access Health Open Enrollment at the Main Library* – Access Health has set up a help center at the Noah Webster Library on 20 South Main St. to assist residents with enrolling in AccessHealthCT health care. Representatives are available to answer questions and to help people enroll 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.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Food Pantry in critical need of food* - The West Hartford food pantry is very low on these items:
 - Canned fruit / applesauce
 - Tuna
 - Canned Pasta ("Spaghetti's")
 - Baked Beans
 - Rice
 - Pasta and pasta sauce

Food donations may be left in the lobby of Town Hall, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

- *Winter Celebration at Cornerstone Aquatics Center* - Bring your family and friends to a celebration of the winter season on Friday, December 14 from 6 PM to 8 PM at Cornerstone Aquatics Center. Join us for snacks, crafts, water games and more! Entry fee per person is \$5 for members or \$10 for non-members. Please register online <https://cornerstone.recdesk.com> or by phone at 860-561-8270.
- *Solar For All workshops* - The Connecticut Solar for All initiative offers a low-to-moderate income (LMI) targeted solar lease paired with energy efficiency measures for homeowners, regardless of income or credit. Come learn more about this community-supported initiative to reduce residents' utility bills at the West Hartford Homeowner Workshops held at the West Hartford Senior Center on Monday, December 17 and January 7, 12:30-4:30 PM, and at the Faxon Branch Library on Tuesday, December 18 and January 15. For more information, call 866-767-4436.
- *Curious George and the Golden Meatball* - Based on the books by Margaret and H.A. Rey, everyone's favorite mischievous monkey and his friend in the yellow hat sing and dance up a storm in the adventure-filled musical, *Curious George and the Golden Meatball* at Playhouse on Park. Performances for this show are: Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 4pm, and Wednesday at 10 AM and 2:30 PM. A Sensory Friendly performances will be held on December 14 at 9:30am.
- *West Hartford Women's Chorale Holiday Concert* - The West Hartford Women's Chorale will perform their annual holiday concert on December 14, 2018 at 7:30 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigourney Street, Hartford. Admission is \$10 and there is plenty of free parking. The theme for this year's concert is Celestial Voices and features "Snow Angel," an original piece by contemporary composer Sarah Quartel, as well as traditional classical, spiritual and holiday pieces. For more information visit www.WHWChorale.org.
- *Ballet Theatre Company's production of The Nutcracker* – The Ballet Theatre Company's annual performance of the holiday classic, The Nutcracker, will have some extra sweetness this 20th anniversary year with new choreography, costumes, scenes, and faces. Audiences will be "wowed" by the dancing and the magic that will

unfold before their eyes transporting them into a mystical world of delight. Performances are held December 13-16 at University of Saint Joseph's Hoffman Auditorium, 1678 Asylum Avenue. Tickets are \$20-\$35. Click here to purchase tickets: <https://www.DanceBTC.org/the-nutcracker>

- *Hartt Community Dance presents The Nutcracker* - Tchaikovsky's glorious score provides the backdrop for this full-length, family-friendly annual holiday production of *The Nutcracker* at the Millard Auditorium at the University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue. Tickets are available for Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 PM. Admission: \$30, discounts for students, seniors and groups of 10+. <http://hartford.edu/hcd/dance/performances/nutcracker.aspx>
- *A Traditional Christmas with the Webster's* - The Noah Webster House will offer a special theatrical program that depicts the traditions of early 19th century Connecticut Christmases through song, dance, and stories. On Friday, December 21 and Saturday, December 22, special theatrical holiday tours of the Noah Webster House will be offered every half hour, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Guests will visit the lantern-lit historic house and interact with its occupants amidst their preparations for Christmas. Noah's wife, Mrs. Rebecca Webster, will guide guests through the home to meet her children, guests, and even Noah himself. Tours last approximately 30 minutes and end with cookies and a hot drink. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (\$13/\$9 for museum members). Space is extremely limited, advance purchase is suggested. For tickets, visit NoahWebster.Yapsody.com or call (860) 521-5362.