



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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www.westhartfordct.gov

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: January 22, 2019
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* – January 24 at 8:00AM in Room 312
- *Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economic Development Committee* – January 28 at 6:00PM in Room 312
- *Finance, Budget & Personnel Committee* – February 4 at 6:00PM in Room 312 at Town Hall

Staff and Departmental Reports

- *Bond Ratings & Sale* - Both Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poors, the nation's largest bond rating agencies, have assigned their highest ratings, Aaa and AAA, respectively, to the Town of West Hartford's recent issuance of \$10 million in General Obligation Bonds. The rating agencies also revised their outlooks from negative to stable. The Aaa/AAA rating indicates low risk to lenders, which allows cities and towns to secure the best possible interest rate.

The Aaa/AAA credit ratings from both Moody's and Standard & Poor's reflects West Hartford's solid economic health, growing tax base, booming economic development, sound and conservative financial strategies, its experienced management team, and its long range plans for infrastructure improvements, all desirable factors to the credit rating agencies. West Hartford is one of only 17 municipalities in Connecticut to obtain the top rating from both Moody's and S&P.

Today, the Town of West Hartford sold its bonds at a true interest cost of 2.652298. Overall the response was very good with 10 bids received from financial institutions. Bank of America, Merrill Lynch offered the lowest interest rate and secured the bid. The Town will use the bond proceeds to fund various capital projects, including town and school facility improvements, streets and storm water management, park improvements, financial management, rolling stock and technology improvements.

- *DPW battles first storm of 2019* – On the afternoon on January 19, the Department of Public Works initiated its plan of attack for the first significant storm of 2019. The Department deployed all of its own vehicles as well as contractual resources in order to maintain our roads during the height of the storm's 1 inch per hour snow fall. Crews were challenged by the half inch of sleet and freezing rain that followed the snowfall as well as the wind gusts of 25-30 mph and subfreezing temperatures. All roads were cleared and passible by 3:00PM Sunday, January 20. Post storm clean-up work will continue this week.

I would like to commend all of our Public Works, Plant and Facilities, and Public Safety staff for their excellent work to keep us safe during the holiday season. Great job, team!

- *Fire Department seeks candidates* - The West Hartford Fire Department has multiple vacancies for the positions of Firefighter/Paramedic. The Fire Department invites licensed paramedics to participate in a testing process and to consider joining a high-functioning team that provides exemplary Fire, Rescue, and EMS services to the Town of West Hartford. Applications will be accepted until February 22, 2019. To apply, please visit WestHartfordCT.gov/Jobs
- *Assessment Appeals heard in March* - The West Hartford Board of Assessment Appeals is now accepting appeal applications for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle assessments on the October 1, 2018 Grand List and motor vehicles assessments on the October 1, 2017 Supplemental Grand List.

Appeal applications are available online at WestHartfordCt.gov/Assessment or in the Assessment Office, Room 142, Town Hall. Applications can be mailed to the West Hartford Assessment Office, Attn: Board of Assessment Appeals, 50 South Main Street, Room 142, West Hartford, CT 06107. Appeal applications must be completely filled out and received or postmarked by February 20, 2019 for your appeal to be heard.

- *Free radon test kits available* - January is Radon Action month and the state Department of Public Health urges Connecticut residents to test their homes for radon gas, the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Radon can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings. The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District has FREE test kits and information available. To obtain your, please contact the district at 860-561-7900.
- *Absentee ballots available for February election* - Town Clerk Essie Labrot announced that absentee ballot applications are available for the Special Election for the 5th Senatorial District to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. 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 or downloaded from WestHartfordCt.gov/TownClerk. You may mail or drop off the

application and ballots will be mailed on January 25, 2019. Absentee Ballots will also be available in person on Friday, January 25, 2019. Please note that each person who applies for an application must sign it with an original signature – (parents cannot sign for their child, or spouses for each other).

The Town Clerk's office is open: Monday and Wednesdays from 8:30AM to 4:30PM; Tuesday from 7:30AM to 4:30 PM; Thursdays 8:30AM to 7:00PM and Friday from 8:30AM to noon. For information on registering to vote, please call the Registrar of Voter's office at 860-561-7451, and for Absentee Ballot information, the Town Clerk's office at 860-561-7430.

- *CDBG Public Hearings* - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be allocating approximately \$880,000 in CDBG funds to the Town of West Hartford in FY 2019-2020. CDBG activities must provide a benefit principally to low-moderate income persons. Two public hearings are scheduled during which interested parties can learn more about West Hartford's CDBG program(s) and make public comment on the Town's use of CDBG funds and its community development needs:
 - Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 6:00-7:00 PM, Elmwood Community Center, Room 110, 1106 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford
 - Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 5:00-6:00 PM, West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford

Individuals with a disability, persons needing special assistance in order to participate in the hearing process, or those seeking additional information should contact Theresa Lerner at (860) 561-7575 or Theresa.Lerner@westhartfordct.gov.

- *West Hartford celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* – Despite the frigid temperatures, on yesterday, January 21st the town hall auditorium was packed with people of all ages to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Special thanks to this year's participants: Patricia Wilson-Pheanious, Mayor Shari Cantor, Rabbi James Rosen, Henley Solomon, Jr., Brianna Bobo, Mica Lovell, Dawna Capp-Evans, Hall Jazz Combo, King Philip Singers, Hall High Choraliers, State Treasurer Shawn Wooden, and Senator Richard Blumenthal. Thank you's also go to the planning committee, WHC-TV, and Elmwood Senior Center.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *2019 Children's Charity Ball* - Tickets are still available for the Bridge Family Center's 2019 Children's Charity Ball on Saturday, January 26 at The Marquee, Hartford. The Children's Charity Ball will kick off the 50th anniversary of the Bridge Family Center. To purchase tickets, visit www.BridgeFamilyCenter.org.
- *Chamber's State of the Town with Mayor Shari Cantor* –The West Hartford Chamber of Commerce will hold its State of the Town event with Mayor Shari Cantor on Thursday, January 31 at noon, at the Delamar Hotel ballroom. The Mayor will discuss the past year and plans for the future. Pre-registration is required. Please go to www.WHChamber.com to register or call the Chamber's office at 860-521-2300.
- *Off to Kindergarten Parent Information meeting* - West Hartford Public Schools and Great By 8 invite parents and guardians of the Kindergarten class of 2019-2020 to attend an informational meeting on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 50 South Main Street. Please join us to learn more about the registration process, what to expect in the day in the life of a Kindergarten student and tips on how to prepare for this transition. Children residing in West Hartford turning age 5 on or before January 1, 2020 are eligible to register for Kindergarten. Please R.S.V.P. to rsvpGreatBy8@gmail.com. (Snow date: February 4, 2019)
- *Murder for Two* at Playhouse on Park - Everyone is a suspect in *Murder for Two*, an uproariously funny musical murder mystery with a twist: one actor investigates the crime, the other plays all of the suspects. And they both do this while playing the piano! A zany blend of classic musical comedy and madcap mystery, this 90-minute whodunit is a highly theatrical duet loaded with killer laughs. *Murder for Two* runs through February 3. To purchase tickets, please call the box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.PlayhouseOnPark.org.
- *King of Change: Bravery in the Face of Adversity* - Join the University of Saint Joseph in honoring and celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work to advance peace and justice through nonviolence. This year's celebration includes Mississippi gospel harmonies of the Como Mamas; movement and spoken word by members of the USJ community, including the winner of the Change Agent writing contest; and keynote speaker Victoria Christgau, the director of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN). Tickets are free, with RSVP recommended. RSVP online at tickets.usj.edu or by calling the Frances Driscoll Box Office at 860.231.5555.