



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: March 12, 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

- Finance, Budget & Personnel Committee - March 14th, 8:00AM, Room 312 (Budget); March 20th, 6:00PM, Room 312 (Budget)
- Human Services Committee -March 21st, 8:00AM, Room 312 (Budget); March 28th, 8:00AM, Room 312 (Budget)
- Education Liaison Committee –March 25th, 6:00PM, Room 400 (Budget)
- Town Council - March 26th, 7:30 PM (Room 314)
- Admin & Technology-April 1st, 8:00AM, Room 312 (Budget)
- Community Planning & Physical Services-April 3rd, 8:00AM, Room 312 (Budget)
- Public Safety-April 4th, 7:30AM, Room 312 (Budget); April 11th, 7:30AM (Budget)

Staff Reports

- *West Hartford wins Democracy Cup* - West Hartford has won the Secretary of State's 2018 Democracy Cup for the highest voter turnout in its population category. This November, West Hartford had a turnout of 74.94%, which is outstanding for a non-Presidential election. Although there are many factors that motivate voters to participate, none of it would be possible without the hard work of the Registrars of Voters and Town Clerk staff. We will arrange for a presentation from the Secretary of State at an upcoming Council meeting.
- *Smart Big Belly receptacles* – Public Works reports that our new solar powered big belly trash and recycling containers are successfully diverting trash from the waste stream. The side-by-side containers were deployed in November at nine locations in West Hartford Center and five locations along Park Road. The performance report from November 2018 to February 2019 shows that of the total amount of waste collected, 55% is for recyclable items and 45% is for trash. West Hartford's 55% diversion rate is above the 34% national average. Congratulations to Public Works on a job well-done.

- *Brooke Nelson appointed to NEPC board of directors* - For the first time, West Hartford will be represented on the New England Parking Council board of directors with the appointment of Brooke Nelson, Municipal Parking Operations Manager. NEPC is a non-profit organization comprising parking and transportation professionals seeking to share knowledge, development and support through networking and educational opportunities. NEPC highlights industry challenges and success stories in areas pertaining to public policies, personnel management, systems management, finance, and integrated technologies.
- *Reminder: FOI Training* – The Office of Corporation Counsel, in conjunction with the Town Clerk, will host two Freedom of Information Act sessions on March 14th. The 2:00 PM session will be for Town staff, and the 6:00 PM session is designed for boards, commissions, and elected officials; both sessions will be held in the Legislative Chambers, Room 314. Topics that will be discussed at the workshops include access to public records; responding to record requests; providing proper notice of meetings; structuring a proper agenda and minutes; and conducting meetings. The workshops will be led by Tom Hennick, Public Information Officer for the State of CT Freedom of Information Commission.
- *Free Business Advising available on Thursdays* - Confidential business advising for entrepreneurs in every stage of business and all industry sectors is being offered at Town Hall on Thursdays by appointment, 9AM-4PM. The service is made possible through a new partnership between the Connecticut Small Business Development Center and the Town of West Hartford. Call Business Advisor Denise Whitford at 860-576-5135 or visit www.ctsbdc.com to register. To learn more, tune in to WHC-TV on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM or watch on-demand, go to: https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=qpRFDQj_Qi8
- *Free Prescription Savings Program reintroduced* – The Town of West Hartford reminds residents of a prescription savings program that is available to all residents, free of charge. Through its association with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Town of West Hartford introduced the program in 2014 and now wants to share the information once again so residents can enjoy the savings. The program helps residents save money on their prescription medications any time their prescription is not covered by insurance. Items such as contact lens and hearing aid batteries are good examples. There are no enrollment forms, membership fees, restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cards can be obtained at CTRxDiscountCard.com.
- *MDC Blasting Notice* - Beginning the week of March 18th, construction work taking place at 100 Talcott Street in West Hartford will start blasting operations to create the retrieval shaft for the MDC's Tunnel Boring Machine. This work is part of the MDC's Clean Water Project (CWP) South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel (SHCST). The blasting is necessary to excavate the rock portion of the shaft to bring it to tunnel level. The MDC has notified properties closest to

and surrounding the project area. Residents and properties owners with questions may contact Jeff King, MDC Outreach Liaison, at 860.247.8437 or kingj@cdmsmith.com.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Free English classes for Adults* – Any West Hartford adult who would like to improve his or her English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills is welcome to attend any one of West Hartford Continuing Education's free English classes offered at several locations throughout town. For more information, please call (860) 561-6900, email WHContEd@whps.org, visit Room 419 in Town Hall, or go to the website: https://www.WHLifeLearn.org/Adult_Mandated/.
- *Conard High School presents Singin' In The Rain* – Conard High School's Musical Productions presents *Singin' In The Rain*, a story of 1920's movie stars who are struggling with the transition of silent films to "talkies." The show promises to keep you singin,' laughin,' and tappin' your toes. Performances will take place in the Conard auditorium at 7:00PM on March 15 and 16. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for children/students, and can be purchased at: www.ConardHighSchoolMusical.com
- *Hall High School's Pops 'N Jazz* - Hall High School's Pops 'n Jazz continues on March 14, 15, and 16 at Hall High School. This theatrically staged jazz show features 100 musicians and dancers from Hall's ensembles including Concert Jazz Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Dancers, Choraliers, and members of I Giovani Solisti. Professional guest artists include the New York Voices, Wycliffe Gordon, Javier Colon, and Alexa Tarantino! Rotating guest ensembles are from King Philip Middle School, Bristow Middle School, and Norfeldt and Aiken Elementary Schools. Ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students. Purchase on line at <https://HallHighJazz.tix.com/> or at the Hall High box office, Monday through Friday, 11:00AM-2:30PM.
- *A Child's World: Capturing the Moments Gala* - A Child's World: Capturing the Moments, the Children's Museum Annual Gala, will be held at Delamar West Hartford on Thursday, March 14, 5:30-8:30 PM. Join us for cocktails & hors d'oeuvres with special demonstrations and live animals, followed by a seated dinner. Hosted by Renee DiNino from Kiss 95.7FM. Contact Jennifer Holmes Weston, 860-726-4006, ext. 480, or visit the website: <http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org>.
- *WHC-TV Take 5 All-Access Party* - West Hartford Community Television is excited to hold its sixth annual Take 5 All Access Party, a fabulous event celebrating WHC-TV's 40 years of public service to the Town of West Hartford. The event will take place on Friday, March 15th at 7:00 PM at the Pond House Café, and feature a lively evening of cocktails, jazz by "Straight from the HARTT," and a silent auction. All are welcome. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased in-person at Moscarillo's Garden Shoppe, Cookshop Plus, and

West Hartford Community Television studio at Town Hall, or go to WHCTV.org. Every penny of funds raised at this event will go to support WHC-TV and the station's efforts to provide a community-driven media center.

- *Tavern Night: A Taste of Ireland* - The Noah Webster House's most popular Tavern Night is back! On March 15 or March 16 at 6:00 PM, enjoy a delicious homemade meal, a performance by Coogan School of Irish Dance, traditional Irish tunes by musician Tom Hooker Hanford, and historic tavern games. Tickets are \$40 per person for the general public and \$35 for museum members. Go to NoahWebsterHouse.org.
- *The Nutmeg State Orchid Society 10th annual Show and Sale* - Hundreds of beautiful orchids from all over the world will be on display by the Nutmeg State Orchid Society on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17 at the Town Hall Auditorium. The show hours are Saturday, March 16 from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday, March 17 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is \$10.00 (cash or check) for adults; children 12 & under are FREE.
- *Boy Scout Troop 146 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser* - Boy Scout Troop 146 invite you and your family to a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, March 23, 7:30-10:00AM, at West Hartford Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1358 New Britain Avenue. Proceeds support troop gear, campership funds, year round activities and annual historical trips. Tickets are \$10 per adult; \$25 for a family of four; children under 5 are free. Tickets are available at the door, cash or credit cards accepted. For more information, visit www.ScoutTroop146.com.
- *Johnny's Jog for Charity 5K* - Get ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style while benefiting three incredible non-profit children's organizations by participating in Johnny's Jog for Charity 5K on Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 AM held at Blue Back Square. Registration is at 9:00AM and the walk/run is at 10AM. Visit the website to register and more details: www.JohnnysJog.com
- *Stop/time dance theater presents Reel to Real* – Playhouse on Park's co-artistic director and co-founder Darlene Zoller returns with "REEL TO REAL," a dazzling original show that pays homage to both classic and contemporary American films. Performances are held March 27 to April 7. Call the box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.playhouseonpark.org for tickets.
- *West Hartford Women's Chorale Annual Festival of Women's Voices* - The West Hartford Women's Chorale will sponsor their annual Festival of Women's Voices on Saturday, March 30 at 4:15 PM in the Conard High School Auditorium. This special concert features an appearance by famed composer, arranger, and soprano Kathleen Allan. The proceeds from the festival concert benefit the Prudence Crandall Center, which has been providing comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence since 1973. For more information, visit www.WHWChorale.org

- *West Hartford's Cookin' Saturday* - The Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools will hold its popular annual fundraiser, *West Hartford's Cookin'*, on Saturday, March 30, from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Town Hall Auditorium. The event includes delicious food prepared by "celebrity" chefs, a drawing for Bridgewater Chocolate, and silent and live auctions. "Celebrity" chefs include local civic leaders, school administrators and education leaders throughout West Hartford. Tickets are \$60 for patrons and \$125 for benefactors and can be purchased on-line at www.FWHPS.org.
- *West Hartford Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert* - West Hartford Symphony Orchestra presents "American Music & Dance," on Sunday, March 31 at 3:00 PM in the Kingswood Oxford's Roberts Theater. The show features The Ballet Theatre Company of West Hartford, and musical performances that include Rodgers' *The Carousel Waltz*, Hanson's *Symphony #2 "Romantic,"* Copland's *An Outdoor Overture*, Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, and much more! Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for senior citizens and students. Call 860-521-4362 or go on-line WHSO.org.