



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 14, 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

- The Community Planning and Physical Services Committee meeting will be held on May 15 at 8:00 AM, Room 312.
- The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Economic Development meeting on May 20 has been canceled.
- The Finance Budget and Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22 at 6:00 PM (Room 312).
- The Human Services Committee meeting will be held on May 23 at 8:00 AM, Room 312
- The Public Hearing will be held on May 28 at 7:15 PM, Room 314, for an application regarding 527 Prospect Avenue.
- The next Town Council meeting will be held on May 28 at 7:30 PM (Room 314)

Staff Reports

- *Appointment of Elizabeth Hewitt as the WHPS Director of Finance and Planning - Elizabeth Hewitt will replace Chip Ward, Director of Finance and Planning for West Hartford Public Schools, upon his retirement on July 31st. Liz brings with her extensive experience in local government and a proven track record of responsible budgeting and financial management. After spending the first ten years of her career as a certified public accountant and financial controller, Liz was hired by the Town of West Hartford in 2001 and currently serves as the Town's Financial Operations Manager, responsible for the development of the Town's operating and capital budgets. Congratulations Liz!*

- *Kristen Gorski receives Economic Development Award* - Kristen Gorski, Economic Development Specialist, received an Honorable Mention as a “Community Favorite in Economic Development” at the 2019 Connecticut Entrepreneur Awards reception on April 18th. The award acknowledges her “outstanding performance and lasting contribution to the State of Connecticut.”
- *Public Information Session on Stormwater Study* - The Town has scheduled a public information session for 7:00 PM on June 6 concerning the upcoming storm and groundwater study that we will conduct over the next two fiscal years in two phases, as the Council approved in the recently adopted capital improvement program. We will hold this session in the Legislative Chambers at Town Hall and will specifically invite the residents of the Linbrook neighborhood. Town staff, our project consultant, and the MDC will all play a role in the presentation and Q&A. Council members are invited to attend on June 6 if available.
- *Police Department Monitors Contemporary Issues* - Several months ago Chief Vernon Riddick added “Contemporary Issues” to the Police Department's weekly staff meeting agenda as a recurring agenda topic. The purpose of this addition is to provide departmental personnel with an opportunity to discuss any hot button issues relating to law enforcement. Some examples of previously covered topics include pursuits, use of force, open carry, protests, and race relations. As a normal course of business the department reviews its policies, procedures, and training regarding contemporary issues. The department has continued this practice as it relates to the two high profile incidents that have recently occurred within our state.
- *Police Department offers Heartsaver® class for West Hartford restaurant employees* – Ten food-service employees from five West Hartford restaurants attended a three-hour CPR/AED class conducted by the West Hartford Police Department yesterday, Monday, May 13. The restaurants included Effie’s, Union Kitchen, McLadden’s, P.F. Changs, and the Doro Group. This class was designed for anyone with little or no medical training. On average the WHPD responds to one medical call a week at a restaurant, many of them heart related. The police department is also considering making this a program available to the general public in the future. The class was featured on News 8, WTNH.
- *Two officers receive MADD awards* - WHPD is proud to announce that Officers Peter Parlos and Daniel Bedford received awards from MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, at its Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony on May 7. The officers were acknowledged for their efforts in DUI education and combating drunk driving by aggressively identifying, stopping and ticketing more drunk drivers than any other officer at the police department in the past 12 months. This is Officer Bedford’s 6th award and Officer Parlos’ 3rd award from MADD.

- *New Housing Rehabilitation Specialist* – The Town welcomes Luan Ceka to the Department of Leisure and Social Services as the new Community Programs Coordinator who will oversee the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Luan came from the City of Hartford where he was their housing rehabilitation specialist.
- *Resurfacing of Fern Street* - The resurfacing of the intersection North Main Street and Fern Street began today, Tuesday, May 14. The project required the intersection to be closed to traffic to accommodate milling work. Fern Street, from North Main Street to Trout Brook Drive, including the intersections, is tentatively scheduled for repaving on Tuesday, May 21st and Wednesday, May 22nd (weather dependent). The same road closures and detours will be in place.
- *First Round of Paving begins* – The Town plans to repave the following road as part of its first of three repaving rounds:
 - Boulevard (Quaker Lane South to Whiting Lane)
 - Brookline Drive
 - Arlington Road
- *\$350,000 grant for building security* – The Department of Plant & Facilities received a grant for \$350,000 for security improvements to West Hartford public schools. To date, the Town has received \$1 million in grants for building security.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Bike to Work Day* - The Center for Latino Progress and BiCi Co will hold a West Hartford Bike-to-Work Day event on the morning of Friday, May 17. Meet at BiCi Co West, 616 New Park Ave., for coffee and then cyclists will head out at 7:15AM for the short 6.5 mile ride on bike paths and quiet streets to the Bike-to-Work festivities at Hartford's Statehouse Square. There is no fee to participate.
- *Neighbors From Around The World* - Please join us to hear personal stories told by immigrants with very different experiences on Thursday, May 16, 6:30-8:30PM, at the Noah Webster Library, Meeting Room, 20 South Main Street. This is a free event and open to everyone. Program sponsored by West Hartford Public Library and Golden Door: A Center for Immigrants.
- *Public Works Open House* - West Hartford's Department of Public Works will hold its 7th Annual Open House on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at its facility on 17 Brixton Street in observance of National Public Works Week. At the event children can sit in big trucks, while adults safely shred confidential papers and get all their recycling questions answered. You will also see the 2019 poster contest winners from local Girl Scout troops.

Attendees can enter a free drawing for 5 yards of landscaping mulch of their choice from Supreme Forest Products and a free bulky and metal waste pick-up. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the West Hartford Food Pantry to help a neighbor in need.

- *Flags on Veterans graves* - Help is needed to place American flags on 1200+ military graves at Fairview Cemetery on Saturday, May 25 at 8:30 AM. If you can help, simply come to Fairview Cemetery located at 200 Whitman Avenue. Please bring a screwdriver or similar tool to aid in planting the flags. For more information, contact Renee McCue, 860-561-7521.
- *Memorial Day Parade* – Last call to sign-up for the Memorial Day Parade which will be held on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 10:00 AM. To sign up, visit www.WestHartfordCt.gov/MemorialDayParade or call Renee McCue, 860-561-7521, or email renee@westhartfordct.gov. This year's Grand Marshal is John Danaher, a 97-year-old Bronze Star World War II veteran.
- *Memorial Day Ceremony* – Please join us immediately following the parade for a brief ceremony at the Veterans Memorial. This year's keynote speaker is Capt. Joseph Sanborn of Wreaths Across America. Matt Hart will serve as emcee and Rev. Dana Lee Hallenbeck will give the invocation. Other speakers include Mayor Shari Cantor and a student from the Witness Stones Project.
- *American Legion recognizes students entering the military* – On Tuesday, May 28 at 6:00 PM, the American Legion will hold a ceremony in the Town Hall Auditorium recognizing graduating high school students from West Hartford who will be entering the military or a ROTC college program in the fall. This year 16 students will be recognized.
- *Police & Citizen Awards* – The West Hartford Police Department will recognize police officers who have gone above the call of duty at its annual awards program on Wednesday, May 29 at 5:00 PM. Residents who assisted the police department will also be recognized. The program will be held in Room 314 at Town Hall.
- *33rd Annual Celebrate! West Hartford Road Races* - Time to dust off the sneakers and get ready to participate in the most family-friendly running event in the region, Celebrate! West Hartford Road Races on Sunday, June 2. The Kids Fun Run will begin at 8 AM and the 5K race will begin at 8:30 AM. Register by May 22 to be guaranteed a race shirt. Go to www.CelebrateWestHartford.com.