



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

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

- *Town Council* – The next regular Town Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on June 25, 2019. The Council has scheduled a public hearing for 7:15 PM that night regarding a Substitute Food Truck Ordinance filed by Gastro Park LLC.
- *Community Planning & Physical Services Committee* - The next Community Planning and Physical Services Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:00AM on June 19 in Room 312.
- *Administration & Technology Committee* - The next Administration & Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:00AM on July 1 in Room 312.

Staff Reports

- *Yard Waste & Recycling* – I would like to remind the Council and the community that effective July 1 the Town will return to biweekly collection of recyclable items, on the former A-B rotating schedule. Also on July 1 the Town will introduce its new biweekly yard waste collection service, which will run through October 31st this year and from April 1 – October 31 in future years. Yard waste collection will occur the *same* day as recycling collection. Residents should use biodegradable paper bags for yard waste or tie woody waste into 4' sections. Later this summer the Town will make separate yard waste collection barrels available for sale.
- *Annual maintenance at Cornerstone Aquatics Center* - the Cornerstone Aquatics Center is shutdown down for annual maintenance from June 3 through June 14; this year we will replace a portion of the roof and complete various structural repairs.

- *Dog License Renewals* - June is dog license month in Town Clerks' offices throughout the state, and the West Hartford Town Clerk's Office mailed reminders to over 3,000 dog owners, urging them to make their pets "legal."

According to state law, all dogs over 6 months of age must be registered and receive a dog tag annually. The annual cost for dog licenses is \$19.00 for unaltered animals and \$8.00 for neutered or spayed animals.

- *Park Road/I-84 Update* - Work continues at the intersection of Park Road and Trout Brook Drive with the installation of granite curbing and concrete sidewalks. The contractor will also be working on the north side of Park Road directly across from the new off ramp constructing a new stone "Welcome" wall to better align with the new off ramp. Traffic impacts will involve short-term lane closures and some turning movements may be prohibited at certain times.

Roadway reconstruction work will also resume on Park Road between Raymond Road and Thomson Road. During the work day, Park Road will be reduced to one travel lane in each direction. The road will be fully re-opened at the end of each day, however the surface will be temporary crushed stone and will be very rough.

Motorists are urged to use caution when traveling through the project area and expect delays. When feasible, please avoid the project area and seek alternate routes including Interchange 41 (South Main Street), 42 (Trout Brook Drive), and 44 (Prospect Avenue/Kane Street).

- *Town of West Hartford unveils new logo and seal* – On May 31, the Town introduced its new seal and logo to the community at Celebrate! West Hartford. The images have been well received by the public.

Simple, memorable, timeless, versatile, and appropriate are words that best describe the new logo and seal. The blue and gold logo and seal were inspired by the clock tower on the old Town Hall building in West Hartford Center and pays homage to the town's history.

The logo is the first step in a multi-level branding campaign that includes a new website for the Town of West Hartford, as well as a new resident promotional brochure.

The new logo will also be used for new printed material (letterhead, envelopes, and business cards) and official documents. We'll replace our existing inventory of printed material as it is depleted.

- *School is out; construction season begins* – Our West Hartford Public Schools will end the 2018-2019 school year on Friday, June 14. For our Capital Projects team, this means the ten-week rush to get building improvements completed in time for opening day is on! The top major projects for the Summer of 2019 are:
 - Roof replacements at Hall High School, Sedgwick Middle School, and Morley School
 - Flooring replacements at Duffy and King Philip Middle School
 - Electrical switchgear replacement at King Philip Middle School
 - Auditorium seating replacement at Sedgwick Middle School
 - Front door/window wall replacement at Town Hall
 - Masonry repairs at Hall, Morley and Sedgwick.
 - Main office reconfiguration and security improvements at Bugbee School
 - Synthetic turf replacement and security improvements at Hall High School
 - Security entrance enhancements at Aiken, Conard, Webster Hill schools

- *Outdoor pools open June 22* – Beginning Saturday, June 22, we will open our outdoor pools for public swimming at four neighborhood parks: Kennedy, Beachland, Fernridge and Eisenhower. Swim lessons will begin on June 24 and the pools will remain open through Sunday, August 18.

- *Run. Hide. Fight.* – On June 5, management staff viewed an instructional video from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on what to do if an active shooter threatens one of West Hartford’s municipal buildings. The “Run. Hide. Fight.” video was followed by a discussion led by Chief of Police Vernon Riddick and Risk Manager Lisa Michaud. This is the first in a series of steps the Town will be making in the months ahead to provide our employees with tools and information on how to handle life-threatening incidents.

Outside Agencies

- *MDC Household Hazardous Waste* - From 8:00AM to 1:00PM on Sunday, June 23, the MDC will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Hall High School, 975 North Main Street. The event is free and open to all MDC member communities.

Collect your household waste items in their original containers, place them in a box and bring them to the collection site on June 23; the MDC will handle the rest. Typical items include kitchen cleaners, garage and workshop chemicals, and yard insecticides and hobby solvents, to name a few. For a complete list, visit www.TheMDC.com.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- *Pride Flag Raising* – All are invited to a Pride Flag Raising ceremony scheduled for 8:30AM tomorrow, June 12 on Goodman Green in West Hartford Center. The West Hartford Human Rights Commission is sponsoring the event.
- *Connecticut Summerfest 2019* - Connecticut Summerfest brings together talented emerging composers with some of the country's most inventive chamber music ensembles for a week-long festival. The free concert series is held on June 14, 15, 16, and 18 at 8:00PM in Berkman Recital Hall at the University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford.
- *Park to Park Walk* - Friends of Fern are leading a Park to Park Walk on Saturday, June 15. The trek around town begins at 7:00AM from Fernridge Park. Then, the group will visit Wolcott, Beachland, Kennedy, Vanderbilt, and Eisenhower parks and end back at Fernridge Park by mid-afternoon. Visit Friends of Fern webpage to learn more.
- *Japan Summer Festival* - The 6th Annual Japan Summer Festival is a free, one-day celebration of Japanese culture that will be held on Saturday, June 15, 12:00-5:30PM, at Webster Walk in Blue Back Square. The festival features a powerful drumming performance, a cosplay contest, a kendo and karate demonstrations, dance performances, an origami workshop, Japanese food, and much more.
- *West Hartford's Make Music Day* - International MAKE MUSIC DAY is celebrated yearly on June 21. This year, West Hartford will host four events at Webster Walk in Blue Back Square from 4:00 to 9:00PM. The event is organized by West Hartford Library. The line-up includes:
 - Nekita Waller, Connecticut's State Troubadour, at 4:00 PM
 - Harmonic Happiness at 4:30 PM. Show your library card and receive your own harmonica for free, while supplies last.
 - Jake Kulak and the LowDown, a blues-rock band, at 6:00 PM
 - Audio Jane at 7:30 PM, an atmospheric rock band
- *Blood Drive* - The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Tuesday, June 25, 12:00-5:30PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. To make an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS.
- *17th Annual Ferrari and Friends Concorso* - On Sunday, June 23, hundreds will descend on LaSalle Road for the 17th Annual Ferrari and Friends Concorso benefiting Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Make a Wish.

More than 150 of the finest high-powered Italian sports cars, including Ferraris, Maseratis, Lamborghinis, Fiats, and Alfa Romeos will be on display. The event runs from 10:00AM to 3:00PM and is open to the public, free of charge.

- Playhouse on Park presents *The Scottsboro Boys* - Playhouse on Park has the honor of being able to share a piece of history with the community with its summer musical, THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS, running June 26 - August 4.

Nominated for a staggering 12 Tony Awards, THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS will have you tapping your toes and hollering for justice as the tables are turned on one of the most infamous events in American history: nine African-American men accused of a crime they did not commit.

Tickets are now on sale, and range from \$40-\$50. For more information or tickets, call the box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.playhouseonpark.org.

- *Summer Family Dance Party* -The West Hartford Library's Children's Division presents a Summer Family Dance Party at Webster Walk at Blue Back Square on Thursday, June 27, 6:30-7:30PM. Free, Open to all.