



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: June 25, 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

- *Administration & Technology Committee* - The next Administration & Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:00AM on July 1 in Room 312.
- *Town Council - Town Council* - The next regular Town Council Meeting will be held on July 16 at 6:30 PM (Room 314). The Council has scheduled two public hearings that night. The Council will hold the first public hearing at 5:30 PM that on the Ordinance of Designating Intersections to be Regulated against Blockage under C.G.S. 14-250b (a) and the second at 5:40 PM on an Application for 10-60 Starkel Road.

Staff Reports

- *Biweekly Yard Waste & Recycling begins July 1* – Beginning next week, we will switch back to biweekly recycling and will introduce a new biweekly yard waste collection. I wanted to take a few minutes to explain the reasons that are driving this decision. The number one factor is that the pilot for weekly collection resulted in only a 1.4% increase in the recycling rate. At an incremental cost of approximately \$400,000, that is hard to justify.

In addition, we are optimistic that the new yard waste program will prove successful and help remove a large percentage of yard waste material that winds up in people's trash bins. While residents are not supposed to place yard waste in the trash receptacles, it does happen frequently. This is a significant issue for the Town, as we are fined by the waste disposal facility when our trash is contaminated by yard waste.

If residents find that their barrel is overflowing with recyclable material, they have two options. First, residents may subscribe to Paines for a second recycling barrel at an annual cost of approximately \$80/yr. Second, residents may dispose of recyclable items at the Yard Waste & Recycling Center at 17 Brixton Street.

Residents can find more information regarding these two options on the Town's website.

- *Park Road/I-84 Update* – Over the past two weeks, the contractor has been reconstructing Park Road between Raymond Road and Thomson Road. Weather delayed the paving and our contractor expects to resume paving tomorrow.

Upon completion of the paving, work will move to Phase 4. The contractor will begin removing pavement and reconstructing the north side of Park Road between the Off-Ramp and Trout Brook Drive. In order to perform this work safely, the contractor will need to close the work zone to all traffic 24 hours per day for approximately a three-week period.

Signed detours will be in place and traffic movements through the intersection of Trout Brook Drive and Park Road will be restricted.

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 such as Interchange 41 (South Main Street), 42 (Trout Brook Drive), and 44 (Prospect Avenue/Kane Street).

- *Round 2 Street Paving* – The Town has completed Round 1 of its street paving program. The only remaining item is to install new pavement markings, which we expect our contractor will complete within the next couple of weeks. The following roads are slated for paving in Round 2, which will begin the week of July 8:
 - Davenport Road
 - Laurel Drive
 - Richmond Lane
 - Richmond Road
 - Day Road
 - Hilldale Road
 - Peyote Road
 - Quaker Lane South (Talcott Rd. to New Britain Ave.)

Please note, Quaker Lane South was just paved last year, but unfortunately there was an issue with the quality of the asphalt. This section is being resurfaced at the contractor's expense since the project was under warranty.

- *Boulevard Drainage Improvement Work* - The Town's drainage contractor is replacing the storm drainage pipe and making storm drainage structure repairs on the Boulevard between Wardwell and Sunset Terrace. This portion of the Boulevard is currently closed to through traffic 24 hours a day, primarily due to the location of the work zone in proximity to the intersection of Wardwell Road. Once this portion of the work is complete, the roadway will be re-opened to traffic at the end of the work day. The contractor's work hours may vary but are

approximately 7AM to 3PM. Staff expects the contractor to complete the entire project by Wednesday, July 3.

- *Refunding Bond Sale* – Last Friday, June 21, the Town announced the sale of \$19.9 million in bonds sold to refinance bonds previously issued by the Town. As a result of the refinancing, the Town will realize a total of \$1.85 million in savings over the next six fiscal years. The present value of the future savings totals approximately \$1.78 million or 8.0% of the face value of the prior bonds. The savings will reduce the remaining debt service payments associated with bonds issued to finance the Blue Back Square Project.

Due to the Town's strong name in the municipal bond market and superior credit ratings, the Town received orders for up to \$51.3 million in bonds or more than 2.5 times the amount of bonds that were offered. As I stated in my email to the Council last week, the results we achieved are a testament to our collective efforts to manage the Town's finances in a prudent and responsible way. In particular, I would like to commend Finance Director Peter Privitera and our consulting team for their excellent work on this transaction.

- *Brace Road lot converts to kiosk system* – The Brace Road municipal lot will be converted to a kiosk system in the first part of July. Parking attendants will be on hand to assist customers and act as ambassadors during the transition. For PassportParking app users, this lot will be zone 475. There will be a 30-minute grace period, just like the Farmington Avenue lot, and those using the lot would follow the same procedure at the kiosk to select the free 30-minute option.

Kiosks are used nationwide and are the best option for paid parking. Customers have the flexibility of using coin or credit card or the PassportParking app.

- *Final Reminder: June is Dog License Renewal Month* - 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.

Announcements & Events

- *Playhouse on Park presents The Scottsboro Boys* - Playhouse on Park has the honor of being able to share a piece of history with its summer musical, THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS, which opens tomorrow, June 26 and runs through 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 range from \$40-\$50. For more information, 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 free Summer Family Dance Party at Webster Walk at Blue Back Square on Thursday, June 27, 6:30-7:30 PM. Free, Open to all.
- *The Merry Wives of Windsor* - Summer is the perfect time for Shakespeare under the stars! Capital Classics presents “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” is a bawdy and riotous romp that stars one of Shakespeare’s most beloved comic characters. Falstaff, an impoverished knight in search of wealth, sets his sights on two married wealthy women. Little does he know, these “merry wives” have a few tricks up their sleeves. The event is held outside on the campus of the University of St. Joseph. The show runs July 11 through July 28, Thursday through Sunday. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for senior citizens and children. Go to CapitalClassics.org/OnStage.
- *Free Concerts at Blue Back Square* - There are free concerts and performances at Webster Walk in Blue Back Square almost every day of the week. Check out the calendar by going to WestHartfordCT.gov/BlueBackSquare and click on Calendar.
- *Coming up in July* - Lime Rock Motor Car Stroll will be held on Saturday, July 13, 10AM to 3PM, on Isham Road at Blue Back Square. The event is free. Also, the Taste of Blue Back Square will be held on Wednesday, July 31 in the Raymond Road lot from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$40 for General Admission and \$50 for VIP. Go to BlueBackSquare.com/Events for tickets.