



50 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107
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Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: July 16, 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

- *Community Planning and Physical Services Committee* – The Community Planning and Physical Services Committee meeting will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, July 17 at 8:00 AM (Room 312). I have invited members of the TPZ and youth sports league representatives to the meeting for a discussion on the proposed sponsorship signage ordinance.
- *Public Safety Committee* – The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be on Thursday, July 18 at 8:00 AM (Room 312). This meeting will include a review of a portion of the fire department efficiency study.
- *Finance Budget and Personnel Committee* – The Finance Budget and Personnel Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30 PM (Room 312).
- *Human Services Committee* – The Human Services Committee scheduled for July 25 has been canceled.
- *Town Council* - The next regular Town Council Meeting will be held on August 13 at 6:30 PM (Room 314).

Staff Reports

- *Park Road/I-84 Update* – The contractor is making great progress and is now in Phase 5 of 7. This phase is more disruptive because the work zone extends through the intersection of Trout Brook Drive for the next 2-3 weeks.

Park Road will be closed to westbound traffic 24 hours per day between Quaker Lane South and the I-84 ramps. Trout Brook Drive will be closed to all traffic 24 hours per day between Park Road and Boulevard. Signed detours will be in place and local access to residential properties and businesses will be maintained at all times. Motorists are urged to avoid the project area and seek alternate routes.

- *North Main Street Bridge* – Great news! The CT Department of Transportation has notified the Town that state funding has been restored for the renovation of the North Main Street bridge. This infrastructure project is a critically important project to the Town and region as approximately 20,000 cars from the region cross it each day. The bridge was constructed in 1901 and is in need of significant repair. I would like to thank and acknowledge the members of our state delegation, in particular State Representative Joe Verrengia with a special assist from Jonathan Harris, former Undersecretary at OPM and now a senior advisor to the Governor, for their assistance in restoring the state funding for this project. Work may commence in the fall 2019.

In addition, the Town will begin work on the Braeburn Road bridge in August. As we get closer to the start of the new school year, town engineers will coordinate with the principal at Braeburn School.

- *Summer Capital Projects* - Our Capital Projects team is making progress on several major building improvements including:
 - Roof replacements at Sedgwick Middle School, Morley School and Cornerstone Aquatics Center are substantially complete.
 - Flooring abatement and installation at King Philip Middle School and Duffy School are nearly complete. The electrical switchgear was also replaced at KP.
 - New auditorium seating at Sedgwick Middle School should be done by the end of the week.
 - Masonry repairs at Hall, Morley and Sedgwick are in progress.
 - Synthetic turf replacement and security improvements at Hall High School are underway.
 - Security entrance enhancements at Aiken, Conard, Webster Hill schools and progressing well too.
- *Excessive Heat Advisory* – An Excessive Heat Warning will be in place from Friday, July 19 through Monday, July 22. The Town will be sharing tips on staying cool and signs of heat exhaustion via social media. Residents may take refuge at our public libraries, senior centers, town pools, and splash pads. Other locations that are open and air conditioned include the West Farms Mall. We ask that residents remember to check on elderly neighbors. As always, the Police and Fire Departments will be fully staffed and prepared to respond in any emergency. If have any questions or concerns, please feel 860-523-5203.

Our town offices are taking energy conservation measures by turning off equipment and air conditioning at the end of each workday.

- *New Assistant Town Engineer appointed* – I am pleased to announce that on July 2 Greg Sommer was promoted to the position of Assistant Town Engineer. The position was re-established in the FY2020 budget after many years of being vacant. Greg will be responsible for the review and issuance of Right of Way permits and will lead a variety of infrastructure and transportation improvement projects. He was initially hired by the Town as a Civil Engineer II in January of 2012.
- *Lisa Newton appointed as Financial Operations Manager* - I am also pleased to announce that Lisa Newton has been appointed to fill the Financial Operations Manager position that will be vacated by Liz Hewitt at the end of the month. Lisa had previously worked in the Finance Department as an Accounting Manager, then moved to the administration offices of West Hartford Public Schools, also as an Accounting Manager. Lisa is a CPA and has worked for the Town and Schools for over twenty years. She is very familiar with Finance Department operations and I anticipate a smooth transition. She will start in her new position on July 29.
- *Farewell to Robert McCue* – Lastly, on Wednesday, July 17, thirty-nine years to the day, Assistant Chief Robert T. McCue will retire from the West Hartford Police Department. He served as a patrol officer from 1980 to 1985, then a Detective from 1985 to 1989. In 1989, he was promoted to his first supervisory position as Sergeant. He was appointed Detective Lieutenant of the Special Investigations Division in May 1993 and Assistant Chief of Police in 1996, a position he has held for 23 years.

Recruitment to fill the Assistant Chief position is underway.

Announcements & Events

- *Playhouse on Park presents The Scottsboro Boys* - Playhouse on Park presents THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS now through August 4. Tickets range from \$40-\$50. For more information, call the box office at 860-523-5900 x10 or visit www.PlayhouseOnPark.org.
- *The Merry Wives of Windsor* - Capital Classics presents "The Merry Wives of Windsor," held outside on the campus of the University of St. Joseph now through July 28. Go to CapitalClassics.org/OnStage for tickets.
- *Senior Picnic* - West Hartford Police Officers' Association will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs at the annual Senior Picnic on Wednesday, July 17 at the Town Hall Auditorium from 12:00PM to 2:30 PM. Entertainment provided by The Trobadours. Tickets are limited to 200 people on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call (860) 561-7583 for tickets.
- *Taste of Blue Back Square* - The Taste of Blue Back Square will be held on Wednesday, July 31 on Isham Road from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The evening will consist of a fabulous food sampling from Blue Back Square and The Center restaurants. Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$50 for VIP. Please visit BlueBackSquare.com/Events for tickets.