



Memo

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

- *Fire Study Workshop #2 cancelled* – The workshop originally scheduled for August 20 at 6:30 PM has been cancelled. The Public Safety Committee will resume its detailed review of the study in September.
- *Public Hearing* – At the request of the applicant, the Town Council will hold its Public Hearing regarding the Application for 10-60 Starkel Road (Fellowship Housing) on September 10 at 6:00 PM (Rm 314).
- *Town Council* - The next regular Town Council Meeting will be held on September 10 at 7:30 PM (Rm 314).

Staff Reports

- *Park Road/I-84 Update* – Construction continues along the south side of Park Road at the intersection of Trout Brook Drive (Phase 6). The contractor is preparing to pave this section of roadway on August 22 (weather dependent). Assuming everything goes to plan, the Town expects to re-open Park Road to traffic by the end of next week, August 23.

In the meantime, Park Road will remain closed to westbound traffic 24 hours per day between Quaker Lane South and the I-84 ramps. Trout Brook Drive will be closed to southbound traffic 24 hours per day between Boulevard and Park Road. Trout Brook will also be closed to northbound traffic between White Avenue and Park Road. Eastbound traffic on Park Road will be able to turn left to travel north of Trout Brook Drive or proceed straight, but will not be able to turn right.

Construction activities will continue along Park Road after the paving of Phase 6, with only minor traffic impacts and temporary lane closures. This work will be in preparation for the final paving of Park Road over the entire limits of the project.



The final paving work is tentatively scheduled to be performed in mid-September and will occur at night to minimize traffic impacts. The remaining landscaping is expected to be installed in September/October and will bring the project to substantial completion.

- *West Hartford Center Paving* – Engineering staff has scheduled paving in West Hartford Center for September 16 and 17 (weather dependent). The Town’s contractor will perform this work at night in order to minimize the disruption to businesses. Paving will occur on LaSalle Road, from Arapahoe Road to Farmington Avenue, and on Farmington Avenue, from Walden Street to South Main Street. Paving will occur only in the travel lanes and not in parking spaces. This is a stop-gap measure until all utility work is completed. Paver crosswalks will not be disturbed.
- *Appointment of Fire Training Officer* – I am pleased to announce that Fire Chief Priest recently appointed CPT Jarrad Smith as the department’s Training Officer. The Training Officer is responsible for assessing the training needs of the department, formulating training plans, implementing comprehensive in-service training programs, and providing new employees with orientation. CPT Smith was named Firefighter of the Year in 2011 and is an excellent choice for this role.
- *Brittany Stephenson appointed to Playhouse on Park board of directors* - Brittany Stephenson and three others were recently appointed to the Playhouse Theatre Group, Inc. Board of Directors and will serve a three-year term. She is the newly elected President of the Young Professional Advisory Board for the Playhouse on Park and serves on its Marketing and *Scottsboro Boys* Education & Outreach committees. She is also an active member of the Greater Hartford Urban League Young Professionals.
- *Relocation of Food Pantry and Staff* – The West Hartford Food Pantry and a few Social Services functions will be relocated from the third floor to the first floor, making it easier for residents to access services. The office staff will occupy Room 134 and the West Hartford Public Schools Residency Office will move to the former credit union space. The Food Pantry will relocate across the hall from Room 134. The WHPS Transportation Office will move to the fourth floor, Room 417.
- *Town Hall notification system* – Staff has tested the Town Hall notification system that we recently installed in the hallways, stairwells, and offices and it is ready for use. The system allows the Town to broadcast a message to employees and others in the building and is part of the Town’s larger efforts to enhance safety and security. In addition, the Town installed 40 security cameras at Town Hall and Cornerstone Aquatics Center. Next, we will install cameras at the libraries, skating rink, and Rockledge Golf Course.



- *Fernridge Pool stays open an extra week* – Fernridge Pool will remain open one extra week after the rest of the pools close on Sunday, August 18, thanks to the staff at Cornerstone Aquatics Center. Fernridge Pool will remain open from Monday, August 19 through Saturday, August 24, 11 AM to 6 PM each day. Punch cards will be accepted but will no longer be sold.
- *Filling Fire Dept. vacancies* – In an effort to fill a more than a dozen vacancies created by recent retirements, the Town will send thirteen new firefighters to the CT Fire Academy on August 26. All new recruits are licensed paramedics; I wish them well in the academy.
- *Annual Rink Shutdown* - In order to prepare for the upcoming winter season, the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink will shut down from Monday, August 26 to Monday, September 2 to complete various repairs and improvements. The rink will reopen on Tuesday, September 3.



Announcements & Events

- *Mayor's Charity Ball* – Tickets are on sale now for The Mayor's Charity Ball on its new date - Saturday, September 7th. The ball is open to all who want a fun night out while supporting two great causes: Playhouse on Park and The Town That Cares. The gala includes a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, open bar and a three-course dinner by the DORO Group. Entertainment will be provided by Playhouse on Park's MAMA D's cast of performers. Tickets for the Mayor's Charity Ball are \$200 per person. Visit TheMayorsCharityBall.org for tickets.
- *The Power of Maps* - The public is invited to explore West Hartford geography and view stunning hand drawn maps of the region at a discussion on Thursday, August 15 at 6:30 PM at the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society. The event is free and open to the public. Please consider a \$5 donation to support future museum programs.
- *Fernridge Pool stays open an extra week* – Fernridge Pool will remain open one extra week after the rest of the pools close on Sunday, August 18, thanks to the staff at Cornerstone Aquatics Center. Fernridge Pool will remain open from Monday, August 19 through Saturday, August 24, 11 AM to 6 PM each day. Punch cards will be accepted but will no longer be sold.
- *Pooch Plunge* – The 11th annual Pooch Plunge will be held at Beachland Park on Monday, August 19 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. There will only be one session this year so come and go whenever you want. Buy a ticket in advance, for a minimum donation of \$10. Proceeds benefit the West Hartford Dog Park Coalition.
- *Center Streets* - Folks of all ages are invited to "take to the streets" for a carefree and car-free summer morning in West Hartford Center on Sunday, August 25th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This 4th annual free, family-friendly event includes live music, sidewalk chalk drawing, safe biking demonstrations, and more. The town will close traffic on four roads that form a rectangular loop around the central business district: Farmington Avenue, South Main Street, Memorial Road Extension, and LaSalle Road.
- *Red Cross Blood Drive Battle of the Badges* - West Hartford Police and Fire Departments are sponsoring their 'Battle of the Badges' Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 10th from 12:00PM to 5:30 PM at the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium. When you sign up, please indicate if you're on Team PD or Team FD, as both teams are vying for bragging rights for the most donors. Regardless of which team you are on, please come out and give to this very worthwhile cause. Register at www.RedCrossBlood.org, enter code WHTH.