



## **Memo**

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: November 12, 2019  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

### **Council Business & Meetings**

- *Organizational meeting* – Congratulations to all of our returning councilors, and welcome to Councilors Carol Anderson-Blanks and Lee Gold. I look forward to working with you all during the next council term. We have scheduled the organizational meeting of the new Town Council for 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. At that meeting we will also have the opportunity to thank outgoing Councilors Barnes and Dodge for their service.
- *December 2019 Council meeting* – The Town Council's December meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 PM on Monday, December 16. The incoming Council will be asked to confirm this date and time at the November 19<sup>th</sup> organizational meeting.

### **Staff Reports**

- *Voter participation up* – The Town Clerk's Office noted that Election Day participation was up compared to the last Municipal Election in 2017. On November 5, 34.29% or 13,959 registered voters cast their votes for the Town Council and Board of Education. In 2017, 32.38% or 12,584 voted in the municipal election. West Hartford has 40,700 total voters.
- *Intersection of Boulevard & Four Mile Road* – Our Engineering Division have been monitoring this intersection for some time now as we have seen an elevated number of crashes at this intersection, including three in the last week. Staff is scheduling a meeting with a number of residents that live in the vicinity of the intersection to discuss the installation of temporary traffic diverters on Four Mile that will prevent the crossing of Boulevard. The vast majority of accidents have involved north and southbound drivers hitting cars on Boulevard. Since we are heading into winter, we will use temporary measures, including pylons and signage. We will evaluate effectiveness of this control measure and construct permanent diverters in 2020 if the trial is successful. The diverter that the Town constructed at Whiting Lane and Boulevard has reduced the number of crashes at that location. Once we have an implementation schedule for the temporary measures, we will send a direct mail piece to the broader neighborhood.



- *CT2030 Plan* – As I am sure that you all have heard, last week Governor Lamont released his proposed *CT2030 Plan*, a 10-year \$21.1B plan to upgrade transportation infrastructure across the state. One of the proposed projects includes exit and traffic flow improvements and replacing the crossing over Berkshire Rd. on I-84 through West Hartford. The estimated project costs totals \$75-110M. The project would be funded in part through user fees or tolls, and the gantry would be located in the vicinity of the Berkshire Rd. crossing. Under the Governor’s proposal, there would be some revenue sharing for municipalities that host gantries.

I wish to emphasize that the gantry placement has not been set and must be evaluated during the environmental and design phases of the project. The CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will evaluate and assess the placement of individual gantries as part of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Under NEPA, CTDOT will need to conduct a detailed evaluation and solicit public input on the proposed gantry locations. The public and each municipality will have an opportunity to weigh in during the formulation of the NEPA document. Tomorrow, Mayor Cantor and I will meet with the members of our state delegation to learn more about the proposed *CT2030 Plan* and its implications for West Hartford. We will report back to the Council through the appropriate Council committee.

- *Town battles two major weather storms* – I would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of our Public Works team, along with the Police and Fire Department, who worked around the clock to clear fallen trees in our roadways. The two storms blew through the region on October 18 and November 1. Our DPW tree crew in particular deserves a great deal of credit. Fifteen years ago the Town made the decision to hire skilled arborists; that decision has paid off in times of emergencies.
- *Fire Department welcomes new leadership* – The West Hartford Fire Department welcomes Robert Grimaldi as the new Deputy Fire Marshal working within the Community Risk Reduction Division (Fire Safety) led by Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Michael Sinsigalli. Rob is coming to us from the Bristol Fire Department where he served for over 28 years, including the last six years as Bristol’s Fire Marshal.
- *Steve Huleatt retires* – Later this month, we will bid Steve Huleatt a happy retirement. He is the first director of the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District and has served the Town of West Hartford for 37 years. I look forward to thanking Steve for his service and many contributions to our community at a celebration that we will hold from 5:00-7:00 PM on December 5 at Rockledge Grille; Councilors are welcome to attend this event.



- *Library's Kindness Project* - The West Hartford Public Libraries' Third Annual Kindness Project is now underway through November 30. In spirit of compassion and kindness towards others, the Library is asking residents to consider donating toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper and paper towels), feminine hygiene products, baby essentials (diapers, wipes, washcloths, pacifiers), first aid supplies and school supplies. Donations will stock the shelves of the Food Pantry. Donations may be dropped off at any of the three libraries.
- *Thanksgiving Day holiday closings* - West Hartford Town Hall, municipal offices, libraries, senior centers, community center, and public schools will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2019 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Trash collection will be delayed by one day only in the Thursday and Friday collection areas.

## **Announcements & Events**

- *West Hartford Food Pantry needs Holiday Volunteers* - The West Hartford Food Pantry is gearing up for the upcoming holiday season. Volunteers are needed to help sort, date check and shelve food. The pantry is located in Town Hall. Volunteer must be 18 years or older and able to lift 25lbs. To learn more, please contact Barbara Roberts, Volunteer Coordinator at 860 561-7567.
- *Census Recruitment Fair, December 4* – The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. To learn more and to apply, West Hartford is holding two Recruitment Fairs on Wednesday, December 4. The first event will be held at the Town Hall Auditorium, 9:00AM to Noon, and the second will be held at Elmwood Community Center, 5:00-7:00 PM.
- *A SHAYNA MAIDEL* - Playhouse on Park's season continues with Barbara Lebow's A SHAYNA MAIDEL, running now through November 17. A SHAYNA MAIDEL is a powerful drama of survival and strength about two sisters trying to reconnect after years of separation brought on by the Holocaust. Visit [www.PlayhouseonPark.org](http://www.PlayhouseonPark.org) for more information and tickets.
- *Mama Mia!* -West Hartford Community Theater presents *Mamma Mia!*, the popular jukebox musical based on the songs of ABBA. *Mamma Mia!* has been described as "the ultimate feel-good show." *Mamma Mia!* will be performed at Hall High School on Nov. 15, 16, 22, and 23, at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 17 & 24, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [westhartfordtheater.org](http://westhartfordtheater.org) or by calling 860-830-3174.