



Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: January 14, 2020
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

- *Standing committee meetings* – I am pleased to report that all of the Council standing committees that meet on a regular basis have adopted a schedule for 2020. Here are the committee meetings for the remainder of this month:
 - Finance & Budget Committee - 6:00 PM, Jan. 21
 - Government Affairs Committee - 5:00 PM, Jan. 22
 - Public Works & Facilities Committee – 8:00 AM, Jan. 23
- *Town Council meeting*- The Council's next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on January 28, 2020. There are two public hearings scheduled prior: the first will be held at 6:15PM regarding the application for 1445-1459 New Britain Avenue; and the second will be held at 7:00 PM on the ordinance permitting sponsorship signage in municipal parks.

Staff Reports

- *North Main Street Bridge Project* – The Engineering Division will hold a public information meeting at 6:00 PM tomorrow, January 15, in Rm. 400 at Town Hall regarding the North Main Street bridge rehabilitation project. Work is anticipated to begin this winter.
- *Curbside yard waste pick-up resumes in April* - Due to the incredibly warm, Spring-like weather this past weekend, some residents completed some yard maintenance projects. Yard waste material should be recycled; however, Public Works' curbside collection program is suspended during the winter months. The collection program will resume in early April. Yard waste can be dropped off at the Town's Yard Waste and Recycling Center, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- *Christmas tree collection* - This is the last week for curbside Christmas tree collection as the two-week collection period ends on Friday, January 17. If you missed the collection, you can dropped off your tree at the Yard Waste and Recycling Center, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.



- *Fire Department welcomes new firefighters* - Nine new firefighter/paramedics graduated the Fire Academy, completed their field training and are now obtaining their clearance to operate as paramedics. The Fire Department is very happy to have this influx of staff to help fill its vacant positions.
- *Technology Update* – As of Friday, the WiFi at all schools have been upgraded to 2 gigabits, making the transfer of data faster on all devices. In addition, 40 security cameras at Town Hall are now live. They capture movement outside, in the stairwells and in the hallways.
- *Town Hall front door* – Next Tuesday, January 21, work will resume on the front door of town hall and will take two weeks to complete. There were some issues with the glass not fitting properly and parts had to be re-ordered.

Announcements & Events

- *Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration* - Join us for the 24th annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the West Hartford Town Hall auditorium, 50 South Main Street, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. The celebration is free and open to people of all ages. This year's keynote speaker is Wanjiku "Wawa" N. Gatheru. She is the first Rhodes Scholar ever elected from the University of Connecticut. The 2020 celebration also includes a welcome from Mayor Shari Cantor and a prayer by Kalidas Sharma of the Nepalese community. Police Chief Vernon Riddick, Jr. will serve as master of ceremonies.

Each year two students from the public high schools are selected to give student perspectives on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year, Eshe Griffith of Conard High School and Isabella Galm of Hall High School, were chosen. The event features musical performances by the Conard High School Jazz Combo, Sedgwick Middle School *Sounds* and Conard High School's Voice of the World choir.

- *State of the Town* - The Mayor's State of the Town luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 28th at the Delamar Hotel. Mayor Shari Cantor will discuss the past year and plans for the future at this annual luncheon. The presentation is both engaging and informative for anyone who lives or does business in West Hartford. Please visit to www.whchamber.com to register or call the Chamber offices at (860) 521-2300 for more information.
- *Transition to Kindergarten* – West Hartford Public Schools will hold an information meeting for parents and caregivers who have children that will attend kindergarten in the fall 2020. The event will be held on Monday January 27, 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Town Hall Auditorium. The snow date is Monday, February, 3, 2020. RSVP to RSVPGreatBy8@gmail.com



- *Trees of West Hartford Gallery Reception and Awards Ceremony* – On Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 PM, the West Hartford Library will hold a gallery reception and awards reception for the 'Trees of West Hartford' exhibit, at 20 South Main Street. Reservations requested; all are welcome.
- *Children's Charity Ball* - Please join Honorary Chairs John and Judy Bierly and Paul and Mary Butler for the 21st annual Children's Charity Ball, an elegant black-tie evening featuring a cocktail reception, dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing for 350 guests. The event is held at the Hartford Golf Club on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at 6:00 PM. Scot Haney, Channel 3 Meteorologist and Co-host of "Better Connecticut" continues to serve as the emcee. Contact the Bridge Family Center for tickets at 860-521-8035.