



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

The Westport Domestic Violence Task Force (WDVTF) would like to inform the community that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence does not discriminate. It affects persons of all age, religion, race, sexual orientation and economic status. In 2016, the Westport Police Department responded to 95 domestic violence calls, proving that Westport, like all communities, is not immune to the problem.

The Westport Domestic Violence Task Force will be hosting a number of awareness events throughout the month of October.

In addition to our awareness banner being displayed at Luciano Park for the month of October, on October 1st members of the WDVTF and local municipal departments assembled a display of purple pinwheels on Jesup Green to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each of the 95 pinwheels represents a domestic violence call for service the Westport Police Department responded to in 2016.

On Tuesday, October 3rd, the task force will be joined by members of the Westport Police and Fire Departments along with the Y's Men to hand out informational cards at both the Greens Farms and Saugatuck train stations during the morning commute. The small tri-fold cards are small and discreet and can easily be placed in a pocket. They contain contact information, safety planning tips and information on services provided by the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC). The DVCC is the only domestic violence agency that serves our community. During the morning hours, members of the National Charity League (NCL) will also be handing out the informational cards at various locations around town.

At 10:00am, First Selectman Jim Marpe will be joined by the WDVTF and town employees for his annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation on the steps of town hall. His proclamation officially declares October as Domestic Violence Awareness month in the Town of Westport. We encourage others to attend and we ask that if possible, attendees wear purple.

On Saturday, October 14th at 8:00pm, singer songwriter Pierce Pettis will be performing at the Unitarian Church's Voices Café. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Westport Domestic Violence Task Force. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.voicescafe.org.



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On Wednesday, October 25th, Lisa Aronson Fontes, PhD, a renowned author, activist, and professor will discuss coercive control in relationships. This conversation is open to all. Fontes wrote the book: [Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship](#), as well as other books and articles on child abuse and violence against women. On the faculty of the University of Massachusetts, Fontes is a popular conference speaker and workshop facilitator, and blogs for publications including The Huffington Post and PsychologyToday.com. The event is hosted by the WDVTF and will be held at the Unitarian Church in Westport from 7:00pm - 8:15/finish. All are welcome!

The WDVTF is also presenting the Domestic Violence Crisis Center all of the gift certificates we collected during the Salons for Survivors drive. We announced our drive and our local salons answered the call with their generous giving. We would like to thank the following salons for their generous donations and support: Total Look Salon (Southport), Steven Mancini Salon (Westport), Roots Salon (Westport), Hair Innovations (Westport), Headliners Salon (Westport), Hair salon (Fairfield), Red Salon & Color Bar (Westport), Sola Salon Studios (Westport), Scissors (Norwalk), Danielle and Jose Hair (Westport), David Alan Designs (Westport), Salon D (Westport), Salon Rochelle (Westport), Jessica Ryan Hair Salon (Westport), Salon Aesop (Westport), Haus of Pretty (Westport), Roeleven Salon (Westport), Salon KV (Westport), Milena's Hair Studio (Westport), Nicole O'Neill Hair (Westport), Rachel Lynn (Westport), Salon Sofia (Westport), Stephen Szilagyi (Westport), and Hair by Vasili (Westport).

If you or someone you know is in an unsafe relationship, help is available. The DVCC can be contacted via the 24-hour hotline, 1-888-774-2900, for information, counseling, safety planning and referral. Information is also available at www.dvccct.org and www.esperanzact.org. For information on the Westport Domestic Violence Task Force, please check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Westport-Domestic-Violence-Task-Force-1550811978272839/>

Elizabeth Marks & Lieutenant Jillian Cabana

Co-chairs, Westport Domestic Violence Task Force