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A Note From Jen

Happy Summer! Welcome to the first edition of *Westport in Focus*. With so much happening in town, we created this monthly update for you, our residents and business owners, from the office of the First Selectwoman. You'll hear directly from me and our talented town employees and department heads highlighting various timely issues and initiatives that are important to all Westporters. This first edition will share the progress we're making on the top 5 priorities of my administration.

First and foremost, my guiding principle, and that of my leadership team, is to ensure that Westport continues to be the best place to live, work, play and learn in the region – a place where everyone is welcome and feels like they belong. Many of you have heard me say this time and time again. It's my North Star and the driving force behind everything we do. Keeping you informed and engaged is integral to this mission. I hope you find this monthly update useful.

Hope to see you around town enjoying all that Westport has to offer in the summer!

- Jen Tooker



TRAFFIC



TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The number one quality of life issue continues to be traffic – and we continue to make incremental progress. We receive regular feedback from residents through email, the website form [Submit Traffic Concern](#) and phone calls, in addition to the two in-person public meetings we have committed to hosting, one in the fall, one in the spring.

The Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task Force works through these issues prioritizing them in the most informed and organized fashion to date, which allows us to take decisive action. We've accomplished quite a bit from installing new STOP signs, to building new sidewalks, and everything in between. Currently, we are tackling one of the most difficult corridors in town, Cross Highway between Bayberry and North Avenue. Recently, design plans were approved for both intersections and for the corridor in between. Work will begin this summer.

Running concurrently, Tighe and Bond, the consultant hired to formulate a comprehensive Safety Action Plan, continues to engage members of the community to assess the results of the survey. The consultants recently issued a call to interview community organization stakeholders for their opinions and suggestions. Express your interest by emailing SS4A@westportct.gov or clicking [SS4A Community Input](#).



DOWNTOWN



Downtown Westport is a vibrant destination for families, cultural offerings, shoppers and diners. To encourage turnover and allow as much parking availability for those visiting downtown, we implemented enforcing 3-hour parking this Spring and electric vehicle (EV) chargers in public lots

now charge for a charge. The spaces that were previously 1 and 2 hours are all 3 hours. The remainder of the spaces are all-day parking. Click here for an updated, user-friendly Downtown Parking Map: [Parking — Discover Westport](#).

After engaging the public and receiving feedback from residents and business owners during months of public meetings, information sessions and surveys, we have a plan to improve Parker Harding Plaza.

In addition, in the next few months, we will be beginning the design process for Taylor Lot, Jesup Green and the Imperial Lot including a feasibility study of a parking structure. We welcome and want public feedback and will go through a similar process that was utilized for the Parker Harding and Baldwin Parking Lots to ensure that residents and business owners have ample opportunity to share their thoughts. Visit [Downtown Westport Master Plan website](#) for more information, as well as detailed plans and processes in place for projects developing now and for the future.



LONGSHORE PARK



After engaging the public and receiving feedback from residents during months of public meetings and information sessions and numerous on-line surveys, the 10-year Longshore Club Park capital improvement plan was finalized and includes everything from installing pickleball courts to upgrading the pool. See the Project Website at: [Longshore Club Park Improvement Plan](#).

We will also see a multimillion-dollar upgrade to the Inn at Longshore. As part of the amended lease agreement my team and I negotiated with

Longshore Hospitality LLC, the tenant at the Inn, they will be funding the upgrades. We are delighted to have such a highly regarded and well-known operator with deep expertise in the leisure business due to their operational ties to the Delamar properties, and numerous other hospitality brands. Plans are being presented before multiple boards and commissions over the following months with work starting in 2025.



FLOOD RESILIENCY



FLOOD MITIGATION AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

This is a high priority given that the Saugatuck River runs through our community, along with 7 streams, and changing – more intense – weather patterns. The Flood and Erosion Control Board has studied the seven streams that run through Westport and hosted multiple public meetings as they've worked through this complicated and long-term project. The executive summary of town meetings on waterway flooding can be found [here](#).

They have prioritized Muddy Brook and Pussy Willow Brook. Stream channel improvements along with culvert and bridge improvements will be part of the work within these drainage corridors. We are investigating improvements to three bridges in the lower reach of Muddy Brook.



LONG LOTS SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE



We received a positive 8-24 report on a schematic plan for the Long Lots campus which includes a brand new school, multi-purpose fields, and a community garden. The Board of Selectwomen has approved the Awards of Contract for the architect, engineers and other specialists to design the school. The design

process is currently in progress. See [Long Lots School Building Committee](#) for all the updates, public meetings and relevant documents for this project.

IN THE COMMUNITY



[Westport Parks and Recreation](#) First Annual Kick Off to Summer Event at Compo Beach.



On Memorial Day, we honored and remembered the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom. Jen Tooker with Grand Marshal Charles Lamb.



Celebrating June as Pride Month in Westport.



June 7 was declared National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Westport to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to affirm that we must do more to end this crisis.



CT Coalition to End Homelessness 21st Annual Training Institute! We are proud of the nomination and recognition as CCEH's 2024 Community Champion Award for Westport's unique collaboration between the Town of Westport, Homes with Hope and Westport Housing Authority for our collective response to homelessness and housing solutions.

COMING UP...

Public Meetings

Your participation matters! Please consider attending [scheduled town meetings](#). You are encouraged to sign up to receive notifications for upcoming meeting notices and stay informed on significant town-wide issues and projects that are happening throughout Westport.

2024 Westport Fireworks Celebration

One of the best nights of the year! This year's fireworks are at Compo Beach on July 2, 2024, rain date July 3, 2024; show starts at 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$50 per car and can be purchased at the [Westport Police Department](#) and [Westport Parks and Recreation](#). A huge thank you to Melissa and Doug Bernstein for sponsoring this event that helps fund the Westport PAL.

Westport Farmers' Market

Join us in supporting our local farmers. [The Westport Farmers' Market](#) is committed to providing fresh, local, healthy and seasonal food. It is held every

Thursday from 10-2 at the Imperial Ave Parking Lot, now until November.

Taxes

We pride ourselves in remaining fiscally conservative while maintaining excellent town services for our residents and businesses. Westport continues to have one of the more competitive mill rates in the region. Quarterly taxes are due on July 1 – taxpayers have until August 1 to pay without penalty. Click below to pay taxes:



Pay Taxes & Sewer



Search Permits



Watch Meetings



Parks & Rec Registration



Dog License



Meeting Schedule



Jobs



Schools



WESTPORTsm



Town of Westport Connecticut
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