



## A Note From Jen

Welcome to the July edition of *Westport in Focus*. It is the height of summer time in Westport, and many people are taking advantage of the numerous outdoor amenities that our wonderful Town offers. From our amazing beaches and the Saugatuck River where so many relax and engage in water activities, to the weekly Farmers' Market and entertainment at the Levitt, and everything in between, our Town is vibrant and active! I have to again shout out thanks and gratitude to our Parks & Recreation and Police Departments for making the best night of the year, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks at Compo Beach, such a rousing success. Warm, welcoming, community camaraderie was on full display that evening. I was proud and excited to celebrate with all the visitors, guests, and my fellow Westporters.

- Jen Tooker



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



### HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season is upon us, and preparedness is key to keeping our community safe. Make sure you have a plan in place, including evacuation routes, emergency contacts, and a stocked emergency kit. Stay informed by monitoring weather forecasts and official alerts. Remember, early preparation can make all the difference in weathering the storm!

- [Hurricane Home Preparation Guide](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Check List](#)

Our top-notch emergency services departments are always training and keeping up with current standards, skills, and procedures to prepare for emergencies - let's make their jobs a little easier by doing as much preparation as we are able for our families, friends and neighbors. To ensure that the Town can communicate with you in an emergency situation, please sign up for NIXLE here [NIXLE Alerts](#). Our August Newsletter will have more information on Emergency Services and Community preparedness.



## TOWN PROJECTS



### GILLESPIE CENTER

The renovation of this Town property on Jesup Road is making significant progress. Managed by Homes With Hope, the Gillespie Center is an emergency shelter for single men and women, a community kitchen which serves 3 meals a day, and a food pantry. Located in the center of downtown, it is the only facility of its type in Fairfield County. The updates to the building will bring increased functionality, efficiency, and privacy for the clients. The project is scheduled for completion at the beginning of 2025.



## SKIP THE STUFF



This townwide initiative, [#SkipTheStuff](#), launched in May, in partnership with Sustainable Westport, the Westport Farmers' Market, the Westport Weston Chamber of Commerce and the Westport Downtown Association, to encourage our restaurants and food establishments to change the way they distribute accessories like utensils, napkins, condiment packs that go unused and are

just thrown away in take-out and delivery orders. Instead of these items being included in a take-out order they will now only be available upon request. In addition to the obvious environmental impact, restaurants spend \$19 billion on disposable items and local governments spend \$1 billion annually on managing the waste and litter - based on pre-pandemic data. This is an education campaign achieved by meeting with our local eating establishments and communicating to the general public through various platforms. Thank you to the leadership of the partners, as well as our Town Conservation Department and Operations Director for leading the way on this important and impactful sustainability initiative. Most importantly, a major “thank you” to the group of Staples High School interns who hit the ground running to continue this initiative and visit many food establishments to provide background and in-house reference materials that will help make this campaign a success in Westport.



## REVALUATION



Every 10 years, a town-wide physical inspection of all properties is a State-mandated requirement for all Connecticut municipalities. In accordance with State Statute Sec. 12-62., the Town is conducting a real property revaluation as required for the Grand List of October 1, 2025. This revaluation will correspond to the tax bills that will be due beginning in July 2026. Revaluation is a long process, one that will take almost two years to complete from the start of the process to the payment of the first tax bills after the revaluation. Some homeowners have already received notification from the Assessors' Office related to the inspections of individual properties. Properties that have not been inspected in the past ten

years will receive a notice. Ultimately, all the neighborhoods in Town will receive notice of the revaluation inspections by highly trained, professional Town appraisers. While not mandatory, accessibility to your property is important to ensure fair and equitable assessments for all Westport taxpayers. Your cooperation is appreciated. For more information, visit: [Revaluation Summary](#)

## IN THE COMMUNITY



Congratulations to Nick Marsan on his promotion to Fire Chief on July 1. Nick's education and experience, along with his superior leadership skills, make him the perfect person for this top job in our Fire Department.





The Annual Independence Day Fireworks was a wonderful example of coming together to enjoy each other's company and community spirit at Compo Beach. Thanks again to Melissa and Doug for your sponsorship, and to PAL for hosting this incredible event.



Joined by family, friends, veterans and dignitaries, Westport's own, Clayton Chalfant, received the insignia of Knight in the National Order of the French Legion of Honor on July 7. Congratulations, Clayton on this prestigious, and well-deserved, award!



A great example of Westport's younger generation making a difference for future generations. Staples Interns worked together to help spread the word about the Skip the Stuff Campaign.

## COMING UP...

### Town Meetings

While some take a much-needed break in August, the work of the town government continues. The Board of Selectwomen and the Board of Finance are just a few of our local boards and committees that have regular public meetings scheduled through the month. [Town Meeting Calendar](#)

Please continue to stay informed and engaged in your town government!

### Celebrate Westport

The [Levitt Pavilion](#) programming is in full swing. If you haven't already, please check out all the varied and artistic ventures this incredible Town asset by the Saugatuck River has to offer, including the Children's and Family Programs every Wednesday. You will not be disappointed.

Other events sponsored and organized by local non-profits are listed in the [Celebrate Westport](#) Calendar.

### Back to School

Before you know it, the end of August will be upon us and our kids will be making their way back to school on [August 27](#).

In the meanwhile, please enjoy this special time in Westport. We look forward to seeing you out and about, taking in and enjoying our beautiful town.



**Pay Taxes & Sewer**



**Meeting Schedule**



**Watch Meetings**



**Schools**



**Dog License**



**Parks & Rec Registration**



**Jobs**



**Search Permits**



**WESTPORT**<sup>sm</sup>



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