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A Note From Jen

Welcome to the August edition of *Westport in Focus*. This next month brings a resurgence of activity in Town when the weather cools and fall activities are in full swing at both indoor and outdoor venues throughout Westport. It is a time when we all reconnect with each other and the community. And of course, the kids are back in school! I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful school year full of exciting opportunities and awesome experiences.

- Jen Tooker



BUSINESS RESOURCES



STARTUP WESTPORT

Two years ago, Westport residents Cliff Sirlin and Stefano Pacifico, had an idea to leverage the amount of local talent; the large number of founders, funders and leaders in the tech and innovation space who resided or did business in Westport. Since that time, *StartUp Westport* has become a thriving public private partnership and an organization which aims to activate and engage Westport's growing tech and innovation community.

This group has hosted a number of events featuring timely content and providing an opportunity to network for hundreds of professionals. *StartUp Westport* now has over

1,500 members. A mentorship program for high school and college students was recently launched, which has also been highly impactful. Please join us for our fall event, a panel discussion with Westport-based Jenifer Gorin on B Corps and the benefits of running impact driven business on September 24.

Sign up at www.startupwestport.org for more information on the organization and to attend future events.



TOWN PROJECTS



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Our Department of Public Works (DPW) has been very active throughout the summer, and the results of some very significant, and in some cases, long-awaited, projects are amazing. The new sidewalk and re-paved 0.6 miles of Hillspoint Road from its intersection at Greens Farms Road South to Old Mill is receiving high praise for both its quality construction and additional safety for the multitude of Westporters who regularly walk, run, and bike in that neighborhood.

The summer paving program resulted in upgrades and additional safety enhancements on approximately 4 miles of roadways and Town properties. This included Imperial Avenue and, in collaboration with the Board of Education, the Staples High School/Bedford Middle School parking lots and sidewalks that were completed before the start of the school year.

Construction and improvements continue on the Cross Highway Corridor. Recently, the DPW:

- Began reconstruction of the sidewalk from Compo Road to Roseville, a distance of

0.48 miles, which will complete the run from Compo Road North to North Avenue.

- Made sightline & safety improvements at the North Avenue intersection.
- Installed illuminated stop signage at Bayberry Lane intersection.

Further, the Department managed and oversaw:

- Completing sewer extensions projects at the Evergreen Avenue / Tamarac Road and Whitney Street neighborhoods.
- Sweeping 125 miles of roadway, 25 miles of sidewalk, and all municipal parking lots.
- Installing and upgrading equipment for various Pump Stations, including installation of new generators, lining 3,500 linear feet of sewer pipe, and installing new elevators.
- Installing a new cardboard compactor and rehabilitating/reconstructing Main Waste Compactor #1 at the Town Transfer Station located at 300 Sherwood Island Connector.

Numerous other Public Works projects throughout Town are on-going and will be updated in future newsletter editions.

Many thanks are due to our hard-working highway crews and public works employees who kept these projects on track, and on budget. And thank you to everyone who remained patient while the construction work was occurring. The upgrades to Westport's infrastructure are worth it!



TOWN PROJECTS



COMPO BEACH PLAYGROUND

Many families spent the summer enjoying one of Westport's best attractions, the Compo Playground. Originally built in 1988 and rebuilt in 2006, Compo Playground has been maintained by local community members and organizations such as the Westport Rotary Club, The Westport Young Women's League and Westport Parks and Recreation. Nearly 20 years since the last build, a community-wide group of volunteers are again coming together to maintain and enhance the playground.

Anchored by \$100k gifts from both the Westport Rotary and the Westport Police Foundation, the group is working to raise \$650k to support our playground for this generation of kids and many future ones to come. We are more than half-way to that goal. Now is a great time to become a part of the Compo Beach Playground legacy.

Visit the newly relaunched website for more details on the schematics, new features, ways to donate and how to volunteer. [Compo Beach Playground](#)

The Playground will keep many of the core structures and update areas to improve useability.

Improvements to the Playground plan to include:

- Increased play area with a squared off fence line to add new play and picnic spaces.
- Installation of equipment as well as renovations to improve the accessibility of the existing features.
- Addressing deferred maintenance.
- Increasing the sight-line visibility to give adults better views of the children they are

supervising with additional entry fencing and seating.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Hurricane season continues, and although we were fortunate to not sustain any significant damage during the recent flooding like in other areas of Connecticut, we know that preparedness remains the key to keeping our community safe.

In addition to signing up for NIXLE Alerts, [NIXLE Alerts](#), the Town’s emergency response team, including, Police, Fire, Human Services and EMS, recently launched the Community Connect initiative. This program will provide an additional layer of guidance for first responders in the case of an emergency with those who may require additional assistance in their home. [Community Connect](#) is a secure, user-friendly platform that allows Westport residents to voluntarily share essential household information with emergency service personnel. This information, which includes details such as emergency contacts, functional needs, and pet information, will help first responders to act more swiftly and effectively, ultimately leading to better outcomes during emergencies. Please sign up here: [Community Connect](#)

IN THE COMMUNITY



Throughout the summer, the Parks & Recreation seasonal staff and full-time employee team made our beaches safe and clean, kept our children engaged in camps and outdoor programs, and maintained our golf course, parks, and athletic fields and facilities with experience, care, and professionalism. We appreciate their efforts. Thank you.



Soundview Avenue was closed on Sunday, July 28, allowing a walkable, vehicle-free experience at Compo Beach. This first Soundview Stroll was a resounding success. Many neighbors came together on a beautiful summer day to enjoy the activities and the feeling of comradery that comes with a community event such as this. Many thanks to Kristin Purcell, representing the Compo Beach Association, Dan Woog, representing 06880, the Parks and Recreation and the Police Departments for organizing and helping to make the day run safely and smoothly.



Congratulations to Clara Scotto who was elected as Ms. President US representing the Town of Westport. First Selectwoman Tooker met with Clara to discuss her platform focused on sustainability in fashion, her desire for civic engagement, and future plans within the Town of Westport and the Ms. President US program. Ms. President US is a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to motivating and preparing girls to aim for the highest civic leadership positions.

Best wishes on your future endeavors, Clara!



Westport Firefighters Charitable Foundation presented a check to the Town of Westport for \$25,000 towards the replacement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for all Westport emergency response vehicles.

COMING UP...

Westport Poet Laureate

September 17 –Installation of new Westport Poet Laureate, Donna Disch, at the Westport Library at 4:00 PM. And thank you very much to outgoing Poet Laureate Jessica Noyes-McEntee for your many contributions during your term.

StartUp Westport

September 24 – *StartUp Westport* Event with Jenifer Gorin. Sign up at [Start Up Westport](#)

Volunteer Fair

October 5 – Second Annual Westport Volunteer Fair sponsored by the Town and the Westport Library. This program was launched with great success last year, and this year, the Youth and Adult Fair will be combined in one program to present opportunities for volunteerism with many non-profits, organizations, and Town boards and commissions. Visit: [Volunteer Fair](#) for more information.

Celebrate Westport

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

Town Meetings

Please continue to stay informed and engaged in your town government. There are a multitude of board, commission and committee meetings that address local issues and community projects that affect us all, and your voice matters. To view upcoming meetings or to sign up to receive meeting notices, visit [Town Meeting Calendar](#)



Meeting Schedule



Watch Meetings



Schools



Parking



Election Info



Search Permits



Jobs



Bids



Town of Westport Connecticut
110 Myrtle Ave, Westport, CT 06880

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