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A Note From Jen

Recently, Westport suffered a heart-wrenching loss when Staples High School Senior Max Harper was killed in a motor vehicle accident. I was both humbled by and grateful for the outreach provided to Max's family and friends by the many town resources and organizations that offered emotional support during this time, and I'm sure into the future. In particular, I was impressed with the thoughtful and respectful behavior demonstrated by Max's classmates in the face of such deep sorrow. Thank you to all who offered prayers and support, to those who came together to grieve, and to those who demonstrated simple human kindness under very difficult circumstances. Please continue to keep Max's family, friends, teachers, classmates, and our Westport community, in your thoughts.

- Jen Tooker



DOWNTOWN



DOWNTOWN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

During August and early September, the Downtown Plan Implementation Committee made significant steps in addressing recent concerns, updating, and implementing the Downtown Plan. This included issuing and awarding contracts for 2 Requests for Proposals (RFPs). The first is for a consultant that will conduct community outreach for the design of Jesup Road and Imperial Avenue Parking lots in the upcoming months. The second is for a consultant to update the 2015 Parking Study and to analyze the feasibility for a parking

structure in 1 of 3 possible locations Downtown. Please continue to check the Town and DPIC website ([Downtown Westport CT](#)) to stay engaged and informed through public meetings on this important project. Community outreach, public feedback and education is a crucial piece in investing in the future of the Downtown area, and your opinion matters.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Did you know that 40% of properties in town have or are next to wetlands or watercourses? So, chances are, your property, or a portion thereof, lies within or abuts wetlands and/or watercourses. These wetlands and watercourses provide a range of valuable functions to everyday life, including flood control, pollution filtration, and wildlife habitat. This is the reason buffers are established around wetlands and watercourses.

Our Conservation Department is making strides in informing and educating the public about the environment and the wetlands in Westport. However, with increased activity in homebuilding, home renovations, and landscaping throughout town, there has been an increase in the number of wetlands regulations violations issued by the Conservation Department. Residents are reminded that clear-cutting, illegal fill, or dumping in or near Westport wetlands and watercourses is a violation.

If there are wetlands or watercourses on your property, please be respectful of these common resources. A permit must be obtained through the Conservation Department if you want to remove any trees in a wetland. Prior to engaging in any activity on your property, please consult with the Conservation Department to ensure that wetlands and watercourses are safe, protected and not negatively impacted. Click here for additional information: [Conservation Department](#)



TOWN PROJECTS



WESTPORT CENTER FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES

The Westport Center for Senior Activities (WCSA) is an amazing community resource located in the heart of Westport. It is an active and vibrant place that caters to adults over-60. This impressive facility is a huge asset to the entire community. It is a place where caring, engaged and experienced staff and volunteers make certain that the physical, mental health, and social engagement needs of residents and guests are met with professionalism and kindness! Westport is truly fortunate to have this jewel of a facility right in our backyard.

In early September, I had the honor of opening the recently established and enhanced garden at the rear of the building that has been named in honor of Westport philanthropists Irma and Joe Schachter. This new area is an expansion into the natural environment surrounding the Center. It also serves as a peaceful place for quiet reflection.

Please take a moment to discover the newly upgraded website and find all the events, programs and services offered by the WCSA at: [Westport CSA](#)

IN THE COMMUNITY



On September 4, we were honored to push alongside Paul "Paulie" Veneto, when he came through Westport on his fourth Paulie's Push, in honor and memory of the heroes of American Flight 11, the first aircraft to be hijacked on September 11, 2001. He departed from Boston's Public Garden 9/11 Memorial before pushing his airline beverage cart 225 miles to the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum, Ground Zero, stopping in Westport on his way. Thank you to our Police Department and Fire Department for Paulie's escort, providing safe passage, and organizing the lunch, and to those who came that day to salute Paulie on his inspiring journey. Please visit Paulie's Push for more information.



Westport was proud to gather and celebrate tennis great and groundbreaking equal rights pioneer Billie Jean King at the Library's Booked for the Evening event on September 12. Her impressive life-long contributions extend from tennis to being a global ambassador for equal pay and equal rights for all. It was a truly historic moment for the Westport Library and our community.



Along with assistance from the Parks & Recreation Department, Westport Poet Laureate Donna Disch oversaw the installation of a Poetry Box in the Compo Beach neighborhood. This innovative idea is a way to take pause in the sometimes-hectic world around us, to self-reflect, and to contemplate before we continue on our way. Please consider stopping by and reading the poem that will change weekly.



WCSA Assistant Director Holly Betts was presented with the "Tiedemann Award" during the Parkinson's Disease Awareness Walk held at Sherwood Island on September 21. This award recognizes a person who has provided notable support for the group's mission "to ease the burden and find the cure" for Parkinson's. Well-deserved, Holly. Thanks for all you do!

COMING UP...

To our Jewish neighbors and friends, greetings and Happy New Year on Rosh Hashanah October 2-4, and best wishes for an easy fast on Yom Kippur October 11-12

Volunteer Fair

October 5 – Westport Library from 11:00 AM – 2:00. 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. Bring your enthusiasm to share your time and talent for many worthy community causes. There will be an opportunity to speak with key staff and to sign up for volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. Visit [Volunteer Fair](#) for more information.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

October 17 – Town Hall Auditorium at 7:00 PM. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Public Meeting. Presentation on the results of the SS4A Safety Action Plan Survey from Tighe and Bond and updates addressing ongoing road, traffic, and pedestrian safety initiatives throughout Westport will be discussed. [Pedestrian + Traffic Safety](#)

Halloween Parade

October 29 – Main Street + Post Road East at 3:30 PM. Parks & Recreation-sponsored Halloween Parade. Participants may gather at 3:30 pm at Main and Post Road to join the fun and walk Main Street to Avery Place, ending with

festivities on Veterans Green in front of Town Hall. Rain Date: October 30.

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

All are encouraged to stay informed and engaged in your Town government. To view upcoming Town meetings or to sign up to receive meeting notices, visit [Town Meeting Calendar](#)

As always, I thank you - our residents, employees, business owners, and visitors - for making Westport the best place in the region to live, work, play, and learn.

Regards,
Jen



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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