

### A Note From Jen

Greetings from the First Selectwoman's Office! I hope all Westporters are enjoying the beautiful weather that the fall brings while making preparations for the upcoming holidays. Town Hall remains active and bustling – we are working on a variety of positive initiatives that will enhance our community. This includes engaging the public and updating plans for the Downtown properties at Jesup Green and the Imperial Avenue Parking Lot. It is exciting to see the many ideas, thoughts, and proposals that our residents bring to the table for this important Town project. Speaking of Downtown, we just announced that 43 parking spaces have been converted from 3-hour to all day parking after receiving feedback from you and from monitoring usage patterns. Please see the Press Release here: All Day Parking Increased.

Also, the newly established Affordable Housing Committee will soon start working in earnest to explore potential affordable housing opportunities that will make our community more welcoming to all. Updates to both these items will be addressed in future newsletters.

Enjoy these wonderful fall days and take the time to explore Westport, and all the amazing things it has to offer in this beautiful season.

- Jen Tooker



# **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**



#### **EARLY VOTING**

This year, registered voters in Connecticut have the opportunity to cast their ballots earlier than Election Day. In Westport, the location for early voting is the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 110 Myrtle Avenue. The Registrars of Voters have been working diligently to ensure a safe, secure and accurate polling process, in accordance with directives from the Secretary of the State. Early voting started on October 21, and Town Hall has seen a steady stream of voters since that time. The upcoming schedule for *early* voting at Town Hall is:

October 31 from 8 AM to 8 PM November 1 from 10 AM – 6 PM November 2 From 10 AM – 6 PM November 3 from 10 AM – 6 PM On Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, regular Westport polling locations are open from 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Registered voters may go to their assigned polling locations located in their RTM District to vote on Election Day. Please click the following links if you are unsure of either your RTM District Voting District or Polling Location Polling Locations.

Your vote matters!



Addressing traffic issues continues to be a high priority for this administration. Great progress has been made by the Task Force, but we acknowledge that it is an ongoing issue.

On October 17, the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task Force held a public presentation with Safe Streets for All (SS4A) consultant Tighe & Bond. At that time, the Task Force provided an update on the significant progress that has made since its inception. The following are just a few of the Task Force's projects:

- Established dedicated Police Traffic Safety Unit violations/citations for traffic stops and poor driving behavior has increased
- Additional School Security Officers who manage traffic and pedestrian safety during school hours

- Established School Zones on Town Roadways
- Established School Zones on State Roadways
- No Parking on Rayfield Road, Church Street South, Hillspoint Road

#### Installed Stop Signs:

- Greens Farms Road at New Creek Road
- Edgehill at Kings Highway North
- Thomas Road at Imperial Avenue (replaced YIELD sign)
- Salem Lane at Salem Road (replaced YIELD sign)

#### Installed crosswalks:

- Punchbowl, Roseville, and Cross Highway
- Hyde Lane and Maple Avenue North

In addition, numerous Public Works construction and streetscape projects, both internally and in coordination with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, are either complete, close to completion, or in progress. Comprehensive lists of accomplishments are included in the public meeting presentations of April 25 and October 17 here: <a href="April 25 Presentation">April 25 Presentation</a> and October 17 Presentation Many other exciting projects and opportunities to make our roadways, pedestrians and bicyclists safe are ongoing.

Also, the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) survey that was conducted during the summer is currently being analyzed by consultant Tighe & Bond. The results are due for release by the end of 2024. The October 17 presentation from Tighe & Bond provides a detailed analysis of the survey and the next steps that the Town will need to take to apply for grants for possible projects that will enhance overall safety in Westport. Tighe & Bond Oct 17.

Additional information on this initiative may be found on the Selectwoman's page on the westportct.gov website at: <u>Traffic & Pedestrian Safety</u>



## **TOWN DEPARTMENTS**



#### **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

As we continue to ensure that Westport is a place where everyone feels like they belong, the work of all Town departments, but especially that of Human Services, is critical. Our Human Services Department's Mission is "To promote

independence, personal development and an enhanced quality of life for Westport residents of all ages." It is organized into three service areas: Youth and Family Services, Social Services and Senior Services. In all three areas the Department works in partnership with other community organizations, service providers and funding sources. The manner in which the Human Services Department personnel manage to guide and help those in need is inspiring. Their professionalism is top-notch. But most importantly, the Westport Human Services Department personnel is compassionate, thoughtful, and of service to all. From individuals to families, from our youth to our seniors, the variety of programs and services that are available are wide-reaching. If you need any assistance, a helpful, knowledgeable resource is a phone call away.

Some upcoming dates and programs that the Department oversees and may be of interest are listed below:

- MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT Receive help choosing your plan from October 15 – December 7 at WCSA BY APPOINTMENT
- <u>CT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</u> <u>Make an appointment with Human Services to complete your application soon.</u>
- <u>FLU AND COVID VACCINES</u> & FREE TESTS order your <u>free</u> <u>tests</u> asap
- <u>COMMUNITY CONNECT</u> Register your home today
- QPR TRAINING Positive Directions Free Suicide Prevention Training
- THE BRIDGE PROJECT pregnant moms can apply for cash assistance
- HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM OPENINGS/NOTIFICATIONS
- WESTPORT TOGETHER RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
- WESTPORT CENTER FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES
- TOQUET HALL TEEN CENTER
- WESTPORT WARM UP

Additional information may be found at <u>Human Services</u> or by calling 203-341-1050.

### IN THE COMMUNITY



With gratitude, we recognized those members of the Fire Department, Police Department and Dispatch who deployed to North Carolina for Hurricane Helene Relief efforts. Our first responders are the best.



Thank you to all who participated in the Volunteer Fair on October 5. Local non-profits and organizations offered insight into their organizations. It was great to see a number of young people and adults sign up to share their talents with these worthy causes.



On October 14, First Selectwoman Jen Tooker and Selectwoman Andrea Moore visited Greens Farms Academy to speak with students.



The First Selectwoman welcomed Girl Scout Troop 50757 to Town Hall on October 18. The Girl Scouts had an opportunity to tour some of the offices and ask questions about Town government.



The annual Town Halloween Parade, sponsored by the PAL, the Westport Downtown Association, and the Parks & Recreation Department was held on October 29. A

highlight was the festivities on Veterans Green and the inclusion of Town Employees in celebrating the holiday with all the happy participants.

## **COMING UP...**

Thursday, October 31 – Enjoy a safe and Happy Halloween

Thursday, October 31 – Friday, November 1 – Have a joyful Diwali celebration

Thursday, November 7 – Final Day of Westport Farmers Market at Imperial Avenue Parking Lot

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremonies, Town Hall Auditorium at 11:00 AM. Community Band starts at 10:30 AM. The public is invited.

Thursday, November 14 – Westport Farmers Market Winter Season starts at Gilberties.

Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 5 – Annual Town Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

### **Celebrate Westport**

Other fall and holiday events sponsored and organized by local non-profits are listed in the Celebrate Westport Calendar.

### **Town Meetings**

Everyone is encouraged to stay informed and engaged in your town government. To view upcoming Town meetings or to sign up to receive meeting notices, visit <a href="Town Meeting Calendar">Town Meeting Calendar</a>

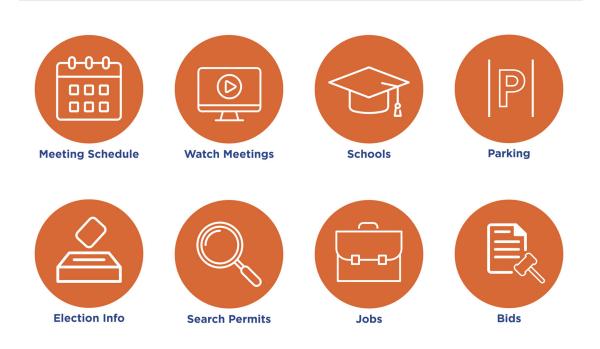
### **Choose Westport and Discover Westport**

Please visit <u>Choose Westport</u> and <u>Discover Westport</u> to see some of the compelling ways Westport is marketed and the opportunities it has for residents, businesses and visitors. These sites serve as an introduction for those who might be interested in moving to Westport, or to seek additional

information for how much our beautiful, vibrant town has to offer.

And finally, but most importantly, during this season of thanks and appreciation, I extend my warmest regards to Westport residents, employees, business owners, and visitors. You truly make our community the best place in the region to live, work, play, and learn.

Sincerely, Jen







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