

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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April 4, 2008

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## **Get your rake ready for the Spring Yard**

**Waste Collection:** The 2008 Spring Yard Waste Collection will begin on Monday, May 5th and continue for two weeks through Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Residents should place their yard waste at the curb by 6 AM on their regular refuse collection day. Only recyclable paper 30-gallon leaf bags will be collected.

Yard waste includes leaves, pine needles, pine cones, acorns, twigs, dead plant matter from last year's annuals and perennials and thatch. It does not include: soil, rocks, branches or grass clippings. Branches up to 4 inches in diameter may be cut up and placed in your automated barrel and placed at the curb on your refuse collection day (the lid may be open up to 45 degrees). For more information, go to <http://www.westhartford.org/publicworks>

## **Two public meetings to be held on Senior**

**Transportation:** The Town of West Hartford and the Seniors Job Bank have been working together to determine the feasibility of a privately-operated, non-profit transportation system that would allow seniors greater flexibility and independence in their daily lives.

Two public meetings have been scheduled to announce the findings, present the next steps, and obtain feedback from those interested in this important issue. The meetings will be held on:

- Thursday, April 17, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at West Hartford Senior Center, 15 Starkel Road
- Tuesday, April 22, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Elmwood Community Center Auditorium, 1106 New Britain Avenue

## **West Hartford Special Olympics team wins**

**the Gold!** The West Hartford Floor Hockey Team was undefeated in the Winter Games. The team has 13 special athletes who won four games on Saturday, March 1, qualifying them to move on to the Division 1 playoff games on Sunday, March 2 for the gold or silver metal.

West Hartford won the first game by several goals. In the second game, the West Hartford team was on fire scoring several goals and not letting the other team score at all. They won the gold metal. The athletes credit their perfect record to teamwork. Elmwood Community Center is home to West Hartford's floor hockey and basketball Special Olympic teams.

**Old MDC pipes reconditioned:** The MDC is planning to line about 15 miles of sanitary sewers in town beginning this summer and continuing for 18 to 24 months. The MDC will be opening bids this month and a schedule will be set at that time. The lining of sanitary sewers creates a new pipe within a pipe and will prevent clean water from entering the sanitary sewer system, and settlements in road and damage to other utilities.

**Police Officer of the Year honored:** The West Hartford Exchange Club honored West Hartford Police Officer Eric A. Rocheleau as "Police Officer of the Year" at a ceremony on April 2 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Officer Rocheleau is one of the Department's two active K-9 handlers and has received many commendations for good police work, including three Departmental Citations, two Merit Awards and a Unit Citation. Congratulations!

**WHPD assists in solving a kidnap:** West Hartford officers were instrumental in saving a female CCSU student kidnapped on March 24. When New Britain police broadcast an "attempt to locate" on the stolen getaway van, Officer Shane McAvay remembered having seen it on New Britain Avenue. After 40 minutes, Officer Joe Creaco saw the van going west on I-84, and then on Rte. 9. Officer Creaco followed the car until it went off the road in New Britain. He rescued the victim as the kidnapper fled. West Hartford, New Britain and state police officers search for the suspect but he got away.

Jim Francis, Town Manager