

COUNCIL BRIEFS

September 19, 2008

The Buck Stops Here: On September 2, West Hartford Police, assisted by the US Secret Service, put a stop to a counterfeiting operation responsible for at least 194 incidents in six states. Over \$35,000 in phony money was seized, along with printing equipment and materials.

Up for the Challenge: The West Hartford Police Department hosted the 2008 CT SWAT Challenge on Sept. 9-11, 2008. Thirty-three teams from Connecticut and the Northeast gathered to train and compete in events developed by WHPD's SWAT Team. Mayor Scott Slifka and Chief James Strillacci welcomed close to 1,000 law enforcement officers in attendance at the opening ceremonies. The event was a great success, with the Central Region Emergency Response Team taking overall first place. This is the fourth year WHPD has hosted the event, and is the third largest SWAT Challenge in the U.S.

Police Promotions: Effective Sunday, September 21, 2008, Lt. Paul J. Melanson will be promoted to Captain and assigned to Investigative Services. Detective Frank Fallon will be promoted to Sergeant and Officer Sam Ferrucci will be promoted to Detective.

Online survey seeks opinions on the ideal superintendent: An online survey has been created to seek community input on the traits, experience, style, and other characteristics our next school superintendent should possess. The survey is available at www.whpssurvey.com and is open until Monday September 22. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Permit fees go up: Effective October 1, 2008 fees for building, electrical, plumbing, heating/ventilating, sprinkler and fire alarm permits will go up \$1. Total new fees will be \$32.18 for the first one thousand dollars of the value of the construction project and \$17.18 for each additional thousand thereafter.

Plan of Conservation and Development completed: The Town Plan and Zoning Commission recently completed a 16-month process to update the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, a document that guides policymakers on land use for the decade ahead. From May 2007 to August 2008, eighteen subcommittee meetings and four public forums were held in which 100 individuals were engaged in the process by speaking at the forums and meetings as well as submitting letters and emails. The Commission reached out to 200 organizations that had a unique interest in land use encouraging their participation.

The final draft of the 2009-2019 West Hartford Plan of Conservation and Development is a product of this community collaboration. The TPZ will hold a public hearing on November 13 at 7 PM to hear comments. [The land use document is on the town's web page.](#)

Absentee ballots now available: As of September 18 absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office for the October 7th budget referendum. The application can be mailed or picked up. For more information, call 561-7448.

Work to begin on the Multi-Use Trail in Elmwood: Palazzo Construction Inc. was awarded the Multi-Use Trail project with their lowest bid of \$178,500. The Federal government pays 80% of the project cost with the Town paying 20%. The project entails creating a one-mile bituminous trail that loops from Elmwood Community Center to South Quaker Lane to New Park Avenue. The tentative plan calls for construction to begin in October with all but final restoration completed by the end of November.

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Interim Town Manager