

COUNCIL BRIEFS

October 19, 2007

Ron VanWinkle named Public Sector Executive of the Year: In its October 8th edition, *The Hartford Business Journal* named the Director of Community Services as the 2007 Public Sector of the Year. Ron VanWinkle received this designation for his leadership role of the Blue Back Square project, his ability to marshal resources to maximize the use of tax dollars, and for his vision of what West Hartford could become.

Blue Back Square road improvements done: As of October 19, all road construction in and around Blue Back Square is complete, including paving and striping on South Main Street, Raymond Road, Isham Road and Memorial Road. New Street will be paved soon. The new turn lanes on South Main Street are now open.

Reserved parking for Town Hall customers: The new parking lot at town hall has reserved spaces marked "Town Hall Business" to make it easy for the customer to get in and out of town hall quickly without having to search for a space. The reserved spots are located close to the main entrance (sliding glass doors) and the new South Main Street entrance. The new South Main Street entrance into Town Hall opened this week with a card reader, ticket dispenser and electronic payment machine.

Parking is free for the first 30 minutes. Tickets are validated at any town or school office in which business is conducted.

Try out the new voting machine: A representative from the Secretary of State's Office will present a demonstration of the new voting system on Tuesday, October 23 at 7 PM at Town Hall, Room 400. The public is invited to familiarize themselves with the new process.

Leaf collection season begins: The bagged leaf collection program began on Monday, October 15th in the Monday refuse collection area and will continue on each refuse collection day

through Friday, December 20th. Place leaf bags at the curb by 6:00 AM on your refuse collection day. Only leaves in 30-gallon biodegradable paper leaf bags will be collected. Residents may bring plastic bags containing leaves to the Recycling Center, at 17 Brixton Street, and empty the contents in the designated area and then dispose of the plastic bags.

The vacuum leaf collection will begin on Monday, November 5th in the northwest quadrant of all refuse collection areas and on high traffic streets. [Click here to see when crews will be on your street.](#)

The Foundation for Public Schools benefits from Crate&Barrel's opening: For first three shopping days, October 18-21, the first store to open in new West Hartford Center's Blue Back Square plans to donate a percentage of its total sales and all of the proceeds from tickets sales for the preview party to the West Hartford Foundation for Public Schools. The Foundation's role is to distribute supplemental funds that provide teachers with a way to try out a new concept, enhance a part of the existing curriculum, or otherwise strengthen the learning process in the classroom.

HALLAPALOZZA! The Elmwood Community Center and the Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring the 2nd Annual HALLAPALOZZA Pumpkin Lighting and Family Dance on Saturday, October 27 (rain date: October 28) at the Town Hall Auditorium. The family event will be held from 4-6 PM with a costume party featuring dancing, games and refreshments followed by the pumpkin lighting at 6 PM. Trophies will be awarded to costumes and pumpkins: the scariest, most original, cutest, funniest, largest and smallest pumpkins.

Jim Francis
Town Manager