

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

# State of the Town

Mayor Shari G. Cantor

March 3, 2025

Mandell JCC

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Le Mazet



HOSTED BY



President & Chief Executive Officer  
West Hartford Chamber of Commerce

# Chris Conway



Mandell JCC Membership Director,  
& Second Vice Chair, Chamber Board Member

# Rachel Stein





Chamber of Commerce Chairperson  
Private Client Advisor, Key Investment Services

# Christopher Clarke



TD Bank, Regional Vice President

# Steve Litchfield



West Hartford Mayor

# Shari G. Cantor



WEST HARTFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# State of the Town

MAYOR SHARI G. CANTOR  
MARCH 3, 2025

MANDELL JCC



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

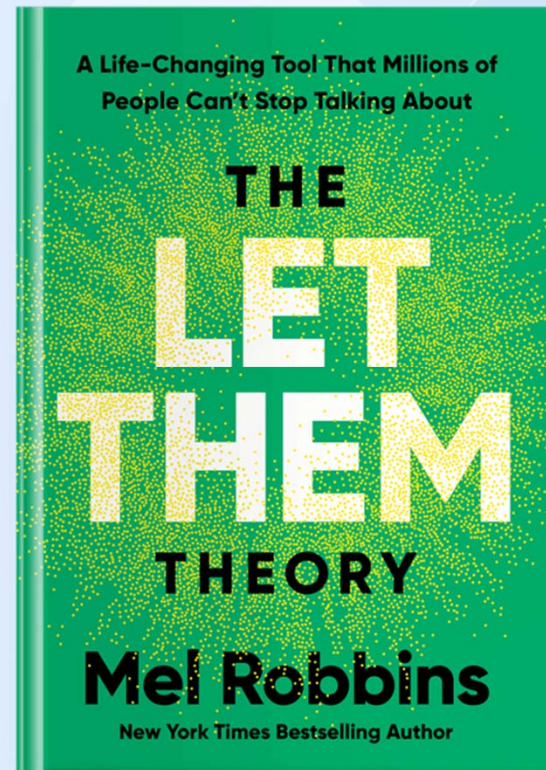
# State of the Town

Mayor Shari G. Cantor

March 3, 2025

Mandell JCC

## 2025 THEME



## OUR SAFE & WELCOMING COMMUNITY



Photo: Ronni Newton

A Seat for Everyone: West Hartford's First Able Table

West Hartford Library's



Photo: Ronni Newton

Morley Red Wagon Food Delivery



## OUR SAFE & WELCOMING COMMUNITY



Library's Multilingual Story Time



Community Block Party



Juneteenth Celebration



Book Club for English Learners



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Elmwood Community Church \$420,000 donation



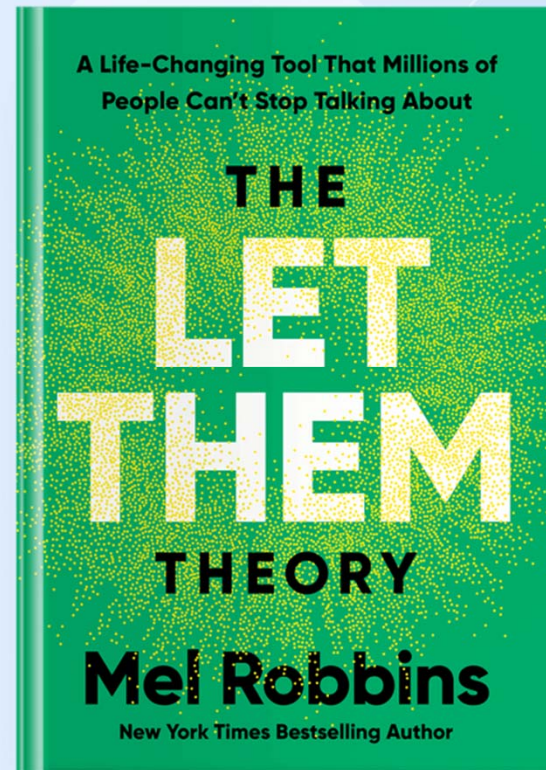
CERT assistance with  
Social Services'  
turkey distribution



West Hartford  
Police Department









## A COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

### Best Place to Live

- TIME/Money
- New York Times
- Niche
- Livability.com
- StudyFind
- Wallet Hub
- Movoto
- Mansion Global
- SmartAsset
- Hartford Magazine

### Best Place to Raise a Family

- Kiplinger's Personal Finance
- Family Circle magazine
- Niche

### Best Public Schools

- College Board Gold Medal status for AP School Honor Roll
- U.S. News & World Report
- Washington Post

### Best Lifestyle

- Sustainable CT Gold status
- The League of American Bicyclists
- Travel & Leisure
- The Crazy Tourist
- Zippia.com

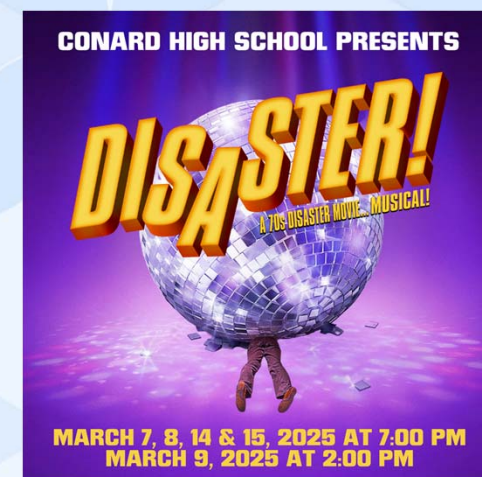
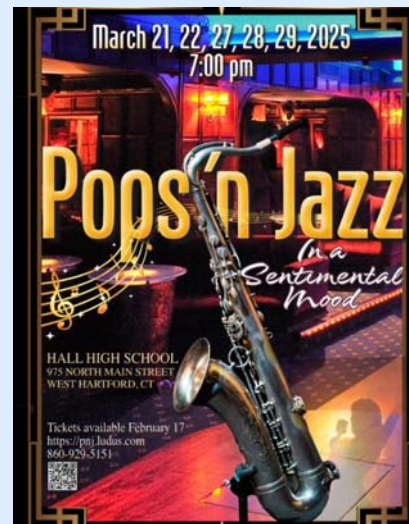
### Great Place to Retire

- Connecticut Magazine

## OUR AMAZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- **Best School Districts in CT (#16)** - Niche, "2025 Best School Districts in CT"
- **Best Public High Schools in CT (#6 & #10)** – U.S. News and World Report
- **27% non-English, 71 languages**, as of 10/1/24
- **29% qualify for free or reduced meals**, as of 10/1/24
- **17% of in-district K-12 students receive special education** as of 10/1/24
- **100th per pupil spending** - State of CT NCEPP 23-24

## OUR AMAZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## OUR AMAZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



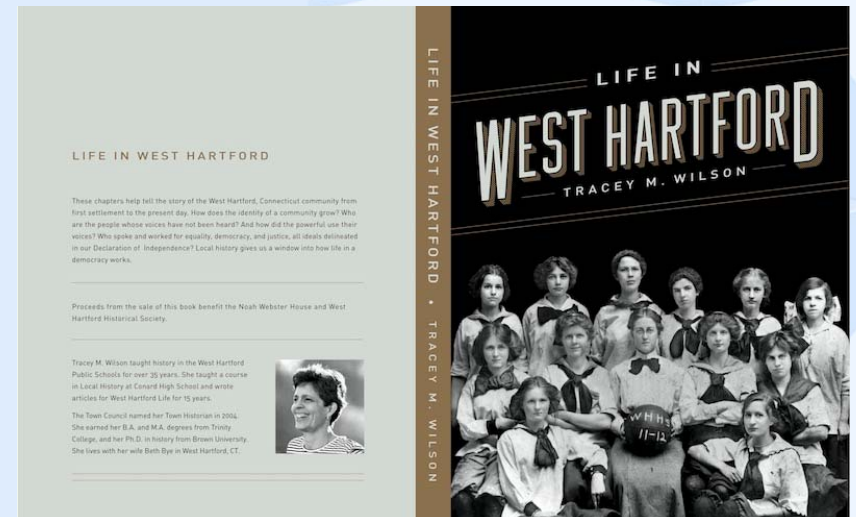
Hall High Girls Hockey



Conard High Boys Basketball



## TRACEY WILSON



## RESPONSIBLE FISCAL LEADERSHIP

- Highest fund balance in Town's history (10.1%)
- Nearly fully funded pension plan
- AAA Bond Rating



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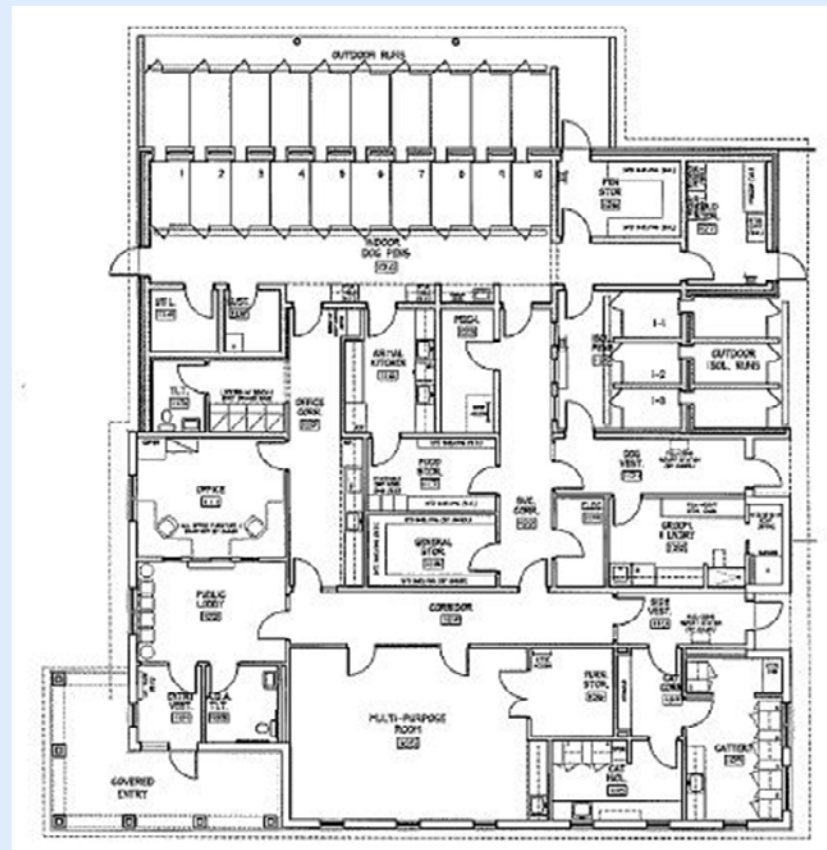
## PARK IMPROVEMENTS

### Explore Your Neighborhood Park

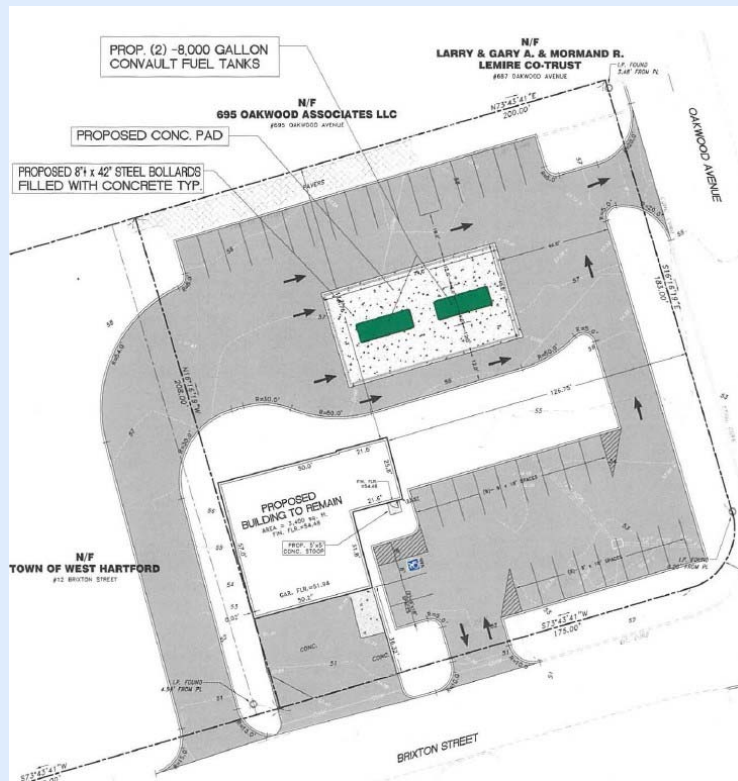


- 1. Eisenhower Park**  
33 Sheep Hill Drive  
Pool, basketball, ball fields
- 2. Westmoor Park**  
119 Flagg Road  
Demonstration farm, trails, community gardens, ecology education programs
- 3. Fernridge Park**  
567 Fern Street  
Pool, splash pad, basketball, tennis, ball fields, pond
- 4. Spicebush Swamp**  
173 Mountain Road  
Pond, trails
- 5. Buena Vista Recreation Complex**  
Includes: Cornerstone Aquatics Center, Veterans Skating Rink, 9-hole Buena Vista Golf Course, tennis, community gardens
- 6. Wolcott Park**  
1341 New Britain Avenue  
Splash pad, tennis, pickleball, ball fields, community gardens, pond
- 7. Beachland Park**  
847 South Quaker Lane  
Pool, splash pad, basketball, ball fields, pond
- 8. Kennedy Park**  
160 Oakwood Avenue  
Pool, splash pad, basketball, tennis, ball fields

## ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY

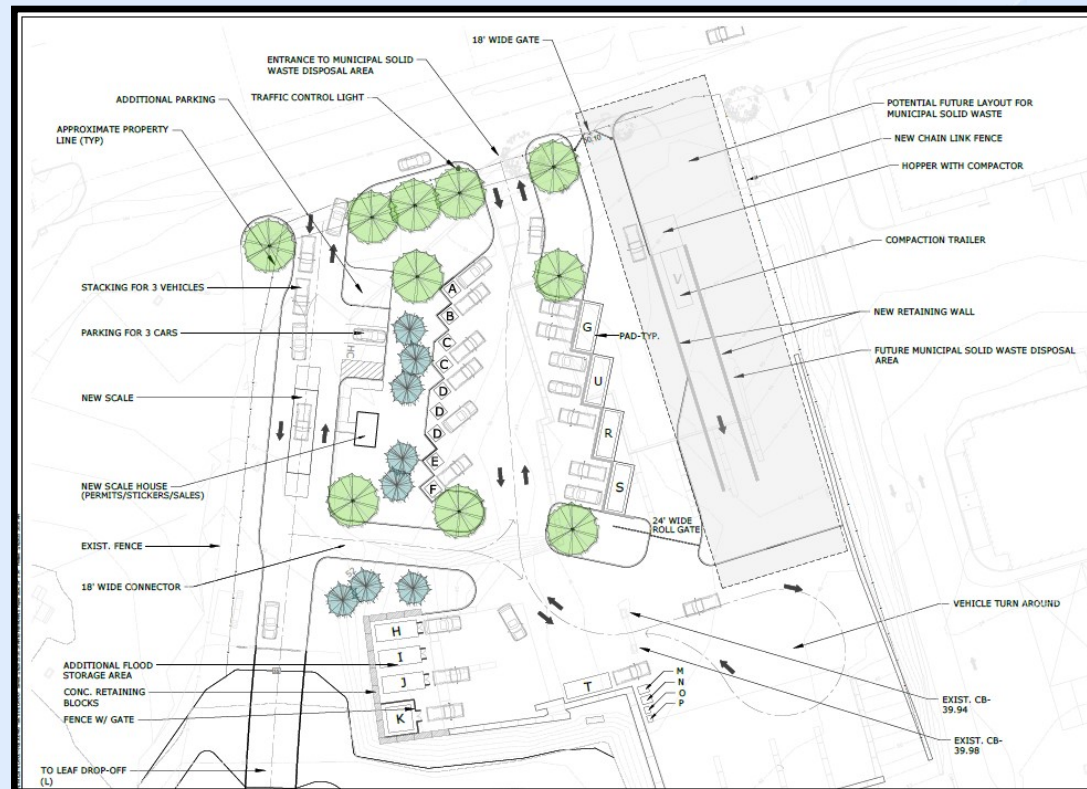


## NEW FUEL DEPOT STATION





# MATERIAL SOLUTION CENTER / TRANSFER STATION



## SCHOOL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS



Wolcott Elementary School



King Philip Middle School



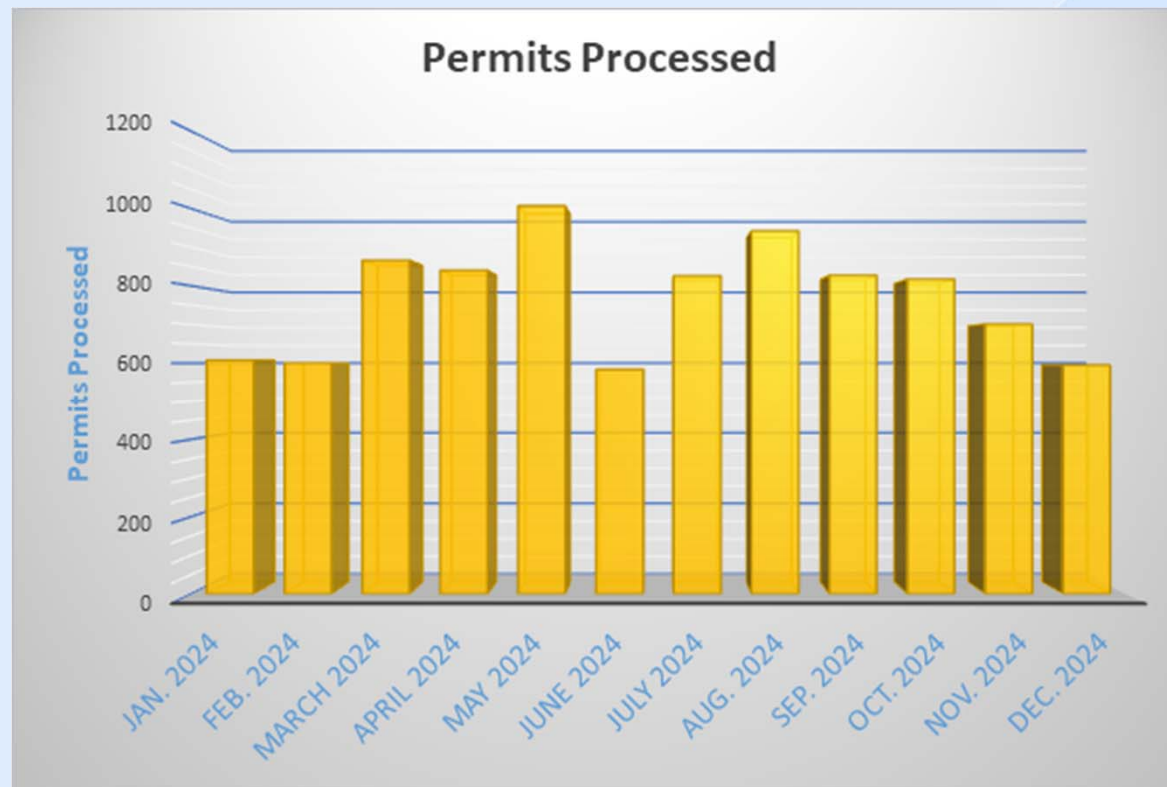
## FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING TOWER & TRAINING SITE



## NEW COMMUNITY CENTER



## HOME IMPROVEMENTS A BIG DRIVER FOR GRAND LIST GROWTH



**2024 Snapshot**



## ONE PARK GENERATES 1500 PERMITS!



## HOT HOUSING MARKET

- Median listing home prices is \$454,900, up 11%
- The average home sold price was \$475,000
- 25 days on the market, on average
- Rentals range from \$975 to \$6,000 per month





## GROWING GRAND LIST

- **\$7.2 billion Net Value: ↑ 0.12% or \$8.5M**
- **Real Property ↑ 0.7%**
  - Kitchen and bath updates, additions, and other home improvements
  - Includes only a fraction of the full values from new developments because of their incomplete status
- **Motor Vehicle ↓ 8.5%**
- **Supplemental Motor Vehicle ↓ 0.4%**
- **Personal Property ↑ 5.2%**

## INDUSTRIES THAT HAD THE MOST GROWTH IN 2024

### **RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE**

- Beazley
- Lockton

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- HFM Wealth Management
- Gallagher Risk Management and Consulting
- Insperity
- Ascot Group
- NorCom Mortgage
- NBT Bank

### **LEGAL PROFESSIONALS**

- Goff Law Firm
- RisCassi & Davis

### **MANUFACTURING**

- Triumph
- HarConn

## **NEW & UNIQUE BUSINESSES**

### **UNIQUE EXPERIENCES**

- JunkPot, 635 New Park Ave.
- HeadSpa, 606 New Park Ave.
- WeHa Candle Company, 970 Farmington Ave
- Beem Light Sauna in Blue Back
- Level 99, 1445 New Britain Ave.
- Veterinary Revision, 312 North Main Street
- BLK STRY Studio, 625 New Park Ave.

### **KID ACTIVITIES**

- Pip Yoga, 485 New Park Ave
- The Book Club, 76 LaSalle Road

### **RESTAURANTS**

- Sichuan Alley, 625 New Park Avenue
- Clover, 280 Park Road
- The Friendly Toast, 36 LaSalle Road
- Yemeric, 1000 Farmington Ave.
- Nero Kitchen, 13 South Main Street

## CELEBRATE OUR BUSINESSES

West Hartford is greater than **94%** occupancy!

**6,707** active registered businesses in 2024 (CT Secretary of State)

- 898 New businesses registered (CT Secretary of State)
- 147 New Trade Name Certificates (Town of West Hartford)

**350+** Business Retention & Expansion Visits in 2024

**100+** Brick and Mortar Business Milestones:

- Openings
- Relocations
- Expansions



## 1800 ASYLUM AVENUE



Photo: Newman Architects

## SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES: BROWNFIELD GRANTS

### **The Elmwood Lofts**

1051-1061 New Britain Ave.

Award Date: December 2021

Award Amount: **\$953,000**

### **The Camelot**

900 Farmington Avenue

Award Date: December 2022

Award Amount: **\$998,000**

### **The Elle at North Main**

1244 North Main Street

Award Date: December 2023

Award Amount: **\$660,096**

### **The Jayden**

579 New Park Avenue

Application Deadline: March 7, 2025

Requested Amount: **\$688,000**

### **240 Park Road**

Deadline: March 7, 2025

Requested Amount: **\$200,000**

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

## Town of West Hartford

Affordable Housing Plan  
2024-2029





## AFFORDABLE HOUSING



**The Camelot**

Photo: Ronni Newton

**Fellowship Housing**



Red Skies Photography



**The Jayden**

The Hexagon Group



## TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Elmwood Lofts



Photo: Ronni Newton

The Jayden



The Hexagon Group

## HARTFORD LINE TRAIN ROUTE



New Haven Rail Line



Hartford Union Station, 1971

## SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES: COMMUNITY MATCH FUND



West Hartford, CT

**West Hartford Youth  
Baseball Wolcott Park  
Lights Campaign**



**West Hartford Tree Project**

922 likes • 1.1K followers



West Hartford, CT

**West Hartford Center  
Street Banners - Join The  
Experience**

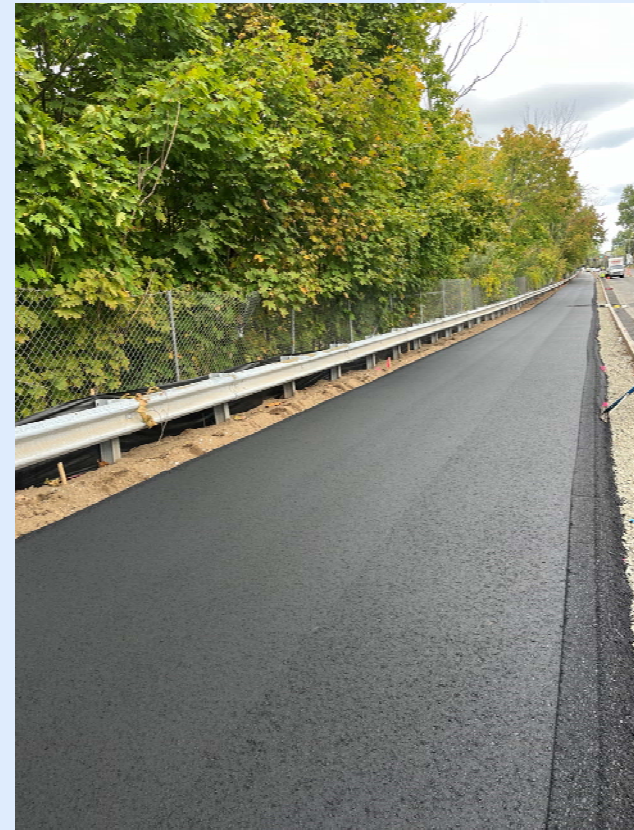
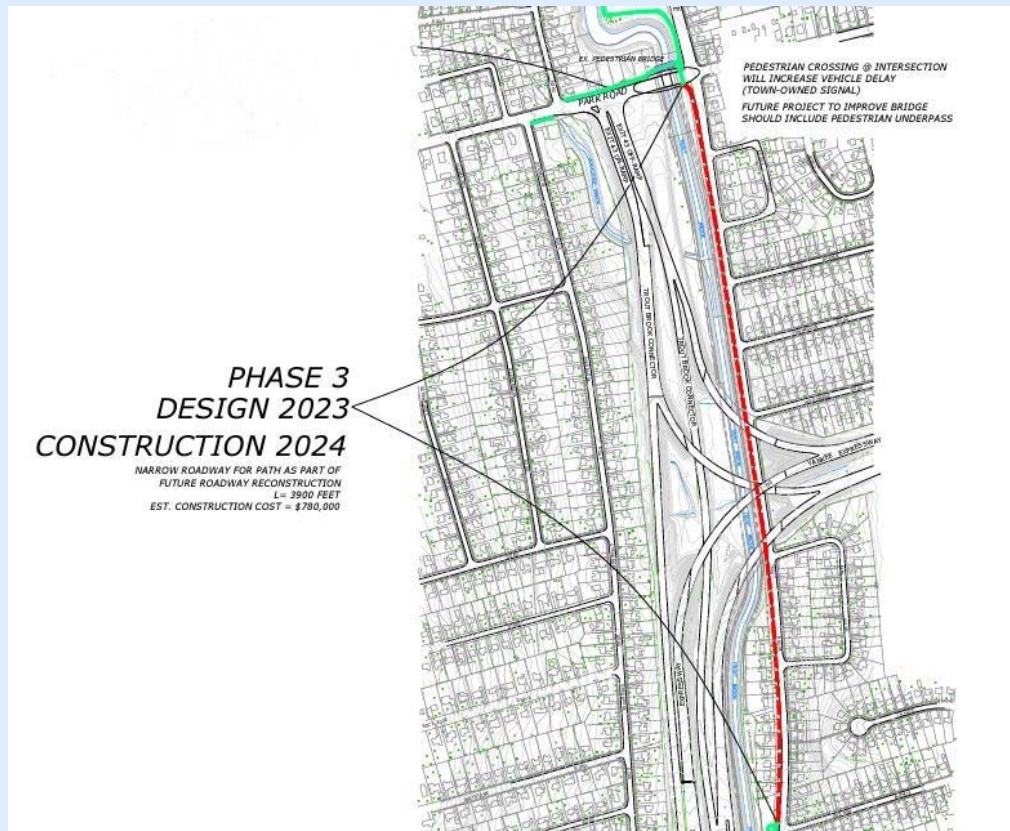


## WEST HARTFORD CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT





## TROUT BROOK TRAIL COMPLETION



## BICYCLE FACILITIES PLAN

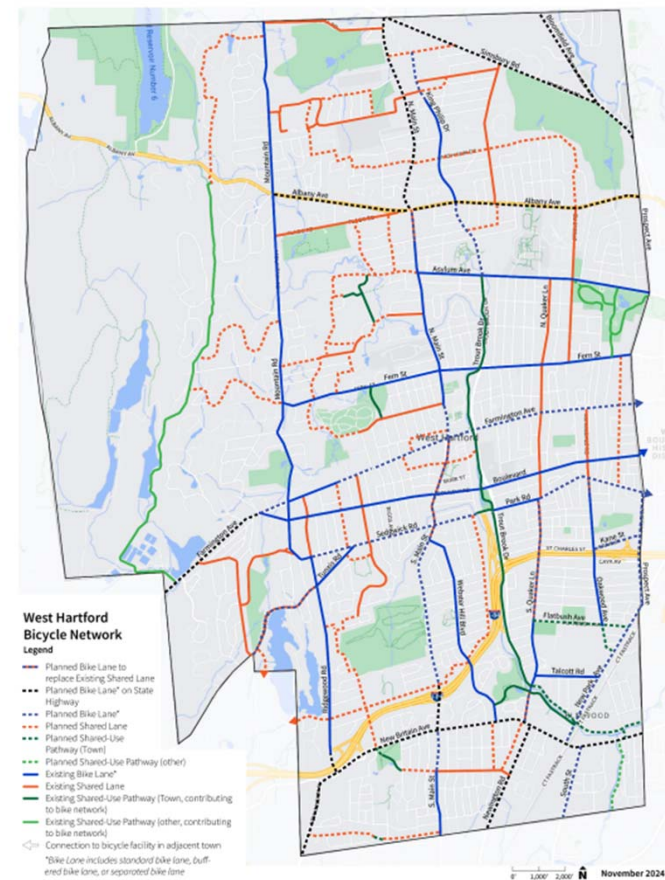
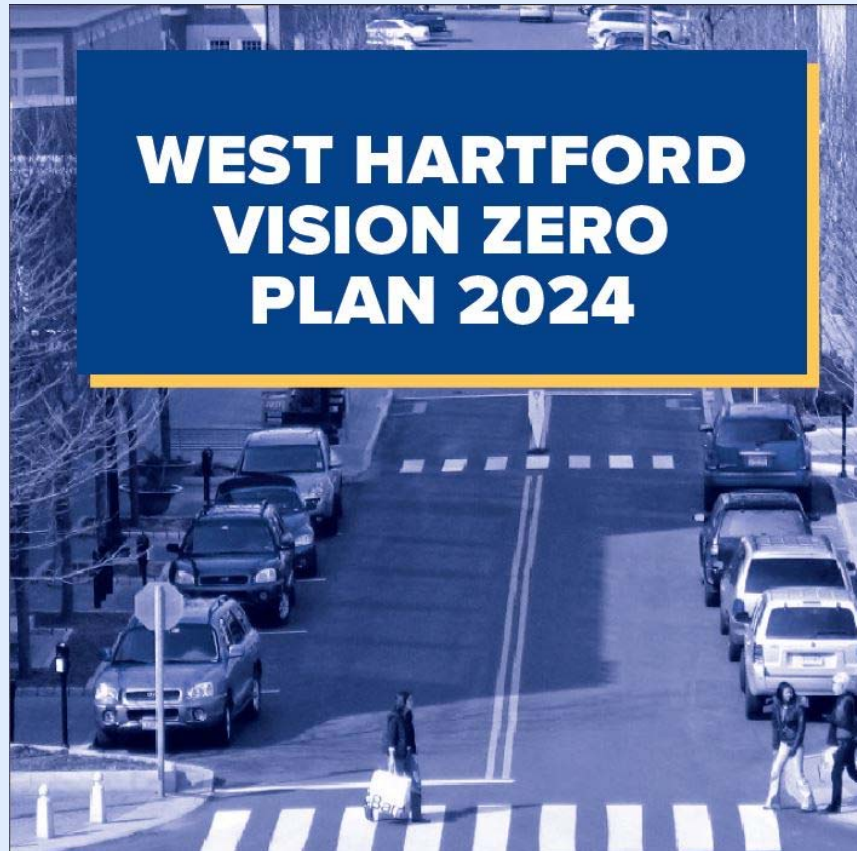


Figure 10-2 Bicycle Network Plan  
West Hartford Bicycle Plan and Bicycle Facility Selection & Design Guide | 11/20/24



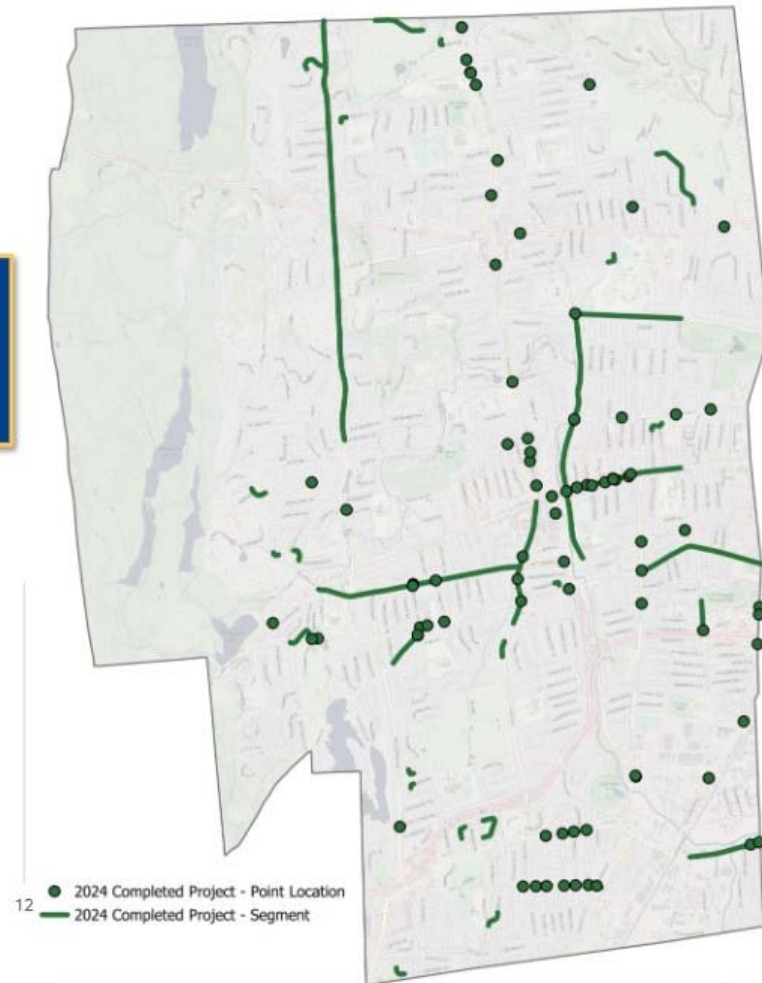
**VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN**  
***SAFE STREETS FOR ALL***



## 115 Vision Zero Projects

completed in 2024

**Thank You West Hartford  
Department of Public Works! DPW  
implemented or supported **50** VZ  
projects in 2024.**



For an up-to-date interactive map showing project descriptions visit:  
[westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/engineering/visionzero](https://westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/engineering/visionzero)



## 2024 VZ HIGHLIGHTS



### 3 New Raised Crosswalks

Raised crosswalks were installed on Boulevard, Tunxis Rd, and Fern St. The raised crosswalk on Boulevard led to a 90% reduction in vehicles traveling over 40 MPH at the busy school crosswalk.



### 14 New Crosswalks

### 11 New RRFBs

RRFBs (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons) provide better visibility of pedestrians. West Hartford's RRFBs also include pedestrian lighting. Research shows drivers are more than **13x more likely** to yield at crosswalks with RRFBs with triggered illumination at night (IIHS study).



### 17 Curves with New Pavement Markings

Pavement markings increase visibility of curves and reduce the risk of roadway departure.



### 1 Road Diet

A road diet reduces travel lanes and creates space for turn lanes and other treatments. Road diets are a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure to reduce crashes by up to 47%. CTDOT installed a road diet on New Britain Ave between South Street and Newton Avenue (Hartford).

## 2024 VZ HIGHLIGHTS



*Signals on Prospect Avenue at Kane Street recently synchronized to improve driver compliance to red indication.*

### 23 Signal Improvements

Accessible pedestrian signals (APS), signal timing changes, and vehicular detection upgrades improves accessibility, performance and reliability of traffic signals and improves safety at signalized intersections for all users.

### 9.8 Miles of 6" Edge Line

6-inch edge lines are wider than standard 4" edge lines. Wider edge lines increase drivers' perception of the edge of travel lane and are found by FHWA to reduce roadway departure crashes. Wider edge lines are found by FHWA to have a high benefit to cost ratio.



*6" Wide Edge Line on Trout Brook Drive*



*Reflective Band Distribution at Celebrate West Hartford*

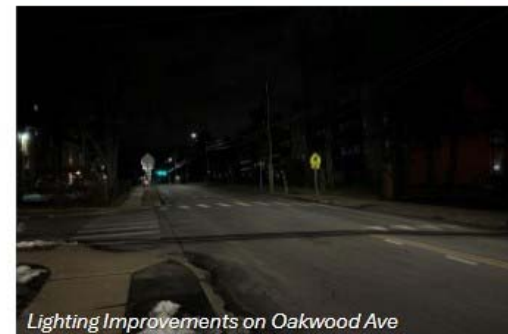
### 5,000 Reflective Band Distributed

Reflective clothing and arm bands improve pedestrian and bicyclists' visibility at night. Reflective arm bands were distributed during in-person events providing an opportunity to discuss Vision Zero concerns.

### Sightline Improvements



*Buena Vista Rd at Cornerstone Dr*



*Lighting Improvements on Oakwood Ave*

### Lighting Improvements

Lighting improvements were completed in select locations in 2024 and expected to continue in 2025. Lighting improvements improve safety by increasing night-time visibility especially to pedestrians.



## NOTEWORTHY UPCOMING VZ PROJECTS



### Automated Traffic Enforcement

The Town has been awarded two Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) grants which include both speed safety cameras and red-light cameras. Speed safety cameras are a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure and have been found to **reduce crashes up to 54%.**



### Dynamic No-Turn-on-Red

Dynamic No-Turn-on-Red (NTOR) signs illuminate during a pedestrian phase and prohibit conflicting right-turn-on-reds. Signage is mounted on the mast arm providing better visibility for an approaching motorist of a potential conflict. Dynamic NTOR signs have been used with great success in other areas in CT. It is expected that 10 signs will be installed at 4 intersections in 2025.

### Crosswalk Warning Lights (RRFBs)

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure and have been found to **reduce pedestrian crashes by up to 47%.** Furthermore, research by IIHS shows drivers are more than 13x more likely to yield at crosswalks with RRFBs. At least 15 additional locations are planned in 2025.



### Traffic Signal Backplates

Traffic signal backplates will be installed on all suitable town signals through the end of 2025. Retroreflective backplates are a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure and have been found to **reduce crashes at intersections up to 15%.**



### Street Lighting

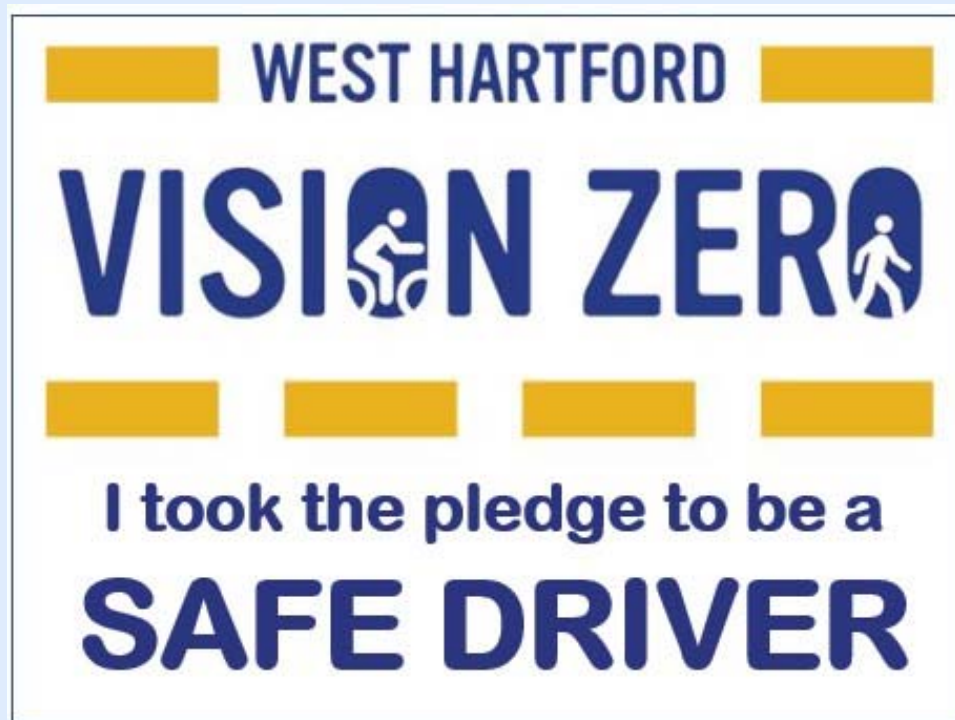
Proper lighting in areas of pedestrian crossings is a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure and **have been found to reduce nighttime pedestrian crashes by up to 42%.** Streetlighting is anticipated to be improved on many corridors including New Park Avenue, Prospect Avenue, New Britain Avenue and Oakwood Avenue in 2025. Additional areas are also planned.



### Park Road Project

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) was conducted for Park Road and finalized in 2024. Recommendations in this RSA include bumpouts, additional crosswalks, raised crosswalks at select locations, a standard 5-ft bike lane, parking reconfigurations, and improved pedestrian lighting east of Oakwood Avenue. These recommendations are being incorporated in the upcoming Park Road project.

## VISION ZERO SAFE DRIVER PLEDGE





## SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT



Photo: CT DOT

# PARK ROAD ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

PROSPECT AVENUE TO QUAKER LANE



**OCTOBER 2023**

## ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

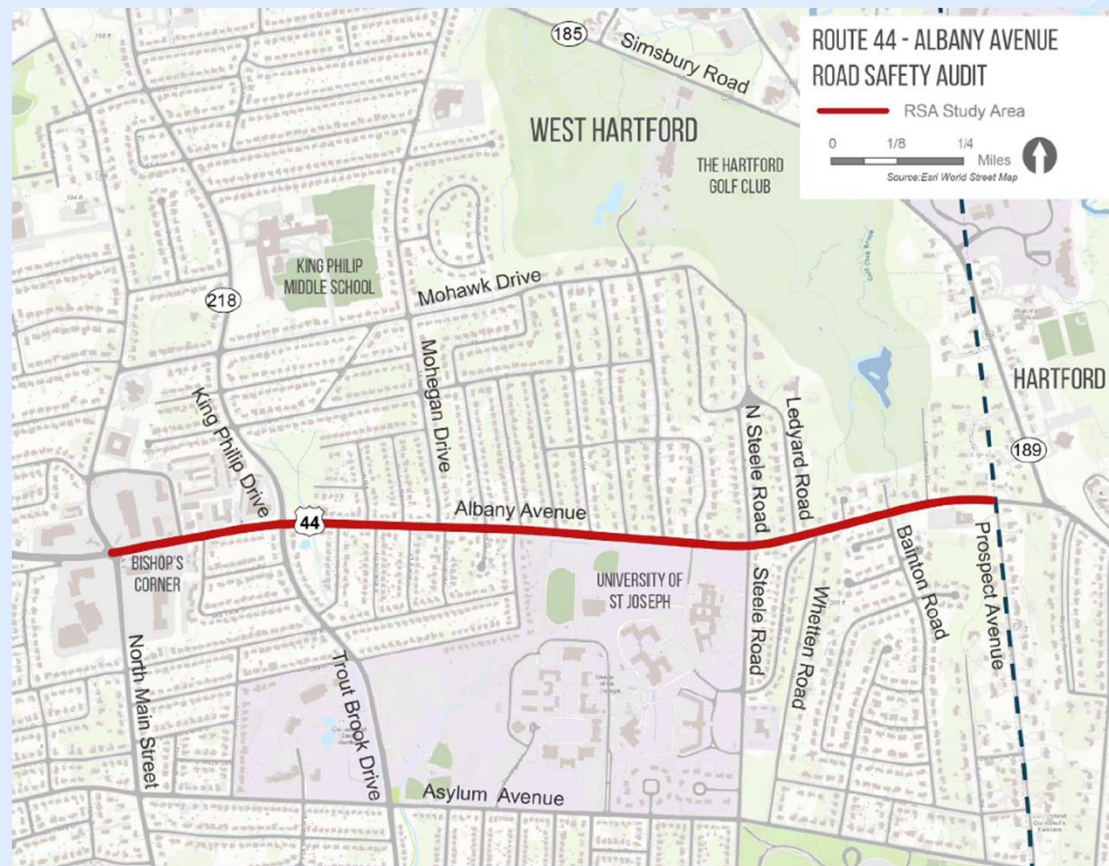
### SEDGWICK ROAD: SOUTH MAIN STREET TO RIDGEWOOD ROAD

January 2025





## ALBANY AVENUE DOT SAFETY AUDIT





## BISHOPS CORNER PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS



# WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOOD SCRAP PROGRAM



Food Waste per Student per Week	Student #	Total lbs. of Food Waste per Week
Elementary 1.13 lbs./week	3844	4345
Middle .75 lbs./week	2087	1565
High School .35 lbs./week	2946	1031
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5910</b>



## Participating Schools:

- Aiken
- Braeburn
- Bugbee
- Charter Oak
- Duffy
- Morley
- Norfeldt
- Smith
- Webster Hill
- Wolcott
- New! Whiting Lane



## RESIDENTIAL FOOD SCRAP PROGRAM



### What can be recycled?

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Breads and grains
- Liquids, fats, oils, and grease
- Eggs and dairy products
- Packaged food
- Coffee grounds
- Desserts

### Drop-off locations:

- Town Hall
- Brixton Street
- Eisenhower Park
- Norfeldt Field



Yes! Separating food scraps is another form of recycling!



## SUSTAINABILITY

- Sustainable CT Gold Certified
- Sustainable CT Climate Leader
- Powering Municipal Buildings with 100% Renewable Energy
- America's Top 120 Most Desired Sustainable Suburb
- West Hartford Tree Project

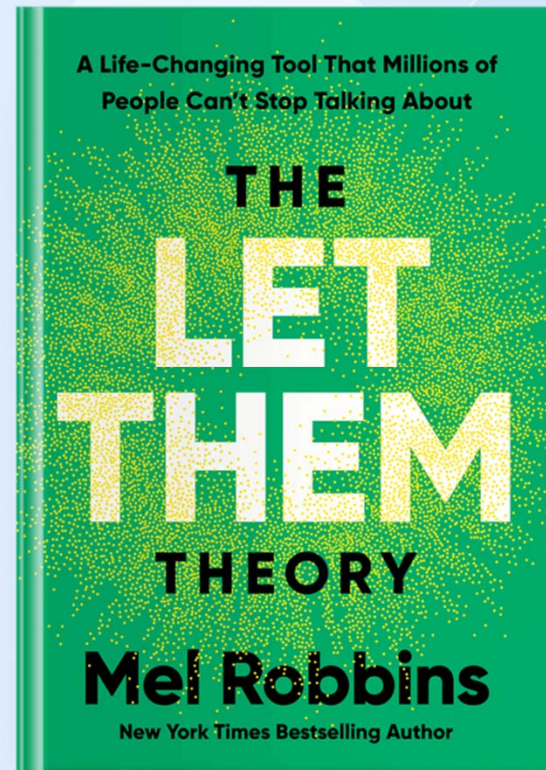




## WEST HARTFORD TREE PROJECT



West Hartford Tree Project



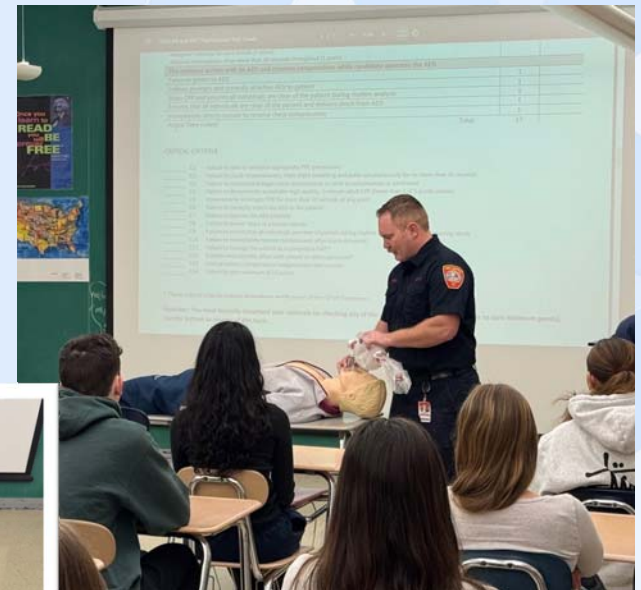


## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS & TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE EARLY VOTING AND 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION





## FIRE DEPARTMENT – EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER CERTIFICATION



## WEST HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT – BEHIND THE BADGE

**WE'RE  
ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS  
FOR...**

**BEHIND THE BADGE  
COLLEGE POLICE  
ACADEMY**  
JANUARY 6-17  
8AM-4PM AT WHPD



**COURSE INCLUDES:**

- Daily police procedures
- Hiring process procedures
- Team building
- Physical training
- Crime scene investigation
- Scenario training
- And much more...

**APPLY  
ONLINE**





## MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOLUNTEER!



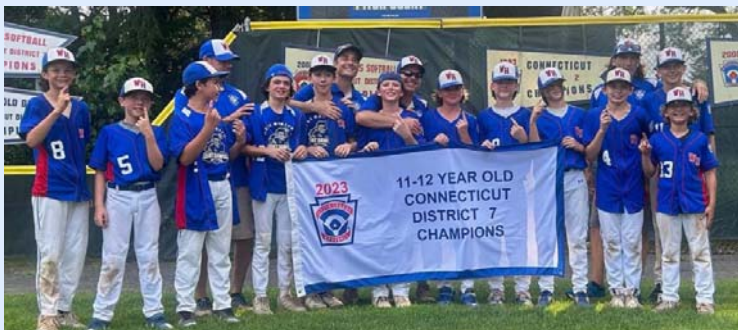
Community Emergency Response Team



Scout Leader



Charitable & Non-profit Organizations



Coach



Mentor



Donate



## VOLUNTEER ON OUR BOARDS & COMMISSIONS



Photo: John Lyons

★ WE ARE HERE TO HELP! ★

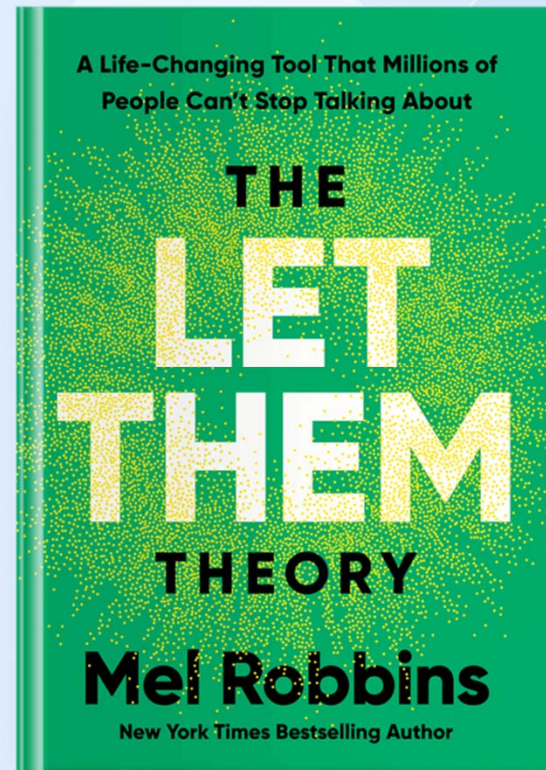
### VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

A diverse group of representatives from various agencies will provide valuable resources and information to veterans and their families

★ ★ ★

**Saturday, May 11 • 10 AM-3 PM**  
Town Hall Auditorium





# Thank you

QUESTIONS?