



Management Report

Frederick J. Presley, Town Manager

December 20 - January 3, 2024

Town Hall Closed December 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas Day and January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day

The Office of Town Manager

Another year is almost in the books, and what a year it has been. As a community, we have seen some great achievements, heartbreaking losses, people rallying to support each other and unfortunately, more than our fair share of division.

On the positive side, Wethersfield continues to be recognized as a destination location, celebrating our rich history and the many local businesses that make this Town a desired location to live work and play. Many long vacant and underutilized commercial sites are well on their way to new and exciting business uses; including the former auction house (207 Church St.), Masonic Temple (245 Main St.) and nursing home (341 Jordan Ln). These three locations have been a priority for our economic development initiatives and their pending redevelopments will be transformational for our community.

The Town also received several important grants to help transform our transportation corridors. Major planning grants for both the Silas Deane Highway and Berlin Turnpike will position the Town to take full advantage of larger transportation funding opportunities to create roadways that are more pedestrian and bike friendly.

The Town put out many new social media posts this year and launched our new Instagram page. We will continue to expand our social media presence to keep our citizens informed of the many exciting happenings going on here in Town.

Speaking of events, in a Town where we have so many wonderful events each year, it's hard to believe we could add more and expand the ones we already do, but that is exactly what we did.

With our many community partners, including The Keane Foundation, The Detective Robert "Bobby" Garten Memorial Fund, The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers and others, we saw more visitors and local residents enjoying all that Wethersfield has to offer, throughout the year. I can't over emphasize the critical role that Town staff has in ensuring that all of these great events run smoothly and safely. I want to thank them for all that they do, each and every day!

As a community we also experienced an unthinkable tragedy this year when we lost Volunteer Firefighter Robert Sharkevich Sr., in a line-of-duty death while assisting our neighboring communities battling the brush fire on Lamentation Mountain. The loss to his family, his fellow firefighters and the community he called home will be felt for a very long time. We will continue to honor Sharkey for his dedication and sacrifice in the months and years to come.

Finally, I have spoken a few times in this newsletter about the troubling trend of disrespect, anger and the complete lack of decorum that has proliferated both nationally and (more concerning to me) locally over the past year or so. The spreading of misinformation, name calling, and just outright negativity and rudeness has become commonplace both on social media pages and during public comment at our Town Council meetings. The individuals responsible for this know who they are. I assume they believe that, by acting out like this, they will inflict damage to those on the other side of the issue or political aisle, but in actuality, this behavior hurts the entire community.

Disagreeing with the Town Council or the administration on matters affecting the Town is a welcome and necessary part of the democratic process. It is what makes living in this country so great. Having passion about an issue and expressing your opinion is admirable. But the persistent personal attacks and complete lack of respect and decorum exhibited by several of our residents this year, only serves to damage the entire Town. Every member of our Town Council volunteers their time to serve our citizens to the best of their ability. For that, they all deserve our respect.

Disagree. State your opinion. But do it with respect. I am hopeful, that in the New Year, we will witness a return to mutual respect and basic human decency. It is what the residents of this Town expect and deserve.

The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, January 6th at 7 p.m.

I hope all of you have an amazing holiday and enjoy time with family and friends! And a very Happy New Year to all!

Fred Presley

Town Manager



Upcoming Meetings

[Board & Commission Calendar](#)

[Agendas & Minutes](#)



Job Opportunities

[Click Here For Current Job Postings](#)



Wethersfield Vision 2034

We need your input! Vision 2034 is a comprehensive plan that will guide the town into making decisions shaping Wethersfield's future. To learn more and to fill out the community survey, click on the flyer.

[Learn More](#)

Wethersfield Elementary School Project



The Advisory School Building Committee meets regularly. Stay updated on the process by clicking on the link below.

[Learn More](#)



Wethersfield Voted Top 8 Towns with the Most Holiday Spirit

Click the link below to see the full article

[Full Article](#)

Engineering Update

SS4A Silas Deane Hwy Corridor Study:

The Town interviewed two consultants this week who submitted proposals to complete this study, which will include identifying safety and aesthetic improvements along approximately 4 miles of the road between Parsonage St in Rocky Hill and the Hartford city line. Staff is currently coordinating with Rocky Hill to recommend award of a contract to start the study early next year. This project is primarily funded with a federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant.

Spring St Park and Dam Improvements:

The Town has issued a request for proposals from consulting firms to design park improvements and dam repairs near the Spring St pond, which are due on January 17th. This project will be funded with state Urban Act Grant funds administered by DEEP and we expect that the design process will start early next year.

Bell Pond Dam Improvements:

Staff met with the Town consultant, GZA, last week to discuss the project design status. Recent field investigations and a preliminary stability analysis indicates that the existing dam structure requires significant fortification to ensure it's stable after completion of the project. This involves installation of a thick concrete wall on the upstream or downstream side of the dam, which will significantly increase the cost of the project. We expect to meet with DEEP and the State Historic Preservation Office early next year to discuss design and permit requirements, and additional funding programs to move the project forward.

DOT Silas Deane Hwy Traffic Signal Improvements (Project #118-0187):

Staff attended a preconstruction meeting this week with DOT staff and their contractor. This project involves replacing the traffic signals and equipment along approximately 4 miles of the road between Parsonage St in Rocky Hill and the Hartford city line to improve traffic flow. The project has been awarded to Ferguson Electric Co from Plainville, CT at a cost of \$8.1M. New poles, mast arms and cabinets will be painted black, and work is expected to start by summer of next year with completion in July 2026.

DOT Jordan Ln & Ridge Rd Traffic Signal Improvements (Project #171-0471):

Staff also attended a preconstruction meeting this week with DOT staff and their contractor. This project involves replacing traffic signals and equipment in various locations throughout

DOT District 1, which includes the Jordan Ln and Ridge Rd intersection. The project has been awarded to Ducci Electric Co from Farmington, CT at a cost of \$6.2M. New poles, mast arms and cabinets will be painted black, and work is expected to start by summer of next year with completion of the entire project by November 2026.

Old Common Drainage Improvements:

DiCioccio Bros. is currently completing drainage improvements within a Town easement located between Old Common and Old Post Rd to address historic flooding issues in the area during severe storm events. The project schedule is primarily dependent on weather conditions.

Great Meadow Rd Guide Rail Repair:

Starline Fence Co. is currently repairing approximately 500 feet of existing 3-cable guide rail located along Great Meadow Rd near the entrance to The Meadows.

[Learn More](#)

Physical Services Update

Tree Crew:

- Brush hog mowing of overgrown areas.
- Old Reservoir (Prospect St. Side.) brush cut back
- Tree pruning work orders.
- Keeney Center clean-up of wood lines/ tree pruning.
- Snow clean-up.
- Vine removal off of the fences/trees (Mill woods/High School/Cloverdale pond.)

Road Crews:

- Filling potholes
- Hauling brush out of the Transfer Station
- Washing and greasing trucks and equipment
- Cleaned and stored all leaf collection equipment
- Began the roadside brush cutting throughout town

Trades/Mechanics:

- Mechanics-Repairs of police vehicles, dump trucks and leaf machines
- HVAC/plumbing-Heating/cooling issues, Nature Center pump repair, water fountain installation.
- Electrician-Street light repairs.
- Painting/Carpenter-ceiling tiles replacement, painting, and flooring repairs. Continuing to work on the renovation of the Economic & Community Development office.

Parks & Grounds:

- Trash collection
- Work orders
- Helping tree dept with cutting brush
- Moving furniture and files for social services, moving furniture at town hall and library
- Cutting vines off fences
- Plowing and salting during the snow
- Replaced fencing at the Cove
- Repaired the gate at the Folly Brook walking path.

Schools:

Cleaning continues throughout the schools
Lighting repairs at Stillman and Highcrest
Helped to install the new hot water heater at Webb
Repaired electrical switches that operate the bleachers at WHS
Plumbing repairs to faucets and fixtures throughout all of the schools.
Removed and replaced the hot water heater at Webb
Worked on multiple calls regarding too much/too little heat in classrooms throughout the district

[Learn More](#)

Social and Youth Services Update

Energy Assistance

Residents may call the office at 860-721-2880 to schedule an application appointment.
More information at [State of CT Energy Assistance](#).

Weekend Meals

Children receiving free or reduced lunch are automatically eligible for this program.
Those experiencing financial difficulties may also sign up. Contact Social & Youth Services for application or appointment.

Food Bank and Special Needs Fund

This fund is used to assist eligible residents with various needs in addition to food insecurities. <https://rec.wethersfieldct.gov/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/donation.html>

[Learn More](#)



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Wethersfield Town Hall
Business Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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