

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT 1ST QUARTER 2023 (JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH)

JANUARY

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY ON THE NEW 'COHEN EASTERN GREENWICH CIVIC CENTER'. GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION CHAIRMAN DAN OZIZMIR HAD AN UPDATE (MORNING NEWS CENTER, JANUARY 2 0730-0740)

CONNECTICUT'S 25 CENT PER GALLON GAS TAX WILL BE PHASED BACK IN, 5 CENTS PER MONTH, BEGINNING THIS MONTH. REPUBLICAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE KIMBERLY FIORELLO OF GREENWICH ARGUED IT SHOULD REMAIN SUSPENDED TO GIVE DRIVERS A BREAK, ESPECIALLY WITH A STATE SURPLUS (MORNING NEWS CENTER JAN. 3 0750-0800)

'MADOFF TALKS' – THE BEST SELLING BOOK BY WGCH ASSISTANT NEWS DIRECTOR JIM CAMPBELL, IS COMING TO NETFLIX. THE 4-PART DOCUMENTARY DROPS JANUARY 4TH (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW JAN. 3 0820-0830)

GREENWICH POLICE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE ARREST OF THREE NEW YORK MEN FOR THE MURDER OF A STAMFORD JEWELRY STORE OWNER IN 2020. (POLICE CHIEF JAMES HEAVEY INTERVIEW JAN. 4 0900-0930)

FORMER WGCH NEWS DIRECTOR JIM THOMPSON PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 12 AT THE AGE OF 89. LONG TIME WGCH REPORTER AND PRODUCER JOHN IANNUZZI COMMENTED (MORNING NEWS CENTER JAN. 14 0820-0830)

THE FIRST MEETING FOR THE GREENWICH REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING IN 2023 WAS A DOOZY, WITH 3 1/2 HOURS OF DEBATE OVER THE ACCEPTANCE OF A 500-THOUSAND DOLLAR GRANT FOR VOTING SAFETY. THE VOTE WAS CLOSE IN FAVOR OF THE GRANT, BUT SOME RTM MEMBERS CHALLENGED THE VOTE, CLAIMING THE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM LOCKED THEM OUT (RTM MEETING COVERAGE)

GREENWICH RTM MODERATOR ALEXIS VOULGARIS SAYS THE VOTE WILL STAND. SHE SAID THE VOTE WAS PROPERLY TAKEN AND RECORDED AND ANYONE WHOSE VOTE WAS RECORDED EITHER VOTED BEFORE THE PORTAL OPENED, OR AFTER IT CLOSED. (MORNING NEWS CENTER JANUARY 23RD 0720-0730)

GREENWICH MAINTAINED ITS TRIPLE A BOND RATING FROM THE THREE BOND RATING AGENCIES. B-E-T CHAIRMAN DAN OZIZMIR COMMENTED (MORNING NEWS CENTER JAN. 25 0730-0740)

THE FIRST SELECTMAN AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS PRESENTED THEIR BUDGETS TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION'S BUDGET COMMITTEE. THE B-E-T WILL APPROVE A CONSOLIDATED BUDGET IN EARLY APRIL AND SEND IT TO THE RTM FOR FINAL APPROVAL IN MAY (MEETING COVERAGE JAN. 25)

FEBRUARY

YWCA GREENWICH HELD ITS ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR EVENT ON FEBRUARY 1ST, A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPACT ON MINORITIES. YWCA PRESIDENT AND CEO MARY LEE KIERNAN (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW FEB. 1 0820-0830)

ONE OF THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL RABBIS IN THE COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO NEWEEK MAGAZINE, MARK GOLUB, RABBI AT TEMPLE BETH EL IN STAMFORD, DIED AT THE AGE OF 77. (MORNING NEWS CENTER FEB. 2)

THE COLDEST WEATHER OF THE WINTER HIT GREENWICH ON FEB. 3, WITH WIND CHILLS DROPPING TO 30-BELOW ZERO. GREENWICH HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT MEDICAL DIRECTOR DR. CHRISTOPHER DAVISON SAYS REMEMBER TO BUNDLE UP, AND BEWARE OF FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA. (SPOTLIGHT ON MEDICINE, FEB. 3 0900-0930)

GREENWICH NATIVE AND LONGTIME HEAD OF THE GREENWICH NAACP WINSTON ROBINSON DIED AT THE AGE OF 70. THERE WILL BE A MEMORIAL SERVICE ON FEB. 18 (MORNING NEWS CENTER FEB. 7)

THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF 8-30G AFFORDABLE HOUSING WAS BACK BEFORE THE GREENWICH PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, IN THE FORM OF AN APPLICATION ON DEAREFIELD DRIVE. THERE WAS DISCUSSION, BUT NO ACTION TAKEN (P AND Z DIRECTOR PAT LA ROW INTERVIEW FEB. 9 0730-0740)

A "RINK USER COMMITTEE" HAS RECOMMENDED STRAZZA ATHLETIC FIELD IN BYRAM AS THE SITE FOR THE NEW DOROTHY HAMILL SKATING RINK, NEXT TO THE EXISTING RINK. (MORNING NEWS CENTER FEB. 13)

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION PASSED A STRATEGIC PLAN. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. TONI JONES TOUTED THE PLAN, NOTING IT SETS 6 GOALS; 3 ACADEMIC AND 3 CULTURAL. (FOCUS ON EDUCATION INTERVIEW FEB. 15 0830-0900)

GREENWICH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT STACEY LOH SAYS THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN TOWN HAS SETTLED INTO A POST-PANDEMIC NORMAL, WITH STRONG NUMBERS, THOUGH FAR OFF FROM THE FRENZIED MARKET OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE PANDEMIC. (REAL ESTATE REPORT FEB. 16 0820-0830)

THE GROUP "DESEGREGATE CONNECTICUT" PRESENTED THEIR HOUSING PLANS TO THE GREENWICH PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION. IT WAS INFORMATIONAL AND NO VOTE WAS TAKEN. (P AND Z DIRECTOR PAT LA ROW FEB. 22 0730-0740)

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVED A SETTLEMENT IN THE BART PALOSZ BULLYING CASE. THE FAMILY OF THE GREENWICH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 2013 AFTER YEARS OF BULLYING WILL RECEIVE 5 MILLION DOLLARS. THE B-E-T AND RTM STILL MUST APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT.

MARCH

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION APPROVED THE TOWN'S 5 MILLION DOLLAR SETTLEMENT WITH THE FAMILY OF BART PALOSZ, THE GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 2013 AFTER YEARS OF BULLYING. BET CHAIRMAN DAN OZIZMIR COMMENTED (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW MARCH 1 0730-0740)

CONNECTICUT SENATOR AND GREENWICH RESIDENT RICHARD BLUMENTHAL EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT REPORTS THAT CHINA IS CONSIDERING SENDING ARMS TO RUSSIA TO HELP IN ITS WAR ON UKRAINE. BLUMENTHAL SAYS CHINA DOESN'T CARE IF RUSSIA WINS OR LOSES THE WAR; THEY JUST WANT TO TIE UP U-S RESOURCES AND TEST THE WEST'S RESOLVE. (INTERVIEW MARCH 7 0900-0930)

STAMFORD MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS PRESENTED HER 650-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET TO THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES. (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW MARCH 9, 0830-0840)

GREENWICH PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPROVED FINAL PLANS FOR THE AREA AROUND THE CENTRAL GREENWICH TRAIN STATION. P AND Z DIRECTOR PAT LA ROW (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW MARCH 10 0730-0740)

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION ELIMINATED FUNDING FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR THE DOROTHY HAMILL SKATING RINK AND FOR RENOVATIONS FOR ROGER SHERMAN BALDWIN PARK IN THEIR BUDGET "DECISION DAY". THEY ALSO DEFERRED FUNDING FOR OLD GREENWICH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS FOR A YEAR (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 10)

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF SELECTEN APPROVED OUTDOOR DINING GUIDELINES FOR THE SEASON THAT BEGINS APRIL 3. (MEETING COVERAGE MARCH 10)

THE GREENWICH REAL ESTATE MARKET SLOWED IN FEBRUARY, WITH JUST 15 RESIDENTIAL HOMES SOLD, DOWN FROM 33 IN FEBRUARY OF 2021. GREENWICH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS STACEY LOH AND BRYAN TUNNEY (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 16 0820-0830)

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED 3 MILLION DOLLARS FOR A SECURE VESTIBULE AT GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL. BOARD CHAIRMAN JOE KELLY (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 17 0830-0840)

IN A DEPARTURE FROM YEARS PAST, THE GREENWICH TOWN PARTY WILL NOT FEATURE ONE MAIN HEADLINER SUCH AS BILLY JOEL LAST YEAR, OR PAUL SIMON, STEELY DAN OR DAVE MATHEWS FROM OTHER YEARS. THEY'LL HAVE A NEW ORLEANS MUSIC THEME THIS YEAR, WITH BANDS FROM NEW ORLEANS ON THE STAGE AT ROGER SHERMAN BALDWIN PARK ON MAY 27 (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 23)

THE GREENWICH PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPROVED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES ON DELAVAN AVENUE IN BYRAM. DIRECTOR OF P AND Z PAT LA ROW (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW MARCH 23 0730-0740)

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AMBIKA GROVER WON \$80,000 FOR HER 6TH PLACE FINISH IN THE NATIONAL 'REGENRON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH.' HER PROJECT FOCUSED ON THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF ASCHEMIC STROKES (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW MARCH 27 0820-0830)

4TH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES OF GREENWICH ANNOUNCED \$500,000 IN FUNDING TOWARD THE DREDGING OF GREENWICH HARBOR (MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW MARCH 28 (0720-0730)

THE COS COB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AFTER BEING CAUGHT ON VIDEO ALLEGEDLY MAKING ANTI-CATHOLIC, ANTI-CONSERVATIVE AND AGEIST REMARKS HAS RESIGNED. THE ALLEGED COMMENTS BY JEREMY BOLAND WERE THE FOCUS OF FIVE SEPARATE INVESTIGATIONS. (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 28)

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION DISCUSSED THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL HOLDINGS IN THE WAKE OF THE FAILURE OF TWO BANKS. CHAIRMAN DAN OZIZMIR TOLD WGCH NEWS THE TOWN'S BANK ACCOUNTS ARE ALL BELOW \$250,000 AND ARE PROTECTED BY THE FDIC. (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 29 0730-0740)

NATHANIEL WITHERELL NURSING HOME BOARD OF DIRECTORS LARRY SIMON RESIGNED AFTER 7 YEARS, SAYING IT'S "EXHAUSTING" TO MANAGE A NURSING HOME IN THE CURRENT HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENT. BRAD MARKOWITZ WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED TO SUCCEED SIMON (MORNING NEWS CENTER MARCH 30)

IT WAS THE PUBLIC'S TURN TO SPEAK OUT ON THE BUDGET AT THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION'S PUBLIC HEARING. MOST OF THE COMMENTS FOCUSED ON URGING THE B-E-T TO FULLY FUND RENOVATIONS AT OLD GREENWICH SCHOOL INSTEAD OF DEFERRING IT FOR A YEAR (HEARING COVERAGE MARCH 30)