



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH

CONNECTICUT

JOHN SALOMONE
CITY MANAGER
(860) 823-3750

100 Broadway
Norwich, CT 06360
Fax (860) 885-2131

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: May 6, 2024

Meetings attended were Southeastern Council of Governments Executive Committee Meeting (SCCOG) Southeastern Area Transit (SEAT), NDCD Board of Directors meeting, NPU-City Coordination Meeting and grant press conference, ribbon cutting for the Brown Park Docks and Reid & Hughes, and a tour of Norwich Brownfield sites with city staff and DEEP Officials.

Norwich Public Utilities received a \$10.9 million grant to replace the city's aging gas lines from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. City, state and federal officials gathered at City Hall to receive the giant check. NPU received \$10 million last year through the same program. The 2 grants will allow NPU to replace 9 miles of cast iron natural gas pipes in 5 years instead of 25 years. The project will start this fall.

Harbor Management Chairman, Tucker Braddock had the honor of cutting the ribbon for the city's new \$1.3 million handicapped accessible ramp and docks. Tucker Braddock has been instrumental along with the Harbor Management Commission in obtaining grants from the Connecticut Port Authority Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program. Public Works recently submitted a FY2025 Community Project Fund request to Congressman Joe Courtney's office requesting \$600K to finish the replacement of the floating docks at Brown Park.

David McCarthy, president of Heritage Housing, unveiled the \$4.9 million project to renovate the vacant former Reid & Hughes store into 17 apartments and retail space. Heritage Housing Inc. of Norwalk was awarded a grant of \$550,000 from the Community Investment Fund along to supplement the City's ARPA contribution of \$600,000. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2025.

Public Works has reinstalled the Lion head drinking fountain in Mohegan Park, after almost a 30 year hiatus thanks to a suggestion from former Councilman Grant Neundorf. Public Works repainted the beloved lion and installed a new concrete pad for him to be placed adjacent to the more modern accessible fountain near the bathrooms in Park Center. Last year Public Works restored and replaced the giant caterpillar but that has not received as much attention as the Lion who has become a hit on Facebook. My assistant, Jacquie Barbarossa posted the lion's picture late last Thursday afternoon. As of 11 am this morning, there have been 1.7k positive reactions, 163 comments and 390 shares for the beloved lion. If you haven't visited the park lately, please stop by to view these beloved icons and enjoy our park.