

Norwalk political notes: Of libraries and school superintendents

By Nancy Chapman [2:10 am EST March 7 2016](#) Nancy on Norwak online
NORWALK, Conn. – Here's what we have for you in political notes this Tuesday:

- Adamowski jumps gun
- **Rilling 'aggressively' looking for library land**
- The return of the Dalio Foundation?
- Dems debut new website
- Goldstein kicks back at state on East Avenue decision
- **Sead, Witherspoon and Knopp gain appointments**
- Norwalk Center Task Force gets new members

Rilling on hunt for land near Norwalk Public Library

Mayor Harry Rilling, at Thursday's Democratic Town Committee meeting, said he's looking for land near the Belden Avenue library. "Just last week and today, and coming up next week, I have had several meetings about trying to acquire significant amounts of property in and around the library area," Rilling told the DTC. "We are moving forward. We are cautiously optimistic. We are encouraged, but the discussions are taking place and we hope we'll make significant progress."

Parking at the library has become a major issue after a developer bought the parking lot next door with the intention of erecting an apartment building there. He has won Zoning approval of his plan and, in response, there has been a cry for the city to use eminent domain and acquire property in the area.

Common Councilman Steve Serasis (D-District A) stood at the DTC meeting to announce there is a petition circulating to urge the city to buy land. Rilling responded with the comments above.

After the meeting, he said, "We are in discussions and I am not at liberty to disclose who those discussions are with or what we are looking at. But we are vigorously and aggressively trying to find a way to acquire property so that we can expand the library and make adequate parking. It's very high on our priority list and we are doing everything we can to move forward."

New DTC members, former mayor gain appointments

The agenda for Tuesday's Common Council meeting lists Rilling's most recent appointments: Former Mayor Alex Knopp is set to join the library board, while new DTC member Michael Witherspoon will join the Zoning Commission as an alternate, and former Council candidate Jalin Sead will join the Fair Housing Advisory Commission.

All are pending approval by the heavily Democratic Council, of course.

Sead, who ran unsuccessfully to represent District A on the Council in a primary last summer, was elected Thursday as DTC deputy treasurer, a position that exists in the DTC charter but has been vacant.