

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****July 10, 2012**

STRATFORD, CT – Students in grades K – 6, who want to become a “Harkins Hero” by participating in Mayor John Harkins’ summer reading challenge, are reminded to contact the mayor’s office as soon as their reading is complete.

Stratford students who read at least four books from their school-recommended summer reading list are eligible to become a Harkins Hero and join Mayor Harkins at an ice cream social and special presentation later this summer. The reading initiative was announced before the school year ended in a notice sent home with local students.

“While the summer is a great time for fun, learning never takes a vacation,” Mayor Harkins said. “I’m thrilled that our local schools make summer reading a top priority and I hope this additional incentive program helps make learning even more fun.”

Students who complete their reading should call Mayor Harkins’ office at 203-385-4001 by August 10<sup>th</sup> to reserve a place at the ice cream social and to ensure that, at the event, they receive a special certificate and Harkins Hero T-shirt. The ice cream social will be held at 4 p.m. on

August 15<sup>th</sup> at Boothe Memorial Park. Students who respond a little earlier – by August 3<sup>rd</sup> – also will receive a personal note from Mayor Harkins prior to the ice cream social.

– 30 –

*Contact: Lisa Bull DiLullo, Town of Stratford, Constituent Services & Outreach, 203-385-4001.*