

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: February 8, 2010  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

### **Budget and Finance**

- *Town Council Budget Retreat* - The annual budget/finance retreat will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, February 9, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM in the Community Room of the Mansfield Community Center.

### **Council Requests for Information/Council Business**

- *Potter Property* – Councilor Schaefer requested an update on the Potter property. The subject land locked parcel obtained by the Town from the Potter Estate was sold on 7/1/09 to Esther Cotton who owns the abutting property to the north.
- *School Building Committee Q & A Webpage* – Councilor Lindsey requested a copy of the Q & A webpage for the School Building Committee be distributed to the Council. The Board of Education staff is working to complete this webpage. We expect to be able to include the questions and answers as a communication in the February 22, 2010 Council meeting packet.
- *Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings* – Councilor Schaefer requested an update on the tax exemption for farm buildings. If the new Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee is created and the Council wishes to renew their work on the ordinance, Council may want to refer this item to the Subcommittee for review.

### **Departmental/Division News**

- *Department of Fire and Emergency Services*
  - *Arson Fires* - As you will recall, during the fall of 2006 there were a number of arson fires in Mansfield and surrounding communities. On Friday January 29, 2010, Thomas Nedweden was convicted of a number of first and third degree arson charges for these fires as well as charges for additional offences. Nedweden will be serving a 20 year sentence followed by 10 years of special probation. The convictions and sentence are directly related to the perseverance, dedication and teamwork by members of the Mansfield Fire Department and Resident Troopers Office working cooperatively with CSP Eastern District Major Crime unit, State Fire Marshal Investigators, CSP Detectives from Troops C and D and Fire Marshals from the towns of Chaplin, Ashford and Hampton. While several members of of the Mansfield Fire Department and Resident Troopers Office directly worked this case or provided assistance, I would like to especially thank Assistant Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal Francis Raiola for his superior work and the contributions he made to the successful investigation of these crimes.
  - *Firefighter/EMT*- I am pleased to announce that Theodore Morrissette has been appointed as a full-time Firefighter/EMT to fill the second of two vacancies in the fire department. Ted has served the community for many years as a part-time firefighter and volunteer and I am confident that he will do a fine job in his new role. Congratulations Ted!
  - *Ice Rescue* – On Sunday, January 31st at 3:50 p.m. members of the Mansfield Fire Department were dispatched mutual aid to Eagleville Lake on the Mansfield/Coventry town line for a person that had fallen through the ice. Mansfield Fire Department and Coventry Volunteer Firefighters Association members arrived on scene at 3:54 p.m. to find a woman approximately fifty (50) yards out on the ice near a man that was in the water. Members initiated an ice rescue operation to save the individual that had fallen through an area of thin ice (the woman was coaxed off the ice to insure she did not fall through as well). The ice rescue consisted of two MFD members donning cold water suits and going out onto the ice on an ice sled that was connected with a rope to

department members on shore. As the rescuers got closer to the man the ice gave way and they had to paddle out the remaining 30 feet to reach the victim. The MFD members reached the man, secured him to the ice sled, and then the members on shore pulled the ice sled back to shore. Upon arriving back at the shore the victim was placed into a waiting ambulance and treated for hypothermia as he was being transported to Windham Community Memorial Hospital. At Windham Community Memorial Hospital the ambulance transferred the victim into the LifeStar helicopter and airlifted out to Saint Francis Hospital. The victim, a Mansfield resident, was released from the hospital without suffering any lasting injuries. The entire rescue operation took only fourteen (14) minutes from the time the department was notified of the call until the victim was leaving the scene en-route to WCMH; a very effective and well coordinated effort by all personnel at the incident. Members of the MFD that responded to the call included: Deputy Chief William Jordan, Captain Ryan Hawthorne, and Firefighters Christopher Beaulieu, Eric Beaulieu, Willard Cornell, James Gale, Brian Jones, Christopher Jones, Norm Meikle, Jennifer Moore, Juan Sanchez III, Michael Thompson and James York.

- *Town Manager's Office*
  - *FY 2008-09 Annual Report* – The Town of Mansfield's 2008-09 annual report has been printed and posted on the Town's website. Copies of the report can be found at the town hall in the Town Clerk's office, the Mansfield Public Library and the Mansfield Senior Center.
  - *Media Upgrade Project* – We are proud to announce the completion of our media upgrade project for the Council Chambers. Tonight is the first Council meeting the Town is broadcasting live over our public access channel 13. In addition to live broadcast, Council meetings will continue to be taped and rebroadcast per our regular schedule (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 12:00pm; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:00pm). The Town is proud to be offering this new service to its residents and wishes to thank Ric Hossak for his past volunteer work taping meetings.
  - *Blue Ribbon Commission (MORE)*– As a representative of CCM and COST, I have been participating as a member of the Town Functions Subcommittee of the Speaker's Blue Ribbon Commission on Municipal State Grants and Mandate Relief. The Town Functions subcommittee is currently discussing opportunities, challenges and other issues related to the provision of local government services on a shared or regional basis.
  - *Political Signage and Town Property* – I wish to draw your attention to communication item #8 in your Council meeting packet for updated information on this topic.
  - *State of the Town* – I have been invited by the Chamber of Commerce to present a "State of the Town" address at the Chamber's meeting on March 10, 2010. The session will be held at the Nathan hale Inn and Conference Center and begin at 8:00 AM. Council members are certainly welcome; please RSVP to Sara-Ann if you wish to attend.

### **Future Agendas**

- *Meeting with State Legislators* – Due to an unexpected conflict, Representative Merrill was unable to meet with us tonight. We are tentatively working to reschedule our meeting with our legislators for 7:00pm on February 22, 2010 in advance of our regular Council meeting.

## **Major Projects**

- *Juniper Hill* - In 2007, the Town submitted a Small Cities application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for fire safety improvements to Juniper Hill Village assisted housing facility. Juniper Hill is a HUD assisted senior housing facility owned and operated by Mansfield Retirement Community, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation. In recent years, the "cottages" at Juniper Hills had been the site of two major fires; given the age and mobility concerns of the senior residents, the fire safety upgrade of these units was critical. The Town was awarded the a \$500,000 grant, which provided funding to install a fire sprinkler system throughout the cottages as well as other related fire safety improvements. The initiative was completed in 2009 and I would like to thank Maria Capriola and Jesse Shea for their good work on this project. You can view pictures of the project at [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org), "planning department," "small cities projects."

## **Upcoming Events**

- *Winter Fun Day* - The Mansfield Downtown Partnership, along with the Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department and Town Manager's office, invites area residents to celebrate the season at the 4th Annual Winter Fun Day on Saturday, February 13. This free event will be held from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm outside the Mansfield Community Center. There will be a number of fun activities for all ages to enjoy, from ice skating (weather permitting) to musical performances, a horse drawn wagon, storytelling, ice sculptures and a 3-on-3 demonstration on the ice by the Northeast Youth Ice Hockey Mite House team. The popular "Wacky Hat Contest" will be held at 2:00 pm. Children are invited to wear their craziest creation or store-bought hat to Winter Fun Day and register for the contest. Prizes for Wackiest, Most Creative, and Judges' Choice will be awarded. In keeping with the community spirit of the event, a food drive to benefit the Town of Mansfield Human Services' Food Pantry will be held during Winter Fun Day. Visitors are asked to please bring a non-perishable food item to the Community Center. For more information, please contact the Mansfield Downtown Partnership: 429.2740 or [mdp@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mdp@mansfieldct.org).

## **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, February 9, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, February 9, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 9, 2010, 6:00 PM, Community Room, Mansfield Community Center
- Historic District Commission, February 8, 2010, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership, February 11, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Board of Education, February 11, 2010, 7:30 PM, Southeast School
- Planning and Zoning Commission, February 16, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, February 16, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, February 17, 2010, 9:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, February 17, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, February 22, 2010, 1:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 22, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar at [www.MansfieldCT.org](http://www.MansfieldCT.org) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*