

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 9, 2011
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Annual Town Meeting* - The Town of Mansfield Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 7:00PM in the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium.
 - ✓ Please arrive early to check in
 - ✓ Please bring a form of identification to verify your eligibility to vote
 - ✓ The Town Council's proposed budget can be found at www.mansfieldct.gov
 - ✓ A sign language interpreter will be available.

Childcare for children ages 3-12 and transportation to the meeting will be provided for those who sign up with Human Services (860-429-3315). The League of Women Voters of Mansfield will once again provide refreshments prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Come early to get checked in, receive your ballot and enjoy some baked goods and lemonade or coffee while you wait for the meeting to begin. Please bring your own mug or beverage container.

- *Relocation Costs for Jao Praya* – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership recently processed a relocation claim of \$20,000 for the Jao Praya Restaurant on Dog Lane (\$20,000 is the standard benefit amount). The relocation cost was split 50/50 between the Town and Storrs Center Alliance. As you know, the Partnership administers its relocation plan in compliance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.
- *Storrs Center Development Agreement* – Per Council's request, please find the 2011 Storrs Center Development Agreement by Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. and Storrs Center Alliance, LLC in your packet, [item number 11](#).
- *Storrs Center Parking GR-1, Parking Garage* – Please see item number 18 in your packet for a communication from Rudy Favretti, Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman.

Departmental/Division News

- *Collector of Revenue, FY 2010/11 Collections* - The Collector of Revenue office held a tax sale on April 13th, 2011. At the beginning of the process, 12 properties were referred for the sale. We received payments on eight of the properties and only four remained for the tax sale. As a result of the tax sale, three properties were sold and one property (Penner) was acquired by the Town. All four properties have a period of redemption of six months. The tax sale properties have resulted in the collection of \$197,000 prior to the sale date and \$73,000 from the actual tax sale, for a total of \$270,000. Since July 1, 2010, the Collector of Revenue's efforts in using the tax sale and other tools have resulted in the collection of \$598,000 of back taxes and interest, while maintaining consistent levels of collection. I would like to commend our Collector of Revenue, Christine Gamache, and the staff in her office for their excellent work in this area.
- *Human Services, Older Americans Month* – The Mansfield Senior Center held a ceremony on May 4 to celebrate *Older Americans Month*. Council members Christopher Paulhus and Carl Schaefer attended the event, and read a proclamation on behalf of the Town Council. *Older Americans Month* is an occasion to show appreciation and support for our seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities. This year's theme - **Older Americans: Connecting the Community** - pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities, and highlights how technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives.

- *Parks and Recreation*
 - *Summer Brochure* - The summer brochure, full of great camps and other summer programs will be in people's homes by May 19-20. Registration for community center members begins on May 23 for aquatics and fitness programs, May 28 for residents of Mansfield for fitness and other programs and June 2 for everyone else.
 - *Great Trips* - The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring some great trips this spring/summer. On May 14, we have a trip to the Bronx Zoo; the bus leaves at 7:30 a.m. and returns about 8 p.m., On June 4, there is a Day in an Advanced Alien Civilization; come and see New York like you never have before. On July 4, there is a trip to Tanglewood to see James Taylor and on July 31, choose to go on a whale watch or deep sea fishing with Captain John Boats in Plymouth MA. Call the Parks and Recreation office at (860) 429-3015 for more details.
- *Public Library*
 - *Network Migration* - Mansfield Public Library will be closed Saturday, May 28 for the planned network migration to an open source integrated library system.
 - *Book Sale* - The Friends of the Mansfield Library will conduct their June Book Sale on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26. Mansfield Public Library will be closed Thursday, June 23 for staff development and Book Sale setup, and open on Sunday, June 26 during the hours of the Book Sale (9 - 3).
- *Town Manager's Office*
 - *New Director of Planning and Development* – I am very pleased to announce that we have appointed Ms. Linda Painter, AICP, to succeed Gregory Padick under the new title of Director of Planning and Development. Linda is a Connecticut native and earned her BA and MS degrees at the University of Texas. She comes to us with 15 years experience in the planning and development field, having served as the Deputy Director of Planning and Development for Providence, Rhode Island and the Chief Planner/Zoning Official for Orlando, Florida, among other positions earlier in her career. During the interview process, Linda impressed us with her experience, knowledge base and passion for her field; I believe that she will be a strong addition to our team. I have worked closely with PZC Chairman Rudy Favretti throughout the selection process and greatly appreciate his input and counsel. Rudy and I have planned a reception for 6:30 PM in advance of the PZC meeting on May 16, to welcome Linda to our community. We hope that you will be able to join us.
 - *The State of Mansfield* - On Tuesday, May 3, 2011, the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual *The State of Mansfield* address. Guests included State Representative, Greg Haddad, who discussed issues at the state capitol that will affect Mansfield, its budget and some of the agencies, non-profits and businesses in the community. School Superintendent, Fred Baruzzi and District 19 Superintendent, Bruce Silva, presented an overview of the education system in town and where it is headed and I discussed the town's proposed budget and ongoing development projects throughout the town.
 - *UConn MPA Program* - On April 29th, a group of UCONN MPA students presented on their capstone project entitled *Windham and Mansfield Parks and Recreation Departments: A Study in Strategic Alliance*. Many thanks to Maria Capriola, Curt Vincente and Jay O'Keefe for their assistance and support on this project.
 - *Visit to Access Agency* – As part of my efforts to learn more about human services organizations in the region, I recently met with staff at the Access Agency to find out more about their programs and initiatives. The visit was very informative and I appreciate the good work that the agency does on behalf of our larger community.
 - *Work Study Program* - We had a very successful year utilizing UCONN undergraduate and graduate students through the work study program. During academic year 2010-2011 UCONN work study students worked 1,531 hours, equivalent to a .84 FTE. These hours were at a value of \$20,395 in payroll funds that the Town did not have to expend. Students provided valuable assistance to the Town Manager's Office, Public Works, the Town Clerk's Office, Parks and Recreation, Information Technology, Finance, the Assessor's Office and Facilities Management. Students worked on a variety of research projects, archiving projects, sustainability projects, and

human resources projects. I would like to thank Maria Capriola and Mary Stanton for their efforts in coordinating this program.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *UConn Tech Park* – On Friday, April 29, Mayor Paterson, Deputy Mayor Moran and I attended a press conference held by State Senator Williams and State Representative Haddad announcing plans to build a tech park at UConn (see attached press release). The proposal “includes \$18 million in funding for the design, site development and infrastructure improvements necessary to create the tech park.” This is good news for Mansfield and the region on many fronts, as the project would bring additional jobs to the community and provide us with additional opportunities to retain university talent. In the near future, I will have more information regarding this exciting proposed project.

Upcoming Events

- *Introduction to DIY Solar Energy* – Retired UConn Professor Martin Fox will conduct a “do-it-yourself” (DIY) Solar Energy presentation held on Monday, June 6, 2011 from 7:30 to 8:30PM at the Buchanan Auditorium, Mansfield Public Library (54 Warrentville Road, Mansfield Center). The recent surge in the price of gasoline highlights the uncertainties of our present fossil fuel based economy and power grid. Photovoltaic solar panels convert the energy in sunlight into electricity that can be used as a portable power source for appliances, as a backup to the electric grid in case of a power outage and which can be connected to the electric grid to effectively run your meter backwards thereby reducing your electric bill. This presentation will provide some basic information about how photovoltaic panels work, how to obtain them and how to utilize the panels to increase your resilience in the face of an uncertain energy future. Presenter Martin Fox is a retired electrical engineering professor from the University of Connecticut; for the last 10 years his primary research interest has been power engineering with a particular emphasis on solar energy.
- *Know Your Town(s) Fair* - The League of Women Voters of Mansfield Board recently decided that the LWVM will not be organizing a Know Your Towns Fair in 2011. Like many volunteer organizations, the LWVM is experiencing a significant reduction in personnel to accomplish its historical range of public programs. Given its limited workforce, the LWVM must focus on its voter education mission, which includes annual Candidates Nights. The KYTF will surely be missed in 2011. The Fair has been very valuable over the years, introducing newcomers to the region to its variety of (mostly) non-profit organizations and in giving many people an opportunity to interact with each other.
- *Memorial Day* -- Save the date! Mansfield will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, 2011. The parade will begin at 9:00AM from the intersection of Rt. 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center and will travel North on 195, and down Cemetery Road to the new Mansfield Center Cemetery. There will be a ceremony at the cemetery including three volleys fired and taps sounded in honors for the fallen. Come and join us as we honor our ancestors, family members, loved ones, neighbors and friends who have died in service to our nation.
- *Storrs Center Job Fair* - You are invited to a Job Fair for those interested in potential job opportunities in the construction of the first phases of Storrs Center. The Job Fair will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 7:00 to 8:30PM at the Mansfield Community Center (10 S. Eagleville Road, Mansfield). For more information, contact the Storrs Center job e-mail: StorrsCenterInfo@erland.com.
- *Water Supply Forum* – The Willimantic River Alliance will be hosting a Water Supply Forum on May 11th from 6:00 to 9:00PM at the Storrs Community Church in Coventry. This information meeting is being held to discuss current water supply issues in Tolland, Coventry, Willington and Mansfield. For more information on this event, please see [item number 17](#) in the Council packet.

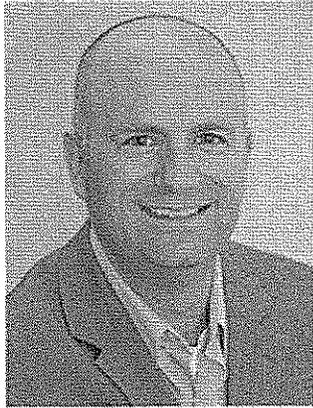
Upcoming Meetings*

- **Annual Town Meeting**, May 10, 2011, 7:00PM, Auditorium, Mansfield Middle School
- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, May 10, 2011, 11:45AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, May 10, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, May 10, 2011, 8:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, May 11, 2011, 1:15PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, May 11, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, May 12, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, May 12, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Finance Committee Meeting, May 12, 2011, 6:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, May 16, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, May 16, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, May 17, 2011, 2:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Energy Education Team Meeting, May 17, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, May 17, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, May 18, 2011, 2:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, May 18, 2011, 7:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Cemetery Committee Meeting, May 19, 2011, 4:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, May 23, 2011, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*

Attachments

- 1) Press Release: "Rep. Haddad & Senate President Williams announce plan to build tech park at UConn"



In The News

State Representative

Gregg Haddad

Serving the 54th Assembly District
Chaplin & Mansfield

HOUSE DEMOCRATS *of* CONNECTICUT

April 29, 2011

REP. HADDAD & SENATE PRESIDENT WILLIAMS ANNOUNCE PLAN TO BUILD TECH PARK AT UCONN

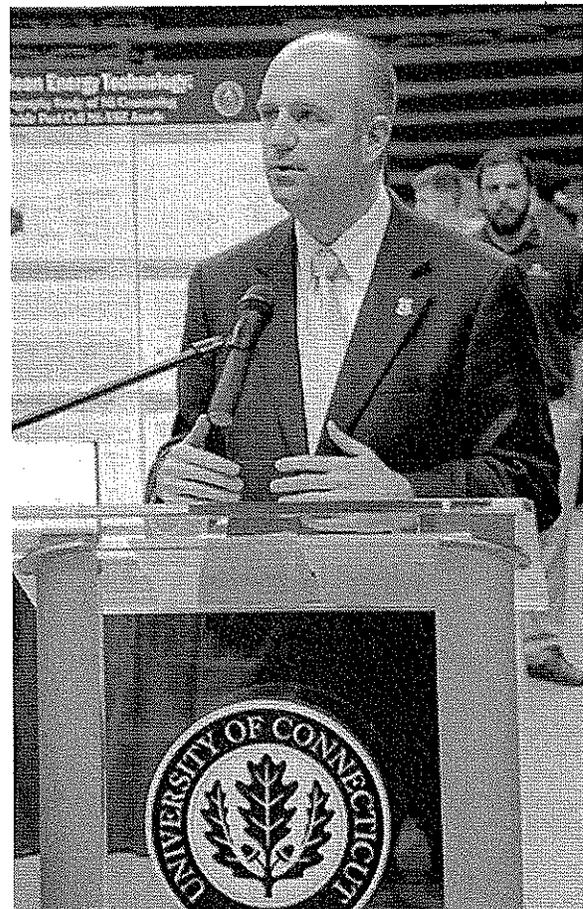
Like Research Triangle in North Carolina, creates jobs with university-industry partnerships

STORRS—State Representative Gregory Haddad (D-Mansfield, Chaplin) and Senate President Donald E. Williams, Jr. (D-Brooklyn) were joined by university and business officials as they announced plans to build a multi-million dollar technology park on the University of Connecticut campus.

The landmark proposal includes \$18 million in funding for the design, site development and infrastructure improvements necessary to create the tech park. Also included, is \$2.5 million to create an 'Innovation Partners Eminent Faculty Program' which seeks to attract some the nation's top scholars and scientists and to leverage millions of dollars in federal and private investment.

"People who live in Eastern Connecticut have long understood the importance of UConn to our local economy," said Rep. Haddad, vice-chair of the legislature's Commerce Committee and a member of the Higher Education Committee. "I thank Sen. Williams for his vision and critical support of this initiative that has the potential to fuel an economic renaissance across the region. Seen to its completion, a technology park, anchored by an Innovation Partnership building has the potential to add hundreds of jobs for eastern Connecticut residents and to attract research divisions from some of the largest and most innovative companies in the world."

The UConn tech-park will eventually include multiple buildings—many of which could be privately funded—that will house large, flexible-use laboratories containing



Rep. Haddad speaks at a news conference announcing plans to build a multi-million dollar technology park on the University of Connecticut campus.

specialized equipment for collaborative research. The complex, to be located in the North Campus, will provide space for business incubators and individual companies.

"The potential for Connecticut is outstanding. The state's location between Boston and New York is a significant asset," Sen. Williams said. "A research and technology center in Storrs will provide companies with easy access to world-class metropolitan areas, specialized R&D equipment, and a highly skilled workforce. The net outcome will be more private sector jobs for Connecticut, increased research and development, and greater opportunities for students and faculty."

Rep. Haddad and Sen. Williams were joined by UConn President Philip Austin, UTC Vice President of Government Affairs Mike Brown, KTI President Howard Orr, and UConn Dean Of Engineering Mun Y. Choi.

"Connecticut is a state whose economic progress, indeed whose economic survival, depends on knowledge and innovation and very advanced technology," President Austin said. "When the state succeeds in those realms it yields benefits almost beyond measure and keeps us at or near the top of the nation in terms of economic well-being. When we lag behind, we face problems that virtually defy solution."

Research and technology parks are facilities or clusters of facilities that drive technology-led economic development by creating partnerships between research universities and industry. The parks are typically located adjacent to research universities and support the growth of existing companies by offering proximity and access to advanced technology, faculty expertise and engaged students.

"The natural affinity between universities and industry is perhaps most profound for engineering programs, the training ground of the nation's producers and knowledge workers," said Mike Brown. "UTC has enjoyed a long and rewarding relationship with the UConn School of Engineering. For decades, we have hired engineering graduates to work within our business units. It's safe to say they have been instrumental in helping our company design and build some of the world's most innovative products."

The collaborations that result from these partnerships often lead to innovations and discoveries with commercial applications, create new jobs, and generate federal and industry research grants. A 2007 study of technology parks in the United States and Canada by the Battelle Memorial Institute estimated that the typical tech park generates 750 jobs. Many states, such as North Carolina, Illinois, and Indiana have built tech-parks that attracted hundreds of companies and thousands of jobs.