

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: January 9, 2012
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

- *CCM Workshop* – At 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 28, 2012, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) will hold a workshop at the Nathan Hale Inn and Conference Center for newly elected municipal officials. The session will cover important topics such as budget, financial management and labor relations, and incumbents are certainly welcome to attend. Please let Ms. Bourque or me know if you would like to attend the workshop and we will make sure that you are registered.
- *Police Services Study* – The Police Study Steering Committee will meet at 2:00 PM this coming Thursday, January 12, 2012, to review a revised draft of the study and to discuss its recommendations to the Town Council. Staff would like to hold a special Council meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, January 30, 2012 to allow the steering committee to present the revised study to the Town Council.
- *School Construction Project and School Tours* – The Town Council will hold its next work session regarding the proposed school construction project at 5:30 PM in advance of its regular meeting on January 23, 2012. In addition, the Mansfield Board of Education has invited the Councilors to join the Board on a tour of each school. The tours will begin at 7:00 PM preceding the regularly scheduled Board meetings on the following dates:
 - Thursday, January 19, 2012– Goodwin Elementary
 - Thursday, January 26, 2012 – Mansfield Middle School
 - Thursday, February 2, 2012 – Vinton School
 - Thursday, February 9, 2012 – Southeast School
- *Wood from Storm Recovery Operations* – At the last meeting, a citizen asked about the distribution of wood cut down by the Public Works Department after the last two storms. Initially during Storm Irene, some of the wood cut closest to the garage was stored at that facility. In order to ensure accountability and proper handling of the material, management then directed staff to transport all debris to the Town's transfer station, where the debris will be processed according to the department's guidelines and eventually ground up into wood chips.

Departmental/Division News

- *Town Manager's Office*
 - Appointment of Library Director – As explained in more detail in [item #15](#), the Town has appointed Ms. Leslie B. McDonough to serve as the next Director of the Mansfield Public Library. Staff plans hold a welcome reception for Ms. McDonough at 6:00 PM on January 30th in advance of the proposed special Town Council meeting for that evening. We need to coordinate with key invitees and will announce more specific details on the reception at a later date.

- Storrs Neighborhood Watch – On Thursday, December 29, 2011, our Resident Trooper’s Office conducted a meeting with a number of residents to discuss concerns regarding the recent burglaries in the Storrs neighborhoods. I thought that we had an informed discussion about the nature of the burglaries, the status of the investigation (pending), ways to improve communication and benefits of establishing a neighborhood watch. As an immediate next step, one of the residents volunteered to assist the trooper’s office with communications and established an informal email distribution list. In addition, SGT Cournoyer plans to conduct a follow meeting at 7:00 PM on January 19, 2012 to introduce a new “Google Group” that has been set up specifically for the Storrs Neighborhood Watch. At the January 19th meeting, SGT Cournoyer will also discuss how information will be gathered and distributed, as well as other neighborhood watch guidelines. I would like to commend our residents for their participation and SGT Cournoyer and the troopers for their efforts to establish the neighborhood watch program.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center*
 - STEAP Grant Award – On January 3rd, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that the Town of Mansfield was awarded a \$500,000 2012 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant for infrastructure improvements along Village Street in Storrs Center. Village Street will serve the retail shops, restaurants, and offices to be located within the new downtown, which has been designed to be pedestrian-oriented and to accommodate a variety of transportation modes. Village Street is part of an integrated transportation plan that includes accessibility for buses, other transit vehicles, cars, bicycles, and pedestrians throughout the new “Main Street” area. (The STEAP grant will fund the construction of the utilities (water, sewer, gas, electric) and on-street parking along a portion of the Village Street.)
 - Construction update (from website) – Interior work on both 1 Dog Lane and 9 Dog Lane continues. A tight roof and temporary heat allow for work to progress uninterrupted on the residential spaces and on the first-floor commercial spaces. In the meantime, exterior work also continues, including completing the window installation as well as ongoing brick work and trim work. Work on the parking garage is also progressing, with the foundations now clearly visible. Recently, a new construction entry to the site was created off Route 195 in anticipation of the delivery of additional materials for the garage.
 - Project update – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc., together with key Storrs Center team members from the Town of Mansfield and Storrs Center master developer LeylandAlliance and their partner Education Realty Trust (EDR) will hold an update on the Storrs Center downtown project. The project update will be held at the University’s Bishop Center at 7:00 PM on January 11, 2012. Over the last several months, much progress has been made on Storrs Center including the groundbreaking of Phase 1A in June, construction of the first buildings in Phase 1A and the parking garage, leasing of the residential units, and leasing of commercial spaces. The January 11th information session will provide the opportunity for an update on all critical aspects of this important project.
 - Job Fair – Storrs Center Alliance and Education Realty Trust, together with Erland Construction, will host a local job fair for people from the area interested in potential job opportunities in the construction of the first phases of Storrs Center. The job fair will be held in the gymnasium at the Mansfield Community Center (10 South

Eagleville Road) in Mansfield on Thursday, January 12 from 7:30 - 8:30 PM. For inquiries about the job fair, contact StorrsCenterInfo@erland.com.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, January 10, 2012, 11:45 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, January 10, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Historic District Commission, January 10, 2012, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children Executive Council Regular Meeting, January 11, 2012, 1:15 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, January 11, 2012, 1:15 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Police Services Study Steering Committee, January 12, 2012, 2:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, January 12, 2012, 7:30 PM, Employee Lounge, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, January 13, 2012, 8:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, January 17, 2012, 6:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, January 17, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, January 18, 2012, 2:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, January 18, 2012, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, January 18, 2012, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting, January 23, 2012, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building**
- Town Council, January 23, 2012, 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.*