

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: May 14, 2012  
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:

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

- *Fiscal Year 2012/13 Budget*
  - *Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration* – Pursuant to the Town Charter, on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 Mansfield voters conducted the Annual Town meeting for Budget Consideration. At the Town Meeting, voters adopted the Proposed FY 2012/13 Budgets with 174 voting in favor of the budget and 100 opposed.
  - *Region 19 Budget Referendum* – Also on May 8, 2012, Regional School District 19 held its budget referendum. Voters in Mansfield, Willington, and Ashford approved the Proposed FY 2012/13 Budget, with 643 in favor of the budget and 349 opposed.
- *Council Meetings on the Internet* - Mansfield Town Council meetings held at the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building will be available for viewing live online using a computer (Windows or Mac) or an iPad/iPhone. Visit <http://mansfieldct.org/channel13> to view a live video feed during each meeting. Using the same link, Town Council meetings will also be available for on-demand viewing for the 31 days following the meeting. We will continue to broadcast the meetings live on Charter Cable channel 13 as well as during the weeks following each meeting.

## **Departmental Updates**

- *Public Works*
  - Tennett Tree Service is under contract with Connecticut Light & Power and will be working to improve the reliability of service to Mansfield by pruning and removing trees around CL&P electric distribution facilities. As part of this effort, two trees that meet the guidelines for removal (greater than 18 inches in diameter) will be removed along Route 195.
  - Construction on Route 195 in the area of Chaffeeville Road continues. The lower courses of asphalt have been placed on the roadways and work continues to finish the slopes and edges. Final completion date is still projected to be in September of this year.
- *Human Services*
  - We recently installed a new sign at the driveway entrance of the Mansfield Senior Center. I would like to thank the Senior Center Association for sharing the cost of the new sign with the town, as well as the Facilities Management Department for installing the sign.
  - On Thursday, May 3, approximately 70 seniors attended a presentation by Congressman Joe Courtney and Atty. Pamela Meliso from the Center for Medicare Advocacy. The presentation, titled "Medicare: Today and Tomorrow," covered information on proposed Medicare rate changes for providers and the impact of possible changes to the Affordable Healthcare Act. The presentation was well received by those in attendance.
  - On Friday, May 4 approximately 135 people attended the Mansfield Community Playground Design Day celebration at the Mansfield Middle School. The design team created a proposed playground design with input from students at all three elementary schools, and the playground committee initiated its fund raising efforts.
  - Following the April 23 Town Council meeting, staff sent an application for non-profit agency funding to the Windham Harm Reduction Coalition. To date the coalition has not returned the application and has not responded to an email request for more information about the agency.

- *Town Manager's Office*
  - We had another successful year utilizing UCONN work study students. This was our third year participating in the program. During academic year 2011-2012 UCONN work study students worked 1,727 hours, equivalent to a .95 FTE. We estimate that the value of these hours totals \$20,498, with students providing assistance to the Town Manager's Office, Public Works, the Town Clerk's Office, Parks and Recreation, Information Technology, Finance, Youth Services and Facilities Management. Students worked on a variety of research projects, archiving projects, sustainability projects, and human resources projects just to name a few.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *School Building Project* – The Town Council will meet at 7:00 PM this Thursday, May 17, 2012, in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building to discuss the school building project. The focus of the session will be on siting issues, with presentations from Anchor Engineering, the project architect, our Director of Planning and Development and the Sustainability Advisory Committee. I will also update the project timeline for the Council's review.
- *Storrs Center Construction Update* – With the erection of the pre-cast components complete, work on the interior of the parking garage is progressing, including underground utilities and placing the concrete slab in the main level. The utility work on Dog Lane continues in preparation for the realignment of the street, and Dog Lane remains closed to through traffic during the day. Residents and customers of the local businesses may use Dog Lane but should expect delays. The work on the façades of 1 Dog Lane and 9 Dog Lane is progressing. As the work on the upper floors and roof finishes and the new businesses complete their plans, the focus will shift to finishing the storefronts. Two businesses have moved into their new locations: Select Physical Therapy (9 Dog Lane, Suite 108) and Storrs Automotive (11 Dog Lane). While construction in the area continues, they are both accessible and open for business. Look for the signs along Dog Lane to direct you to their new locations. While every effort is being made to manage traffic flow, there may be delays as the construction vehicles navigate the site. Please remember to drive slowly through the construction area and maintain a safe distance between yourself and oversized vehicles. The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- *Water Workshop* – I have spoken with staff from the CT Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and have tentatively scheduled a date for 6:00 PM on Thursday, July 12, 2012 for the Council's workshop. Please hold this date in your calendar.

### **Upcoming Events**

- *Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony* - Save the date! Mansfield will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, 2012. 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. **All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to march at the head of the parade.** We are honored to have our veterans and service personnel join us on Bassetts Bridge Road at 8:30 AM on Memorial Day. In the event of inclement weather, an abbreviated ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* - Storrs Farmers Market is now in its 18<sup>th</sup> outdoor season. Through Thanksgiving, the Market is open every Saturday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Mansfield Town Hall parking lot. Everything sold at the market is "Connecticut Grown," so the offerings change with the season. Right now, visitors will find leafy greens, rhubarb, baked goods, meats, cheeses, and more. For more information about the market, including a crop calendar and list of farmers, visit their new website: [StorrsFarmersMarket.org](http://StorrsFarmersMarket.org).

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Human Service Advisory Committee, May 16, 2012, 2:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ad Hoc Committee on Naming Streets and Buildings, May 16, 2012, 4:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, May 16, 2012, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, May 16, 2012, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting, May 17, 2012**, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, May 21, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, May 22, 2012, 9:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, May 22, 2012, 2:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, May 23, 2012, 1:15 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, May 24, 2012, 6:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Town Council, TUESDAY, May 29, 2012**, 7:30 PM, 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.*