

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 28, 2013
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

- *Use of Town Van by Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (MCNR)* – As you will recall, has requested use of the Town's new accessible van. The Town Council and staff discussed this issue in a preliminary fashion as part of our review of the Proposed FY 2013/14 Budget. Over the next few weeks, our senior services staff plan to meet with MCNR to discuss their needs and potential options to meet those needs. We will keep the Council informed of these discussions.

Departmental Reports

- *Human Services/Town Manager's Office* – Kevin Grunwald has retired and I have assumed the responsibilities of serving as Interim Director of Human Services, with assistance from Maria Capriola and others. In this role, I have made interim assignments to cover key duties previously handled by the director. For example, I have assigned Kathy Ann Easley to serve as Municipal Agent for the Elderly and Maria Capriola to serve as Fair Housing Officer. In addition, I am meeting with staff on a regular basis to manage and oversee assignments. This interim period will give Maria and me an opportunity to become more familiar with the day-to-day workings of the department and to review and assess operations. I would like to thank the human services staff, and to recognize Karen Taylor in particular, for their willingness to pitch in and work with Maria and me during this transitional period.
- *Parks and Recreation*
 - *Boomer's Group* – The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for baby boomers who are interested in getting together for some adventure. Those wanting to get together with other baby-boomers for some hiking, kayaking, whitewater rafting, biking or related activities please call (860) 429-3015 ext. 106 or email Bette.Stern@MansfieldCT.org to get on the mailing list. Two activities have been scheduled so far: 1) June 8 - meet at 1:00 PM at the Nipmuck Trailhead on Puddin Lane for a hike to Wolf Rock and back. Afterwards the group will go to a local restaurant for dinner; no pre-registration required. 2) June 20 - meet at River Park with your kayak at 5:30 PM for a group paddle down the Willimantic River to the Eagleville Dam. Don't have a kayak? You can rent one for \$5 at the Community Center. No pre-registration required for the paddle, but rented kayaks must be reserved in advance.
 - *Community Center Gardening Project* - The Parks and Recreation Department would like to acknowledge the volunteers for their work on the Community Center gardening project. Bruce Goldman, Sharry Goldman, and Carol Thomas helped to remove hundreds of bulbs that had become overgrown in front of the Community Center. Parks and Recreation staff arranged for volunteers from AmeriCorps to transplant those bulbs to Southeast Park. Volunteer Rudy Favretti then designed new plantings to be installed outside the Community Center and Bruce, Sharry and Carol worked tirelessly to get the new plants in the ground. Thanks to all for their assistance!
- *Town Manager's Office* – Carl D'Oleo-Lundgren, an intern in the Town Manager's Office, has been awarded the Pickering Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship. The fellowship will provide funding to Carl for his senior year of undergrad and first year of grad school and two paid summer internships, one in DC or New York and one overseas. The fellowship requires Carl to join the Foreign Service after completion of his master's degree. Carl is one of 20 nation-wide fellows selected this year. Congratulations Carl!

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Connecticut Interstate Reliability Project* – CL&P is in the process of preparing a Development and Management Plan (DMP) for the Interstate Reliability Project and will be presenting the plan at an Open House on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Mansfield Community Center. The DMP contains the detailed construction information for the project, including such items as placement of access roads and final structure locations, identification of areas for staging and equipment storage, field office trailers, and other related facilities; planned work hours as well as environmental measures such as vegetation clearing, erosion and sedimentation control, etc. A draft copy of the plan is expected to be delivered to the Town during the first week in June to provide the community with an opportunity to comment. Comments on the draft plan will be due to CL&P by July 1, 2013; as such, staff expects this to be a future agenda item for Council consideration.
- *Storrs Center Construction Update* – Earlier this month, the Town of Mansfield oversaw the beginning of construction of the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center planned in Storrs Center. Gregg Wies & Gardner Architects of New Haven designed the building, and the Town selected W. J. Mountford Company of South Windsor through a competitive bid process to construct the building. The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center is expected to open in the fall of 2013. The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center will be a key feature in Storrs Center with its convenient location adjacent to the Storrs Center parking garage. It will be a central stop for local, regional, and intrastate buses, including WRTD and UConn buses. Bus patrons will be able to track bus locations through an integrated technology system and wait for their bus either inside or outside the facility. The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center will also offer amenities for bicyclists, whether casual riders or commuters. There will be bike lockers for storage, and commuters will be able to sign up to use showers and changing rooms. Funding for the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center is provided by a \$4.9 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The Greater Hartford Transit District is administering the grant. The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center is named for Dennison Nash and Gary Zimmer, two longtime Mansfield residents who were strong advocates for alternative transportation. Questions may be directed to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (storrscenterinfo@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740). The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.

Special Events

- *John E. Jackman Tour de Mansfield* – The Town's annual John E. Jackman Tour de Mansfield will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2013 from 7:00 AM – 12:30 PM. There will be a 5-mile Family Fun Ride, a 20-mile and 40-mile ride, and a free bike rodeo for kids. Rides begin and end at the Mansfield Community Center and lunch is included for all registered riders. Pre-registration by June 21st is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. Registration on June 22nd is an additional \$5. Children under 18 years of age ride free. For more information, please call 860-429-3015.
- *Memorial Day Parade and Commemoration Ceremonies* - The Town of Mansfield held its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 27, 2013. The E.O. Smith and Mansfield Middle School marching bands provided the music and numerous marching units participated including Mansfield's local scouting troops, little league teams, and fire department. We saw an increase in participation from veterans and active duty personnel this year which is a trend we hope continues. Reverend Matthew Emery from the Storrs Congregational Church gave the invocation and benediction, Deputy Mayor Toni Moran gave the welcoming remarks, Representative Haddad presented the Governor's Proclamation, and Councilor Christopher Paulhus led the Pledge of Allegiance. Newly added to the program and well received was a reading of the poem "Peace" by a mix of girl and boy scouts. Special thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Paul Veilleux for serving another year as our invaluable parade commander and master of ceremonies and to all those who attended as a show of gratitude and respect for those who died protecting our liberties.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, May 29, 2013, 7:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Inland-Wetland Agency/Planning & Zoning Commission, June 3, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, June 3, 2013, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, June 4, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, June 4, 2013, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, June 5, 2013, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, June 6, 2013, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, June 10, 2013, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, June 10, 2013, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, June 10, 2013, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, 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.*