

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: July 13, 2009  
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:

## **Community-Campus Relations**

- *Passing of Chief Williams* – The UConn Fire Department announces with deep regret the passing of Chief Francis J. Williams. Funeral arrangements are as follows: Calling hours on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 2:00PM – 4:00PM and from 7:00PM – 9:00PM at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center Street, Manchester, CT; Funeral on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 11:00AM, Storrs Congregational Church, 2 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT. All attendees are asked to park at the University Of Connecticut-Storrs "C" lot, which is located off of North Hillside Road. Shuttle buses will transport attendees to the church. At the request of the family, the burial is to be private.

## **Council Action Items/Requests for Information**

- *Assisted/Independent Project* – per the Council's request, I contacted Mr. Ray Washburn at Masonicare to request a status report regarding this project. Mr. Washburn has informed me that Masonicare has purchased an option on a parcel of property in Mansfield. This is a challenging time to obtain financing, and Masonicare is waiting for the equity markets to clear up before proceeding with facility modeling and other important tasks. I did get the impression from Mr. Washburn that Masonicare remains strongly committed to the Mansfield project.
- *Regionalism Sub-committee* – with the assistance of the subcommittee, I am working on a draft request for qualifications to retain a qualified consultant to assist in preparing a study regarding existing and future police services and demands. I intend to provide the subcommittee with a draft in the August/September timeframe.

## **Departmental/Division News**

- *Member of the Year Award* – Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, was recently presented with the "Member of the Year Award" for the New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Lon currently serves as the New England chapter's Secretary-Treasurer. Lon recently edited the New England Chapter's "50 Year History" book that was published in 2008. The New England chapter is one of sixty-nine chapters in the country and consists of over 1,000 members from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The New England chapter is 54 years old and a Member of the Year Award is awarded to a member annually.
- *Probate Court Redistricting Plan* – Probate Judge Claire Twerdy has informed me the probate assembly has approved a plan for 50 courts. The plan does consolidate the Coventry-Mansfield Court into a larger district, now to include the towns of Tolland and Willington in addition to Coventry and Mansfield. There are many important issues that need to be resolved, such as the physical location of the consolidated courts. I will be meeting with Judge Twerdy to discuss the consolidation, and will inform the Council of the next steps related to this initiative.

- *Recycling News* - Effective immediately, Willimantic Waste Paper, the recycling processor who is contracted by the Town of Mansfield, will take all types of plastic containers with the cans and bottles grouping. Plastic containers are no longer limited to #1 and #2 types. Examples of acceptable plastic containers include buckets, take-out containers, yogurt containers and cups. Please remove all food and rinse out containers. These plastics can be grouped with metal cans, aluminum foil and trays, milk and juice cartons, drink boxes, glass bottles and jars. The plastics that are not included in this grouping are garden hoses, plastic bags and any kind of Styrofoam. Styrofoam peanuts are accepted for reuse at the Mansfield transfer station. Plastic bags are recycled at the transfer station, Big Y and Champions store.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- *Community transportation program* – Town Council to review and discuss this issue, particularly as it relates to transportation for seniors, adults with visual impairments and persons with disabilities. Council also to review the pros and cons of utilizing volunteer drivers as part of such a program.
- *Connecticut Local Pass-Through Justice Assistance Grant (CT Local JAG Program)* – Mansfield is slated to receive \$9,100 in federal stimulus funds; staff is preparing an application for Council review and endorsement
- *Mansfield 2020, Strategic Plan* – staff will present the feedback received from the various advisory boards and committees that were asked to comment on the plan, along with recommended next steps for the project
- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Storrs Center Project* – staff to review current status of negotiations related to development agreement with master developer, and commercial and financial information provided in confidence
- *Mansfield v. Windham Water Pollution Control Authority* – staff to review next steps of pending litigation with Town Council
- *Program Sponsorship Signs/Banners at Mansfield Skate Park* – Town Council to review recommendation from Recreation Advisory Committee
- *Planning, Acquisition and Management Guidelines for Open Space, Park, Recreation, Agricultural Properties and Conservation Easements* – Town Council to review recommended revisions to the guidelines
- *Town-University Relations Committee* – Town Council to review committee's recommendation to revise the composition of its membership in order to facilitate its new oversight responsibilities for University Spring Weekend

### **Member Organizations**

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership* – a few items of interest regarding the Downtown Partnership and the Storrs Center Project:
  - Storrs Automotive, the automotive repair business now located at 4 Dog Lane in Mansfield, has signed a letter of intent agreement with Storrs Center to be a tenant in the first phase of the project. The business, which has a long-established presence in Storrs, is the first "relocation" tenant currently in an existing Storrs site to make a preliminary commitment to the new "Main Street" development. Plans call for Storrs Automotive to take space in Building DL2, which will be started in Phase 1A of the project.
  - Check out the new *Festival on the Green* website for the latest information on this annual community event by visiting [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org) and clicking on the Partnership logo. The *Festival on the Green* link is on the left of the Partnership website.

## **Upcoming Events**

- *Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village 2009* – This Saturday, July 18, 2009, the Mansfield Community Center, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the Town of Mansfield are proud to present the Fourth Annual Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village. This event is a family-oriented activity for area residents, designed to encourage exercise through cycling, promote awareness of the scenic beauty of Mansfield's villages and bring the community together around a social and recreational activity. The day is designed to appeal to riders of all levels, and will include a 5-mile Family Fun ride and 20 or 40 mile Challenge rides. The rides will start and end at the Mansfield Community Center and will conclude with a barbecue. For registration information, please go online at [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org) and click on the bike tour logo, or you can pick up a registration form from one of many locations including the Mansfield Town Hall and the Community Center.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- Historic District Commission, July 14, 2009, 8:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Public Safety Committee, July 15, 2009, 3:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, July 15, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ethics Board, July 16, 2009, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, July 20, 2009, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, July 20, 2009, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, July 20, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Open Space Preservation Committee, July 21, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee, July 21, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, July 22, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, July 23, 2009, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, July 23, 2009, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, Monday, July 27, 2009, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building