

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

### **Council Requests for Information**

- *Assessor's web applications* – Council member Koehn has forwarded to me some suggestions to enhance the features available to public on the Town's website, including the addition of the assessor's card and related photos. I have asked staff to prepare a quote to add these features.

### **Departmental/Division News**

- *Department of Public Works:*
  - Chipseal Program - This year's chipseal program is complete (about 9 miles were done). These roads are being swept now.
  - Gas Line Installation - The gas line to the Middle School is in. We will pave the Davis Road trench in the next few weeks.
  - Hunting Lodge Road Bikeway—the pathway has been paved and is in use. Driveways and landscaping should be finished in the next few weeks. Some litter problems have occurred which we are trying to solve through various enforcement actions and volunteer help. (Some of the landlords in this area are uncooperative doing little to promote the cleaning of their property's environs.)
  - Lions Club Field - After a slow start and several fertilizations, the 4<sup>th</sup> field is finally growing in a decent stand of turf. It will be playable in 2010, possibly by spring -- but certainly by fall. Our crews will continue the finish work around this field this fall.
  - Road Striping - We anticipate receiving a little more Town Aid road funds than we budgeted, so we have arranged for the Town's collector roads to be striped. Approximately 35 miles of road centerlines are being striped.
- *Town Manager's Office*—Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager, was invited to be the guest speaker for the Recreational Club at Jensen's retirement community for their September 21, 2009 meeting. She reviewed the form of government with the seniors, the duties of the Town Manager's Office and had a question and answer session with the participants. It was a fun and informative session—for the seniors and for her!

### **Member Organizations**

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership, STEAP Grant* - The Storrs Center development planned for downtown Mansfield received a major financial commitment with the announcement by Governor M. Jodi Rell of a \$200,000 grant. The grant comes from the Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP), which provides financial assistance for projects that encourage economic development, community conservation and quality of life. In February, 2008, the Town of Mansfield submitted a formal request to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for a STEAP grant that would be used for the Town Square and related infrastructure. In a September 25<sup>th</sup> special session, the Connecticut State Bond Commission approved the grant. The STEAP funds are designated for infrastructure construction to be completed in the Town Square area of the project and would include site work, road realignment, building demolition, utility work and landscaping and streetscape enhancements. The Town Square is one of the key areas in the Storrs Center plan and is designed as a centrally-located, vibrant neighborhood with a mix of stores, restaurants, services and apartments.
- *Windham Region Chamber of Commerce* - The Chamber of Commerce, Windham Region along with Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife, are hosting a FREE informational workshop on "Your

Dependent with Special Needs, Making Their Future More Secure' presented by Anthony Recck and Michael Orzolek of Barnum Financial Group's Center for Special Needs Planning on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 pm in Windham Hospital's Bernard & Desrosiers Conference Room. This workshop educates families on the importance of planning for the future of their child or dependent with special needs. It will address important issues such as special needs trusts, protecting government benefit eligibility, guardianship and conservatorship/guardian ad litem, financial security, funding options and letters of intent. This free workshop will provide a unique opportunity to learn from people who have personal experience with these same issues. For more information or to register to attend this event, visit [www.WindhamChamber.com](http://www.WindhamChamber.com) or call 860-423-6389.

### **Miscellaneous**

- *Celebrate Mansfield Weekend* – Celebrate Mansfield Weekend was a great success! Over the weekend people were able to enjoy many events including a wine tasting at the Altnaveigh Inn and Restaurant, the Know Your Town Fair by the League of Women Voters, an exploration of River Park sponsored by the Community Center and the Storrs Farmers Market. Bruce John and the Eagleville Band did a fabulous job playing for the brave who turned out against the weather for the first annual Picnicpalooza on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The weekend continued on Sunday with the Festival on the Green, which enjoyed a bountiful turnout on a beautiful day. The festival was a big hit with great activities for all age groups. I would like to commend Cynthia van Zelm, Kathleen Paterson, Sara-Ann Chaine, Mayor Paterson, the Festival Planning Committee, the League of Women Voters and all who volunteered to help make the weekend such a tremendous success. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done!
- *CCM Municipal Healthcare Committee*–on September 30<sup>th</sup> I will be attending a meeting of CCM's municipal healthcare committee. The agenda will include a discussion of legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2009 session as well as a review of national healthcare proposals.
- *Governor's Council on Local Public Health Regionalization* – I have been appointed as CCM's representative to the Governor's Council on Local Public Health Regionalization, and will be attending its next meeting on October 2, 2009.
- *Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision* – Mayor Paterson and I have discussed this topic, and would like to know if the current Council wishes to schedule a session regarding the implementation of the Strategic Plan or would prefer to defer this item to the incoming Town Council.
- *November 2009 Bond Referendum* – please see a copy of the explanatory text, included as item 12 of the Council packet. This communication will be sent as a direct mail piece to all residential addresses in Mansfield.
- *Passenger Rail Forum* – on October 1<sup>st</sup> I will be hosting a forum regarding the restoration of passenger rail to the existing New England Central Railroad line. I will provide the Council with a report at your next meeting.
- *Regionalism Committee* – the Town Council's Regionalism Committee met earlier today and will provide the Council with an update at one of its October meetings.
- *Town Manager's Performance Review*–as a reminder, the Council will meet with me on October 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss my annual performance review.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee, September 30, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Quality of Life Committee, October 1, 2009, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Planning and Zoning Commission, October 5, 2009, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, October 5, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, October 6, 2009, 4:00 PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office (1244 Storrs Road)
- Cemetery Committee, October 7, 2009, 3:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, October 7, 2009, 6:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, October 8, 2009, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, October 13, 2009, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town/University Relations Committee, October 13, 2009, 4:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, October 13, 2009, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, October 13, 2009, 8:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, TUESDAY, October 13, 2009, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

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