

Town Manager's Office Town of Mansfield

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: September 27, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business/Items of Interest

- *Regional School District # 19 Project Referendum* - On Tuesday, September 28, 2010, Regional School District #19 will conduct a referendum on the proposed renovation of the physical education/athletic facilities at E.O. Smith High School. The polling place for all Mansfield voters is at the Audrey P. Beck Building (Town Hall), 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT. Voting will take place between the hours of 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Departmental/Division News

- *Human Services*
 - The Mansfield Senior Center and the police and fire departments are partnering with People's United Bank to form a local chapter of TRIAD. TRIAD is a national organization that brings seniors, public safety officials and local businesses together to focus on crime and safety issues that impact seniors. A TRIAD Kick-Off Ceremony will be held at the Mansfield Senior Center on Wednesday, October 20 at 12:30 PM, and all Town Council members are invited to attend.
- *Mansfield Public Library*
 - Mansfield Public Library staff has not received any complaints regarding the recent change to library hours, which were adjusted to facilitate the return of some key popular programs such as Toddler Time. Toddler Time attendance has averaged 77 for the first three weeks and many parents have expressed their appreciation for the return of the program.
- *Parks and Recreation*
 - The kayak rental program has been very popular over the summer and the kayaks will continue to be available through the end of October. The fee to rent a kayak is \$5 per day – the rental program is made available through a grant from Healthy Eating, Active Living, administered by the Eastern Highland Health District (EHHD).
 - David Kloss led the 6th Annual Father/Daughter Overnight Backpacking Trip September 18-19. Five people participated this year and they had a great time. Our thanks to David for leading this fine event.
 - There are several special events happening at the Community Center in October:
 - Parent/kids night out – October 2
 - Columbus Day – October 11 (free to residents from noon-3 PM)
 - Family Fun Night – October 16
 - Member appreciation week - October 25-31
 - Town Employee Health & Wellness Day - October 28
 - Annual Halloween Party - October 30
- *Town Clerk's Office*
 - Mary Stanton received her Town Clerk Certification from the Secretary of the State at the Town Clerk conference on September 16th. Congratulations for all your hard work, Mary!
- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership/Town Manager's Office*
 - On September 17, we hosted a delegation from Amherst, MA to discuss our Storrs Center project, as Amherst is contemplating a development project with some similar components. We had a

good session, which included a tour of the Storrs Center project area and our Community Center. I would like to thank Cynthia van Zelm, Greg Padick, Curt Vincente and Jay O'Keefe for their time and assistance – the feedback that I received from the Amherst contingent was very positive

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Storrs Center Project* – Next Thursday, October 7, the Downtown Partnership will host an update on the Storrs Center project. At 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 6, I would like to schedule a special meeting with the Council, as well as representatives from master developer LeylandAlliance and their partner Education Realty Trust, to discuss commercial and financial information provided in confidence related to the developer's business plan for the Storrs Center project.
- *Police Services Study* – Last week we initiated our police services study. Amy Paul from Management Partners and Craig Fraser from PERF met with the steering committee and conducted a number of interviews with councilors and other key stakeholders. Ms. Paul and Mr. Fraser will be back in town on October 25-26 to conduct focus groups and to meet with the Committee of Community Quality of Life and the Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership. I will keep the Council informed as we move closer to that date.

Special Events

- *Mansfield Public Library*
 - Felicia Ortner, a master wildlife conservationist from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, will present an informational program on black bears in Connecticut on Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00 PM in the Buchanan Auditorium. With the populations of black bears increasing throughout our state, Felicia hopes that "through outreach and education these magnificent creatures will become better understood, [and] we will learn to respect them instead of fear them..." This program is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served.
 - Please join us at The Friends of the Mansfield Library annual potluck dinner and evening performance on Friday, October 1, 2010 at the Mansfield Public Library. The potluck dinner starts at 5:30; the evening performance begins at 7:00 in the Buchanan Auditorium. Please register for the potluck dinner and bring a dish to share; forms are available on our website or in the library. The performer this year is the library's own talented storyteller Judy Stoughton. Long before the Internet, TV and radio, stories were told, and Judy keeps this oral tradition alive. You do not have to be a resident of Mansfield to be a member of the Friends of the Mansfield Library. Money received from the Friends' book sales and other fundraising efforts is used to purchase materials and services. Our collection and programming would not be as comprehensive and dynamic as it is without their help. For additional information contact the library at 860.423.2501.
 - The Friends of the Mansfield Library are trying to recruit new and younger members. They are having an additional Book Sale, October 23 and 24, to sell an overload of donated books. The sale will be limited to books and the space available in the Buchanan Auditorium.
- *Farm-to-Table* - On Tuesday, September 28, our local CHART (Community Health Action Response Team) is sponsoring a Farm-to-Table Dinner Event at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, followed by a presentation by Dr. David Katz on "Feet, Forks, and the Fate of our Children." Several town staff are members of the CHART, and the event is being co-sponsored by Mansfield Advocates for Children and the Mansfield League of Women Voters. Tickets for the event are still available, and may be obtained tomorrow morning by contacting the Eastern Highlands Health District.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, September 28, 2010, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Energy Education Team, September 28, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, September 29, 2010, 1:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, October 1, 2010, 2:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, October 4, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, October 4, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- IWA/PZC, October 4, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, October 5, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, October 6, 2010, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, October 6, 2010, 6:00 PM, Community Room, Mansfield Community Center
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, October 7, 2010, 4:00 PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
- Ethics Board, October 7, 2010, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Quality of Life Committee, October 7, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, October 12, 2010, 5:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, October 12, 2010, 8:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, October 12, 2010, 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 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*