

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: July 25, 2011
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

- *DOT Matching Grant Program* – ConnDOT has approved the Town of Mansfield's FY 12 application to the Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation, in the amount of \$24,053. This figure represents a 25% decrease from the previous year due to an overall reduction in state funding for the program. The Town uses these funds primarily to provide transportation to medical appointments outside of the Dial-A-Ride region, for mileage reimbursement for the Volunteer Driver Program, and periodic recreational trips. Given the reduction in funding staff will have to prioritize the use of these funds, focusing primarily on medical transportation.
- *EMS call for service on Cedar Swamp Road* – One of our residents brought this issue to the Council's attention. Fire Chief Dagon has reviewed the matter and plans to commend the babysitter for her actions in responding to the incident. The Chief will also recognize departmental personnel as appropriate.

Departmental/Division News

- *Human Services*
 - *Heat wave* - During last week's extreme heat the Departments of Human Services and Emergency Management collaborated to provide information to residents regarding how to safely deal with the weather. The Mansfield Community Center and the Mansfield Public Library were identified as "cooling centers" (the Senior Center was closed for maintenance for the week), and information was disseminated through a variety of sources to provide information about how to stay cool, as well as the warning signs of excessive heat exposure.
- *Library*
 - *Maps through Time* - Thursday, July 28th, 6:00 PM, Mansfield Public Library, Buchanan Auditorium. Join some map experts from UConn's MAGIC (Map and Geographic Information Center) and learn how maps have changed through time. This program is free and open to the public and is suitable for adults and teens.
- *Parks and Recreation*
 - *Summer concert series* - There are two concerts left in July, which will be held on the Community Center green (AKA the ice rink) from 6:30-8:00PM. July 21 - Memphis Soul Spectacular; July 28 - Kidsville Kuckoo Revue. The concerts are FREE. In the case of inclement weather, the concerts will be moved into the community center gymnasium
 - *Summer family fun* - Family Fun Night on Aug. 12, 6-9PM; Family Fun Morning on Aug. 27, 10AM-1PM.
 - *Free Mansfield Day at the Community Center* - Mansfield residents can use the community center for free on Sat., Aug. 27, 10AM-1PM.
 - *Fall brochure* - The Fall 2011 brochure is in production and will be mailed by Aug. 13.
 - *Annual shutdown* - This year's annual shutdown of the Community Center will be Aug. 15-21. The center will re-open on Mon., Aug. 22 at 5:30AM.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center Project*
 - *Discussion on residential leasing* – At 6:30PM this Thursday, July 28, 2011, representatives from EDR, the residential developer for Storrs Center, will meet with the Town Council and the Downtown Partnership's board of directors to discuss and solicit feedback on EDR's plans to market and lease the residential component of the project. Please attend this session if you are available.

Member Organizations

- *Bergin Correctional Facility* - At the regularly scheduled Public Safety Committee meeting on July 13th, Warden Rinaldi reported on the closure of Bergin Correctional Institute. Bergin Correctional Facility will no longer house inmates as of 8/5/2011 and will be closed as of 8/12/2011. The Department of Correction (DOC) will continue to maintain and monitor the property. The Committee on Committees is reviewing whether or not deactivation of the Committee is appropriate once Bergin no longer houses inmates. (The Public Safety Committee was created pursuant to state statute, which requires host communities and the DOC to establish a joint committee.)

Special Events

- *Council on Environmental Quality forum* - The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is the state agency that reports to the Governor and the legislature on the status of Connecticut's environment. Its widely-read annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*, identifies the important trends in the state's environment. The Council evaluates the success of existing state environmental programs, and recommends improvements to programs or new laws where shortcomings are apparent. The CEQ will hold its next public forum here in Mansfield, at 5:30PM this Wednesday, July 27th, in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building. The CEQ wants to know what residents think the state does well and what state environmental programs need improvement. Whether someone's concerns involve open space, environmental enforcement, water supplies, economic development, or quality of life, the CEQ wants to know what residents think the state's environmental priorities should be. The forum will be relatively informal and people will speak in the order in which they sign up. More information is available on the CEQ website: www.ct.gov/ceq.
- *Tour de Mansfield* – [Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village](#) was held on Saturday, July 16, 2011 with over 100 riders of all ages participating! The event featured 5, 20 and 40-mile rides that started and ended at the Mansfield Community Center and concluded with a barbecue. Special thanks to our platinum sponsor, Mansfield OBGYN for supporting this great community event for the fifth year in a row! Thanks also to the event coordinator Jessica Tracy of the Parks and Recreation Department and our community volunteers for their assistance with running the event.
- *Transition Towns, From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience: Transitioning our Region to a Positive Future* - Transition Towns is a fast-growing, global movement tackling the triple sustainability challenge (economic, ecological and social) with creative local action. Thousands of communities around the world are exploring and using this positive, solutions-focused approach. How might we come together as a region and support each other – and every community – in making the transition from dependence on dirty, health-damaging, climate-damaging energy to a safer, economically stronger future? At 7:00PM this Tuesday, July 26th here in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building, join a highly participatory conversation and evening of networking and creativity facilitated by Tina Clarke, Transition Trainer. The conversation will serve as an introduction to the Transition Town movement, created in the U.K. For information about Transition Towns, please see www.TransitionNetwork.org or www.TransitionUS.org. This community event is hosted by the Mansfield Energy Education Team. For more information about the evening contact Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator, at 860-429-3333 or waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, July 26, 2011, 9:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, July 28, 2011, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, August 1, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland/Wetland Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, August 1, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer & Water Advisory Committee, August 2, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, August 3, 2011, 5:00PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, August 8, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, August 8, 2011, 7:30PM, 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.*