

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: July 14, 2014  
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**

- *Pesticide Usage in Mansfield Center* – We received a question at the last meeting concerning pesticide use in Mansfield Center. Our Department of Public Works has not used round-up or any pesticide in Mansfield. The State does use pesticides on State highways – one can see the dead vegetation around all sign posts, telephone poles and guardrails. Our Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator does use some pesticides for removal of evasive species. In this case, it was a farmer who leases land from the Town who used a pesticide as allowed by an agricultural land use agreement.

In early June, Mr. Tom Wells applied Roundup to a portion of the Commonfields (immediately south of the cemetery) to remove some invasive plants. Mr. Wells plans to reseed the field within the next few weeks. Prior to the application, he attended the Agriculture Committee to explain his plan and consulted with UConn's Cooperative Extension Service. Under its Agricultural Land Usage Policy approved by the Town Council, the Town does allow limited application of pesticides on leased agricultural land. Below is the section of the policy that relates to pesticide usage.

- Pesticides
  - All Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) sheets for scheduled applications of pesticides are to be provided to the Agricultural Committee prior to application for review when submitting yearly reporting forms. For non-scheduled applications of pesticides, all MSDS sheets are to be provided to the Agricultural Committee with the yearly reporting form.
  - All pesticides must be applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations and/or according to cooperative extension recommendations.
  - The use of Atrazine or its agent is expressly prohibited on the subject property, and will result in the termination of the Lease, immediately authorizing the Licensor to re-enter and repossess said property without legal process.
- *Print Articles* – In the past, my office has distributed articles from the Chronicle to you. This task typically takes approximately two hours per month to complete and I wanted to check to see if the Council wanted us to continue this practice.
- *Transfer Station Tour Follow Up* – I would like to thank the Council members and staff who were able to participate in our recent tour of the Transfer Station. As one example of innovative ways to make money for the Town, Mr. Scott Sheldon has provided the Council with a recent payment receipt for two boxes of wires that we have sold to a scrap dealer. Please see [item number 8](#) in your meeting packet.

## **Departmental Reports**

- *Town Manager's Office* - Please join me in welcoming our new and recently promoted staff members:
  - We have appointed the following people to the position of part-time firefighter/EMT:
    - Christopher Bray, who is currently a Fire Marshal with the Town of Pomfret, an instructor with the Eastern CT Fire School, and Chief of the Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department.
    - Justin Duval, a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Town of Ashford.
    - Angeline Herrick, a volunteer firefighter with the Windham Center Fire Department and a member of the National Guard.
    - Jeff Sneller, who is currently a career lieutenant with the Town of Manchester's Fire Department and is pursuing a degree in Fire Science.
    - Adam Torrant, who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Fire Science from the University of New Haven. He is also a volunteer firefighter with the Norfolk Fire Department and the East Wallingford/UNH Fire Department.
  - Joe Molleur, a part-time firefighter/EMT with Mansfield, will become a full-time firefighter/EMT as of July 13<sup>th</sup>. Joe is a recent graduate of UCONN with a Bachelor's degree in molecular and cell biology.
  - Sara Anderson has accepted the Parent Education Coordinator position with our Youth Services Bureau/Human Services Department. Sara will be working on our early childhood initiatives, including Mansfield Advocates for Children and the school readiness and Graustein grants. Sara begins work on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Sarah Taylor will be joining the staff as a Program Coordinator at the Senior Center on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Sarah comes to us with programming experience from the Coventry Senior Center and a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University.

## **Major Projects**

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project* – Construction activities in Mansfield this week include surveying in the vicinity of Highland Road and Stone Ridge Lane, installation of foundations in the vicinity of Bassetts Bridge Road and South Bedlam Road, installation of structure supports in the vicinity of Rte. 195 and South Bedlam Road, and installation of access roads and construction pads in the vicinity of Rte. 195. Weekly construction updates can be found at [www.NEEWSprojects.com](http://www.NEEWSprojects.com). Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email [NEEWS@NU.com](mailto:NEEWS@NU.com) for more information.
- *Storrs Center*
  - Square Fair – On Friday, June 27, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership hosted the first event, the Square Fair, on the new Town Square. The Square Fair, an initiative of the Partnership's Advertising and Promotion Committee, is a new monthly series of events that is free and open to the public. We do cancel the event with rain. The next Square Fair will be held on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [www.mansfieldct.gov/SquareFair](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/SquareFair). Be sure to "like" the [Square Fair](#) on Facebook and follow [@Square\\_Fair](#) on Twitter, too!
  - Storrs Center Construction - The construction of Eight Royce Circle is nearing completion. This building is the final piece of the "Town Square Neighborhood" and frames the new Town Square. The first floor will host a CVS Pharmacy and a Bruegger's Bagels/Jamba Juice, all set to open in mid-September. The upper four floors will house additional rental apartments by The Oaks on the Square. These 92 apartments are all leased, as are the apartments in One and Nine Dog Lane and One Royce Circle. By mid-August, there will be 414 fully-leased apartments with approximately 800 people living downtown. Also nearing completion is the building referred to as "MP-2," the commercial building located near the new Price Chopper at the southern end of the project. Master developer LeylandAlliance has received strong interest from several potential tenants for space in the building. In addition, Phase 2 of the Storrs Center project is in the early stages of construction. Phase 2 consists of five buildings: four along Wilbur Cross Way and one in between Storrs Commons and Eight Royce Circle. The new buildings will be mixed-use, with commercial and residential spaces. The residential units will consist of rental apartments by The Oaks on the Square. Leasing of the commercial spaces is underway. Construction of Phase 2 is expected to be completed by August 2015.

### **Upcoming Events**

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is open for its 20<sup>th</sup> season. The Market is open every Saturday from May through Thanksgiving, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM on the front lawn of the Beck Municipal Building. Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. In fact, the average distance from farm to market is just 12 miles! Visit [www.storrsfarmersmarket.org](http://www.storrsfarmersmarket.org) for more information.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Conservation Commission, July 16, 2014, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ethics Board, July 17, 2014, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, July 21, 2014, 4:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, July 21, 2014, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, July 22, 2014, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, July 24, 2014, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, July 28, 2014, 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.*