

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: August 24, 2015
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Major Projects and Initiatives

- [Community Playground](#) – Site work is underway behind the Community Center including rough grading. The Playground Committee is also continuing its fundraising efforts and looking for volunteers for the Community build on Columbus Day weekend, October 10, 11 and 12. The committee is tentatively planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for October 31, 2015.
- *Eversource Interstate Reliability Project* – During the week of August 24, 2015, no work is scheduled in Mansfield. Weekly construction updates can be found at www.NEEWSprojects.com. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email NEEWS@NU.com for more information.
- *Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project* – Staff has submitted the draft environmental impact evaluation (EIE) to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for its review, which is estimated to be six weeks. The EIE will be published in the Environmental Monitor after DEEP's review and the Town's makes edits responsive to DEEP comments. In addition, Town staff has received the draft version of the land appraisals for the necessary easements and is reviewing them with the real estate appraisal consultant.

Department Reports

- Public Works
 - *Compost Demonstration Project* - The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) recently approved the Town of Mansfield's request to incorporate a small quantity of food scraps from residents and municipal sources to the leaf compost pile at the Mansfield transfer station. Through the sponsorship of the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC), the Town submitted a proposal to conduct a demonstration project to evaluate the viability of adding food scraps to its existing leaf pile. The Town and the non-profit Connecticut Recyclers Coalition wish to demonstrate the importance of local, small scale food scrap composting operations. Currently there are no provisions under DEEP regulations that allow food scrap composting at any Connecticut municipal transfer stations. EPA and DEEP estimates show that 15% to 30% of a household's waste can be composted. At great expense, the food scraps that go in the trash end up at one of Connecticut's trash incinerators. On top of that, valuable nutrients are lost when thrown out food is not composted. With the addition of food scraps in the Mansfield leaf compost pile, the leaves will compost more rapidly and produce a nutrient-packed soil amendment that will be available for residents. For the past 11 years, the Town has gotten special approval from DEEP to compost food scraps from the low-waste Celebrate Mansfield Festival (formerly Festival on the Green) in the transfer station leaf pile. Under the demonstration project, the Town is now allowed to incorporate food scraps from the Festival without special permission. Plus it opens up the opportunity to collect food scraps at other town functions. All of this aligns nicely with the Near Zero Waste Resolution that the Mansfield Town Council adopted in March 2015. The resolution places emphasis on the Mansfield's commitment to preventing waste, recycling and composting. Mansfield residents that want to participate in the project by contributing their household's food scraps should contact Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 860-429-3333 or waltonvd@mansfieldct.org. Participants will receive collection containers and guidance on what is accepted.

- *Recycling/Waste Prevention Grant* - Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will be awarding the Town of Mansfield with \$14,490 in grant funds for its on-going efforts to reduce waste. The grant funds will be used to continue to enhance waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs. Mansfield joins six other communities receiving rewards for their programs. DEEP credits the Town for its successful curbside and transfer station unit-based pricing program which has managed solid waste like a utility for the past 25 years. Users pay for trash based on how much they dispose. DEEP has been a long-time advocate of unit-based or "pay-as-you-throw" trash service since the amount of per capita waste can drop by as much as 40% under this model. In contrast, when the cost of trash collection and disposal is included in taxes, per capita waste is much higher (and more costly) since it is perceived as being a free service. Other features that DEEP found worthy of recognition includes the four Mansfield schools' compost programs and the newly established repair café that promotes repair and continued use of broken items.
- Town Manager's Office - Please join me in welcoming our new and recently promoted employees:
 - **Ben Funk** has been appointed to our full-time Housing Inspector position. Ben replaces Derek Debus who recently relocated to another state. Ben had been working part-time as a Housing Inspector for the Town. He is certified as a residential building inspector and comes to us with many years of experience as a home improvement contractor.
 - **Patrick Enright** has been appointed to a part-time Housing Inspector position. Pat is a recently retired Firefighter/EMT with UCONN's Fire Department where he spent time conducting inspections.
 - **Caleb Rupert** will be the graduate assistant working with the Town Manager's Office for the upcoming academic year. This summer, Caleb has been helping out the Revenue Collector's Office. Caleb is a second year graduate student in the UCONN Masters of Public Administration program.
 - **Kristen Caramanica** is our new Senior Center Program Coordinator. Kristen replaces Sarah Taylor who was recently promoted to Senior Center Supervisor. Most recently, Kristen worked at the Madison Senior Center in a similar capacity. Kristen has a bachelor's degree in social work from Central CT State University and a master's degree in elementary education from Southern CT State University.
 - **Maggie Ferron** has been hired as our new Early Childhood Services Coordinator. Maggie replaces Sara Anderson who recently relocated to another state. Most recently, Maggie has been Chair of the MAC Playground Committee and a law firm associate. Maggie has a bachelor's degree in classical studies from Middlebury College and a law degree from UCONN.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is in its 21st season. The Market is open from 3:00 to 6:00PM every Saturday through November 22nd on the front lawn of the Beck Municipal Building (Town Hall). Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. Visit www.storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, August 25, 2015, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, August 27, 2015, 1:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, August 27, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, September 1, 2015, 3:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, September 1, 2015, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Agriculture Committee, September 1, 2015, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, September 2, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, September 3, 2015, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, September 3, 2015, 6:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, September 5, 2015, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland-Wetland Agency & Planning and Zoning Commission, September 7, 2015, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Youth Service Advisory Board, September 8, 2015, 11:45 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, September 8, 2015, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, September 9, 2015, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children Executive Council, September 10, 2015, 10:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, September 10, 2015, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, September 10, 2015, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, September 11, 2015, 8:10 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, **TUESDAY**, September 15, 2015, 7:30 PM, 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.*