

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

### **Council Business**

- *Budget Retreat* – On Saturday, February 6, 2016, we held our annual budget and financial retreat with the Town Council. Among other topics, we reviewed the status of the FY16 Budget, our approach to preparing the FY17 operating budget and capital improvement program, as well as the status of current projects and initiatives. I found the discussion and feedback to be informative, and appreciate the time and attention from Council and staff.
- *Medical Transportation for Mansfield Residents at MCNR* – [Item no. 10](#) in your Council packet is a letter from a Mansfield resident requesting the use of the Town's wheelchair accessible van to provide limited transportation for medical appointments to residents at the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (MCNR). Council and staff have discussed this issue in the past. Given the Town's interest in public transportation, and accessible transportation more specifically, I suggest that the Council add this request and the subject of accessible transportation as an item of discussion for a future Council meeting.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *Four Corners Environmental Impact Evaluation* – On February 2, 2016, the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) posted the Four Corners Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) in the *Environmental Monitor*, the state's official site for project information. The public can view a copy of the EIE at the Mansfield Town Clerk's Office or online on the Town's website. There will be a Public Hearing for this project on March 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building. Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on March 18, 2016. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Carlos Esguerra, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127. If you have questions about the public hearing, where you can review this EIE, or other questions about this project, please contact the Mansfield Department of Public Works at 860-429-3331.

### **Department Reports**

- *Department of Public Works, Mansfield Solar Event* - Approximately 20 people attended the business breakfast on January 26, 2016 hosted by the Town of Mansfield's sustainability committee. Connecticut Green Bank generously paid for food and beverage. Bob Wall, Associate Director of Connecticut Green Bank, presented the incentives that are currently available to non-profits, multi-family residences and businesses who are looking to improve energy efficiency and/or install photovoltaic systems.
- *Emergency Management* – The intensity of the winter storm on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> was a bit of a surprise for many. Nevertheless, staff responded swiftly to establish a partial opening of the Town's Emergency Operations Center and to coordinate response efforts with area municipalities, Eversource and Public Works. We established a warming center/shelter operation at the Community Center in response to the power outages throughout town. The shelter was utilized by 20 people for respite and one person for an overnight stay.

### **Member Agency Reports**

- *E. O. Smith High School* – As you may have read, the Region 19 Board of Education has authorized its Superintendent of Schools to explore the sale of the current EO Smith High School campus on Storrs Road to the University of Connecticut. The Region would plan to use the proceeds of the sale along with a state school construction grant to offset the cost of constructing a new high school at the University's Depot Campus on Route 44 in Mansfield. The Region would need voter approval for the transfer of property and construction of the new high school, and also for an amendment to the regional school district plan. Given the Council's likely interest in this topic, I suggest you invite the Region's building committee to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the matter in more detail.

## **Upcoming Events**

- *AARP's Tax Aide Assistance* – Mansfield Senior Center's AARP's Tax-Aide program provides free tax preparation to taxpayers with low to moderate income, with special attention to those 60 and older. Appointments available Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 2 through April 7. Call 860-429-0262 for an appointment.
- *Phoenix Performing Arts Chinese Dance* – The Mansfield Public Library's Chinese Dance performance has been rescheduled to February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a performance of classical and traditional Chinese dances. Dance members strive to present a diverse program of dance and music that opens an exciting window into Chinese culture. Fun for the whole family!
- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is open year-round! The Winter Market will be open twice a month from December through April in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library. Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on the following dates: Feb 13 and 27; Mar 12 and 26; and Apr 9 and 23. Everything sold at Storrs Winter Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut, so the offerings change with the seasons. Visit [storrsfarmersmarket.org](http://storrsfarmersmarket.org) for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market (bi-weekly in the winter).
- *Valentine's Dance* – Mansfield Parks & Recreation's annual Valentine's Dance for parents/guardians and daughters was rescheduled to February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the UCONN Rome Ballroom. Pre-registration with the Parks and Recreation Department is encouraged. Daughters are free!
- *Winter Family Fun Nights* – The Mansfield Community Center will hold a Family Fun night on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Attractions include giant inflatables in the gym and pool, ping pong, tot toys, puzzles, games, open gym & poolside basketball. No fee for members, daily fee for non-members.

## **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Ad Hoc Committee on Rental Regulations and Enforcement, February 10, 2016, 5:30 PM, Senior Center, Main Dining Room
- Sustainability Committee, February 10, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, February 10, 2016, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ad Hoc Committee on Police Services, February 11, 2016, 5:00 PM, Tour of Willimantic Police Department
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, February 11, 2016, 6:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, February 16, 2016, 6:30 PM, Town Clerk's Office, Vault
- Planning and Zoning Commission, February 16, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Open Space Preservation Committee, February 16, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee Meeting, February 17, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, February 17, 2016, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, February 18, 2016, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, February 22, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 22, 2016, 7:00 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.*