

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: April 25, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Council Business

- *Annual Town Meeting* – At 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, we will hold the Annual Town Meeting for budget consideration in the Mansfield Middle School auditorium. All eligible voters are encouraged to attend; please see <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/budget> for more information about the Fiscal year 2016/17 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program.
- *Budget Workshop* – The Town Council will hold a special meeting on the FY 2016/17 Budget at 6:30 PM on April 27, 2016. At this meeting the Council plans to adopt its budget for consideration by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting. In the [April 27, 2016 meeting packet](#) you will find a proposed appropriations act, as well as a series of motions consistent with what we discussed at the April 21, 2016 budget workshop. Please contact me with any questions in advance of the meeting.
- *Budget Info Session* – At 7:00 PM on May 4, 2016, in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building, the Town Council will hold a Public Information Session on the Council's Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2016/17. Please view the proposed budget online at www.MansfieldCT.gov and via our new financial transparency platform at <http://open.mansfieldct.org/>.
- *Crumbling Foundations in Eastern CT* – In collaboration with the towns of Coventry, Tolland and Willington, we will hold an informational meeting at 6:30 PM on May 11, 2016 in the EO Smith School Auditorium to provide homeowners with an update regarding the work the state is doing to address this important issue. Lieutenant Governor Wyman is expected to attend, and staff from the state [Departments of Consumer Protection](#) and Insurance will make a presentation to be followed by a Q & A session. To ensure adequate notice, each of the four towns has sent a letter to every homeowner owning a home built between 1983-2003.
- *Presidential Primary* – Tomorrow, Tuesday, April 26, 2016, Connecticut will hold its Presidential Primary for both Republican and Democratic candidates. The polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and electors should report to their regularly assigned voting location to vote. For more information or to confirm your polling location, please visit the Mansfield Registrar of Voters webpage at www.MansfieldCT.gov or call 860-429-3368 or 860-429-3369.
- *Region 19 Budget Referendum* – On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, Regional School District No. 19 will hold its referendum on its Proposed FY 2016/17 Budget. Mansfield voters will vote in the Council Chamber in the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building; the polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.
- *Request from Willington Public Schools* – Attached you find a letter from the Willington Superintendent of Schools expressing the Willington Board of Education's desire to discuss potential cooperative arrangements between the Willington and Mansfield school districts, including the potential to tuition in Willington students to Mansfield. I anticipate that the Mansfield Board of Education will review this request and respond in a timely manner. I will keep you informed of the status of this important conversation.

Departmental Reports

- *Town Manager's Office*
 - Free Prescription Drug Discount Program. The Town of Mansfield, through its association with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), is continuing to provide a prescription discount card that will provide uninsured and underinsured residents steep savings on prescription medicines. The Town of Mansfield Prescription Drug Discount Card helps residents save money on their prescription medications any time their prescription is not covered by insurance. The prescription discount card provides immediate fiscal relief at the pharmacy counter for uninsured and underinsured residents and offers the following features and benefits:
 - Any Mansfield resident can participate regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance coverage;
 - All prescription medications are covered including pet prescriptions that can be filled at a participating pharmacy;
 - There are no enrollment or membership fees for participating residents;
 - There are no restrictions or limits on frequency of use for participating residents;
 - There are over 63,000 participating pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Stop and Shop, and Big Y, and many independent pharmacies;
 - Discounts are also offered on other medical services including vision, hearing and Lasik services;
 - There is no cost to the municipality to participate.

Cards can be printed by visiting www.CTRxDiscountCard.com, and selecting Mansfield from the drop-down menu. Cards are also be available at the Mansfield Senior Center and the Human Services Office in Town Hall. Since the Program's inception in late April 2013, Mansfield residents have saved over \$75,000 and saved on average 64% of prescription costs.

- *Human Resources* – Please join me in welcoming new employees and congratulating recently promoted employees:
 - Danielle Annibalini begins work May 2nd as the Youth Services Social Worker. Most recently she has worked with the City of Meriden's Health and Human Services Department as a Youth Services Worker. She has a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University and a master's degree in social work from UCONN.
 - Mitch Vildavs has been appointed to a full-time firefighter position with Fire and Emergency Services effective May 1, 2016. Mitch has been an active volunteer member of Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services. He also serves as a per diem firefighter for Scarborough, Maine. Mitch has an associate's degree in applied fire science from Southern Maine Community College.
 - Jared Morse has been promoted from a part-time firefighter to a full-time firefighter with Fire and Emergency Services effective May 15, 2016. He also serves as a Captain for the Muddy Brook Fire Department. He has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Maine.
 - Chris Whitten will be our academic year 2016/2017 economic development intern in Planning and Development. Chris will be a second year student with the UCONN MPA Program. He has a bachelor's degree from Stonehill College. He has worked as a law enforcement intern and as a research assistant, which has included data analysis for municipal police departments. Chris will start in late August 2016.

- *Spring Weekend* – I am very pleased to report that UCONN's Annual Spring Weekend, held this past weekend, was largely uneventful from a public safety perspective. Our Fire Department reported no calls for service and our resident state trooper made no arrests related to spring weekend activities. The state police did make three DWI arrests and issued approximately 75 motor vehicle violations in addition to issuing a small number of minor citations for violations of town ordinances. These numbers represent a radical departure from past spring weekends, and I would like to commend our resident state troopers and fire department, as well as UCONN police and fire, for their proactive approach to enforcement. I would also like to acknowledge the UCONN administration, student government and student body for their successful effort to make spring weekend a safe event for students to enjoy.

Upcoming Events

- *Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony* – Mansfield will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th. A parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. from the intersection of Rt. 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center, and will travel North on 195, down Cemetery Road to the new Mansfield Center Cemetery. A short ceremony will be held at the cemetery. Mayor Paul Shaprio will give the welcoming remarks, Senator Mae Flexer will give the main address and Representative Gregory Haddad will present the Governor's Proclamation. Music will be provided by the Mansfield Middle School Band and the E.O. Smith Regional High School Band. Three volleys will be fired and taps sounded in honors for the fallen. The units will then return to Bassetts Bridge Road. **All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to march at the head of the parade. We are honored to have our veterans and service personnel join us on Bassetts Bridge Road at 8:30 AM on Memorial Day.** In the event of inclement weather, an abbreviated ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium at 9:00 AM.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, April 26, 2016, 9:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, April 27, 2016, 3:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, April 27, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, April 28, 2016, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, April 28, 2016, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland Wetland Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, May 2, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, May 3, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, May 4, 2016, 5:30 PM, Senior Center Dining Room
- Parks Advisory Committee, May 4, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Public Information Session on the Council's Adopted Budget, May 4, 2016, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board Meeting, May 5, 2016, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, May 9, 2016, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, May 9, 2016, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Annual Town Meeting, May 10, 2016, 7:00 PM, Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

**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.*

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40 Old Farms Road, Suite A, Willington, CT 06279 Phone: 860.487.3130 Fax: 860.487.3132

David C. Harding, Superintendent
dharding@willingtonct.org
<http://www.willingtonpublicschools.org/>

Via Email

To: The Mansfield Board of Education
From: David C. Harding, Superintendent *DCH*
Date: April 15, 2016
Re: Request: Sustainability/cooperative agreement

For the past two years the Willington Board of Education has been engaged in exploring options to deal with declining enrollments and the sustainability of our programs. One of the options had been to tuition out students. The former Mansfield superintendent had originally been approached and had responded that there was no room in Mansfield. However, now that Mansfield is conducting a facilities study and looking at ways to maintain the elementary schools it might be worth revisiting the concept.

At the April 12, 2016 Willington Board of Education meeting, the Board authorized me to contact you to see if Mansfield had any interest in opening a dialogue to discuss this option.

Although it might sound like a radical idea, in fact, it could be a very innovative way for both Willington and Mansfield to save money and at the same time maintain high quality academic programming. What I am proposing is that Mansfield considers tuitioning in all of Willington students or at least the fifth through eighth grade students. There are a myriad of issues that would need to be discussed both financially as well as politically. Therefore, let this memo serve as a formal request to begin a conversation between the Boards of Education or other legislative bodies of Willington and Mansfield to further explore this potential cooperative arrangement.

I look forward to your response and thank you for taking the time to consider my request.