

342 Hunting Lodge Road  
Storrs, CT 06268-1511  
August 1, 2010

Town of Mansfield  
Town Clerk  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Storrs, CT 06268-2599

Dear Town Clerk:

I ask that you include my enclosed letter to the Town Council in the packets that the members will receive for the next Town Council meeting.

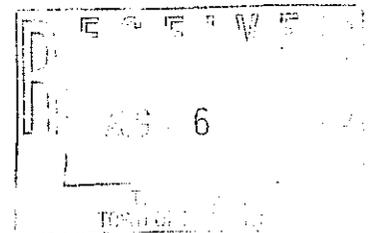
I am unable to attend the meeting due to my physical limitations, however, I would like to express my opinion and support for the issue regarding the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag being said at the beginning of each of our Town Council meetings.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,



Patricia E. Ausburger  
Enc.





the soothing reassurances of consultants, selected by town Staff to provide the validation Staff felt was desired by this Council? Who is willing to press the questions I've posed such as: Why would so many (those 800+ transient parkers) pay to park when there is ample, free parking a few short minutes' drive away at Four Corners, the Eastbrook Mall and all over Windham? And if municipal garages are money makers, why don't towns considerably larger than ours, like Manchester, get into the business? And why wouldn't either the developer or some proprietor not want to build, own, and operate one himself?

Between \$1.5 million and \$2 million of Mansfield taxpayer money has been spent on this over the past decade. There is nothing to show for it for the simple reason that the project is devoid of any economic justification. I suggest that you have not fleshed out the assumptions supporting the Partnership and the project. For the sake of the town's fiscal well-being, I urge you to take these concerns seriously and to have a meaningful debate.

*David Friedman*

Note: Parking Study by consultant Andy Hill of Walker Parking. Can be found on pages 249-268 of packet of Town Council meeting of 4/13/09.

9 August 2010

To the Mansfield Town Council:

Last Wednesday, 28 July, the Willimantic Chronicle ran a leading article to report that the Mansfield Town Council is planning to revive a discussion on the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at town meetings.

I am writing this brief letter to express my strong objection to the recitation of the Pledge at our Town Council meetings. I am somewhat confused by the reason offered by a supporting councilman; he sought a change "because he was a veteran and wanted to see the pledge added to the regular agenda."

I am not at all sure what military service has to do with this issue. Are some of us more likely to offer this pledge to the flag because we served in the military? I myself, for one, had a father who served in World War I, and I served active duty for two years in the U.S. Army during the 1950's and a third term in the Berlin Call-Up. Our "patriotism" is not reflected in these alone, and certainly not by a recitation of a pledge, but by community involvement itself: indeed, service on the Town Council, the local firemen and police activity, the Peace Corps, and all the volunteering that help our neighbors.

It is easy to hide behind the words of a pledge to the flag, and to feel satisfied that our "patriotism" is thus expressed. When we wear these gestures on our sleeves, trotted out at special occasions for all to see and hear, we are showing again the truth of an observation made by the English essayist over 200 years ago, that "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

*Samuel  
Johnson*

As I have been told, and as I understand it, members of the Town Council may already take an oath for office. That should be enough.

Sincerely,

*Harold J. Abramson*

Harold J. Abramson  
214 Wormwood Hill Road  
Mansfield Center,  
Connecticut 06250

## My opposition to the "Pledge of Allegiance"

Several people have testified or written letters about the freedoms of America. But no one has shown any connection between these freedoms and a pledge of allegiance written nearly 150 years after the United States became an independent nation: that is, 150 years after the Declaration of Independence, 150 years after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Did those who lived before the Pledge was written enjoy fewer freedoms? Were they less patriotic? Did they love their country less?

Some indeed did love their country less, and set up their own country, the Confederate States of America—and that of course is why we have "indivisible" in the Pledge. And more recently, there are those who want to undo several Constitutional Amendments. But the lack of a Pledge before the CSA, and the presence of the Pledge more recently, have not deterred these people.

I sometimes wonder who is the more patriotic: Those who meet several hours every other week, having read 200 pages of boring material, to keep Mansfield running? Or those who show up occasionally to try to get others to recite a pledge they themselves rarely recite.

It is because people recite the Pledge without taking it seriously, that I call its recitation "rote." Let me ask those who support the Pledge these questions:

- 1) Why does the Pledge say "pledge allegiance to the flag," which in the Pledge is separate and distinct from pledging allegiance "to the country for which it stands." ("I pledge allegiance to the flag *and* the country"---)
- 2) Why is it "country" in the first sentence, and "nation" in the second?
- 3) Before I told you above, how many knew what "indivisible" meant?
- 4) When did "under God" become part of the Pledge? And, like "indivisible," what does "under God" try to combat?

If one cannot answer these questions, then reciting the Pledge is rote—that is, something about which we know only a little but, for some reason, makes some of us feel good.

Patriotism does not consist of reciting pledges. Patriotism consists in working to make a great country—or Town—better: by serving (as so many Mansfield citizens do) as volunteers on boards and committees and commissions. Facile easy patriots ("sunshine patriots and summer

warriors”) quote Stephen Farragut, “My country right or wrong.” But true patriots quote the German immigrant, Carl Schurz: “Our country right or wrong. When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.” Neither Admiral Farragut (who defeated the Barbary pirates of Algiers, which is where we get “from the shores of Tripoli”) nor Carl Schurz (who became a Union general and then a member of Pres. Hayes cabinet)----neither Farragut nor Schurz ever recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Perhaps they didn’t need to.

Now, like any other New Englander, I get a little embarrassed.

My love of this country is deep and personal. It is not much different from my love of my children and grandchildren. When they do something good, I praise them. Like Carl Schurz, when they do something wrong, I try to correct them. I do not stand up each morning and recite, “I pledge allegiance to my children, who are really really nice.”

My ancestors founded several towns—Elder Brewster in Massachusetts; and Ives, Yales, and Royces in New Haven and other shoreline towns; Taintors in Colchester. My heart and my gut are in Connecticut. None of this makes me more American than anyone else—I am as much an American as one who is naturalized yesterday, as much and no more.

But my history makes my love of country deep in time. It forces upon me a responsibility to praise and to improve. Nothing is gained by reciting by rote a Pledge whose meaning is confused, whose intent is unexplained, and whose result is a false sense of accomplishment.

July/10

*Carl Schurz*

**Elizabeth Paterson**

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**From:** Peters, Tom [tpeters@engr.uconn.edu] **Sent:** Sun 8/8/2010 4:15 PM  
**To:** Public Works; Parks&Rec; Town Council; Town Mngr  
**Cc:** Peters, Tom; Carl Schaefer  
**Subject:** thanks for road work (biking)  
**Attachments:**

To the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Council, Public Works, Parks & Recreation,

Thanks for the great work that is nearly completed on re-surfacing Mansfield City Road from the Willimantic border to Pleasant Valley Road.

While I appreciate the improvement for automotive traffic, I am thrilled about the smoothness for biking. I regularly bike thousands of miles yearly, in and around Mansfield. The resurfaced area is near my home and when I saw the preparation I feared it would be chip-sealed again. That process results in months delay for re-use by cyclists. That treatment had also been ineffective in this area, as the sun-exposed sections at the high point regularly melted away. This smooth surface is a vast improvement and since this is such a crucial access road for area cyclists, it increases the overall appeal for cycling, with corresponding recreational and environmental benefits.

I hope this process can be used regularly. It results in a smooth surface while taking the road out of surface for minimal time.

I express a belated thanks for use of this same process on Rt. 275 between Rt. 32 and the railroad underpass. What was once a bone-jarring cycling hazard is now a smooth enjoyable ride through those tight curves before the underpass.

Again, thanks. Sincerely,

Thomas J. Peters, 27 Michelle Lane, Mansfield Center, CT

Households with Repeat Trash Issues - 8-9-10 VW

Address	Not Recycling	Over Service Level
441 Bassetts Bridge Road	x	
51 Baxter Road	x	x
103 Birch Road		x
44 Birchwood Heights	x	x
24 Clovermill Road	x	x
46 Clovermill Road	x	x
52 Clovermill Road	x	x
9 Daleville	x	x
170 Davis Road		x
141 Gurleyville Road	x	x
113 Hanks Hill Road	x	x
286 Hanks Hill Road	x	x
46A Highland	x	
50 Highland Road	x	
137 Hillyndale Road	x	x
39 Homestead Drive	x	
109 Hunting Lodge Road	x	x
134 Hunting Lodge Road	x	x
146 Hunting Lodge Road	x	
148 Hunting Lodge Road	x	x
156 Hunting Lodge Road	x	x
195 Hunting Lodge Road		x
316 Hunting Lodge Road	x	x
19 Mansfield Hollow Road	x	
130 Maple Road	x	x
200 Maple Road	x	
32 Maplewood	x	
111 McCollum Road	x	
661 Middle Turnpike	x	
197 N. Eagleville Road	x	x
203 N. Eagleville Road	x	x
219 N. Eagleville Road	x	x
58 Riverview Road	x	
60 Riverview Road	x	
146 S. Eagleville Road	x	
406 S. Eagleville Road	x	
1673 Stafford Road		x
693 Storrs Road		x
871 Storrs Road		x
940 Storrs Road	x	
1069 Storrs Road	x	x
1546 Storrs Road	x	x
1556 Storrs Road		x
1608 Storrs Road	x	x
1620 Storrs Road		x
1632 Storrs Road	x	x
1775 Storrs Road	x	x
1909 Storrs Road	x	x
14 Westwood Road	x	x
15 Westwood Road	x	x
17 Westwood Road	x	x
91 Willington Hill Road	x	x
105 Willington Hill Road	x	x

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

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: August 9, 2010  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

### **Council Requests for Information/Council Business**

- *Assisted/independent Living Project* – representatives from Masonicare, the Town's preferred developer, were not available for tonight's meeting but will provide a project update at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> council meeting. Members of the Town's assisted/independent living project advisory committee who are available will also attend the session on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- *Charge to Mansfield Agriculture Committee* – Per the request of the Council and the Committee on Committees, this item has been added as a business item to tonight's agenda, along with relevant background information (see item #5).

### **Departmental/Division News**

- *Retirement of Jo-Anne Roberts* - For the past 33 years Jo-Anne Roberts has worked for the Town of Mansfield in a variety of capacities, and has served as our Information Technology Manager since March 1, 2002. Jo-Anne has been an asset to the organization and has exercised a leadership role within the IT Department. Among other accomplishments, she has developed many ADMINS applications and was instrumental in designing and maintaining our municipal website. I wish Jo-Anne all the best in her retirement and thank her for her 33 years of service to the Town.
- *Finance Department, Year-End Results* – Preliminary results show the Town ending the fiscal year with revenues short of budget by approximately \$195,000. However, this shortfall is covered by savings in expenditures on both the general government and education components of the budget. We expect to finish the fiscal year with an increase fund balance of approximately \$20,000. Even more significant, with transfers from the Town and Board of Education, we will be able to compensate for the \$300,000 reduction in the Pequot Mohegan grant and end the fiscal year with a positive fund balance in the Capital Nonrecurring Fund. Furthermore, for the Recreation Fund we have closed the fiscal year with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$75,000, which leaves us with a fund balance of \$105,000 in the Recreation Fund. This is the third year in a row where we have run a positive fund balance in the Recreation Fund. These preliminary results are directly attributable to the diligent work of our elected officials, department heads, Superintendents of Schools and school administrators in monitoring and controlling their respective budgets.
- *Library* – Summer programs are winding down at the Mansfield Public Library with the ice cream social scheduled for Thursday, August 12 at 2:00 p.m. Attendance for special performances funded by the Friends of the Mansfield Library has averaged 100+, and participation in the Summer Reading Club has been strong as well.

- *Parks and Recreation*

- *Family Fun Night* – The Mansfield Community Center continued with its popular family fun nights on August 4<sup>th</sup> where families enjoyed giant inflatable slides, drop-in games, ping pong, inflatable animal floats, family therapy pool use, family track hours, tot toys and puzzles, board games, poolside basketball, and open teen center. One more summer family fun night will be held on Saturday, August 28 from 6-9pm.
- *Mansfield Mustangs* - Mansfield Parks & Recreation offered a 4-week summer youth service program called the Mansfield Mustangs. Their group slogan was "Serving the Community Through Nature, Animals & Hard Work" which was displayed on their blue and white tie dyed tee shirts. Nine children entering grades 6-9 worked with Jay O'Keefe, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation to complete 21 hours community volunteer work helping local animals in need of care and creating hiking trails in Mansfield open space areas. Each day consisted of three hours of community work and the final hour of each day the Mustangs were rewarded with swimming and playing games at the Mansfield Community Center. On Mondays the group traveled to Tara Animal Rescue in Coventry to care for horses, mules, goats, pigs, cats and other farm animals. On Wednesdays the group marked trails, cleared brush and moved lumber for bridge building at the Albert E. Moss Wildlife Sanctuary in Mansfield.
- *Summer Concert Series* - Mansfield Parks and Recreation held four concerts this summer and favorable weather allowed all four concerts to be held outside on the Mansfield Community Center Green. This year's performers included the Jessica Prouty Band, Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, Shaded Soul Band and The Kerry Boys. Attendance ranged from about 150 for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> concerts to about 300 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> concerts. The concerts are traditionally held on all Thursdays in July.
- *Shut Down Week* – The Mansfield Community Center will be closed for its annual maintenance shut-down the week of August 16-22. The pools will close one day earlier to allow time for a complete washing of the pool surface. This process will take the entire week due to time needed to empty the pool water, wash the pool surface with special chemicals, have new pool water trucked in, re-heat, treat and circulate the new water. Other main projects include re-surfacing of the gym and dance/aerobics room floors which is a 4-5 day process, painting, floor cleaning and re-finishing, high dusting, locker room tile grouting, mechanical repairs, etc.
- *Summer Camps* - Mansfield Parks and Recreation sponsors a series of specialty and sports camps each summer. This year, in addition to the traditional camps, we sponsored a Survival Skills Camp. Nine children ranging in age from 8-11 along with staff from Two Coyotes Wilderness School went out into the woods adjacent to Lion's Club park and learned outdoor survival skills. We're going to try for a winter survival camp during February vacation and definitely a repeat of the summer Survival Skills Camp next summer.

- *Public Works Department*

- The Town's first (of two) ARRA "stimulus" grant projects – the overlay paving of Mansfield City Road near the Windham Town line - was completed this past week. Road striping and a few minor items remain. The project was 100% federally funded and cost approximately \$250,000.
- The Town's second (of two) ARRA "stimulus grant projects" – the completion of the Birch Road bikeway between Hunting Lodge Road and Route 44 - is slated to begin construction soon. The project has been bid and awarded to a local contractor and the necessary bonds, insurance and certifications are being filed now. This project should be completed this construction season and will cost approximately \$200,000.

- *Registrar of Voters* – Primaries for the Democratic offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State and Comptroller and for the Republican offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress and Attorney General will take place August 10, 2010. The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling locations are District 1 – Mansfield Community Center, 10 South Eagleville Road; District 2 – Mansfield Fire Department Station 107 @ Eagleville, 889 Stafford Road; and District 3 – Buchanan Auditorium at the Buchanan Center, Mansfield Library, 54 Warrentonville Road.

- *Town Manager's Office* – The Mansfield Town-University Relations Committee will meet with members of the Windham Town/Gown Committee tomorrow during the regular Mansfield Committee meeting. The objective of the meeting is to share challenges and successes in our respective communities and to explore ways to assist each other through a collaboration of ideas and experience.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *School Building Project* – At 5:30 PM in advance of the Council's regular meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will conduct a workshop on the School Building Project. The key item for discussion at this session will consist of a presentation from Cherie Trahan regarding the financial projections related to the project, including potential impacts to the General Fund, capital improvement program and the debt service fund.

### **Member Organizations**

- *Region #19 Athletic Track and Field Project* – On August 3, Region 19 conducted a public hearing on the proposed athletic track & field renovation project. The Region School Building Committee has worked to bring the scope of this project down, primarily for fiscal reasons. (The original project of \$3.8 million failed at referendum last year.) Following last week's public hearing, the Region Board of Education moved to send the revised project to referendum for \$2.167 million. The revised project focuses on playing surfaces for physical education classes, not just sporting events. The referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 6am to 8pm in all three towns. We urge everyone to vote on this important project.

### **Special Events**

- *Dairy Farmers Forum* – On August 22, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Congressman Joe Courtney and the Town of Mansfield will host a town-hall style forum on dairy farming. The question and answer session with Congressman Courtney is being held specifically for dairy farmers from the second district and topics for discussion include any issue pertaining to the state of dairy farming in Connecticut.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, August 10, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, August 10, 2010, 4:00 PM, Community Room, Mansfield Community Center
- Historic District Commission, August 10, 2010, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, August 11, 2010, 7:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, August 12, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, August 16, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, August 16, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, August 18, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, August 23, 2010, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, August 23, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, 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 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*