

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MH*
CC: Town Employees
Date: February 14, 2011
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Budget Retreat* – The Council held their annual budget retreat this past Saturday, February 12, 2011. I thought we had an informative and thorough discussion and thank the Council for your time. This is an important workshop as we enter into the preparation of the FY 2011/12 Budget and Capital Improvement Program.
- *Spring Weekend* – The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government Senate has released a state of position regarding spring weekend. Please see item number 12 in your Council packet for more information.

Departmental/Division News

- *Human Resources* - On February 11, 2011 the Town of Mansfield-Region 19-Mansfield Board of Education received the Business Council of Fairfield County's Platinum Award for Healthy Workplaces. The Business Council recognizes employers in a five-state region who "understand the competitive advantage of a healthy workforce and who have implemented cutting edge programs to promote a health workplace and assist their employees live healthier lives." Mansfield was the only government agency recognized and shared the Platinum spotlight with corporations such as IBM, Sikorsky and Nestle Waters North America.
- *Human Services* - The Mansfield Youth Service Bureau, in conjunction with local volunteers, will be offering a five-week "Grief Matters" group for children and families, beginning on Sunday, March 6, 2011 from 5:30 – 7:00PM at the Mansfield Town Hall. Grief Matters aims to create a sense of community for children and their families to learn and gain support from others who are experiencing similar situations. A parent or other adult is required to attend the group with the child. The group is open to families who have lost loved ones and professional volunteers from the community contribute their expertise to this program. The program is free for the Mansfield community. If you would like to learn more about the program, please call Patricia Michalak at 860-429-3319 or email at MichalakP@MansfieldCT.org.
- *Parks and Recreation*
 - As you know, last week we inadvertently drained the pool at the Mansfield Community Center. We had hoped to have the pool operational again by the end of last week. The cause of the incident was human error and we have taken measures to ensure that this doesn't happen again. Due to low pool temperatures the main pool remains closed until further notice. We are actively seeking alternative solutions to expedite raising the pool temperature, but it is very possible the heating process will take the remainder of this week. We will release updates to our members and the general public each day at 9:00 AM. The Parks and Recreation Department is doing everything in its power to return the pool to its regular operating condition and Community Center memberships will be extended for the amount of time the pool was not available. The direct cost to re-fill the pool is just over \$4,000. We apologize for this inconvenience and thank the members of our community for their patience as we work to re-open the main pool. The therapy pool will continue to remain open throughout the week.
 - We've scheduled our first ever "Winter Survival Skills Camp," to be held during the school's abbreviated February vacation. Registration is still underway for this program.

- On February 26th, the Community Center will host a movie night in the gym beginning at 5:30PM. This event is free of charge to all community center members and non-members pay the daily fee.
- Applications are now available for positions at Camp Mansfield. Those who are interested can stop by the Community Center and pick up an application packet. Applications will be available through March 12th.
- *Public Works* - There is a scarcity of salt in the Northeast. The Town currently has an outstanding order of 200 tons of rock salt with the state bid contractor, and they have only been able to deliver 22 tons. (This is still below our contracted amount of 1,000 tons for the year.) Hopefully, more will be on the way in the next week or so. In the interim, we are inquiring of other salt vendors in the Northeast to obtain additional salt (we will run out if the contractor cannot deliver!). So far we have not had any favorable replies.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *School Building Project* – As we discussed this past Saturday at the Council's Financial/Budget Retreat, we will hold Council workshops on the proposed school building project on Tuesday, February 22 and Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Both sessions will start at 6:30PM. I have attached to my report this evening a Hartford Courant article that provides some details on Governor Malloy's proposal to modify the state's school construction program. Under the Governor's proposal, the state would maintain the reimbursement rate of 20-80% for school renovations and reduce the reimbursement rate for new school construction from 20-80% to 15-65%. The Governor would also reduce the reimbursement rate for magnet school projects from 95 to 85%. These changes would affect any project that has not broken ground by April 1, 2012.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Planning and Design Committee, February 15, 2011, 5:00PM, Community Room, Mansfield Community Center
- Committee on Community Quality of Life, February 16, 2011, 7:30PM, Community Room, Mansfield Community Center
- Conservation Commission, February 16, 2011, 7:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, February 22, 2011, 2:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council Workshop (School Renovations Project), February 22, 2011, 6:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, February 22, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, February 23, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, February 28, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 28, 2011, 7:30PM, 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.*

2-14-2011

To the Honorable Members of the Mansfield Town Council,

I am the owner of 66 White Oak Road here in Mansfield. My name is Roger C. Roberge Jr. I am supportive of the town acquisition of the Penner property for open space and endangered species. Seeing the open space borders White Oak development, I am requesting that the Town Council recommend removing the covenant affordable housing on the 66 White Oak Rd. The covenant/affordable housing on this property makes it virtually impossible for it to be sold due to the potential buyers cannot qualify due to the stringent guidelines and financial institutions will not assume the liability to ensure that the covenant/affordable housing standards are continually met. If 66 White Oak Road is continually going to be assessed and taxed the same as any other cape style house, then it should not be restricted and limited on who can purchase 66 White Oak Rd. due to income restrictions severely limiting the number of buyers, if any, that could meet the guidelines. This was evident during an attempted sale of the property during the summer/fall of 2009 which we listed 66 White Oak Rd. \$20,000.00 less than 78 White Oak Rd. (which is also a comparable sized cape with more land but, 66 White Oak Rd. is taxed higher than 67 White Oak Rd.) We had 6 potential buyers for 66 White Oak Rd. but none could meet the guidelines of the covenant/affordable housing or find financial institutions including FHA, VA or other government assisted programs to purchase said property.

Due to the fact that the Town Of Mansfield more than exceeds the number of areas for affordable housing but decides to retain 66 White Oak Rd. along with 78 White Oak Rd. as the only 2 house structures in the Storrs/Mansfield/Eagleville area then I would be willing to sell 66 White Oak Rd. to the town for the assessed price (\$262,800.00) and the Town paying 5% to Mansfield and 5% to the State of CT and all other closing costs, Attny fees and recording costs that are required by law.

Thank you for your time and I will await your decision,

Roger C. Roberge Jr
Owner of 66 White Oak Rd.