

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MWH*  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: February 28, 2011  
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

- *Change of Location for 02/22/11 Special Meeting* – We received a question from the public whether it was appropriate for staff to change the location of the 02/22/11 special meeting of the Town Council. The meeting was originally noticed for the Council Chamber in the Audrey P. Beck Building, which staff later learned was unavailable. We issued a new notice within the 24 hour notice period, moving the location of the meeting to the Mansfield Community Center. We did discuss this issue with Mr. Tom Hennick, Public Information Officer for the Freedom of Information Commission, who verified that the Town did everything necessary to move the meeting. The location and date of any public meeting are required to be part of the notice but if a location is found to be insufficient it is the obligation of the agency to find a place that will accommodate the needs of the meeting. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the public agency to notify the public of the change of location. In this case, we notified the public of the change in the meeting location via the QNotify email distribution list system, by posting the revised agenda with the new location on the website and on the Town Clerk's meeting notice board, and by posting notice of the new location on the external doors of the Town Hall and on the Council Chamber doors.

## Departmental/Division News

- *Human Services* – The Mansfield Advocates for Children will be hosting a Community Conversation on Mansfield's Plan for Young Children on Saturday, March 26 from 2:30-6:00PM. As this plan has many policy implications for the Town, staff strongly encourages attendance by Council members. Please see the attached flyers for more information.
- *Public Works* – The Town's new salt storage building is almost complete. Some work remains, including: portions of the lighting, concrete wall coating and final paving. Warmer weather is necessary before we can complete the concrete and paving work. Feel free to stop by the Town Garage to see our progress.
- *Town Manager's Office*
  - CCM Legislative Update – Last Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor and I attended CCM's legislative update where the Governor and OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes reviewed the Governor's proposed budget and its impact on cities and towns. I have attached to item #5 of this packet information regarding the impact of the Governor's proposed budget on Mansfield.
  - Director of Planning and Development – We are actively recruiting candidates on a nationwide basis to serve as our next Director of Planning. I have modified the job description slightly to formalize responsibilities in the areas of community and economic development – hence, the slight change to the title. We are planning to conduct initial interviews in early April of this year.
  - Health Insurance Pooling – This morning I attended an informative presentation hosted by EASTCONN, our local regional educational resource center, regarding the benefits of health insurance pooling. Representatives from a number of area towns and school districts attended and we agreed to continue to review the subject to see if health insurance pooling or the establishment of a health insurance collaborative would make sense for our region. Superintendent Baruzzi and I will continue to monitor this effort to determine whether it would be beneficial for Mansfield to join a larger health insurance pool.

## Major Projects and Initiatives

- School Renovations Project – The Town Council has a special meeting scheduled for 6:30PM tomorrow evening, March 1, 2011, to discuss the proposed school renovations project. Staff, the project architect and the construction manager will be on hand to answer any questions from Council. We have sent a packet of back-up information to you; this information has also been posted in the town's website.

## Upcoming Meetings\*

- Regulatory Review Committee, March 1, 2011, 2:30PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, March 1, 2011, 6:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, March 2, 2011, 5:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Community Quality of Life, March 2, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, March 3, 2011, 4:00PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
- Ethics Board, March 3, 2011, 4:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, March 3, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland Wetland Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, March 7, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town/University Relations Committee, March 8, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Parking Steering Committee, March 8, 2011, 6:00PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
- Historic District Commission, March 8, 2011, 8:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Historical Society Board Meeting, March 9, 2011, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, March 10, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, March 10, 2011, 7:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, March 14, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, March 14, 2011, 6:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 14, 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 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*



**Let's talk about**

**Mansfield's**

**future...**

All Mansfield Children are healthy, successful learners, connected to the community

**Saturday  
March 26th**

**2:30-6:00 PM**



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PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

LIGHT SUPPER SERVED

R.S.V.P. BY 3/18 at 860-429-3399 EXT 3933

Child care available upon request

Please provide ages and number of children



Mansfield Advocates for Children

This event is sponsored by The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund.

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## What Is A Community Conversation?

Using a model developed by Public Agenda and the Institute for Educational Leadership, Community Conversations help communities to find common ground for public action and ways to work together to address a variety of issues. Conversations are respectful discussions, characterized by full and diverse participation, where real questions are asked, time is shared, and mutual listening and learning happen. Community Conversations:

- Provide opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to speak openly with each other in a safe setting;
- Allow participants to voice personal views on important issues through the process of dialogue and discussion;
- Help find common ground for action among participants who may approach these issues with different perspectives; and
- Support participants as they explore differences so that people previously at odds with one another align on objectives and strategies.

## What Will Happen At this Event?

The Community Conversation that you have been invited to will give you an opportunity to provide input on Mansfield Advocates for Children's Plan for Young Children. This plan attempts to develop and implement strategies to ensure that "all Mansfield children are healthy, successful learners, connected to the community." Your role will be to discuss these strategies in an attempt to determine how to best achieve this result. The format for the afternoon will be:

- 2:30- Registration/Introductions
- 2:45- Overview of Mansfield's Plan for Young Children
- 3:15-4:30- Facilitated Small Group Discussions
- 4:45-5:30- Group Presentations/Share a Meal
- 5:30- 6:00- Wrap-Up/Next Steps

Community Conversations are fun, energizing events that help residents to connect with each other around important issues in a meaningful way. Please call 429-3399, press 3933 by March 18 to register for this event and to arrange for childcare if you will need it for that day. We look forward to seeing you on March 26!



Funding for the event is generously provided by the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

February 28, 2011

To: town Council

From: Betty Wassmundt, Storrs

Before you continue with this year's budget, from what I've heard a large tax increase is planned, I would like you, the council, to have a discussion in open session about what you feel the proper role of government to be. For example, should government provide roads, schools, recreation, job creation, town <sup>Dev. Dev.</sup> creation etc? It would be nice to know your philosophy. It would be nice to know your priorities.

I see Ethics on the Agenda for the Personnel Committee and I would ask you for an open session discussion as to what you expect from an Ethics Code and why. Do you believe that a town's code of ethics is to give the public confidence in its government or should the town's code of ethics protect the employee.

I'd asked last meeting for the town manager to provide documentation as to why he says Mansfield requires 1 million gallons of water a day. I hope we all get that information.

I heard the town manager say that the Downtown will provide 174 jobs. May we have documentation to substantiate that claim.

About the draining of the CC swimming pool, the town manager says that water replacement cost \$4,000. I hear that 24 tanker loads of water had to come in at a cost of \$6,000. And there is the cost to heat up all that water, what about that? And was anyone held accountable for this fiasco? And, I heard that management was going to institute procedures so that this won't happen again. Now is that good management or should we expect management to have thought of that beforehand?

*MERS - Town Manager - not sustainable*