



Scott Shanley
General Manager

Town of Manchester

General Manager's Report

April 2007

Town Closings

Municipal Offices will be closed on Friday, April 6 for Good Friday.

FY 2007/2008 Budget

General Manager Scott Shanley released the recommended budget for FY 2007/2008 on March 27. A Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for Wednesday evening, April 4, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at Waddell Elementary School. Budget Workshops are open to the public and are as follows:

Saturday, March 31 – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Manchester Room, Town Hall
Thursday, April 5 – 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Manchester Room, Town Hall
Wednesday, April 11 – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Manchester Room, Town Hall
Saturday, April 14 – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Manchester Room, Town Hall
Monday, April 16 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Manchester Room, Town Hall

Finance Department

Assessment and Collection

The Board of Assessment Appeals began its hearing schedule on March 1, 2007 and ended on March 26, 2007. A total of 15 hearings were originally posted. Of the 15 meetings scheduled, 11 were on weeknights with hearings beginning at 6:30 p.m. and deliberations often not ending until after 11:00 p.m. and in some cases, after midnight. Two additional meetings were held on Saturdays, with hearings beginning at 8:30 a.m. and deliberations ending after 5:00 p.m. There were also three meetings held on Wednesday afternoons.

All totaled, the Board of Assessment Appeals received 480 written appeals that were scheduled for hearings for the 2006 revaluation. This consisted of 324 residential real estate assessment appeals, 133 commercial real estate appeals, seven motor vehicle assessment appeals, and 16 personal property assessment appeals.

The total number of Board of Assessment Appeals applications in 2006 was very, very similar to the total number of Board of Assessment Appeals applications in the prior revaluation in 2000, during which there were 474 appeals (295 residential, 136 commercial, seven motor vehicle, and 36 personal property).

Both the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Assessment and Collection staff worked a significant amount of time on the Board of Assessment Appeals hearings and deliberations.

Though not present during the hearings themselves, the Assessment and Collection staff was always nearby to assist the Board of Assessment Appeals during the hearings, and during the deliberations. When requested, the Assessment and Collection staff would re-visit, re-inspect, or re-measure a property if there were measurement questions regarding the property. In many cases, this work was done when temperatures were below freezing and in inclement weather.

The Board of Assessment Appeals consists of Dave Dumaine (chair), Ed Peterson, William Overton, William R. Broneill, Terry Werkhoven, and Geoffrey King. Though hearing assessment appeals is often a difficult, time consuming and thankless job, all six Board of Assessment Appeals members completed their task and sacrificed a great deal of their personal time to do so. They are thanked for their efforts in this process.

Appellants who filed for a Board of Assessment Appeals hearing were notified of the decision in their appeal by Certified Mail within one week of the date the decision was rendered. These notices began being mailed on March 8, 2007.

Appellants who wish to file a further appeal after their Board of Assessment Appeals decision must file with Superior Court within two months of the date the Board of Assessment Appeals notice is sent by Certified Mail.

Public Works Department

2007 Street Sweeping Program

The Town of Manchester Field Service Division will begin sweeping streets on Monday, April 2nd.

Street sweeping will begin in the northwest section of town, followed by the southwest section, then the southeast section and finally, the northeast section. Each year, the street sweeping program begins in a different section of town and rotates so that each section gets an opportunity to be the first area swept.

Under the new anti-icing program started last winter, Public Works crews have used very little sand to treat Town roads during snowstorms. We anticipate that this will shorten the time it takes to sweep the Town by several weeks.

Residents can assist with the sweeping program in the following ways:

*Sweep and/or rake the sand on sidewalks and lawns into the street before the sweepers are scheduled to sweep the neighborhood.

*Keep the road free of leaves, branches, rocks and other debris. This can cause significant damage to the sweepers. Sweepers have been instructed to skip areas with sticks, branches,

rocks and other large debris and will NOT return. These items should be kept out of the roadway.

*Parking on the street should be limited until the neighborhood area has been swept.

Information on the approximate date sweeping will begin in a particular route is listed on the Town website at: <http://www.ci.manchester.ct.us>. For additional information, residents may call the Customer Service and Information Center at 647-5235 or the Highway Division at 647-3233.

Surface Transportation Program Grant

Manchester has been awarded a grant under the Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) for the reconstruction of North Main Street from Main Street to Stock Place. The total project cost is projected at \$2,623,000 and federal and state grants will cover 90% of the costs. Funding for construction will be available in FY2010.

DEP Organic Land Care Pilot Project

The Town of Manchester was selected by the Department of Environmental Protection to participate in their Organic Land Care Pilot Project. Funding was limited to only pilot project and Manchester was selected from over 30 municipalities that applied to participate.

The project will be conducted at the Hillstown Road soccer fields and will provide technical assistance to the Park Division staff on performing turf management with organic methods. DEP staff and consultants will monitor the project and will produce a case study of the results to share with other Connecticut municipalities.

Building Department

Activity for February 1 – February 28, 2007

Building Permits	February 2007	January 2007
Total applications received	197	245
Total permits issued	180	266
Total revenue	\$179,336.50	\$114,513.16
Construction value*	\$12,744,300.39	\$8,181,960.00
Inspections conducted	395	657

Code Enforcement

Cases opened	32	48
Cases closed	62	52
Inspections conducted	130	149

Comparison of fiscal years July 1 – February 28

Building permits	FY 2007	FY 2006
Total applications received	2253	2438
Total permits issued	2196	2067
Total revenue	\$780,032.72	\$518,556.55
Total construction value*	\$78,894,583.62**	\$36,449,677.22
Inspections conducted	5345	6407

Code Enforcement

Cases opened	426	468
Cases closed	436	536
Inspections conducted	923	930

*Includes the value of Town projects where fees were waived.

**This value has yet to be adjusted for value added due to cost affidavits at Certificate of Occupancy issuance.

Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS

Activity Report for February 2007

Medical/Rescue	467
Fire Related	13
Hazardous Conditions	19
Public Service	45
Good Intent	63
False	37
Mutual Aid	<u>4</u>
Total Calls	648

History Lesson #3

Hose Company No. 3 was the third company of the South Manchester Fire District to organize, on June 5, 1898. Company No. 3 was in the center of the business district of South Manchester. They kept their two-wheeled hose cart on Oak Street in a six-foot by eight-foot shed just large enough to hold the apparatus. In the cold weather, it was necessary to keep an oil stove burning in the shed to prevent the hose from stiffening and becoming useless. The location was close to Ferris Brothers stable so that a horse and wagon were available to pull the hose reel to a fire. In 1905, it was voted to purchase a horse drawn wagon for Company 3. This made it possible to carry more equipment and expedite the response to fires. The fire district voted to build a new hose house for Company 3 for \$1200. A station 20 by 30 feet and two stories high was built on leased land on Purnell Place to the rear of the Park building.

The first meeting in the station was held in January 1906. Company 3 purchased an "American Pope-Hartford Combination Hose and Chemical" truck, which was delivered on January 1, 1910. This was the first piece of motorized fire apparatus in the South Manchester Fire Department and marked the beginning of the end for horse drawn apparatus. While the new truck was being demonstrated to the Fire Commissioners that spring, an employee of the Pope-Hartford Company was thrown off on Hartford Road and died of his injuries. It was soon evident that a pumping engine was needed in the business district and \$6000 was appropriated for the purchase of an American LaFrance Hose and Chemical pumper. The pumper would have a 104 hp engine; 350 gpm pump; 45-gallon chemical tank and would carry 1000 feet of hose. The truck was delivered in 1918. It was eventually sold to a collector in 1961 for \$351.50. In 1921 land was purchased at the corner of Spruce and Florence Streets for a new fire station. The new station was completed in April 1923 at a cost of \$40,000. This station became Fire Headquarters and operated until a new station was built at the corner of Weaver Road and Woodbridge Street in 1967.

Mail Carrier "Delivers" Early Warning

Manchester Mail Carrier John Pinheiro, while delivering mail to East Center Street apartments on Saturday, March 24th, discovered a fire in progress in an apartment unit and alerted residents and property management. The fire extensively damaged an apartment unit and moderately damaged three other units before the fire department brought it under control. Fire Chief Robert Bycholski said of Pinheiro, "John's quick thinking and speedy reaction saved lives and spared others from harm. John has earned our respect and the admiration of many of the apartment buildings' residents". After alerting people to evacuate the apartments, John left the scene to continue delivering mail. "Just goes to show" Bycholski said, "neither rain, sleet or saving lives from a fire will stop the mail".

Shelter Manager Certification

Eight Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members attended an American Red Cross Shelter (Operations) Manager certification course along with CERT members of other towns. As part of the training, members assisted in the operation of an active shelter in East Hartford, which had been opened following an apartment complex fire in that town. The training allows CERTS to be better attuned to the operation of an emergency shelter for future shelter openings in Manchester.

Recreation Department

Summer Camp Registrations will be processed during the month of April.

The Skate Park will be open for the season Monday, April 2. Hours are Monday – Friday 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 14 the annual Lions Club Parks and Recreation Children's Fishing Derby will be held from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Center Springs Park. The Annual Senior Fishing Derby will be held the same day at Salters Pond from 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

The adult softball leagues are scheduled to begin play on April 16.

The adult and senior golf leagues sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Senior Center begin play the last two weeks of April at Manchester Country Club.

The Center for Service Learning is sponsoring a blood drive at the Mahoney Recreation Center on April 14 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The 15th Annual Rebuilding Day will be held on Saturday, April 28. It is anticipated that over 1300 volunteers will work on up to 65 homes. After the projects are complete, all volunteers and sponsors are invited to attend a picnic at Northwest Park from noon – 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call Scott Garman or Liz Tracy at 647-3084.

Water and Sewer Department

Water Department

The construction crew of Field Maintenance Division of the Water Department is in the process of installing a new water main on Holl Street between Birch and Bissell Street. They will also be replacing an approximately 75-year-old 6-inch cast iron pipe on Bissell Street between Holl and Harrison Streets. The new pipe will be 16" diameter ductile iron pipe. While there may be some temporary inconvenience with traffic flow during this project, the quality, quantity and reliability of the water service to this area will be vastly improved. The project will continue on to replace the water main on other areas of Bissell Street, Holl Street and Harrison Street.

This work is being performed in-house, taking advantage of a team approach by the department's talented staff of pipeline replacement professionals.

The Department would also like to announce that the annual water main flushing program will begin on April 2 and continue for nine weeks. This program will be system-wide with minimal disruption in service, if any, during the process. Typically, customers would not experience any disruption to their water services; however, water discoloration may occur when doing laundry. Water discoloration results when sediment and rust is brought into the home while flushing is in process. If sediment does get into a home, residents should wait until the water clears, then flush the system starting with the cold water and once clear, continue on to the hot water. If laundry becomes discolored, the laundry should be kept wet and rewashed after 3:15 p.m. Customers are asked to refrain from doing laundry until the Water Department crew is out of the area.

It may also be necessary to flush the hot water tank; this is done by opening the faucet at the bottom of the hot water tank to drain the collected materials, which has settled at the bottom.

It should be noted that there is no health risk associated with this procedure, however, the aesthetic properties of the water may be affected.

To find out the dates the flushing will occur in each neighborhood, call the Water Information Line at 647-3137, or reference the notices published in Manchester Matters or in The Journal Inquirer. The Water Department's website can also be checked, www.ci.manchester.ct.us/water under the Customer Information tab for the complete street listing.

Manchester Public Library

April marks the end of Saturday hours open for the Whiton Branch Library and Sunday hours open at the Mary Cheney Library building for this fiscal year.

The annual spring Friends of the Library book sale at the Mary Cheney Howroyd Room will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The ongoing Friends' book sale at the Whiton Library building, nicknamed "Dr. Whiton's Attic", continues to be popular, selling a few hundred books each month.

The regularly scheduled winter sessions of story times for preschoolers at both library buildings end on April 13. Registration for the spring sessions of story times will be on April 24. Several special events are planned for School Vacation Week, starting with Tails the Clown on Monday, April 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Whiton (repeated at 2:00 p.m. at Cheney) and ending with Earth Day Story Time on Saturday, April 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Mary Cheney Library building.

The popular Wednesday evening Teen programs will continue at the Mary Cheney Library (with the exception of no Teen Night on Wednesday, April 25 since the Howroyd Room will be filling up with thousands of books in preparation for that Saturday's book sale). Recent attendances at the Teen Programs have ranged from 80 – 114 teens weekly.

The Adult monthly book discussion group, reviewing the book, "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult, will be held on Monday evening, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary Cheney Howroyd Room.

Human Services Department

Senior Center

The Senior Center houses a program that directly benefits the community a large. The S.H.O.P. (Seniors Helping Our Pantry) is a program coordinated with MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches). The thoughtfulness of Manchester's seniors has benefited many individuals and families in the community. As summer approaches and the need for food may increase, the Senior Center family and others are urged to continue to drop off donations in the lobby of the Senior Center.

If residents would prefer to send a monetary gift directly to MACC, they may do so by sending a check to MACC, 446 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040. Please indicate on the

check that this is part of the S.H.O.P. program. Thanks to many S.H.O.P. volunteers at the Senior Center who collect and sort the food for pick up.

Employee News

Recently Hired

Anthony Leone – Police Services Aide, Police Department
Ryan Shea – Police Officer, Police Department

Recently Promoted

Gregory Attardo – Maintainer III, Parks Department – Public Works