



Scott Shanley  
General Manager

# *Town of Manchester*

## General Manager's Report

June 2007

### **General Manager's Office**

#### **Manchester Government Academy**

On May 24 there was a celebration at Northwest Park of five years of Manchester Government Academy from 2002 –2007. The tenth class of graduates is as follows:

Linda Barker

Marja Machnicki

Virginia Smith

John Boardman

Paul McNamara

Teresa Turner

Bradford Booth

Mae Ostergren

Heather Unterreiner

Lucille Farmer

The Fall Class of Manchester Government Academy will begin on Thursday evening, September 13 and end on Thursday evening, November 15. For more information, please call the Human Resources Office at 647-3102 or the Government Academy website, [www.townofmanchester.org/govacademy](http://www.townofmanchester.org/govacademy).

### **Customer Service and Information Center**

#### **Band Shell Concert Schedules**

Schedules for the summer concert series will be available after the first week of June at the Town Hall Customer Service and Information Center, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., 647-5235.

The first concert will be on June 20 with the Big Band sound of the 40's. All concerts are 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Manchester Bicentennial Band Shell on the grounds of Manchester Community College. Admission is free, but donations are welcome, as are volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.manchesterbandshell.com/](http://www.manchesterbandshell.com/).

#### **Fireworks and Barbeque**

Saturday, June 30 (rain date is July 1) – James Dutch Fogarty Independence Day Celebration. Tickets for the annual Chicken BBQ will be on sale mid June for \$7.00 in the Customer Service and Information Center in Town Hall. Tickets purchased the day of the event are \$8.00. For more information, please call 647-5235.

## Finance Department

### Assessment and Collection

The mandated period for qualifying seniors to apply for the Homeowner's Program or the HELP program ended on May 15, 2007. This year, the combination of the recent revaluation and changes in local ordinance options for senior tax programs resulted in an increase in the number of seniors applying for these programs. A separate memo regarding the number of participants in the Homeowner's Program, the HELP program, and the recently adopted Alternative, Additional Senior Tax Credit will be provided to the Board of Directors.

Final preparations for mailing of tax bills is nearly completed. An estimated 68,000 tax bills are expected to be mailed around June 18, 2007. This includes over 17,000 real estate tax bills, over 47,000 motor vehicle tax bills and over 3,000 personal property tax bills. The Manchester Tax Collector's Office reminds residents that current tax payments are due by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2007. Current taxes include Motor Vehicle tax bills and the first installment for Real Estate and Personal Property. Failure to make timely payments will result in an interest charge of 1.5% per month from the July 1, 2007 due date, with a minimum of \$2.00. **Please note that there is no mailing for the second Real Estate and Personal Property bill installment. Both payment coupons are included with the bill mailed in June.**

Current tax payment (not delinquent) may also be made at the Customer Service and Information Center in Town Hall and there is a night drop box available near the handicap accessible door at the rear of Manchester Town Hall, 41 Center Street. For more information, call the Office of the Tax Collector at 647-3018 or the Tax Assessor at 647-3016/Fax: 647-3099.

The Tax Office will be open 8:20 a.m. to 4:40 p. m. Monday – Friday. Special extended hours of operation will be offered on Tuesday, July 31, 2007 and Wednesday, August 1, 2007 until 6:00 p.m.

### **Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS**

#### Activity Report for April 2007

Medical/Rescue	478
Fire Related	10
Hazardous Conditions	28
Public Service	44
Good Intent	56
False	30
Mutual Aid	2
Total Calls	648

### **History Lesson #5**

Hose Company #5 has a short but interesting history. At the 1897 organizational meetings of the fire district, four fire companies were proposed. Residents of the Charter Oak Street area felt they should have better fire protection and petitioned the district to add a fifth company, which the district did. Company #5 was therefore the last fire company to organize. George F. Day who owned a General Store and Livery Stable on Charter Oak Street, offered the use of one of his sheds for storage of the hose reel and the use of a horse and wagon. Company #5 functioned well with the other four companies until 1904, at which time, discussions were begun to consolidate Company #5 with Company #4 on School Street. In 1905 the consolidation was approved and all of Company #5's property was turned over to Company #4. Engine Company #5 was out of existence for over seventy (70) years. In October 1976, firefighters began staffing a new Station-5 in the Buckland area of Manchester. When the new station was constructed, it was located in an area under the jurisdiction of the South Manchester Fire Department but serviced for many years by the Manchester Eighth Utilities District Fire Department under an old agreement. A court battle over jurisdiction followed and resulted in the responsibility for the area's fire protection being awarded to the Eighth District Fire Department. The South Manchester Fire Department was left with a Station-5 in an area it no longer serviced. This situation continued until 1990, when the station was vacated by the South Manchester Fire Department as a result of an agreement with the Eighth District. During the time firefighters of Company #5 were waiting for construction of their new, more strategically located station, they operated out of a temporary station on Tolland Turnpike. The new Station-5 on Tolland Turnpike was dedicated on July 25, 1991 and is currently responsible for fire protection in the northeast section of Manchester.

### **Fire Marshal's Office**

Fire Marshal Robert Barker celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Fire Department in May. Fire Inspector Stacey Harrington graduated from the Connecticut Department of Public Safety Fire Marshal's Certification class in May.

### **Manchester Police Department**

#### **Retirements**

Two of the department's distinguished Detectives have retired recently. Detective Joseph Amato retired after 30 years of service and Detective Michael Morrissey retired after 27 years of service. Both of these individuals were long time Detectives with outstanding careers and were involved in many of the department's most complex investigations. They are thanked for their many years of service and contributions to the community.

#### **Manchester Explorer Post #077**

The Manchester Police Department's Explorer Post #077 recently participated in the 2007 CT Law Enforcement Explorer Stations Day. The MPD Explorers were one of 35 police explorer

posts from the northeast to attend and compete in this event that was held at the CT Police Academy in Meriden. Ten of the Explorers competed in six individual events and six team events. Four additional Explorers and Junior Explorers attended as observers. Four advisors from the MPD, two South Windsor Police Officers and one volunteer ran the Crisis Negotiation Scenario and took photos at the event. The South Windsor Police Department is thanked for supplying the C.R.E.S.T negotiator's command post for the event. Congratulations to the Explorers who participated since the training and hard work paid off.

**Police Activity and Staffing**

Police Activity through April 30, 2007 was 4,399 Total Calls for Service: 1,437 Total Police Cases; 708 911 Calls; and Emergency Calls were 58 for the Eighth District, 281 Town Fire and 1,682 Police Department.

Staffing numbers are at 116 sworn officers which include one Chief, three Captains, six Lieutenants, 18 Sergeants, 11 Detectives (one vacancy), 77 Patrol Officers with three in the Police Academy and three in the Field Training Officer program.

**Public Works Department**

**Building Department**

Activity for April 1 – April 30, 2007

Building Permits	April 2007	March 2007
Total Applications received	268	265
Total Permits issued	253	216
Total Revenue	\$80,189.56	\$171,457.00
Construction Value*	\$5,535,569.00	\$13,535,590.87
Inspections conducted	547	561
Code Enforcement		
Cases opened	48	59
Cases closed	41	48
Inspections conducted	145	175

Comparison of fiscal years July 1 – April 30

Building Permits	FY2007	FY2006
Total Applications received	2,786	3,015
Total Permits issued	2,665	2,531
Total Revenue	\$1,031,679.28	\$667,240.87
Total Construction Value*	\$98,114,743.49**	\$47,326,572.22
Inspections conducted	6,453	7,577

Code Enforcement	FY2007	FY2006
Cases opened	533	535
Cases closed	525	584
Inspections conducted	1,243	1,075

Notes:

\*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

## **Water and Sewer Department**

### **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

The Town of Manchester has entered into an Agreement with the consulting firm of Wright-Pierce to perform a Total Nitrogen Removal, Phosphorus Removal (BNR) and Long-Term Bio-Solids Disposal Study at the Hockanum River Water Pollution Control Facility.

The scope of this project is to identify and recommend the most cost-effective method of removing Nitrogen and Phosphorus from the plants' effluent to reduce the impact of these nutrients on the Hockanum River. Uncontrolled, these nutrients contribute to the proliferation of algae blooms which use up oxygen in the receiving water and become detrimental to other forms of aquatic life.

The Long-term Bio-Solids Study will assess alternatives to the current practice of dewatering and disposing of this material at the Town Landfill. With the remaining space and finite lifetime of the Town Landfill, finding a cost-effective method of bio-solids disposal becomes increasing important.

Wright-Pierce was selected by a committee from among nine competing firms through a Request for Qualification (RFQ) process.

Another project currently being undertaken is Phase I of the SSES or Sewer System Evaluation Study. This project was awarded to Tighe and Bond after an RFQ process that involved eight competing consulting firms. The purpose of this project is to identify areas of extraneous flows entering into the Town's wastewater collection system. Future phases of this project will pinpoint, quantify and propose methods to correct problem areas of the system.

These extraneous flows, often caused by rainwater or groundwater intrusion can hydraulically overload the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility, may cause regulatory compliance issues, can contribute to household sewage backups and to street flooding. In addition, the treatment

of this "clean" water adds unnecessary expense to the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Facility.

Both of these projects are eligible for partial funding from the State of Connecticut through the Clean Water Act.

### **Water Treatment Facility**

On Thursday, May 17 at approximately 11:15 a.m., the Water Department responded to a large water main leak near the intersection of Walek Farms Road and Keeney Street. Thanks to the quick response of the Field Maintenance Crew, the leak was isolated within 21 minutes of receiving the call. Even with this fast response, an estimated 370,000 gallons of water was lost from the system, which indicates the magnitude of the break.

A significant part of the roadway was undermined due to the volume and force of water and a large sinkhole developed. Upon excavation, it was found that a 50 year old, cement-lined cast iron pipe had an approximate 12 foot length-wise crack in it. Crews from the Water Transmission and Distribution Group and the Construction Group diligently worked non-stop, through the cold and rain, on the repairs until almost 10:00 p.m. that night. They were supported in the field by members of the Sewer Line Maintenance Crew, Engineering, Highway, Fire and Police Departments. Meanwhile, at the Globe Hollow Water Plant, Treatment Plant Operators made sure supplemental sources of water were utilized in order to make up for the loss, while the Billing Office, administration personnel and dispatch handled a flurry of telephone calls from concerned residents.

In summary, it was a great team effort and only three households went without water for the duration of the repair. Another minor victory was that this incident occurred before the repaving of Keeney Street which is scheduled for later this summer.

In other news, the annual water main flushing program continues to progress throughout the Town and is expected to be completed by early June. The Holl Street water main replacement project is soon to be completed as well.

### **Recreation Department**

#### **Activities and Events**

Pride in Manchester Week is June 2 – June 9.

The Summer Aquatics season begins June 21 at Globe Hollow and July 2 at all other pools.

The Adult Summer Basketball League begins the third week of June and the Youth League will begin the last week of June.

The July 4 Celebration will be June 30 (rain date is July 1) at Manchester Community College. Activities begin at 4:00 p.m. and conclude with fireworks.

**Employee News**

Town of Manchester employees raised \$778 for MACC Charities Operation Fuel Program. The funds were raised through the Friday Employee Dress Down Program from November 2006 – March 2007. Beginning in April 2007, funds raised through the Dress Down Program will benefit MACC's Food Pantry.

**Recently Hired**

Colleen Munzu – General Manager's Office  
Kate Noonan – Town Clerk's Office  
Adam Gooley – Police Department  
Richard Monge – Police Department