



Steven R. Werbner
General Manager

Town of Manchester

General Manager's Report

July 2005

Town Hall Closing

Independence Day

Town offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2005, in observance of Independence Day.

General Manager's Office

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, July 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hearing Room at Lincoln Center.

Manchester Government Academy

The seventh session of the Manchester Government Academy will begin on Thursday evening, September 8 and conclude on Thursday evening, November 17. Most of the sessions will be held on Thursday evenings with one or two on Saturday mornings. The program is free to anyone living or working in Manchester. For more information, please contact Tricia Catania at 647-3102.

Finance

Assessment and Collection

Tax bills have been mailed out. The Manchester Tax Collector's Office reminds residents that current tax payments are due by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2005. Current taxes include Motor Vehicle tax bills, and the first installment for Real Estate and Personal Property. Failure to make timely payments will subject taxpayers to interest charge of 1.5% per month from the July 1, 2005 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 payments (not delinquent) may also be made at the Customer Service and Information Center in Town Hall or at any Manchester branch

Assessment and Collection (continued)

of the New Alliance Bank. In addition, New Alliance Bank offers convenient evening and Saturday hours. Manchester branch offices of New Alliance Bank will offer tax payment services to Monday, August 1, 2005. Remember to bring a copy of your current tax bill with you. Also, for your convenience there is a night drop box available near the handicap accessible door to the rear of Manchester Town Hall, 41 Center Street. You may reach the Office of the Tax Collector at 647-3018, 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 Friday, July 1, 2005; Thursday, July 28, 2005; Friday, July 29, 2005 and Monday, August 1, 2005 until 6:00 p.m.

Planning Department

Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development

The Planning Department has released the draft of the Town's five-year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. This planning document is required by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development of all communities who are entitled to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The plan studies housing and non-housing community development needs of low and moderate income persons and addresses the investment needs to ensure a suitable living environment and economic opportunities for low and moderate income residents or neighborhoods.

The plan also contains a one-year action plan, which is the recommended spending plan for the Town's allocation of CDBG funds. The action plan recommends spending on a variety of public service and capital projects. The Town anticipates receiving \$783,000, which will be available on October 1, 2005.

The plan may be reviewed at the Manchester Planning Department, the Mary Cheney Library, the Whiton Library, or at the Manchester Customer Service and Information Center at Town Hall. The plan will also be available at the Town's website at www.ci.manchester.ct.us/planning. A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room and testimony and comments from the public will be accepted at the hearing.

The Board of Directors will consider adopting the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan at their August 2, 2005 regular meeting.

Business XPO 2005

For the first time, the Town of Manchester Economic Development Commission (EDC) participated in a business convention. The Business XPO 2005, held on June 2, 2005, was the inaugural event at the new Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The EDC participated in this event to increase its marketing and to promote Manchester as a place to do business.

The Manchester booth contained a photomontage of Manchester business and educational landmarks. Materials available for distribution included the Town's Annual Report, real estate information, copies of Manchester Life, and the Downtown Manchester Directory. Jack Sayre, Chair of the EDC, Margaret Jacobson, EDC member, Tana Parseliti, Downtown Manager and Joanne Sorbet, a downtown business owner, volunteered to help staff the booth during the daylong event.

During the day about a dozen business people stopped by the booth inquiring about available sites in Manchester. Many of these were Manchester residents or businesses interested in expanding their businesses, or in moving from a home conducted occupation to a business address. The presence of the EDC enabled them to make a number of contacts, to share information about sites available, and to share information about the services that Manchester could offer to assist these business people.

There was an anticipated benefit as well. Many people who approached the Town's booth during the day were Manchester residents either attending the XPO or were exhibitors at the XPO. Most wanted to introduce themselves and said they were happy to see Manchester participating in the event.

Several were new Manchester residents and were curious about such things as Manchester's Park and Recreation programs, the location of town parks, or the availability of other services. One woman recently relocated from Atlanta, two young women were employed by a hotel company, and a young man recently purchased a home in Manchester and moved there with his wife and young children. These residents chose Manchester because of the value of the housing and neighborhoods, the range of services provided by the community, and the convenient location to businesses, services and places of employment.

Overall, the EDC participants at the XPO felt it was a success and the Town should participate again. There will be a de-briefing among the EDC volunteers to share ideas about providing more or different information next year.

Manchester Police Department

Mutual Assistance Agreement

A Mutual Assistance Agreement has been finalized between the Town of South Windsor and the Town of Manchester as an interagency agreement.

Update on Police Officer Recruitment

The next written test date for the position of police officer will be August 20, 2005. For more information, please contact Human Resources at 647-3126. Currently, there are ten vacancies for police officers with four recently hired officers now at the Police Academy in Meriden. In addition, backgrounds are being conducted on thirteen candidates for possible hire. The goal is to send newly hired police officers to the next training program in August at the Police Academy in Meriden. There is also a training program at the Hartford Police Academy in September.

Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS

Fire-Rescue-EMS Activity Report for May 2005

Medical/rescue	371
Fire Related	18
Hazardous Conditions	25
Public Service	20
Good Intent	33
False	16
Mutual Aid	<u>2</u>
Total Calls	485

Recreation Department

Pride in Manchester Week

There were over 1500 people in attendance at the Livingston Taylor Concert on June 4 at Center Park. The Arts and Craft Show on Sunday, June 5 was a great success with the food vendors and artists reporting that they did a great business. The crowd was the largest in recent years.

Bocce Court

Construction of the Bocce Courts at the Senior Center was completed in June. Materials for the project were purchased by the Senior Center, construction was donated by Glenn Construction of Manchester and the Parks Department provided a finish grade and seeded the area disturbed by

Bocce Court (continued)

construction. The generosity displayed by Glenn Construction President/Owner Dan Guacchione is greatly appreciated.

Eighth Annual Earl Yost Tennis Classic

The Eighth Annual Earl Yost Tennis Classic is scheduled for July 22 – July 24. There will be a singles and doubles competition in most age groups. Play will be at Manchester High School and the Charter Oak Tennis Courts. Registration information/registration forms are available at Center Springs, the Community Y, and the Customer Service and Information Center at Town Hall.

Human Services

Senior Center

The Senior Center will be closed for two weeks for all regular programs, activities, lunch and other business after the end of programs on Friday, August 12 to complete a variety of projects in preparation for the fall season. Grocery and non-grocery shopping will continue as usual. The Senior Center will reopen on Monday, August 29.

New membership cards will be issued on Monday, August 29 – September 30. Senior Center membership cards will now include photos and may also be used as a Recreation Facility Pass. At the time of membership renewal seniors will be asked to consider making a voluntary donation to the “Senior Program Development Fund”. All contributions will be placed in a special account through the Town and will be used to bring new ideas to life. A gift will allow the Senior Center to grow in new directions.

On Friday, July 8 at 12:30 p.m., Kathy Porter RN, ECHN Women’s Health Coordinator, will be at the Senior Center to discuss how to remain “heart safe” during the summer months.

A representative from Social Security will be available on July 21 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. to provide information on Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage. Assistance will be offered in completing applications. This is not a general presentation on Part D coverage.

Effective July 1, the cost for a meal at the Senior Center will be \$2.25 except on Thursday when the cost will be \$2.75. Meal tickets are available at the Senior Center Office for \$22.50.

Public Works Department

Buckland Street Plantings

Planting of the Buckland Street islands has recently been completed. This work was done in conjunction with the public improvements associated with the Evergreen Walk development in South Windsor. In total, over 4,500 plants were placed in the islands including daylilies, four varieties of roses, asters, irises, four varieties of ornamental grasses, three varieties of azalea, and ornamental trees. The planting design was created by the maintenance staff in the Parks Department.

New State Road Bridge

Construction of the New State Road Bridge over the Hockanum River was completed and reopened to traffic the last week in May. The new bridge replaces the previous structure that was built in 1931. The project funded through a combination of local bonds and a State grant, was completed at a cost of \$1,493,281. The new precast concrete bridge includes sidewalks on both sides of the road and provides access to the Hockanum River Linear Park trail system.

West Side Neighborhood – Sidewalks

Sidewalk replacement work resumed near Washington School. Sidewalks will be replaced on Cedar Street from Cooper Hill Street to Pleasant Street and on Pleasant Street from Pine Street to Cooper Street. For more information, contact Mark Czerepuszko at 647-3067.

Manchester High School Irrigation Project – Phase II

The Field Services Division began Phase 2 of the MHS irrigation project in June. For more information, contact Ken Longo or Dave Cormier at 647-3233.

Manchester Public Library

Adult Programs

On Monday evening, August 1, the Hot Cat Jazz Band will be playing a selection of Swing, Jazz, and Tropical music, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Howroyd Room at Mary Cheney Library.

Author Pam Lewis will discuss her mystery/thriller novel, "Speak Softly She Can Hear" on Monday evening, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Howroyd Room at Mary Cheney Library.

Children's Programs

Tuesday's afternoon and evening Family Programs include "The Harmonica Guys" on July 5 and "Wild Songs and Natural Stories" on July 19. The events are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at the Whiton Branch Library and are repeated at 6:30 p.m. at the Mary Cheney Library.

Teen Programs

Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., the Teen Night programs will include book discussions, board games, and refreshments in the Howroyd Room at Mary Cheney Library.

Summer Teen Chess Club will be held 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. each Thursday afternoon in the Howroyd Room at Mary Cheney Library.

Recreation

State Little League Championship

Manchester Little League has been selected to host the State Little League Championship. The final two teams will play a best two out of three game series at Dettore Field in Northwest Park July 29 through 31. Games will be played Friday night, Saturday night and if necessary Sunday afternoon.

Recreation, Field Services, Police, Health and Fire/Emergency Services will work closely with Little League to assure the event is successful and that all involved will remember Manchester as one of the premier sites for Little League baseball in the State.

Summer Season

The Summer season is off to a great start. Over 1000 children per day are attending camp. There are three teen camps, seven camps for ages 5 to 11, two special needs camps, the Nike Site preschool camp and the Little Scientists Camp for ages 4 to 12 held in the afternoons at the Nike Tykes facility. First week highlights include a magic show, bowling, swimming, musical entertainment and arts and crafts with a July 4th theme.

Six pools are up and running. Due to the hot weather there was heavy attendance at Globe Hollow pre-season and first week crowds have been large at all sites. The new swimming schedule has received mostly positive reviews with evening swim lessons proving to be very popular. For the period June 27 through 29 over 700 pool memberships were sold /issued. The summer swim team continues to be popular with over 70 children ages 6 to 18 participating.

Employee News

Recently Retired

Brad Palmer – Public Works

John Marvin – Manchester Police Department

Newly Hired

Barbara Fritsch – Librarian, Manchester Public Library

Katherine Senk – Library Tech I, Manchester Public Library

Ed Ciolkosz – Evidence Technician (Part time) – Manchester Police Department

Erica Bromley – Director of Youth Services, Human Services Department

Elizabeth Reynolds – Executive Assistant, Human Services Department

Calvin Harris – Recreation Supervisor, Recreation Department

Valerie Kaika – Human Resources Associate, Human Resources Department