



Town of Manchester

General Manager's Report

Scott Shanley
General Manager

May 2008

Holidays

Town of Manchester Offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on May 26, 2008. Mary Cheney Library and Whiton Memorial Library will also be closed. Trash will not be collected and will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Parade: The annual Memorial Day Parade will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Monday May 26. The parade steps off at the Army Navy Club, proceeds up Main Street to East Center Street and Turns around at Monroe Park (across from Lenox Drug). The Parade will end in Center Park with a speaking program.

Budget Adoption

The Budget Adoption for FY2008/2009 will be Tuesday, May 6, 2008 in the Hearing Room at Lincoln Center at 7:00 p.m.

Finance Department

Assessment and Collection

May 15, 2008 is the deadline for qualifying seniors to submit their applications for the Senior Homeowner's Program. All participants in the program who are due to re-apply this year were sent applications at the end of January 2008. Since this is a two-year program, only about half the participants must re-apply each year. Applicants who were due to re-apply this year who did not complete their applications by mid-April were sent a second notice by Certified Mail as required by Statute. In addition to the Senior Homeowner's Program, qualifying seniors in Manchester also qualify for either the HELP (tax deferral) program or the Alternative Senior Tax Credit Program. Qualifying seniors in many cases may qualify for the Additional Veteran's Exemption if they are a veteran or the surviving spouse of a Veteran. Seniors who have questions about any of these programs or wish to verify if it is their year to re-apply are urged to contact the Office of Assessment and Collection at (860) 647-3016. The maximum qualifying income levels for this year, based on calendar year 2007 income, including Social Security, are \$29,800 for unmarried seniors and \$26,500 for married seniors.

Annual Income and Expense Reports for calendar year 2007 were recently mailed. Income and Expense data is required for all commercial properties, where applicable, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes. Completed Annual Income and Expense Reports are due back to the Assessor's Office by June 2, 2008. Anyone with questions about the Income and Expense Reports can call (860) 647-3011 for more information.

Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS

Activity Report for March 2008

Medical/Rescue	483
Fire Related	16
Hazardous Conditions	15
Public Service	29
Good Intent	58
False	25
Mutual Aid	4
TOTAL	630

The World War II Years

In 1941, South Manchester Fire Department Chief Foy realized the danger of fire that existed during World War II. Whether the danger was from bombing or from acts of sabotage, he knew he would need an adequate auxiliary firefighting force in addition to the regulars to deal with fires. Twenty-five of the department's regular firefighters had been lost to the ranks of the military. Recruiting of the auxiliary force began in March 1942 and 126 men signed up. Instructors from Britain had been brought over following the heavy bombings in London to acquaint local firemen with the problems they could expect. Several local firefighters were sent to schools in Hartford and New Haven and returned to Manchester to put the lessons to use. Five classes were held each week in emergency firefighting. The Fire Department began preparations by purchasing extra fire hose, a 1250-watt lighting plant and generator, helmets and extra pump extinguishers. A new 750 gallon per minute American LaFrance pumper with a 100 gallon water tank was delivered in 1942. A portable building, eight feet square by eight feet high was built which was used to train personnel in handling and extinguishing incendiary bombs. A short wave radio system was set up linking the four stations and the control center in the municipal building as well as one car which would be assigned to "roam" during a drill or emergency. In addition, Manchester was linked with other departments in a mutual-aid system. For instance, in the event the bridges over the Connecticut River were destroyed, Manchester would be called upon to assist in protecting the East Hartford plant of Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. All persons involved in the wartime firefighting effort were photographed and fingerprinted. They were trained, about 20 men at a time, with fire trucks, ladders and equipment. Training included first aid, use of gas masks, and firefighting techniques. Firefighting equipment, loaned to towns by the government, included pumps, hose, ladders and gas masks. The large pumps were mounted on trucks and trailers supplied by the town and Cheney Brothers. Drills were also conducted using 4-inch irrigation pipe supplied by a Bolton farmer to be used if there was an interruption in Manchester's water distribution system. Auxiliary firefighters continued in a state of readiness until the summer of 1944. Even though they were never called upon for an emergency, they were well prepared had they been needed.

Human Services

Certified Nurses' Aide Training Program

The Town's 15th CNA training program commenced March 24 and will conclude on May 16, 2008. Seventeen students enrolled in the eight-week program, which is funded through grants from Capital Workforce Partners, the Town of Manchester's CDBG program, the Bank of America/Foulds Family Foundation, and the Manchester Road Race Committee.

Each participant had to successfully complete an interview, drug test, physical exam and TB test before being accepted into the program. Students were also tested to determine if they were immune to measles, German measles, and chicken pox; those who had not been exposed to these diseases were given immunization shots.

The graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 16 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Commons area of Manchester Community College. The public is invited to attend.

Health Department

Community Health Statistics

75 Reportable Diseases (includes 31 Influenza)

*(Total – 58 diagnosed influenza Jan – March 2008)

Environmental Health Stats

78 Restaurant Inspections

4 Other Inspections

22 Food licenses Issued

14 Complaints

Geriatric Statistics

182 Blood Pressures

1 Special Program – 25 attendees

The Manchester Health Department participated in a multi-jurisdictional investigation of food borne illness during the last week in March and first week in April. Much of the investigation must be held medically confidential. However, when the general public's health will benefit, some information may be released to prevent further illness. During the recent outbreak investigation, it was determined by State officials that it was important to publish the name of the causative organism identified in the food borne illness outbreak, due to its contagious nature. It was Norovirus that was causing the reported illnesses.

What is Norovirus?

This is a recently assigned name to a virus that has been commonly known for many years as the "winter vomiting virus" or more commonly "The 24-hour Grip". It causes an estimated 23 million cases of gastroenteritis in the US each year. A very low dose of the virus is needed to cause illness, which makes it quite contagious.

Symptoms of Norovirus Infection:

Symptoms include vomiting and/or diarrhea, abdominal pain, headache and low-grade fever. The infection is usually self-limited with mild to moderate illness. The typical length of time from exposure to the virus to the time when illness symptoms begin is 24 to 48 hours. Once symptoms begin, the duration of illness is 24 to 48 hours.

Management of Norovirus Infection:

There is no specific therapy for norovirus gastroenteritis. There is no vaccination against norovirus. However, it is important to replace fluids and in severe cases, correct electrolyte disturbances through oral and intravenous fluid administration.

How is Norovirus Spread?

Norovirus can be spread by an individual who is currently symptomatic or a person who has recovered from the symptoms but less than 72 hours has passed from their recovery from symptoms and they are still contagious; and that person handles ready-to-eat foods. Consumption of these ready-to-eat foods that have been contaminated with virus is one way Norovirus is spread.

Other ways that Norovirus is spread is by person-to-person contact, handling contaminated surfaces like drinking glasses from ill individuals, door handles, soiled clothing and toys. Contaminated surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned and promptly disinfected.

Prevention strategies

Stay home if you are ill! Strict hand washing after using the restroom and before handling any foods is imperative in prevention. If a person has a gastrointestinal illness they should not handle foods while ill, and wait another 72 hours after the symptoms subside before resuming food handling activities. The public health take away message is Hand washing, Hand washing, and Hand washing!

Information Systems

Appointment to State's Broadband Coordinating Council

Jack McCoy, Chief Information Officer, was recently appointed to the State of Connecticut's Broadband Coordinating Council where he will represent municipal interests.

Public Works Department

Building Inspection Activity for March 1 – March 31, 2008

<i>Building Permits</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>February</i>
Total Applications received	214	172
Total Permits issued	205	165
Total Revenue	\$52,227.72	\$78,243.50
Construction Value*	\$2,232,826.00**	\$5,421,519.00
Inspections conducted	513	414

Code Enforcement

Cases opened	51	67
Cases closed	53	34
Inspections conducted	118	81

Comparison of fiscal years July 1 – March 31

<i>Building Permits</i>	<i>FY 2008</i>	<i>FY 2007</i>
Total Applications received	2096	2518
Total Permits issued	2070	2412
Total Revenue	\$538,412.74	\$951,489.72
Total Construction Value*	\$33,672,937.39**	\$90,321,519.49
Inspections conducted	5228	5912

Code Enforcement

Cases opened	449	486
Cases closed	578	493
Inspections conducted	1151	1102

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

Recreation

The annual Children's Fishing Derby co-sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Manchester Lions Club will be held May 10 from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Center Springs Pond.

The annual Senior Fishing Derby co-sponsored by the Senior Center and the Recreation Department will be held May 10, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. at Salters Pond.

Employee News

Newly Hired

Cathy Drouin – Clinic Nurse, Health Department

Dawn DiMauro – Public Safety Dispatcher, Police Department

Recently Retired

John Bieback, Firefighter, Fire Department