



Town of Manchester

General Manager's Report

Timothy P. O'Neil
Acting General Manager

October 2005

Columbus Day Observance

Town offices will be closed on Monday, October 11 in observance of Columbus Day.

General Manager's Office

Best Wishes and Thank You to Steven R. Werbner, General Manager

After 28 years of service with the Town of Manchester, Steven R. Werbner, General Manager accepted a position as Town Manager in Tolland. Mr. Werbner was hired in 1977 by General Manager Robert Weiss and held a number of positions through the years ranging from Personnel Director to Deputy General Manager. In 2001, the Board of Directors appointed him General Manager. Town staff and officials have appreciated Steve's dedication, effort and efficiency. Thanks, Steve, for a job well done and good luck in Tolland.

Transition Plan

Effective October 1, 2005, Tim O'Neil, Staff Attorney for the Town of Manchester was appointed Acting General Manager. Louise Guarnaccia, Director of Operations and Dede Moore, Director of Administrative Services will both serve as Acting Deputy General Managers and will work closely with the Acting General Manager to carry out the duties necessary in running the town. All three individuals are accessible at Town Hall.

Finance Department

Assessment and Collection

Personal Property Declarations for 2005 were mailed in September to approximately 3,600 personal property accounts. These must be filed by November 1, 2005. In conjunction with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Assessment staff is participating in a workshop at the Chamber on October 20, 2005. This workshop will assist taxpayers in learning how to complete their personal property declarations. Anyone interested in attending may contact the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. In addition, those unable to attend the workshop may contact the Assessor's office at 647-3015 with questions about personal property declarations. **Only taxpayers operating a business in Town are taxed on business personal property. Those receiving a declaration form and not operating a business in Town should return the form noting that fact.**

Public Works Department

Leaf Collection

Curbside Vacuum Leaf Collection

Curbside vacuum leaf collection will begin November 7. For this season, the Town has been divided into two leaf collection routes. Collection in Route 1 will begin November 7 and collection in Route 2 is scheduled to begin November 28. Each street will be scheduled for only one curbside vacuum collection. Leaves must be raked to the front of the property adjacent to the street prior to the scheduled collection. Storm drains and sidewalks should not be blocked and leaves should not be raked into the street. Leaf piles should be kept free of brush, refuse, rocks and other foreign matter.

Curbside Paper Leaf Bag Collection

Leaves will be picked up during normal trash collection through January 13 provided they are in paper bags. These bags can be purchased for \$.30 each at the following locations:

- *Customer Service and Information Center at Town Hall
- *Senior Center
- *Landfill Office

Crews cannot pick up leaves left in plastic bags, cardboard boxes, or barrels. Loose or paper bagged leaves can also be dropped off from 7:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m., Monday – Saturday, at the Landfill composting area or in the parking lot at 263 Olcott Street through December 31. Plastic bags or brush should not be left at this location.

Additional information about the Leaf Collection Program, including a listing of streets and collection routes, is available at www.ci.manchester.ct.us or by calling the Customer Service and Information Center at 647-5235. As collection is completed, the route lists will be updated.

Building Department

August 2005

Building Permits issued: 319
Total Revenue: \$68,754
Construction Value: \$9,781,438
Inspections conducted: 801

Code Enforcement Cases opened: 82
Code Enforcement Cases closed: 13
Inspections conducted: 107

Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS

Fire-Rescue-EMS Activity Report for August 2005

Medical/Rescue	477
Fire Related	18
Hazardous Conditions	32
Public Service	39
Good Intent	41
False	53
Mutual Aid	<u>4</u>
Total Calls	664

Fire Fighters Memorial Garden

The Manchester Fire Fighters Memorial Garden is located at Fire Station 5, 331 Tolland Turnpike. Constructed and maintained by town Fire Fighters, the garden is a blend of memorials and plantings adjacent to the American flag. A "New York" memorial consists of two retired twin fire alarm boxes depicting the North and South World Trade Center towers. On either side of the towers, engraved in glass, are the names of all 343 New York Fire Fighters lost including their rank and assignment. A Worcester Memorial consists of a wooden gate with the names of the six Worcester Fire Fighters lost. Bushes spelling out a large W6 accompany the gate for an aerial tribute. The eternal hydrant flows water 24 hours daily. A carved stone headstone remembers town Fire Fighters that died in the line of duty. The centerpiece of the garden is a large, hand etched, memorial stone depicting Manchester's two Quints, Old Glory and the American Eagle. The Memorial Garden was dedicated on September 11, 2002 in memory of all that answered the final alarm. Annually, on September 11, the department has a remembrance ceremony in the garden. Guests are welcome to stop by and view the Memorial Garden on any day. It's a must-see attraction for citizens and visitors of Manchester.

Recreation Department

Events and Activities

The Mahoney Rec Center, the East Side and the Community Y are now all open. All fall programs began the first week in October and the indoor pools are now open.

The Fall Softball League is scheduled to end regular season play on October 21 with championship playoffs the last week in October. There are 40 teams participating.

The Family Fun Night Pumpkin Carving and Painting is scheduled for October 19 at the Northwest Park Pavilion from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$1.00/participant and residents must pre-register by telephone at 647-3084 or 647-3164. There will be healthy snacks provided and a mini-walk and fitness/stretching session will be part of the event.

Manchester Public Library

Adults

The next book discussion group will examine "Hot Zone" by Richard Preston at 7:00 p.m. on October 17. A special program of "Jim Harriman, Storyteller for Adults" will be October 27 at 7:00 p.m. Both of these programs will be at the Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main Street.

Teens

The autumn schedule of Teen Nights will begin with sessions scheduled for October 5 and October 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mary Cheney Library.

Children's

Special children's programs include a "Bessie Coleman Workshop" at 4:00 p.m. at Mary Cheney for 8-12 year olds on October 3 featuring highlights from the life of the first Licensed female African-American aviator.

On Saturday, October 15, the Library and the MELO project will present Sari Max at Mary Cheney. This program includes stories and songs from around the world and is especially appropriate for preschool children.

"Pumpkin Fun - songs and stories with MaryJo Maichack" will be offered on October 24 at 4:00 p.m. at Mary Cheney and will be repeated at 6:30 p.m. at Whiton Branch Library.

Human Services

Senior Center

There will be two Medicare Part D prescription presentations at the Senior Center with Eric Rodko, CHOICES Regional Coordinator. The first session will be Monday, October 17 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and the second session will be Thursday, November 3 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Interested seniors need to sign up at the Senior Center office. One session will be videotaped so that those unable to attend can view the tape with one of the Social Workers at a showing in November.

The Manchester Health Department will sponsor a Flu Clinic on Tuesday, October 25 at the Senior Center. Clinic hours are 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. The Health Department will accept Medicare Part B or Health Net SmartChoice insurance only. Private payment may also be made. The Health Department is also offering the pneumonia vaccine for people at least 65 years of age who have never received this vaccine before.

The Senior Center is a polling place and all Senior Center programs - day and evening- will be cancelled on Tuesday, November 8 for Election Day.

On Wednesday, October 19 from 10:00 – 12:00 noon, candidates running for the Town Board of Directors will be at the Center to speak about themselves and their ideas as well as answer any questions that seniors may have.

On Election Day, November 8, there will be a question on the ballot asking for the approval of a bond package that includes money for improvements to the grounds, parking and walkways of the Senior Center as well as upgrades to the surrounding roads. Mark Carlino, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer and Julian Freund, Budget and Research Officer will be at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 27 at 12:30 p.m. to speak about all aspects of the projects and to answer questions.

Water and Sewer Department

Water Supply Status

After nearly a three-year hiatus, the relatively dry months of June and August coupled with significant water demands have placed the Department in a position where it will be issuing regular water supply status reports. As of August 28, the combined effective capacity of the seven reservoirs is 80.1%. In accordance with the Stage Response Plan and the Department's Emergency Contingency Plan, a Water Supply Alert will be issued when effective capacity is below 80%. In general, water demands this past summer were higher than the previous two years. They were slightly below the very high water demands experience during the drought of 2001/02. As of September 26, the effective capacity of the reservoirs is 73.1%.

The first phases in the Stage Response Plan is a Water Supply Alert. In a Water Supply Alert the utility must assess the state of its water resources and gear up for potential drought conditions. During a Water Supply Alert, the utility also needs to maximize the use of ground water sources to reduce surface water withdrawals. Additionally, the Department needs to evaluate its water supply situation and coordinate both internally as well as externally with appropriate local officials regarding the system status. Lastly, the Department needs to institute management steps to efficiently use available water resources.

The Department has been effectively managing its water resources since early May as soon as the surface water sources stopped overflowing. All groundwater supplies have been activated.

Overall, precipitation for 2005 is only 1.6 inches below the average, however, the month of June was two inches below the average and the month of August was nearly 2.93 inches below the average.

The recent shutdown of Globe Hollow Swimming Pool as well as the forecast for several precipitation events should help to stabilize the town's water resource status in the short term. The Department will continue to monitor the situation and provide additional updates as deemed appropriate by the Department's Emergency Plan.

Taste and Odors in the Drinking Water

The Water Department experienced a taste and odor episode this summer. The Department received calls from customers wondering what caused the problem. While the safety of the water supply was never in question, the Department was aware of these aesthetic issues. Technical experts defined the cause and took all actions available to them to remedy the problem.

The tastes and odors were brought on by this year's extremely hot and dry summer. More than half of Manchester's water is supplied from reservoirs and they contain naturally occurring plants and algae as would be found in area lakes and ponds. When the weather is hot and dry, conditions are favorable for growth of the algae and their numbers increase.

The algae are responsible for various tastes and odors in the water supply. Depending upon the type of algae, the taste and odors may be described as earthy, musty, moldy, fishy, cucumber, geranium, etc. Although most algae are removed during the treatment process, some metabolite compounds may be left behind. These compound resist normal oxidation and are not removed by the current treatment processes at the Water Treatment Plant. This allows metabolites to enter the water distribution system and reach the tap of the customers.

Samples were collected from several reservoirs in August and September and analyzed to determine if these compounds were present. Tests confirmed the presence of 2-methylisoborneol (MIB) in the reservoirs at levels of 4.7 – 28.8 parts/trillion. Even though these compounds are considered harmless, the human senses of taste and smell are extremely sensitive to them and can detect them in the water at concentrations as low as five parts/trillion.

Although these taste and odor events do not occur each and every year, the Water Department is taking steps to avoid them in the future. The Department evaluated various treatment plant modifications and is currently in the design phase of modifications to the treatment plant that would include the addition of a potent oxidizer (ozone) and granular activated carbon filtration. The ozone is very capable of oxidizing the taste and odor compounds. It will also improve filtration, particle removal, reduce disinfection byproducts and provide protection against viruses and protozoa. Once funding is approved, the construction of these treatment modifications is expected to begin.

When the next taste and odor episode occurs, the Department hopes to have these new treatment modifications in place so that the unpleasant taste never gets to the tap of the consumers.

Employee News

Recently Retired

Emil Haberern – Public Works Department
Herb Dougan – Public Works Department
Maureen Dougan – Public Works Department
John Salcius – Health Department

Recently Hired

Nina Stramaglia – Human Services/Senior Center
James Markowski – Accreditation Manager
Cindy Roman – Assessment/Collection
Karen Affricano – Senior, Adult, and Family Services
Kenneth Deal – Water and Sewer Department