

MEMO

To: Town Council
CC: Town Employees
From: Ryan J. Aylesworth, Town Manager
Date: January 8, 2024
Subject: **Town Manager's Report**

Below, please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, staff, and the community:

Departmental Reports

- ***Town Manager, Finance, Human Resources & Communications:***
 - The Town Manager, Chief of Shared Services and Administration, and Finance Director finalized the FY 2024/25 budget development guidance materials in mid-December. The guidance documents were then transmitted to all members of the municipal management team with submissions due by mid-January. As a reminder, this will be the second year that the Town is developing its comprehensive annual operating budget and 5-year capital improvement plan using the ClearGov web-based platform. Based on the success of last year's municipal budget development cycle, Mansfield Public Schools will be using ClearGov to develop its budget moving forward as well.
 - This past week the Town Manager and Mayor Moran were invited to meet with UConn officials to receive an update relative to the university's plans to reestablish the Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services program/function, which will exist within the Office of the Dean of Students. During this meeting the Town Manager and Mayor were also informed that Mr. Nathan Fuerst, Vice President of Student Life and Enrollment, is assuming responsibilities to serve as the primary liaison with the Town of Mansfield. For some time these responsibilities were assigned to Ms. Cara Workman, who is a very valued professional colleague. Given Mr. Fuerst occupies a senior leadership position within the President's cabinet and oversees matters related to Student Life, we believe that this will serve the Town of Mansfield well.
 - The Town Manager and Mayor are continuing to participate in the ad hoc Legislative Committee of the Capitol Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) to help inform the organization's legislative priorities for the coming (short) legislative session. The Committee's second meeting took place in December and a third (final) meeting is being planned to take place on January 18. Preliminary CRCOG advocacy priorities include the following:
 - State to fund payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state-owned property at statutorily required levels.
 - Provide funding for stormwater infrastructure.
 - Remove remaining statutory barriers to service sharing.
 - Create infrastructure bank to assist municipalities with financing the match or nonfederal share required by various federal funding opportunities.
 - Allow municipalities to create regional fair rent commissions at as? local option.
 - Index state Medicaid ambulance reimbursement rate at Federal level and pay full rate for group home transport.
 - Continue funding for CFSIC – State Bond Commission to authorize remaining balance for crumbling foundations.

- Support proposals to establish apprenticeship/internship program for building code officials.
- State to increase reciprocity to accept certifications from other states for various professional and technical positions in municipal government.
- Continue to support CCSMM and CT DEEP in efforts to develop innovative ideas and programs to promote food waste diversion, and streamlined permitting of anaerobic digesters and related infrastructure.
- Provide additional funding to test and remediate contaminated private wells for PFAS and other harmful substances.
- Support for apprenticeships for childcare workers.
- Enhance municipal role in the permitting of large solar installations.
- Increase funding for special education.
- Increase the sealed requirement (\$25,000) codified under CGS Sec. 7- 148v, Requirements for competitive bidding.
- Status of CGS, Sec. 12-81n - Municipal option to provide additional exemption for businesses offering childcare services to residents.
- Status of regulations/rules requiring background checks for childcare workers and in home childcare operators, and any potential revisions to those regulations/rules.
- Funding for maintenance of multiuse trails and linear parks.
- The Town Council's annual goal-setting session previously scheduled for December 11 will be carried out during the January 8 business meeting and will largely supplant "normal business" that would otherwise have been tended to during this regular monthly meeting of the Council. Associated reference materials and activities that will guide the goal-setting session were circulated to Council members in advance.
- Mansfield will be the host site for Maple Fest in 2024, a major regional event organized by the Windham Chamber of Commerce. This event had been held in Hebron for a number of years, growing to attract thousands of visitors. Mansfield Town and School district staff have met with organizers to coordinate logistics for the event outdoors at Mansfield Elementary School over two days on March 9 and 10 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Visitors will be shuttled to MES from parking lots in different parts of Town. Local businesses, organizations, and Town departments are encouraged to register to exhibit or to hold fundraising activities. Businesses across Town can also associate with the event for promotional benefit.
- This past Thursday the Town Manager and members of the Town Council joined members of numerous other municipal boards and committees for a virtual workshop focusing on housing development in the Town of Mansfield. The workshop was facilitated by the Tyche Planning and Policy Group, who is actively assisting the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission with the development of proposed new Zoning Regulations as part of the ongoing six-month moratorium on high-density housing development. The workshop was well-attended and we would like to extend a sincere note of thanks to all the municipal board and committee members who generously gave of their time and valued perspectives.
- Town administration worked closely with senior staff from Mansfield Parks and Recreation and the Department of Finance to finalize specific/measurable long-term "cost of recovery" goals relative to the myriad categories of service being provided by Mansfield Parks and Recreation. These goals are presently being incorporated into the Master Plan being developed in collaboration with the Town's consultant, 110%, Inc., which will of course ultimately be presented to the Town Council for its concurrence. As of this writing, we are very close to having a complete working initial draft of the master plan that will be subject to additional review and revision with staff member feedback. At this time, we anticipate that the Master Plan will be substantially complete and ready for Council review and deliberation by late-February 2024.

- Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Mansfield is exemplified by the ongoing *Mansfield Tomorrow*: Municipal Facilities Master Planning process. Over the course of many months, we have shared information on the work local officials have initiated over the past year with design and engineering professionals on a comprehensive municipal facilities master plan. The goal of this work is to help us better understand both the current condition/viability of existing Town buildings to adequately meet current and anticipated future needs. We fully recognize the necessity to seek robust public engagement in this process to ensure any projects that may move forward are best positioned to meet community needs. To this end, efforts are currently underway to obtain input from the full gamut of stakeholder groups and residents of our community. We continue to seek input and feedback as we envision the development and improvement of key facilities that serve as the heartbeat of our community. Insights and perspectives of the public we serve are instrumental in crafting spaces that reflect our shared values and cater to the diverse needs of our residents. An online survey and in-person public forum(s) are being arranged for the coming months to obtain valuable public input relative to various municipal facility enhancement concepts that are being explored. Additionally, the Town has reapplied for grant funding from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) to fund additional community engagement and, pending Council support, pre-referendum design and cost estimation services. Town officials are very grateful that State Rep. Haddad has once again offered to assertively support a CIF grant for this project and coordinate his advocacy efforts with State Senator Flexer and State Rep. Boyd to ensure that this important work is funded.
- Staff for Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz has been coordinating efforts with Town officials to host a recognition event for surviving veterans of foreign wars the evening of January 29, 2024. The event will be held in the Mansfield Middle School auditorium. The Town Clerk's Office has prepared a list of approximately 120 known veterans who reside in Mansfield. These individuals will be receiving a surface-mailed invitation to the event in the very near future. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks as pertinent logistical details are finalized and invitations to the event are circulated.
- Appointment News and Notes (in order of start date):
 - Sheri Baczanski has been promoted to the position of Accountant effective January 2, 2024. Ms. Baczanski has worked for the town for 8 years, serving in the capacity of Public Works Specialist. Prior to that, she had over a decade of experience serving as an Office Manager for a private sector engineering firm. She holds a Bachelor's degree in business management from Assumption College. Congratulations Sheri!
 - Brianca Sailor has joined our staff as the Senior Center Program Assistant. She began work on January 2, 2024. Most recently, Ms. Sailor had been working in event planning and customer service. She holds a Bachelor's degree in business administration from Eastern Connecticut State University and an Associate's degree in business administration from Manchester Community College. Welcome Brianca!
 - Gary Wiemokly began work as our Transfer Station Attendant on January 2, 2024. Mr. Wiemokly has a long career in the emergency medical services field. Mr. Wiemokly holds a Master's degree in public health from A.T. Still University, a Bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of the State of New York, and is a licensed paramedic. Welcome Gary!
 - Rachel Desilets has been appointed to the position of Administrative Assistant with Building and Housing Inspection. She begins work on January 8, 2024. Most recently, Ms. Desilets has served as a leasing and marketing manager in the private sector. She holds a Bachelor's degree in writing, literature, and publishing, and a second Bachelor's degree in TV/video production from Emerson College. Welcome Rachel!
 - Paul Velazquez and John Cropp have been hired as Digital Access Navigators. They will be supporting the ARPA grant-funded initiative being managed by our Library and

Information Technology Departments. They both begin work the week of January 16th. Mr. Velazquez joins the town with private sector experience, and has previously served as a computer club volunteer for Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford. Mr. Velazquez holds a Bachelor's degree in computer science from Southern New Hampshire University and an Associate's degree in computer technology from Manchester Community College. Mr. Cropp has nearly a decade of service in university libraries. He currently serves as an access services associate. He holds a Master's degree in library and information sciences from Valdosta State University, a Bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Georgia, and Associate's degrees from the University of North Georgia and Daytona Beach Community College. Welcome Paul and John!

- The Town has opened our search to find our next Fire Chief. The position is open until filled. The job posting may be found here: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/353/Job-Opportunities>
- The Town is also searching for one full-time firefighters and part-time firefighters. The application deadline for these positions is January 31st at 5:15pm. The job posting may be found here: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/353/Job-Opportunities>
- Beginning January 16th, the Town is piloting a 4-day work week for our staff assigned to the Senior Center. Please note that this pilot program will not affect the Senior Center's hours of operation; the Senior Center will remain open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm, excluding observed holidays and closures due to inclement weather and other exigent circumstances.
- The February/March issue of the Town's bimonthly electronic newsletter will be published on February 1. The December/January issue of the Town's bimonthly electronic newsletter can be accessed [here](#).
- The Town Manager's next monthly appearance on WILI-AM with Wayne Norman will take place on January 12. His December appearance can be accessed [here](#).

- **Mansfield Public Schools (MPS) & Region 19:**

- An Update on the Mansfield Elementary School Building project:
 - Legal negotiations with Newfield continue. A draft settlement proposal has been forwarded to Newfield for consideration
 - On Thursday, January 4th, there was an on-site coordination meeting and walk-through with the commissioning agent, mechanical contractor, controls contractor, Colliers and the Owner to review any outstanding temperature and comfort issues, and to develop a list of action items to address all known issues.
 - On Wednesday, January 9th, there will be a contractor warranty walk-through prior to the one-year anniversary of substantial completion to confirm and identify any open punch list and contractor warranty issues. This walk-through will be attended by the Contractor, Design team, Colliers and Owner.
 - The additional acoustic panels have been installed in the cafeteria. The team is awaiting further feedback from the staff on its effectiveness.
 - The water damage to the gym floor adjacent to the exterior door is currently being corrected, the damaged floor has been replaced and is currently being re-finished.
 - The purchase order for the installation of the masonry wall cap has been issued and Colliers is coordinating the start of the work with the school and contractor
 - The lightning protection proposal has been approved and the team is awaiting issuance of the purchase order by the Town so the installation can be scheduled.
 - There was a roof leak reported on the main floor, there was no damage to the building, and the contractor has been on site and is actively working to determine the cause and correct the issue.

- Note that there will be an extended period of closeout documentation. This process extends for month (and sometimes years) past the start of school as it depends upon final completion of vendor contracts for monitoring the occupied building and the final audit review through the State for final reimbursement funds.
- Mansfield Middle School Roof Remediation Update
 - All of the roof top units (RTU) have been flashed, although a missing section of flashing needs to be added to RTU-3. The television for the solar array has been installed and is up and running in the school. The Imperial Company has agreed to supply ceiling tiles to replace those that were damaged or stained from leaks. We have requested updates on the HVAC equipment labeled MU or FU to determine if they are properly fastened. Silver Petrucelli responded there was no change since the December 7th on-site meeting. David Stein with Silver Petrucelli will be issuing a sketch for securing these units. Some other outstanding items are as follows:
 - ❖ Installation of baskets needs to be confirmed.
 - ❖ Schedule and perform flood test in Spring 2024.

There were five small leaks reported during the December 18th storm, all in new places, most related to new work The Imperial Company performed. The Imperial Company came to repair leaking areas and as of the last rain, only one leak remained. The Town has requested that Colliers (Clerk of the Works) and Silver Petrucelli (Architect) attend the MMS Roof Building Committee meeting scheduled for January 10th at 8:30am.

- As was previously reported, the Regional School District 19 Board of Education approved a successor collective bargaining agreement for certified teachers in December. It was provided to the Town Clerks in Mansfield, Ashford, and Willington on December 11. The contract has been placed on the agenda for Council review (within the statutorily allotted 30 days) at its January 8, 2024 meeting.

- **Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD):**

- The EHHD weekly summary on viral respiratory diseases can be accessed [here](#).
- Based on surveillance data available at CDC's [COVID-19 Hospital Admission Levels tool](#), the municipalities within EHHD remain classified as green, or "low" risk category. Hospital Admission Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being occupied, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID cases in a specific geographical area. CDC recommends taking precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID based on Hospital Admission Levels in your area.
- While supplies last, individuals may pick up *two free COVID-19 self-test kits per person* at the main EHHD office at 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, during normal business hours.
- In preparation for the upcoming cold and flu season, the EHHD recently delivered a supply of free COVID-19 test kits to Mansfield Public Schools and Region 19 for use by the school nurses as needed.
- With the FDA approval and commercialization of the *new monovalent COVID-19 vaccine*, the EHHD no longer has Moderna and Pfizer vaccine available at their clinics for adults. The EHHD does anticipate making the new monovalent vaccine available to children ages 5 to 18 in the near future. More information is forthcoming. Individuals can go to <https://www.vaccines.gov/> to find the nearest provider of the new COVID-19 monovalent vaccine for adults, or children under age 5.
- The EHHD is hosting a series of flu vaccine clinics for children age 4 to 18. The full clinic schedule can be found at <http://ehhd.org/qcontent/NewsFeed.aspx?FeedID=321>

- **Planning & Development**

- [Northwest Mansfield Vision and Strategy Plan](#). The survey is now closed. At the time the survey was closed, we had received 380 responses. The next steps include the development of the Plan vision, draft plan recommendations, and design concepts. Progress on the plan is available at www.mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan.
- [Housing Work Session with Elected Boards and Commissions](#). On Thursday, January 4, 2024, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) hosted a virtual work session with members from elected boards and commissions to discuss the future of housing in Mansfield. Items discussed included Mansfield's current housing stock, what the need for housing is and for whom, what should housing look like, and priority areas for future housing. This session was for members of elected and appointed boards and commissions. There will be opportunities for the public to provide feedback at a future date.
- [Development Activity](#): Staff continues to update the [Development Activity](#) portion of the Planning and Development website with information on pending applications.
- [Upcoming Public Hearings and Decisions](#):
 - Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA)- Application of Benchmark Cascade, LLC for a permit to conduct regulated activities associated with a proposed multi-family housing project (approximately 84 units) located at 541 Middle Turnpike. *The Public Hearing closed on December 18, 2023. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered at the January 16th meeting.*
 - IWA- Application of Benchmark Cascade, LLC for a permit to conduct regulated activities associated with a proposed mixed-use building (approximately 35 units) located at 555 Middle Turnpike. *The Public Hearing closed on December 18, 2023. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered at the January 16th meeting.*
 - PZC- Special Permit Application of S. Banis for gravel operations on Pleasant Valley Road- *Continued to January 16, 2023*
- [Standard at Four Corners Wetland Violation](#): On December 18, 2023, the IWA authorized the Inland Wetland Agent to enforce the original Cease and Correct Order issued on November 30, 2023, to Chase Powell, Director of Development at Landmark Properties, Inc. and Timothy Consolo, Lead Superintendent, Landmark Construction pertaining to the unpermitted direct impact on the Wetlands and Watercourses at 1725 Storrs Road, with the following modifications:
 - The Applicant shall fully implement the plan of restoration for the disturbed wetlands area titled "Wetland Restoration Plan," prepared by Wayne Violet of Bohler Engineering and revised to 12/18/2023, integrating comments contained in the December 15, 2023 communication from reviewer Landtech. This plan shall be submitted to the Environmental Planner for final approval, and, if deemed necessary, to the IWA, prior to implementation of permanent stabilization measures.
 - Three years from the implementation of the restoration plan, the applicant or owner shall have a registered landscape architect certify that restoration remains compliant with the plan, that plantings have an 80% survival rate, and at least 75% of restored areas are covered by native species. If these criteria are not met, the owner must repair immediately and submit a report of compliance certified by a landscape architect to the Inland Wetlands Agent, and, if deemed necessary, to the IWA.
 - During all Erosion and Sedimentation Control inspections mandated by condition 4 of the Inland Wetlands License issued on February 1, 2021 (File W1614-1), turbidity readings shall be taken from upstream and downstream of the disturbed wetlands area and reported to the Inland Wetlands Agent, and, if deemed necessary, to the IWA.

Should the water quality data show evidence of water quality impairment, the applicant shall install further erosion controls as necessary.

- **Downtown Partnership, Economic Development & Marketing:**

- Welcome new businesses! The Partnership is pleased to welcome three new businesses to Mansfield – with more on the way! The Fresh Monkee (135C Storrs Road) and Playa Bowls (1 Dog Lane) recently opened their new Mansfield locations. The Fresh Monkee celebrated their Grand Opening earlier today, while Playa Bowls will hold a Grand Opening on Saturday, January 20 with a ribbon-cutting at 9:45 AM. Meanwhile, Action Packed plans to open this Saturday (Jan 13) in 34 Wilbur Cross Way. Also opening soon in 34 Wilbur Cross Way will be Nautical Bowls; stay tuned for details! Last but not least, Huskies Restaurant & Bar is hard at work on their new location in 33 Wilbur Cross Way. They plan to open the new, full-service restaurant later this winter.
- Connecticut's Countryside: Business Forum on Feb, 7: Mansfield businesses are invited to a forum and social hosted by the steering committee for Connecticut's Countryside, a regional economic vitality effort by the Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland, on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The forum will begin at 4:00 PM at UConn's Innovation Partnership Building (159 Discovery Drive) with a social at Hops 44 (625 Middle Turnpike) to follow starting at 6:00 PM. Learn more [here](#).
- 3rd and final Session on Creating a Cultural District in Mansfield: The Economic Development Commission and Partnership staff have explored the idea of creating a Cultural District in Mansfield with the guidance of the Cultural Coalition (serving southeastern and northeastern CT). Two previous roundtable sessions had great turn-outs and thought-provoking discussions. The third session is Wednesday, January 17 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Mansfield Town Council Chambers, 4 South Eagleville Road. Please RSVP by Friday, January 12 for planning purposes on the Cultural Coalition's website ([here](#)).
- Taste 2 Towns: Mansfield-Windham Restaurant Week returns! From January 29 through February 11, enjoy special menus and offers at over 20 participating restaurants during this special two-week event. 2024 Participants will be announced soon at taste2towns.com. Taste 2 Towns is a collaborative effort by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association, Town of Mansfield, and Town of Windham to highlight the many wonderful, diverse dining options in our region. Taste 2 Towns is made possible with the generous support of local sponsors, including our "Main Course" presenting sponsor Green Valley Tree, LLC.

- **Parks & Recreation:**

- Winter programs have begun and [registrations](#) for many programs remain open to all.
- Staff is actively planning for the 2024 spring and summer programs.
- Staff continues actively engaging in [master planning and financial sustainability strategy](#) work with our consultant, 110% Inc., town administration, finance, and planning departments.
- The next free [Family Paint Day](#) is January 11 at Lenard Hall.
- Weekday morning and weeknight [Open Artists Studio Space](#) is ongoing thru the winter at Lenard Hall.
- A Mansfield Community Center [Open House](#) will be held on January 13-15.
- The next Free Mansfield Residents Day at the Mansfield Community Center is January 13.
- A Be the One Blood Drive will be held at the Mansfield Community Center on January 19, 10:00am – 6:30pm. Reservations suggested, walk-ins welcome!

- **Human Services**

- The following services were provided by the Department during the month of December:
 - 128 children received toys through the Holiday Toy Program

- 7 households accessed the food pantry
- Provided 25 counseling sessions
- Provided 47 case management services
- Assisted 13 households with financial assistance
- Provided 436 meals to seniors
- Had 1,131 sign-ins at our Senior Center
- In total, our case management/social work staff provided 164 services to 104 individuals.
- Human Services
 - Our Season of Giving campaign was a success this year. With the donations received from the community, we were able to provide toys to income eligible families in town and also assemble gift baskets for Meals on Wheels participants. The Department also received more than \$10,000 in donations to support our various programs throughout the year (Campership, Emergency Fund, Back-To-School clothing). Many thanks to the generosity of the Mansfield community who ensured the success of these initiatives.
- Senior Center
 - Brianca Sailor joined the team on January 2nd, filling the role of Program Assistant.
 - The Department is in the final stages of recruitment for the Senior Center Supervisor.
 - January will mark our second month of bringing back the Maple Road Café. Staff have received positive feedback about the café and it is our intention to expand it to weekly in February.
- Youth Services Bureau (YSB)
 - Dr. Katie Bell and Marangely Diaz will be traveling to Washington D.C. at the end of the month to participate in the CADCA Conference. The conference will provide staff with tools and information on best-practice models for supporting youth in our community to make healthy, safe choices.
 - Dr. Katie Bell will be providing a short presentation on January 18th to Mansfield Board of Education on the programs YSB provides to students.
- **Mansfield Public Library:**
 - Children's Weekly Events
 - *Toddler Time*: Tuesdays at 10:30AM in MPL's Program Room
Learn, dance and play through stories and songs! After storytime, families are invited to stay and play with friends. This program is best for toddlers ages 1-3, but all families are welcome.
 - *Wonder Workshop*: Thursdays from 3-5PM in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium
Families are invited to drop in for STEAM activities, crafts, and tactile play. This program is best for preschool and elementary-school age children, but all families are welcome.
 - *Music and Movement*: Fridays at 10:30AM in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium
Let's move! Sing, dance and move your bodies in this interactive, music-based program, followed by group playtime. This program is best for ages 0-4, but all families are welcome.
 - *Saturday Storytime*: Saturdays at 10:30AM in MPL's Program Room
Join us for Saturday morning stories, and songs at the library! After storytime, families are invited to stay and play with friends. This program is best for ages 0-7, but all families are welcome.
 - Special Events
 - *Adult Valentine Shadow Box Craft*

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 6:00 pm in Mansfield Public Library, Buchanan Auditorium. Beginning last week, individuals can register by calling the library at: 860-423-2501 or by stopping by the library circulation desk. Come join us for a fun night of crafting! We will roll paper flowers and arrange them into the shape of a heart inside a shadow box frame.

- *Virtual Author Talk with Rebecca Serle*
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Join us as we kick off the New Year talking to Rebecca Serle about her journey writing epic love stories to span generations.
Register for the Zoom link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>
- *Virtual Author Talk with Rajiv Nagaich, J.D. L.L.M.*
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Start your New Year off right and learn how to avoid the hidden traps in retirement planning advice!
Register for the Zoom link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>
- *NEW! Adults 18+ Only Monthly Game Night*
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Mansfield Public Library, Buchanan Auditorium
No registration required.
Want to start the New Year off trying something fun and new? Join us at the Mansfield Public Library for our first monthly Game Night for adults 18+! Drop in to the auditorium for Magic: The Gathering Casual Commander play or try one of our specially selected board games! Bring your favorite Magic the Gathering commander deck, or learn to play with one of our guest decks. The library will provide board games, or feel free to bring your own to share. We will be happy to help with rules and instructions! All experience levels welcome.
- *New Year, Fresh Start Through Meditation*
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
No registration required for this in-person workshop.
The New Year is a time to create a clean slate. Join Clare Vidich for this powerful in-person workshop. Learn a simple meditation technique to bring joy, peace, positivity and relaxation in your daily life. There will even be a chance to try this out. Begin the New Year with a fresh start!
- *Winter Crafternoons:*
Fridays January 19th and 26th from 3:30-5:00pm
Let's get creative and start off the weekend on a happy note! Drop in for crafts, coloring & soothing music!
- *Take Your Child to the Library Day: Library Valentines:*
Saturday, February 3 from 10:30AM-1:00PM
Celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day" by creating a special valentine for the library! Join your favorite Children's Librarians for a fun library-themed storytime at 10:30AM. Stay to play or drop-in after stories anytime between 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM for open play-time and library-themed crafts, including Library Valentines, coloring, and Build-Your-Own Book crafts!

- Upcoming Free Adult Programs @ Mansfield Public Library:

- *Current Events & Politics Discussion Group*

- Date/Time: Every Wednesday @ 1:00 pm

- Location: Mansfield Public Library, Program Room

- Do we live in a democracy? How does the election system work? What is next for our country? How is our government structured? How can we work together? We will be talking about all of this and more at this drop-in, weekly adult discussion led by Warren Murphy, retired teacher of Government and Macroeconomics. All are welcome to attend these discussions as your schedule allows.

Visit the library's web site for many more programs: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org>. All library programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required, unless specially noted.

- **Office of the Town Clerk:**

- PropertyCheck In Use – The word about PropertyCheck is out! Residents are signing up for this free service to protect their real estate. Once registered, PropertyCheck will send an alert whenever a document with the registrant's name on it is entered into the land records. To register, go to www.MansfieldCT.gov/TownClerk, create a free online land records account, and set up the PropertyCheck alerts within your free account. We hope this additional layer of protection against property fraud will give our residents peace of mind.

- **Facilities:**

- The Facilities Management Department is presently working on a wide range of projects and tasks, including the following:
 - The heat exchanger on air handler at the Nash Zimmer Intermodal Center (IMC) experienced a failure this past week and personnel are working with the manufacturer to replace expeditiously.
 - Personnel have continued to complete the planned electrical work at Fire Station 207 and flooring installation will commence in the near future.
 - Personnel are obtaining price quotes for the replacement of the existing septic system at Fire Station 307.
 - Mansfield Public Library- The planned ADA improvements to the side entrance of Buchanan Auditorium are nearly complete. The new vestibule/foyer has been sided and roofed at the top of the concrete ramp that was installed in late-fall 2023. Additionally, the ARPA-funded HVAC system improvements (i.e., new condenser and chiller system) at the main library facility has experienced unfortunate delay and we are working diligently to have this work performed in early-2024.
 - Work on the generator and walk in refrigerator at Mansfield Senior Center will progress in the coming weeks dependent on suitable weather conditions.
 - Mansfield Middle School (MMS)
 - ❖ A request for proposals (RFP) relative to architectural and design services needed to construct a new entryway at Mansfield Middle School was recently published.
 - ❖ As was previously reported, the Department worked with Town administration and Mansfield Public Schools leadership to prepare a grant application for comprehensive HVAC upgrades to MMS that would be funded primarily from funds from the CT Office of School Construction Grants. The Council was briefed at its December 11 meeting and subsequently voted to authorize the application for grant funding.

- ❖ Personnel continue to work closely with the General Contractor (Imperial Roofing), Architect (Silver Petrucelli), Clerk of the Works (Colliers Project Leaders), and other parties to facilitate the additional improvements authorized by the MMS Roof Building Committee to modify the roof top drainage and avoid water seepage into the building during heavy rain events.

- **Police**

- There are no noteworthy law enforcement actions to publicly report to the Council at this time.

- **Fire Department:**

- Below is a brief synopsis of Fire Dept. responses for the period Dec. 11, 2023 – Jan. 8, 2024.

Type	# Calls	# Mutual Aid Out of Town
ALS	67	4
BLS	86	5
Total Medical	153	9
Chimney Fire	0	0
Cover Assignment	0	0
Bomb Threat	0	0
Appliance Malfunction	0	0
Aircraft Accident	0	0
Brush, Grass, Forest Fires	1	0
CO Detector Activation	0	0
Fire Alarm	4	0
HAZ Mat Gas Leak	0	0
Other Fires	1	0
Service Call	13	0
Smoke/Odor Investigation	6	0
Standby	0	0
Structure Fire	2	2
Wires Burning/Arcing	2	0
Tree Down	14	0
Vehicle Accident	8	4
Vehicle Fires	1	0
Water Rescue	0	0
Total Fire Calls	52	3
Grand Total	205	17

- Department personnel continue to routinely take part in meetings with developers and other Town officials relative to the active/ongoing new development projects in various stages of land use review/construction in the Four Corners area.
 - Squad 207 Refurb/Remount: The project started in late-June. Overall, the structure of the apparatus is in good shape. There are a couple of cross bars that need to be replaced around the pump panel and the cross-member that holds the water tank that needed to be replaced. The project continues with performing the chassis-saver underbody painting and rustproofing. A new tank cradle is also being fabricated. The motor was evaluated at Detroit Diesel and addressed the oil leaks. Also, the pump was tested and has been rated/passed its pumping capacity. We will need to address a couple of ball valves and the tank-to-pump level. The transmission was evaluated and there were no issues found. Also, the rear springs were in

need of replacement. This project continues to proceed forward. Squad 207 will likely continue to be out of service until spring/summer 2024.

- For the period of 12/24/23-1/6/24, the following activities took place in the Offices of Fire Marshal and Emergency Management:
 - 87 fire safety inspections conducted.
 - 5 re-inspections conducted.
 - 11 construction inspections conducted.
 - Updates were completed to the Local Emergency Operations Plan.
 - FM/EMD Libros attended the Region 4 School Safety Subcommittee virtual meeting on January 3.
 - FM/EMD Libros attended a planning meeting on January 4 with other Town departments relative to the Maple Festival.
 - Personnel monitored weather forecasts for multiple storms during the period.

- **Public Works:**

- The Town experienced its first winter storm starting on Saturday, January 6. Public Works personnel reported at 7:00 pm and immediately began pre-treating the roads. Snow started falling around 8:00 pm. By 3:30 am (Sunday morning), there was approximately 3.5" of total accumulation. Snow remained light with some sleet and drizzle at times ending around 3:00 pm on Sunday, January 7. All personnel were sent out for what was believed to be final cleanup at 3:15 pm. However, at approximately 6:00 pm on Sunday, a small squall of light snow re-appeared creating a light coating on all surfaces. Plow drivers had to go back over what they completed. By 7:30 pm, personnel had cleared all roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. Some staff were then sent home, but, with the temperature dropping, multiple drivers were kept on to monitor roads overnight and to re-treat the roads and parking lots at 4:00 this morning (Monday, January 9)
- The December weekend rainstorms left the town with many downed trees, debris on roads and clogged culverts. The Department removed the wood from the downed trees and the debris along the roadways. Crews cleaned the swales on the gravel roads to ensure they flow free of debris. Crews have also been checking and cleaning culverts throughout town.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers held water back at Mansfield Hollow Dam to prevent downstream flooding causing the flooding and subsequent closure of Bassetts Bridge Road on December 18. The Town reopened the road on December 24.
- On December 28, a large tree on privately owned property fell across Gurleyville Road, near house #339, snapping two poles resulting in an overnight road closure.
- The Department has been deploying the road sweeper daily to sweep the roads of debris, which assists with keeping our waterways clear.
- The Town's tree removal contractor is supporting the Department with the removal of large dead trees around Mansfield.
- Personnel continue to replace other missing signs, patch potholes and pick up wood from downed/cut trees.