

MEMO

To: Town Council
CC: Town Employees
From: Ryan J. Aylesworth, Town Manager
Date: January 22, 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:***

- I want to briefly update everyone on steps that have been taken by the Information Technology (I.T.) Department relative to ongoing efforts to identify effective options for assistive listening technology in Council Chambers. More specifically, we have taken the following steps since last week's Town Council meeting:
 - The I.T. Department has been meeting (virtually and in-person) with four different media technology companies who work with assistive technology and room audio. These discussions have been reviewing our current setup in Council Chambers and seeking their input on technology options. Some of these discussions also include vendor visits to Town Hall so that they can review our setup in-person. Feedback we obtain from additional subject matter experts subsequent to this writing will also be incorporated into our plans moving forward.
 - The I.T. Department has installed four new assistive technology device units in Council Chambers that are now available for use and will be available at the next Council meeting. These new units include the following benefits:
 - ❖ More advanced and newer technology for transmitting audio.
 - ❖ Have a visual display showing the battery charge status (shows the % battery remaining).
 - ❖ Use rechargeable batteries with 8 hours of battery life per charge and can be readily charged after each meeting using an easy-charging bay unit. These units are specifically designed for use at extended length meetings and can readily work for the full duration of any meeting.
 - ❖ A visual display showing the volume level on the unit with buttons to readily increase/decrease the volume level.

While the I.T. Department tested each of our four former (older) assistive technology units just prior to Monday night's meeting and just after Monday night's meeting to confirm that they had full battery power and were sending audio correctly (which they were in all cases), the Department has installed the new units to ensure that we are taking advantage of the features in these new units.

- A prominent sign has now been installed in Council Chambers highlighting the availability of assistive technology devices in the room.

- The I.T. Department tested and confirmed that we can display large font and live Closed Captioning on the screen in Council Chambers using the Closed Captioning feature in Zoom. We will make use of this at the next Council Meeting.

We look forward to utilizing these new features and employing other enhancements going forward, as appropriate.

I believe that the actions/efforts made by the I.T. Department in the past week – as well as staff's efforts extending back some months – are a reflection of our commitment to improving accessibility to anyone (employees, local officials, the public, etc.) using Council Chambers who may experience hearing impairment.

- The Town Manager, Chief of Shared Services and Administration, and Finance Director began meeting with Department Heads this past week to review operating and capital budget requests for FY 2024/25. Meetings with the remaining members of the Town's management team will be taking place over the course of the next two weeks.
- As has been previously reported, the Town Manager and Mayor participated in several meetings of 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. As the Council is aware, CRCOG is the largest council of governments (COG) in Connecticut and serves 38 municipalities with a population of almost one million residents. Geographically, the region encompasses an area of 1,000 square miles covering most of the historic Hartford and Tolland counties. The CRCOG Legislative Committee's final meeting took place on January 18 and selected the following as its advocacy priorities for the coming session:
 - *Federal infrastructure funding* - assist with Local Match for BIL/IIJA funding to enable municipalities to take full advantage of federal funding opportunities.
 - *Service sharing* - remove remaining statutory barriers and provide incentives to promote service sharing at the local level.
 - *Regional/intermunicipal fair rent commissions* – expressly permit municipalities with a population of 25,000 or more to form intermunicipal or regional fair rent commissions at local option.
 - *Permitting/siting of large solar installations* – enhance the municipal role in the Siting Council's permitting process for solar installations greater than one megawatt in size.
 - *Medicaid ambulance reimbursement* – index state's Medicaid ambulance reimbursement rate at the Federal level and pay the full rate for group home transport.
 - *Motor Vehicle Mill Rate Cap* – hold towns harmless from loss of state revenue sharing designed to supplement state's motor vehicle mill rate cap.
 - *PILOT funding* – fund the state's payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) programs at statutorily required levels.
 - *Funding for CFSIC* – authorize the issuance of the remaining balance of \$50 million in bond funds allocated under PA 21-120 to enable the CT Foundation Indemnity Solutions Company (CFSIC) to continue its mission to assist homeowners with repairing/replacing crumbling foundations.
 - *Reciprocity for municipal officials* – increase reciprocity to accept certifications from other states for various professional and technical positions.
 - *Sealed bid requirement* – increase statutory threshold (\$25,000) established under C.G.S. §7-148v for municipalities that have adopted an ordinance concerning competitive bidding and build an appropriate index into the statute.

- *Affordable housing* –promote the construction of affordable housing through tax credits, brownfield restoration tax credits, and the local property tax exemption with state reimbursement.
 - *Office of Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Care* – support the key recommendations set out in December 2023 report of the Office of Early Childhood’s Blue Ribbon Panel, particularly those related to workforce development, providing equitable access to care, and developing a more sustainable funding model.
 - *Primary Service Area Responder (PSAR)* – require municipal approval, as opposed to a recommendation, for any change in the Primary Service Area Responder (PSAR) designation within their community.
 - *Hartford Line* - complete the design and construction of the stations in West Hartford, Newington, and Windsor – as well as full buildouts in Windsor Locks and Enfield – as expeditiously as possible.
- Based on the feedback offered by members of the Town Council during its goal-setting session on January 8, staff are working to prepare updated goal statements and corresponding objectives for the Council’s review and adoption next month.
 - As previously shared with the Council, Mansfield will be the host site for a major regional event known as Eastern Connecticut Maple Fest that 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, but this past year local officials in Hebron decided they wanted to scale down their event. The event in Mansfield will take place over a two-day period, March 9 (Saturday) and 10 (Sunday). Although preliminary plans have been made to host the event outdoors at Mansfield Elementary School given many of the favorable attributes this site provides, event organizers are currently exploring viability of a location closer to the Downtown area. A final decision about the event location is expected in the very near future.
 - Town staff continue to work closely with 110%, Inc. (consultant) to finalize a complete working draft the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Financial Sustainability Strategy. Once finalized later this winter, it will of course ultimately be presented to the Town Council for review and feedback before proceeding with adoption. At this time, we anticipate that the consulting and any pertinent subcontractors will be completing additional site visits to meet with stakeholders during the month of February.
 - In the last couple of weeks the Town’s community engagement partner, CivicBrand, has completed three additional community focus groups and several staff interviews relative to the Municipal Facilities Master Plan. The remaining staff interviews will completed within the next few weeks (scheduling efforts are underway), and a short survey has been distributed to other staff members that CivicBrand was unable to interview. CivicBrand will be in Mansfield the week of February 20 to host a series of in-person events. While that schedule is currently being finalized, it will likely be made up of a combination of in person interviews, focus groups and pop up events around the community. That week of in-person events will be designed to reach groups in the community that we have not yet engaged with. The trip will conclude the primary data collection phase of community engagement work, at which point they will transition to consolidating and analyzing all feedback that has been compiled over the last roughly eight months to develop the final report on expressed community values. Facilities projects will then be scored against these values to determine the projects most aligned with community input and therefore most likely to be identified as recommended priorities for the Town moving forward. Public support for these preliminary priorities can then subsequently be explored via a Town-wide digital survey and/or other mechanisms for stakeholder feedback.
 - Staff for Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz has been coordinating efforts with Town officials to host a recognition event for surviving Vietnam-era war veterans the evening of January 29, 2024. The event will be held in the Mansfield Middle School auditorium at 5:00

PM The Town Clerk's Office prepared a list of approximately 120 known veterans who reside in Mansfield. These individuals were mailed an invitation to the event.

- The Town continues its search for 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 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 most recent monthly appearance on WILI-AM with Wayne Norman took place on January 12 and 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 was provided to Newfield for consideration in December, and the Town received a communication on January 18th from Newfield's attorney indicating that they are drafting a response.
 - On January 18^h there was a follow up to the January 4th commissioning meeting to review issued identified concerning lighting, temperature and comfort:
 - ❖ The lighting controls contractor was on site January 16th and has fixed the operational and programming issues.
 - ❖ New 180lb actuators have been ordered to replace the current 90lb actuators for the gymnasium HVAC system to improve the operation of the dampers.
 - ❖ HVAC Filters have been checked and when appropriate replaced, a full set of attic stock has been ordered.
 - ❖ 4 navigation remote controls for VRF units are pending to allow air flow control in office areas which should reduce draft issues.
 - ❖ Progress continues to be made and the commissioning agent is following up on the few remaining open issues with the building management system.
 - On January 11th there was a contractor warranty walk-through prior to the one-year anniversary of substantial completion to confirm and identify and open punch list and contractor warranty issues. The walk-through was attended by the Contractor, Design team, Colliers and Owner. The exterior and interior of the building was reviewed, and a final compiled punch list and warranty list was issued.
 - The repair of the water damage to the gym floor adjacent to the exterior door has been completed.
 - The Installation of the masonry wall cap is scheduled to begin today (January 22nd).
 - The roof leak has been identified as a window seal issue at the clearstory glass and the leak has been corrected.
 - 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.

- **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 yellow, or "medium" 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. To date, we have 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 January 4, 2024: A summary of the PZC virtual work session has been prepared and can be downloaded [here](#). The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will be reviewing this and other feedback it has received and will draft some recommended changes to the zoning regulations. 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. *Motions failed for lack of a simple majority, so therefore the project was denied.*
 - 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. *Motions failed for lack of a simple majority, so therefore the project was denied.*
 - PZC- Special Permit Application of S. Banis for gravel operations on Pleasant Valley Road- *Public Hearing Closed January 16, 2023. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered at the February 5th meeting.*
 - PZC- PZC initiated Zoning Regulation Text Amendment to establish a temporary and limited moratorium on new high-density housing developments to August 31, 2024. During this temporary and limited moratorium, new developments in excess of five (5) total units or with an average density greater than three (3) units per acre shall be prohibited, and no applications shall be received by the Planning and Zoning Commission or Zoning Agent. *Public Hearing will be held on February 5, 2024.*

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

- Taste 2 Towns: Mansfield-Windham Restaurant Week: From January 29 through February 11, enjoy special menus and offers at 23+ participating restaurants during this special two-week event. Participating 2024 restaurants and their promotional menus are listed 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. Participating Mansfield businesses include: Coyote Flaco, Dog Lane Café, Fenton River Grill, Gansett Wraps, Haven Hot Chicken, Hops 44, Kathmanu Kitchen & Bar, Little Aladdin Mediterranean Grill, Nautical Bowls, Playa Bowls, Square Peg Pizzeria, and TaCo. *Bon appétit!*

- [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](#).*
- [Welcome new businesses!](#) The Partnership is pleased to share that new businesses Nautical Bowls and Action Packed are now open in 34 Wilbur Cross Way! And, this past Saturday, we celebrated the Grand Opening of Playa Bowls in 1 Dog Lane. With the expected opening of the new Huskies Restaurant & Bar coming later this year, there will be [73 businesses and organizations](#) open and operating in Downtown Storrs. Throughout the downtown district – which includes everything from 1 Dog Lane south to 1132 Storrs Road and from Whetten Woods to the Community Center – there are just 12 spaces available for new opportunities. Interested entrepreneurs can contact the Partnership for more information and to be connected with the respective property owners (the Partnership does not own any commercial property nor is it party to any commercial leases). Partnership staff can be reached at 860.429.2740 or mdp@mansfieldct.org.
- [Taste of Mansfield](#). Staff exhibited at the Storrs Farmers Market on Saturday, January 20 to distribute free recipe cards featuring locally grown ingredients, promote the Mansfield Farms to Families Program, and other activities of the Taste of Mansfield initiative. The display will be utilized by the Mansfield Public Library to promote the program, and feature the MPL's cookbook collection.

- **Parks & Recreation:**

- [Registrations](#) remain open for many winter programs.
- Staff is actively planning for the 2024 spring and summer programs.
- Staff is engaged in preparing fiscal year 2024-25 operational and capital project budget proposals.
- Staff continues actively engaging in [master planning and financial sustainability strategy](#) work with our consultant, 110% Inc., town administration, finance, and planning departments.
- The annual [Valentine's Dance](#) will be held on February 3 at the Mansfield Community Center. The event is free, with a registration deadline of February 2.
- Weekday morning and weeknight [Open Artists Studio Space](#) is ongoing through the winter at Lenard Hall.
- The next Free Mansfield Residents Day at the Mansfield Community Center is February 12.
- The lap pool at the Mansfield Community Center was closed this past Friday and Saturday to “shock treat” the pool water in an attempt to improve water quality. Although water chemistry has been within acceptable state health code standards, unsatisfactory water clarity in recent weeks have been a concern. The water shock treatment is a more aggressive approach than earlier attempts to improve water clarity. Staff will continue to work closely with the Facilities Management Department and the contracted pool services provider, CT Custom Aquatics, until a complete solution is reached.

- **Human Services**

- [Human Services](#)

- Coordinators of the Mansfield Farms to Families Program are in the process of creating a fee-based version of the program that will be available to Mansfield staff. Staff will pay a flat fee, similar to a CSA, and once a month pick up the locally sourced food and produce from the Senior Center or Town Hall. This new program will be in collaboration with Be Well, the Town and school district's wellness program.
- The Director of Human Services and the Adult Services Caseworker both attended a two-day trauma conference entitled *Trauma Healing Through the Senses* that was provided by Bessel van der Kolk.
- Senior Center
 - Starting January 15th, the Senior Center is piloting the 4-day work week for staff. Operation hours of the Senior Center will remain the same (Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30). However, we will continue to expand our Thursday evening programming. This month we had two evening programs including Family Feud and a movie night.
 - We continue to have a few staff vacancies that we are actively recruiting and interviewing to fill.
- Youth Services
 - Starting this month, staff will be running the SMART Recovery groups at E.O. Smith Regional High School during the students' lunch waves.
 - All school-based programming will be starting back up in the coming weeks including COPE, Mustangs, Big Friends and Pride.
- **Mansfield Public Library:**
 - Mansfield Library's Digital Navigator Program: Digital Navigators work to close the digital divide in Mansfield through empowering residents in their digital life: facilitating access to affordable internet and devices as well as the skills required to complete the functions of everyday life in the digital age. Mansfield's Digital Navigators can assist in the following areas:
 - Microsoft Office
 - Google tools
 - Computer, tablet and smartphone basics
 - Password resetting
 - Internet browsers
 - Social media
 - Amazon
 - Town and government online services
 - and more

If residents want to access any of these services, they may call or text: 959-444-1305 or e-mail DigitalNavigators@mansfieldct.gov

- 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.
 - *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.
 - *Spectacular Saturdays:* Saturdays at 10:30AM in MPL's Program Room

Drop-in between 10:30AM-12:00PM for open play, crafts, and coloring with friends at the library! Families are invited to meet new friends and neighbors in our Program Room for an opportunity for children to socialize and play. Every other week, enjoy a fun & engaging storytime led by MPL Children's Librarians. This program is fun for families with children of all ages!

▪ Special Events

- *Winter Crafternoon*: Friday, January 26 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 2/3 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 11:00AM and 1:00PM for open play-time and library-themed crafts, including Library Valentines, coloring, & Build-Your-Own Book crafts!

▪ Upcoming Free Adult Programs @ Mansfield Public Library:

- *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/>
- *Virtual Author Talk with Dr. Robert Lustig*
January 30, 2024, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Launch your New Year healthy with Dr. Robert Lustig, a pediatric neuroendocrinologist who has long been on the cutting edge of medicine and science.
Register for the Zoom link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

▪ Community Partnerships:

- *FIRST Lego Leagues*: The Mansfield Public Library is excited to announce a new partnership with the Tolland County Robotics Foundation! This winter, the library will host two FIRST Lego League programs- one FLL Discover program for children in PreK-K and one FLL Explore program for children in 1-3 grades. These programs are registration based and currently at capacity, but families are invited to visit <https://www.tcrobotics.org/home> to learn more about this exciting partnership!

▪ Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Donation Drop Off Day

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Book Donation Day

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Buchanan Auditorium

Limit of two (2) boxes (bank box sized) of books can be donated per household.

Please do not donate any textbooks, magazines, VHS or cassette tapes, or any items in bad/damaged condition (i.e. moldy, dusty, broken, incomplete). They will be thrown out.

The Friends of the Mansfield Library accept the following items: Books, CDs, DVDs, Games and puzzles, Sheet music

For more information, visit the Friends of the Mansfield's website:

www.friendsmansfieldlibraryct.org

▪ **Friends of the Mansfield Library Winter Book Sale**

Saturday, February 10 from 9:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, February 11 from 9:00am - 3:00pm

Proceeds from the book sales goes towards supporting entertaining and informative programs the library, such as the ice cream social and summer reading program, as well as purchases like museum passes, the Adirondack chairs for the lawn, the covered area in the playground, and the vegetable garden. Book sales take place in the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library. Depending on the weather, in addition to the auditorium there is a tent set-up outside the library. Parking is available in the lots on either side of the library. Payment Options: The Friends accept payment in the form of cash, checks* and credit cards.

*Make checks payable to: Friends of the Mansfield Library, Inc.

For more information, visit the Friends of the Mansfield's website:

www.friendsmansfieldlibraryct.org

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:**

- Allen Corson, Director of Facilities Management, will provide the Town Council with an annual update on the services and recent/current projects and initiatives being overseen by the Facilities Management Department during its January 22, 2024 meeting.

- **Police**

- As was reported on in a timely manner last week, State Police informed local officials that in late-afternoon Wednesday, January 17, a robbery took place at two locations in our Downtown Storrs area. Fortunately, no one was injured during these robberies, and that there was a swift arrest of the suspect by the Connecticut State Police and UConn Police in less than 30 minutes of the incident. This swift resolution is a testament to the effectiveness of University of Connecticut Police and our Resident Troopers in their collaborative commitment to maintaining the safety of our town. Additional information related to these events and law enforcement's timely response can be accessed [here](#).

- **Fire Department:**

- Below is a brief synopsis of Fire Dept. responses for the period Jan. 8 – Jan. 21, 2024.

Type	# Calls	# Mutual Aid Out of Town
ALS	43	7
BLS	51	4
Total Medical	94	11
Chimney Fire	0	0
Cover Assignment	0	0
Bomb Threat	0	0

Appliance Malfunction	0	0
Aircraft Accident	0	0
Brush, Grass, Forest Fires	0	0
CO Detector Activation	1	0
Fire Alarm	3	0
HAZ Mat Gas Leak	0	0
Other Fires	0	0
Service Call	2	0
Smoke/Odor Investigation	0	0
Standby	1	1
Structure Fire	0	2
Wires Burning/Arcing	0	0
Tree Down	5	0
Vehicle Accident	4	1
Vehicle Fires	0	0
Water Rescue	0	0
Total Fire Calls	16	2
Grand Total	110	13

- 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. The pump was tested and has been rated/passed its pumping capacity, and 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 1/7/24-1/20/24, the following activities took place in the Offices of Fire Marshal and Emergency Management:
 - 9 fire safety inspections conducted.
 - 28 construction inspections conducted.
 - Weather forecasts for multiple storms events were monitored by personnel during this time period.
 - FM/EMD Libros reviewed emergency procedures with staff at Mansfield Public Library on January 11.
 - FM/EMD Libros held a quarterly meeting with Eversource representative on January 11.
 - FM/EMD Libros Attended the Windham County Fire Marshals Association meeting in Chaplin on January 17.
- **Public Works:**
 - The rainstorm on January 9 left debris and clogged culverts in a variety of locations throughout Town. Department crews dug out swales and culverts to ensure free of debris flow. Due to water freezing on roadways overnight, salting crews were deployed to treat these areas before the morning school bus and work traffic.

- Mansfield had its second winter storm on Tuesday, January 16. We had a small amount of snow followed by freezing rain which kept DPW crews busy treating the roads.
- 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 January 10. The road reopened on January 18 at approximately 1:00 pm. The public could check on the road closure status through the new [Road Closure updates](#) page on the department's website.
- Our tree removal contractor, supporting the Department with the removal of large dead trees around Mansfield, removed 58 trees since January 4.
- Personnel continue to replace other missing signs, patch potholes and pick up wood from downed/cut trees.