



Town of Manchester

General Manager's Report

Scott Shanley
General Manager

February 2020

Customer Service and Information Center

Upcoming events in Town! Please contact us for further information on these and other Manchester events: 860-647-5235 or customer@manchesterct.gov
We are open Monday–Friday, 8am – 5pm.

Holiday Announcements

Town of Manchester Offices & Libraries will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 17, 2020. The Transfer Station will be open and trash will be collected according to the regular schedule with no delays.

Income Tax Forms

Limited copies of state and federal tax forms and instructions are anticipated to be available in February at Town Libraries and Town Hall Customer Service & Information Center. Forms and publications can also be downloaded from www.ct.gov/drs and www.irs.gov

No-cost Income Tax Services Offered in 2020

Several options are available to file your simple income tax returns FREE OF CHARGE [Simple income tax returns ONLY, for low to middle income families, older adults and individuals making no more than \$56,000 per year]. Details are available on the Town's webpage.
<http://eitc.townofmanchester.org/>

National Wear Red Day

On National Wear Red Day, Friday February 7, 2020, the Manchester Health Department urges everyone to “go red” to bring attention to cardiovascular disease, the #1 killer of American women. In support of National Wear Red Day and American Heart Month please stop by the Town Hall Customer Service & Information Center or Senior Center to pick up a “Heart Healthy Awareness Pack”.

In support of American Heart Month the Manchester Health Department is sponsoring a presentation on “Oral Health and Heart Health”. Come join Goodwin College Dental Hygiene Students who will provide a presentation on oral health and heart disease at the Manchester Senior Center on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 from 11:00 to 1:00. Oral health and oral cancer screenings will also be provided following the brief presentation. Please call the Manchester Health Department at (860) 647-3173 to register and schedule an appointment.

Groundhog Day - February 2 at 6am at the Lutz Children's Museum, 247 South Main Street.
<https://lutzmuseum.org/>

Early Childhood Fair - February 22 from 9am-12pm in the Manchester High School Cafeteria, 134 Middle Turnpike East. Free!

Manchester Little League Registrations - Online now through March 5 only!
OR register in-person at the Manchester Elks Club on February 16 between 12 and 4pm.

Assessment & Collection

Work on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 was finalized in late January. A write-up of the Grand List was previously provided to the Board of Directors and a press release was also issued.

Taxpayers wishing to appeal their assessment on the 2019 Grand List must file a written appeal application with the Board of Assessment Appeals. The application is available at the Office of Assessment & Collection, and it can be emailed or faxed if desired. There is also a link to the application on the Assessment & Collection web page. The application must be filed by Thursday, February 20, 2020. The filing deadline cannot be extended for any reason.

January was a very busy month with Assessment staff working on finalizing the 2019 Grand List, and Collection staff working on tax payments, mostly related to the second tax installment for the 2018 Grand List, and the 2018 Supplemental Motor Vehicle Grand List taxes.

Applications for the Senior Homeowner's Program, and Additional Veteran's Program were mailed in late January and must be filed by May 15, 2020 in order for qualifying seniors to receive their property tax credits. In order to qualify, taxpayers must be over age 65 by December 2019, or be totally disabled. Taxpayers must own a home and must provide documentation listing their 2018 income to the Assessor's Office with a completed application (if the taxpayer does not file an income tax return, we would need documentation to support all of their sources of income). The maximum income for qualifying seniors (or disabled) taxpayers for this year's filing is \$37,000 for unmarried taxpayers and \$45,100 for married taxpayers. Although the Senior Homeowner's Program is a State of Connecticut program, the Town of Manchester also offers a variety of local programs that are unique to Manchester seniors, including the partially State-reimbursed Additional Veteran's Exemption program, and the local H.E.L.P. (tax deferral program), the local Alternative Senior Tax Credit program, and the local Senior Volunteer program. More information about Senior and Veterans exemption programs can be obtained by calling the Office of Assessment & Collection at 860-647-3016, or on the Assessment & Collection department page on the Town's website. In addition, a presentation at the Senior Center will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 2:00 PM for all interested in hearing more about tax relief programs for Manchester seniors or veterans.

Health Department

January was National Radon Month. Breathing radon can increase your risk of lung cancer and health officials estimate that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer death per year. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water that can build up to dangerous levels inside any home; this means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without a basement. Radon gas is odorless and invisible and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it. The Health Department provided over 50 radon kits to Manchester residents at no cost through a state funded health awareness initiative.

The Health Department hosted "The Side Effects and Benefits of CBD Oil", a Lunch and Learn presentation at the Manchester Senior Center on January 9 on the benefits and properties of CBD oil, safety, and indicated use. Dr. Nick Edgerton, from Naturopathic Doctors with the Collaborative Natural Health Partner Group, presented the very popular program for approximately 60 seniors, some of whom were accompanied by their children.

February is American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 7, 2020. The Manchester Health Department urges everyone to “Go Red” to bring attention to cardiovascular disease, the #1 killer of American women. In support of National Wear Red Day and American Heart Month please stop by the Town Hall or Senior Center to pick up a “Heart Healthy Awareness Pack”.

Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation

Recreation Division – Events and Updates

Summer Camp Registration will begin Wednesday, April 1st – Mark your calendars!

Mahoney Recreation Center – Open Mon.-Fri. from 6:00–9:30pm and Sat. from 10am–5pm.

Adult, Teen and Youth Leisure classes continue to be offered in February. Classes will be conducted at Center Springs, the Community “Y” and the Office of Neighborhoods and Families.

Early Childhood

Mommy & Me Playgroup – Tuesdays 3:00–4:30pm

Cradle to Crayons- Thursdays 3:00–4:15pm

Wonder Years – Tuesday and Thursday sessions available. Call now to register!

Wee Two – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday sessions available. Call now to register!

Happy Together – Monday and Wednesday sessions available. Call now to register!

Start Smart Baseball – Call now to register, two morning sessions available in April!

Youth Services Bureau

Mother Daughter Circle meets Wednesday from 5:30–7:30pm. This circle promotes a healthy and sustaining bond between mothers/guardians and their daughters during the transitional years from girlhood to young womanhood. This is an opportunity for ONE daughter and ONE mother/guardian or significant adult woman to have the essential one-on-one time to connect. Mother/Daughter Circle provides a safe, consistent, and strengths based approach to supporting mothers and daughters on their relationship journey. Dinner Provided. No Cost. Contact the YSB for more information.

Manchester Youth Commission meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Town Hall in the Manchester Room.

Youth Programs and Sports - Join us for fun and exciting activities!

Jukido and Indoor Tennis sessions begin in April – Sign up soon as spots fill fast!

Aquatics - Life Guard Training and Water Safety Instructor Training will begin in March. Sign up now before it's too late!

Neighborhood and Families/Adult Learnshops

Indoor Pickleball will continue at Bennet Academy on Thursday evenings from 5:30–7:00 pm for beginners and 7–9pm for seasoned players. Sign up today!

Vegetable Gardening Overview – Wednesday, February 5, 2020 – 6–7pm – 153 Spruce Street. There are many garden styles, soils and locations for your garden. Which one is best for you?

Come and see the options, so you can choose wisely and enjoy your garden space and success. No cost. No registration is required.

USIC First Friday Film Series, Friday, February 7, 6:00–8:30pm. Film showing sponsored by United for a Safe and Inclusive Community, followed by a facilitated conversation in a safe and inclusive environment. Film titles will be announced several weeks in advance on Facebook. No cost.

Planning Your Yard & Garden for Spring – Wednesday, February 12 – 6–7pm – 153 Spruce Street. Perennials, shrubs, lawns and more are waiting for your attention, but not all at once! Hear a relaxed approach to spring gardening and landscaping tasks and projects. No cost. No registration is required.

Organic Lawn Care – Wednesday, February 19 – 6–7pm – 153 Spruce Street. Now is the time to improve your spring lawn, before the mowing season! Low cost, easy maintenance awaits you. No cost. No registration is required.

Manchester's Early Childhood Fair – Saturday, February 22, 9am–12pm – 134 Middle Turnpike East (MHS Cafeteria). Free, open to the public, and providing a wealth of information on programs, services, recreation, and local resources available for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and young children up to age 8. (Snow date March 14, 2020)

Write Out Loud Youth Open Mic Night, Friday, February 28, 5–9pm. Be a superstar in a safe space environment as you engage in an uplifting experience centered on youth voice through poetry, song, music, rap and dance. Perform and/or cheer on others who display their talent and creativity in front of a supportive audience. Youth performers only. No cost. No registration required.

Adult Fitness - A variety of favorites return for the Winter/Spring sessions. Classes such as Walk 15, Team Fit, Total Body Plus, Pickleball, Jukido, Strength 4 Life, Yoga for Active Lifestyles and Power Yoga will be returning with sessions beginning in February. Be sure to register soon, spots fill up quickly!

Manchester Fire Rescue EMS	December 2018	December 2019
Monthly Activity Statistics		
<u>Types of Incidents</u>		
Medical Rescue	636	567
Fire	12	10
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	32	20
Public Service	35	37
Good Intent	42	69
Fire Alarm Activations – No Fire	58	56
Total Incidents	815	759

Help Us, Help You!

Snowstorms might be beautiful but they present all of us with many challenges. The Fire Department faces a unique challenge to firefighting operations during the winter. There are over

2000 fire hydrants in Manchester. Searching for snow-covered fire hydrants costs valuable time when firefighters must locate and uncover them when responding to a fire call. Every second counts when fighting a fire and clearly visible fire hydrants in every neighborhood can save homes and lives. A town ordinance requires that property owners, agents of owners or occupants remove snow from around hydrants within 24 hours of the conclusion of a storm. There should be a four-foot clearance in all directions and a three foot wide path from hydrant to street. Please help us to help you by uncovering the fire hydrant on or near your property.

Recent Police Activity – December 2019

Monthly Stats

Total Calls for Service	5,549
Total Police Cases	1,089
Total 911 Calls	2,077
Emergency Calls	
8 th District	225
Town Fire	749
PD	4,575

Town Clerk's Office

	<i>Month End Report December 2019</i>	<i>July 2019 – June 2020 (Fiscal Year to date)</i>
Total Customers Served	1,633	12,892
Land Records	536	3,576
Vitals	616	3,928
Marriage Licenses	17	156
Dog Licenses	38	957
Notarizations	47	297
Trade Names	14	69
Dissolution Trade Names	5	20
Foreclosure Registrations	23	129
Total Revenue	\$105,016.48	\$1,206,243.81

Employee News

Recently Hired

Chelsea Padgett, Police Officer
James Przybylski, Recreation Supervisor

Promotions

Andrew Bifolck, Systems Application Consultant – Information Systems
Amber Litwinko, Police Officer
Scott Rankin, Water & Sewer Maintainer/Equipment Operator 2

Retirements

Cleon Moses – Police Officer

February 2020

Planning and Zoning Commission

February 3, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Board of Directors Meeting

February 4, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Redevelopment Agency Meeting

February 6, 2020, 7:30 a.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Senior Center Advisory Committee

February 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
549 East Middle Tpke

Board of Education Meeting

February 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Economic Development Commission

February 13, 2020, 8:00 a.m.
Directors Room, Lincoln Center

Conservation Commission Meeting

February 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Directors Room, Lincoln Center

Advisory Board of Health

February 19, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Weiss Center

Planning and Zoning Commission

February 19, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Redevelopment Agency Meeting

February 20, 2020, 7:30 a.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Cheney Brothers National Historic District Commission

February 20, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center

Advisory Rec & Park Commission

February 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
39 Lodge Drive

Board of Education Meeting

February 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Manchester High School, Room 293

Zoning Board of Appeals

February 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Hearing Room, Lincoln Center