

MEMO

To: Town Council
CC: Town Employees
From: John C. Carrington, Interim Town Manager
Date: March 9, 2020
Subject: **Town Manager's Report**

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

Council Business

- An online survey to help inform decisions about what the Town seeks in a Town Manager is available on the Town homepage. An integral part of the executive search process involves community member, business, staff, and Town Council participation in our online survey. Your anonymous input will help to develop a position profile and community profile that will be made available to candidates for the Town Manager position during the recruitment process. A direct link to the survey can be found here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZBSWJGL>. Please respond by noon Friday March 20, 2020.
- The State wants to hold a Korean War and Vietnam War Veteran's recognition for Mansfield. The tentative date is Tuesday September 15th at 5 PM in a to be determined Town location. We have approximately 208 veterans who served during these wars.

Departmental Reports

- *Eastern Highland Health District:*

SITUATION REPORT REGARDING COVID-19

- Current number of presumptive, or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our area as of 3/9/20; NY – 106, Mass – 28, RI-3, CT -1. The one presumptive case in CT is located in Wilton. (The two other CT cases reported by the media are NY residents.)
- Given the existence of community transmission in NY City, it is reasonable to presume that community transmission may currently, or will very soon, exist in Southwest CT.
- DPH will be notifying local health department directly of any positive COVID-19 results in CT. A joint LHD/DPH case contact investigation will be conducted in response, followed up with quarantine and isolation guidance.
- Travelers from level 3 advisory countries are asked to self-quarantine and self-monitor for 14 days. Travelers are getting COVID-19 travel alert instructions including, 2x day temp taking, and with directions on what to do if symptoms develop

CDC CONFERENCE CALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Targeted and layered social distancing recommendations and guidelines currently under development.
- Approach seeks to empower individuals and organizations while minimizing any disruptions.
- No clear timeline on when this guidance is forthcoming.
- FAQ's updated daily on the CDC website.

- There is a tremendous amount of information on the CDC website for everyone.
www.cdc.gov

EHHD CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- The office met last week with Mansfield Interim Town Manager, Mansfield Superintendent, & Region 19 Superintendent to identify, and prioritize initial planning tasks. This office is in daily communications with the Superintendents.
- We have scheduled a preparedness meeting with the member town CEO's and board of directors for Friday 3/13.
- A preparedness meeting of all EHHD school superintendents is scheduled for Wednesday 3/11.
- Ongoing daily coordination with UConn Student Health and Wellness regarding their efforts to support recalled study abroad students, and other pandemic preparedness matters.
- As the seniors in our communities appear to be at greater risk from this virus we have compiled a point of contact list for senior centers, and programs to assure we can keep our elderly population in the loop on the latest information as much as possible.
- We have activated our public health emergency and pandemic response plan.
- We are in the final phases of supervising the self-monitoring of a few of travelers from China. This office continues to facilitate self-monitoring of travelers as we become aware of them.
- We continue update our local area healthcare providers with the latest information on evaluation, testing, and transmission control.
- We continue to participate in weekly CDC and DPH conference call for local health departments. We will be inviting our area EMD to future weekly DPH conference calls
- We continue to push out information regarding planning, preparedness, personal hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette to businesses, schools, towns, families.
- This office, in conjunction with the Mansfield EMD, met last week with Natchaug Hospital, and other Hartford Healthcare officials, and reviewed patience surge plans, and other essential pandemic plan elements

As recommended by the Connecticut Department of Public Health this office is planning for a transition from containing the transmission of this virus to community mitigation. Community mitigation includes social distancing tactics such as cancelling mass gathering events, and school dismissals or closures. The goal of mitigation efforts include reducing transmission in the community, keeping the healthcare system functioning, blunting the peak of community spread until antivirals, or vaccines can be developed.

- *Fire & Emergency Services:*
 - Firefighter's Fred Vanston & Thomas Mieldzioc are currently attending the CT Fire Academy Recruit Class in Windsor Locks. We previously employed Fred and Tom as Part-time Firefighters. The program is a 14-week live-in training program.
 - Volunteer Firefighter's Mike Campetelle and Jacob Lavitt are currently attending a Firefighter I Certification Class at the new Eastern CT Fire School in Willimantic. The certification is a 160-hour course that runs on weekends.
- *Parks & Recreation:*
 - Congratulations to Jessica Tracy, Recreation Supervisor – Fitness, and Kim Rontey, Recreation Coordinator (soon to become Member Services Coordinator) for recently passing the certification exam to become Certified Parks and Recreation Professionals, CPRP. They join Curt Vincente, Director and Jay O'Keefe, Assistant Director as CPRP's in the department. The Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification is the national standard for all parks and recreation professionals who want to be at the forefront of their profession. Attaining the CPRP designation shows that

professionals have met education and experience qualifications, and illustrates a commitment to the profession as well as knowledge and understanding of key concepts within parks and recreation service.

- *Public Works:*
 - Since our Arborist Crew Leader started on October 15th, he and his crew have removed 288 trees, which includes 58 trees over 85 feet that a contractor removed.
 - Snow – so far this snow season, the Department has used approximately 1,300 tons of salt and expended approximately \$80,500 for overtime.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – The Storrs Winter Market is open twice a month from now through April. The Market is held from 3:00PM – 5:00PM in the Buchanan Auditorium in the Mansfield Public Library. 2020 Winter Market dates are March 21, April 4 & 18. Learn more at: storrsfarmersmarket.org.
- *Juried Art Show* - The Mansfield Arts Advisory Committee is sponsoring its Second Annual Juried Art Show at the Mansfield Community Center. 2-D Artwork from 18 local artists will be on display in the Community Center until March 30, 2020. An Awards Reception will be held on Friday, March 20, 2020 from 5pm-7pm and is open to the public. Voting on artwork will end on Sunday, March 17, 2020.
- *How to Talk about Race* - Conversations on Racism in Mansfield (COR) is a group dedicated to creating meaningful conversations about racism and other forms of incivility that can lead to disrespect between people. The mission of this group is to create safe spaces for discussion of race and identity and the many ways in which these issues affect all of us. The first COR sponsored community event, “How to Talk about Race”, will take place in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library on Tuesday March 17 at 6:30 PM. The purpose of this community gathering is to explore the ways in which we all have been socialized into our beliefs about race and the implications of our socialization for our relationships with each other. Participants will have the opportunity to practice methods of engaging in safe and courageous dialogue on race and racism. Facilitators from The National Council for Community Justice (NCCJ) will support the conversation. It is cosponsored by CORMansfield, Edwin O. Smith High School, The Town of Mansfield and Mansfield Public Schools. During this event, the library will be open and staffed. Childcare can be requested in advance when you register. RSVP at mansfieldct.gov/COR. For more information, visit CORMansfield.org. The event is free and open to the public.