

Dear Members and Program Participants,

We are planning for an eventual reopening, but as of now, we remain on a mandated shut down until April 30, 2020. We have a work plan to be ready and program staff are actively preparing for partial spring and hopefully normal summer programs. Our summer program brochure is in production and it is our hope to hear some optimistic news about life returning to normal. We encourage you to check the following regularly for daily updates, online program and activity options and other information that may be helpful to you:

- our facebook page, [www.facebook.com/mansfieldcommunitycenter/](http://www.facebook.com/mansfieldcommunitycenter/)
- our website, [www.mansfieldcc.com](http://www.mansfieldcc.com)
- quick access to trail guides, [www.mansfieldct.gov/trailguides](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/trailguides)
- link to Town of Mansfield COVID crisis information, [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov)
- our email if you have any questions, [parks&rec@mansfieldct.org](mailto:parks&rec@mansfieldct.org)

We encourage you to email your questions, which will enable us to answer you in a timely manner. If you do need to leave a voice message, we will get back to you as soon as possible, but not likely as quickly if you emailed.

### **Financial Crisis for Parks and Recreation Fund**

Many of our members and program participants may not be aware as to how the Parks and Recreation Fund operates within the Town's budget. The fund is managed like an enterprise fund or what some also call a special revenue fund. In either case, the fund has to operate like a small business. All of the Parks and Recreation Department operations (Community Center, Lenard Hall/Community School of the Arts, and programs, events, and activities) are managed out of this fund. Although there is some taxpayer support for community facility use of the center and community programs, proportionately, there is very little taxpayer support for the Parks and Recreation Fund because of the revenue that is produced to offset operational costs. Including the loss in membership billing, daily admission, Silver Sneakers participation reimbursement, and program revenue, it is expected that mandated closure of all operations from March 16 through April 30 will result in a loss of approximately \$159,000 in revenue.

The fund was already in an unsustainable position prior to the COVID-19 crisis due to the major shift from paying members to Silver Sneakers members over the last several years. We are not sure how this crisis can

or will be handled by the Town Council. We feel that it is important to keep you informed as members and program participants. The Town Council will have their annual public hearing on next year's budget this coming Monday, April 13, 2020 beginning at 7:00pm. They will also review the Parks and Recreation Fund budget, along with another department budget and other enterprise funds on Thursday, April 16, 2020 beginning at 6:30pm. Although the current COVID-19 crisis is preventing the public from attending meetings held by the Town, you can livestream view the meeting at [https://townhallstreams.com/towns/mansfield\\_ct](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/mansfield_ct) . You can also participate and comment by emailing to [Budget2021@Mansfieldct.org](mailto:Budget2021@Mansfieldct.org) or by calling in on the evening of the meeting. Call in information is posted on the Town's website at [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov) . If you wish to view an issue paper on this subject that was included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Document you can click the following link: ([Parks and Recreation Issue Paper](#)).

Finally, if you have the capability to financially support the Parks and Recreation Fund it would be greatly appreciated. Any amount would help as we try to navigate through this crisis with the Town Council. A [donation link is provided here](#) or you can access it on the home page of our website.

Thank you for being a valued member and/or program participant and we hope that you and your loved ones are managing to get through this crisis.