



Township of Mansfield

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

A message from the mayor,

It is with pride and humility that I report to you the state of Mansfield Township. Our wonderful community is not just a collection of buildings and streets; it is a tapestry of stories, each woven with the threads of hope, love, and resilience.

We have so much to be proud of. Together as a united community, we have realized many great accomplishments in the last two years. I am filled with an overwhelming sense of optimism and excitement for the future that lies ahead of us.

As this report will show you, Mansfield Township has experienced transformative changes, each milestone a testament to the collective efforts of our community. One of our most significant achievements has been the introduction of a new law prohibiting further warehouse development in Mansfield Township. We were the first Municipal Government in the State of New Jersey to pass this kind of law and we made our position clear to future developers. Our “no more warehouse” law was immediately challenged by multiple parties and yet we remained steadfast in our position and our law remains in effect today. The warehouse ordinance was in response to this community’s feedback; we listened and we took unprecedented action to stop new warehouse projects from coming to Mansfield.



Listening to resident requests is not just about acknowledging them; it’s about valuing each member of our community and ensuring that everyone’s needs are heard and addressed. It is about fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment, knowing that your concerns won’t fall on deaf ears. We listened and as a result:

- ✓ Property taxes in Mansfield **have decreased two years in a row!**
- ✓ Extensive investments in Public Safety including adding more police officers, made the largest financial contribution ever to Mansfield EMS and invested in new fire trucks and equipment for Franklin Fire.
- ✓ Preserved a large farm in Mansfield. This is the first farm preserved in well over a decade. A farm that was zoned commercial/residential, now it will be preserved as farmland forever.
- ✓ Partnered with the NJ Dept of Agriculture on several more farmland preservation projects; the largest initiative in three decades. Best of all, these projects would not require matching \$ costs to the Township!
- ✓ Partnered with the NJ Dept of Transportation to install a long overdue safety traffic beacon for our first responders.
- ✓ Improved communications and public outreach by creating: a new Township Website & Facebook Page, full-time Director of Community Engagement position, monthly cadence for each department head to provide updates, community notification updates and proactive community outreach.

I encourage each of you to continue speaking up, sharing your ideas, and engaging with us, your elected officials. Your feedback is valuable, and it is what enables us to better serve you and maintain a community that we can all be proud of.

God bless America, and God bless Mansfield Township.

Mayor Marcial Mojena



In 2022 and 2023 property taxes in Mansfield Township **decreased year over year**. School taxes account for nearly 70% of the overall tax burden and we will continue to work with our local and regional school boards to encourage them to continue this positive trend in FY24.



Overall, financial responsibility in government requires a commitment to prudent fiscal management, transparency and accountability. Just a few years ago **Mansfield Township had less than \$40,000 in Capital Reserve (fund balance, i.e. savings)**. In 2023, we reported **over \$1M in Capital Reserve**. Preliminary figures show **Capital Reserve will double to over \$2M in FY24**. This will allow us to maintain stable taxes while focusing on long-term sustainability to ensure the effective and efficient use of public resources for the benefit of all residents.

In addition to continuing to reduce municipal taxes, our comprehensive fiscal policy will allow us to continue to improve our roads and parks and to also continue investing in Public Services and Public Safety (Police, Fire and EMS first responders). In just two years, Mansfield Township has added 5 new positions to deliver Public Services and Public Safety.

In **FY24 we will retire over \$1.7M in debt service**. Our total debt is expected to be over \$14M, a significant reduction from years past, when debt was nearly \$22M. Lower debt combined with a strong fund balance is the perfect recipe for financial strength and stable taxes, something government is not generally known for.

2024 Events Calendar

- Recreation Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 23rd
- NJMVC Mobile Agency Unit - Wednesday, April 10th
- NJMVC Mobile Inspection Unit - Tuesday, May 7th
- Memorial Day Ceremony - Wednesday, May 22nd
- Touch-A-Truck - Saturday, May 25th
- Annual Parade & Field Day - Saturday, June 8th
- National Night Out - Tuesday, August 6th
- Movie in the Park - Saturday, September 28th
- Music in the Park - Friday, October 18th
- Tree Lighting Ceremony - Saturday, December 7th

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Follow us on Facebook at [MansfieldTwpNJ](https://www.facebook.com/MansfieldTwpNJ).



In 2023, Mansfield Township **invested \$386,350 to support the Mansfield Township Ambulance Corps**. This includes the maximum aid allowed under the statute as well as funding for much needed equipment and maintenance. In 2024, we will continue to support MTAC to the fullest extent possible.



The brave volunteers of Franklin Fire Company continue to make us proud. It is our solemn duty to support them as they can serve us in the moments that matter most in our lives. Similar to MTAC, **in FY24 our Township will provide the full amount of aid allowed under NJ Statute to Franklin Fire**. This critical aid will help Franklin Fire recruit new volunteers and acquire much needed equipment and supplies.



One of the more difficult challenges for the Mansfield Township Police Department has been insufficient staffing as well as outdated vehicles and equipment. In the last two years we **added four police officers to the force, purchased new vehicles, new weapons as well as updated body worn cameras**.

Our residents require and deserve the best possible services from their government. It is imperative to support our first responders by providing leadership, funding and the tools they need to do their jobs every single day.



2024 Mansfield Township Committee
Committeeman Tim Boyd, Committeewoman Valerie Jennings,
Mayor Marcial Mojena, Committeewoman Kelly Stobie,
Deputy Mayor Brian Siz