



Mantua Matters.....

DECEMBER 2018



*Mantua Village
Community
News and Information*

Mantua Matters
4650 High Street
Mantua, Ohio 44255



E-mail: mantuamatters2@aol.com



Tis the season...

Brrrrr...Baby It's Cold Outside...Time to get ready for the holidays!

This issue covers December, January and February.

Please read and enjoy!



NUMBERS TO KNOW...

EMERGENCY...911 Police...330-274-2251 Fire...330-274-3535

Village Hall...330-274-8776

Mayor's Office...330-274-8776 Ext. 155

Service Department...330-274-8776 Ext. 150

Water/Sewer Billing...330-274-8776 Ext. 150

Park Lodge Rental...330-274-8776 Ext. 150

Income Tax...330-274-8776 Ext. 151

Spectrum Cable...1-877-570-6291

Mantua Township, Jodi Thompson 330-274-8443

Shalersville Township, Jill Corbett 330-274-3655

Zoning...330-274-8776 Ext. 152

Mantua Matters...330-872-5496

Trash & Recycling, Kimble Companies...1-800-201-0005



From the Mayor's Desk...

The Mayor's Corner

Council and I want to thank our residents and property owners again for supporting the "Road Tax Levy". While it generates about \$75K a year, in the scheme of things that is not a lot. But we have tried successfully to spend it wisely. That being said...

WE WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE RENEWAL.

We will continue to use your money wisely. John Trew, our village Administrator and I will start working on the plans for next year's road improvements.

Committee members needed

If you are looking to become involved in your community, we have two (2) vacant seats on the Landmark Committee. Please send a letter of interest to mantuamayor@sbcglobal.net.

Trails

The Buchert Park Trail runs along the north side of the Cuyahoga River. We applied for a Nature Works Grant for \$32,644.00 with the DMRC donating the local match of approximately \$12,338.00 bringing the total project in at around \$44-45K. Thanks, DMRC group! This project is complete.

Also, you will notice new signage along the trails. This project is being sponsored by the Mantua Rotary in conjunction with the DMRC. Thank you to both groups for your community support!

Capital Improvements

We just heard from District 7 that we will be receiving OPWC funding for repairs to the Reservoir \$300,000 in grant and \$150,000 in loan totaling \$450,000. Those funds won't be released until July 01, 2019.

Council held a workshop on November 06, 2018. This was to review the many projects that are on our list of things that need to be addressed in the village.

Council has chosen four (4) projects to review and discuss at the November Council meeting to choose which they feel we should move forward on for 2020.

Cemetery News

This year as you can see the Village has been making improvements to the cemetery. We have repaired the roof on the mausoleum, pressure washed it and sealed it. We've put in a new sidewalk at the entrance to mausoleum. We will be replacing the doors and putting in handrails on both side of the sidewalk. We have

removed seven (7) trees that were a hazard and will be planting four (4) new trees this fall. These projects were funded by the Cemetery's Thompson Trust.

The following are some of things the Village will be contacting residents about this fall. This is to help make the cemetery look even better. You can go to the Village's website section 955 for full details at villageofmantua.com.

The Service Department conducts two annual cemetery cleanups, spring and fall. On a semi-annual basis, all ground mounted decorations will be removed for general cleanup purposes. Spring cleanup will start April 1st and fall cleanup will start October 15th. Any items desired to be retained must be removed.

955.12 FLORAL DECORATIONS, VASES AND URNS.

(a) All flower beds must be in front of headstones. No flower beds are permitted behind headstones

(b) The planting of annual/perennial flowers or placement of artificial flowers and miscellaneous decorations are permitted at the gravesite throughout the year. Those who place decorations on the gravesites are requested to maintain these items; there are trash cans available for disposal of items and access to water.

955.13 Planting and Adornments

(f) No planting of permanent plants, such as trees, shrubs, flowers, etc., is permitted without prior approval of the Superintendent.

(g) All trees, shrubs, and/or bushes must be maintained within the boundaries of the lot or grave and must in no way interfere with or touch adjoining lots or graves. Trees and shrubs may not be cut off above ground level for removal; they must be removed completely including roots.

(h) No fences or enclosures of any kind will be permitted.

Mayor Linda Clark



Council Meetings are the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. each month at the Administration Building



Start Talking! Portage

Our Mission statement – Start Talking! Portage (S T ! P) is a community partnership working to end substance abuse by providing education, resources, and prevention tools in order to promote healthy lifestyles.

Contact information: 330-274-8776 x155

After hours: 330-842-3720
Addiction Helpline: 330-678-3006
Mental Health Crisis line: 330-296-3555
Crisis text line: Text 4Hope to 741 741

New N/A meetings –
Saturdays, weekly 7:30 p.m., Mantua Center Christian Church will begin again soon (watch our Facebook page for updates)
Tuesdays, weekly 7:30 p.m., Kent Christ Episcopal Church
Thursdays, weekly 2:00 p.m., Kent Episcopal Church
Visit our Facebook page [Start Talking Portage](#).
Come to our monthly Meeting – 4th Tuesday of each month.

VIEW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LOCATION OF OUR NEXT MEETING.

Debby Smith



From the Police Department...

CAR SAFETY FOR THE WINTER

“Ohio’s winters are known for their unpredictability,” commented Chief Urso. “I suggest you take the following precautions in order to stay safe on the road:”

- 1. Pay attention to weather reports*
- 2. Keep your gas tank at least half full*
- 3. When it’s icy, avoid parallel parking, since it’s easier to get stuck when you have to turn your wheels.*
- 4. Don’t stop or start suddenly if it’s icy. If your vehicle has ABS, apply constant pressure to the brake pedal to stop; don’t pump your brakes, as the system will start over each time you release your foot from the pedal. If you start to slide, always steer in the same direction that the rear of your auto is going.*

5. *Allow extra time to get to your destination. Don't drive recklessly because you're going to be late. It's better to be late, rather than crash and not get there at all.*

Chief Urso mentioned that preparing an emergency kit for your car is also a good idea. Include items such as: blankets, extra clothing, dry rations (raisins, nuts, candy), bottled water, an LED flashlight with extra batteries, flares, a steel shovel and sand in case you get stuck, and a fully charged cell phone.

The Chief said that the best protection from problems with winter driving is winterizing your car—get a tune up, consider snow tires or chains. Chief Urso concluded that winter driving does not have to be a hazardous undertaking. A few simple precautions can prevent accidents from happening and keep you prepared just in case they do occur.

SHOPPING SAFELY FROM HOME

While shopping from home allows you to shop at your own convenience, that convenience does not come without risk. Follow these tips to help you shop safely from your home.

- **Know who you're dealing with.**
Your best protection when shopping from home is to do business with companies you know to be legitimate. If you're not familiar with the company's reputation, it's important to check up on it.
- **Look for a company's online privacy policy.**
Many companies with privacy practices post their privacy policy on their Web site. A company's privacy policy should disclose what information is being collected on the Web site and how that information is being used. Before you provide a company with personal information, check or request its privacy policy.
- **Pay by credit or charge card.**
If you pay by credit or charge card online, your transaction will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, consumers have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while a creditor is investigating them. In the case of unauthorized use of a consumer's credit card, consumers are generally held liable for the first \$50 in charges.
- **Checking shipping and handling fees**
Retailers often add a shipping and handling fee to the price of an item, based on where the order is shipped, the cost, or weight of the goods. Online buyers generally can select from several delivery options at various costs. Be sure to find out about the options and costs and choose the delivery method you prefer or the retailer may decide for you. Also check return and restocking policies before you order. Because items such as software or CDs can be

copied, they are sometimes not returnable. Companies also may charge a restocking fee if you return an item

- ***Keep records of your purchases.***

When ordering by phone or computer, write down or print out information related to the transaction, including the seller's name, address, and telephone number; the name of the person you spoke with, if applicable; a description of what you ordered; and the seller's delivery date, terms, and return policies.

- ***Seek help if you run into a problem.***

If you can't resolve your problem by working directly with the company, contact the Attorney General's Office at 1-800-282-0515, your Better Business Bureau, or the Federal Trade Commission's toll-free helpline at 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357).

These tips are important because while just five years ago, 27 percent of computer users were using the Internet, now 81 percent of the computer users are online. And North Americans represent 43 percent of the online population with the Internet waves spreading rapidly beyond its U.S. origins, according to the Computer Industry Almanac.

It is important for all of us to look not only for our own safety when shopping from home but also for the safety of our elderly and other vulnerable populations because they are often the target of con artists and scammers.

By arming them with the proper tools and knowledge, we can prevent consumers from losing more money to deceitful sweepstakes solicitors and telemarketers.

Mantua Village Council passes new Distracted Driving Law

On December 20th, a new ordinance will go into effect. The ordinance is a Distracted Driving Law (ORD. 331.45)

This law was passed by Council on November 20th and makes the following a primary offense:

- 1. Writing, Sending, or Reading a Text Based Communication.*
- 2. Using a Mobile Communications Device to send, read, create, play or interact with internet-based content*
- 3. Holding an animal of any type or by allowing an animal to distract their ability from operating a motor vehicle safely.*

The exemptions for this law are:

- 1. Persons using a mobile communications device for emergency purposes...i.e. contact with law enforcement, hospitals, health care providers, fire departments, or other similar emergency agencies.*
- 2. Persons driving a public safety vehicle who uses mobile communication devices in the course of the person's duties while operating an emergency or public safety vehicle.*
- 3. Persons using a mobile communication device whose vehicle is stationary and outside a lane of travel or is stopped due to inoperability of a vehicle.*
- 4. Persons reading, selecting, or entering a name of a telephone number in a mobile communications device for the purpose of making or receiving a telephone call.*
- 5. Persons using a mobile communications device in conjunction with a voice operated or hands-free device feature or function of their vehicle.*

This is a Primary Offense.

The 1st violation is a Minor Misdemeanor.

If, within one year, the person is convicted of a second violation of this ordinance or... causes a vehicle collision resulting in personal injury to any person because of a violation of this ordinance, the charge is a 3rd degree misdemeanor.

This new ordinance will be posted to the Village's webpage.

A few things to remember during the Winter months:

- 1) Check on the elderly during extremely cold weather. A cause for concern would be snow not being cleared, mail piling up, etc.*

- 2) *Bring pets indoors during extreme cold temperatures. If walking your pet after the surface has been treated with salt, be sure to clean their feet afterwards. Salt that gets stuck in their pads can cause burns.*
- 3) *It is illegal to leave your car unattended while running. Remote starters are exempt from this.*
- 4) *Residents are responsible to remove snow from their sidewalks. Snow may NOT be pushed into the roadway or block fire hydrants.*

Currently going through Council is Ordinance 2018-54, which would increase the penalty for parking citations in the Village. Once passed, the revised Section 351.99 of the Codified Ordinances will be in effect 30 days after the Final Reading. We will post updates on our Facebook Page as this progresses.

We recently hired Michelle Burnett as a part time dispatcher. Welcome Michelle!!

From all of us at the Mantua Police Department, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!! Stay Safe, and God Bless.

***SANTA WILL BE AT THE MINI PARK ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 7TH, AT 6PM!***



Chief Joe Urso



News from the Service Department...

Winter is upon us!! Please remember the rules about removing snow from your residence and parking areas. It is prohibited to remove snow from your parking

areas and driveways into the Village streets or across Village streets. You may need to remind contractors that you hire of this as well.

When piling snow on street corners and tree lawns it must be only to the height that it would not obstruct the view of motorists and pedestrians using the streets. Please help us to help you!!

Before winter settles in too deeply, please remember to remove all of your summer flowers and plantings from the cemetery. The Service Department staff and the Cemetery Board work very hard to keep the cemetery in top notch shape. Let's all do our own little part to keep our loved ones' resting places looking their best.

One more note for winter, please take precautions to ensure your pipes don't freeze. One trick during a cold snap is to open your sink cabinets so that heat is getting in to the pipes underneath. If you are still concerned you can leave the faucet dripping very slowly. Running water won't freeze easily. If you have uninsulated pipes in the garage or basement you may want to put a space heater on low during the coldest days and nights.

Helpful Fat, Oil and Grease (FOG) practices for residents

Grease is frequently poured down the sink drain because the warm oils are liquid and can be poured. It may not appear to be harmful but as the liquid cools, the grease solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes, becoming a hardened mass. The buildup restricts the flow of sewage and clogs the pipes.

The implications can be:

- *Raw Sewage backing up into your home*
- *A call for a plumber*
- *An unpleasant and expensive cleanup at your expense*
- *Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards and streets*
- *Potential contact with disease-causing organisms*

The easiest thing you can do is keep grease out of the sewer system in the first place.

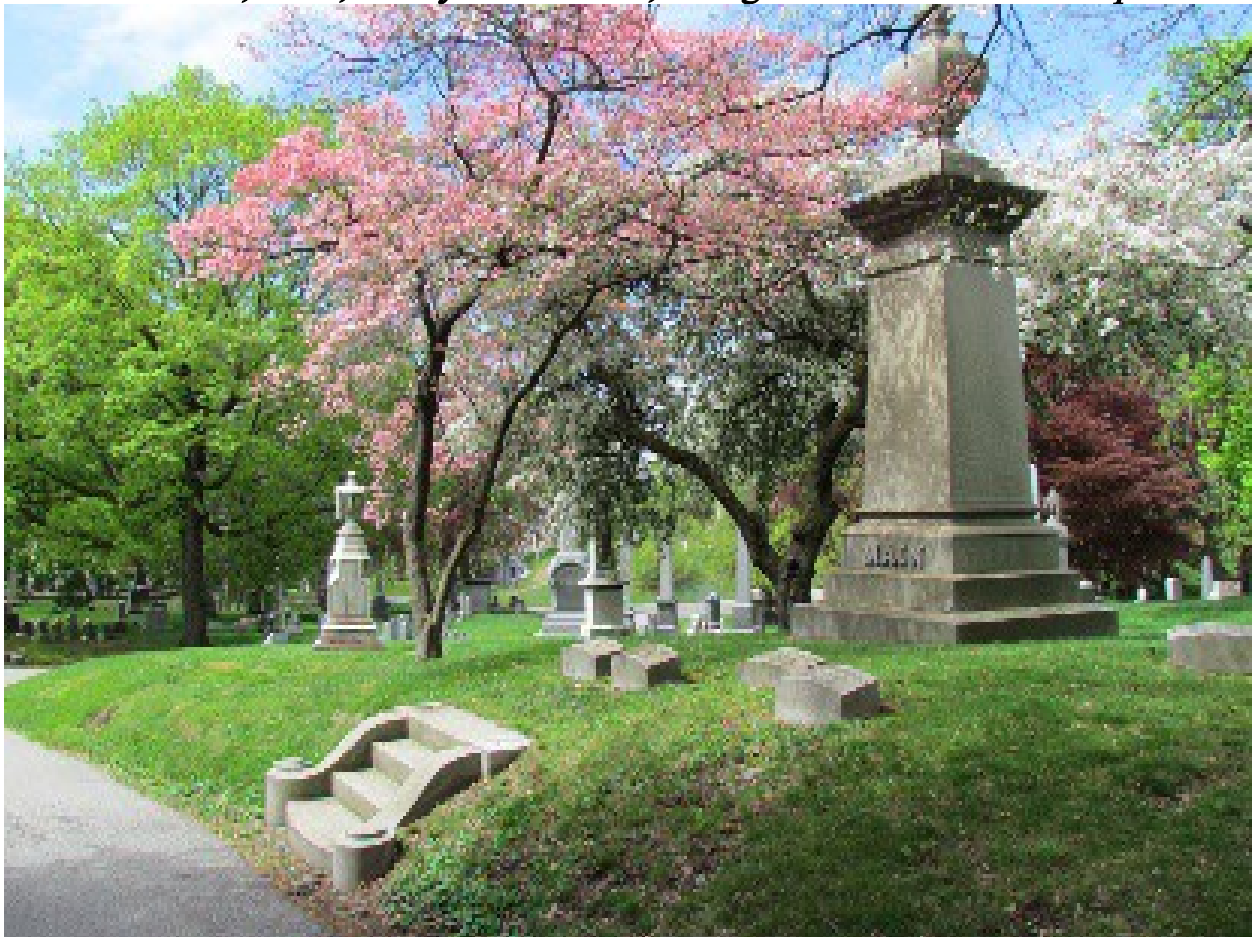
- *Never pour grease, oil, syrup, flour or batter down the sink or into the toilet*
- *Flour mixed with water creates a glue that can cause blockages*
- *Do not put food scraps down the garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and don not prevent grease from going down the drain.*
- *Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids*
- *The Wastewater Department recommends allowing oils, sauces and gravies to cool before scraping into a plastic bag and then disposing of in your trash can*

Don't forget that during the winter the trails are great for cross country skiing and snow shoeing. The Headwaters Trail runs for a total of 8 miles from Mantua to Garrettsville. It follows the old Cleveland-Mahoning Railroad line. The trail is 8-foot wide and nicely shaded and maintained for most of its length. The Glacial-Esker Trail starts behind the water plant and winds through the woods alongside the Cuyahoga River. Several overlooks line the trail and allow a nice spot to relax and enjoy the surrounding wetlands and forest. Both trails have plenty of available parking.

Lastly, the best way to stay up to date as emergency situations arise is to sign up for our emergency alert system. You will be able to choose between text messages, e-mails or voice calls to receive the updates. The easiest way to sign up is to go to the AMG Alerts link on the Village's website www.mantuavillage.com. This will allow you to enter all of your most current information. If you cannot get to a computer, call the Village Hall and we will help you through the process. Our phone number is 330-274-8776 Ext. 150. Sign up is optional, however this is the way the Village can best stay in touch with its residents and businesses.

Have a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season,

John, Dave, Kenny and Chelsea, Village of Mantua Service Department



The Hillside Cemetery Mausoleum and grounds continued receiving upgrades this

past summer. Several dead trees were removed and a lot of maintenance issues were addressed in the Mausoleum. As we head into the winter season, please remove any spring/summer decorations to make room for holiday arrangements on the graves. If anyone is interested in lending a helping hand with planting or watering the graves throughout the summer, please contact one of the board members. Extending warm wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Patty

Leventry

***Claude Hopkins
Cookie Vanek***



News from DMRC ...

MANTUA POP-UP ARTISTS' MARKET

Downtown Mantua Revitalization opened a temporary art store—this year named the Mantua Pop-Up Artists' Market. Located again at 10676 Main Street in Mantua Village, the shop expanded to include both sides of the property, allowing more space to display more work by local artists. The shop officially opened Saturday November 10, 2018 and will remain open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays through December 23. Besides art, this year through generous grants from the Ohio Arts Council and the Portage Foundation, DMRC instituted a series of free events on Saturdays and Sundays to be offered through the Market. Sandy Kreisman, the event coordinator, planned a program of events including Decorating with natural materials, a professional story-teller, walk in craft days, photographing Christmas lights at night, a Poetry Day with Ohio's Poet Laureate in attendance, and artists' demonstrations among others. The art, of course, is available for purchase at a wide range of prices. Art makes thoughtful gifts for Christmas and helps support the artists.

TRAILS AND TRAILS...

DMRC celebrates with the Village of Mantua the completion of the Buchert Park Walking Path. The asphalt trail follows the river from the Headwaters Trailhead at the bridge, snakes behind Mantaline and Buchert Park and ends at the canoe/kayak input area. The path was financed from an ODNR Recreational Trails Grant with DMRC having donated the matching funds. We'd like to see more trail

added throughout the park area. On July 14, 2018, Mantua was officially designated as a Buckeye Trail Town. When you see our hiking guests in the Village, make them welcome. DMRC is happy to announce that Portage Parks Division has received a grant to create an exit from the Headwaters Trail to Mennonite Road near Mantua Center Road. Trail users travelling west of the Village find themselves blocked from leaving the trail. The grant will allow Portage Parks to build either a tunnel under the road or a ramp to exit the trail. This project is an important step in the process of connecting the Headwaters Trail to the trails of Aurora and beyond. We welcome new members, Friends and volunteers. Check out our website at www.revitalizemantua.org.

DMRC Secretary Susan Steinberg



CHRIST *Lutheran* **CHURCH**

Christmas in Mantua! A time of giving and Christ Lutheran Church is been busy sharing with the Portage County community for the holidays.

Our monthly free Loaves and Fishes Community meal in November was held on November 19th with all the usual holiday foods, turkey, dressing, pies etc. This is the 10th year celebration for this ministry! The Christmas meal held on December 17th will also be a special meal to celebrate Christmas. All are welcome to join us every month on the 3rd Monday of the month as the sharing continues throughout the year.

Our ladies have been especially busy supporting the Family & Community Services, Inc. providing 25 “Blessing Bags” to be given for the women and children of Miller Community House in Kent, OH and homeless male veterans living at the Freedom House. We were excited to hear that they will be opening a new facility for homeless female veterans next year. Family and Community Services is located at 705 Oakwood Street, Suite 221 in Ravenna and serves all of Portage County. Their website is fcsOhio.org.

Our Christmas collection for the 4C’s (“Crestwood Coalition for Community Care”) food pantry is 115 cans of fruit for Christmas Baskets! We have a year-

round collection for this food pantry located in the Hilltop Christian Church, but we enjoy the challenge of a special collection at Christmas time.

We have also joined in the Kids Weekend Meals that provides weekend meals for families in our Crestwood School community. For the Christmas season we will be participating in the Christmas Bag giveaways that will provide a complete meal for the holiday. This is a community ministry based at the Mantua Center Church.

The community is also invited to our Wednesday in the Word Community Bible Study led by Pastor Dan Esala every Wednesday at 10 am in the fellowship hall at the church located at 10827 N. Main Street, Mantua.

If you don't have a church home and would like to join us for one of our Christmas Eve candlelight services they will be held on Monday, December 24th at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. We would consider it an honor to have you join us as we celebrate Jesus Birthday!

Celia Esala



From the American Legion...

On Friday, November 9th, members of Mantua Post 193 and Auxiliary Unit 193 joined the students and staff of Crestwood Primary and Intermediate School for their Veterans Day Programs. All the students did a wonderful job and they put the "P" in patriotism. The teachers also deserve thanks for the work they did and do each day with the students and all the preparation for the programs. We have been invited to the schools for a number of years and we always look forward to receiving the invitations.

Our next soup supper will be held on Friday, December 7th, at the Mantua Center School beginning at 6 P.M. until around 7 P.M. Show up a little early to visit with your friends and neighbors. In January, the date will be Friday, January 4th, February will be Friday, February 1st and in March, Friday, March 1st. Thanks for your support!

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone!

John Kowalchik



In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month in October, the crew at F & S Automotive, Inc in Mantua wanted to recognize the individuals and families that were affected by breast cancer, personally knowing that many of the friends and families of F & S Automotive have been affected by this terrible illness we want everyone to know we care and that our prayers are with you. Getting to wear our Pink "Towing for A Cure" T-shirts made us feel proud to show our concern and desire to continue to bring awareness to combat this disease.

As the Holidays approach, we want to say a very special thank you to all our customers including both those who have been with us for the 51 years we have been in business as well as those who continue to be added to our customer list.

We are proud to be of service to you all.

Dean A. Stebbins, Sr. & Staff



Upcoming Construction Projects for 2018 & 2019

We recently completed a phase of the West Prospect Street drainage improvements from Cemetery Drive to Elm Street. Part of the project replaced an outfall pipe that was collapsed. The project was funded by a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and local share from the Village. Part of the local share is from the Road Levy fund.

Lamb Paving recently completed the asphalt trail through Buchert Park along the edge of the river from the bridge at Prospect to the canoe take out south of the High Street bridge across from the Service Department garage. The trail ties into the adjacent parking lots and added 6 ADA access parking stalls at 3 locations. The project was funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Nature Works grant program and local share from a donation from the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee (DMRC). There is now one-half mile of asphalt trail from the parking area west of McDonalds to the canoe take out.

The Village was recently successful in obtaining a \$300,000 grant and \$150,000 zero interest loan to install a new cap on the Water Reservoir on Reservoir Drive. Construction will start in the summer of 2019.

ODOT will be milling and overlaying SR 44 in the Summer of 2019.

Brian Rogers

***I wish all a very happy and healthy holiday season!
Enjoy family and friends during this joyous time!
Remember all the blessings we have and pray for those
who may need strength and direction.
It is a busy time of year so we must take time for
ourselves and destress and take in all the beauty and grace
God has put in our lives!***



Andrea Urso

Editor, Mantua Matters

