ARTICLE 24

ARTICLE 24. Shall the Town of Hartford issue general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($3,300,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid, for the purpose of making public improvements, namely, the construction of a public swimming pool at the former Sherman Manning Pool located in the Hartford High School athletic complex, at an estimated cost of Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($3,300,000)?

For more information on the pool studies, see the full reports which are available on the Hartford Town website: https://www.hartford-vt.org/2361/Sherman-Manning-Pools. These reports include the community survey results along with information on the evaluation of alternative pool sites, preliminary pool designs, costs, and operational proforma.
Answers to Your Questions

Why is a new pool proposed?
Generations of Hartford residents have enjoyed the benefits of the Sherman Manning Pool. Thousands of kids learned to swim at the pool, hundreds of youth gained valuable work experience as lifeguards, residents of all ages and abilities enjoyed countless hours socializing in and around the pool. After 51 years of service, the old pool developed a number of significant problems and was closed after the 2017 season. (Major flaws in the gutter and concrete structure resulted in massive leaking – the pool simply was not holding water.) Community surveys completed in 2018 demonstrated strong support for having a municipal pool. A committee of community volunteers worked with engineers and designers to develop the most cost effective plan to have a safe, efficient and attractive outdoor pool for Hartford residents.

What will the new pool provide for the community?
The pool will continue the tradition enjoyed since 1967 of having an outdoor public pool conveniently located at the middle and high school campus. The new pool design will incorporate some of the design features requested through community wide surveys, such as:
- Lap swim area for exercise, lesson and general recreation play.
- Slide feature into pool.
- Zero entry (beach front design) pool to a depth of 8 feet.
- Spray features within the shallow water area.
- Deck shade structures with pool deck furniture.
- Grassy areas surrounding pool deck space and new fencing all around.
- New entry structure for access controls. Includes two family changing rooms to accommodate need for bathrooms when field house returns to late summer school usage.
- Rehabilitated filtration room with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant access for staff and first aid.
- The new pool will use much less water which will help reduce use of resources.

Once the bond is approved, the town will continue to work with community members and the school district to finalize the design for the pool and grounds, use of the fieldhouse and bath house entry and changing areas.

How much would it cost to run the pool each year?
Historically, the operating cost for the Sherman Manning Pool averaged $75,000 annually. The new annual program operating costs are estimated at $100,000 which includes the wages for all the lifeguards and swimming instructors as well as operating and maintenance expenses. An extended season and expanded programming contribute to the estimated increase in the operating costs. Municipal outdoor summer pools in the northeast are not large revenue producers. However, the operations proforma revenue projections for the new pool is estimated to generate up to 35% of the total operating costs.

When and where would the new pool be built?
Construction would be coordinated with the School District calendar to begin and be substantially completed in 2021, with a proposed opening in the Spring of 2022. For decades the Town and School District have collaborated on the pool which is located on school grounds and operated by the town. Following two years of planning, it was determined that having the pool at the school is the most cost effective and accessible location. The School Board supports the pool project.

Who will be able to use the pool?
The pool will be open to people of all ages and abilities. Members of the public may purchase either daily or season passes to use the pool with lower rates for Hartford residents. Historically, resident rates have been very reasonable. For example: $5 for a daily admission, $45 for a Season Youth Pass, and $95 for a Family Pass. There are also scholarships available to Hartford residents through the Brian Hanson Scholarship Fund to individual youth in need to access swim lessons or season passes.

How many people use the pool?
An average of 130 people a day used the pool during the most recent seasons when the pool was open. This includes people using season or daily passes and youth participating in camps. The new pool, with added features, expanded programming and an extended season will increase participation levels. The future capacity for the pool area is a total of 400 people.