From the desk of:
Michael T. Paulhus, Plainville Town Manager

Open Letter to the Community:

I'd like to talk about the 4-day work week initiated last week. More specifically, I want to comment on the impact to the Senior Center. As members of this community have voiced their opinion, we have listened to the merits of your concerns. We agree on the fact that socialization is a very important component in maintaining a healthy lifestyle for seniors and we acknowledge the Senior Center allows residents to connect with one another. To that end, the Senior Center will return to the previous schedule of 5 days and remain open on Fridays from 9am-1pm. The return to Fridays will begin on September 8th.

However, I'd also like to take this opportunity to explain the motivation behind piloting the 4-day work week. It was initiated in response to the demands in the labor market around recruitment and retention. If you ask any employer in the public or private sector about the difficulties in attracting and retaining employees, they will tell you it is a struggle. The Town of Plainville is no different. The 4-day work week is a budget neutral, no cost tool we implemented for recruitment and retention, keeping the same 35-hour work week without a reduction in hours. The same 35-hour work week was condensed into 4 days. We strive to be innovative in order to compete with the State of CT and other communities who pay higher wages and provide work from home options.

In the case of the Senior Center, the small staff of three full-time employees along with part-timers and volunteers provide an amazing service with passion and dedication. The Town wants to continue with that tradition of service and in no way wants to jeopardize the reputation of the Senior Center or our commitment to seniors. The Town is simply looking for ways to remain competitive, and we will continue to do so in other ways. Our focus is on making Plainville the best it can be.

Thank you.