

Family Fun in Mansfield

January, February, March & April 2019

Special Notes

- **Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (BIMP)** (486-8580) (bimp.uconn.edu) is located at 1 Royce Circle in Downtown Storrs and is open Tues-Sun., 11am-7pm. Permanent exhibit: *The World of Puppetry*. Special exhibit: *Living Objects: African American Puppetry in New York City* (through April 7). Don't miss the Spring Saturday Puppet Performance series for children Feb. 16, March 30, April 27 listed below. And be sure to check out the FUN gift selections!
- **CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center (CSMNH)** (486-4460) (mnh.uconn.edu) has its office on the UConn campus. For a full listing of current programs and registration information visit: cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar.
- **Joshua's Trust (JT)** (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust), Inc.) (429-9023) (joshuaslandtrust.org) offices are at 624 Wormwood Hill Rd. in Mansfield. **JT** manages over 4,000 acres in Northeast CT, most of which have walking trails open to the public. Check the website for a list of properties (with maps) + scheduled walks and programs at several **JT** properties in the area (including many that are family-friendly!) + the Passport Program. Lots of fun for families!!!
- **Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC)** (429-3338) (mansfieldadvocatesforchildren.org) is an organization of parents, school personnel, early care center directors, health professionals and others concerned with the health, successful learning and community connection for children ages 0-8 in Mansfield. This group meets the first Wed. of each month at 5:30pm to discuss policies and programs to enhance the lives of Mansfield's families. Dinner and childcare provided. Please contact Sarah Dufresne (DufresneS@mansfieldct.org) with questions. Check the website for a listing of early care and education providers in Mansfield.
- **Mansfield Parks and Recreation Dept. (MPRD)** (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com) has **many** classes, programs and activities for young children. Check the Winter 2019 brochures that is sent to every household for offerings including snow-day activities, **Community School of the Arts** music and art classes, before- & after-school programs, information about **fee waivers** for eligible Mansfield residents and MUCH, MUCH more!
- **Mansfield Public Library (MPL)** (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org) offers 3 drop-in program series for children: **Toddler Time** (brief stories and movement + unstructured playtime for children ages birth-36 months with caregiver), Fridays, 10:15am-11:30am, Jan. 4- March 29; **Family Storytime** (stories, songs & simple crafts for young children with caregiver), Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am, January 5 - April 27; **Wonderful Wednesdays** (stories, songs and simple crafts for young children with caregiver), Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am, January 23 – May 15. Check the website and at the library for special programs for young children and their families, most of which are listed below.
- **Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum**, UConn (486-2712) offers skating lessons for ages 4 and up. Call for the schedule of lessons and general skating schedule, which changes frequently.
- **Questers' Way** (QuestersWay.com) is located inside the East Brook Mall and offers a variety of activities and programs year-round for ages 0-5 and older (including adults). Check the website for current listings.
- **Storrs Farmers Market (SFM)** (storrsfarmersmarket.org) is open year-round, including the following Saturdays during the winter months in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Library from 3-5pm: Jan. 5 & 19; Feb. 2 & 16; March 2 & 16; April 6 & 20. Come for local winter food & products from old and new vendors! BUY and EAT LOCAL!!!
- **UConn Barnes & Noble Bookstore** (486-8525) (bookstore.uconn.edu) is located at 1 Royce Circle, Downtown Storrs, is open Mon.-Fri. 10am-9pm and Sat. & Sun. 10am-7pm, and has a **great** selection of children's (and other) books + **storytimes**: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am.
- **UConn Department of Animal Science (ANSC)** (486-2413) (animalscience.uconn.edu) (animalscience.uconn.edu/visitors/tour.php) hosts a number of family-friendly animal-related events during the school year (Sept.-May) and allows visitors to several barns on the UConn campus, 7 days/wk., 10am-4pm. And be sure to visit the very "cool" Dairy Bar! Check out the polo game schedule & download a brochure for young children.
- **UConn EEB (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) Greenhouses** (486-4052) (<http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/>), on the UConn campus, house a huge collection of amazing live plants from all over the world! Open to the public: Mon.-Fri., 8am-4pm & Sat. 10am-2pm. Call or visit the website for hours and additional information. including parking options (plan ahead!).
- **William Benton Museum of Art** (486-4520) (thebenton.org) is on the UConn campus and open beginning Jan. 15, Tues.-Fri., 10am-4:30pm, Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30pm. Check the website for a list of current exhibits, some of which may be of interest to children. Be sure to check out the *First Thursday* events for all ages (Feb. 7, March 7, April 4) listed below!

For more information about the events listed in this calendar, check the following sources:

ANSC = Department of Animal Science (UConn) (486-2413) (animalscience.uconn.edu/calendar.php)
BIMP = Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (486-8580) (bimp.uconn.edu)
EOS = E.O. Smith High School (487-0877) (eosmith.org); Drama Club (429-2179)
JCPA = Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts (UConn) (486-4226) (jorgensen.uconn.edu)
MMS = Mansfield Middle School (429-9341) (mansfieldct.org)
MPL = Mansfield Public Library (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)
MPRD = Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com)
SFM = Storrs Farmers Market (storrsfarmersmarket.org) (storrsfarmersmarket@gmail.com)
TOM = Taste of Mansfield (tasteofmansfield.org)
WBMA = William Benton Museum of Art (UConn) (thebenton.org) (486-4520)

Many of the following programs require advance registration and/or fees. Some programs may change times and/or location. Call ahead!

Fee waivers are available to eligible Mansfield residents for most Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department programs (429-3015). Scholarships and/or discounts may be available for other fee-based programs listed here.

JANUARY 2019

Jan. 9 (Wed.), 6:30pm --- K-12 String Fling @ the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. Fun for all ages! (MMS)
Jan. 19 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
Jan. 19 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)
Jan. 22 (Tues.), 4-5:30pm – Celebrate Snowflakes! Listen to *Snowflake Bentley* and make snowflake crafts (MPL)
Jan. 23 (Wed.), 5:30-7pm – Mansfield School Food Services Community Dinner @ Mansfield Middle School; FREE! (TOM)
Jan. 26 (Sat.), 10-11am – Daddy Daughter Hair Factory 101; hands-on hair care class for beginners (pre-school-5th gr.) (MPRD)
Jan. 27 (Sun.), 1-2:30pm – Oak Grove Montessori School invites area families to its annual Open House! (456-1031)
Jan. 27 (Sun.), 1-3pm – Feet, Hooves & Paws: Winter Animal Tracking for all ages; indoors + outdoors (wear boots!) (MPRD)
Jan. 29 (Tues.), 4-5:30pm – Enjoy a winter-themed scavenger hunt around the library + games & toys + hot chocolate! (MPL)

FEBRUARY 2019

Feb. 1 (Fri.), 9:30-11am – Visit with your child and see a class in action at Mt. Hope Montessori School (423-1070)
Feb. 1 (Fri.), 7-9pm – Annual Valentine's Dance @ Rome Ballroom, UConn (all ages) (MPRD)
Feb. 1 (Fri.), 7:30pm – Performance of the musical *She Loves Me* by UConn Opera students @ Jorgensen (JCPA)
Feb. 2 (Sat.), 3pm – Performance of the musical *She Loves Me* by UConn Opera students @ Jorgensen (JCPA)
Feb. 2 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
Feb. 3 (Sun.), 9am – Western Team Home (Horse) Show/competition @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
Feb. 6 (Wed.), 7:30pm – **MOMIX!** Blockbuster dancer-illusionists using light, shadow, props and the human body!!! (JCPA)
Feb. 7 (Th.), 4:30-8pm – 1st Thurs. After Hours FUN at the Benton Museum: activities, music, food, tours (all ages) (WBMA)
Feb. 8 (Fri.), 4-5:30pm – Drop in after school to make a valentine for someone special (in the Buchanan Auditorium) (MPL)
Feb. 8 (Fri.), 7pm – EOS Drama Club production of the musical *Guys & Dolls* @ EOS Auditorium. Singing! Dancing! (EOS)
Feb. 9 (Sat.), 11am-1pm – Open House at Mt. Hope Montessori School; come and see a Montessori classroom (423-1070)
Feb. 9 (Sat.), 4pm – Puppetry performance: *Harlem River Drive* by Bruce Cannon @ von der Mehden, UConn (BIMP)
Feb. 9 (Sat.), 7pm – EOS Drama Club production of the musical *Guys & Dolls* @ EOS Auditorium. Singing! Dancing! (EOS)
Feb. 10 (Sun.), 9:30am – *Gospel Puppetry* by Edna Bland & Rev. Yolanda Sampson @ von der Mehden, UConn (BIMP)
Feb. 10 (Sun.), 2pm – EOS Drama Club production of the musical *Guys & Dolls* @ EOS Auditorium. Singing! Dancing! (EOS)
Feb. 10 (Sun.) 2pm – *Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure*: Marine reptiles & other creatures brought to life onstage! (JCPA)
Feb. 10 (Fri.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue @ MMS for grades K-8; games, activities, a field trip and more! (MPRD)
Feb. 15 (Fri.), 9:30-11am – Visit with your child and see a class in action at Mt. Hope Montessori School (423-1070)
Feb. 15 (Fri.), 2-3:30pm – Listen to *Stitchin' and Pullin' a Gees Bend Quilt* and help make a paper quilt (MPL)
Feb. 16 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP's Spring puppet performance: *Three Little Pigs* by Liz Joyce & A Couple of Puppets (BIMP)
Feb. 16 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
Feb. 16 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)
Feb. 19 (Tues.), 10:30am-12n – Come celebrate Francine & Petunia's Library Birthday with guinea pig stories (+) (MPL)
Feb. 22 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30pm – Friends and Farmers Fun Night @ Mansfield Community Center; FREE! (TOM)
Feb. 23 (Sat.), 9am – Equestrian Team Home Show/competition @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
Feb. 27 (Wed.), 5-7pm – Celebrate National Pancake Day with a pancake dinner at the Mansfield Senior Center! (429-0262)

MARCH 2019

March 1 (Fri.), 9:30-11am – Visit with your child and see a class in action at Mt. Hope Montessori School (423-1070)
March 2 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
March 5 (Tues.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School Spring Country Dance Night! GREAT for families, so Y'all come!!!! (MMS)
March 7 (Th.), 4:30-8pm – 1st Thurs. After Hours FUN at the Benton Museum: activities, music, food, tours (all ages) (WBMA)
March 8 (Fri.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue @ MMS for grades K-8; games, activities, a field trip and more (MPRD)
March 10 (Sun.), 9am – Dressage Team Home Show/competition @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn. (ANSC)
March 13 (Wed.), 7pm – Winter Concert by E.O. Smith H.S. Bands & String Orchestra @ EOS Auditorium (EOS)
March 16 (Sat.), 2 & 4pm – **Compagnia TPO – Colors!** A memorable magical show for children of all ages!!!! (JCPA)
March 16 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
March 16 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)
March 19 (Tues.), 4-5:30pm – Listen to *Around America to Win the Vote* and enjoy crafts (+) that celebrate 2 Suffragists (MPL)
March 20 (Wed.), 7pm – E.O. Smith H.S. Choirs & Chamber Orchestra @ von der Mehden Recital Hall, UConn (EOS)
March 27 (Wed.), 5:30-7pm – Mansfield School Food Services Community Dinner @ Mansfield Middle School; FREE! (TOM)
March 28 (Th.), 7:30pm – The Russian National Ballet presents its performance of *Swan Lake*; gorgeous! (JCPA)
March 30 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP's Spring Puppet Performance: *Go Home Tiny Monsters* by The Gottabees (BIMP)
March 31 (Sat.), 9am – Dressage Team Home Show/competition @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn. (ANSC)

APRIL 2019

April 4 (Th.), 4:30-8pm – 1st Thurs. After Hours FUN at the Benton Museum: activities, music, food, tours (all ages) (WBMA)
April 5 (Fri.), 9:30-11am – Visit with your child and see a class in action at Mt. Hope Montessori School (423-1070)
April 5 (Fri.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School student performance of *Little Mermaid Jr.* in the MMS Auditorium. (MMS)
April 6 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
April 6 (Sat.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School student performance of *Little Mermaid Jr.* in the MMS Auditorium. (MMS)
April 7 (Sun.), 1pm – Mansfield Middle School student performance of *Little Mermaid Jr.* in the MMS Auditorium. (MMS)
April 13 (Sat.), 10am – State 4-H Poultry Show, local CT 4-H students show projects @ Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, UConn (ANSC)
April 13 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)

April School Vacation Camps, Workshops, Activities (April 15-19)

Contact: Community School of the Arts (486-1073; csa.uconn.edu); Magnolia Run (sawmillbrookfarm.com); Mansfield Parks & Recreation Dept. (429-3015; mansfieldcc.com); Mansfield Public Library (429-2501; mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)

April 20 (Sat.), 10am – Dairy Show; UConn students compete in showmanship @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
April 20 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)
April 27 (Sat.), 9am – 4-H Horse Judging Competition; local 4-H students judge UConn horses @ Horsebarn Hill Arena (ANSC)
April 27 (Sat.), 11am-1pm – Open House at Mt. Hope Montessori School; come and see a Montessori classroom (423-1070)
April 27 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP's Spring Puppet Performance: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by Stevens Puppets (BIMP)

Family Fun in Mansfield is compiled by Becky Lehmann 3x/year for Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC).
Please contact her (423-5807; slehmann@snet.net) if you wish to submit items for future editions.