

Family Fun in Mansfield

September, October, November, December 2016

Special Notes

- **The Adventure Park at Storrs** (860-946-0606) (StorrsTrees.com) is an aerial forest park with fun, healthy and safe outdoor adventures for families (ages 7 and older) featuring obstacle courses in the trees and zip lines of varying challenge levels. Check the website for directions, hours of operation, charges and special promotions.
- **Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry** (486-4605) (bimp.uconn.edu) is located at 1 Royce Circle in Storrs Center and is open Tues.-Sun., 11am-7pm. Check the website for current exhibits through Oct. 9 and new exhibits beginning Oct. 22. Don't miss the Sept. 10 & 11 Community Puppet-building Workshops (pre-registration encouraged) and Saturday performances @ 11am & 2pm especially for children (Sept. 24; Oct. 15; Nov. 5; Dec. 3); details in calendar section. Be sure to check out the great selection of puppet gifts for kids!
- **Cedar Ledge Tree Farm** (860-423-5690) (cedarledgetreefarm.com) offers fun activities for all ages, Oct. 1-31: tractor rides (runs for 10 people or more); mulch mountain sliding; 2-pedal kart tracks; large sand pile with loadie diggers; and NEW 32-foot-long Train Playscape! Check the website for directions, hours of operation, information about the Christmas shop, charges and more. Christmas trees for sale after Thanksgiving.
- **CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center** (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. Don't miss the CT Archaeology Fair Oct. 15 on the UConn campus with activities & exhibits for kids!
- **Gurleyville Gristmill** (429-9032) (joshuastrust.org), owned and operated by Joshua's Trust, is open Sundays 1-4pm through October 30. Check the website for directions. Fun for families!
- **Holiday Hill Day Camp** (423-1375) (info@holidayrecreation.com) presents **Spooky-Fun Hayride Adventures** for families with young kids Oct. 21 & 22 and Oct. 28 & 29 from 6:30-8pm. Check the website for directions, reservations & charges. Proceeds benefit the Gwen Duff Memorial American Camp Association Scholarship Fund at Holiday Hill.
- **Joshua's Trust** (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.) (**JT**) (429-9023) (joshuastrust.org) offices are located at 624 Wormwood Hill Rd. in Mansfield. **JT** currently 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, programs at several JT properties in the area + the Passport Program!
- **Mansfield Historical Society** (429-6575) (mansfieldct-history.org) is open Sat. and Sun. 1:30-4:30pm, until Sept. 25. Current exhibits : The career of Mansfield architect and master-builder Edwin Fitch who built many houses, churches and other structures in northeastern CT in the 1830s-60s + Claude's Place: photographs taken in 1978-80 of Claude McDaniels and his farm on Wormwood Hill Rd., plus additional photographs of the ongoing restoration of Claude's house.
- **Mansfield Parks and Recreation Dept.** (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com) has many classes, programs and activities for young children. Check the Fall 2016 brochure sent to every household for information about After-School Friends, after-school science programs, Community School of the Arts music classes, **fee waivers** for eligible Mansfield residents, Mansfield parks and preserves brochures, kayak and other rentals, Friends of Mansfield Parks, Family Fun Nights, Snow Days activities and many other offerings!
- **Mansfield Public Library** (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org) is open: Mon. & Wed. 10-5; Tues. & Th. 10-8; Fri. & Sat. 9-5. The library offers 3 drop-in program series for children: **Toddler Time**, brief stories, movement & play (ages birth-36 months with caregiver), Fridays 10:30am-12n, Sept. 2-Nov. 18 (but NOT Sept. 9 & Nov. 11); **Family Storytime**, stories, songs & simple crafts (young children with caregiver), Saturdays 10:30-11:30am, Sept. 3-Dec. 31 (but NOT Sept. 10); **Wonderful Wednesdays**, stories, songs & simple crafts (young children with caregiver), 10:30-11:30am, Sept. 28-Dec. 14.
- **Storrs Farmers Market** (storrsfarmersmarket.org) (storrsfarmersmarket@gmail.com) is open 3-6pm every Saturday (closes @ 5pm beginning Nov. 5) through Nov. 19 on the front lawn of the Mansfield Town Hall. **Storrs Winter Farmers Market** will be open 2 Saturdays each month from December 2016 through April 2017 in the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library from 3-5pm. Something for everyone! EAT LOCAL!
- **UConn Barnes & Noble Bookstore @ Storrs Center** (486-8525) is located at 1 Royce Circle in Storrs Center and has a TERRIFIC selection of children's books! Look for book characters in costume at the Celebrate Mansfield parade September 18, and watch for a visit from someone special from the North Pole in December!
- **UConn Department of Animal Science** (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 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, have a huge collection of amazing live plants from all over the world! Call to check on hours open, etc.
- **William Benton Museum of Art** (486-4520) (benton.uconn.edu), on the UConn campus, is open Tues.-Fri., 10am-4:30pm and Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30pm. Check the website for current exhibits and programs that might be of interest to and appropriate for children. Some neat kids' toys, games (etc.) in the giftshop! Check the website for directions, parking, etc.

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 (486-4605) (bimp.uconn.edu)
CSMNH = CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center (486-4460) (mnh.uconn.edu)
EOS = E.O. Smith High School (487-0877) (eosmith.org)
JCPA = Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts (UConn) (486-4226) (jorgensen.uconn.edu)
JT = Joshua's Trust (429-9023) (joshuastrust.org)
MAL = Mansfield Area Lions (mansfield_lions@hotmail.com)
MDP = Mansfield Downtown Partnership (429-2740) (mdp@mansfieldct.org)
MMS = Mansfield Middle School (429-9341)
MPL = Mansfield Public Library (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)

Many of the following programs require advance registration and/or fees. Call ahead!
Fee waivers or scholarships are available to eligible Mansfield residents for most Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department programs (429-3015). Scholarships may be available for other fee-based programs listed here.

SEPTEMBER 2016

- Sept. 10** (Sat.), 9am-4pm – Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Sale; LOTS of books (etc.) for all ages!!! (MPL)
Sept. 10 & 11 (Sat. & Sun.), 10am-5pm – Shakespeare puppet-building workshops for the Sept. 18 parade. All ages! (BIMP)
Sept. 10 (Sat.), 1-4pm – Emergency Preparedness Family Day: fire trucks, games & more @ the Community Center! (MPR)
Sept. 11 (Sun.), 9am-3pm – Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Sale; LOTS of books (etc.) for all ages!!! (MPL)
Sept. 17 (Sat.), 2-3pm – Words, Words, Words! Fun with Shakespeare for the whole family (rec. ages 6-12) (MPL)
Sept. 17 (Sat.), 5-7pm – Ham and Bean Supper at the Echo Grange, 483 Storrs Rd. (Rte. 195) in Mansfield Center. (423-8903)
Sept. 18 (Sun.), 12n – 2015 Celebrate Mansfield Parade, beginning @ the Storrs Post Office; puppets, bikes, floats PLUS! (MDP)
Sept. 18 (Sun.), 12n-4pm – 2015 Celebrate Mansfield Festival; music, food and LOTS of fun for the whole family! (MDP)
Sept. 20 (Tues.), 4-5:30pm – Celebrate International Dot Day; stories & creative activities inspired by *The Dot*. (MPL)
Sept. 23 (Fri.), 6:30-8:30pm – Family Paint Night (Grandma Moses) @ the Mansfield Community Center (ages 5+) (MPRD)
Sept. 24 (Sat.), 10am-2pm – Southeast School PTO Fall Carnival – GREAT activities, food & more for all ages! (423-1611)
Sept. 24 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP presents *The Pirate, the Princess & the Pea* by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre (BIMP)
Sept. 25 (Sun.), 12n-6pm – Mansfield Area Lions Fall Festival @ Holiday Hill; LOTS of fun & food for everyone! (MAL)

OCTOBER 2016

WALKTOBER EVENTS in MANSFIELD

For a complete listing of Walktober events in eastern CT & contiguous southern MA, see the complete WALKTOBER brochure at: thelastgreenvalley.org (860-774-3300)

CHECK to make sure these events are appropriate for kids!

- Oct. 1-30** – Family Fun @ Cedar Ledge Tree Farm: train playscape, tractor rides, mulch mountain slide & more!! (423-5690)
Oct. 1-31 – Mansfield Library Storywalk in the playground: enjoy *Zinnia's Flower Garden* by Monica Wellington (MPL)
Oct. 1 (Sat.), 1-3pm – 50 Feet with a View: a casual, 2-mile walk with naturalists to a splendid view (429-6257)
Oct. 2 (Sun.), 10am-8pm – Climbtober! Enjoy rope courses & zip lines at The Adventure Park @ Storrs! (860-946-0606)
Oct. 9 (Sun.), 1-4pm -- Atwood Farm Cider Pressing: see what it takes to make good, old-fashioned cider from local apples! (JT)
Oct. 9 (Sun.), 11am-12n – Mansfield Hollow Dam Tour; visit the gate house & learn about the history of the dam (923-2982)
Oct. 11 (Tues.), 1:30-2:30pm – Come for a 2-mile Family Nature Walk in Mansfield with a local hiker/woodsman (MPL)
Oct. 15 (Sat.), 9:30-c.11:30am – Mansfield Pup Crawl; tour Downtown Storrs with your (on-leash) Best Friend (MDP)
Oct. 15 (Sat.), 1-2pm – Farmland Forever: hayrides, ice cream & more @ Red Barn Creamery + Twin Pond Farms (428-9502)
Oct. 16 (Mon.), 1-3pm – A Look at Water: Explore Moss Sanctuary's pond & stream for critters with naturalists (429-6257)
Oct. 22 (Sat.), 2-4pm – Wolf Rock and the Meaning of Deep Time: take a leisurely walk in this preserve with a geologist (JT)
Oct. 23 (Sun.), 10am-8pm – Climbtober! Enjoy rope courses & zip lines at The Adventure Park at Storrs! (860-946-0606)
Oct. 23 (Sun.), 1-3pm – Between a Rock & a Marshy Place: explore Wolf Rock & Sawmill Brook Preserves (429-6257)
Oct. 23 (Sun.), 2-4pm – Quietly Revolutionary: The Mansfield Center Cemetery; visit with guides on site (ages 12+ only) (MPL)
Oct. 29 (Sat.), 10am-12n – Coney Rock – What a Rock! Join a geologist & an enthusiast (on this 2-mile hike) (JT)

- Oct. 2** (Sun.), 2 pm – BIMP presents a performance of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Stevens Puppets. (BIMP)
Oct. 2 (Sun.), 11am-4pm – UConn Cornucopia Festival in front of/around the Young Building; LOTS of fun for all!!! (ANSC)
Oct. 9 (Sun.), 2pm – Enchantment Theatre Company presents *Peter Rabbit Tales* with masks, puppets, music & more! (JCPA)
Oct. 11 (Tues.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue: fun for grades K-8 @ Mansfield Middle School + field trip! (MPRD)
Oct. 15 (Sat.), 10am-4pm – CT Archaeology Fair @ UConn: talk with real archaeologists & handle artifacts! (all ages) (CSMNH)
Oct. 15 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP presents a performance of *Rumpelstilskin* by Dream Tale Puppets. (BIMP)
Oct. 16 (Sun.), 12n-4pm – Hibernation Festival @ Oak Grove Montessori School: entertainment; food; fun activities! (456-1031)
Oct. 18 (Tues.), 4-5:30pm – Fall Crafts for Kids; drop in after school for a variety of fall-themed crafts (MPL)
Oct. 22 (Sat.), 9am – Morgan Drill Team Fun Horse Show – games, and costume classes. Horsebarn Hill Arena (ANSC)
Oct. 22 (Sat.), 4-6pm – Family Paint Night (Pablo Picasso) @ the Mansfield Community Center (ages 5+) (MPRD)
Oct. 29 (Sat.), 9am-4pm – Drop in and enjoy some fun Halloween activities inside and outside the Library! (all ages) (MPL)
Oct. 29 (Sat.), 9am-?? – UConn Little International Livestock, Horse & Poultry Show, Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
Oct. 29 (Sat.), 4-5pm – Trick-or-Treat in Downtown Storrs; wear your costume & have FUN downtown! (all ages w/adult) (MDP)
Oct. 29 (Sat.), 5-6:30pm – Annual Halloween Party & Trick-a-Trunk @ the Community Center! (all ages w/adult) (MPRD)

NOVEMBER 2016

- Nov. 2** (Wed.), 7pm – E.O. Smith H. S. Student Choral Ensembles concert in the high school auditorium (EOS)
Nov. 5 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP presents a performance of *The Doubtful Sprout* by Liz Joyce. Family fun! (BIMP)
Nov. 8 (Tues.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue: fun for grades K-8 @ Mansfield Middle School + field trip! (MPRD)
Nov. 13 (Sun.), 2pm – *Bubble Legendary*, Fan Yang's iconic bubble and laser show for all ages! (JCPA)
Nov. 16 (Wed.), 7pm – E.O. Smith H.S. Student Bands and Orchestras Concert in the high school auditorium (EOS)
Nov. 17 (Thurs.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School Student Fall Orchestra Concert in the MMS auditorium (MMS)
Nov. 19 (Sat.), 4-6pm – Family Paint Night (Claude Monet) @ the Mansfield Community Center (ages 5+) (MPRD)

DECEMBER 2016

- Dec. 3** (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – BIMP presents a performance of *The Snowflake Man* by Puppetkabob. (BIMP)
Dec. 3 (Sat.), Time TBD -- 3rd Annual Winter Welcome in & near Mansfield Town Square with music, treats and MORE! (MDP)
Dec. 3 (Sat.), 8pm – Holiday Boston Pops concert & celebration with sing-alongs & Jolly Old St. Nick (all ages!) (JCPA)
Dec. 7 (Wed.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School Student Winter Band Concert in the MMS auditorium (MMS)
Dec. 8 (Thurs.), 4-5:30pm – Holiday crafts for kids; make holiday crafts and decorations to take home! (all ages w/adult) (MPL)
Dec. 11 (Sun.), 7pm – E.O. Smith H.S. Student Chamber Music concert @ St. Mark's Chapel, UConn (EOS)
Dec. 14 (Wed.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School Student Winter Choral Concert in the MMS auditorium (MMS)
Dec. 14 (Wed.), 7pm – E.O. Smith H.S. Student Guitar and Piano Concert in the high school auditorium (EOS)
Dec. 17 (Sat.), 4-6pm – Family Paint Night (Diego Rivera) @ the Mansfield Community Center (ages 5+) (MPRD)
Dec. 21 (Wed.), 7pm – Winter Celebration: E.O. Smith H.S. Choirs & Orchestra @ von der Mehden, UConn (EOS)

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 suggest items for future editions.