

Family Fun in Mansfield

January, February, March & April 2016

Special Notes

- **Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry** (486-8585) (bimp.uconn.edu) is located at 1 Royce Circle in Storrs Center and is open Tues-Sun., 11am-7pm. Special exhibits: *From Thought to Image: 30 Years of Sandglass Theater* (until April 10); and *The Bureau of Small Requests: Puppetry and Animation of Laura Heit* (opening April 23). Don't miss the Spring Puppet Performance series for children Jan. 30, Feb. 13, March 5 and April 9, which are also listed below. And be sure to check out the FUN gift selections!
- **Community School of the Arts** (486-1073) (csa.uconn.edu) offers a variety of music programs including individual and group lessons for children and adults of all ages. CSA is conveniently located in the UConn Music building across from the Mansfield Downtown area. Programs are listed in the Mansfield Parks and Recreation brochures. Check the website for news and special events.
- **CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center** (486-4460) (mnh.uconn.edu) features a multi-media exhibit, **Human's Nature: A Closer Look at the Relationship Between People and the Environment**. The Museum/Center is open Mon.-Fri. 10am-4pm (closed Sat. & Sun.). Call for a copy of their Winter 2016 program brochure, which includes several programs for children and their parents (also listed individually in the calendar below).
- **Joshua's Trust** (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust), Inc. (429-9023) (joshuaslandtrust.org), with offices in Mansfield, 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 & tours of Mansfield's Gurleyville Gristmill.
- **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 Maggie Ferron (FerronMB@mansfieldct.org) with questions. Check the website for a listing of early care and education providers in Mansfield.
- **Mansfield Parks and Recreation Dept.** (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com) has *many* classes, programs and activities for young children. Check the brochure that is sent to every household for Winter 2016 & Spring 2016 offerings (including snow-day activities plus before- & after-school programs) and information about **fee waivers** for eligible Mansfield residents.
- **Mansfield Public Library** (423-2501) (biblio.org/mansfield) offers 3 drop-in program series for children: **Toddler Time** (birth-36 months with caregiver), Fridays, 10:30am-12n, Jan. 8- March 18; **Family Storytime** (all ages with caregiver), Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am, January 2- April 30; **Wonderful Wednesdays** (all ages with caregiver), Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am, January 27 - April 27. Check the website and at the library for special programs for young children and their families, many 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.
- **Storrs Farmers Market** (storrsfarmersmarket.org) is open year-round, including the following Saturdays during the winter months: Jan. 2, 16 & 30 (bonus!); Feb. 13 & 27; March 12 & 26; April 9 & 23 in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Library from 3-5pm. Come for local winter food & products from old and new vendors! BUY and EAT LOCAL!!!
- **UConn Co-op Bookstore** (486-8525) (bookstore.uconn.edu) is located at 1 Royce Circle, Storrs Center and is open daily from 10am- 9pm! It has a **great** selection of children's (and other) books. Call or check the website for special programs and events for children.
- **UConn Department of Animal Science** (486-2413) (animal.science.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) (486-8941) (<http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/>), on the UConn campus, house a huge collection of amazing live plants from all over the world! Call or visit the website for hours and additional information.
- **William Benton Museum of Art** (486-4520) (thebenton.org) is on the UConn campus and open Tues.- Fri., 10am-4:30pm, Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30pm. (but closed March 14-21) Check the website for the list of exhibits, some of which may be of interest to/appropriate for children, as well as the **Make it/Take it** art workshops for families!!!

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.ucpnn.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); 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 (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org) (423-2501)
MPRD = Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com)
SFM = Storrs Farmers Market (storrsfarmersmarket.org) (storrsfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

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 2016

Jan. 6 (Wed.), 6:30pm --- K-12 String Fling @ the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. Fun for all ages! (MMS)
Jan. 16 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)
Jan. 16 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm -- Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! Pre-reg. (MPRD)
Jan. 18 (Mon.), 6:30pm – FUNdraiser for all 3 elementary schools: staff & students vs. Harlem Wizards @ EOSmith HS gym!!!
Jan. 19 (Tues.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue @ MMS for grades K-8; games, games, a field trip & more! (MPRD)
Jan. 19 (Tues.), 1:30-3pm – Come to the Library you will.....for A Star Wars Party!!!! All ages. (MPL)
Jan. 22 (Fri.), 6:30-8:30pm – Fourth Friday Family Paint Night! Dress for a mess & have fun! With snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)
Jan. 22 (Fri.), 8pm – Mummenschanz creates a surreal and comic world of fantasy using everyday objects. Fun for all!!! (JCPA)
Jan. 29 (Fri.), 7:30pm – Performance of the opera *Hansel and Gretel* by UConn Opera students @ Jorgensen Auditorium! (JCPA)
Jan. 30 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm – Spring Puppet Performance: *Of Bread and Paper* by Finn Campman (BIMP)
Jan. 30 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)
Jan. 31 (Sun.), 3pm – Performance of the opera *Hansel and Gretel* by UConn Opera students @ Jorgensen Auditorium! (JCPA)

FEBRUARY 2016

Feb. 5 (Fri.), 7:30pm – EOS Drama Club production of the musical *Mary Poppins* @ EOS Auditorium! (EOS)
Feb. 5 (Fri.), 7-9pm – 13h Annual Father (or)/Daughter Valentine's Dance @ Rome Ballroom, UConn (all ages!) (MPRD)
Feb. 6 (Sat.), 10:30-11:30am – Come for a wonderful performance by the Phoenix Performing Arts Chinese Dance group! (MPL)
Feb. 6 (Sat.), 1:30pm & 7:30pm – EOS Drama Club production of the musical *Mary Poppins* @ EOS Auditorium! (EOS)
Feb. 7 (Sun), 1:30pm – EOS Drama Club production of the musical *Mary Poppins* @ EOS Auditorium! (EOS)
Feb. 11(Thurs.), 4-5:30pm – Valentine crafts; come and enjoy sparkly fun for everyone! All ages welcome. (MPL)
Feb. 12 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30pm -- Family Inner Tube Water Polo in the Pool at the Community Center! (Pre-register) (MPRD)
Feb. 13 (Sat.), 10-11:30pm – Archaeology on Location – Interpreting the Clues; dirt-free but FUN! (ages 8-12 w/adult) (CSMNH)
Feb. 13 (Sat.), 12noon – Equestrian and Western Team Home Show @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
Feb. 13 (Sat.), 1 & 3pm – Spring puppet performance: *The Autobiography of James Mars....* by Puppet Sweat Theater (BIMP)
Feb. 13 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)
Feb. 15 (Mon.), 11am & 2pm – *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!* A heartwarming stage production for all ages! (JCPA)
Feb. 16 (Tues.), 2-3pm – UConn Opera Outreach presents *The Bremen Town Musicians*; lots of fun for all ages!!! (MPL)
Feb. 21 (Sun.), 3pm – Take Note! presents a fundraising concert at the St. Thomas Aquinas Student Center, UConn (228-2390)
Feb. 26 (Fri.), 6:30-8:30pm – Fourth Friday Family Paint Night! Dress for a mess & have fun! With snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)
Feb. 27 (Sat.), 10am-12n – Animal tracking (in Pomfret)! Have fun looking for signs of ?????!!!! (ages 5+ w/adult) (CSMNH)
Feb. 27 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)

MARCH 2016

March 4 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30pm -- Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the MCC for the whole family! (Pre-register) (MPRD)
March 5 (Sat.), 8am-3:30pm– Regional History Day at Mansfield Middle School. Exhibits, events & more! (MMS)
March 5 (Sat.), 11am-5pm – E.O. Smith Coral Project sponsors a Coral Farmers Market! Come see, buy, swap corals!!! (EOS)
March 5 & 6 (Sat. & Sun.), 9am-4pm -- Connecticut Horse Symposium @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
March 5 (Sat.), 1 & 3pm – Spring Puppet Performance: *The Great Red Ball Rescue* by Faye Dupras (BIMP)
March 10 (Thurs.), 7pm – Concert by E.O. Smith H.S. Chamber Orchestra and Choir @ Storrs Cong. Church (EOS) (SCC)
March 11 (Fri.), 7pm – Look Up! It's the Winter Milky Way! Stars, constellations, planets & more! (ages 8+ w/adult) (CSMNH)
March 12 (Sat.), 5:30am-8pm – Bus trip to Loon Mountain (Lincoln, NH) for a Family Ski Day! (Register by Feb.27) (MPRD)
March 12 (Sat.), 12noon – Dressage Team Spring Show @ Horsebarn Hill Arena, UConn (ANSC)
March 12 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)
March 13 (Sun.), 2pm – Imago Theatre presents *ZooZoo*, a creature-centric spectacle and zoo-circus mashup for all ages! (JCPA)
March 16 (Wed.), 7pm – Concert by E.O. Smith H.S. Band and String Orchestra @ von der Mehden Recital Hall, UConn (EOS)
March 19 (Sat.), 10a.-12n – Forensic science for kids: look for & decipher clues to decide who-done-it! (8+ with adult) (CSMNH)
March 19 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm – Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
March 24 (Mon.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue @ MMS for grades K-8; games, activities, a field trip and more! (MPRD)
March 24 (Tues.), 1-3pm – Build with a variety of blocks (+) and play some fun board games! All ages welcome. (MPL)
March 25 (Fri.), 6:30-8:30pm – Fourth Friday Family Paint Night! Dress for a mess & have fun! With snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)
March 26 (Sat.), 1-4pm – **World Fest!** Ethnic music, food, games, activities!!! Student Union Ballroom, UConn (486-3855)
March 26 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)

APRIL 2016

April 1 (Fri.), 7pm – Mansfield Middle School student performance of *Lion King, Jr.!* @ MMS. Fun for all ages!!! (MMS)
April 1 (Fri.), 8pm – Moscow Festival Ballet's performance of the beloved *Swan Lake*; a treat for ears the eyes of all ages! (JCPA)
April 2 (Sat.), 9am-4pm – Friends of the Mansfield Library **Book Sale** @ Buchanan Center. LOTS of children's books! (MPL)
April 2 (Sat.), 10-11am – Exploring Connecticut's Towns – Wethersfield! Historical treasures galore! (8+ with adult) (CSMNH)
April 2 (Sat.), 1pm & 7pm – Mansfield Middle School student performance of *Lion King, Jr.!* Fun for all ages!!! (MMS)
April 3 (Sun.), 9am-3pm – Friends of the Mansfield Library **Book Sale** @ Buchanan Center. LOTS of children's books! (MPL)
April 9 (Sat.), 1 & 3pm – Spring Puppet Performance: *Help Save the Monkey!* by Marta Mozelle MacRostie (BIMP)
April 9 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)

April School Vacation Camps, Workshops, Activities (April 18-22)

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 19 (Tues.), 2-3pm – Have a FUN time at a cartooning workshop with cartoonist Jerry Craft!!! (MPL)
April 23 (Sat.), 7:30am-c. 6pm – Bus trip to Boston for a day to explore on your own! (*must register by April 9*) (MPRD)
April 23 (Sat.), 10am-3pm – E. CT Draft Horse Assoc. 2016 Plow Match behind Mansfield Supply (if rain: 4/24) (401-539-7314)
April 23 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)
April 30 (Sat.), 8am-c. 7pm – Bus trip to the New England Aquarium & Faneuil Hall in Boston. FUN for all ages! (CSMNH)

Family Fun in Mansfield is compiled by Becky Lehmann for Mansfield Advocates for Children. Please contact her (423-5807; slehmann@snet.net) if you wish to submit items for future editions. Publication of **Family Fun in Mansfield** is supported by a grant from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation.