



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE

SEPTEMBER 2013

www.mansfieldct.org

Celebrate Mansfield Weekend!



Join your neighbors and
friends in celebrating the
best of Mansfield!



Friday, Sept. 20

- * 11AM: Grand Opening of Storrs Center
- * 1 – 7 PM: Music in the Street
- * 6.30 – 9.30 PM: Family Fun Night at the Community Center
- * 7.30 PM: Friday Night Movie: *Grease* at von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Saturday, Sept. 21



- * 1 PM: Guided Walk of Moss Sanctuary — Meet at Community Center.
- * TBA: Guided Walk of Whetten Woods — Meet at 62 Dog Lane.
- * 3 – 6 PM: Music at the Market by Storrs Farmers Market at Town Hall.
- * 8 PM: Puppet Slam by Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry — UConn Studio Theatre.



Sunday, Sept. 22

- * Celebrate Mansfield Parade at Noon.
- * 10th Annual Festival on the Green, 12-4 PM at EO Smith High School.



Why is the Town looking for water?

As home to the Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, it may be surprising to some that the Town would be looking for a new source of potable drinking water. For decades, Windham Water Works has supplied public water to properties in southern Mansfield and UCONN has functioned as the public water supply system for the Storrs area, providing water to both on and off-campus users from their Willimantic and Fenton River wellfields. However, the water production from University wells has been fully committed for several years, meaning that initiatives such as revitalization of the Four Corners area and development of an assisted living facility have been put on hold until another source of water could be found. The need for a public water supply in Four Corners was identified by the Town's Four Corners Sewer Study Advisory Committee in 2009 as it worked on outreach and economic development issues related to the proposed sewer project; the Council subsequently expanded their charge and changed the name to the [Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee](#). A combined Four Corners sewer and water project would address long-standing wastewater disposal and soil contamination issues in the area and provide the necessary infrastructure to support redevelopment of this blighted area. While design of the sewer system has been ongoing, the plan has been for construction of both the sewer and water systems to be done concurrently to minimize impacts on properties and traffic.

Where will the water come from?

In 2010, the Town sponsored a study to identify water demands for Four Corners in the coming 20 years as well as potential sources. Shortly after the completion of that study in 2011, UCONN was awarded funding from the state legislature for the first phase of a new technology park, including several million for infrastructure. Given the expense of trying to develop a new water supply independently of the University, the Town opted to collaborate with UCONN to identify a new supply of water to meet both university and town needs.

The resulting [Water Supply Environmental Impact Evaluation](#) (EIE) studied several different options for supplying additional water to the University and Mansfield, including connections with existing water systems (Connecticut Water Company in Tolland, Windham Water Works in Mansfield, and the Metropolitan District Commission in East Hartford) and new groundwater wells in Mansfield. The initial draft of the EIE eliminated the groundwater sources from consideration and focused on the three interconnection options.

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Water...continued from page 1...

After receiving extensive public comment on the draft EIE and conducting additional research on the financial and land use impacts of the three interconnection options, UCONN endorsed the Connecticut Water Company as the preferred alternative for providing a new source of water to the University and the Town, with Windham Water Works as a back-up option. The Connecticut Water proposal includes the following key components:

- Connecticut Water would finance and construct a new water main connecting their existing system in Tolland to the University’s water system.
- Off-campus properties that are currently served by the University’s water system would become Connecticut Water customers. The rate structure for current customers would be maintained; future increases would occur when other Connecticut Water rates are adjusted.
- New customers would be subject to standard Connecticut Water rates.
- The Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) would control any

- future changes in water rates.
- An Advisory Committee would be established to provide input on system operations, expansion and customer service.

What areas of town will be served?

As noted above, all existing University customers would become customers of Connecticut Water Company. It is anticipated that properties in the Four Corners water and sewer service area would also be connected into the new water system at the same time the main pipeline is constructed. Other properties in the vicinity of the existing water system may be connected over time through future extensions of the system.

One of the main concerns voiced by residents with regard to the proposed water project is the potential for undesired growth in rural areas, both in areas that are traversed by the proposed pipeline as well as future expansions of the water system. The Planning and Zoning Commission is working with Town staff and consultants through the [Mansfield Tomorrow](#) project to develop policies and zoning regulations to manage development, including restrictions on service connections where appropriate.

How much will the water project cost?

Construction of the water main connecting the Connecticut Water system and the University system would be financed by

Connecticut Water. The Town will be requesting that Connecticut Water also finance and construct as much of the distribution system to serve the Four Corners area as possible. If we are unsuccessful in those negotiations, the Town would need to finance at least some of that construction. While some of these costs would be off-set through property assessments in Four Corners, it is possible that the Town would also need to issue general obligation bonds for the remainder of the cost. The estimated cost for design and construction of the Four Corners water system is \$3 million, of which approximately \$1 million could potentially be collected from property owners in water benefit-assessments.

When will water be available to Four Corners?

Before construction can begin, Connecticut Water will need to design the transmission main and obtain environmental permits from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the proposed diversion of water. The length of this process is unknown at this time. Based on estimates developed as part of the EIE process, the earliest we anticipate water being available to Four Corners is sometime between 2015 and 2017.

What happens next?

The University’s Record of Decision for the EIE has been sent to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for review and acceptance. While that review is ongoing, UCONN plans to initiate negotiations with

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Town Hall Hours:

Monday	8:15-4:30
Tuesday	8:15-4:30
Wednesday	8:15-4:30
Thursday	8:15-6:30
Friday	8—12

Water...

Connecticut Water to keep the process moving forward.

To ensure that the Town's interests are represented as part of any negotiations, the Town Council has asked several Town Commissions and Advisory Committees to identify concerns and issues that should be addressed in an agreement with Connecticut Water. Feedback from these committees will be used by staff and the town's legal counsel for water issues to prepare a list of key terms for a legal agreement between the Town and Connecticut Water. These terms will be reviewed by the Town Council at their meeting on October 14th.

How can I get involved?

Questions or comments related to this project should be sent to the attention of the [Town Manager](mailto:TownMngr@mansfieldct.org) (TownMngr@mansfieldct.org). All comments received will be forwarded to the Town Council. Public comments are also welcomed at all Town Council meetings; visit www.mansfieldct.gov for upcoming meeting schedules.

It's Two Major Awards!

The *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* has been awarded to the



Town by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of

governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An *Award of Financial Reporting Achievement* has been awarded to **Cheryl A. Trahan, Director of Finance** as the person primarily responsible for preparing the award winning CAFR, which demonstrates a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate people to read the CAFR. Well done! A tip of the hat to our fantastic Finance Department.

Parking on Storrs Road

New parking options are now available on Storrs Road:

- Free two hour, on-street parking is available on Storrs Road.
- On-street parking is also available in front of Nine Dog Lane. Parking in this area is free but limited to 30 minutes.
- The Dog Lane parking lot behind Nine Dog Lane is free and limited to two hours.

It's a Week-Long Party! Celebrating National Senior Center Month

Come to the Senior Center during the week of Sept. 3rd to 6th. We have plenty of special events planned for you. Just for fun, each day is a different theme. So, start getting those outfits together!



Tues., Sept 3: Hawaiian Day

Wed., Sept. 4: Funny Hat Day

- Computer Lab Show & Tell at 10 AM
- MSC Health & Services Expo at 2:30 PM.

Thurs., Sept. 5: Dress & Talk Like a Pirate Day

Arrr, Arrr Matey!

Come t' party or walk t' plank, scurvy dog!

Fri., Sept. 6: Hippie Day

Don't trust anybody under 30.

- Computer Lab iPhone Discussion at 10 AM.
- Wonderful entertainment by the one and only Bruce John at 1 PM.
- Ice Cream Social at 2 PM.

Most classes are free this week. Check out the senior center calendar, or stop in to find out more.

We'll see you each and every day for fun in the sun at the Mansfield Senior Center Celebration Week!

Mansfield Recycling Review



Save money by recycling more. The less trash you produce, the less you have to pay to get rid of it.

You can Recycle:

- Paper: Newspaper, magazines, junk mail, school papers, window envelopes, catalogs, paperbacks, hardcover books, office paper, packing material, shredded paper contained in paper bags or cardboard boxes.
- Cardboard: Corrugated cardboard (with a wavy inner layer) and unwaxed paperboard like cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, beer boxes, paper egg cartons, cracker boxes.
- Aluminum, Tin, Steel and Bi-Metal Cans: Rinsed out food & beverage cans, pet food cans, clean aluminum food trays & foil, empty aerosol and paint cans.
- Glass Food and Beverage Bottles and Jars: Rinsed out glass containers such as spaghetti sauce jars, pickle jars, wine bottles.

If you would like more information, go to

www.mansfieldct.org/trash.

Fall happenings in Mansfield!



Parks and Recreation

Family Fun Night

Friday, Sept. 20, 6:30—9:30 PM
at the Community Center.

There are giant inflatables, ping pong, tot toys, puzzles, open gym, poolside basketball and more!
No registration is required.



Pirate Party!

Saturday, Sept 28, 2—7 PM

Make a craft, play a game, and maybe even watch pirate movie. Wear a costume if you'd like. A pizza dinner is served.
For kids in grades K-4.



Star Party

Friday, Sept 27, 7—9 PM

What can be seen in the late summer night sky? Dr. Cynthia Peterson will lead us in an evening of stargazing and exploration. We will begin at UConn's Planetarium, and then walk to the UConn Observatory to point out objects in the summer Milky Way. Dress warmly. Sponsored by Friends of Mansfield Parks. (FOMP)

Mansfield Public Library

Toddler Time

Fridays at 10:30 AM
September 6, 13, & 20

Family Story Time

Saturdays at 10:30 AM
September 7, 14 & 21

Affordable Care Act

Tuesday Sept. 24, 6:30 PM

What does the Affordable Care Act mean for you? A person from the CT Healthcare Advocate's Office will be here to help you make informed decisions.

Friends Book Sale

Sat., Sept. 28, 9AM—4PM

Sun., Sept. 29, 9AM—3PM

Large selection of books, dvds, audiobooks, and more!

*the library will be closed during the sale.

Reel to Real

Monday, Sept. 30 1—3:30 PM

Join us for an intriguing series of award winning films based on the theme of
Masks, Myths and Metaphors.

Mansfield Senior Center

September is

National Senior Center Month.

Learn about some great activities we've got planned — more information inside this newsletter!

Van Trips

Be sure to sign up with the receptionist for these fun getaways with our new Senior Center van!

Tuesday, Sept. 10th

We'll be off to visit Westfarms Mall and Trader Joes.

Wednesday, Sept. 18th

It's Connecticut Day at the Big E in Springfield, MA.

Tuesday, Sept. 24th

Take a ride for lunch at the *Uncommon Kitchen*, Windham Tech Culinary Dept.

Don't forget about our monthly BIG Y run the first Wednesday of the month.



Live Music in Storrs Center

Wednesday, Sept 4, 5—7 PM
Gideon Ampeire



10TH ANNUAL *Festival on the Green*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

NOON TO 4:00 PM

E. O. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL

Town of Mansfield, Connecticut
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268
mansfieldct.gov 860.429.3336



The *Festival on the Green* is a low-waste event.
Help us "[Keep it Green!](#)"