



# THE MANSFIELD MINUTE

OCTOBER 2013

[www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org)



## *Speedy Delivery!*

Get the **Minute** sent directly to you via email.

1. Go to our web site ([www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org))
2. On the right you will see Citizen Requests and Communications. Click there.
3. About half way down this page you will see a link for Email Group Lists. Click there.
4. Then enter your email address and check off all the lists you like, including the **Mansfield Minute**. Simple!

## **Fire Safety**

*Protect your family by taking these few simple steps.*

- *Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and CO detectors.*
- *Practice your home escape plan.*
- *Get your chimney/furnace/woodstove cleaned.*

Take 20 minutes to complete a home self-inspection checklist on the fire marshal's document page at [mansfieldct.gov](http://mansfieldct.gov). It will help you find most common home fire & safety hazards.

## **Our New Town Square: A Space for All**

As part of the Mansfield downtown planning, there has always been the goal to create great public spaces for people to enjoy. The current plan for Storrs Center includes a town square at the corner of Dog Lane and Storrs Road. The proposed Town Square follows the spirit of the Storrs Center Special Design District Design Guidelines and incorporates many of its specific recommendations. The Storrs Center Special Design District Guidelines were approved in 2007 by the Planning and Zoning Commission and are used by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, the Town, and master developer LeylandAlliance, and its development partner EdR to guide development of buildings, roads, the parking garage, the intermodal transportation center, and the public spaces in the Storrs Center Special Design District.

Included here are excerpts from the Storrs Center Special Design District Design Guidelines that reference goals for a town square: *The Town Square will be planned as the central civic space and center of activity for Storrs Center and the downtown Main Street area. The whole of the space should be designed to support a range of activities that are consistent with the notion of the Town Square as the center of downtown life – a place to live, a place to do business, a place for civic activities, gatherings, and festivals, and a place to simply meet, sit, relax, or play.* Continued on page 2...

## **Trash Service Changes**

After 23 years, we have said good-bye to the employees of F.W. Mayo and Sons. We all appreciated the special treatment – from the in-yard service to the weekly doggie bones for canine friends. Many of you have asked why they are no longer providing trash and recycling collection.

As the contract ended, the Town went out to bid for this service as usual. The bid was to continue manual trash service, with an alternate bid for automated service (the most common method today). F.W. Mayo did not bid on either option. Diane and Phil Mitchell, two of the drivers on our route, are retiring from the trash business, which may have something to do with this small family business's decision not to bid.

There were two responses to the bid, one from a Southington company with very little residential experience and the other from Willimantic Waste Paper Company (WWPC) for automated service. WWPC currently does the Town's multi-family



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Town Square continued from page 1...

*Within a relatively formal framework, the park will contain both hardscapes and natural components that support a variety of activities throughout the changing seasons and create a series of different spaces at different scales. A larger space should be designed to accommodate a podium or stage for outdoor concerts and events. Smaller outdoor spaces, defined by trees, landscaping, hardscapes, and street furniture, should provide a more intimate scale for sitting, relaxing, and for children’s play areas or smaller exhibitions and events. The Town Square should have plantings, street trees, and seasonal flowers interspersed throughout. Street furnishings should include benches, street lighting, bike racks, and trash receptacles to support safe enjoyment by the public. A variety of paving surfaces, such as stone, brick and concrete pavers, and concrete, may be combined with low walls of stone, brick, and concrete to define planting areas, tree wells, and open areas for activities and simple relaxation.*

The design of the town square was developed over the last few

<b>Town Hall Hours:</b>	
Monday	8:15-4:30
Tuesday	8:15-4:30
Wednesday	8:15-4:30
Thursday	8:15-6:30
Friday	8—12

months through the work of Kent+Frost Landscape Architecture, a variety of public and private stakeholders, and a Mansfield Downtown Partnership advisory group. The concept plan was presented at public Partnership committee and Board meetings; a Partnership public hearing; and a Town Council meeting.

As proposed in Kent+Frost’s zoning permit application, the Town Square combines paved plaza, lawn, shade trees, planting beds, seat walls, performance pavilion, shade structure, benches, movable seating, lighting and sculpture. Additionally, water and electrical service will be provided, and storm water runoff will be treated on site.

**Paved Plaza &**

**Shade Structure:** The north side of the square that abuts Dog Lane contains an open area of permeable paving that extends the entire width of the site. A curving shade structure stands within this plaza. It provides shade and shelter over the open plaza and creates a bold place-making statement on the Storrs Road frontage. The plaza will allow for flexible use and will feature numerous portable tables and chairs.

**Lawn:** A 52’ diameter lawn circle framed by a raised curb will occupy the south central area of the site. Four 18’ tall light pylons will occupy equilateral points on the perimeter.

**Shade Trees:** The streetscape trees recently installed along the

perimeter streets will shade the site’s edges. The large existing Oak will continue to shade the northwest corner. The design includes five medium size shade trees in a semi-circle on the north edge of the lawn.

**Planting Beds:** Two planting beds occupy the space between stone seat wall and sidewalk on the south and east sides of the square. A 3’ tall evergreen hedge is planned along both sidewalk edges. Between hedge and wall, a plant bed will contain native herbaceous perennials and grasses. Freestanding metal trellises will support flowering vines and accent each plant bed.

**Seat Walls:** The seat walls have been designed to retain two feet of grade change and allow for comfortable seating. The walls are conceived to match similar stone walls on Storrs Road with exception of a smoother stone coping.

**Performance Pavilion:** A performance pavilion composed of inclined roof and two supporting pylons will provide shelter over the performance area. A recessed ceiling will provide space for stage lighting, a retractable screen and video projector.

**Seating:** In addition to the seat wall, at least five stationary benches will be located in high traffic areas. Lightweight bistro style tables and chairs are planned on the plaza. Construction will begin this fall with completion in summer 2014. If you are interested in learning more about the town square, please contact [Cynthia van Zelm](mailto:Cynthia.van.Zelm@mansfieldct.org) at 860-429-2740 or [vanzelmea@mansfieldct.org](mailto:vanzelmea@mansfieldct.org).

[Click here to see the design!](#)



## Election Day is November 5th.

### Do you need an absentee ballot?

Absentee ballots for the November 5th Municipal Election will be available in the Town Clerk's office beginning October 4th.

Absentee ballot voting is limited to the following categories of electors who are unable to appear at the polling place in person for the following reasons:

- Active Service in the Armed Forces
- Absence from Town during all hours of voting
- Illness
- Religious tenets forbidding secular activity on Election Day
- Duties as a poll worker in a polling place other than one's own
- Physical Disability.

If you are unable to come into the office to fill out an application and receive your ballot, applications for absentee ballots can be downloaded from the Town Clerk's page at [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org) or requested from the Town Clerk's office (860-429-3302).

Simply send the application to Town Clerk, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268 and a ballot will be sent to you.

## Trash Services...continued from Page 1

collection. Automated service uses standardized containers that are grabbed by the truck's mechanical arm, lifted overhead and emptied into the truck. This method of collecting significantly reduces employee back injuries. There are few companies left that offer manual service like Mayo and Sons.

With automated service, we have had to let go of two special features – the in-yard collection and the very small trash service level, called "min-mini service". For seniors and residents with mobility limitations, we are sorry that we had to discontinue them. We know this adds stress to figuring out how to cope with this change.

Automated service is new to us all. As problems arise, we will seek the best solutions. We have already learned that the 64 gallon recycling containers may be too unwieldy for some residents, and will try to negotiate with WWPC to reduce the size of the recycling container for residents with smaller service.

Questions? Contact Virginia Walton at 429-3333.



## Fire Department Earns 2012 Life Safety Achievement Award

This award was presented to the Fire Department for its accomplishments and continued excellence in fire prevention and life safety programs for the community.

Mansfield recorded no deaths from structural fires in 2012. The department actively promotes an effective fire prevention program and displays a clear commitment to reducing the number of fires in the homes in our community.

Although residential fires in the U.S. account for only 20% of all fires, they result in 80% of all fire deaths. "Experience tells us that fire prevention activity and public education can significantly reduce life and property loss from residential fires", the NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation said. "Prevention and education are very cost effective compared to the traditional approach of relying on fire suppression.

The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention efforts and encourages them to continually improve those efforts."

## FIRE!!! Are You Prepared?



Children and the elderly are especially at risk in home fires because they are less able to escape when fire strikes. You can improve the chances that your family will survive a home fire by making sure that they can escape quickly.

Here's what to do:

- Install smoke alarms in sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Plan your escape route, and practice using it.
- Can you beat the clock? A fire can kill in 3 minutes. Don't be caught—practice your escape!
- Teach your children not to hide from firefighters.
- Do not waste time saving property.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Once out, STAY OUT.

## Medicare Open Enrollment Oct. 15-Dec. 7.

If you need assistance choosing a plan, Kathy Ann and others at the Senior Center can help. Please call for an appointment at 860-429-0262, ext. 2.



# Weird and wonderful October happenings in Mansfield!

## Parks and Recreation

**No school? No problem.**  
On Oct. 15, there will be a trip to Southwick Zoo for children in grades K-8. Drop off at 7:30 AM and pick up by 5:30 PM.

Pre-registration is required.

Call (860) 429-3015.

### **Halloween Party**

Saturday, Oct. 26, 5—6:30 PM. at the Community Center. We're looking for people to decorate their cars and be part of our Trick A Trunk. Please call (860) 429-3015 ext. 107 and talk to Kim Blair if you're interested.

Children of all ages are welcome! There will be games, candy, arts and crafts, etc.

No pre-registration is required and the event is FREE.

Start the fun early and stop by **Storrs Center** from 4—5 PM to Trick or Treat at the shops!

### **Hallowee-bit Early**

It's elementary night, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2-7 PM. We'll take care of your children while you shop, go to a movie, or have an extended workout. The theme is Hallowee-bit Early (come dressed in costume). There will be pizza, drinks, movies & more.

## Mansfield Public Library

### **Teen Halloween Craft**

Saturday, Oct. 12, from 2—3 PM  
Drop in and make some cool crafts for Halloween!  
For ages 11-19.

### **A Harvest of Stories**

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2 PM  
A special storytelling treat on this day off from school with local storyteller Carolyn Stearns.  
(recommended for ages 5 and up)

### **Family Halloween Party**

Friday Oct. 25, 6—7:30 PM  
Halloween crafts, a spider web toss game, a spider hunt, a floor maze and more! Stop by and pick up free tickets for Mr. Magic's Halloween Show in the Auditorium at 6:15 and 7:15 PM. All ages welcome.

### **Reel to Real**

Mondays, Oct. 7 & 28 1—3:30 PM  
Join us for an intriguing series of award winning films based on the theme of

***Masks, Myths and Metaphors.***

### **Halloween Play-In**

Presented by Community School of the Arts Suzuki students.  
Saturday Oct. 19, 4:30 PM  
Please come for an afternoon of wonderful music and spooky fun and games!

## Mansfield Senior Center

### **VNA East Flu Shot Clinic**

Thursday, October 3rd  
1 – 3 PM

Call 860-429-0262 ext . 0 for an appointment.

### **Being A Caregiver**

We will discuss caregiver basics: identify caregivers, warning signs of caregiver stress, and clarify the supports offered in the community.

The class dates are as follows:

Tues., Oct. 29th: 10-11 AM

Tues., Nov. 12th: 10-11 AM

This is a three part course.

Please register.

### **Van Trips!**

Tuesday, October 15: Trip to Buell's Orchard/Lunch at Corianders, Eastford 11:30-2:30.

Wednesday, Oct 30th: Lunch Bunch Trip to Hank's Restaurant, Brooklyn 11AM-2:30PM.



## E.O. Smith High School Drama Club

***Still Life with Iris***, a full length family friendly show, will be performed by our award winning club on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30, Saturday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 and Sunday, Oct. 28 at 1:30. Tickets are \$8 for general and \$6 for seniors and student admission. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, email [lgrunko@eosmith.org](mailto:lgrunko@eosmith.org).

**WALKTOBER:** For a complete listing of events, see the brochure at [thelastgreenvalley.org](http://thelastgreenvalley.org) (1-866-363-7226)

### ***Historical Gurleyville Gristmill Tour***

Oct. 16 (Wed.), 9:30 & 11:30 AM & Oct. 19 (Sat.), Noon.

### ***Historical Gurleyville Village Walking Tour***

Oct. 16 (Wed.), 10:30 AM & Oct. 19 (Sat.), 1:30PM — 1 hour.

### ***Discover Schoolhouse Brook Park***, Mansfield's first town park.

Oct. 20 (Sun.), 1 PM, 2 hours, 2 miles (429-6257).



Town of Mansfield, Connecticut  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268  
[mansfieldct.gov](http://mansfieldct.gov) 860.429.3336

