



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE JANUARY 2014

www.mansfieldct.org

- *Town Hall will be closed January 1st and 20th.*
- *Don't forget to pay the second half of your real estate taxes.*
- *Recycle old strings of lights by bringing them to the transfer station. Please do not place them with curbside recycling—they gum up the works!*



- *Winter Parking Ban— don't park overnight on the street or in a municipal lot when it's snowing—you'll be towed!*
- *Did you know you can pay online? Real estate, motor vehicle, personal property tax; sewer, refuse, and grand list bills may be paid online. Student Lunch fees too!*
- *Please recycle nonmetallic wrapping paper, tissue paper and gift boxes.*
- *The town owns and operates 104.6 miles of roads — that's a lot of plowing and sanding!*
- *It's the heating season— prime time to watch out for carbon monoxide. Do you have a detector in your home?*
- *Need to FAX a document? There's public fax machine at the library.*

Budgeting For Next Year

Each year the Town prepares an operating budget and capital improvement program. The Town budgets for its anticipated program revenues and expenditures needed to provide services such as Pre K-12 education, fire and police protection, snow plowing, and a public library. Per state law, the Town operates on a July 1—June 30 fiscal year. Most of the key dates in the budget process occur in late winter and early spring. Electors and citizens are encouraged to actively participate in the budget process by attending budget workshops, public information sessions and hearings, and voting at the annual town meeting.

General Fund

What is the General Fund?

The General Fund provides for general purpose government services. In other words, the General Fund finances the regular day-to-day operations of the Town.

What types of activities does the General Fund provide for?

Examples of what the General Fund provides for are services such as education, public safety, streets maintenance, library services, senior services and general administration.

Where does the money for the General Fund come from?

The money that funds the General Fund comes from a wide variety of sources. The primary sources of revenue are: local property taxes and related items (60.5%), state support for education (22.3%) and state support for general government (15.1%). Other sources include inspection fees, fines, grants,

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It was those last few cookies that did it...

Feeling a need to move around a bit after all the holiday festivities?

The Community Center has lots of classes starting in January. There are swimming lessons and fitness classes (including water fitness classes) as well as several adult and youth classes, programs, and seminars. Go to www.MansfieldCC.com for more information, and to register for most programs.



Budgeting... cont. from pg. 1...

licenses, permits and other revenue.

Understanding Your Tax Calculation

What is a mill rate?

The mill rate is used to calculate the amount of taxes a property owner pays to the Town. One mill produces one dollar for each \$1,000 of property value. The mill rate in Mansfield for FY 13/14 is 27.95 mills.



How are my taxes calculated?

In Connecticut, your property taxes are calculated based on 70% of your home's current market value, or its "assessed" value. For example, the median single family home price in Mansfield is \$242,000 so the assessed value is \$169,400. The tax calculation for a median valued home is as follows: $(\$169,400 \times 27.95) / 1000 = \$4,735$ in property taxes. To calculate the property taxes due on your home you can use the following method: $(\text{Assessed Value} \times \text{Mill Rate}) / 1000 = \text{Amount Due in Taxes}$.

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



Thoughts or questions about the budget?

YOU HAVE MANY CHANCES TO SPEAK YOUR MIND

Come to any Town Council Meeting. They are scheduled at 7:30 PM, on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of every month, in the Council Chambers, 4 South Eagleville Road.

Comments can be submitted in writing to Council members: via email at TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org Hard copy in c/o of the Town Manager's Office, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268

Other opportunities to speak up about the budget: Budget workshops and public information sessions will be scheduled soon.



Got Paint?

If you've got at least 300 gallons of paint at home or at your business, you can have it picked up and taken away by Paintcare. They operate a paint stewardship program on behalf of paint manufacturers in Connecticut. Call Paintcare at 855-724-6809

to have the paint picked up and taken to be recycled. Typically "large volume" means a minimum of 300 gallons, measured by container size (not content). To learn more about this service, you can read the [LVP Factsheet](#) available at paintcare.org or call PaintCare. Don't have 300 gallons? You can drop off leftover paint at the [Transfer Station](#).



Parks and Recreation would like to thank everyone for donating more than 300 pounds of food and personal care items to the Food Bank during our Thanks for Giving week. Special thanks to all the fitness instructors who volunteered their time that week so we could offer free classes to everyone who made a donation.

Who you gonna call?

Phone numbers, e-mails, & homepages for all Town Departments are listed on our [web site](#).

Got a complaint, suggestion or would you like to praise someone for a job well done? We have a form right on our web site, so that it's easy for you. It's called the [Citizen Service Request System](#).



USE IT UP
WEAR IT OUT
MAKE IT DO
OR DO WITHOUT

What to do with those old bits of cloth?

Here in New England, frugality and thrift are learned very early on. Everyone knows to donate old clothes in decent condition to places such as the Salvation Army. But what do you do with those old stuffed animals, rags and unwearable clothes?

Each year tons of clothing and textiles that could be recycled are dumped in the trash. That's an average of 70 pounds per person. Yet any textile item, even if it's worn, torn or stained, can be recycled.

Almost all used clothing can be worn again. They are sold or distributed by charities. Some go to developing countries where there is increasingly high demand. Unwearable items are cut into wiping cloths and rags or ground up into fiber to manufacture stuffing, insulation and carpet underlayment. Even worn out shoes are highly recyclable.

Mansfield residents have the benefit of a Salvation Army donation box at the transfer station. As long as they are clean and dry, you can donate the following to Salvation Army in **any condition**:

- All clothing – including socks, undergarments, ties
- All footwear
- Fabric/material scraps
- Rags
- Stuffed toys – including stuffed animals and dolls
- Backpacks
- Clothing accessories – such as purses, belts
- Bedding – pillows, comforters, sheets, pillow cases, blankets
- Curtains/Draperies
- Table linens
- Towels and wash cloths



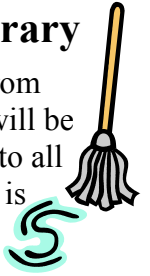
If you have any questions about textile recycling, please contact the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator, Virginia Walton, at 860-429-3333 or

waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

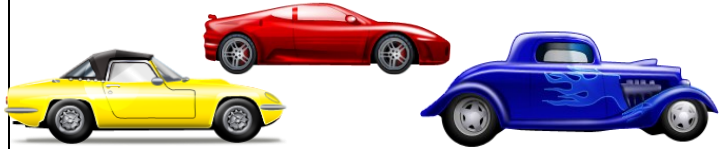
The town transfer station opens Tuesdays & Saturdays 8:30 AM to 4 PM, Thursdays Noon to 4 PM.

We Are Sprucing Up The Library

The library will be closed for maintenance from Monday-Wednesday, January 6th-8th. We will be scrubbing floors, painting walls, and getting to all the chores that have to wait while the library is open.



Stop in ahead of time and stock up on books, movies, and music! And remember...no fines will accrue during those days, so please don't worry about returning things while we are closed. We will be emptying the book return, but if it's really full, please don't leave anything outside. Thanks!



Rental Parking— The Right Way

The Ordinance Regarding Off-Street Parking on Residential Property requires Property owners to delineate parking areas at Residential Rental Property situated within the Rental Certification Zone to provide for accommodation of residents and guests at properties in adequate size and manner compatible with the ordinance.

Property owners are obligated to submit a detailed parking space site plan showing the proposed on-site parking spaces. Site plans are reviewed for compliance in accordance with criteria set forth in the ordinance. Owners must maintain the site per the approved plan to remain in compliance. Those parking at the property who fail to adhere to the plan may be subject to citation and fine.

A condition of the Ordinance, as amended, is that a copy of the approved site plan must be posted and maintained within the dwelling unit. In this manner, those affected by the Residential Rental Parking Ordinance can refer to the plan and park within the parameters established. The amount of a fine assessed for violation of any regulation under the Ordinance shall be doubled if not paid within ten days.

A standardized focus of having a plan with set provisions and the observance of that measure insures safe traffic conditions and the avoidance of adverse public safety consequences and blighting conditions.

For additional information regarding, contact the Department of Building & Housing Inspection Office, 860-487-4440, or visit www.mansfieldct.gov

January Events and Activities in Mansfield

Parks and Recreation

Open House

December 30—January 5
at the Community Center.

Free classes and demonstrations,
free child care.

Chance to win a free 3 month
membership or personal training
package...and FREE use of all
the facilities. There will also be
open house week membership
specials. Call (860) 429-3015 for
more information.

Family Fun Nights

Friday, Jan. 3, 6:30-9:30 PM
Saturday, Jan. 18, 4:30-7:30 PM
at the Community Center.

Giant inflatables, ping pong, tot
toys, puzzles, open gym, poolside
basketball & more! Free!
No registration is required.

Free Mansfield Day

Saturday, Jan. 18, 4:30-7:30 PM
Have you been

wondering what all the
excitement is about at the
Mansfield Community Center?
Well, if you're a Mansfield
resident you can find out for
FREE.

Parent's Night Out

Saturday, Jan. 25, 3:30-7:30 PM
at the Community Center
Drop the kids off for some
supervised fun. Pizza and drinks
will be served. \$20 for
Mansfield residents, \$30 for non-
residents.



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

Mansfield Public Library

The Gentle Art of Decluttering

2 Separate Workshops
Saturday, Jan. 11, 2 PM

or

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2 PM

This is a workshop for those
looking for a gentle but effective
way of conquering the challenges
of their living areas.

Family Story Time

Saturdays at 10:30 AM
(except for January 4)

Preschool stories and crafts.
No registration required.

Toddler Time

Fridays at 10:30 AM
starts on Friday, January 10
No registration required.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Preschool Story Times
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
starting up again on January 22
No registration required.



Senior Van Trips

Bay Path College Culinary Lunch

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Cost is \$10-\$12.

Register by 1/10/14.

Connecticut Trash Museum

Thursday, Jan. 30

Admission \$4.

Lunch at "Mystery Spot" at your
expense. Register by 1/27/14.

Mansfield Senior Center

Reiki Session

Thursday, Jan. 2, 9 AM– Noon
One hour session
for \$30.

Call for an appointment,
860-429-02620 Ext 4.

Conversation With Betty

Thursday, Jan 2., 11 AM.

Everyone welcome for this
friendly, lively discussion. Please
call Betty at 860-429-6324 if you
have any questions.

Herrmman Blood Pressure Clinic

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 11:30 AM

This clinic is available to those 55
years of age and older on a first
come first serve basis. Free, no
pre-registration is required.

Travel Kickoff

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 12:45 PM

Come and learn about the great
trips planned for 2014! Pick up
flyers and ask questions about the
various trips available.

Smart Phones

Friday, Jan. 31, 10 AM

Verizon experts will explain about
using your Smart telephone.
Hands-on training in small groups.
Bring your Smartphone with you
or an interest in learning about
Smartphones.

Brain Aerobics

Fridays at 11:15 AM

Come and enjoy some games and
exercises to improve your mind.

