



# THE MANSFIELD MINUTE

## BUDGET EDITION ~ MAY 2014

*www.mansfieldct.gov*

### General Fund Budget Summary

Town Council Adopted Budget, As Proposed for FY 14/15

	FY 13/14	Proposed FY 14/15	\$ Change	%
				Change
Town Operations	\$15,203,170	<b>\$15,594,420</b>	\$391,250	2.6%
Mansfield Board of Education	<u>\$20,688,160</u>	<b><u>\$21,048,884</u></b>	<u>\$360,724</u>	<u>1.7%</u>
<i>Town/MBOE Budget Subtotal</i>	<i>\$35,891,330</i>	<b><i>\$36,643,304</i></b>	<i>\$751,974</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
Regional School District #19	\$10,005,514	<b>\$10,045,920</b>	\$ 40,406	0.4%
GRAND TOTAL	\$45,896,844	<b>\$46,689,224</b>	\$792,380	1.7%

### **Town of Mansfield Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 7 PM  
Mansfield Middle School  
Auditorium

- *Please arrive early to check in.*
- *Please bring a form of identification to verify your eligibility to vote.*

The following services are offered:

- *Childcare for children ages 3-12.*
- *Transportation to the meeting for elderly and disabled electors.*
- *A sign language interpreter.*

Residents must pre-register for childcare, transportation and sign language services by calling 860-429-3315 by May 6, 2014.

The Town Council voted at its April 28th meeting to adopt a General Fund budget of \$46,689,224 (including the Region 19 contribution of \$10,045,920), a Capital Fund budget of \$6,599,020, and a Capital Nonrecurring Fund budget of \$2,044,600. As long as state revenue holds as projected, no tax rate increase would be necessary to support Council's adopted budget and the mill rate would remain at 27.95 mills for a second consecutive year. Unless a property owner's assessed value has increased or projected state aid to the Town is reduced, taxpayers would not see an increase in their taxes for July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015. The reason no tax increase is possible, despite a small growth in overall expenditures, is due to increased state revenue and new growth in the Grand List as a result of Storrs Center. The Town Council's adopted budget will be presented to Mansfield voters at the annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2014.



### **You are encouraged to participate at the Town Meeting!**

Mansfield voters can comment on the budget and make a motion to raise or lower a program in the budget. Come make your voice heard and vote on your Town Budget. The Town Council's adopted budget can be found at [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov).

### **Who may vote at the Town Meeting?**

Any person who is registered to vote and any citizen of the United States over the age of 18 who owns property (motor vehicle or land) in Mansfield valued at \$1,000 or more. Citizens may register to vote by contacting the Registrars of Voters, Andrea Epling and Bev Miela at 860-429-3368.



## How do I vote on the budget at Town Meeting?

Electors have the ability to vote to accept, increase or decrease program expenditures. General Fund programs are defined as cost centers within functions of government, such as Mansfield Board of Education, Library, Road Services, Senior Services etc. Capital Fund programs are defined by the major functions of government: General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Community Development, Facilities Management and Community Services. Capital & Nonrecurring Fund programs are defined by the recipient of the fund transfer, such as the capital fund. Mansfield utilizes program based budgeting so that programs are clearly presented in the materials for Town Meeting.

## PROPERTY TAX

### 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

## RELIEF

Mansfield offers some property tax abatement programs. Taxpayers who may be eligible for property tax relief include veterans, seniors, disabled persons and farm owners.

Information about tax abatement programs in Mansfield, including eligibility requirements, can be obtained by contacting our Assessor's Office at 860-429-3311, our Human Services Department at 860-429-3315 or on the web at [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov)

## FY 14/15 Budget Highlights

### Revenues:

- Increase in intergovernmental revenue of \$259,010. Since 2007 intergovernmental revenue has decreased from 43% to 37.4% of General Fund revenue in 2014/15.
- PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) payment from the state accounts for \$160,930 of the intergovernmental revenue increase. PILOT revenue has decreased from 20% of overall General Fund revenue in 2006 to 14.5% in 2014/15.
- The Storrs Center development is generating tax revenue. The net gain to the General Fund is \$209,620.
- Grand list increases by 2.43% to \$1,036,252,379.

### Expenditures:

- \$350,000 decrease in debt service.

- \$245,800 decrease in energy costs.
- \$229,345 increase in public safety operating costs.
- \$204,330 increase to capital.
- \$360,724 increase to MBOE budget.

## Questions?

Visit the town's budget [page](#) or visit the school's budget [page](#) at their respective web sites.



You can email the town council at [TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org](mailto:TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org).

## Mansfield Town Council

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor  
 Paul M. Shapiro, Deputy Mayor  
 Stephen Kegler  
 Peter Kochenburger  
 Alexander Marcellino  
 Antonia Moran  
 Virginia Raymond  
 William Ryan  
 Elizabeth Wassmundt  
 Matthew Hart, Town Manager

Email the School Board at [MBOE\\_BOE at mansfieldct.org](mailto:MBOE_BOE@mansfieldct.org).

## Mansfield Board of Education

Mark LaPlaca, Chair  
 Randall Walikonis, Vice Chair  
 Susannah Everett  
 Martha Kelly  
 John Fratiello  
 Sarah Lacombe  
 Katherine Paulhus  
 Jay Rueckl  
 Carrie Silver-Bernstein  
 Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent

## Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

*Here is what a person who owns a median valued single family home will pay:*

- Education \$3,163
- Town-wide, Capital Contribution, Debt Service, Fund Balance Reserve \$563
- Public Safety Operations \$359
- Government Operations (including energy & building maintenance) \$237
- Community Services & Development Operations \$218
- Public Works Operations \$209
- **TOTAL \$4,749**



### Capital Fund

The Capital Fund includes \$200,000 for repairs to school facilities and an additional \$200,000 for educational technology needs. Other major capital projects include: transportation projects such as roads, bridges and walkways; Public Works and Public Safety replacement equipment; and the Mansfield Tomorrow planning grant.

The Capital and Nonrecurring (CNR) Fund is used to transfer revenues between funds. The CNR Fund is primarily used for capital and one-time expenditures. The planned uses for the CNR Fund are: capital needs (Capital Fund); technology needs (Management Services Fund); Compensated Absences Fund (last year).

Capital Fund	
Planned Expenditures	
Community Dev. Projects	\$4,495,320
Public Works Projects	\$ 754,500
Public Safety Projects	\$ 506,000
Facilities (Town & schools) Projects	\$ 420,000
Education Technology	\$ 200,000
Community Svcs. Projects	\$ 128,200
General Government Projects	\$ 95,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,599,020</b>

### Storrs Center Provides Revenue

How are my taxes impacted by Storrs Center? The Storrs Center development is generating revenue for the General Fund. Storrs Center revenues exceed Storrs Center related expenditures. Tax revenue generated from the Storrs Center development lessens the burden on residential taxpayers to fund municipal services. The net gain to the General Fund in 2014/15 is estimated at \$209,620. Without Storrs Center revenues, the tax rate would have increased 1.6% to 28.39 mills. With Storrs Center revenue, the tax rate will remain flat at 27.95 mills. For the median valued home, your tax bill would have increased to \$4,823 without Storrs Center revenue. Storrs Center revenue will save the median valued home \$74 in taxes. The net gain to the General Fund from Storrs Center tax revenue will only continue to increase as additional phases of the development are completed and the tax abatement on the initial phase ends in six years.

### Our Budget Is Affected By the General Assembly

Why are state revenues to Mansfield in flux? In developing his proposed budget during January-March, the Town Manager relied on the Governor's proposed budget. Since that time, the General Assembly Appropriations Committee has increased state aid to Mansfield by approximately \$872,530 for FY 14/15. More recent estimates show state aid to Mansfield at \$18,654,009. However, due to concerns regarding the state budget, this budget proposes an increase of approximately \$452,000. The General Assembly won't vote on the Appropriations Committee budget until the first week in May. State aid will impact the mill rate necessary to support the Council's adopted budget; if state aid to Mansfield increases a lower mill rate will be needed but if state aid decreases a higher mill rate will be needed.

Get the electronic edition of the **Mansfield Minute** every month! Subscribe via [mansfieldct.gov](http://mansfieldct.gov) by clicking on the Email Notifications tab on the left hand side of the page. Paper copies are also available at Town Hall, the Library, the Community Center, and the Nash Zimmer Transportation Center.



INSERT NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT

Town of Mansfield  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06268



**Mayday!  
Mayday!  
Mayday!  
Sign Up Now!**

Make sure you register for  
**Mansfield's Emergency Notification System.**

Emergency Alerts ~ Road Closures  
Weather Watches ~ and other local info!

**System-wide test to be conducted on June 4th.**

Visit [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov) and click on the  
CodeRED logo to learn more.



## Important Budget Dates



### Regional District 19 Annual Meeting on Budget

Monday, May 5, 7 PM  
E.O. Smith High School  
Media Center

### Regional District 19 Budget Referendum

Tuesday, May 6

The voting hours will be from 6 AM to 8 PM  
All voting will take place in Council Chamber  
at Mansfield Town Hall.

### Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration

Tuesday, May 13, 7 PM  
Mansfield Middle School Auditorium



# May Events and Activities in Mansfield



## Mansfield Public Library

### **Healthy Living –**

#### **A Time For Change**

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 PM

Spend an hour with certified holistic health coach and personal trainer Mary A. Hurley as she walks you through key steps to create your specialized plan for sustainable, realistic change.

#### **Treasure Chest of After-School Fun**

Tuesday, May 13, 4-5 PM

This year's Quiet Corner Reads author Ann Hood writes children's books featuring time travelling siblings who find a treasure chest full of history!

All ages welcome

#### **Annual Plant Swap**

Saturday, May 17, 3 PM

Meet other gardeners, share information and swap plants! Bring in one plant or many (labelled, please!) in a container you are willing to give away

#### **Horsebarn Hill Series Artist Reception**

Thursday, May 22, 5-7 PM

Come enjoy a month long display of works by Blanche Serban, a local painter whose work combines elements of abstract expressionism with impressionism.

#### **FGM from A to Z**

May 27, 7 PM

An Alphabetical Introduction to the [Florence Griswold Museum](#) in Old Lyme. Their mission is to foster the understanding of American art, with emphasis on the art, history, and landscape of Connecticut.

## Senior Van Trips

Call 860-429-0262 to register.

### **Ringling Brothers Circus**

Friday, May 9

Admission is \$13.

Lunch at Vernon Diner at your expense. Van leaves at 9AM, returns 4PM. Sign up by 5/6/2014.

### **Magic Wings Butterfly Museum**

Tuesday, May 13

Admission is \$11. Lunch at Kringle Candle, at your expense.

Van leaves at 9AM, returns 4PM.

Sign up by 5/9/2014.



## Mansfield Community Center

### **Family Fun Nights**

Saturday, May 10, 4:30-7:30 PM

Saturday, May 31, 4:30-7:30 PM

There are giant inflatables in the gym and pool, ping pong, Tot Toys, Puzzles, Drop-In Games, open gym, the fitness area is open for kids ages 12 and 13 with their parents, poolside basketball and more! No sign-up required.

### **Parents' Night Out**

Saturday, May 17, 3-7:30 PM

Drop off your children (grades K-5) for an evening at the Community Center for staff supervised fun including games, crafts, and age-appropriate movie in the arts & crafts room. Lots of fun for the kids and free time for parents. Pizza and beverages will be served. Space is limited so register early.  
\$20 per child for residents (\$40 max per family)  
\$30 per child for non-residents (\$60 max per family).

## Mansfield Senior Center

### **Enjoy A Special Evening**

Thursday, May 8, 5 PM

Come to our Pasta Dinner followed by entertainment by Frank Pendola, The Troubadour. Register and pay \$5 by May 5. Please call 860-429-0262 ext. 4 for more information.

### **Positive Aging**

Friday, May 9, 10 AM

**Strengthening Your Social Portfolio.** Similar to having a balanced financial portfolio where diversification protects investments, having a diversified social portfolio ensures that individuals remain engaged no matter what changes they may experience.

No registration required.

### **Care Givers Support Group**

Thursday, May 15, 6:30 PM

For people who are impacted by the responsibilities of caring for someone. Call 860-429-0262 ext. 4 for more information.

### **Special Picnic Lunch**

Friday, May 16, Noon

Steak Burger, potato salad, coleslaw, dessert & drink for \$5. Sign up and pay by May 8.

### **Storrs Farmers Market**

opens its 20th outdoor season on Saturday, May 3. The market is located in front of Town Hall every Saturday from 3 to 6 PM from May through Thanksgiving. For more information and to sign up for weekly e-newsletters, please visit

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

Storrs Farmers Market is open rain or shine.





## New! A Seed Library For Local Gardeners

Visit the library to plan your summer garden! Our mission is to help nurture a thriving community of gardeners and seed savers. In addition to providing access to free seeds, we hope to help support gardeners and seed savers, from beginner to expert, through the process of growing, harvesting, and seed saving.

The Seed Library is about...

- Encouraging our community to dig in and garden,
- Educating our community about growing, harvesting and saving seeds,
- Creating a community-sustained seed collection,
- Nurturing a culture of sharing and abundance.

At harvest time, please take some extra steps to save seeds for others. Bring back some of the seeds you save from the strongest, tastiest, and most vigorous plants to the Seed Library to keep it self-sustaining. So.....stop in, have a look, "borrow" some seeds, grab a brochure and helpful handouts and start your gardening adventure!



## Green Mansfield

A few years ago, the Town joined a challenge to reduce the environmental impact of the electronic equipment used in its operations. Since then, the electronics we purchase are highly efficient and durable, kept in circulation longer, reused, and then recycled. So how have we done?

- In 2013, all electronics purchases qualified for the highest Electronics Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) rating, meeting criteria that address reduction/elimination of toxic materials, energy conservation, product longevity, design for end of life recycling, packaging reduction/recyclability and more.
- Our equipment lifespan ranges from 60 to 96 months, compared to an industry average of 48 months. The longer equipment is in use, the smaller the environmental footprint.
- When equipment becomes obsolete for one department, it gets passed along to another department. When the equipment can be used no more, it is recycled by a certified electronics recycler.
- Thanks to our IT department for their hard work helping to keep Mansfield green! And we save money too...

## Square Fair!

Here's a great opportunity to visit Storrs Center, have dinner with friends, and browse booths presented by talented local artists and makers. The Square Fair will be held in Dog Lane until our new Town Square is completed. Then guess where it will be!

The Square Fair will be held from 5 PM to 9 PM on the fourth Friday of each month from May through September: May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, and September 26, 2014. This event is free and open to the public. Rain cancels.

The Square Fair is hosted by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership.

To keep up with Square Fair, "like" us on facebook

([www.facebook.com/SquareFair](http://www.facebook.com/SquareFair))

or follow us on

Twitter ([www.twitter.com/SquareFair](http://www.twitter.com/SquareFair)).

Information is also available on the Downtown Partnership website

([www.mansfieldct.gov/DowntownPartnership](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/DowntownPartnership)).



## The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center

celebrated its grand opening last month. U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, State Senator Donald Williams, State Representative Gregg Haddad, and State Representative Linda Orange were in attendance. All gave positive remarks regarding the development of Storrs Center and the transit possibilities that the new Transportation Center provides.



You are invited to take advantage of the amenities offered at the Nash-Zimmer, including:

- Waiting area for UConn, WRTD, Peter Pan buses
- Live GPS and bus schedule information
- Public restrooms and WiFi
- Informational brochures for transportation options
- A touch-screen kiosk filled with local information

The Town is thrilled to invite residents and UConn students to take advantage of the convenience that the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center provides.

Located in Storrs Center, the Nash-Zimmer provides a convenient bus stop to riders, just steps from new local shops and restaurants. When future phases of Storrs Center are complete, the Nash-Zimmer will be right in the middle of the new development.