



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE OCTOBER 2014

www.mansfieldct.org

- *Town Hall will be closed on Monday, Oct. 13, for Columbus Day.*
- *Mansfield Town Council meetings held at the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building are available for viewing live online at <http://townhallstreams.com/locations/mansfield-ct>*
- *Channel 191 (formerly Channel 13) is Mansfield's local government access station. Programming alternates between an informative message board and broadcasts of some of our public meetings.*
- *Notice something unusual going on? Call the Resident State Trooper's Tip Line at 860-429-3370.*
- *Sign up for [CodeRed](#) alerts.*



Election Day is November 4, 2014

The offices on the ballot include Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, Registrar of Voters and Judge of Probate to fill a vacancy.

There are also two questions on the ballot:

The first is a **statewide constitutional amendment** regarding removing restrictions concerning absentee ballots and permitting a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on Election Day.

The second is a local referendum question which reads **"Shall the Town of Mansfield appropriate \$9,000,000 for the Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project, and authorize the issue of bonds, notes and other obligations to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed from grants (estimated net project cost of \$6,000,000)?"**

Voting will be in all four polling locations and the polls will be open from 6 AM to 8 PM. A list of voting districts by street is available on the Registrars of Voters page of the Town's website (mansfieldct.gov). Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office beginning Oct. 3.

Property owners who are qualified to vote on the referendum question may do so by appearing on Election Day at the Registrars of Voters office in the Audrey P. Beck Building at 4 S. Eagleville Rd. Voters who are not registered to vote but who wish to register on Election Day should report to the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building at 4 S. Eagleville Rd.

Fire Safety

October is National Fire Prevention Month

Protect your family by taking these few simple steps.

- Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and CO detectors.
- Develop a home escape plan and practice it often.
- Get your chimney/furnace/woodstove cleaned and be sure to properly discard ashes/coins.
- Take 20 minutes to complete a home self-inspection checklist on the fire marshal's document page at mansfieldct.gov.



Sound Fiscal Management Means Savings for the Town

Fiscal Year 13/14 provided some financial challenges as well as financial opportunities. Snow removal, police overtime, and fee waivers exceeded the budget by approximately \$140,000. The Town placed a spending freeze on discretionary purchases (such as regional conferences, non-critical equipment, furniture or supply purchases, etc.), and the savings covered all but \$51,010 of these costs. Higher than expected income from prior year tax collections covered the

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Sound Fiscal Management, cont.

remaining balance.

Other revenue sources, primarily State grants and payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT money), came in higher than expected, giving the Town the opportunity to not only increase fund balance, but to also pay for five capital projects that were originally adopted as bond funding. A total of \$904,540 in debt issuance was avoided by using these resources, saving the town bond issuance costs and interest costs. We were able to purchase an ambulance, large dump truck, and a small dump truck, as well as fund engineering costs for the Four Corners sewer project and expenses related to the four school renovation project with these additional revenues *without borrowing any money.*

The Town's Fund Balance reserve increased by \$493,047: from \$2,823,216 to \$3,316,263. This was the fourth year of a multi-year plan to increase fund balance to reach the 10-15 % threshold recommended by rating agencies. Our current balance represents a 7.1% reserve. Since 2009, we have increased our Fund Balance reserve by 82%.

Fund balance is a measure of the Town's capacity to withstand

financial emergencies or to undertake unforeseen but necessary projects. Rating agencies place special emphasis on fund balance when assigning bond ratings to municipalities and view adequate fund balance as an indication of sound financial management.

Both of these accomplishments – paying cash for capital projects and increasing our fund balance will be viewed very favorably by the rating agencies. Currently Mansfield's bond rating is Aa2 (high quality and very low credit risk). In 2011, a Moody's review confirmed this rating and advised that an increase in fund balance would put an upward push on our bond rating. The better our bond rating, the lower the Town's cost to issue debt.

SHARING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

Everyone is aware of the rising costs of living today. Many of us can adjust our budgets, but for some local families, adjusting means not enough money to go around. For some, "extras," like special food and gifts for your children for the holidays are not possible. If you are a Mansfield resident and find yourself in that position this year, Human Services has a program to help. Call 860-429-3315 or stop at our office at the Town Hall to find out if you qualify for one of our holiday giving programs.

Want to help?

Call the number above or email HumanServ@mansfieldct.org

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.
- Don't waste time saving property.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Once out, STAY OUT.

In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 370,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,910 injuries, 2,520 deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

New Town Staff Members

Mark Holland has joined our staff as a temporary part-time housing inspector. Mark is a recently retired Firefighter/EMT with UCONN's Fire Department where he spent time conducting inspections.

Stephanie Huber is our new Aquatics Recreation Supervisor. Most recently Stephanie has been the Aquatics Director for the Farmington Valley YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit.

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



Halloween Happenings...

Halloween Play In

Community School of the Arts Suzuki students
Saturday, Oct. 18, 2 PM, Library
Please come for an afternoon of wonderful music and spooky fun and games! After the concert there will be some fun games and musical trivia. Welcome to all.

Halloween-Bit Early

Saturday, Oct. 18, 3:30 -7:30 PM, Community Center
Make a craft, play a game, and maybe take over the Teen Center! Wear a costume if you'd like. Pizza will be served. For kids in grades K-5.

Family Halloween Party



Friday, Oct. 24, Library, for all ages.
Party in the Library 6-8 PM and
Mr. Magic's Halloween Show in the Auditorium at 6:15 & 7:15 PM (tickets required).
There's plenty of magical and spooky fun to be had! Enjoy the party in the Library, with crafts, the All-Seeing-Eye Fortune Teller, the Googly Eye Hunt, Feed-the-Monster, Ghost Bowling and more! Plus Mr. Magic's Halloween Show in the auditorium. If you'd like to attend the magic show during the party, please call the Library or drop in to pick up your free tickets in advance. Please select 6:15 (party after the show) or 7:15 (party before the show). No tickets or sign up necessary if you're only coming to the party.

Dracula



Presented by E.O. Smith Drama Club
Friday, Oct. 24, 7:30 PM
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2 & 7:30 PM
E.O. Smith Auditorium
Tickets: \$8, \$7 for students & seniors.
Full of suspense, action and hair-raising scenes, Dracula is a perfect way to usher in Halloween – and audience members dressed as zombies will get \$1 off the ticket price! For ticket reservations (not required), call 860-429-2179.

Trick-A-Trunk

Saturday, Oct. 25, 5- 6:30 PM, Community Center
Come dressed up or come and hand out treats!

Trick or Treating in Storrs Center

Saturday, October 25, 4 -5 PM
Come and visit downtown businesses for treats!

Tweens and Teens! Come carve a pumpkin with us!

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2-3:30 PM, Library, for ages 11-19.
Drop in to design & carve a jack-o-lantern to bring home. Come early, supplies limited! Free.

Walktober Events in Mansfield

Exploring Mt. Hope Park



Sunday, Oct. 5, 1:00 PM — 1 mile walk, 2 hours
Meet at Mt. Hope Parking Lot on Route 89.
Hike through forests and field, around a beaver pond and along a river to see wildflowers, birds, insects and beaver activity. Flat terrain, but can be wet.
Sponsored by: Mansfield Parks Advisory Committee.

Mansfield Hollow Dam Tour



Saturday, Oct. 4, 1:30 PM
141 Mansfield Hollow Rd.
Tour the dam's gate house operating structure and learn about the history of the dam and how it works today to reduce flood damage. Note: There are a lot of stairs on this tour. Sponsored by U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers.

Games in the Woods at Dunhamtown Forest



Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 AM — 1 mile, 1.5 hours
Park on Mansfield City Rd.
Bring the kids! We'll play camouflage, looking for things that are "hidden" in plain sight. Halfway along, we'll start a new game. There will be prizes!
Sponsored by: Mansfield Parks Advisory Committee.

Between a Rock and a Marshy Place



Sunday, Oct. 26, 1 PM — 2 miles, 2 hours
Park on Wolf Rock Trailhead, Crane Hill Road.
Climb to Wolf Rock and enjoy a spectacular view. Then explore the Sawmill Brook Preserve, identifying trees, birds, and wildflowers. Be prepared for wet spots depending how busy the beaver has been.
Sponsored by: Mansfield Parks Advisory Committee.

Mansfield Pup Crawl



Saturday, October 18
9:30 AM – 11 AM
Meet on the Town Square, rain or shine!
Bring your puppies for a walk — approximately 1.7 miles. Fun for all ages and sizes of your 2- and 4-legged friends. Pre-registration is not required. There is a suggested donation of \$20 to benefit the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter.
For more info, contact the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (860.429.2740 or mdp@mansfieldct.org)

There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch. Robert Brault



October Events and Activities in Mansfield



Parks and Recreation

Healthy Living Seminars

Monday, Oct. 6, 6 -7 PM
Optimizing Learning for
Youngsters, Brain Nutrition
& Anti-Nutrition

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6 -7 PM
Simple Ways to Ensure
Healthier Skin at Every Age.

Monday, Oct. 20, 6 -7 PM
Brain Nutrition, Anti-Nutrition,
and Staying Sharp through the
Decades.

Fall Family Fun Night

Saturday, Oct. 4, 4:30 -7:30 PM
No fee for members,
non-members pay the daily fee.

Recreation Rescue

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 - 5:30
Open to grades K—8 at the
Mansfield Middle School.
Games, crafts and free play plus
a Field Trip to be announced.

Senior Van Trips

Call 860-429-0262 ext. 0
for more information and to
register for these popular trips.

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Buell's Orchard &
Coriander's Cafe

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Luncheon & Show at Old
Sturbridge Village Theater

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Eat, Drink & Be Scary!
Halloween in Salem, MA.



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

Mansfield Public Library

Prudence Crandall's Legacy

Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 PM
Senator Donald E. Williams Jr.
discusses the life and work of
Prudence Crandall, her unique role
in the fight for civil rights, and her
influence on legal arguments for
equality.

Reel to Real

Monday, Oct. 6, 1 – 3:30 PM
What is love? Explore what the
word love can encompass through
viewing an award winning film.



Becoming Josephine

Thursday, Oct. 9, 7 PM
Heather Webb discusses her first
historical novel about the life and
times of Josephine Bonaparte set to
the backdrop of the tumultuous
French Revolution

Brainy Blocks

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1:30 - 3 PM
No school today, but lots of fun
for kids with blocks & puzzles!

Writing. You call this work?

Thursday, Oct. 23, 7 PM
Denis Horgan tells the story of his
fascinating days as an Army officer
during the war in Southeast Asia,
and as editor of an English
language newspaper in Thailand.

Story Times

We'll help your child develop a
lifetime love of reading!
Family Storytime meets every
Saturday 10:30-11:30. All ages.

Wonderful Wednesday meets every
Wednesday 10 :30-11:30. All ages.

Toddler Time meets every Friday
10:30-Noon. Birth-36 months.

Mansfield Senior Center

Flu Clinic

Thursday, Oct. 2, 1 - 3 PM
Sponsored by VNA East. Please
bring your insurance card.

FoodShare Distribution
Oct. 2, 16 & 30, 11:30–12:15 PM

If you have a need for food,
stop by. Thanksgiving Turkey
applications available, call
860-429-3315 for details.

Craft Show

Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 AM - 2 PM
Come see local artists and their
offerings, just in time for
Holiday shopping.

3rd Annual Health Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 1 - 3:30 PM
Free B/P & Oral Health
Screenings, as well as Nutrition &
Pharmacy Counseling. Massage
and reflexology session with
Deb Turner; 25 minutes for \$15.
Free giveaways!

Third Wednesday

Wednesday, Oct. 15, noon.
Bistro lunch and entertainment by
the vivacious and talented Ashly
Cruz. \$5, pay by October 13.
860-429-0262 ext 4.

Fall Festival

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1 - 4 PM
An afternoon of Stories, by
renowned local storyteller
Carolyn Stearns. Come and enjoy
games, music and apple pie. Cost
is \$2. Register by October 22.



Look inside
for
Halloween fun!