



# THE MANSFIELD MINUTE DECEMBER 2014

*www.mansfieldct.org*

- *Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.*
- *Town Hall will be closed on January 1, 2015 for New Year's Day.*
- *Channel 191 is our local government access station. Local info and certain public meetings are broadcast there.*
- *Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be held on Dec. 13 and 20 in the Buchanan Auditorium at the library.*
- *Winter Parking Ban is now in effect.*
- *Download free ebooks, music, magazines, comics and movies from the library's [web site](#).*
- *The Town Clerk's office has a Notary Public for your convenience.*
- *The Human Services Department maintains a food pantry to help those in need. Call 860-429-3315.*



## **Four Corners Project: Next Steps**

Voters on November 4th approved, through referendum, general obligation bonds for the Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project. This project is proposed to encompass approximately 500 acres near the intersection of Routes 44 and 195, known as Four Corners.

The project cost, totaling approximately \$9,000,000, will be paid for with a state grant, sanitary sewer assessments, and funding from the town. In addition, town staff have prepared a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for a maximum award amount of \$500,000 to help lower project costs.

The next steps for the project include finalizing design, appraising easements, negotiating with property owners for easements, working with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) to establish grant requirements, and bring the project to bid.

Four Corners has been a center of commercial activity since 1808; however, progressive deterioration of many buildings and landscapes in the area has occurred over the last 50 years. For over 40 years, the town has recognized the Four Corners area as one of three primary commercial centers beginning with the adoption of its first Plan of Development in 1971. The 2006 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) encourages higher density residential and commercial uses in areas with existing or potential sewer, public water and public transportation services such as Four Corners.

While Four Corners is one of a few limited areas identified in the POCD as appropriate for higher density mixed use development, the area has been unable to achieve this vision due to inadequate supplies of water and inadequate sanitary sewage disposal due to a high groundwater table and unsuitable soils for long-term use of on-site septic disposal systems for businesses. The lack of public water service is being addressed through the construction of a new water main by the CT Water Company. This project will add the second piece of the equation: approximately 21,700 linear feet of sewer piping (which includes the collection system, a trunk sewer and a force main to the University of Connecticut's wastewater treatment plant), two submersible pump stations (Jensen's and Willard's), and related equipment and appurtenances. With water and sanitary sewers installed, the Four Corners area will have the ability to reach its potential as a vibrant and economically successful commercial gateway to Town.

## TOWN OF MANSFIELD Election Results

The Town conducted the Special and State Election on November 4, 2014. Turnout results include:

- All four voting districts reported a steady flow throughout the day.
- A total of 5,704 persons cast their votes, resulting in a 48% turnout for the Town.
- Districts 2, 3 and 4 averaged a turnout of 66%.
- The electors of the Town voted to approve the proposed changes to the Connecticut Constitution and the Four Corners Sewer Project.
- 388 residents took advantage of the newly mandated Election Day Registration (EDR) process. EDR allows qualified residents of a Town to register and vote on Election Day.

### Congratulations!

A Life Safety Achievement Award was presented to the Fire Department by the National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research & Education Foundation for its accomplishments and continued excellence in fire prevention and life safety programs for the community.

### 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



## Mansfield Community Playground Update

*Community support has been overwhelming!*

It is exciting to report that \$370,000 has been raised or committed for the [playground](#) so far. Community support for this project has been overwhelming! 369 individuals and 89 local businesses have contributed; there have been 260 fence pickets and 110 hand-print tiles sold, and 21 fundraising events in addition to generous grants from the Jeffry P. Ossen Family Foundation, the Windham Area Women & Girls Fund, and a grant from the State Bond Commission.

This Fall, a detailed site design and estimated costs were prepared for locating the playground to the west of the Community Center. The estimated cost for preparing the site, including parking and access, is approximately

\$258,000. Yes, it is a daunting price tag, but the playground committee is working hard to find a way to get it



built. They are reaching out to local contractors for in-kind contributions. They are looking for additional grant funds, and continuing all of their other fundraising efforts.

The playground committee is an ad hoc committee of Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC). MAC is an early childhood

collaborative that works to ensure that all Mansfield children are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.

The playground committee has worked tirelessly since 2012, and they feel that they are in the home stretch. Raising the money is not the end of the journey, however. If you haven't heard, this will truly be a community-built playground. It will take approximately 800 volunteers over a 5-day period to build the playground. Many volunteers will be needed to help build (skilled AND unskilled!), check in volunteers, provide child-care, serve meals, and coordinate tools and materials. There are ways for everyone to help, even kids!



Before the build, committee members are needed to organize and prepare for the build week. If you are interesting in helping your community, and want to meet some amazing like-minded people, the playground committee would be a great fit!

To find out more about the project, or ways you can contribute or get involved, contact Maggie Ferron at [Maggie@mansfieldcommunityplayground.org](mailto:Maggie@mansfieldcommunityplayground.org).

Playground committee meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, usually at 7 PM at the town hall.

Interested? Join us!

To learn more about the playground, go to [www.mansfieldcommunityplayground.org/](http://www.mansfieldcommunityplayground.org/).



## The Winter Parking Ban is ON

The Town's winter parking ban is now in effect through April 15, between the hours of midnight and 6 AM. This includes the on-street parking on Storrs Road and Dog Lane. Cars that are found to violate the parking ban or impede plowing operations will be towed.

The Public Works Department also asks that bicycle owners refrain from leaving bicycles on sidewalks or the Town Square during snow storms or overnight. Questions? Call Public Works at (860) 429-3676.



## Winter Welcome at Storrs Center

Saturday, Dec. 13, 1-5 PM

Free and open to the public.

Takes place rain, snow, or shine.

Strolling carolers and musicians as well as open houses, promotions, and specials at participating Storrs Center businesses throughout the afternoon.



At 2 PM, Santa Claus arrives on a Mountain Dairy milk truck! Visit with Santa from 2-4 PM at the UConn Co-op Bookstore.

At 4 PM, join the E. O. Smith Chamber Singers on the Town Square for a sing-along.

## Efficient Home Heating Seminar

*Learn how to reduce costs, save energy this winter!*

The Mansfield Sustainability Committee is hosting a program on Efficient Home Heating on Thursday, December 11, at 7 PM at the town hall. Presented by Next Step Living, this seminar will focus on ductless mini-split systems. Ductless mini-split systems, also known as air-source heat pumps, are efficient heating and cooling systems that allow for room-by-room temperature control and can save homeowners up to 50% on their home heating and cooling costs, compared to electric, propane or oil heating and cooling.

Next Step Living is a leading provider of whole-home energy solutions. Please call Addison Weinstein at Next Step Living at 860.531.8333 for more information or to RSVP.

## Wireless Hot Spots

Did you know? The Public Library, Community Center, Town Hall, Senior Center, Wellness Center, and all six of the Schools are Free Wireless Internet Hotspots. Wireless coverage extends into the grounds of the Public Library, Community Center, and Town Hall as well.

## Bringing Home a Live Tree?

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house.



**Make sure your tree is fresh!** Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Bounce the tree trunk on the ground—if many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, dried out, and is a fire hazard.

**Don't let your tree dry out.** Don't place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly --take it to the transfer station.

**Careful what you put in the fire.** Never put tree branches, needles, or wrapping paper in a fireplace or wood burning stove.

**Maintain your holiday lights.** Inspect them each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

**Don't overload electrical outlets.** Don't link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. Don't leave lights unattended!

**Use Only Nonflammable Decorations** - All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

**Avoid using lit candles.** If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they can't be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.



# December Events and Activities in Mansfield

## Parks and Recreation

### **CSA Registration 2015**

Monday, Dec. 8 - Residents  
Friday, Dec. 12—Non residents  
Call Main Office 860-486-1073.

### **Fall Family Fun Night**

Saturday, Dec. 13, 4:30 -7:30 PM  
Friday, Dec. 29, 6:30 - 9:30 PM  
No fee for members,  
non-members pay the daily fee.

### **Holiday Crafts, Cookies & More**

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 AM-2 PM  
Pre-holiday fun with cookie  
decorating and crafts.  
Pizza lunch will be served.  
For kids in grades K-4.

### **New Year's Week Open House**

Sunday, Dec 28—Saturday, Jan 3  
Meet instructors, personal  
trainers and staff, take a tour,  
use the facilities for free!

### **Free Mansfield Days**

Wednesday, Dec. 31,  
9 AM-12 PM

Come and enjoy all the  
Community Center has to offer.  
Swim, shoot hoops, walk on the  
track. FREE for residents.

### **Storrs Winter Farmers Market**

Open twice a month from  
December through April. The  
Market is held from 3 to 5 PM  
in the Buchanan Auditorium  
at the library.

#### *2014-2015 Winter Dates:*

December 13 and 20  
January 17 and 31  
February 14 and 28  
March 14 and 28  
April 4 and 18.



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

## Mansfield Public Library

### **Easy Ornaments!**

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 4-5:30 PM  
Drop by after school and make  
some easy holiday ornaments.  
Free! No need to register.

### **Create A Gingerbread House**

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 –3:30 PM  
Parents! Bring your favorite  
tween or teen to the library  
and make a beautiful  
gingerbread house together.



Bring a box of graham crackers,  
and we provide the rest.  
Please register,  
supplies are limited. Free.

### **School Vacation Fun**

*We've got lots happening during  
school vacation week!*

### **Animals in Winter**

Monday, Dec. 29, 1:30 – 3 PM  
Listen to stories about animals in  
winter, try the animal tracks quiz,  
make a cozy bear in a cave craft.  
Stories at 1:30, crafts and  
activities from 2-3.

### **The Days Are Getting Longer**

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1:30 – 3 PM  
Listen to stories about  
light and sun, make a  
finger paint sun and a  
beaded sun ornament.



Stories at 1:30, crafts and  
activities from 2-3.

### **Goodbye Old Year, Hello New Year**

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 10:30 – 12  
Listen to stories about endings and  
beginnings, learn some New Year's  
traditions and make a countdown  
bag for your New Year party.

## Mansfield Senior Center

### **Blood Pressure Clinic**

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 11:30 AM  
The Herrmman Blood Pressure  
Clinic is available to those 55+ on  
a first come first serve basis.  
No cost and no pre-registration  
required.

### **Holiday Bazaar**

Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 AM –1 PM  
Toys, books, jewelry, handmade  
items plus attic treasures. Bake  
Sale, Silent Auction & potluck  
lunch



### **FoodShare Distribution**

Thursday, Dec. 11, 11:30–12:15

### **Annual Holiday Celebration**

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 12 PM  
Pot Roast & all the fixings. The  
Sparkettes and the Senior Center  
Chorus will entertain!  
\$5 fee. 860-429-0262 ext 4.

### **Countdown to Noon!**

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 10:30 AM  
Traditional Pennsylvania Dutch  
New Year's meal with the Dimin-  
utive Duo! Sparkling Cider Toast!

### **Senior Van Trips**

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

*Friday, Dec. 5*

Tour the Governor's Holiday  
Mansion. Lunch at Vernon Diner.

*Tuesday, Dec. 9*

Sturbridge Village Holiday  
Show & luncheon.

*Tuesday, Dec. 16*

Enjoy a shopping spree!  
West Farms Mall

