



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE

FEBRUARY 2015

www.mansfieldct.org

- *Town Hall will be closed Feb. 16 for Presidents' Day.*
- *Schools will be closed Feb. 16 & 17.*
- *Winter Farmers Market at the Buchanan Auditorium, Feb. 14 and 28, 3-5 PM.*
- *The town owns and operates 104.6 miles of roads, all two lane, 7.7 miles of which are unpaved.*
- *Residents may receive free bus passes for the WRTD bus service. You must show proof of identity with address. They are available at town hall, the library, and the senior center.*



It's Budget Time Again...

All citizens are welcome at the budget meetings which begin on March 30. We urge you to attend these sessions or to take time to read [budget information](#) that will be posted on the Town's web site: www.mansfieldct.gov.

Do you have a suggestion or comment on this year's budget? We'd like to hear it! Just fill out the [form](#) and click 'submit'.
(mansfieldct.org/forms/budget_suggestion.php)

Snow Removal Operations

Despite our recent blizzard, it's still early in the snow season.

Traditionally the snowier days are in our near future. The Department of Public Works snow removal operation had been activated for eleven storms through January 23rd. Last season we responded to 28 storms, 13 which occurred after January 23rd.

So far this season, a few of the storms did not have significant snow accumulation but did result in working long hours and a greater use of material on the road than one would expect. At least 3 storms oscillated between snow, rain and freezing rain resulting in road surfaces changing from wet to slippery then back to wet and then slippery again across a 12 to 18 hour period.

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Mansfield Tomorrow...

Two years ago we kicked off the *Mansfield Tomorrow* project by asking residents for their vision of the future. Your response helped shape a new plan to guide Mansfield over the next twenty years. The proposed *Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development* establishes a framework for conserving and enhancing the features that people cherish such as our rural character, natural resources, farms and open spaces, historic and cultural resources, and the services that contribute to a high quality of life. The Plan also addresses important issues in more detail than we ever have before, such as how to grow and diversify the town's economy to support desired community services and counter the impacts of reduced state revenues on the tax base; strategies to expand the range of housing options to meet the needs of residents of all ages, incomes and physical abilities; and improvements to our infrastructure that expand transportation options, conserve resources and direct growth to appropriate locations.

The Plan establishes a framework for future development while retaining Mansfield's rural character by directing new growth to a few, compact locations based on the Town's current Plan of Conservation and Development. Only 11% of the Town is designated as smart growth areas where new development is encouraged to locate. These areas include mixed-use centers at Storrs Center, Four Corners, North Eagleville/King Hill Road and the Route 195/Route 6 areas as well as UConn's main campus, new technology park and Depot Campus areas. The remaining 89% of the town has

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For a storm requiring immediate service everywhere in all areas of Town, the snow removal crew is made up of 20 people plus the Public Works Operations Manager. The Roads Division only accounts for 10 crew members, additional people come from the Grounds, Solid Waste and Equipment Maintenance Divisions. The snow removal operations involves the plowing of 100 miles of paved and 7.5 miles of unpaved Town roads, 7.2 miles of sidewalks or walkways and over 1 million square feet of parking lots, parking spaces, trail heads and fire pond access ways. The Town roads are divided into 8 plow truck routes. It takes a plow truck driver approximately 2.5 hours to complete one loop of their assigned route. So it is normal that a resident will only see the plow truck on their road 1 time in 3 hours.

This snow season, the Public Works Department is experimenting with treated salt as a road treatment in lieu of a sand/salt mixture that has traditionally been used for many years. Treated salt is the coating of traditional salt with a liquid that makes the salt more effective at melting snow

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

and breaking the bond between the pavement and the snow. It works faster, lasts longer, and is operational at lower temperatures. This season, one route has been using treated salt on all but a few storms. Mansfield is one of the few remaining Towns in Connecticut to use a sand/salt mix as a road treatment. Many Towns and cities as well as the State’s Department of Transportation stopped using sand/salt mix over five years ago.

Next year, snow season 2015—2016, pending budget approval, Mansfield will convert entirely to treated salt. While treated salt may be a little bit more expensive than a sand/salt mix on a ton to ton comparison, there are other costs involved when using salt/sand mix that treated salt does not incur:

- 1) Street sweeping of all the roads in Town takes much longer which translates into greater maintenance costs and fuel usage. The ability to sweep the roads faster will make personnel available earlier in the construction season to work on other jobs.
- 2) Treated salt dissolves and does not end up as sediment in a catch basin (storm drain) whereas with road sand there is material to remove from catch basins which means increased expenses in fuel, maintenance, and potential disposal costs.
- 3) Reduction in overtime and straight time used to re-apply sand/salt mix on roads after refreezing.

Mansfield Tomorrow... cont. from pg. 1...

been assigned a land use designation whose purpose is to conserve the existing rural character.

The plan is aspirational, but grounded in reality. Action plans identify hundreds of potential actions the Town can take to achieve the vision and goals; however, it also recognizes that our ability to implement those actions is controlled by the availability of financial resources. The Plan also includes elements meant to enhance the Town’s long-term fiscal sustainability by helping the Council and Town Manager to set priorities through the annual budgeting process.

Learn More About the Plan

On January 15th, the Department of Planning and Development kicked off a series of community information sessions with a televised presentation at Town Hall. This session can be viewed on-line anytime at mansfieldtomorrow.com or on Charter Cable Channel 191. The last meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 5th at 7 PM at the Middle School.

The draft plan is available for download at mansfieldtomorrow.com. Hard copies can be checked out from the Library, or viewed at the Community Center, Senior Center and Town Clerk’s Office.

See page 3 for ways to have your say about Mansfield’s future.





We Want to Hear from You

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd at 7 PM in the Town Council Chambers.

Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the hearing in the following ways:

Via email to mansfieldtomorrow@mansfieldct.org

Via mail to: Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission
c/o Department of Planning and Development
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268

Online: Use the link at mansfieldtomorrow.com to a digital copy of the plan that allows you to submit comments at the end of each chapter.

All written comments received by 4 PM on Monday, March 2nd will be provided to the Planning and Zoning Commission and included in the public hearing record. Oral testimony will be received at the public hearing starting at 7 PM. The public hearing will end after the last speaker has been heard. However, to ensure that the Commission is able to focus on the testimony being provided, the public hearing will stop at 11 PM and be continued to another night and time if there are more speakers than can be heard by then. The hearing may be closed earlier than 11 PM if all interested speakers have been heard.



**Town of Mansfield
Compost Bin Pre-Order Sale**

This spring the Town is offering residents the opportunity to purchase two different types of compost bins at a discounted price. The Town will purchase the pre-ordered containers through Signature Marketing out of Simsbury. Residents can save money because of a municipal bulk purchase price and avoided tax.

The pre-order sale begins February 1 and ends March 20. Checks must be received by March 20.

The composters should be available to pick up at the Town Hall by April 3, 2015.

For more information, call 860-429-3333 or e-mail waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.



The Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Storrs Center invite you to celebrate the season downtown during **Winter Fun Week!**

From Sunday through Saturday, Feb. 1-7 there are many different events for all ages and interests, from art exhibits to sporting events to musical performances.

Visit the Winter Fun Week [website](http://winterfunweek.wordpress.com) (winterfunweek.wordpress.com) to see the full listing of events – there’s something fun to do every day!



President’s Day Art Camp

Community School of the Arts
Monday, Feb. 16, 10 AM - 4 PM

Art, puppetry, singing, moving. BYO lunch.
Call 860-486-1073 for more information.

Organic Land Care Workshop Series

The town is offering a series of free workshops focused on landscaping techniques that reduce storm water pressure, pesticide, herbicide and synthetic fertilizer use and support a healthy environment around our homes.



Our first workshop will be:

Edible Landscaping

Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 - 11 AM, (snow date March 7)
Town Hall Council Chamber

Make your home landscape multi-task by including edible, but beautiful, plants. Deborah Lee, a UConn Extension Master Gardener Coordinator, will explain how to include edible trees, shrubs, perennials & annuals in your existing gardens. Register by Feb. 25.

Other workshops will include Organic Lawns (March 14), Rain Gardens/Rain Harvesting (March 28), Permaculture Gardens (April 11), and Backyard Composting (May 2).

To register, call 860-429-3333 or e-mail waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

And don’t forget — the library has a seed library for gardeners. Stop in when it’s time to begin planting for some organic seeds to grow and share!

February Events and Activities in Mansfield

Parks and Recreation



Annual Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance

Friday, Feb. 6, 7-9 PM

Rome Commons Ballroom
on the UConn campus

Spend an evening of dancing and fun with that special girl(s) in your life. Dress is semi-formal. Open for all daughters with their father figure. \$25 advance purchase for residents, \$35 at the door. Daughters are free.

Winter Family Fun Nights!

Friday, Feb. 27, 6:30-9:30 PM
at the Community Center.

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

Free Mansfield Day

Sunday, Feb. 8, 11 AM-2 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.

Parents'/Kids' Night Out

Saturday, Feb. 7, 3:30-7:30 PM

Drop the kids off for some supervised fun. Pizza and drinks will be served.

\$20 for Mansfield residents,
\$30 for non-residents.

Recreation Rescue

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7:30-5:30

For children in grades K-8, games, activities, field trip.



Mansfield Public Library

Valentine Crafts

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 4-5:30 PM

Drop in after school and make something sparkly for Valentine's Day!



Tween/Teen Cupcake Decorating

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2-3:30 PM

Bring in some unfrosted cupcakes and learn some cool decorating tricks. This program is free and drop in, but supplies are limited, so sign up between January 26th and February 4th to reserve your spot!

For people ages 11-19.

Blocks and Board Games

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1:30-3 PM

An afternoon of unstructured play for a school vacation. Build things with different kinds of blocks (Legos, Tinker Toys, gears), enjoy a variety of fun board games and sink your hands into some play dough. Come and enjoy some playtime!



How to be an Informed Investor

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2 PM

Before you invest, take time to think about your overall financial situation and investment goals. Learn why you should investigate before you invest and how to protect yourself from investment fraud and scams. Free and open to the public.

Family Storytime

Saturdays, 10:30 AM

Come enjoy stories, songs, finger plays and simple crafts.

Mansfield Senior Center

AARP Tax-Aid

Mondays and Wednesdays,
starting Feb 2.

Free service for local seniors. Please call 860-429-0262 ext 0. Morning and afternoon appointments available.

Blood Pressure Clinic

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 11:30 AM

This Blood Pressure Clinic is available to those 55 years of age and older on a first come first serve basis. There is no cost of the clinic and no pre-registration is required.

FoodShare

Thursdays, Feb. 5 & 19, 11:30 AM

Wrights Way back Parking Lot. No registration necessary. Please bring your shopping bags.

Valentines Day Luncheon

Friday, Feb. 13, 12 PM

Celebrate the love in your life & join us for a Special Valentines Day Luncheon. Cost: \$5.00. Call 860-429-0262 ext 0 to register.

Third Wed. MSCA Event

Wednesday, Feb 18, 12 PM

Special lunch with entertainer Ashly Cruz. Cost: \$5.00. Call 860-429-0262 ext 0 to register.

Senior Van Trips

Call 860-429-0262 ext 0.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Mark Twain House & Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Hartford

Friday, Feb 20

Hartford Flower & Garden Show

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Bay Path Culinary Institute

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

