



# THE MANSFIELD MINUTE MARCH 2015

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

- **Town Budget Presentation**, Monday, March 30, 6:30 – 9:30 PM, at the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- **Winter Storrs Farmers Market** at the library, Saturdays, Mar. 14 & 28, 3-5 PM.
- **K—8 schools are closed** March 16.
- **The Middle School presents Charlotte's Web** on March 27-29.
- **It's almost spring!** April vacation camp registrations are beginning; check out **Parks & Rec for Camp Mansfield** and **Ray Reid Soccer camp**.
- **Sign up for [Wowbrary](#)** and be among the first to learn about new books, movies, and music at the library!

### **Budget Meetings begin March 30.**

All citizens are welcome! 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](http://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](http://mansfieldct.org/forms/budget_suggestion.php)

### **UConn Master Plan: Mansfield's Response**

In December 2014, UConn released a draft of the proposed 20-year master plan for the Storrs campus. The Town's Conservation and Economic Development Commissions, as well as the Agriculture, Open Space Preservation, Sustainability, and Transportation Advisory Committees spent considerable time during the months of December and January reviewing the plan and identifying recommended changes on a variety of topics. The work done by these committees served as the foundation for the official comments submitted to the University by the Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission.

In its review, the Town commended UConn for several positive elements of the plan, including:

- A focus on infill development instead of expanding outward into the community;
- The preservation of open spaces and agricultural lands;
- The introduction of woodland corridors through campus;
- A commitment to housing 70% of undergraduate students on-campus;
- A strong emphasis on sustainability;
- The focus on multiple modes of transportation to reduce vehicle congestion both on campus and leading to campus;
- The identification of opportunities for additional housing and commercial development at the Depot Campus; and
- The potential for business growth in Mansfield as the university grows.

While the plan has many encouraging components, committees and staff also provided detailed comments on specific proposals and elements, including:

#### **Traffic and Transportation.**

We requested a stronger commitment to the use of alternative modes of transportation for staff and students commuting to campus and offered

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Public Works Update: Storrs Center Streetscape Extension**

 Construction of a new walkway heading south from the intersection of Rtes. 195 & 275 will be starting in the spring. It will begin at Hanks Hill Road and end at the Liberty Bank Plaza. A spur will head south on Flaherty Road from Route 195, ending at Storrs Heights Road. Pondview Construction, Inc. of Willington has been selected to construct the walkway, which should be complete in the fall. Questions? Please call Project Engineer Timothy Veillette at 429-3340.

UConn Master Plan... cont. from pg. 1

several suggestions. The Town will provide additional feedback on specific proposals after a comprehensive traffic analysis has been completed.

**Parking.** The plan includes an aggressive strategy to limit the amount of new parking on campus as part of its effort to increase use of transit, walking and biking connections to campus. University support of Town efforts to control parking off-campus will be needed if problems arise.

**Open Space Conservation.** We requested that additional details be provided on the future use and conservation of outlying parcels such as Spring Manor Farm, the Fenton Forest tract, the Agronomy Farm and Spring Hill as these areas provide significant ecological, agricultural and scenic value to the university and town.

**Agriculture.** Suggestions were made as to how to better integrate UConn’s agricultural past with its future given the importance of agriculture to state, regional and local economies.

**Sustainability.** UConn’s focus on sustainable initiatives provides opportunities for collaboration with the Town as we work toward our own sustainability goals as

identified in the draft Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development.

**Economic Development.** We encouraged UConn to continue to support the development of new businesses in commercial areas adjacent to campus and to expand local purchasing programs.

**Multi-Purpose/Hockey Arena.** We expressed the community’s opposition to the proposed location of the new arena at the intersection of Rtes. 195 and 275 and suggested alternative sites for consideration, including Depot Campus, North Campus and the area off Bolton Road near Fine Arts.

**New Roadway Connection between Bolton Road and South Eagleville Road.** This proposed road is a significant concern for residents in the Hillside Circle/Eastwood Road neighborhoods. Relocation of the arena may eliminate the need for this road; however, if the road is deemed necessary after a comprehensive traffic analysis, the alignment needs to be adjusted to provide a larger buffer to the neighbors. Consideration should be given to limiting access and use of the road.

**Residence Hall locations.** We requested that two sites identified as potential residence hall locations (Oak Hill Road and Horsebarn Hill Road) be removed from the plan given the impacts buildings would have on adjoining neighborhoods and scenic vistas.

**Expansion of Athletic Facilities.** We requested that the plans be updated to include event parking to minimize impacts of the expansion of sports stadiums on nearby neighborhoods.

**South Gateway District (Mansfield Apartments).** While the plan identifies this site as a potential location for the multi-purpose arena as well as housing, we suggested that preferred uses would be multi-family housing or mixed commercial/residential development compatible with Storrs Center and the natural setting of Moss Sanctuary.

**Depot Campus.** Suggestions for the redevelopment of the Depot campus included protecting agricultural and open space resources, preferred site for administrative uses and other non-student oriented facilities, and coordinating commercial components with the Town to minimize impacts on existing commercial centers.

**Bone Mill Road.** We advised UConn that Bone Mill Road is not appropriate as a campus gateway or connection to the Depot Campus given its narrow width and gravel surface. Needed changes to expand capacity would change the rural character and would not be supported by the Town.

We expect that UConn will be updating the draft plan over the next few months in response to comments. We will keep you posted on how the items identified above are addressed in the revised plan. More information on the plan can be found at

<http://masterplan.uconn.edu/>.

**Town Hall Hours:**

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

**Public Hearing: Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://mansfieldtomorrow.com) to a digital copy of the plan that allows you to submit comments at the end of each chapter.

Only written comments received by 4 PM on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be provided to the PZC for the hearing 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.

*If you can't make it to the March hearing, there will be another hearing on April 6.*

**Organic Land Care Workshop Series**

**Organic Lawns**

Saturday, Mar. 14, 10-11:30 AM (register by Mar. 11)  
Learn how to create a lush, healthy yard without the use of pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers from accredited organic land care professional Rick Brosseau of Milrick Lawn Service.

**Rain Gardens/Rain Harvesting**

Saturday, Mar. 28, 10-11 AM (register by Mar. 25)  
Explore the water resources on your property and learn interesting ways to use them. Learn about the benefits of rain barrels and how to create a landscaped rain garden from Jean Pillo, Coordinator for the Thames River Basin Partnership.



To register, call 860-429-3333 or e-mail [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).

**Assessment Appeals**

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold meetings at Town Hall on Tuesdays, March 3, 17 & 24 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM; Saturdays, March 7 & 21, from 9 – 12 and 1 – 4 PM. They will hear appeals on assessments for the October 1, 2014 Real Estate and Personal Property Grand Lists, as well as the October 1, 2013 Supplemental Motor Vehicle Grand List. If you want to file an appeal, please contact the Assessor's Office at 429-3311 or visit [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov) for more information.

**Compost Collection Containers Available**

Two gallon kitchen compost collection containers are available for \$16.00 through the Town. Since they were purchased in bulk, we can pass along a modest savings to you. Call 860-429-3333 or e-mail [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org) if you would like to purchase one.

**Kill-A-Watt Meters Available**

Inefficient appliances can be a significant contributor to your electric bill.

Kill-A-Watt meters are a useful tool for showing how much electricity an appliance uses. Simply plug it into the outlet and the appliance into the meter. The Town has Kill-A-Watt meters available for loan. To borrow one call 860-429-3333.



**Compost Bin Pre-Order Sale**

This spring the Town is offering residents the opportunity to purchase compost bins at a discounted price. The sale ends March 20, and all checks must be received by then. The composters will be available to pick up at the Town Hall in early April.

The *Garden Gourmet* bin is designed to hold a typical household's food scraps. The finished compost can be retrieved through the bottom door. The cost is \$52.



The *Green Cone* bin is an ideal compost container for those who want a way to compost food scraps (including meat and bones) but have no need for the finished compost. Required is a sunny spot with good drainage above the water table. The cost is \$92.

For more information, call Virginia Walton, 429-3333 or visit [www.mansfieldct.gov/trash](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/trash).

# March Events and Activities in Mansfield



## Parks and Recreation

### Winterium

#### An Exciting Musical Gala

Sunday, Mar. 8, 2-4 PM  
CSA will present a musical gala in the von der Mehden Recital Hall. Enchanting theatrical production that includes music, puppets, drumming, and movement!

#### Winter Family Fun Nights!

Friday, Mar. 13, 4:30-7:30 PM  
at the Community Center.  
Giant inflatables, ping pong, tot toys, puzzles, open gym & more!  
No registration is required.

#### Free Mansfield Day

Friday, Mar. 13, 6:30-9:30 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.

#### Recreation Rescue

Monday, Mar. 16, 7:30-5:30  
For children in grades K-8, games and activities. **The New England Air Museum** presents the story of aviation, the human genius that made it possible, and the profound effect that it has had on the way in which we live.

#### Parents'/Kids' Night Out

Saturday, Mar. 21, 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.

## Mansfield Public Library

### Music & Movement at Wonderful Wednesdays

Mar. 4, 11, 25, April 1; 10:30 AM  
We'll start with a musical story and continue on with half an hour of musical instruments, rhythm, singing and movement. There will be time after the class for casual play with instruments, as well as coloring and playdough.

#### What is Hospice Volunteering?

Thursday, Mar. 5, 6:30 PM  
Learn about the pioneers of hospice care, hospice's team approach to care, the individuals we serve, and the responsibilities of hospice volunteers. All are welcome.

#### Ireland to America

**Concert by Roger Tinknell**  
Friday, Mar. 13, 6:30-7:30 PM  
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this special concert of beautiful ballads and lively sing-alongs. Kids, you might even learn a little step-dancing! For school aged children and up, with no limit to the up. Adults, it's OK to come without kids, there's something for everyone in this program!

#### Seuss and St. Patrick

Monday, Mar. 16, 1:30-3:00 PM  
What do Dr. Seuss and St. Patrick's Day have in common? The color green! Come listen to *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* and enjoy crafts inspired by the color green and St. Patrick's Day. Make a green on green picture with crayons and paint, a sparkly shamrock painting, or create something out of "oobleck." All ages welcome.

## Mansfield Senior Center

### AARP Tax-Aid

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

### FoodShare

Thursday, Mar. 5 & 19, 11:30 AM  
Wrights Way back Parking Lot.  
No registration necessary. Please bring your shopping bags.

### Overdrive eBook & Audiobook Training

Tuesday, Mar. 10, 10 AM  
Learn how to download eBooks on your personal device. Peggy from the library will walk you through it, bring your device.

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Friday, Mar. 13, 12 PM  
Corned beef and cabbage meal.  
The Ringrose and Freeman Celtic musicians for entertainment. Cost: \$7.00, sign up by March 2.

### Third Wed. MSCA Event

Wednesday, Mar. 18, 12 PM  
Meatloaf meal and **Motion Man** for entertainment. Cost: \$5.00.  
Please call 860-429-0262 ext 0 to register by March 10.

### Senior Van Trips

Call 860-429-0262 ext 0.  
*Tuesday, Mar. 3*  
Timex Watch Museum,  
*Tuesday, Mar 10*  
New Britain Museum of Art  
*Wednesday, Mar. 25*  
Norman Rockwell Museum



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Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
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mansfieldct.gov 860.429.3336

