



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE APRIL 2015

www.mansfieldct.org

- *Town Hall will be closed on Friday, April 3.*
- **Eggstravaganza!**
To support the community playground. Sat., April 4, 1PM, Community Center. Bake sale, crafts, egg hunt, and a special bunny...
- *Winter Storrs Farmers Market at the library, Saturdays, Apr. 4 & 18, 3-5 PM.*
- *Mansfield Schools will be closed April 3 and April 13-17.*
- *Don't miss the Friends of the Library [Book Sale](#) on April 11 & 12.*
- *The Repair Café is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 10-2 PM at the First Cong. Church's Arnold Auditorium, 199 Valley St., Willimantic.*

Budget Meetings

All citizens are welcome at the budget meetings listed on page 3. 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'.



Enjoy Mansfield's Natural Beauty

As we emerge from this long winter into spring and celebrate the 45th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22nd, let's take a moment to appreciate Mansfield's natural environment.

In developing the [Mansfield Tomorrow](#) Plan of Conservation and Development Draft, we confirmed what many of us already knew: Mansfield residents value the natural beauty, nature-based recreation, clean air and water, diverse vegetation, and wildlife in our town. That is why many of us have chosen to live here. Our natural systems shape how people

experience Mansfield —where we live, what we preserve, what types of economic development we support, and how our community functions. Mansfield's natural systems offer numerous environmental, economic, and quality of life benefits. These resources also provide "ecosystem services" that supply clean air and water, control erosion and floods, create fertile farmland soils, support a diversity of life, and mitigate the impacts of a changing climate.

One way to sustain our natural environment and build support for its protection is to encourage people to go outside and enjoy it! Opportunities abound in Mansfield to connect with the natural world. Residents have access to over 5000 acres of nature-based recreational open space owned by the town, state, federal government, or Joshua's Trust. No matter where you live in town, you are within a mile of a publicly accessible park or preserve. The 37-mile Nipmuck Trail begins at two trailheads in southern Mansfield and ends at Nipmuck State Forest in Union. We also have over 30 miles of recreational trails on lands owned by the Town, Joshua's Trust, and UConn. In Mansfield you can get a close-up view of wildlife at the bird blind at the Commonfields or the observation platform at Sawmill

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Got smart? Get moving!

Use your smart phone and scan this QR code to download interpretive trail guides and maps of all our Town Parks and Preserves. No smart phone? No worries! Visit www.mansfieldct.gov/trailguides.

Beautiful Mansfield... cont. from pg. 1

Brook Preserve. Stroll on the wheelchair accessible path at Merrow Meadow, paddle on the Willimantic River using the wheelchair accessible launch at River Park, view an 18th century village and cemetery at Dunhamtown Forest, or take a 10 mile hike on trails starting at Fifty-foot Cliff Preserve and ending at lower Mansfield Hollow State Park.

Parks and Recreation will be offering some fun, educational events this spring. There will be a Star Party on April 24, Wildflower Walk at the Moss Sanctuary on May 2, and the CT Trails Day Walk at Fifty-foot Cliff Preserve on June 8. You can find more information about these and other events in the Parks and Recreation seasonal brochure or on our website at www.mansfieldcc.com.



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

It's in the (Trash) Bag... or is it?

Protecting our Natural Systems

The connection between the products we use and protecting natural systems may not be clearly obvious, but there is a connection. Imbedded in every product that we consume are natural resources like wood, metals, minerals, and petroleum (the source of most plastics) that needed to be cut down, mined or extracted from somewhere. Drilling for oil, mining minerals, harvesting wood are energy, water and land intensive processes that can disrupt, and in some cases, destroy natural systems. Okay, so we won't encounter an oil rig or a mine in Mansfield, but these extraction industries do happen in somebody's backyard.

According to the World Resources Institute, for every can of garbage at the curb, there are 87 cans worth of materials (yes 87!) that come from the extraction industries that transformed natural resources into finished products. I am not entirely sure how they arrived at that number, but the point I take from this number is that there are A LOT of resources that go into every single manufactured item. What I buy, how long I use it, in what manner I dispose of it (trash, recycle, repair or give it away) is connected to the health of the planet's natural systems.

With that in mind, before I throw something out my decision-making process goes something like this:

1. If the product is broken, I consider if it can be repaired. Vacuum

cleaner on the fritz? Off it goes for repair. Can't figure out how to fix a lamp? I will take it to the next [Repair Café](#) in Willimantic.

2. Can the item in question be passed along to someone else for use? I recently did a home remodel project and had some leftover sheetrock. Instead of throwing it out, I listed it on [Storrs Freecycle](#). Even though they were small-ish pieces, I quickly found someone happy to take them.

3. Obviously items like plastic newspaper bags are trash... or are they? By going to the town website, www.mansfieldct.gov/trash, I learn that plastic film, like grocery bags and dry cleaner bags, can be recycled by taking it to the transfer station or a local grocery store. The plastic film will be made into new products, displacing the need for drilled oil.

4. Can it be composted? About 30% of an average household's waste is food and other compostable items, like napkins and paper towels. Since all our trash is incinerated, isn't it crazy to burn up food scraps? You try lighting a fire with a banana peel! Don't know how to compost?



Attend the compost workshop that is scheduled for May 2, 10 to 11 AM at the Town Hall.

The beauty of this process is that I have very little trash, so not only have I taken action to protect something I value; I save money on my trash bill. Nice. ~Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling/ Refuse Coordinator



Summer is coming...help send a child to camp!

Donate to the Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund

Many parents in town have to make choices between paying for basic needs with limited funds and providing a summer experience for their children. Through generous donations from the community, the Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund enables local children, regardless of their economic status, to go to camp. Your donation makes a difference! If you would like to help send a kid to camp, please donate to this wonderful program. All contributions are fully tax deductible. Make your checks out to the "Town of Mansfield/Betsy Hamill Campership Fund" and mail them to:

The Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund
c/o The Mansfield Human Services Department
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268-2599

Organic Land Care Workshop Series



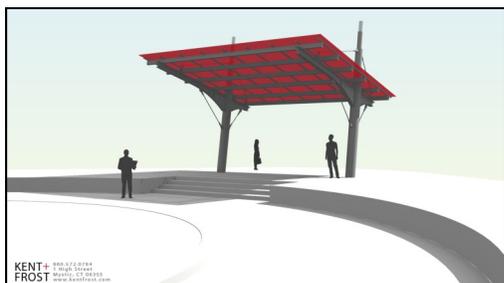
Permaculture Gardens

Saturday, April 11, 10-11:30 AM

Permaculture gardens use techniques and practices that combine the best of wildlife gardening, edible landscaping, and native-plant cultivation into one low-maintenance, self-contained and productive ecosystem. Learn how to apply permaculture techniques to your property from Will Hooper, a certified permaculture designer. Register by April 8. *To register, call 860-429-3333 or e-mail waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.*

Public Works Update

The Town Square Pavilion (see below) is scheduled for installation in April through fundraising efforts by the Downtown Partnership. The sidewalk at the corner of Royce Circle and Bolton Road Extension will be closed at times in April to install the Pavilion roof. The project is expected to be complete by the end of April. The rest of the square will remain open for all to enjoy.



KENT + FROST
ARCHITECTS
MANSFIELD, CT 06268
WWW.KENTFROST.COM

Town Budget Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in Council Chambers, Beck Building

Council Budget Review Workshop

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
General Government, Public Safety

Public Information Session

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Manager's Proposed Budget Review

Council Budget Review Workshop

Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Public Works, Community Services,
Community Development

Council Budget Review Workshop

Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Board of Education, Town Wide, Operating
Transfers, Capital Improvement Program

Public Hearing on Budget at

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, April 13, 7:30 PM

Council Budget Review Workshop

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Town Aid Road Fund, Parks & Recreation Program
Fund, Mansfield Discovery Depot, Other Operating
Fund, Debt Service Fund, Enterprise Fund

Council Budget Review Workshop

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Internal Service Funds, Cemetery Fund/Long Term
Investments, Eastern Highlands Health District Fund,
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Fund,
Supplementary Data

Adoption of Budget

(prior to regular Council Meeting)

Monday, April 27, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
If needed, a second meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 – 9:30 PM

Public Information Session

Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Town Council Adopted Budget

Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 PM
at Mansfield Middle School Auditorium



April Events and Activities in Mansfield

Parks and Recreation

April Vacation Camp

April 13-17, (grades K-8)
What do you do with the kids during vacation? Send them to camp! This popular program is held at the middle school from 7:30 AM-5:30 PM.

Activities include trips, games in the gym, drawing, Legos, and board games. There may be an arts and crafts project. You can find a flyer at the community center or distributed to the schools the 1st week of April.

Free Mansfield Day

Saturday, Apr. 11, 10-1 PM
Have you been wondering what all the excitement is about at the Community Center? Today, Mansfield residents find out for FREE.

Spring Family Fun Nights!

Saturday, Apr. 18, 4:30-7:30 PM
at the Community Center.
Giant inflatables, ping pong, tot toys, puzzles, open gym & more!
★ No registration is required.

Star Party

Friday, Apr. 24 7-9 PM
Dr. Cynthia Peterson will lead an evening of stargazing and exploration at the UConn Planetarium. Dress warm and bring your binoculars!

Registration required.

Tag Sale Trail

Saturday, Apr. 11, 8AM—1PM
A town-wide tag sale!
For more info, go to mansfieldcc.com

Mansfield Public Library

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, Apr. 11, 9AM-4PM
Sunday, Apr. 12, 9AM-3PM
Money earned from the book sale is donated to the library. You get a bargain, and help the library out at the same time. Feels good, eh?

The Juggling Connection with Jeff Smithson

Tuesday, April 14, 6-8 PM
Always wanted to learn to juggle?
6:00 to 6:30: Make your own beanbags, bring an empty plastic water bottle. instructions and other materials provided.



6:30 to 8:00: Learn to juggle, bring your own juggling equipment Ages 8 and up, call 860-423-2501.

Identity Theft: Protecting Your Financial Information

Tuesday, April 21, 3-4 PM
Michael Lentini from the CT Relations & Consumer Affairs Division will share tips on how to avoid identity theft and minimize your risk of becoming a victim.

Tax Free Investing

Wednesday, April 22, 2:30 PM
Come hear an overview of tax advantaged investing.

An Evening of Laughter with Andy Weil

Thursday, April 30, 7-8:30 PM
CT resident, long-time poet, funny man, musician, and certified die-hard cynic, reads his poems and entertains with stories on many topics.

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

Thursdays, Apr. 2, 16, and 30, 11:30 AM
Wrights Way back parking lot.
No registration necessary. Please bring your shopping bags.

Third Wed. MSCA Event

Wednesday, Apr. 15, 12 PM
Spaghetti and meatball meal at the senior center. Dessert and Entertainment at Juniper Hill. \$5.00. Please call 860-429-0262 ext 0 to register by 4/7.

AARP CARFIT Program

Saturday, Apr. 25, 9:30—1:30 PM
Appointments available. 12 point checklist with your vehicle. Offer Vehicle adjustments to make your car "FIT" better. Call 860-429-0262 ext 4.

Intergenerational Dinner

Monday, Apr. 27, 5 PM
Four-course Jamaican Meal prepared and served by UConn dietetic students, entertainment too! At E.O. Smith High School. Cost is \$8. Sign up by 4/20.

Senior Van Trips

Call 860-429-0262 ext 0.
Thursday, Apr. 9
Wadsworth Atheneum,
Monday, Apr. 13
Susan B. Anthony Museum
Adams, MA

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

