



# THE MANSFIELD MINUTE JULY 2015

*www.mansfieldct.gov*

- *Town Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3, in celebration of Independence Day.*
- *The first installment of personal property, real estate and motor vehicle tax bills are due on July 1. You have until August 1 to pay and avoid penalty interest.*
- *Mansfield Advocates for Children 5K Run to benefit the Community Playground! Saturday, July 18, 8—11AM at the E.O. Smith Track.*
- *Family Fun Night at Bicentennial Pond, Friday, July 24, 4:30—7:30 PM.*
- *Free WRTD bus passes are available at the library, senior center, human services, and town clerk's office.*

Enjoy  
Free Concerts  
at the  
Town Square  
all through July!

## Town Square — It's all happening here.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership celebrated the completion of the Town Square at a ribbon-cutting and dedication on Friday, May 29. The celebration marked the completion of a major civic achievement and the end of a unique decades-long effort.



The Town Square has played host to both planned and impromptu events over the last year. The [Celebrate Mansfield Festival](#) was held for the first time on the Square last September and will be held there again on September 20 from noon until 4 PM. This summer, the popular Live Music Wednesdays concert series moved to the Square. The [Funky Dawgz](#) will perform on July 1 from 6:30—8 PM. This series flows directly into the Parks and Recreation Department's summer concert series that will be held

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## Town Budget Means Lower Taxes For Many

On June 22, the Town Council adopted the FY 2015/16 Budget totaling \$38,444,120 by a vote of 8-1. The two most significant cost drivers of this budget were the price of medical insurance premiums and the loss of State aid to Mansfield. This budget preserves most services while limiting tax increases for most property owners. Due to increased costs charged by the state for the Resident Trooper program, the Town will reduce the number of full time Resident State Troopers from 10 to 6 during the summer months and will maintain 9 troopers during the academic year.

The mill rate required to support this budget is 29.87 mills or an increase of 1.92 mills. However, due to Revaluation where residential values saw a decrease and commercial values saw an increase, this tax rate increase was mitigated for most homeowners. In fact, the median homeowner will see a *decrease of \$89 per year*. Go to [www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/1936/2419/20150622\\_budget\\_adjustments.pdf](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/1936/2419/20150622_budget_adjustments.pdf) for details.

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for the first time on the Square. The concerts are scheduled for July 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 6:30—8 PM. See page 4 for more details.

As part of the week long [Puppeteers of America’s National Puppetry Festival](#), activities will be held on the Town Square on August 15. Several other groups are performing throughout the summer on the Square. Check out the Partnership’s downtown events calendar for more information at <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/DowntownEventsCalendar>

### ***A History of the Square***

When the Town began planning for the development of Storrs Center in the late 1990s, one of the first things people requested was a central gathering space. This request helped guide the plans for the downtown as they evolved. The 2002 Downtown Mansfield Master Plan supported this need by calling for a central civic space that would “foster public events.”

The Partnership and Storrs Center master developer LeylandAlliance continued to keep this key need in the forefront as the plans moved

from concept to design. The Municipal Development Plan for Storrs Center detailed more specific goals for a town square that would “. . .*have the character of a public outdoor room [and would] be a focus for the life of the community. People will want to go there, shop, work, meet, talk, and live. . . [The] square will be a key component of the public realm and a center of civic activity.*”

The Partnership and LeylandAlliance embarked on creating the *Storrs Center: Special Design District Design Guidelines*, which now serve as the zoning regulations for the downtown district. These guidelines more clearly defined the shape and size of the Town Square, with details on sidewalk widths, suitable landscaping elements, and appropriate types of street furniture.

In 2007, following three nights of public hearings, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the *SC: SDD Design Guidelines* and incorporated them into the Town’s zoning regulations.

The last step in the planning process was conducted by the Partnership over the course of the past two years. The landscape architecture firm Kent + Frost was selected, through a competitive process, to serve as the lead designer for the Town Square. Then, the Partnership reached out to groups of community stakeholders, including the Town’s Parks and

Recreation, Planning and Development, Police, Youth Services, and Senior Services Departments; the Town’s Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities; the Town Council; the Planning and Zoning Commission; the Garden Gate Club; Mansfield Advocates for Children; Storrs Farmers Market; E. O. Smith High School; downtown business owners; faculty and staff from UConn’s Landscape Architecture program and School of Fine Arts; the Partnership’s Board of Directors, Advertising and Promotion Committee, and Planning and Design Committee; and LeylandAlliance. The Partnership received input initially on the general wishes from stakeholders for this shared community space and then received feedback on the design from Kent + Frost as it progressed.

On September 17, 2013, the Partnership held a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed design by Kent + Frost. Following the hearing, the Town’s Director of Planning and Development granted the zoning permit for the Town Square.

With the well-vetted plans in hand, the Partnership oversaw construction through the fall of 2013 and early spring of 2014. The Town Square opened for public use in May 2014, although the design was not yet fully realized. With the installation of the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Pavilion roof; *Weaving Shuttle*, a sculpture by Connecticut artist David Boyajian; trellises; and lighting this spring, the Town Square is now complete.

<b>Town Hall Hours:</b>	
<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>

## Enjoy the Great Outdoors— At the Library!

*New spaces for you to explore.*



We have two new gardens, a story walk in the playground, wifi, and the Doris Davis Garden is getting refreshed with new plantings and chairs.

Explore our new Children's Garden and learn a bit of all a garden has to offer. We've planted veggies, a watermelon patch, flowers and more! Or stroll by the Butterfly Garden, created by students from Southeast Elementary, and enjoy the blooms that butterflies love. Walk around the playground and read *The Goblin's Story* with your family!

*Thank you to the Friends of Mansfield Library for generously funding the Children's Garden and all our [summer programs](#). Our thanks to Altrusa International and the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation for making the Story Walk possible.*

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## Register NOW for Emergency Notifications



If you haven't done so already, we urge you to enroll your contact information, including home and cell phone numbers as well as text and

email addresses by visiting the CodeRED [enrollment page](#) at [www.MansfieldCT.gov](http://www.MansfieldCT.gov). You must have a Mansfield home or work address in order to register. You can also specify your notification preferences at that time.

If you can't register online, call 860-429-3328 and town staff will help to complete your registration over the phone. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code and primary phone number. You can also enter additional phone numbers.

All Mansfield businesses should register, as well as all Mansfield residents who have unlisted phone numbers, or those who have changed their phone number or address within the past year. People who use a cell or VoIP phone as their primary number should also register so they will be in the system.

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## Mansfield History comes alive!

Don't forget our local gem, the [Mansfield Historical Society Library and Museum](#) is open weekends during the summer, 1:30 – 4:30 PM.



**Stop!**

**Look!**

**Listen!**

**Mansfield Library  
Express Coming to  
Storrs Center**

Mansfield Library Express is coming to the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center in July! This limited service library outpost will be a quick and convenient place to pick up items you have requested and return items you borrowed from the library. Take a bus, walk, drive your car, jump rope, ride a bike, or hop-along-in! It's all there for you at the Library Express.

How does Library Express work?

1. Request what you want via our [online catalog](http://lci-mt.iii.com/iii/encore/) (<http://lci-mt.iii.com/iii/encore/>).
2. We let you know when your items are ready for pick up.
3. Pick up your items at the Library Express! (and return them too!)

The Mansfield Library Express will open on Tuesday, July 14, and will be open Monday – Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Perfect for people who live or work in the Storrs area. You can start requesting items via the online catalog starting Friday, July 10. Visit the [Library website](#) for more details ([MansfieldPublicLibraryCT.org/library-express/](http://MansfieldPublicLibraryCT.org/library-express/)).

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## Public Works Storrs Center Streetscape Extension

Construction of the Storrs Center Streetscape Extension is moving forward. The contractor, Pondview Construction, Inc. has finished the tree cutting and widening of embankment along route 195 as well as decorative light bases. In the next few weeks the base material for the walkway will be placed. The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-October.

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## Celebrate the Glorious Fourth of July!

Nothing beats a parade, a picnic, a little swimming, and some fireworks to celebrate Independence Day. Nothing spoils the fun faster than someone getting hurt. Every year, many people are injured and fires are started by the unsafe or illegal use of fireworks — don't become one of them! Remember: **ONLY** sparklers and fountains are legal in CT and you have to be at least 16 years old to use them.

# July Events and Activities in Mansfield

## Parks and Recreation

### Summer Family Concerts

Thursdays, 6:30—8:00 PM

On the Town Square.

Rain or shine.



#### July 2: Radio Waves

Outstanding vocal performances combine with infectious grooves to give you the perfect blend of musical entertainment!

#### July 9: Kidsville Kuckoo Revue

The Singasaurus and his crew will delight audiences with their sing-along favorites..

#### July 16: The Kerry Boys

Dynamic and popular CT Irish Balladeers dazzle fans with humorous high-energy performances!

#### July 23 Windham Concert Band

Enjoy traditional band music including marches, overtures, and musical theater selections.

*All concerts free of charge.*

### Summer Family Fun Night

Saturdays, July 11 & 25,  
4:30-7:30 PM

Try the inflatable slide or use the Tot Toys in the gym, try a game of poolside basketball, stop in the Community Room to do a puzzle or play some board games.

No pre-registration required.



### Free Day at the Community Center

Wednesday, July 15, 6-9 PM

Whether you're new to the community center or have been here often, if you're a Mansfield Resident you can visit for FREE.

Town of Mansfield, Connecticut

Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268

[mansfieldct.gov](http://mansfieldct.gov)

860.429.3336

## Mansfield Public Library

### Agility Dogs Demonstration

Tuesday, July 7, 1:00 PM

Amazingly talented dogs!

### New England Drones

#### Family Demonstration

Wednesday July 8, 11 AM

Following plane stories at Wonderful Wednesdays storytime.

### Stonewall Apiary Beekeeping

Tuesday July 14, 2:30 PM

Learn all about beekeeping;  
sample some honey.

### Turtle Dance Music

Saturday July 18, 10:30 AM

Non-stop musical fun  
for young kids.

### Dancin' With Hoops

#### with Judi Ann Jones

Tuesday July 21, 2 PM

Hula hooping fun for everyone.

### Country Quilt Llama Farm presents "Hooked on Llamas"

Friday July 24, 1:00 PM

Learn all about llamas and  
meet a real llama.

### S.T.E.A.M. Ice Cream

#### with Carolyn Stearns

Thursday July 30, 1 PM

Winning combination of stories,  
science, math and ice cream.

### Storyfaces presents Hero Tales

Tuesday, July 28, 6:30 PM:

An amazing blend of art  
and story telling!

### Tween and Teen Programs

Wednesdays, 2:00—3:30 PM

July 1: Liquid Nitrogen Fun!

July 8: Brushbots

July 15: Candy Olympics

July 22: Comic Book Decoupage

## Mansfield Senior Center

### Shutdown Week is July 27-31

#### Lyme Disease Info

Thursday, July 9, 11 AM

Join us for an informative presentation on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease. Sponsored by Price Chopper.

#### FoodShare

Thursdays, Jul. 9 & 23

11:30 –12:15 PM

Wrights Way back parking lot.  
Please bring your shopping bags.

### American Revolution in CT

#### 2nd Summer Series Event

Friday, July 17, 5 PM

Oven Roasted Top Round of Beef,  
Baked Potatoes, Salad & Sundaes.  
Cavalry Life during the American  
Revolution. \$7 per person.

### Emergency Preparedness &

#### Code Red Registration

Wednesday, July 22, 1 PM

Mansfield Fire Marshal

Fran Raiola & Officer Will Bigl  
will discuss emergency preparedness & Mansfield's CodeRED notification system.

### The Llamas are Coming!

#### The Llamas are Coming!

Friday, July 24, 11 AM

Llamas from the Country Quilt Llama Farm will join us for a family event! Families are encouraged to pet & touch the llamas. Picnic lunch at the Senior Center with hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and ice cream sandwiches! \$5.00 per person.

Register at 860-487-9870.

