



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE DECEMBER 2015

www.mansfieldct.gov

- *Town Hall will be closed on Friday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.*
- *Town Hall will be closed on January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day.*



Celebrating the [preservation](#) of 82 acres of Mountain Dairy's farmland through the Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program. This program is the first step in preserving over 700 acres of Mountain Dairy farmland.

- *The Tolland-Mansfield Probate Court has new hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 AM – 5 PM, Friday, 8 AM – 12 noon.*
- *Work on the Route 275 bridge over the Willimantic River between the towns of Coventry and Mansfield has been completed and the new bridge is now open.*
- *Winter Parking Ban is now in effect.*
- *The Human Services Department maintains a food pantry to help those in need. Call 860-429-3315.*
- *Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be held on Dec. 12 and 19 in the Buchanan Auditorium at the library.*

See your tax dollars at work!

Visit openmansfieldct.gov



Town Manager Matthew Hart announces the December 1st launch of a financial analysis platform powered by OpenGov.com that provides residents, elected officials and staff unprecedented access to the Town's finances. This powerful web-based platform transforms complex financial data into an interactive, digital format that enables better analysis and understanding of the Town's finances. The intuitive design makes it easier to explore how taxpayer money is collected and spent. The platform may be accessed at open.mansfieldct.gov.

The OpenGov platform displays 6 years of government spending and revenue detail in a user-friendly portal. Users can view historical revenue and expenditure trends over time and explore multiple views of financial data, including by fund, department, expense, or revenue type. The current year report provides insight into spending and revenues year-to-date. For example, visitors to the platform may answer frequently asked questions such as "How are my tax dollars spent?" or "What did the Town spend on

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You are cordially invited...

Recognition Reception Honoring Elizabeth "Betsy" Paterson

December 4, 2015 4-6 PM
Mansfield Community Center

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.



During her 20 years of dedicated public service, Betsy worked tirelessly to represent the Town. First elected to the Town Council in 1997, Betsy was elected Mayor in 1999. She served as Mayor for 16 years, until her retirement from the Council in November 2015. Betsy notably represented Mansfield on a number of regional and state-wide entities.

During her long tenure as Mayor, Betsy was instrumental in the creation of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Storrs Center. She also contributed greatly to the development of a strong working relationship between the Town and the University of Connecticut. We thank Betsy for her significant contributions to the Town and wish her all the best in her retirement from the Council.

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 public safety last year?” or “How much did the Town collect in fees for services?” and then share that information directly from the platform via email or on social media.

Town Finance Director Cherie Trahan led the initiative to make the Town’s finances more transparent and understandable. “We are very excited to offer this easy-to-use tool to share Mansfield’s financial information with the public. The pie charts and bar graphs provide visual answers to inquiries about how the Town is putting tax dollars to use. It will also supply the Town Council with additional information that can greatly assist with the decision-making process.”

“By making its financial data easily accessible in an intuitive, digital format, the Town is demonstrating its commitment to efficient, data-driven and open government,” commented Zac Bookman, CEO and co-founder of OpenGov.

Beyond sharing information with the public, the Town can also use OpenGov internally to create custom reports, manage operations to budget, and keep administrators informed. With this launch, Mansfield joins a growing list of

more than 400 leading cities, counties, state agencies, school systems, and special districts across the country that leverage OpenGov technology for the benefit of its citizens.



Have you licensed your dog this year?

All dogs over the age of 6 months MUST be licensed, and all dog licenses expire on June 30th no matter what time of the year you licensed your dog.

If you have not renewed your dog’s license this year, please visit the Town Clerk’s office as soon as possible to renew it in order to avoid any inconvenience or fines.

Important things to know:

- The license fee is \$19.
- Please bring along a current rabies certificate.
- If the dog is spayed or neutered, bring a spay/neuter certificate and the license fee will be reduced to \$8.
- There is a \$1 penalty per month for renewals completed after July 1st.
- Dogs and cats three months and older must have a rabies vaccine whether they are indoors or outdoors. Failure to do so results in a \$136 fine per animal.
- Failure to license results in a \$75 fine per dog.

Mansfield has an active licensing program. We conduct a yearly door-to-door survey for unlicensed dogs. An active licensing program helps reduce the number of stray dogs, dog bites and

attacks, promiscuous breeding and helps reunite owners with their dogs in a timely manner. Licensing your dog is a sign of responsible pet ownership, which is beneficial for the entire community.

Dogs must wear their license tag. If a stray dog wearing a tag is captured, the owner can be notified promptly, saving impoundment time, advertising fees, and the cost of care during impoundment. If a person is bitten/attacked by a dog with a license, the medical history can be obtained quickly, relieving that person of the anxiety of having to go through the rabies series. Rabies is still found in our state’s wildlife population.

For more information please contact the Town Clerk at 860-429-3302 or the Animal Control Officer at 860-487-0137. Licensing can be done in person at the Town Clerk’s office or call 860-487-0137 for a mail-in license application.



Mansfield is looking for volunteers!

Did you know that Mansfield has over 30 committees staffed by volunteers? If you have an interest, Mansfield has a committee which would welcome your contributions. There are currently openings on the Agriculture Committee, Beautification Committee, Arts Advisory Committee, Historic District Commission, Parks Advisory Committee, to name a few. To apply visit mansfieldct.gov, click on Boards and Commissions, and fill out a volunteer application, or contact the Town Clerk’s office at TownClerk@mansfieldct.org.

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>

Winter Welcome at Storrs Center

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites you to usher in the new season at the Third Annual Winter Welcome on *Saturday, December 5, from 1 to 5 PM.*



There will be carolers and musicians strolling and performing outside and indoors. Participating businesses will have holiday treats, sales, and specials. On the Town Square, there will be vendors from Storrs Farmers Market and a wreath-making activity with The Flower Pot while staff from UConn Dining Services will create beautiful ice sculptures.

Storrs Regional FFA's annual Christmas tree sale will take place from 1 to 3 PM at E. O. Smith High School.

At 2 PM, look for the Mt. Dairy milk truck traveling on Storrs Road from Town Hall to Storrs Center with a special guest! Santa Claus will greet friends at the UConn Co-op Bookstore from 2 to 4 PM.

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

For more information, please visit mansfieldct.gov/winterwelcome.

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.

Do You Need Transportation?



Free Transportation to medical and dental appointments is available for residents aged 60 and older and those adults 18 years of age and older who receive Social Security disability.

Drivers are available Monday through Friday from 8:30AM -4:30PM. We kindly request 48-72 hours notice, although special exceptions for emergency requests will be made depending upon volunteer availability. For out-of-district medical transport, 7-10 days notice is required.

Call Senior Center Transportation Coordinator Gianna Stebbins at 860-487-9877 for more information.

Share the Holiday Spirit!



Everyone is aware of the rising costs of utilities, food, housing, and health care. Many of us can adjust our budgets accordingly, but for some local families, adjusting means not enough money to go around. For some "extras", like special food and holiday gifts for your children are not possible. If you are a Mansfield resident and find yourself in that position this year, Human Services has a program to help. Call 860-429-3315 or stop our office at the Town Hall to find out if you qualify for one of our holiday giving programs.

Last year through generous donations from the community, the Human Services Department provided families with Thanksgiving and holiday meals as well as gifts in December through our **Holiday Fund** and the **Adopt-A-Family** programs. This program is provided completely by monetary and gift card donations and through the generous donations from individuals and organizations that "adopt" a particular family and provide the December holiday meal and gifts for the members of the household.

If you or your organization would like to be part of this wonderful program of making a local family's holiday special, please contact our office. For information about how you can Adopt-A-Family for the holidays, please call 860-429-3315 or e-mail HumanServ@mansfieldct.org. Monetary or gift card donations can be mailed or dropped off at the Human Service Office, Mansfield Town Hall, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268. Checks may be written to "Town of Mansfield" with "Human Services Holiday Program" in the memo area.



Stuff A Cruiser!

Help the Mansfield Resident State Troopers bring joy to local children.

Bring a toy to the Eastbrook Mall between 9 AM and 3 PM on Saturday, December 5, and stuff it into a cruiser! They will then be delivered to local families in need of a holiday gift. Ho ho ho!





December Events and Activities in Mansfield



Parks and Recreation

Community School of the Arts Registration 2016

On Monday, Dec. 7, registration opens for residents. The first day of the Winter Session is Monday, January 4. Call the Main Office at 860-486-1073 for more details and fees. CSA is now located at 1295 Storrs Road.

CSA All-School Recital

Friday, Dec. 18

At von der Mehden Recital Hall. Students from CSA come together to perform for the community!



Fall Family Fun Night

Saturday, Dec. 19, 4:30 -7:30 PM

No fee for members, non-members pay the daily fee.

Paint Your Own Pottery!

Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 AM-12 PM
Choose a holiday pottery piece, paint it on Saturday; it will be clear glazed and fired at Sawmill Pottery. Family Event. Fee.

Storrs Winter Farmers Market

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

2015-2016 Winter dates:

December 12 and 19

January 2, 16, and 30

February 13 and 27

March 12 and 26

April 9 and 23



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

Mansfield Public Library

Holiday Crafts for Kids

Thursday, Dec. 3,
4 – 5:30 PM

Drop in after school and make a variety of holiday crafts and ornaments. All ages welcome.



Tween Program: Gingerbread Houses

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2 – 3:30 PM



Tweens and parents! Make a gingerbread house with us! Bring a box (or 2) of graham crackers and we'll supply the rest. Space is limited, so sign up today.

This program is intended for middle schoolers and an accompanying adult. Free. Please register, supplies are limited.

Reel To Real

Monday, Dec. 7, 1 – 3:30 PM

For the Sake of the Country:
Female Spies in the Civil War.

Fun With Fairy Tales

School Vacation Week

Dec., 28, 29, 30, 31

1:30-3:00 PM



Come to the Library during school vacation and have fun with some of your favorite fairy tales. For the first half hour we'll enjoy comparing some traditional stories with some funny "fractured" versions. From 2 to 3 PM we'll have crafts and activities that highlight the stories. Different stories and crafts every day, plus coloring for the little ones.

Mansfield Senior Center

Beat the Winter Blues

Monday, Dec. 7, 1 - 2 PM

Learn tips and strategies to stay creative, bright, active and cheerful during the winter months. Call 860-487-9870 to register for this or any other program.

Holiday Sing-A-Long-with Bruce John

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 12-2 PM

Sign up for a delicious lunch followed by classic holiday music. Register by Dec. 4. 

FoodShare Distribution

Thursday, Dec. 10 and 24
11:30-12:15

Bring your own shopping bag!

Crafty Creations

Monday, Dec. 14, 1-2 PM

Join us for a chance to make beautiful snow flakes out of craft sticks. Register by Dec. 11.

Spirituality for the Second Half of Life

Monday, Dec. 14, 1-2 PM.

Explore life's meaning and mystery. Light refreshments. Register by Dec. 9.

Winter Holiday Lunch & Show

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Lunch at 12 PM

Entertainment by the Sparkettes and Chorus at 12:45 PM.

Register by Dec 7.

Mini-Bazaar

Wednesday, Dec.

16, 11—3 PM

Come do some
Holiday shopping!

