



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE MARCH 2016

www.mansfieldct.gov

- **Town Budget Presentation**, Monday, March 28, 5:30 – 7 PM, at the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- **Town Hall will be closed on March 25.**
- **Winter Storrs Farmers Market at the library, Saturdays, Mar. 12 & 26, 3-5 PM.**
- **Mansfield schools are closed March 24 & 25.**
- **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 28

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.

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)

Full list of meetings on pg. 2.

Facilities Study:

Assessing the present and planning for the future.

The Town is seeking an assessment of current conditions and recommendations for repairs, improvements, and modernization of Town facilities. The Facilities Management Department, along with the Facilities Planning Committee, is currently in negotiations with a company to start the process of conducting a Facility Study for Town buildings. Several Town buildings are over 50 years old. While improvements have been made over the years, many of these facilities may need updates to improve both energy efficiency and overall function based on current operations. This study does not include the School Buildings for which the Mansfield Board of Education is seeking to conduct a similar but (somewhat) more extensive evaluation.

The company conducting the Facility Study for Town Buildings will review each facility and develop a conditions statement for each. Company representatives will interview building managers to help determine whether the current building setup or layout will still suit the future needs of the Town. The study will also match current needs with any grant opportunities or any potential special funding.

When complete, this study will enable the Town to do the following:

1. Identify the extent and severity of the deferred maintenance liability.
2. Identify what is necessary to adapt the selected facilities to meet the planned future requirements of the Town, the requirements of today's standards and codes, and the needs of changing technology as it impacts space (i.e., facilities adaptation).

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Facilities Study cont. from pg. 1

3. Identify and prioritize deferred maintenance reduction projects that best take advantage of available funds and improve the functional aspects of the facilities.
4. Identify the resources needed to maintain the operability, suitability, and value of the physical assets given their current function.
5. Identify the building replacement costs and property/building condition indices.
6. Develop a long-range comprehensive financial planning process that protects the value of the Town's assets.
7. Develop a tool that supports the Town's planning process by providing readily accessible facilities information for the Town facilities decision making process.

The timeline of the study will be a minimum of three months up to a possible six months to gather all needed information and develop a comprehensive report. The company under contract will conduct presentations to the Town Council, as well as presentations to the general public. The finished product will be a Facilities Master Plan for repairs, alterations, replacement and improvements for all Town buildings and equipment.

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>

Town Budget Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building (Town Hall), 4 South Eagleville Rd.

Budget Presentation

Monday, Mar. 28, 5:30-7:30 PM
Budget Message, Budget in Brief, Guide to the Budget, Revenue Summaries, Expenditure Summaries

Budget Review

Wednesday, Mar. 30, 6:30 PM
General Government, Public Safety

Budget Review

Tuesday, Apr. 5, 6:30 PM
Community Services, Community Development, Public Works

Budget Review

Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 PM
Board of Education, Town Wide Operating Transfers, Capitol Improvement Program

Public Information Session

Tuesday, Apr. 12, 7:00 PM
Manager's Proposed Budget Review

Budget Review

Thursday, April 14, 6:30 PM
Town Aid Road Fund, Parks & Recreation Program Fund, Mansfield Discovery Depot, Other Operating Fund, Debt Service Fund, Enterprise Funds

Budget Review

Wednesday, Apr. 20, 6:30 PM
Internal Service Funds, Cemetery Fund/Long Term

Investments, Eastern Highlands Health District Fund, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Fund, Supplementary Data

Budget Discussion

Thursday, Apr. 21, 6:30 PM
Flagged Items, Additions and Reductions

Public Hearing on Budget at Regular Council Meeting

Monday, Apr. 25, 7:00 PM

Adoption of Budget

Wednesday, Apr. 27, 6:30 PM

Public Information Session

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Town Council Adopted Budget

Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 PM
at Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

Participation is encouraged! Make your voice heard and vote on your Town Budget.

Who may vote at the Town Meeting? Any person who is registered to vote and any citizen of the USA over the age of 18 who owns property (motor vehicle or land) in Mansfield valued at \$1,000 or more.



Solarize CT Is Now Available for All CT Residents

Concerned that you missed your chance to Solarize? No worries! Solarize has expanded to let all Connecticut residents participate – right now. Simply go to <http://solarizect.com/signup/> and sign up to see if your home is good for solar. You'll have access to \$0 down financing and pre-qualified installers.

Raising Readers Parent Club



The Town is offering a free, 8-week parent club designed to help parents of young children develop a family tradition of reading with their children. The club will be run by certified instructors, and parents will receive a free book to take home and share with their children after each session. Childcare and refreshments will also be offered free of charge.

The club will be held each Monday from March 21 to May 18 with the exception of April 16. The class will be held at the Senior Center from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Mansfield residents will be given priority for enrollment, but should spaces remain, enrollment will be opened to residents of other towns.

Topics of discussion include how to choose a book for your children, how stories about emotions can help a child's emotional health, how to balance reading with TV and video games, and how to best take advantage of our local library.

Parents should RSVP as soon as possible and direct any questions to Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator, at 860 429-3338 or FerronMB@mansfieldct.org.

Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center Has Daily Service to New York City

Heading to NYC for shopping, shows or sightseeing? Don't drive to Hartford or New Haven! Peter Pan provides bus service from the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center in Storrs Center to NYC three times a day. Park your car in our low-cost Storrs Center Parking Garage and enjoy the ride. For schedules and tickets, go to peterpanbus.com. The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center is listed under "Mansfield, CT".



Bicycle Commuters— This Club is For You!

Do you commute by bicycle to UConn or Storrs Center? Then check out the Bike Commuter Club at the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center. Indoor bike cages, lockers, showers—everything you need to support your commute. For more information go to www.mansfieldct.gov/TransportationCenter and click on "bike".

Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold meetings at Town Hall on Tuesday, March 1 & 15 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM; and Saturday, March 26, from 9 – 12 and 1 – 4 PM.

They will hear appeals on assessments for the October 1, 2015 Real Estate and Personal Property Grand Lists, as well as the October 1, 2014 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 for more information.

Wood Stoves, Fireplaces, and Space Heaters

Careful operation is crucial for your safety!

Remember to be safe when heating your home.

- Use only fuels appropriate for the appliance.
- Use coal only if specifically approved by the stove manufacturer.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a wood fire as it might explode or flare up.
- Never use gasoline in kerosene heaters.
- Never use artificial logs made from wax and sawdust in wood stoves.
- Pressure-treated wood should not be burned in stoves or fireplaces as it contains toxic chemicals.
- Always use a fireplace screen.
- Keep a window ajar or the door open in a room where an unvented heater is in use.
- Avoid the use of extension cords with electric heaters.
- Never use heaters to dry clothing or other combustibles.
- Don't leave fireplaces or space heaters unattended.
- Keep young children away from any appliance that has hot surfaces that can cause burns.

Tool Collection Coming to the Library

We are assembling a collection of hand tools and garden tools that you can borrow with your library card! The tool lending will begin in May. Stay tuned for details or visit our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mansfieldct) page to watch our progress. Interested in making a tool donation? Email Adam at DelauraAS@MansfieldCT.org.

Cake Pans Too!

We are putting together a collection of cake pans for you to borrow, with many interesting shapes and sizes— coming soon!



March Events and Activities in Mansfield

Parks and Recreation

Winter Family Fun Nights!

Friday, Mar. 4, 5:30-8:30 PM
Saturday, Mar. 19, 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

Sunday, Mar. 13, 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.

Recreation Rescue

Thursday, Mar. 24, 7:30-5:30
For children in grades K-8, games and activities. Field Trip to Dave & Busters. Fee

Family Friday Paint Nights

Friday, Mar. 25, 6:30-8:30 PM
Acrylic paint so dress for a mess!
Each participant paints a 16" x 20" canvas. Supplies and step-by-step instruction provided. Fee.



Storrs Winter Farmers Market

The Market is held from 3 to 5 PM at the library.
2016 Winter dates:
March 12 and 26
April 9 and 23
For more info:

storrsfarmersmarket.org

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

Mansfield Public Library

Book Discussion Group

Potluck Supper
Tuesday, Mar. 8, 6-8PM
Interested in joining a book discussion group? Now is the perfect time! We will be choosing books to read for the coming year. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

After School Rainbow Craft

Thursday, Mar. 10, 4-5:30 PM
There are so many ways to make a rainbow! Drop in after school for a variety of rainbow crafts. All ages welcome. Free!

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

Thursday, Mar. 17, 6:30 - 8 PM
Historian Matthew Bartlett, dressed in period costume as a Pinkerton agent and his wife Jenn, in costume as a spy, present this fascinating program. Learn how these women risked their lives and changed the course of the war.

Train Your Brain For Enhanced Memory and Top Performance

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 1 - 2 PM
In order to stay sharp, it is vitally important to exercise our brain. This one-hour Seminar will teach participants 25 ways to develop a training regimen for your brain!



Blocks and Board Games

Thursday, Mar. 24, 1-3 PM
Spend some time at the Library on this day off from school and enjoy a variety of board games and building toys. All ages.

Mansfield Senior Center

AARP Tax-Aide Assistance

AARP's Tax-Aide program provides free tax preparation to taxpayers with low to moderate income. Appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 7th. Call 860-429-0262 for an appointment.

FoodShare

Thursday, Mar. 3, 17 & 31
11:30-12:15 PM
Wrights Way back Parking Lot.
Please bring your shopping bags.



Open Mansfield
open.mansfieldct.gov

Open Mansfield Demo

Friday, Mar. 11, 10-11 AM
How are my tax dollars spent? Join us for a brief demo of our new financial transparency portal *Open Mansfield* and learn how to find the answer to this question and more!



St. Patrick's Day Entertainment

Wednesday, Mar. 16, 12 PM
Corned Beef Cabbage & Mashed Potatoes. Entertainment by *Seldom Heard*. Meal \$4.50 for over 60's. Entertainment \$2.

Brunch and Ballet

Saturday, Mar. 12, 12 PM
Brunch includes: Quiche Lorraine, Cheese Quiche, garden salad, fruit salad and beverage. Young dancers from preschool, elementary and high school will perform.
\$6 by March 9.

