



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE APRIL 2016

www.mansfieldct.gov

- *Winter Storrs Farmers Market at the library, Sat., Apr. 9 & 23, 3-5 PM.*
- *Mansfield Schools will be closed April 18-22.*
- *Don't miss the Friends of the Library [Book Sale](#) on April 2 & 3.*
- *The Repair Café is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 10-2 PM at the First Cong. Church's Arnold Auditorium, 199 Valley St., Willimantic.*



A LOOK at the BUDGET

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, as well as the information posted on open.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

Farming in Mansfield

Mansfield boasts over 30 farms and agricultural businesses, most of which are listed in the [Mansfield Grown Brochure](#). Local residents value the scenic vistas and local agricultural products provided by our farms. But what can we actually do to support farmers in Mansfield and in our region? Here are a few suggestions:

Buy local. When you buy local, you support our farm families and preserve the character and the food supply of Mansfield. If you don't see local food at the grocery store, ask for it. Stop at local roadside stands and farmers markets. Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

Give a thumb's up for farm traffic. If you want to see tractors move fast, go to a Connecticut Agricultural Fair (find out more at www.ctfairs.org). If you get behind a tractor on the road, understand that they are not meant for speed or distance. They are part of a serious local business. Give the farmer a thumb's up to show your support.

Know that our responsible farmers use Best Practices. The State requires farmers to be trained, licensed and current in proper pesticide use and storage. Farmers are decreasing use of pesticides whenever possible as it is expensive, labor intensive and overuse is not healthy for crops or the land. Acre for acre, the typical homeowner uses far more chemicals than the average farmer to keep the house clean and lawn green and weed free.

Understand that farming is a business. While farmers are responsible for being good neighbors, they must also be farmers. Noise, dust, and smells are part of successful farm operations.

Take a deep breath. Savor Mansfield's fresh, clean air.

You will sometimes smell manure, silage, and other odors—that's part of farming. Many of us around here have gotten used to it and even like it. Think of it as *eau de farm*. It was here before all of us.

Communicate. Meet and talk with the farmer before and after you have a problem, remembering that it's in both your interests to be good neighbors.

Continued on page 2...



Rid Litter Day is Saturday, April 30.

Let's clean up our town! Roadside woods and wetlands collect a lot of unsightly debris that's harmful to wildlife. If you collect bags of litter that exceed your household trash collection service, please call or take the bags to the transfer station for no charge. Don't forget to recycle those cans and bottles! For more information, call Public Works at 860-429-3333.

Farming in Mansfield cont. from pg. 1

When you work out a solution, stay in touch with each other. If the conflict cannot be resolved, please contact the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (www.ct.gov/doag) or the [Mansfield Agriculture Committee](#).

Learn more about farmland issues. Check out the American Farmland Trust Web site (www.farmland.org) for information about the future of farming. Farms provide a stable tax base at very low cost—study after study shows that for each dollar a farm is taxed, it requires a fraction of that in town services.

Vote for farms. To keep our farms, we need votes and dollars. Local boards and commissions regularly debate issues that directly affect farming and farmland. Work with your legislators, Town Council and other town leaders to support initiatives to preserve working farmland and grow farm businesses.

Adapted from *Living Next to A Farm, Or How to be a Good Neighbor to a farmer in 10 easy Steps* produced by the AGvocate Program in 2011.



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

Food: Too Good To Waste

Whether it's sour milk, limp carrots or that forgotten take-out container in the back of the fridge, chances are you've wasted food this week. You're not alone!

Americans waste about 25 percent of all the food we buy, costing us \$130 every month. It's a growing problem with significant financial and environmental impacts. When we throw away food, we also waste all the water, energy and fuel used to produce, package and transport food from the farm to our plates. If food waste were a country, it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world, after China and the U.S.

The Middle School and Solid Waste Advisory Committee have teamed up to challenge families to reduce preventable food waste. Households that are interested in participating will weigh their food waste for four weeks. During that time, they will be given guidance and support to reduce the number on the scale.

What can we all do?

Planning and thoughtful shopping are key to avoiding wasted food.

- Make a list before you go shopping, checking your fridge and cupboards. Keep in mind how many meals you will be eating at home - are you going out to eat?
- Prepare perishable foods right away. Wash, dry, chop, dice, slice and place your fresh food items in clear storage containers for snacks and easy cooking.

- Freeze food such as bread, sliced fruit or meat that you know you won't be able to eat in time.
- Batch cooking entire meals and freezing some is a great time saver.

To learn more about *Food: Too Good To Waste*, go to the town trash web page at www.mansfieldct.gov/trash. To participate in the challenge, contact Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 860-429-3333 or waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.



Organic Land Care Workshop Series

To register call 860-429-3333 or e-mail waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

Organic Lawns

Saturday, Apr. 23, 10 - 11:30 AM
Town Hall Council Chamber
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](#).
Register by April 20.

Backyard Composting

Saturday, May 7, 10 - 11 AM
Town Hall Council Chamber
Learn about the inner workings of a compost pile and how it is an integral part of organic land care. This workshop will help you get started or improve what you already have going. Presented by Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator. Register by May 4, 2016.



A Top Ten List of Things To Know for the Upcoming Primary Election Tuesday, April 26

1. Be sure you are currently registered as a Democrat or a Republican; only registered Democrats and Republicans may vote in this Primary. Election Day Registration (EDR) is not available for Primaries
2. If you are going to be out of town or find that you are unable to get to your polling place, contact the Town Clerk's office at 860-429-3302 to apply for an Absentee Ballot.
3. Know what district you live in and the location of your polling place. If you are not sure, find out **prior** to the day of the Primary. Go to www.mansfieldct.gov/vote
4. Come early and carpool, avoid lunch time and after work rush hour.
5. Be prepared; bring a current ID, *and* if requested in your registration confirmation letter, additional forms of identification. *Additionally*, if you live in a UConn residence, you must be prepared to prove that by showing the housing charge on your current fee-bill (this can be paper or on your phone). Do not bring food or drinks into the polling area.
6. Dress appropriately and expect to wait outside. We anticipate a higher than normal voter turnout for this Primary. This may mean that voters will be lined up outside the polling place. Do not wear any political insignia. If an election official asks you to remove a hat or button etc., or to cover up a tee shirt design, please do so.
7. Turn off your cell phone as you enter the polling place. You may be asked to turn it back on in the case of #5. NO photos or videos may be taken of ballots.
8. Ask for help. Our poll workers are ready and able to help you! If you are NOT sworn in as a poll worker, PLEASE do not "help" the election process. Contact the poll Moderator if there is a problem.
9. Exit through designated doors *immediately* after you insert your ballot into the tabulator.
10. ABOVE ALL, please be patient! It's a long day for all of us.

For more information:

Contact the Registrars of Voters at 860 429-3368;
Beverly Miela (R) mielabm@mansfieldct.org; Jeanne Ahern Mogayzel (D) mogayzelja@mansfieldct.org

Town Budget Meetings

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

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 Improve-
ment 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, Supplemen-
tary 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

Make your voice heard and vote on the 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.*

April Events and Activities in Mansfield

Parks and Recreation

April Vacation Camp

April 18-22, 7:30 AM-5:30 PM.
Grades K-8

This popular program is held at the middle school and includes trips, games in the gym, drawing, Legos, and board games. Flyer at the community center or distributed to the schools the 1st week of April.

Spring Family Fun Night!

Friday, Apr. 1, 5:30-8:30 PM
at the Community Center.

Giant inflatables, ping pong, tot toys, puzzles, open gym& more!
No registration is required.

Free Mansfield Day

Saturday, Apr. 9, 10 AM-1 PM
Have you been wondering what all the excitement is about at the Community Center? Today, Mansfield residents find out for FREE.

Family Friday Paint Nights

Friday, Apr. 22, 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.

Star Party

Friday, Apr. 29 7:30-9:30 PM
Dr. Cynthia Peterson will lead an evening of stargazing and exploration at the UConn Planetarium.
Dress warm and bring your binoculars!
Registration required.



Mansfield Public Library



Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, Apr. 2, 9AM-4PM
Sunday, Apr. 3, 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?

On Safari in Kenya and Tanzania

Wednesday, Apr. 13, 1:15-2:45 PM
Look through the camera's eye: accompany Doreen and Tony Philpotts "on safari" in Kenya and Tanzania. Presented by CLIR
(Center for Learning in Retirement)

Tom and Lee's Excellent Adventure in Panama and Costa Rica

Thursday, Apr. 14, 1:15-2:45 PM
Presented by CLIR

Parent/Tween Crafting: Fun with Felt!

Saturday, Apr. 16, 1-3 PM
Learn simple felt flower techniques, basic decorative stitching, and how to add some sparkly accents to your creations. Free.
Register by April 9.

Gluten Free Chef Robert Landolphi

Thursday, Apr. 21, 6:30-8 PM
Get some ideas for cooking gluten-free meals and snacks

Spring Vacation Activities

Cartooning Workshop for Kids
Tuesday, Apr. 19, 2-3 PM
Earth Day Crafts and Activities
Friday, Apr. 22, 10:30 - 12 PM

Mansfield Senior Center

AARP Tax-Aide Assistance

Free tax preparation to taxpayers with low to moderate income, for those 60 and older. Appointments available Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 12th.
Call 860-429-0262 to schedule.

FoodShare

Thursdays, Apr. 14 and 28,
11:30 AM

Wrights Way back parking lot.
No registration necessary.
Please bring your shopping bags.

Annual Intergenerational Dinner at E.O. Smith

Tuesday, Apr. 12 5-8 PM
Enjoy a 4-course Mediterranean meal prepared and served by UConn dietetic students. Talent show with both students and Seniors. \$8.00 Reserve by 4/5.

3rd Wednesday Luncheon and Entertainment

Wednesday, Apr. 20, 12 PM
Hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad and carrot cake. Clayton Allen performing at 12:45 PM.
\$7.00, purchase a ticket by 4/11.

Spring Magic

Thursday, April 21
10 AM-Crafts and Games,
11 AM - Magic Show with Magician Chris Hurlbert,
12 PM-Pizza Party
Purchase your ticket by 4/18.

Dinner and Disney

Friday, Apr. 29, 5 PM
The UConn's Child Development Lab students host a pizza party and *Finding Nemo* Disney movie.



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

