



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE DECEMBER 2016

www.mansfieldct.gov

- *Town Hall will be closed on Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.*
- *Town Hall will be closed on January 2, 2017 in observance of New Year's Day.*
- *The 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. 10 and 17 in the Buchanan Auditorium at the library.*
- *Recycle Wrapping paper and boxes. Please recycle non-metallic wrapping paper, tissue paper and gift boxes. Place them in the blue recycling container with other household recyclables.*
- *String of Lights Recycling Bring your old lights to the transfer station to be recycled with other wire products. Please do not place them in the blue recycle container.*
- *The Friends of the Library are having a month long sale of special books for holiday gifts. Stop in any time the library is open.*

Making the Holidays Happier for Those in Need

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
— Winston S. Churchill

Most of us look forward to the holidays. What's not to love? Great food, happy music, beautiful decorations, and events shared with family and friends all make the season special. But some are not so fortunate. They are our neighbors who struggle financially all year around to meet their basic needs. For some, "extras" like special food and gifts for your children for the holidays 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 the 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. These programs are provided completely through monetary and gift card donations, and through the generosity of 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 Mansfield family's holiday special, please contact our office. For information about how you can Adopt-A-Family for the holidays, please call our main number at 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 10, and stuff it into a cruiser! They will then be delivered to local families in need of a holiday gift.

Ho ho ho! (you'll be on the good list)

Holiday Decorations Be Safe!

1. Before natural trees are set up, the trunk should be sawed off above the original cut, set in a stand and tap water added. This initial fresh cut opens up the sap channels in the tree so that it can take up water. Keep your tree stand water level above the cut in the trunk to prevent the tree from forming a sap seal. A sap sealed tree trunk will not draw water which is needed for it to remain fresh.



2. All trees should be held upright in sturdy stands having a base that is sufficiently broad enough to effectively support the tree. Guy wires may be needed to steady oversized trees.

3. Natural trees having root balls should be moistened daily and cut natural trees should be placed in containers of water sufficient to provide at least a one day supply. A container holding at least 1 quart per inch in stem diameter is recommended.

4. Natural trees should remain indoors only for as long a period of

time as they are fresh. Cut trees are thirsty! Depending on tree size, they may use from two pints to one and one half gallons or more per day - so make sure to check the water level daily and supply fresh water as needed. Remove any tree that shows evidence of drying or severe shedding.

5. All trees and decorations should be located a safe distance from sources of heat such as heaters, fireplaces, stoves, television sets, candles and the like. *Never decorate your tree with candles!!!*



6. Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday-related accidents. Worn-out electrical cords and plugs should be replaced. Avoid too many plugs in one outlet. Use multi-outlet power strips when running many applications or decorative light screens.

7. All sources of electric lighting, both direct and indirect, should be in good condition and consist of equipment that has been tested and labeled or listed for the specific purpose by a 'recognized testing laboratory. All lighting should be turned off or better yet, disconnected, when the area is unattended. This is especially important at home when the family is asleep.



Meet Katie Bell, our new Youth Services Supervisor.

Katie Bell started as the Youth Services Supervisor in October. She has a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the U. of Hartford's Graduate Institute for Professional Psychology. She has worked across a variety of settings with children, adolescents, and families including clinical school placements, outpatient clinics, acute residential treatment, and partial hospitalization/intensive outpatient programs. She has experience with integrative treatment approaches including Dialectical Behavior Therapy, solution-focused therapy, trauma-informed practices, harm reduction strategies in the treatment of substance use, and strength-based approaches to provide individual, family, and group treatment.

Katie works with Youth Services staff, school staff, interns, community volunteers, and advisory groups to coordinate and provide opportunities for positive youth development for youth and families. She is eager to continue the ongoing programming of the department and to work together with other town departments, local agencies, and citizens to identify and respond to the needs of the town in effective and engaging ways. She hopes to incorporate fun, collaboration, healthful practices, and mindfulness into programming to help support the growth of Mansfield's youth as strong, confident, and caring young people.

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

Fourth Annual Winter Welcome



Saturday, December 3, 2 - 5 PM.

Join the Mansfield Downtown Partnership in celebrating the new season. Winter Welcome will take place on and around Betsy Paterson Square.

Enjoy pop-up performances by local carolers and musicians as they stroll through downtown. ~ Check out the ice sculptures by UConn Dining Services on Paterson Square. ~ Make your own wreath with The Flower Pot. ~ Enjoy a show at the Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. ~ Local vendors will have a variety of food and gift items on Paterson Square.

And, keep an eye out for a special jolly visitor arriving at 2 PM! Santa Claus will visit with friends at Barnes & Noble UConn from 2 – 4 PM. At 4:30, the E. O. Smith Chamber Choir will lead a Community Sing-Along on Paterson Square.

Winter Welcome is free, open to the public, and will be held rain or shine. For more information, please visit mansfieldct.gov/winterwelcome.



Winter Parking Ban

The Town of Mansfield winter parking ban is now in effect. No motor vehicle shall be parked on any public highway under the jurisdiction of the Town of Mansfield, or in any area designated as a municipal parking area, between the hours of midnight and 6 AM., from November 1 through April 15; or at all times when there is any accumulation of snow or ice on said highways or parking areas. This includes the on-street parking in Storrs Center including Storrs Road, Dog Lane, Royce Circle and Wilbur Cross Way. On-street parking during winter storms must not impede traffic or snow removal.

Cars that are found to violate the parking ban or impede plowing operations will be towed.



The Town of Mansfield Department of Public Works requests that bicycle owners refrain from leaving bicycles on sidewalks or the Town Square during snow storms or overnight. The cooperation of motorists and cyclists will aid the Public Works staff in their efforts to maintain clear roadways and sidewalks through the winter.

If you have any questions, please call 860-429-3331.

Eastern Gateways Study



Traffic around town getting to you?

If you travel or live along Route 195 and Route 44, you have most likely seen an increase in traffic over the years. These two roadways are considered Eastern Gateways in this region, as they are the primary roadways meeting diverse community needs.

Why study Route 195 and Route 44?

There is an increasing amount of investment in development opportunities, higher education, and research in the areas surrounding Route 44 and Route 195 in Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, and UConn. These new opportunities are likely to spark opportunities for economic vitality and increase travel demand along these routes.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments is leading the Eastern Gateways Study to focus on solutions to address the increasing travel demand along these roads. Planning for the future of these state highways is critical to serving the growing travel needs while still preserving and protecting the rural and historic character of the area. As communities experience increased traffic congestion and development pressures, the need to address safety, traffic flow, pedestrian and bicycle needs, transit options, and parking is critical.

This study presents an opportunity to build on the existing assets along the corridor while enhancing opportunities for economic vitality.

The study process is expected to last 18 months and will include a variety of opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement. Input from the community will inform and guide the project, which will result in the following efforts:

- Establish a vision for the corridors
- Evaluate current transportation and land use conditions and investigate opportunities to make improvements
- Explore opportunities for continued economic growth using Smart Growth planning principles
- Develop recommendations and implementation plan for transportation and land use aimed to achieve the vision for the corridors.

The emphasis of the study will be on enhancing safety, capacity, accessibility, and multimodal options while encouraging smart growth planning, livable communities, economic sustainability, and complete streets. For more information, visit:

www.cteasterngateways.com



December Events and Activities in Mansfield



Parks and Recreation

The Community Center will be closed December 25.

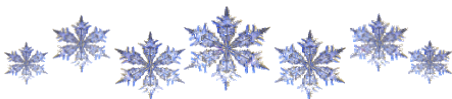
Community School of the Arts
Parks and Recreation now independently administers the CSA program. Register now for the Winter Session: January 9 - March 31. Visit the Front Desk or www.mansfieldct.gov/csa for available instructors and to arrange lessons. Instrument and voice lessons, chamber groups, group piano classes and art classes are available. Fee.

Fall Family Fun Night

Saturday, Dec. 17, 4:30 -7:30 PM
No fee for members, non-members pay the daily fee.

Family Paint Nights

Saturday, Dec. 17, 4-6 PM
Acrylic paint so dress for a mess! Each person paints a 16" x 20" canvas. Supplies and step-by-step instruction provided. Artist featured this session: Diego Rivera. 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.
2016-2017 Winter dates:
December 10 and 17
January 7 and 21
February 4 and 18
March 4 and 18
April 8 and 22

Mansfield Public Library

The Library will be closed December 24 - 26.

Cookbook Book Club

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
We will be holding a cookie swap of cookies from our selected cookbooks and decide future themes & cookbooks to discuss.

Holiday Crafts for Kids

Thursday, Dec. 8, 4 - 5:30 PM
Drop in after school and make a variety of holiday crafts and ornaments. All ages welcome.



Film Screening & Discussion

Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 - 9:30 PM
This month's pick is *Hail, Caesar!* The latest film from the Coen Brothers stars Josh Brolin as a Hollywood fixer in the 1950s working to keep the studio's stars in line. A really funny movie with an impressive cast!

Teen/Tween Program:

Holiday Ornaments

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2- 3 PM
Twins and Teens are invited to drop in and create a holiday ornament! Meet a friend and create something to keep or give as a gift!

Showcase: Venezuela

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2 PM
This special date in Venezuela's history honors the life of the "Great Liberator" Simon Bolivar. Omar Poleo will speak of Venezuela's remarkable geographic and ethnic diversity that make up the fabric of this marvelous country.

Mansfield Senior Center

Free Classical Music Show
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1 PM

Classical music performed by UConn students. If you would like to enjoy lunch beforehand, please call 860-487-9876 by December 5.

FoodShare Distribution

Thursday, Dec. 8 and 22
11:30-12:15
Bring your own shopping bags.

Declutter!

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:30 AM
Perfect time of year to purge your clutter. Join Lynn Bellware from St. Josephs Living Center to learn some tips. Call 860-487-9870 to sign up by December 9.

Holiday Luncheon and Show

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 12 PM
Lunch at noon with entertainment by our Senior Center Sparkettes and Chorus following meal. Purchase your \$7 ticket by Dec. 9.



Financial Scam Presentation

Thursday, Dec. 15 at 11 AM
Webster Bank will present information on financial abuse and scams. Call 860-487-9870 by December 13 to sign up.

Gingerbread House Wars

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1 - 3 PM .
Create your own holiday house to bring home. Prize for the most unique creation. Fee is \$5, which includes all the supplies. Sign up by Dec. 16.