



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE DECEMBER 2017

www.mansfieldct.gov

- *Town Hall will be closed on Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.*
- *Town Hall will be closed on January 1, 2018 in observance of New Year's Day.*
- *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.*
- *The Winter Parking Ban is now in effect.*
- *Board of Education Facilities workshop will be held on December 14.*
- *Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be held on Dec. 9 & 23 in the Buchanan Auditorium at the library.*
- *The 5th Annual Winter Welcome will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2. More information on page 3 or go to mansfieldct.gov/winterwelcome*



School Facility Study Continues

In 2012, after several years of work by a school and community building committee, a proposal for new school construction was presented to the Town Council. At the time, there was an understanding that the schools were aging and in several ways did not provide the best conditions for learning. For example, the elementary schools had makeshift libraries and one common space used as the gym, cafeteria, and auditorium. However, the proposal lacked community consensus and the Town Council asked the Board to create a new proposal within five years that was better aligned to the community's wishes and desires. During those five years, the Council pledged to support the schools with annual funds to support maintenance in the schools and updating the technology infrastructure.

This work began in earnest last school year. A facilities study was completed that focused on creating learning spaces that met the desires of the community and the educational direction of the Board of Education. The question to be answered was: Do the current facilities meet our needs and if not, what are our goals for facilities? As in the past, the study found our current facilities to be lacking in space and design but the study also looked at several other measures including the effect of declining enrollment and the cost of maintaining aging facilities. The final report recommended that a plan for construction or renovation be developed that addresses the enrollment, fiscal reality, and limitations of the current elementary and middle schools. In addition, it was recommended that future plans be grounded in the district's vision and goals. A set of six aspirational goals for facilities, gathered from the community, are included in the report.

The State budget crisis and a greater than expected decline in enrollment has complicated this work. Per pupil costs are rising despite careful budgeting and reduction of staff due to a drop in enrollment. Adding to the fiscal concerns is a reduction in revenue from the State. Maintenance costs continue to be a concern as well.

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Stuff A Cruiser at Winter Welcome

Saturday, December 2, 2 - 5 PM

Mansfield Resident Troopers will collect toys on Betsy Paterson Square. Donate an unwrapped toy or gift card for a child this holiday season.

All items will be donated directly to families in need by the Human Services Department.

There will be another Stuff A Cruiser event at East Brook Mall on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 - 3.



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The Board of Education is committed to creating a long range plan for the preK-8 school facilities and has begun the task of developing options and gathering information to evaluate each. The first option explored was a consolidation of the current elementary schools from three to two. In the end this was not a viable option as two schools are not large enough to support all the children currently in three schools. A commitment to maintain three elementary schools for next year was made at the most recent Board of Education meeting.

The Board is beginning a campaign to reach out to residents to share information and gather input. A Board of Education workshop will be held on December 14 to allow the Board to develop the next steps in their planning process. All of the work to date on facilities can be found on the Facilities webpage on the Board of Education website at <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/districtnews/?FeedID=3494>.



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

National “I Am Jazz” Day of Reading

Join us at the library on Thursday December 7, 2017 at 4:30 PM for National “I Am Jazz” Day of Reading.

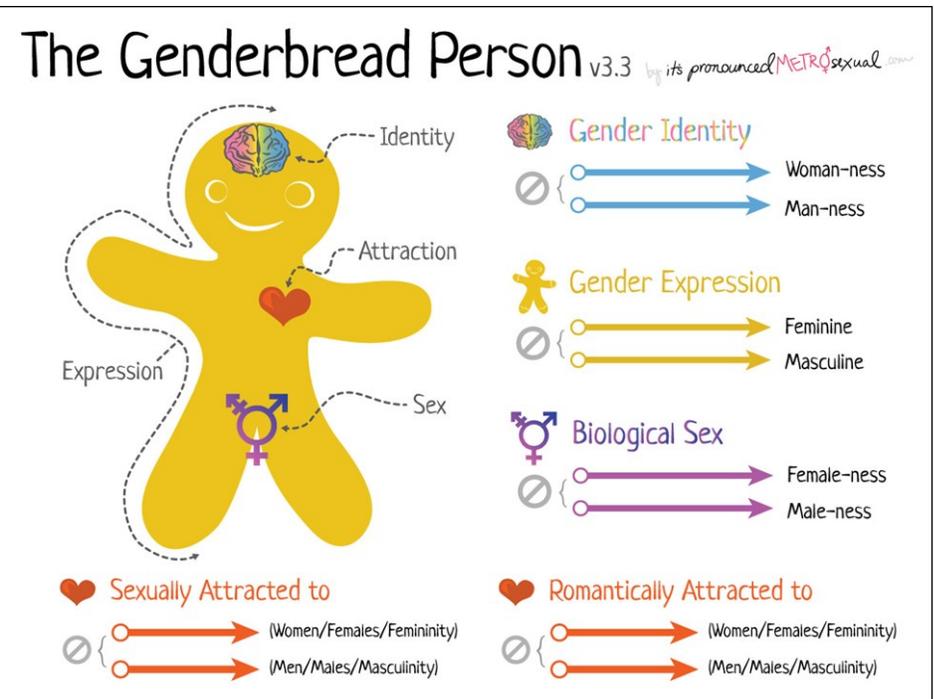
These nation-wide gatherings show support for transgender and gender non-conforming youth by starting the conversation through the story of Jazz Jennings. Her book, “I Am Jazz” shares with youth in easy to understand, age-appropriate, and supportive ways what it means when someone is transgender.

When Jazz is born she has a body that makes adults think she is a boy, but she has never felt like a boy inside – living like a boy feels like a lie and makes Jazz sad and angry. When Jazz and her family learn about what it means to be transgender things start to change. There are some people who are confused about Jazz, some who are even unkind toward her. But, when Jazz is able to be who she really is everything starts to feel better.

Mansfield Youth Services and the library are excited to share Jazz’s story with our youth and families. Jazz’s message and experience teach our youth to love themselves and to accept others for who they are and to show kindness to everyone.

Not quite sure as a grown-up what it all means?

Here’s a handy-dandy year-round “genderbread” recipe to understand some of the different things that go into gender. Have more questions or looking for support in talking to your kids about gender? Mansfield Youth Services is happy to help – we’ll walk you through the pronouns, why they’re important, and anything else along the way – give us a call (860-429-3319) or send us an email BELLKJ@MansfieldCT.org.



Pay As You Throw

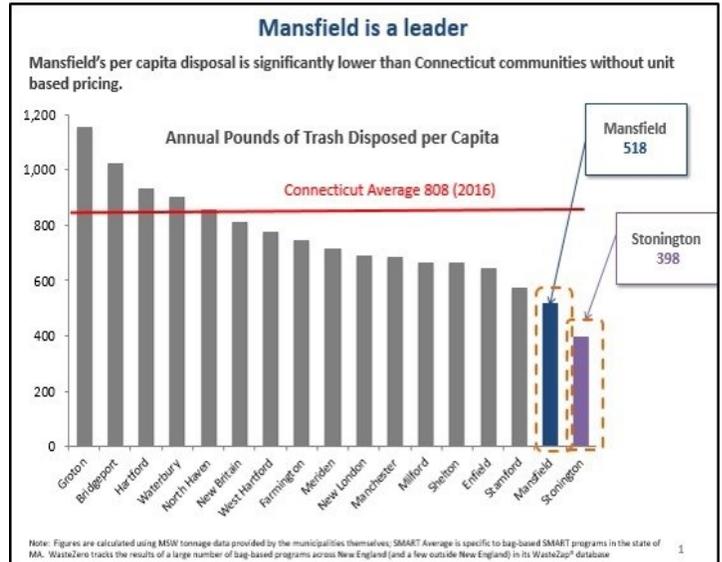
The Town started doing something quite novel 27 years ago, joining just a few other communities around the country in instituting Pay As You Throw (PAYT) trash service.

Pay As You Throw describes a way to equitably charge for trash disposal while encouraging recycling. Pay As You Throw (PAYT) programs (also known as volume-based, or unit-based pricing) charge residents for collection of their solid waste in relation to the volume of trash they set out for collection. This kind of “fee-for-service” option provides strong and effective incentives for preventing trash (encouraging reuse for instance) and increasing recycling.

The weight data from each day’s trash and recycle Mansfield collection route bears out this truth. Mansfield residents with curbside trash collection produce 36% less trash than the State average of 808 pounds per person per year.

Most Connecticut communities have trash and recycle service paid out of property taxes, often perceived as being a “free” service. But it is not. Getting rid of trash is costly for a municipality. PAYT is user funded or self-funding. It does not directly cost the community budgets anything.

PAYT programs have been found to be the single most effective, and most cost-effective method of reducing trash and increasing recycling. This is clearly illustrated by Mansfield’s per person waste generation of 518 pounds per year.



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.



Fifth Annual Winter Welcome

Saturday, December 2, 2—5 PM
Betsy Paterson Square, Storrs Center

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites residents and visitors to celebrate the new season at the Fifth Annual Winter Welcome on Saturday, December 2. Winter Welcome will take place on and around Betsy Paterson Square in Storrs Center from 2 PM to 5 PM.

Winter Welcome will feature ice sculptures and kettle corn on Paterson Square; a winter-themed puppet show at the Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry; and a visit from Santa Claus at Barnes & Noble UConn.

There will be open houses, specials, and treats at participating downtown businesses.

At 4:30 PM, the E. O. Smith High School Chamber Choir will lead a Community Sing-Along on Paterson Square to cap off the festivities.

Winter Welcome is free and open to the public and will take place rain or shine!



December Events and Activities in Mansfield



Parks and Recreation

Fall Family Fun Night

Saturday, Dec. 16, 4:30 -7:30 PM

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

Family Paint Nights

Saturday, Dec. 16, 4:30-6:30 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:

John James Audubon. Fee.

Free Mansfield Day

Saturday, Dec. 29, 5:30-8:30 PM

Whether you are new to the Community Center or have been often, if you are a Mansfield resident, you can come for FREE



Storrs Winter Farmers Market

Open twice a month from December through April.

The Market is held from 3 to 5 PM at the library.

2017-2018 Winter dates:

December 9 & 23

January 13 & 27

February 10 & 24

March 10 & 24

April 7 & 21

Santa Got Fired and Other Silly Stories by Nappy's Puppets

Ballard Museum

Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 AM & 2 PM

This show is 45 minutes long and is recommended for ages 3 and up. 1 Royce Circle. Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$12; Members/Seniors \$10; Students: \$8; Kids: \$6

(12 years and under).

Town of Mansfield, Connecticut

Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268

mansfieldct.gov

860.429.3336

Mansfield Public Library

Teen Movie Afternoons at the Mansfield Library Express

Fridays, Dec. 1, 8 & 15, 3 – 5 PM

Stop by the Library Express on Friday afternoons for movie and popcorn. For the month of December we will be watching book-to-movie adaptations.

Dec. 1: The Fault in our Stars

Dec. 8: The 5th Wave

Dec. 15: Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

Coyotes

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30 – 8 PM

Paul Colburn, a graduate of the Master Wildlife Conservationist Program (MWCP) and certified Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC) will give a presentation on coyotes.

Holiday Crafts for Kids

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 4 – 5:30 PM

Come make a variety of crafts and decorations for the upcoming holiday season. Sparkle for all!

Reading in the Kitchen

Cookbook Club

Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 – 8 PM

Do you love to cook? Do you love to eat what you cook?

Join us for *Reading in the Kitchen Cookbook* Book Club. Our

theme at this meeting

will be a holiday cookie swap and a cooking theme old fashioned

Yankee swap.

Drop-In Knitting Group

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2 PM

Come join us for an afternoon of social knitting. Bring your projects, your ideas, and your questions. We can share ideas as we knit and chat.



Mansfield Senior Center

Free UCONN Classical Performance

Monday, Dec. 4, 1:10-2:10 PM

Light refreshments provided.

Call 860-487-9870 to attend.



FoodShare Distribution

Thursday, Dec. 7 and 21
11:30–12:15

Bring your own shopping bags.

Fresh Friday Holiday Luncheon

Friday, Dec. 8, 12 PM

Menu: Baked Ziti, Salad, and Dessert. CT Yuletide Carolers will perform at 1 PM. Please buy your \$7 ticket by December 4.

Lunch and Holiday Entertainment

Monday, Dec. 18, 12 PM

Menu: Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Salad and Dessert. Mansfield Senior Center Chorus and Sparkettes will perform at 1 PM. Please buy your \$7 ticket by December 11.

Free Computer Class

Thursday, Dec. 21, 11 AM

Learn how to use Health and Wellness Apps on your tablet or phone. All Welcome.



Sleigh bells ring

Are you listening

In the lane

Snow is glistening

A beautiful sight

We're happy tonight

Walking in a winter wonderland