

Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2013



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Haru Aki Café Coming to Storrs Center



There is something magnetic about the hip culture of a university “Main Street” that gets people excited. For friends Ronald Liu, Jessica Chiep, and Thomas Wang, Storrs Center is the ideal location in which to open their new café, Haru Aki.

“The transformation of Storrs is an invitation for people to get out and be where the action is,” explained Mr. Liu. “We want to be a part of this excitement with a modern, authentically inspired Japanese café.”

Haru Aki will serve authentic Japanese street fare in a modern restau-

rant with traditional elements. “This blend of old and new creates a culture that becomes an important part of the dining experience,” says Mr. Liu. “The restaurant will serve tapas - small, carefully prepared dishes that are based on Pan-

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Public Hearings on Phases 1C, 4 on Wed, April 3

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board will hold two Public Hearings on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at the Mansfield Fire Station 107 meeting hall at 879 Stafford Road (Route 32) to hear comments on two Zoning Permit applications of Storrs Center Alliance LLC.

7:00 pm: To develop the proposed market area in

Storrs Center (Phase 4: Market Square)

7:45 pm: To develop the proposed Town Square-3 (TS-3) building (Phase 1C: Building Town Square-3)

The purpose of the hearing is to receive written or oral comments regarding whether the submitted Zoning Permit applications are in compli-

ance with approval criteria for the Storrs Center Special Design District (the Storrs Center Special Design District regulations are available on the [Partnership's website](#)).

The public hearing will include a presentation of the proposed plans. Application materials,

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Did you know?

You can follow the construction of Storrs Center online at:

<http://goo.gl/5QwK7>



Save the Date!

**10TH Annual
Festival on
the Green**

**Sunday,
September 22**

Haru Aki Café (continued from page 1)

Asian fusion inspiration. The environment of Haru Aki will be similar to edgy restaurants you would expect to find in major cities such as New York, Chicago, or San Francisco. The food and the environment are equally important to creating an extraordinary experience.”

The three friends are all recent UConn alumni and bring varied backgrounds to their new venture. Ms. Chiep holds a BS in cytogenetics from the School of Argiculture and is leaving her career at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in the pathology department. She brings her freelance web design/development skills to the project.

Mr. Wang, an operations expert, comes from a family of serial restaurateurs. His most recent one, Anoho in Middletown, CT, has been enjoying success.

Finally, Mr Liu holds a BS

in marketing from the School of Business and currently specializes in sales training and brand marketing consultation. The common between all three, besides being childhood friends from West Hartford, is their appreciation for culture, especially through food.

Haru Aki is expected to open in September of 2013 in One Royce Circle in Storrs Center. Specialty items will include hand crafted sashimi salads, house-made curry dumplings, gyu-don, teppanyaki, and okonomiyaki dishes.

Haru Aki will also feature appetizers, sushi, build-your-own boba tea, and a variety of smoothies.

The café will be open seven days a week and will host monthly Saturday morning workshops. These events will feature different cultural experiences such as sushi-rolling, fresh mocha-tastings, various art techniques, anime screenings,

and dumpling-making.

Storrs Center developer Howard Kaufman, Managing Member of Leyland-Alliance LLC, is excited about the addition of Haru Aki Café. “The three operators of Haru Aki are bringing a fun concept to Storrs Center that will fit perfectly into Mansfield’s new downtown neighborhood,” says Mr. Kaufman. “Welcome!”

The chief design and architecture firm on this project is Penguin Environmental Design led by Yoko Kawai and Takaya Kurimoto. Yoko holds a Master’s from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Kobe University. Takaya holds a Master’s from Cornell.

For more information about Haru Aki Café, visit its facebook page at facebook.com/HaruAkiCafe or haruakicafe.com (coming soon). ♦

Now Open in Storrs Center!

1 DOG LANE

- [Moe’s Southwest Grill](#)
- [7-Eleven](#)
- [Froyoworld](#)
- [Dog Lane Café](#)
- [Subway](#)
- [Insomnia Cookies](#)
- [Mooyah Burgers & Fries](#)

9 DOG LANE

- [The Flower Pot](#)
- [Travel Planners](#)
- [Body Language](#)
- [Head Husky Barber Shop](#)
- [Bank of America ATM](#)
- [Sweet Emotions](#)
- [Select Physical Therapy](#)
- [Husky Pizza](#)

11 DOG LANE
[Storrs Automotive](#)



Public Hearings (continued from page 1)

including project mapping, are available for review at the Mansfield Planning Office, Mansfield Town Clerk's Office, the Downtown Partnership office (all at 4 South Eagleville Road), the Mansfield Public Library (54 Warrenville Road), and online at www.mansfieldct.gov.

Storrs Center is a mixed-use town center and main street corridor at the crossroads of the Town of Mansfield and the University of

Connecticut. Located along Storrs Road adjacent to the University, the Town Hall, E.O. Smith High School, and the Mansfield Community Center, Storrs Center combines retail, restaurant, and office uses with residential apartments. It is a pedestrian-oriented downtown that also includes a future town square, a conservation area, and other public spaces. The market square area will include a 31,000 square foot gro-

cery store and a 5,000 square foot commercial building and is located at the corner of Charles Smith Way and Storrs Road. The TS-3 building will include 15,270 square feet of commercial space and 92 apartments. It will be located on Storrs Road, adjacent to the proposed Town Square.

For more information, please visit the [Partnership's website](#) or call the Partnership office (860.429.2740). ♦

LOOKING for PARKING?

Visitors to Storrs Center have a number of options for parking!

The Dog Lane parking lot is free with a 2 hour limit.

The Storrs Center Parking Garage offers free parking for 2 hours. Each additional hour is just \$1/hour!

Monthly parking passes are available for the garage starting at \$30/month.

On-street parking is available in front of 9 Dog Lane and on Storrs Road in front of 1 Dog Lane. On-street parking is free and limited to either 30 minutes or 2 hours (as signed).



Moe's Southwest Grill is getting ready for spring! Many of the Storrs Center restaurants will have outdoor dining available when warmer weather arrives.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28 - April 7

[Punk Rock](#), Various times, [Connecticut Repertory Theatre \(CRT\)](#), Studio Theatre

Thursday, April 4

MDP Monthly Open House, 6 PM - 7 PM, Partnership office, Room 30 of Town Hall

Saturday, April 6

Running Clinic, 9 AM–12 PM, [Select Physical Therapy](#), 9 Dog Lane, Suite 108; RSVP required, call 860.429.0899

Saturday, April 6

[Latin Fest: Grupo Niche & Henry Santos of Aventura](#), 8 PM, [Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Thursday, April 11

[Faculty Talk](#): “Orality, Art Histories, and Interpretation in Asian American Art” 4 PM, [William Benton Museum of Art](#)

Thursday, April 11

[Wale](#), 8 PM, [Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Saturday, April 13

[Town-Wide Tag Sale](#), 8 AM - 1 PM, [Mansfield Community Center](#)

Saturday, April 13

[Free Mansfield Day](#), 9 AM–1 PM, [Mansfield Community Center](#)

Saturday, April 13

[Parsons Dance](#), 8 PM, [Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Sunday, April 14

Museum Lecture: [It Came from the Grocery Shelf!](#) 3 PM, [CT Museum of Natural History](#)

Thursday, April 18

[Teale Lecture: The Lost Woods of Childhood](#), 4 PM, [CT Museum of Natural History](#), [Dodd Center](#)

Friday, April 19

[Ebene String Quartet](#), 7.30 PM, [Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Sunday, April 21

[The Gruffalo](#), 2 PM, [Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Wednesday, April 24

[Gallery Talk: The Secret Paris of the 1930s](#), 12.15 PM, [William Benton Museum of Art](#)

Thursday, April 25

[Esperanza Spaulding](#), 7.30 PM, [Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts](#)

April 25 - May 5

[Hairspray](#), Various times, [Connecticut Repertory Theatre \(CRT\)](#), Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

Saturday, April 26

[Family Fun Night](#), 6 - 9 PM, [Mansfield Community Center](#)