

Family Fun in Mansfield

May, June, July & August 2015

Special Notes

- **The Adventure Park at Storrs** (860-946-0606) (StorrsAdventurePark.com) is an aerial forest park with fun, healthy and safe outdoor adventures for families (ages 7 and older) featuring obstacle courses in the trees and zip lines of varying challenge levels. Check the website for hours of operation and special promotions.
- **Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry** (486-8580) (bimp.uconn.edu) is located at 1 Royce Circle in Storrs Center and is open Tues.-Sun. 11am-7pm. Exhibits through June 28: *Reed + Light: Works by Anne Cubberly* and *Masters of the Marionette: Rufus and Margo Rose*; May 28-Oct. 11 (at the William Benton Museum of Art): *Speak Out! Speak Up!...Bread and Puppet Theater and Activist Art*; July 11-Nov. 1: *The Work that Follows: 50 Years of UConn Puppeteers*. In addition, there will be special puppet performances for children every Sat. @ 1pm & 3pm from June 20-Aug. 1 (see calendar below). AND August 10-16 the National Puppetry Festival comes to Storrs (nationalpuppetryfestival2015.com)!!!
- **Community School of the Arts** (486-1073) (csa.uconn.edu) offers a **GREAT** variety of music, art and theater programs for children of all ages. Check the website or the Summer 2015 Mansfield Parks & Recreation Brochure for a listing of programs. Check the website for a schedule of CSA faculty and student recitals.
- **CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center** (486-4460) (mnh.uconn.edu) has a multi-media permanent exhibit, *Human's Nature: A Closer Look at the Relationship Between People and the Environment*. The Museum is open Mon.-Fri., 10am-4pm (closed Sat. and Sun.). Check the website or call for a copy of the Summer 2015 brochure, which includes several exciting programs for children and their families.
- **Gurleyville Gristmill** (429-9032) (joshuastrust.org), located on Stonemill Rd. in the Gurleyville section of Mansfield, is owned and operated by Joshua's Trust, and is open Sundays from May 17 through October 11, from 1-5pm.
- **Joshua's Trust** (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc.) (429-9023) (joshuastrust.org) has its office in Mansfield. It currently manages over 4,000 acres in Northeast CT, most of which have walking trails open to the public. Check the website for a list of properties (with maps) + scheduled walks throughout the year.
- **Mansfield Historical Society** (429-6575) (mansfieldct-history.org), will open Sun., June 7, 1:30-4:30pm (with special activities for children!). Thereafter, it will be open every Sat. & Sun., 1:30-4:30pm, through Sept. 27. This year's exhibits: *The Diaries of Martin and Almira Hibbard Parker (1862-1907)* and *The Building of the Mansfield Hollow Dam*.
- **Mansfield Parks and Recreation Dept.** (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com) has many classes, programs and activities for young children. Check the Summer 2015 brochure sent to every household for information about summer camps, community gardens, pool (and other) parties, rentals of kayaks and backyard game equipment, **fee waivers** for eligible Mansfield residents, and so much more!
- **Mansfield Public Library** (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org) is a treasure-trove of free books and other media for children and families and offers 3 drop-in program series for young children: **Wonderful Wednesdays** (all ages with caregiver), 10:30-11:30am, June 17-Aug. 12; **Family Storytime** (all ages with caregiver), Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am, May 9-Aug.29; and **Toddler Time** (birth-age 3 with caregiver), Fridays, 10:30am-12n, May 1-July 31 (but NOT May 29 or July 3). Also check out the **Summer Reading Programs** plus many special programs and events listed throughout the summer.
- **Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum** (486-2712) (uconnhuskies.com/facilities/freitas-ice-forum.html) is open to the public for skating lessons for ages 4 and up, as well as general skating, for part of the summer. Call or check the website for details.
- **Storrs Farmers Market** (storrsfarmersmarket.org) (storrsfarmersmarket@gmail.com) is open 3-6pm Saturdays from May 2-Nov. 21, on the front lawn of the Mansfield Town Hall, rain or shine. Something for everyone. **BUY and EAT LOCAL!**
- **UConn Co-op Bookstore** (486-8525) (http://generalbooks.bookstore.uconn.edu) has a SUPER new home at 1 Royce Circle, Storrs Center and has a TERRIFIC selection of children's books! Check the website for details about kids' events, including "*Where's Waldo?*" during July + July 31 party!
- **UConn EEB** (=Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) **Greenhouses** (486-8052) (http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/), on the UConn campus, house a huge collection of amazing live plants from all over the world. Open to the public: Mon.-Fri. 8am-4pm.
- **UConn Libraries** (lib.uconn.edu/about/exhibits) offer exhibits that might be of interest to adults and children.
- **William Benton Museum of Art** (486-1705) (benton.uconn.edu) is located on the UConn campus and is open Tues.-Fri., 10am - 4:30pm and Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30pm (closed July 4 & Aug. 12-24). Check the website for a list of exhibits that might be of interest to families with young children, including *Speak Up! Speak Out! Bread & Puppet Theater*, May 28-Oct. 11.

For more information about the events listed in this calendar, check the following sources:

BIMP = Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (486-8580) (bimp.uconn.edu)
CF = Cloverleigh Farm, 483 Browns Rd., Mansfield (860-373-6324) (cloverleighfarm.com)
CRT/NSS = Connecticut Repertory Theater/Nutmeg Summer Series 486-2113) (crt.uconn.edu)
CSMNH = CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center (UConn) (486-4460) (mnh.uconn.edu)
EOS = E.O.Smith High School (487-0877) (eosmith.org)
MDP = Mansfield Downtown Partnership (429-3015) (mansfieldct.org/mdp)
MMS = Mansfield Middle School (429-9341) (mansfieldct.org)
MPL = Mansfield Public Library (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)
MPRD = Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com)
MSC = Mansfield Senior Center (429-0262) (seniorcenter@mansfieldct.org)
SCongC = Storrs Congregational Church (429-9382; ext. 10) (storrsconchurch.org)
UCCB = UConn Co-op Bookstore (486-8525) (http://generalbooks.bookstore.uconn.edu)

Many of the following programs require advance registration and/or fees. Call ahead!

Fee waivers are available to eligible Mansfield residents for most Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department programs (429-3015). Scholarships may be available for other fee-based programs listed here.

Summer Vacation Camps, Programs, Workshops, Activities

Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry (486-8580; bimp.uconn.edu); **Community School of the Arts** (486-1073; csa.uconn.edu); **CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center** (486-4460; mnh.uconn.edu); **Holiday Hill Day Camp** (423-1375; holidayrecreation.com); **Kids are Scientists & Engineers Too! (K.A.S.E.T.)** (486-8115; kaset.uconn.edu); **Mansfield Parks & Recreation Dept.** (429-3015; mansfieldcc.com); **Mansfield Public Library** (429-2501; mansfieldpubliclibrary.org); **UCann Cook Camps** (486-3128; www.dining.uconn.edu/ucann-cook-camp-2015/)

MAY 2015

May 6 (Wed.), 7pm – Spring Band Concert by Mansfield Middle School students in the MMS auditorium (MMS)
May 9 (Sat.), 9am-12n -- Garden Gate Club Plant Sale to benefit EO Smith scholarships @ Buchanan Auditorium /Mans. Library
May 9 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm -- Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
May 12 (Tues.), 4pm – Paddington “Be Homeful” Storytime; a special CCEH project to help end family homelessness (MPL)
May 13 (Wed.), 7pm – Spring Orchestra Concert by Mansfield Middle School students in the MMS auditorium (MMS)
May 16 (Sat.), 10am-12n – Learn to Throw the Atlatl with Gary Noll in Moodus, CT (ages 10 +) (CSMNH)
May 16 (Sat.), 10am-3pm – Big Whale Bash @ Goodwin Elementary School; come for fun for the whole family! (429-6316)
May 16 (Sat.), 3-4:30pm – Mansfield Library Annual Plant Swap @ Buchanan Center; bring some, take some! (MPL)
May 19 (Tues.), 4pm – Get Ready for *Safe* Fun in the Sun: learn about sun safety + enjoy beach stories and a craft (MPL)
May 19 (Tues.), 7pm – Spring Choral Concert by Mansfield Middle School students in the MMS auditorium (MMS)
May 20 (Wed.), 7pm – EOSmith H.S. Spring Concert: Chorus, Band & Orchestra @ Jorgensen Auditorium, UCONN (EOS)
May 23 (Sat.), 11am-12:30pm – Open House @ Cloverleigh Farm (483 Browns Rd.), & a Terrific Tomato to take home! (CF)
May 25 (Mon.), 9am – Memorial Day parade and observances in Mansfield Center (if rain: MMS gym) (429-3302)
May 27 (Wed.), 6:30pm -- Beginning Band Concert by 4th Grade students in MMS auditorium (MMS)
May 28 (Thurs.), 7pm – EOSmith H.S. Student Concert (in the auditorium) & Art Show (in the Atrium) (EOS)
May 29 (Fri.), 6pm – Town Square Celebration: Dedication of new Town Square & musical performance of *Oh! Cassius* (MDP)
May 30 (Sat.), 10-11:30am – Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford: Infectious Diseases from 1850-1918; tour (ages 10+) (CSMNH)
May 30 (Sat.), 6:30-9:30pm -- Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)

JUNE 2015

June 2 (Tues.), 7pm – EOSmith Music Department Guitar & Piano Concert in the high school auditorium (EOS)
June 6 (Sat.), 9-11am -- Birds of the Wyndham Land Trust (Pomfret); explore with a naturalist! (ages 5 + w/adult) (CSMNH)
June 6 (Sat.), 10am-2pm – Mount Hope Montessori School's Spring Fair! Bounce house & games; tag & bake sale!!! (423-1070)
June 6 (Sat.), 12n-?? – Bus trip to Fenway Park for a Red Sox vs. Oakland A's baseball game + lunch (REG. by 5/23) (MPRD)
June 6 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm -- Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
June 7 (Sun.), 1-3pm – A Fifty-Foot View: Explore the Fifty Foot Preserve with 2 lively naturalists! (ages 5 + w/adult) (MPRD)
June 7 (Sun.), 1:30-4:30 – Special activities at the opening of this year's exhibits @ the Mansfield Historical Society! (429-6575)
June 7 (Sun.), 3pm -- Donor Appreciation choral concert by Take Note! at the First Church of Christ in Mansfield (228-2390)
June 13 (Sat.), 10am-12n -- Exploring Connecticut's Towns: Stonington! Very interesting history!!! (ages 8 + w/adult) (CSMNH)
June 18-July 3 – Performances of the musical *Peter Pan* @ the Harriet Jorgensen Theater, UConn. Not to be missed! (CRT/NSS)
June 19 (Fri.), 6-7:30pm – Super Summer Kickoff Party: activities, games and crafts for all ages! (MPL)
June 20 (Sat.), 7:30am-12n – John E. Jackman Tour de Mansfield + lunch; bike rodeo for kids! (raindate Sun., 6/21) (MPRD)
June 20 (Sat.), 10-11:30am – Open House @ Cloverleigh Farm (483 Browns Rd.) and a Simple Sunflower to take home! (CF)
June 20 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm -- Puppet performances for children by UConn puppetry students @ BIMP; come for fun!!! (BIMP)
June 27 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm -- Puppet performances for children by UConn puppetry students @ BIMP; come for fun!!! (BIMP)

JULY 2015

July 2 (Thurs.), 6:30-8pm – Radio Waves; free, fun family concert @ the Storrs Downtown Square (MPRD)
July 9 (Thurs.), 6:30-8pm – Kidsville Kuckoo Revue; free, fun family concert @ the Storrs Downtown Square (MPRD)
July 11 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm -- Puppet performances for children by UConn puppetry students @ BIMP; come for fun!!! (BIMP)
July 11 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm – Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
July 14 (Tues.), 2:30-3:30pm – Beekeeping presentation: see a working hive, sample some honey (ages 5 & up) (MPL)
July 16 (Thurs.), 6:30-8pm – The Kerry Boys; free, fun family concert @ the Storrs Downtown Square (MPRD)
July 18 (Sat.), 10-11am – Turtle Dance Music: an interactive, inclusive musical performance for young children (MPL)
July 18 (Sat.), 8am – 3rd Annual Run for the Mansfield Community Playground 5K. Kids' races & more! (MPRD)
July 18 (Sat.), 10am-12n – What We Can Learn from Old Gravestones: East Hartford's Center Cemetery (ages 10+) (CSMNH)
July 18 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm -- Puppet performances for children by UConn puppetry students @ BIMP; come for fun!!! (BIMP)
July 21 (Tues.), 2-3pm – Judi Ann Jones: Dancin' with Hoops. Have some hula-hooping fun with an expert! (all ages) (MPL)
July 23 (Thurs.), 6:30-8pm -- Windham Concert Band; free, fun family concert @ the Storrs Downtown Square (MPRD)
July 24 (Fri.), 11am – LIVE, friendly llamas and alpacas + fiber products + picnic lunch. Fun for all ages! (Reg. by 7/16) (MSC)
July 24 (Fri.), 1-1:45pm – Country Quilt Llama Farm: learn about llamas and meet a real llama! (all ages) (MPL)
July 25 (Sat.), 8am-c. 2pm – 24th Annual CT K9 (Canine) Olympics on the UConn Depot campus; amazing!!!!!! (486-4801)
July 25 (Sat.), 1-3pm – UConn Bug Week Event at the CT State Museum of Natural History! (ages 8 + w/adult) (CSMNH)
July 25 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm -- Puppet performances for children by UConn puppetry students @ BIMP; come for fun!!! (BIMP)
July 25 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm – Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun at the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
July 28 (Tues.), 6:30-7:30pm – Christopher Agostino's “Storyfaces”: fusion of storytelling & visual art (ages 5 & up) (MPL)
July 30 (Thurs.), 1-2pm – STEAM Ice Cream with Carolyn Stearns: storytelling + math + science + ice cream! (ages 5 +) (MPL)
July 31 (Fri), 3pm -- “Where's Waldo?” party at the UConn Co-op Bookstore in Storrs Center!!! (UCCB)

AUGUST 2015

Aug. 1 (Sat.), 1pm & 3pm -- Puppet performances for children by UConn puppetry students @ BIMP; come for fun!!! (BIMP)
Aug. 6 (Thurs.), 6pm – FREE summer concert on Storrs Cong. Church lawn, rain or shine; bring a picnic & chairs (SCongC)
Aug. 8, (Sat.), 1pm – CT Beekeepers & the History of Honey Bees in CT; program @ the CSMNH (ages 8+ w/adult) (CSMNH)
Aug. 8 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm -- Family Fun Night: LOTS of fun @ the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
Aug. 10-16 – The National Puppetry Festival in Storrs! Check nationalpuppetryfestival2015.com for events for kids (BIMP)
Aug. 12 (Wed.), 10:30-11:30 am – Music & Movement with Nicole Clarke at Wonderful Wednesdays (all ages) (MPL)
Aug. 13 (Th.), 10-11:30am -- Ethnobotany Under Invasion: program at Hammonasset State Park (ages 8+ w/adult) (CSMNH)
Aug. 13 (Thurs.), 2-3:30pm – Ice Cream Social! Fun & games and make your own sundae! (all ages welcome) (MPL)
Aug. 13 (Thurs.), time tbd -- Summer carillon concert, rain or shine @ Storrs Cong. Church. Fun for the whole family! (SCongC)
Aug. 15 (Sat.), 11am-5pm – Puppet Fair in and around the Storrs Center Town Square (nationalpuppetryfestival2015.com) (BIMP)
Aug. 15 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm -- Family Fun Night! LOTS of fun @ the Community Center for the whole family! (MPRD)
Aug. 20 (Thurs.), time tbd -- Summer carillon concert, rain or shine @ Storrs Cong. Church. Come for family fun! (SCongC)
Aug. 22 (Sat.), 10am-12n – Germ Safari: Discover the Wild Microscopic World in Your Backyard! (ages 8+ w/adult) (CSMNH)

Family Fun in Mansfield is compiled 3 times/year (Jan.-April; May-Aug. And Sept.-Dec.) by Becky Lehmann for Mansfield Advocates for Children. Please contact her (423-5807; slehmann@snet.net) if you wish to suggest items for future editions. Publication of **Family Fun in Mansfield** is supported by a grant from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation.