

A newsletter about what's happening in your Town of Mansfield

VOL. 3, ISSUE 1

2-1-23

Look for these stories in this newsletter



Give input to Parks & Rec Master Plan
(See page 5)



Taste 2 Towns returns Feb 20-Mar 5
(See page 7)



Protecting Conantville Brook
(See page 8)



Upcoming Events
(See page 24)

Message from the Town Manager

Key Projects Progressing to a Close; Exciting New Efforts Launched

Greetings Fellow Residents!



I hope that everyone is enjoying a healthy and prosperous start to 2023. Winter has certainly been exceedingly mild thus far, which is a welcome development for many and a source of some disappointment for the snow sports enthusiasts amongst us.

With the New Year now well underway and the Town being more than halfway through the current fiscal year, this is a good time to provide a status update on a wide range of fronts.

Mansfield Elementary School. The Mansfield Elementary School construction project is nearly complete, and a detailed letter is forthcoming that will convey detailed information to families and the community at-large about the process/timeline for opening the building. It is a very exciting time for this incredibly important project, which we have been working diligently to complete so that the new school will be ready for students to begin learning there following the April vacation week.

As I emphasized in the last newsletter, the new school will be a state-of-the-art “net zero” facility that simultaneously exemplifies Mansfield’s enduring commitment to sustainability and public education. The building truly will provide our students and educators an exceptional physical environment to learn and grow. Family and community events are currently being planned for March and April so that residents will have the opportunity to visit the site and become acquainted with the building and grounds. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony is also being planned for later in the spring. We will keep you informed about these plans when Mansfield students will be proud to show off their new school to you.

Local Government Academy. The second year of the Mansfield Local Government Academy came to a conclusion last month (see story on page 10) and I want to extend a sincere thank you to the participants and presenters who made the program a great success. This 12-session program offers participants a detailed look into the full array of operations and services that our local government delivers to the community, and we are already looking ahead to the program’s third year, which will commence next fall.

Budget Planning Begins. Beginning in late-December 2022, department heads began preparing their respective Fiscal Year 2023-2024 operating budget and capital improvement project requests. These requests have subsequently gone through an initial round of review and analysis the Finance Director and me. This phase of the budget process culminates with the formulation of my official annual budget and capital project recommendations that will be initially presented to the Town Council on March 29 and subsequently shared again via a public information session on April 5.

We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to learn about our budgeting plans through the process this spring. (Please see the schedule of the budget process on page 3.) Just as with past budget development cycles in the Town of Mansfield, a primary goal for the FY 2023/2024 budget is maintaining (and in some cases enhancing) the quality of Town programs, projects, and services while simultaneously promoting cost savings, leveraging revenues from the state and other “non-local” sources, and minimizing (or avoiding) any increases in the mill rate. We genuinely want to do everything possible to help ensure that Mansfield remains a community where people of all economic means can afford to live.

(Continued)



(Town Manager’s Message cont.)

4-Day Work Week. The roughly six-month trial period for the alternative work schedule (i.e., four-day work week) for municipal offices situated in Town Hall officially launched on January 9. As such, we are still less than one month into the pilot period. Alternative work schedules and four-day work weeks are becoming increasingly adopted by municipal organizations, and the broad aim of this endeavor is to see if there are ways in which employee work-life balance can be enhanced, while at the same time ensuring that residents and visitors receive the same high quality (or possibly better) service from our municipal government with extended hours for user convenience.

The long-term efficacy of this business model will be evaluated in an ongoing manner based on the experiences/feedback of employees and the public. To this end, we invite you to please use this simple online feedback instrument (<https://mansfieldct.jotform.com/230084647910960>) to provide input on your experience this winter and spring. The Town Council will receive a report from staff at the conclusion of the trial period before any determinations are made on the merits/viability of the program on a more permanent basis.

Community Engagement. There are presently multiple Town-initiated projects in various stages of planning and implementation that will involve an extensive amount of community engagement. One such project entails master planning for Mansfield Parks and Recreation with an overarching goal of articulating a vision – and corresponding goals, objectives and action items – for the Town’s recreational programs, amenities, and open space.



Another project entails an ongoing comprehensive municipal facilities needs assessment that includes an evaluation of alternative approaches to upgrading town buildings in a manner that generates the most public benefit. Additionally, the Town is embarking on an in-depth planning process to help guide future redevelopment of neighborhoods in the northwestern portion of Town that have been undergoing significant changes in recent years as an ever-growing number of owner-occupied homes have transitioned into rental housing primarily leased by UConn students.

These are very important projects for our community’s future—Mansfield Tomorrow—and considerable effort will be made to alert the public of upcoming engagement opportunities and obtain valuable input using a wide range of traditional and digital methods.

ARPA Projects Update. To date, the Town Council has fully authorized the use of approximately \$5.75 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. This represents slightly more than 75% of the total \$7.5 million the Town has received in ARPA funds from the federal government. An additional \$915,000 in ARPA funding has been conditionally authorized by the Council for various proposed uses. This means that \$845,000 in ARPA funds have not yet been fully or conditionally authorized for the purpose previously proposed by Town staff. Department heads are currently preparing written status updates on authorized projects funded by the Town’s

ARPA allocation and a detailed update on project status will be shared with the Council in the near future to help inform their subsequent funding allocation decisions.

Finally, if you have friends or family who may be interested in receiving this electronic newsletter, but may not yet be subscribed, please forward a copy of this newsletter to them. And, remember, subscribing to receive the newsletter, and other updates from your town, is easy to do. (See box to the right.)

Please do not hesitate to contact the Town Manager’s Office, 860.429.3336 or townmanager@mansfieldct.org, if you have constructive feedback on how the depth and breadth of information provided in the newsletter can be optimized to meet the needs of our residents.

Very respectfully,

Ryan J. Aylesworth
Town Manager

Subscribing to the electronic newsletter is easy and straightforward. Simply:

—Go to this page on the town’s website:

<http://mansfieldct.gov/list.aspx>

—Enter your email address in the “Email Address” field

—Under the “Notify Me” section of the page check the box for “News & Press Releases”

Look for an automated email informing you that your email address has been added to the distribution list, then confirm your account. That’s it!

Town of Mansfield’s Budget Development and Adoption Schedule

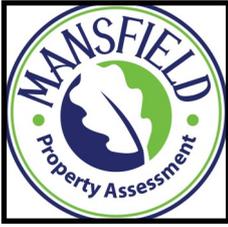


The Town’s management team has been working to compile the Town Manager’s Proposed FY 2023/24 Budget and capital improvement plan as a starting point for Council discussion starting in late March. We understand that potential impact on the taxpayer needs to be considered carefully and we will assist the Council in making any desired adjustments.

Please join in on the process. The budget schedule is provided below. All meetings may be attended in-person, or watch the live-stream virtually from your home: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/2062/Livestream-of-Meetings>

Date/Time	Purpose	Location
March 29 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Budget Presentation Message, Budget in Brief, Guide to Budget, Revenue and Expenditure Summaries	Council Chambers Audrey Beck Building (Town Hall)
April 5 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Public Information Session Town Manager’s Budget	Council Chambers
April 6 Thursday 6:30 PM	Budget Review-General Fund and Capital: General Government, Public Safety, Community Services, Community Development, Town-wide, Operating Transfers, Parks & Rec Fund, Mansfield Discovery Depot, Other Operating Fund	Council Chambers
April 10-14	School Vacation Week	
April 10 Monday, 7:00 PM	Public Hearing on Budget at Regular Council Meeting	Council Chambers
April 11 Tuesday 6:30 PM	Budget Review-General Fund and Capital: Public Works, Other funds: Town Aid, Sewer Operating, Solid Waste Fund, Transit Services, Debt Service, Health Insurance, Workers’ Comp, and Cemetery Fund. Other agencies: Eastern Highlands Health District and Mansfield Downtown Partnership	Council Chambers
April 18 Tuesday 6:30 PM	Budget Review-General Fund and Capital: Board of Education, Shared Facilities Management, Shared Finance, Shared Information Technology & Management Services Fund	Council Chambers
April 20 Thursday, 7 PM	Budget Discussion (for flagged items and discussions)	Council Chambers
April 24 Monday 6:00-7:00 PM	Adoption of Budget (Note: held prior to regular Town Council meeting)	Council Chambers
April 26 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Adoption of Budget (meeting held if necessary)	Council Chambers
May 1 Monday, 7:00 PM	Region 19 Annual Meeting on Budget	E.O. Smith High School Media Center
May 2 Tuesday	Region 19 Budget Referendum for Ashford, Mansfield, Willington voters	Polling Places
May 4 Thursday 6:00 PM	Public Information Session Town Council Adopted Budget	Council Chambers
May 9 Tuesday 7:00 PM	Annual Town Meeting	Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

Important Updates from the Assessor's Office



Grand List Assessment Increase Notices and Appeals: Appeal Petitions Due by February 20

The Assessor has compiled the Grand List for October 1, 2022. Assessment Increase Notices were mailed February 1, 2023. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §12-111, written "Real and Personal Property" assessment appeal petitions must be filed with the Board of Assessment Appeals, which meets in March, **BY February 20, 2023**. Postmarks not accepted.

Tax Relief Programs Available. Application Period Begins February 1

Low-income, Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners, Renters Rebate and Additional Veterans tax relief programs filing period begins February 1, 2023. Income maximums to qualify, based on IRS tax year 2022, are \$40,300 for an individual and \$49,100 for married couple.

Applications for Homeowners and Renters programs are available from the Senior Center. Please call them to make an appointment: 860-429-0262.

The Assessor will mail Additional Veterans biennial applications to registered taxpayers. For new applicants, please email Assessor@MansfieldCT.org to be placed on the mailing list.

Commercial, Industrial Real Estate & Rental Properties Income & Expense Forms

All owners of Commercial, Industrial Real Estate and/or Rental Properties (5+ units) are required to file annual Income & Expense Reports. Assessor will mail forms to property owners in February 2023. The deadline to file the form with the Assessor's office: **BY June 1, 2023**. Postmarks not accepted. Failure to file by the prescribed deadline will result in a 10% assessment penalty.

Kindly note, if you received a form and your commercial or industrial property is owner occupied, please indicate that on the form and submit by the deadline to avoid the assessment penalty.

Community Supported Agriculture

Learn about local CSAs at www.TasteofMansfieldCT.org



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a subscription to a season's worth of sustainable, locally grown produce distributed to members throughout the harvesting season. CSA members enjoy the quality of fresh fruits and vegetables, while supporting their local farmer. Every farm is different, but all stand by the same principles: to connect with the community, to provide healthy, often organic, produce, flowers, and sometimes eggs and meat, directly to consumers, and to build a more vibrant local food system.

Sign up in late February!



Don't Toss It—FIX IT! At the Upcoming Repair Café on April 8



Free repairs for bicycles, toasters, other small appliances, vacuum cleaners, lamps, and clothing. Carry it in and learn from volunteers how to get it working again. If it can be fixed, we can do it! (or better yet, show you how to do it yourself next time!)

Bring your repairs to the Repair Café on Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm, at the First Congregational Church, 199

Valley Street, Willimantic.

The Repair Café is a FREE event open to the public. And if you have skills to share, please consider volunteering your time!

Visit the Willimantic Repair Café, [Facebook page: @repaircafe.willimantic](https://www.facebook.com/repaircafe.willimantic).

Join the Public Input Session for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan



The Town of Mansfield is hosting a public workshop to invite input from community members for the Parks and Recreation Master Planning process. The workshop will be led by 110% INC, the consulting firm leading the planning effort, and will be held on Wednesday, February 15 from 6:00 PM - 7:30PM at the Mansfield Middle School located at 205 Spring Hill Rd.

The workshop will provide background information on the planning effort, interactive engagement opportunities for the community as well as a worksheet activity for children. All members of the public are invited to attend and make their voice heard to help shape the future of parks and recreation in Mansfield, CT.

As an added convenience to encourage families, a childcare option will be available for ages: 2 -12 during the workshop.

“Mansfield is fortunate to have such a wide variety of parks, waterways and trails, arts and recreation options as well as fitness facilities,” says Jay O’Keefe, Director of Parks and Recreation Department in Mansfield. “As we look down the road, we want to ensure we are focused on enhancing these services to meet the community’s needs and desires for today and tomorrow. We hope community members of all ages and interests will join us for this input session February 15.”

MANSFIELD TOMORROW **PARKS & REC MASTER PLAN**

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

FEB 15th 6PM
MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Planning Staff Member Earns Distinguished Certification



The Town of Mansfield is pleased to announce that Jillene Woodmansee has successfully earned the distinguished designation of [Certified Zoning Enforcement Official \(CZEO\)](#).

Earning this title requires at least three years of zoning enforcement experience in a Connecticut municipality, successful completion of 60 hours of training and associated examinations, and a written case study demonstrating knowledge and experience of the complex and varied principles, methods, and techniques of the zoning enforcement process.

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) appointed Jillene the Town’s Zoning Agent in 2019 and on July 2022 Jillene was promoted to the position of Planner II. Please join us in congratulating Jillene on her accomplishments. Achieving this designation is an asset to our Planning & Development Department and the community.

We All Have the Same Human Rights



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, nearly 75 years ago. This declaration identifies the rights to which human beings should be entitled, simply by virtue of their presence in the human community. On December 12, 2022 the Mansfield Town Council issued a proclamation acknowledging and supporting International Human Rights Day.

What are the primary human rights identified in these documents?

- The right to be treated with dignity;
- The right to life, liberty and security of person;
- Equality before the law and freedom from harassment;
- Freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion;
- Free choice of employment and freedom from discrimination;
- Adequate health care, housing, food and education.



Mansfield formed a Human Rights Commission (HRC) whose purpose is to educate all residents of our town and the surrounding area about human rights on the ground level. The HRC has been in existence for about two years. So far, we have participated in the Celebrate Mansfield Festival in the fall (see photo left) as well as the Juneteenth and Pride Month

celebrations in the spring. We have begun a conversation on the implications of being white by reading and discussing *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, and hosted the author in an open discussion in the library (photo below right.) We also hosted the “Building Bridges” photo exhibit showing experiences of immigrant families in America at the Library Express.

With our partners, HRC organized and carried out the creation of the mural on the wall of the Mansfield Community Center honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We also created and distributed two posters, using artwork from two Mansfield Middle School students, explaining Juneteenth for our community to mark our first official year of recognizing that holiday in Mansfield. Finally, we conducted a survey of town residents about their experiences of living in Mansfield, particularly those in which human rights are in question.



What is your experience with Human rights in Mansfield? We have just begun our work and we welcome anyone who wants to be involved with us to look at [our page on the Town website](#). We currently have one opening on the commission. If you are interested in applying, contact Monica Ferrara, Assistant Town Clerk, (ferraramt@mansfield.org) who can explain the application process.



We are placing suggestion boxes in several public buildings for anyone who wants to let us know something about a human rights concern in town, or [send us a message](#)— or just scan this QR Code.

Human rights in Mansfield means that we all deserve to be treated with respect, have our needs for public services met and to feel comfortable and welcome in all public places regardless of national or ethnic origin, faith tradition, sexual orientation, gender, age or ability status. Thanks for taking time to read this article and think about human rights in our town. We look forward to hearing from you.

-Submitted by Jane Fried, Chair, Mansfield Human Rights Commission

Sign up for CODE RED Emergency Alerts from the Town of Mansfield

Residents are encouraged to sign-up for emergency notifications from the Town of Mansfield. The CodeRED emergency notification system serves as the backbone of the Town of Mansfield’s emergency planning and communications outreach by sending telephone calls, text messages, emails and social media in an effort to effectively inform residents to protect life and property.

To sign-up for CodeRed emergency notifications, visit [our website](#)



Taste 2 Towns: Mansfield-Windham Restaurant Week is Coming! February 20 – March 5

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the Town of Mansfield are cooking up something good along with the Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association and the Town of Windham: Taste 2 Towns: Mansfield-Windham Restaurant Week!

From February 20 through March 5, enjoy the diverse dining destinations in our communities. Participating restaurants will serve up *prix fixe* menus and to-go packages featuring a wide variety of cuisines.

Visit [Taste2Towns.com](#) to see a list of participating restaurants and their menus. The 2023 restaurant roster will be available soon!

Taste 2 Towns: Mansfield-Windham Restaurant Week is made possible with the generous support of our sponsors, including “Chef’s Table Sponsor” Green Valley Tree and “Main Course Sponsors” Crane Hill Constructing, Dog Lane Café, Eastern Connecticut State University Foundation, Fenton River Grill, Green Valley Hospitality, and Zlotnick Construction.

TASTE 2 TOWNS
2023
20+ RESTAURANTS AWAIT

FEB 20 'til MAR 5

MANSFIELD & WINDHAM

PRIX FIXE AND TAKEOUT

PLAN YOUR DELICIOUS: TASTE2TOWNS.COM

Our community is great place to eat out. Enjoy prix fixe menus and to-go packages at participating restaurants from February 20 to March 5, 2023.

Windham CONNECTICUT
MANSFIELD CONNECTICUT Your place to grow
MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP Business and Community
WILLIMANTIC DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Storm Drains and Rain Garden Help Protect Conantville Brook



The Town of Mansfield was very fortunate when the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc. (ECCD) donated 12 storm drain filters to the Town. In addition to the filters, ECCD installed a rain garden and vegetated buffer in Sunny Acres Park and the East Brook Mall. The Town is subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4). This permit regulates runoff into the Town's stormwater system from the Town's roadways and private properties. Using the combination of practices, filters, rain garden and vegetated buffer, the goal of ECCD and the Town is to reduce the amount of impaired water reaching the Conantville Brook.

The storm drain filters are Ultra-Urban Filter® with Smart Sponge®, developed and manufactured by AbTech Industries, as an innovative low-cost Best Management Practice (BMP) that helps meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements with effective filtration, efficient application, simple installation, and low maintenance. The Smart Sponge contains an anti-microbial agent that is effective in reducing coliform bacteria found in stormwater. Smart Sponge permanently binds this anti-microbial agent to the Smart Sponge polymer surface in a proprietary process. Due to this permanent bond, the anti-microbial agent is active but does not leach, avoiding any downstream toxicity issues. It is also capable of selectively removing oil derivatives and hydrocarbons.



Smart Sponge fully encapsulates recovered oil, resulting in a substantially more effective response that prevents absorbed oil from leaching. It is also efficient in successfully removing sheen. In addition, the Smart Sponge remains buoyant in calm or agitated water, permitting it to remain in place until fully saturated, resulting in no wasted product. Once oil is absorbed, the Smart Sponge transforms the pollutants into a stable solid for easy recycling, providing a closed-loop solution. Smart Sponge technology is a cost effective BMP with low installation and maintenance labor costs.

ECCD also undertook water quality improvement projects by planting trees and shrubs in Mansfield in two locations, a rain garden at Sunny Acres Park and a vegetated buffer at the East Brook Mall. Rain gardens and vegetated buffers protect water quality by intercepting and taking up nutrients and pollutants that can pose health risks to people and wildlife, while also reducing flooding and drainage problems. These two types of plantings are a relatively easy, effective, and low-cost option for reducing stormwater impacts. Randazzo Timber & Stone provided excavation support and the Town of Mansfield greatly appreciates their assistance.

Mansfield Firefighters Teach Hands-Only CPR Through Flashy Video

A group of Mansfield firefighters are taking National Heart Health month to the next level by showing our community how to help a victim until professional EMTs arrive.

In keeping with the entertaining video created for Fire Safety Month last October, Firefighter Dave Keplesky donned his sunglasses and star-studded jacket once again to rap his story about CPR. With on-camera support from his peers Ted Morrissette, Tyler Burnham, David O'Brien and Rick Landry, the group showed the basics of Hands-Only CPR. What a great service, and a clever way to teach safety!

You can watch, and learn, by [clicking here](#).



Construction at The Standard at Four Corners is Underway



Scheduled to open in August 2025, the Standard at Four Corners project has begun. Construction is in full swing on this project in the Four Corners area of Town off of Rte. 195

The Standard at Four Corners will be a mixed-use project with 392 dwelling units and approximately 15,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space. The development will include 35 units affordable to households at 80% of median income and 17 units affordable to households at 120% of median income.

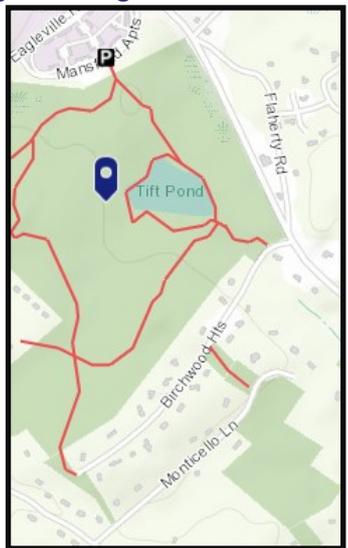
In addition to the on-site affordable units, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a density bonus in exchange for a \$1.7 million contribution to the Town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This will help our community fund additional units of affordable housing in the future.



Access Point to Moss Sanctuary Trails Changes During Construction

The [Moss Sanctuary](#) is a favorite walking spot for residents, UConn students, and Town staff. During UConn's redevelopment of the Mansfield Apartments, access to the Sanctuary will be relocated. A trail from Rte. 195, will be established soon. In the meantime, there is still access and parking located at Birchwood Heights. Thank you for your patience!

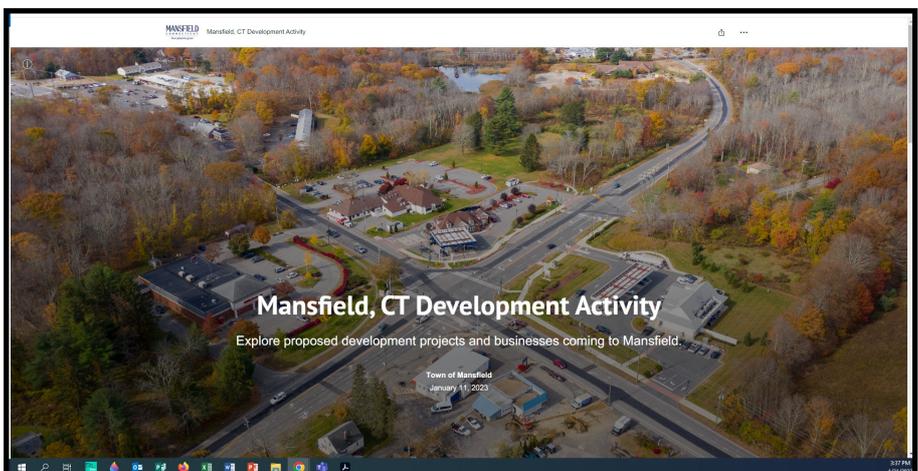
For more information regarding UConn's Mansfield Apartment redevelopment project can be found on the UConn [website](#).



Keep Up With the Latest News on Development Activity in Mansfield

There are many mixed-use and multi-family developments in various stages of the permitting process. The Planning Department maintains a [Development Activity](#) page on the website, which provides updates on upcoming and recently approved projects. We encourage residents to visit the site frequently.

Share Your thoughts! Please email the Department of Planning and Development at planzonedept@mansfieldct.org with any questions, comments, or information about participating in a public hearing. Sign up to receive notifications of when a new agenda has been posted by signing up on the [Town's Website](#).



Mansfield Local Government Academy Finishes Second Season



The Mansfield Local Government Academy wrapped up its second season of sessions in early January. Since September the cohort of 20 residents have attended two-hour workshops about all aspects of Mansfield’s operations and governance led by Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth’s office and the leaders from all the Town’s departments.

Congratulations and thank you goes to these local citizens for investing their time to learn more about the community: Arlene Albert, Chris Beaudry, Pam Brundage, Sandra Calamari, Will Carroll, Raymond Fricano, Lisa Garvey, Sabrina Hosmer, Dara Houston, Tina Huey, Bob Keplesky, Chris Kueffner, Carl Lund, Rene Mercado, Mary Paul, Irene Sheehan, Bill Tomecko, Tresca Marr-Smith, Vera Ward, and Jillian Welenc.



The final few sessions included a presentation by Mansfield Public Schools about their Core Beliefs, approach to student engagement, special services, and updates on the new Mansfield Elementary School and Mansfield Middle School buildings. At the final session, the focus was on the work of Mansfield’s Boards and Commissions. Planning & Zoning Commission Chair Paul Aho and Economic Development Commission Chair Steve Ferrigno spoke about their experience leading these vital committees and the value of the work. Virginia “Ginny” Walton, who staffs the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Committee, discussed the impact of the volunteers who address policy and hands-on advocacy work around sustainability and waste issues.



Town Councilor Charles Ausburger and Deputy Mayor Ben Shaiken, who chair the Town’s Republican and Democratic parties respectively, outlined the importance of serving in elected positions. They described their own experiences becoming involved with Town governance, and the process for being nominated by a party to run for office.

The Academy concluded with a wrap-up about the value of the experience to participants, and how it might be improved for future cohorts. The group had also completed evaluations on each session as the workshops progressed.

Any Mansfield resident who has an interest in participating in the next Mansfield Local Government Academy, starting in late summer, should email TownMgr@mansfieldct.org.

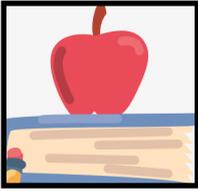


State of Connecticut Expands Returnable Beverage Deposits



Starting January 1, 2023 the Connecticut deposit law, known as the “bottle bill”, expanded beverage cans and bottles eligible for a five-cent deposit refund. The law now includes beer, energy drinks, water, sports drinks, hard seltzer, hard cider, tea and coffee, kombucha, plant water and juice. The locations to redeem the nickel deposit has expanded as well. To learn more, visit www.recyclingmakescentsct.com.

Deliberation and Discourse Group at E.O. Smith to Focus on Equity in Education: Behind the Books



On February 3rd, Deliberation and Discourse (DD) is hosting a public forum about access to education from 6-8:15 pm at Edwin O. Smith High School. The public forum will discuss how well the country and school communities are doing in making school accessible and equitable for all.

This forum will discuss the initiatives implemented in Mansfield and explore additional ideas for improving public schools for all students. People of all ages are welcome.

Attendees are asked to RSVP [through this link](#). The students have organized this event as an Encounter where the group discusses the topic using different texts. Registrants will receive an email link a few days prior to the event with sources that will be discussed. This is the first in-person public forum the DD group has hosted since Covid-19, and masks are encouraged. It will be held in the Library-Media Center at the high school, and refreshments will be served.

The E.O. Smith Democratic Discourse and Deliberation Project works in partnership with the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at UConn. The purpose of “DD” is to promote the use of dialogue as a means to build an understanding of multiple perspectives on community issues and to use common ground to build an action plan focused on resolution. Student participants are trained to be dialogue facilitators and will be asked to moderate discussions in a variety of forums. Students from all grades and diverse perspectives are encouraged to join to advance their deliberation skills and work toward building a stronger, more inclusive community.

Please consider supporting these local students by participating in this important discussion.



**Open Studio
Space for
Artists**

(Ages 14+)

Artists of all mediums are welcome to enjoy the open studio space at the Community School of the Arts Lenard Hall. Bring your own materials, & come create & collaborate with your peers. All skill levels welcome. No instruction provided.

Location: Lenard Hall Recital Hall
Dates: Tues., Feb. 7-28 (330000-B)
Tues., March 7-28 (330000-C)
Times: 5-7 p.m.
Fees: \$11/month for residents,
\$21/month for non-residents

Community School of the Arts Lenard Hall
 450 S. Eagleville Rd, Storrs/Mansfield, CT 06268
www.mansfieldct.gov/csa 860-429-3015





REFUSE IT, REUSE IT POSTER CONTEST



What: Calling on students attending Mansfield schools to raise public awareness about meaningful ways to reduce waste and reuse products.

Why: Preventing waste reduces more greenhouse gas emissions and pollution than recycling. Preventing waste saves money and can be easy.

Who: Open to all students, grades K-12, attending Mansfield schools.

When: All entries must be submitted by March 31, 2023.



Visit this [link](#) for full contest rules and permission form for submission.

Nomination Period Opening Soon for 2023 Champions of Local Food



Do you know someone in our community who is a real champion for local food?

Perhaps a farmer who you've come to trust and rely on for your produce? Or a neighbor who is always willing to teach something about growing or preparing local foods?

Last year the Taste of Mansfield, with support from the Mansfield Economic Development Commission and the Mansfield Agriculture Committee, awarded the [first-ever Taste of Mansfield Champion Awards](#) to Diane Dorfer, Stephanie Deason and the Tri-County Greenhouse. Nominated by peers within our community, these champions understand how our community is truly connected through local food.

The nomination period will be opening soon for 2023 Champions. Please be thinking about the folks you observe in our community who advocate for agriculture and work to provide equitable access to fresh, local food in Mansfield.

Read the Senior Sparks Featuring Services and Programs for Seniors

SENIOR SPARKS MANSFIELD SENIOR CENTER NEWSLETTER

If you are 55 or over and want to travel more, meet new friends, build a new skill, make some music, enjoy a meal with others, receive help doing your taxes or using a computer, then the Mansfield Senior Center is a great resource for you!

Start by reading through the latest issue of [Senior Sparks](#) to see what's in store this month!

Video Visits to the New Mansfield Elementary School on YouTube



School Building Committee Vice-Chair and Educator Chris Kueffner has been sharing the recent progress on Mansfield Elementary School through a series of “Video Visits” produced with Mansfield Public Schools and the Town.

He guides viewers on a tour to see how the spaces are taking shape, and why Mansfield Elementary School will be such a great environment for 21st century learning and promoting sustainability.

To view these videos, visit the Facebook pages of [Mansfield Public Schools](#) or [Town of Mansfield](#), or visit (and subscribe!) the [Town’ of Mansfield YouTube](#) channel.

What’s the Difference: Service Animals vs. Emotional Support Animals



Did you ever wonder what exactly is the difference between a Service Animal and an Emotional Support Animal (ESA)? Mansfield Animal Control is here to go over some of the basics.

By law, Service Animals have many more rights than an ESA. Service Animals are specifically trained in a task to aid their owner with a disability such as guiding the blind, aiding people who are deaf, or pulling a wheelchair. Some service dogs

alert their owners that they are going to have a seizure or remind them to take a medication. Service Animals go through specific training to learn these tasks and often people with disabilities go through a lot of effort to acquire a Service Animal.

Emotional Support Animals, on the other hand, are not required to go through any of this training. To legally be considered an emotional support pet, any pet can be prescribed by a licensed mental health professional to a person with a disabling mental illness. This means people can make the dogs that they already have into an ESA. Owners who have found the company of their dog at home healing can use this bond to help them over hurdles of functioning in public.

Because ESAs can end up in the same environment as service animals, untrained ESAs can cause disruptions. In some instances, ESAs have attacked and injured Service Animals. Service animals that have suffered attacks are often unable to work in the future. This can leave a disabled person without their independence at a huge financial loss. Untrained ESAs also give well-behaved ESAs a bad rap, causing places to ban all ESA.

ESA can be extremely beneficial for the people who need them. If you are in need of an ESA here are a few tips to make sure your pet is adding to benefit of all who need ESA and Service Animals:

Differences between ESA and Service Dog	
ESA	Service Dog
Not covered by the ADA for all public places	Covered by ADA for rights to bring into public places
Primary role is to provide emotional support & companionship	Sole function to provide support & assist in disabilities
Does not need to have special or formal training	Requires formal training for specific disability being treated




esacare.com

Training Training Training! Enroll your dog in a basic group obedience class. Not only does training create and enforce the bond with your dog, group obedience is a unique environment to socialize your dog to new people and other dogs.

Get your K9 Good Citizen Certified. The American Kennel Club offers a Canine Good Citizen test (CGC) which is a certification program that evaluates dogs. Dogs are put in simulated everyday situations and judged based on their reactions. Dogs who pass the CGC test are considered reliable community members.

Check the rules before you bring your dog. Some businesses only permit Service Animals to enter. Check to make sure ESAs are allowed before trying to bring them. This avoids confrontation or having to leave your dog in a vehicle.

Be respectful. Make sure you always have control of your dog in public, and be respectful of others and their pets.

By following these basic tips, ESA and Service Animals can co-exist in a community.

Mansfield Library Hosts New Children’s Programs with Miss Emily



The Mansfield Public Library and Miss Emily, our new Children’s Librarian, are excited to announce new, weekly programs and special events! See an overview below and find more information in the library’s [calendar online](#). As always, all library programs are free and open to all families!

Weekly Programs:

Toddler Time: Tuesdays @ 10:30AM.

Learn, dance and play with Miss Emily through stories and songs at the library!

Wonder Workshop: Thursdays @ 4-6PM

A drop-in creative workshop, featuring STEAM activities, themed crafts, and tactile play.

Music & Movement: Fridays @ 10:30AM

Let’s move! Sing, dance and move your bodies in this interactive, music-based program.

Saturday Storytime: Saturdays @ 10:30AM

Saturday morning stories & songs!

Special Events:

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 4th: Storytimes @ 10:30AM & 2PM.

All families are invited to sing, dance and enjoy silly stories with Miss Emily. Drop-in library-themed crafts and activities will also be available all day!”

Celebrate Black Authors & Illustrators at the Library!

Tuesday, February 21st: Storytimes at 10:30AM & 2PM

Celebrate Black History Month through stories and crafts honoring Black authors and illustrators. A collage craft will be available on a drop-in basis all day.

New! New Movie Fridays at 1:00 PM

Have you missed some first-run movies in the local theaters? Come enjoy a new movie every Friday at 1 PM in our program room. Look at [our events calendar](#) to find out which films are scheduled. In February, we are expecting to show *Till*, *Wakanda Forever*, *Spoiler Alert*, and *The Woman King*.



Films may be subject to change based on availability.

Mansfield Fire Department Hosts Blood Drive Friday, February 24



The Mansfield Fire Department consistently hosts blood drives here in Mansfield to ensure there is a supply for those who need it when they need it most. Won’t you consider rolling up your sleeve?

Friday, February 24, 2023 starting at 8:30AM at Reynolds Hall at Station 107, 879 Stafford Road, Storrs

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit:

RedCrossBlood.org and enter: *Eagleville* to schedule an appointment.

ALL BLOOD TYPES NEEDED

American Red Cross

Help save a life.
Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

Four Towns Hold Summit to Begin Implementing Regional Plan



On January 30, a summit was held in Coventry to update stakeholders on the Four-Town (Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland) Action Plan for Economic Vitality. The steering group from the four towns reported back to the key stakeholders who were involved in 2019 on progress on implementing the Plan, including the new name and brand, *Connecticut's Countryside*.

The Action Plan is focused on initiatives to promote outdoor recreation, agriculture and agri-tourism, culture and entertainment, higher education institutions, and small business and entrepreneurs. Marketing and visibility of the initiatives is a key part of the Plan.

If you would like to get involved with Connecticut's Countryside including potentially serving on a committee, contact Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, at vanzelmca@mansfieldct.org.



Connecticut's
COUNTRYSIDE

BOLTON • COVENTRY • MANSFIELD • TOLLAND

Adventure, Agriculture, Arts & More!

February is National Heart Health Month: Do You Know the Signs?



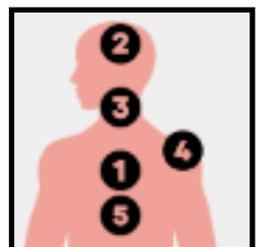
Kelly O'Donnell is the new Employee Wellness Specialist here in Mansfield. Her job is focused on making sure the employees of the Town and the School Districts are making wellness a priority.

Kelly says, "My goal is to encourage employees to improve and maintain both their physical and mental health through activities and events. I am passionate about incorporating health and wellness into people's daily lives."

Kelly's degree is in Health Science with a minor in Psychology from the University of Hartford. She also just recently became certified as a registered EMT.

In National Heart Health Month, she urges everyone in the community to know the signs of a possible heart attack:

1. Pain/Discomfort in Chest
2. Lightheadedness, Nausea, Vomiting
3. Jaw, Neck or Back Pain
4. Pain/Discomfort in arm or shoulder
5. Shortness of Breath



Another threat related to heart health is the risk of Stroke. If you suspect someone is experiencing a Stroke, remember to **BE FAST!** And watch for these signs:

- Balance:** Loss of balance or dizziness
- Eyes:** Loss of vision
- Face:** Facial drooping or numbness
- Arm:** Arm weakness
- Speech:** Speech difficulty or slurred speech
- Time:** Time to call 9-1-1



Save the Date: Paper Shredding Coming Up April 29

Mark your calendar for Paper Shredding at the Transfer Station, Saturday, April 29, 9 am to 12 noon

Getting Tired of Winter? Parks & Recreation is Here to Help!



In the season of dreary weather, Parks and Rec is here to add festivities, fun, and a focus on health for you! Click on each item below to learn more. Many programs require pre-registration; visit us at the Mansfield Community Center to register in person (we'd love to see you; [operational hours are listed here](#)), mail in registration forms (with payment if applicable) to 10 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268 or click the registration links below to sign-up online.

FREE Events for Mansfield Families

[Annual Valentines Dance Returns!](#) Registration deadline February 3. Event Sat., Feb. 4, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mansfield Community Center

[Family Paint Day.](#) Thurs., Feb. 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Lenard Hall. [Register here.](#)

Parks & Recreation [Master Planning Public Workshop](#); Wed., Feb. 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Mansfield Middle School. Child Care services available.

[Free Mansfield Days at the Community Center,](#) Sat., Feb. 18 and Sun., March 5

[Free Walk-Up Kidney Screenings](#) - Sat., Feb. 18 and Sat., March 4, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

[Free Alzheimer's Related Events,](#) Wed., Feb. 22 and Wed., March 22, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. [Pre-registration for each date required](#)

Pedal to Cure Cancer, Sat., Feb. 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free to participate, donations welcome. Due to the limited quantity of spin bikes, registration is required for desired pedal-timeframe. [More info at mansfieldcc.com.](#)

Guided Hike/Snowshoe at [Schoolhouse Brook Park.](#) Sat., Feb. 25, 1 p.m.

Free Swim Lesson Evaluations! Not sure what level [swim lessons](#) to enroll your child in? Visit the Mansfield Community Center between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. for a quick evaluation! Spring swim lesson registration opens as early as March 20.



Snow Shoe Rentals

Don't let a little snow stop you; go out and explore Mansfield! Snowshoes are available to rent at the Mansfield Community Center during the months of December through March. Rentals are available on a first come first serve basis. Children and adult sizes are available (four pairs of each size). Mansfield trail maps are available upon request, or via download online at <https://mansfieldct.gov/1689/Parks-Preserves>

Fees: \$10 per pair per day

Fitness & Health Events and Activities

[Hypnosis for Pain Management Class](#) Tues., Feb. 7, 7 to 8 p.m. Free to Mansfield Community Center members, \$10 for non-members.

[Alexander Technique Seminar](#) - Tuesday, March 7, 6-7 p.m. – Free to Mansfield Community Center members, \$10 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

[Youth Triathlon!](#) Sun., March 19, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Registration deadline March 13; [Register now!](#)

Did you miss the **Free Kidney Screenings** and **Alzheimer's Events** listed above? See the info under "Free Events for Mansfield Residents"!

Do you know that Mansfield Parks & Recreation offers Nutrition Counseling, Stress Management, and Body Composition Testing at the Mansfield Community Center? It's true! If you are taking steps to improve your health and wellness, [please get in touch.](#) [Click here to learn more!](#)



New Equipment Comes to the Teen Center!



Parks and Rec is excited to announce some new gear recently debuted in the Teen Center! Available immediately for use is a new foosball table and Nintendo Switch game system!

Teen Center membership is free to young persons in grades 5 to 12. Learn more at:

<https://www.mansfieldct.gov/1675/Teen-Center>



MANSFIELD
COMMUNITY CENTER
Family, Fitness & Fun!



FALL IN LOVE 
with FAMILY, FITNESS & FUN

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE
FIRST MONTH FREE
SIGN-UP FEBRUARY 14 TO 28, 2023
\$35 enrollment fee applies and is due at signup. First monthly payment is waived; monthly billing starts 4/1/23.
Present this coupon at the Mansfield Community Center Reception desk. 10 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268



Learn More at
WWW.MANSFIELDCC.COM 860-429-3015

More Ways to Have Fun, Get Fit, and Enjoy Family Time Together!



Family Events and Activities

Family Fun Events!

- Fri., Feb. 3 – Theme: Feed the Birds! 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- Fri., March 10 – Theme: Plant a Flower Day! 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- Fri., March 24 – Theme: Science Fiction Day! 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Parent & Child Nights Out! Sign up for one or all!

- Fri., Feb. 10 – Science Experiment Night! 6-7 p.m.
- Fri., Feb. 24 – It's a Dinner Date! 6-7 p.m.
- Fri., March 10 – Pajamas and Fort Making! 6-7 p.m.

Youth Triathlon! Sun., March 19, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Registration deadline March 13;
[Register now!](#)

Family Play Day – Tues., Feb. 21, Discounted family entry into the Community Center! [See facility schedules here.](#)

Tot time! - Ages 5 and under and a guardian come and play every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Mansfield Community Center gymnasium. Tumbling mats, toddler toys, balls, and the Big Blue Blocks all available. Free to Mansfield Community Center members. [Daily admission rates](#) apply to non-members.

Dates to Save!

Monday, February 27 – New session of [Beginner Hula Dance](#) starts! Register now here.

March 1st – Spring Brochure available online at <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/1689/Current-Catalog>

Approximately March 3rd – Spring Brochure mailed to Mansfield Homes!

Thursday, March 23 – Resident Registration for Spring Programs Opens

Sunday, March 26 – [American Red Cross CPR Certification Course](#) – Registration deadline is March 19th. [Register now here.](#)

Rec Rescue Update

Due to the change in the Mansfield Public Schools calendar there will not be a Rec Rescue on Friday, February 17th. A new Rec Rescue date has been added for Thursday, April 6th. Registration is open now!

Friends of the Mansfield Library Spring Book Sale



Saturday, March 25 from 9:00am – 4:00pm and
Sunday, March 26 from 9:00am – 3:00pm

Book sales occur twice a year, often in the Spring and in the Fall. Proceeds from the book sales goes towards supporting entertaining and informative programs at the library, such as the ice cream social and summer reading program, and purchases like museum passes, the Adirondack chairs for the lawn, the covered area in the playground, and the vegetable garden.

- Book sales take place in the Buchanan Auditorium at the Library. Depending on the weather, in addition to the auditorium there is a tent set-up outside the library.
- Parking is available in the lots on either side of the library.
- Payment Options: The Friends accept payment in the form of cash, checks and credit cards.

For more information, visit the Friend's website: friendsmansfieldlibraryct.org

Thin Ice and Winter Water Can Be Deadly: Know How to Be Safe



Although late winter can bring some stretches of cold weather where ice forms on ponds and waterways, be aware that ice is never 100 percent safe. You cannot judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, or the temperature. Other factors, including water depth, size of the water body, water chemistry, currents, and local weather conditions—all impact ice strength.

Did You Know:

- New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away. Continue to check the conditions as you move around on the ice.
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges, and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends, and inlets and outlets of lakes and ponds is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.
- Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

General Ice Thickness Guidelines

These guidelines are for new, clear (blue) ice on lakes and ponds. White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice.

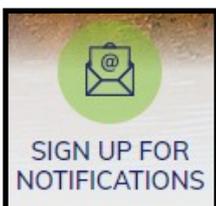
Under 4" - STAY OFF 4" -- Ice fishing or other activities on foot

5" - 7" -- Snowmobile or ATV

Note: It is illegal to drive a car or truck on the ice in Connecticut.

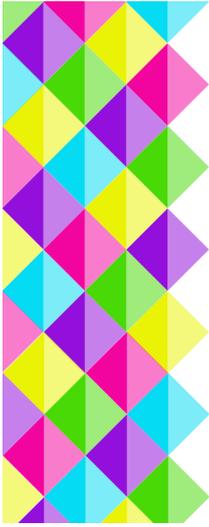
Visit the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website for more [about how to stay safe outdoors in winter](#).

Know about road construction and closure notifications, plus more!



If you want to receive alerts from the Town of Mansfield, just [visit the website under Sign Up for Notifications](#), and select *News & Press Releases*.

You will be informed when the Town has news you should know! Events. Emergencies. Traffic holdups. Road work.



Downtown Storrs Celebrates National Poetry Month

downtownstorrs.org/poetry

There's a poem in this place

~ From "In This Place (An American Lyric)" by Amanda Gorman

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites residents to enjoy National Poetry Month in Downtown Storrs this April. Plans are in the works for activities to mark this annual celebration of the ways in which poetry enriches our lives. Look for details at downtownstorrs.org/poetry as we approach April.

Pay-as-you-Throw—How to Reduce Your Trash Bill in Mansfield



Members of the Solid Waste Advisory Council have produced a video to share with fellow residents who want to lower their trash bill.

The video explains what contributes to increasing trash in a household, and how some mindful steps can help reduce your weekly trash.

To see the video, please go to the Town's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIA6bVHpaik>

Watch for More News and Updates on our Social Media



FACEBOOK:

Town of Mansfield
Mansfield Public Library
Mansfield Senior Center
Mansfield Youth Services
Mansfield Fire Department
Downtown Storrs
Mansfield Downtown Partnership
Mansfield Community Center
Mansfield Public Schools Taste of Mansfield

INSTAGRAM:

Mansfield Downtown Partnership
Taste of Mansfield

TWITTER:

Town of Mansfield
Downtown Storrs
Mansfield Public Library
Eastern Highlands Health District

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE channels

To view meetings:
mansfieldct.gov/video

For other information:
youtube.com/@townofmansfieldyoutube1177

Saturday Social Group



SNSG is a drop in program for adults and teens (age 15+) with developmental and/or cognitive disabilities. Come participate in a themed activity, socialize, & make new friends! First time participants must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

We will Sparkle at our February Meeting

1pm-3pm

Mansfield Community Center

Arts & Crafts Room

\$6 for residents,
\$7 for non-residents

February 11, 2023

Activity # 310063-B

**Pre-registration is encouraged!
Feel free to bring a snack to share.**

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
10 S. EAGLEVILLE ROAD STORRS, ct 06268
860-429-3015 WWW.MANSFIELDCC.COM



Do you ever need Wi-Fi access, or a place to charge your phone? Stop by the new covered pavilion at the Mansfield Public Library, day or night, winter or summer. This new facility provides you a safe, bright, open-air space to work whenever you need it. (The penguins will gladly give you their seat!)



Town of Mansfield is holding a Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Pre-Order Sale

PRE-ORDER SALE RUNS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2023 TO APRIL 7, 2023

Orders are only taken online. Accept debit card and credit cards

For Residents Only

Orders will be available for pick-up on

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 9 AM - 12 PM

at the Mansfield Transfer Station

221 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Order today: www.enviworld.us/mansfieldct

Adjusted price with Town of Mansfield \$15 subsidy

\$100 value \$45

- Large 11 cubic foot/311 liter capacity
- Manufactured of 100% recycled content
- Oversized easy-access top opening
- Strong unibody construction
- Fits easily in an average sedan
- Reduce your waste



- Unique square shape and attractive neutral color
- Large 55 gallon (208 liter) capacity
- Easily accommodates existing downspouts
- Includes overflow spout and 4" hose to easily link two or more barrels for multi-barrel installations or to redirect overflow away from foundations
- Elevated spigot accommodates watering cans
- Insect resistant stainless steel filter

\$120 value \$70

For more information on this event, please contact Virginia Walton 860-429-3333 or waltonvd@mansfieldct.gov.

To learn more about how to compost, visit www.mansfieldct.gov/composting.



Two Webinars on How to Save Money & Energy

& Make Your Home More Comfortable

Thursday, Feb. 2 - 7 pm

Is Your Home Wasting Energy & Money?

You can improve your home's comfort and save money. Join Us for a webinar on how your home may be wasting money and how to access energy efficiency solutions for your home.

Thursday, March 2 - 7 pm

Can Heat Pumps Work in Your Home?

A heat pump is an energy efficient and economical way to heat and cool your home for year-round comfort. Heat pumps are a great alternative or supplement to your typical furnaces and air conditioning units. Join us to learn the basics of how they work and if they can make your home more comfortable and economical.

Zoom log in - tinyurl.com/2jrzcwww





Facilities Department Installing Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



The Facilities Department has been coordinating with Artis Energy Solutions to install Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at various Town facilities, including the Mansfield Senior Center. Most of these charging stations will be available for public use, and all are set up for Town vehicle use. This is in an effort to provide more convenient sites for residents, employees and Mansfield visitors to be able to charge their electric vehicles.

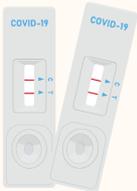
The power company is offering a program that has provided the funds to cover roughly sixty percent of the expenses. We do expect a fee for use will be implemented, but it is meant to cover the cost of maintenance, power consumption and operation of the chargers. If you need to find an EV station, wherever you may be traveling, [visit this site](https://www.energy.gov/electric-vehicles/ev-seek) managed by the U.S. Department of Energy.



What:

Covid-19 educational materials including:

- video streams
- wallet cards
- bookmarks
- 2 FREE At-Home Covid-19 test kits per person
- Free Covid-19 Vaccination
 - Initial series: Pfizer / Moderna / Novavax
5 yrs+ 12 yrs+ 12 yrs+
 - Updated Boosters: Pfizer / Moderna
5 yrs+ 6yrs+
 - Walk-Ins welcome / www.vams.cdc.gov for appts
 - Bring Vaccine Records showing previous doses



Where:

Mansfield Town Hall Council Chambers

When:

Mondays (10am-1pm) & Thursdays (12-3pm)
One Day Only: Wednesday Feb 1, 2023 (4-6pm)

Who:

Eastern Highlands Health District 860-429-3325



What's Happening in Town? Don't miss these **EVENTS!**

Watch for more on the [Town of Mansfield website](#) . Watch for updates from the [Mansfield Senior Center](#) which hosts many online and in-person activities each month along with the [Mansfield Public Library](#) and the [Mansfield Community Center](#).

Date	Event/Activity	More Info/Register
February 1	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 1	Craft Workshop: Paper Quilling Flowers, 3 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262 by 1/27)
February 1	Mini Spa Session, 4 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262)
February 2 - April 6	AARP Tax Aide Program, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	Mansfield Senior Center (Stop by Senior Center to make an appointment and pick up forms, call 860.429.0262 with any questions)
February 3	Friday Films: Till (2022), 1 PM - 3:15 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 3	Family Fun Night!, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Theme: Feed the Birds	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE to members, non-members pay the daily guest rate)
February 4	Take Your Child to the Library Day, 9:30 AM - 5 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 4	Annual Valentine's Dance, 6 PM - 8 PM	Mansfield Community Center
February 5	American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR, 10 AM - 2 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Register by 1/29, Cost: \$82 for members, \$106 for non-members)
February 6	Bereavement Support Group, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Mansfield Senior Center
February 7	Self Hypnosis for Pain Management, 7 PM - 8 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE for members, \$10 for non-members)
February 8	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 8	Family Paint Night, 5:30 PM - 7 PM	Mansfield Community Center (MUST pre-register)
February 8	Podiatrist Services, 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262, bring your insurance card)
February 8	Virtual Author Talk with Lana Harper: Back in a Spell, 7 PM - 8 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 9	Free CT FOODSHARE Distribution, Wrights Village Parking Lot on Maple Rd, 11:30 AM-12 noon	Mansfield Human Services or call 860.429.3315
February 9	Family Feud: Valentine's Day Edition, 5 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register by 2/6 at 860.429.0262)
February 10	Haircuts for Seniors, 8:45 AM—11:30 AM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262, Cost: \$15)
February 10	Friday Films: Black Panther - Wakanda Forever (2022), 1 PM - 4 PM	Mansfield Public Library

More **EVENTS!**

Date	Event/Activity	More Info/Register
February 10	Parent/Guardian and Child Nights Out, 6 PM - 7 PM Theme: Science Experiments	Mansfield Community Center
February 11	Saturday Story time, 10:30 AM - 11 AM	Mansfield Public Library
February 11	Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Donation Drop-off Day, 1 PM - 4 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 13	Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body, 11 AM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register by 2/9 at 860.429.0262)
February 14	Valentine's Day Luncheon & Performance by Joe Flood, 12 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register with payment by 2/9 at 860.429.0262, cost: \$8)
February 14	Caregiver Support Group, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Mansfield Senior Center
February 14	Mansfield Library Book Discussion Group, 6:45 PM - 8 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 15	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 15	Craft Workshop: Paper Quilling Flowers, 3 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262 by 2/10)
February 15	Mini Spa Session, 4 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262)
February 15	Input Session to Mansfield Parks & Rec Master Plan, Mansfield Middle School, 6 PM	Mansfield Community Center/ Parks & Recreation
February 16	Virtual Author Talk with Grace M. Cho: Tastes Like War, 1 PM - 2 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 16	Mansfield Library Knitting Group, 2 PM - 4 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 17	Friday Films: Spoiler Alert (2022), 1 PM - 3 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 17	Hearing Clinic, 9 AM - 11:30 AM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262)
February 18	Saturday Story time, 10:30 AM - 11 AM	Mansfield Public Library
February 18	Jo Koy World Tour, 8 PM - 9 PM at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts	Downtown Storrs
February 18	Open House - Free General Admission to all residents!	Mansfield Community Center
February 19	Little Theatre of Manchester: Baskerville - A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, 1 PM - 4:30	Mansfield Senior Center (Register with payment by 2/10 at 860.429.0262, cost: \$19)
February 19	Popovich Comedy Pet Theater, 2 PM - 3 PM at Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts	Downtown Storrs

More **EVENTS!**

Date	Event/Activity	More Info/Register
February 24	Parent/Guardian and Child Nights Out, Theme; Dinner Date, 6 PM - 7 PM	Mansfield Community Center
February 25	Guided Hike/Snowshoe in Schoolhouse Brook Park, 1 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Meet at the Clover Mill Rd Parking Area)
February 25	Family Fun Night!, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Theme: Carnival Day	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE to members, non-members pay the daily guest rate)
February 21	Family Play Day, 5:30 AM - 8:30 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: Members get TWO free guests, non-members pay Family Day-Pass Special)
February 21	Classic Movie Night, <i>The Lady Eve</i> , 4 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register by 2/16 at 860.429.0262)
February 21	Connecting to the Love Within Through Meditation Virtual Workshop, 6 PM - 7:30 PM	Mansfield Public Library (Email coffinv@mansfieldct.org to request the Zoom link)
February 22	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3 PM	Mansfield Public Library
February 22	History for Fun: Cary Grant, 1 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register by 2/17 at 860.429.0262)
February 22	Craft Workshop: Paper Quilling Flowers, 3 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262 by 2/17)
February 22	Mini Spa Session, 4 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262)
February 23	Free CT FOODSHARE Distribution, Wrights Village Parking Lot on Maple Rd, 11:30 AM-12 noon	Mansfield Human Services or call 860.429.3315
February 23	Birthday Celebration, 12 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Please call 860.487.9877 by 2/17 if you'd like your birthday celebrated)
February 23	Hearing Presentation, 2 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register by 2/21 at 860.429.0262)
February 24	Sheryl Faye Presents: Sally Ride, 1 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register by 2/21 at 860.429.0262)
February 24	Parent/Guardian and Child Nights Out, Theme; Dinner Date, 6 PM - 7 PM	Mansfield Community Center
February 25	Saturday Story time, 10:30 AM - 11 AM	Mansfield Public Library
February 25	Guided Hike/Snowshoe in Schoolhouse Brook Park, 1 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Meet at the Clover Mill Rd Parking Area)
February 25	Family Fun Night!, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Theme: Carnival Day	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE to members, non-members pay the daily guest rate)

More **EVENTS!**

Date	Event/Activity	More Info/Register
March 1	Health & Comfort Foot Care, 9 AM - 3 PM	Mansfield Senior Center (Register at 860.429.0262)
March 1	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3	Mansfield Public Library
March 4	Saturday Story time, 10:30 AM - 11 AM	Mansfield Public Library
March 5	Open House - Free General Admission to all residents!	Mansfield Community Center
March 7	Alexander Technique Class, 6 PM - 7 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE for members, \$10
March 8	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3	Mansfield Public Library
March 9	Free CT FOODSHARE Distri- bution, Wrights Village Park- ing Lot on Maple Rd, 11:30	Mansfield Human Services or call 860.429.3315
March 10	Family Fun Night!, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Theme: Plant a Flower Day	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE to members, non- members pay the daily guest rate)
March 10	Parent/Guardian and Child Nights Out, 6 PM - 7 PM Theme: Pajamas and Fort Making	Mansfield Community Center
March 11	Saturday Story time, 10:30 AM - 11 AM	Mansfield Public Library
March 14	Mansfield Library Book Discussion Group, 6:45 PM - 8 PM	Mansfield Public Library
March 15	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3	Mansfield Public Library
March 16	Mansfield Library Knitting Group, 2 PM - 4 PM	Mansfield Public Library
March 18	Saturday Story time, 10:30 AM - 11 AM	Mansfield Public Library
March 19	Youth Triathlon (Ages 8 - 14), check in 8 AM in Arts & Crafts	Mansfield Community Center (Register by 3/13, Cost: \$25 for
March 22	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3	Mansfield Public Library
March 23	Free CT FOODSHARE Distri- bution, Wrights Village Park- ing Lot on Maple Rd, 11:30	Mansfield Human Services or call 860.429.3315
March 24	Family Fun Night!, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Theme: Science Fiction	Mansfield Community Center (Cost: FREE to members, non- members pay the daily guest rate)

More **EVENTS!**

Date	Event/Activity	More Info/Register
March 25	Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Sale, 9 AM - 4	Mansfield Public Library
March 25	Lifeguard Training Recertification and Bridge Class, 9 AM - 4 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Register by 3/12, Cost: \$130 for members, \$169 for non-members)
March 26	Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Sale, 9 AM - 3	Mansfield Public Library
March 26	American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR, 10 AM - 2 PM	Mansfield Community Center (Register by 3/19, Cost: \$82 for members, \$106 for non-members)
March 28	Meditation in Current Times Virtual Workshop, 6 PM - 7:30 PM	Mansfield Public Library (Email coffinv@mansfieldct.org to request the Zoom link)
March 29	Current Events and Politics Discussion Group, 1 PM - 3	Mansfield Public Library

Upcoming Municipal Meetings

For the most up-to-date schedule of Town meetings, go to our website at

<https://www.mansfieldct.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=32>

We encourage residents to participate in Mansfield’s governance. Many municipal meetings are still being held virtually, but some are fully in-person. Hybrid meeting options (a combination of virtual attendees from remote locations and in-person at a central location) are offered for the Town Council and The Board of Education

Regardless of the meeting format, residents may still submit Public Comment prior to meetings. You may view some meetings as they occur via Live Video Stream on our YouTube channel. Other meetings are recorded so you may review minutes and recordings after the fact.



To find the log-in information for each of these meetings, go to the [Agendas/Minutes](#) page on the town’s website. Look up the name of the committee, and click on the arrow to the left of the title. The agenda for the upcoming meeting will appear. Click on the pdf, and you will see who to contact to receive call-in information.

Minutes of past meetings are also posted there.

Please Contact Our Department Leaders for What You Need



Our staff is ready to help answer any questions you have about how to access the services of your community. Please reach out to them by phone or by email for anything you need.

Department	Department Leader	Contact
Animal Control	Noranne Nielsen, Animal Control Officer	860-487-0137 ACO@mansfieldct.org
Assessor	Rochelle Lambert, Assessor	860-429-3311 Assessor@mansfieldct.org
Building and Housing Inspection	Michael Ninteau, Building & Housing Director	860-429-3324 BldgDept@mansfieldct.org
Downtown Partnership	Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director	860-429-2740 MDP@mansfieldct.org
Eastern Highlands Health	Robert Miller, M.P.H., R.S., Director of Health	860-429-3325 ehhd@ehhd.org
Emergency Management	Adam Libros, Emergency Management Director	860-429-3328 OEM@MansfieldCT.org
Facilities	Allen Corson, Facilities Director	860-429-3320 facilities@mansfieldct.org
Finance	Cherie Trahan, Interim Finance Director	860-429-3345 FinanceDept@mansfieldct.org
Fire Marshal	Adam Libros, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal	860-429-3328 FireMarshal@mansfieldct.org
Fire & Emergency Services	Fred Mitchell, Fire Chief	860-429-3323 firedept@mansfieldct.org EMERGENCY: 911
Housing Authority	Rebecca Fields, Housing Authority Executive Director	860-487-0693 rfields@mansfieldhousingct.org
Human Resources	Lee Palmer, Interim Director of Human	860-429-3380 HR@MansfieldCT.org
Human Services	Patricia Schneider, Director of Human Services	860-429-3315 HumanServ@MansfieldCT.org
Information Technology	Jaime Russell, Information Technology	860-429-3384 technology@mansfieldct.org
Mansfield Discovery Depot	Debbie Plourde, Director	(860) 487-0062 MDD@mansfieldct.org
Parks & Recreation/ Mansfield Community	Jay O'Keefe, Director	860-429-3015 parks&rec@mansfieldct.org



Please Contact Our Department Leaders for What You Need

Department	Department Leader	Contact
Planning & Development	Jennifer Kaufman, AICP Director	860-429-3330 PlanZoneDept@mansfieldct.org
Public Library	Leslie McDonough, Library Director	860-423-2501 MansfieldLi- brary@MansfieldCT.org
Public Works	John Carrington, Public Works Director	860-429-3331 PublicWorks@mansfieldct.org
Registrars of Voters	Anne Greineder, Democratic Registrar Vera Ward, Republican Registrar	860-429-3368 860-429-3369 VoterRegistrars@mansfieldct.org
Senior Center	Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor	860-429-0262 TaylorS@mansfieldct.org
State Police (Resident State Trooper)	Sergeant Tim Merrill, Resident State Trooper Sergeant	860-429-6024 Police@mansfieldct.org EMERGENCY: 911
Tax/Revenue Collections	Jerl Casey, Collector of Revenue	860-429-3307 Taxes@mansfieldct.org
Trash and Recycling	Virginia Walton, Recycling Coordinator	860-429-3333 waltonvd@mansfieldct.org
Town Clerk	Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk	860-429-3302 TownClerk@MansfieldCT.org
Town Manager	Ryan Aylesworth, Town Manager	860-429-3336 TownMngr@mansfieldct.org
Youth Services	Katherine J. Bell, Psy.D Youth Services Supervisor	860-429-3319 BellKJ@mansfieldct.org