

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

VOL. 4, ISSUE 4

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2024

### Look for these stories in this newsletter



Director of Facilities Welcomed (See page 4)



Pickleball Courts Open for Play (See page 10)



Summer Fun in Mansfield Campaign (See page 7)



Become a Part of the Festival Sept. 28 (See page 3)

## Message from the Town Manager Innovation in Local Government Moves Communities Ahead

Greetings Fellow Residents!



It is hard to believe that we are already entering the latter portion of summer and that the leaves will start to change colors before we know it. I hope everyone has been enjoying the sun and the heat!

I am excited to share with you some thoughts on a topic that is vital to our community's continued growth and success: innovation in local government.

In today's rapidly changing world, it is essential for local governments to stay ahead by embracing new ideas and approaches. Innovation allows us to improve the services we provide, enhance our quality of life, and address the unique

challenges our town faces. From adopting new technologies to streamlining processes and encouraging community-driven solutions, Mansfield is committed to fostering a culture of creativity and progress.

Our efforts to innovate are evident in various initiatives underway across our departments. Whether it's enhancing public safety through advanced tools, improving public works with sustainable practices, or expanding digital services to better connect with residents, we are dedicated to making Mansfield a model of modern governance.

I invite you to join us in this journey by sharing your ideas and feedback. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, resilient, and forward-thinking community.

### Enhancing our Emergency Services Capacity:

Beginning in the summer of 2022, additional funding was added to the Fire Department's operating budget to allow for the recruitment of four new full-time firefighters to increase the total full-time staffing to 20 members (4 captains and 16 firefighter/EMTs). Two more full-time firefighter/EMTs were subsequently added to the annual budget that was approved this past May, which will bring full-time staffing up to 22 and enable us to better respond to current and future emergency service needs of the Town. Additionally, with support from the Town Council, Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services is in the process of adding a full-time career Deputy Fire Chief of Operations who will further increase the capacity of the department to deliver the highest quality emergency services to the public we serve. Recruitment is underway!

### Mansfield Local Government Academy:

Next month we will be kicking off the start of the fourth installment of the Mansfield Local Government Academy (LGA) that we launched in Fall 2021. Are you interested in learning more about your community's government and operations? If so, please consider signing up for the LGA program this fall. The Mansfield LGA is a 12-class program designed to educate and familiarize citizens with all aspects of their Town government. Informed citizens lead to more engaged citizens. See additional information included on page 9 and [on our website](#).



  
*Innovation allows us to improve the services we provide, enhance our quality of life, and address the unique challenges our town faces... Mansfield is committed to fostering a culture of creativity and progress.*

(Continued)



*(Town Manager’s Message cont.)*



**New Resident Trooper Supervisor:** I am very happy to share that, after serving in the role on an interim basis for the last few months, Sergeant Stephen King has been appointed by CT State Police as the next “permanent” Supervisor of the Mansfield Resident Trooper Office. This is a positive outcome for Mansfield given Sergeant King’s past success overseeing the operations of the Resident Trooper program in Mansfield as well as his extensive time working as a Resident Trooper in this office. His established network of relationships with members of the UConn Police Department, as well as Off-Campus Student Services, reinforces that Sergeant King is a great fit for our Town.

On a related note, we are in the process of adding two additional resident troopers that will bring our total uniformed staffing to 11 (including the Supervisor/Sergeant) and help improve enforcement on a number of fronts, including traffic enforcement.

**New Director of Facilities Management:** Following the conclusion of a competitive selection process, I am excited to share that Michael Posocco has been hired by the Town to serve as our next Facilities Management Director. In this capacity, Michael will oversee the Town and Mansfield Board of Education’s shared Facilities Management Department. See additional information about Michael’s professional background that is included on page 4 in this newsletter.



Deputy Facilities Management Director William Trietch served as Acting Facilities Management Director from February to late-July, and we are deeply appreciative for his exceptional service and commitment to our community through this transition.



**Town-wide Revaluation:** Mansfield Revaluation 2024 continues, but the Assessors office and our partner Tyler Technologies have made great progress. Thank you to all of you who returned the data mailers and have cooperated with our staff in follow-up inspections. Data collectors will continue to accept completed data mailers, follow up on building permits, and schedule inspections upon request, or for recently sold properties, and new construction until October 1, 2024. If you want to know more about Mansfield Revaluation 2024, please [visit our special website](#).

**Community Planning Initiatives:** The Town has made demonstrable progress on multiple (staggered) in-depth planning projects involving significant community engagement: Mansfield Parks & Recreation master planning, municipal facilities master planning, and the vision and strategy plan for Northwest Mansfield. These planning efforts have been organized in a coordinated fashion under the umbrella Mansfield Tomorrow.

Mansfield Tomorrow is designed to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of community planning efforts in our town by recognizing the interconnected nature of different planning initiatives and organizations. One of its primary goals is to promote equity and meaningful public engagement. By consolidating public engagement activities under the umbrella of Mansfield Tomorrow, the platform has thus far facilitated greater community awareness and involvement in the planning process, while also reducing engagement fatigue and minimizing confusion between different surveys and plans. This approach also helped us engage with members of the community who are often not reached, and thereby ensured we captured perspectives beyond those who typically participate.

Our community engagement efforts employed a variety of in-person and digital approaches to reduce barriers to participation. These efforts are going to prove important in informing future decision-making as we continue planning for the future of Mansfield during a period of transformational change.

Along these lines, after nearly 18 months of in-depth study and careful collaboration, the Town recently unveiled a draft comprehensive master plan for Mansfield Parks and Recreation (MPR). More information on the plan is included on page 9. Mansfield is a community that deeply values its parks and recreation assets, and we are very excited to be nearing completion of this very important planning effort that will shape the future of our recreational programming and associated facility upgrades.

*(Continued)*



**(Town Manager’s Message cont.)**

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](mailto: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.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support and engagement. Together, we are building a future that reflects the shared vision of our community. And I hope you’ll get out to try our new pickleball court soon!

Very respectfully,

Ryan J. Aylesworth

**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!

**Be a part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival!**



The [Mansfield Downtown Partnership](#) invites Mansfield businesses, community organizations, clubs, families, and residents and UConn departments, programs, and student groups to be a part of the largest community event in town by:

- Hosting an [Activity](#), [Craft](#), or [Food](#) Booth
- [Volunteering](#) at the event
- [Building puppets](#) in our free Community Puppet-Building Workshop
- [Sponsoring](#) the celebration

**Find more information about each opportunity on our website, [downtownstorrsfestival.org](http://downtownstorrsfestival.org).**

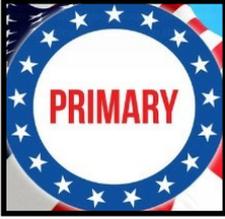
The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival will take place from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM on and around Betsy Paterson Square (2 Dog Lane) in [Downtown Storrs](#) on Saturday, September 28, 2024. In the event of inclement weather, the Festival will be held inside at E. O. Smith High School (1235 Storrs Road).

Follow [@DowntownStorrs](#) on Facebook and Instagram or visit [downtownstorrsfestival.org](http://downtownstorrsfestival.org) for news and announcements as planning progress.



21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL **CELEBRATE MANSFIELD FESTIVAL**  
 SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 2:00-8:00 PM | DOWNTOWN STORRS  
 FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE! | INFO: [DOWNTOWNSTORRSFESTIVAL.ORG](http://DOWNTOWNSTORRSFESTIVAL.ORG)

## Elections 2024: Primary Day Tuesday, August 13, Plus Early Voting



There will be a Republican Primary for U.S. and State Senators on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Voters in Mansfield's Districts 1,3 and 4 will vote at their regular polling places. **District 2 voters, who formerly voted at the Eagleville Fire House (Station 107) will now vote at Mansfield Middle School.** Polls are open 6 AM to 8 PM.

The deadline for unaffiliated voters to change their party in order to vote in this primary is August 2. New voters must now register in person by noon on August 2 (the deadline has passed for online registration for the Primary.)

To check if you are registered, go to [myvote.ct.gov/lookup](https://myvote.ct.gov/lookup) or call the Registrars office at 860-429-3369. To check your party affiliation, call the office.

A sample ballot is available on the Registrar of Voters' page on the Town's website: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/309/Registrar-of-Voters> . Absentee ballots are available through the Town Clerk's office.

## Michael Posocco to Lead the Facilities Department in Mansfield



The Town of Mansfield is pleased to announce that Michael Posocco will serve as its next Facilities Management Director, overseeing the Town and Mansfield Board of Education's shared Facilities Management Department. Mr. Posocco joined the Town of Mansfield on July 29.

Mr. Posocco has more than 15 years of experience in the Facilities and property management fields. His career has largely been in the health care setting, having served as Director of Facilities and Engineering for several hospitals. He has overseen capital projects, maintenance, custodial services, and safety and security of his work sites. During the pandemic, Mr. Posocco was responsible for the design, construction, and operation of the State of Connecticut's seven largest drive-through COVID vaccination sites, and 24 drive-through COVID testing sites.

Mr. Posocco obtained his Bachelor's degree from the Wentworth Institute of Technology's industrial design program. He is familiar with the northeast corner of Connecticut, and volunteers locally as a youth hockey coach.

Ryan Aylesworth, Mansfield Town Manager says , "The next Facilities Management Director will play a leading role in helping our team plan and implement many highly important facility construction and renovation projects that ensure the Town of Mansfield continues to provide the highest quality municipal services to our residents and visitors. Mike's extensive and interdisciplinary professional experience in facilities management is strongly aligned with our needs and -- in collaboration across our Town departments and Mansfield Public Schools -- will help us shape and inform our vision for the future of Town facilities for many years to come."

Peter Dart, Superintendent of Schools stated, "We are very proud of our Facilities Department and team and look forward to Mr. Posocco's leadership as we continue to invest in our buildings to support 21st century teaching and learning."

The Facilities Management Department is part of a shared services model, providing shared custodial and maintenance services to the Town of Mansfield, Mansfield Board of Education, Eastern Highlands Health District (main office), Mansfield Downtown Partnership, and Mansfield Discovery Depot (a non-profit daycare). The Department provides capital projects management for Town and School buildings and facilities related infrastructure.

During the recent staffing transition, Deputy Facilities Management Director William Trietch has been serving as Acting Facilities Management Director since February 2024. The Town is grateful to Mr. Trietch for his continued service and commitment to our community, and his support through the upcoming transition.

## Trash Bill Reminders from the Revenue Office



Trash/Recycle bills were mailed on June 28, 2024. These are the third quarter bills of 2024 and were due by August 1, 2024.

Payments may be paid in person during business hours, Monday to Wednesday 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM and Thursday 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM at the Revenue Collection office, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Offices, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield. You can also mail a payment, or use the drop box outside after

hours. Online payment options through the [Town of Mansfield's website](https://www.mansfieldct.gov) are available for a service fee. Credit or debit cards are charged 2.99%, and EFT bank account transfers are charged a flat fee of \$1.95. Please contact the Revenue office if you have any questions at 860-429-3307.

### Yamil Figueroa Promoted to Serve Residents as Adult Case Worker



The Town of Mansfield is excited to announce the promotion of Yamil Figueroa as Adult Case Worker with the Human Services department. She has served with the Town for more than three years as the Senior Center Transportation and Outreach Coordinator.

Yamil is currently pursuing her Masters in Social Work from Sacred Heart University, and received her Bachelors in Sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University.

Yamil has a wealth of information about the Town of Mansfield as well as a compassion for helping the residents throughout the community. She is committed to advocating for those in need, empowering others to overcome obstacles and creating a comprehensive and holistic plan to address the needs of each individual. Yamil has experience in coordinating resources and programming for aging residents, supporting adults with diverse needs, and working with families to help ensure resources for all ages. In her time with the Town of Mansfield, she has been instrumental in helping implement and grow the senior transportation program to meet the needs of the aging population. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing plans for outreach to families during the pandemic, as well as assisting adults with financial relief.

“We are confident that Yamil’s new role will help us to enhance services that we provide,” says Jessica St. Louis, Human Services Director. “She is eager to engage with the community, listen to your concerns, and work collaboratively to help find solutions. Whether you are seeking assistance for yourself, or a loved one, Yamil is here to help navigate the challenges and celebrate the successes. Please join us in welcoming Yamil as that Adult Case Worker for the Town of Mansfield. Together we can continue to build a supportive and inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.”

Yamil can be reached at 860.429.3315. She is looking forward to meeting and working with members of the community in this new role.

### Volunteers Needed for Committee to Optimize School Air Quality



Freshly authorized by the Mansfield Town Council, the Mansfield Middle School HVAC Building Committee is the newest way for passionate citizens to make a difference in their community! Have you been looking for a volunteer opportunity in our vibrant town? Consider providing time and expertise to the MMS HVAC Building Committee!

The Mansfield Town Council established the MMS HVAC Building Committee on May 28th of this year to oversee the HVAC indoor air quality at the Mansfield Middle School. Three seats of the five seat committee have been designated for community member representation.

Community members who have professional contracting experience, plus architecture subject experts or heating and ventilation professionals are encouraged to apply!

Integral committee responsibilities will include preparing schematic drawings and outlining specifications for the project; construct the project; contract with contractors and others on behalf of the Town for the project; and, to approve design and construction expenditures should the referendum be approved.

Candidates can apply using [this link](#) to submit their interest to the Town Council’s Committee on Committees. Chosen applicants will then be invited to interview with these Council members, and final recommendations are then sent to the full Town Council for appointment.

### Squad 207 Soon to Return to Service After Rehabilitation



This 20-year old firetruck will be responding to calls in Mansfield again soon after a full overhaul, including the motor, the pump, new paint, new seats, new roll-up doors, new LED lighting, and new graphics. This should bring another 10 years of service to our community.

The Fire Department expects its completion in early August.

### Mansfield Revaluation Date Collection Continues Through October 1



The Town of Mansfield Assessors' Office, in conjunction with Tyler Technologies, Inc. continues with the state-mandated revaluation project. The October 1, 2024 valuations will be reflected in the July 1, 2025 tax bills.

#### Property Inspections Continue

We have completed much of the data collection phase of this project and are transitioning into the data entry and sales analysis phases. Our data collectors will continue to accept data mailers, follow up on building permits, and schedule inspections upon request, or for recently sold properties, and new construction until October 1, 2024. To schedule an inspection, please email [mansfieldreval@outlook.com](mailto:mansfieldreval@outlook.com), for all other inquiries, please email [assessor@mansfieldct.org](mailto:assessor@mansfieldct.org)

Please remember that everyone involved with inspections will carry proper identification and have their vehicles registered with local authorities.

When our Assessor and/or Data Collectors arrive at your property, they will request permission from the property owner, or authorized adult, to conduct the inspection. This may involve both an interior and exterior assessment, including measuring all improvements. If you happen to be away during our visit, don't worry! We will accurately measure the exterior of your home and any outbuildings. (Unless there is a clearly posted "no trespassing" sign or underage person at the property). For those, and for needed interior inspections, we will send notice to coordinate with you to schedule a mutually convenient time.

Additionally, if you prefer to be present during the exterior inspection of your home, please reach out to us via email at [assessor@mansfieldct.org](mailto:assessor@mansfieldct.org). We are more than happy to accommodate your request and make suitable arrangements.

Both the Assessor and Tyler Technologies, Inc. deeply appreciate your cooperation throughout this project. Our aim is to minimize any inconvenience and ensure a smooth process for everyone involved.

#### Visit the Special Revaluation "Microsite" for More Information.

If you want to learn more about Revaluation in Mansfield, please [visit this special website](#) that has any forms you might need, plus a series of videos to answer questions you may have.

If you have questions, another resource is to download [the FAQ's Revaluation Brochure](#). Or you can also email your question (s) to [assessor@mansfieldct.org](mailto:assessor@mansfieldct.org). Questions and answers will be published in FAQ's Vol. 2. (Kindly note "Question or topic for 2024 Revaluation" in the subject line).



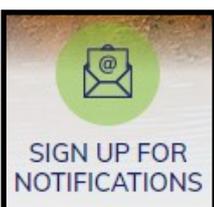
### Mobile Foodshare Visits Mansfield Every Other Week: All Are Welcome!

From 11:30 AM to 12 noon every other Thursday, the Connecticut Foodshare Mobile Food Pantry stops along Wrights Way near the Mansfield Senior Center. No proof of residency or income required, but please bring your own bags or boxes.

August 8 and August 22  
September 5 and September 19



### Be Among the First to Know: Receive Notifications from Your Town



[This is where you sign up](#) to get notifications about Events, Town Meetings, Library Information, News, and other happenings in town. You can select which information that you wish to receive by selecting from available topics. Sign up and be informed!

**Mansfield’s Summer Campaign: *Your Place for Summer Fun!***



The Town of Mansfield has launched a multifaceted campaign touting Mansfield as Your Place for Summer Fun, including television spots on the local NBC Olympics coverage. Mansfield Downtown Partnership, in its role leading economic development efforts for the Town, created the campaign to attract visitors and to promote local businesses that are summer destinations. The campaign showcases how much entertainment, open air dining options, and outdoor activities are available for visitors in Mansfield.

The 30-second television spot was created by Town and Downtown Partnership staff and was produced by NBC-TV in Hartford. It highlights key summer attractions in Mansfield. The spot debuted during the live broadcast of the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Olympics in Paris and will air multiple times through August 10, generating more than 1.4 million impressions. The spot features The Adventure Park at Storrs, UConn Dairy Bar, Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, and Mansfield Drive-In Theatre & Marketplace. Aerial imagery was provided by local videographer Levin Aerial Works, and the music was composed and recorded by Waldron’s Studio 88, both Mansfield businesses.



This television spot is one part of a larger effort to promote Mansfield as a top destination for summer fun. Other elements of the campaign are:

- Cover image, feature story, and full-page ad in the 2024 Summer Fun & Dining Guide published by CT New Media, Inc. with thousands of copies distributed in northeastern and central Connecticut
- A web page highlighting outdoor adventures, dining, and events as well as places for an overnight stay: [mansfieldct.gov/summer](https://mansfieldct.gov/summer)
- Facebook posts highlighting summer fun ([@MansfieldMDP](https://www.facebook.com/MansfieldMDP), [TownofMansfieldCT](https://www.facebook.com/TownofMansfieldCT))
- Featured 3-minute segment on CTLive! On NBC-CT featuring Parks & Recreation Director Jay O’Keefe and Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth ([click here](#) to view the segment)

“We continually promote Mansfield as a great place to live, to work, and to go to school, and this campaign reinforces that we’re also a great place for summer fun,” says Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth. “Many folks think that touring or attending the University of Connecticut is the main reason to come to Mansfield, but this campaign reinforces that we’re a great destination for lots of reasons and in every season. As home to more than 120 miles of trails and pathways, including the Mansfield Hollow State Park, plus more than 50 restaurants, Mansfield is a great town to visit. There is so much to do here!”

The attractions and events promoted within the campaign are also marketed on the State’s tourism website, [CTVisit.com](https://CTVisit.com), with 9.4 million site visits each year. At its tourism conference in the spring, state tourism officials stressed that if someone visits a destination and has a positive experience, they are apt to envision themselves moving there. Major drivers for tourist destinations are a vibrant culinary scene, arts and culture, and outdoor fun including water and trails access. State officials also cited that Connecticut is now the #1 destination for hiking in the country.

“The state has amped up their promotion of outdoor recreational opportunities, and visitors are responding,” says Kathleen Paterson, Acting Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. “We are excited to get the word out to a bigger audience about Mansfield’s outdoor recreation amenities that truly shine in the summertime. And with so many, diverse dining options plus iconic summer attractions, residents and visitors can spend a full day exploring all Mansfield has to offer.”



## Important Updates from the Office of the Assessor



### Tax Credit and Veterans Relief Programs.

New to town? It's not too late! Armed Forces Service Members should file their discharge paperwork with the Town Clerk by October 1, 2024 and notify the Assessor to see if they are eligible to receive any veteran's assessment exemptions for the upcoming tax year.

Biennial filing of Applications to the Assessor for Additional Veterans exemptions is ongoing until October 1, 2024. Qualifying income for **2023** must not exceed **\$43,800** for an unmarried person and **\$53,400** for a married couple. Please [contact the Human Services Department](#) for application assistance.

### Use Value vs. Market Value for Farmland, Forest Land and Open Space Land

The program known as PA 490 was enacted in 1963 by the Connecticut General Assembly as Public Act 63-490, an act concerning the taxation and preservation of farm, forest or open space. PA 490 allows for land classified under this program to be taxed at its use value versus its market value. Applicants must request enrollment into this program with the Assessor between September 1 to October 31, to be considered for the October 1, 2024 Grand List year.



Kindly note, new applications for Forest Land Classification, minimum 25 acres, must be accompanied by a Certified Connecticut State Foresters Report, dated by October 1, 2024. For more information, please refer to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Forestry webpage: [The Classification of Land as Forest Land \(PA 490\)](#)

Any change in ownership, use, or acreage requires an updated application be filed within this time period as well. Please email [assessor@mansfieldct.org](mailto:assessor@mansfieldct.org) with any questions or concerns, including additional application procedures.

Another notable resource pertaining to this program is the Connecticut Farm Bureau [webpage for PA 490](#). They will be hosting an [Understanding PA 490 Webinar](#) on September 17, 2024 from 6:00—9:00 PM. According to CFBA, "The program will provide an overview of PA 490, explain how land is classified and assessed under the program, describe the PA 490 land application process, as well as tips for maintaining the PA 490 classification. Time is allocated for questions and answers."

### Board of Assessment Appeals Schedules Hearings for Motor Vehicles Appeals

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-110, the Mansfield Board of Assessment Appeals will hold appeal hearings September 16, 2024 at 10:00 AM, by appointment pertaining to the October 1, 2023 *Motor Vehicle Grand List of registered Motor Vehicles only*. MV Appeal Application is available to download and print online from the [Board of Assessment Appeals](#) page.

In other news, long-term Town of Mansfield employee and member of the Assessor staff, Mary Terhune, retired last week. Please join us in wishing her a very Happy Retirement!

We will make every effort to limit any inconvenience to our taxpayers as we navigate filling the vacancy in our office. However, we appreciate your patience as we move through this process. Email continues to be the best method to reach us, and we will respond to every message from residents in the order they are received: [assessor@mansfieldct.org](mailto:assessor@mansfieldct.org)

## Check out the Mansfield Parks & Rec Fall Program Brochure Online!



## Fall 2024 Brochure

Available online August 1st!

Programs begin Sept. 3rd

Member Registration for Fitness & Aquatics programs opens August 12th

Resident registration opens August 15th

Registration open to all August 18th

Mansfield Community Center Maintenance Shutdown  
Monday, August 19–Sunday, August 25

No public access. Staff will be available to answer questions by phone from 8am–4pm Monday–Friday.

### Master Plan Focuses on Five Priority Goals; Under Review



After over a year of work that included contributions from residents, elected officials, key stakeholders, and staff, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was presented to the Town Council by 110% Inc. consultant group during the [June 10 Town Council Meeting](#). The [Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#) was developed to create a strategic roadmap that outlines the vision for the future of parks and recreation in Mansfield. This Master Plan addresses the evolving needs and interests of our community, considers financial and environmental sustainability, and seeks to create inclusive and accessible spaces that promote health, well-being, and a sense of community.



Key elements of the Master Plan include:

- **Strategic Development** - A phased approach to taking care of existing parks and facilities and addressing park and recreation service needs and interests within the Town of Mansfield.
- **Community Engagement** - Throughout the planning process, input was actively sought from residents and other users through surveys, town hall meetings, and workshops.
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility** - A commitment to creating spaces that are welcoming to all residents and visitors, regardless of age, ability, or background. The Master Plan incorporates features and amenities that actively promote inclusivity and accessibility, which are principles consistent with core values of Mansfield.

Additionally, five priority goals emerged throughout the process from community feedback and what was learned and observed about the system revealing priorities for the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department. These priorities include: 1) Financial Responsibility & Sustainability; 2) Take Care of What We Have; 3) Collaborations & Partnerships; 4) Relevant & Effective Service Delivery; and 5) Community Access & Equity.

The Master Plan is currently under review by the Town Council for adoption and implementation later this summer/early fall.

### Enroll Today in the Mansfield Local Government Academy



Are you interested in learning more about how the Town of Mansfield operates? What goes into the community’s decision-making process? What does each department do? The 2024 Mansfield Local Government Academy will launch on Thursday, September 12. We are enrolling residents who are interested in participating with this year’s Academy.

Town Manager Aylesworth organized the Academy to inform and engage citizens in what is involved to operate a high-functioning community government. Department heads lead each session to provide the challenges and opportunities they face each day. Tour some of the Town’s department facilities. Throughout the sessions you will learn about the Fire and Emergency Departments, the Public Libraries, Animal Control, the Town’s IT Operations, Mansfield Public Schools, Parks & Recreation, Elections, the role of citizen committees, and more!

Participants are asked to commit to attend at least ten of the 12 two-hour sessions at various locations across the Town on Thursday evenings throughout the fall. (No sessions on Halloween or Thanksgiving Thursdays.) Feedback from the 53 participants who have completed the Local Government Academy since 2021 has been positive. If you are interested in speaking with a previous participant, let us know and the Town Manager’s Office will be happy to refer you!

Find the tentative schedule on the [Town Manager’s webpage](#). To express your interest, please email [TownMgr@mansfieldct.org](mailto:TownMgr@mansfieldct.org) or call 860.429.3373.



### Pickleball Courts Open on Mansfield Community Center Grounds



In the last week of July, six new pickleball courts opened behind the Mansfield Community Center. Additional court and lighting work is still scheduled for completion in the coming months.

A formal ribbon cutting/opening ceremony will be scheduled later this summer. These courts were built on Town property through a private-public partnership.

The courts are currently open 8:00 AM to dusk, and are available for free public play (MCC membership or Mansfield residency is NOT required). Reservations are not permitted. [Learn more about the courts, rules and etiquette by clicking here.](#)



### New Technology Classes at the Mansfield Library!



The Mansfield Digital Navigators are here to offer community members supportive, free information to help master our new digital world! Here are two great programs this month!

#### **Introduction to Social Media Friday, August 2, 10 AM in the Library's Program Room**

Curious about the world of social media but not sure where to start? Join Mansfield's Digital Access Navigators in a fun and informative one-hour presentation that's perfect for anyone looking to get the hang of social media!

In this session, you'll get to:

- Explore the features of different social media platforms.
- Learn what sets Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and others apart.
- Learn about some of the terms, lingo, and acronyms you see online.

Whether you're stepping into social media for the first time, or just looking to stay current, this course has got you covered.

#### **Media Literacy Course Friday, August 9, 10 AM in the Library's Program Room**

Feeling overwhelmed by the flood of information online? Join Mansfield's Digital Access Navigators in a Media Literacy Course to learn how to evaluate news sources and separate fact from fiction.

In this presentation, you'll discover practical techniques to identify credible sources and detect misleading content. Ideal for anyone who wants to navigate the digital landscape with confidence, this course will help you become a more informed and discerning consumer of news.

### Two New Firefighters Join Mansfield’s Fire & Emergency Team



In keeping with the Fire & Emergency Services goal to increase staffing at our fire stations, the department is pleased to announce two new hires.

Nick Webster, our newest full-time Firefighter/EMT comes to us as a lateral transfer from the Electric Boat Fire Department in Groton, CT. Nick brings more than 20 years of firefighting and emergency medical experience in both career and volunteer departments.

Dan Murphy got his start with us as a volunteer member. He obtained his Firefighter 1, 2, and EMT certifications through the department and after our most recent hiring process, earned a spot as a part-time Firefighter/EMT.

We are looking forward to their contributions to our goal of serving and protecting our community.

### Plastic Bags Don’t Belong in the Recycling Bins. Please Help Us Out!



The cost for the Town of Mansfield to recycle rose significantly starting with the new contract July 1, 2024. One of the reasons for the spike in cost is the time and labor it takes at the Willimantic Waste Paper recycle sort facility to remove the trash included in recycle carts. Owner Casella Waste Systems reports removing up to 25% trash that is mixed in with recyclables.

The good news is that the new contract allows us to pay less for recyclables if we lower our contamination rate. One immediate way to reduce contamination is to put recyclables directly into the recycle container. Plastic bags – including trash bags holding recycle items – are not allowable in the recycle carts. When recyclables in plastic bags make their way onto the conveyor belt at the recycle facility, the person on the line has to remove that bag – either rip open the bag and empty the contents (which may contain trash!) or pull the whole bag off the conveyor belt. Watch our [video](#) on recycling to understand how this all works.

Recycle totes along our trash pick-up routes are going unemptied if the trash/recycle truck driver sees plastic bags in them. For repeat violations, the Town of Mansfield is issuing \$90 citations. The cleaner the carts, the lower the Town’s bill, and that directly affects the trash bill for all of us!

Go Bag-less! If you’re collecting recyclables in a plastic trash bags in your household, please remember to just empty it so recyclables are loose in your recycle cart before you put it out for collection.

### How Are We Doing? There are Lots of Ways to Let Us Know!



The Town of Mansfield is committed to excellence in service. How are we doing? Please give us feedback now by replying through [this form](#). The Town Manager’s Office has also placed suggestion boxes at locations around town including the Senior Center, the Mansfield Public Library and Library Express, and at the Mansfield Community Center. You can either access the input form through the QR code, or fill out the card and drop it in the box. Or just call us at 860.429.3336. We want to hear how we can better serve our residents!

### Planning and Development Department Updates



**Planned Housing Design District Regulations** The Planning and Zoning Commission opened a public hearing on proposed [Planned Housing Design District Regulations](#) on June 17. The public hearing will remain open until at least August 5. The vision for these regulations is to implement a measured and sustainable approach to multi-unit residential developments that prioritize high-quality, pedestrian-scale design; leverage access to open space; and incorporate a diversity of housing types while protecting environmentally sensitive areas. These regulations would apply to developments with six or more units.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> the Planning and Zoning Commission held a workshop to review comments on the. A recording of the workshop is available at this [link](#).

**Proposal to Extend the Moratorium on High-Density Housing** The PZC will hold a public hearing on August 19<sup>th</sup> to hear comments on extending the moratorium on high-density housing until December 31, 2024. In addition, a resident has submitted an application to extend the moratorium until August 31, 2025. A public hearing on this application is also scheduled for August 19.

## Existing Conditions Report is Now Available!



This report serves as a review of the existing conditions within Northwest Mansfield and will be used to guide recommendations in the final plan. The report can be accessed by using the QR code above or by visiting the Mansfield Tomorrow website listed below.

[www.mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan/](http://www.mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan/)



**Northwest Mansfield Vision and Strategy Plan** [Neighborhood Inventory/Existing Conditions Report](#) is now posted on the website. A presentation of the draft plan is tentatively scheduled for September 30, 2024. Please continue to visit [mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan](http://mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan) to learn more about progress on the plan.

**Development Activity Updates** As projects are proposed or progress, the Planning Department provides a summary and all the application details on our website. Refer to this page for accurate, complete information on projects: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/89b1735a27444d54a409d9e04b99a51c>



### Mansfield Community Center Closed for Annual Maintenance Week



The Mansfield Community Center will be closed Monday, August 19 through Sunday, August 25 for the annual maintenance week. The Center will be closed to the public.

As camp season ends, this week allows us to conduct a thorough cleaning, and undertake maintenance activities before our busy fall season launches.

Staff will be available by phone at 860-429-3015 ext. 0 to assist with Parks and Recreation related inquiries (including online registration assistance) Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

Thank you for your cooperation, and please use this week to take advantage of our many other Parks & Recreation resources outdoors!

### Senior Center Celebrates Dog (and Other Pets!) Days of Summer



The dog days of summer are here at the Mansfield Senior Center! We welcome our seniors to participate in sharing photos of their current or past pets in a month-long “match the pet to the owner” challenge.

Our Friday Café will highlight pets, as well, with a special visit from a Fidelco Ambassador guide dog named Gabe on Friday, August 9 and pet-themed treats for sale on August 23. In addition, we are happy to welcome a menagerie of animals to our Furry Scaly Friends live animal presentation on August 29.

We are happy to announce the return of a foot care specialist on Tuesday, August 20. Please reach out to us to make an appointment between 9:30am and 3:30pm by calling (860)429-0262 for your appointment.

September brings National Senior Center Month with a 2024 theme of *Powering Connections*. Our facility and programs are integral in providing education, support and connections within our community. In the beginning of the month we will highlight some of our offerings with free trial classes so seniors can test out a new class or program. Later in the month we will celebrate 49 years as the Mansfield Senior Center with a variety show. Come join in the fun, show off your talents and make some new connections.



Check out the monthly newsletter for August, “Senior Sparks”, and read about all the great programs we have going on in the coming month: [Click here.](#)

### Celebrate the Finale of Summer Reading: Annual Ice Cream Social



Saturday, August 17th from 11AM-1PM on the Mansfield Public Library Lawn

Kids, teens, and adults are all invited to join us for a family-friendly Ice Cream Social on the Library Lawn for games, music, and family fun! Free for all community members. (Rain Location: MPL’s Buchanan Auditorium)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**09.28.2024**

21ST ANNUAL

**CELEBRATE MANSFIELD FESTIVAL**

IN DOWNTOWN STORRS

**Exciting New Recreation Activities with Parks and Rec this Fall!**



Don't miss these new opportunities! Registration opens to Mansfield residents on August 15th, with programs starting as soon as September 3rd:

The full fall program line-up is available online at [mansfieldcc.com](http://mansfieldcc.com), offering all the traditional options such as swimming lessons, private and group music instruction, CPR certification opportunities, fitness classes (ages 14+), language classes and special events (like the Annual Halloween Party and the Nutcracker) to keep us active, entertained, and recreating into December.

**Check out these new activities through Mansfield Parks and Recreation!:**

- Art Mentorship – Private Art Lessons for ages 6+
- Art Journaling – Ages 9-14
- Basketball Pre-Season Clinic – Grades 4-8
- Archery – Grades 5-8
- Flag Football Clinic – Ages 10-13
- Wood Carving & Tool Sharpening – Ages 12+
- Aquatic Junior Leader (getting ready to lifeguard!) – Ages 12-14
- Intro to Water Polo – Ages 12-18
- Teen Art Into Class – Grades 9-12
- Photograph This! – Ages 14+
- Portraiture for Experienced Artists – Ages 14+
- Art for the Busy Mind – Ages 16+
- Beginner Line Dancing – Ages 16+
- Paint Pouring – Ages 18+
- Women's Friendship Day – ages 18+
- Sprint Triathlon
- Camera "Trapping" Local Mammals



Registration Dates  
Members Aug 12  
Residents Aug 15  
Non - Residents Aug 18



**NEW**

# Aquatic Junior Leader Program

Starting Saturdays Sept 21

This 8 week program focuses on building the foundation of knowledge, attitudes, technical, interpersonal skills, and learn about water safety to become future lifeguards and swim instructors.

**MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER**  
10 S. Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06268  
[WWW.MANSFIELDCC.COM](http://WWW.MANSFIELDCC.COM) 860.429.3015



**MANSFIELD**  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
*Family, Fitness & Fun!*

**Join Adopt a Road and Pick Up Litter! Contribute to a Clean Community.**



Is there a particularly littered section of road in your neighborhood? Join residents or organizations who have committed to keep Mansfield clean by Adopting A Road.

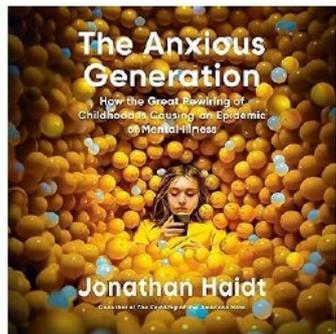
Increased litter around Town has become a focus of Mansfield and University of Connecticut officials in recent Town-University Community Relations Committee meetings. Efforts are being made to enlist student organizations in expanding our Adopt-a-Road initiative, as well as organizing two town-wide litter pickup events each year. Watch for more details on this.

Those who adopt a portion of a Mansfield road pick up litter at their convenience during the course of a year. By participating, you will not be subject to a charge at the Transfer Station for the litter. Bagged litter can be placed out with trash collection service. Contact the Public Works Department at 860-429-3333 or go to [www.mansfieldct.gov/litter](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/litter).

**Join Us for a Summer Read:**

***The Anxious Generation:  
How the Great Rewiring of  
Childhood Is Causing an  
Epidemic of Mental Illness***

by [Jonathan Haidt](#)



Mansfield Public School leaders and Board of Education Members invite parents, staff, and community members to join us in reading this timely book by psychologist Jonathan Haidt.

This book explores youth mental health in the era of smartphones, social media, and big tech—and outlines a plan for a healthier, freer childhood.

**Obtain a copy through the Mansfield Public Library Circulation Desk. The book is also available as an E-Books through Overdrive. For questions on availability, contact the Main Desk at (860) 423-2501.**



**Community Book Discussion**



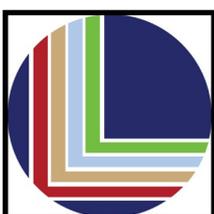
**Thursday, August 22 at 6:00 PM**

**at Mansfield Public Library (Rain or Shine)**

Children are welcome to stay with their parents during the discussion, or the Mansfield Public Library will also offer engaging activities in the playground area (or activity room in case of rain.)

A light dinner will be provided.

**Library Card Sign-Up Month in September: Opening a New World**



This September, Mansfield Public Library is joining the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time to remind parents, caregivers and students that a library card is the first step toward academic achievement and lifelong learning.

A library card opens a world of infinite possibilities through a variety of resources and services that give Mansfield the tools to succeed. With your Mansfield Public Library card, you can check out items beyond books, such as DVDs/Blu-Rays, tools, and cake pans. The library's access to digital resources is also an invaluable resource. Patrons with a MPL card number can access resources for free like Consumer Reports Online, NovelList, Comics Plus, Libby, Hoopla, Ancestry.com, and much more.

### Slow Down for the Safety of Road Workers, Children, and Yourself



Connecticut and the United States have seen an increase in traffic fatalities. Recently, in two separate incidents, a Connecticut Department of Transportation worker and a State Trooper were killed while working on state highways. The traffic fatality data in Connecticut is not good or acceptable, with 323 in 2023 and 366 in 2022. Too many motorcyclists, 62 and 66, and pedestrians, 51 and 73, died in those years as well. Bicyclists were not spared either with five in 2023 and four in 2022 killed on Connecticut roads.

As we are in the middle of a booming construction season on our roadways due to American Rescue Plan Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, please slow down, drive carefully, and plan for your vehicle trips to potentially take longer. Everyone wants to get home safely, but no one is more concerned about that fact than those who must work in and alongside our roadways.

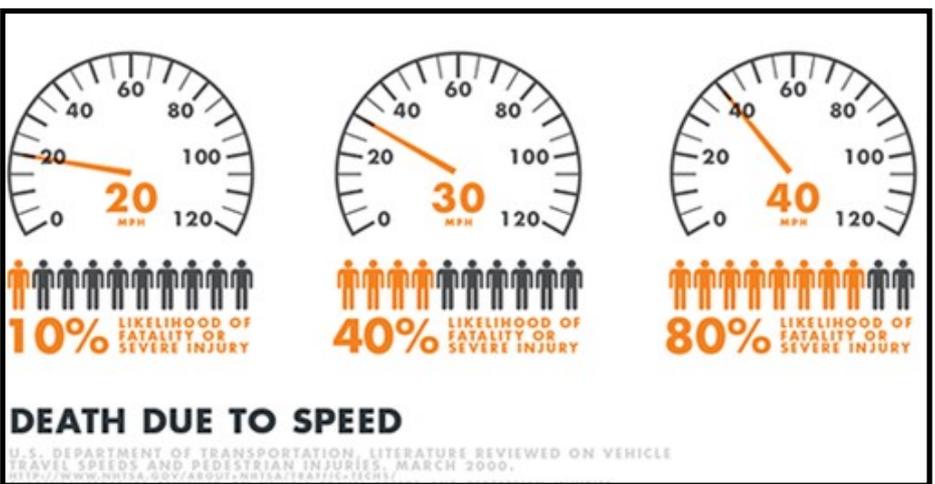
We addressed this two years ago when we shared in this newsletter:

Traffic safety is a public health issue which means it is everyone’s issue. Since the return from the pandemic lockdown, it seems that everyone is less patient and less cautious on our roadways. On November 30, 2021, a 28 year old UConn Graduate student lost his life when he was struck by a car while he was attempting to cross South Eagleville Road (Route 275) from Eastwood Road. The details of this event are unknown, but we know a pedestrian died doing a routine task, crossing a road. Since 2020 in Connecticut, pedestrians and cyclists account for between 55 and 68 roadway fatalities each year.

Humans whether walking or running or cycling or driving will make mistakes but as a community Mansfield can use the safe system approach and have a vision of zero fatalities.

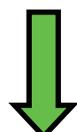
#### As a driver, here are some steps you could take:

- Obey traffic laws and the posted speed limit. **Not one Town owned road has a speed limit greater than 30mph.**
- On any road, but a major highway like I-84, assume there are pedestrians and cyclists on the road, especially in residential and commercial areas. Citizens like to enjoy the scenery of our rural roads that are narrow, winding, and bordered by trees, stone walls, rock outcroppings, or guide rail beams or posts.
- Do not assume a pedestrian or cyclist sees you
- Always assume a pedestrian or cyclist will cross in front of you.
- Drive slower – a slower speed reduces the outcome of a severe injury or death as this chart shows for travel speed and pedestrian injury:



#### As a pedestrian and/or cyclist:

- Be vigilant
- Don't assume the driver in a vehicle sees you
- Obey traffic laws for crossing and stopping



(Traffic Safety Article cont.)

The bottom line is the responsibility must be shared by all users. Operators and policy makers can work together to achieve policies to improve the roadway environment for everyone and to prevent tragedies between vehicles and pedestrians and/or cyclists. By incorporating the Principles of a Safe System Approach, the Town of Mansfield can do its share to reduce and eventually eliminate tragic accidents.

Principles of a Safe System Approach

This is a circular diagram about the Safe System Approach. On the circumference is a band with six safe system principles: Death and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make mistakes, humans are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, safety is proactive, and redundancy is crucial. Inside this, the circle is divided into five sections with logos representing each section: Safer vehicles, safer speeds, safer roads, post-crash care, and safer people.



Be Challenged! Watch for the Ninja Obstacle Course at MCC This Fall!

**NEW EQUIPMENT**  
 KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR  
 UPCOMING  
 G2N FALL PROGRAMS

GYM 2 NINJA  
 OBSTICAL COURSE  
 COMING TO THE MCC GYM  
 THIS FALL 2024

**G2N**

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER  
 Family, Fitness & Fun!

Scan for more Info

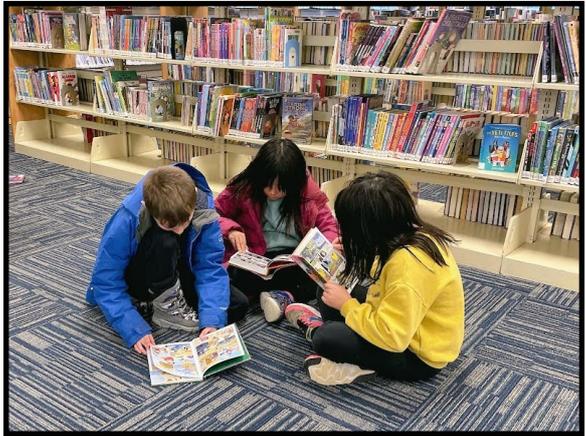
**Back to School Family Night at the Library: September 13**



The Mansfield Public Library is thrilled to invite all local families to a fun, free Friday night out on September 13th from 5-8PM! Learn about the library’s many helpful services, cool collections, and diverse programs while having fun and enjoying free pizza.

The library will be open extra hours for this special event and families will be able to explore the library, compete in a Library Scavenger Hunt, enjoy cool crafts and learn about local resources from community partners, including Mansfield’s Youth Services and Human Services Departments, that can support students and their families on their path to educational success. Skip cooking dinner at home and enjoy free pizza and treats at the library!

The Mansfield Public Library wants to extend a wide welcome to families who have never visited and a warm “welcome back” to those who haven’t been by in a while. The library also has a challenge for all the librarians-in-training who already know a lot about the library. We’ll have a Library Scavenger Hunt will help everyone learn about our library, and it will also have an Expert Challenge for those who think they already know everything about the library. We can’t wait to see what you can find!



Your local librarians hope to see you soon at Family Night- Friday, September 13th from 5-8PM throughout the entire library!

**MANSFIELD**  
CONNECTICUT

Parks & Recreation

**2024-2025**  
**BEFORE & AFTER**  
**SCHOOL FRIENDS**

**BEFORE CARE and AFTER CARE**  
**Located at Mansfield Elementary School**  
**134 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center**

**FEES - PER DAY**

<b>BEFORE CARE</b>	<b>AFTER CARE</b>
REGISTERED - \$12.65	REGISTERED - \$15.44
DROP-IN - \$20.90	DROP-IN - \$25.20

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED FAMILIES:  
TOWN OF MANSFIELD FEE WAIVER - [HUMAN.SERVICES@MANSFIELDCT.ORG](mailto:HUMAN.SERVICES@MANSFIELDCT.ORG) OR (860) 429-3315

**REGISTRATION OPENS**  
**AUGUST 15TH**

REGISTER BY MONTH - ONLINE OR IN-PERSON

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER 10 S. EAGLEVILLE RD. STORRS, CT 06268  
VISIT [WWW.MANSFIELDCC.COM](http://WWW.MANSFIELDCC.COM) OR CALL (860) 429-3015

## Are you a homeowner who needs home repairs?



### Mansfield Housing Rehabilitation Program

Funding provided through a Small Cities Grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing as part of the HUD Community Development Block Grant.

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME**  
Effective May 1, 2024

Household Size	Maximum Income
1 Person	\$68,250
2 People	\$78,000
3 People	\$87,750
4 People	\$97,450
5 People	\$102,250
6 People	\$113,050
7 People	\$120,850
8 People	\$128,650

Assistance is available to Mansfield homeowners and provides 0% interest loans to income-eligible homeowners to finance home repairs. Call us to discuss your eligibility questions and status of our waitlist.

**APPLY TODAY**  
Additional program information and an on-line application form are available at <http://mansfieldct.gov/2035/Housing-Rehabilitation>

**Questions?**  
[delvalled@MansfieldCT.org](mailto:delvalled@MansfieldCT.org)  
860.487.9871

**Eligible Improvements include (but are not limited to):**  
Roof repair/replacement  
Windows and Doors  
Heating, plumbing and electrical upgrades  
Private well/septic repair/replacement  
Accessibility for individuals with disabilities

### Take the Time to Prepare for Storm Season Ahead



As we experience an increasing number of extreme weather events, it is crucial to ensure that you and your family are prepared for any severe weather that may come your way. Here are some essential tips to help you stay safe and ready:

**Create an Emergency Kit.** Assemble a kit with essential supplies, including water, non-perishable food, medications.

Flashlights, batteries/portable battery packs, a first-aid kit and important documents. Ensure you have enough supplies to last at least three days. Consider making an emergency kit for your vehicle too.

**Stay Informed.** Monitor local weather reports and sign up for weather alerts. Use a weather app, watch a local weather station, or listen to a NOAA weather radio station for updates on storm conditions. You can also sign up for Mansfield’s Emergency Notification System, CodeRed. To do so, [visit the Emergency Management portion of the town’s web page](#). Being aware of incoming storms can give you precious time to prepare.

**Develop a Family Emergency Plan.** Plan and practice what to do if a storm hits. Identify safe rooms in your home, such as a basement or an interior room without windows. Make sure everyone knows the location of the emergency kit and establish an evacuation plan in case you have to leave your home. Include your pets in your emergency planning. Ensure you have enough food and water for them too.

**Communicate.** Establish a communication plan with family members and friends. Make sure everyone knows how to reach each other and where to meet if separated.



**Secure Your Home Ahead of Time.** Have trees and bushes trimmed to prevent branches from falling. Ensure your generator is fueled up and ready for safe operation. Secure outdoor furniture, grills, and other items that could become projectiles in high winds. Ensure gutters and drains are clear to help prevent flooding.

**After the Storm Passes.** Stay away from downed power lines and flooded areas. Be aware of any damaged trees or hanging branches. Inspect your home for damage and take photos for insurance purposes. Check on your neighbors, especially those who are more vulnerable. As always, call 911 for any emergency situation.

By taking these steps now, you can ensure your family’s safety and peace of mind. Stay safe, stay prepared, and stay informed!

### Sustainability Committee Kicks Off Mansfield’s Quest for Gold



Sustainable CT is a free, voluntary certification program intended to inspire, support and celebrate thriving and resilient Connecticut communities. Sustainable CT also provides opportunities for grant funding to help communities promote economic well-being and enhance equity, all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment.

The program is designed to support all Connecticut municipalities, regardless of size, geography or resources.

Sustainable CT empowers municipalities to create high collective impact for current and future residents.

In 2019 and 2022 Mansfield was awarded Silver Certification. Certification is valid for three years. In 2025 it will be time once again for Mansfield to renew its certification. This time the Town is striving for the newly created Gold standard.

To ensure Mansfield reaches this goal, the Sustainability Committee hosted a dinner meeting to begin to get down to business. Representatives from the Affordable Housing Committee, Agriculture Committee, Arts Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Board of Education, Historic District, Human Rights Commission, Parks and Natural Resources Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Sustainability Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee and Town Council identified Sustainable CT actions they can focus on between now and August 2025. With a strong collaboration between community volunteers and staff members, Mansfield can lay out a plan of action to push our Sustainability initiatives ahead.

To learn how you can help, contact Virginia Walton at [WaltonVD@MANSFIELDCT.ORG](mailto:WaltonVD@MANSFIELDCT.ORG)

### Mansfield Departments Team Up with MCC for Celebrations and Fun!



#### Grandparents Day!

The Mansfield Senior Center and Mansfield Community Center are collaborating to celebrate Grandparents Day! On Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Community Center welcomes grandparents bring up to two grandchildren free, grandkids bring their grandparents free. Daily admission fees will be required for non-member groups for only part of the pair.



Enjoy some time bonding while swimming, walking the track, playing in the gym, or enjoying some of the Senior Center’s famous cookies (11 a.m. to 1 p.m. while supplies last), while creating family trees, recipe cards, and getting to know each other with fun “questions to ask your grandparents”. There is no age limit on grandparent/grandchild pairings.

### Keep Kids Safe Online: Internet Safety Info for Parents, Guardians & Caregivers



The Library and Parks & Rec have collaborated to offer a new free seminar with the Digital Navigators! This presentation and discussion will look to provide information and resources that community members can use to protect children in their care from online dangers. This program is free, but seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Child care is available during the seminar at the Community Center for ages 1-7 (free to CC members, \$4 per hour per child for non-members).

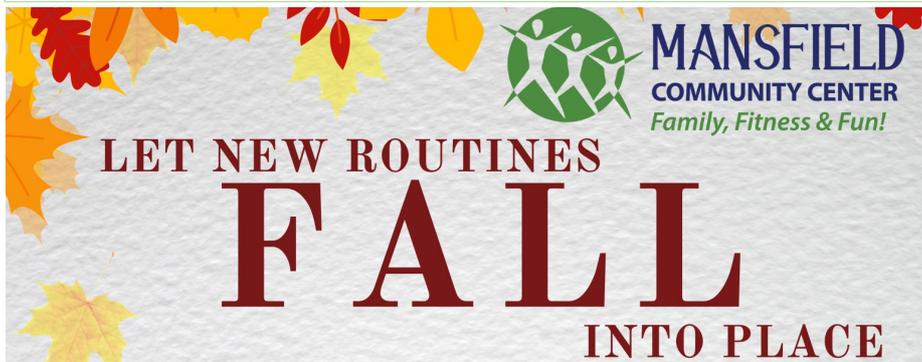
Register at the with Mansfield Parks and Rec in person or online at [www.mansfieldcc.com](http://www.mansfieldcc.com) starting August 15<sup>th</sup> using activity # 210111-B. Each adult attending should register separately. Seminar is scheduled from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Mansfield Community Center.

### Mansfield Teen Center Expands to Collaborate with Youth Services

This fall, we are excited to announce that Parks & Rec and the Mansfield Youth Services staff will work together to provide services associated with the Teen Center! This will include supervision during Teen Center hours, activities, and special events.



Watch for additional information at the start of the school year.



LET NEW ROUTINES  
**FALL**  
INTO PLACE

SWIM-EXERCISE-PLAY

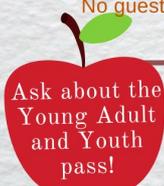
membership special

FITNESS + FRIENDS = FUN

**\$35 Enrollment fee waived\* + Members bring one guest free each Friday in September.**

**Don't SWEAT the fall stuff; month-by-month membership options available.**

\*\$35 Enrollment fee waived August 1-September 15, 2024. Members also receive discounted sign-up for fitness and aquatics programs. Free guest option provides general access to fitness center, track, therapy & main pools, and gymnasium. Does not include class or child care access. No guest pass needed. One guest per date; member must accompany guest. Member and guest sign-in required.



Mansfield Community Center  
10 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268  
860-429-3015 [www.mansfieldcc.com](http://www.mansfieldcc.com)

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Waste Reduction Projects in Development**



With reducing waste top of mind, the Public Works Department is putting together two new projects.

**Expanded Food Rescue**

Last school year, volunteers rescued leftovers from K-12 to bring to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. The estimated total of leftovers donated to the Soup Kitchen **was 4.23 tons!** This was a hit –everyone

involved loved it – school kitchen staff, volunteers and the Soup Kitchen! The volunteers are ready to take on another school year! Encouraged by success, the Recycling Coordinator has reached out to CLiCK, Windham’s cooperative kitchen, New Haven’s food rescue organization, Haven’s Harvest and Eastern Highland Health District. Together we are figuring the logistics of expanding food rescue to restaurant and catered event leftovers. Let’s feed hungry people, not trash incinerators! Our hope is to expand the food rescue effort this fall.

How can you help? If you are planning a catered event, use an invitation RSVP. An accurate head count allows the caterer to prepare the right amount of food.

Contact the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator ahead of time so that arrangements can be made to collect potential leftovers. After the event, it is easy enough to cancel the order if there aren’t any leftovers. Provide containers for guests to take home leftovers or plan to deliver the food to the Soup Kitchen yourself.

**Deconstruction Project**

Deconstruction is the process of taking a building apart, piece by piece, and salvaging usable materials instead of landfilling them. Coming soon, a pilot project at the Transfer Station to collect building materials salvaged from home or business renovations. The Town will act as a satellite location for EcoBuilding Bargains, a reuse store located in Springfield, MA. Participating contractors will donate building materials by bringing them to the Transfer Station. EcoBuilding Bargains will then pick up the materials and sell the items at their store. For a renovation with a lot of usable materials, EcoBuilding Bargains will work directly with the contractor and collect the items from the job site.

If your home or business is being remodeled, ask your contractor to participate by contacting the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).

## Mansfield Library: Learn, Join in, Explore What's Happening



### Special Family Events

**Family Movie Night**  
Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium

Put on your comfiest pajamas and join us at the library for a free Family Movie Night! We will be watching Moana (PG). Feel free to bring your own blanket; we'll provide fresh popcorn and assorted treats!

**Science Heroes: "Adventure of the Lost Treasure"**  
Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium

Science and stories collide in this interactive STEM show as we embark on a treasure-hunting adventure deep within the jungle! Audience members will help act out the tale, as the events in the story explore exciting science concepts. This program is best for children ages 4-12.

**Annual Ice Cream Social**  
Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-1PM on the Library Lawn

Celebrate the end of this year's Summer Reading Challenge with a family-friendly Ice Cream Social on the Library Lawn! We hope you join us for games, music, and family fun- free for all community members.

**Back to School Family Night at the Library**  
Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8PM

All local families are invited to a fun, free Friday night out at the Mansfield Public Library! The library will be open extra hours for this special event and families will be able to explore the library, compete in a Library Scavenger Hunt, enjoy cool crafts and learn about local resources. Free pizza and treats!

### Weekly Children's Events

**Toddler Time:** Tuesdays at 10:30AM in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium (or on the Library Lawn during select summer days)

Learn, dance and play through stories and songs! After storytime, families are invited to stay and play with friends. This program is best for toddlers ages 1-3, but all families are welcome.

**Wonder Workshop:** August Thursdays from 3-5PM (Drop-in!) and September Thursdays from 4-6PM (Drop-in!) in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium

Families are invited to drop in for STEAM activities, crafts, and tactile play. This program is best for preschool and elementary-school age children, but all families are welcome.

**Music and Movement:** Fridays at 10:30AM in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium

Let's move! Sing, dance and move your bodies in this interactive, music-based program, followed by group playtime. This program is best for ages 0-4, but all families are welcome.

**Spectacular Saturdays:** Saturdays at 10:30AM in MPL's Program Room

Families are invited to the library every Saturday morning for storytime followed by open play and coloring with friends! Meet new friends and neighbors in our Program Room for an opportunity for children to socialize and play. This program is fun for families with children of all ages!

### Teen Nights (for middle and high school students only)

#### **Summer Teen Nights: August**

- DIY Tie Dye: Thursday, August 1 @ 6PM
- Teen Movie Night: Thursday, August 8 @ 6PM
- Teen Video Game Night: Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM

#### **September Teen Night:**

Back to School Pizza Party & Planning  
Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM

Help our librarians plan what *YOU* want Teen Nights to look like at the library! Come by to share your thoughts and hang out with friends while enjoying free pizza & treats. We need your help to make Teen Nights fun for everyone!

*As always, all library programs are FREE and no registration is necessary.*

(Continued)



**(Library Programs Cont.)****Adult Programs****Virtual Meditation Workshop  
Tuesday, August 6 at 6:00 pm**

Learn about many of the benefits of meditation and practice some meditation techniques for overall wellness. Register for the Zoom links via the library events calendar.

**Your All Access Pass Behind the Scenes at the Space Station with Smithsonian Curator Dr. Jennifer Levasseur  
A Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration  
Wednesday, August 7th at 2:00 PM, Virtual**

You're invited to virtually step inside one of the greatest international achievements with a behind-the-scenes guide to space exploration with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum curator Dr. Jennifer Levasseur.

Register for the link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

**The Golden Ticket to College Admissions Is Not What You Think: Redefining Success for Parents of Teens with Irena Smith, PhD  
Story Circle Network's Gilda Award-Winner and Former Lecturer and Stanford Admissions Officer  
Thursday, August 15th at 2:00 PM, Virtual**

Another college application season is around the corner, and stress is already beginning to ratchet up for teens and their parents. You're invited to join us for this must-watch talk by Irena Smith, PhD. You will hear about constructive and healthy ways to approach the college application process, preserve your relationship with your teen, and help them define success on their terms instead of chasing the elusive "golden ticket."

Register for the link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

**Craft Swap!**

**Donation Dates: Monday, August 12 – Monday, August 19**  
**Date of Swap Event: Tuesday, August 20, 5:00pm – 8:00 pm**  
**Location: Mansfield Public Library Program Room**

Do you have craft supplies that you no longer use? Would you like to try a different kind of craft but don't want to spend a lot of money on materials just to try something new? Then donate some of your old craft supplies during normal library hours from August 12-19, 2024, and then do a little free shopping at our swap event on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. We will be accepting craft supply donations at the library circulation desk for all types of crafts: yarn, fabric, paper-crafting, tools, etc. Please make sure all donations are in good, usable condition. Previously opened containers of liquid (paint, glue, etc.) will not be accepted. Any items left at the end of the swap will be used by the library, donated, or discarded.

**Adults 18+ Only Game Night**

**Tuesdays, August 20 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium**

Join us at the Mansfield Public Library for our monthly Game Nights for adults 18+! Drop in to the auditorium for Magic the Gathering casual commander play or try one of our specially selected board games!

All experience levels welcome. No registration required.

**An Exploration of Friendship, Reckoning, and Hope with novelist Shelby Van Pelt, Author of the Instant *New York Times* bestseller *Remarkably Bright Creatures***

**Wednesday, August 21st at 7:00 PM, Virtual**

We invite you to join us as we chat with the amazing *New York Times* bestselling author Shelby Van Pelt about her beloved novel *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. You don't want to miss this deep-dive exploration of friendship, reckoning, hope, and so much more!

Register for the link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

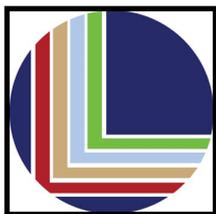
**Succulent Garden Craft**

**Tuesday, August 27 at 6:00 pm in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium**

Make a gnome your own with this faux succulent garden craft! Such a cute addition to your home décor. Space is limited, so registration is required by calling the library at: 860-423-2501, beginning 8/21/24. One registrant per phone call, adults only please.

(Continued)



**(Library Programs Cont.)**
**Virtual Meditation Workshop**  
**Tuesday, September 3 at 6:00 pm**

Learn about many of the benefits of meditation and practice some meditation techniques for overall wellness. Register for the Zoom links via the library events calendar.

**Capturing the Human Drama Through History with Garrett Graff, *New York Times* Bestselling Author and Pulitzer Prize Finalist. Tuesday, September 10th at 2:00 PM, Virtual**

An expert at capturing the human drama, Graff will speak about his body of work with particular focus on his oral histories, *The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11* and *When the Sea Came Alive: An Oral History of D-Day*.

Register for the link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

**Eloise & Co. Accordion & Fiddle Duo**  
**Saturday, September 14 at 2:00 pm in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium**

Join nationally-touring powerhouse band Eloise & Co. for an exhilarating concert of Celtic, French, and Quebecois traditional tunes as well as original compositions in those styles. Eloise & Co. plays songs ranging from heart-achingly beautiful to wildly energetic, interspersed with educational tidbits and stories about the background of the tunes.

**Adults 18+ Only Game Night**  
**Tuesday, September 17 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium**

Join us at the Mansfield Public Library for our monthly Game Nights for adults 18+! Drop in to the auditorium for Magic the Gathering casual commander play or try one of our specially selected board games!

All experience levels welcome. No registration required.

**Living with an Expansive Mind in a Distracted World—with Nate Klemp, PhD**
***New York Times* Bestselling Co-Author of *Start Here: Master the Lifelong Skill of Well-Being*. Wednesday, September 18th at 2:00 PM, Virtual**

Join us as *New York Times* bestselling author and philosopher Nate Klemp helps us explore pathways back to openminded living when he talks to us about the core tenets in his new book *Open: Living with an Expansive Mind in a Distracted World*.

Register for the link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

**A Deep Dive in Character Development with Global Sensation Liane Moriarty #1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *Big Little Lies*, *The Husband's Secret*, and *Apples Never Fall*, Saturday, September 21st at 7:00 PM, Virtual**

If you knew your future, would you try to fight fate? If you were told you only had a certain amount of time left to live, would you do things differently? Would you try to dodge your destiny? Join us as we chat with mega-bestselling author Liane Moriarty about her newest novel *Here One Moment*. Moriarty's *Here One Moment* is a brilliantly constructed tale that looks at free will and destiny, grief and love, and the endless struggle to maintain certainty and control in an uncertain world.

Register for the link by clicking on this event on the Mansfield Public Library website calendar: <https://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org/>

**Witch Candy Jar Craft**  
**Tuesday, September 24 at 6:00 pm in MPL's Buchanan Auditorium**

Get into the spirit of the fall season with this spooky craft. Space is limited, so registration is required by calling the library at: 860-423-2501, beginning 9/18/24. One registrant per phone call, adults only please.

**Visit the Library's online calendar for more information and program updates!\***

**As always, all library programs are FREE and no registration is necessary.**

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

Watch for postings 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](#).

### 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 it to open, and it will list 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	Kathleen Paterson, Acting Executive Director	860-429-2740 MDP@mansfieldct.org
Eastern Highlands Health District	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	Michael Posocco, Facilities Director	860-429-3320 facilities@mansfieldct.org
Finance	Amanda Backhaus, 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	John Roache Fire Chief	860-429-3323 firedept@mansfieldct.org  <b>EMERGENCY: 911</b>
Housing Authority	Rebecca Fields, Housing Authority Executive Director	860-487-0693 rfields@mansfieldhousingct.org
Shared Services	Maria Capriola, Chief of Shared Services	860-429-3380 HR@MansfieldCT.org
Human Services	Jessica St. Louis, Director of Human Services	860-429-3315 HumanServ@MansfieldCT.org
Information Technology	Jaime Russell, Information Technology Director	860-429-3384 technology@mansfieldct.org
Mansfield Discovery Depot	Debbie Plourde, Director	(860) 487-0062 MDD@mansfieldct.org
Parks & Recreation/ Mansfield Community Center	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	Devon Andrews, Library Director	860-423-2501 MansfieldLibrary@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	Jessica Tracy, Senior Center Supervisor	860-429-0262 TracyJA@mansfieldct.org
State Police (Resident State Trooper)	Sergeant Stephen King, Resident State Trooper Sergeant	860-429-6024 Police@mansfieldct.org
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

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