

February-March 2025 E-Newsletter from the Town of Mansfield, CT



In this issue:

- POCD Update — pg. 6
- Pool Refreshed — pg. 7
- 2025/26 Budget— pg. 8
- MES Achieves Net Zero in First Year— pg. 10
- Taste 2 Towns Restaurant Week— pg. 11
- Hunting Lodge Rd. Project Complete— pg. 12
- Deputy Fire Marshal Sworn in —pg. 13
- Old Town Hall Renovations — pg. 14
- Supt. Dart to Retire—pg. 17
- Chef Completes Fellowship — pg. 19
- Employee Milestones — pg. 20
- Food Rescue — pg. 22

Message from the Town Manager

A Bright Year Ahead

Greetings Fellow Residents!

I hope that everyone's New Year is off to a good start! Punxsutawney Phil might have just seen his shadow and declared six more weeks of winter, but it certainly has been a pretty mild winter up to this point.

The Town of Mansfield has been busy on a number of different fronts at the beginning of 2025.



(Continued on page 2)

Quick Links to Resources:

MansfieldCT.gov

- [Find Local Hiking Trails](#)
- [Mansfield's Food Programs](#)
- [What Events are Coming Up](#)
- [I Need Crisis Support](#)
- [Catalog for Parks & Recreation and Mansfield Community Center](#)



Taste 2 Towns
Mansfield-Windham Restaurant Week
JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025



Message from the Town Manager (cont.)

Budget Planning Begins. Since late-2024, the municipal management team has been developing an operating budget and capital improvement plan for FY 2025/26. This initial phase of the budget process will culminate with the formulation of my official annual budget and capital project recommendations, which will be initially presented to the Town Council on March 24 before proceeding to budget workshops throughout April.

As in previous budget years, a primary goal for the FY 2025/26 budget is to sustain the high quality of Town programs, projects, and services while simultaneously promoting cost efficiencies, leveraging state and other “non-local” revenue sources, and minimizing—or avoiding—any increases in the property taxes owed by households. Our objective remains clear: to ensure that Mansfield continues to be a welcoming and affordable community for residents of all economic backgrounds. Additional information about this year’s budget process is included in a subsequent section of this newsletter.

Policy on Undocumented Residents.

In anticipation that Mansfield residents are concerned about how the immigration status of parents and children may affect the safety of children, on January 27 the Superintendent of Mansfield Public Schools and Town Manager distributed a letter to school families communicating Mansfield’s policy about undocumented residents. The letter also directed residents to resources compiled by the State about families’ rights, stressing the importance of having a family plan. The full letter can be accessed [here](#).

The Mansfield Town Council adopted a [policy resolution](#) on undocumented immigrants in 2017. This policy assures that all people are free and welcome to use public services, without fear that they will be questioned by Town staff about their immigration status or that services will be denied because of that status. By law, schools and staff cannot ask for, collect, or share information about our students’ and families’ immigration status. Families are urged to review the resources provided on [the Mansfield](#)



2025-26 Budgeting

“Our objective remains clear: to ensure that Mansfield continues to be a welcoming and affordable community for residents of all economic backgrounds.”



[Public Schools website](#) for guidance.

Town-wide Revaluation. The Town is nearing completing of its statutorily required town-wide revaluation, a critical step in ensuring equity and accuracy in property assessments across the community. Under Connecticut state law, revaluations are conducted every five years to reflect changes in the real estate market and ensure that property taxes are distributed fairly among property owners. Preliminary revaluation assessment letters were mailed to property owners at the beginning of January.

As expected, given the substantial upward shift in real estate market that has been experienced in the “post-COVID” era, the significant

(Continued)



**Message from the
Town Manager
(cont.)**

preliminary increases that many residents are seeing for their respective properties are raising a number of questions that we want to be sure are addressed. To this end, detailed information regarding the assessment



process can be found on the Town's [website](#). Property cards can be viewed via the Town's [geographic information system](#).

“It is also important to note that changes in tax liability due to changes in assessment cannot be calculated until the mill rate is set for FY 2025/26

The mill rate for FY 2025/26 is anticipated to be set at the Annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2025”

The Assessor is working to finalize property values with an anticipated signing of the Grand List prior to February 28, at which time property owners will receive final assessment notices. Details regarding formal appeals processes will be available when final assessment notices are distributed and are anticipated to occur in March. It is also important to note that changes in tax liability due to changes in assessment cannot be calculated until the mill rate is set for FY 2025/26 (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026). The mill rate for FY 2025/26 is anticipated to be set at the Annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2025.

Maple Fest is Coming Back to Mansfield!

Mansfield will once again be the host site for a major regional event known as Eastern Connecticut Maple Fest being organized by the Windham Chamber of Commerce. This event had been held in Hebron for a number of years, growing to attract thousands of visitors, but last year organizers decided to move the event to a new location as the Town of Hebron signaled a desire to scale down their event. The event in Mansfield will take place Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30. Local businesses and

organizations are encouraged to participate by exhibiting, or coordinating a maple-themed event at your own business site. Registration details can be found through this [Maple Fest website](#) hosted by the Windham Chamber of Commerce.

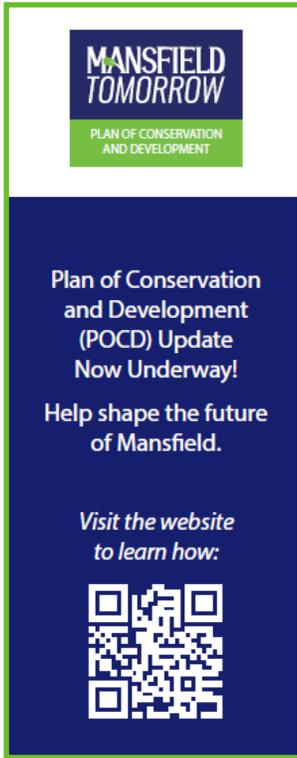
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Eastern CT Maple Fest 2024 featured a sap-boiling demonstration by students from the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources.

Message from the Town Manager (cont.)

Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development Update.



MANSFIELD TOMORROW
PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update Now Underway!

Help shape the future of Mansfield.

Visit the website to learn how:



The ad hoc committee formed to facilitate comprehensive updates to the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which is comprised of members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Town Council, has remained busy this fall and winter. Its most recent meeting focused on the community engagement strategy that will be deployed to reach our diverse public. This comprehensive plan serves as a strategic roadmap, guiding decisions on land use, housing, economic development, environmental sustainability, transportation, and community services. Updated every ten years, the POCD is not only a reflection of Mansfield’s long-term vision but also a tool to ensure that our growth and development align with our shared values and aspirations.

Updating the POCD is critical to addressing new challenges and opportunities facing our community. From promoting affordable housing and fostering economic resilience to protecting our natural resources and enhancing quality of life, the updated plan will help us chart a thoughtful course for Mansfield’s future.

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. 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!

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

Celebrating 40 Years of Service to Mansfield

Congratulations to Ted Morrissette who was recently honored for 40 years of service to the Fire & Emergency Services Department. Mayor Toni Moran, Director of Shared Services Maria Capriola, and Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth recognized Ted and other employees at the annual holiday potluck luncheon in December.



Residents Complete Local Government Academy



A cohort of 16 residents completed the 2024 Mansfield Local Government Academy, the fourth year of this program. The Local Government Academy met for 12 sessions starting in early September. The goal of the program is to promote citizen engagement. Each session highlighted the operations of the Town

and featured staff members and department leaders sharing information about their work and stories of meeting the Town's needs.

The twelfth and final session on December 12 featured the topic of Boards and Commissions. Mayor Toni Moran along with Democratic Party Chair and Deputy Mayor Ben Shaiken and Republican Bill Tomecko shared the nomination process for running for an elected office. Affordable Housing Committee Chair Mike Accorsi and Ray Fricano (pictured above), a volunteer who serves on two committees, spoke about why they are motivated to volunteer for the municipality. Mansfield's Recycling Coordinator Virginia Walton, staff person for Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Committee, shared her perspective about the impact of engaged citizens on enacting positive changes within the Town. The session closed with an opportunity to evaluate the overall 12-session experience.

The group attended presentations by leaders from Public Works, Fire and Emergency Management, Building and Housing, Public Health, Resident Troopers, Animal Control, Planning and Economic Development, the Public Library, Human Services including Youth Services and the Senior Center, Parks and Recreation, and Land Use. Departments with whom the Town provides services, called Shared Services, including Information Technology, Finance, and Facilities also presented to the cohort. The Superintendents of Region 19 and Mansfield Public Schools also hosted a session about the schools. Participants also toured many of the Town's facilities and saw the equipment and resources.

If you are interested in participating in future sessions, contact the Town Manager at townmng@mansfieldct.org.



"I appreciate the interactive nature of each session... and visual components of individual groups."

"Overall it was a fantastic opportunity and I look forward to become more active with the Town."

-Participants' Feedback

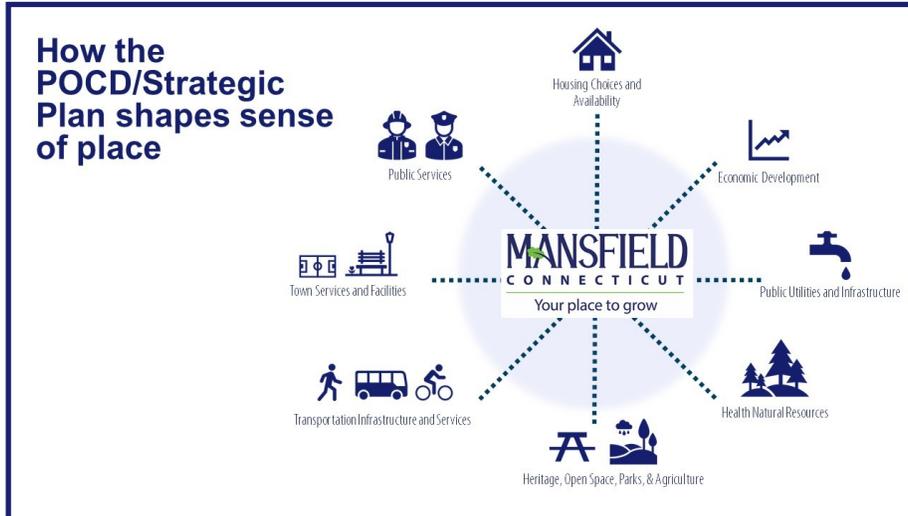


Congratulations (l to r) to Phil Spak, Susan Spak, Aaron Bowman, Brian Coleman, Jiff Martin, Jesse Campbell, Cathy McCrackan, Tristaca Campbell, Larisa Kupris, Ramesh K.C., Mary Shea, Emily Halle, Deb McCrackan, Natalia Turgeon, Jillian Sheehan, Irene Sheehan (2023 cohort), and Penelope Williams with Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth.

Mansfield is Updating Its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)

Everyone is encouraged to participate. Our Plan. Our Future.

The Town of Mansfield is updating its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), also known as *Mansfield Tomorrow*. This critical plan will shape how Mansfield evolves and will guide decisions about town



services, infrastructure, housing, business development, and environmental protection over the next decade. Our Plan. Our Future.

An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to lead the update process. The committee includes four members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, three members of the Town Council, and four ex officio non-voting members: the Town Manager, Director of Planning and Development, Chief of Shared Services, and Director of Public Works. This group meets monthly to guide the update, informed by a robust public engagement process.

Two separate working groups, composed of citizen volunteers of the many Boards and Commissions as well as Town Department Heads, are also supporting the update. Drawing on their areas of expertise, these groups are benchmarking the progress of the 2015 Plan and proposing goals and strategies for the 2025 Plan within their respective focus areas.

Your input is essential to shaping Mansfield's future. Stay tuned for more updates. We look forward to folks being part of this important process!

How Can You Offer Your Input?

We want to hear from you! Here's how you can participate:

- **Follow our Progress and Stay Up to Date at:** www.MansfieldTomorrow.org
- **Take the Survey:** Available mid-February through early May
- **Join the Public Workshop:** Saturday, April 5, 9:30–11:30 AM
- **Visit Us at the Earth Day Event:** Saturday, April 26, 2025
- **Email Us Your Thoughts:** MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org

Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update Now Underway!
Help shape the future of Mansfield.

Visit the website to learn how:

Mansfield Community Center Pool Refreshed

The Mansfield Community Center six-lane main pool is undergoing an extensive maintenance overhaul to enhance the swimming experience for users in the years ahead. MCC staff estimates the pool will be reopened and ready for use by the end of February.



When Using the Pools

Help keep our pools clean, safe, and sanitary by supporting our lifeguards and following the 3 MUSTs:

1. Swimmers **MUST** take a shower at the MCC with warm water and soap before entering the pools.
2. Swimmers **MUST** avoid swimming if you have diarrhea or any communicable disease. This can spread germs in the water and make other people sick.
3. Swimmers bringing in their own approved equipment **MUST** rinse off equipment in shower before use. Please see our approved equipment list for more information.

Mansfield Parks & Recreation is committed to following Connecticut State health code regarding public pool operations.

The pool originally was closed to address several issues of concern, and addressing them has contributed to a prolonged closure since early winter. MCC has used this opportunity while the pool is out of service to upgrade the surfaces. In brief, the pool was closed when unusual discoloration was observed on the pool floor. Challenges have included completing intense cleaning and disinfecting to remove bacteria, repairing deterioration of the plaster pool floors and walls surfaces, and addressing a failed heat exchanger.

The Town of Mansfield is committed to making all necessary repairs and significant work began in early January with an estimated completion date near the end of February. The majority of the repair work is related to the normal lifespan for areas under repair

The upside — a new pool basin will be available to enjoy when the lap pool reopens and will not require replacement for another 15-20 years.

Furthermore, installing an ultraviolet light water disinfection system (UV) is planned during the winter. UV helps reduce chemical usage and decreases chlorine by-products, a common cause of skin irritation, stinging eyes, and unpleasant odors. This process improves swimmer comfort while maintaining improved water clarity and safety.



In the meantime, we encourage folks to utilize the over \$175,000 of new fitness equipment recently installed at the community center and other amenities such as the newly refinished gymnasium, indoor track and the teen/game room.

Throughout this winter, the smaller therapy pool remains open as it was not effected by the bacteria or in need of repairs. However, occasionally, the therapy pool will need to be closed when some phases of work is completed on the lap pool, such as when equipment is kicking up excess dust in the pool area.

The public is always welcome to visit MCC and can enjoy a free coffee or tea and spend time in the Schragger-Gellin Family Sitting Room.

Town Manager Emphasizes Accessibility for Citizens as Budget Process Gets Underway

The municipal budget development process commenced in late-2024, and as Town Manager, I want to underscore the vital role citizen engagement plays in sculpting the financial trajectory of our community. The budget is a reflection of our shared goals and aspirations, and public involvement is instrumental in ensuring that it resonates with the diverse needs and values of our town.

Accessibility is a core tenet of our approach to the budget development process. We are committed to making pertinent information readily available to you. Clear, accessible details about revenue sources, expenditure plans, and the considerations guiding our financial decisions will be provided to foster an informed and engaged community.

Cost-effectiveness remains a guiding principle in the Town's budgetary decisions. We seek to optimize the allocation of resources, ensuring efficiency in addressing the ever-evolving needs of our community. **Your insights are invaluable** in striking the right balance between fiscal responsibility and delivering high-quality services that meet the expectations of our residents. Likewise, we always strive to identify and pursue grants and other alternative revenue sources that enable us to fund new programs and projects without having to collect additional tax dollars.

Innovation is a driving force in our commitment to creating a budget that aligns with the Town Council's goals and the values cherished by our community. We actively explore inventive solutions and new approaches to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of our municipal services. Your ideas and suggestions are crucial in navigating the dynamic landscape of municipal governance.

Your engagement is not just welcomed; it's actively encouraged. There will be considerable opportunities for you to participate in Town Council budget workshops (all of which are open and accessible to the general public) during the month of April, and subsequently share perspectives on regarding essential services, infrastructure projects, innovative community programs, and other proposals that will shape the future of Mansfield.

Our budgetary decisions are deeply rooted in the goals set by the Town Council and the values that define our community. By actively participating in the budget development process, you contribute to achieving outcomes



“Accessibility is a core tenet of our approach to the budget development process. We are committed to making pertinent information readily available to you. Clear, accessible details about revenue sources, expenditure plans, and the considerations guiding our financial decisions will be provided to foster an informed and engaged community... Your engagement is not just welcomed; it's actively encouraged.”

that align with these goals and reflect the unique character of the Town of Mansfield.



Mansfield Town Meeting at Mansfield Middle School May of 2024.

(Continued)



Budget Development Process Underway (cont.)

Stay informed about upcoming events related to the budget development process and seize the chance to make your voice heard. Together, we can craft a budget that not only aligns with the Town Council's stated goals but also embodies the innovative spirit and values of Mansfield .

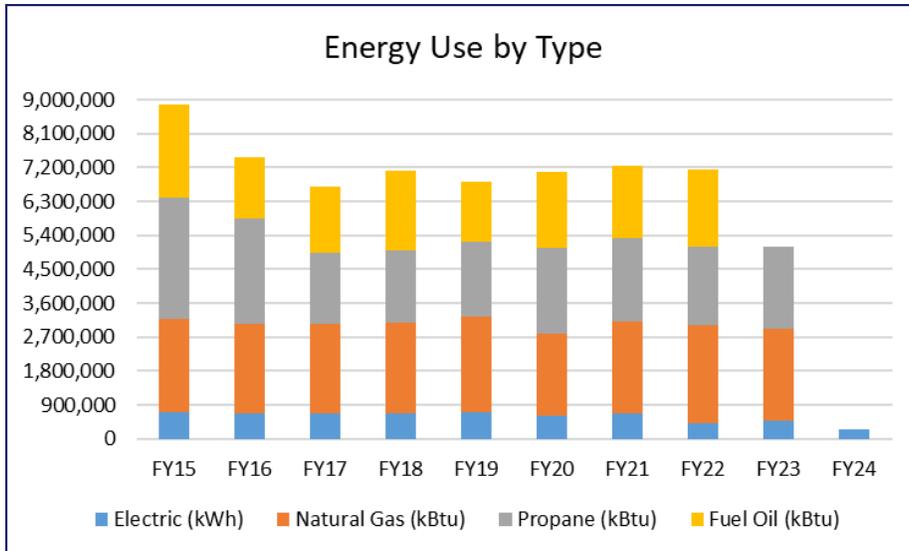
Key Points about FY 2025/26 in Mansfield

- Due to favorable financial developments that unfolded over the last couple of years, preparing and developing our operating budget and capital improvement program (CIP) in recent years has provided unique opportunities to pursue meaningful enhancements to and investments in services, operations and infrastructure the Town has not been able to do in more austere budget years.
- The Town has realized noteworthy operating surpluses over the last two budget years primarily as a result of actual revenues dramatically exceeding budgeted revenues in a small handful of areas (i.e., state aid, building permits, fire code permits, and interest income).
- Surpluses have enabled the Town Council to act on a variety of staff recommendations as to how these funds would be best appropriated/ invested on debt service stabilization and one-time nonrecurring purposes consistent with the Council's values and policy objectives.
- The prevailing economic conditions continue to be favorable, and, while we always need to exercise responsible fiscal restraint, the Town should be in a position to consider service expansion in select areas of need as we prepare our FY 2025/26 operating budget and CIP.
- We are currently in the midst of a Town-wide Revaluation process that is completed every five years per state law. Although we are anticipating a substantial market-based increase in the Town's taxable Grand List due to the sustained trend of rising residential real estate values following the COVID-19 pandemic, we have in fact only experienced modest "new growth" over the past 12 month period.
- The Standard at Four Corners – a major multi-family housing project – is nearing completion, most of the new tax revenue from this build will not be realized until a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) is issued. As such, the new tax revenue that a partially completed project will add to the Town's Grand List for FY 2025/26 is but a fraction of what we anticipate it will be beginning in FY 2026/27 and beyond.
- Although there are multiple other new large-scale multi-family developments (i.e., The Villages at Four Corners, The HUB, and 497 Middle Turnpike) that have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission that will impart a considerable infusion of new property tax revenue to the Town in the future, none of these projects have yet broken ground. As such, the projected substantial increases in property tax revenues that will result from these additional transformational housing development projects are likely still two or more fiscal years away.
- Finding an acceptable balance between meeting the demand for services, meeting critical infrastructure needs, building fund balance to maintain or improve our bond rating, and continuing our pay-as-you-go capital while minimizing (or avoiding) any added financial burden on our taxpayers is going to require ingenuity. Municipal departments are carefully evaluating existing programs to ensure that we are delivering these services in the most effective and efficient manner.
- Despite the fact that our fiscal environment has experienced improvement over the last several fiscal years and we are forecasting a growing tax base and associated municipal revenue streams, we must continue to be measured and pragmatic with respect to our recurring and one-time expenses. As such, certain desired new initiatives may ultimately need to be phased in more gradually or deferred until a future budget year.

Mansfield Elementary Achieves Net-Zero in First Year; Fulfills Goal of Eliminating Fossil Fuels

At a meeting of the Board of Education and Town Council held on January 30, Town and community leaders reported that the Mansfield Elementary School has achieved net zero energy usage since its opening in April 2023. Net zero energy is achieved when the total energy produced by a facility is greater than or equal to the energy it consumes.

When the community began the school building project, there were three goals articulated for the school. The first goal was to create a 21st century



learning space for children. Second, the aim was to save energy, especially minimizing carbon emissions. The third goal was to save the Town money by operating a single consolidated school when compared to operating three separate aging school buildings.

As the chart above shows, Mansfield Elementary has permitted the Town to eliminate its use of fossil fuels including natural gas, fuel oil, and propane—all of which are measured in units of kBtu. Mansfield is consuming only electricity to power its school, including in the kitchen and with all heating and cooling systems. The aggregate energy costs associated with operating the Town’s elementary school facilities have decreased 47.34% since 2015, when three separate schools (Southeast, Goodwin, and Vinton) were still in operation.

The school’s energy-saving systems including geothermal with heat pumps contributes to this efficiency, and the photovoltaic array on the roof also generate energy. However, the design of the school, its south-facing orientation that maximizes lights, creating a tight building during construction, and its compact shape all contribute to the school’s efficiency.

The group discussed that electricity costs have increased 65.4%, however, beyond the 2019 estimates of the school building committee. Eversource buys excess electricity produced by MES with a rate agreement some Town leaders feel is not sufficient. Eversource and state officials has confirmed that the MES agreement is the most beneficial available at this time.

The community should be extremely proud that the new school has achieved its goals, eliminating reliance on fossil fuels.



The Board of Education invited the Town Council to attend a special meeting to hear the Mansfield Elementary School Energy Report from Town staff and the School Building Committee Chair.



Popular Taste 2 Towns Returns! Windham and Mansfield Invite Diners to Dine Around

Two towns. Two weeks. Twenty restaurants. From chef-driven full-service establishments to beloved counter-service favorites, restaurants in Windham and Mansfield are cooking up something great for visitors now through Sunday, February 9 for what is known as Taste 2 Towns Restaurant Week.

Participating restaurants' featured menu offerings are posted for visitors to preview at Taste2Towns.com. The Towns of Mansfield and Windham have joined up with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association (WDNA) to collaborate for the fourth year of this popular promotion highlighting local restaurants showing off their most delicious dishes.

Among Taste 2 Towns returning restaurants is Trigo Wood-Fired Pizza, selected by the Connecticut Restaurant Association as the Restaurant of the Year for Windham County announced at its recent CRAZIES Awards. Trigo was also recognized in the recent *Connecticut Magazine* survey of a panel of food experts' favorite places, and along with TaCo in Mansfield was called a "Hidden Gem." The popular Ganset Wraps of Mansfield, selected by *Connecticut* as Best Overall Value, is also returning to Taste 2 Towns with its once-a-year custom platter offering.

Additional popular restaurants are Fenton River Grille, Dog Lane Café, Little Aladdin Mediterranean Grill, Tavern at Spring Hill, and Huskies Restaurant and Bar of Mansfield, plus Dad's Doughs. Windham restaurants include Willimantic Brewing Company, Harp on Church, and newcomer El Guajuato Restaurante offering dine-in specials. The popular A Cupcake for Later, Paula and Jane Boba Café, Grounded, The Fish Market, and The Good Times Café are also offering specials during the promotion.

The program is publicized with intense marketing support, coordinated by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Mansfield's Communications Specialist, including advertising on Instagram and Facebook targeted locally and to markets like Worcester and Providence, the state's tourism website, CTVisits.com, radio spots and print advertising, and press outreach to media outlets across Connecticut for interviews and placements.

The promotion is funded by generous sponsors including the Eastern Connecticut State University Foundation, Vanderman Place, Liberty Bank, and Berkshire Bank, plus support from Kindred Crossings LLC. Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce, Westford Hill Distillers, Willimantic Food Co-op, and Zlotnick Construction, Inc.



"The Taste 2 Towns promotion is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the diverse and vibrant culinary scene in the Towns of Mansfield and Windham.

Dining together fosters a sense of place and connection, reinforcing what makes Mansfield and Windham such special places to live, work, and visit.

We encourage everyone to take part in this event and experience the flavors that make our communities unique."

*-Ryan Aylesworth,
Town Manager*

Hunting Lodge Rd. Reopens; Culvert Replaced

After extensive work, The Town of Mansfield's Hunting Lodge Road is now reopened. This winter Mansfield's Department of Public Works (DPW) and contractor Genovesi Construction LLC of Tolland completed replacement of the failing twin 48-inch corrugated metal pipe that carries the Eagleville Brook below Hunting Lodge Road with a 48-inch concrete pipe and an 8-foot wide by 6-foot tall precast concrete box culvert. The work has closed Hunting Lodge Road, a busy road that runs along the edge of the UConn campus and connects to many Mansfield neighborhoods.



Mansfield DPW had identified that the existing corrugated metal pipes were severely deteriorated. The bottom (photo right, rotated for viewing) of the existing pipes were non-existent and caused a sinkhole in the road in April 2022.

The project enlarged the culvert to improve stream connectivity for wildlife and provide a service life of over 75 years. The project cost, funded entirely by the Town, was \$42,300 for design and \$869,000 for construction. A portion of Hunting Lodge Road was also realigned to improve the existing curve through the culverts. Additionally, new signage was added to better indicate the approaching curve. Come springtime, Genovesi Construction LLC will be adding pavement markings, grading the road shoulder and seeding all disturbed areas.



Ages 9-12 **April Vacation** **Mon.-Wed. April 14-16**

Young Artists Day Camp

- Self-portraits, painting, drawing, and creative thinking
- Guided instruction

For information and how to register, see the [MCC Catalog](#) for details.

New Deputy Fire Chief Welcomed to Mansfield

The Town of Mansfield hosted a swearing-in ceremony for its new Deputy Fire Chief, Kevin W. Danielson on Monday, January 13 prior to the Town Council's first meeting of the new year.

This newly created position within the Town of Mansfield's Fire and Emergency Services Department will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the department's fire, rescue, and emergency medical response. The Deputy Chief will help ensure that staff is all well trained, and that the department's equipment is properly maintained.



Fire Chief John Roache, Deputy Chief Kevin Danielson, and Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth

"I am really excited to have Deputy Chief Danielson joining our team," says Fire Chief John Roache. "As our call volume continues to increase, this position will be instrumental in helping ensure that we consistently deliver the professional level of service that our residents and visitors to Mansfield have come to expect."



In addition to Town leaders, Mansfield firefighters, and retired fire department leadership, several of Deputy Chief Danielson's peers traveled to Mansfield to witness the swearing in. He was also honored to be pinned by his son. (shown top).

Deputy Chief Danielson is a 35-year veteran of the fire service and a retired 26-year veteran with the City of Clifton Fire Department, New Jersey, where he served as a shift captain and as the department's Hazardous Materials Coordinator. Clifton is one of the three largest hazardous materials teams in Northern New Jersey. Mr. Danielson holds an Associate in Applied Science in Fire Science from the Community College of the Air Force in Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama and Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts from the County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey.

His commitment to firefighting started when he trained and deployed to Yellowstone National Forest with the New Jersey Division of Forestry in 1988. A veteran of the United States Air Force as a fire protection specialist, Kevin was deployed on an overseas assignment in support of Operation Desert Shield /Storm.

In 2020, Kevin was designated the Jersey City/Newark Regional Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) Mass Decontamination Team Leader. The position allows him to manage hazardous materials teams and mass decontamination teams at high target incidents in the North New Jersey and New York Region. Mr. Danielson has experience in special operations for Ground Zero in New York City for 9/11 operations, and Super Bowl 48 at MetLife Stadium. He is also a Mass Decontamination/ Hazardous Materials project lead for UASI for the World Cup in 2026.

"Deputy Chief Danielson will provide strong operations leadership to our department," says Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth. "The depth and breadth of Kevin's professional experience in the fire service demonstrates the range of valuable organizational skills he brings to our community. The Town of Mansfield continues to plan for and experience substantial growth, particularly with respect to new housing developments, and this places added importance on our fire and emergency services response and overall capacity. "

Breaking Ground on the Old Town Hall Renovations



Mansfield Historical Society's Ann Galonska, Town Councilors Bill Tomecko, Ron Schurin, and Chris Kueffner, Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth, Mayor Toni Moran, State Representative Gregg Haddad, Historical Society leaders Bruce Clouette and David Landry.

The Town of Mansfield held a Groundbreaking Ceremony for renovations to the Old Town Hall on Monday, January 6. The 1842 Old Town Hall and the 1935 Town Office Building (954 Storrs Road) on Spring Hill are leased by the Town to the Mansfield Historical Society which participated with the Town on this ceremony.

Mayor Toni Moran and Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth along with State Representative Gregg Haddad (*shown photo right*) and Mansfield Historical Society Program Chair Bruce Clouette offered remarks at the groundbreaking.



In March of 2022, State Representative Gregg Haddad and State Senator Mae Flexer announced to the Town and the Mansfield Historical Society Board that the State included \$834,000 in bond funds to finance major restoration to the historic buildings, based on preliminary estimates for completing priority work as identified in a conditions assessment performed in 2017. Chief among the items being addressed, longstanding drainage issues have contributed to water damage that poses a risk to the integrity of the building as well as the collections stored in some areas. Funding from the State was a huge boost to the Town and the volunteer-run Historical Society, which performs important work of preserving historic collections.

The Town of Mansfield's Facilities Department has worked to obtain current estimates and vetting contractors for the needed repairs and improvements. The Mansfield Town Council committed additional funding of \$1.004 million toward the project over and above the State funding. Renovation will begin this winter on drainage and site work, followed by crucial structural repairs and improvements to building accessibility. Sarazin Construction is the general contractor on the project.

The Historical Society's facility has been closed to the public for tours and visits in preparation of this work occurring, but they have continued with virtual presentations, and off-site programs and exhibits, including at the Mansfield Town Hall and Mansfield Elementary School. In recent months



the Historical Society has recruited volunteers to help them move their collections to safe spaces so renovation work can begin. While at the building, Town leaders took time to look at some of the detailed plans and blueprints for the renovation project with the construction partners (*photo left*).

Recycling Superstars - Aluminum Cans, Foil and Trays

Used beverage cans can be recycled from an empty can to a new can on the shelf in as few as 60 days. Aluminum cans, foil, trays are one of the highest valued materials in the recycle stream because they can be recycled infinite numbers of times without loss of strength and durability.

Aluminum is available in the earth's crust as the mineral bauxite. Deposits are mostly found in shallow layers yet the creation of aluminum from bauxite is energy intensive and toxic. In contrast, making aluminum foil from recycled aluminum uses only 5% of the energy required for mined aluminum. Recycling 1 pound of aluminum can save up to 8 pounds of bauxite, 4 pounds of chemical products and 14,000 watts of electricity. Put another way, 1 gallon of fuel makes 11 rolls of virgin aluminum foil versus 230 rolls of recycled foil.

The take home message: It is worth the effort to rinse off soiled aluminum foil and trays to recycle them. Aluminum is a recycling success story!

DID YOU KNOW...

A used beverage can be recycled and back on the shelf again in as few as

60 days



Paper Shredding

Saturday, May 3, 2025

9 am to noon

Mansfield Transfer Station

- \$3.00/medium sized box (approx. 12" x 10" x 17")
- Okay to bring paper in bags or different sized boxes. Will charge accordingly.
- Cash or checks only
- No limit on amount
- For Mansfield residents and small businesses only

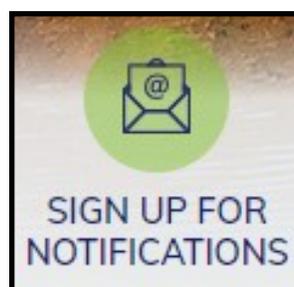


Sign Up for Notifications from Your Town

[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 committees and sources

Know what's happening. Sign up today!



Resident State Troopers Rolling with Electric Bicycles



Mansfield Resident State Trooper Sergeant Stephen King heads out for a ride on one of the new electric bicycles the department has procured to help with community policing. The Mansfield Resident Troopers Office has several Troopers who are certified to ride mountain bikes as a patrol specialty by attending an intensive one-week police mountain bike class put on by the International Police Mountain Bike Association. This class teaches a wide range of riding strategies to include overcoming obstacles, small space maneuvers, suspect apprehension, and firearms skills.

In the past, your Mansfield Resident Troopers have utilized the mountain bikes at town events like Celebrate Mansfield, Trunk or Treat, UConn move-in weekend in Downtown Storrs, and many others. While we enjoy the equipment we had, the aging mountain bikes needed maintenance, and presented challenges in being utilized for actual patrol functions. This year, the Resident Troopers Office was able to reallocate reapproved funds and purchased two new E-bikes supplied by Recon Power Bikes.

These new bikes will allow significantly improve the operational range of our mountain bike program. Troopers will be able to use bikes on our proactive weekend party patrols. They will also increased our visibility to aide in pedestrian safety issues surrounding the UConn campus. Troopers often find that the public finds us more approachable on our bikes than in our cruisers. If you see us out in the community, we encourage you to come see us and say hello!

Sound Healing Meditation



When: Sunday, February 16th

Where: Mansfield Community Center, Community Room

Time: 5:30 - 6:30pm

Activity Number: 371001-A2

Price: \$20 Members, \$30 Non-Members



Is your mind constantly racing? Are you having difficulty concentrating? Join us for a meditation session. Relax while Amy from Studio 13 expertly guides you to a state of clarity and ease. The overtones of the gongs and singing gongs help quiet your "monkey mind" and give your body the opportunity to balance and restore.



Superintendent Peter Dart Announces His Plan to Retire at End of School Year 2025

Mansfield Public Schools Superintendent Peter Dart informed the Board of Education, families, and staff that he intends to resign his position and retire effective June 30, 2025. Mr. Dart, who joined the district as Principal of the former Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School in Mansfield in 2018, has served as Superintendent since July 1, 2022. His career in public education has spanned 38 years with a wide variety of teaching and leadership experiences.



In a letter sent to the Board of Education, Mr. Dart says, "Becoming Superintendent in Mansfield has been a dream come true, complete with an engaging Board that has supported me through advocacy, questions, and challenges. After 38 years of public service in education, I am ready for the next chapter, a new journey, and another good story to tell. Yet, it is Mansfield that emboldened my heart and head with experiences and vision of a district that can do right for kids, *all* kids. A district bold enough to lead by Core Beliefs that recognizes the whole child and the opportunities that we want for our scholars."

Superintendent Dart took over the leadership at Mansfield just after the district broke ground on Mansfield Elementary School, Connecticut's first net-zero public elementary school. He previously had experience with school building projects including the Barrows STEM Academy in Windham, Two Rivers Magnet Middle School, and the Environmental Sciences Magnet School in Hartford.

Prior to coming to Mansfield, Mr. Dart served as Assistant Superintendent for Talent Management at Hartford Public Schools where he worked with district and school leaders to support 52 schools in developing talent, leadership, professional learning, and equity. He was promoted to this role after serving for four years as the Principal of the Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker serving 600 PreKindergarten to Grade 8 students from 45 towns. Under his leadership, the environmental magnet school was awarded LEED Platinum Certification and the U.S. Department of Ed Green Ribbon, and it earned recognition as a Magnet School of American School of Excellence.

He was also Principal at the Eleanor B. Kennelly School in Hartford, a PreKindergarten through Grade 8 turnaround school where he initiated systemic reforms including early intervention for literacy and numeracy and implemented a School Governance Council to engage parents and families in change.

The Mansfield Board of Education will announce the search plans in the coming weeks. Mr. Dart committed to support the transition of a new Superintendent.



RAY REID SOCCER SCHOOL,
YOUNG STARS

APRIL VACATION Soccer Camp

AGES 4-13	14-18 APRIL
---------------------	------------------------------

Camp Director: Ray Reid & Staff
Location: Lions Club Memorial Park; Fields 1 & 2
Dates: Mon.-Fri., April 14-18, 2025
Time: 9 a.m.-noon
**Fee: \$190 for residents,
\$200 for non-residents**
Activity #: 452006-A

- Develop and improve technique
- All players will be exposed to dribbling, passing, receiving, and shooting
- Fun, small-sided matches
- Refine and improve skills in 1 week

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



Be Mindful of Coyotes with your Pets in Winter



Winter in Connecticut can mean many different things for pet owners such as long walks through snow-covered landscapes, or shorter trips outside in the yard.

January is also the beginning of breeding seasons for coyotes that

call our state their home. In 2022, the Connecticut Audubon Society estimated the population of coyotes to be between 3,000 and 5,000 animals in every part of the state, so even if you have not seen one, they are more common than you might think.

Coyotes are generally grey in color with a lighter colored underside and resemble a lanky German Shepherd. Adults are between 30 and 50 pounds. Coyotes are monogamous, a pair bonds for several years. Although they can dig their own dens, they often enlarge abandoned fox or woodchuck burrows. The average litter size in Connecticut is seven pups but litters can range from one to 12. Coyotes are generally afraid of humans but during breeding season, they can become territorial and protective. This means that even larger dogs can be at risk for altercations with coyotes.

The most important way you can keep your pets safe from Coyotes is making sure pets are supervised at all times. Cats should be encouraged to stay indoors during this time of year, especially at night. Dogs should be leashed at all times when walking wooded trails or even in populated areas. Not only will this keep your dog safe from encountering wild animals, it can also protect your dog from altercations with other dogs.



On cold winter nights, it is often tempting to let your dog out unsupervised for a quick potty break, but this is also not advised. General fencing and electric fences are not effective in protecting dogs against coyote attacks. Outside lights are recommended to give wild animals warning before entering a yard, and dogs should never be let out or left outdoors unattended, especially at night.

Coyote sightings can be reported to our offices. However, Animal Control Officers can only assist with advice and education about the threats posed by coyotes. The DEEP will document Coyote conflicts and provide control information, which can be found here: [Tips on Preventing Conflicts with Coyotes](#). They can only remove coyotes in emergencies. The DEEP also has a list of licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCs) for possible on-site assistance.



It's time for the 2025 Mansfield Farms to Families Program. Applications are being accepted to receive a sponsored share of a CSA, or to receive monthly distributions of fresh produce and local foods. [Learn more here.](#)

Mansfield Food Service Director Completes Fellowship

Chef Maraiah Popeleski-Tilley, RDN, Food Services Director for Mansfield Public Schools and Region 19, recently presented her Capstone project to complete the Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship program of the Chef Ann Foundation in California. The program is designed to help experienced school food professionals realize their visions for healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable school food — both locally in their home districts and at a national scale. Chef Maraiah was one of three participants from New England. The Fellowship has provided her opportunity to travel to Austin, TX and Boulder, CO to observe scratch-cooking techniques in school kitchens, attended classes at the University of CA, and shared in other growth experiences with food service leaders from across the U.S.



Chef Maraiah Popeleski-Tilley works to ensure there are No Sad Lunches for students in Mansfield, and continually provides professional development for staff on how to implement scratch-cooking skills in the high-volume cafeteria kitchens. She connects with area farmers to purchase local foods for school meals at Mansfield Elementary, Mansfield Middle and E.O. Smith High School., and regularly promotes fun tastings of vegetables and fruits so students can try something new. At the high school she has increased student participation in school meals to 61%, a very high percentage for a high school where students can freely travel to local eating establishments as a lunch choice.

Chef Maraiah recently facilitated a grant award for Mansfield from CT Grown for CT Kids for \$74,000 to purchase equipment and provide training for staff in the school kitchens to increase scratch-cooking even further. Chef Maraiah's leadership advocating for quality ingredients and creative, appealing menus for students proves why she was recognized in our community in 2024 as a Taste of Mansfield Champion for local food.

*The Town of Mansfield
cordially invites you to
join us at the
swearing-in ceremony for*

David Keplesky
Jacob Lavitt
Jeremy Bill
Nicholas Jameson
Nathaniel Fabian
Kieren Mullady
Nicholas Webster
Collin Delmastro
Jefferson Smith



*as we officially recognize
the commencement of
their service as Firefighters*

**Monday, February 24th, 2025
6:30pm**

Council Chambers
Audrey Beck Municipal Building
4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield

Mansfield Employees Honored for Years of Service



The Town of Mansfield honored employee milestones at its annual holiday potluck luncheon in December. Employees in attendance were presented certificates by Mayor Toni Moran for service ranging from five years to 40 years. Sincere congratulations and thank you to all of these valued staff members for their service to the Mansfield community.

5 Years of Service:

Kelly McKenney, Youth Services
Tolanda Henderson, Public Library
Monica Ferrara, Town Clerk
Catherine Pomerleau, Human Services

10 Years of Service:

Tyler R. Burnham, Fire & Emergency Services
Robert (Joe) Molleur, Fire & Emergency Services
Kaitlyn Cyr, Public Works
John Carrington, Public Works
Christopher Bray, Fire & Emergency Services
Stephanie Huber, Town Clerk
Derek Dilaj, Public Works
David Ignatowicz, Senior Center

15 Years of Service:

Jessica Tracy, Senior Center

20 Years of Service:

Alicia Ducharme, Finance
Timothy Veillette, Public Works
Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk
Will Gresh, Public Works

25 Years of Service:

Sam Gailey, Information Technology
Noranne Nielsen, Animal Control

30 Years of Service:

Jay O'Keefe, Parks & Recreation

40 Years of Service

Ted Morrisette, Fire & Emergency Services

Parking Ban Through April 15 Helps DPW Keep Roads Safe

Per Mansfield's Motor Vehicle & Parking Ordinance, Section 182-3, "No motor vehicle shall be parked on any public highway under the jurisdiction of the Town of Mansfield, or in any area designated as a municipal parking area, between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m., from November 1 through April 15; or at all times when there is any accumulation of snow or ice on said highways or parking areas." This parking ban includes the on-street parking in Downtown Storrs. Bicycles should also be removed. Thank you!

Mansfield Senior Center is the Place to Be

The Mansfield Senior Center is the place to be for great activities, to meet new friends, and to take care of your health. Read our newsletter [Senior Sparks](#) each month for all the details and menus!

AARP Tax Assistance

Mansfield Senior Center is working with AARP for the 50th year to offer Free Tax Prep help.

Appointments are Thursdays beginning Feb 6th through April 3rd. Call (860)429-0262 to schedule an appointment. Or visit [this link](#) for additional locations in nearby towns.

Celebrating Black History Month

Group viewings of previously recorded Hartford History Lecture Series:

February 4 at 10:45 am

William Saunders and His World: The History of a Black Merchant Tailor and His Lineage in Hartford

February 25 at 10:45 am

A Black Ecological Return to Charter Oak Terrace

Both are FREE. Please call (860)429-0262 to register



Senior Center Chorus spring season Chorus rehearsals will begin on Thursday, Feb 6th at 1pm and go into May. The Chorus group then provides concerts for various area nursing homes and rehab centers, ending with a concert at the Senior Center in June. Registration open now.

Coming Up Soon—Save the Date:

- Horizon Wings is providing their Bird Brains presentation on March 19 at 1 pm
- Family Feud event more details to come
- Monday, March 17th will be a special St. Patrick’s Day café from 11-1
- April 4 we will be hosting a Wii Bowling tournament from 9-11 am in conjunction with the Windham Senior Center.

February is Heart Health Month

EHHD is offering a FREE 4-week Blood Pressure Education series. Dates are 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/24 from 1-2:30. Call Jaime at (860) 429-3325 to see if this education series is right for you.



February is Heart Health Month!

Do you know your numbers?



FREE resources for blood pressure and heart health!

- Library BP monitor loan
- BP screening events
- Classes & home monitors

Details in Hot Topics at ehhd.org or call 860-429-3325

Serving the towns of: Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Scotland, Tolland & Willington



Rescue Food, Don't Toss It!

Food rescue has expanded in Mansfield! Mansfield restaurants and catered events can now join the public schools in donating uneaten leftover meals to Covenant Soup Kitchen. Volunteers are ready to pick up and deliver leftovers by request. The federal Good Samaritan Law protects donations given in good faith from lawsuits, and donations can be tax deductible.

HAVE LEFTOVERS FROM A CATERED EVENT?

Join Mansfield's Food Rescue Effort!



Why I should donate leftovers?

Feeding hungry people ranks as the second highest priority for reducing the environmental impact of wasted food, much higher than composting.

Approximately **1 in 8 people in Connecticut currently face hunger**. Donating surplus food reduces greenhouse gas by **saving resources** such as soil water, fertilizer, and human labor used in its production.

How do I participate?

1. Contact the Mansfield food rescue coordinator **prior to your event** to make arrangements for a pick-up. If there are no leftovers, the arrangements can be canceled.
2. Determine your **cold storage capabilities** – is there enough refrigeration or freezer space to store the leftovers.
3. Follow **food storage safety guidance** to ensure food does not spoil prior to collection.

Temperature Guidelines for Storing Leftover Foods

Prepared Entrees: Chilled $\leq 41^{\circ}\text{F}$ or frozen $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{F}$
Shelf-stable or Baked goods: Cool and dry
Dairy, perishable: Chilled at 41°F or below
Fresh Produce:

- Whole: Cool and dry
- Chopped: Chilled at 41°F or below

CET developed this original document through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services program.

Plan Ahead for Your Catered Events:

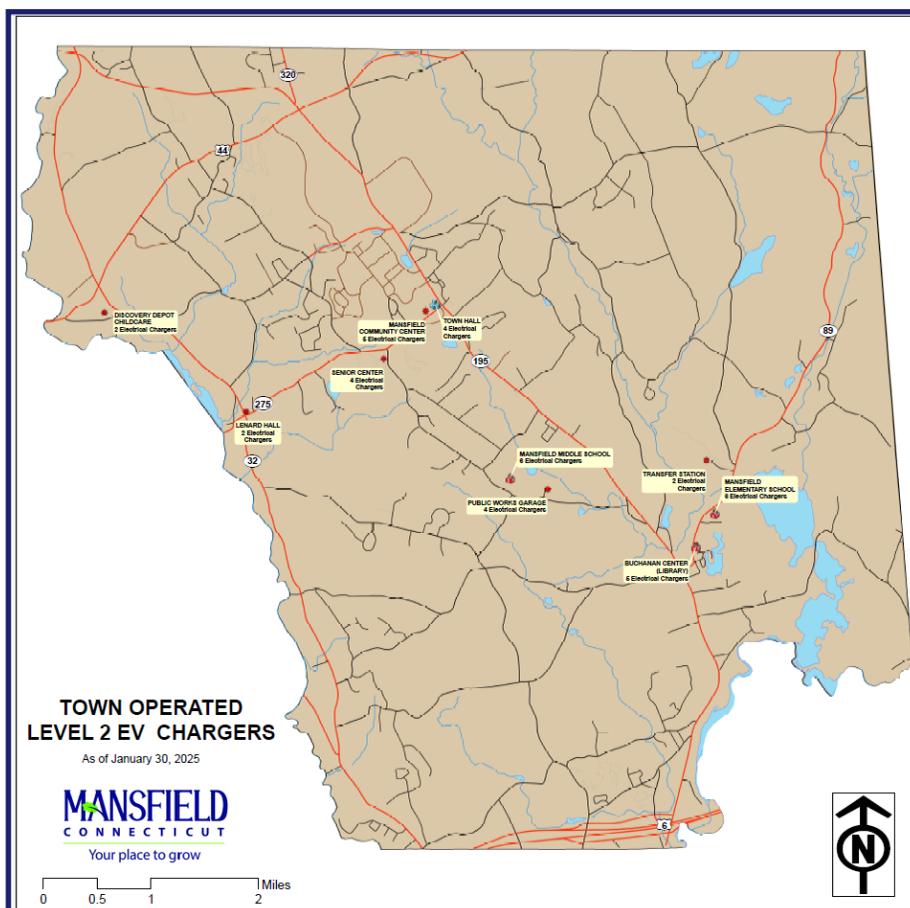
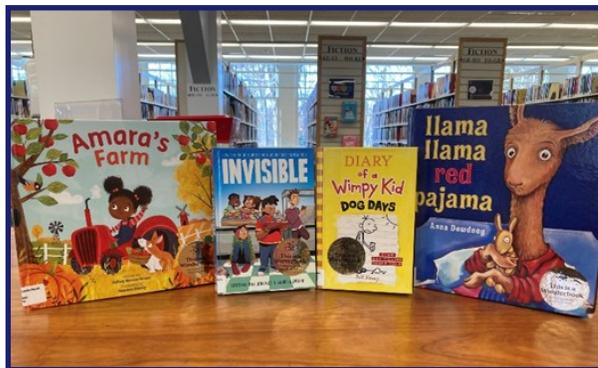
- If you are planning a catered event, use an invitation RSVP. An accurate head count allows the caterer to prepare the right amount of food.
- Contact the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator ahead of time so that arrangements can be made to collect potential leftovers. After the event, it is easy enough 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.

To request a pick up of leftovers contact the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 860-429-3333 or waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

New to the Mansfield Public Library's collection:

Wonderbooks!

Wonderbooks are story-books with an audio player permanently attached to the inside cover. No separate device or Wi-Fi access is ever needed! Just press play! We currently have 90 Wonderbooks (mostly picture books, early readers, and popular chapter books) and plan to grow the collection in the months to come.



EV Charging Stations Are Available Around Town

The Town of Mansfield has added additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at two Town facilities. Additional installations at the Mansfield Middle School and Department of Public Works brings the total number of stations to 40. The Facilities Department has overseen the placement of charging stations in municipal properties parking lots:

- Mansfield Senior Center/ Human Services Department offices on Maple Road;
- Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building/Mansfield Community Center and Lenard Hall/Community School of the Arts on South Eagleville Road (Rte. 275);
- Mansfield Discovery Depot on Depot Road;
- Mansfield Elementary School, Mansfield Transfer Station, and Mansfield Public Library on Warrenville Road (Rte. 89.);
- Mansfield Middle School, Spring Hill Road;
- Mansfield Public Works, Clover Mill Road

In March of 2022, the Mansfield Town Council approved allocating funding from the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to facilitate installation of a significant number of EV charging stations on Town-owned property.

The Mansfield Public Library—Winter Fun for all Ages!

Winter Reading Bingo for Adults, Teens, and Kids!

January 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025

Winter is a great time to cozy up with some good books and take part in Mansfield Library's Winter Reading Bingo! Stop by the library to register and pick up one of our bingo cards. Bring your bingo card to the circulation desk each time you stop by the library. For each square that you complete anywhere on your card, receive a drawing ticket for a chance to win one of our larger literary prizes! Complete five squares in a row—up, down, across, or diagonal—to automatically win a small prize (limit of one small prize per person). Good luck and Happy Reading!



Craft Swap!

Donation Dates: Thursday, January 30 – Friday, February 7

Date of Swap Event: February 8 from 1:00-5:00 PM

Location: Mansfield Public Library Program Room

Back by popular demand! 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 January 30-February 7 and then do a little free shopping at our swap event on Saturday, February 8 from 1:00-5:00 PM. 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.

Upcoming Special Family Events

Valentine's CRAFT-ernoon!

Friday, Feb. 14 Drop-In All Afternoon

Love at the library! Families are invited to drop by the library anytime on Friday afternoon (12-5PM) to create Valentine's cards for friends and family, as well as silly Love Bug crafts. Contribute to our paper-heart chain to show your love for the library and our community!

Celebrate Black History: Creating Collages

Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 2PM

Create collages featuring illustrations from Black children's book illustrators, including art from Kadir Nelson's *The Undeclared*. Learn about and celebrate Black History through art!

Art Play Day! (MES Half Day)

Wednesday, March 12 from 1-3PM

Create a variety of fun, kid-friendly crafts and watercolor art to welcome spring with friends at the library!

LEGO Library Takeover at Wonder Workshop (MES Half Day)

Thursday, March 13 from 3-6PM

Let's build! Compete in LEGO/DUPLO building challenges, work with friends to build a skyscraper with KEVA Planks, and create an obstacle course with Giant Blocks.



(Continued)

The Mansfield Public Library— Fun for all Ages! (Cont.)

Springtime Slime (MES Half Day)

Friday, March 14 at 3PM

Welcome spring with colorful slime that you can take home!



Dystopian Tropes from an Indigenous Perspective: In Conversation with Waubgeshig Rice

Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 PM, Virtual

You're invited to a riveting conversation with bestselling author Waubgeshig Rice to chat about his newest book *Moon of the Turning Leaves*, the hotly anticipated sequel to the bestselling novel *Moon of the Crusted Snow*.

Register for the link at: <https://libraryc.org/mansfieldpubliclibraryct/66777/register>

Tech Savvy Seniors: Social Media

Friday, February 21 at 11:00 AM in MPL's Program Room

Curious about the world of social media but not sure where to start? Join Paul Velazquez in an informative presentation for anyone looking to get the hang of social media! Whether you are brand new or just looking to stay current, this presentation is for you.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own preferred devices for hands-on practice.

Matt's Matinee Movies: *A Real Pain* (2024)

Rated R, Length 1h 3min, Saturday, February 15 at 1:00 PM Mansfield Public Library, Program Room

Mismatched cousins reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their grandmother, but old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. There will be free popcorn!

I Am Nobody's Slave: An Author Talk with Pulitzer Prize Finalist Lee Hawkins

Tuesday, February 18 at 2:00 P.M., Virtual

We welcome you to our conversation with journalist and author Lee Hawkins as he talks to us about the examination of his family's legacy of post-enslavement trauma and resilience in this riveting memoir, *I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free*.

I Am Nobody's Slave tells the story of one Black family's pursuit of the American Dream through the impacts of systemic racism and racial violence. This book examines how trauma from enslavement and Jim Crow shaped their outlook on thriving in America, influenced each generation, and how they succeeded despite these challenges.

Register for the link at: <https://libraryc.org/mansfieldpubliclibraryct/67261/register>

**Are you interested in advocating for the
Community? Would you like to be able to
provide feedback directly to town
employees?**

Mansfield Human Services serves on several
committees/commissions and we currently have
openings listed below!

Youth Services:

Community Member

Human Services Advisory Committee:

Community Member

&

Senior Center Member

Fair Rent Commission:

Alternate Tenant

&

Alternate Landlord

Commission on Aging:

Community Member

If you are interested in learning more please contact the
Human Services Director Jessica St. Louis
Email: st.louisj@mansfieldct.org
Phone: 860-429-3315



**April
Vacation
Camp**
Recreation to
the rescue!

What do you do
with the kids
during April break?
Send them to our
April vacation camp.
Daily activities &
entertainment for
all to enjoy.

(For grades K-8)



Sign Up Today!
[454004-1](#) - April 14
[454004-2](#) - April 15
[454004-3](#) - April 16
[454004-4](#) - April 17

Camp Day: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Location: Mansfield Middle School
Fee: \$54/day per resident,
\$64/day per non-resident
Space is limited, so hurry to register.
**NO CAMP FRIDAY 4/18 (GOOD
FRIDAY)**

**April
14th -
17th,
2025**

www.Mansfieldcc.com | (860) 429-3015 ext. 0 | 10 S Eagleville Road, Storrs Mansfield CT, 06268

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 meet-

ing 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 EMERGENCY: 911
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	Ron Manizza, Democratic Registrar Al Fratoni 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	Sarah DeLuca, LPC Youth Services Supervisor	860-429-3319