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Mansfield hosted a swearing-in ceremony for firefighters on February 25 officially marking their service. See more on page 11)

### Message from the Town Manager

## Shaping our Community for the Future

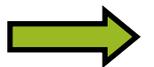
Greetings Fellow Residents!

As spring unfolds in Mansfield, bringing longer days and renewed energy, our town is actively engaged in shaping its future.

One piece of truly exciting news is that the Mansfield Community Center main pool officially reopened to the public over this past weekend following completion of a number of important upgrades that will enhance the use and enjoyment of the pool for many years to come!

**FY 2025/26 Budget** The Town Council is in the middle of its annual budget review, carefully considering how to balance financial responsibility with the need to maintain and enhance the services that make Mansfield a great place to live, work, and visit. This process involves thoughtful deliberation on funding

(Continued on page 2)



**MANSFIELD**  
TOMORROW

PLAN OF CONSERVATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT

## Visit [MansfieldTomorrow.org](https://MansfieldTomorrow.org) to get involved in the POCD Update!



Join us at the public workshop!  
Saturday, April 5th at 9:30 AM  
Mansfield Middle School  
205 Spring Hill Road  
Storrs, CT 06268



Take the survey for the chance to win a \$25 gift card to a local business!



Questions? Email [MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org](mailto:MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org) or call 860-429-3330



Visit [MansfieldTomorrow.org](https://MansfieldTomorrow.org) or scan the QR code to take the survey. Paper surveys are available.



**Need a ride to the public workshop?**  
Contact us at 860-429-3330

## Message from the Town Manager (cont.)

for essential services, education, infrastructure improvements, and community initiatives—all while remaining mindful of taxpayers. Public input is an important part of this process, and I encourage you to stay engaged, attend meetings, and share your thoughts as we work toward a budget that reflects our community's priorities and values. (Please see more details on pages 5-9).

**Mansfield Tomorrow.** At the same time, we are actively working on the update to the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)—which is the Town's strategic plan and roadmap for guiding growth, sustainability, and land use decisions over the next decade. This plan plays a critical role in preserving what makes Mansfield special while ensuring we are prepared for future opportunities and challenges. Your feedback is essential in shaping this vision. Whether you are passionate about open space preservation, economic development, transportation, housing, or sustainability, we want to hear from you. Here are some ways the community can provide input in the POCD moving forward:

- Follow our progress and stay up to date at: [www.MansfieldTomorrow.org](http://www.MansfieldTomorrow.org)
- Take the [online survey](#) that launched on March 13 and will remain open through May 31
- Attend the Public Workshop: Saturday, April 5, 9:30–11:30 AM at Mansfield Middle School
- Visit Us at the Earth Day Event: Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Mansfield Community Center
- Email Us at: [MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org](mailto:MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org)



### Mansfield Tomorrow Plan Update

*“Your feedback is essential in shaping this vision. Whether you are passionate about open space preservation economic development, transportation, housing, or sustainability, we want to hear from you”*



**Vision for Northwest Mansfield Neighborhood** This past month, Town staff and the Town's consultant FHI Studio (now IMEG) made a presentation of the Northwest Mansfield Vision and Strategy Plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Council, and the public. If you missed it or would like to review the information again, find the PowerPoint presentation [here](#). The plan provides a framework for managing growth, investment, and conservation in the Northwest Mansfield area and will be incorporated into the updated Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development.

The meeting provided an opportunity for members of the public to pose questions and offer feedback on the draft plan. Many of the participants in attendance expressed continued concern over the pace of and demand for additional development in this area of Town. **Written comments on the draft plan will be accepted until April 24, 2025.** A Public Hearing on the plan will take place on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Planning and Zoning Commission regular meeting (hybrid format). The plan is available for review at [www.mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan/](http://www.mansfieldtomorrow.org/nw-neighborhood-plan/).

**Revaluation Progresses to Next Phase** I want to make sure that all taxpayers know that **April 2** is the deadline for filing an appeal e Assessor finalized (before Board of Assessment Appeals changes) all property values as part of the ongoing revaluation process and signed the October 1, 2024 Grand List prior to February 28, 2025. The GIS website (<https://www.axisgis.com/mansfieldct/>) has been updated with the finalized (again, before BAA changes) Assessor Real Property Record cards.



Final assessment notices for real property owners were mailed on March 10. Individual Property Notices provide gross assessment value, exemption value (as applicable), and net assessment value. Last month, the Mansfield Town Council voted to adopt a new state law, Public Act 25-02 sections 2 and 3, regarding an Alternative Motor Vehicle Depreciation Schedule. As a result of this vote, Mansfield **EXTENDED THE DEADLINE** (previously March 20, 2025, as prescribed by state law) for appealing all assessments, including real estate, to **APRIL 2, 2025**. Details regarding the formal appeals processes is available on the Town's website: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/2126/Board-of-Assessment-Appeals>.

**Staffing Fire Station 207 at Four Corners** I would also like to highlight an operational change within Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services. Based on his evaluation of service needs, Chief Roache made the decision to begin staffing the Four Corners Fire Station (Fire Station 207) effective in April. This change went into effect as of 6:00 AM April 1. The Eagleville Fire Station (Station 107) will remain in active service by the department, and, in addition to being used to store important equipment and apparatus, will frequently be staffed by department personnel to meet operational needs. This includes being staffed Thursday-Saturday during the spring and fall months when the Town routinely sees increased calls for service while UConn is in session. The Four Corners Fire Station was recently extensively renovated



*Message from the Town Manager (cont.)*

to better support staffing and is of course also where the Department houses the new grant-funded aerial ladder/pumper apparatus (Truck 207). Our Fire and Emergency Services team remains fully committed to providing the highest level of public safety to all residents and businesses. Department leadership will continuously evaluate the efficacy of the new station utilization plan on a going forward basis, and will make modifications to how staff are deployed at each fire station based on the best available information and anticipated needs.

*“As always, I encourage you to stay engaged with town government, whether by attending meetings, subscribing to updates, or reaching out with questions and ideas. Mansfield thrives when we work together as a community.”*

The Department will diligently work to ensure the highest quality emergency service response along the Route 32 corridor and all areas of Town as we continue to build the staffing capacity necessary to staff three fire stations and ultimately successfully meet current and future community needs.

**Public Works Enhances Infrastructure.** Meanwhile, with the arrival of spring, the Department of Public Works will soon begin several important transportation infrastructure projects. These improvements will help maintain and enhance the safety and functionality of our roadways, sidewalks, and other essential infrastructure. Please be mindful of work zones and construction schedules, and thank you in advance for your patience as we complete these necessary upgrades.

There is much to look forward to in the coming months—community events, recreational activities, and the return of warm-weather traditions that bring us together as neighbors. Watch for a robust offering of Earth Day activities later in April, including our “Don’t Mess with Mansfield” Litter pickup initiative with University of Connecticut students April 26 and 27. On May 13 we assemble at our important Town Meeting to adopt a budget for next year. May concludes with our annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony to remember those who served and gave their lives for their country and home. I encourage you to explore all that Mansfield has to offer this season and take an active role in the decisions that will shape our town for years to come.

As always, I encourage you to stay engaged with town government, whether by attending meetings, subscribing to updates, or reaching out with questions and ideas. Mansfield thrives when we work together as a community, and I look forward to another productive and exciting season ahead.

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.

Very respectfully,

Ryan J. Aylesworth

**NEWS & UPDATES**

**Subscribing to this electronic newsletter is easy and straightforward. Simply:**

- Go to this page on the town’s website: <http://mansfieldct.gov/list.aspx>
- Enter your best email in the “Email Address” field
- Under the “Notify Me” section of the page check the box for “News & Press Releases” (and check out other topics you might want to be notified about, from committees to events.)

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!

**Farmers Forum Hosted by Agriculture Committee**

A robust group of farmers, farm advocates, agricultural educators, and community leaders gathered at Lenard Hall for the annual Farmers Forum.

Kimberly Stoner of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) was the featured speaker and provided

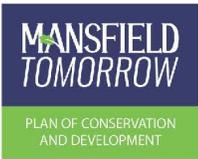


input on how to engage with the legislature to weigh in on proposed bills. The [Agriculture Committee](#) acts as a resource for agricultural information and fosters agricultural viability in Mansfield.

## Mansfield Tomorrow: Share a Vision for Our Plan. Our Future.

Everyone is encouraged to take the survey, and come to this in-person session April 5

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.



# Visit [MansfieldTomorrow.org](https://MansfieldTomorrow.org) to get involved in the POCD Update!



**Join us at the public workshop!**  
Saturday, April 5th at 9:30 AM  
Mansfield Middle School  
205 Spring Hill Road  
Storrs, CT 06268



**Take the survey for the chance to win a \$25 gift card to a local business!**



**Questions? Email**  
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or call 860-429-3330



Visit [MansfieldTomorrow.org](https://MansfieldTomorrow.org) or scan the QR code to take the survey. Paper surveys are available. 

**Need a ride to the public workshop?**  
Contact us at 860-429-3330

The Town is offering several opportunities for area residents to provide input.

- **Saturday, April 5 there is an in-person workshop** at Mansfield Middle School starting at 9:30 AM. Breakfast snacks and beverages will be served. If residents need a ride to attend, please call 860.429.3330.
- Department representatives will appear at **pop-up events around town**, including the Earth Day event at Mansfield Community Center . Last month they stopped in at Storytime at the Library, lunchtime at the Senior Center, and at the breakfast fundraiser during Eastern Connecticut Maple Fest.
- Lastly, there is an **online survey** which will be open throughout the spring. (Paper surveys are also available, just call 860.429.3330). When you complete the survey, you will be entered to win one of \$25 gift cards to a local business to reward you for your time and thoughts.

You may have seen a postcard about this process mailed to your home. This is just one of the ways the Town's Planning staff has worked to reach people for input.

An Ad Hoc Committee has helped department staff to lead the update process. The committee includes members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Town Council, 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.



Senior Center members heard Director Jennifer Kaufman provide an overview in late March (above and left) and offered visioning input.



## **Town Manager's Proposed Budget Plan for FY 2025/2026**



The Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget review period officially commenced on March 24, when the Town Manager presented his formal budget recommendations to the Town Council. The Town Council subsequently commenced its deliberative process that culminates with budget adoption in late-April, with final approval of the budget taking place at the annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2025.

Budget development began in December 2024, in the middle of a Town-wide Revaluation process that would have significant implications relative to revenue streams and overall financial condition as a Town. Due to a variety of favorable financial developments that unfolded over the last couple of years, preparing and developing our operating budget and capital improvement program (CIP) the last few fiscal 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. Similarly, 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). This 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 was in a position to consider service expansion in select areas of need while the FY 2025/26 operating budget and CIP were being developed.

### **Municipal officials have worked carefully to prepare an operating budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) designed to accomplish the following:**

- **Maintain or enhance the quality of current programs and services**
- **Wisely use/leverage state aid funding; anticipating it will increase slightly year-over-year**
- **Maintain pay-as-you-go capital plan**
- **Preserve/sustain the General Fund's presently healthy fund balance**
- **Avoid increasing property tax burdens of residential property owners**
- **Achieve efficiencies (cost savings, digital access/transactions, etc.)**
- **Promote transparency and accessibility of local government**
- **Continue to plan for needed upgrades to municipal facilities and infrastructure**
- **Advance the priorities, goals and objectives of Mansfield Tomorrow**
- **Promote sustained local economic growth**

Establishing a budget is not a simple task, and we anticipate much discussion by the Town Council on how we meet these goals as the budget process proceeds during the month of April. We view the proposed spending plan as a starting point for Council discussion.

### **The Town Manager has recommended the following budgets for fiscal year(FY)2025/26 review and consideration:**

1. The Proposed FY 2025/26 General Fund Budget totaling \$56,093,350 plus Mansfield's general fund contribution, estimated at \$12,153,606, to the Regional School District 19 (Region 19) budget. Combined these items total \$68,246,956, which includes a General Fund transfer to the Capital Nonrecurring Reserve Fund (CNR) of \$4,600,000 (representing a \$50,000 increase from FY 2024)
2. The Proposed FY 2025/26 Capital Fund Budget totaling \$8,710,000.

This proposed appropriations plan would entail a projected mill rate of 20.00 mills on real estate and personal property, representing a **10.52 mill or 34.5% decrease** from the present mill rate of 30.52. For contextual purposes, it is important to note that the projected reduction in the FY 2025/26 mill rate is being driven by substantial increases in the Town's Grand List following the 2024 Revaluation. These increases are a reflection of significant adjustments in market value for existing real estate as well as new growth.

(Continued)



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

**The Staff has designed the Proposed FY 2025/26 Budget to maintain or enhance the quality of current programs and services, strive to be increasingly proactive with respect to capital improvement program investments, reflect stable funding levels of state aid, minimize any increase in property tax burdens, continue to strengthen the Town's financial position, and accommodate other select Council policy objectives.**

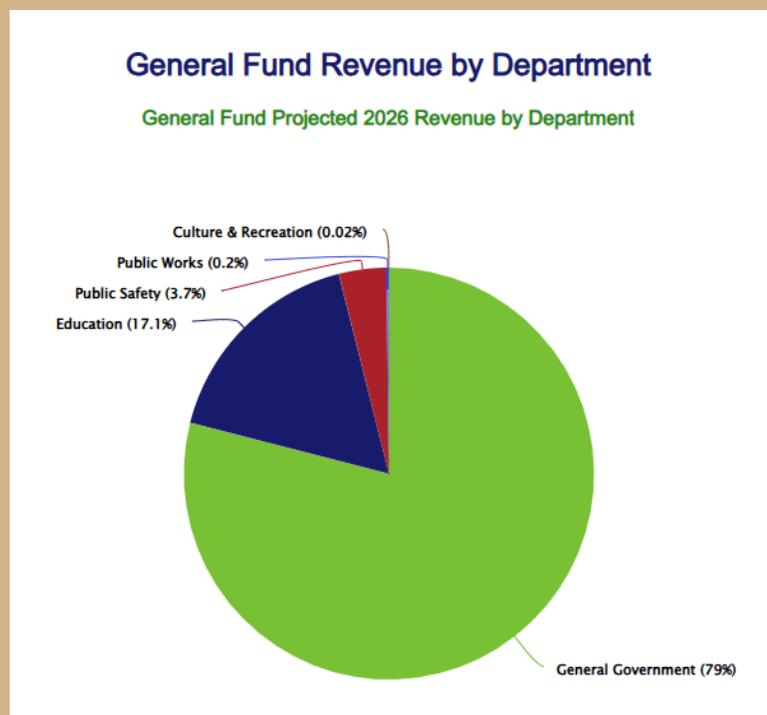
Under the proposed budget, all of our core services are -- at a minimum -- being funded at levels necessary to sustain current levels of service, and we are increasing funding in a targeted manner in a few different areas in order to expand the extent/quality of service and citizen-oriented outcomes. To this end, this year's proposed budget calls for the addition of five (5) new full-time employees, which would be incorporated into the Department of Public Works (1), Fire and Emergency Services (2), Planning and Development (1), and Human Services (1). Fortunately, the budgetary impact associated with the new proposed positions is partially offset by adjusted/reduced staffing in other areas to reflect changing needs.

Although the underlying need/justification for adding each of these new positions varies, they in part a reflection of the anticipated need to increase municipal service delivery in the coming years as a result of the ongoing construction of extensive multi-family housing developments, the need for more affordable housing, and the need to improve management of existing Town-owned park/trail recreational assets. Beyond the additional investment in personnel tied to proposed service improvements, the majority of increases in this budget are fixed costs or are determined by contracts.

The proposed budget also builds on the Council's commitment to continue increasing the general fund contribution to the CIP at a level that, when combined with other revenue sources, allows the Town to finance most regular, recurring capital projects and initiatives on a *pay-as-you-go* or cash basis. For the Proposed FY 2025/26 CIP, we have recommended a general fund contribution of \$4,600,000 that includes \$425,000 in funding for renovations and boiler replacements at Mansfield Middle School and \$100,000 for school information technology needs. The CIP also includes \$3,090,000 for road resurfacing, drainage, engineering and transportation improvement projects; \$777,000 toward the cost of building repairs; \$1,118,500 toward Fire/EMS replacement equipment; \$353,500 for Parks & Recreation (i.e., replacement of equipment and improvements to park amenities), and; \$199,000 for community development needs.

With respect to tax revenues, in accordance with state statute, a Town-wide revaluation of real property was completed in 2024. The results of the revaluation, which reflects the aggregate value of real property as of October 1, 2024, confirmed that there have been significant increases in the fair market value of real property in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic. The revaluation also captured the value of "new growth" with respect to residential or

**Access the Budget Data Online through ClearGov**

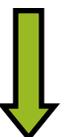


*Accessibility is a core tenet of our approach to the budget development process. We are committed to making pertinent information readily available to you.*

*Through our online digital budget tool, called ClearGov, taxpayers can view every detail of the budget. If you prefer to view numbers as graphs or charts, you have that option. 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.*

**[Check out this year's budget on ClearGov!](#)**



## Special Budget Message from the Town Manager (cont.)

commercial development that did not previously exist as of October 1, 2023. With respect to tax revenues, the October 1, 2024 preliminary grand list reflects an increase in taxable value of \$565,321,448 or 46.94%. Real estate experienced a very significant increase (\$548,259,896 or 55.6%) from last year. In addition to dramatic changes in real estate market values in the years since the 2019 town-wide revaluation, this increase is due to new construction developments or completed projects, property additions or renovations, and the assessment of non-filing penalties on commercial properties' income and expenses. Personal property tax revenues increased by \$20,005,543 or 17.82%. Finally, as anticipated as a result of recent state-enacted changes in the statutory methodology for valuing motor vehicles for tax purposes, Motor Vehicles have decreased by \$11,998,891 or 11.29%.



Under the current funding formula for determining payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT), which was last revised by the state legislature in 2021, the Town received approximately \$11.2 million in PILOT funding in FY 2023/24 (last fiscal year) and we anticipate receiving approximately \$11.9 million in FY 2024/25 (current fiscal year). The elevated state aid that Mansfield has received in recent years as a result of legislative changes in the funding formula made it possible for the Town to enhance the level of municipal services it provides its residents by adding a number of much-needed positions beginning in FY 2022/23. In February, the Governor released his proposed biennial budget for FY 2025/26-FY2026/27, which includes effectively level (modest increase) in state aid totals for the Town of Mansfield. More specifically, across all aid

### Budget Work Sessions with the Town Council— We Welcome Your Input and Questions

- Hybrid meeting format. Work sessions will be live-streamed for public viewing at <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/video>
- Taxpayers are encouraged to submit questions via email to: [Budget2026@mansfieldct.org](mailto:Budget2026@mansfieldct.org)
- Public comment will be accepted by surface mail and email prior to the meeting: [Pub\\_Com@mansfieldct.org](mailto:Pub_Com@mansfieldct.org)

categories, the Town of Mansfield would stand to receive approximately \$28.22 million in FY 2025/26, which represents a roughly 8.8% increase relative to the FY 2024/25 adopted budget. The Town's projected PILOT revenue is projected to increase by 3.2% to reflect increased real estate value (tax exempt) on the UConn Storrs campus, but the Town's Education Cost Share (ECS) allocation is also projected to decrease by 1.4% based on the Governor's proposed budget. The amount of state aid Mansfield ultimately receives in the budget passed by the state legislature

remains to be seen. Although the final outcome of state budget deliberations is currently unknown, based on information we continue to receive from elected and appointed officials intimately involved in the state budget process, we believe it is reasonable to incorporate the Governor's proposed state aid totals into the Town's FY 2025/26 operating budget.

The proposed FY 2025/26 budgets for the Town, Mansfield Public Schools, and Region 19 represent an aggregate increase of \$2,337,874 (3.5%) relative to adopted FY 2024/25 appropriations. Among other positive outcomes, these spending plans would enable the creation of new staff positions to address multiple areas of need (i.e., public works, fire and emergency services, planning and development, library, and social services) and allow the Town to continue making substantial headway in addressing deferred capital improvement projects. The Town's Grand List has increased substantially following the conclusion of the 2024 revaluation, and we project continued dramatic growth in the Town's Grand List over the next several years. Additionally, the Town is expected to continue receiving comparable PILOT funding and other forms of State Aid in FY 2025/2026 based on the Governor's proposed biennial state budget. This will enable the Town to maintain and slightly enhance existing services and further invest in much-needed capital projects while decreasing the mill rate by 34.5% (20.00 mills in FY 2025/26 vs. 30.52 mills in FY 2024/25). Based on the October 1, 2024 net abstract, the median home value in Mansfield stands at approximately \$251,800 in assessed value. As such, the median homeowner would see an annual increase in taxes of \$284 per year (approximately \$24 per month) or 6.0% as compared to FY 2024/25.

The management team views the Town Manager's Proposed FY 2025/26 Budget and capital improvement plan as a viable starting point for Council discussion. We understand that potential impact on the taxpayer needs to be considered carefully and we will assist the Council in making any desired adjustments.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Aylesworth  
Town Manager

## Budget Review Schedule for the Town of Mansfield

The Town Manager and the Town Council will be discussing the budget in detail over the next month. Meetings on specific topics also include key department staff and the Superintendent of Mansfield Public Schools. All meetings are held at Town Council Chambers, 4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield at the specified times.

Find all the budget detail and information, including presentation slides, on the Town's [Budget and Financial webpage](#).

### Town of Mansfield 2025/26 Budget Review Schedule-Remaining Meetings

April 03 Thursday, 6:00pm	Budget Review – General Fund & Capital Public Works. Other funds: Town Aid, Sewer Operating, Solid Waste Fund, Transit Services, Debt Service, Health Insurance, Workers Comp, and Cemetery Fund. Other agencies: EHHD, Discovery	Council Chambers Beck Building
April 7 Monday, 6:00pm	Budget Review – General Fund & Capital  Board of Education, Shared Facilities Management, Shared Finance, Shared Information Technology & Management Services Fund	Council Chambers Beck Building
April 14 Monday, 7:00pm	Public Hearing on Budget at Regular Council Meeting	Council Chambers Beck Building
April 14 – 18	School Vacation Week	
April 21 Monday 6:00pm	<b>Budget Discussion (flagged items &amp; discussion)</b>	Council Chambers Beck Building
April 24 Thursday, 6:00pm	<b>Adoption of Budget</b>	Council Chambers Beck Building
April 28 Monday 6:00pm	Adoption of Budget (if necessary – prior to Regular Council Meeting)	Council Chambers Beck Building
May 05 Monday, 7:00pm	Region 19 Annual Meeting on Budget	EO Smith Media Center
May 06 Tuesday, Polls open 6 AM to 8 PM; Voting in Mansfield at Beck Building, Town Hall	Region 19 Budget Referendum	Ashford, Mansfield, Wilmington in their own communities
May 08 Thursday 6:00pm	Public Information Session  Town Council Adopted Budget	Council Chambers Beck Building
May 13 Tuesday 7:00pm	Annual Town Meeting	Mansfield Middle School Auditorium



## Referendum on the FY 2025/26 Region 19 Budget



On Tuesday, May 6 the Town of Mansfield will hold a referendum on the Region 19 (Edwin O. Smith High School) Budget as approved by the Board of Education for FY2025/2026. The Towns of Mansfield, Willington, and Ashford each hold voting that day on this budget.

Mansfield holds its voting that day **in one location** at the Council Chambers of Mansfield Town Hall, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield. Polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Region 19 Board of Education will host an Annual Meeting on the budget the previous evening, Monday, May 5 at E.O. Smith High School Media Center at 7:00 PM. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Find details on the Region's proposed budget on the Superintendent's page at <https://www.eosmith.org/about/budget>

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## A Critical Part of our Governance: Come to Town Meeting Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 PM

Once the Town Council adopts a budget, it advances to the Mansfield public for adoption at Town Meeting. This year Town Meeting will be held at the Mansfield Middle School's Auditorium starting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 13. MMS is located at 205 Spring Hill Road, Mansfield.

Registrars check off eligible voters as they enter the meeting, and each verified voter is given a ballot. Who is eligible to vote at Town Meeting? Any person who is registered to vote in Mansfield and any citizen of the United States age 18 and older who owns property (motor vehicle or land) in Mansfield valued at \$1,000 or more.

After electing a moderator for the meeting, those present hear an overview of the proposed budget, including key points from the Mansfield Board of Education. Residents may ask questions about the budget and propose changes to the budget. At the conclusion of the discussion, voters then cast their ballots on the final motion presented. Votes are counted by the Registrars on the spot, and the results are announced.



Mayor Moran addresses voters gathered at Mansfield's 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Anyone interested in registering to vote may contact the Registrars of Voters at 860.429.3368. Find more information at <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/309>

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## Town Clerk's Office Rolls Out New Service to Access Vital Records Online

The Town of Mansfield is proud to announce our newest online service! Customers may now order Mansfield vital records from the Town Clerk's Office online from your home or phone! VitalChek is an independent company the Town of Mansfield has partnered with to safely and efficiently process online vital record orders.

Using the VitalChek service, customers may request birth, marriage, and death certificates, upload the required identification, and pay for their order. Since 1987, VitalChek has been the leading provider of vital record processing services in the United States, serving more than 475 agencies in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa.

Customers are able to purchase their records without having to come visit the Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk's Office processes the orders and mails them via [Check out VitalChek today!](#)



Request Birth Certificates, Marriage Certificates and other vital records online.



# Mansfield Community Center Main Pool is Refurbished and Reopened

The Mansfield Community Center six-lane main pool has reopened for public use!

The pool has been completely drained cleaned and resurfaced then refilled. The Town also took the opportunity during this time to install new filtration and heating systems to optimize the facility.

The pool and its systems all look and perform like new again. Thank you to all the community members for patience during this process. [Check out the website](#) for all the opportunities for classes and free swim time in our pool!

## The Pool is Open! What to Expect

### Plaster Curing Process:



You may notice sand or loose plaster at the bottom of the pool. This is a normal part of the curing process. Our team is sweeping the pool regularly, but vacuuming will not be possible until the plaster is fully cured (approximately mid-April).

### Mobile Stairs Temporarily Unavailable:

The mobile stairs will not be available for use until the plaster is fully cured (approximately mid-April). However, both chair lifts are available, and our lifeguards are happy to assist anyone who needs them.

### NEW Approved Pool Equipment:

The MCC will limit the outside equipment we allow into the pools. Please see the list below or ask a Lifeguard. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### UV Light Disinfection System:

The UV Light Disinfection System is installed and operating for the lap pool. In conjunction with chlorine, the UV system is highly effective in eliminating bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms.

Additionally, UV reduces chemical usage and decreases chlorine by-products, a common cause of skin irritation, stinging eyes, and odors.

**Thank you for doing your part to help us keep the pool clean for all to use and enjoy!**



## Gusty March Winds Cause Tree Damage and Outages Across Town



On Friday March 7, 2025, the Town experienced some severe, and somewhat unexpected, extreme wind. For the majority of the day, from early morning into the evening, Mansfield had continuous wind with the highest gusts in the range of 50 mph. The result was many power outages throughout town and 15 complete road closures due to trees and or wires across the road, four other one-lane road closures, and six other roads with electrical or communication wire issues.

Due to the speedy response by Town crews, by 4:45 pm only two roads remained closed, with one reopened by Saturday morning. The most serious blockage, Clover Mill Road, was re-opened by Saturday evening. The Department of Public Works (DPW) road division workers were very responsive in getting six of these roads open while EVERSOURCE was required to open the remaining nine and restore the power.

Brian LaVoie, DPW Operations Manager and Tree Warden said, “In my ten years of being the tree warden for the Town of Mansfield, we have been aggressively cutting dead and diseased trees within the Town’s right of way and in many of our open spaces. Mansfield will need to continue with this practice for many years past my tenure here.

“ I would like residents to understand that not all the trees that came down during this March 7 windstorm were Town trees. Out of the 15 complete road closure locations 12 of these closures were caused by trees that fell from a resident’s private property.”

If you have any questions as to tree condition and/or the Town’s right of way near your property, you can call the Public Works Department at 860.429.3676 and speak to the tree warden.



Mansfield Tree Warden and Operations Manager Brian LaVoie (far right) explains the Town’s tree safety challenges to the Mansfield Local Government Academy

## Swearing-in Ceremony for Mansfield’s New Firefighters



Congratulations to the Mansfield Firefighters who were sworn in to service at a special ceremony in late February. The Town Council, leaders and members of the Fire Department, and community friends attended the celebration at Town Council Chambers.

After the swearing-in by Town Clerk Sara-Ann Chaine, the new members received their badges, pinned on by members of their families. Congratulations to David Keplesky, Jacob Lavitt, Jeremy Bill, Nicholas Jameson, Nathaniel Fabian, Kieren Mullady, Nicholas Webster, Collin Delmastro, Jefferson Smith who were recognized by Chief John Roache, even if they could not be present to receive their badges.



**NEWS & UPDATES**

**Please Dial 9-1-1 in EMERGENCY situations.**

Recently, there has been an increase of calls to the firehouses for emergencies.

Mansfield Fire Department stations are not always staffed, especially when fire-fighters are responding to calls. Your emergency is a priority and needs to be answered!

**Never hesitate to use the 911 system to report any emergency.** Delays can complicate the handling of your situation

Mansfield's residents and visitors 911 calls are answered by Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service. They are a regional 911 center located close by on the historic Tolland Green. These professionals are in the best situation to get you the help you need—just explain your situation clearly.



**Town of Mansfield**

**Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony**

**9:00 AM**

**Monday, May 26, 2025**

Parade will travel from the intersection of Route 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center down Cemetery Road to the ceremony site at the new Mansfield Center Cemetery.

*In the event of inclement weather, an abbreviated ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium.*

**On Memorial Day we pay our respect to those who died protecting and preserving the freedoms we enjoy. Please join our community in honoring our fallen.**

**Veterans and active duty personnel are invited to march at the head of the parade.**

We are honored to have our veterans and service personnel join us on Bassetts Bridge Road/RT 195 at 8:30 AM on Memorial Day.

Call 860-429-3336, ext. 5 for more information.

Please remember to thank those who have served our country.



## Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board Names Executive Director



The Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors has named Steven Ferrigno as its new Executive Director. The approval at its recent monthly meeting follows a comprehensive search and interview process.

Mr. Ferrigno fills the role that Cynthia van Zelm held for twenty-two years before accepting a position with the State of Connecticut last April.

Mr. Ferrigno is a well-known business leader in Mansfield, as owner and managing broker of Ferrigno-Storrs, Realtors LLC. He has been an active force within the community serving on the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership for five years, as well as Chair and a member of the Mansfield Economic Development Commission for eleven years.

“The Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board is thrilled to have Steve as its next leader,” says Kyle Muncy, President of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors. “The great work of the partnership is well-known, and the candidate pool was a testament to the exciting opportunity ahead.

We know Steve, we’ve seen his dedication to our community and the Partnership’s work. He knows this market, and what our best assets are in promoting Downtown Storrs, the Town of Mansfield, and our region. We have new ambitious goals, and we are confident that Steve has the commitment and know-how to help us reach them.”

Mr. Ferrigno holds his Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut and his Bachelors from Boston College. Prior to operating his company in Mansfield, which he has operated for twenty years, Mr. Ferrigno worked at Wachovia Securities and Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, earning several securities certifications.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership is a non-profit organization formed by the [Town of Mansfield](#) and the [University of Connecticut](#) to oversee the redevelopment of [Downtown Storrs](#), a vibrant, walkable neighborhood featuring a wide variety of restaurants, services, shops, and entertainment. Since the Partnership’s formation, it has been instrumental in attracting new private investments, new businesses, and state and federal funding to Mansfield. In its first twenty years, the Partnership secured over \$25 million in federal, state, and private grants on behalf of the Town in addition to over \$220 million in private funding from the principal investors of the “Storrs Center” mixed-use development project in Downtown Storrs.

The Partnership also provides economic development services for the Town of Mansfield. This unique relationship has transformed the heart of Mansfield into a services-rich area for college students and visitors as well as local residents. With the growth of both Mansfield and the University of Connecticut, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership will continue to coordinate strategic development benefitting both stakeholders and the citizen members who support it.

“Having served on Mansfield’s Economic Development Commission and the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board since 2020, I have a sincere appreciation for our town and its relationship with UConn,” says Mr. Ferrigno. “One of the first goals I focused on in my time on the EDC was trying to find projects where Mansfield and UConn could work synergistically, where both could benefit and ‘win.’ I sincerely believe there are many of these possibilities out there, they just need to be identified and nurtured. We are poised to be one of the premier communities in Eastern Connecticut through this partnership, and I’m excited to lead MDP to achieve that.”

In addition to his work directly with the Partnership, Mr. Ferrigno has served on the long-standing School Building Committee for the new Mansfield Elementary School, is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Mansfield Discovery Depot, and is on the Edwin O. Smith Foundation Board.

Mr. Ferrigno is a life-long resident of Mansfield where he lives with his wife and two children. They enjoy traveling, skiing, fishing, and of course, UConn Basketball.

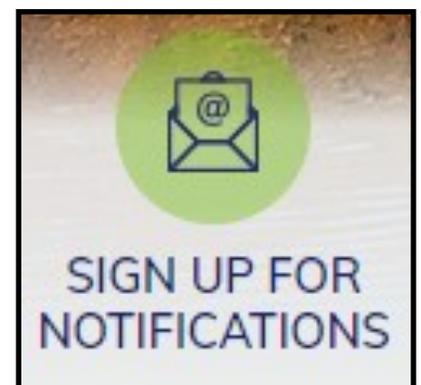
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## Sign Up for Notifications from Your Town

[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!



## Mansfield Senior Center Welcomes Spring. And You!

This month at the Mansfield Senior Center we'll share jokes at our [April Fool's Day lunch](#), [swap seedlings](#), [decorate eggs](#), enjoy another [paint night](#), host a UCONN piano recital, [wear our pajamas on PJ Day](#), and more! [View the full April Senior Sparks online now.](#)

April is also Volunteer Appreciation Month. We greatly value those who give their time and energy to volunteer to make our Mansfield Senior Center and our community a better place for all! This month (and every day) we celebrate and thank those that give of themselves, while also encouraging others who are able to join in and volunteer as well.

As we look further into the spring, stay alert for the May Senior Sparks, where we will be highlighting Mental Health Awareness month. The most current Sparks newsletter is always available at [www.mansfieldct.gov/seniors](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/seniors). Sign up to [receive each month's email release right in your own e-mailbox!](#)

Happy spring! We look forward to seeing you at the Mansfield Senior Center.





303 MAPLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268  
860-429-0262 WWW.MANSFIELDCT.GOV/SENIORS



# Fall Risk Screenings

PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
DPT PT C.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM

Receive a free screening and guidance on general fall-prevention measures. These screenings will be administered by physical therapy students under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

**FREE appointments available**  
**Friday, April 11th from 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

**REGISTER AT THE DESK BY APRIL 4TH** **860-429-0262**

## Paper-Shredding Event Coming in May

Bring your sensitive documents to the Transfer Station on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 9 am to 12 pm. Documents are shredded on site.

The charge is \$3.00 for a medium-sized box (12" x 10" x 17") but it is fine to bring paper in bags or different sized boxes. Please bring cash or checks. There is no limit on quantity.

Please note that this service is available to only Mansfield residents and small businesses.

# 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

# It's Easy to Move Toward Wellness at the Mansfield Senior Center!

## FOCUS ON FITNESS

Programs are available to individuals age 55+ from all towns. Prices listed are for the month of April; full month payment is required for participation. Please call 860-429-0262 for more information on registering for classes, or see April Senior Sparks page 15.

### TAI CHI DVD COOPERATIVE GROUP

Join us for this cooperative, self-led group! Practice various forms and routines with the help of DVDs and group learning. All levels welcome.

No fee /No pre-registration  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:30 AM

### FUNDAMENTALS OF TAP WITH MIA POMERENKE

This is a tap-dancing refresher class. The class will focus on steps & footwork. Please bring your own tap shoes.

Pre-registration is required  
Wednesdays: 1:00-2:00 PM  
April 2nd, 9th, 23rd, and 30th  
4 classes - \$28.00

### MOVEMENT WITH MUSIC

Have fun working out while dancing! Join Amber for a fun class incorporating strength, cardio, dance and rhythmic exercises!

All fitness levels welcome.

Pre-registration is required.  
Tuesdays: April 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th  
1:30-2:30 PM 4 Classes \$32.00



MANSFIELD SENIOR CENTER, 303 MAPLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268  
WWW.MANSFIELDCT.GOV/SENIORS 860-429-0262

"Wellness is the complete integration of body, mind, and spirit - the realization that everything we do, think, feel, and believe affects our state of well-being."  
- Greg Anderson



### YOGA WITH LINDA DERRICK

Experience the many health benefits of this gentle restorative practice.

All levels. Please bring your own yoga mat.

Pre-registration is required  
Wednesdays: 3:00-4:00 PM

April 2nd, 16th, 23rd, and 30th  
4 Classes - \$32.00

### GENTLE YOGA WITH CAROL TYLER

Join us for a mindful practice of breathing and moving. Yoga helps with balance, flexibility, strength, and relaxation. All levels. Please bring your own mat.

Pre-registration is required  
Fridays: 11:15 AM-12:15 PM  
April 4th, 11th, and 25th  
3 Classes—\$24.00



### STRENGTH & STABILITY WITH MARGIE STICKLES

This class uses weights and bands to focus on full body strengthening.

A small lightweight ball will be used for range of motion exercises.

Balance and stability work are included using a chair or barre for support if needed.

All level exercisers welcome.

Pre-registration is required.

Tuesdays: 9:00-10:00 AM

April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

5 Classes: \$35.00

Thursdays: 9:00-10:00 AM

April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th

4 Classes: \$28.00



## MANSFIELD RABIES CLINIC

SATURDAY JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> 2025

10AM-12PM

DRIVE THROUGH STYLE

Location: Former Annie Vinton School,  
306 Stafford Rd., Mansfield CT



- In cooperation with Mansfield Animal Control, NECTAR, East Brook Animal Hospital and Hebron Vet
- Cost: \$15 per vaccine (cash or check)
- Up to 2 vaccines free per household with proof of low income.
- Dogs must be leashed
- One cat per carrier
- To receive a 3-year vaccine, please bring proof of prior rabies vaccination.

Please call Mansfield Animal Control with any questions 860-487-0137



NEWS & UPDATES

## Stay Safe from Ticks this Spring! Eastern Highlands Health District Offers these Tips.

As the weather warms up, so do tick populations! These tiny pests can carry Lyme disease, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Powassan Disease and other illnesses, so it's important to take precautions while enjoying the outdoors.

### Protect Yourself:

- Wear long sleeves, pants, and light-colored clothing to spot ticks easily.
- Use EPA-approved insect repellents containing DEET or permethrin.
- Stay on trails and avoid tall grass and brushy areas.
  
- Think about minimizing ticks in the backyard by reducing tall grass, removing leaf litter and mowing frequently.

### Check for Ticks:

- After spending time outdoors, check yourself, your kids, and pets for ticks. Especially under arms, in and around ears, back of the knees and your hair. Think about using a handheld mirror for the back of your body.
- Shower within two hours to help remove ticks before they attach.
- Wash clothes in hot water and dry on high heat for 10 minutes to kill any hitchhikers.

### Remove Ticks Safely:

If you find a tick, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp it close to the skin and pull straight out. Clean the area with soap and water. If you suspect you've been bitten, consult a medical provider, especially if you develop a rash, fever, or flu-like symptoms.



Enjoy the outdoors safely this spring—stay vigilant and tick-aware!

**Tick Testing & More Information**

**DID YOU KNOW...**

The Eastern Highlands Health District offers tick testing for Lyme disease!

If you find a tick and want it tested, or if you have any questions about tick safety, contact us at **860-429-3325** or visit [www.EHHD.org](http://www.EHHD.org). More information can also be found at [CTDPH](#) and [CDTICKS](#)

## Call for Artists: Juried Art Show with the Mansfield Arts Advisory Committee

The Town of Mansfield Arts Advisory Committee is pleased to announce a call for artists for its upcoming Juried Art Exhibition, which will be held from May 17 – June 27, 2025 at the Mansfield Community Center in Mansfield, CT.

This exhibition is open to artists aged 18 and older residing in Tolland and Windham counties. College and university students within these counties are also eligible to apply.

Both two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) works will be considered for the exhibition. 3D works must not exceed 30 pounds in weight and should be no larger than 14 inches deep, 12 inches wide, and 24 inches high. For 2D works, the maximum size allowed is 18 inches by 24 inches, with a weight limit of 15 pounds. All 2D pieces must be framed, wired, and ready to hang upon submission.

Four awards will be presented in the juried exhibition, including first, second, and third place awards, which will be selected by the jurors. Additionally, a People's Choice Award will be determined by public vote at the Mansfield Community Center.

Artists can apply either online or in person. The entry fee is \$10 per artist and is non-refundable. Artists are also required to complete an Artist Consent Form, which is available on the back of the application and is preferably completed online. For complete information on the submission process, visit: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2206>

**The submission deadline is Monday, April 28, 2025.**



We encourage local artists to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to showcase their work and contribute to our vibrant creative community. For more information or any questions, please contact [Artsadvisory@mansfieldct.org](mailto:Artsadvisory@mansfieldct.org). Join us in celebrating local art!



# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER

**Town-Wide Tag Sale, 8 a.m.- 1p.m.**

Maps available at the Mansfield Community Center  
and at [www.mansfieldcc.com](http://www.mansfieldcc.com)

**Town & Local Activity Booths, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Join the Town of Mansfield and members of our community for a morning filled with earth-friendly, sustainable fun, with tables displaying at the Mansfield Community Center.

**MANSFIELD**  
CONNECTICUT  
Your place to grow

## Celebrating Earth Day with Workshops, Exhibits, Tours, Litter Pickup, & More!

The Town of Mansfield is making plans to celebrate spring and Earth Day with a full array of free special events and educational opportunities. Mansfield Community Center will be the hub of activity on Saturday, April 26, but special activities will also take place at the Mansfield Public Library, Mansfield Elementary School's net-zero infrastructure, and at Mansfield Town Hall. Litter pick-up, in cooperation with the University of Connecticut's Department of Sustainability coordinating with student groups, will also be a feature of the weekend. The Parks and Recreation Department is also organizing the Town-Wide Tag Sale so useful items can be repurposed by friends and neighbors rather than disposed. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle!

### Exhibits and Activities at Mansfield Community Center from 9 AM to 12 noon

- Learn about separating recyclables, plus explore compost with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Bring your tattered stuffed animals to the Teddy Bear Clinic and Dr, Rita will fix their boo-boos.
- Plant and transplant flowers with the Mansfield Garden Club
- Learn how you can Bike Mansfield with volunteers who promote biking in our community
- Nominate your favorite Local Food Champion and learn about bees with Taste of Mansfield
- Check out the seed library, and how to borrow garden tools with the Mansfield Public Library
- Fun with herbs and learn about season resources with Mansfield Human Services and Youth Services.
- Pick up supplies to clean up litter on your road, or pair up with friends and tackle problem areas

### Town-Wide Tag Sale from 8 AM to 1 PM All Around Town and at MCC

- Ready to clean out? [Register your home as a stop](#) on the Mansfield Tag Sale Trail by April 14. Just want to shop? Stop by Mansfield Community Center and pick up your map of all the locations, and browse .

### Mansfield Elementary School 11 AM to 1 PM

- Tour the school and learn about the infrastructure employed to achieve "net-zero energy," producing the same amount of energy the building consumes. Meet the Grade 4 Eco-Action Team who will show you how students incorporate sustainable practices as Citizens of the World every day at MES.

### Composting Workshop 10 AM at Town Hall

- Learn from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee about how to compost effectively in your own back yard

### Mansfield Public Library 10:30 AM

- Join us for an Earth Day-themed storytime and nature-inspired crafts



**NEWS&UPDATES**



## Be Fearless about Composting! Plus New Compost Bin Sale through May 1

The Town of Mansfield, in partnership with Enviroworld, is offering a pre-order sale for compost bins, compost accessories and rain barrels. Place an order no later than May 1, 2025 by going to <https://enviroworld.us/mansfieldct>. Orders will be available for pick up on May 10, 2025 at the Mansfield Transfer Station from 9 am to noon. Questions can be directed to the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).

Do you want to compost, but aren't quite sure where to start? Do you have a compost pile or bin, but aren't sure if you're "doing it" right? Join us for a free workshop on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 10 am to 11 am in the Mansfield Town Hall. Learn how to compost without attracting animals to the pile. Please register by contacting Mansfield Recycling Coordinator Virginia Walton at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org). Come to our free workshop on April 26.

## Become a Warrior Against Food Waste—Mansfield Will Collect Unserved Food from Your Restaurant or Catered Event

Spring is coming, and families are planning for warm weather get-togethers like showers, graduation parties, anniversaries, and birthdays. Often there is more food than your guests can eat, and what do you do with all that is left? Please don't discard it—contact the Town of Mansfield to plan for a pick-up!

According to Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, food waste accounts for 22% of the State's waste. Seventy percent of that food is edible and could feed the one in eight residents who are facing hunger. Feeding hungry people ranks as the second highest priority for reducing the environmental impact of wasted food, much higher than composting.

The Town of Mansfield is addressing this issue by offering Mansfield restaurants and catered events free transport of unserved leftovers to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. A pool of volunteers are on hand to pick up donations. The Mansfield Recycling Coordinator is coordinating donation requests with volunteers.



Staff at Mansfield Elementary, Mansfield Middle, and E.O. Smith High Schools all take special care to rescue unserved food from the food programs every day. Then volunteers collect the healthy food and deliver it to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Windham. The Town is now extending this program to restaurants and the public who want to fight needless food waste.

The Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act protects donors from civil and criminal liability for donations made in good faith. Additionally, under the federal tax code donations are tax-deductible. Please don't wait until the event is over—for catered events, please make arrangements ahead of time to ensure proper food handling and storage.

To make donations, contact Mansfield Recycling Coordinator, Virginia Walton at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).



### HAVE LEFTOVERS FROM A CATERED EVENT?

Join Mansfield's Food Rescue Effort!



To participate, contact the Mansfield food rescue coordinator:

**Virginia Walton**

**860.429.3333**

**[waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org)**



#### Temperature Guidelines for Storing Leftover Foods

- Prepared Entrees: Chilled ≤41°F or frozen ≤0°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.



**NEWS&UPDATES**



## The Seed Library is Open!

The gardening season has begun! Stop by the Mansfield Public Library and select some seeds. Try something new or select your favorites. Vegetable, herb and flower seeds are available. There are also “Pollinator Pathway” seeds available to help out our community pollinators.

Did you know we also have tools to check out for all your gardening needs! From soil testers and gardening hand tools to rakes and shovels, we have all you need to help you get your garden started. We also have a canning set and food dehydrator to preserve your harvest.

For additional details call the Mansfield Public Library at 860-423-2501.



## Get Outside, Enjoy Nature, and Have Some Family Fun with the Mansfield Library!

### Garden Storytime & Playground Play Date Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 AM on the Library Lawn

Let’s play! Join us for an active, garden-themed storytime outdoors on the Library Lawn. Then, stay to play with friends on the Library’s playground & explore our growing community garden.

### Pete the Cat Gets Groovy at the Library Tuesday, April 15 at 10:30 AM in the Buchanan Auditorium

Join musician, Michele Urban, for jazzy songs and cool stories about Pete’s far out adventures. Kids & families will shake their shakers to a rockin’ “Cool Cat Chant,” play groovy rhythm instruments & boogie down to funky songs- just like Pete!

### Nature Explorers: Family Hike & Pine Cone Bird Feeders Wednesday, April 16 at 10:30 AM in the Buchanan Auditorium/ Buchanan Woods

Calling all nature lovers! Join the Mansfield Public Library and Mansfield’s Youth Services Bureau for a family-friendly hike in the Buchanan Woods- right behind the library. Then, stay to create a Bird Feeder for your family to take home using pine cones, sun butter and bird seed.

### Farm Friends Petting Zoo Thursday, April 17th at 5 PM on the Library Lawn

Cuddle with baby farm animals! Xen’s Critters will be setting up an outdoor playpen on the Library’s front lawn featuring baby goats, sheep, bunnies, chicks & ducklings!

### DIY Bookplates at Wonder Workshop Thursday, May 8 from 4-6 PM in the Buchanan Auditorium

With help from UConn’s Archives and Special Collections, kids & families will create personalized bookplates to take home and beautify books! Get inspired to add nature drawings by observing real plant and animal specimens brought by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

### Nature Explorers Wednesday, May 21 at 10:30 AM in the Buchanan Auditorium/ Buchanan Woods

Calling all nature lovers! Join the Mansfield Public Library and Mansfield’s Youth Services Bureau to explore nature right in the library’s backyard, featuring an outdoor scavenger hunt.



**Renovating? Don't Scrap Usable Building Materials—Donate Them!**



**REMODELING  
IN MANSFIELD?**  
Join the Mansfield Deconstruction  
Pilot & Reduce Disposal Costs!

Are usable items being removed from your remodeling or construction project in the town of Mansfield?  
Are you planning a deconstruction and are looking for a green way to dispose of building materials?  
The Town of Mansfield is seeking contractors to participate in a deconstruction pilot in partnership with the ReCONNstruction Center to collect reusable buildings materials at the Mansfield Transfer station. To participate or ask questions regarding this pilot contact Virginia Walton.

**Free Material Drop Off at the  
Mansfield Transfer Station**  
**Tax-Deductible Receipt**  
**Divert Materials From Landfill**

**We Accept:**

**Town of Mansfield**  
221 Warrenville Rd, Mansfield, CT  
*In Partnership with the ReCONNstruction Center*



For more information contact:  
**Virginia Walton | 860.429.3333**  
**waltonvd@mansfieldct.org**  
*Mansfield Recycling Coordinator*

**KITCHEN CABINETS**  
**COUNTERTOPS AND SINKS**  
**BATHROOM FIXTURES**  
**WINDOWS AND DOORS**  
**VINTAGE AND MODERN FURNITURE**  
**LIGHTING FIXTURES**  
**APPLIANCES LESS THAN 10 YEARS OLD**  
**SURPLUS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**  
**AND MORE!**

**Virginia Walton**  
**860.429.3333**  
**waltonvd@mansfieldct.org**  
**www.mansfieldct.gov**

The Town of Mansfield is partnering with [The ReCONNstruction Center](#), a non-profit building reuse store in New Britain, CT, to salvage building materials from Mansfield construction projects that are in good, usable condition. Instead of these materials ending up in an out-of-state landfill, they will be offered for sale at The ReCONNstruction Center.

Building contractors doing work in Mansfield now have a place where they can donate perfectly good building materials for free. By participating, contractors can reduce their waste disposal costs, receive a tax-deductible receipt, keep perfectly good materials out of the landfill and provide discounted goods that will be sold at the ReCONNstruction Center.

To participate contact Mansfield Recycling Coordinator, Virginia Walton at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).





## Repair Café Returns April 12: Don't Toss It—Fix It!

What do you do with a dress that has a tear or a lamp that no longer works? Bring it to the Repair Café on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 10 am to 2 pm, at the First Congregational Church, 199 Valley Street, Willimantic.

The Repair Café is a FREE event open to the public. Skilled volunteers will repair – or teach you to repair – your broken item. On Facebook @repaircafe.willimantic.

For questions, or to volunteer your fix-it skills, contact Mansfield Recycling Coordinator, Virginia Walton at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).

## Grow Your Own Produce. Sign up for a Community Plot.

Is this the season for you to try your hand (and a hoe!) with a vegetable garden?

Mansfield Parks and Recreation is offering the opportunity to work your own 20-foot by 30-foot plot at our Community Garden! It's located on Rte. 195 close to Mansfield Supply.

For as little as \$25 for residents, you can have access to this rich ground.



With the Mansfield Public Library's resources, and the University of Connecticut Extension Service so close by, this is a great time to enjoy the pleasure of gardening with your family.

[Register for a plot online](#) with Parks and Recreation to reserve your plot today! (Note, limited availability of plots.)

# Community Gardens

## Mansfield Community Gardens

Enjoy fresh air and fresh produce through gardening. 20' x 30' plots, located on Route 195 north of Mansfield Supply. Planting begins mid to late May. Returning gardeners will be notified by mail about pre-registration and will receive first priority. A few overwinter plots may be available. Once you have registered, you will receive a letter about the location of your garden plot and the recommended gardening practices. Gardeners are required to remove all large weeds, rocks, weed barrier from their plot by the end of the season.

<b>Location:</b>	Rt. 195, North of Mansfield Supply
<b>Fee:</b>	\$25/plot for residents, \$35/plot for non-residents
<b>Activity#:</b>	411004-A (Seasonal) 411004-B (Overwinter)

## Don't Mess with Mansfield! Help Us Pick Up Litter on our Roads April 26 and 27.

In honor of Earth Day, UConn and the Town of Mansfield are urging all residents to help clean up lingering winter litter from our roadsides.

For details on where to pick up supplies and participate, [visit this website!](#)

## Don't Mess With Mansfield!

**Community Cleanup**  
Weekend of April 26 + 27



## The Mansfield Public Library—Springing Up with Activities for all Ages!

The Mansfield Public Library—the staff is always planning new and exciting programs for adults, for families, for teens, and tots! Here’s a quick snapshot of what’s happening at the library in April and May. Want to find all the details? [Check out our website!](#)



### Family Events:

- Garden Storytime & Playground Play Date, April 12
- Pete the Cat Gets Groovy at the Library, April 15
- Nature Explorers: Family Hike & Pine Cone Bird Feeders. April 16
- Farm Friends Petting Zoo, April 17
- DIY Bookplates at Wonder Workshop, May 8
- Nature Explorers, May 21
- 

### Weekly Children’s Events:

- Toddler Time, Tuesdays at 10:30 AM
- Wonder Workshop, Thursdays from 4-6 PM (Drop-in!)
- Music & Movement, Fridays at 10:30 AM
- Saturday Storytimes, Saturdays at 10:30 AM

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

### Teen Nights:

April 17, Friends Petting Zoo with Xen’s Critters

Summer Teen Nights: Every Thursday from June 26 - August 14!

### Adults:

- Throughout April: Art Showcase from the Swift Waters Artisans' Collaborative
- Wordsmith and Wonder: An Author Talk with Jodi Picoult, April 2, Virtual
- Coping in the World We Live in Today Through Meditation, April 8, Virtual
- The Stories, Science, and History of Trees with Smithsonian Gardens Greenhouse Horticulturalist Matthew Fleming, April 8, Virtual
- Matt’s Matinee Movies: Nickel Boys, April 12
- Tech Savvy, April 19
- Earth Day Succulent Craft for Adults, April 22



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

### More Adult Programs

- Book Talk with Author Lisa C. Taylor, April 24
- The Thrill of Writing Action, Adventure, and Suspense: A Conversation with Bestselling Author Gregg Hurwitz, April 24, Virtual
- How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David H. Rosmarin, May 7, Virtual
- Matt's Matinee Movies: A Complete Unknown, May 10
- Red Sox & Yankees: The Greatest Rivalry in Sports, May 13
- On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller with Author Liann Zhang, May 14, Virtual
- How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us with Author Rachelle Bergstein, May 21, Virtual
- Plant Swap, May 24
- Introduction to Pewter: An Appreciation of this Collectible Antique, May 27



### Recurring Adult Programs:

- Current Events and Politics Weekly Discussion Group, Wednesdays at 1:00 PM
- Friday Films, Every Friday at 1:00 P.M
- Mansfield Library Monthly Book Discussion Group, Tuesdays: April 8 & May 13
- Adults 18+ Only Monthly Game Night, Tuesdays, April 15 & May 20
- Matt's Monthly Zoom Movie Discussions, Wednesdays, April 16 and May 21 at 8:00 PM, Virtual

Mansfield Library Monthly Knitting Group, Thursdays, April 17 & May 15



**Yarn Donations Welcome!**

**Our yarn exchange is running low, so if you have extra yarn that you no longer need, feel free to drop it off to us during the Library's open hours.**

**Thank you!**



**MANSFIELD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## An Invitation to Our Artists! Exhibit Your Artwork at Mansfield Public Library.

Exhibit your art at the Mansfield Public Library! Beginning in April, we will be working with local artists and community partners to display art on the large wall of our Children's area. Our first exhibit will feature the [Swift Waters Artisans' Co-operative](#) (more below).

Learn more about the guidelines for art displays and submit an application to [exhibit your artwork here!](#)

Throughout April: Art Showcase from the [Swift Waters Artisans' Collaborative](#)

Featuring the work of talented local artists, including paintings, photographs, prints, jewelry, sculptures, assemblages, weavings and more.



**NEWS&UPDATES**

## Review and Provide Input to the Draft Plan for Mansfield’s Northwest Neighborhood

A public presentation was held on March 12, 2025, to introduce the draft plan for Mansfield’s Northwest Neighborhood, a project of the Town of Mansfield and the Planning Department. If you missed the presentation, or would like to review the information again, you can download the PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

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

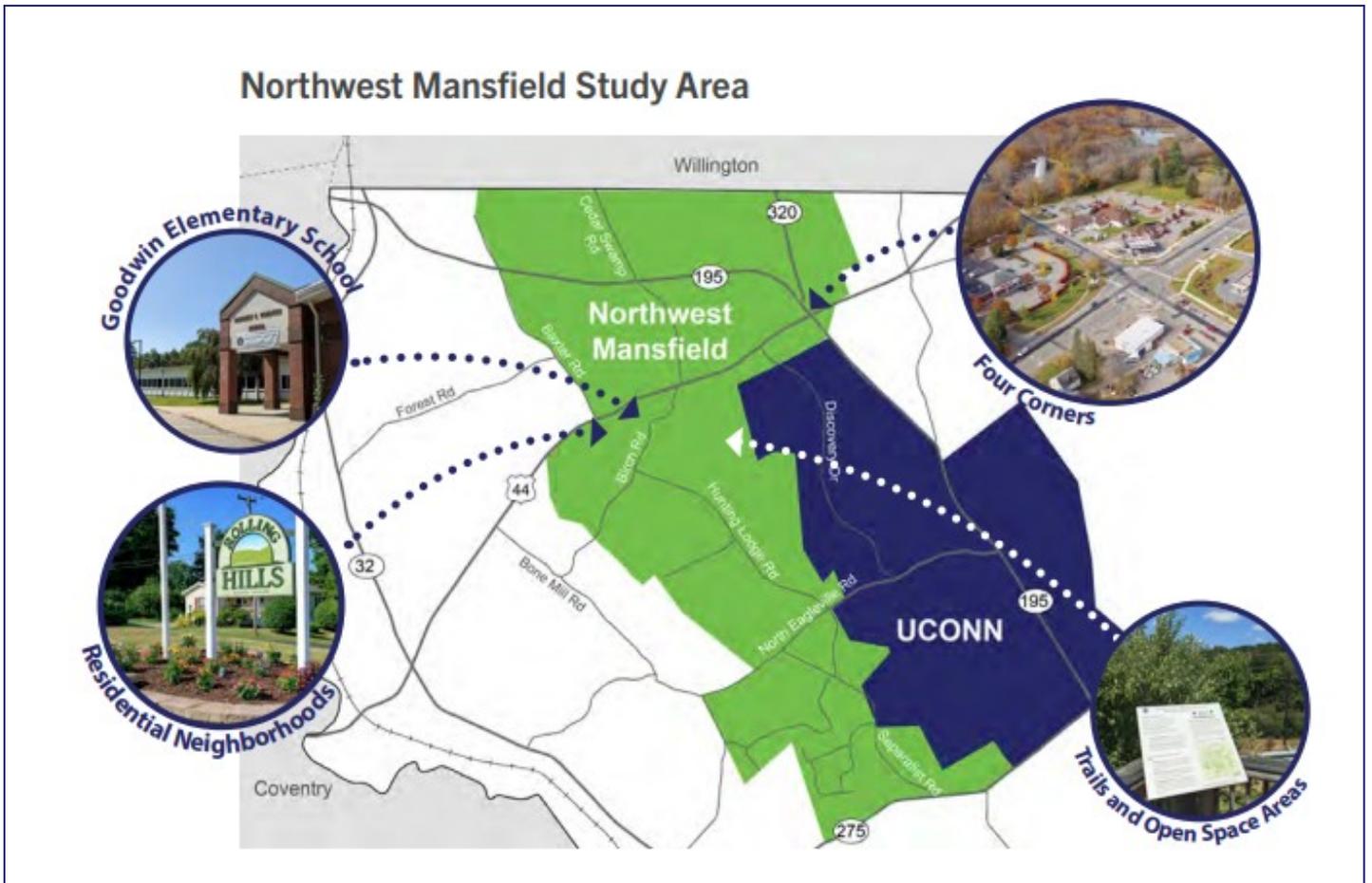


### Helpful resources:

The Plan’s Introduction (chapter 1), which provides important context, is available for download [here](#).

The Goals, Actions, and Strategies excerpted from Chapters 2-6 and all of Chapter 7, the future land use guide, can be downloaded [here](#).

The Full Plan is available for download [here](#).



### How to share your input:

We encourage you to review the draft plan and provide feedback by:

#### 1) Submitting Written Comments

- Please send your comments to [MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org](mailto:MansfieldTomorrow@MansfieldCT.org) with the subject line “NW Plan Comments.”
- Preferred deadline: Thursday, April 24 Final deadline: Monday, April 28

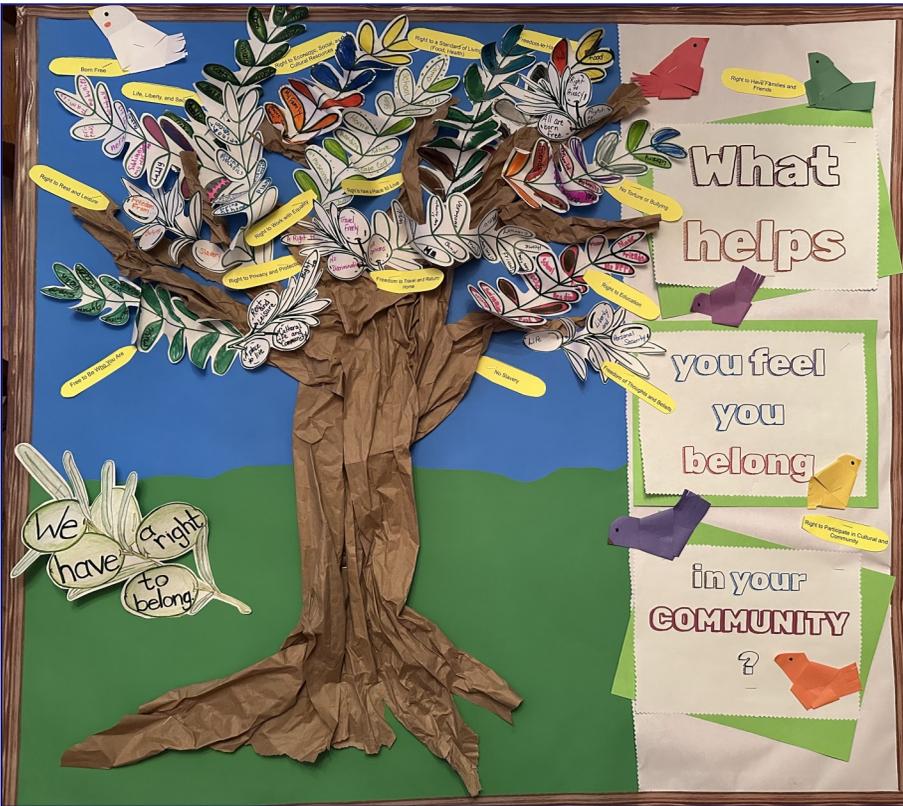
#### 2) Attending the Public Hearing – May 19, 2025

A Public Hearing on the NW Mansfield Vision and Strategy Plan will take place on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6 PM at the Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Hybrid Meeting.

If the plan is adopted, its goals, actions, and strategies will be incorporated into the 2025 Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

## The “I Belong” Tree: Thinking about Human Rights

Each year, the United Nations declares a theme to guide its work. In 2025, four themes were chosen: International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, Peace and Trust, Quantum Science and Technology, and Cooperatives. The Mansfield Human Rights Commission, as a guest of the Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program at Mansfield Elementary School, provides crafts and activities twice a month revolving around human rights. The Peace and Trust theme was chosen for the recent activity. The students and staff alike were then invited, not required, to create an “I Belong” tree.



The olive tree was chosen to represent the “I Belong” tree because it is known through many cultures to represent peace, stability, reconciliation, hope, and friendship. At the request of the students, the tree was made using mostly recycled materials. After speaking with students and staff about what is important to them to help them feel safe, comfortable, part of a community — that they belong — they wrote their ideas on paper leaves and branches.

The activity also involved discussing what those ideas represent as human rights. For example, going to the arcade and playing games can be a right to rest and leisure. Asking people to give a person space and not always ask questions can be a right to privacy. Having a job, whether as a young teenager of working age or someone established in their career, is a right to employment.

Going to planned lessons of your culture and language is a right of social security. These are just a few. On the olives and additional leaves throughout the project, some of the human rights listed in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights were printed and placed on the picture.

Some were hesitant to participate in the activity. After all, they wanted to have ‘rest and leisure’ after school. However, once the assembly of the tree started taking place, other students soon wanted to add their ideas (and rainbow peace doves) to be a part of the tree, to belong.

We all belong - -globally. That is one of the Core Beliefs within the Mansfield Public Schools — to Prepare Global Citizens. The youth are an important part of our future. Knowing about human rights and understanding what they mean is a start to keeping peace and trust at the forefront of humankind. When you look at a person as a human like yourself, you tend to see that person as having rights like you. Do you feel like you belong? How can you help someone feel like they belong?

*Submitted by Jeannine Kanadia, Chair, Mansfield Human Rights Commission*

## Nominate a Local Food Champion by April 28

For the fourth year, the partners associated with the Taste of Mansfield, including the Mansfield Agriculture Commission and the Mansfield Economic Development Commission, invite nominations for the Taste of Mansfield Champion Awards. This awards program was initiated to recognize Mansfield producers, sellers, and communicators/educators who are leaders in connecting the community through local food and have a demonstrated record of promoting the Taste of Mansfield mission. The public is invited to nominate people or organizations who:



- Sell or serve local food or an agricultural product with a focus on Mansfield farms and farm stands,
- Educate customers/clients about where local food comes from through various media, or
- Act as a leader and advocate for promoting local food
- 

Please help us recognize these Champions. Find the nomination form at <https://tasteofmansfieldct.weebly.com/champion-award.html>. For a paper copy of the nomination form, call 860.429.3373.



**NEWS&UPDATES**

## 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 re-view 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	Steven Ferrigno, 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	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 Town-Clerk@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