



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE

APRIL 2013

- There is no charge to donate gently-used items at the Mansfield Swap Shop.
- Spring programs begin the first week of April at the Community Center.
- Dodd Road is closed for bridge replacement.



- [Eggztravaganza](#) at the Community Center, March 30th.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale, April 6 & 7.
- Register now for summer Camp Mansfield & April vacation camps.
- Volunteer Drivers needed for Senior Van, 429-0262 x2.

PILOT OVERBOARD? A Change in State Funding Could Mean Trouble for Mansfield.

The following is a condensation of Deputy Mayor Toni Moran and Town Manager Matt Hart's presentation to the state legislature on March 15. For a complete transcript, go to mansfieldct.gov.

Although Mansfield hosts UConn's main campus, we are still in many ways a rural community, with 15,000 year round residents and a limited tax base.

Our current Operating Budget totals about \$45 million: \$30 million for education & \$15 million for general government and capital expenditures. The value (\$1.2 billion) of state property in Mansfield (UConn & Bergin Correctional Institute) is more than the town's own Grand List (\$1 billion). Our payment-in-lieu-of-taxes grant (PILOT) for state property is around \$7 million. No other town in the state relies as much on PILOT funding.

The Governor's proposal to eliminate PILOT funding and move that money to our ECS grant (education cost sharing) is troubling. On paper, it appears as though Mansfield would be held

harmless for now. Our chief concern is for the future. Would the state amend the ECS formula to include reimbursement for state-owned property? If not, the town could lose this important funding which offsets the impact of state property on our municipal services.

While UConn offers many benefits to Mansfield in terms of employment, arts and culture and other amenities, it also has a real impact on our municipal services, including code enforcement, community services, education, public safety and public works. The loss of \$7 million in state funding would be devastating to Mansfield and the town would need to increase its current tax levy by 25% to make up for this lost revenue. The Town Council recently met with its state delegation – Senator Donald Williams, Representative Gregory Haddad and Representative Linda Orange - to convey the Town's concerns regarding the future of PILOT funding. All three legislators are sympathetic to Mansfield's position and will seek to maintain this important source of funding for our community.

BUDGET MEETINGS

Don't miss these important meetings!

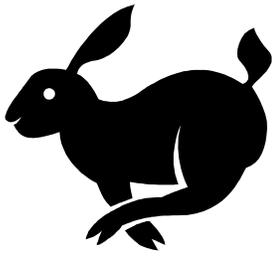
For dates and meeting places, visit our [web site](#), or call the Town Manager's Office at 429-3336.

- April 1: Council Budget Workshop
- April 4: Public Information Session on Budget
- April 8: Public Hearing on Budget
- April 10, 15, 18: Council Budget Workshops
- May 2: Public Information Session on Budget
- May 14: Annual Town Meeting



What will Mansfield be like twenty years from now?
Interested in exploring alternatives to
conventional development?
Get involved and voice your opinion about
Mansfield's Future!

For more information about the project and to learn
how you can get involved, go to
MansfieldTomorrow.com.



MANFIELD HAPPENINGS



April 2013



Apr. 13 —

The Tag Sale Trail Starts AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Have a table at the community center, or have a tag sale at home with a listing on the Tag Sale Trail Map of Mansfield. Call (860) 429-3015 for more information.

Apr. 13 — 9AM-1PM **Free Day AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Residents of Mansfield may use the community center free of charge.

Apr. 13 — 3:30-7:30PM **Parent's Night Out AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Pizza, movies, games, crafts and more! For Grades K-5

Apr. 13 & 27 — 3-5 PM **Storrs Winter Farmers Market AT THE LIBRARY**

Buy from a local farmer — it's delicious and nutritious!

Apr. 15 — 7 PM

Jazz and Chamber Concert AT THE E.O. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL

Activities and pizza for children in grades K-5.

Apr. 17 — 7 PM

Solarize Mansfield/Windham AT THE LIBRARY

Come learn more about this project, or contact Virginia Walton at 860-429-3333 or visit solarizect.com/Mansfield-Windham.

Apr. 20 — 10:30 AM **One Book Celebration AT THE LIBRARY**

We'll read **Hop, Hop, Jump!**, make a craft, enjoy some dance & movement, and more! This is a parent-child event, & some parts will be outside, so dress for the weather!

Apr. 22 — 12:45 PM **Karaoke Jam Session AT THE SENIOR CENTER**

Sing along to your favorite songs. Fruit salad and cupcakes will be served. Come dressed to impress and have a good time with me, your hostess Petrese Fearon, and all your wonderful-voiced friends! Please sign up with the receptionist.

Apr. 23 — 7 PM

Earth Rhythms Stories & Music AT THE LIBRARY

Musician/Storyteller Roger Tincknell presents "Earth Rhythms" for children 5+.

Apr. 25 — 7 PM

Frog Frolic AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Celebrate Earth Month with a Frog Frolic! Fun for the whole family. Call 860-429-3015 for more information.

May 1 — 10:30 AM **Music Appreciation 1900-1960 Class AT THE SENIOR CENTER**

We'll listen to old favorites, but also discover gems from unfamiliar artists and styles. Please sign up at the front desk. \$5 for residents, \$8 for nonresidents.



Town of Mansfield, Connecticut
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