

Dear Members and Program Participants,

As many of you know, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont issued a recent order requiring “any indoor gym, fitness center, or similar facility or studio offering in-person fitness, sporting or recreational opportunities or instructions” to remain closed until April 30, 2020. For Mansfield Parks and Recreation, this includes the Mansfield Community Center, Lenard Hall, Community School of the Arts and all other programs offered by the department. We are assessing how to best handle programs and services after April 30 and plan to prepare for summer programming with the hope that our community will get back to some normalcy sooner rather than later. For now, all programs are currently on pause. We will plan to provide further information on a weekly basis, but please check our website or facebook page, www.facebook.com/mansfieldcommunitycenter/ for more frequent updates.

During the closure of our facilities, staff are actively working to deep clean and make any feasible facility repairs. Additionally, for the time being, we will no longer have staff to answer the Community Center phone 860-429-3015 in case you have any questions. We encourage you to email your questions to parks&rec@mansfieldct.gov, which will enable us to answer you in a timely manner. If you do need to leave a voice message, we will get back to you as soon as possible, but not likely as quickly if you emailed.

We have received numerous emails about membership status. We fully intend to extend all memberships for the length of time that we are required to be closed. We will have more detailed information coming out next week as to how that process will be handled. Closure of any length will have a significant impact on our revenue. This in addition to ongoing significant revenue loss from paying members who became Silver Sneakers members over the last several years has placed the Parks and Recreation Fund, which includes the operation of the Community Center, in a very unsustainable position. We will provide some additional information on the situation as part of the Town’s budget process. We hope that some will be understanding and consider donating the time lost.

We are beginning to post several exercise and other activity options on our website. Some are available now and others will be rolled out over the next week. Mansfield is fortunate to have many parks and trails and we encourage you keep healthy and stay active during this time by hiking or walking outdoors. Visit our website at www.mansfieldcc.com or www.mansfieldct.gov/trailguides for links to our parks and trail maps. The parks,

playgrounds, natural areas and trails in Mansfield remain open and we encourage everyone to get outside when possible for exercise. Please follow the social distancing recommendations posted on the main page of our website if you are planning to visit the parks and playgrounds. This information is also shown below.

We will continue to communicate any changes or updates as they become available. You are also encouraged to seek additional information on the Town of Mansfield website at www.mansfieldct.gov/covid19. You can also get information from reputable sources such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), CT DPH, or Eastern Highlands Health District (www.EHHD.org).

PARK USE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS



Mansfield parks, playgrounds, trails, and natural areas will remain open during the COVID-19 crisis. To help prevent community spread of the virus, we ask that all visitors practice social distancing as shown below:

