

# The Mansfield Record



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## Referendum Scheduled for Town Budget

Following a petition filed by Mansfield electors, the Town Council has scheduled a referendum for Tuesday, June 24, 2008, on the Fiscal Year 2008/09 Budget adopted at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Budget Town Meeting. The referendum will run from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and will be held in the Council Chambers at the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building to take action on the following questions:

- Are you in favor of the budget as adopted on May 13, 2008?
- If the budget is defeated, is the town budget portion too high or too low?
- If the budget is defeated, is the school budget portion too high or too low?

### Town Hall Public Hours

#### Mondays

8:15–4:30

#### Tuesdays

8:15–4:30

#### Wednesdays

8:15–4:30

#### Thursdays

8:15–6:30

#### Fridays

8:00–12:00

Voting shall be by paper ballot. Absentee ballots will be available as provided by law to those applying in person at the office of the Town Clerk during regular business hours.

The general fund budget adopted at town meeting totals \$33,580,440 and includes \$12,649,640 for general government operations (Town) and \$20,930,800 for the Mansfield Board of Education. Another \$10,117,705 was appropriated for Mansfield's proportionate share of the Region 19 budget. It is estimated that a mill rate increase of 1.37 mills (to 25.24 mills) would be necessary to fund the adopted general fund budget. Additionally, the budget town meeting adopted a capital budget of \$2,586,300 and a capital and nonrecurring fund budget of \$663,085. The capital and capital and nonrecurring funds are funded primarily through grants and other revenues.

For more information on the budget process, please see [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org).

## Mansfield Downtown Partnership Reports

### **\$10 Million Grant from State for Storrs Center Parking Garage Provides Major Boost in Moving Project Forward**

*Submitted by Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director*

A \$10 million grant for the first garage building to be constructed at Storrs Center was announced by Governor M. Jodi Rell in a special visit to Storrs earlier in May. The grant, which is expected to be approved by the State Bond Commission on May 30th, will fund approximately 70% of the projected cost of the structure, a key component of Storrs Center. Located at the crossroads of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut, the project will combine residential, retail, commercial, restaurant and entertainment uses and wonderful public spaces to create a true main street environment in the heart of the community.

In a prepared statement, Governor Rell observed, "This is our opportunity to shape a college town. UConn has become truly a world class institution and we are so proud of how far our flagship university has come in so short a time. Still, I think we would all agree that one key ingredient is missing at UConn - a town center that would provide Mansfield with a 'college town' look and feel. Great college towns have a spark. Think of Northampton, Williamstown and Cambridge in Massachusetts. Think of Durham, North Carolina. That spark comes not only from young blood but from community gatherings, literary events, book stores and cafes. These are places that have a strong, vibrant pulse. These funds will help turn the Storrs Town Center into an intellectual, cultural and economic hub. Storrs Town Center will be a national model and an example of the kind of responsible growth development Connecticut will continue to encourage. It will be a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly section of town that will be a beehive of activity. We are serious about stopping sprawl, preserving our state's character and emphasizing responsible, controlled development."

Speaking for the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, the public-private organization guiding the Storrs Center development, Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm stated, "This generous support from the State is greatly appreciated and serves as a confirmation of how important our development is not only to Mansfield but all of Connecticut. We are confident of the project advancing on all fronts."

Macon Toledano, Vice President of Planning and Development for LeylandAlliance, adds, "The State's grant is great news for our project. We view the garage as a critical component of the overall Storrs Center plan that will provide much-needed parking for the retail and commercial businesses as well as the residents that will reside there. With these substantial funds committed, and Federal appropriations already in place, we are working out the remaining details to finance the construction of the garage structure."

### **Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. Update**

*Submitted by Kathleen M. Paterson, Administrative Assistant*

Some of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership accomplishments over the last year include:

- *Planning and Zoning Commission approval:* In June 2007, after four nights of public hearings, the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) unanimously approved two zoning applications submitted by the Partnership and Storrs Center Alliance, LLC (an affiliate of LeylandAlliance, LLC) for the new Storrs Center development. The first application proposed several amendments to the Mansfield Zoning Regulations that provide for a new Storrs Center Special Design District zone, including permitted use provisions, application requirements, approval criteria and approval processes. The second application provided for the rezoning of the 47.7 acre Storrs Center project area to the new Storrs Center Special Design District zone classification, which allows for a mix of commercial uses and housing.

- *Completion of the pedestrian walkway:* Working with the Town's Public Works staff, BL Companies, and GEG Construction, Inc., the Partnership completed the first of many efforts to create a pedestrian-friendly system in

Storrs Center. Funded by a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development, the walkway provides safe and easy access to the Community Center, Town Hall, and the future Storrs Center. This winter, new banners sponsored by the Partnership, the Town including the Community Center, the University of Connecticut, and LeylandAlliance adorned the walkway.

- *Inland Wetlands Agency approval:* In October 2007, Mansfield's Inland Wetlands Agency unanimously approved a wetlands license for the Storrs Center project. With this approval and the PZC approvals, all local zoning approvals are in place.

- *Fourth Annual Festival on the Green:* The fourth annual *Festival on the Green* was a resounding success. Over three thousand area residents enjoyed musical performances from Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, Aztec Two-Step, and The Mohegan Sun All-Stars. There were plenty of hands-on activities for all ages, as well as a variety of food from local restaurateurs to please all tastes. The popular Bikes, Tykes, and Trikes Parade and pie eating contest were crowd-pleasers once again. This community event grows in popularity each year.

- *Statewide Award:* In May 2008, the Partnership was awarded a Connecticut Main Street Center Award of Excellence in the Community Consensus-Building category. The award recognizes an organization's public outreach efforts, partnership development, and facilitation of dialogue. Since its inception, the Partnership has made a committed effort to reach out to the entire community, to listen to their concerns, and to adjust course when necessary or appropriate. The Partnership will continue to make public outreach a top priority and encourages community members to contact the Partnership office with questions, concerns, and comments.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership has the following goals for 2008:

- *Completing the Vision:* The Partnership continues to work toward construction of the first buildings for Storrs Center. As of May 2008, permits are pending at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for the proposed storm water system and the US Army Corps of Engineers for a federal wetlands license. An application to the Connecticut State Traffic Commission for improvements to Storrs Road is being reviewed by CDOT staff. Other milestones that must be met are completion of relocation, and commitments on the financing of the parking garages.

- *To celebrate the Fifth Annual Festival on the Green:* The Partnership is in the midst of planning for the Fifth Annual *Festival on the Green*. The many dedicated committee members and volunteers are looking forward to providing the community with another great *Festival*. Fireworks in the Park will be Saturday, September 13 at 6:00 pm at Mansfield Hollow State Park, and the *Festival on the Green* will be Sunday, September 14 from noon to 5:00 pm behind the Storrs Center commercial plazas. The musical acts Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, Aztec Two-Step, and the Mohegan Sun All-Stars are scheduled to appear again this year. Event details will be posted on the Partnership's website (accessed through the Town's website) as they are finalized.

- *To increase membership:* The Partnership reached a milestone in 2007 when it registered its 400<sup>th</sup> member! Membership efforts are on-going, and the Partnership looks forward to number 500. The Partnership's members are a vital part of its success. They dedicate their time and efforts to producing community events, such as the *Festival on the Green*, and actively promote Mansfield and the Storrs Center project throughout the area, region, and state. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Mansfield Downtown Partnership at 860.429.2740 or [mdp@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mdp@mansfieldct.org).

- *To continue public outreach:* The Partnership strives to keep the public well-informed regarding progress on the new downtown as well as other Partnership efforts. The Partnership staff and members regularly present to local organizations, submit information to area media, and represent the Partnership at events around town. In addition, the Partnership hosts an open house on the first Thursday of every month from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. To learn more about open house dates and times, other Partnership appearances, or to schedule a presentation, please call the office, 860.429.2740.

## Town Manager's Office Reports

### Town Awarded \$500,000 Small Cities Grant

*Submitted by Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager*

The Town of Mansfield has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for fire safety improvements to the Juniper Hills Village assisted housing facility. Juniper Hills is a HUD assisted senior housing facility owned and operated by Mansfield Retirement Community, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation.

In recent years, the “cottages” at Juniper Hills have been the site of two major fires; given the age and mobility concerns of the senior residents, the fire safety upgrade of these units is critical. The Town recognizes the importance and value of such improvements and is therefore in support of this project.

HUD (Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development) provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money to states, which may distribute the resources to non-entitlement communities (population less than 50,000). Connecticut's DECD administers the distribution process of funds for non-entitlement communities such as Mansfield. In 2007, Mansfield applied for the \$500,000 grant through the competitive Small Cities grant process.

In addition to the Small Cities funding that has been awarded, Juniper Hills has made a contribution to the project. Town funds will not be directly used for this project; however, a limited amount of in-kind resources such as staff time will be dedicated to this project.

Improvements to the fire safety system will begin this year.

### Strategic Planning Update

*Submitted by Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager*

Mansfield 2020, A Unified Vision, the strategic planning process currently being undertaken by citizens and stakeholders in the Town of Mansfield is continuing to be developed this Spring.

The strategic planning process held two weekend conference events with 50-70 participants in attendance each day. During the “Visioning” Conference held in December, participants articulated their vision and initiated dialogue for the planning of the community's future. During the “Action” Conference in January, participants refined their vision points and articulated a series of action items and plans.

Four open houses were held in January and February 2008, in addition to the Town hosting an electronic “wiki.” The purposes of the open houses and wiki were to receive citizen and stakeholder input and to inform the public on the progress of the strategic plan. Over 200 people participated in the open houses. Anyone interested in the future of Mansfield were encouraged to participate and were welcome to provide specific input about the vision they had for the community's future.

In the Spring of 2008, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will deliberate and refine the action plans. The Committee will present its recommendations for the strategic plan to the Mansfield Town Council during Summer of 2008.

Information regarding the strategic planning process is available on the town website: [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org)

## Parks and Recreation Reports

### Family Fun Activities Schedule (June/July 2008)

*Submitted by Sharon Glasson, Member Services Coordinator*

<u>June</u>	13	Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m.	*Family Fun Nights are free for Mansfield Community Center members. Non-members can use the entire facility AND enjoy all Family Fun activities by paying the daily fee.
<u>July</u>	1	Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m.	
	15	Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m.	
	29	Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m.	

### New Year! New Goals! New You!

*Submitted by Robin O'Brien, Health & Fitness Director*

For those of you who have resolved to try to lose weight or improve health through exercise here are some tips for success:

- Choose reasonable goals – set dates for “mini-goals” in order to reach the big goal
- Get a partner – you will be more successful if you are accountable to someone else. Let’s face it – if you could do it yourself, you wouldn’t be reading this.
- Make exercise a priority – like eating, sleeping, and working. It has to become part of the daily routine. If it’s “extra,” it’s easy to leave it out.

*A Mansfield Community Center membership is a useful tool for helping the whole family stay healthy. You can use the fitness center, swim in our pools, play in the gymnasium and walk or jog on our indoor track. For information about memberships, please visit [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org) and click on the Community Center logo, call us at 429-3015, or stop in for a tour!*

### The Missing Link

*Submitted by Robin O'Brien, Health & Fitness Director*

Most of us who exercise regularly are pretty consistent about getting enough cardiovascular exercise. Some of us even try to do some effective strength training. But few of us do the necessary flexibility training: stretching, which is so important for injury prevention, reducing muscle soreness and improving joint function and athletic performance. Here are some tips for effective stretching:

- Stretch warm muscles; stretch AFTER exercise, when your body is warm. Your muscles will respond well and this will in turn help to alleviate stiffness and soreness.
- Each stretch should be muscle specific; select the muscle or area you wish to stretch and choose a flexibility exercise that is effective for that area.
- Hold each stretch for at least 30 seconds, a minute is even better! And breathe as you stretch.

If you need help with stretching, we suggest these options: Join a Yoga class. Take a fitness class – all fitness classes generally finish with some stretching. And last but not least, a personal trainer can teach you a lot about effective stretching specifically where you need it!

## Mansfield Community Center Goes for the Green

*Submitted by Curt Vincente, Parks and Recreation Director*

You may have noticed some of the changes taking place here at the MCC, and have been wondering what it's all about. Well, the Town of Mansfield is proud to adopt new methods and initiatives that will positively impact the environment. The MCC has gotten the "green light" for these changes and is on the path to becoming a more environmentally conscious facility in many ways.

"The Community Center is a hub for recreation, health and outreach for Mansfield and Northeastern Connecticut residents. It's important that we take every opportunity to improve and care for our local environment," says Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation. Below are just a few examples of what we've been doing.

- **Facility Lighting:** New, energy efficient lighting was installed recently in the pool and gym areas, and the older halogen lights were removed. The result? An estimated cost savings of approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 annually.
- **Solar Panels:** The installation of a photovoltaic solar system was recently completed on the roof of the Community Center. The system, provided at no charge to the town through a partnership with SunEdison, allows us to use zero emission solar energy – by converting light into electricity. Over 20 years, the system is projected to offset 1,516,000 pounds of carbon dioxide (a "greenhouse gas") that would have been emitted during the production of electricity from fossil fuels. "Deploying a zero emission solar energy system on underutilized rooftop space is the right thing to do and sets an example for other communities," said Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation. "Working with SunEdison allows the Community Center to serve our residents by deploying clean renewable energy quickly and saving money on utility rates." So, not only does the new system reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote clean, renewable energy; it's also more cost-effective! The result? An estimated cost savings of approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 annually.
- **Co-Generation Project:** The Town Council authorized a co-generation project which will allow the MCC to operate completely off the power grid. The project is currently in the design phase, but when complete, the co-generation project could save \$35,000-\$40,000 annually in energy costs.
- **Light Sensors:** Energy-saving light sensors have been installed throughout the building, so when a room is not being used, the lights will shut off automatically after 15 minutes of inactivity.
- **Pool Covers:** During the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>, installation began on pool covers for both our main pool and our therapy pool. The company responsible for the covers and the installation is Alta Enterprises, INC. out of Alta, Wyoming. They have done similar work in Connecticut and the New England area with other installations in New Haven and East Hartford, CT and in Springfield, MA. The pool cover for the main pool uses wall mounted storage reels and is fully automated due to the size and weight of the covers and due to our limited deck space. The smaller therapy pool cover uses a movable deck storage reel and is manually rolled or unrolled by the pool staff. These covers are used every night at closing. So, what does it mean to have energy smart pools? These covers reduce our energy costs and overall water consumption, and minimize heat loss due to evaporation. Check out these figures of annual cost savings:
  - **Therapy Pool**
    - Lower energy costs by approximately 19.5%
    - Reduce water consumption by approximately 21.3% = 8,400 gallons
  - **Main Pool**
    - Lower energy costs by approximately 20.4%
    - Reduce water consumption by approximately 21.3% = 42,475 gallons

In addition, the MCC recently hosted an Earth Day Celebration on April 26<sup>th</sup>, which included a farmer's market, compact fluorescent lightbulb swap, recycling information and a variety of Green activities for children.

Let your inner green glow! Here are some suggestions of what you can do to help:

- Take shorter, not-so-steaming-hot showers.
- Bring a reusable water bottle.
- Bring a sweat towel instead of using paper towels.
- Walk, bike or carpool to the MCC.
- Try to recycle your trash – we have recycling containers throughout the facility.

### **Learning To Swim—An Important Life Skill At Any Age!**

*Submitted by Elle Noel, Aquatic Director*

Be sure that you and your children are ready for the summer – learn how to swim at the Mansfield Community Center!

Not only is swimming a great source of recreational fun for all ages and a great way to stay in shape for both youth and adults, it is also an extremely important life skill to learn at any age!

Enrolling your child in an organized group lesson setting for swim lessons is an effective and safe way for your child to learn to swim. Children gain valuable swimming skills while placed in a group setting with their peers. They work on improving their listening skills, following directions, and increase socialization during swim lessons as well. The Mansfield Community Center offers many group swim lessons and follows the American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program for both youth and adult lessons, one of the most respected and utilized programs in the country. The structured curriculum and core skills for each level allow participants to follow a smooth progression through the 6 levels beginning with infant and toddler aquatic classes. Allow your child to practice their skills! Bring them to swim in the pools at the Mansfield Community Center. Register your children today – it is so important for children to learn the proper way to swim, and the sooner they begin, the easier it will be for them to progress through the Learn to Swim Program.

Our adult beginner and intermediate lessons also follow the American Red Cross Levels 1 - 4, but allow adults to be in a comfortable, age-appropriate environment. Whether you have never learned to swim, or have not been in the water in years, this program is a great way to get you started. We encourage adults at any age to join our program to learn how to swim and gain this valuable life skill.

## **Social Services Reports**

### **Department Updates**

*Submitted by Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services*

**Staff Member Retires:** The month of December was marked by the retirement of long-time social worker Sheila Thompson. Sheila worked for the town for twenty-seven years, and was instrumental in maintaining the tax rebate programs and an active holiday giving program. She will be missed by co-workers and clients alike.

**Holiday Giving:** All programs of the Department of Social Services were extremely busy during the holiday season coordinating donations to Mansfield families in need. Through this program 124 individuals in 37 families received gifts, food, and cash donations that enabled them to celebrate the holidays. We are extremely grateful to all of the donors in our community who made this possible.

**Youth Service Bureau:** This program continues to be very busy with a number of new initiatives. The second successful Hi-Fi children's grief group was completed last Fall, and staff are making plans to start a new group this Spring. Funding was received to continue a very popular group for grandparent's raising grandchildren, and the Youth Service Bureau continues to expand their capacity to serve residents through the use of volunteers from UConn and Eastern CT State University.

**Assisted/Independent Living Initiative:** The Assisted/Independent Living Advisory Committee continues to meet regularly, and has received proposals from Masonicare and Long Hill Associates to develop an assisted/independent living facility in Mansfield. The proposers presented their concepts to the committee on in early May and it is expected that the committee will be making a recommendation of a preferred developer to the Council soon.

**Underage Drinking Grant:** Through a grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services staff and community members continue to work to develop an infrastructure to prevent underage drinking. On January 30 the collaborative co-sponsored motivational speaker Aric Bostick met with E.O. Smith High School students and parents to discuss self-esteem and motivation in youth. In March the town hosted a Town Hall meeting on underage drinking entitled, "Take It Back" for youth and parents.

**Senior Services:** The Senior Center continues to be very busy, offering a wide variety of programs and services. In November the Center offered the extremely popular Veteran's Day program, which was attended by 115 seniors. Attendance at the noon meal continues to increase with meals now prepared on site, and in the last quarter of 2007, 1667 meals were served, with an additional 1340 meals provided through the meals-on-wheels program.

**Volunteer Recognition:** On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Service Bureau held their first Annual Volunteer Recognition event. The event provided an opportunity to thank and recognize the more than 70 volunteers who have worked over the course of the year to extend the capabilities of the Youth Service Bureau. Volunteers were recognized for their work on the Advisory Board, the H.I.F.I. Grief Group, community contributions, and as youth mentors.

## Information Technology Reports

### Mansfield's Email Notification System

*Submitted by Jaime Russell, Director of Information Technology*

Members of the Mansfield community can sign-up to receive free customized notifications through the Town and Board of Education's e-mail distribution system. The system provides an easy way for residents to keep informed of special events, town announcements, and the latest news from their local government.

The system presently includes thirty-five different news and announcement categories and new options have been added every few months. Participants can subscribe to all of the lists or choose to receive only the specific categories that they personally select. Choices include agendas, minutes, and packets from different town committees and boards as well as announcements and news on specific topic areas of interest.

The sign-up process is quick and easy. Go to <http://mansfieldct.qscend.com/qnotify.aspx>, provide your e-mail address, select the categories that you wish to receive, and click on the "Join" button at the bottom of the page. Every notice includes an "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of the e-mail so you can increase or reduce your subscription at anytime. Subscribe today for a free and easy way to stay informed!

If you are already a subscriber, click on the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of the next e-mail you receive to see the names of the new lists that you might want to add to your subscription!

## **Free Wireless Internet at the Mansfield Town Hall and the Mansfield Community Center**

*Submitted by Jaime Russell, Director of Information Technology*

The Mansfield Town Hall, Mansfield Community Center, and their outdoor areas are now wireless hotspots!

Residents and guests can bring their wireless ready laptops to take advantage of free public wireless Internet access both inside and outside of these buildings. The coverage areas include all indoor spaces in the Mansfield Town Hall and the Mansfield Community Center (except for the pool and locker rooms), as well as most of the surrounding outdoors areas of both facilities. The outdoor access is here just in time for the warmer spring weather!

An easy directions handout and Frequently Asked Questions guide is available online at [http://www.mansfieldct.org/town/wifi\\_info.htm](http://www.mansfieldct.org/town/wifi_info.htm) or in paper format in the Town Clerk's Office, in the information tray across from the Town Manager's Office, or at the Reception Desk at the Community Center.

Come down to the Mansfield Town Hall or the Mansfield Community Center and enjoy free public wireless Internet access!

## **Town Clerk's Office Reports**

### **Changes in the Town Clerk's Vault**

*Submitted by Mary Stanton, Town Clerk*

Hours of work and a generous Historic Preservation Grant from the Connecticut State Library have produced amazing results in the Town Clerk's vault!

No longer are there boxes of unmarked records, supplies, and duplicate documents on a variety of shelving behind the wire cages. Instead record material has been sorted, organized and is stored neatly on compact mobile storage units. Our storage capacity has increased dramatically as has our ability to access record material.

To date we have received approval to shred over 85 cubic feet of non-record material. A few of the interesting documents we uncovered during our sorting were the first Eagle Factory School District Book of Records dated May 1837, the organizational minute book of the Mansfield Parent-Teacher Association dated March 1932 and a series of photos identifying local air wardens during World War II.

We have also been collecting copies of the minutes of boards and commissions from various sources in an effort to compile a complete record of all their activities. And, while we still have much work to do, we would like to thank our Record Consultant, Peter Bartucca, for his guidance and the staff at the Town Hall for all their cooperation during this endeavor. If you are in Town Hall, come by and visit!

## Town Events

**Memorial Day Parade:** Mansfield observed Memorial Day on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> with a parade and ceremony at the New Mansfield cemetery. Music for the parade and ceremony were provided by the Mansfield Middle School Band and the E.O. Smith Regional High School Band. Thank you to Ms. Amber Hoyt for her moving address and Reverend Ron Baker for his invocation. Special guests included Private Second Class Daniel Parker, Representative Denise Merrill as well as several council members. Special thanks to those behind the scenes who helped make this event possible, including Sara-Ann Chaine, Paul Veilleux, Curt Vincente and William “Chip” Jordan.

**Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village:** It’s time to get your bike out of the garage, make sure you have air in the tires, and start riding. On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, bicycle riders of all levels will have a chance to explore many of Mansfield’s nineteen historic villages on two wheels, in the third annual *Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village*. The Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Mansfield Community Center, local businesses and volunteers are proud to present what promises to be an active and exciting day. The goal of the event is to provide a family-oriented activity for area residents, encourage exercise through cycling, bring awareness to the scenic beauty of Mansfield’s villages, draw attention to the Storrs Center/Downtown area, and to bring the community together around a social and recreational activity.

The day has been designed to appeal to riders of all levels, and will include a 5-mile Family Fun Ride, along with 20 and 40 mile “challenge rides”. The rides will start and end at the Mansfield Community Center, and will conclude with a barbecue. Pre-registration for the event is strongly encouraged. The registration fee covers ride support, snacks, food and beverage and a custom-designed *Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village* T-shirt for the first 100 registrants. All riders must wear a helmet and be familiar with basic safety rules of the road.

Registration will be available soon by going online to [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org), and clicking on the bike tour logo, or by picking up a registration form from one of many locations including the Mansfield Town Hall and the Mansfield Community Center. Check-in and registration on the day of the event will begin at 7:30am, and the Family Fun Ride will commence at 10:30am. Participants are asked to park in the E.O. Smith High School parking lot, next to the Town Hall on Storrs Road (Rt. 195). In case of rain, the event will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Manager’s Office at 429-3336.