

# Family Fun in Mansfield

January, February, March & April 2020

## Special Notes

- **Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (BIMP)** (486-8580) ([bimp.uconn.edu](http://bimp.uconn.edu)) is located at 1 Royce Circle in Downtown Storrs and is open Tues-Sun., 11am-7pm. Permanent exhibit: *The World of Puppetry*. Special exhibits through Feb. 9: *Army Ants and their Guests: Works Inspired by the Carl and Marian Rettenmeyer Collection* and *Immaterial Remains: Can You Preserve a Shadow?* Beginning Feb. 29: *Shakespeare and Puppetry* and *Paul Vincent Davis and the Art of Puppet Theater*. Don't miss the Saturday Puppet Performance series for children Feb. 29, March 14, April 18 and May 2, listed below. And be sure to check out the FUN gift selections!
- **CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archaeology Center (CSMNH)** (486-4460) ([mnh.uconn.edu](http://mnh.uconn.edu)) has its office on the UConn campus. For a full listing of current programs and registration information visit: [cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar](http://cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar).
- **Joshua's Trust (JT)** (Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust), Inc.) (429-9023) ([joshuaslandtrust.org](http://joshuaslandtrust.org)) offices are at 624 Wormwood Hill Rd. in Mansfield. JT manages over 4,000 acres in Northeast CT, most of which have walking trails open to the public. Check the website for a list of properties (with maps) + scheduled walks and programs at several JT properties in the area (including many that are family-friendly!) + the Passport Program. Lots of fun for families!!!
- **Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC)** (429-3338) ([mansfieldadvocatesforchildren.org](http://mansfieldadvocatesforchildren.org)) is an organization of parents, school personnel, early care center directors, health professionals and others concerned with the health, successful learning and community connection for children ages 0-8 in Mansfield. This group meets the first Wed. of each month at 5:30pm (except for Sept. & Jan.) to discuss policies and programs to enhance the lives of Mansfield's families. Dinner and childcare provided. Please contact Sarah Dufresne ([DufresneS@mansfieldct.org](mailto:DufresneS@mansfieldct.org)) with questions. Check the website for a listing of early care and education providers in Mansfield.
- **Mansfield Parks and Recreation Dept. (MPRD)** (429-3015) ([mansfieldcc.com](http://mansfieldcc.com)) has **many** classes, programs and activities for young children. Check the Winter 2020 brochure that is sent to every household for offerings including snow-day activities, **Community School of the Arts** music and art classes (at the splendid new Lenard Hall!), before- & after-school programs, information about **fee waivers** for eligible Mansfield residents and MUCH, MUCH more!
- **Mansfield Public Library (MPL)** (423-2501) ([mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org](http://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)) offers 3 drop-in program series for children: **Infant & Toddler Time** (brief stories, songs and movement + unstructured playtime for children ages birth-36 months with caregiver), Fridays, 10:15am-11:30am, Jan. 3- March 27; **Family Storytime** (stories, songs & simple crafts for young children with caregiver), Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am, January 4 - April 25; **Wonderful Wednesdays** (stories, songs and simple crafts for young children with caregiver), Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am, January 22 – March 18; April 1-May 15. Check the website and at the library for special programs for young children and their families, most of which are listed below.
- **Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum**, UConn (486-2712) offers skating lessons for ages 4 and up. Call for the schedule of lessons and general skating schedule, which changes frequently.
- **Storrs Farmers Market (SFM)** ([storrsfarmersmarket.org](http://storrsfarmersmarket.org)) is open year-round, including the following Saturdays during the winter months in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Library from 3-5pm: Jan. 4 & 18; Feb. 1 & 15; March 7 & 21; April 4 & 18. Come for local winter food & products from old and new vendors! BUY and EAT LOCAL!!!
- **UConn Barnes & Noble Bookstore** (486-8525) ([bookstore.uconn.edu](http://bookstore.uconn.edu)) is located at 1 Royce Circle, Downtown Storrs, is open Mon.-Fri. 10am-9pm and Sat. & Sun. 10am-7pm, and has a **great** selection of children's (and other) books + games and toys. **NEW:** customized **Storytime on Demand** every Tues., Wed. & Thurs. between 10:30am and 2:30pm PLUS **Puppet Shows** for groups of 10 or more with advance reservation.
- **UConn Department of Animal Science (ANSC)** (486-2413) ([animalscience.uconn.edu](http://animalscience.uconn.edu)) ([animalscience.uconn.edu/visitors/tour.php](http://animalscience.uconn.edu/visitors/tour.php)) hosts a number of family-friendly animal-related events during the school year (Sept.-May) and allows visitors to several barns on the UConn campus, 7 days/wk., 10am-4pm. And be sure to visit the very "cool" Dairy Bar! Check out the polo game schedule & download a brochure for young children.
- **UConn EEB (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) Greenhouses** (486-4052) (<http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/>), on the UConn campus, house a **huge** collection of amazing live plants from all over the world! Open to the public: Mon.-Fri., 8am-4pm & Sat. 10am-2pm. Call or visit the website for hours and additional information. including parking options (plan ahead!).
- **William Benton Museum of Art** (486-4520) ([thebenton.org](http://thebenton.org)) is on the UConn campus and open beginning Jan. 15, Tues.-Fri., 10am-4:30pm, Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30pm. Check the website for a list of current exhibits, some of which may be of interest to children. **I Spy** and **Scavenger Hunt** for kids and adults of all ages are always available in the permanent collection galleries. And be sure to check out the after-hours **First Thursday** events (including live music, crafts and activities) for all ages, 4:30-8pm, Feb. 6, (make Valentine cards!), March 5, April 2.

***For more information about the events listed in this calendar, check the following sources:***

**ANSC** = Department of Animal Science (UConn) (486-2413) (animalscience.uconn.edu/calendar.php)  
**BIMP** = Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (486-8580) (bimp.uconn.edu)  
**CSMNH** = CT State Museum of Natural History (486-486-4460) (mnh.uconn.edu)  
**EOS** = E.O. Smith High School (487-0877) (eosmith.org); Drama Club (429-2179)  
**JCPA** = Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts (UConn) (486-4226) (jorgensen.uconn.edu)  
**JT** = Joshua's Trust (429-9023) (joshuastrust.org)  
**MMS** = Mansfield Middle School (429-9341) (mansfieldct.org)  
**MPL** = Mansfield Public Library (423-2501) (mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)  
**MPRD** = Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department (429-3015) (mansfieldcc.com)  
**SFM** = Storrs Farmers Market (storrsfarmersmarket.org) (storrsfarmersmarket@gmail.com)  
**TOM** = Taste of Mansfield (tasteofmansfield.org)  
**WBMA** = William Benton Museum of Art (UConn) (thebenton.org) (486-4520)

***Many of the following programs require advance registration and/or fees. Some programs may change times and/or location. Plan ahead!***

***Fee waivers are available to eligible Mansfield residents for most Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department programs (429-3015). Scholarships and/or discounts may be available for other fee-based programs listed here.***

## **JANUARY 2020**

Jan. 10 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30 – Winter Family Fun Night: WiBit in the big pool, giant inflatable slide in the gym, games (+)!!! (**MPRD**)  
Jan. 11 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (**MPRD**)  
Jan. 15 (Wed.), 6:30pm --- K-12 String Fling @ the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. Fun for all ages! (**MMS**)  
Jan. 18 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (**SFM**)  
Jan. 19 (Sun.), 1-3pm – Winter Tree ID! Enjoy learning to identify trees without their leaves, indoors then outdoors. (**MPRD**)  
Jan. 25 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm – Winter Family Fun Night: Chinese New Year! WiBit in the big pool, games, toys + more! (**MPRD**)  
Jan. 26 (Sun.), 1-3pm – Oak Grove Montessori School invites area families to its annual Open House! (**456-1031**)  
Jan. 29 (Wed.), 5:30-7pm – FREE Eat Local community dinner at Mansfield Middle School; check for menus + RSVP (**TOM**)

## **FEBRUARY 2020**

Feb. 1 (Sat.), 10:30am – ***Turtle Dance Music***: The Music, Bubble & Comedy Show; high energy & movement for all ages (**MPL**)  
Feb. 1 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (**SFM**)  
Feb. 6 (Thurs.), 4:30-8pm – 1st Thurs. after hours FUN at the Benton Museum: activities, music, food, tours (all ages) (**WBMA**)  
Feb. 7 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30pm – Winter Family Fun Night: Chinese New Year! WiBit in the big pool, games, toys + more! (**MPRD**)  
Feb. 7 (Fri.), 7-9pm – Annual Valentine's Dance @ Rome Ballroom, UConn; parents/guardians & guardians (all ages) (**MPRD**)  
Feb. 9 (Sun.), 1-3pm – Feet, Hooves & Paws: Winter Animal Tracking for all ages, indoors & out (wear boots!) (**MPRD**)  
Feb. 14 (Fri.), 1:30-4pm – Kids Crafts & Play: make a valentine, play with blocks, toys & puzzles (all ages) (**MPL**)  
Feb. 14 (Fri.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue @ MMS for grades K-8; games, activities, a field trip and more! (**MPRD**)  
Feb. 18 (Tues.), 2pm – Mystic Paper Beasts presents ***Skytails!*** Native American stories about the sky in dance, masks (+) (**MPL**)  
Feb. 15 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (**SFM**)  
Feb. 15 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (**MPRD**)  
Feb. 20 (Thurs.), 7:30pm – ***Drum TAO 2020!*** Athletic bodies in contemporary costumes + explosive Taiko drumming! (**JCPA**)  
Feb. 22 (Sat.), 10am-12n – 2nd Annual Friends and Farmers of Mansfield @ Mansfield Library. Come shop + get info. (**TOM**)  
Feb. 22 (Sat.), 5:30-8:30pm – Winter Family Fun Night: Chinese New Year! WiBit in the big pool, games, toys + more! (**MPRD**)  
Feb. 23, (Sun.), 2pm – ***Pete the Cat***, a TheaterworksUSA musical production. Your “favorite rockin’ blue cat” on stage! (**JCPA**)  
Feb. 28 (Fri.), 7pm – EOS Drama Club production of ***The Dream Rehearsed*** @ EOS Auditorium. One act; 50 mins. (**EOS**)  
Feb. 29 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – Puppet Performance: ***Raccoon Tales*** performed by Brad Shur of Paper Heart Puppets (**BIMP**)  
Feb. 29 (Sat.), 12n – Opening reception for 2 new exhibits at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry; tour + snacks (**BIMP**)  
Feb. 29 (Sat.), 7pm – EOS Drama Club production of ***The Dream Rehearsed*** @ EOS Auditorium. One act; 50 mins. (**EOS**)

## MARCH 2020

March 1 (Sun.), 7pm – EOS Drama Club production of *The Dream Rehearsed* @ EOS Auditorium. One act; 50 mins. (EOS)  
March 3 (Tues.), 7pm – Winter Concert by E.O. Smith High School Bands @ E. O. Smith Auditorium (EOS)  
March 5 (Th.), 4:30-8pm – 1st Thurs. after hours FUN at the Benton Museum: activities, music, food, tours (all ages) (WBMA)  
March 6 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30pm – Winter Family Fun Night: Take a Drum Ride from 7:15-8pm! Plus games, toys + more! (MPRD)  
March 7 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)  
March 8 (Sun.), 2pm – Project Learning Tree program on Climate Change Action with activities for children! (CSMNH) (JT)  
March 8 (Sun.), 3pm – Benefit choral concert by Take Note! @ First Church of Christ in Mansfield (Center) (take-note.org)  
March 10 (Tues.), 7-8:30pm – Mansfield Middle School Spring Country Dance! GREAT for families, so Y'all come!!!! (MMS)  
March 11 (Wed.), 7pm – E. O. Smith High School String Orchestra concert @ E. O. Smith Auditorium (EOS)  
March 12 (Thurs.), 7:30pm – Cirque Flip Fabrique's *Blizzard!* Exciting circus performances & music (all ages, 4+) (JCPA)  
March 14 (Sat.), 10:30am – Magician Ed Popielarczyk: plenty of humor, balloon twisting and great magic tricks! (MPL)  
March 14 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – Puppet Performance: *She Thinks She's Queen Elizabeth But She's.....* by PuppetKabob (BIMP)  
March 18 (Wed.), 7pm – E.O. Smith High School Choirs & Chamber Orchestra @ E.O. Smith Auditorium (EOS)  
March 21 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)  
March 21 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)  
March 24 (Tues.), 7:30pm – The Russian National Ballet presents its performance of *Swan Lake*; gorgeous! (JCPA)  
March 28 (Sat.), 4:30-7:30pm – Winter Family Fun Night: WiBit in the big pool, ping pong, board games, toys + more! (MPRD)  
March 29 (Sun.), 5pm – Consonare's Festival Concert of Women's Voices at Storrs Congregational Church (consonare-sing.org)

## APRIL 2020

April 2 (Th.), 4:30-8pm – 1st Thurs. after hours FUN at the Benton Museum: activities, music, food, tours (all ages) (WBMA)  
April 4 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local! (SFM)

### April School Vacation Camps, Workshops, Activities (April 13-17)

**Contact:** Mansfield Parks & Recreation Dept. (429-3015; mansfieldcc.com); Mansfield Public Library (429-2501; mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org)

April 15 (Wed.), 10:30am – Pumpernickel Puppets presents *Sir George and the Dragon*, including a princess & silly bat! (MPL)  
April 18 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – Puppet Performance: *Mr. Cuddles is Missing*, created by Faye Dupras (+) (BIMP)  
April 18 (Sat.), 3-5pm – Storrs Winter Farmers Market @ Buchanan Auditorium/Mansfield Library. Buy & Eat Local. (SFM)  
April 18 (Sat.), 4:30-6:30pm – Family Paint Night at the Community Center! Dress for a mess; BYO snack. (ages 5 +) (MPRD)  
April 19 (Sun.), 2pm – *Angelina Ballerina, The Musical!* Angelina and her friends enjoy performing all types of dance! (JCPA)  
April 28 (Fri.), 7:30am-5:30pm – Recreation Rescue @ MMS for grades K-8; games, activities, a field trip and more (MPRD)

## (Early) MAY 2020

May 2 (Sat.), 9am-4pm – Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Sale @ Buchanan Center; LOTS of children's books (+) (MPL)  
May 2 (Sat.), 11am & 2pm – Puppet performance: *Kitty's Corner & Other Stories*, by D. Joseph & String Theory Theater (BIMP)  
May 3 (Sun.), 9am-3pm – Friends of the Mansfield Library Book Sale @ Buchanan Center; LOTS of children's books (+) (MPL)  
May 3 (Sun.), 2-4pm – Come dance around the May Pole (+) at the Atwood Farm at the top of Gurleyville Rd.! (rain cancels) (JT)  
May 9 (Sat.), 10am-2pm – Spring Fair @ MHM with games, bounce house, live music, food, face painting (if rain: 5/16) (MHM)

**Family Fun in Mansfield** is compiled by Becky Lehmann 3x/year (Jan.-April; May-Aug.; Sept.-Dec.) for Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC).

Please contact her (423-5807; slehmann@snet.net) if you wish to submit items for future editions.