

REFLECT

THE PAST

CELEBRATE

THE PRESENT

DREAM

THE FUTURE



Manchester is a scoop of ice cream and a Bernice Original **winged cheeseburger** from Shady Glen. It's a trip down the **yellow brick road** at the Cosmic Omelet. It's a sunrise stroll up the **white trail** at Case and a round of **disc golf** at Center Springs. It's a **new toy** at the Time Machine and a **matinee** at the Parkade. Above all, **Manchester is home**. It's where we live, work, and play—and its' story is the **story of us**.

As we **celebrate** 200 years since Manchester's incorporation, we remember where we've been and look forward to where we're going. Let's celebrate all the things that make Manchester our **favorite place to be**.



Dear Manchester Community,

Manchester has much to be proud of as we look back over the past two centuries. Out of a humble and rural past, this community has grown into a thriving, dynamic, diverse, and growing municipality that is an engine of growth for the entire region. In the midst of significant transformation, the one constant has been the resilience, determination, and kindness of the people of Manchester. From the settlers who helped incorporate the Town, to the workers at the Cheney Mills who helped power the industrial growth of the nation, to the hardworking students and families who today contribute to our region’s rich culture and economy, the Manchester community has always embodied the American ideals of hard work, justice, and civic mindedness.

While at certain times we have fallen short of our stated ideals, over the past several decades the Town has made significant strides in being inclusive and opening our doors to people from all different walks of life. Indeed, Manchester is a place where everyone is welcome. Yet even though its residents come from various backgrounds, what makes Manchester such a special place is the strong and binding sense of community that ties all our various neighborhoods and people together.

Simply put, we are “One Manchester.”

It is on this strong foundation that we look out optimistically towards the next two hundred years. While our buildings, streetscapes, and town demographics may change, what hasn’t and won’t change is the strong sense of civic spirit that anchors our institutions and our people. With these fundamentals we will build on our proud past to create an even more promising future.

As Manchester kicks off its 200th birthday celebrations, let us use this opportunity to come together to reflect on our past, celebrate our present, and dream about the possibilities for Manchester over the next decades. On behalf of the Town, we invite you to join in the festivities and events the Town has planned this year and get involved in helping shape the next chapters in Manchester’s storied history.


Mayor Jay Moran


Town Manager Steve Stephanou



Bicentennial Launch Event
Photo: Zack Carroll

Special Thanks for the Support of Town of Manchester Board of Directors

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McKenna Piper
Alexander Schraedley
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Jamie Taylor
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Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

23 Walks with the Town Historian

Learn more about Manchester's history during our 200th Birthday year by participating in free history walks. Special reward for those who attend at least 10 of the 23 walking tours.

Rain or shine. Extreme weather cancels.

Time• 1pm (unless otherwise noted)

Contact info• Manchester Historical Society
Susan Barlow, newsletter@manchesterhistory.org

Phone• (860) 808-7103

Date• 1/28/2023

Location• Cheney Railroad. 146 Hartford Rd.

Date• 2/4/2023

Location• Botti Farm, 330 Bush Hill Rd.

Date• 2/19/2023

Location• North End & Bon Ami. 8th District,
18 Main Street.

Date• 3/5/2023

Location• Downtown. Forest St. lot, 1050 Main St.

Date• 3/18/2023

Location• Hollywood Plaza, 283 E. Center St.
near corner

Date• 4/8/2023

Location• Porter St. and Reservoirs, 395 Porter St.

Date• 4/22/2023

Location• Hockanum River. 65 N. School St.

Date• 5/20/2023

Location• Cheney Railroad. 146 Hartford Rd.

Date• 5/28/2023

Location• Incorporation date, Town Center, 41 Center St.

Date• 6/3/2023

Location• Center Springs Park. 39 Lodge Drive

Date• 6/4/2023

Location• Salters Pond, 123 Lydall St.

Date• 6/17/2023

Location• Great Lawn, Mansions, 146 Hartford Rd.

Date• 7/1/2023

Location• Historic Downtown Churches. 896 Main St.
Enter parking lot from Church St.

Date• 7/9/2023

Location• Manchester Green. 549 Middle Tpk. East

Date• 8/6/2023

Location• Buckland Cemetary. 1210 Tolland Tpk.

Today Manchester is a bustling Hartford suburb boasting 60,000 residents and a population density of 2,400 inhabitants per square mile. But did you know our town used to host an entirely different demographic?

Millions of years ago when North America was just beginning to rip away from Africa, dinosaurs made their home here, leaving behind more skeletal specimens than in any other site in Northern New England. In the red bluffs that today form the entrance to the Buckland Hills Mall, paleontologists uncovered an Anchisaurus skeleton that has been called “the most complete and best preserved skeleton of a prosauropod ever found in North America.” Today, the remains of Manchester’s first inhabitants can be found on display in Yale’s Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Zooming millions of years into the future, Manchester became known as a hunting grounds for a group of Native Americans known as the Podunk. An Algonquian tribe, the Podunk got their name from *Pod-Un-Kauk* a term meaning “low land beyond.” They had four villages within the bounds of present day Manchester, the largest one being on present day Olcott Street. They also had a fort or hunting house consisting of a ridge circling an oak tree on present day West Center Street. At a smaller village called *Hassun-adchu-auk* (“stony hill place”) were found the remains of stone hoes and other farming implements.

The Podunk navigated a series of small and great paths (*Mishi-maya-gat* from *Mishi* “great” and *mayi* “path”) to get from one village to another. One of these great paths is still traveled daily and is known as Center, East Center, and West Center Streets. Going eastward, the Great Trail passed one of the Podunk’s favorite fishing spots, the falls at Center Springs Park. The Podunk caught lamprey eels and dressed them under a giant oak tree which stood where Center Church stands today. The trail led easterly all the way to *Wiasbquaqwumsuck* (which today we know as “Bolton Notch”) before reaching a fork leading to Coventry on one hand and Mohegan on the other.



In **1672**, Major John Talcott of Hartford bargained with Podunk Chief Joseph for a square plot of land that became known as “The Five Miles.” The tract consisted of farmland in the west and a series of small streams in the eastern hills. A “Commons” was set aside for public use and regulated by town vote.

In these early days, the main commodities in the Five Miles were tar, pipe stoves, pork, beef, wool, flax and cider. Gold and silver were scarce, and Indian wampum was used as currency. The village collected funds to pay the village schoolmaster and to support the poor in the community. A saw mill was established on what is now known as the Hockanum River (then, the “Saw Mill River.”) In December 15, **1713**, a town meeting voted that “Lt. Thomas Olcott Shall have Liberty to keep a house of publick Entertainment for Travellers” and the first tavern was established.

At a Town Meeting in **1745** it was voted to establish the first permanent schoolhouse at Hop Brook Village. Six years later, in 1751, schools were established in Buckland, at the Manchester Green, and in between the Keeney residences (now Keeney Street).

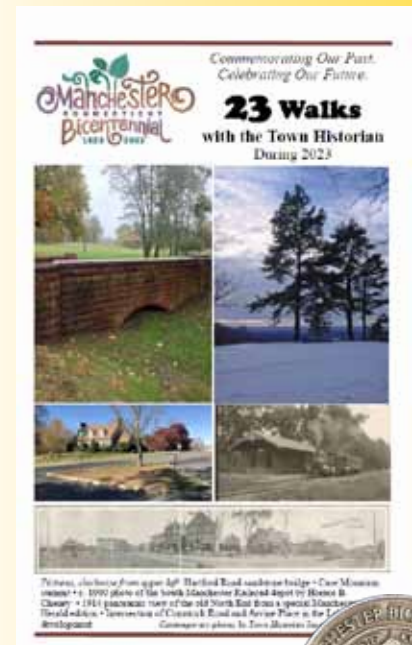
Two toll roads were established—Tolland Turnpike and Middle Turnpike—and became part of the route stagecoaches would travel from Hartford to Boston.

In **1772**, an ecclesiastical society called Orford Parish was established in the Five Miles by the Connecticut General Assembly. The name “Orford” came from the last syllables of “Windsor” and “Hartford.” The boundaries of Orford Parish were “northerly on East Windsor, Southerly on Glastonbury, Easterly on Bolton, and westerly on a line drawn parallel to western line of the town of Bolton and five miles and one half distant from said town.”

In **1781**, General George Washington stopped in Orford Parish on his way to Newport, Rhode Island. He stayed at the Buckland Tavern on Tolland Turnpike. The Buckland Tavern also hosted Marquis de Lafayette and his French soldiers on his way to East Hartford.

Hikes, continued

- Date:** 8/26/2023
Location: West Side. Washington School, 94 Cedar St.
- Date:** 9/17/2023
Location: Center Memorial Park. 41 Center St.
- Date:** 9/30/2023
Location: Cheney District Walk. 146 Hartford Rd.
- Date:** 10/7/2023
Location: Charter Oak Park, East Coast Greenway, 50 Charter Oak St.
- Date:** 10/21/2023
Location: Lakeview. Corner of Comstock/So. Main.
- Date:** 11/5/2023
Location: North End. Apel Pl./ 41 North Main St.
- Date:** 11/25/2023
Location: Highland Park. 670 Spring St.
- Date:** 12/31/2023
Location: Reception. 175 Pine St.



Take the Challenge
Earn a commemorative Challenge Coin by participating in at least 10 of the 23 Historical Walks led by Town Historian Susan Barlow.

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

April

2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

THE FUTURE exhibit – Artists illustrate their vision for what Manchester, CT will be like in the next Century. This is part of a 3-venue art show called 300 YEARS OF MANCHESTER.

Date• 4/8/2023

Time• 10:00AM-2:00PM

Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.

Contact info• WORK_SPACE, Stacey Zackin, Manager, szackin@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-6029

300 Years of Manchester: The PRESENT

Manchester Public Elementary School students will have their work on display. Exhibit runs from 4/18-5/28/23. Check website for hours of operation.

Date• 4/18/2023

Time• 12:00PM-4:00PM

Location• Lutz Museum, 247 South Main St.

Contact info• Lutz Children's Museum

Patricia Buxton, pbuxton@lutzmuseum.org

Phone• (860) 643-0949



Manchester Art Association Bicentennial Exhibit

All medium, all member exhibit of iconic Manchester will run 4/20/23- 7/6/23, Mon.-Fri.

Date• 4/20/2023

Time• 8:30AM-5:00PM

Location• Manchester Town Hall, 41 Center St.

Contact info• Manchester Art Association

Carolyn Emerson, Cvemerson39@gmail.com

The Future of Magic

Local award-winning magician Kody Hildebrand puts a new twist on traditional magic.

Date• 4/22/2023

Time• 7:30PM-8:30PM

Contact info• WORK_SPACE, Stacey Zackin,

Manager, szackin@manchesterct.gov

Register at• <https://bit.ly/futureofmagic>

Fee• \$24 per ticket

As early as 1654, the Hockanum River and its tributaries were used to generate power for various mills. A saw mill was established by William Goodwin and a grist mill by John Crow. During the Revolutionary War, guns and gun powder were manufactured at Colonel John Pitkin's Mill.

One of the first paper mills in Connecticut was built by Ebenezer Watson and Austin Ledyard at what was then known as Union Village. The mill provided paper for the Continental Army and the Hartford press, and the news of the Battle at Lexington was printed on paper from this mill.

In **1783**, Pitkins Glass Works was established when William Pitkin, Elisha Pitkin, and Samuel Bishop were granted the only permit for glassmaking in the state. The ruins of Pitkins Glass Works are still standing today.

Samuel Pitkin and Company built Connecticut's first successful cotton mill at Hilliardville.

Other industries in Manchester were the manufacturing of cast iron plows on Manchester Green and a copper mine at Highland Park.

Although the Parish was dotted with these successful small manufacturing plants, agriculture was the principle economic activity in Orford Parish. Staple crops were corn, rye, oats and barley. Wheat was unsuccessful.

Originally part of Hartford, Orford Parish became a part of East Hartford when East Hartford was incorporated as a separate town in 1783. Orford Parish established its own meeting house and held its first town meeting there on November 18, 1813. At one of these town meetings, John Olds advocated that Orford Parish be incorporated as a separate town from East Hartford. A decade later he got his wish and, in May of 1823, Orford Parish was incorporated as the Town of Manchester. The name was chosen after Manchester, England, a town also known for its textile manufacturing.



After Manchester's incorporation, between **1823** and 1873, the Town transformed from a small farming community to a bustling industrial center. Thirty industrial establishments sprang up including seven paper mills, five woolen mills, two cotton mills and two silk mills. In addition to the factories, a dozen shops sprang up producing goods for local consumption including: ploughs, musical instruments, leather goods, wagons, cigars, shaving soap, and ink.

In the **1830s**, the industry that would become Manchester's primary one – silk manufacturing – sprang up. In January 1838, Ralph, Ward, Rush, and Frank Cheney, along with Edward Arnold, built a small silk factory on Hop Brook and established the Mount Nebo Silk Manufacturing Company. Skeining of the silk was a monotonous task and a reader was brought in to entertain the workers while they worked. The books were later collected into the South Manchester Public Library.

In **1855**, the Cheney Brothers pioneered a new method for spinning what had been previously been considered waste silk, allowing them to profitably turn silk from pierced cocoons into a marketable product. After this innovation, the company began to rapidly expand with the enlargement of the Manchester plant and the addition of new mills in Hartford. The company was incorporated as The Cheney Brothers Silk Manufacturing Company. By 1870, 15 percent of Manchester's population was employed in the silk mills.

Other industries also grew in Manchester. In 1850, the railroad came to Manchester with the Manchester Railway Company operating a line between Hartford and Bolton Notch. The railroad stimulated other manufacturing including a cotton mill, a woolen mill, and several paper mills.

The flourishing of manufacturing during Manchester's first 50 years of incorporation had a huge influence on Manchester's social life. The population swelled from 1400 in 1820 to 4223 in 1870

Rebuilding Together Safe at Home Kit Distribution

In recognition of the Bicentennial, Rebuilding Together Manchester will distribute 200 Safe at Home Kits to Manchester residents. Supplies limited.

Date• 4/26/2023

Time• 1:00PM-4:00PM

Location• Manchester Senior Center
549 East Middle Tpke.

Contact info• Rebuilding Together of Manchester
Molly Devanney, molly.devanney@gmail.com

May

Tiny Podcast - E1• History of Indigenous People

Steven Penney will share his expertise on the people and cultures that existed here before the arrival of Europeans. He's spent years researching and uncovering the stories of indigenous people. Join us as we explore the rich and diverse history of our town.

Date• 5/3/2023

Location• Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info• Nico Arias,
bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079

A Week in the Life Photography Contest

Photographers of all levels of experience and expertise are invited to participate in 1 of 3 workshops: portrait, landscape, or special effect photography. Workshop attendees will have a week to take pictures in Manchester and submit their best 3 online. A panel will select 23 to print, frame and display in the Expressions of Manchester Exhibit opening on August 6th.

Date• 5/11/2023

Time• 6:30PM-8:00PM

Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street

Contact info• WORK_SPACE

Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-6029

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

2nd Saturday Downtown

Date• 5/13/2023

Time• 10:00AM-4:00PM

In honor of Manchester's Bicentennial, a FREE trolley will be circling the Downtown area. Imagine Main Street Buskers singing at Trolley stops. Take a Butterfly stroll down Main Street to view Spring and Butterfly-Inspired Creations on display in our planters. Free parking. Food and Shopping; View and Create Art! Record your Manchester Memory @ WORK_SPACE.

300 Years of Manchester- The PAST, The PRESENT, The FUTURE.

A 3-venue art show-

Free transportation between venues by open air trolley.



THE PAST exhibit presented by the Manchester Historical Society, 175 Pine Street.
Phone• (860) 647-9983.

THE PRESENT exhibit @ the Lutz Museum, 247 South Main St.

Contact• pbuxton@lutzmuseum.org
Manchester Public Elementary School student art on display.

THE FUTURE exhibit @ WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St. Artists illustrate their vision for what Manchester, CT will be like in the next century.

Contact• Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov
Phone• (860) 647-6029

Reflect, Celebrate, Dream in the Park

A community event to include music, yoga, drum circle, time capsule display, 'your story preservation', kidzone, family fun and more!

Date• 5/13/2023

Time• 9:00AM-2:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park,
Downtown Manchester

Rain location Leisure Labs @ Mahoney,
110 Cedar St.

Contact info• Heather Wlochowski,
HeatherW@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-5213



as people flocked to the Town for jobs in manufacturing. By **1870**, the population also diversified as immigrants joined the ranks with thirty percent of the residents being foreign born (primarily of Irish, English, German, or Swedish heritage).

This population growth necessitated the enlargement of the school facilities and new school buildings were built in every district in town. "Select" schools (or private schools) were also established to provide education beyond the grammar school level.

In **1856**, Manchester-born Christopher Miner Spencer became the Superintendent of the Cheney Brothers' machine shop and around this time turned his mechanical mind to the subject of the war, inventing what would become known as the Spencer Repeating Rifle. It wasn't long before the Spencer Repeating Rifle Company, financed in part by the Cheney Brothers, sprung up in Hartford and began manufacturing rifles that played a significant role in arming the Union forces. Tradition has it that Abraham Lincoln himself took an interest in the technology and fired a Spencer repeating rifle on the grounds of the White House.

The years from **1817 to 1917** provided more rapid expansion with the conversion from water to steam power and the construction of a block of weaving mills and velvet mills, the erection of a two-story concrete dyehouse, and the addition of 24 acres of factory buildings and storehouses. The Cheney Brothers built a two-mile long steam railroad which connected to the main line from Boston to Hartford. It acquired hundreds of acres of land to buffer its reservoirs and provide housing for company employees. It also established a gas and electric company, as well as a sewer system, and a free public library for the use of all Manchester residents and a large hall for recreational purposes.

From **1870 to 1920**, after surviving two disastrous fires, the Case Brothers built their Highland Park paper mill into a business supporting 100 employees. In 1905, the Case Brothers set aside mountaintop land for public recreational use and established the beginnings of what is now known as Case Mountain Park.



The Hilliard woolen mills, established in 1794 and acquired in 1870 by Elisha E. Hilliard, employed over 200 by the 1920s.

One other flourishing manufacturer during this time period was the Orford Soap Company which manufactured the mineral soap Bon Ami and was headquartered on Hilliard Street, with factories across the United States and Canada.

The later half of the 1920s and the 1930s brought a series of setbacks to the community with a decline in the silk industry and in manufacturing in general due to the Great Depression. The Cheney firm rallied a bit during World War II but was finally sold in 1954. By the second half of the 20th century, Manchester residents were more likely to be employed at East Harford's airplane plant than in a Manchester textile mill.

Manchester participated in both World Wars sending 1,242 enlistees (including 12 yeomanettes and one army nurse) to World War I and losing 109 in World War II.

After both wars, there was a period of public school construction and Manchester students were furnished with upgraded facilities. In 1933, Frederick A. Verplanck became the first superintendent of all town schools. Manchester Community College was founded in 1963.

In 1947, the Town changed from a traditional town meeting style of government to a council-manager form.

From the mid-twentieth century to the present day, Manchester has shifted toward an entrepreneurial economy. In 1956, there were 104 business registrations. By 2015, the annual number of registrations was over 400. Just like in the times of the Cheney Mills, Manchester still boasts a diverse community with over 38% of births registered to families originating in another country.

Which brings us to Manchester Today.

2nd Saturday Downtown

Continued

200 Trees for a Greener Tomorrow

In celebration of Manchester's Bicentennial, the Manchester Garden Club plans to GIVE 200 native tree seedlings, along with the fact sheets and planting instructions, to Manchester residents. Come visit our table at the Reflect, Celebrate, Dream in the Park event at Center Memorial Park.

Date• 5/13/2023

Time• 10AM-2:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park

Rain location Leisure Labs @ Mahoney,
110 Cedar St.

Contact info• Manchester Garden Club
Donna Kaffenberger,
donna.kaffenberger60@gmail.com

A Day in the Park

The Manchester Elks are hosting annual 'Safe Kids' program. Participate in Hoop Shoot, a National Free Throw Program for Youth Ages 8-13. Take part in the soccer shoot, for youth under 14. Come have fun!

Date• 5/13/2023

Time• 11:00AM-3:00PM

Location• Charter Oak Park

Contact info• Manchester Elks Lodge #1893
Chris Terry, terryx4@cox.net

Tiny Podcast-E2• Industry and Farming

Walter Woodward, Connecticut State Historian Emeritus, and Susan Barlow, Town of Manchester's Historian, join us as we explore the history of farming in Connecticut. In addition, we look closer at and uncover stories of the people and communities that have shaped the evolution of industry here in Manchester, CT.

Date• 5/17/2023

Location• Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info• Nico Arias,

bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079



Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Senior Center Bicentennial Breakfast

Enjoy a light breakfast of pastries, fruit, and coffee while reminiscing on the Senior Center's place in Manchester History. Call the Senior Center at 860-647-3211 to register.

Date• 5/18 2023

Time• 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Location• Manchester Senior Center

Halfway to Turkey Day 5k & Spring St. Mile

Celebrate halfway to your favorite day in Manchester - Thanksgiving! Join us for 1/2 way to Turkey Day 5k or start easy with the Spring Street mile. T-shirts to all pre-registered runners. Walkers are welcome, however, there is a 1-hour course time-limit.

Date• 5/20/2023

Time• 8:30am-10:30am

Location• Globe Hollow - 100 Spring St.

Contact info• Manchester Running Company,
manchesterrunningcompany@gmail.com

Fee• \$10 youth | \$30 adults

Free Restring Day!

2023 is a milestone for Dubaldo Music Center - 70 years in Business in Manchester! In honor of this and the Bicentennial we plan to use 70 + 200 (or more!) guitar strings on our "free Restring Day".

Date• 5/27/2023

Time• 10:00AM-2:00PM

Location• Dubaldo Music Center, 881 Main St

Contact info• Dubaldo Music Center
Peter Dubaldo, pete@dubaldomusic.com

Phone• (860) 649-2036



2023 Memorial Day Parade

The parade route will begin at the Army and Navy Club, 1090 Main St., turns right on Center St., and then circles Agostinelli Park (former Munro Park), and concludes at Center Park with a Memorial Day program honoring our fallen veterans. All are welcome.

Date• 5/29/2023

Time• 9:30AM

Location• Downtown Manchester.

Contact info• Permanent Memorial Day Parade
Committee; Linda Rugaris, aruganis@cox.net



While Manchester may have originally been built on a foundation of industry and manufacturing, its evolution has seen it transformed into a community whose strongest draw is access to a quality of life that many comparable communities simply don't offer. The Manchester of the post-Industrial Revolution era would see increases in discretionary and leisure time for both children and adults.

With this increase in free time, so grew the focus on supporting social and leisure services that provided more than economic security. This would eventually serve as the **strong foundation** that has allowed the town to focus on **delivering thoughtful and inclusive programs and services**, an investment that, for many residents, has made Manchester their home and not merely their address.

As the community continues to evolve, so has the design of their programs and the physical infrastructure that supports them. A large community of nearly 60,000 residents, Manchester has gained a reputation as an urban center and hub for business and commercial services. Lesser known to the outside visitor, however, are its wealth of recreation opportunities which weave throughout town, boasting everything from outdoor fitness equipment to boundless play structures to vast tracts of preserved greenspace.

The investment in **dynamic, multi-use community spaces and parks has helped Manchester to stay ahead of its shifting demographics**, says Rob Toppliff, Parks & Facilities Manager for the Town. "Disc golf courses, free play structures and drop-in courts for pickleball, tennis, and basketball, those things matter," and to this point that investment has demonstrated a proven model for how to accommodate the needs of its current residents and provides a solid foundation to help anticipate the needs of the communities changing demographics.

Over the years, Manchester's push to provide its citizens with access to a diverse and ever-changing line of programs and services have undoubtedly made it **a destination for many new families looking to add their own chapter to the community's story.** By providing the



opportunity to authentically engage in the process of policy and decision making, whether through public forum, serving on town committees, or being a vocal participant in town organized focus groups, there is a long history of not only being able to have your voice heard, but listened to.

“Manchester has always been a place where you can start out from nothing.”

These words, spoken by Republican Registrar of Voters Timothy Becker, further amplify the spirit of Manchester and its Bicentennial Celebration. As Registrar, Becker’s duties are to ensure that elections are conducted in a timely and responsible fashion, and also to implement new election laws set forth by state legislature, many of which seek to expand access for modified forms of participation, such as early voting.

For Democratic Registrar James Stevenson, the duty of Registrar is simple: listen to the community and adapt to meet their needs.

“If there is a need, we try to respond to it,” Stevenson said. “[We like] to think of ourselves as the ultimate community engagement.”

These needs are ones that not only evolve with the ever-changing Manchester community, but are also ones that mirror those of countless communities across the country. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Registrar of Voters offices across the state were forced to evaluate their practices to ensure that all residents had safe, accessible and equitable voting methods, in both local and federal elections.

From the aforementioned early voting to updated technology that assists those with the physical act of voting, improved access to voting has been a bipartisan focus in past elections. While there are still obstacles to be tackled, highlighted by matters such as Manchester’s election turnout rates (85% in presidential elections, 30% in local elections), the Registrar of Voters’ office is yet another example of Manchester’s municipal government’s willingness to implement change for the betterment of the community.

Tiny Podcast -E3- Cheney Family

Susan Barlow, the Manchester Historian, has a wealth of knowledge about the Cheney Rail Trail and the Cheney family’s impact on the town. Susan will take us on a journey through time and give us a brief history of the trail and the Cheney family’s role in shaping the town.

Date• 5/31/2023

Location• Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info• Nico Arias,
bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079

June

Celebrate Manchester Week
June 3-10

Town Wide Tag Sale

Annual tag sale to support MWC Scholarship Fund. Register to be a participating tagsaler at your home. Participants will receive location identification on the community wide tag sale list and marketing through the townwide calendar.

Date• 6/3/2023 (rain date: 6/4/2023)

Time• varies by location

Location• online map

Contact info• Manchester Women’s Club /

Karen Allies, kar_ski@hotmail.com

Fee• \$20.00



Joseph D. Negri Concert in Center Memorial Park



Join us to kick off “Celebrate Manchester Week” Free concert featuring Soul Sound revue. Bring a blanket, chair, family and friends. Food available for sale.

Date• 6/3/2023 (rain date 6/4/2023)

Time• 6:30PM

Location• Center Memorial Park, Downtown

Contact• Kevin Zingler, kzingler@marcct.org

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Celebrate Manchester Week
June 3-10, continued

Manchester Women's Club Scavenger Hunt

Have fun while exploring Manchester. Download your Scavenger Hunt card off the MWC website.

Date• 6/3/2023

Time• 10:00AM

Location• download at: manchesterwomensclub.org

Contact info• Manchester Women's Club

Karen Allies, kar_ski@hotmail.com

Take a Hike National Trails Day Weekend

Take a hike on any of Manchester's extensive trail networks.

Date• 6/3/2023

Time• sunrise to sunset

Location• go to bettermanchester.com and search "Trail Guide"

Phone• (860) 647-3084



Art in the Park

The outdoor arts festival includes live music, and spoken word entertainment. To participate as an artist, vendor or performer contact us.

Date• 6/4/2023

Time• 10:00AM-4:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park, Downtown Manchester

Contact info• Artists in Real Time, Inc.

Cynthia Bulaong,

artintheparkmanchester@gmail.com



Senior Line Dance Party

Join us for an evening of fun and line dancing as we "Celebrate Manchester."

Date• 6/6/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Manchester Senior Center,
549 East Middle Tpke

Contact info• Kevin Zingler,
kevinzingler@gmail.org

Age• 60+

For Brianna Smith, the Town of Manchester's Director of Communications and Civic Engagement, one of the primary focuses for continuing Manchester's social and cultural growth is through the streamlining of communication channels between town leaders, local organizations & Manchester residents. Whether it be hazardous weather alerts, program updates or project announcements, timely and accurate information is key in **keeping the community informed and ensuring that municipal operations remain transparent.**

"Over the last year, our office worked to create a more streamlined process for internal communications with the help of new technologies. This process now allows Departments to share information in a more timely and accurate way through the Town Department's communications channel," Smith said. "Our office continues to look at new and better ways of getting Departmental information out to the community and is currently working on a program that better equips Departments with the tools and guides they need to do this."

In order to ensure that communication remains open, a multitude of digital channels have evolved to meet the ever changing needs of Manchester's residents and workers. This includes *Manchester Matters*, "Manchester's trusted source for local news and important Town information," as well as the *Your Voice Matters* (yvmmct.com) campaign. *Your Voice Matters*, which provides residents a forum to "share [their] opinion, feedback and inquiries," is a nuanced means for allowing residents to have their voices heard and allow local leaders the chance to listen, adapt and evolve. *Better Manchester*, print and digital publication, is the official guide for Town's residents, featuring stories and timely information about new programs, facilities, and more.

For the Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation Director Chris Silver, it's no accident that Manchester has been able to continually evolve with the times, shifting its priorities to accommodate the changing needs of its rapidly changing residents.

"Everybody likes to see new parks and new facilities, but there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes, sometimes years in advance," Silver

said. “That positions you to be able to jump on an opportunity. **Manchester has done an excellent job preparing for the future**, for being a “shovel-ready” community that can act quickly as funding becomes available.”

One of the byproducts of that relentless evolution is a surplus of historic, often beautifully constructed buildings, such as our decommissioned schools, that have since outlived their original purpose, now falling under the stewardship of the municipality. While some might first recognize a burden, others, including Silver and the members of the communities Building Repurposing Committee, see potential and opportunity.

“Opportunity for sure! But that being said, we still have a lot of work to do. Right now, we are formulating a long-term strategy on how to repurpose some of these buildings. The community input in terms of that process has been essential. Without that input, we have no direction to move forward,” Silver said.

Director Silver mentions that Manchester has done an excellent job in being a “readied community,” and that sentiment is one that can really sum up the history of the town. A community strongly rooted in its history, while at the same time embracing the challenge and promise of its future.

“One of the most valuable lessons that we have learned throughout this process has been the importance of engaging some of the traditionally underrepresented members of our community,” Silver said. “We definitely have more work to do in that area, but I think this process is going to set us up to better represent our residents as we continue to grow and change.”

No matter what track of local government, regardless of service or programs offered, Silver’s words echo the sentiment of the Town of Manchester’s Bicentennial Celebration, and thus the spirit of Manchester itself. Manchester is a **town that has learned from its rich history and past mistakes, built a welcoming and diverse community & continues to adapt and evolve to meet the needs, wants and desires of the community**, preparing the town to serve its future generations.



Celebrate Manchester Week
June 3-10, continued

Spruce Street Farmers Market Opening Day Scavenger Hunt

Pick up a market scavenger hunt card at our Welcome Pavilion and learn more about our market while you complete it: Featured food trucks: Good Farm and Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date• 6/7/2023

Time• 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location• Welcome Pavilion, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

Visit our art exhibits, shop in our Gallery Shop and tour our coworking and meeting spaces. Live entertainment by Imagine Main Street and art demonstrations and/or craft projects for the whole family.

Date• 6/10/2023

Time• 10:00AM-2:00PM

Location• WORK SPACE, 903 Main St.

Contact info• Stacey Zackin,
szackin@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-6029

Perennial Planters of Manchester “Through the Garden Gate” 2023 Garden Tour

Garden Tours of (6) residential gardens:
16 Tam Rd, 463 E Center St, 154 Haystack,
800 Spring St ext, 43 Elwood Rd, 52 Bell St.
located in Manchester

Date• 6/10/2023

Time• 9:30AM-3:30PM

Location• varies

Contact info• Perennial Planters Garden Club
of Manchester

Judith Filiault, filiault.judyxf@gmail.com

Fee• \$20 advance ticket \$25 day of





Everything

The Town of Manchester Bicentennial Celebration is a **community event** in the truest sense of the term. The celebration encourages all who have staked a claim in Manchester, whether it is their home, place of work or simply a spot they like to spend their free time, to **unite as one** in celebration of its **200th birthday**.

Living History Project

In honor of Manchester's Bicentennial year, the Town's Bicentennial Working Group has teamed up with Zack Carroll, photographer and videographer, to produce a documentary that showcases both the community and its history.

The **Living History Project** is an effort to collect stories from the people that have experienced life in Manchester, Connecticut. There is no story too big or too small. The preservation of your memories play a crucial role in creating history.

- Tell us about your **favorite places** in town,
- Your **fonddest memories** of Manchester,
- Your **hopes & aspirations** for future generations.

Get involved

Please share any stories, or ideas you would like preserved.

Please fill out the form online if you have any interest in sharing your experiences in Manchester. The interviews are brief and can be as simple as you would like.

Where will your stories be in another 25...50...100 years?

Documentary Premier

The Living History Project documentary will premier at the Lights in the Sky-A Drone Show Event at Northwest Park, September 22, 5PM-9PM. (See page 23).

To learn more about Zack Carroll Photography: zackcarroll.com

Become A Brand Partner

As a true community celebration, the Town of Manchester Bicentennial Working Group wants all to feel welcome and included, whether you are a Manchester lifer or are spending your very first year in town. Become a part of the celebration and show your pride in your town and community by becoming an official Bicentennial Brand Partner. Use any of the Official Bicentennial brand artwork, including logos, letterheads, templates and more, to dress up your organization or to include in any of your Bicentennial marketing and promotional materials.

What does it mean to become a brand partner?

- **Access** and use of Bicentennial brand and logo for your organization and associated celebration.
- **Recognition and inclusion** of your organization and associated event online.
- An **opportunity** to showcase your organization, project, and pride for the Manchester community.

To become an Official Brand Partner, complete the Bicentennial Partnership Form. Once completed, you will gain access to Bicentennial branding materials for your organizations' use.

Bicentennial

Become A Volunteer

Interested in showing your support by serving as a volunteer? Leadership and support opportunities are available in the following volunteer activity tracks: History, Education, Family and Community Events Celebration, Engagement Grant Partner and Projects.

Individuals interested in volunteering can complete the digital Bicentennial Volunteer Sign-up Form.

Event Schedule

The Event Schedule will host the Bicentennial program slate, including both official Town of Manchester events & events and programs by Brand Partners. The official Bicentennial Event Schedule will be posted in April 2023.

Preserve Your Story-History Chip™

The Town of Manchester, in partnership with History Chip™, wants to preserve your story. As we look back over the story of Manchester, through official Town documents & history keepers, there is one crucial component that cannot be forgotten: the lived experiences of Manchester's residents.

Residents will be able to submit their story to History Chip™ in a variety of ways. Whether as a written, audio or video submission, individuals will be able to share their Manchester-centric stories and memories with the broader local community.

History Chip™, which was founded in 2009, emphasizes the power of storytelling and history-keeping, arguing that "history is created one micro story at a time until it forms a complete mosaic of the complexity and depth of our larger story."

Branding for the Future

Manchester's Bicentennial Celebration honors the past, celebrates the present, and is an opportune time for us to envision the future. This celebration will kick off in alignment with a Town-wide Branding

Initiative focusing on creating a story, mission, vision and identity for the future of the Town of Manchester. This initiative will begin with community-focused engagement efforts in the Spring of 2023 which will garner insights and community input that will directly influence the future of the Town's brand.

To learn more about Manchester's Town Branding Initiative, please visit: yvmmct.com/branding

Shop the Store

From hoodies to t-shirts, aprons to dog bandanas, the Bicentennial Merch Store has plenty to deck you out with to show your town pride. The online store will officially launch in January 2023.

Official Bicentennial Website



SCAN HERE

Manchester Connecticut Bicentennial 1823 2023

Shop Bicentennial Apparel & More!

Find this apparel and more by scanning the QR Code or visiting shopthestore.manchesterct.gov

Manchester Connecticut Bicentennial 1823 2023

Shop the 'Manchester 1823 Collection' for specialty and seasonal items!

Visit shopthestore.manchesterct.gov for Bicentennial apparel, gear and more!

- Dancing Bear Specialty T-Shirt
- Love Manchester T-Shirt
- Trails Day T-Shirt
- It's Thanksgiving in Manchester Specialty T-Shirt
- 06040/06042 Specialty T-Shirt

Find this apparel and more by scanning the QR Code or visiting shopthestore.manchesterct.gov

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Tiny Podcast-E4: Buffalo Soldiers

Robert Harris, fellow veteran, talented author and mentor, will share his insights and knowledge about a topic that is often overlooked in the history of our military: the significant contributions of 'Buffalo Soldiers'. Robert will help us understand the impact these soldiers had on our country.

Date• 6/14/2023

Location• Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info• Nico Arias,
bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079

Spruce Street Farmers Market Pride Month

Visit PFLAG Manchester/Hartford. Pride Flag giveaway, live music by Finn Rowan. Featured food truck: Lobster Tales.

Date• 6/14/2023

Time• 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location• Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Off Main Experience @ Purnell Place

A monthly mini-festival on Purnell Place that celebrates art, music, family and culture.

Date• 6/15/2023

Time• 5:00PM-8:30PM

Location• Purnell Place, Downtown

Contact info• Rise Up for the Arts!

Matt Conway, matt.conway@theriseupgroup.org

Juneteenth Commemoration

This event is the commemoration of the ending of slavery in the U.S. Guest speakers, educational events, food, music, dancing along with other activities are all a part of this wonderful day!

Date• 6/17/2023

Time• 11:00AM-3:00PM

Location• Leisure Labs at Mahoney, 110 Cedar St.,

Contact info• Juneteenth

Calvin Harris, charris@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3088

Spruce Street Farmers Market Children's Day

Enjoy music by DJ Dale, temporary tattoos, meet Lutz Children's mascot, Chuckles. Featured food truck: Hungry Lion (gf).

Date• 6/21/2023

Time• 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location• Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Polish Food & Heritage Family Festival

Participants will have an opportunity to visit our historic site, taste Polish traditional dishes, listen to Polish folk music and get involved with activities! (workshops, bounce houses, and games about Polish heritage).

Date• 6/24/2023

Time• 12:00PM-6:00PM

Location• St. John's Church,
23 Golway St. Manchester

Contact info• St. John's Polish National
Catholic Church, Father Adam Piekarczywski,
r.adam@mail.com

The Funeral Home in the Community

A short history of the crucial place of the funeral home in a community and of Holmes-Watkins history in Manchester.

Date• 6/25/2023

Time• 4:00PM-5:00PM

Location• Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home,
400 Main St.

Contact info• Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home
Stephen St. John, steve@funeralsct.com

Phone• (860) 643-2441

Rhonda Philbert, far right, Miss Juneteenth/ Miss Freedom Day 2021, is cheered on by Juneteenth celebrants.



Tiny Podcast-E5: Manchester and Wartime

Paul Scappaticci, a veteran of the U.S. military and current DAV liaison, will take us through time to understand the impact of war on the Town of Manchester and its residents. How communities are affected by war and the aftermath plays a significant role in shaping our society.

Date• 6/28/2023

Location• Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info• Nico Arias,
bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079

Spruce Street Farmers Market Manchester Day

We are recognizing Manchester's Bicentennial. FREE swag, meet Manchester vendors and Departments. Register for programming, live music by Bill Ludwig. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date• 6/28/2023

Time• 4:30 PM-7:30PM

Location• Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Charter Oak Park Summer Kick-off

Bring the family to the Park! Enjoy our summer kick-off featuring inflatables, and recreational games and activities.

Date• 6/29/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Charter Oak Park, 50 Charter Oak St.

Contact info• Josh Charrette,
jcharrette@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3139



July

Spruce Street Farmers Market Picnic Day

Stay and enjoy your market purchases at our picnic tables and blankets. Meet Lutz Children's Museum mascot, Chuckles. Featured food truck: Lobster Tales

Date: 7/5/2023
Time: 4:30PM-7:30PM
Location: Market Field, 163 Spruce St.
Contact info: Cynde Acanto, cacanto@manchesterct.org
Phone: (860) 647-3089



2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

Visit our art exhibits, shop in our Gallery Shop and tour our coworking and meeting spaces. Live entertainment by Imagine Main Street and art demonstrations and/or craft projects for the whole family.

Date: 7/8/2023
Time: 10:00AM-2:00PM
Location: WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info: Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-6029



James 'Dutch' Fogarty Independence Day Celebration

The celebration is to bring families, friends and loved ones together to celebrate our independence with food, fun, music and fireworks!

Date: 7/8/2023 (rain date: 7/9/2023)
Time: 4:00PM-9:45PM
Location: Manchester Bandshell, 60 Bidwell St.
Contact info: James 'Dutch' Fogarty
 Independence Day Celebration Committee
 Calvin Harris, charris@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-3088



MARC Summer Concert Series

Mass Conn Fusion kicks off MARC's 12th Summer Concert Series. Food is available for purchase.

Date: 7/11/2023 (rain date: 7/12/2023)
Time: 6:30PM-8:30PM
Location: 151-161 Sheldon Road
Contact info: MARC, inc. of Manchester
 Mary-Ellen Callahan, mcallahan@marcct.org
Phone: (860) 646-5718

Tiny Podcast-E6: History of Local Sports

Tim O'Neil and Joe Camposeo have been instrumental in shaping the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame where memorable moments and stories of legendary athletes and coaches in and from Manchester are memorialized. Join us as we look at the history of sports in the community and the impact sports and recreation has on the residents of Manchester.

Date: 7/12/2023
Location: Hosted on BetterManchester.com
Contact info: Nico Arias, bettermanchester@manchester.gov
Phone: (860) 647-3079

Spruce Street Farmers Market Recipe Day

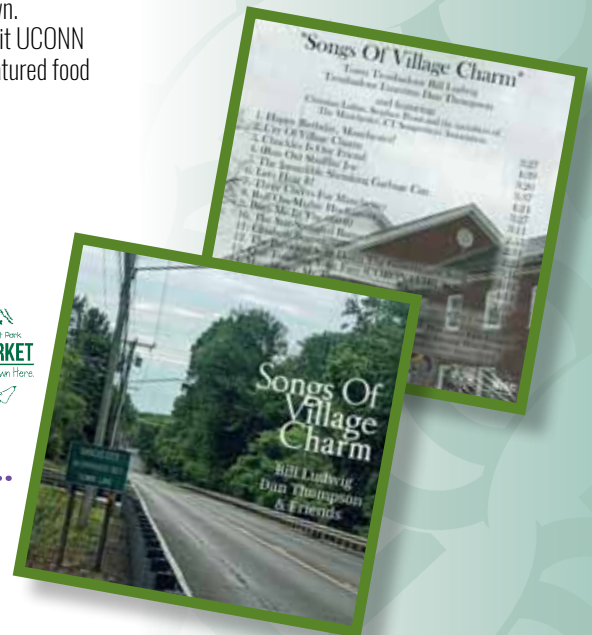
Free recipe books from Connecticut Grown. Visit market vendors for recipe ideas. Visit UCONN SNAP-Ed. Live music by Finn Rowan. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date: 7/12/2023
Time: 4:30PM-7:30PM
Location: Market Field, 163 Spruce St.
Contact info: Cynde Acanto, cacanto@manchesterct.org
Phone: (860) 647-3089



PHOTO: ZACK CARROLL

Don't miss Town Troubadour, Bill Ludwig, (above right with Dan Thompson), perform his newly released CD, "Songs of Village Charm" during the Reflect, Celebrate, Dream in the Park event at Center Memorial Park, Downtown Manchester, Saturday, May 13. See page 8 for details.



Songs of Village Charm CD available on all major streaming services or for purchase at BandCamp.

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Beller's Music Summer Concert Series- Concerts in Center Memorial Park



This year's special Summer Concert Series of 5 performances will focus on people and groups with a deep Manchester history. It is our intention, not only to enrich and entertain, but also to spread enthusiasm for the Bicentennial. In case of inclement weather please check the website or social media for indoor location.

Date• 7/13/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park

Contact info• Beller's Music/Dubaldo Music
Nick Dubaldo, nick@dubaldomusic.com

Phone• (860) 649-2036

Dog Training/Pet CPR

Join us for a special community dog training and Pet CPR. Pre-registration is required

Date• 7/14/2023

Time• 5:00PM-7:00PM

Location• Northwest Park

Contact info• Nico Arias,
Narias@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079

Fee• pre-registration required



MARC Summer Concert Series



Anthem Reggae Band performs a blend of calypso, R&B and rock & roll. Food is available for purchase.

Date• 7/18/2023 (rain date: 7/19/2023)

Time• 6:30PM-8:30PM

Location• 151-161 Sheldon Road

Contact info• MARC, inc. of Manchester
Mary-Ellen Callahan, mcallahan@marcct.org

Phone• (860) 646-5718

Spruce Street Farmers Market 100th Market Celebration

Enter to win a \$100 Market Gift Certificate, proclamation by the Mayor, interactive mural. Free cake slices. Featured food truck: Hungry Lion (gf).

Date• 7/19/2023

Time• 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location• Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Beller's Music Summer Concert Series- Concerts in Center Memorial Park



This year's special Summer Concert Series of 5 performances will focus on people and groups with a deep Manchester history. It is our intention, not only to enrich and entertain, but also to spread enthusiasm for the Bicentennial. In case of inclement weather please check the website or social media for indoor location.

Date• 7/20/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park

Contact info• Beller's Music/Dubaldo Music
Nick Dubaldo, nick@dubaldomusic.com

Phone• (860) 649-2036

Off Main Experience @ Purnell Place

A night of vendors, art, live music and games.

Date• 7/20/2023

Time• 5:00PM-8:30PM

Location• Purnell Place, Downtown

Contact info• Rise Up for the Arts!

Matt Conway, matt.conway@theriseupgroup.org

Arbors of Hop Brook - Pollinator Pathway Garden Dedication

Join us for some delightful music and refreshments on our patio and tour our newly dedicated Pollinator Pathway Garden. The numerous established tree species, flowering shrubs, fragrant perennial varieties, and herb plants help sustain a wide variety of birds, butterflies, and bees.

Date• 7/21/2023

Time• 1:30PM-3:00PM

Location• Arbors of Hop Brook
Senior Retirement Community and Assisted Living
403 West Center Street

Contact• Mary Babcock 860-533-2524
or email mbabcock@arborsct.com.

MARC Summer Concert Series



Backstage Pass brings us back to the 1980's when hair was big and hair bands bigger! Food is available for purchase.

Date• 7/25/2023 (rain date: 7/26/2023)

Time• 6:30PM-8:30PM

Location• 151-161 Sheldon Road

Contact info• MARC, inc. of Manchester

Mary-Ellen Callahan, mcallahan@marcct.org

Phone• (860) 646-5718

Tiny Podcast -E7- Round Table Discussion

Civic Organization Round Table

Date• 7/26/2023

Location• Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info• Nico Arias,

bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3079

Spruce Street Farmers Market Market Bingo

Pick up and return your completed market bingo card at our Welcome Pavilion for a free prize. Featured food truck: Soulfully Vegan

Date• 7/26/2023

Time• 4:30 PM-7:30PM

Location• Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Beller's Music Summer Concert Series- Concerts in Center Memorial Park



This year's special Summer Concert Series of 5 performances will focus on people and groups with a deep Manchester history. It is our intention, not only to enrich and entertain, but also to spread enthusiasm for the Bicentennial. In case of inclement weather please check the website or social media for indoor location.

Date• 7/27/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park

Contact info• Beller's Music/Dubaldo Music
Nick Dubaldo, nick@dubaldomusic.com

Phone• (860) 649-2036

The Funeral Home in the Community

A short history of the crucial place of the funeral home in a community and of Holmes-Watkins history in Manchester

Date• 7/30/2023

Time• 4:00PM-5:00PM

Location• Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St.

Contact info• Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home
Stephen St., John, steve@funeralsct.com

Phone• (860) 643-2441

August

Spruce Street Farmers Market Dog Day

Bring your dog and receive a free dog bandana; meet guest vendors with dog products, visit with Our Companions Animal Rescue. Meet Lutz Children's Museum mascot, Chuckles. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.



Date• 8/2/2023

Time• 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location• Market Field, 150 Spruce St.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089

Beller's Music Summer Concert Series- Concerts in Center Memorial Park

This year's special Summer Concert Series of 5 performances will focus on people and groups with a deep Manchester history. It is our intention, not only to enrich and entertain, but also to spread enthusiasm for the Bicentennial. In case of inclement weather please check the website or social media for indoor location.

Date• 8/3/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Center Memorial Park

Contact info• Beller's Music/Dubaldo Music
Nick Dubaldo, nick@dubaldomusic.com

Phone• (860) 649-2036

Expressions of Manchester Exhibit

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a unique view of and a personal connection to the world. In the EXPRESSIONS OF MANCHESTER exhibit, these artists use a variety of art forms to celebrate MARC, Inc.'s 70th Birthday and our hometown of Manchester's Bicentennial.

Date• 8/6/2023 (runs through 9/29/2023)

Time• 10:00AM-2:00PM

Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.

Contact info• MARC, Inc. in Collaboration with
WORK_SPACE

Stacey Zackin & Lynn Damon,
szackin@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-6029

Cruisin' on Main Street

Cruisin' on Main Street Car Show

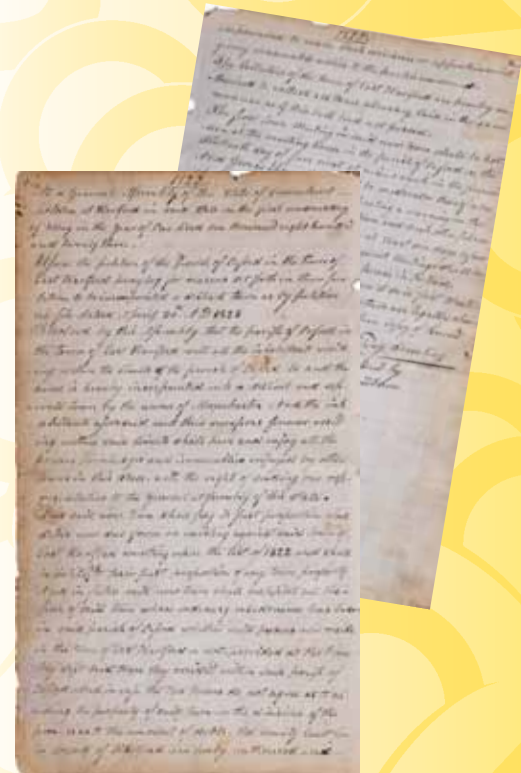
Annual Cruisin on Main Street Car Show

Date• 8/6/2023 (rain date: 8/13/2023)

Time• 8:00AM-3:00PM

Location• Downtown Main Street

Contact info• Cruisin on Main Car Show
Larry Ash, cruisin@manchesterct.gov



First minutes of the Town of Manchester. Digital replications of the minutes, produced by Zack Carroll, will be viewable as part of an installation at the Lincoln Center in the Board of Directors Hearing Room. Scheduled to be installed for the May 2, 2023 Board of Directors public meeting.



.....
Zack Carroll of Zack Carroll Photography, working on The Living History Project as Dave Smith, curator of The Manchester Historical Society, looks on.
.....

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Tiny Podcast-E8: Race and Equity in Education

Dr. Diane Clare-Kearney and Rhonda Philbert of Manchester Public Schools Department of Race and Equity explore the important topic of race and equity in education and gain a better understanding of the work that is being done in Manchester to create a more just and equal community.

Date 8/9/2023

Location Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info Nico Arias,
bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone (860) 647-3079

Spruce Street Farmers Market National Farmer's Market Week

Free temporary tattoos, meet Gilbert & Meadow the Party Pigs 5-6:00, craft thank you notes for our farmers, touch-a-tractor. Live music by Willie T. and Doctor X. Featured food truck: Lobster Tales.

Date 8/9/2023

Time 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone (860) 647-3089



Beller's Music Summer Concert Series- Concerts in Center Memorial Park

This year's special Summer Concert Series of 5 performances will focus on people and groups with a deep Manchester history. It is our intention, not only to enrich and entertain, but also to spread enthusiasm for the Bicentennial. In case of inclement weather please check the website or social media for indoor location.

Date 8/10/2023

Time 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location Center Memorial Park

Contact info Beller's Music/Dubaldo Music
Nick Dubaldo, nick@dubaldomusic.com

Phone (860) 649-2036

2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

EXPRESSIONS OF MANCHESTER exhibit including a photo display of A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF MANCHESTER. Co-curated by MARC and WORK_SPACE, this art collection celebrates the people and places that make Manchester home.

Date 8/12/2023

Time 10:00AM-2:00PM

Location WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.

Contact info Stacey Zackin,
szackin@manchesterct.gov

Phone (860) 647-6029

Doggie Dunk

Annual dog swim for Manchester Dogs. Dogs must have current license on collar. Maximum 2 dogs per handler.

Date 8/13/2023

Time 9:00AM-3:00PM

Location Globe Hollow Reservoir - 100 Spring St.

Contact info Josh Charrette,
jcharrette@manchesterct.gov

Phone (860) 647-3139

Fee \$5/dog



Spruce Street Farmers Market Honey Bee Day

Market vendor Wilkinson Farm will have a bee observation display & honey for sale. Free bee craft. Featured food truck: Scatz Twisted Phillyz.

Date 8/16/2023

Time 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone (860) 647-3089



Off Main Experience @ Purnell Place

A night of vendors, art, live music and games.

Date 8/17/2023

Time 5:00PM-8:30PM

Location Purnell Place, Downtown

Contact info Rise Up for the Arts!

Matt Conway, matt.conway@theriseupgroup.org

Pups in Our Parks Showcase and Agility Dog Course Demo

Join in a demonstration of an agility dog course and a special sneak peek of the "Pups in Our Parks," 10 pre-cast dogs artfied by local and regional artists.

Date 8/18/2023

Time 5:00PM-7:00PM

Location Northwest Park

Contact info Nico Arias,
Narias@manchesterct.gov

Phone (860) 647-3079



Kite Building & Flying Event

This event will include kite building, decorating and flying for the novice as well as the experienced. Kites can be purchased. Food trucks will be present during the day. Fun individual or family event!

Date 8/19/2023 (rain date: 8/20/2023)

Time 11:00AM-3:00PM

Location Northwest Park

Contact info Rotary Club of Manchester, CT

Ken Golden, kegolden@gmail.com

Phone (508) 245-0897

Kites may be purchased on site.

Artist Chris Gann's mural of Purnell Pl. at the Off Main Experience Event on Purnell Pl.



Tiny Podcast-E9- History of Manchester

Welcome to our podcast, where we explore the stories and events that shape the history of our town. We will delve into the rich history of Manchester, a history that is deep and multi-faceted. It's important to learn from past mistakes and successes to shape our future.

Date: 8/23/2023

Location: Hosted on BetterManchester.com

Contact info: Nico Arias,
bettermanchester@manchester.gov

Phone: (860) 647-3079

Spruce Street Farmers Market Sports Day

Free pick-up badminton with staff, additional games on Market Field, wear your favorite jersey. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date: 8/23/2023

Time: 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location: Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info: Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone: (860) 647-3089



Silk City Fest

Join us for our annual celebration of local music and art with performances and art vendors all day! There will be games and art activities as well as craft beer and food trucks.

Date: 8/26/2023

Time: 1:00PM-9:30PM

Location: Purnell Pl, Orange Lot

Contact info: Chris Huestis, info@artfud.org

The Funeral Home in the Community

A short history of the crucial place of the funeral home in a community and of Holmes-Watkins history in Manchester.

Date: 8/27/2023

Time: 4:00PM-5:00PM

Location: Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home,
400 Main St.

Contact info: Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home
Stephen St. John, steve@funeralsct.com

Phone: (860) 643-2441

Spruce Street Farmers Market Closing Day Contest

Visit our Welcome Pavilion and be entered to win one of four \$10 market gift certificates (valid at Spruce St. and NW Park Farmers Markets). Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date: 8/30/2023

Time: 4:30PM-7:30PM

Location: Market Field, 163 Spruce St.

Contact info: Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone: (860) 647-3089



September

Northwest Park Farmers Market Opening Day Scavenger Hunt

Pick up market scavenger hunt at our Welcome Table and learn more about our market while you complete it. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date: 9/6/2023

Time: 4:00PM-7:00PM

Location: Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Contact info: Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone: (860) 647-3089



The celebratory banners were raised in preparation for Manchester's Bicentennial Launch in January 2023.

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Official Bicentennial



2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

EXPRESSIONS OF MANCHESTER exhibit including a photo display of A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF MANCHESTER – Co-curated by MARC and WORK_SPACE, this art collection celebrates the people and places that make Manchester home.

Date: 9/9/2023
Time: 10:00AM-2:00PM
Location: WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info: WORK_SPACE
Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-6029

Gizmo, the Therapy Dog, Retirement Celebration/Pups in Our Parks Exhibit

Join in with the AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) and friends as we celebrate Gizmo the Therapy Dog's retirement! Get a sneak preview of the Pups in the Park exhibit installed throughout the park. Canine/feline vendors will be included in a mini-marketplace.

Date: 9/9/2023
Time: 8:00AM-4:00PM
Location: Northwest Park
Contact info: Nico Arias,
Narias@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-3079



Youth Cricket Clinic and Tournament

Youth ages 8-15 can come learn the game of cricket, play in a match and leave with a cricket swag bag. This event is sponsored by the Manchester Rotary Club.

Date: 9/9/2023 (rain date: 9/10/2023)
Time: 9:00AM-11:30AM
Location: Robertson Park (cricket field)
Contact info: Recreation Division
Calvin Harris, charris@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-3084



Cricket Day

Adult Cricket exhibition game, food trucks, music and a fun zone for kids. Sponsored by the Manchester Rotary Club.

Date: 9/9/2023 (rain date: 9/10/2023)
Time: 11:30AM-6:00PM
Location: Robertson Park (cricket field)
Contact info: Recreation Division
Calvin Harris, charris@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-3084

Northwest Park Farmers Market Children's Day

Enjoy music by DJ Dale, free temporary tattoos, bounce house, meet Gilbert & Meadow the Party Pigs 4:30-5:30, meet Lutz Children's Museum mascot, Chuckles. Feature food truck: Hungry Lion (gf)

Date: 9/13/2023
Time: 4:00PM-7:00PM
Location: Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.
Contact info: Cynde Acanto,
ccanto@manchesterct.org
Phone: (860) 647-3089



HilliardFest 2023

Hilliard Mills, America's oldest woolen mill, welcomes the public to come celebrate Manchester's 200th and Hilliard Mills' 350th anniversaries.

Date: 9/15/2023 **Time:** 5:00PM-9:00PM
Date: 9/16/2023 **Time:** 11:00AM-9:00PM
Date: 9/17/2023 **Time:** 11:00AM-6:00PM
Location: 642 Hilliard St.
Contact info: Hilliard Mills, LLC
Peter Bonzani, Peter.Bonzani@hilliardmills.com
Phone: (860) 432-4336

Music, Art and Fashion Festival

A night of fashion, live music, food and interactive art!

Date: 9/15/2023 (rain date: 9/16/2023)
Time: 6:00PM-9:30PM
Location: Mt. Nebo, 125 Spring St.
Contact info: Kathleen McGuire,
kmcguire@manchesterct.gov
Phone: (860) 647-3084
Fee: tickets on sale July 2023
Ages: 16 +



Scan for Ticket info

Fire Department Open House- Past, Present & Future.

This family friendly event will feature apparatus and equipment demonstrations as well as information about fire department history and modern fire protection & EMS capabilities.

Date: 9/16/2023
Time: 11:00AM-3:00PM
Location: Fire Headquarters, 75 Center St.
Contact info: Manchester Fire Dept
Josh Beaulieu, beaulieuj@manchesterct.gov

Celebratory Weeks



Hispanic Heritage Day

Come celebrate Heritage Day with live music, dancing, food trucks, resource market, fun zone, art zone. Sponsored in part by the Manchester Latino Affairs Council.

Date• 9/16/2023

Time• 11:00AM-3:00PM

Location• Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center, 110 Cedar Street.

Contact info• James Costa, jcosta@manchesterCT.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3089

Northwest Park Farmers Market Sports Day

Drop-in wiffle ball game with equipment to take home. Wear your favorite jersey. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date• 9/20/2023

Time• 4:00PM-7:00PM

Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto, cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Sports Hall of Fame Exhibit Opening

Opening exhibit at the new home for the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame at Leisure Labs.

Date• 9/20/2023

Time• 6:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Sports Hall of Fame at Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center, 110 Cedar Street.

Contact info• Manchester Sports Hall of Fame Chicky Barrera, chicksterb@yahoo.com



Let's Have a Ball Senior Picnic

Join us for a delicious lunch, games, live music, prizes, and more.

Date• 9/21/2023

Time• 11:30AM-2:00PM

Location• Northwest Park Pavilion, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Contact info• Pre-register by calling the Senior Center (860) 647-3211

Off Main Experience @ Purnell Place

A night of vendors, art, live music and games.

Date• 9/21/2023

Time• 5:00PM-8:30PM

Location• Purnell Place, Downtown

Contact info• Rise Up for the Arts! Matt Conway, matt.conway@theriseupgroup.org

Lights in the Sky - A Drone Show Event

Join us for a night of family fun, markets, kid zone, live music, Pups in the Park exhibit, premier of the Living History Documentary and a first of its kind drone show!

Date• 9/22/2023 (rain date: 9/23/2023)

Time• 5:00PM-9:00PM

Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Phone• (860) 647-3084

Community Child Guidance Clinic's Family Fall Fest

Join The Community Child Guidance Clinic as Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative partners to present this fun fair/resource fair! Kids can enjoy a day of fun including a bounce house and petting zoo. Parents can access resource tables from local community organizations and businesses. A Fair the whole family can enjoy! All ages welcome.

Date• 9/23/2023

Time• 11:00AM-2:00PM

Location• 1075 Tolland Turnpike

Contact info• Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative, Caitlin McNamara, cmcnamara@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-5269



Manchester Then and Now

A new exhibit at the Manchester History Center, Then and Now opened in March of 2022. This new exhibit is open to the public Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m.

The Historical Society was awarded a \$4,999 grant from Connecticut Humanities for use in preparation of the exhibit. It was matched by donors who more than doubled the value of the grant for which the Historical Society was grateful and without that support, the exhibit would have not been possible.



The main themes chosen for the exhibit include Create Build & Craft, Work & Innovate, Learn, Play & Exercise, Shop & Eat, and Advocate & Push for Change. Artifacts and images were chosen from existing collections to represent the themes, and many have not been on display before. They help to connect the past to the present and how the town and its residents have changed throughout their common history and contributed to their nation's development.

Manchester History Center Exhibit Location and Hours

175 Pine Street, Manchester, CT
Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturdays, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Northwest Park Farmers Market Recipe Day

Free recipe books from Connecticut Grown, visit market vendors for recipe ideas, visit with UCONN SNAP-Ed. Featured food truck: Lobster Tales.

Date• 9/27/2023

Time• 4:00PM-7:00PM

Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpk.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089

Rotary in Motion

4th annual FREE community wide event starting at Charter Oak Park promoting the use of our trails and greenways by all abilities, groups and interests.

Date• 9/30/2023 (rain date: 10/7/2023)

Time• 9:30AM-3:00PM

Location• Charter Oak Park

Contact info• Rotary Club of Manchester, CT
Robert Rodner, r.rodner@cox.net

Phone• (860) 559-7132



Manchester Rotary Club

Community Baby Shower

Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative partners with ECHN Family Birthing & ECHN Family Development Centers. There will be fun activities, toys, local resources and providers, baby gear swap, and more all for the littlest (or soon-to-be) Manchester residents and their families.

Date• 9/30/2023

Time• 10:00AM

Location• Northwest Park Pavilion,
448 Tolland Tpk.

Contact info• Manchester Early Childhood Collaborative, Caitlin McNamara,
cmcnamara@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-5269

October

Northwest Park Farmers Market Dog Day

Bring your dog and receive a free dog bandana; meet guest vendors with dog products, visit with Our Companions Animal Rescue. Meet Lutz Children's Museum mascot, Chuckles. Featured food truck: Scatz Twisted Phillyz

Date• 10/4/2023

Time• 4:00PM-7:00PM

Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpk.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089



Northwest Park Farmers Market Free Pumpkin Carving Night

Free Pumpkin carving for Fall Fest event on 10/13.

Carved pumpkins will be stored for the Fall Fest event to be used as jack-o'-lanterns for the Haunted Zombie Trail. Creators can retrieve pumpkin at the end of the 10/13 event. All ages. Featured food truck: Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date• 10/11/2023

Time• 4:00 PM-7:00PM

Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpk.

Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
cacanto@manchesterct.org

Phone• (860) 647-3089

Exhibit Opening and Reception at the Galleries at WORK_SPACE Authors & Illustrators Exhibit

Exhibit opening and reception with light refreshments as well as a panel discussion and book signing. This exhibit features some of Manchester's authors and illustrators.

Date• 10/12/2023

Time• 5:30PM

Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.

Contact info• Manchester Public Library
Jenn Bartlett

Phone• (860) 645-0821

Family Fall Fest

Join us for the annual Family Fall Fest to include vendors, bounce houses, a Haunted Zombie Trail and of course CANDY! Dress up in your favorite costume.

Date• 10/13/2023 (rain date:)

Time• 5:00PM-8:00PM

Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpk.

Contact info• Josh Charette,
jcharette@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-3139



2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

Visit our art exhibits, shop in our Gallery Shop and tour our coworking and meeting spaces. Live entertainment by Imagine Main Street and art demonstrations and/or craft projects for the whole family.

Date• 10/14/2023

Time• 10:00AM-2:00PM

Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.

Contact info• WORK_SPACE

Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov

Phone• (860) 647-6029



Authors & Illustrators Writers Conference

For both wannabe and experienced writers. Will include experiential exercises and opportunity to get feedback to determine next steps. Includes breakfast and lunch and an opportunity to participate in three different workshops.

Date• 10/14/2023
Time• 9:30AM-3:00PM
Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info• Manchester Public Library
 Jenn Bartlett
Phone• (860) 645-0821

Authors & Illustrators Art that Transforms

Willona Y. Amoakoh, B.Ed, LMSW will present a program that explores the conscious and unconscious responses we as individuals respond to through visual communication. We will explore how a single image can provoke thoughts, words, and emotions that initiate change.

Date• 10/16/2023
Time• 6:30PM-8:00PM
Location• WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info• Manchester Public Library
 Jenn Bartlett
Phone• (860) 645-0821

Northwest Park Farmers Market Market Bingo

Pick up and return your completed market bingo card at our Welcome Table for a free prize. Featured food truck: Lobster Tales.

Date• 10/18/2023
Time• 4:00PM-7:00PM
Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.
Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
 cacanto@manchesterct.org
Phone• (860) 647-3089



Authors & Illustrators How to Become a Published Author (part A)

At this panel discussion, a guest from CT Publishing Houses and Book Agents will share insights into becoming a published author and illustrator.

Date• 10/23/2023
Time• 6:30PM-8:00PM
Location• Mary Cheney Library
Contact info• Manchester Public Library
 Jenn Bartlett
Phone• (860) 645-0821

Northwest Park Farmers Market Halloween Costume Day

Family friendly costumes encouraged, dog costume parade at 6:00PM. Featured food trucks: Good Farm and Square Peg Pizzeria.

Date• 10/25/2023
Time• 4:00PM-7:00PM
Location• Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.
Contact info• Cynde Acanto,
 cacanto@manchesterct.org
Phone• (860) 647-3089



November

Authors & Illustrators Create a Scrapbook of Stories

In honor of National Authors Day, National Family Literacy Day, and Family Stories Month, we will host an intergenerational event where families and friends are invited to create a scrapbook of stories.

Date• 11/1/2023
Time• 6:30PM-8:00PM
Location• Whiton Library
Contact info• Manchester Public Library
 Jenn Bartlett
Phone• (860) 645-0821

Pups in Our Parks

As part of the Bicentennial, artists from the area have been selected to paint a canine sculpture. Selected artists will be honored for their creative contribution.

These artful pups, once completed, will go on display to the public at several of the upcoming bicentennial events:

Pups on Our Parks Showcase and Agility Dog Course Demo

August 18, 5:00PM-7:00PM,
 Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Gizmo, the Therapy Dog, Retirement Celebration/Pups in Our Parks Exhibit

September 9, 8:00AM-4:00PM
 Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Lights in the Sky- A Drone Show Event

September 22, 5:00PM-9:00PM,
 Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpke.

Come and check out these pups in our parks during the summer before they find their forever home.



Events

Events are free and for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Authors & Illustrators Veterans Poetry Event

Military Veterans are invited to share their own poetry that has meaning for them and their experience of serving and sacrifice. A special focus will be placed on engaging women, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC veterans whose voices have been over-shadowed in the past and experiences under-represented.

Date 11/8/2023
Time 6:30PM-8:00PM
Location Whiton Library
Contact info Manchester Public Library
Jenn Bartlett
Phone (860) 645-0821

2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

MANCHESTER AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR exhibit – and art show featuring the work of local artists and illustrators.

Date 11/11/2023
Time 10:00AM-2:00PM
Location WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info WORK_SPACE
Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov
Phone (860) 647-6029

Authors & Illustrators How to Become a Published Author (part B)

During this panel discussion, we explore the opportunities of self-publishing. Local authors who decided to bypass traditional publishing will share their tips and advice for editing, printing, and selling your books through the many alternate venues available to novice writers.

Date 11/13/2023
Time 6:30PM-8:00PM
Location WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info Manchester Public Library
Phone (860) 645-0821

The Manchester Road Race

The best Thanksgiving Day Road Race in the US with the best hometown support.

Date 11/23/2023
Time 10:00AM
Location Downtown, Main Street
Contact info Manchester Road Race, Inc.
Tris Carta, carta1954@gmail.com
Phone (860) 646-2251
Fee \$32.00 themanchesterroadrace.com



11/25 Shop Small Saturday Indoor Market

Shop Small Saturday is the day for supporting small businesses and starting your holiday shopping. We hope you'll visit Spruce Street Farmers Market inside the gymnasium of Nathan Hale, 160 Spruce Street, Manchester, on **Saturday 11/25 from 9am to 1pm!** Shop local with 25 Connecticut farms, prepared food vendors, and artisans. Free parking & free admission. We accept and double SNAP/EBT up to \$20.00. Cynde Acanto, cacanto@manchesterct.org. **Phone:** (860) 647-3089

December

2nd Saturday Monthly Open House

The PERSPECTIVES OF TIME exhibit illustrates how individual people and cultures relate to time. Live entertainment by Imagine Main Street and art demonstrations and/or craft projects for the whole family.

Date 12/9/2023
Time 10:00AM-2:00PM
Location WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info WORK_SPACE
Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov
Phone (860) 647-6029

Annual Love Local Holiday Market

This pop-up vendor fair features the unique creations of local artists. Support local artists while finding one-of-a-kind gifts for the special people in your life. Interested vendors can complete and submit form at workspacemanchester.com/art-culture/.

Date 12/9/2023
Time 10:00AM-2:00PM
Location WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.
Contact info WORK_SPACE
Stacey Zackin, szackin@manchesterct.gov
Phone (860) 647-6029

Holiday in the Park

Join us for Holiday in the Park! This drive-thru event will be filled with music, some of your favorite characters, treats and a surprise gift. (Supplies limited)

Date 12/16/2023
Time 9:00AM-11:00AM
Location Northwest Park, 448 Tolland Tpk.
Contact info LFR
Josh Charette, jcharette@manchesterct.gov
Phone (860) 647-3139
Ages children & youth

12/16 Indoor Holiday Market

Our Indoor Holiday Market is the perfect place to support small businesses and finish your holiday shopping! Shop local with 25 Connecticut farms, prepared food vendors, and artisans. We accept and double SNAP/EBT up to \$20.00. **Inside the gymnasium of Nathan Hale, 160 Spruce Street, Manchester, on Saturday 11/25 from 9am to 1pm.** Free parking & free admission.



Manchester Bicentennial Commemorative Projects

(Represents many but not all commemorative projects planned or are still being planned for the 2023 Bicentennial Year)

Manchester Bicentennial Time Capsule (2023 Capsule)

The Bicentennial Time Capsule will capture the stories, letters, pictures, poems etc. of Manchester's youth. This will begin the narrative of Manchester's next 200 years. These perspectives of Manchester's youngest generation (during this year of 2023) will be buried and revisited once more in 50 years during the year of 2073, our town's 250th birthday. The capsule will be buried on May 13th, 2023 at Center Memorial Park during the Reflect, Celebrate and Dream Event

Manchester Bicentennial 1823 Meeting Minutes Installation

This art installation commemorates Manchester's Bicentennial year and incorporates images of the first hand-written meeting meetings for the Town of Manchester in 1823. This exhibit will be installed for the May 2023 Board of Directors Meeting at the Lincoln Center in the Board of Directors Hearing Room.

Center Park Tree ID Project

The Manchester Public Works Department is working to identify, map and provide locator kiosks at three entrances to Center Memorial Park identifying all the parks tree species. This project is projected to be completed by Fall of 2023

Manchester Sports Hall of Fame Public Exhibit at Leisure Labs @Mahoney Center

This project moves the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame exhibit from its current location at the Manchester Museum on Cedar St. to Leisure Labs @ Mahoney Center. This brand-new exhibit will feature over 40 large scale panels profiling the past 43 years of inductee and award winners. This exhibit will provide increased access for viewing allowing for a glimpse into the past standouts and supporters of sports in Manchester. The opening for the exhibit will be celebrated and open to the public on September 20th, 2023 from 6-8 p.m. at Leisure Labs @ Mahoney Center, 110 Cedar Street.

Four Moments in Time, Manchester's Bicentennial through the Eyes of an Artist

Selected artist will create a collection four images of four separate days/celebrations during the 2023 Bicentennial.

The four images will capture a moment in time painted live at the following events: Juneteenth, The Off-Main Experience, Hispanic Heritage Celebration and the Fall Fest at North West Park. The collection will be installed in the new Manchester Public Library on Main Street.

Elizabeth Bennet Statue (The Sculpture Project)

The second of a multi-statue installation, the Manchester Sculpture Project Committee is getting set to install their next statue of Ms. Elizabeth M. Bennet in the front Bennet Academy facing Main St. As noted by the committee, Ms. Bennet was, and is, an inspiration for students and teachers alike. Her pioneering spirit, generosity to her students, and of course, her heroism makes us proud to have her permanent installation on the grounds of Bennet Academy on Main Street. The unveiling ceremony is slated for June.

Witness Stone Project

The Witness Stones Project™ is an educational initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities. Select Manchester High School teachers and students will work over the course of the school year to discover and chronicle the local history of slavery. The final component of their work is the placement of a Witness Stone Memorial™ honoring an enslaved individual where they lived, worked, or worshiped. Anticipated completion, installation and dedication is anticipated to be completed by the end of the 2023 school year.

Historic Themed Adirondack Chairs

Robert Viara and his students from ECHN Manchester Clinical Day School are in the process of constructing and painting historical themes on 20 Adirondack chairs to be placed in public areas for use. All twenty chairs will be on display and available to relax in on May 13th at Center Memorial Park in conjunction with the Reflect, Celebration and Dream in the Park Event, from 10-2 p.m.

Preserve Your Story-History Chip, page 15

Living History Project, page 14



ABOUT THE LOGO | As a Connecticut graphic designer and artist, I was honored to be commissioned by the Town of Manchester to design its bicentennial logo. A creative discussion with project leads inspired me to design a logo that would reflect Manchester's past, present, and future. The final logo celebrates the city's iconic history in the silk industry, its richly diverse community, its arts and cultural impact, and future growth.

ABOUT THE ARTIST | Lauren Clayton is an artist, graphic designer, and founder of Studio 162 in Stamford, CT. She studied at the Cooper Union School of Art in NYC before winning a grant to help launch her business, Studio 162 in 2003. Lauren began to specialize in designing family heirloom books at the start of her business but has grown to offer a variety of creative solutions. In recent years, Lauren has developed a special focus on working for non-profit organizations whose mission she supports with powerful design. As an artist, she explores the ideas of connectivity, ethnicity, and our impact on our environment and community. She participates in creative initiatives, mural projects, and art shows in Connecticut and New York. Lauren is a resident of Stamford and is active in her community by mentoring art students and previously serving on local boards.



Happy Birthday Manchester

Music and Lyrics by Bill Ludwig, Town Troubador



Manchester's been home sweet home to folks 200 years
This bicentennial let's celebrate with many cheers
All the things we love about her
Things that make us proud to call her ours
The things that make us sure that in two hundred years she'll still make people proud

We can celebrate the kids and schools and teachers help us learn
And celebrate small businesses you'll find at every turn
Those green open spaces
Spots to clear our heads and run around
Oh Manchester's just big enough but still a pretty, quaint New England town

(Chorus)

Oh, happy anniversary
Of the founding of our home
Happy birthday, Manchester
Our City of Village Charm

The people here in Manchester are the best you'll ever meet
As evidenced by the smiles found when strolling down Main Street
There's some kids running bases
Shooting hoops and skating down the road
Whether Summer, Autumn, Winter or Spring from all around the Silk City
people will go

The prettiest town for miles 'round to raise a family
All backgrounds, faiths and cultures make up our community
All the arts and farmer's markets
Chuckles predicts Spring or snow
Libraries and museums, MCC, The Little Theatre for a show

(Chorus)

Oh, happy anniversary
Of the founding of our home
Happy birthday, Manchester
Our City of Village Charm

(Outro)

Oh, congratulations
On your bicentennial
A big round of applause
Cause we love Manchester

