

MANCHESTER

WINTER | SPRING 2026

NOW

YOUR GUIDE TO
**MANCHESTER'S
LEISURE SERVICES**

**EXPLORE MANCHESTER THIS WINTER
AND SPRING THROUGH A VARIETY OF
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR ALL AGES**

BUILT TO PLAY.

EDITORS MESSAGE

STAYING GROUNDED THROUGH THE SEASONS

We live in a time when it is easy to be impressed by the polished lives we see online—beautiful people, perfect posts, endless followers. But real confidence and joy don't come from likes or views; they come from feeling strong, connected, and grounded.

As we move into the winter months, I encourage you to focus on building a healthy mind and body. Take a look through the *Manchester Now* catalog to discover activities that fit your interests and inspire you to stay active and engaged. Whether it's joining a fitness class, exploring a new hobby, or connecting with others through community programs, these small choices can make a big difference.

Stay the course this winter, and by spring, you'll be ready to step into the new season feeling refreshed, energized, and ready for all that's ahead.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Christopher J. Silver
Director of Leisure, Family, and Recreation

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MANCHESTER LATER

Senior Center Task Force

Town officials are assembling a working group to explore current and future trends and needs as they relate to senior services here in Manchester. Stay tuned for more information in the summer issue of *Manchester Now*.

Library Update

The construction of the new downtown public library is moving along with an anticipated move from its current location to the new building the spring/summer of 2026. Details of the move and opening will be available in the summer 2026 issue of *Manchester Now*.

Cruisin' on Main | August 2, 2026

Cruisin' on Main returns for its 25th year to Downtown Manchester for a day of unique and classic cars. (rain date August 9 or August 16)

James "Dutch" Fogarty

Independence Day Celebration | July 11, 2026

Don't miss out on the 2026 celebration recognizing our country's 250th birthday. (rain date July 12)

Summer Swim & Registration | May 06, 2026

Swim lessons are an essential skill to safeguard your child while swimming. Be sure to look for registration information in the summer issue of *Manchester Now*.

Eastside Plaza Grand Opening

The new Eastside Plaza on Spruce Street will open in June of 2026. Introducing "On the Plaza Series," a slate of arts, entertainment, and cultural events. Look for the complete listing in the summer issue of *Manchester Now*.

MANCHESTER SOCCER CLUB

Building Skills • Teamwork • Fun



Serving the Manchester community
For kids ages 3-15

OUR PROGRAMS

In-House Recreational Soccer (Early Spring registration opens December 22, 2025)
Ages 3-15 • Fun, instructional, and community-based play
Competitive Travel Soccer (Registration for Season 2025-2027 opens April 20, 2025)
Ages 8-15 • Higher-level training, games, and tournaments

WHY MSC?

- ✓ Focus on player development & teamwork
- ✓ Safe and positive environment
- ✓ Build technical & tactical soccer skills
- ✓ Improve fitness, endurance & sportsmanship
- ✓ Make new friends and have fun!

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

www.manchestersoccerclub.com

Follow us for updates, photos & events!

Facebook: @manchestersoccerclubmsc

Instagram: @manchestersoccerclubmsc



REGISTER NOW

REGISTRATION DATES

RESIDENTS | December 3, 2025

NON RESIDENTS | December 5, 2025

ONLINE REGISTRATION | Don't remember your username or password?

Give us a call and we can assist you!

Log on to: RecOnline.townofmanchester.org

OVER THE PHONE | Contact us at (860) 647-3084. If paying over the phone,

a Visa or MasterCard must be used.

IN-PERSON | Visit the Manchester Community Y Recreation Center or the

Center Springs Park Main Lodge.

REGISTRATION | Participants who are Manchester residents require proof of residency upon initial account registration and set-up, unless otherwise noted. A resident is defined as a person who permanently resides in the Town of Manchester. Non residents may only register for programs that indicate "Non-Resident" (NR fee) next to the listed fee.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT POLICY | Enrollment is limited and most programs are on a first come, first served basis. The Recreation Division reserves the right to cancel or close a program which does not meet minimum enrollment requirements.

REFUND POLICY | Full refunds will be made if a request is made at least one week prior to the start of the program or if the Recreation Division cancels the class.

LATE REGISTRATION | Late registration may be accepted for most programs if space permits. Programs are not prorated for late registration.

CONFIRMATION RECEIPT | Online registrants should print out their receipt upon registration.

WAITING LIST | If your desired class is filled, you may be placed on a waitlist, if a waitlist is available. This does not include the Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Levels 1-6 swim lessons.

PROGRAM CANCELLATION LINE

Access program cancellations 24/7 on our program cancellation line by calling (860) 647-3162.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to learn more about programs, upcoming events and more!

MEMBERSHIP

Current memberships will expire December 31, 2025. Memberships for 2026 begin January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2026

A facility pass is required and allows drop-in use of the recreation centers, outdoor pools, indoor pools, and the Community Y Fitness Center during the 2026 recreation season. Senior citizen passes are also valid for the Manchester Senior Center, Senior Center programs, and Community Y Fitness Center.

A facility pass is for Manchester residents only and a valid ID is required to prove residency upon purchase and renewal. You must be present when purchasing a membership as photos will be taken at the time of purchase. Adult, Youth and Senior facility passes can be purchased at Center Springs, Community Y Rec Center. Senior passes can also be purchased at the Senior Center.

FACILITY PASS TYPE

Youth (0 - 20 years old)
Adults (21 - 59 years old)
Senior Citizen (60 and older)
Lost Card Replacement Fee

FEES

No Cost
\$50
\$10
\$5

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Per Connecticut General Statute 19a-77 we are required to disclose that our programs are not licensed by the State Office of Early Childhood.



MANCHESTER LOCATIONS

The Manchester locations guide includes information on town green spaces, recreation centers, program facilities and more. For a complete listing of facilities, please contact the Recreation Division at (860) 647-3084.



CENTER SPRINGS PARK & LODGE 39 LODGE DRIVE

A picturesque, 57-acre park in the center of Manchester, Center Springs Park offers an 18-hole disc golf course, fishing and observation piers, covered pavilions, public art installations, and is home to the Center Springs Lodge, the main office for the Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation. The park also has an access point to the Cheney Rail Trail.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 448 TOLLAND TURNPIKE

Located at Northwest Park in Building #1, this center provides early childhood development programming, support and parenting resources. This center is managed by the Youth Service Bureau.



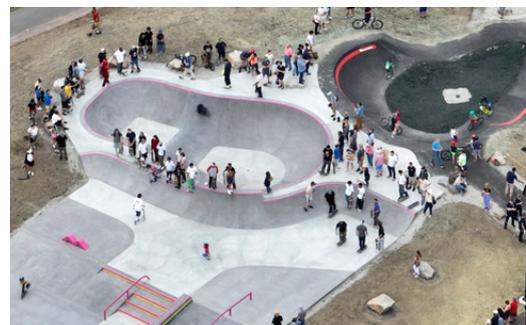
COMMUNITY Y RECREATION CENTER 78 NORTH MAIN STREET

The Community Y Recreation Center houses a fitness center, gymnasium and dance studio. The center also hosts registration for recreational programs and memberships.



LEISURE LABS AT MAHONEY CENTER 110 CEDAR STREET

Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center is a vibrant community hub offering creative, active, and social programs for all ages. With program spaces including the gym, art lab, and cafeteria, it's a place where families, youth, and teens can explore new hobbies and connect with others in a welcoming environment. It also serves as the venue for our adult volleyball leagues, youth basketball, soccer, and tennis programs, as well as our largest summer camp program.



THE OAK & CHARTER OAK PARK 30 / 50 CHARTER OAK STREET

Charter Oak Park includes playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, a softball field, music garden, the only three-sided handball court in the state, and internal park pathways to the East Coast Greenway, along with a connection to Mount Nebo Park. If you follow the East Cost Greenway West, you arrive at The Oak, consisting of a full-length synthetic turf soccer field and our All-Wheels Park that includes a Skate Park and Pump-Track.



YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU 63 LINDEN STREET

The Manchester Youth Service Bureau is devoted to providing opportunities for personal growth to Manchester youth, ages birth to 21, through low-to-no cost programs, services and activities that aim to develop responsible individuals who make positive contributions to the community.



SCAN FOR

TRAILGUIDE

NORTHWEST PARK & PAVILION
448 TOLLAND TURNPIKE

This premier 24-acre park on the north end of Manchester sits on the north shore of Union Pond and features baseball fields, a pond, observation pier, accessible playground, pavilion, hiking trails and more.

To rent the pavilion, visit the Town of Manchester website beginning January 1st. Any questions regarding amenities, rates, or availability, please reach out to Recreation Supervisor Anthony Mazzotta (amazotta@manchesterct.gov).



INDOOR SWIMMING POOLS
MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
134 EAST MIDDLE TURNPIKE

The MHS Main pool is a 25 yard, 6-lane indoor pool. The IOH Pool is adjacent to the MHS Main Pool. The entrance, pool and locker room are fully accessible. The pool is heated, with steps and a ramp for pool entry. Please enter into the facility through the IOH Main Entrance. Parking and entrance to the pool is located on Brookfield St.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES
586 MAIN STREET | MAIN LIBRARY
100 NORTH MAIN STREET | WHITON

Manchester has two public libraries. The Main Library Building is located in the heart of Manchester's downtown, while the Whiston Branch Library is located on the north end of Manchester, adjacent to the Community Y Recreation Center.



SENIOR CENTER
549 EAST MIDDLE TURNPIKE

The Senior Center offers a comprehensive array of activities and services to meet the needs of Manchester's seniors, encourages healthy lifestyles and supports lifelong learning.



LIGHTED SCHOOLS
ILLING | 227 MIDDLE TPKE EAST
VERPLANCK | 126 OLCOTT STREET
WADDELL | 163 BROAD STREET

Discover drop-in sports at lighted school gyms around town—bright nights, active fun, and exciting games waiting just around the corner in a neighborhood near you! See locations above.



EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD
RESOURCE CENTER
153 SPRUCE STREET

The Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center is home to the Neighborhoods & Families Division and offers no-to-low cost community-based programming, as well as space for community groups to meet. This is also the site for the community's popular Spruce Street Farmers Market and community garden.



To permit our facilities please visit, ManchesterCT.gov or scan the QR code.



Available to permit starting 1/1/26

ALLWHEEL

COMMUNITY JAMS

Come down to The Oak All Wheel Park during our community jams to visit vendors and ride with your friends, family, and community! Each month you can show your spirit with our themed jams catered to the time of year. **All Jams are weather-permitting.**

Skate Paddy's Day

Sat, 3/14 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM

Skate for the Earth

Sat, 4/18 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM

Ride the End of School

Sat, 5/30 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM

Summer Kick-off/Flip

F, 6/26 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM

SKATE CLINICS | AGES: 8+

Location: The Oak All Wheel Park
Join The Curb Skate Shop and Shred Strong as they run clinics for those who want to learn more about skating! Each clinic will be catered to a new skill, feature, or lesson.

Beginner Clinics

Sat, 4/18/26 - 5/23/26

No program 5/9/26

9:00AM - 11:00AM

Fee: \$20/\$25 (NR) per clinic

Intermediate + Advanced Clinics

Sun, 4/19/26 - 5/24/26

No program 5/10/26

9:00AM - 11:00AM

Fee: \$20/\$25 (NR) per clinic



***There will be no programming Memorial Day Weekend at The Oak**

TURFFIELD

YOUTH ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLINIC

Location: The Oak Turf Field
Join us as the Springfield College Ultimate Frisbee Team, leads a clinic for youth who want to learn more and become active within the sport!
AGES: 14-16, 10:00AM - 11:00AM
AGES: 17+, 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Sat, 4/25/26
No cost. Registration required

DROP-IN ULTIMATE FRISBEE AGES: 16+

Location: The Oak Turf Field
Join us for drop-in Ultimate Frisbee.
Sun 5/3/26 - 5/31/26
No program 5/10/26
1:00PM - 3:00PM

FAMILY DROP-IN YARD GAMES AGES: ALL AGES

Location: The Oak Turf Field
Join us for drop-in Yard Games, such as Cornhole, Spike-ball, and Kan-Jam.
Sun 5/3/26 - 5/31/26
No program 5/10/26
1:00PM - 3:00PM



JUST FOR GIRLS

GIRLS GOT GAME BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center
Get in the game with our Girls Basketball League! Designed for players of all skill levels, this program focuses on teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill development in a fun and supportive environment. All players receive a team shirt.

AGES: 8 - 9

Games | Sat, 3/14/26 - 4/18/26 | 8:30 AM - 1:00PM

Fee: \$35

AGES: 10 - 12

Practices | Tu, at Waddell School or Community Y

6:00PM - 7:00PM - or - 8:00PM - 9:00PM

Games | Sat, at Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

3/14/26 - 4/18/26 | 1:30PM - 4:00PM

Fee: \$35

ALL GIRL'S SOCCER CLINIC

Location: The Oak Turf Field
Join us for a clinic for youth girls want to learn more about soccer and become active within the sport!

AGES 8 - 11 | 1:00PM - 2:00PM

AGES 12 - 14 | 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Sat | 3/28/26

No cost. Registration required

ALL GIRL'S FLAG FOOTBALL CLINIC

Location: The Oak Turf Field
Join us for a clinic for youth girls want to learn more about Flag Football and become active within the sport!
AGES 8 - 11 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
AGES 12 - 14 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Sat | 3/28/26
No cost. Registration required

GIRLS GOT GAME BASKETBALL CLINIC

AGES: 10 - 14

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center
Join our fun and fast-paced girls basketball clinic designed to build skills, confidence, and teamwork. Players will learn fundamentals through engaging drills, mini-games, and positive coaching.
Sat, 3/7/26 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
No cost. Registration required

ALL GIRL'S DROP-IN SKATE

AGE: All Ages

Location: The Oak All Wheel Park
Join us for a time where girls of all ages can skate and bike on our skate park and pump track!
Sat 3/21/26 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM



BUILT TO PLAY.

SUMMERCAMP REGISTRATION

MONDAY APRIL 6, 2026

Summer Day Camp registration is held online beginning at 9:00 AM on April 6, 2026. In order to register online, you must have an active account in our system. If you are unsure if you have an active account, please give us a call at (860) 647-3084 to find out!

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES

Summer Day Camp will be held for six weeks, June 29 - August 7. Camp will be held from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM; please note that extended AM/PM care is an option for an additional cost of \$60 for AM care and \$60 for PM care each session.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The regular camp day costs \$150/session (each session is two weeks). Payment is required, in full, at the time of registration, to reserve your child's space at camp.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If financial assistance is required, please email campwaivers@manchesterct.gov. This needs to be done PRIOR to camp registration to ensure appropriate fee calculations. Please note, this does not enroll your child(ren) into summer camp, you need to log in to your account to complete the registration process on registration day.

SUMMER CAMP SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

Campers will have the opportunity to participate in swim lessons as part of their camp day! **Summer camp swim lesson registration will be held online or in person on Wednesday April 29, 2026.** Swim lessons are only available to children enrolled in our summer camp program at Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center & Martin School.

MONTHLY WORK_SPACE AND CULTURAL DISTRICT EVENTS

1ST TUESDAY | TECH ROUNDTABLE: AI & DIGITAL TOOLS TO ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS

Location: WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street & on Zoom
Join fellow entrepreneurs and professionals for quick, interactive discussions on using AI and other digital tools to streamline workflows, boost creativity, and grow your business.

1/6 | 2/3 | 3/3 | 4/7 | 12:00PM - 12:45PM

2ND SATURDAY | DOWNTOWN - A CULTURAL DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

Location: WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street & Downtown Manchester
Celebrate creativity and community each month with art exhibits, live music, hands-on crafts, and family friendly activities throughout downtown.

1/10 | 2/14 | 3/14 | 4/11 | 10:00AM - 2:00PM

POET-TEA | 10:00-11:30 AM

Sip tea and share poetry in a welcoming space led by Manchester Poet Laureate Nadia Sims.

WRITER'S PLAYGROUND | 12:00 - 1:30PM

A peer-led creative writing group for ages 16+, open to all genres and experience levels.

2ND THURSDAY | DATENIGHT DOWNTOWN

Enjoy a creative night out featuring rotating venues and hands-on activities. Companion drop-off events available at The Lutz Children's Museum and Firestone Art Studio (advance registration required). Restaurant specials at participating downtown eateries.

Fee: \$25 per person | \$20 early bird

January 8 - Keychain & Jewelry Making

Harvest Beads, 849 Main St.

February 12 - Messages from Heaven with Rebecca Anne LoCicero

WORK_SPACE, 903 Main St.

March 12 - Henna Night

The Dragon's Den, 637 Main St.

April 9 - TBD

contact: WORK_SPACE

3RD TUESDAY | AI FOR NON-TECHY PEOPLE: A FRIENDLY INTRODUCTION TO AI (ZOOM)

Location: on Zoom

This beginner-friendly class is designed for everyday people – not “techy” people – In this class you'll learn how to use AI tools to save time, stay organized, and spark creativity – one easy step at a time. Register for the zoom link via [Workspacemanchester.com/events-programs/](https://workspacemanchester.com/events-programs/)

1/20 | 2/17 | 3/17 | 4/21

6:00 - 7:00 PM

3RD THURSDAY - LISTENING ROOM / OPEN MIC AGES 16+

Location: WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street

A welcoming space for musicians, poets, and performers of all levels to share their art, collaborate, and connect.

1/15 | 2/19 | 3/19 | 4/16

6:30PM - 9:00PM

4TH FRIDAY - SKETCH SOCIAL | AGES 16+

Location: WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street

Relax, sketch, and share ideas with fellow artists in this open, informal session—bring your sketchbook and a sense of curiosity.

1/23 | 2/27 | 3/27 | 4/24 | 5:00PM - 7:30PM

ART_EXHIBITS

PERSPECTIVES OF INDEPENDENCE

Location: Galleries @ WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street

Celebrate local artists and creative expressions of freedom, resilience, and community.

Through January 2026

FARM TO TABLEAU: THE ART OF AGRICULTURE

Location: Galleries @ WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street

Explore the artistry and beauty of Connecticut's agricultural roots through this vibrant, multi-media exhibition celebrating food, farming, and the creative spirit of rural life.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 13

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Exhibit Run: February 13 - April 2, 2026

PEHT EXHIBIT - PARTNERSHIP TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Location: Galleries @ WORK_SPACE, 903 Main Street

A moving collection created in collaboration with the Partnership to End Human Trafficking, highlighting survivor stories and the healing power of creativity and community.

Opening Reception: Friday, April 10 | 5:30PM - 7:00PM

UPCOMINGEVENTS

EASTSIDEFAMILY

MOVIE NIGHTS

Location: Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center

Join us for our free, family-friendly movie night series, indoors at the Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center! Light refreshments will be provided.
1st Friday, January - April, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

JANUARY 2ND | TROLLS (PG)

In the magical world of Trolls, follow along as Princess Poppy goes on an adventure not only to save her friends, but to show those around her the magic of optimism, determination, and acceptance.

FEBRUARY 6TH | WRECK IT RALPH (PG)

Ralph is tired of being the bad guy in his video game, so he ventures to the greater arcade to prove he's a good guy and can win as well.

MARCH 6TH | FINDING NEMO (G)

Nemo is a Clownfish that differs from others due to his smaller fin. When he gets separated from his father and is lost at sea, he learns, while making friends, that our differences are what make us special.

APRIL 3RD | MONSTERS, INC. (G)

In a world of monsters and humans, separated only by portals, the scariest monster accidentally lets a human girl into Monstropolis, and along with his best friend, has to figure out how to get her home.

OPENMIC + POETRYWORKSHOPS

AGES: 16+

Location: Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center
Calling all artists! Rappers, singers, artists-this is your moment to shine! Join us for open mic nights and creative poetry workshops, where you can unleash your creativity and showcase your amazing skills.
Registration Suggested
6:00PM - 8:00PM

ART OF THE HEART | Exploring the heartbeat behind every emotion and story | W, 2/11/26

THE WINDS OF CHANGE | Exploring transformation, motion, and letting go | W, 3/18/26

RAINDROPS & REVELATIONS | Finding meaning in the rhythm of April showers | W, 4/15/26

THE SOUND OF SUNSHINE | Uplifting poems that radiate warmth, gratitude, and light | W, 5/13/26

FUN NIGHTS

Location: Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center

Family Fun Nights are based on the idea that, when it comes to creating connections - fun comes first! These events provide families a positive, no-cost opportunity for connection & recreation.
3rd Friday, January - April | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

JANUARY 16TH | HOT CHOCOLATE SOCIAL

Come cozy up on Spruce Street at our Hot Chocolate Social! Bring your friends and family to mingle, enjoy some relaxing tunes, and play your favorite board games. Be sure to show up in your comfiest pajamas!

FEBRUARY 20TH | ARTS AND CRAFTS NIGHT

Unleash your creativity with a variety of festive arts and crafts activities, including Valentine's Day themed craft kits, card making, and more!

MARCH 20TH | TRIVIA NIGHT

Bring the whole crew for a night of laughs, learning and family-friendly fun at our all-ages Trivia Night - where everyone can play and anyone can win!

APRIL 17TH | PUZZLE & LEGO NIGHT

Let your imagination run wild at our Puzzle & LEGO Night! Enjoy various puzzles, brain teasers & LEGO-based activities.

LEISURELABS

HOT CHOCOLATE SOCIAL

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center
Come to Leisure Labs for a cup of delicious hot chocolate with customizable toppings such as marshmallows, sprinkles, and whipped cream!
F, 12/12/25 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

VALENTINES THEMED CUPCAKES

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center
Want to show your love? Come join us and decorate a Valentine's Day-themed cupcake for yourself or your valentine.
F, 2/13/26 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center
Join us for two scoops of chocolate, strawberry, or vanilla ice cream with customizable toppings!
F, 3/13/26 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

LEISURELABS DROP-IN ART

1/6 - 1/8 | SNOWMAN DOOR HANGER

Join us in creating a door-hanger snowman using the letters of your name.

1/13 - 1/15 | PAINTING SNOWY TREES

Paint a winter scene featuring snowy trees.

1/20 - 1/22 | HANDPRINT SNOW GLOBES

Create a winter scene for a handprint snow globe.

1/27 - 1/29 | FINGERPAINT SNOWFLAKES

Make unique snowflakes using finger paints.

2/3 - 2/5 | BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us in creatively celebrating historical change-makers during Black History Month

2/10 - 2/12 | LOVELY PIZZAS

Create paper heart pizzas to share with someone special

2/17 - 2/19 | 3D HEART CARDS

Construct three-dimensional heart-shaped cards.

2/24 - 2/26 | HANDPRINT HEART TREE

Create a handprint tree adorned with paper hearts.

3/3 - 3/5 | INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Join in celebrating the remarkable women worldwide who are catalysts of positive change.

3/10 - 3/12 | PIPE CLEANER SHAMROCK RINGS

create fashionable shamrock ring using pipe cleaners.

3/17 - 3/19 | LUCKY BUGS

Make fun spring bugs to bring good luck.

3/24 - 3/26 | LUCKY POT OF GOLD

Create a fun craft of the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow to decorate our art room.

3/31 - 4/2 | HANDPRINT SHAMROCKS

Come and paint a lucky handprinted shamrock to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

4/7 - 4/9 | APRIL SHOWER NAME UMBRELLAS

Decorate paper umbrellas with your name for April showers

UPCOMING EVENTS

MANCHESTER'S GREAT EGG HUNT

An EGGcellent Adventure for the entire community. Our Egg Hunt is coming back! Make sure to follow all our social media accounts so you are up to date about this event as it approaches.

COLOR DASH | AGES: ALL AGES WELCOME

Location: Northwest Park Pavilion, 448 Tolland Tpke

Get ready to sprint, splash, and shine! Join us for the COLOR DASH, a vibrant fun run where participants are doused in bursts of color at every checkpoint. Whether you run, jog, or walk, you'll cross the finish line covered head to toe in a rainbow of bright hues. Perfect for all ages and fitness levels—bring your friends, your family, and make memories in full color! Pre-Registration Encouraged
Sat, 5/9/26 | 11:00AM - 2:00PM



SEEDS OF CHANGE: START YOUR POLLINATOR GARDEN THIS WINTER | AGES 18+

Location: Eastside Neighborhood

Resource Center

Join us for our town's first Pollinator Pathway workshop and discover the method of winter seed sowing to grow native plants right in your own backyard! This simple approach supports pollinators and helps create healthier habitats in our community. You'll leave this free workshop with a pot of seeds and the instructions to grow them on through the winter!

Th, 1/8/26, 6:30PM

No registration required

REC RUN
ON THE
POP-UP CREATIVE ARTS, SPORTS & GAMES



REC ON THE RUN PAINT NIGHTS

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Enjoy a relaxing evening at our Free Paint Nights! All materials are provided—just bring your creativity! Follow along with guided instructions or paint at your own pace. No experience needed! Great for all ages and skill levels. Unwind, express yourself, and take home your very own masterpiece!
F, 1/9/26 - 5/1/26 | 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Registration Required

MARCH MADNESS SKILLS CHALLENGE

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney

Show off your hoop skills! Test your speed, accuracy, and agility in our Basketball Skills Challenge.

Participants will dribble, pass, and shoot their way through fun, timed stations designed to put their abilities to the test. Whether you're a rising star or just love the game, compete, cheer on friends, and see who takes home the title of skills champion!

F, 3/13/26 | 6:30PM - 8:00PM

MARCH MADNESS 3-POINT CONTEST

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney

Think you've got range? Step up to the arc and prove it in our Basketball 3-Point Contest!

Players will race against the clock to sink as many shots as possible from beyond the line. Bring your best form, your fastest release, and your confidence

F, 3/20/26 | 6:30PM - 8:00PM

DINE AROUND THE WORLD

DINNER IN THE PARK - ITALY | AGES: ALL AGES

Location: Northwest Park Pavilion

Enjoy a delicious Italian meal and community celebration with music and culture.

T, 6/29/26 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM

No cost. Registration required

MANCHESTER'S EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR

see page 13

EASTSIDE ENGAGE

SPRUCE STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN: PROSPECTIVE GARDENER APPLICATION | AGES: 18+

The newly renovated Spruce Street Community Garden will offer 20 new galvanized steel growing beds for rental by Manchester residents. The Prospective Gardener Application will open on Wednesday, January 7th at 9:00AM. Successful completion of this application will add you to our lottery system for the 2026 growing season. Winners will be drawn on Thursday, March 5th and will be notified immediately. All chosen gardeners must attend a mandatory Community Garden Orientation, held on Thursday, March 12th from 6:00PM - 7:00PM.

Application Opens | W, 1/7/26, 9:00AM

Fee: Gardeners will pay \$40 / season

If selected by lottery system.

COMMUNITY PROJECT & EVENT FUND

The Community Project & Event Fund is an initiative that aims to support local grassroots and non-profit organizations and their cultural projects, programs, celebrations and commemorations. The Neighborhoods and Families Division is requesting proposals for funding opportunities of up to \$1,000 per application from Manchester-based non-profit groups, clubs and organizations. Qualifying candidates must plan to facilitate a project, program or celebration that is accessible to the public, culturally inclusive and meets one of the following categories: Community Cultural Events, Commemorative Projects or Arts and Culture Initiatives. Priority will be given to programs & projects that will be held at the Eastside Plaza. Submissions are due by Sunday, April 19th, no later than 11:59 PM.

Application Opens | M, 1/12/26, 9:00AM



To register or for more information, scan QR code or email mcheverier@manchesterct.gov with any questions.

WINTER AQUATICS

POOL REOPENS: MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

IOH POOL CLOSURES FOR THE SEASON: WEDNESDAY, 5/27/26

MAIN POOL CLOSURES FOR THE SEASON: THURSDAY, 5/28/26

REGISTRATION INFO

SWIM LESSON & PROGRAM REGISTRATION DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2025

MANCHESTER RESIDENTS ONLY.

In-person

Community Y | Center Springs Lodge

Online

Reonline.townofmanchester.org

Online registration requires users to set up an account at any in-person location.

Important Information

- If your child has not taken a swim lesson with us before, you will have to register in person with details on the skills your child can perform. Our system will not allow you to enroll without a previous lesson in our system.
- Once class levels reach maximum enrollment, registration for that class will close.
- Waiting lists are not maintained for swim lessons.

Cost

Swim lessons are \$25 per child per session.

Placement

Children may not be enrolled in more than one class per session. Parents who register their child for more than one swimming session take the chance of incorrectly placing their child. If incorrect placement occurs, parents may call the Recreation Division and transfer their child into the correct level if space is available.

For accurate placement, refer to placement guide below.

SWIM LEVEL PLACEMENT GUIDE

LEVEL 1

The child must be at least 5 years old and able to be in the water without a parent.

LEVEL 2

The child must be able to enter/exit water using the ramp or ladder, front and back float independently for 5 seconds, front and back glide for two body lengths, roll from front to back and roll from back to front.

LEVEL 3

The child must be able to fully submerge and hold their breath for 10 seconds, recover to a vertical position from front/back float or glide and back float for 15 seconds.

LEVEL 4

The child must be able to enter the water by jumping from side of pool (deep end) fully submerge and recover to surface, front crawl for 15 yards, backstroke for 15 yards and tread water for 1 minute.

LEVEL 5

The child must be able to front crawl for 25 yards, backstroke for 15 yards, butterfly for 15 yards and swim underwater for 3-5 body lengths

LEVEL 6

The child must be able to front crawl for 50 yards, breaststroke for 25 yards, butterfly for 25 yards and tread water for 5 minutes.

THE POOL WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

1/19, 2/16, 2/17, 4/13 - 4/16, 5/25



WEEKEND SWIM HOURS BEGIN | 1/31/26

WEEKEND SWIM HOURS END | 3/21/26

OPEN SWIM MAIN POOL

Monday and Wednesday: 7:30PM - 8:30PM

OPEN SWIM IOH POOL

Monday and Wednesday: 7:30PM - 8:30PM

Saturday: 12:00PM - 1:00PM

**CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT 18+*

Age Requirements

Infant: 6 months - 18 months

*adult must be in the water with child

Toddler: 19 months - 3 years 5 months

*adult must be in the water with child

Preschool: 3 years 5 months - 5 years

*adult must be in the water with child

Levels 1 - 6: 5 years+

Class Ratios (instructor : children)

Infant | Toddler | 1:12

Preschool | 1:12

Levels 1 - 6 | 1:8

SWIM LESSONS

SESSION DATES

MONDAY ONLY CLASSES

Session 1: 1/26/26 - 3/23/26
(no program 2/16)
Session 2: 3/30/26 - 5/18/26
(no program 4/13)

WEDNESDAY ONLY CLASSES

Session 1: 1/28/26 - 3/18/26
Session 2: 4/1/26 - 5/27/26
(no program 4/15)

FRIDAY ONLY CLASSES

Session 1: 3/27/26 - 5/29/26
(no program 4/3, 4/17)



MONDAY & WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Session 1: 1/26/26 - 2/23/26
(no program 2/16)
Session 2: 3/9/26 - 4/1/26
Session 3: 4/20/26 - 5/13/26

TUESDAY & THURSDAY CLASSES

Session 1: 1/27/26 - 2/24/26
(no program 2/17)
Session 2: 3/10/26 - 4/2/26

SATURDAY CLASSES

Session 1: 1/31/26 - 3/21/26

TEEN SWIM LESSONS | AGES: 13-18

Location: Manchester High IOH Pool
This class is designed for teenagers interested in learning to swim or who may have a fear of the water. Some or no experience is needed to take the class.

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/27/26 - 2/24/26
(no program 2/17)
5:00PM - 5:45PM
Session 2 | T/Th, 3/3/26 - 3/26/26
5:00PM - 5:45PM
Session 3 | T/Th, 4/7/26 - 5/7/26
(no program 4/14, 4/16)
5:00PM - 5:45PM
Fee per session: \$30/ \$38 (NR)

BEGINNER ADULT SWIM LESSONS

AGE: 18+
Location: Manchester High Main Pool
First-time swimmers or those who may have a fear of water will learn skills needed to keep themselves and others safe in the water, as well as basic front and back swimming strokes.
Session 1 | Sat, 1/31/26 - 3/21/26
8:30AM - 9:30AM
Fee: \$48 / \$60 (NR)

INTERMEDIATE ADULT SWIM LESSONS

AGE: 18+
Location: Manchester High Main Pool
As they become more comfortable in the water, participants will expand their basic swimming knowledge from their beginner class, including safety skills and swimming skills.
Session 1 | Sat, 1/31/26 - 3/21/26
9:30AM - 10:30AM
Fee: \$48 / \$60 (NR)

PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

Private swim lessons (1:1) and semi-private lessons (1:2) are structured to cater to meet you or your child's specific instructional needs. The aquatics staff will work with you to customize a personal swim lesson schedule with an experienced instructor. Lessons are offered as 4 thirty-minute sessions at mutually agreed-upon times. Semi-private lesson participants must be within a skill level of each other.
Private Session
4 X 30 Minute Private (1:1) Lessons
Fee: \$100
Semi-Private Session
4 X 30 Minute Semi-Private (1:2) Lessons
Fee: \$160/for 2

SWIM LESSON EVALUATION NIGHT | AGES: 5+

Location: Manchester High Main Pool
Do you want to know what level of swimming ability your child is at? Do you want to ensure you enroll your child in the correct swimming lesson for our Summer 2026 Aquatic sessions? Don't miss out on this opportunity to have a 15-minute 1 on 1 instruction with one of our certified WSI Instructors. Please contact the Community Y at (860)647-3164 to schedule a time during the dates below. Registration for the evaluations will close the week before the proposed dates.
4/28/26 & 4/30/26 | 5:30PM - 7:30PM

IOH POOL

			SESSIONS
INFANT	MON	6:00PM - 6:30PM	1 2
	WED	6:00PM - 6:30PM	1 2
TODDLER	MON	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2
	WED	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2
	SAT	11:00AM - 11:30AM	1
PRESCHOOL	MON	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2
	WED	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2
	SAT	10:30AM - 11:00AM	1
LEVEL 1	MON/WED	5:30PM - 6:00PM	1 2
	TUE/THUR	6:00PM - 6:30PM	1 2
	FRI	6:00PM - 6:30PM	1
	FRI	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1
	SAT	9:00AM - 9:30AM	1
	SAT	10:00AM - 10:30AM	1
LEVEL 2	TUE/THUR	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2
	TUE/THUR	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2
	FRI	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1
	SAT	9:30AM - 10:00AM	1
	SAT	11:30AM - 12:00PM	1

MHS MAIN POOL

			SESSIONS
LEVEL 3	MON/WED	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2 3
	MON/WED	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2 3
	TUE/THUR	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2
	SAT	11:00AM - 11:30AM	1
	SAT	11:30AM - 12:00PM	1
LEVEL 4	MON/WED	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2 3
	TUE/THUR	6:00PM - 6:30PM	1 2
	TUE/THUR	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2
	SAT	10:30AM - 11:00AM	1
	SAT	11:30AM - 12:00PM	1
LEVEL 5	TUE/THUR	5:30PM - 6:00PM	1 2
	TUE/THUR	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2
	SAT	11:00AM - 11:30AM	1
LEVEL 6	MON/WED	7:00PM - 7:30PM	1 2 3
	TUE/THUR	6:30PM - 7:00PM	1 2
	SAT	10:30AM - 11:00AM	1

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

AQUATICS FITNESS

TOTAL AQUA | AGE: 18+

Location: Manchester High IOH Pool

This class combines segments of cardio and strength training using training intervals and weight resistance tools. Designed for all fitness levels, using equipment that helps result in a toned and functional body. This class covers strength, cardio, and mobility, well enough to wear you out!

Session 1 | M/W, 1/12/26 - 2/11/26

4:30PM - 5:15PM (no program 1/19, 2/16)

Session 2 | M/W, 3/2/26 - 4/1/26

4:30PM - 5:15PM

Session 3 | M/W, 4/20/26 - 5/20/26

4:30PM - 5:15PM

Session 1 Fee: \$54/\$67 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

AQUA CIRCUIT | AGE: 18+

Location: Manchester High IOH Pool

This combination of cardio and strength training combines circuit training principles and the latest aquatic equipment with water-based fitness. Progress through a series of stations for a total-body workout.

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/13/26 - 2/12/26 | 4:15PM - 5:00PM

Session 2 | T/Th, 3/3/26 - 4/2/26 | 4:15PM - 5:00PM

Session 3 | T/Th, 4/21/26 - 5/21/26 | 4:15PM - 5:00PM

Fee per session: \$60 / \$75 (NR)

ADULT LAP SWIM | AGE: 18+

Location: Manchester High Main Pool

Swimming is one of the best overall body workouts. Build cardio and tone at the same time. Dedicated lap swim time is available in the evenings.

Session 1 | M - Th, 1/12/26 - 3/26/26

8:30PM - 9:30PM (no program 1/19, 2/16, 2/17)

Sat, 1/31/26 - 3/21/26

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Session 2 | M - Th, 3/30/26 - 5/28/2026

8:30PM - 9:30PM

(no program 4/13, 4/14, 4/15, 4/16, 5/25)

Fee per session: \$50 (residents only)

HYDRO FITNESS | AGES: 18+

Location: Manchester High Main Pool

Have some fun and exercise all at the same time! Workout to music while benefiting from the water's resistance. For all fitness levels. Build muscle strength, muscle tone, and endurance without the impact of land exercise. This is a DEEP-WATER aerobics class.

Session 1 | M/W, 1/12/26 - 2/11/26

5:30PM - 6:15PM (no program 1/19, 2/16)

Session 2 | M/W, 3/2/26 - 4/1/26

5:30PM - 6:15PM

Session 3 | M/W, 4/20/26 - 5/20/26

5:30PM - 6:15PM

Session 1 Fee: \$54/\$67 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

SWIM FOR FITNESS | AGES: 18+

Location: Manchester High Main Pool

Swim 30 consecutive laps by the end of the class. Evaluation and individual swim fitness programs are used to help achieve swimming goals. Prerequisite: Must be able to swim a full length without stopping.

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/13/26 - 2/12/26

7:30PM - 8:30PM

Session 2 | T/Th, 2/24/26 - 3/26/26

7:30PM - 8:30PM

Session 3 | T/Th, 4/7/26 - 5/28/26

7:30PM - 8:30PM (no program 4/14, 4/16)

Session 1 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$84/\$105 (NR)

AQUATICS LEARN

LIFEGUARD TRAINING (LGT) JANUARY SESSION AGES: 15+

Location: Manchester High Main Pool

Through video, group discussion, and hands-on practice, learn patron rescue and surveillance skills, first aid, and CPR/AED. Successful candidates will receive a 2/yr CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuers and a 2/yr Lifeguard certification. Due to this being a Blended Learning course, online and in-person, registration will close on 12/29.

Prerequisites: Must be at least 15 years of age and pass certain swimming requirements. Attendance at each class is mandatory.

M-F, 1/5/26 - 1/9/26 | 5:30PM - 9:30PM

Sat, 1/10/26 | 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Fee: \$100/\$250 (NR)

WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR CLASS (WSI) APRIL SESSION | AGES: 15+

Location: Manchester High Main Pool

Become a certified instructor to be able to teach swimming lessons. This certification is the gold standard and provides the most comprehensive training for swim instructors. Registration for class will close on 4/6. Prerequisites: Must be at least 15 years of age and be able to swim at a Learn to Swim level 4 ability.

M-F, 4/13/26 - 4/17/26 | 11:00AM - 5:00PM

Fee: \$150/\$300 (NR)





CONNECT, COLLABORATE, AND MOVE WITH BIKE WALK MANCHESTER!

NETWORKING EVENTS

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

Location: Community Y, 78 North Main Street

- **Get the Town Scoop on projects, improvements and upgrades that make our trails safer and more accessible.**
- **Learn about UR Community Cares and how to get involved**
- **Discover how Bikes4All is making cycling more accessible**
- **Simple repairs - Bike repair stations and how to use them**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

Location: Community Y, 78 North Main Street

- **Get ready for Bike Month in May**
- **Learn more about our trails connectivity**
- **Stay Safe around cyclists with Bike Friendly Driver Training**
- **Share biking and walking WANTS with Bike Walk Manchester; your ideas, questions or concerns are important**



BUILDING A MORE WALKABLE, BIKEABLE COMMUNITY

Bike Walk Manchester (BWM) is a community centered initiative that promotes safe, accessible, and enjoyable bicycling and pedestrian engagement for everyone.



**SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND HELP SHAPE FUTURE INITIATIVES
SCAN OUR QR CODE TO BECOME A PART OF MANCHESTER'S AWARD
WINNING BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

DROP IN PROGRAMS

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MY TODDLER & ME | AGES: 2 - 4

Location: Northwest Park Early Childhood Center
A free play time for toddlers and their caregivers. This is a drop-in playgroup; registration is not required.
W, 1/7/26 - 4/29/26 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM

ROBIN'S MOTHERING GROUP | AGES: UNDER 1

Location: Northwest Park Early Childhood Center
Supportive group for moms with babies under one year old run by Lactation Consultant, Robin DeGemmis, IBCLC.
Th, 11:30AM - 1:30PM | 1/8/26 - 4/30/26
Cancellations communicated by facilitator

MY BABY & ME | AGES: 0 - 2

Location: Northwest Park Early Childhood Center
Drop-in playtime for parents and their babies to socialize.
F, 1/9/26- 4/24/26 | 9:00AM - 10:15AM

PRESCHOOL DROP-IN PLAY | AGES: 2 - 5

Location: Northwest Park Early Childhood Center
Drop-In Playtime is a semi-structured playgroup for older toddlers and preschool children to engage in developmentally appropriate activities and socialize. Email Caitlin at CMcnamara@manchesterct.gov for the cancellation list.
Tu, 1/13/26- 4/21/26 | 3:00PM - 4:15PM

MANCHESTER'S EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR

Location: Manchester High School, 134 Middle Turnpike East (Entry from Brookfield Street)
Discover programs, services, and resources for young children and families in Manchester. Connect with local organizations offering support for ages 0 - 8 and prenatal parents – all in one free, fun community event!
Sat, 2/21/26 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM (snow date 2/28/26)



PLAY & LEARN SERIES

AGES: 1.5 - 5

Location: Northwest Park Early Childhood Center
We will pair our learning with rhymes, movement, stories, circle time, themed activities, crafts, vocabulary rich conversations and of course, play! Caregivers should be prepared to participate with their little learner! **Registration Required.**
\$36/\$44(NR) per class

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT ARCTIC ANIMALS

Discover the wonders of Arctic wildlife through stories, crafts, and play as we explore animals that thrive in icy habitats.
M, 9:30AM - 11:00AM | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/23, 3/2
(no program 1/19, 2/16)
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT FARM LIFE

Experience farm fun! Meet animals, explore plants and tools, and learn what makes life on the farm so special.
M, 9:30AM - 11:00AM | 3/9, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/20, 4/27
(no program 3/16, 4/13)
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT DINOSAURS

Travel back in time to explore fascinating dinosaurs through hands-on crafts, stories, and imaginative play.
M, 12:30PM - 2:00PM | 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/23, 3/2
(no program 1/19, 2/16)
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT MAKE BELIEVE

Spark imagination with stories and crafts featuring dragons, superheroes, robots, and more make-believe magic!
M, 12:30PM - 2:00PM | 3/9, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/20, 4/27
(no program 3/16, 4/13)
Fee: \$36/44(NR)

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT COLORS

Experiment with color mixing, vibrant crafts, and creative play while discovering the colors all around us.
T, 9:30AM - 11:00AM | 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/24
(no program 2/17)
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT SPRING

Celebrate springtime through crafts, games, and stories about flowers, weather, and the beauty of the new season.
T, 9:30AM - 11:00AM | 3/10, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/21, 4/28
(no program 3/17, 4/14)
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)

PLAY & LEARN ABOUT ARTS & CRAFTS

Explore creativity through guided and open-ended art projects using colorful materials and fun techniques.
Session 1 | Th, 10:00AM - 11:30AM
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)
Session 2 | Th, 10:00AM - 11:30AM
3/12, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/23, 4/30
(no program 3/19, 4/16)
Fee: \$36/44 (NR)



CRADLE TO CRAYONS | AGES: 2 - under 5

Location: Northwest Park Early Childhood Center
Cradle to Crayons is a preschool playgroup that supports the development of skills that will promote success in school and life. **Registration Required.**
Th, 1/8/26 - 4/16/26 | 3:00PM - 4:15PM

FAMILY PROGRAMS

STRAWBERRY DIPPING PARTY

Location: Youth Service Bureau
Celebrate Valentine's Day with family! Dip and decorate your own chocolate-covered strawberries to take home and share.
F, 2/13/26 | 5:00PM - 6:00PM

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Location: Youth Service Bureau
Learn about Lunar New Year traditions through stories, crafts, and hands-on activities. Each family takes home a book and lantern!
Tu, 2/17/26 | 5:30PM - 7:00PM

BUNNY ROCKS AND GARDEN WALKS

Location: Youth Service Bureau
Welcome spring by painting your own ceramic bunny garden stone! Brighten your outdoor space with this fun family art activity.
Tu, 3/24/26 | 5:00PM - 6:30PM

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

Location: Youth Service Bureau
Create a pollinator-friendly planter and learn why bees matter! Paint your pot, plant herbs and flowers, and sample local honey.
Th, 4/23/26 | 5:00PM - 6:30PM

OINK, MOO, AND DECORATE TOO!

Location: Youth Service Bureau
Decorate delicious farm-animal cookies with your family! Follow step-by-step guidance or let your creativity shine.
T, 6/9/26 | 5:00PM - 6:30PM

FAMILY NATURE WALK

Location: Youth Service Bureau
Enjoy a one-mile hike, scavenger hunt, and nature collecting adventure. Each family takes home a birdfeeder kit for backyard fun!
T, 5/19/26 | 5:00PM - 6:30PM

SMART START

START SMART BASKETBALL | AGE: 3 - 5

Location: Community Y Recreation Center
Parents will work together with their children in a supportive environment to learn the basics of sport. Teaches children (3-5) a variety of basketball skills including: dribbling, passing, shooting and agility skills.
Sat, 2/7/26 - 3/7/26
Session 1 | 9:00AM - 10:00AM
Session 2 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Session 3 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Fee Per Session : \$65/\$81 (NR) Fee Includes Equipment

START SMART BASEBALL | AGE: 3 - 5

Location: Community Y Recreation Center
Parents will work together with their children in a supportive environment to learn the basics of sport. Teaches children (3-5) a variety of baseball skills including: throwing, catching, hitting a baseball and agility skills.
Sat, 4/11/26 - 5/9/26
Session 1 | 9:00AM - 10:00AM
Session 2 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Session 3 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Fee Per Session: \$65/\$81 (NR) Fee Includes Equipment



YOUTH PROGRAMS

DROP IN YOUTH BASKETBALL

COMMUNITY "Y" | MON - FRI
6:00PM - 7:00PM | 13 and under
7:00PM - 8:00PM | 14 - 15 year old
8:00PM - 9:00PM | 16 - 17 year old

Saturday
12:00PM - 1:45PM | 13 and under
1:45PM - 3:00PM | 14 - 15 year old
3:00PM - 4:45PM | 16 - 17 year old

WADDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MON - FRI
6:00PM - 7:00PM | 13 and under
7:00PM - 8:00PM | 14 - 15 year old
8:00PM - 9:00PM | 16 - 17 year old

LEISURE LABS AT MAHONEY CENTER | MON - FRI
5:00PM - 6:00PM | 12 and under
6:00PM - 7:00PM | 13 - 15 year old
7:00PM - 9:00PM | 16+
Saturday | 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Hours subject to change once Adult and Youth Recreation Sports begin in November/December) No drop-in basketball, December 8 thru February 9. Registration card required.
THIS INFORMATION IS FOR LEISURE LABS ONLY



YOUTH PROGRAMS CONT.

ALL ABOUT GIRLS | AGES: GRADES 4 - 7 with a parent or guardian

Location: Youth Service Bureau

A supportive discussion on growing up for girls and their parents. Learn about physical and emotional changes—includes dinner and a take-home “period pack.”

T, 5/5/26 | 5:30PM - 7:00PM

BUDDY DAY | AGES: 6 - 13

Location: Rose Community Room, Squire Village

High school mentors team up with kids ages 6-13 from Squire Village for fun activities, field trips, and meaningful connections that build lasting friendships and community.

W, 1/14/26 - 3/4/26 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM for 8 weeks

OWLING FAMILY EVENT

Families with Youth in Grades 4+

Location: Youth Service Bureau and offsite

Enjoy dinner, then head out after dark in search of owls! Learn about these mysterious birds and listen for their calls during this cozy evening family adventure. Registration required.

Sat, February 2026, Date TBA | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS | AGES: 12-17

Location: Youth Service Bureau

Unleash your imagination through storytelling, creativity, and teamwork in Dungeons & Dragons. Learn to play—or lead—as a game master!

T, 1/13/26 - 6/23/26 | 4:00PM - 6:00PM

ULTIMATE ART EXPERIENCE | AGES: 11 - 15

Location: Youth Service Bureau

Visit the New Britain Museum of American Art, then create your own masterpiece inspired by American artists—supplies included!

W, 4/15/26 | 9:00-3:00pm

(April Break for MPS Students)

SPRING BREAK TRIP WITH POPPY TO HAMMONSASSET (JOURNEY FIELD TRIP)

AGES: Youth in Grades 4 - 8

Location: Youth Service Bureau and offsite

Spend Spring Break exploring Hammonasset’s feathered friends! Learn to spot and identify birds, discover their habits, and enjoy a peaceful day outdoors with Poppy. Registration required.

T, 4/14/26 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

EAGLE SURVEY | AGES: Youth in Grades 4 - 8

Location: Youth Service Bureau and offsite

Join Poppy for a day along the Connecticut River Valley searching for majestic bald eagles! Learn about local conservation efforts and help monitor these incredible birds. Registration required.

Sat, 1/24/26 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

GIRLS CIRCLE (BENNET ACADEMY)

AGES: 6TH GRADE

Location: Bennet Academy

Afterschool program for 6th grade girls focused on friendship, confidence, and creative self-discovery. Contact Tasha Weston at (860) 647-5215 or tweston@manchesterct.gov to register.

M, 1/26/26 - 3/23/26 (no program 2/16/26)

2:45PM - 4:30PM

GIRLS CIRCLE (MANCHESTER MIDDLE ACADEMY)

GRADES: 5 - 8

Location: Manchester Middle Academy

School-based group for girls to build confidence, friendships, and healthy identity. Contact Tasha Weston at (860) 647-5215 or tweston@manchesterct.gov to register.

January 2026 - May 2026

JOURNEY: PATHWAY TO LEADERSHIP

GRADES: 6-8

Nature-based leadership and service experience with art, woodworking, and field trips.

T, 1/6/26 - 6/16/26 | 3:30PM - 5:00PM

JOURNEY ART & NATURE / BUILD-A-BOOK

Grades 4-5

Create, write, and illustrate your own book inspired by nature and art!

W, 1/7/26 - 6/17/26 | 3:30PM - 5:00PM

SPRING BIRDING | GRADES: 4-8

Location: Youth Service Bureau and offsite

Take a springtime birdwatching trip with Poppy!

Discover local birds, learn identification tips, and enjoy the beauty of nature coming to life.

Sat, March 2026, Date TBA | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

AGES: Homeschool kids and their adult

Location: Youth Service Bureau Teen Center

A fun, relaxed space for homeschool kids to make friends, play games, create art, and connect! Join this parent-run drop-in group for creativity, laughter, and community. Drop-in. Registration is not required.

M, 1/12/26 - 4/27/26 | 1:30PM - 3:00PM

Instructor: Parent Volunteers

INTRO TO CROCHET | AGES: 8 -12

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Crochet is a type of needlecraft in which you use a hook to create fabric from loops of yarn. Crochet can be used to make everything from blankets and scarves to hats and sweaters. If you’re looking for a fun, creative way to spend your free time, this introduction to crochet may be the perfect activity for you!

M, 1/12/26 - 3/2/26 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Fee: \$30/\$35 (NR)

YOUTHSPORTS

JUNIOR INDOOR TENNIS LESSONS | AGES: 4 - 7

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Kids will learn the basic tennis lessons: groundstrokes, backhand, forehand, volleying, and serving. Please wear gym clothes and bring a racquet.

Session 1 | T, 3/31/26 - 4/21/26

5:30PM - 6:00PM

Session 2 | T, 4/28/26 - 5/19/26

5:30PM - 6:00PM

Fee per session: \$26/ \$33 (NR)

YOUTH INDOOR TENNIS LESSONS | AGES: 8-12

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Kids will learn the basic tennis lessons; groundstrokes, backhand, forehand, volleying, and serving. Please wear gym clothes and bring a racquet.

Session 1 | T, 3/31/26 - 4/21/26

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Session 2 | T, 4/28/26 - 5/19/26

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Fee per session: \$26/ \$33 (NR)

CO-ED YOUTH INDOOR SOCCER

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Gymnasium

This program focuses on teamwork, skills, and competitive play for boys and girls outdoors.

Participants should bring sneakers, shorts, a shirt, and a water bottle.

COED YOUTH | Ages: 5 - 6

Games: Su, 1/11/26 - 3/8/26 | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

(no program 2/8/26)

Fee: \$35

COED YOUTH | Ages: 7 - 8

Games: Su, 1/11/26 - 3/8/26 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

(No Program 2/8/26)

Fee: \$35



TEEN PROGRAMS

SIBSHOP

Location: Youth Service Bureau

Supportive hangout space for youth with siblings with disabilities. Fun, community, and connection.

Session 1 | Ages: 7 - 11

2/10/26, 3/10/26, 4/14/26, 5/12/26

3:30PM - 5:30PM

Session 2 | Ages: 12 - 17

2/24/26, 3/24/26, 4/21/26, 5/26

3:30PM - 5:30PM

SENSORY FRIENDLY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

AGES: Families with children 0 - 18

Location: Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center

Sensory-friendly movie night featuring "IF" – low volume, lights on, all welcome! Space is limited.

Registration is required to accommodate sensory requests best. Registration required

F, 3/13/26 | 6:30PM

ARCHEOLOGY DIG FOR FAMILIES AT PITKIN GLASSWORKS | AGES: 5+ (parent/guardian participation encouraged!)

Location: 11 Parker Street, Manchester

Family-friendly dig at historic Pitkin Glassworks—uncover artifacts and solve local mysteries! Email sbell@manchesterct.gov to register. Registration required.

Sat, 5/30/26 (Rain Date: 6/6/26) | 10:00AM - 11:30AM

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

AGES: ALL AGES

Location: Manchester High School Baily Auditorium
Honor Dr. King's legacy at this inspiring community event featuring student awards, performances, and reflections on equality.

T, 1/20/26 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM (snow date 1/26/26)

FAMILY AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

AGES: Families with children in grades 4-12

Location: Youth Service Bureau and offsite

Join the annual Audubon bird count and help track local bird populations! Families and youth will enjoy a day of birdwatching, data collection, and community service. Binoculars and lunch provided. Registration required.

Sat, 1/10/26 | 9:00AM - 2:00PM

TEEN CENTER | AGES: 12-17

Location: Manchester Youth Service Bureau

Drop-in teen space for youth with games, bike repair, snacks, and monthly pizza parties.

T, W, Th, 1/13/26 - 6/24/26 | 1:00PM - 5:00PM

YOUTH AND POLICE PROGRAM | AGES: 15 - 18

Location: Manchester Youth Service Bureau

Build positive connections between high school youth and local police through team-building and service. Bi-Monthly, January - June 2026 (Variable Schedule)

RED CROSS BABYSITTING CERTIFICATION CLASS | AGES: 13 - 18

Location: Manchester Youth Service Bureau

Earn your Red Cross Babysitting Certification in this 2-day training for teens.

Sat, 3/7/26 | Su, 3/8/26 | 8:30AM - 2:30PM

UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL "EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CAREER SUCCESS" | AGES: 17 +

Location: Youth Service Bureau

A program for recent high school grads focused on building career and life skills. Gain certifications like CPR and OSHA, boost employability, and get empowered for career success! Registration required. T, February - May | 3:00PM - 5:30PM for 8 weeks

CLASSY COOKING | AGES: 12-18

Location: Youth Service Bureau

Learn to cook simple, tasty recipes in this fun 10-week hands-on class! Explore kitchen skills, food safety, and confidence as you create full meals you can make on your own. Registration required.

Tu, 3/3/26 - 4/28/26 | 3:30PM - 5:30PM

TAKE A HIKE | AGES: 14 - 18

Location: Manchester Youth Service Bureau/Off-site

Kick off Spring Break with an adventurous hike at Giufridda Park in Meriden! Enjoy stunning views, fresh air, and fun with friends. Transportation provided from the Youth Service Bureau—bring water and good shoes! Registration required.

M, 4/13/26 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

CCSU COLLEGE TOUR | AGES: 14 - 18

Location: Manchester Youth Service Bureau/Off-site

Explore college life with a guided tour of Central Connecticut State University! Learn about campus life, ask questions, and get inspired for your future. Registration required—join us for this fun, educational day trip!

T, 4/26/26 | 10:00AM - 3:30PM

FACTS | AGES: 14-18

Location: Manchester High School

FACTS is a youth prevention program that builds leadership, confidence, and resilience through sober living. Contact John Dalterio at (860) 647-5223 or jdalterio@manchesterct.gov to register.

M, 1/12/26 - May 2026 | 2:10PM - 3:10PM

VOICES (BENTLEY ACADEMY) | AGES: 14-18

Location: Bentley Academy

Empowering group for girls 14-18 to grow in self-awareness, identity, and strength. Contact Sheridan Douglass at (860) 647-5216 or sdouglass@manchesterct.gov to register.

W, January - May | 10:30AM - 12:00PM

MANCHESTER YOUTH COMMISSION GRADES: 9-12

Location: Youth Service Bureau

Manchester youth entering grades 9 - 12 can apply to serve on the Youth Commission, a leadership group that gives teens a voice in town government, community change, and youth-driven projects. Visit, ManchesterCT.gov/YSB to apply.

Applications open: 2/17/26

Applications close: 4/10/26

PACKED WITH PURPOSE | AGES: 14 - 18

Location: Youth Service Bureau

Empowering young men to explore identity, confidence, and purpose through dog training and acts of service.

Th, 1/29/26 - 5/7/26 | 3:30PM - 5:30PM

LEISURE LABS

PIZZA AND HOMEWORK | AGES: 12-17

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center Art Lab

Open creative space for teens.

3rd W, 6:00PM - 7:30PM | 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15

Registration Required

DIY JOURNALS | AGES: 12-17

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Program Lab

Are you interested in journaling? Come to Leisure Labs to design your very own journal with stickers, intentional quotes, and more

Th, 3/19/26 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Registration Required

VISION BOARD NIGHT | AGES: 12-17

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Do you like to visualize your future/goals? This is your time! Come and make a vision board with words and pictures at the Center.

F, 1/9/26 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Registration Required

NEW

YOUTH DROP-IN PICKLEBALL | AGES: 14 - 17

Location: Illing Middle School

Serve up some fun! Whether you're picking up a paddle for the first time or sharpening your game, this casual program is the perfect place to play, learn, and connect with friends. Just show up and join the action—no registration needed, rec card required!

Th, 1/8/26 - 5/14/26 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM

ADULT PROGRAMS

RECPICKLEBALL

BEGINNER PICKLEBALL | AGE: 18+

Location: Illing Middle School

This is an open court pickleball session for those new to the game of pickleball. Pickleballs and paddles will be provided, but players are welcome to bring their own equipment.

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Session 1 | M, 1/5/26 - 1/26/26 (no program 1/19)

Session 2 | M, 2/2/26 - 2/23/26 (no program 2/16)

Session 3 | M, 3/2/26 - 3/23/26

Session 4 | M, 3/30/26 - 4/27/26 (no program 4/13)

Fee: \$30/\$35 (NR) per session

NEW

55+ PICKLEBALL PROGRAM

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

Join us for fun, fitness, and friendly competition! This pickleball program combines skill-building, teamwork, and active games designed for all experience levels.

We'll wrap up each session with a friendly tournament and community potluck!

9:00AM - 11:00AM

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/6/26 - 1/29/26

Session 2 | T/Th, 2/3/26 - 2/26/26

Session 3 | T/Th, 3/3/26 - 3/26/26

Session 4 | T/Th, 4/7/26 - 4/30/26

Session 5 | T/Th, 5/5/26 - 5/28/26

Fee: \$30/\$40 (NR) per session

INTERMEDIATE PICKLEBALL | AGE: 18+

Location: Illing Middle School

This is an open court pickleball session for those experienced with the game of pickleball. Pickleballs & paddles will be provided, but players are welcome to bring their own equipment.

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Session 1 | W, 1/7/26 - 1/28/26

Session 2 | W, 2/4/26 - 2/25/26

Session 3 | W, 3/4/26 - 3/25/26

Session 4 | W, 4/1/26 - 4/29/26 (no program 4/15)

Fee: \$30/\$35 (NR) per session

NEW

CO-ED PICKLEBALL LEAGUES | AGE: 18+

Location: Illing Middle School

Designed for players of all skill levels seeking structured, competitive play in a supportive environment. Matches are scheduled weekly. This league offers a balanced mix of strategy, athleticism, and community.

Co-Ed League | Tu, 2/10/26 - 5/12/26

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Fee: \$175 per team

YOGA 4 LIFE | AGES: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

A slower-paced yoga class structured around rejuvenating, empowering, and healing the body and mind.

6:30PM - 7:30PM

Session 1: M/W, 1/12/26 - 2/4/26 (no program 1/19)

Session 2: M/W, 2/23/26 - 3/25/26

Session 3: M/W, 4/6/26 - 5/6/26

Session 4: M/W, 5/18/26 - 6/10/26 (no program 5/25)

Session 1 Fee: \$42/\$52 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 4 Fee: \$42/\$52 (NR)

CARDIO BURN | AGES: 18+

In this HIIT workout, increase your heart rate while improving your strength, boost your power and endurance, and work your entire body with challenging moves.

Location: Leisure Labs at Mahoney Center

6:45PM - 7:30PM

Session 1 | M, 1/12/26 - 4/6/26

(no program 1/19, 2/16, 2/23)

Session 2 | M, 4/20/26 - 5/11/26

Session 1 Fee: \$60/\$75 (nr)

Session 2 Fee: \$24/\$30 (nr)

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

10:00AM - 10:45AM

Session 3 | Sat, 1/17/26 - 4/25/26

(no program 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 4/4)

Session 4 | Sat, 5/2/26 - 6/13/26

(no program 5/23)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (nr)

Session 4 Fee: \$36/\$45 (nr)

YOGA FOR ACTIVE LIFESTYLES | AGES: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

In this class, you will practice poses to increase your range of motion and flexibility, especially in the hips and hamstrings. Please bring your own mat.

5:30PM - 6:30PM

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/13/26 - 2/12/26

Session 2 | T/Th, 3/3/26 - 4/2/26

Session 3 | T/Th, 4/14/26 - 5/14/26

Session 4 | T/Th, 5/19/26 - 6/11/26

Session 1 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 4 Fee: \$48/\$60 (NR)

MAT PILATES | AGE: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

Strengthen your core & improve flexibility with a class accommodating all skill levels.

5:00PM - 6:00PM

Session 1 | T, 1/13/26 - 3/17/26

Session 2 | T, 4/7/26 - 6/9/26

Fee per session: \$60/\$75 (NR)

STRENGTH 4 LIFE | AGES: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

This class will help you develop and maintain strength throughout the whole body. This is a non-aerobic, non-impact class with seated and standing exercises.

9:30AM - 10:30AM

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/13/26 - 2/12/26

Session 2 | T/Th, 3/3/26 - 4/2/26

Session 3 | T/Th, 4/14/26 - 5/14/26

Session 4 | T/Th, 5/19/26 - 6/11/26

Session 1 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 4 Fee: \$48/\$60 (NR)

BARRE AND MORE | AGES: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

Combines elements of Pilates, yoga, dance, and functional training, allowing for a full body workout to tone, lift, and sculpt.

Session 1 | T/Th, 1/13/26 - 2/12/26 | 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Session 2 | T/Th 3/3/26 - 4/2/26 | 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Session 3 | T/Th 4/14/26 - 5/14/26 | 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Session 4 | T/Th 5/19/26 - 6/11/26 | 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Session 5 | Sat, 1/17/26 - 4/25/26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM

(no program 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 4/4)

Session 6 | Sat, 5/2/26 - 6/13/26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM

(no program 5/23)

Session 1 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 2 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 3 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 4 Fee: \$48/\$60 (NR)

Session 5 Fee: \$60/\$75 (NR)

Session 6 Fee: \$36/\$45 (NR)

TOTAL BODY PLUS | AGES: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

Train every major muscle group through strength resistance exercises using a variety of equipment.

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Session 1 | M/W, 1/21/26 - 2/25/26 (no program 2/16)

Session 2 | M/W, 3/4/26 - 4/6/26

Session 3 | M/W, 4/20/26 - 5/20/26

Fee per session: \$60/\$75 (NR)

TEAM FIT AFTER WORK | AGES: 18+

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

This fitness class is a circuit with an interval training format. Participants do challenging yet motivating strength core and cardiovascular conditioning. You'll do a variety of exercises to improve your overall fitness using all the latest fitness equipment.

5:00PM - 5:45PM

Session 1 | M/W, 1/21/26 - 2/25/26 (no program 2/16)

Session 2 | M/W, 3/4/26 - 4/6/26

Session 3 | M/W, 4/20/26 - 5/20/26

Fee Per Session: \$60/\$75 (NR)

ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.

ARCHEOLOGY DIG | AGES: 18+

Location: 11 Parker Street

Join local experts for a day of digging at the ruins of Pitkin Glassworks. You will work with Manchester historians to uncover artifacts to solve this centuries old mystery - what did Pitkin Glassworks actually look like? Space is limited; registration required. For more information contact, sbell@manchesterct.gov

Sat, 5/9/26 (rain date 5/16)

10:00AM - 11:30AM

Fee: Suggested \$10 donation



ADULT DROP-IN BASKETBALL

AGES: M/TU 18+ | W 40+

Location: Verplank Elementary School

10/6/25 - 4/8/26 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM

Fee: No Fee (Must Have Valid Rec Card)

PERSONAL TRAINING ONE ON ONE

Location: Community Y Recreation Center

Your trainer will motivate you through your workout and ensure proper form and safety. Personal needs, such as introduction to cardio equipment and weights, will be addressed if needed.

Call (860) 647-3164 to book.

Fee:

(1) 1 Hour Session: \$60/\$75 (NR) per session

(5) 1 Hour Sessions: \$250/\$312 (NR) per session

(10) 1 Hour Sessions: \$400/\$500 (NR) per session

Buddy Rate (two people)

(1) 1 Hour Session: \$100/\$125 (NR) per session

(5) 1 Hour Session: \$400/\$500 (NR) per session

(10) 1 Hour Session: \$550/\$680 (NR) per session

SENIOR CENTER

ManchesterCT.gov/Government/Departments/Senior-Center

Monday - Friday | 8:30AM - 4:30PM | (860) 647-3211

Holiday Closures: Senior Center programs will be closed on Town holidays

Manchester Senior Center | 549 East Middle Turnpike

The Senior Center is a Division of the Human Services Department. The Senior Center and the Recreation Division of the Department of Leisure, Family & Recreation collaborate to provide a full spectrum of recreational, social and health programs for Manchester seniors.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration for programs is on-going. Register at the Manchester Senior Center, the Community Y Recreation Center, or at the Center Springs Recreation Office.

OFF SITE PROGRAMS

The Senior Center offers activities that are run outside of the Senior Center. These programs, as well as the Senior Center programs, are open to Manchester residents who are 60 and over. Programs include Hiking Club, Biking Club, Walking Group, and Group Travel. For more information, call the Senior Center at (860) 647-3211.

HEALTH PROGRAMS

The Manchester Health Department provides the following health programs at the Senior Center: Blood Pressure Screening, Foot Care, Fall Risk Assessments, Health Consultations and Health Education programs. For more information, call (860) 647-3211.

SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Questions regarding health insurance, home care, housing, the Medicare Savings Plan, energy assistance or anything of a personal nature can be directed to Kitty Dudley or Ed Paquette, the Senior Center Social Workers. Make an appointment by calling (860) 647-3211.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It has been the long-standing policy of the Town Board of Directors that no Manchester resident should be denied access to town sponsored senior activities due to financial hardship or other extenuating circumstances. Contact Kitty Dudley at (860) 647-3211 for details.

CANCELLATION POLICY

During inclement weather, if Manchester Public Schools are closed, all center programs, meals and transportation are canceled for that day. The Center staff is available in the office for regular scheduled office hours. When school is on a 2-hour delay all programs, meals and transportation will be delayed until 10:30AM. Any programs that start before 10:30 AM are canceled. Call the Senior Center to listen to the voice recording or check WFSB Channel 3 or WVIT Channel 30 for updates.

SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP

Membership is required to participate in Senior Center activities. Membership is open to Manchester residents only, and you must be 60 years of age or older. Memberships cost \$10 and can be purchased at the Manchester Senior Center Monday - Friday, between 8:30AM - 4:30PM. Contact the Senior Center at (860) 647-3211.

MEAL PROGRAM

Lunch is served daily at 12:00PM for those 60 and over. Reservations are required in advance no later than 12:30PM the day before, reservations can be made up to a week in advance. Call (860) 647-3211 for reservations. Cost: suggested donation of \$2.50. If you find that you need to cancel your lunch, please call the office. We appreciate as much notice as possible.

TRIPS

Trips offered by the Senior Center are advertised in the newsletter, online and trip flyers are available in the Senior Center lobby. Call Missy Rankin at (860) 647-3210 for more information.

TRANSPORTATION

The Senior Center provides rides for Manchester residents to and from the center for classes, activities and lunch. Bus rides can be scheduled up to 3:00PM the day before your ride. Call the Senior Center office at (860) 647-3211 to schedule your ride. If you find that you need to cancel your ride please call the office. We appreciate as much advance notice as possible.

TOWN OF MANCHESTER DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICES

DIAL-A-RIDE is a separate service from the Manchester Senior Center Transportation. To register or to schedule a ride call (860) 870-7940. If you need more information, please direct your inquiries to Senior, Adult & Family Services at (860) 647-3096.

We're on FACEBOOK!

Make sure to Follow and Like the Manchester Senior Center Facebook Page to get the latest and greatest news! <https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterCTSeniorCenter>

SENIOR FITNESS

Fitness & Movement Program dates are subject to change based on the instructor's availability.

BODY SCULPT

Weight-bearing exercise program for active older adults that includes warm-up, aerobic fitness, core strengthening, flexibility, joint mobility, balance, and coordination.

Session 1: M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 12:30PM - 1:15PM
(No program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)
Session 2: W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 12:30PM - 1:15PM
Fee: \$5/session

CARDIO DRUMMING

Exercise class that activates your muscles with the use of drumming movements. Follow along with the instructor to some great music.

Th, 1/15/26 - 5/28/26 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Fee: \$5

LIGHT-N-LIVELY

Low-impact cardio workout. Active and fast-paced.

Session 1: M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)
Session 2 M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 1:20PM - 2:15PM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)
Session 3: W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 1:20PM - 2:15PM
Session 4: F, 1/16/26 - 5/29/26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
(no program 4/3)
Fee: \$5/session

LINE DANCING

Line dancing is a choreographed dance with repeated sequences of steps that people follow in lines or rows. Beginner and Advanced classes are available.

Session 1 | Beginner | T, 1/13/26 - 5/26/26
10:00AM - 11:00AM
Session 2 | Advanced | T, 1/13/26 - 5/26/26
11:00AM - 12:00PM
Fee: \$5/session

SQUARE DANCING

Learn new dances and follow along with the steps and movements shouted out by a caller. No experience or partner needed! Out-of-town participants are welcome to attend; advanced registration is required.

Th, 1/15/26 - 5/21/26 | 12:30PM - 2:15PM
Fee: \$5/class, \$5/class (NR)

STRENGTH & FLEX

This class uses a combination of low-impact aerobics and light weights to improve balance, muscle tone, and overall cardio health. Great for all fitness levels.

Session 1: M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)
Session 2: W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Session 3: W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Session 4: F, 1/16/26 - 5/29/26 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM
(no program 4/3)
Fee: \$5/session

STRONGER SENIORS

This chair exercise class uses aerobics, weight training, resistance bands, and stretching. Improve strength, flexibility, posture, and balance from the comfort of a chair.

W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 9:15AM - 10:00AM
Fee: \$5

TAI CHI

Enjoy a calming exercise that enhances well-being, balance, flexibility, and reduces stress through slow, flowing movements. Beginner and Advanced sessions available.

Session 1 Beginner | T/F, 1/13/26 - 5/29/26
(no program 4/3)
T, 2:30 PM - 3:30PM | F, 1:30PM - 2:30PM
Session 2 Advanced | T/F, 1/13/26 - 5/29/26
(no program 4/3)
T, 1:30 PM - 2:30PM | F, 12:30PM - 1:30PM
Fee: \$5/session

YOGA +

This yoga class is specifically designed for seniors and can be done from the ground or a chair.

Session 1: M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 2:20PM - 3:15PM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)
Session 2: M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 3:20PM - 4:15PM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)
Session 3: W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 2:20PM - 3:15PM
Session 4: W, 1/14/26 - 5/27/26 | 3:20PM - 4:15PM
Fee: \$5/session

ZUMBA GOLD

Zumba Gold fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow dance moves to create a dynamic workout specially designed for seniors.

Th, 1/15/26 - 5/28/26 | 2:30PM - 3:30PM
Fee: \$5

SENIOR BASKETBALL

Location: Community Y Recreation Center
M, W, F | 1/12/26 - 6/5/26
8:30AM - 10:30AM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 4/3, 5/25)
Fee: \$10/\$20 (NR)

STEADY AS WE GO

Location: Community Y
Chair-based exercise class that uses light weights, exercise bands, or no weights at all. Great for improving posture and balance.
T/Th, 1/13/26 - 5/28/26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Fee: \$5



SENIOR EXPLORE

BIKING CLUB

Location: offsite
Participants ride approximately 15-20 miles per ride. Contact the Senior Center for the full schedule.
M, Contact the senior center for scheduled rides
1:00PM - 3:30PM

HIKING CLUB

Location: offsite
Enjoy hikes on local trails with friends. Contact the Senior Center for the full schedule.
Th, contact the senior center for scheduled hikes
1:00PM - 3:00PM

WALKING GROUP

Location: Local Trails
This group meets for walks on local trails in Manchester and Vernon. Call the Senior Center for the full schedule.
M, W, F, 1/5/26 - 5/29/26 | 8:45AM - 11:00AM
(No group 1/19, 2/16, 4/3, 5/25)



SENIOR LEISURE

BILLIARDS

Drop in and play on one of three billiard tables.
M-F, 1/5/26 - 5/29/26 | 8:30AM - 4:15PM
(No group 1/19, 2/16, 4/3, 5/25)

SAMBA

Card game, a variant of canasta.
M/Th, 1/5/26 - 5/28/26
M, 12:30PM - 3:30PM
Th, 9:00AM - 12:00PM
(No group 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)

PINOCHLE

A card game played with a 48-card deck, score points for various combinations, and win tricks.
M, 1/5/26 - 5/18/26 | 12:30PM - 2:00PM
(No group 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)

BOARD GAME GROUP

Join our senior board game group for fun, friends, and friendly competition. All games, all skill levels.
M, 1/5/26 - 5/18/26 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM
(No group 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)

MUSIC CIRCLE

This group meets weekly to play their acoustic instruments and sing with fellow music lovers. Take turns suggesting and playing your favorite songs!
M, 1/5/26 - 5/18/26 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM
(No group 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)

THERAPY DOGS

Come meet the "Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs" on the 1st Tuesday of the month.
1st T, 1/6/26 - 5/5/26 | 10:30AM - 11:30AM

CHESS CLUB

Join the Senior Center Chess Club for friendly competition and mental stimulation. All skill levels are welcome.
T, 1/6/26 - 5/26/26 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM

MAHJONGG

A Chinese game played with tiles, collect winning sets to win!
T, 1/6/26 - 5/26/26 | 12:30PM - 2:30PM

RED HAT SOCIETY

We are the women in the red and pink hats. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month. Bring a friend, all are welcome!
1st T, 1/6/26 - 5/5/26 | 1:00PM - 3:30PM
Fee: Membership Dues

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Coffee, crafts, and fun. All are welcome to spend the morning with this friendly group working on knitting, crocheting, and other craft projects.
W, 1/7/26 - 5/27/26 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

SOCIAL BRIDGE

A card game played by teams of 2 to win points.
W, 1/7/26 - 5/27/26 | 12:30PM - 4:00PM

DOMINOES

Join us for an afternoon of Mexican Train Dominoes.
W, 1/7/26 - 5/27/26 | 12:45PM - 3:00PM

HAND & FOOT

A card game related to canasta!
Th, 1/8/26 - 5/28/26 | 1:00PM - 4:15PM

SCRABBLE

A board game played with 2-4 players using their vocabulary to create words and score points.
Th, 1/8/26 - 5/28/26 | 9:30AM - 11:30AM

SETBACK

American trick-taking card game.
F, 1/9/26 - 5/29/26 | 12:30PM - 3:00PM
(No group 4/3)

BINGO

Enjoy this game of chance as you mark off numbers on your card, and shout BINGO when you win!
F, 1/9/26 - 5/29/26 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM
(No group 4/3)
Fee: \$0.50 per Bingo Card

CRIBBAGE

This card game combines both luck and skill. Make it around the board first to win.
F, 1/9/26 - 5/29/26 (no group 4/3) | 12:30PM - 3:00PM

MONTHLY MOVIE

Join us on the second Tuesday of the month to watch a movie with friends. Check out the senior center newsletter for movie selection and any date changes.
2nd T, 1/13/26 - 5/12/26 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

A variation of contract bridge.
Th, 1/15/26 - 5/28/26 | 12:30PM - 4:00PM

BOOK GROUP

Read and discuss different novels on the third Tuesday of every month!
3rd T, 1/20/26 - 5/19/26 | 10:30AM - 11:30AM

SENIOR CREATE

WATERCOLOR & OIL PAINTING GROUP

A group of artists meet to draw, create, share, and inspire each other. Participants provide their own supplies.
T, 1/6/26 - 5/26/26 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM

QUILTING GROUP

Non-instructed group. Work on your quilting project with fellow quilters.
Th, 1/8/26 - 5/28/26 | 12:30PM - 4:00PM

CERAMICS

In this class, you'll learn how to handle unfinished clay pieces under the direction of a very experienced instructor. Learn techniques for painting, glazing, and firing.

Session 1: M, 1/12/26 - 5/18/26 | 9:30AM - 11:30AM
(no program 1/19, 2/16, 5/25)

Session 2: F, 1/16/26 - 5/29/26 | 9:30AM - 11:30AM
(no program 4/3)

Fee: \$5/session

PAINT CLASS

A local artist will instruct you to paint a scene on 11x14 stretched canvas. Create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece, no experience necessary.

T, See newsletter for next class date

9:00AM - 12:00PM

Fee: \$15



LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Programs are subject to change. For more information and to confirm details, call 860-645-0821, visit manchesterct.gov/library or our Facebook page, @ManchesterCTLibrary, or view a print copy of our monthly calendar, available at both libraries



Main Library Building



Whiton Branch Library



LIBRARY ADULT

HAPPILY EVER AFTER BOOK CLUB | AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

The Happily Ever After Book Club reads and discusses some of the most talked-about romance books of today, as well as some perennial favorites and sleeper hits.

January | Book Lovers by Emily Henry

February | A Love Song for Ricki Wilde by Tia Williams

March | No More Secrets by Lucy Score

April | Delilah Green Doesn't Care by Ashley Herring Blake

Th, 1/8/26 | M, 2/2/26 | W, 3/4/26 | Th, 4/2/26
6:30PM

RECIPE READERS | AGES: 18+

Location: Main Library Building

This club meets monthly on Saturday afternoons from 12:30 to 2:30. Each month, a theme, author, or cookbook will be chosen. Participants are asked to pick one recipe from the book(s) and come to the program with a dish in hand on the date posted, ready to discuss their experience. Dishes should arrive fully prepared and ready to share.

1/10/26, 2/7/26, 3/7/26, 4/4/26 | 12:30PM

CHECK 'EM OUT BOOK CLUB | AGES: 18+

Location: Manchester Public Library

In this book group, participants read a variety of popular fiction and nonfiction.

January | "The Favorites" by Layne Fargo

February | "Happy Land" by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

March | "The Names" by Florence Knapp

April | "So Far Gone" by Jess Walter

M, 1/12/26 | 2/9/26 | 3/9/26 | 4/13/26

6:30PM - 7:30PM

CREATE A CROSS STITCH READING TRACKER **AGES: 18+**

Location: Whiton Branch Library

Staff member Valerie will lead you in starting a cross-stitch bookmark to track your reading in 2026. All supplies will be provided. Registration re

Th, 1/15/26 | 6:00PM

WANDERLUST BOOK CLUB | AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

Travel (vicariously) to a variety of locations in Manchester Public Library's Wanderlust Book Club!

January | "As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow" by Zoulfa Katouh (takes place in Syria)

February | The Caliph's House by Tahir Shah (takes place in Morocco)

March | Swamp Story by Dave Barry (takes place in Florida)

April | I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys (takes place in Romania)

Th, 1/22/26 | Th, 2/19/26 | Th, 3/19/26 | Th, 4/9/26
6:30PM

NOT SO "YA" BOOK CLUB | AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

This group is aimed at (but not limited to) adults who are between the ages of 18 -35 who love young adult literature. We read across many genres, including historical fiction, fantasy, dystopian, paranormal, horror, and realistic fiction.

1/28/26, 2/25/26, 3/25/26 | 7:00PM

SILK CITY BOARD GAME GROUP | AGES: 18+

Location: Manchester Public Library

Learn new board games, taught to you by volunteer teachers. No need to bring any games; we'll provide them all. Light refreshments to be served.

1/16, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11 | 12:30PM - 4:30PM

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Location: Main Library Building

The library always plans special and fun programming on this day; dedicated to bringing the children to the library! Check library calendar for more information. www.manchesterct.gov/library

Sat, 2/7/26

WHAT A GLORIOUS CRASH THEY MADE: MUSIC OF CONNECTICUT'S REVOLUTION AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Richard Franklin Donohue will speak on and perform music published in Connecticut during the American Revolution.

Th, 2/5/26 | 6:30PM

CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES OF CHOCOLATE | AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

Victoria Kichuk, founder of Cocoa Beantown of Boston, will talk about the different perceptions of chocolate around the world.

Th, 2/12/26 | 6:30PM

LESSER-KNOWN SHIPWRECKS | AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

The Bowtie Historian and Manchester resident Jason Scappaticci returns to discuss shipwreck disasters not commonly known to the public.

Th, 3/5/26 | 6:30 PM

OVERCOMING FINANCIAL ODDS: THE JOURNEY FROM DEBT TO FREEDOM | AGES: 18+

Location: Whiton Branch Library

Anita Berube, Ramsey Preferred Financial Coach, will offer strategies and tips for becoming debt-free.

Th, 3/26/26 | 6:00PM

STORYTIME SESSIONS

The library offers literacy programs for babies, toddlers, and school-age children. Programs are available at both the Main Library and Whiton Memorial Branch Library every day of the week, including evenings. Check the library calendar at www.Manchesterct.gov/library for program details.

January - April

LIBRARYTEEN

APRIL VACATION WEEK

Location: Main Library Building and Whiton Branch Library

Check out our website for activities and events at the library throughout the week
4/13/26 - 4/17/26

TEEN WINTER STEM PROJECT - MAKING SLIME/ MAGNETIC SLIME | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Get ready to stretch, squish, and explore the science behind slime! In this hands-on STEM program, you will become mini scientists as you learn about chemical reactions and states of matter by making your own slime from scratch.

W, 1/7/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

TEEN WINTER STEM - PROTECT YOUR EGGSTRONAUT AND BUILD AN EGG DROP LANDER | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Your mission is to design, build, and test a space lander that can protect a fragile eggstronaut from high-stakes drop! In this hands-on STEM challenge, you will use creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to construct an egg drop lander using a variety of everyday materials. All materials will be provided by the library. Sign-ups encouraged.

W, 1/14/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

TEEN ANIME AND MANGA | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Are you obsessed with anime? Can't get enough manga? Join fellow fans at the library for our Teen Anime & Manga Club. Each session may include anime screenings, manga swaps, trivia, crafts, and Asian snacks (while supplies last). New and longtime anime lovers alike are welcome!

W, 1/21/26 | 2/18/26 | 3/18/26 | 4/8/26

6:00PM - 7:30PM

TEEN DUNGEONS & DRAGONS | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Step into a world of imagination, teamwork, and epic adventure! Join us in our one-shot campaign where you create characters or be provided with one, roll dice, and shape your own story alongside fellow adventurers. All materials provided - just bring your creativity!

W, 1/28/26 | 2/25/26 | 3/25/26 | 4/15/26

5:30PM - 7:45PM



TEEN WINTER STEM - BROWN DOG GADGETS SOLAR RACERS | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Get ready to build, learn, and race! In this hands-on STEM program, participants will assemble their own solar-powered race cars while exploring the science behind renewable energy, motion, and engineering. All materials will be provided. Space is limited - registration required.

W, 2/4/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

TEEN WINTER STEM - LEANING TOWER OF PASTA | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Teens! Can you build a pasta tower that defies gravity and engineering challenges? Join us for this hands-on STEM event where you will design and construct the tallest, strongest tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows!

W, 2/11/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

TEEN LEGO BUILD CHALLENGE - DISASTER ISLAND | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Think you can survive Disaster Island? Put your engineering and problem-solving skills to the test in this thrilling LEGO Challenge! Build your deserted island and draw a disaster card. See if you can find a way to rebuild and survive using additional LEGO pieces.

W, 3/4/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

TEEN WINTER DRAMA ACTING NIGHT AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Step into the spotlight and unleash your inner actor at our Teen Drama Acting Night! Whether you're new or a seasoned performer, this program is your chance to practice improvisation, script reading, and creative storytelling in a fun, supportive environment. No experience necessary - just bring your enthusiasm!

W, 3/11/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

TEEN STEM - APRIL FOOLS' DAY LEGO CHALLENGE | AGES: 11 - 16

Location: Main Library Building

Think you know how to build with LEGO? Think again! Join us for a hilarious April Fools' Day twist on classic LEGO challenges - where nothing is quite what it seems. You'll face unexpected building prompts, wacky rules, and surprise curveballs designed to test your creativity and ability to think outside the (LEGO) box.

W, 4/1/26 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM

MONTHLY SCRAPBOOKING: 2026

Location: Main Library Building

This program is for parents to create a beautiful, lasting keepsake of their child, especially their baby's first year. We'll provide scrapbook paper and other supplies.

Just bring photos. This workshop will guide you step by step, making it easy and fun to preserve all those unforgettable milestones, from their first smile to their first steps. You will leave with a tangible treasure filled with memories to cherish forever! Check the library calendar for more information.

www.manchesterct.gov/library

1/5/26 | 11:00AM - 12:30PM





Families met the teachers and participated in samples of the fun learning activities the children engage in every day at an Open House at The Manchester Preschool Center.



Approximately 40 representatives answered questions about post-secondary opportunities at the 'Manchester High School College, Career and Financial Aid Fair.



MHS senior Alejandro Juro placed fourth at the CCC championship at Wickham Park and his 16:41 finish pushed him into 14th place on the all-time MHS cross country record book.



First-year teacher and Manchester High grad Liam Chenette working with a student in his fifth-grade class at Bennet Academy.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

PHOTOS BY PAUL OFRIA



Ms. Perez reading "Whistle for Willie" by Ezra Jack Keats to her kindergarten class at Verplanck Elementary School. The book is part of an interactive Read Aloud unit.



Waddell Elementary School students were welcomed back to school by a group of dads on the first day.



MHS senior Noelia Diaz was among the speakers at a special event at the top of Main Street as the town raised the Hispanic Heritage flag for the first time.



Students in Mr. LeSure's AP Physics I class at MHS finishing up comparative acceleration tests.