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Volume CXXX, Issue no. 13 | Thursday, September 24, 2026 | dailycampus.com

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FANFIC NIGHT

The UConn Rainbow Center hosted Fanfic Night on Sept. 22

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PATRICK'S POLITICS

How hard is it for a Republican president to make Fox News mad?

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COLETTE'S COMMENTARY

WNBA returns with upsets, records and playoff drama

SPORTS EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MEN'S SOCCER
Tuesday | 6 p.m. | Morrone Stadium

CROSS COUNTRY
Friday | Princeton, N.J.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Friday | 6 p.m. | UConn Volleyball Center

FIELD HOCKEY
Friday | 6 p.m. | Sherman Complex

SOFTBALL
Friday | 6 p.m. | Burrill Field

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Friday | 7 p.m. | Morrone Stadium

WOMEN'S SWIMMING
Sunday | 11 a.m. | The Natatorium

FOOTBALL
Saturday | 3:30 p.m. | Oxford, Ohio

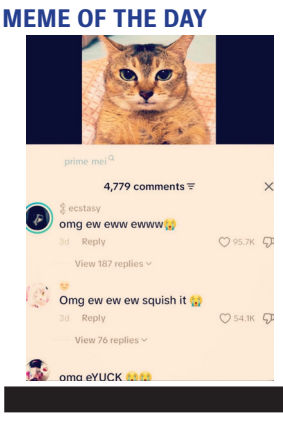
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Saturday | 4 p.m. | UConn Volleyball Center

MEN'S SOCCER
Saturday | 7 p.m. | Queens, N.Y.

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MEME OF THE DAY



What is Mansfield planning to renovate?



The Mansfield Community Center in Mansfield, Conn. on Sept. 23, 2025. The MCC has allowed for members of the community to improve thier fitness and health as a result of the wide variety of services offered.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Kevin Guinan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
kcg21003@uconn.edu

New visions for Mansfield Town Hall, the Mansfield Senior Center and the Mansfield Community Center, funded by a $250,000 state grant, will be presented by the project designer at Saturday's Celebrate Mansfield Festival, according to the town's website.

The architectural firm edmSTUDIO was hired to make the designs after the town received a state grant to develop a master plan for town buildings, according to a Feb. 9 project update. The firm ordered the three concepts by lowest to highest price estimate on the website for the project.

A survey is also linked in the master plan's website that invites residents and UConn students to rank the importance of the facilities and order the concepts by preference. It also asks if respondents support the idea of a "modest parking garage or parking structure" where the town hall and community center would be located.

The first concept was projected to cost $44.9 million in the survey for renovations to the town hall and construction of a new senior center. In this design the senior center would remain in the same location, but with minimal improvements reflected by objectives like parking goals not being met in this concept, according to the master plan.

The second concept of the master plan is projected to come at a middle of the road $60.5 million estimate. This approach merges the senior center with the community center in what it's calling the "intergenerational community center."

The downsides with the intergenerational community center plan is that it would be farther from senior housing and increase traffic around the town hall, according to the master plan.

Charles Ausburger, the vice chair of the Mansfield Republican Town Committee, addressed the council on August 10 to express his opposition of this merger, according to the meeting minutes. He said that when he was a member of the council, he also opposed the merger.

The integration of the senior center and the community center would also mean a significant increase in parking spaces.

"To make parking counts work, some type of elevated parking deck is needed to meet new parking demands," the master plan said.

The third concept expands on the idea of integrating the two, but with additional amenities that would rise the projected cost to $82 million, according to the survey. The extra money would make for a bigger two-story intergeneration community center and town hall.

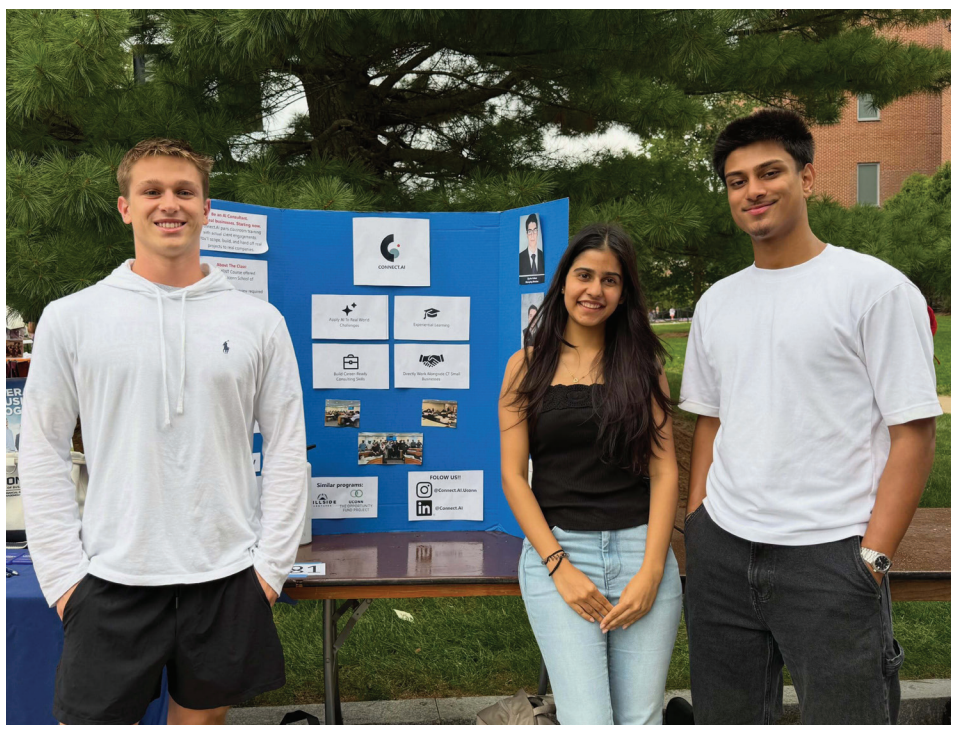
While only three ideas will be presented at Saturday's festival, a fourth plan to integrate the town hall into the site of current senior center was briefly contemplated by the town council before being rejected early this summer.

A July 27 town council motion to hire edmSTUDIO to study this fourth plan for an extra $12,500 out of the original $250,000 state grant budget ultimately failed after no one seconded it, according to the meeting minutes.

The architectural firm edmSTUDIO is expected to report back to the town council in October and to submit another grant application from the Community Investment Fund before the end of the year, according to the master plan. The timeline said the goal is to choose the concept by November 2027.

Connect.AI accepting applications for spring semester

by Mikayla Bunnell | NEWS EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | mikayla.bunnell@uconn.edu



Students in front of Connect.ai's Fall Involvement Fair booth on Fairfield Way on Sept. 9, 2026. This gave them the opportunity to advertise to interested students.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @CONNECT.AI.UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

Connect.AI, the University of Connecticut's new class teaching students how to use artificial intelligence in small business settings, is in full swing for its first semester and is currently accepting applications for the spring 2027 cohort.

Connect.AI is a three-credit management and entrepreneurship course dedicated to teaching students how to integrate AI into the daily workflow of businesses. Soham Shah, a third-semester accounting major and member of the class, said the program teaches students how to use AI to their advantage.

"For students, it's to allow us to understand AI beyond the superficial," Shah said. "So understanding for example, what context is in Claude and how to use Claude Code to build applications."

The class is run by Eliyahu Cohen, a sixth-semester financial technology major. Cohen spends the class teaching his fellow students about specific parts of AI and how it can work for both personal and business use. In some classes, they bring in professionals or clients to share their work.

Members of the roughly 19-person class have also applied the concepts they are learning outside the classroom. One client, Shah said, was a gold-trader who was using paper to log every single item in his shop. Connect.AI is helping him automate this process.

To do this, different teams in the class "came up with different pitches and the best pitch was going to be the one that ended up getting built," Shah said. This is how the class runs most of their projects so far, he said.

He said with Cohen as an instructor, the class feels less like a typical professor-taught class and more like a collaborative group environment.

Shah said the class is a good opportunity for people to better understand AI — both how to use it and how it actually works.

"I think the more you understand anything the less scared of it you'll be," he said. "All AI actually means is you just need to use your English skills or your language skills to prompt it in a certain way to get a certain output. That's all you're doing at the end of the day."

Connect.AI is an application-based program. Applications for the spring semester opened on Sept. 3 and closes Oct. 7. Shah said those interested can fill out the application form, which asks why students are interested in Connect.AI and what they have built or want to build using AI. The next step in the process is an interview and coffee chats so the class leadership and the applicants can get to know one another.

Shah said the program, which is primarily made up of business majors now, is open to all majors and years. Students don't need to have experience in AI either — just a willingness to learn, Shah said.

Connect.AI is holding an information session on Sept. 24 from 5 to 6 p.m. in room 226 of the School of Business on the Storrs campus for any interested students.



The Mansfield Senior Center in Mansfield, Conn. on Sept. 23, 2025. The MSC provides seniors of the community with a variety of services in.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS