



## Connecting Fairfield

*News from First Selectman Bill Gerber*

Photo: It was Girl Scouts in Government Day at Town Hall this week! Thirty five Girl Scouts from nine different schools in Fairfield arrived to spend the day with different departments, learning about Town government. In this photo with the Scouts (from left): Stefanie Bregstrom, Fairfield Woods Library; Stacy Rameor, Animal Control Officer; Colleen Roche, Department of Public Works; and Dave Kluczowski, Fairfield's Tax Collector.

### A PERSONAL NOTE

Dear Fairfielders,

**In any given week**, there are a number of serious and important issues that employees tackle in Town Hall. Planning for upgrades to our aged sewer system, working with the federal government on necessary harbor dredging, re-engineering roadways to reduce fatalities and injuries, getting fields in shape for the upcoming sports season, preparing for property revaluations, writing grant applications for infrastructure projects, and negotiating union contracts are just a few examples of the many and varied responsibilities of your local government. There are also multiple opportunities to meet with groups and individuals who share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas with us. Meeting with the people we serve from this office is always one of my favorite parts of the day.

**In the past two weeks**, I met with U.S. Senator Chris Murphy to discuss climate resilience challenges facing Fairfield, kicked off an amazing Earth Day event hosted by the Sustainable Fairfield Task Force and the Fairfield YMCA, and welcomed the CT Department of Transportation to Town to review a planned Road Diet project for Route 1. I also attended a meeting of the environmental club at Fairfield University, the Leaders for Environmental Action (LEAF). There's a lot of discussion about university students' poor behavior on our beaches, but it's important to recognize that there are also many dedicated young people studying environmental ethics and action. I look forward to seeing their positive impact on our communities and the world.

Many of our Town Hall departments were excited to welcome 35 Girl Scouts on April 24 for **Girl Scouts in Government Day**. This opportunity to offer young girls a glimpse into the daily workings of the Town where they live was a learning opportunity for all of us. Girls in groups of two or more were paired with a Town office to learn about its role in Town government, including Public Works, Finance, Police, Fire, the Public Libraries, Animal Control, and the First Selectman's Office. I can tell you that after spending the day with these young people that I'm confident our future is in good hands!

**Finally, I'd like to say something about transparency in your Town government.**

Transparency is the principle of allowing citizens access to the issues, spending, decision making, and processes of government. I believe that transparency is key to accountability, and my personal commitment to the practice of transparency is made to build trust between your Town government and you. I'd like to outline the ways you have transparent access into what happens in your local government:

- **Read Our Bi-monthly E-newsletter.** If you're reading this, you're probably already subscribed. Please share this [sign-up link](#) with your friends and neighbors if they aren't currently receiving this email every other Friday. We are working to create a new template to facilitate focusing on the news you're most interested in.
- **Use Our Website:** Every Town Department, as well as Town boards, commissions, and task forces, has [website pages](#) that they keep updated with helpful information. We encourage you to access the [website](#) for answers to your questions.
- **Contact Town Staff Directly:** If you can't find the information you need, go directly to the specific department for more information. Our website lists staff for every department. Town employees are committed to responding to citizen questions and concerns.
- **Submit Q-Alerts:** The Town has an online system for reporting citizen issues like a sidewalk in need of repair, a clogged storm sewer, or a dead animal in the street, just to name a few examples. This is the fastest and best way to make us aware of issues so we can follow up.

We are aware that once the Town moved to a new website last year, this specific function was made more complicated. For that reason, we are in the process of returning to our previous reporting system. Stay tuned for more information on when that new system will be up and running.

- **Watch Public Meetings or Read Minutes:** All of the Town's public meetings are open to interested residents. Agendas are posted on the Town website. You can attend in person or watch live or via a recording from [FairTV](#). Minutes are also posted and are a way to get a quick overview of the business that was conducted.

- **Follow the Town on Social Media:** The Town has both a [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) account where you can view posts about Town events.
- **Email or Call the First Selectman's Office:** The First Selectman's office staff is committed to responding to your concerns. You can reach my office at [firstselectman@fairfieldct.org](mailto:firstselectman@fairfieldct.org), or by calling 203-256-3030. The office has a Constituent Relations Coordinator, Paula Tommins, who can answer your questions and refer you to the appropriate departments.
- **Follow Our Local News:** Did you know that there are multiple print and online media outlets covering Fairfield news, as well as radio and television stations? Some are free; others charge a reasonable subscription fee. Part of my commitment to transparency is remaining accessible to reporters as they reach out for information. Every Town department is committed to sharing information freely with objective news organizations. The work of journalists to provide access and information cannot be understated in a free society and remains an important part of government accountability. We take this responsibility to the press seriously.

In closing, I'd like to invite all of you to please join me and a number of experts at our **Town Hall on UI Monopoles on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Roger Ludlowe Middle School auditorium—an excellent example of the transparency I believe in. UI's as yet undisclosed plan to install new power lines on monopoles on the north side of the Metro-North railroad tracks affects all of us, not just those residents who live near the tracks. I hope to see you on Tuesday evening.

The foundation of my administration—and your government—is built on open communication, public participation and respect. I am committed to earning and maintaining your trust.

Bill Gerber  
First Selectman

### **Next Steps in the Budget Process**

MON, MAY 6, 2024—Representative Town Meeting, Annual Budget Vote Mtg  
8:00 pm—Via Webex & BOE Conference Room 295 A/B, 501 Kings Highway E

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024—Board of Finance Regular Meeting—Set Mill Rate  
7:30 pm—Via Webex & BOE Conference Room 295 A/B, 501 Kings Highway E

## **PRIMARY ISSUES**

### **UI Monopoles**

### **TOWN HALL PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30 at 7:30 PM  
ROGER LUDLOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
689 UNQUOWA ROAD**

You are encouraged to attend a Town Hall/Public Information Session on United Illuminating's plan to install monopoles on the north side of the railroad tracks on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Roger Ludlowe Middle School, 689 Unquowa Road in Fairfield. The meeting is scheduled to share information about the Connecticut Siting Council decision approving the "Hannon-Morrisette Alternative," a new route for UI's plan for monopoles that would construct a double-circuit design on the north side of the Metro-North Railroad tracks.

Although there is no design for the north side of the tracks yet, if UI follows a similar approach to their submitted design for the south side, according to the company's statements in the press we face the strong possibility of extremely tall monopoles over 22 acres of permanent easements on private property.

First Selectman Bill Gerber, Town of Fairfield attorneys, and a panel of intervenors and impacted organizations will discuss the monopoles and relevant issues, including the appeal in Superior Court challenging the legality of the Siting Council's decision to grant UI a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the northern route. There will be a Q&A session after opening remarks where the public can ask about issues such as UI's Right of Entry requests, permanent easements on private property, UI's stated timing on completing due diligence and design requirements, and bills in the state legislature that would restructure the Siting Council's makeup, mission, and rules for considering municipalities' concerns.

**We remain committed to holding United Illuminating to reasonable and environmentally sensitive plans to construct the transmission lines, including further examination of undergrounding.**

If you want to stay up to date on all the Town's information about United Illuminating, go to the [UI Monopoles News page](#).

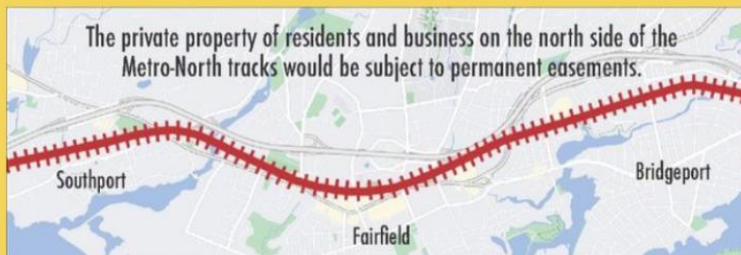
If you would like to be a critical part of the grass-roots opposition, please fill out a membership [form for Empowering Fairfield here](#).

# TOWN OF FAIRFIELD PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 30th, 7:30 PM  
at Roger Ludlowe Middle School, 689 Unquowa Road

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*Join First Selectman Bill Gerber for a Town Hall Information Session to discuss UI's plan to install monopoles, including Q&A's on the Town's appeal in Superior Court, UI's Right of Entry requests, their due diligence and design requirements, permanent easements and bills in the state legislature.*



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**Penfield Pavilion**

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The excavation of contaminated fill beneath the locker room section of the building is nearing completion, with over 60% of the work already finished. The soil removal process has been proceeding smoothly, and the majority of the excavated material has been transported to a licensed disposal facility in accordance with environmental regulations. To date, we have removed approximately 80 truckloads of contaminated fill. To address concerns from residents, it's important to note that no clean sand has been removed offsite. Instead, it's being appropriately stockpiled onsite until it's needed for reuse.

For questions about work at Penfield Pavilion, please send an email to [Penfield@Fairfieldct.org](mailto:Penfield@Fairfieldct.org). Town Engineer Eli Ghazal will respond to your queries.

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

### **Clam Jam: a Fairfield University-Sanctioned Event**

Clam Jam is a Fairfield University-sponsored, pre-graduation event that will take place on Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to Fairfield U juniors and seniors. Normally Clam Jam is held at Penfield beach but this year, due to the construction at Penfield, it's been moved to Jennings beach.

For anyone driving to Clam Jam held at Jennings Beach this weekend: please note that the Jennings parking lot is accessed from S. Benson Road.

### **Arbor Day in Fairfield**

The Town's Forestry Committee wants you to know that Fairfield is the longest standing Tree City USA community in Connecticut! A municipality achieves Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day. The Town celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, April 26, with a proclamation and 100 trees planted in Town between Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 26.





### **Dogwood Donation**

Jed Duguid and Will Hibbs from Oliver Nurseries on Bronson Road have made a contribution of a number of dogwoods to the Town of Fairfield to be planted at Timothy Dwight Park, in time for the 87th Dogwood Festival.

The *cornus florida* dogwood trees at the grounds of the Dogwood Festival can last 60 -80 years. Up on Greenfield Hill, where grass competes for moisture and nutrients, the dogwoods can have an even more limited life span. Some of the dogwoods remaining at the park are not putting out buds and losing branches, so this donation of young trees is particularly welcome, and very generous.

The Dogwood Festival will take place May 11 & 12, 2024, Saturday hours 10 am until 5 pm, Sunday hours 11 am until 5 pm, at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, 1045 Old Academy Road, Fairfield.







Photos above: Jed Duguid, Will Hibbs and Tree Warden Jeffrey Minder choose locations for the pink and white flowering trees that will replace dogwoods that have been lost in recent years.

**Fairfield Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Public Hearing: Monday, April 29**

The Solid Waste & Recycling Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday April 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Old Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, 611 Old Post Road. The meeting agenda [can be found here.](#)

**Taxes Due**



4th quarter Real Estate taxes, and 2nd installment Sewer Use taxes became due on April 1, 2024, and the last day to pay timely is May 1, 2024. On May 2, 2024, statutory interest accrues at an initial rate of 3%. Per state statute interest accrues at 1.5% per month from the original due date of April 1, 2024. You can [view or pay your bill here](#).

### **Checking Sewer Connections—East Trunk Line**

Starting May 1, surveyors will begin collecting information about sewer connections along three streets: Kenwood, Dalewood and Grasmere. They will need to access properties there to assess first floor elevations, basement elevations, and backyards to record sewer lateral elevations connecting the main line along Ash Creek. This is part of the East Trunk Line Phase 2 project, required to determine the connections to the new proposed 36" main line. If you live on one of these streets you should be receiving a letter in the mail. WPCA will also call you to request access. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call Bill Hurley or Megha Jain at 203-256-3015.



EAST TRUNK LINE INTERCEPTOR SEWER RELOCATION

### **Turney Creek Culvert Replacement Project**

The town has an upcoming project to replace the Turney Creek Culverts and Tide Gates at Riverside Drive. This project is essential for ensuring the safety and functionality of our infrastructure.

Over the next couple of weeks, residents will notice an uptick in utility work in the vicinity of Riverside Drive. This preparatory phase is essential to ensure that all necessary utilities are relocated before the culvert replacement project begins.

Additionally, it's important to inform you that a long-term detour will be necessary during the entire duration of the project. However, we want to reassure everyone that this detour will not be implemented without proper notification to residents beforehand. We are committed to ensuring that you are informed well in advance, allowing you to plan accordingly and minimize any inconvenience.

Please continue to monitor updates through the Town's [Engineering page](#) for the latest information on the project's progress, utility work, and upcoming detour plans.



## FPS Green Team's Tip of the Week

### Are You a Wishcycler?

As much as you might hope, some items are not recyclable. They may look like it, but can damage equipment or contaminate the whole batch.

**KEEP** these items **OUT**:

- ✗ Styrofoam
- ✗ Black plastics
- ✗ Plant pots
- ✗ Plastic toys
- ✗ Garden hoses
- ✗ Shredded paper



**When in doubt, find out... or throw it out.**

Can I recycle it? Check at [www.RecycleCT.com](http://www.RecycleCT.com)



## DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

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### **Inviting All Artists to a Community Conversation on the Arts**

The Town of Fairfield's Arts Commission invites all artists, creatives, and interested members of the public to take part in a "Community Conversation on the Arts" to speak with and hear from artists about ways the Town can create a more vibrant and flourishing arts community.

**Saturday, April 27**—Free of Charge! [Register here.](#)

**10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** (Doors open at 9:45 a.m. for sign in and informal networking.)

In The Warehouse at the Fairfield Theater Company

70 Sanford Street

Coffee and light refreshments provided

At this facilitated workshop, attendees can speak with members of the newly formed Arts Commission, participate in roundtable discussions, and learn more about the Commission's plans. Join us for a great conversation!

### **Walk A Mile In Her Shoes**

**April 27, 8:00 a.m.**

Since 2012, The Center for Family Justice has held Walk A Mile In Her Shoes in April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month to help raise awareness about the need to end sexual assault in the six communities it serves: Bridgeport, Trumbull, Stratford, Easton, Monroe, Fairfield. Take a stand against violence against women and girls. [Learn more and sign up to participate here.](#)

### **The American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit: April 30-May 19**

The American Revolution Experience: The Lives of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times is hosted by the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in collaboration with the American Battlefield Trust. On view at the Old Fairfield Academy, an historic building on the Town Green, Old Post Road. Hours: Mon, Tues, Weds and Fri: 3:00-5:00 p.m.; Sat and Sun: Noon-4:00 p.m. Free Admission.



**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE:**

**THE LIVES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES**

Hosted by the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter DAR, a collaborative project between the American Battlefield Trust & the Daughters of the American Revolution, this innovative pop-up exhibition tells the fascinating story of the Revolution through the use of display panels and interactive digital kiosks. It explores how ordinary people were affected by the struggle for independence, by bringing to life the diverse viewpoints and experiences of those who witnessed the dawn of a new nation.

On view at the **Old Fairfield Academy** Tuesday April 30 - Sunday May19

**FREE ADMISSION**

Location: Old Academy, historic building on the Town Green, Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri 3-5:00 PM, Thurs 3-7:00 PM; Sat & Sun Noon-4:00 PM

Hours for school groups by reservation only: contact [eunicedar1776@gmail.com](mailto:eunicedar1776@gmail.com)



**Shop and Stroll into Spring: Thursday, May 2**

Join the Town of Fairfield and the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce for the annual "Shop and Stroll into Spring" event on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Over 20 participating shops in downtown Fairfield, from the Brick Walk Promenade to Heritage Square, will open at their regular times with extended hours through 9pm offering patrons a time to browse, enjoy light refreshments and to shop local!

Check out the Shop & Stroll into Spring Pre-Event Happy Hour at Tablao (52 Sanford Street) on Thursday, May 2nd beginning at 5 p.m.

**Thursday, May 2 6PM - 9PM**

**SHOP & STROLL INTO SPRING FAIRFIELD**

**Pre-Event Happy Hour**

**TABLAO**  
Fairfield, CT • Norwalk, CT • Ridgefield, CT Est. 2016

**5PM - 6PM**  
52 Sanford Street

**Event Philanthropic Partner**

**THE CONNECTICUT Audubon SOCIETY**

*Experience FAIRFIELD*

**BUY LOCAL**

**connect FAIRFIELD**

**MOMS**

### **Drop Off Old Mattresses and Box Springs for Recycling May 4**

Plan on giving your ready-to-be-discarded mattress and box spring a useful second life by bringing it to a free, Town-wide mattress collection event on Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Veterans Park. The Sustainable Fairfield Task Force is sponsoring the event with the Bye Bye Mattress recycling programs for states with mattress recycling laws. Any

mattress can be brought to the event for no cost if it is not damaged, heavily soiled or posing other health or safety risks. Since September 2021, the Fairfield events have successfully collected and repurposed nearly 10 tons of mattresses that otherwise would have been incinerated.

Old mattresses and box springs are dismantled, and the steel, foam, fabric, and wood are separated and used to make new products. Up to 75% of a used mattress can be recycled, yet 50,000 old mattresses are discarded every day. Residents will have another chance to recycle a mattress or box spring at the next recycling event on Saturday September 21.



# Community wide **FREE** mattress recycling collection event!



**WHAT:**

**Town of Fairfield Collection Event**

**WHEN:**

**Saturday, May 4th 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**WHERE:**

**Veterans Park**

**909 Reef Road, Fairfield, CT 06824**

**MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS ONLY.**



**byebymattress.com**

A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council®

**Youth Mental Health**

# POSITIVE CHOICES IN MENTAL HEALTH

## IS THERE LIFE AFTER INFLUENCING?

Discover the journey of **Lee Tilghman**, formerly known as Lee From America, as she shares her insights on stepping away from the world of influencer fame to find herself. With over 14 years of experience in blogging and a following of 387K on Instagram, Lee brings a unique perspective on **authenticity, self-discovery, and identity** in our digital age.



Wednesday, May 8, 2024



6:30 PM – 8:00 PM



Bigelow Center for Senior Activities  
100 Mona Terrace  
Fairfield, CT 06824

Presented and facilitated by the:



**FAIRFIELD COLLABORATIVE FOR  
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FAIRFIELD SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES

SCAN ME



**Oak Lawn Cemetery Spring Bird Walk & Tree Tour**

The Oak Lawn Cemetery Association will host a guided bird walk on its historic grounds on Saturday, May 11 at 8:00 a.m. The tour will identify local as well as migratory birds in the area, and species of trees that make up their habitat. The event is open to the public and will meet at the cemetery office located just inside the entrance gate at 1530 Bronson Road in Fairfield.

### **Stop the Bleed: May 20**

Would you know what to do in case of a traumatic bleeding event? Free Stop the Bleed and Hands Only CPR Training will be offered on Monday, May 20 at the Fairfield Regional Fire School, 205 Richard White Way. [Register here.](#)

### **Blessing of the Fleet: Saturday, June 8 at 11:00 a.m.**

The Blessing of the Fleet is a tradition begun in Europe centuries ago: a blessing of vessels by local clergy to ensure a safe and bountiful season. Each year, we expect between 50 and 100 vessels to parade from the area adjacent to the Pequod Yacht Club down the Harbor and out into the Sound. As the vessels pass the Lower Wharf, the Southport Fire Department sprays an arch of water over the Harbor and each vessel receives a blessing as it passes by. Harbor Master Bryan LeClerc is on his boat, assisted by two vessels from the Fairfield Police Marine Unit to guide water traffic.

A breakfast at the Southport School is held before the parade, which kicks off at 11:00 a.m. and ends at the Lower Wharf. This is a wonderful event, one that makes our Town so special. Don't miss it!

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MAKE THE CONNECTION:  
HEAD LIBRARIAN SCOTT JARZOMBEK

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Scott Jarzombek, Head Librarian, accepting the "Anchor Award" from the University of Hartford in October 2023; awarded to an "Outstanding Alum: Impact on Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement."

### **Q &A with Head Librarian Scott Jarzombek**

**Q: How did your career and experiences lead you to your current role as Head Librarian for the Town of Fairfield?**

**A:** Before going into library administration, I worked for ten years as a youth services librarian, which helps me to understand and value what the talented Teen and Children's librarians do here. Early literacy, and cultivating a space that welcomes everyone--no matter their stage of development--are both important to me. It is astounding how many families and youths use our library! I also have a background in live music production, which comes in handy when assisting with the impressive amount of programming FPL offers.

**Q: Is this what you thought you would do with your life and career?**

**A:** Librarianship is the perfect job for me. I enjoy what I do and am grateful that I can make a career of it. I grew up in a household that emphasized service to others, which is at the core of librarianship. As for coming to Fairfield, FPL has a very healthy organizational culture; I am lucky to work with the staff here. In terms of the Town government, from DPW to the Fire Department, we all work together and support each other's role in the community. It is refreshing and speaks to one of the reasons Fairfield is such a great town to work in, visit, or reside in.

**Q: Can you describe the public library's role in the Town of Fairfield? How close is that to the vision you have for the library?**

**A:** FPL is a shining example of what a modern public library should be. We are not just a resource or a co-working space but a hub of cultural literacy and social engagement. Our art gallery and regular music performances are testaments to our commitment to promoting cultural literacy. We also uphold the traditional role of a library, with a vast collection of books and other materials and a dedicated staff who excel at curating and promoting our collection for everyone's benefit.

Across the country, libraries are one of the few places left for people to meet and socialize. Our modern culture has a loneliness epidemic, and libraries are positioned to help mitigate it. The staff here work hard to facilitate great programs and to provide opportunities for social interactions.

**Q: Can you describe the facilities you oversee?**

**A:** I fell in love with the Main Library the first time I saw it. It is two historic buildings encapsulated and connected by modern construction. I am impressed with the vision and initiative it took to create such a great public space. There is an excellent melding of historic and contemporary, and natural lighting is well executed. The library feels alive.

Fairfield Woods Branch is designed like the library I grew up going to. It is brutalist architecture, and I have an affinity for this style. It is utilitarian and dependable but welcoming, something every library strives to be. I am hopeful that we can refresh the interior shortly. I think the neighborhoods it serves deserve a library with some upgrades. However, the building is built to last and is, in my eyes, a gem.

The third "branch" of FPL I consider to be our digital presence. A big piece of that is our website, which is currently being redesigned with an eye to relaunch by summer. I am very excited about that.

**Q: What would people be surprised to know about the library?**

**A:** One of the best things about libraries is that they always surprise and impress people. We serve so many facets of the community in so many different ways. When a regular user discovers a long-standing or new service, it is like someone discovering a new item at their favorite restaurant. For example, patrons may be surprised to learn that we offer free or discounted museum passes to a multitude of museums in Connecticut and as far away as New York City...we also offer Memory Kits containing games and music to aid people struggling with dementia. Kids can borrow video games and get homework help through our

databases. FPL evolves and pivots to meet community needs while still holding on to what we do well.

**Q: What do you wish more people knew about the library?**

**A:** Public libraries are more than four walls and a collection of books to borrow. We are organizations with the critical mission of providing information to our communities, whether that is through databases, physical materials, or staff-assisted research. People come to us for community services, for education, to be entertained, and to engage with others. Your public library is an all-encompassing community hub, and so much more than books to loan.

**Q: What do you see as the key challenges facing the library? How do you plan to overcome them?**

**A:** Over the last decade, librarianship has taken on a social services aspect. Our work has become less transactional, so the challenge is balancing that with the more traditional parts of our job. My job is to keep us focused on the core of our job-- the curation and dissemination of information, and the promotion of literacy-- while staying relevant. It is more challenging than it sounds.

**Q: What kind of a reader are you? Digital, print, audiobooks?**

**A:** I've recently become more of a digital reader. My genre is sci-fi, and I gravitate toward post-apocalyptic narratives. I recently read *The Deep Sky* by Yume Kitasei. It is a space mystery about an all-female crew traveling to an outer planet to terraform and "save the human race." It is a quick-paced read with an endearing protagonist. I also recently enjoyed *The Mountain in the Sea* by Ray Nayler. In it, scientists discover a community of evolved octopuses while the world collapses because of climate change. It's a thought-provoking work, as most science fiction is.

**Q: Anything else you'd like to share?**

**A:** I am excited about what we have planned for the library next. The website, which I touched on earlier, should launch this summer. We will implement automatic renewals for patrons and expand our "library of things" and maker space area. Last year, the public selected a library mascot; this summer, we get to name it! We will also seek patron feedback about our next strategic plan, including asking the public for ideas as to how the Fairfield Woods building could be modified to better serve the community.

For more information and to check out all the wonderful programs, services and materials the FPL offers, [check out their website here.](#)

Want to help support FPL's programs and services? The Friends of the Public Library will host a **Fashion Show at the Bruce S. Kershner Art Gallery on Sunday, April 28, 3:30 p.m.**

Suggested donation: \$50. The show is open to the public. Donations will be taken at the door. To attend, [please register online.](#)



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## IF YOU MISSED IT...

[Here's where you'll find information from previous newsletters.](#)

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### **Perry Green Bulkhead Construction**

Perry Green Park in Southport will soon be undergoing construction to replace its existing bulkhead with a new timber, navy-styled bulkhead, and replace the existing seawall coping



with a new concrete coping. Construction will start during the first week of May 2024 and will dictate closing the park to the public until October 2024. A partial section of the parking area will also be closed. Ultimately, this project will improve conditions for park users and will secure the surrounding park area from erosion and sinkholes.

During construction, boats will be stored at South Benson Marina by the Parks and Recreation Department. For visitors, there are several transient mooring locations in the harbor. Project details and updates will be available on the [Engineering Website](#) beginning in May 2024.

### **Water Conservation Opportunity with Upcycled Rain Barrels**

The Aquarion Water Company is offering upcycled 60-gallon rain barrels for purchase for capturing rainwater. Barrels are \$85; orders must be received by May 1. Pick up will be on Saturday, May 11 at Fairfield Regional Fire School, 205 Richard White Way, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Information on how to order a rain barrel can be found here.**

### **Aging in Fairfield**

#### **Senior and Disabled Homeowners Program for Tax Relief**

We are accepting applications for the Senior and Disabled Homeowners program. Applicants can apply in the Assessor's Office from now through May 15, 2024. State and local laws provide real property tax relief programs for Fairfield residents who are age 65 and over or totally disabled and whose annual incomes and assets are within specified limits. These programs are designed to help seniors and the totally disabled remain in their homes. Town tax relief programs are defined in Section 95-15 of the [Town Code](#) and are administered by the [Assessor's Office](#). [Details can be found here.](#)

### **Horseshoe Crab Tagging**

Please join the Conservation Department and Sacred Heart University Biology Department's Project Limulus.

Information Session: Thursday, May 16

Tagging Session: Saturday, June 8 (Rain date: June 22)

RSVP to Conservation Director Tim Bishop at [TBishop@fairfieldct.org](mailto:TBishop@fairfieldct.org)

### **Spring Paving**

Spring road paving is underway, with a list of streets scheduled to be milled and paved available [here](#). The Department of Public Works will issue a Fairfield ALERT the night before to the affected neighborhood, explaining that milling and paving will take place that week, weather permitting, and that there will be no street parking between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. while crews are working. Contact the DPW with questions and concerns at 203-256-3177. They're happy to help!

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### **Board and Commission Openings**

Here are the current vacancies for Town residents:

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:** [Learn more about this committee here.](#)

**Parks and Recreation Commission:** [Learn more about this commission here.](#)

[Learn more about the Appointment Process here.](#)

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### **How to Contact Your State Legislators**

I encourage you to reach out to your legislators with questions or comments on their legislative work. Click on the name below to contact them at their website.

State Senator [Tony Hwang](#)

State Representative [Jennifer Leeper](#)

State Representative [Cristin McCarthy Vahey](#)

State Representative [Sarah Keitt](#)

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### **Board of Selectmen Meetings**

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1 at 4:00 p.m. Meetings are held in Independence Hall and open to public, and you can attend either in person or on Webex. You can also read minutes of previous meetings [here](#).

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### **EYES ON FAIRFIELD**

Help us celebrate the unique beauty of life in Fairfield by sharing your photos with your community. We've received so many beautiful photos of our Town—keep them coming! Submit your photos at 300 dpi to [firstselectman@fairfieldct.org](mailto:firstselectman@fairfieldct.org). We live in such a special Town. Share with us the sites and sights you love.



#### **Penfield Beach**

Along Fairfield's 5 miles of Long Island Sound coastline are six Town beaches: Jennings Beach, Rickards Beach, Penfield Beach, Sasco Beach, South Pine Creek Beach, and Southport Beach. Four miles inland is Lake Mohegan, the Town's only freshwater swimming facility and sprinkler park. Beach stickers and lake passes are required from Memorial Day Saturday to Labor Day. You can [get your beach sticker here](#).

**Photo credit: Jim Barlow**

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#### **WHY YOU'RE RECEIVING THIS EMAIL:**

As a resident, business owner, student, or individual interested in news about the Town of Fairfield, your name appears on an email list that belongs to the Town database. You might have requested to be on this list or added your name to another Town communication in the past.

This email arrives in your inbox every other Friday and is official news from Fairfield's First Selectman and the Town of Fairfield. If this email was forwarded to you and you want to receive official emails from your First Selectman, [click here](#). You can also unsubscribe from any newsletter you don't want to receive. Go to the bottom of the email and click unsubscribe.