



We just wrapped up our second week, and while we continue to hold meetings with departmental leaders to be brought up to speed on priorities and important issues, the day-to-day work of the First Selectman's office continues uninterrupted. Bids are being issued and contracts signed for work in the pipeline. New projects are being submitted for approval. Budget preparation is about to begin.

#### **Penfield Fill Remediation and Pavilion Rebuild**

If you've visited Penfield beach lately, you've seen that a lot of fencing has gone up. No construction has begun yet. Crews have been remediating contaminated hot spots under the parking lot and under the building. As of today, contaminated fill in all but one hot spot has been removed from the site and replaced with clean fill. That one additional site remains to be remediated before construction can begin.

Part of the March, 2023 Town Boards' approval was authority to hire a coastal resilience firm to advise on the impact of lowering the beach elevation by 3' (a requirement of FEMA to return the beach to its natural grade). RACE Coastal Engineering was recently hired to do this work and their report is due this month. We will be reviewing the results as soon as the report is available to prepare a recommendation to Town Boards on how to proceed.

#### **UI Monopoles**

This continues to be an uphill battle. The CT Siting Council has announced an additional Evidentiary Hearing on 12/12 at 2PM on Zoom. You can read about the status of the project [here](#) and tune in to the meeting [here](#). Logging on is important. It demonstrates that our community is watching and pressing for alternative solutions.

In other news, we got briefed this week by the **Emergency Management Team**, the group that coordinates the Town's response to any kind of emergency. The work this team does is impressive, from notifying residents of upcoming weather emergencies to more serious and potentially deadly disasters. We're lucky to have such a talented and dedicated group of fire, police, and town employees willing to kick into action at any hour, day or night. You can help them do their job of protecting us by signing up for alerts [here](#) and taking their recommendations seriously.

Our next two **Board of Selectmen meetings** are on Monday, Dec. 11 at 3PM and Monday, Dec. 18 at 4pm. These meetings are held in Town Hall and open to public, and you can attend either in person or on Webex. Follow along [here](#). You can also read minutes of meetings [here](#).

Interested in serving on a **Town Board or Commission**? Applications are currently being accepted for the new term. Read about the process and apply [here](#).

This Sunday at 4pm is the **Menorah Lighting** on Sherman Green. This event is free and open to the entire community. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Bill Gerber  
First Selectman

***We're Better Together!***

**Interesting factoid...**

Did you know the Tree Warden is responsible for 60,000 trees planted in the public right of way? Jeff Minder's biggest job is protecting residents from falling limbs and trees. He's out on the street 3-4 times a week with crews from United Illuminating making sure they prune as judiciously as possible so we maintain our beautiful canopy. Want a tree planted in front of your property? Submit a request [here](#).

UNITE THROUGH LIGHT  
SPONSORED BY CHABAD OF FAIRFIELD



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**  
**4:00 PM • SHERMAN GREEN GAZEBO**

LIVE DJ • JUDAH THE MACABEE • LATKES & DONUTS • DREIDELS & GELT • RAFFLES & MORE!  
FREE EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY!

FOR MORE INFO [WWW.JEWISHFAIRFIELD.ORG/UNITE](http://WWW.JEWISHFAIRFIELD.ORG/UNITE)