



Dear Fairfielders,

As the end of summer approaches, it's a perfect time to start thinking about the upcoming school year. I am always so inspired by the generosity of our community, and I wanted to take a moment to highlight a program Fairfield Social Services runs to ensure that students in need have a strong start to their academic journey.

Last year, Fairfield Social Services was able to assist over 130 Fairfield students by providing them with gift cards to purchase essential school supplies. These supplies helped them begin the year fully prepared and ready to learn. However, each year, the number of students in need of assistance continues to grow.

I invite you to join me in being a part of this meaningful effort. If you're willing and able, please consider contributing by mailing or dropping off gift cards from retailers like Amazon, Walmart, or Target – places where families often shop for their loved ones to Social Services.

Gift cards can be dropped off at the front desk of the Senior Center at 100 Mona Terrace. The donation collection period will end September 1st. For questions, please e-mail: socialservices@fairfieldct.org.

Don't forget that CT Tax Free Week runs from August 20 – 26 so it's a great time to get your back-to-school shopping done.

[COMMUNITY NEWS](#)

TOWN PROCLAMATION – GWENDOLYN WARD'S 100th BIRTHDAY

I wanted to share my absolute pleasure of meeting and presenting a proclamation to Gwendolyn Ward, a Fairfield born-and-raised resident, on her 100th birthday last Friday.

Gwen was born on August 9, 1923, in her home in Fairfield where she has lived her entire life. Gwen's family history dates back to the Civil War when her great-grandparents came to Fairfield and were only one of four African American families living in our community at that time.

Gwen reflected on her family's deep roots in Fairfield, and I shared that I was a fourth generation Fairfielder at which Gwen said, "I'm sure our families knew each other because there were so few families in Fairfield back then."

Meeting Gwen was the highlight of my week not only because of her amazing history, but also because after living 100 years in Fairfield she has a gentleness and kind nature that I admire.

Gwen told me people used to be nicer to one another and she hoped we would get back to that again. I couldn't agree more. Gwen's family and friends sent this lovely photo from her 100th birthday celebration last Saturday that I want to share with our community. To read the official Town of Fairfield Proclamation, [click here](#).



NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

Fairfield stands in support of our military Veteran population in recognition of National Purple Heart Day which took place on August 7th this year. The Purple Heart decoration stands as a revered emblem of valor and sacrifice. Originating as the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 under General George Washington, it represents the courage and dedication of those wounded or killed in combat while defending the United States. The Purple Heart serves as a poignant reminder of the unwavering commitment of these brave individuals to the nation's ideals and freedoms.

Our residents hold deep gratitude for the sacrifices these Purple Heart recipients have made in safeguarding our freedoms. In 2020, the Patriot Members of the Department of Connecticut Military Order of the Purple Heart formally designated Fairfield as a Purple Heart Town. Thank you to all of the men and women who give so selflessly for our nation.

I was proud to stand with Fairfield Police Officer Alan Bakula, a two-time Purple Heart receipt, when Fairfield was named a Purple Heart town. Officer Bakula is a former US Army Sergeant and OGA contractor with over 10 combined deployments, and a recipient of multiple Purple Heart and valor citations. Fairfield is very proud of Officer Bakula's extraordinary service to our country.



VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

If you are a Veteran, you may be eligible for a property tax exemption. You must file your discharge (DD-214) with the Fairfield Town Clerk by **September 30** to be eligible for the exemption the following year. More details can be found [here](#).

CT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAND DOWN EVENT



The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is gearing up for its annual STAND DOWN event on Friday, September 22nd from 8:00am to 2:00pm. The DVA's dedication to serving Connecticut's Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel, along with their immediate families, remains steadfast. This event is designed as a comprehensive resource, offering a "one-stop" hub for a diverse range of programs and services to veterans and their families.

The nearest location is at the University of Bridgeport, Wheeler Recreational Center, 400 University Ave. For more information and a list of service providers, please [click here](#).

MILL RIVER WETLANDS COMMITTEE – NOW HIRING EROSION TRIP LEADERS – \$40/STUDY TRIP

The Mill River Wetlands Committee is seeking Trip Leaders to lead 4th grade students as they explore how erosion impacts the watershed. This person leads one class for the duration of a 90-minute Erosion Study Trip. Training provided. Click here for [more information](#).

YOU COULD HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Many Connecticut residents are unaware that the CT Treasurer's office runs a "Lost and Found" database that goes by the name "Unclaimed Property Program." You may have unclaimed money owed to you in the State Treasury account.

To find money that may belong to you, click [here](#). For more details [click here](#).

TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE REPLACEMENTS – EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Eversource Energy will be replacing transmission structures in various streets throughout Town. The locations include White Birch Road, Tall Pines Drive, Hunt Lane, Gilbert Highway, North Street, and Redding Road.

For more information, please [click here](#).

[FAIRFIELD'S FIRST RESPONDERS](#)

I want to thank our Fairfield Fire Department and State Police for their professionalism in responding to an accident on the highway on Saturday. I am very grateful no one was injured, especially our firefighters.

A driver hit our fire truck that was carefully positioned to protect the scene and the firefighters and police, while they were attending to the accident outside of the truck. The driver was charged with driving under the influence.

As highlighted by our Fire Department, this incident serves as an important reminder of the [Flagman Move Over Campaign](#) to keep our first responders and tow truck operators safe while responding to emergencies on the highway.

Slow Down and Move Over. – It's the law.



TOWN ROAD PAVING

In 2021 we hired a consultant for Fairfield's first independent analysis of all town roads and sidewalks. Each road was assessed and ranked based on condition and amount of use. This analysis is now the foundation for the Town's long-term 5 to 10-year road paving and sidewalk improvement plan.

The second round of paving will begin after Labor Day. To see the list of roads, please [click here](#).

For residents who live on streets scheduled for paving, you will be notified when your street will be impacted by roadwork if you are enrolled in the Town's Emergency Alert System. To enroll in the Town's notification system, please [click here](#).

FAIRFIELD COLLABORATIVE FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

I am very pleased to announce that the Fairfield Police Department, Fairfield Public Schools, and Fairfield Department of Human and Social Services have partnered to launch the Fairfield Collaborative for Youth Mental Health. The Collaborative, formed in response to key areas of concern identified by the town's three departments, will feature programs addressing mental health issues including anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders, depression and suicide, and obsession with social media.

The first project of the Collaborative will be a monthly series tackling these issues and providing parents and others with information and resources to help support the mental health of their children. The first presentation is entitled "Parenting Teens in the Age of Anxiety". For more information and a full list of speakers, [please click here](#).

All presentations are free and open to the public. To register or for more information, please

EMAIL: fairfieldcollaborative@fairfieldct.org.

DRAFT PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Town Planning and Zoning Department is pleased to present, for public review and comment, the draft [Plan of Conservation and Development \(POCD\)](#). The plan is reflective of the robust public engagement that was undertaken in the update effort. This process began in 2018 with initial outreach to Town Departments and other Boards and Commissions. We had very well attended public workshops in the winter of 2020 prior to the Covid pandemic. A presentation of the plan will be shared at a September Board of Selectmen meeting. I will share the details when we get closer.

As we emerged from COVID, the Town approved the use of ARPA funds to hire a professional planning consultant firm to help us take the work we had previously done, re-engage the community and complete the plan. We had a successful virtual workshop in the Fall of 2022 and a well-attended open house in April of 2023 that resulted in positive feedback for the proposed plan organization and concepts. Our goal is to hold a TPZ public hearing in October aimed at adoption in early November by the Plan and Zoning Commission. Public comments are welcome and can be directed to TPZCommission@fairfieldct.org.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING (RTM) VOTES TO NOT REJECT FIRE ARBITRATION AWARD

The Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration recently issued its final binding interest arbitration ruling after a long process. You can read the full interest arbitration award [here](#). You can also read the summary memo [here](#).

The Representative Town Meeting (RTM) convened a special meeting last Monday, adhering to the necessary statutory timeline, to address the arbitration panel's award. In arbitration awards, the legislative body's authority lies solely in the ability to vote for rejection. Through a bipartisan unanimous vote, the RTM chose to affirm the award, effectively deciding not to reject it. You can watch the RTM meeting [here](#). My closing comments can be viewed at 1:13 of the meeting.

To address concerns raised by the Fire Union during this process, I recommended, and the Fire Chief agreed, to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Fairfield Fire Department's structure. This evaluation, which is currently in the Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) stage will involve all relevant parties, consider budgetary concerns, and assess the number and location of Fire Stations for an effective deployment model. Personnel additions to the suppression division and the Fire Marshal's Office are under consideration for the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. These new staffing considerations are in addition to a new Fire Inspector position and full-time Fire Training Administrator at the Fire Training School that I included in my last two budget proposals and were approved by town bodies.

I look forward to working with the Fire Department for the residents we both serve in the coming months and years ahead.

SCHOOL REDISTRICTING: BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Education has scheduled a Special Meeting that includes a discussion on the inventory of all classrooms and spaces at each elementary building for testing feasibility of scenario(s) presented to the Board from SLAM (Redistricting Consultant). The meeting will take place on August 23rd at 7:30pm, at the BOE Building, 501 Kings Highway East, in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. To view the upcoming agenda, [click here](#). The livestream for the upcoming meeting can be found [here](#).

RADIO INTERVIEW | WICC MELISSA IN THE MORNING

This week, I participated in a radio-show interview to discuss important Town topics including the Board of Education redistricting proposal, the state racial imbalance law and the recent HR Department's [review](#) of Town credit card use. To listen to the Melissa in the Morning interview, [click here](#).

DUCK FARM ROAD BRIDGE UPDATE

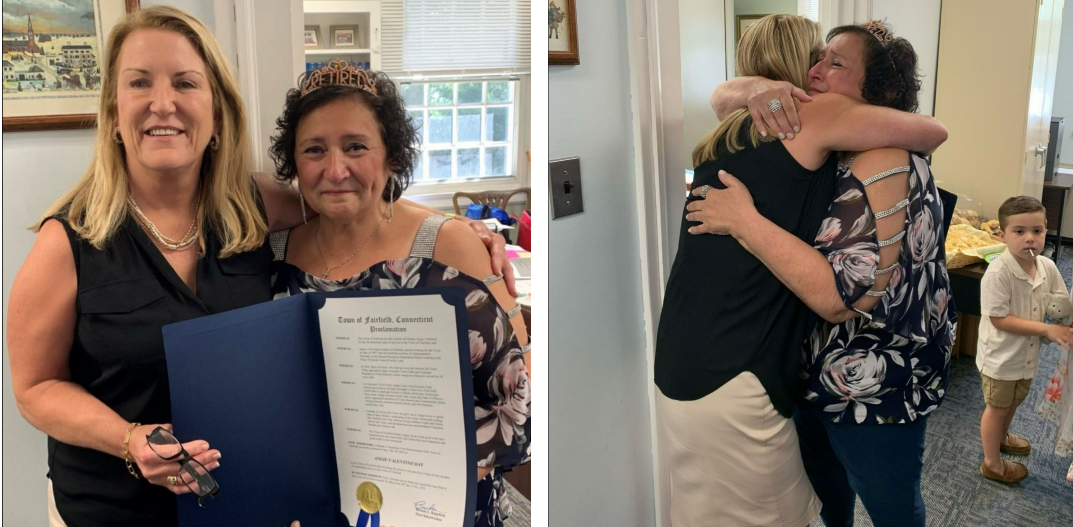
The Duck Farm Bridge project is proceeding and on track for completion by the end of September. The Engineering Department is closely monitoring the progress to ensure the project stays on schedule. Updates are regularly posted at fairfieldct.org/engineering.

For more information or questions, please contact Eli Ghazal, eghazal@fairfieldct.org, Project Manager for the Duck Farm Road Bridge.

ANGIE VALENTINO RETIREMENT

I recently joined the Town Clerk's Office for a retirement send off for Angie Valentino, Assistant Town Clerk, who worked for the Town for 25 years. Angie began working for the Town of Fairfield in the Human Resources Department. After working in HR for some time, Angie transferred to the Water Pollution Control Facility. While working for the WPCF, Angie was tapped by the Town Clerk to become an Assistant Town Clerk.

Angie has been a member of our community beyond just the years she worked for the Town, having graduated from Fairfield Ludlowe High School. The Town of Fairfield is beyond grateful for Angie's amazing service to our Town. I hope you will join me in wishing Angie all the best.



METRO-COG PUBLIC MEETING – COMMUNITY INPUT ON NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Town of Fairfield is pleased to partner with the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) in the update of the Region’s Multijurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP).

The Town and MetroCOG are hosting a public meeting on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm** for Fairfield residents and businesses to learn about the plan and share their knowledge of, experiences with, and concerns about natural hazards, vulnerabilities and opportunities for mitigation. The meeting will take place at the **Rotary Room of Fairfield’s Main Public Library, 1080 Old Post Road.**

Please [click here](#) to read more.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR HEATING AND UTILITY BILLS

As the seasons change, we want to inform our community about two valuable assistance programs that can provide support with heating and utility bills.

1. **Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP):** Starting September 5, CEAP offers aid for primary heating costs. This program ensures that you can keep your home warm during the colder months.
2. **Operation Fuel:** Commencing in August, Operation Fuel offers help with utility bills, primarily focusing on past-due balances for electric bills. Please remember that eligible applicants for Operation Fuel can only receive benefits once per calendar year. For example, if you received benefits in April 2023, you will be eligible to apply again in April 2024.

Our dedicated Fairfield Social Services staff will begin scheduling appointments in late August. To determine if you qualify for either program and to set up an appointment, please contact them at 203-256-3170.

FPS Green Team Needs You!

Help us bring

CAFETERIA COMPOST to FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Sustainable Fairfield & the Fairfield PTA Council's Green Teams are partnering with SustainableCT on a grant that will enable us to collect food waste in FIVE additional Fairfield schools over the next TWO years.

- The average elementary student throws away 1.5 lbs of food each week
- 11% of harmful greenhouse gases are generated from food waste in landfills
- WE CAN DO BETTER!




Donate at Patronicity.com/fairfieldcomposts







FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S OFFICE – HIGH SCHOOL INTERN

My office greatly enjoyed working with Fairfield Warde High School's rising Senior, Yael Grossman, who interned for us over the past two months. Yael worked on a variety of tasks including writing proclamations and assisting with constituent concerns. I am grateful for Yael's work and appreciate the time she spent with us.

I hope you all will join me in wishing Yael all the best as she enters her senior year!

OPERATION HOPE EVENTS

On Friday and Saturday there were events around town raising funds for and supporting Fairfield's own Operation Hope. On Friday, residents Helene Daly, Alexis Harrison, Joanne Romano-Csonka, and Lance Csonka organized, cooked, and served up a delicious summer cook out for Operation Hope clients. On Saturday, the co-op Fairfield Warde High School and Fairfield Ludlowe High School hockey team choose Operation Hope as the beneficiary of its annual cornhole tournament. Generously sponsored by Country Cow Deli, Pet Pantry Warehouse, BRYAC Black Rock and Ashley Curran Fitness. Kudos to tournament organizer Ryan Flynn, the team, the sponsors and all participants.

Also on Saturday, Fairfielders across town volunteered to host Operation Hopes Annual Tag Sale at their homes where all funds raised from the sales go directly to help our neighbors in need in Fairfield. I want to thank the residents and businesses who consistently step up to make a difference in our community.



GUSTAVE WHITEHEAD DAY

The Town of Fairfield proudly joins the City of Bridgeport to honor and recognize the 122nd anniversary of Gustave Whitehead's historic "First in Flight" which took place August 14, 1901—*prior* to the 1903 flight of the Wright Brothers in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Whitehead, who had lived in both Fairfield and Bridgeport, performed preliminary flight tests during May-July of 1901, in Bridgeport's West End and the surrounding towns of Fairfield and Stratford. The monoplane was [his 57th aircraft in total and his 20th manned aircraft](#). To read the official Town proclamation, [click here](#).

[NEW BUSINESSES](#)

NEW CLOTHING STORE

Southport welcomes a new tween, teen, and women's boutique at 167 Old Post Road. I hope you will stop in and support this new women-owned business - a great spot for back-to-school shopping. Check out their website for more information: trumpetsouthport.com.



[FAIRFIELD SPORTS](#)

FAIRFIELD NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE

District Champions. Sectional Champions. State Champions. New England Champions! The Fairfield National Little League 10U All-Star team concluded an amazing summer season by winning the New England Regional Championship in a tournament hosted in Cranston, RI.

The team began their run in late June capturing CT's District 2 Championship amassing an 8-0 record against neighboring leagues. They won their next 6 games marching to the CT State title.

They carried the momentum to Cranston remaining undefeated across four pool play games and ultimately defeating Massachusetts 11-1 in the New England championship game.

Congratulations on a hard-fought season and we look forward to welcoming the team at an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting to celebrate.



[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

FAIRFIELD OKTOBERFEST | SAVE THE DATE & SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

I am excited to announce a new event for our community to enjoy in our downtown, incorporating live entertainment in an outdoor setting. The Town's first Oktoberfest will take place on September 23 from 2:00 – 6:00 PM in the FTC & Sanford St Lots. In our effort to plan more community events for our residents to enjoy, I want to thank our Parks & Recreation and Economic Development Departments for working together to put together a festive and fun event this September. I am looking forward to it and think we will have a great turnout.

There are fun sponsorships available for businesses you can learn more about by contacting Mary Alice Limperopulos in [Economic Development](#).



GREENFIELD HILL FARMERS MARKET

Located at 65 Hillside Road, the Greenfield Hill Farmers Market will be open Saturdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm now through October. Be sure to stop by to check out their many local vendors.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The Market is held every Sunday 10AM-2PM, rain or shine, on Sherman Green. Over 30 local farms and small batch food producers participate. This year the market offers live music and story time for children. For more information, including a list of vendors, please visit the [Fairfield Farmers Market](#) webpage.



BACK TO SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE | AUGUST 26

On Saturday August 26th, Senator Tony Hwang is hosting a Back-to-School Food Drive for food insecurity with Operation Hope at the Sherman Town Green from 11:00am-2:00pm. For more information, please [click here](#).

HAZWASTE DAY | AUGUST 26

The Town of Fairfield is hosting its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on August 26th from 9:00am-2:00pm at Veteran's Park, located at 909 Reef Road. This is an opportunity for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge ([click here](#) to view the list). Just load your car, and your car will be emptied for you. For information on disposing of hazardous waste during other time of the year, please [click here](#).

Pre-registration is required. Visit [click here](#) to register or call 203-401-2712 for more information.

LOGAN BIELING LEMONADE STAND | AUGUST 26

Meet Logan Bieling, rising 5th grader here in Fairfield. For 5 years now, Logan and his family have been running a lemonade stand for charity. He selects different charities as beneficiaries each year. Operation Hope is deeply grateful to have been selected as one of the 2023 charities, along with Kevin's Afterglow, which we know is also so near and dear to many in this community. This impressive and resourceful young man has raised over \$21,000 to date.

Logan's Lemonade Stand will be held Saturday, August 26, 1-4pm (rain date: August 27) at 124 Fieldcrest Road. If you are unable to swing by, please consider a donation via Venmo @DanielleGrayBieling. Thank you to Logan and his parents for creating this incredible way to give back together, as a community. You can learn more about Logan and his lemonade stand [here](#).

COMMUNITY OVERDOSE VIGIL | AUGUST 31

A candlelight vigil is being held on Thursday, August 31st at the Sherman Town Green to help end overdose, remember, without stigma, those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. All are invited to speak and share about their loss of a loved one, continued struggle or pathway to recovery. For more information, please [click here](#).

YANKEE STADIUM MILITARY APPRECIATION GAMES | SEPTEMBER 5-10

As a tribute to the dedicated men and women who have served in the military, the New York Yankees are excited to present Military Appreciation Games for the 2023 MLB season. Enjoy discounted tickets for you, your friends, and family members who have served in the military. Each ticket includes a complimentary hot dog, soft drink/beer, and a customized Yankees camouflage t-shirt.

For dates, and pricing to purchase tickets [click here](#).

CENTER FOR FAMILY JUSTICE EVENT| SEPTEMBER 6

The Center for Family Justice will hold its 26th Annual Speaking of Women event on **Wednesday, September 6**, at The Waterview, 218 Roosevelt Drive, Monroe, CT. Registration begins at 11am, followed by a **12pm Program** start. This year's featured survivor is Chanel Miller, artist and author of the New York Times bestselling memoir, "Know My Name." For more information [click here](#). To purchase event tickets [click here](#).

ROCK FOR HOPE: A BENEFIT FOR OPERATION HOPE | SEPTEMBER 7

Operation Hope is hosting a benefit concert on Thursday, September 7 at 7:30pm featuring Band Central, at StageOne at Fairfield Theatre Company. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased [here](#). Band Central brings you rock legend Joe Bouchard, former member of Blue Oyster Cult, for a concert to support Operation Hope and its programs to eliminate hunger and homelessness in our community.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL | SEPTEMBER 10

The Friends of Fairfield Public Library will hold the annual Food Truck Festival on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jennings Beach. Admission is a \$5 donation and kids age 12 and under are free.



FAIRFIELD PADDLE FEST 2023 | SEPTEMBER 9

The Fairfield Rotary Club announced it will host [Paddle Fest](#) on Saturday, September 9th at Jennings Beach, Fairfield, CT. The family-friendly paddle event features four opportunities for Stand-up Paddlers (SUP) and Kayakers to compete, or simply enjoy time paddling on the lovely Long Island Sound. For elite paddlers, there will be a 6-mile competitive race to test their skills; for recreational paddlers, there is a 3-mile course, and ½ mile course for youth to try out their skills and have fun. New this year is a one mile "Paddle For Fun" event. Check-in/registration opens at 8:30 am and races start at 9:30 am. There will be music and fun for all ages. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

PARENTING TEENS IN THE AGE OF ANXIETY – HOW WE CAN MAKE WORRY WORK | SEPTEMBER 13

We welcome you to an enlightening session within the Fairfield Collaborative for Youth Mental Health series. Join us on Wednesday, September 13th, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at Fairfield Warde High School, located at 755 Melville Avenue. Dr. Dana Dorfman, MSW, PHD, will draw from her extensive clinical practice spanning over 30 years, engaging with children, adolescents, parents, and adults. This session promises to offer valuable insights into the intricate landscape of youth mental health. Your participation will contribute to a deeper understanding of this crucial topic. For more information, [please click here](#) or e-mail FairfieldCollaborative@fairfieldct.org.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOGWOOD GOLF CLASSIC | SEPTEMBER 25

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its 3rd Annual Dogwood Golf Classic on September 25th, 2023. Register online at FairfieldCTChamber.com or call the office at 203-255-1011. For more information, please [click here](#).

[LIBRARIES/FAIRFIELD MUSEUM](#)

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Main Library/1080 Old Post Rd

Branch Library/1147 Fairfield Woods Rd



Please note that both branches of Fairfield Public Library are now CLOSED ON SUNDAYS through Labor Day.

To learn more about upcoming Fairfield Public Library programming, [click here](#).

PEQUOT LIBRARY

720 Pequot Avenue/Southport

Pequot Library offers an exciting lineup of programs for all ages, all of which are free and open to the public. Please [click here](#) for more information.



PEQUOT
LIBRARY

FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

370 Beach Road



The [Fairfield Museum and History Center](#) believes in the power of history, art, and humanities to inspire the imagination, stimulate thought, and transform society. To view upcoming events, including tonight's free Jazz Friday on the Museum Commons, [click here](#).

I hope you have a lovely weekend.



Brenda L. Kupchick
Fairfield First Selectwoman

