



Dear Fairfielders,

Summer is officially coming to a close with the school year underway and football season starting. Our Jewish residents are celebrating the High Holidays and I want to wish those in our community who celebrate Rosh Hashanah a very happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

Every year on the 11th of September we also come together as a community to join the Fire, Police, and EMS departments to recognize the heroism of our first responders and remember the lives lost.

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining." President George W. Bush 9/11/01

Never forget that day, the people we lost, the heroes that risked everything to help, and the generation of heroes who have done so every day since. We owe you all a debt we can never repay.



I was particularly moved by the remarks of one of Fairfield's long time telecommunicators, Lynn Erazmus, you can read her remarks [here](#).





## **FAIRFIELD RECEIVES TOP AWARD BY THE CT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS) has recognized the Town of Fairfield as a member of the CEDAS Best Practices Cohort for 2023 as a Gold Certified Community. CEDAS recognized Fairfield for “good governance and organizational effectiveness principles, which facilitate accountable and effective planning and development practices.”

This recognition is a tribute to the hard work of our Community & Economic Development Department and our work to make Fairfield more attractive to residents and businesses alike. CEDAS recognized the Town employee pledge my administration implemented, and our interdepartmental communications. I want to thank our CED Director Mark Barnhart for working side by side with me and my team to support businesses who are seeking approvals from the Town, and providing guidance throughout the process. It’s really nice to be recognized for the many new policies and procedures we have put into place.

## **REDDING ROAD UPDATE**

As a follow up from the [July 21](#) Town Update, and in light of the pedestrian fatality that occurred on Redding Road, I wanted to keep residents informed of the steps we have taken. The Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit, the Engineering Department and I visited Redding Road as part of a road safety audit, and worked on a plan, with input from residents, and Melissa Evans from the Training and Technical Assistance Center at UCONN, to present to the Police Commission.

This week the Police Commission met and unanimously approved the request to install center-line rumble strips and edge line painting (fog lines) for the entire length of Redding Road beginning from Hulls Farm Road to Mile Common. This is part of phase 1 of the Redding Road safety initiative, which also includes a right of way survey to clear a path for pedestrians.



## **TRAFFIC SAFETY COMPLAINTS AND PROCESS**

The Town of Fairfield has approximately 270 miles of roadway within its borders. When residents have a concern or traffic complaint there is a process the Town follows that is a collaboration between the Police Department, Engineering and the Department of Public Works.

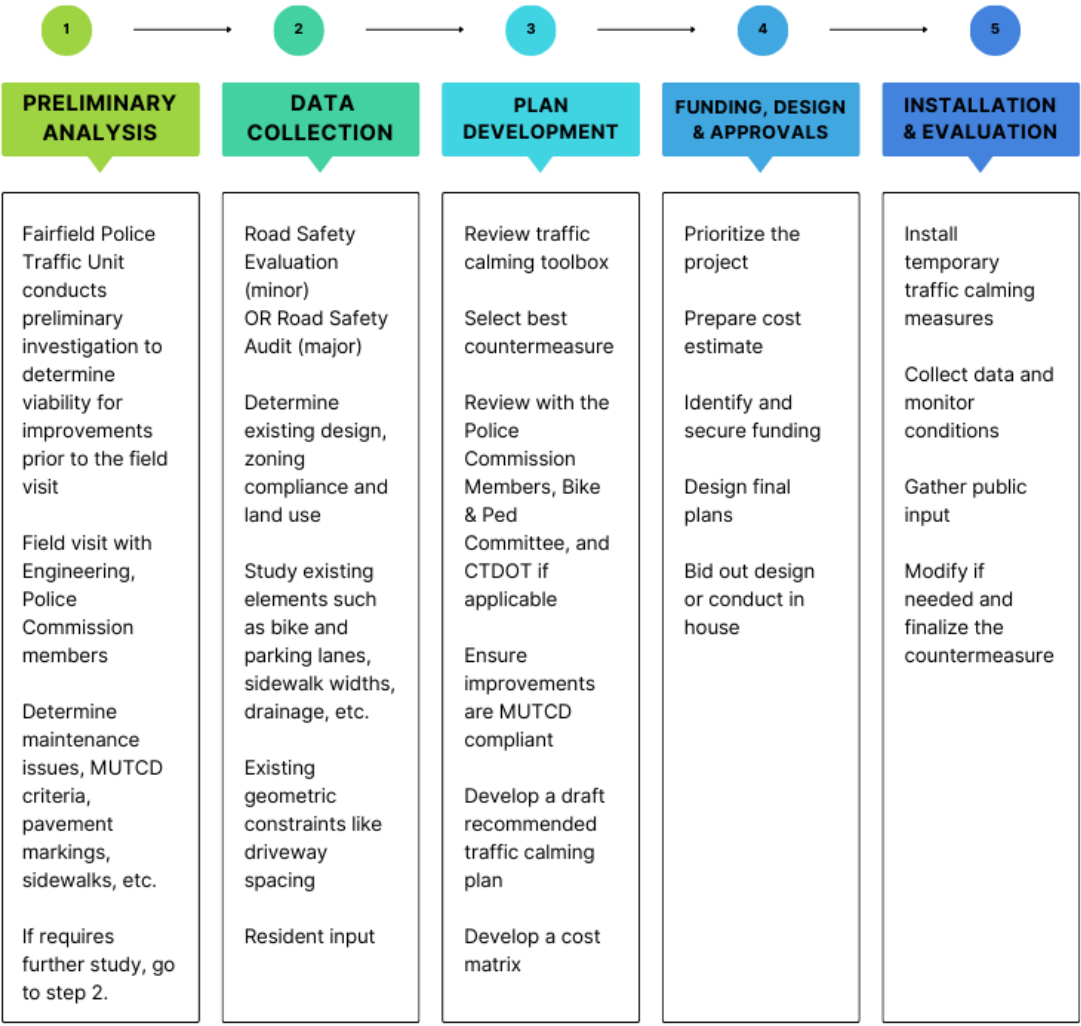
The Town of Fairfield Board of Police Commissioners is the regulatory authority who has the responsibility and sole decision-making authority, under State Statute, to regulate signs, signals, and roadway markings for the Town.

The Town of Fairfield, by law, must comply with the standards, guidance and options of the National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices. The Town has a Complete Streets Policy that is incorporated in the process when applicable.

Residents can place a request for selective speed enforcement by submitting a Traffic Enforcement request through the Fairfield Police Department Traffic Safety Unit: [fpdct.com/traffic](https://fpdct.com/traffic) or by calling 203-254-4850. On that site there is a great deal of useful information including the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's).

Below is an outline of the Town’s process when a complaint or inquiry is made.





TOWN SIDEWALKS & ROAD PAVING

I want to thank our Public Works Department for all their work to improve our Town's sidewalks. Most recently repairs and replacements took place on Mill Plain Road and downtown near the public library.



This year's road milling is complete and paving begins next week. To see the list of roads, please [click here](#).

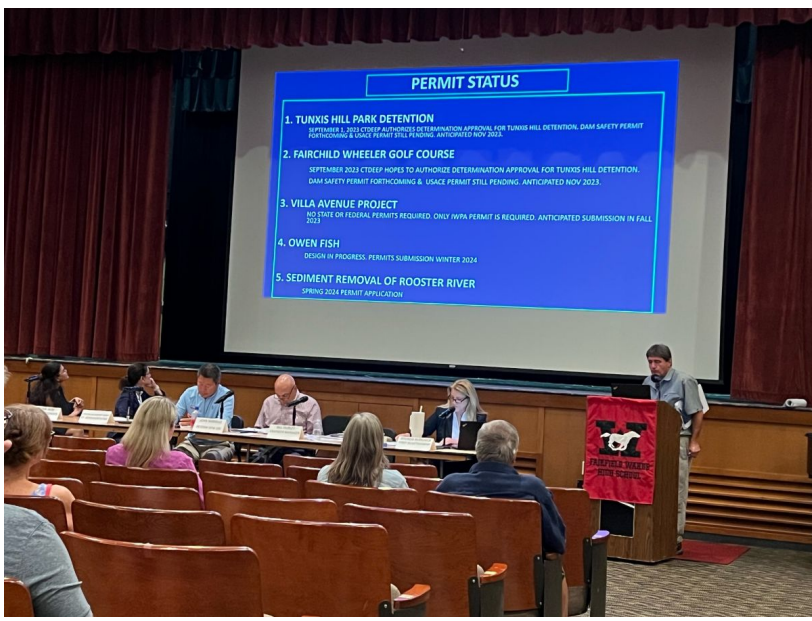
For residents who live on streets scheduled for paving, you will be notified when your street will be impacted by roadwork if you are enrolled in the Town's Emergency Alert System. To enroll in the Town's notification system, please [click here](#).

**ROOSTER RIVER MEETING**On Tuesday, September 12, I hosted an informational Town meeting on Rooster River for those neighbors interested in learning more about the efforts the Town is taking to mitigate flooding.

You can watch the recording of the meeting [here](#). A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).







## VOTER REDISTRICTING & POLLING LOCATIONS

Your RTM voting district and polling location may have changed. By the Town Charter, after completion of the census of the United States and after any reapportionment of the State General Assembly Districts affecting the Town, new voting districts are established by the RTM. In January, the RTM voted to adopt new voting districts in accordance with these rules. Please click below to check your voter district and polling location:

[LOOK UP WHERE YOU VOTE](#)

[LOOK UP RTM DISTRICT BY STREET](#)

[VIEW THE RTM DISTRICT MAP](#)

## TOWN CREDIT CARD UPDATE

Last month, I sent out an [update](#) about an HR investigation into Town credit card use over a five-year look-back period. While the findings resulted in \$845 in restitution to the town, and no fraud or criminal activity was uncovered, we did learn a lot more about the culture that existed prior to my administration, the lack of policies and training, and generally accepted practices that were in serious need of reform.

I offered to attend a Board of Finance Audit Subcommittee meeting to discuss this matter and did so on Monday night with the purpose of working together on solutions to move our town government forward. The Chief Fiscal Officer, HR Director, and I attended with a written presentation that outlined the best practices we have implemented in the last few months in hopes to gain feedback. Unfortunately, we were prevented from presenting our work.

If our elected officials truly care about paving a path of transparent and good governance for Fairfield's future, then all parties need to work together. The tone of this meeting from the outset was extremely disappointing and I regret I played a role in it. I was disappointed the committee members were not interested in a solution-based discussion.

While I may have inherited an incredibly antiquated system of dysfunction, mismanagement and the worst public corruption scandal in Fairfield's history, I have not and will not be deterred by those challenges. I believe in good government, I welcome public feedback, and value open communication. We've accomplished a lot to make changes to address 20 years of mismanagement, but there's still a lot more work to do.

I will continue to provide updates on this issue as my administration continues to reform policies and procedures to protect the best interest of the community.

You can read our presentation regarding improved credit card usage and controls [here](#).



## **CAPITAL PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Last year, I created a bipartisan Capital Plan Working Group made up of varying stakeholders, to assess and prioritize the many capital investment needs of the Town, Board of Education and Water Pollution Control Authority. Over the course of eight public meetings, we explored many projects from pickleball courts to sewer infrastructure, flood prevention, dog parks and school renovations, to name a few. I believe this process is a beneficial way to take a deep dive into the many competing needs Fairfield faces. It's not an easy task and I want to thank all those who participated and provided helpful and genuine input. To capitalize on last year's success, I have decided to institute the annual formation of a working group to assess and prioritize capital investment needs. This year's group began their work last week, which you can watch [here](#).

The portion on school capital projects discussion starts [here](#).

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REDISTRICTING**

The Board of Education continues to meet to consider school redistricting plans. You can watch their meetings here [here](#).

Parents have reached out to me, and I have welcomed the opportunity to share my insights as a former Board of Education member who has been through this process. I previously shared an update about my experience with redistricting you can read [here](#). Many have asked that I intervene with the redistricting. While I understand the frustration and concern, the First Selectperson has no authority over the Board of Education's decision making on policies. In Connecticut, a local board of education serves the dual roles of (1) being a locally elected board of residents who serve a particular town and only they can make local public-school policy and (2) being obligated by state law to carry out the education interests of the state and are also known as "agents of the state."

I have a long history of disagreement with the State's law on racial imbalance when I served on the BOE and as a state legislator. You can read more about my opinions on this issue [here](#). I have always advocated for neighborhood schools and redistricting based on space utilization, but ultimately these decisions reside with the school board.

## **UPDATE TO THE RTM**

This month the RTM requested that I share an update on two items I thought I would also share with you.

The first item is an update on the Penfield Pavilion construction project that is provided to the Board of Selectmen monthly. You can read the memo I supplied to the RTM regarding the project [here](#). You can also read more about the Penfield project further down in this newsletter.

The second item is an update on the volunteer early retirement program or "VERIP" as it is commonly referred to, that took place for eligible employees in 2020. You can read that update [here](#).

Having previously served on the RTM, I appreciate the membership reaching out to stay informed, and my office is always happy to provide information as requested.

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

As I shared in the previous few newsletters, the Town Planning and Zoning Department has presented the draft [Plan of Conservation and Development \(POCD\)](#). This process began in 2018 with initial outreach to Town Departments and other Boards and Commissions.

Public comment is welcome and can be directed to [TPZCommission@fairfieldct.org](mailto:TPZCommission@fairfieldct.org).



## PENFIELD PAVILION REPAIR

Updates on the project at Penfield Pavilion are provided monthly at the BOS meeting. As we move forward on remediation and repair at this site, the Town will share information we receive on the Penfield Construction Project webpage you can read [here](#). Monthly updates will continue at Board of Selectmen meetings.

The Town has begun removing equipment and closing down Penfield Pavilion to prepare for construction. The building will be winterized in the coming weeks and then site fence will go up and remediation will begin in October.

## SEWER WORK

The Town of Fairfield and Vortex Services will be conducting repairs to the sanitary sewer pipe system along Post Road in the Southport area beginning [September 25](#). It is anticipated that this work will take less than two weeks to complete. Where possible, work will be conducted within the road right-of-way. Separate correspondence has been sent to property owners most likely to be impacted by this repair work.

## FAIR RENT COMMISSION VACANCIES

Pursuant to State Statute, the RTM recently created a Fair Rent Commission for the purpose of controlling and eliminating excessive rental charges for housing accommodations within the Town.

The Commission will consist of five members and two alternates, all of whom must be registered to vote in Fairfield. In selecting the five regular members, priority shall be given to one residential landlord and one residential tenant. However, you do not need to be a landlord or tenant to apply.

The regular term for the Commission is three years, however, because this is a newly established commission, to start the terms will be staggered: 1-One-year term; 2-Two-year terms; 2-Three-year terms; Alternates shall serve for 3 years.

To learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the Fair Rent Commission [click here](#). Anyone interested in serving on the Commission should complete a boards and application which can be found [here](#).

## TAX COLLECTOR REMINDS RESIDENTS OF REAL ESTATE AND SEWER USE TAXES DUE

2nd quarter Real Estate taxes and 1st installment Sewer Use taxes become due on October 1, 2023 and **the last day to pay timely is Wednesday November 1, 2023**. On November 2, 2023 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 October 1, 2023.

Any original tax bill can be paid at any M & T bank branch location between October 1, 2023 and November 1, 2023. You do not need to be a customer. For more details on payment options, penalties and contact information, view the [Legal Notice](#) or contact the [Tax Department](#).

## [COMMUNITY NEWS](#)

### NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

I shared [last week](#) that we have officially broken ground on Fairfield's first affordable housing project with Habitat for Humanity. Community & Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart and I worked very hard to make this a reality and we look forward to providing four brand new affordable housing units in Fairfield.

This is one of many affordable housing proposals we are working on to create truly affordable housing that is under the Town's direction and doesn't use the antiquated 8-30g state law that has proven to be ineffective. Watch [here](#).







## **UI | FAIRFIELD TO CONGRESS SUBSTATION BRIDGEPORT RAILROAD TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT**

As I shared previously, United Illuminating (UI) is proposing removing their existing 115-kV lines and infrastructure (bonnets) from the CT DOT-owned railroad catenary structures along the Metro-North Railroad tracks in both Fairfield and Bridgeport. UI's proposal is for 115-kV lines to be rebuilt on new single or double-circuit monopoles, which will be located within or near the CT DOT railroad corridor.

Various town departments including Zoning, Conservation, Engineering, the Tree Warden, Parking Authority, and my office, met with UI before their submission to offer input and concerns for the proposal. The Town's Conservation Commission composed a letter to the CT Siting Council you can read [here](#).

The Connecticut Siting Council holds exclusive authority over utility proposals statewide. To ensure the Town's interests, I engaged outside legal counsel to apply for, and we received, intervener status with the Siting Council. You can read the letter we submitted [here](#).

The Town is working with the other intervening parties to request an extension to be able to supply expert witnesses and an additional evidentiary hearing.

If you would to share feedback on the project, you can send a letter to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). Please feel free to copy me on your email to the siting council.

I will continue to provide updates as they become available in my newsletter. The UI project website can be found [here](#).

## **YARD SIGNS ON TOWN PROPERTY**

I want to take this opportunity to remind residents, candidates, political parties and the public that yard signs are not permitted on Town property. This includes campaign, business promotion, and non-profit event signs. These signs should only be placed on private property, with the permission of the property owner.

I receive regular complaints from residents about the numerous signs placed on Town property, especially on islands and intersections in the sight lines of motorists. We recommend anyone wanting to promote a charity event, [candidate](#) or business ask permission from businesses or homeowners to place a sign. In accordance with [zoning ordinances](#), signs cannot be affixed with ties, rope, or string to mailboxes, street signs, or stop signs.

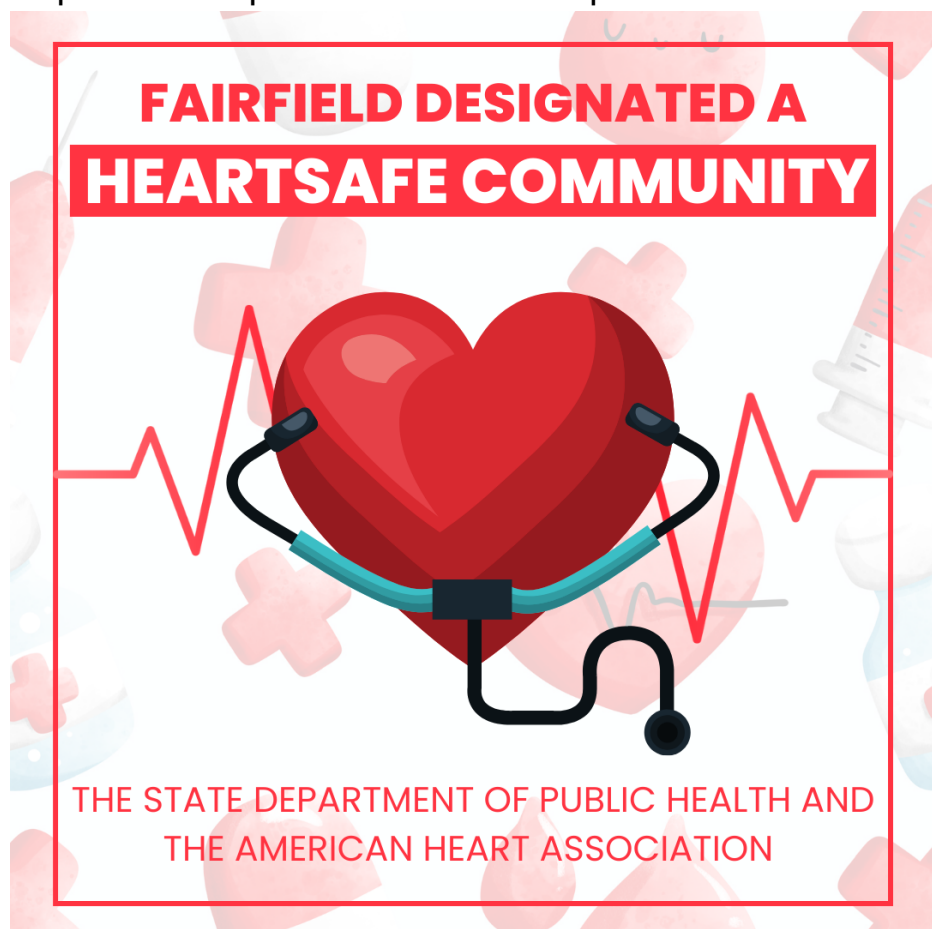


The FPS Green Team is applying for a CT match grant in order to raise funds to cover composting in 5 schools for the next two years. **There are 16 days left to reach this goal.** Please help spread the word and [create a better environment](#) for kids.

### [FAIRFIELD'S FIRST RESPONDERS](#)

#### FAIRFIELD IS HEART SAFE

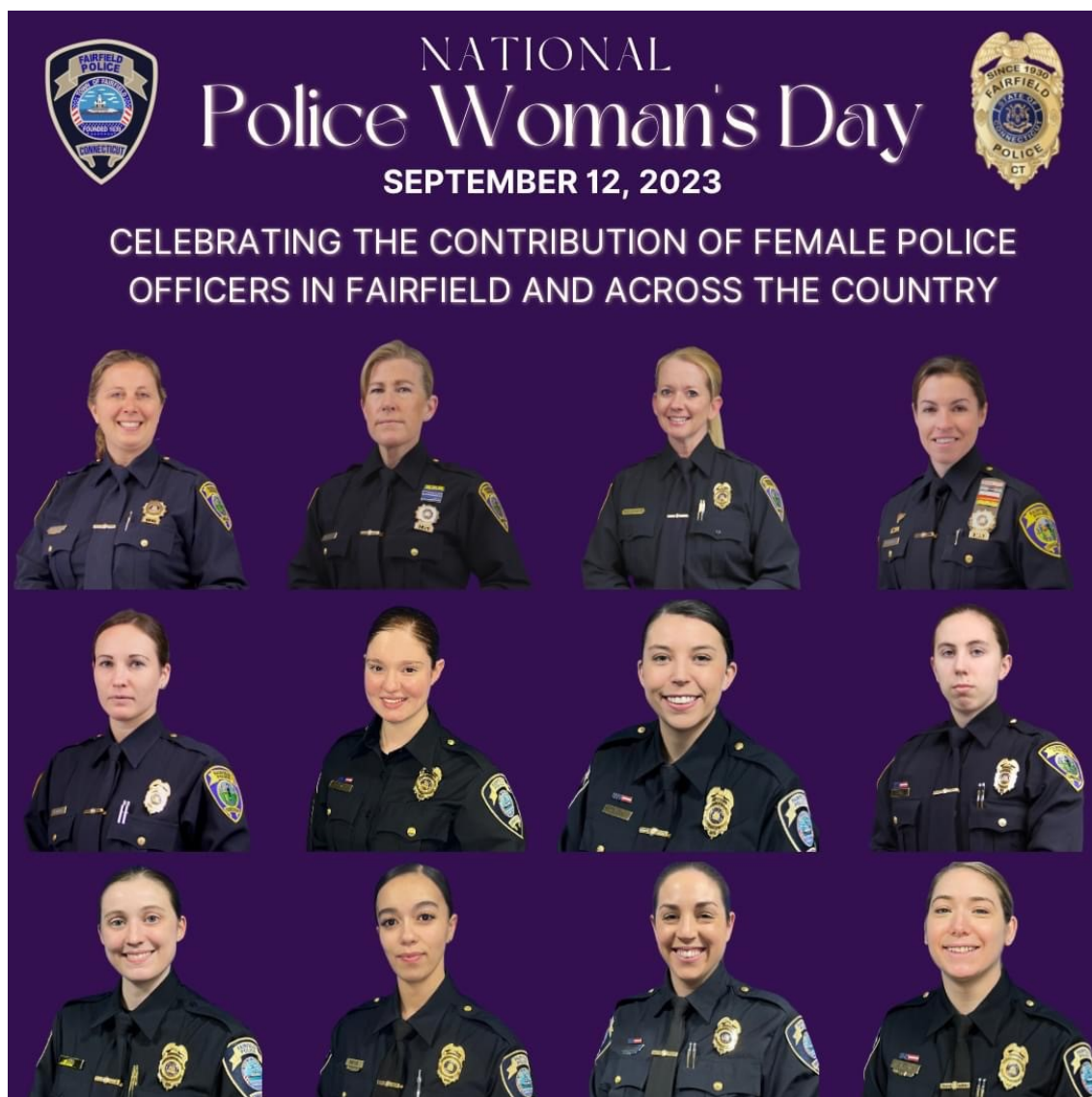
I'm pleased to report the State Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association has again designated Fairfield a HEARTSafe community. This three year re-designation recognizes the Town's commitment to provide improved cardiac response and care to residents, to improve survival of sudden cardiac arrest.



#### NATIONAL POLICE WOMAN'S DAY – September 12, 2023:

National Police Woman Day is celebrated each year on September 12th. The day acknowledges and celebrates the contribution of female police officers who enforce law and order around the country. National Police Woman Day hopes to encourage more women to join the service. Along with expressing gratitude to these officers, the day also hopes for a future where law enforcement bodies will have stronger female representation.





### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Last Saturday was an awesome day supporting our community. I had a lot of fun at the Stratfield Village Association Lincoln PARKAPALOOZA! Kudos to the SVA board for all their hard work and dedication for the Stratfield Village neighborhood. It was especially fun to see SVA Board member, Dylan O'Connor, who was my son's camp counselor many years ago through Parks & Recreation.



### **SENIOR CENTER MONTH & NEW MEMBER WELCOME COFFEE**

I enjoyed stopping by the Bigelow Center for Senior Services this week for their new member welcome coffee. I was also pleased to present a proclamation at this week's Board of Selectmen meeting, in honor of National Senior Center Month, a time to showcase older Americans who are significant members of our society, investing their wisdom and experience to help enrich and strengthen our community. The success of the Bigelow Center is attributed to Human and Social Services Director Julie DeMarco, Bigelow Center Director Brenda Steele, all of the hard working staff and dedicated volunteers, including the Friends of the Bigelow Center and the Human Services Commission.





### QUILTS ACROSS AMERICA

I was especially touched to meet Dave Farmington who showed me his Quilt of Valor. The mission is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war in comforting and healing Quilts of Valor and to say "Thank you for your service and sacrifice."



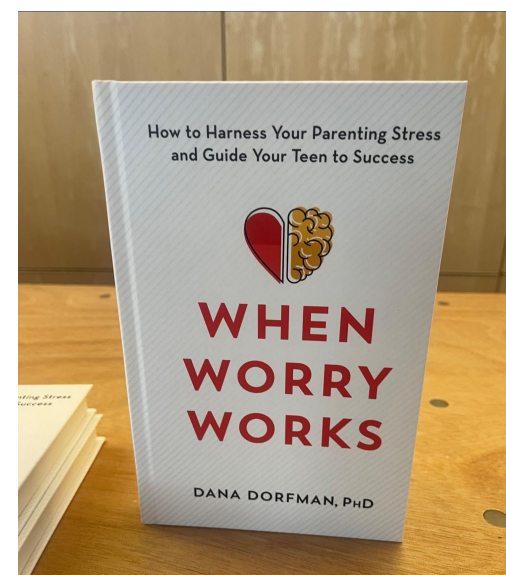
The Bigelow Center celebrates Senior Center Month with music by the CUKES, and a birthday celebration for our 90 year old (and up) seniors.



## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

The Fairfield Police Department, Fairfield Public Schools, and Fairfield Department of Human and Social Services recently launched the [Fairfield Collaborative for Youth Mental Health](#). They have assembled an excellent speaker series as part of this initiative and I was happy to kick off this week's series.

Coming up next is the [Fairfield Father's Forum](#), free and open to any fathers for a discussion led by Vince Benevento, LPC, Director and Founder of the Causeway Collaborative.



## NO ONE HAS TIME FOR THE FLU, GET A FLU SHOT

The Fairfield Health Department is urging all residents to receive the flu vaccine. The single best way to protect yourself and those around you from the flu is to get vaccinated. It is recommended that everyone over the age of 6 months receive the flu vaccine every year. It takes about 2 weeks after the receiving the flu vaccine for the body to develop protection against the flu virus so now is a good time to get vaccinated.

The Health Department will host four flu clinics this season for adults and children age 3 and older. These clinics will be held on:

- Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm
- Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm
- Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm
- Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm

ALL clinics will take place at the Public Health Nursing Office located at 100 Mona Terrace, Fairfield in the white portable BEHIND the Senior Center. Walk-ins only, no appointments. [Click here for more information](#).

## FRIENDS OF THE FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

I was honored to present a proclamation to the Friends of the Fairfield Library for their 20 years of advocacy and support of our Town's libraries. Friends of the Fairfield Public Library set a positive example of how compassionate volunteers who love our library make a tremendous difference. The Town is very grateful to past and present Friends volunteers, all of the generous donors and sponsors, as well as the Library's exceptional staff and devoted Board Trustees.



## [FAIRFIELD SPORTS](#)

### Town of Fairfield Day at Fairfield University Men's Soccer

Join us Tuesday, September 19 for Town of Fairfield Night at the Fairfield University Men's Soccer game. The Stags face LIU at 7 PM on Lessing Field. To purchase discounted tickets, click [here](#)!





#### [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

##### **FAIRFIELD OKTOBERFEST | SEPTEMBER 23**

The Town's inaugural [Oktoberfest](#) will take place on September 23 from 2:00 – 6:00 PM in the FTC & Sanford St Lots. Thanks to the Parks & Recreation Department, Economic Development Department, and Fairfield Theater Company for planning this fun, community event. And special thanks to our sponsors: Elicit Brewing Company, Two Roads Brewing Company, Boca Grille and Raw Bar, The Circle Fairfield, Hi-Ho Hotel, Bear Fight American Single Malt Whiskey, Creek Water, Voodoo Ranger, Outdoor Design & Living, Vintage Garden and Massage Envy. I am looking forward to it and think we will have a great turnout.



##### **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.



##### **PINK PLEDGE COMMUNITY KICK OFF | SEPTEMBER 29**

Join us on the Sherman Green at 5:30 to kick off Norma Pfriem Breast Cancer awareness month kick off. Live music, food, a kids corner and much more.



### ST. ANTHONY'S ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC | OCTOBER 2

The St. Anthony's Annual Golf Classic is held in loving memory of Keith Reynolds. This event will return on October 2, 2023 to Whitney Farms Golf Club in Monroe, Connecticut. 25% of the net profits from the day will be donated to THRIVE, a cooperative wellness center for cancer patients and survivors. For more information and to sign up [click here](#).

### SAVE THE DATE | TASTE OF FAIRFIELD | OCTOBER 8

The Taste of Fairfield returns Sunday, October 8th at Delamar Southport. You can purchase tickets [here](#).

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOGWOOD GOLF CLASSIC | OCTOBER 16

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

### FAIRFIELD RESTAURANT WEEK

Save the Date!

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fairfield Restaurant Week returns on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and runs through Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>! Restaurants and sponsors interested in participating should reach out to the [Office of Community & Economic Development](#).



### [LIBRARIES/FAIRFIELD MUSEUM](#)

#### FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Main Library/1080 Old Post Rd

Branch Library/1147 Fairfield Woods Rd



Please view our online calendar of events on our website to see the offerings and reserve your spot: [fairfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org)

The Library offers 24/7 access to its digital collection of books, music, magazines, movies and databases. Information services are available in person, by phone 203-256-3160, by email [eref@fplct.org](mailto:eref@fplct.org), and via text (text askfplct to 833-232-4100).

#### 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, [click here](#).

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'B' being large and stylized.

Brenda L. Kupchick  
Fairfield First Selectwoman