

# Town of Fairfield News

3/19/2021 - 3.19 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

What a difference a year makes. It was so nice for me to be able to join with our community in raising the Irish flag at the Gaelic American Club on St. Patrick's day, after a long and difficult year. Wednesday's festivities provided a ray of hope towards resuming normal life in Fairfield by celebrating one of the many cultures that make up the fabric of our community.



Town Clerk Betsy Browne Miller, 2021 Mr. Shamrock Runner Up Ryan Carroll, Police Chief Bob Kalamaras, 2021 Miss Shamrock Emily Larkin, State Senator

Tony Hwang, 2021 Miss Shamrock Runner Up Catherine White, 2021 Mr. Shamrock Andrew Jones, and State Representative Laura Devlin



Jude Fitzgerald - Former President of the Gaelic American Club and employee of the Town of Fairfield

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## COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY/SECTOR RULES UPDATE

**Vaccine Eligibility:** On Monday, March 15th, Governor Lamont announced that he is accelerating Connecticut's age-based rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to proceed on a quicker schedule than was originally anticipated when it was announced last month. The revised schedule, which tentatively plans for the vaccine to expand to all adults over the age of 16 by April 5, comes as the State was notified that we should anticipate receiving a significant increase of all three federally authorized vaccines over the next several weeks. I am proud that Connecticut continues to rank among the top five states in the nation in the percentage of population that has been vaccinated.



- **March 19, 2021:** Expands to age group 45 to 54
- **April 5, 2021 (tentative) :** Expands to age group 16 to 44

*\*The state will work with providers and the Department of Developmental Services to accelerate access for the most medically high-risk individuals under 45 during the month of April.*

In addition to the age-based eligibility, preK-12 school staff, teachers, and professional childcare providers became eligible to receive the vaccine starting March 1st. These individuals should receive information from their school administrators or employers on how to register for a vaccine appointment.

**If you want to check your eligibility, click on the blue button labeled "CT Vaccination Phases & Eligibility" below**

**If you fall under Phase 1a, an Educator/Staff in preK-12, or a Childcare Provider, you should receive information from your employer or school administrators on how to register for vaccine appointments. For those in the Phase 1b category of 45 and older, you should complete the State form below:**

### **CT Vaccination Phases & Eligibility**

#### **State Form - 45 & Older**

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**Sector Rules:** Beginning today, these are the most up to date sector rules for the the State.



## Reopening Businesses March 19

- Eliminating capacity limits, maintaining masks, spacing, cleaning protocols



Restaurants/non-theater  
indoor recreation  
(11pm curfew • 8 person table cap)



Libraries, Museums,  
Aquariums



Gyms/Fitness Centers



Retail & Offices



Personal services



Houses of Worship

- Movie Theaters and Performing Arts Venues continue @ 50% capacity



## Reopening March 19



**Social & recreational  
gatherings** with masks,  
distancing

- At private residence  
**25 indoors /  
100 outdoors**
- At commercial venue,  
w 11pm curfew  
(previously announced)  
**100 indoors /  
200 outdoors**



### Sports

- All sports allowed to  
practice and compete,  
subject to DPH guidance
- Tournaments allowed



**Travel Advisory** changed  
from mandate to guidance

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Ribbon Cutting** – It's always exciting to cut a ribbon for a new business opening in Fairfield. I hope you'll join me in welcoming Khushi and Deepak Kumar and their business Corner Keg & Spirits, located at 355 Jennings Rd. (Diagonal from CVS). The store name may sound familiar – they have brought it back from when the same location was a package store for two decades (1996 to 2016). “We hope it will bring back good memories for the neighborhood,” the Kumars said. To learn more check them out on IG: [@cornerkegandspirits](#) or FB: Corner Keg & Spirits.





Photography by Mike Lauterborn, Fairfield HameltHub.

**SHU Ice Hockey Arena** – It was so exciting to join President Dr. John Petillo and the Martire family for Sacred Heart University's groundbreaking ceremony on its new 122,158-square-foot hockey arena, the first of its kind in Fairfield. University President John Petillo thanked Frank and Marisa Martire for their gift of \$5 million to support the arena, which will have over 3,600 seating capacity and is scheduled to be operational by January 2023.



(From Left to Right) David Coppola, Sacred Heart Senior VP of Admin & Planning;  
Dr. John Petillo, Sacred Heart President; Marisa and Frank Martire.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend, especially as we welcome the first day of Spring tomorrow.

Brenda L. Kupchick  
Fairfield First Selectwoman

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### **CONTINUED COVID-19 UPDATE:**

For the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, residents can visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://ct.gov/coronavirus). You can also subscribe to text message alerts from the state by texting the keyword **COVIDCT** to **888-777**.

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**CDC's Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**



Individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 = 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), or = 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or physical distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing a mask or physical distancing.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

For full guidance, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

### **Updated Sector Rules:**

Thursday, March 4th, Governor Lamont announced the following changes and schedule to Sector Rules, regarding COVID-19.

**Protocols that will remain in effect until further notice include:**





## Continuing Restrictions



Masks required



Bars closed



11pm curfew for events at venues, restaurants, and entertainment



50% capacity for indoor theaters




25 person cap on indoor social gatherings



Large event venues (e.g. stadiums) to open in April


\*See note on Fairfield's libraries reopening in the library section below.

Beginning today, March 19, 2021:




## Reopening Businesses March 19


- Eliminating capacity limits, maintaining masks, spacing, cleaning protocols




Restaurants/non-theater indoor recreation  
(11pm curfew • 8 person table cap)




Libraries, Museums, Aquariums




Gyms/Fitness Centers



Retail & Offices




Personal services




Houses of Worship

- Movie Theaters and Performing Arts Venues continue @ 50% capacity




## Reopening March 19




**Social & recreational gatherings** with masks, distancing

- At private residence  
**25 indoors / 100 outdoors**
- At commercial venue, w 11pm curfew (previously announced)  
**100 indoors / 200 outdoors**



**Sports**

- All sports allowed to practice and compete, subject to DPH guidance
- Tournaments allowed



**Travel Advisory** changed from mandate to guidance






Beginning Monday, March 29, 2021:

- Capacity limits on early childhood classes will increase from 16 to 20



**Beginning Friday, April 2, 2021:**

**LIVE** **Reopening April 2**

- With masks and spacing:
  -  Outdoor Amusement Parks
  -  Outdoor Event Venues (50% capacity capped at 10,000)
  -  Indoor Stadiums (10% capacity)
- Planning ahead to open:
  -  Summer Camps
  -  Summer Festivals

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### **Vaccine Information:**

I am so encouraged that our Fairfield Health Department as of yesterday, has administered 14,380 vaccines to those eligible and the department has an additional 3,180 appointments scheduled over the next 4 weeks. We are proud to say that not one vaccine has been wasted or unused since the Health Department's clinics opened in January.

The Fairfield Health Department's vaccine clinic continues to fill up their appointments. The department can only schedule as many appointments as vaccines are provided by the State. Please keep in mind Fairfield residents are able to book appointments at clinics throughout the State.

If you are having difficulty scheduling your appointment through VAMS, here are some links that may be helpful: [VAMS Navigation Instructions](#) and How to [Create your VAMS Account](#) and [Schedule Your First Appointment](#).

- Yale New Haven Health - If your Doctor is affiliated with Yale New Haven Health you can create an appointment through [MyChart](#).
- Hartford HealthCare - Hartford HealthCare is taking vaccination appointments for their locations at Sacred Heart University and St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport. For more information, you can find it [here](#).
- Stamford Hospital - You can check your eligibility and schedule an appointment with Stamford Hospital. For more information, please click [here](#).
- Walgreens - There are limited Walgreens Pharmacies who are offering COVID-19 vaccinations throughout CT. For more information and a list of their locations,

please see their [website](#).

- CVS - There are limited CVS Pharmacies who are offering COVID-19 vaccinations throughout CT. For more information and a list of their locations, please see their [website](#).

**Please be aware of two COVID-19 vaccine scams circulating. One scam is a phone call, email, or letter from a vaccine manufacturer (Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, or Moderna) asking for:**

**1. Social Security Number to help you get a vaccine appointment.**

**You should NEVER give out your Social Security number for the vaccine.**

**2. Offering cash rewards or gift cards in exchange for completing a survey. The survey asks for personal information, such as your date of birth and insurance information.**

**The vaccine manufacturers will never contact you directly to gather information.**

**For accurate and regularly updated information about the COVID Vaccine, please visit the Fairfield Health Department Vaccine update page: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/news/?FeedID=4155>.**

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**Eligible residents for the COVID-19 vaccinations include:**

- Healthcare personnel
- Medical first responders
- Long-term care facility residents
- Residents and staff of select congregate settings
- Individuals 45 and older
- Educators/Staff in preK-12 and Childcare Providers

**Individuals in these groups are the only ones who should be scheduling appointments at this time.**

**Phase 1a individuals include:**

- \* Healthcare Personnel: all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.
- \* Long Term Care Facility Residents: adults who reside in facilities that provide a range of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently.
- \* First Responders at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their responses to medical

emergencies such as Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, and Fire.

\* Residents and Staff of select congregate settings: Staff and residents of halfway homes, inpatient mental health facilities, correction facilities, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, substance use and residential treatment facilities along with others.

**Educators and Childcare Providers:**

**\*Those who are Pre-K-12 Teachers, paraprofessionals, custodial staff, food service providers, school bus drivers, childcare providers, as well as in-school administrative staff.** Does not include individuals who are not required to work on-site in a school.

Fairfield Health Department has already provided over 1,800 vaccination appointments to education/childcare staff with over 1,050 receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> dose this past week. While additional educator/childcare dedicated clinics will be offered when additional vaccine is received, those eligible can make appointments to be vaccinated at any available clinic in the state.

**Phase 1b individuals:**

**\*Those who are 45 years old.** Proof of age will be required at the clinic.

\*Residents and staff of select congregate settings.

**If you fall under Phase 1a, an Educator/Staff in preK-12, or a Childcare Provider, you should receive information from your employer or school administrators on how to register for vaccine appointments. For those in the Phase 1b category of 45 and older, you should complete the State form below:**

**State Form - 45 & Older**

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**Fairfield's COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 203-256-3082.**

If you are a Fairfield resident who is currently eligible but does not have the ability to schedule an appointment via the computer, you can call our COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center where a [CERT](#) volunteer will assist you in obtaining an appointment. The phone line is targeted to provide support and guidance for eligible vaccine recipients. **The call center is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** and voicemails will be returned when calls come in outside the operating hours.

**The State Appointment Assistance Hotline is 1-877-918-2224 is available** for assistance. [Click here for the State Fact Sheet](#) about the vaccine.

We will continue to post the latest information on the [Town website](#), and the social media pages for the Health Department, the Town of Fairfield and my office. For a full listing of those social media pages, [click here](#).

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**Fairfield County COVID-19 Vaccine Survey:** Fairfield County leaders are inviting community members to share their opinions about COVID-19 vaccines. By taking the COVID-19 Vaccine Survey, you'll help us better understand the needs of our community during the pandemic and beyond. Please take a few minutes to complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Survey by clicking [here](#).

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**Town Data:** The Town of Fairfield has had 4,379 cases to date, and 199 of Fairfield residents have sadly lost their lives. Charts and data on Fairfield cases, including daily & weekly changes, age, gender, nursing home statistics, testing results, different trends, and university statistics, can be found at [www.fairfieldct.org/covid19data](http://www.fairfieldct.org/covid19data). The Health Department updates this page regularly.

The Health Department also updates the COVID-19 [School Data page](#), which details the school-related metrics and is updated each week as the State releases the data. The Fairfield Board of Education also has a dashboard on their homepage at <https://www.fairfieldschools.org>.

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**Drive-Through Testing Location:** Thanks to a partnership with Yale New Haven Health, Fairfield's drive-through COVID-19 testing location at 140 Mill Plain Road opened Monday, March 1. **The location will be open for testing seven days a week from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM to all Connecticut residents and populations, including pre-procedure, asymptomatic, symptomatic, and healthcare workers.** We are so excited what this testing site means for our Town in beating this virus!

You can view a compilation of COVID-19 testing locations, including 140 Mill Plain Road, by clicking the "Testing Locations" button below.

**Testing Locations**



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## FEELING IN CRISIS?

When you're feeling overwhelmed, know that there are free options to help you talk through your crisis--and to send help when necessary. Fairfield Social Services is here to help. Call 203-256-3170 for more information.

Being a parent or caregiver during COVID can be extremely stressful. It is perfectly normal to be experiencing varying emotions and feel overwhelmed. No matter what you're feeling, we're here to listen. Parents and caregivers can call the toll-free Talk It Out line to discuss their feelings in a judgement-free environment. Call: 1-833-258-5011 or

Visit: [www.talkitoutct.com](http://www.talkitoutct.com)

### Resources for Mental Health:

If you or a loved one is struggling:

- **CT Information Hotline** 211 or go to [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org) for mobile crisis support for individuals and/or children.
- **The Hub CT** is Southwest Connecticut's Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization. Check their website for useful resources for mental health, prevention and wellness. <https://www.thehubct.org/>
- **Mental Health Crisis Text Line** - Text "SHARE" to 741741
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**: 800-273-TALK (8255)
- **Kids in Crisis** also has a 24-hour hotline for assistance 203-661-1911.
- **NAMI** (National Alliance on Mental Health): If you need to talk to someone, text NAMI to 741741 or call the NAMI Helpline at 1-800-950-NAMI (6264).
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - Please contact your site to see if meetings are continuing in your neighborhood.
- **Bridgeport Hospital's REACH Program** is an intensive outpatient program (IOP) for children, adolescents, adults and seniors. REACH is accessible to anyone, and covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most commercial insurance programs. Please [click this link](#) to learn more about the extensive range of treatment options available

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## Dogs on Leashes:

After careful consideration with the Town's Director of Health, I have decided to lift restrictions requiring all dogs remain on leashes at our open spaces effective immediately. The Rules and Regulations for Open Space Properties will be restored to their pre-pandemic limits. Specifically dogs will be allowed off-leash pursuant to Section 14 (e), which requires all dogs to be kept under voice command or leash control at all times on

open space areas and 14(f) All dogs shall be kept on leash if the animals are within 100 ft. of parking lots or picnic areas. Note: Effective April 1 dogs are not allowed on public beaches. Click [here](#) for a list of open spaces on page 11.



Note: Pets that cannot be controlled by voice commands must be kept on leash.

The decision to return to pre-pandemic rules and regulations is consistent with the State of CT Sector Rules and CDC guidance. State guidance allows low and moderate risk activities.

#### CDC Guidance (excerpted)

- Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.
- Treat pets as you would other human family members – do not let pets interact with people outside the household.

To read the rules and regulation in their entirety click [here](#).

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## **FAIRFIELD TOWN GOVERNMENT**

**Assessment Appeals** – February 19th was the last day for appeals to be filed at the Tax Assessor's office. Any resident who filed an appeal by the deadline was granted a hearing by the [Board of Assessment Appeals](#) . Hearings began Tuesday, March 2, and will continue through the end of the month.

For more detailed information on the next steps in the Appeals process, click the "Assessment Appeals Information" button below.

Check back for updates and information posted at [fairfieldct.org/taxassessor](https://fairfieldct.org/taxassessor)

### **Assessment Appeals Information**

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#### **Community & Economic Development – Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA):**

The Town of Fairfield, through its Office of Community & Economic Development, is soliciting program proposals from municipal agencies and community non-profit

organizations for funding consideration under the State's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) program. This past year, Fairfield community groups raised roughly \$52,000 in charitable contributions through the program.

This program allows businesses to claim a State tax credit for cash contributions made to qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies. For further information about the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program or to receive an application packet, please contact the Office of Community & Economic Development at (203) 256-3120 or visit the [DRS website](#). Businesses wishing to take advantage of this program in order to reduce their State tax liability may also contact this office for further information. All applications must be received by close of business on **April 23, 2021** in order to be considered.

**The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG):**

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is requesting the public's input on the state of the regional economy to help develop goals and objectives for the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy. There are two online surveys – one for residents and one for businesses. Please click on the appropriate links below to take the survey.

**Resident Survey**

**Business Survey**

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**Human and Social Services** – Fairfield Social Services is pleased to announce that the Town has received a *Neighbors in Need* grant from United Way to assist families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a Fairfield resident struggling, keeping up, or catching up with heating or utility bills, please contact Social Services to see if you qualify. In addition to United Way, Social Services has received an award from the Community Development Block Grant.

The hardest part to getting help is reaching out to make the call to the Social Services office. We are here to help. **Please call us at 203-256-3170 Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM** for more information about financial assistance programs.

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## Fairfield Public Library –

Library Express Service offers opportunities for quick browsing and checkout at both our libraries. The Fairfield Public Main Library building is open Monday-Saturday afternoons 2pm - 4pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5pm – 7pm. Woods Branch building is open 10am - 12pm Monday-Friday. Learn more about [Library Express](#) service. Please visit [fairfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org) for full details regarding [Curbside Pickup](#) at the Main Library and Woods Branch Library. Fairfield Public Library continues to offer 24/7 access to their digital collection of books, music, magazines, movies and databases. Visit the [Library Event Calendar](#) to find a wide and varied assortment of Virtual Programs.



**Governor Lamont's March 19<sup>th</sup> Announcement.** At this time, capacity limits and building access modifications will remain in place at Fairfield Public Main Library and Woods Branch Library in order to meet CT State health and safety protocols. Governor Lamont's directive requires continued adherence to CT State protocols relating to face coverings, social distancing, and cleaning measures.

Fairfield library service has been maintained throughout the pandemic, digitally/virtually/remotely/in-person. The planning and preparation to reopen our library buildings will continue to follow a phased rather than immediate approach. We will move forward while balancing in-person Library Express Service, Curbside Borrowing, Homebound Services and Virtual Programming/Services. Fairfield's next phase will offer Library Express (in-person) hours at the Woods Branch beginning March 22<sup>nd</sup> in coordination with the existing hours at the Main library.

As more of the public and staff become eligible for the vaccine and the COVID risk declines, in-person building access will expand. Our priority is to sustain library services without becoming a source of viral spread in the community. All plans follow CDC guidelines and are informed by best library industry practices, while managing our resources in the most efficient way.

Updates are shared via our website, newsletter and social media.

## Climate Change and Resiliency in Fairfield

Fairfield Public Library has been awarded a **Resilient Communities** grant from American Library Association. As part of the grant, we invite you to view the NOVA film, *Decoding the Weather Machine*. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are viewing the





film remotely, and then coming together as a community to discuss virtually.

Watch *Decoding the Weather Machine* (NOVA) prior to the virtual program:

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/decoding-the-weather-machine/>

Using the film as a springboard, our panelists will drill down to a micro level and discuss our community, Fairfield, CT. We will explore how climate change is affecting Fairfield, what we can do now and in the near future to address the changes. The panel will focus on Fairfield, our beaches, flooding, and what might be the best way forward.

Agenda:

- Deep dive into Connecticut version of climate events
- The past: Fairfield flooding
- What is our plan? options, cost
- Q&A

Panel:

- **Emmeline Harrigan** is a certified Planner and Floodplain Manager and currently serves as the Assistant Planning Director in Fairfield, CT.
- **Becky Bunnell** is a Fairfield resident for over 11 years. Current Chair of the town's Flood and Erosion Control Board.
- **Dick Dmochowski** is the current Secretary of Fairfield's Flood & Erosion Control Board (FECB).
- **Laura (Ruocco) Pulie, P.E.** is the Assistant Town Engineering Manager with the Town Of Fairfield.

Please register to receive the link to this online discussion the morning of the program.

<https://fplct.librarymarket.com/events/virtual-climate-change-resiliency-fairfield>



Fairfield Public Library and Community Video courtesy of A2V Media

**Pequot Library: We're Here, We Care** – Pequot Library offers curbside pickup by appointment and limited browsing hours from 3-6pm on Mondays & Wednesdays; 10am-6pm on Fridays; and 2-4pm on Saturdays. During browsing hours visit us to check out a book or view our display *John James Audubon's Birds of America: A Return to Pequot Library*, on view from February 4 - May 2.



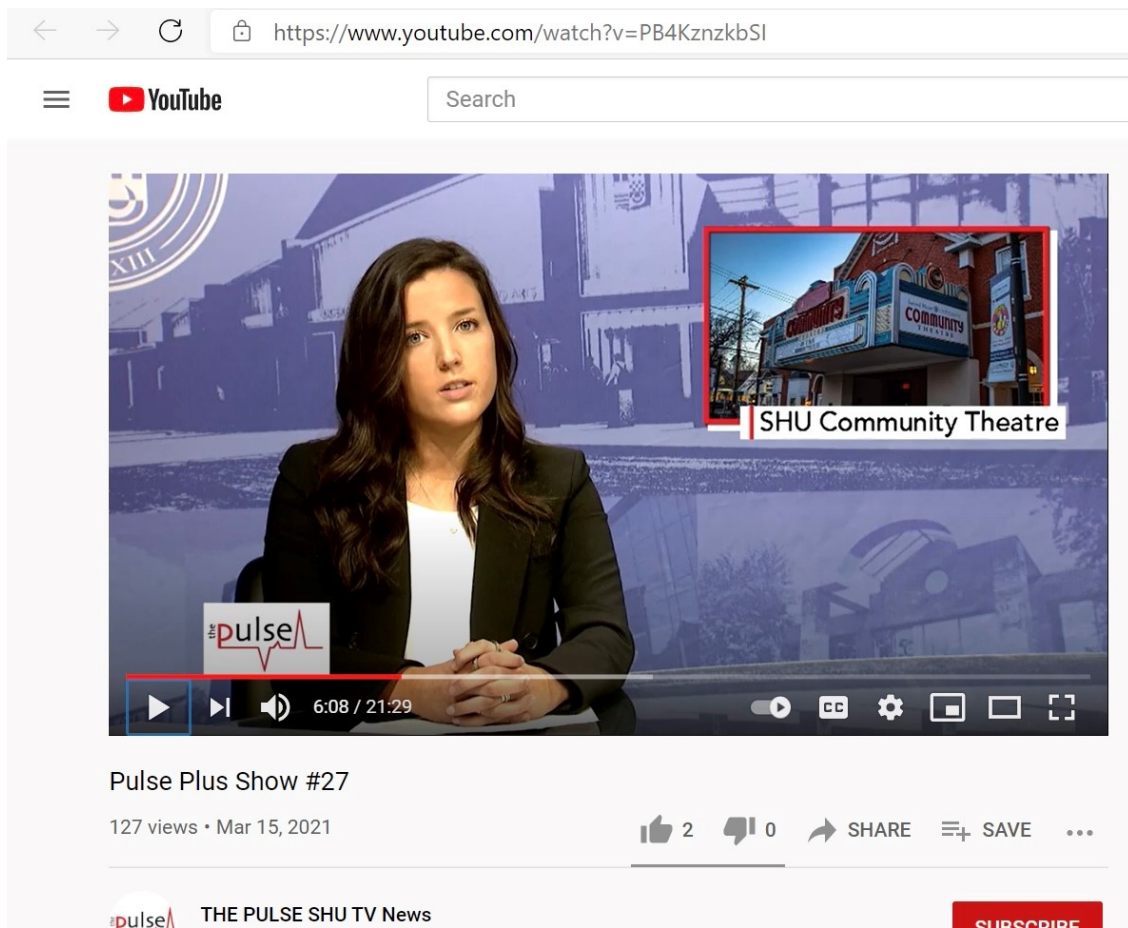
PEQUOT  
LIBRARY

Outside of browsing hours, enjoy digital programs like story times, author talks, book clubs, and more! Get details on our [website](#) and social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). Sign up for Pequot Library's [Digital Digest eNewsletter](#) or contact our [Chief Librarian](#) for personalized book recommendations.

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## CONTINUED COMMUNITY NEWS

**SHU Community Theatre** – As we prepare for the opening of the Sacred Heart University Community Theatre later this year, I enjoyed speaking to "The Pulse SHU TV News" about what this theatre's revitalization means to this community and the fond memories it's held for me through my years as a lifelong resident of Fairfield. To view the segment click on the video below.



**Good News Fairfield** – Earlier this year, I shared how young residents Luke and Sofia Palisi started a print newsletter, to which they share good news with the Fairfield community during difficult times. Well, I had the pleasure of being interviewed for this Sunday's 17th edition in honor of Women's History Month. To read my interview and this week's edition, click [here](#).



## LOVE LOCAL E-GIFT CARD PROGRAM

I hope you'll continue to support our local businesses through the Town of Fairfield and the Chamber of Commerce's buy local initiative with the Fairfield Community e-Gift

Card program, which is exclusive to Fairfield businesses only. This is a great gift for Fairfield residents for both holidays and special occasions. More information can be found [here](#).



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### **ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS PROGRAM UPDATE:**

The Governor recently issued Executive Order [10](#), which includes a provision to eliminate the refiling requirement for those applicants due to refile this year.

If you are due to refile this year, you will not need to reapply and your benefits will continue at the same level. The Tax Assessor's office should have sent you a postcard to confirm this the week of February 8th.

If you are seeking the benefit for the first time, you will need to apply, please contact the [Tax Assessor's office](#) at 203-256-3110 and the office will work with you on the process.

The Executive Order did not extend the final date to apply by May 14, 2021. If you cannot apply by this date you will need to request an extension from the Office of Policy and Management by August 13, 2021. The Tax Assessor's office will be able to provide residents the instructions on how to request an extension.

For more information, visit here: [fairfieldct.org/taxrelief](https://fairfieldct.org/taxrelief)

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### **2021 BEACH STICKERS**

The 2020 Beach/ Transfer Station Sticker expired 12/31/20. Don't wait to buy your 2021 Sticker. [RENEW](#) your sticker online for 2021. You can also renew by fax, mail or in person at Parks & Recreation.





ITS A NEW YEAR WITH FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION

# *TIME TO RENEW!*

2021 BEACH STICKERS!



RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!



*H. Smith Richardson*  
*Golf Course*  
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CT

RENEW YOUR FITNESS  
MEMBERSHIP!



[WWW.FAIRFIELDRECREATION.COM](http://WWW.FAIRFIELDRECREATION.COM)

## FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION 2021 SPRING BROCHURE

Check out some of the programs and events coming up this Spring...[HERE!](#)



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## BEACH BUNNY 5K: A Virtual Event

March 27, 2021-April 3, 2021. Registration opens 1/1/21, More information can be found [here](#).



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## STRATFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION BRICK CAMPAIGN

The Stratfield Village Association (SVA) is a certified 501 c3 non-profit organization, which aims to preserve, protect and improve the character of the Stratfield Village neighborhood in Fairfield. On January 13th they announced the launch of a brick fundraising campaign to supplement funding to the Four Corners renovation project. Individuals and businesses will be able to purchase a brick with a customized engraving to be included in the new brick sidewalks that are part of the project. There are a limited number of bricks available because of space constraints.



The SVA's personalized sales page is at [bricksrus.com/donorsite/stratfieldvillageassociation](https://bricksrus.com/donorsite/stratfieldvillageassociation).

Bricks can be purchased in two sizes – 4"x 8" for \$100 with up to three lines of text, or 8"x 8" for \$200 with up to 6 lines of text. Lastly, a corporate sponsor may purchase an 8"x 8" brick with 3 lines of text and include a company logo.

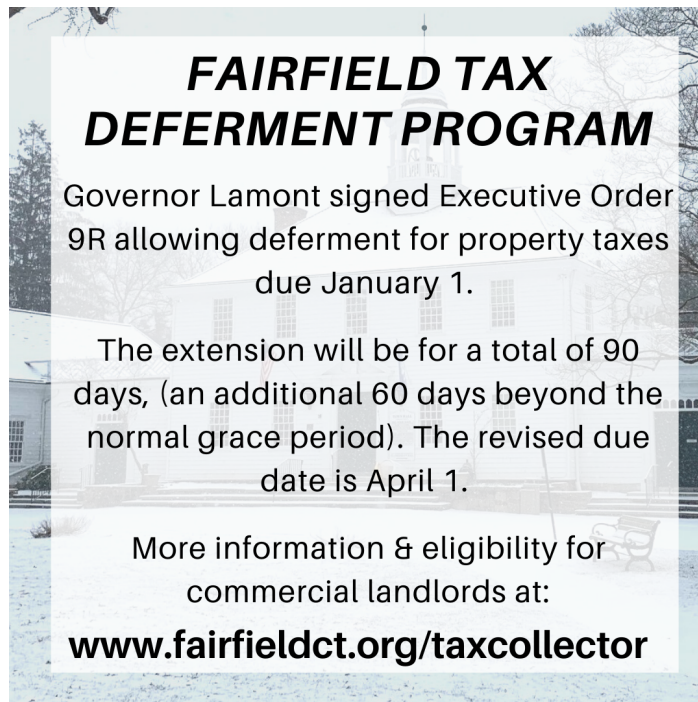
The SVA has raised \$910,925 of its \$1 million goal for the project to date.

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## TAX DEFERMENT

Governor Lamont's recently signed [Executive Order No. 9R](#) which allows towns to again offer deferment for property tax payments. The new Executive Order allows towns to offer

deferment for taxes due January 1. The extension will be for a total of 90 days, (an additional 60 days beyond the normal grace period). **The revised due date is April 1.** Anyone who fails to pay by the new April 1 deadline would have to pay three months of interest added along with his or her existing bill. Escrow accounts are still ineligible for deferment. For more information and eligibility for commercial landlords, visit [fairfieldct.org/taxcollector](http://fairfieldct.org/taxcollector). **Please be advised that People's Bank is unable to accept payments at their branch location for this deferment during the 60 day extension of February 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. We apologize for any inconvenience.**



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## BUSINESSES

### COVID-19 Relief Program Updates:



**SBA Extends Deferment Period for all COVID-19 EIDL and Other Disaster Loans until 2022:**

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced extended deferment periods for all disaster loans, including the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, until 2022.

- All SBA disaster loans made in calendar year 2020, including COVID-19 EIDL, will have a first payment due date extended from 12-months to 24-months from the date of the note.
- All SBA disaster loans made in calendar year 2021, including COVID-19 EIDL, will have a first payment due date extended from 12-months to 18-months from the date of the note.

**Existing SBA disaster loans approved prior to 2020** in regular servicing status as of March 1, 2020, received an automatic deferment of principal and interest payments through December 31, 2020. This initial deferment period was subsequently extended through March 31, 2021. An additional 12-month deferment of principal and interest payments will be automatically granted to these borrowers. Borrowers will resume their regular payment schedule with the payment immediately preceding March 31, 2022, unless the borrower voluntarily continues to make payments while on deferment. It is important to note that the interest will continue to accrue on the outstanding balance of the loan throughout the duration of the deferment.

Questions on SBA COVID-19 EIDL and disaster loan payments can be answered by email at [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov) or by calling SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339).

#### **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):**

On Monday, February 22, the White House announced targeted changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that will provide minority-owned businesses, “mom-and-pop” businesses, and very small nonprofits with access to the support they need.

Click [here](#) to read the announcement and learn more about the steps that are being taken to promote equitable access to this important program. The SBA website also includes tools to help you get [matched with a lender](#) or [find lenders in your area](#).

**Unless the federal government extends the deadline, the PPP will expire on March 31, 2021.**

The Fairfield Chamber of Commerce office is also open. You can reach them at 203.255.1011 or by emailing [beverly@fairfieldctchamber.com](mailto:beverly@fairfieldctchamber.com).

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## **BLACK ROCK CHURCH HOT MEAL DRIVE-THRU**

Black Rock Church will resume its Hot Meal Drive-thru beginning Tuesday, January 12. Each Tuesday through March, between 5:00 - 5:30 PM, individuals and families can receive up to six hot meals for their families, along with a bag of groceries for the rest of the week. Reservations are not required, and the dinners and groceries are free. Black Rock Church is located at 3685 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield. For more information please call the church at 203-255-3401.

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## **GET INVOLVED! TOWN BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES**

Interested in giving back to our community? Want to have a voice in shaping Fairfield? The Town relies on the hard work of citizen volunteers who are appointed to provide guidance and governance on various Boards and Commissions. The list of vacancies for Boards and Commissions are on the Town Website. Be sure to check back often as the list is updated as positions become available. <https://fairfieldct.org/vacancies>

You can also visit our Boards and Commissions page to learn more about roles and responsibilities: <https://fairfieldct.org/boards>

To learn about the application process click here: <https://fairfieldct.org/appointmentprocess>

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## **EMERGENCY ALERTS | WHEN IT MATTERS MOST**

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news from the Town of Fairfield, CT by signing up for the Fairfield Alert system. This system enables us to quickly provide you with critical information in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and other emergency situations.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where, you pick how!

**If you were previously registered with us on the CodeRed system, you must sign-up again by following the instructions below, in order to continue receiving Emergency and Community alerts from the Town of Fairfield.**

[How to sign up? Click here.](#)

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## Help for Domestic Violence Victims

The Center for Family Justice has hotline numbers to those who are in crisis and need our free and confidential services.

### The hotline numbers are:

Domestic Violence: 203-384-9559

Sexual Violence: 203-333-2233



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## BIGELOW CENTER AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Transportation services to medical appointments and shopping have been suspended. We are reassessing to see if it's safe to allow passengers on the buses, given the pandemic. If you are unable to get to the market, the Mobile Food Pantry is available every other week and lunch delivery is available for those who are homebound. Please call Social Services for more information about the Mobile Food Pantry or Dial-a-Ride services through Greater Bridgeport Transit: 203-256-3170.

Our Snow Shoveling for Seniors program is not accepting registrations at this time for residents who need assistance. When we have volunteers for shoveling, we will let you know how to register. If you are a student and would like to volunteer to shovel snow for seniors and people with disabilities, please contact Social Services by calling 203-256-3170 or sending an email to [socialservices@fairfieldct.org](mailto:socialservices@fairfieldct.org).

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## NEW INTERNET PROVIDER

GoNetspeed has announced their intention to expand to Fairfield in the first half of 2021. This is welcome news for residents who have struggled with internet interruptions. You can read more information [here](#).

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## FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT





What's your story? What's your reason?  
**DO YOUR PART...**Wear a mask!

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## APPLY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE

*The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program* is for families in need of energy assistance, Fairfield Social Services coordinates with Alliance For Community Empowerment to help to obtain necessary energy services for Fairfield residents in need. **To make an appointment to see if you're eligible, or if you have questions, please call Social Services 203-256-3170.**



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## FAIRFIELD BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE:

The [Town of Fairfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee](#) has been working to encourage walking and biking for transportation, recreation, exercise and quality of life.



Working with multiple town departments we have established [bicycle](#)

[routes](#), installed [bicycle repair stations](#), worked to improve pedestrian infrastructure, and authored the [Town of Fairfield Complete Streets Policy](#) (approved by the Board of Selectman in 2018).

**With more and more of our citizens using our roads, we would like to provide you with some important safety reminders for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. [View the document here.](#)**

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## TOWN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Sullivan Independence Hall and Old Town Hall are open to the public by appointment only for the safety of employees and residents. Please visit this summary page for an overview and follow links to specific departments for more information.



### Fairfield's Operations During COVID-19



Help is available to Fairfield small businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic. The Fairfield COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Program was established to provide limited, one time direct financial assistance to eligible Fairfield small businesses that have no more than five full-time employees and that have been adversely affected by the public health emergency. Applications are still being accepted by the Office of Community & Economic Development. To learn more or to apply, please visit the website: [www.fairfieldct.org/covidsbr](http://www.fairfieldct.org/covidsbr).

### Eligibility & Application

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The Fairfield COVID-19 Relief Fund was established to provide limited, one-time assistance to Fairfield residents who have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Use of the funds must be directly related to the effects of the virus. Donate to the fund or apply for relief by clicking below.

**[Donate or Apply to the Fairfield COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)**

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## **COVID CONTACT TRACING**

One of the key tools we have to contain the spread of COVID-19 is Contact Tracing. For this initiative to be successful, the Health Department needs the cooperation of residents who test positive for COVID-19. Both Universities were trained and assisted by our Health Department to manage their own contact tracing for their respective campuses.

The primary purpose of contact tracing is to identify and notify direct contacts of confirmed cases as quickly as possible and to ensure those exposed are self-quarantining. The information provided in the interviews with confirmed cases helps reduce the potential spread of the virus in our community.

Any Fairfield resident who tests positive for COVID-19 and has not received a phone call from the Fairfield Health Department or the Connecticut COVID Tracing system within 24 hours of receiving their result is urged to contact the Fairfield Health Department at 203-256-3022. Calls received after hours or on weekends, will be returned by the next business day.

**[When to Isolate & Quarantine](#)**

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## **OPERATION HOPE FOOD PANTRY**

Operation Hope wants to make sure residents of Fairfield are aware that the food pantry remains open and is ready to help by providing food and other basic needs to community residents, as they have for nearly 35 years.

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00-12:00; Thursday from 4:00-6:00. Visit [operationhopect.org](http://operationhopect.org).

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## Important COVID-19 Links:

Fairfield Health Department coronavirus website: [fairfieldct.org/covid19](http://fairfieldct.org/covid19)

For the latest numbers of cases, deaths and those recovered [click here](#)

For additional data and graphs of activity [click here](#)

For guidance and updates on Connecticut's coronavirus preparedness efforts, visit: [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus)

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## Contact Information:

For general questions you can call [211](#)

[Hartford HealthCare's](#) COVID-19 Clinical Command Center hotline, staffed by healthcare professionals, is now available to the community. To reach the 24-hour hotline, call [860.972.8100](tel:860.972.8100) or (toll-free) [833.621.0600](tel:833.621.0600).

YNHH has a call center number it's 1-833-ASK YNHH that's open from 7am - 7pm.

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## PREVIOUS UPDATES:

[January 29](#)

[January 22](#)

[January 15](#)

[January 8](#)

[February 26](#)

[February 19](#)

[February 12](#)

[February 5](#)

[March 12](#)

[March 5](#)

[2020 Archives](#)

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203.256.3030

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