

Town of Fairfield News

3/26/2021 - 3.26 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

Sadly this week we learned of a senseless mass shooting in Boulder, Colorado. This tragic shooting comes shortly after the one in Atlanta, GA, where a majority of the victims were Asian. Once again, our Nation is faced with heartbreak.

The violence last week, brought my mind back to this past summer where we witnessed the murder of George Floyd, which prompted me to establish the Racial Equity and Justice Task Force (REJTF). The RETJF is charged with identifying racial/ethnic inequities and injustices in our Town governance/operations and providing the Board of Selectmen (BOS) with proposals to enact change.

I hope that our community will continue to think about these issues, discuss them openly, and learn from having honest conversations with each other. I want to remind everyone that the REJTF is still meeting to listen, learn, and work on providing recommendations for our Town. You can visit their webpage and view their meeting agendas below.

[- Racial Equity and Justice Task Force Webpage](#)

[- Racial Equity and Justice Task Force Meeting Agendas](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

On Thursday, March 25th, Governor Lamont announced that due to the efficient speed at which Connecticut's vaccine providers have been getting doses out, the State plans to accelerate its vaccine program even further. All adults in Connecticut

over the age of 16 will now be eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment beginning April 1, 2021 – several days earlier than originally planned. (Previously, the eligibility date for this age group was April 5.)



- **April 1, 2021:** Expands to age group 16 to 44

Please note, Pfizer is currently the only vaccine that is approved for individuals under the age of 18 years, and the Fairfield Health Department DOES NOT administer the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are only approved for those over the age of 18 years.

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 pre-K-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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sacred Heart University – I cannot express just how wonderful it is to have two top tier universities in our Town. These outstanding universities continually invest in our community and breathe life into our Town. I am extremely grateful for the key role they play in the vibrancy of Fairfield's economy.

This week, Dr. Petillo, President of Sacred Heart University, gifted the Town of Fairfield nearly 40 framed, black and white prints of important landmarks and events that reflect the beauty of Fairfield. I invited Dr. Petillo and Gary McNamara (former

Fairfield Police Chief/current Sacred Heart Executive Director for Public Safety and Government Affairs) to Town Hall to personally thank Sacred Heart for this incredibly generous donation to our Town.

My hope is these iconic images will serve as a reminder to us all for the pride we feel in our Town. The artwork is hanging in the hallways of the first and second floors in Independence Hall.





Grand Opening – This week I was excited to welcome another new business to Fairfield, Hai Lights Hair Salon located at 2329 Black Rock Turnpike, in our first Spring ribbon cutting ceremony. Owner/Stylist Hai Pham prides herself on having, “an amazing work ethic and an uplifting positive energy to hairstyling and to her clients.” She believes she sets herself apart by taking the time necessary to listen, to engage, and to build the connection that helps her clients express both their personality and style through their “Hai-r experience.” She currently is offering 20%

off any service to all new clients. For more information please visit, <https://www.hailightsalon.com> or call: (203) 345-7650.



Photography by Mike Lauterborn, Fairfield HameltHub

Please scroll below for more updates on the Town's COVID-19/Vaccine/State Sector Rules and other helpful information and resources.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Handwritten signature of Brenda L. Kupchick in blue ink.

Brenda L. Kupchick
Fairfield First Selectwoman

COVID-19 UPDATE:

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

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 changes to the State's Sector Rules, regarding COVID-19. Due to this announcement, The Town of Fairfield is allowing for the

continued expanded outdoor dining accommodations for restaurants and food service establishments effective immediately. If you would like to read more information click below:

- [Town Of Fairfield Continues Expanded Outdoor Dining Amid Pandemic](#)

Beginning Monday, March 29, 2021:

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

Beginning Friday, April 2, 2021:

The graphic is a blue rectangular box with a dark blue background. At the top left is the 'LIVE' logo in white. At the top right is the text 'Reopening April 2' in yellow. Below this, there are two main sections. The first section is titled 'With masks and spacing:' in white. It contains three items: 'Outdoor Amusement Parks' with a yellow Ferris wheel icon, 'Outdoor Event Venues (50% capacity capped at 10,000)' with a yellow stadium icon, and 'Indoor Stadiums (10% capacity)' with a yellow stadium icon. The second section is titled 'Planning ahead to open:' in white. It contains two items: 'Summer Camps' with a yellow tent icon and 'Summer Festivals' with a yellow fireworks icon.

For a comprehensive list of sector rules, click [here](#)

Vaccine Information:

I am so encouraged that our Fairfield Health Department as of today, has administered 14,885 vaccines to those eligible and the department has an additional 3,180 appointments scheduled over the next 3 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](#).

- [CT Vaccine Portal](#) for locations throughout the State
- 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>.

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 pre-K-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 1st 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 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 pre-K-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

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](#).

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](#).

Town Data: The Town of Fairfield has had 4,509 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. 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>.

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 is 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

FEELING IN CRISIS?

When you or a family member may be 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

Resources for Mental Health:

If you or a loved one is struggling:

- **CT Information Hotline** 211 or go to 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

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](#).

FAIRFIELD TOWN GOVERNMENT

Board of Finance – I joined The Board of Finance (BOF) last night for their fifth hearing on the Town budget. You can view last night's meeting [here](#). If you're interested you can view prior Board of Finance budget hearings below:

1. [March 11, 2021](#)
2. [March 16, 2021](#)

3. [March 18, 2021](#)

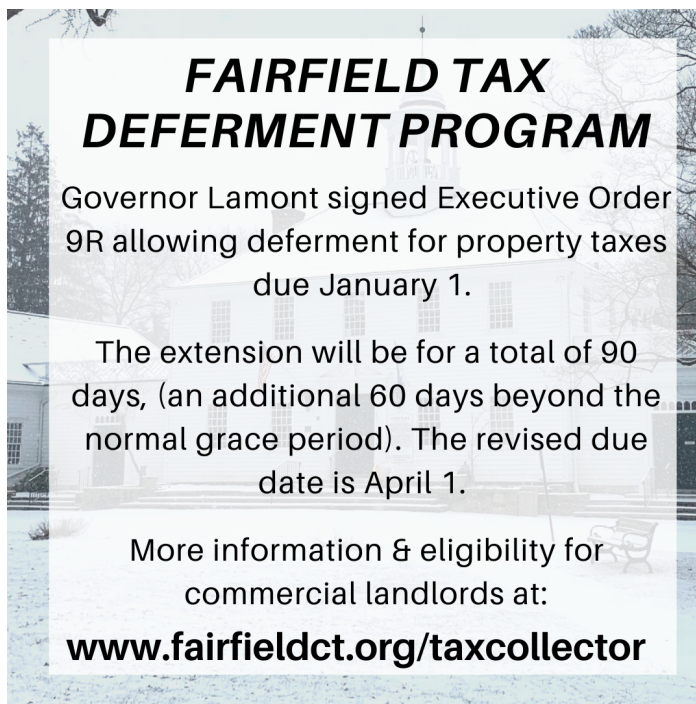
4. [March 23, 2021](#)

This Saturday the BOF is hosting a virtual public hearing. Click [here](#) for more information.

Tax Deferment – The property tax 90 day deadline extension (an additional 60 days beyond the normal grace period) is approaching. **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.

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 2nd to April 1st. We apologize for any inconvenience.



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

Assessment Appeals Information

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

Fairfield Public Library –

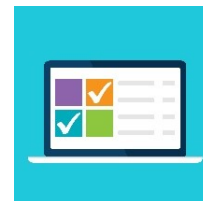
Library Express Service offers opportunities for quick browsing and checkout at both our libraries. The Fairfield Public Main Library building is open Monday-Saturday afternoons 2pm - 4pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5pm – 7pm. Woods Branch building is open 10am - 12pm Monday-Friday. Learn more about [Library Express](#) service.



Be on the lookout for our survey! Fairfield Public Library is updating its Strategic Plan. Help us focus our services on what the community really needs and wants. Your opinion matters!

Complete the survey and you may be eligible to win a Fairfield Community Gift Card!

Please visit 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.



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

On March 23rd, the library used the film as a springboard, and had panelists drill down to a micro level and discuss our community. We explored how climate change is affecting Fairfield, what we can do now and in the near future to address the changes. The panel focused on Fairfield, our beaches, flooding, and what might be the best way forward. To watch, click the video below.


PowerPoint Presentation

File | C:/Users/ehamigan/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/NetCache/Content.Outlook/1FWUUS2K/Library/20Flood%20and%20Mitigation%20pre

Apps Town Website QAlert Outlook Google Intranet NJTPA_PassaicRiver... Resilient-Connectic...

PowerPoint Presentation 7 / 29 80%

Increased development = Major storm impact



1966

2016

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.

Police Department – Chief Kalamaras wants to remind everyone that Spring is upon us and as the weather continues to get warmer and more residents venture outdoors, it's a good time to offer a few reminders to keep everyone safe. We would like to ask all residents to be mindful of pedestrians who are out walking, running and cycling. To avoid dangerous situations we are asking everyone to share the road this Spring.

To read a detailed list on pedestrian, driver and cyclist safety, click [here](#).



Bigelow Center and Human 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.

Help Available for Utilities:

- **Energy Application Assistance-** Applications are still available for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, which helps with winter heating costs. Fairfield Social Services works with Alliance for Community Empowerment, the local community action agency, for processing of applications. May 3, 2021 is the last day a household can apply to establish eligibility, and May 31 is the last day to submit fuel bills
- **Operation Fuel-** There's still time to apply for Operation Fuel, which can help with primary heat sources (oil, wood, pellets, gas, electric utility) as well as for its program to assist with Aquarion Water bills. Programs ends May 28, 2021.

Call Social Services for more information on how to apply for either program – 203.256.3170.

Rental Assistance:

- **Emergency Rental Assistance for Connecticut's Economy** – UniteCT. Acting through the Department of Housing (DOH), the State of Connecticut is operating the UniteCT program. This \$235 million program will provide rental and utility payment assistance to qualified Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For program details and application information go the DOH website or call 1-844-UniteCT (1-844-864-8328).

Mortgage Assistance: The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, with financial support from the State of Connecticut, has launched a homeowner assistance program for low and moderate income households in Connecticut who are struggling to pay their mortgages due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is called the State of Connecticut

Temporary Mortgage Assistance Program or T-MAP.

Emergency loan funds will be available to help homeowners pay their housing costs, allowing them to remain in their homes as they work to regain financial stability. Eligible Households with incomes at or below 120% of the area median income will be eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in the form of a second mortgage loan. Call 1-860-785-3111 to speak to a Representative to determine if you qualify for T-MAP assistance. For additional information about the program, please visit <https://www.chfa.org>.

CONTINUED COMMUNITY NEWS

Center for Family Justice – Today we celebrate 125 years of commitment to hope, safety and empowerment brought by the Center for Family Justice. They have focused on providing crisis and supportive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse in six local communities: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, and Trumbull, becoming the first Family Justice Center in all of New England. Each year they serve more than 4,000 people annually from each of the six communities they serve, demonstrating that domestic and sexual violence and child abuse are public health and social justice issues which can impact anyone from any demographic in our region. I am so proud of what President/CEO Debra Greenwood and her team have accomplished during her tenure to serve this community, and congratulate you all on a job well done!



Celebrate with them tonight at their 125th Jubilee Virtual Gala by [donating](#).

The Pantry – This week News12 highlighted gourmet specialty foods shop "[The Pantry](#)", located here in Fairfield at 1580 Post Road, on how they were able to keep their doors open during the pandemic. As a small business owner myself, I know how difficult it is to run a business, much less during a global pandemic, so I am incredibly proud of The Pantry and all other small business owners for all they're doing to stay open and serve our community.



news12



STATE GOVERNMENT

On Tuesday, March 30, at 4:00 PM the Fairfield Senior Advocates (FSA) will be hosting an informative Zoom conversation featuring members of the CT General Assembly's Aging Committee, including one of Fairfield's State

Representatives Jennifer Leeper (D-132), to obtain community input on key aging-related legislation impacting seniors and their families. Join via the

Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/FSA-AgingZoom>



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](#).



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

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.



The brochure features the Fairfield Parks & Recreation logo at the top, which includes a stylized figure of a person jumping. Below the logo, the text reads "ITS A NEW YEAR WITH FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION" and "TIME TO RENEW!". The main body of the brochure is divided into three sections, each with a button-like graphic and an image. The first section is for "2021 BEACH STICKERS!" and includes an image of a green beach sticker with the text "Town of Fairfield", "Person Valid Only for", "BEACHES - MARINAS - TOWN DUMP", "SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING", "A1234X A", "2021", and "Non-Transferable". The second section is for "RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!" and includes an image of the "H. Smith Richardson Golf Course" logo, which also mentions "TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CT". The third section is for "RENEW YOUR FITNESS MEMBERSHIP!" and includes an image of a gym interior. At the bottom of the brochure, the website "WWW.FAIRFIELDRECREATION.COM" is listed.

2021 BEACH STICKERS!

RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!

RENEW YOUR FITNESS MEMBERSHIP!

WWW.FAIRFIELDRECREATION.COM

FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION 2021 SPRING BROCHURE

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



BEACH BUNNY 5K: A Virtual Event

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



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.

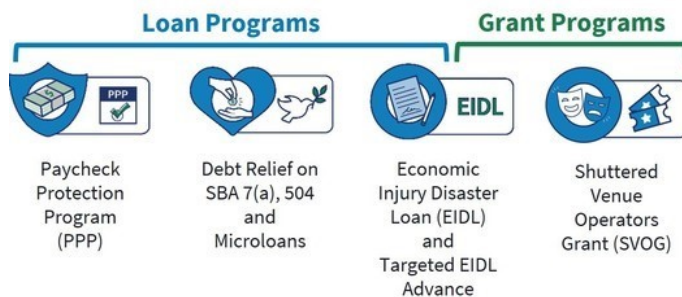
Bricks can be purchased in two sizes – 4"x 8" for \$100 with up to three lines of text, or 8"x 8" for \$200 with up to 6 lines of text. Lastly, a corporate sponsor may purchase an 8"x 8" brick with 3 lines of text and include a company logo.



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

BUSINESSESS

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 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.

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.

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>

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.](#)

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



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](#).

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



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

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.**

A white, rectangular thermostat is shown against a light blue background. On top of the thermostat is a small, knitted hat with orange and white stripes and a pom-pom. The thermostat's digital screen displays the word 'SAVE' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the screen are three buttons labeled 'TEMP', '+', and '-'.

**IT'S TIME
TO APPLY FOR
ENERGY
ASSISTANCE
DON'T WAIT**

CT Power & Heat Shut-Off Moratorium
Ends October 1, 2020
CALL Fairfield Social Services
203-256-3170

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.](#)

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.

Eligibility & Application



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**](#)

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**](#)

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.

Important COVID-19 Links:

Fairfield Health Department coronavirus website: 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

Contact Information:

For general questions you can call [211](tel: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.

PREVIOUS UPDATES:

[January 29](#)

[January 22](#)

[January 15](#)

[January 8](#)

[February 26](#)

[February 19](#)

[February 12](#)

[February 5](#)

[March 19](#)

[March 12](#)

[March 5](#)

Did someone forward you this email? Sign up to receive my update directly [here](#).

Copyright © 2021 Town of Fairfield, All rights reserved.

203.256.3030

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.