

Town of Fairfield News

3/5/2021 - 3.5 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

There are two topics of interest that residents have written to me about this past week that I would like to address with you.

Budget:

On Monday, I presented the Town budget to the Board of Selectmen. Here's the FairTV links of the meeting broken into two parts: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). The Board of Selectmen budget meetings were held on Monday and Tuesday of this week. This coming Monday morning, the Board of Selectmen will take a vote on my proposed budget.

My proposed budget includes a mill rate increase of 1.98%. This incorporates a \$7.5 million dollar increase to the education budget, as well as \$8 million dollars in spending that was supported by Town bodies to replenish the funds and accounts that were used to subsidize last year's 0% tax increase. This budget ensures the Town's long-term liabilities are fully funded. The education increase is the second highest in a decade. I believe my proposed budget makes the necessary investments in education and in the Town, while being mindful of the financial fallout from COVID-19 and the need to keep our community affordable for all.

On Tuesday, Superintendent Mike Cummings presented the Board of Education budget to the Board of Selectmen. Having served myself for six years on the Board of Education, I stand ready to help Superintendent Cummings find cost savings which will ensure more education dollars go directly toward our students.

For example, during Tuesday's budget hearing I inquired about savings in the \$3

million dollar line item for health insurance. The school district agreed there would be savings in that line item, and they would share that amount with the Board of Selectmen prior to Monday's vote. Additionally, I brought up that my administration saved the school district \$300,000 on tent and shield purchases, by simply making a few calls for better pricing in August and December of last year. It is cost saving measures like these that I believe will help reduce the education budget, without directly impacting students. If you're interested in watching Tuesday's meeting you can view it through the link below. My discussion about these items can be viewed at 1:21 during the recording here https://youtu.be/i7AvvYp8_QY. You can view Part 2 of the hearing here: [Part 2](#).

Reorganization:

My administration also initiated a long overdue Multi-Phase Reorganization of Town Government that began with an Operational Review of all 18 Town Departments. This was conducted over the past year and is reflected in my proposed budget. The initial review determined there were efficiencies to be gained by realigning positions, reorganizing departments, implementing technology solutions, and instituting management and employee training. The end result of this plan will be a leaner, more efficient Town government which provides quality, people-centric services for our community with less government employees.

I have received a number of emails regarding my reorganization plan, particularly about the Conservation department. I take the duties of the Conservation department in our Town seriously. When I took office I vowed to make Town government smaller and smarter, with a focus on restoring accountability. My administration has carefully examined the duplicative functions of having a Conservation Director and Conservation Administrator. This review determined that we can consolidate the duties of the Conservation Administrator between the Director of Conservation and the Wetlands Enforcement Officer— a position equally critical to protecting our environment and natural resources, that was part time and has been upgraded to a full time position. I am also implementing an online permitting system for all permitting departments, that will further reduce the workload of the Conservation department. In the interim, SLR Consulting – a nationally recognized environmental and engineering firm – will be providing day to day, on site support to guarantee that the needs of the Conservation department are met while safeguarding and protecting our environment.

I am extremely proud of the hard work my administration and our town employees have put in over this past year. I hope all elected officials in our Town will engage in productive and civil discussions to approve a fiscally responsible budget, that best

reflects the concerns of our residents and moves our Town forward in a positive direction.

March kicks off Women's History Month, which is particularly important to me, serving as the second woman elected to lead the Town of Fairfield in 381 years. I hope our community will come together to celebrate the important women in our shared history. [Here](#) is great resource highlighting the significance of the month and the various women that have played a role in American history, as captured in film/video, digitized exhibits, and collections.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend.



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**.

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

Beginning Friday, 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:

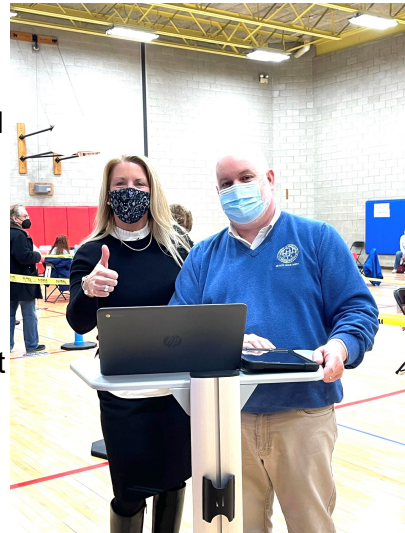
Reopening April 2

- 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 

Vaccine Information:

This week our Fairfield Health Department reached over 10,000 vaccines administered to those eligible! Hitting a grand total of 11,929 by the end of today, with the department scheduling an additional 4,052 appointments over the next 4 weeks. I am proud to say that not one vaccine has been wasted or unused since the Health Department's clinics opened in January. On Thursday, I visited the vaccine clinic to congratulate and thank our incredible Director of Health, Sands Cleary, and all the vaccine clinic staff and MRC volunteers who have selflessly stepped up to help deliver vaccines.

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 location at 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](#).

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 55 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 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 55 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 55 and older, you should complete the State form below:

State Form - 55 & Older

Vaccine Eligibility Schedule:

Monday, February 22nd, Governor Lamont announced that the State will continue with an age-based approach to expanding eligibility to the vaccine. With this announcement, he released a schedule for age-based eligibility for the next several months. By laying out a clear timeline for eligibility for the vaccine, the strategy allows everyone in the State, including essential workers and those with chronic conditions, to know when they will be able to schedule an appointment. The planned schedule is as follows:

- **March 1, 2021:** Expands to age group 55 to 64
- **March 22, 2021:** Expands to age group 45 to 54
- **April 12, 2021:** Expands to age group 35 to 44
- **May 3, 2021:** Expands to age group 16 to 34

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:

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 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.

To thank our Director of the Bigelow Center for Senior Services, Brenda Steele, and the [CERT](#) volunteers who staff the vaccine call center every day, I had lunch delivered to everyone on Thursday afternoon. I really enjoyed getting to spend time with our CERT volunteers and thank them for their priceless service to our community.



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](#).

Town Data: The Town of Fairfield has had 4,199 cases to date, and 198 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 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



(From Left to Right) Donna Twist, Vice President, Bridgeport Hospital Foundation and executive director, Norma Pfriem Breast Center; Rock Ferrigno, MD, Associate Chief Medical Officer and Chair of Emergency Medicine, Bridgeport Hospital; First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick; Lillie Toni, RN, COVID Testing Manager; Samantha Lawrence, Patient Care Associate; and Steve Jakab, President of Bridgeport Hospital Foundation

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 will be granted a hearing by the [Board of Assessment Appeals](#) . 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 – 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](#)

Bigelow Center for Senior Activities – Yesterday, United Way of Coastal Fairfield County awarded the Town of Fairfield a grant that provides emergency assistance for food, rent, utilities and critical bills for residents impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This is the second round of grants awarded by United Way, to support those impacted by the pandemic, and I appreciate all of their good work and support to our community.



United Way Awards Covid Relief Grant to Town of Fairfield

Left to Right: Christina Bodine Aysseh and Giles Payne (both United Way Board Members & Fairfield residents), Julie DeMarco (Director of Human and Social Services), Jeff Kimball (United Way CEO), First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick, Brenda Steele (Director of Bigelow Senior Center), Laura Incerto (Chair of the Human Services Commission).

Not pictured are board members and residents Anne McCrory, Bob Trefry, and Mark Barnhardt.

Fairfield Public Schools – Monday begins the shift for the students, who decide to opt-in, to return to their classrooms full time. Elementary students will return in full on Monday, March 8, Grade 6-12 students will return in full on Tuesday, March 9, and ECC/PK and WFC students will return to a five day week starting March 8. For those who who decide not to opt-in, The Remote Learning Academy will continue through the remainder of the school year. To read the Superintendent's announcement in its entirety, please click [here](#).

As "Read Across America Week" March 1-5 comes to an end, I really enjoyed being able to take the time to virtually read "Grace Goes to Washington" by Kelly DiPucchio for the Roger Sherman Elementary School students. I really missed actually being in the classroom reading to the students this year, but I'm looking forward to spending time in the classroom with our students soon.



LOVE LOCAL E-GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Town of Fairfield and the Chamber of Commerce are continuing our 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 will be sending 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

WINTER WEATHER

Resident Snow Shoveling: Per Town ordinance, Fairfield property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after the storm and keeping the sidewalk clear of snow and ice. Heavily used sidewalks near schools and public buildings, and the commercial areas are particularly important. Property owners may be fined and/or charged the cost of removal if the property owners do not comply.



I have received calls from residents concerned about sidewalks that are not shoveled. In many instances, those sidewalks are in front of elderly or disabled

resident's homes. The town will continue to do our best to remind residents of their responsibility while taking into consideration that it may not always be possible for all residents to shovel within the 24 hour time period.

If you have snow removal concerns or would like to request a street be re-plowed, please enter a [Citizen Service Request](#) and select 'Snow Removal Issues' or call the Town Garage at 203-256-3177. For more information on Fairfield plowing and snow removal policies, [click here](#).

It is also state law in Connecticut to remove snow and ice from your vehicle before driving on roads. When you fail to remove snow and ice from your vehicle you are putting yourself and others at risk. Penalties can be as much as \$120 fine.

TREES IN WIRES

If a tree is in contact or close proximity to wires. What do you do?

United Illuminating is responsible for clearing trees or limbs in wires. Please contact United Illuminating at: **1-800-722-5584**.

Please have the following information available:

- Your contact information
- Address of tree problem
- Cross street
- Landmark
- Pole number

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

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

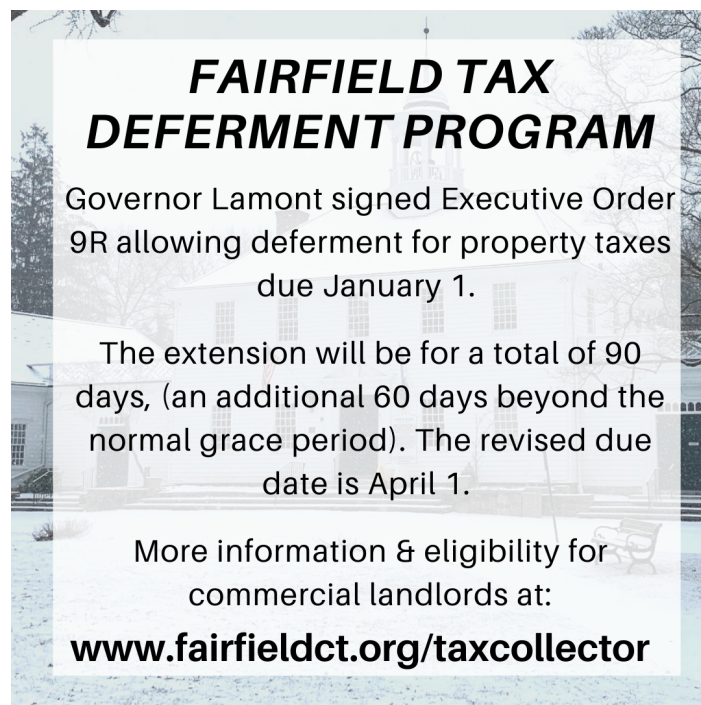
. Bricks can be purchased in two sizes – 4"x 8" for \$100 with up to three lines of text, or 8"x 8" for \$200 with up to 6 lines of text. Lastly, a corporate sponsor may purchase an 8"x 8" brick with 3 lines of text and include a company logo.

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

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. **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.**



BUSINESSES

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.

Businesses and non-profits with fewer than 20 employees will have a two-week exclusive window to apply for PPP loans that started Wednesday, February 24. This period of exclusivity will give lenders and community partners more time to work with the smallest businesses to submit their

applications and ensure these organizations are prioritized.

Other changes include:

- Self-employed and sole proprietors can now use gross income (versus net income) to calculate the PPP loan amount, increasing potential loan size.
- Business owners behind on their federal student loan payments are now eligible for PPP loan forgiveness.
- Clarification that non-citizen small business owners who are lawful U.S. residents can use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to apply for the PPP.
- Small business owners with prior non-fraud felony convictions are no longer excluded from applying for PPP loans.

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.](#)

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

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

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



BIGELOW CENTER AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Transportation services to medical appointments and shopping have been suspended. We will reassess in the New Year when it is safe to allow passengers on the buses. 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.

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.**



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

FAIRFIELD COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND



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.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Fairfield Public Main Library is open for quick browsing and checkout Monday-Saturday afternoons 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Learn more about [Library Express](#) service.



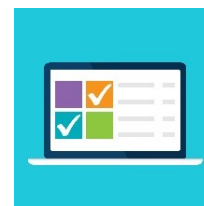
Please visit fairfieldpubliclibrary.org for full details regarding [Curbside Pickup](#) at the Main Library and Woods Branch Library. Fairfield Public Library continues to offer 24/7 access to their digital collection of books, music, magazines, movies and databases. Visit the [Library Event Calendar](#) to find a wide and varied assortment of Virtual Programs.

Fairfield Public Library is updating its Strategic Plan. Help us focus our services on what the community really needs and wants. Your opinion matters! Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/kJ61qBTZcWbt65R76>

Need a library card? Follow this link fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/my-fpl/library-cards/ and

get started today!

Sign up for the library newsletter [here](#).



Fairfield Public Library and Community Video courtesy of A2V Media

PEQUOT LIBRARY: WE'RE HERE, WE CARE

Pequot Library offers curbside pickup and limited browsing hours from 3-6pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and from 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.



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.

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](#)

[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](#) or (toll-free) [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](#)

[2020 Archives](#)

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

Copyright © 2021 Town of Fairfield, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Town of Fairfield
725 Old Post Rd
First Selectwoman's Office
Fairfield, CT 06824-6684

Add us to your address book

203.256.3030

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

[Archives](#)