

Town of Fairfield News

4/16/2021 - 4.16 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

This past year has been so hard for our community. We have faced many challenges, but have overcome them stronger together. Over the last 16 months, in my role as First Selectwoman, I've had the pleasure of getting to know so many of you either over the phone, in-person, or through e-mail. You have shared your frustrations, criticisms, pain, fear, and kind words of appreciation. With each conversation, I have listened with compassion and understanding, even though we may not have shared the same point of view.

I have seen our residents at their worst and at their best. I have shared in my newsletter, many times this past year, that we are "All in this Together", and I believe that is still true today.

Together we can work on difficult issues that we may not always agree on. However, a tweet or a social media post should never replace looking someone in the eye and having a real conversation. We are all members of one community with many differing points of view, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be respectful to one another.

As Fairfielders, we can lead by example every day, by treating everyone we interact with the way we would want to be treated. I remain committed to listening, learning and leading our community with the same enthusiasm and compassion I felt when I raised my hand and took the oath of office to serve as your First Selectwoman.

Last month, I taped a video message for our community. I want to thank [A2VMedia](#), a local Fairfield business, for donating their time and talent for this video.

I believe this pandemic has taught us all something— something about unifying, working

together as a community, and coming together to support each other in spite of our differences. I know that after everything we've been through, we can do this, we are Fairfielders.



JOHNSON & JOHNSON COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

On Tuesday, April 13th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a joint statement recommending a pause on the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine. Of the more than 6.8 million doses of the vaccine administered in the US, six cases reported of rare, but severe blood clotting within two weeks of receiving the vaccine. All cases occurred in women between the ages of 18-48 years old.

According to the CT Department of Public Health, roughly 100,000 Connecticut residents have received the J&J vaccine with no reports of serious, adverse events. As of April 12, 2021, the Fairfield Health Department had administered roughly 1,200 doses of the J&J vaccine, and we have had no reports of severe or adverse side effects.

The FDA, CDC, CT Department of Public Health, and the Fairfield Health Department take vaccine safety extremely seriously. The Fairfield Health Department is following State and Federal guidance and has paused administering the J&J vaccine at our clinics and to our homebound residents, until it is safe to do so. Until further notice, all Fairfield Health Department clinics will administer the Moderna vaccine only.

If you received the J&J vaccine and develop a severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, you should contact your health care provider.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Department of Public Works – Today, I joined our DPW crew for lunch and to thank them for their hard work over this past winter plowing our roads during the many snowstorms we had, to ensure the safety of our community.



Fire – I am so proud that two of our very own Fairfield firefighters, Lt. Bob Smith and Assistant Chief Phil Higgins, saved a customer who was choking while eating at a local diner. Luckily they were able to clear the airway and administer care until more help arrived. I am thankful that even when off duty, our community is safe in the hands of our first responders.

Police – Chief Robert Kalamaras and the Fairfield Police Department wish to recognize the Town's public safety dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. During the week of April 11-17, public safety agencies take time to reflect on the critical role telecommunications professionals play in supporting first responders. "Without our emergency dispatchers, we would not have the ability to perform our jobs as efficiently and effectively as we do," Chief Kalamaras said. "Our dispatchers perform the important task of answering our emergency calls and receiving vital information which they relay to us all while remaining calm and focused. These individuals are truly the unsung heroes of our department and we would like to recognize and thank them for all that they do."



While many Fairfielders continue to get vaccinated every single day, I want to remind our community that the virus is still among us. In addition to getting vaccinated, please continue to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing, because these are the best forms of protection against COVID-19.

Please scroll below for more Town updates, COVID-19 Data/Vaccinations/COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, Mental Health Resources, and other helpful information/resources.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

We Are In This Together,

Brenda L. Kupchick
Fairfield First Selectwoman

COMMUNITY THEATRE OUTDOOR REDESIGN

Click [here](#) to read the Town's statement on the redesign of the Community Theatre corner.

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**.

I am so encouraged that our Fairfield Health Department as of today, has administered 19,575 vaccines to those eligible. 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.

VACCINE INFORMATION:

ALL adults in Connecticut over the age of 16 are eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment.

*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 is only approved for those over the age of 18 years.

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

State Form - 16 & Older

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](#).
- [Veteran's Affairs VA CT](#) - Eligibility includes anyone who served in the military, spouses of veterans, and caregivers of veterans. Hosting several walk-in clinics. No appointment necessary.

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>.

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 [here](#).

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

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

If you are a Fairfield resident who is currently eligible with questions or are homebound and need to schedule a mobile COVID-19 vaccine appointment, 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 4,995 cases to date, and 202 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

Coronavirus Funeral Assistance:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.



To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien.

Which expenses will qualify for reimbursement?

Examples of eligible expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation may include, but not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two people to identify the deceased individual
- The transfer of remains, a casket or urn
- A burial plot or cremation niche
- A marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- The arrangement of a funeral ceremony
- The use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing multiple death certificates

What information do I need to provide to FEMA?

Please have the following information before contacting FEMA to apply:

- Your name, social security number, date of birth, mailing address and contact phone numbers.
- The name, social security number and date of birth for each deceased individual.
- The location or address where the deceased individual passed away.
- Documentation and receipts for any assistance already received from other sources, including burial or funeral insurance, donations, voluntary agencies, other government programs or non-profit organizations.
- If you and another person both incurred funeral expenses for the same deceased individual(s), you can also provide that person as a co-applicant — include their name, social security number and date of birth on the application.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS ASSISTANCE?

Call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at
1-844-684-6333
(TTY: 800-462-7585)
from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET,
Monday – Friday and begin the
application process.

For fastest service following your application, you can begin submitting documentation online through
[Disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov)
by fax 855-261-3452.

Documents may also be mailed to:
COVID-19 Funeral Assistance
P.O. Box 10001
Hyattsville, MD 20782

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

You can also visit us online at
[FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq).
Information is provided in several
languages both by telephone and
the website.



FEMA

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](#).

CONTINUED 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 concluded on March 29, 2021. Due to the volume of appeals, the BAA has been granted an extension to May 15 to complete its work.

The Board is now focusing on deliberating and making decisions on all the appeals before it.

Meeting agendas will be posted at www.fairfieldct.org/baa/agendas. Information on what groups of appeals are likely to be discussed and any delays in start times/meeting cancellations will be posted to the Board's home page (www.fairfieldct.org/baa), shortly before the start of each meeting. Please be aware that meeting discussions can change depending on how many appeals are decided at previous meetings and what board members are in attendance on a particular night. Recordings and minutes can be accessed through the Board's home page within seven days of a meeting.

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

Tax Deferment – The revised property tax, 90-day deadline extension (an additional 60 days beyond the normal grace period) **due date was April 1st for any January 1st installment tax bill**. Anyone who failed to pay by the April 1 deadline will have to pay three months of interest added along with his or her existing bill and may check the status of their account at www.fairfieldct.org/taxpayment.

The current 4th installment Real Estate tax and 2nd installment sewer use tax that became due and payable on April 1st is **not eligible** for deferment per state executive order and has a **due date of May 3, 2021**.

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 for Library Express Service Monday-Saturday afternoons 2pm - 4pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5pm – 7pm. Woods Branch building is open for Library Express Service 10am - 12pm Monday-Friday, Wednesday evenings 5pm-7pm and Saturdays 2pm – 4pm. 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.

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.



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.

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>.

Social Services has a new monthly email news update with timely information for residents about programs and services. To see April's update click [here](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

SHOP, STROLL, AND LOVE LOCAL THIS SPRING

I am pleased to announce the Town of Fairfield and the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Sustainable Fairfield Task Force, will co-sponsor a “**Shop, Stroll and Love Local this Spring**” event on **Thursday, April 22, 2021**.

Coinciding with Earth Day, participating shops in downtown Fairfield will be open starting **10 am through 9 pm**, offering patrons a fun and relaxing time to browse, shop and truly Love Local with a variety of spring celebratory promotions. The combination of Love Local and Earth Day is a unique opportunity for participating retailers and restaurants to offer giveaways and prizes that will make this year’s event one not to be missed. All COVID-19 measures will be in place, with masks and social distancing required.



For more details on the event, click [here](#)

9TH ANNUAL WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES

Join the Center for Family Justice (CFJ) Bridgeport on Saturday, April 24th at 9 AM for a live virtual program hosted by Gary MacNamara of Sacred Heart University as part of their

9th Annual **Walk A Mile in Her Shoes®**. This is a community awareness event where men and boys take the first step to end violence against women and girls. Everyone is welcome to participate! High Heels Optional.

They ask that you walk with CFJ *individually* anytime during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April 1 – April 30). Click [here](#) for registration information.

Funds raised from the walk will support Camp HOPE America – Bridgeport, CFJ's therapeutic summer camp and year-long mentoring program for young people ages 7-17 who have experienced the trauma of domestic and/or sexual violence.



COMMUNITY SAILING OF FAIRFIELD

Community Sailing of Fairfield, a local group of experienced sailing and kayaking enthusiasts, will be hosting a free, three-part safe sailing seminar series open to the public via Zoom starting in April.

The sailing safety classes will be taught by Community Sailing of Fairfield (CSF) member Ginny Worcester, a professional sailing instructor who for many years has taught sailing at local yacht clubs and schools.



The classes will take place Tuesday evenings April 20, April 27 and May 4 at 7 pm. For the Zoom link and other relevant information click [here](#).

GLOW ON THE GREEN

May 14 at 6 PM at H. Smith Richardson .. [HERE](#)



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.

A light blue poster for Fairfield Parks & Recreation. At the top center is the Fairfield Parks & Recreation logo. Below it, the text reads 'ITS A NEW YEAR WITH FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION' and 'TIME TO RENEW!' in large, bold, italicized letters. The poster features three main sections, each with a button-like border: '2021 BEACH STICKERS!', 'RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!', and 'RENEW YOUR FITNESS MEMBERSHIP!'. To the right of the '2021 BEACH STICKERS!' button is an image of a green beach sticker from the Town of Fairfield, valid for 2021, with the number A1234X and a large letter A. Below the 'RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!' button is the H. Smith Richardson Golf Course logo and text: 'H. Smith Richardson Golf Course TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CT'. Below the 'RENEW YOUR FITNESS MEMBERSHIP!' button is a photo of a gym interior. At the bottom center, the website 'WWW.FAIRFIELDRECREATION.COM' is listed.

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

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.

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 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 May 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 announced their intention to expand to Fairfield in the first half of 2021. This

was 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!

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.

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](#)

[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	February 26	March 26	
January 22	February 19	March 19	
January 15	February 12	March 12	April 9
January 8	February 5	March 5	April 1

[2020 Archives](#)

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