

# Town of Fairfield News

5/7/2021 - 5.7 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

Fairfield's Representative Town Meeting (RTM) voted on Monday to approve the Town budget after a months-long budget process through the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and the RTM. Last night, the Board of Finance voted to set the mill rate at 26.98, a .71% increase, the lowest increase in over 15 years excluding last year's 0% budget increase.

Since the Board of Finance's budget vote on March 31st, the updated surplus projections rose by \$1.6 million. This is why I supported the RTM's vote to reduce the budget by \$1.02 million.

I was disappointed in the tone of some of the conversations that occurred during the RTM meeting and the Moderator's denial of my request to address the RTM at the start of the meeting.

As I stated since the first day I was sworn into office, I will always do what I think is best for the residents of our Town and will work with any elected official regardless of party. I was encouraged that three Democrat RTM members joined the Republicans to pass the Town's budget.

I've shared in prior newsletters, in the lead-up to this budget process, my administration initiated a long overdue multi-phase reorganization of Town Government that began with an operational review of all 18 Town Departments. The savings from this long overdue process are reflected in the 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 am confident this budget makes the necessary investments in our public education system and the Town as a whole, to better serve our residents, while being mindful of the financial fallout from COVID-19.



RTM Budget Vote Meeting

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## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING & LOCAL ZONING LAWS**

On Wednesday, I hosted a virtual town hall meeting for our community to discuss affordable housing, local zoning laws, the 8-30g statute, and legislation being proposed in our state legislature with panelists from our State delegation, my administration, and our Town Plan & Zoning Commission Chair. You can watch a recording of the town hall meeting by clicking on the video below.

# Virtual Town Hall on Affordable Housing &

FairTV Government 5/5/2021

Affordable Housing & Zoning

**Town Hall Meeting: 6:00 PM**

The meeting will be broadcast live on Fair TV.  
Please click on the chat button when asking a question.

ing Director Jim Wendt

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## TOWN GOVERNMENT

### SENIOR AND DISABLED TAX RELIEF

Any new applications for the program will be due by Friday May 14, 2021. Anyone currently receiving benefits will not need to reapply this year and will continue their benefits at the same level. See [here](#) for more information.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### OUR EVERYDAY HERO

This week News 8 did a segment on our very own Lt. Bob Smith with the Fairfield Fire Department. The feature highlighted how Bob goes above and beyond both in and out of the firehouse. He is the President of the [Fairfield Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation](#), which raises community awareness of and makes donations to various local and national charities. The foundation has donated over \$100,000 in the past four or five years. We are so lucky to have Bob Smith serving our community, his passion and generosity are unparalleled. To view the segment, please click below.





## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

As we conclude "Teacher Appreciation Week", I was happy to express my sincerest gratitude for everything our teachers have done this past year in a video produced by the Fairfield Public Schools [here](#). We salute you!



### THANK YOU

I want to highlight our Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Denis McCarthy for his incredible leadership and dedication throughout this pandemic. This week, he and our DPW crews were recognized by Operation Hope for the countless hours they've dedicated to distributing thousands of food boxes to our community, during these difficult times. Fairfield can't thank you enough!



### OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

I want to congratulate Officer John McGrath, who was unanimously selected after careful consideration as Officer of the Quarter (OOQ) for the period of April 15th, 2021 through July 14, 2021.

As an 11 year member of the Fairfield Police Department, he sets an example for others to follow, and has earned the confidence and trust of all of his supervisors. His hard work and dedication reflect a great credit upon himself, police officers, and the Fairfield Police Department. Congratulations Officer McGrath!



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## NURSE APPRECIATION WEEK

This Thursday kicked off Nurse Appreciation Week nationwide. After the year we had, there are not enough words to express our gratitude and appreciation for all our nurses did to carry us through this pandemic. I'd like to call special attention to the nurses of our Health Department, who have served day after day vaccinating, contact tracing, and educating this community. THANK YOU for all you do!!





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

I want to close by wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all Fairfield Moms! I hope you enjoy the weekend with your families.

We Are In This Together,



Brenda L. Kupchick  
Fairfield First Selectwoman

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### WOMEN VETERANS VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:00pm

Hosted by the VA New England Healthcare System (VISN 1) Women Veterans Program. Women veterans are encouraged to join the virtual Town Hall to provide feedback to help the VA better understand your needs. Registration is required, see [here](#). This information can also be found on the [Veterans Affairs Facebook page](#).

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### GLOW ON THE GREEN

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



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## LET'S MENTION PREVENTION

May 19 at 7 PM. Please RSVP [here](#).



The graphic features a light green background with white topographic line art. At the top center, the text "Let's #MentionPrevention" is displayed, with "Let's" in black and "#MentionPrevention" in bold black. Below this, the subtitle "Supporting Teens in Reducing Their Stress (and Ours)" is written in blue. On the left, there is a photo of four smiling teenagers. In the center, text identifies the speaker: "A webinar with Dr. Matt Bellace, Psychologist & Comedian, Author of 'A Better High'". To the right is a photo of Dr. Matt Bellace speaking into a microphone. At the bottom, four logos are aligned: Fairfield CARES (The Town Resource for Healthy Choices), positive directions (The Center for Prevention and Counseling), the hub (Fairfield Community Hub), and a small graphic of a person holding a flag.

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## MAKE MUSIC FAIRFIELD

Make Music Day Fairfield returns to Fairfield on Monday, June 21 from 3-9PM (EDT). Venues and artists are encouraged to participate in this free event, but must register in advance at [makemusicday.org/fairfield](http://makemusicday.org/fairfield)

# MAKE MUSIC FAIRFIELD

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## FAIRFIELD POLICE SUNSET 5K

July 21 at 6:30 PM... Details [HERE](#)



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## COVID-19 UPDATE:

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

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### FAIRFIELD VACCINE CLINIC

As of today, our Health Department has administered more than **21,604 vaccinations** into the arms of Connecticut residents and has over 1500 appointments over the next 4 weeks.

All Fairfield Health Department COVID-19 Clinics are now accepting walk-ins from 11am to 4pm. Our clinics are currently scheduled for 5/12, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27 and 6/3, and offer the Moderna vaccine, which is for those 18 and older. Once the Pfizer vaccine is approved for those 12 years old and older, additional clinic will be scheduled. Check the Health Department's [Facebook](#) page for updates on new clinics. Appointments are also available through VAMS for any other vaccine clinic in the State.

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### 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.

**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.

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### **CDC GUIDANCE ON FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS**

On Tuesday of this week, the CDC outlined new guidance for fully vaccinated individuals, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 =2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or =2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).



## Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

### Get a COVID-19 vaccine



**Prevention measures not needed**

**Take prevention measures**

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask  
Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

## REOPENING CT

While we've already seen a number of sector rule changes as we reopen Connecticut, on May 19th most of the State's COVID-19 restrictions for every sector, with the exception of certain mask requirements that will remain in effect, will be eliminated. The changes will include:

Effective Wednesday, May 19, 2021

- All remaining business restrictions will end.
- Indoor masks will continue.
- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will issue recommendations for indoor and large outdoor events (e.g., concerts).

## Phasing out Business Restrictions in Connecticut



**May 1**

- Business curfew moved back to 12AM
- Outdoor restrictions lifted
  - Alcohol without food allowed
  - No table size limit

*\*All subject to low incidence and continued improvements in vaccination rates*



**May 19**

- All remaining business restrictions ended
- DPH will issue recommendations for safe operation of indoor & large outdoor events
- Indoor masking will continue

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

I continue to work with the Emergency Management Team and our Town Departments to plan for our Town's reopening and delivering of services. I'm also working with the Emergency Management Director and the Town's IT Director to incorporate continued virtual attendance for our Town meetings. We are committed to reopening safely and since December 2020 have not advocated any limits more restrictive than the State's Sector Rules and Guidance. I'd also like to announce that we are in the planning stages for our community to have a safe Memorial Day Parade and Fireworks display. I will share that specific information as we get closer to those important dates.

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

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

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

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

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

**For accurate and regularly updated information about the COVID Vaccine, please**

visit the **Fairfield Health Department Vaccine update**  
page: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/news/?FeedID=4155>.

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**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](#).

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

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**Town Data:** The Town of Fairfield has had 5,185 cases to date, and 203 of Fairfield residents have sadly lost their lives. Charts and data on Fairfield cases, including daily & weekly changes, age, gender, nursing home statistics, testing results, different trends, and university statistics, can be found at [www.fairfieldct.org/covid19data](http://www.fairfieldct.org/covid19data). The Health Department updates this page regularly.

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

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**Drive-Through Testing Location:** Thanks to a partnership with Yale New Haven Health, Fairfield's drive-through COVID-19 testing location at 140 Mill Plain Road opened Monday, March 1. **The location 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

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**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](http://www.talkitoutct.com)

### **Resources for Mental Health:**

If you or a loved one is struggling:

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

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### **Dogs on Leashes:**

After careful consideration with the Town's Director of Health, I have decided to lift restrictions requiring all dogs remain on leashes at our open spaces effective immediately. The Rules and Regulations for Open Space Properties will be restored to their pre-pandemic limits. Specifically dogs will be allowed off-leash pursuant to Section 14 (e), which requires all dogs to be kept under voice command or leash control at all times on open space areas and 14(f) All dogs shall be kept on leash if the animals are within 100 ft. of parking lots or picnic areas. Note: Effective April 1 dogs are not allowed on public beaches. Click [here](#) for a list of open spaces on page 11.



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



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

CDC Guidance (excerpted)

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

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

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## CONTINUED TOWN GOVERNMENT

**Assessment Appeals** – Hearings with the BAA began on 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](http://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](http://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](http://fairfieldct.org/taxassessor)

### Assessment Appeals Information

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**Fairfield Public Library** – Library Express Service offers opportunities for quick browsing and checkout at both our libraries. The Fairfield Public Main Library building is open for Library Express Service Monday-Saturday afternoons 1pm - 4pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5pm – 7pm. Woods Branch building is open for Library Express Service 9am - 12pm Monday-Friday, Monday & Wednesday evenings 5pm-7pm and Saturdays 1pm – 4pm. Learn more about [Library Express](#) service.



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

**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.

**Bigelow Center and Human Services** – 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. June 15, 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>.

### **Emergency Broadband Benefit**

The Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides a discount of up to a \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. The benefit also provides up to a \$100 per household discount toward a one-time purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase through a participating broadband provider. A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or the FCC's [Lifeline](#) program;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community

Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year.

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Experienced a substantial loss of income through job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Emergency Broadband Benefit enrollment will begin on May 12, 2021. Eligible households can enroll through a [participating broadband provider](#) or directly with the [Universal Service Administrative Company \(USAC\)](#) using an online or mail-in application. Additional information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit is available at [www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit), or by calling 833-511-0311 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. any day of the week.

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time to highlight the mental health issues impacting millions of lives. Mental Health America began this awareness month in 1949 and they continue to raise awareness every year. This year's theme is "Tool 2 Thrive." It focuses on providing practical tools that everyone can use to improve their mental health and increase their resiliency regardless of their personal situation. **In the U.S., 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 6 youth (ages 6 - 17) experience a mental health condition each year.** Even if you don't have a diagnosed mental health condition, you can still take steps to improve your mental health!

Mental Health America has chosen the following themes to focus on this year:

- Adapting after trauma and stress
- Dealing with anger and frustration
- Getting out of thinking traps
- Processing big changes
- Taking time for yourself
- Radical acceptance

For a calendar of events for Mental Health Awareness Month go to: <https://www.thehubct.orgmental> health.

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](#).

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## BUSINESSES

### **Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF):**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced key details on application requirements, eligibility, and a program guide for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). The restaurant industry has been among the hardest-hit sectors during the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help bring jobs back and revive the industry, the American Rescue Plan established the \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund at the SBA. The SBA will administer the funds to the hardest-hit small restaurants.

The RRF is to help restaurants and other foodservice businesses, including food stands, food trucks, caterers, bars, lounges and snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars, as well as bakeries, brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms, breweries, microbreweries, wineries and distilleries with on-site sales to the public of at least 33% of gross receipts.

To apply click [here](#).



### **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. More information [here](#).

### **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](mailto:beverly@fairfieldctchamber.com).

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## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### 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 flyer is a light blue rectangular graphic with a white border. At the top center is the Fairfield Parks & Recreation logo, which features a stylized green figure of a person jumping or running above the words "FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION". Below the logo, the text "ITS A NEW YEAR WITH FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The main headline "TIME TO RENEW!" is in a large, black, serif font. Below the headline, there are three rows of content. Each row consists of a white rectangular box with a black border on the left and right sides, and a corresponding image or logo to its right. The first row has a box with the text "2021 BEACH STICKERS!" and a green and white sticker to its right. The sticker is for the "Town of Fairfield" and is valid for "BEACHES - MARINAS - TOWN DUMP" and "SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING". It has the number "A1234X" and a large letter "A", and the years "2021" on both sides. The second row has a box with the text "RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!" and a circular logo to its right. The logo is for the "H. Smith Richardson Golf Course" and includes the text "TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CT". The third row has a box with the text "RENEW YOUR FITNESS MEMBERSHIP!" and a photograph to its right. The photograph shows the interior of a fitness center with various exercise machines. At the bottom of the flyer, the website "WWW.FAIRFIELDPRECREATION.COM" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**2021 BEACH STICKERS!**

**RENEW YOUR GOLF ID!**

**RENEW YOUR FITNESS MEMBERSHIP!**

**WWW.FAIRFIELDPRECREATION.COM**

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### FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION 2021 SUMMER BROCHURE

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





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### LOVE LOCAL E-GIFT CARD PROGRAM

I hope you'll continue to support our local businesses through the Town of Fairfield and the Chamber of Commerce's buy local initiative with the Fairfield Community e-Gift Card program, which is exclusive to Fairfield businesses only. This is a great gift for Fairfield residents for both holidays and special occasions. More information can be found [here](#).



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### ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS PROGRAM UPDATE:

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

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

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

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

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

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### **STRATFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION BRICK CAMPAIGN**

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



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

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

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

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

Interested in giving back to our community? Want to have a voice in shaping Fairfield? The Town relies on the hard work of citizen volunteers who are appointed to provide guidance and governance on various Boards and Commissions. The list of vacancies for

Boards and Commissions are on the Town Website. Be sure to check back often as the list is updated as positions become available. <https://fairfieldct.org/vacancies>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **HELP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

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

### **The hotline numbers are:**

Domestic Violence: 203-384-9559

Sexual Violence: 203-333-2233



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## **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](#).

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## FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



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

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### FAIRFIELD BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE:

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



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

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

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## TOWN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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



## Fairfield's Operations During COVID-19

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### 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](http://www.fairfieldct.org/covidsbr).

### Eligibility & Application

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### 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

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### **COVID CONTACT TRACING**

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

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

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

### **When to Isolate & Quarantine**

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### **OPERATION HOPE FOOD PANTRY**

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

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

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### **Important COVID-19 Links:**

Fairfield Health Department coronavirus website: [fairfieldct.org/covid19](https://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](https://ct.gov/coronavirus)

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**Contact Information:**

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

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

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

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**PREVIOUS UPDATES:**

<a href="#">February 26</a>	<a href="#">March 26</a>	<a href="#">April 30</a>
<a href="#">February 19</a>	<a href="#">March 19</a>	<a href="#">April 23</a>
<a href="#">February 12</a>	<a href="#">March 12</a>	<a href="#">April 16</a>
<a href="#">February 5</a>	<a href="#">March 5</a>	<a href="#">April 9</a>
		<a href="#">April 1</a>

[2020 Archives](#)

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