Town of Fairfield News

1/6/2023 - 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



Happy New Year Fairfielders!

I'm ready to start 2023 with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication to our community.

For the last two years, I have sent out a year-in-review <u>newsletter</u> highlighting the good work of our Town employees and our collective accomplishments in service to the residents of Fairfield.

I want to sincerely thank Fairfelders who share their time and talent volunteering on the Town's many boards, commissions, nonprofits, and especially our residents who provide input with positivity and goodwill. While our Town has many challenging issues, I know we will tackle each one and move Fairfield forward together.

I look forward to serving you in 2023.

Fairfield in 2022

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Working with our **Community & Economic Development Director** and department, our priority has been supporting smart growth in Fairfield in an effort to expand Fairfield's business footprint, with the ultimate goal of easing residential taxes that fund important services, while adding vibrancy to our Town.

Fairfield welcomed more than **75** new "bricks & mortar" businesses this past year, including Isla & Co., Sally's Apizza, Trek Bicycle, Evolution Gaming and Ryoma Coffee World (RCW USA), a subsidiary of CMA Industrial Technologies, one of the largest and

leading manufacturers of commercialgrade espresso machines, based in Susegana, Italy. RCW USA relocated its US offices from Greensboro, NC to Fairfield in June of this past year.

Behind the scenes, the collaborative and productive work of our permitting departments assisting businesses



throughout the process sends a message that Fairfield welcomes new businesses to our community. A special thanks to our Community & Economic Development Department for organizing ribbon cuttings and partnering with Chamber President Beverly Balaz and the **Fairfield Chamber of Commerce** to highlight many new businesses opening in Fairfield. Our local business's success is Fairfield's success, and as a Town, we strive to assist in these efforts the best we can.

One such project that I worked closely with our Economic Development Director was assisting in moving forward the long-awaited transit-oriented, mixed-use development, adjacent to the Fairfield Metro Center Train Station. This project was originally announced in 2011 and finally broke ground in 2022. The **Crossings at Fairfield Metro** development was sold to a new developer and will consist of a hotel, 70,000 square feet of commercial office space; 40,000 square feet of retail space; and 357 new housing units, of which 20% will be affordable at varying levels. This project is expected to generate over \$4 million in net new taxes per year upon full build-out which will be a huge boost to our community's tax base and to economic development.





Our **Building Department** worked diligently to ensure all new buildings and renovations were built safely and to code. The department issued over **60** certificates of occupancy for new single-family homes and issued permits to many new businesses and the two large arenas at the Universities.

With the launch of our new online permitting system in February, spearheaded by the **IT Department**, our permitting departments have been able to track and assist applicants electronically and accept online payments. This system is all part of our efforts to modernize town government. Building, Zoning, Conservation, Engineering and Sewer are all online and the Health Department and the Fire Marshal's Office are planning to go live in 2023.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our Town residents have felt real frustration with overdevelopment in residential neighborhoods overriding our local zoning laws, which is permitted under state statute. In order to help residents understand the development projects in Town that are built under this statute, we launched an **8-30g Q&A** on the Town's website which can be viewed here.

In an effort to combat these state mandates, I have actively worked to implement changes that will benefit Fairfield to have more control over our long-term planning.

As part of my efforts to increase Fairfield's affordable housing stock, we selected **Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County** as a development partner to construct two duplexes on Town-owned property at 244 Greenfield Street. The Town will ground-lease the property to Habitat, which will finance and oversee the construction and sale of the units to income-eligible first-time homebuyers. The project will provide **four** units of actual affordable ownership housing upon completion. I am excited about this partnership and look forward to opportunities to work with Habitat in the future.

The Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) updated the Town's Affordable

<u>Housing Plan</u> which sets forth strategies to achieve enough points to qualify for a housing moratorium to protect our local zoning laws while also seeking to provide a broad array of housing options to meet the changing housing needs of Fairfield residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Here in Fairfield, we are so lucky to have one of, if not the best, police departments in the state. We have seen many positive changes under the leadership of Chief of Police, Robert Kalamaras.

Over the course of 2022, our **Fairfield Police Department:**

- Responded to over 47,000 calls for service
- Officers received a combined total of almost 12,000 hours of training

In last year's budget, I added two police officers to the department. I swore

in **13** new officers after many retirements and was honored to give the Oath of Office to **13** officers who were

to **13** officers who were promoted into new roles in the department, including Deputy Chief



Keith Broderick. These new officers bring the Fairfield Police Department's total to **109** sworn personnel (out of 110 budgeted).

As a means to remain progressive in mental health services, this year the Fairfield Police Department implemented the **Fairfield Police Behavioral Health Network** (FPBHN). This network is comprised of a variety of local and regional mental health agencies with the purpose of building awareness of, and familiarity amongst as many mental health services/partners as possible.

As a part of this effort, the Fairfield Police Department created a position for an embedded **Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)**. The Town welcomed Jessica Bloomberg to this new position, who is a current LCSW and retired Stamford Police

Officer. This position is invaluable to our community and the Police Department, with the goal of increasing services to our Town, specifically in the areas of mental health and addiction services.

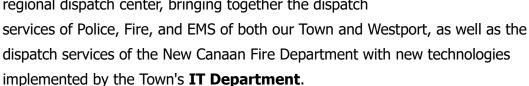


To continually seek innovative ways to improve and modernize our services and invest

in the safety of our community, the opening of

the Fairfield County Regional Dispatch Center on

March 14th of this year is a prime example of how we accomplish this goal and ensure the residents of Fairfield are provided with the most efficient services possible when facing a crisis. This new state-of-the-art facility, provided by Sacred Heart University, will be a regional dispatch center, bringing together the dispatch



The Town also applied for and received a \$3.5 million grant for a **radio upgrade** to replace the existing Police and Fire outdated radio system. This new solution will allow for interoperability amongst neighboring towns for enhanced coverage and communication. I am very excited about this opportunity and thank all of those who assisted with making this project come to fruition. It is truly a considerable investment in the safety of our Town's residents.





The **Fairfield Fire Department** improved their Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating from Category 3 up to **Category 2**. Our Fairfield Fire Department is now rated among the top 4% of Fire Departments nationwide for Fire Suppression Capabilities, Water Supply and Emergency Communications. The rating upgrade recognizes the years of hard work to improve their service capabilities and results in lower fire insurance premiums for our residential properties.

The Fire Department has continued to work with Aquarion to improve the water main system for fire suppression. This past year, substantial improvements were made to the lower Greenfield Hill and Southport Sections of Town. This project included installing many miles of new fire mains and the installation of new fire hydrants for better accessibility in case of emergency.

As a part of our growing workforce to meet the needs of our Town's size, I added a long-needed additional Fire Marshal to the budget. I was also proud to swear in **three** new firefighters and **four** members of the department moving into new leadership positions over the last year.







The **Fire Marshal's Office** has overseen the Code Enforcement of a few major construction projects working with other Town permitting departments, such as the Sacred Heart University Martire Family Hockey Arena and Fairfield University Leo

Mahoney Arena, both new state-of-the-art arenas that are wonderful additions to our Town, and ideal venues for our community to watch and root for their hometown teams. Comprehensive code enforcement is a key element to the safe operation of these major facilities, so I am



grateful to our Fire Marshal's Office for ensuring the safety of these arenas and all of the residential and commercial buildings they inspect.

The department has completed training and developed a response plan to be able to respond to Lithium-Ion Battery Fires whether they are in a car or on a smaller device. Lithium-Ion Battery Fires present a new challenge to the fire service as they are hard to extinguish and give off many toxic gases when they burn.

TOWN INFRASTUCTURE & OPERATIONS

Through the **American Rescue Plan Recovery Act**, the Town of Fairfield received \$24.8 million, and many projects Town bodies approved have been completed in 2022, including new playgrounds, outdoor improvements to Fairfield Theatre Company for free community concerts, and the acquisition of new body and dash cameras for our Police Department replacing outdated equipment that provides safety for our residents and police. We also upgraded Fire Station 2, finished significant Senior Center renovations, and replaced guard rails throughout Town. The remaining funds will go toward cleaning up the fill pile contamination, A/C in our schools, paving roads, flooding mitigation for the Rooster River area, electric/hybrid Town vehicles with charging stations and many more critical projects.

You can read the list of all the projects I submitted to the Town Boards here.

As part of my reorganization of Town Hall, Teri Brown, the Town's new part-time grant coordinator, is working every day to help identify and apply for grants to offset

the impact on Fairfield taxpayers. In 2022, Teri assisted Town departments in securing **four** discretionary grants totaling over \$7 million.



Gould Manor Park



Ball Field at Gould Manor



Burr Gardens Restoration



Melville Park

Under the leadership of our DPW Director and Deputy Director, we took the initiative to finally have our roads and sidewalks independently

analyzed and prioritized. After the condition of our roads was neglected for many years, the new roadway and sidewalk management plan began with the **Department of Public Work's Highway &**

the **Department of Public Work's Highway 8 Construction Crews:**

- 10,849 feet of new asphalt sidewalks, making it easier and safer to walk along the street
- 2.64 miles of road were chip sealed
- 9.19 miles of road were paved in 2022; surpassing last year's paving by 21%

DPW's **Tree Department**, under the leadership of Tree Warden Jeff Minder, planted a record **305** trees this year, removed **310** hazardous trees and pruned **3,150** trees Town-wide.

Fairfield achieved Tree City USA recognition for the **34th year**, and I am proud to say we are the longest-running Connecticut town to earn this designation.



Along with our DPW regular maintenance of maintaining, cleaning and routine repairs of our historical, public and government buildings, I'm happy to announce that 2022 marks the completion of the following construction projects throughout Town, including:

 Dover Park Shelter Remodel, DPW Salt Dome Roof Replacement, Brookside Comfort Station Remodel, Gould Manor Comfort Station Remodel, New Siding on Jennings Beach Pavilion, Burr Homestead Waste Line Replacement, Owen Fish American Legion Post 143 Painted, Cedar Roof Replacement at Sherman Green Gazebo and much more.







Sherman Gazebo Roof

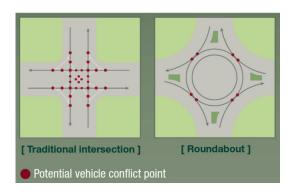
Fairfield was awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 under the Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant to upgrade the **East Trunk Sewer** line that services two-thirds of our Town. The Town has been working to identify a fix to the East Trunk Sewer since 2016.

 The project will replace a 2,800-foot section of sewer line, serving 60% of Fairfield residents. These upgrades will also enable further development of the Fairfield Metro transit-oriented community which broke ground earlier this year, as well as address sewer capacity more generally.

The Town completed work on the **Post Road Circle Safety Study** that began in 2019, which examined opportunities to make improvements to a portion of the Post Road & King's Highway that hosts over **20,000** vehicles per day and has seen more than its fair share of accidents and close calls.

 The study, which was funded by a \$375,000 State grant, identified and evaluated several design concepts, aimed at creating a safer environment for vehicles and pedestrians alike. The Town is now pursuing funding for the full design.





The **Engineering Department** has had a busy year revitalizing our sidewalks, sanitary sewers and bridges. Through the **Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)**, Fairfield was awarded infrastructure improvement funding that will be invested into the rehabilitation of our Town's sidewalks on Round Hill Road from Barlow Road to Post Road (US 1) and Reef Road from Nichols Street to Fairfield Beach Road.

Other projects that are currently under the design phase within the department are the Commerce Drive Bridge, Wakeman Lane Bridge, Kings Highway West Bridge, Grasmere-Post neighborhood pedestrian improvements, Southport Connectivity, Perry's Green Bulkhead and Rooster River Detention Areas.

As a result of my reorganization and modernization of our Town government, we welcomed three new engineers this past year who have been extraordinarily helpful in managing the many projects underway around Town including Duck Farm Bridge, Penfield Pavilion, the WPCF, Rooster River and much more. I am proud of the necessary improvements the Engineering Department has made for our Town this year, and I look forward to the major projects that will be completed in 2023.



In 2022, the clean-up continued of the contaminated fill that was identified at over 40 locations around Town. About 75% of the sites have been cleaned with eight sites left to go, not including Penfield Pavilion and the actual fill pile itself. Those two sites are still pending varying stages of review with FEMA, DEEP and EPA.



Town Planning & Zoning (TPZ) worked on the Post Road Circle Safety Plan with the Engineering Department and Economic Development Department and was

recently recognized with an award by the CT Chapter of the American Planning Association for "Engaging with Graphics."

A collaboration amongst the **Affordable Housing**



Committee, Town Plan & Zoning, the Fairfield Senior

Advocates and **FairPlan** yielded a workshop and panel discussion in November on recent changes to the Town's zoning regulations to enable new accessory dwelling units, also known as granny flats or in-law apartments. You can watch the informational workshop here.

Updating the **Plan of Conservation and Development** sets the Town's policy "roadmap" for preservation and growth looking forward to the next decade and modernizing the format of Fairfield's Zoning Regulations is well underway thanks to ARPA funding.

The department also ascertained recertification for the Town's Community Rating System to a **Class 7 Rating** through the National Flood Insurance that provides Fairfield's flood policyholders with approximately \$400,000 worth of premium savings.

Fairfield has received another **AAA rating** from Moody's Investors Services and S&P Global Ratings, which is always great news for our taxpayers, and a tribute to the Town's fiscal responsibility.

The Town held a bond refunding sale on July 26th with a principal refunding amount of \$13,455,000. Bond refinancings or "refundings" are used by local governments most frequently to achieve debt service savings on



outstanding bonds. The Town was able to refinance bonds issued at higher rates in 2012 and 2014. I want to thank our Chief Fiscal Officer, Jared Schmitt, and the Town's Financial advisors for their efforts on behalf of Fairfield. The timing of the refunding resulted in better-than-expected savings and exceeded industry standards. The refunding allowed the Town to reduce its debt by more than \$740,000 over the 12-year refunding period.

The **Town Clerk's Office** received a \$7,500 grant from the **State Library Historic Documents Preservation Program** that was used to add several more years of land records to the existing online search database, for added convenience.

I am grateful to have a Town Clerk's Office that is dedicated to preserving the rich history of our Town and maintaining important residential and Town documents.



The **Tax Collector's Office** remains a highly professional and service-oriented department that's always responsive and helpful to taxpayers. As part of my Town modernization efforts, a reorganization was implemented that brought all aspects of the sewer use taxes into the office including billing, adjustments and the processing of payments which has provided added efficiencies and convenience for residents.

RECREATION

Under the direction of Anthony Calabrese, the **Parks & Recreation Department** has taken on more responsibility as part of the town government reorganization efforts and has expanded recreational opportunities for our community.

The Parks & Recreation Department has completed its **Master Plan** with input from the public to identify gaps in services and allow the Town to plan new additions to the department's offerings. A presentation from the consultant to assemble the plan will be given to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education and RTM on January 12th. You can view information on the Master Plan here.

The department was recently awarded the **2022 Facility of Merit Award** for H. Sm ith Richardson Golf Course Clubhouse by **Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA)**.

On top of this large accomplishment, using federal ARPA funds, the department has also completed upgrades to the Jennings Beach Concession/Lifeguard building, a beautiful new Gould Manor
Park and the replacement of **five brand new neighborhood playgrounds:**

 Dover, Highwood, Lincoln, Melvill e, Tunxis Hill

The Lake Mohegan Splash Pad has been replaced and improvements at our Town's athletic fields are



underway. In addition to a successful **Beach Bunny 5k** with over 1000 registered participants, in 2022 the department planned **36** summer concerts, hosted **340** events at the pavilions, **35** free events around Town for adults and children, and registered and hosted summer camp programs and recreation soccer & basketball for over **6,500** participants.

I was especially impressed by this year's **Winter Whimsy**, which was added to the annual tree lighting and was a big hit for residents. Our Parks & Recreation team is always looking to offer new and improved recreational opportunities for our residents to enjoy every year. I am very grateful for their dedication and commitment to Fairfield.



Winter Whimsy



Beach Bunny 5k

The activities the **Fairfield Public Library** continues to provide are a great way to get children and their families active by immersing themselves in literature that is both fun and educational.

The Library's signature annual program, *One Book, One Town*, was hugely successful and something I was grateful to be a part of. The author talk by TJ Klune

brought **375** patrons to the SHU Theater, while **131** participants enjoyed the program from the comfort of their homes.

This year, the library opened new study rooms at the Main Branch due to the high demand from our residents. These new rooms have been



reserved **6,613** times for academic or business purposes. The library also purchased upgraded furniture for the Main Library's Adult Section and the Woods Branch Teen area.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge had **2,520** participants, with community members of all ages participating. The library also saw the return of regular art shows in the Bruce Kershner Gallery, First Friday Jazz, Storytime on the Green, and the full reopening of our Children's Room. **I am proud to say all of this activity brought 274,424 visits to the library in 2022, 110% more than last year.**







Children's Corner

work with a number of organizations, including the **Aspetuck Land Trust, Sasquanaug Association**, Sustainable Fairfield, Fairfield Public Library's One Book/One Town, and more, to host an array of important and meaningful public programs and events. The Library brought back and expanded many beloved Fairfield traditions including the Fourth of July Bike Parade, the Holiday Caroling Party and

Looking back on 2022, the **Pequot Library** is proud to have continued to

Open House, and Miss Susan's Campout, to name a few.

The Town is happy to continue its critical support of the Pequot Library's commitment to the arts.

The Town is blessed to have a private/public third library for our community to enjoy.



HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded projects are underway or have been

Center for Senior Activities, including updating all bathrooms and the patio and grounds of the building. The patio and outdoor seating area enhance both the appearance of the Center and outdoor programming.



The Center's membership has grown to more than **6,200** registered members, including **550** in 2022.

We are fortunate to have a Center in Fairfield that continues to offer new programs while continuing to offer much-loved classes.

Another positive impact of the Town's reorganization efforts includes making the important positions of Senior Center Director and Social Services Coordinator full-time in July, providing continuity and increased support and services to Fairfield seniors and residents in need. Both Senior Center Director, Brenda Steele, and Social Services Coordinator, Malinda Johnson, have already made a positive impact on the community. I also want to thank our Director of Human & Social Services, Julie DeMarco, who has exceptionally led the Senior Center and Town Social Services in a positive direction.

Our **Social Services Department** has been putting in its best effort to provide residents with the assistance they need with new programs. A new, quarterly Social Services newsletter keeps Fairfield residents informed. New classes and support groups offered by Social Services staff are providing residents with learning opportunities and ongoing support. For more information email Malinda Johnson at mjohnson@fairfieldct.org or call Malinda at (203) 256-3170.





Cooking/Cookie Demo Class

Ukulele Lessons

HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES

After my budget request to reorganize our **Human Resources Department** was

denied during the budget process last year, we were able to successfully have the Board approve a transfer from surplus funds in October to bring the department to the appropriate staffing level for a town of our size. Our goal was to hire appropriate staff to professionalize the department to manage the many issues that face our town government employees every day. For years the department has been understaffed and did not have policies in place for a government our size, which ultimately has an impact on the residents we serve.

This was a top priority for me to provide a supportive work environment for our employees and also protect the Town's liability.



Our **Health Department** continued their great work in 2022 under the direction of Sands Cleary by providing free COVID-19 test kits and N95 masks at the drive-thru

with the **CERT Team** and then giving out over **10,000** kits in December at various sites in Town. The department held numerous adult and pediatric vaccination clinics throughout the year and conducted several flu clinics.







The department also facilitated the enrollment of several Ukrainian refugee students into the schools assisting with the translation of medical records.

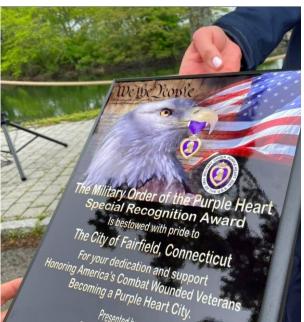
The department furthered their efforts to provide community and school-based education and guidance on COVID as well as responding to the United States outbreak of Monkey Pox this year and the recent Ebola outbreak in Africa.

VETERANS

During the Sea Memorial Day ceremony this past May, Fairfield officially received its designation as a **Purple Heart Town** and is now listed as a Town on the <u>Purple Heart Trail</u>. With its designation as a Purple Heart Town, Fairfield has become one of only **ten** communities in the State to receive the honor. Human Services has collected the names of more than **40 Purple Heart recipients** with Fairfield connections. The Wall of Honor in the Bigelow Center features photos and stories gathered from family and friends of Purple Heart recipients.

Thank you to all the Town departments and Memorial Day Committee for

providing this time-honored tradition to our Town.





CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

The **Conservation Department**, under the leadership of our new Director Tim Bishop, accomplished a great deal in 2022 working with other organizations in our community. Along with the **Shellfish Commission**, they expanded the capacity for shell recycling by creating a community drop-off site located at 265 Richard White Way.

The Town launched three more new initiatives that include a **Pumpkin Recycling Project** in conjunction with the **Sustainable Fairfield Task Force**, a **Food Waste Drop-off Program** that was launched in October and a **Single Stream Recycling**, the most viable and cost-effective way to convert waste into reusable material. The Town also began separating **glass recycling** and **food waste drop off** at the **Transfer Station**.

The Conservation Department, in collaboration with the **Land Acquisition Commission**, created an inventory of strategic properties to pursue adding to existing open space.

Five Eagle Scout candidates assisted the department with boardwalk replacement and other improvements for their projects on Town open spaces.

In a historic joint effort between the City of Bridgeport and the **Ash Creek**

Conservation Association, the department successfully established **42,000** plugs of beach grass on the Ash Creek sand spit, which stabilizes the sand spit and reduces erosion.



Through generous donations to

the **Tucker Fund**, the Conservation Department completed the bird observation blind at the trail terminus on Oldfield Road's North Marsh for bird lovers from in and out of Town to relax and enjoy the sounds and sights of nature.





Bird Observation Blind

Conservation Accomplishments

I am also excited about our Conservation Director's new initiative to <u>obtain goats or sheep</u> to help control invasive plants on Hoydens Hill. The animals will graze on about 8 acres of fields to help reduce mugwort, instead of using chemicals. I appreciate this type of creative thinking and problem-solving and look forward to implementing this program in 2023.

There has also been a tremendous increase in **solar installs and electric vehicle (EV) chargers**, including at Town Hall, ushered through by our permitting departments. To find your nearest electric vehicle charging station, please click <u>here</u>.

Fairfield was recently honored as Municipality of the Year for having the largest network of EV charging stations in Fairfield County, receiving a 2022 Fleet and EV Readiness Award from the CT Southwestern Area Clean Cities Coalition.

The **WPCF** continued its commitment to removing Nitrogen from the water we discharge into Long Island Sound, by being under the limit set forth by DEEP. The Town received a check for \$44,247 for our efforts.

It has been my honor to serve as First Selectwoman of my hometown for the last three years and work with the professional employees in our town government. While we have implemented many changes, I know we still have a lot of work to do. I have sincerely appreciated the support and feedback from our residents over the last year, and I want to wish you and your families a Happy & Healthy 2023!

Brenda L. Kupchick

To read the 2021 year in review, click here.

IMPORTANT INTERIM INFORMATION

UI RAILROAD TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING

WHO: Property owners, businesses, and residents south of the MNR from Sasco Brook to Ash Creek.

WHAT: UI Public Informational Meeting - Railroad Transmission Line Rebuild Project

WHERE: Fairfield Public Library, Rotary Room, 2nd Floor, 1080 Post Road, Fairfield.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (Inclement weather date -

January 18th – same time and location).

The United Illuminating Company (UI) is proposing to remove UI's existing 115-kV lines and infrastructure from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) railroad catenary structures that span the Metro North (MNR) tracks in both Fairfield and Bridgeport. Along approximately 7.3 miles of the MNR tracks, the 115-kV lines will be removed from about 100 catenary structures and rebuilt on single or double-circuit monopoles, which will be located within or near the CT DOT-owned railroad corridor.

In Fairfield, the new monopoles will be located south of the MNR tracks; in Bridgeport, the new monopoles will be positioned north or south of the tracks, depending on location relative to the existing built environment or alignment into UI facilities. The Project will also provide an upgrade to connections at four UI substations, all located in Bridgeport. These transmission line upgrades will help maintain system reliability, promote climate resiliency, preserve safety within and

adjacent to the transmission lines and provide technological enhancements to legacy system equipment. The Public and all interested parties are invited to attend to ask questions or comment on the proposed Project. For more information, please <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.

Utility rates have significantly gone UP as of Jan 1st 2023!!!!



Learn about how HeatSmart will help you cut your energy costs while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions!

HEATSMART info session: THIS Monday, January 9, 6:30 pm, at the Fairfield Woods Branch Library, 1147 Fairfield Woods Road.



Last year, Ruscito's Trees was able to raise over \$1000 for Operation Hope picking up residents' Christmas Trees and dropping them off to WeCare Denali for mulch compost and topsoil. This year Ruscito's Trees is offering to collect **Non-Perishable food items** with your tree pick-up. Tree pick-up will be available through **January 16**th.

For more information, call or text (203) 767-1582, or email Paul@Ruscitoresolutions.com.



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