

Town of Fairfield News

4/1/2022 - 4.1 TOWN UPDATE



Dear Fairfielders,

Very early this morning, the Board of Finance (BOF) voted on my [proposed budget](#) that passed the Board of Selectmen. The BOF made reductions and additions that are unprecedented.

In February, the Board of Education (BOE) presented me with a requested [\\$10.4 million increase](#) or 5.42% in this year's budget. This increase, as a percent, is higher than Bridgeport, Stamford, West Hartford, Greenwich, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport, Darien, Wilton and New Canaan.

I reduced the Board of Education requested increase by \$2.5 million leaving a nearly eight million dollar increase over this year's BOE budget.

Last night, the newly elected majority on the BOF voted to restore the entire \$2.5 million to the Board of Education, fully funding the \$10.4 million dollar increase without cutting one penny in a budget that represents over 66% of the Town's total budget.

You can watch my comments on this motion [here](#).

It's important to note that during the budget process last year, I reduced the BOE requested increase by \$2 million, which the former BOF upheld, and the BOE finished the fiscal year with a \$200,000 surplus.

I advocated for more funds to go toward classrooms and less towards administration

costs when I served on the BOE. I can understand and appreciate the desire to restore the BOE funding.

However, in all my years of service to our Town I have never witnessed a BOE budget fly threw without a single change. I reduced the requested 10 million dollar increase from a 202 million dollar budget because I have real concerns about increasing expenses for our residents as basic commodities costs continue to rise, and inflation is at record highs.

Our Town also has many residents still recovering from the financial impact of COVID and last year's revaluation. I believe my budget was mindful of those economic concerns while providing a budget that maintains services for all our residents, young and old.

In order to soften the impact of restoring the BOE funding, the majority of the Board of Finance then went on to cut \$1.9 million in key operational expenses for the Town, some of which I believe are reckless, detrimental to taxpayers and the services our government provides. They delayed items to out years, and they pushed items to the Town's credit card. In addition to those cuts, they added additional spending in the general fund, which ignores requests made by my administration to properly service the Town.

In a vote that was not explained and made no sense to me, the BOF cut \$118,000 out of the Human Resources Department, which services 500 employees, 175 seasonal, 150 part timers, 500 retired employees and 650 Board of Education for pension administration and exempt employees. They handle labor relations, personnel administration, employee benefits, staff services, pension administration and risk management.

My reorganization plan for this department included an Assistant HR Director (which would absorb the responsibilities of the eliminated Risk Manager), a full time HR Generalist (currently part time), and a new part-time diversity recruitment coordinator to help expand the Town's recruitment efforts.

This would mean 5.5 employees for a department to service over 1,975 current or past employees. This cut is an incredible disservice to our employees and is a small amount in a \$345 million budget. Four full time employees is simply not enough to effectively run this department.

I am incredibly disappointed after a very sincere request, [you can watch here](#),

that five members of the new majority of the Board of Finance cut a position without making the effort to visit the department, speak to the Director and staff, or provide an explanation. Because the Town needs staffing levels just to handle daily operations of the department, the arbitrary cut will not allow the Town to hire the diversity recruitment coordinator or move our generalist to full time. Recruitment efforts are a real challenge in this economy and this cut will only make it harder.

In what I believe is irresponsible, the Board of Finance also eliminated the annual appropriation to the Risk Management fund of \$850,000, completely zeroing the line out. The annual contribution, which has never been eliminated before, handles workers comp claims, general liability and medical claims. The amount contributed to this fund each year is determined by an analysis of outstanding cases between the Town Attorney and the Finance Department, who expressed great concern about this cut. A lesser reduction was suggested by the CFO but ignored.

The Board also cut the Town's \$350,000 contingency fund that is for emergencies. One bad weather event could create catastrophic issues for our Town. This cut speaks for itself.

I have tried my best to keep residents informed of the budget process throughout the last month through this newsletter and the Town [budget website](#).

We have spent two years closely reviewing department operations, reorganizing, and creating efficiencies to better meet the needs of our Town. My term started on the heels of a massive public corruption scandal and mismanagement of our Town on a level we still have not fully realized - we do not know the total costs related to the fill pile and Penfield Pavilion, but it will be in the tens of millions of dollars, and court cases and felony charges are still pending. In my first two months as your elected leader, I had to terminate critical department heads of their jobs who are now facing criminal charges, manage the Town while building my first budget, and navigating the onset of a pandemic.

I am a third generation Fairfielder. I hope I have proven to you my commitment to this community and dedication to improving the services to our residents. I served on the Board of Education for 6 years, on the RTM for two terms and as State Representative for 9 years. I have a unique understanding and a proven commitment to both the Town and School operations.

I am transparent; I communicate regularly, and am not afraid to fight for change when I think it's to the benefit of our residents, businesses and employees. I believe I have

earned some credibility in deciding what the Town's needs are.

We worked hard to keep the budget increases to 0% in my first year when the pandemic hit, .78% in 2022, when we had to make up some cliffs made in year one, and my budget proposal now which was .98% this year, less than 1%.

After the Board of Finance actions, the mill rate will increase from .98% to 1.29%, with an assumed increase to the tax collection rate, that has not yet been voted on by the BOF.

This revised budget will now go before the RTM, which can decrease but not increase the budget. I will never stop fighting for the best interests of our community and for reforms I believe are important for Fairfield's future. Other boards have every right to disagree, but I will certainly speak up so our residents know exactly what I think is needed and what I stand for.

OTHER TOWN GOVERNMENT NEWS

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission convened again on March 24th for a presentation of the Governance Model made by Attorney Steven Mednick. Their discussion focused on the possibility of eliminating the Board of Selectmen and possibly moving to a 9 District RTM with less members. The Commission also discussed the importance of minority representation. You can watch the full discussion [here](#) and reference the baseline document [here](#). The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, April 4th.

I highly encourage our residents to participate in this critical process. I find the discussion of our Town's governing document to be fascinating, and if you would like to catch up on the Commission's prior discussions of our [Town Charter](#), you can view them [here](#). To exemplify the important impact the Charter Revision Commission has on Fairfield, you can read Josh LaBella's article in the [Fairfield Citizen](#).

REDISTRICTING UPDATE

The purpose of voter redistricting is to establish and maintain voting districts that are faithful to the principle of one-person, one-vote. In Connecticut, responsibility for re-drawing legislative and congressional district lines generally rests with the General

Assembly. Federal law requires voting districts to have equal populations so that everyone's vote has equal importance. State law requires that Congressional and legislative district lines be re-drawn every 10 years. The districts must be based on the federal census and consistent with federal constitutional standards. In 2021, and in accordance with Federal law, new legislative and congressional district lines were re-drawn.

What does this mean for you as a voter in the 2022 elections? In Fairfield, we reside in the 4th Congressional District (US Representative) and the 28th State Senate District. However, there were changes to the boundary lines for the 132nd, 133rd, and 134th State House lines. This means that your State Representative district may have changed to check which State Representative district you are in, please click [here](#).

By the Town Charter: After completion of the census of the United States and after any reapportionment of the State General Assembly Districts affecting the Town, voting districts of the Town shall be established by an ordinance proposed by a committee of the RTM. The committee shall be composed of an equal number of members from each party. The redistricting ordinance adopted by the RTM shall provide for an equal number of members from each district, and to the extent practicable within the constraints of this Charter and State General Assembly redistricting, shall provide for districts that are in only one State General Assembly District.

The Fairfield RTM representation will remain the same this November. However, for the 2023 elections, the RTM must begin the process of adopting new boundaries. That work is currently being done by the RTM redistricting committee, which consists of 4 RTM members, 2 from each party. The committee will then make a recommendation to the full RTM. The RTM has until early to mid-2023 to adopt a final map for use in the next municipal election.

As you know, the Charter Review Commission is also meeting and is having discussions about Town governance and the possibility of a geographic map with 9 districts instead of our current 10 districts. This would allow for an odd number of members and avoid a "tie" situation between political parties. Creating an odd number of members on the RTM would also make them more consistent with other boards and commissions, which all operate as odd member boards.

At the most recent RTM Redistricting Meeting, held on March 22nd, the Committee adjourned the meeting without acting on a map. Representatives Iacono

(R-8) and McCormack (R-2) voiced their opinion that the committee should first hear from voters in November before a new map is adopted. They feel it is least disruptive to voters to change polling locations potentially twice. Representatives Schwartz (D-2) and Wackerman (D-7) disagreed and preferred to adopt a map immediately, change polling locations now, and also possibly change them again in November if necessary, as a result of Charter Reform.

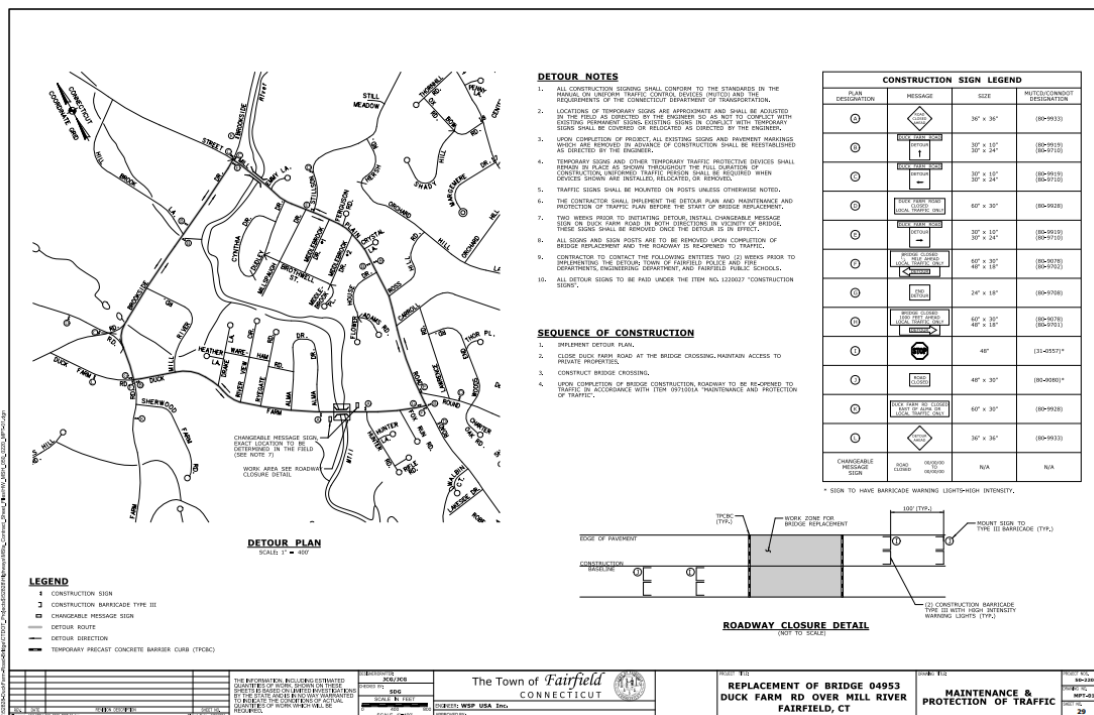
You can watch the full meeting [here](#).

DUCK FARM ROAD BRIDGE DEMOLITION & RECONSTRUCTION

The Town's Engineering Department held a pre-construction meeting with consultants, the state, and the contractor on March 31st to go over the plans for the Duck Farm Road Bridge reconstruction project, which will begin next month. The Contractor's "notice to proceed" begins on April 1st for minor project setup and ordering materials. The contractor anticipates closing the road on or about April 18, 2022, and lasting through the construction season around the first week of December 2022. Please know there is always a possibility with large projects like these to experience delays, especially with some of the supply chain issues and extreme weather.

Detours will be designated as illustrated in the approved plan. The main detour will utilize Brookside and Mill Plain Road. However, the Town will install additional signs well before the bridge to alert traffic to take alternate routes and avoid the area, if possible. The Fairfield Police Traffic Unit will monitor potential issues.

In November, the Board of Selectmen [approved the project](#), and the Town has since been going through the permitting process with the State. The proposed detour map is listed below. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (203) 256-3015. Please click on the image to view it larger.



FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

I was proud to stand with and acknowledge the [Fairfield Police Department](#) and [State Representative Laura Devlin](#) for spearheading the collection of previously used body armor from Fairfield County Police Departments to donate to Ukrainian defenders to assist them with protecting themselves throughout the Russian invasion of their country.

The body armor is just one of many items that have been specifically requested by Ukrainian aid groups and will provide vital protection for defense units that are defending their homeland. The collected body armor will be donated and shipped to the [Ukrainian American Coordinating Council](#) (UACC), which has been vetted by the U.S. government as an appropriate donation point for Ukraine.



The UACC is coordinating efforts to help civilian Ukrainians bravely fight for their independence and freedom through obtaining and reallocating regulated, military-grade items for personal defense. Once collected, the UACC will distribute items to Ukrainian citizens. Fairfield stands with the Ukrainian people as they fight for their

freedom. If you want to read more about Fairfield County's Police Department's efforts to help Ukraine, please click [here](#).



SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Wednesday night's event in support of relief for Ukraine was sold out with over 350 attendees. All items were donated, including the use of Penfield Pavilion, so 100% of ticket sales proceeds, auctions and raffle will go to Ukrainian charities. I'm sorry to have missed the event due to a death in the family, but I want to commend the residents who put this event together and all the local businesses who stepped up to help out. For residents who didn't get a chance to attend, all further proceeds donated to [Al's Angels](#) will go towards Ukrainian relief.



FAIRFIELD POLICE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK (FPBHN) LAUNCHES

This collaborative effort will be driven by Field Services Bureau Captain Edward Weihe, Crisis Intervention/Patrol Sergeant Jason Kline, and Crisis Intervention/Patrol Officer Lance Newkirchen, in partnership with representatives from the following agencies:

- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center (GBCMHC)
- Child and Family Guidance Center (CFGC)
- Mobil Crisis Intervention Services (MCIS)
- Operation Hope
- Fairfield Senior/Social Services

The collaborative will meet quarterly to discuss trending issues, current best practices, available joint-training opportunities, debrief on shared investigations, and to continually evaluate how they can better serve their communities, and each other, when responding to incidents involving behavioral health.

Fairfield residents with questions about the program or inquiries regarding services and resources are encouraged to reach out by emailing FPBHN@fairfieldct.org.

OFFICER PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

Congratulations to Officer Nicole Gerosa, who was promoted to the rank of Detective early last week! I had the privilege of administering the Oath of Office during her

promotional ceremony, and Detective Gerosa was supported by many of her fellow Police Officers, who came to witness her promotion.

Detective Gerosa has served on the Fairfield Police Department for nine years since she transferred over from the Guilford Police Department in 2013, where she served as an Officer for three years. She formerly served on Fairfield's Investigative and Patrol Divisions. Detective Gerosa was recently assigned the important role of Accreditation Manager in the Professional Standards Division. I wish Detective Gerosa the best as she enters a new chapter in her career and thank her for her dedicated service to the Town of Fairfield.



WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Journal of the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) featured a three-page article on the recent project to further protect Fairfield's Waste Water Treatment Plant from future storms. After the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012, the Town had no choice but to utilize emergency funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Connecticut Department of Housing. The funds were used to develop a flood control structure and pump station to protect the Town's wastewater treatment plant, as well as other important Town structures. I want to extend a well deserved thanks to Laura Pulie for her work on this project. If you are interested in reading the full article, please click [here](#).

OUTDOOR DINING EXTENDED

I was very happy that [HB 5271](#), "An Act Concerning the Provision of Outdoor Food & Beverage Services and Outdoor Display of Goods," was passed in the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Residents have come to enjoy expanded outdoor dining, and we want to support our restaurants, which have found outdoor dining to be critical to their survival throughout the pandemic. Residents across Connecticut will be able to enjoy the perks of outdoor dining for another season. You can read Fairfield's Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart's testimony in support [here](#). You can read more about it in the [CT Post](#). I know our residents will join me in looking forward to another season of dining outdoors.

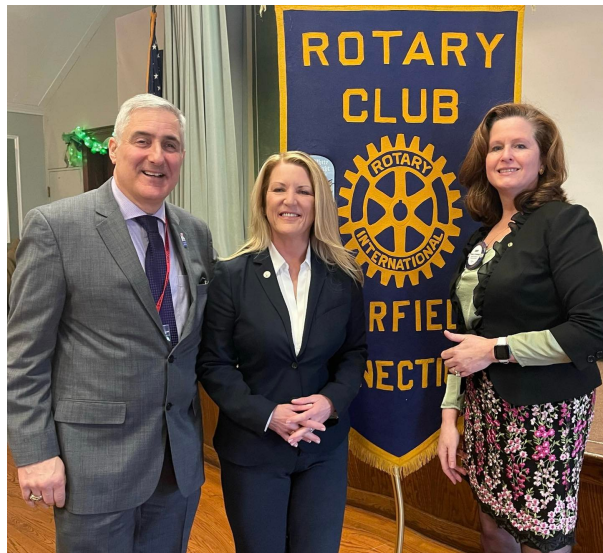
COMMUNITY NEWS

FAIRFIELD ROTARY CLUB

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of being invited to share a Town update with the [Fairfield Rotary Club](#).

The Fairfield Rotarian's focus is to encourage and foster the ideal of Service Above Self. They seek to make our communities, and our world, a better place by being people of action.

You can learn more about all the good work Fairfield's Rotarians do by visiting the following link <https://fairfieldrotary.org>.



WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN DAY

Sacred Heart University and Delta Tau Delta are committed to hosting an annual [White Ribbon Campaign](#) event for men to have the opportunity to sign a pledge to not abuse females in any shape or form and to end violence against females.

The White Ribbon Campaign's mission is to end violence against women by engaging men in the process of personal, relational, and social change. The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls. Domestic and sexual violence is not just a woman's issue. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Deputy Police Chief Keith Broderick issued a proclamation on my behalf, along with the Center of Family Justice, to Sacred Heart University and Delta Tau Delta, for being part of the solution to end violence against women.



From left to right: Zach Bortko '22 (Co-Host, Past Philanthropy Chair), Joseph DeSimone '23 (Co-Host & Current Philanthropy Chair), Deputy Police Chief Keith Broderick and Gino Catterino '23 (President of DTD Fraternity).

Photo Credit: Tracy Deer-Mirek, SHU's Associate Director of Visual Communications & Marketing

GIRL SCOUT TROOP VISIT | GOVERNMENT BADGE

On March 22nd, [Rodger Ludlowe Middle School](#) 6th grade Girl Scout Troop 30283 visited me to earn their Government Badge. I had an informative discussion about Town Government with the Troop, where they asked lots of questions about what it is like to be the First Selectwoman.

The Troop Leaders have successfully created a space where the girls

enjoy immersing themselves in learning. The girls recently earned their Bronze Award by creating a Peaceful Garden at Riverfield Elementary, and they sing carols to residents with Alzheimer's at local rehab facilities.



I was really impressed with how dedicated these young women are to making a difference in our community. Meeting with Fairfield students always brightens my day and starts the week off right!



FAIRFIELD WARDE Q&A

Last Monday, I was invited to [Fairfield Warde High School](#) to visit students for a Q&A on my responsibilities as First Selectwoman of Fairfield and Town Governance. I joined Mr. Flynn's civics class, where we had a lively discussion that consisted of thoughtful questions. It's always a good week when I get to spend time with Fairfield's students. Kudos to Fairfield parents and our schools; we have some really smart and great kids!



FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

Yesterday, Ludlowe High School's Cheerleaders visited me following their big win during the New England Championship. They impressively put together a routine in only two weeks to get ready for their league competition, FCIACs. They won the program's third State Championship, which is how they qualified for the New England Championships, where they competed against the top three teams in the New England region. The team was 1st Runner-Up in the Coed Division, and their score was top six out of all of the teams competing.

I am very proud of all their team has accomplished, especially with COVID cutting their last seasons short. They have proven to be resilient and are lucky to have dedicated coaches to guide them through these challenges. To train a routine in just two weeks and win a title is no small feat and shows the love and dedication the team has for the sport. Congratulations and well done!



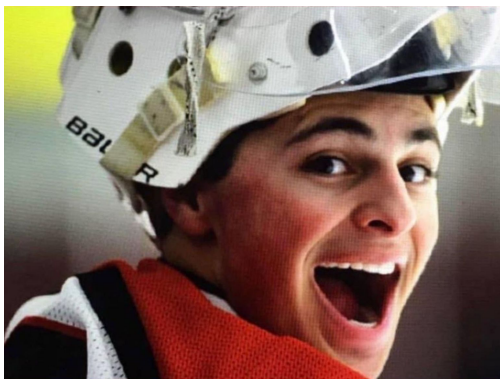
TEAM TEDDY



It was so good to be back together with our community after a two-year COVID pause supporting Team Teddy. The Gerber Family are personal heroes of mine and I know for many residents too. When Teddy lost his battle to cancer, his parents Jessica, Bill, and his siblings, John and Gillian, turned their pain into action working to make a difference for families just like theirs. They are a Fairfield Family, they are us. I hope you'll join me in making a difference in the life of a child with cancer. Although the Team Teddy event was last Friday, you can still make contributions toward the fight against childhood cancer through the [St. Baldrick's Foundation](#).



CAPALBO STRONG



The Capalbo Strong Fashion Show will take place on April 4th at The Brick Walk, and will begin promptly at 5:00 PM. I encourage you to attend in support of Charlie and his family or visit Charlie's [GoFundMe](#), which was created in 2017 to help cover the expenses as Charlie courageously undergoes his fourth round of chemotherapy.

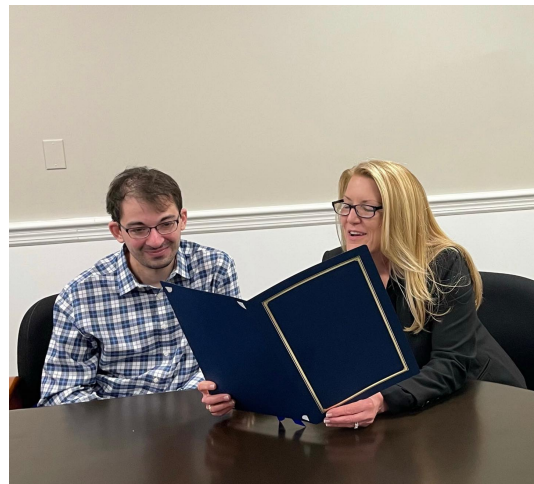
CORY METZ DAY

I had the pleasure of meeting Cory Metz last week, an impressive and inspirational young man. Doctors discovered a tumor on his spinal cord in middle school and Cory has experienced extreme health challenges ever since. The surgery to remove the tumor left him paralyzed, and although he was eventually able to gain movement

back in his legs, he is physically disabled. Just four years later, a tumor was found in Cory's brain and he was put on life support. It's remarkable the journey Cory has undertaken and the strength he shows today.

Cory's wish to take a trip to the MLB All-Star Game in St. Louis was granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation in 2009, where he met his favorite player, David Wright. Cory has gone from a Make-A-Wish recipient to a dedicated and invaluable Make-A-Wish volunteer, helping grant wishes to others for the past seven years. It's impressive how he has used his struggles to give back to other kids and teens who have been through or are going through what he's experienced.

Cory is also the author of [*More Than a Wish: My Life and Stories from the Make-A-Wish Foundation*](#). All book sales go directly to [Make-A-Wish Connecticut](#). What makes Cory especially amazing is he didn't let his hardship defeat his spirit of kindness and turned it into something positive. Meeting Cory and his family touched my heart because my family experienced a life-changing health issue with our own child. I was honored to meet Cory, and proclaim March 24, 2022, as Cory Metz Day.



FAIRFIELD BUSINESSES

This week we celebrated the grand-openings of Bonkers Cupcakes located at [1618 Post Road](#), and Post Oak Barbecue Co., located at [93 Post Road](#). We also had the privilege to celebrate Intrigue Hair Salon's grand re-opening 20th anniversary ([1275 Post Rd](#)), as well as the 5 year anniversary of Olive My Stuff ([39 Sanford Street](#)). I proudly welcome Bonkers Cupcakes and Post Oak Barbecue Co. to our community, and congratulate Intrigue Hair Salon and Olive My Stuff for their success and their contributions to our community. I hope you all join me in supporting these local businesses.



Photos by Mike Lauterborn of Fairfield Hamlet Hub.

TOMLINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE | ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

On March 19th, the Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind (OM) State Tournament took place at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). Tomlinson Middle School had one team participate in this year's competition, and they won 1st place in their division! The team, headed by coach **Karen Anahory**, was in Division 2 which is for grades 6–8. Eighth-grade team members **Jack Anahory**, **Vaden Thakkar**, **Anshul Sinha**, **Anshika Sinha**, **Henry Quinn**, **Carlo Desy**, and **Eram Alaba**, tackled problem 3: Classics (Name Here): The Musical Production.

The team will be headed to the World Finals at Iowa State University this May. 850 teams from all over the world will be competing, and students and coaches will be representing Tomlinson Middle School, and Fairfield, CT, at the competition.

If you would like to donate in support of the Tomlinson Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Team to directly help them participate in this opportunity, you can click [here](#). For more information about Odyssey of the Mind, please visit <https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/>.

FAIRFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES PARTNERS WITH SACRED HEART

Ron Piccolo, Chair of the Commission on disAbilities and Julie DeMarco, Human Services Director, are pleased to announce a partnership with graduate students in the Occupational Therapy Program at Sacred Heart University. The Masters-level students are conducting a Town-wide needs assessment of services in Fairfield for adults with disabilities ages 18 and older.

“Through our partnership with Sacred Heart University, we will gather valuable data and insight into the needs of our disabled citizens,” said Mr. Piccolo. “Understanding these needs will guide the Commission to focus on topics that will deliver lasting benefits to those with disabilities and change the dialogue on what we can do to be a more inclusive community.”

To take the survey, please go to: [Fairfield Commission on disAbilities \(google.com\)](https://www.fairfieldct.org/disabilities). It will be available on SurveyMonkey through April 19th. The survey requires approximately 10 minutes to complete. All input from residents will remain confidential and will help the Committee set priorities for future work and is vital to achieving our mission.

For more information about the Commission on disAbilities go to its webpage: [Fairfield Commission on disAbilities - Town of Fairfield, Connecticut \(fairfieldct.org\)](https://www.fairfieldct.org/disabilities). Information about town services and programs available for people with disabilities is available by calling the Fairfield Department of Human and Social Services at (203) 256-3170; and on its website (<https://www.fairfieldct.org/humanservices>); or by email at socialservices@fairfieldct.org.

We continue to keep Ukraine in our thoughts and prayers since Russia invaded on February 24.

I hope you will take the time to view the information below, which includes new information and resources. Have a nice weekend.



Brenda L. Kupchick
Fairfield First Selectwoman

COVID-19 UPDATE

The [CDC](#) has changed from community transmission indicators to a community indicator based on hospitalization data. CT is currently rated as "low," as is [Fairfield County](#). We don't have word yet on how CT DPH will change their protocols, but I do believe this is a much better tool in assessing the real impact of COVID in our community at this point in the pandemic.

For vaccination locations, there are [numerous sites](#) available in Fairfield and nearby as well as [daily walk-in clinics](#) in many Towns.

There are [10 COVID testing](#) sites in Fairfield under contract to offer no-cost testing to CT residents.

Fairfield's Positivity Rate: [7.7%](#)

Fairfield County Hospitalizations: [18](#)

Vaccine First Dose: [84.27%](#)

FAIRFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACCINE CLINIC

The Health Department will be hosting a Moderna (18+) COVID-19 Booster clinic on: Tuesday, April 5th from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Appointments are Required and made through the [CDC Vams Website](#). Located at the Public Health Nursing Office at [100 Mona Terrace](#). The white portable behind the senior center. Individuals are eligible for a 2nd booster if it has been at least 4 months after completing their last COVID-19 vaccination.

FAIRFIELD COVID RESOURCE PAGE

APRIL UPDATES

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

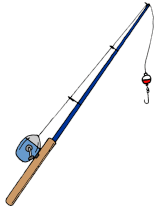
Learn how to compost alongside **Master Composters Mary Hogue** and **Dan Martens** from **Sustainable Fairfield**. They will demonstrate the best ways for you to successfully recycle food scraps in your backyard, leaving you with a rich compost that helps to return valuable nutrients to the soil and improve the quality of your garden and lawn. Compost



is a natural fertilizer that will improve soil aeration, control weeds and reduce the need to water.

The event will be held on Monday, April 4th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the **Caroline Platt Walsh Community Room at the Fairfield Public Library, [1080 Old Post Road](#)**. Register [here](#) for free.

FRESH WATER FISHING SEASON



Fishing licenses are available for sale online as opening day approaches on April 9th. Register [here](#) or at the **Town Clerk's Office**.

The PAL Trout Fishing Derby is Saturday, April 16th from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM at Mill River – Riverside Park (Mill Plain Road @ Brookside Drive). Rain or Shine & **FREE** for any **girl** or **boy** ages 3 to 15 years old. Each participant must bring a fishing pole and tackle, but a limited amount of bait will be provided by Black Rock Bait & Tackle. Prizes will be awarded in several categories. All CT DEP regulations will be enforced.

Shred Fest 2022

Fairfield Rotary Club Day of Service



April 9th 9 am - 1 pm

St. Pius X Parish Parking Lot
834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield, CT

Clear out your old, unwanted papers and confidential documents - safely and securely. Shredded onsite. Pull up, pop the trunk, we unload it, then off you go. Quick and easy - \$10/box; \$15/lg. box.

Proceeds support:

Student scholarships, veteran organizations, senior programs and activities, community non-profits, and international humanitarian projects.



Visit us at:
FairfieldRotary.org



Friends of the Fairfield Public Library

MINI-GOLF

At the Fairfield Public Library

Sunday, April 10th, 10:00am-3:00pm

All ages mini-golf, raffle baskets, and fun!

\$5.00 per person/\$20 per family

All proceeds to benefit the Fairfield Public Library

Participants age 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult

Fairfield Public Library, 1080 Old Post Road
www.fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/friends.htm





COMMUNITY SAILING

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 at the Fairfield Recreation Center, [75 Mill Plain Road](#).

**The safety seminars are set for
Tuesdays, April 19th, April 26th and
May 3rd
at 7 PM.**

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, according to Robert Claiborne of Fairfield, the President of CSF.

Because of CSF's commitment to safety, all returning and prospective members are expected to attend the seminars to refresh their skills for the season ahead that starts in mid-May. The seminars cover safe sailing procedures, boat operation, local navigation and club rules and regulations. The first seminar will also focus on kayaking.

Claiborne stated CSF will be accepting new members in 2022 after May 15th in order to prioritize existing and former members who want to rejoin. Applications and other details are available at the club's website for new people interested in joining.

For more information visit www.communitysailingfairfield.com

COMMUNITY CLASSES

Community classes are to be held at the Fairfield Regional Fire School, [205 Richard White Way](#). If you have questions regarding any of these courses, please contact (203) 254-4708, or email frfs@fairfieldct.org.

[Heartsaver Layperson CPR/AED Certification](#)

Thursday Evening, April 21st
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
\$50 per student



EARTH DAY PRESENTATION: SUSTAINABILITY & COMPOSTING

Join Master Composters Mary Hogue and Dan Martens from Sustainable Fairfield and learn how to compost by successfully recycling food scraps



in your backyard on Friday, April 22nd 10:00 – 11:00 AM! Composting helps return valuable nutrients to the soil and improves the quality of your garden and lawn by improving soil aeration, controlling weeds, and reducing the need to water.

Lunch catered by Herbaceous Catering can be pre-ordered for \$20, upon

registration. Beverages included. This event is held in conjunction with the [Pequot Library Climate Summit 2022](#). Register for Free Compost Workshop [here](#).



SUSTAINABLE FAIRFIELD

COMMUNITY WIDE **FREE** MATTRESS RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENT!

When:
Saturday, April 23th
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Where:
Veteran's Park
909 Reef Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS ONLY



ByeByeMattress.com

PLEASE CLICK ABOVE IMAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

SHOP & STROLL INTO SPRING RETURNS

The Community Economic & Development Office is excited to announce that the Town of Fairfield and the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce will host the annual “**Shop and Stroll into Spring**” event on **Thursday, April 28, 2022.**

Participating shops in downtown Fairfield will open at their regular times with extended hours through 9pm offering patrons a time to browse, enjoy light refreshments and to shop local with a variety of in-store promotions to kick-off the spring season as well as shop early for graduation and Mother’s Day gifts!

As a part of this year’s event, funds will be raised for the [Fairfield Foundation for Education](#). There will be a pre-event, which will take place at J.B. Percival on Thursday, April 28th beginning at 5 PM. All are invited to attend, but those who purchase a ticket will receive a special event wine glass, wine holder, and a complimentary glass of wine, generously donated by Amy O’Shea, owner of J.B. Percival Co. Those who purchase a ticket will also be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$25.00 Love Local Community eGift Card; there will be four chances to win! Additionally, there will also be a variety of silent auction baskets to bid on as well with all proceeds benefitting the Fairfield Foundation for Education. For more information, please visit experiencefairfieldct.org/springstroll.

The Town of Fairfield wishes to thank Massage Envy and Fairfield Moms for their support of this year’s event. If your business or organization wishes to be a sponsor or learn more about the event, please contact the Town of Fairfield Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart via email at mbarnhart@fairfieldct.org or by phone at (203) 256-3120.

The Fairfield Foundation for Education is a 501 (c) (3) organization that awards grants to teachers in the Fairfield Public Schools to enhance and enrich the curriculum and engage students in developing skills needed for critical thinking and creative problem solving.

CAREERS IN THE TRADES & PUBLIC SAFETY



**WAKEMAN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

Thursday, April 28th, Fairfield Warde and Ludlowe High Schools, along with the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, are hosting their first "Careers in the Trades and Public Safety Expo." The event will take place from 7 PM – 8 PM at the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, [386 Center Street in Southport](#), where students from grades 8 – 12 are invited to attend. This expo will be a tremendous opportunity to share information about your company,

industry, and educate students on different career paths.

Space will be limited, so reserve your spot today! Please contact Alice Gorman at agorman@fairfieldschools.org.

HEALTHY KIDS DAY / FAIRFIELD'S EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Join Families and Children of All Ages to Celebrate Earth Day and get our kids moving, learning and creating healthy habits. Plant and seed giveaways, compost, invasive plant & pest, pollinator pathway information as well as energy efficiency, EV display, Fire Safety trailer, hands-on science activities for the kids and so much more! FREE! No registration required.



The event will be held Saturday, April 30th 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the **Fairfield YMCA**, [841 Old Post Road](#).

FAIRFIELD ROTARY'S ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



It's time to hit the links... The Fairfield Rotary Club announces its 34th Annual **Golf Tournament at Brooklawn Country Club on May 16th**.

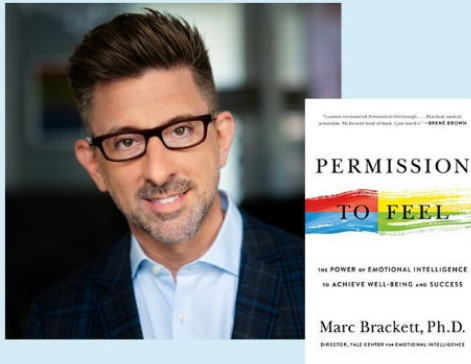
Information about Sponsorship, Team sign-up, and Individual sign-ups can be found on the Fairfield Rotary website www.fairfieldrotary.org under 34th Annual Golf Tournament. All prices include greens fees, cart, lunch on the course and heavy appetizers after golf. **To Register** – go to www.fairfieldrotary.org and look for the Annual Golf Tournament, for details.

Events like this one help to provide grants and scholarships as well as support for humanitarian projects locally and around the world. So, please consider supporting this excellent cause by joining our golf outing this year.

For more information contact: Bill Llewellyn at (203) 400-3111 or at bill@universalprinting4u.com

Fairfield CARES Annual Community Event Featuring
Marc Brackett, Ph. D.
Founder & Director, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

"The Power of Emotional Intelligence"



In Person, Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7 p.m.
RLMS Auditorium, 689 Unquowa Rd, Fairfield, CT



FAIRFIELD POLICE SUNSET 5K



The 4th Annual Fairfield Police Sunset 5k – Presented by MONECO Advisors, is scheduled for July 20th at 6:00 PM. This Town favorite and family friendly event will be held at picturesque Penfield Beach, followed by a food truck rodeo. Come run, walk or just cheer on the crowd, all are welcome! Proceeds from the race will benefit

the Fairfield Police Union Scholarship Fund & The Fairfield Police Foundation. For more information, to sign up or consider sponsorship, please click [here](#).

TOWN SERVICES

PURCHASE YOUR 2022 GOLF ID

RENEW YOUR 2022 BEACH/TRANSFER STATION STICKER

BIGELOW CENTER FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Fairfield senior center's mission is to provide services and programs for older adults that promote well being, support independence, and encourage involvement in community life. To become more involved with local activities and stay informed on news surrounding the Senior Center, you can view their [Newsletter](#).



SOCIAL SERVICES

The hardest part of getting help is reaching out. 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 or to schedule an appointment.

For more additional information and resources, social services offers a comprehensive newsletter with various programs addressing career development, service members, and housing [here](#).

GLASS RECYCLING

The Town of Fairfield Transfer Station has added a **GLASS ONLY** collection bin along with our mixed recycling bins. I hope residents will take advantage of this opportunity which will help save the Town money in recycling costs – but also will help our efforts to be a more environmentally conscious community. We would like to encourage residents to separate their glass containers and drop them off at

the **Transfer Station**. As always, recycling is at no charge to residents with a valid beach sticker. You can read more information [here](#).

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Both branches of Fairfield Public Library are open the following hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM.



Easter holiday hours: Both branches of the Library will close at 5:00 PM on Thursday, April 14th (Main Library will remain open from 5:30 – 7:30 PM for the Kershner Gallery reception *only*). Both libraries will be closed on Friday, April 15th and Sunday, April 17th.

April 3 – 9 is National Library Week! This year's theme is "Connect with Your Library" and we invite our community to show its support for Fairfield Public Library by visiting us in person or online, following us on social media [@fairfieldpubliclibrary](#) and using the hashtag **#National LibraryWeek**. We are also participating in the **"Passport to Libraries" program: stop by anytime in April to get a passport, get it stamped, and receive a small gift.** Anyone who visits at least five CT libraries during the month of April will be eligible for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card!

Town Librarian Scott Jarzombek will be available to talk with patrons individually on Tuesday, April 12th, from 1:00 – 6:00 PM at Fairfield Woods Branch Library, as part of a monthly series of Community Office Hours. Please stop by and share your observations.

Other April events:

- **April 1st, 3:15 – 4:45 PM – First Friday Jazz** with Mark Edinberg (Main Library)
- **April 7th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM – Best Selling Author Event: Psychological Thrillers** (SHU Community Theatre). Sponsored by Friends of Fairfield Public Library; tickets are \$35 (visit www.shucommunitytheatre.org for more information).
- **April 10th, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mini-golf at Main Library!** All ages; \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Register in person. Sponsored by Friends of Fairfield Public Library; all donations benefit the Library.

- **April 14th, 5:30 – 7:30 PM – Bruce S. Kershner Art Gallery Reception: “Kaleidoscope”.** The public is welcome to help celebrate the opening of the Kershner Gallery’s latest exhibit at Main Library, featuring the work of Patrick Burhenne, Katya Lebrija, and Jill Harrington Nichols. The show will run from April 9 – June 6, 2022, during regular Library hours.

One-on-one Medicare appointments are available on Thursday, April 7th, between 1:00 – 4:00 PM at Main Library. Register online for a free, 30-minute session with Claire Volain from the Southwestern CT Agency on Aging and ask any and all questions related to Medicare benefits.

Free tax assistance is still being offered at Main Library on Tuesdays until April 12, 2022. IRS-certified counselors will meet with residents between 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM on a first-come, first-served basis; no appointment is necessary. This service is intended for low- and middle-income households and those over age 60, although all individuals will be assisted.

Book Donations Needed! Friends of Fairfield Public Library welcome your gently-used books for their ongoing book sale at Main Library (no textbooks, please). Donations can be brought to the Friends’ Book Room on the first floor of Main Library during regular Library hours.

Masks are welcome when visiting either Library.

The Library continues to offer a mix of in-person and virtual programming at both locations for children, teens and adults. Please view our online calendar of events on our website ([Fairfield Public Library | You Belong Here!](#)) to see the offerings and reserve your spot!

Fairfield Public Library offers 24/7 access to its digital collection of books, music, magazines, movies and databases. Information services are available in person, by phone (203-256-3160), by email at eref@fplct.org, and via text messaging (text **askfplct** to 833-232-4100).

Pequot Library: We are open for browsing! Visit Monday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM, and Sunday Noon – 4 PM. Drop in during browsing hours to check out items from our circulating selection, see our latest exhibit in the Perkin Gallery, or view treasures from our Special Collections.

Now on view: [Her]story - Women's Roles Through History

Dating from the 1700s forward, holdings from Pequot's Special Collections reveal the evolution of roles women have held and hold.

The selected items will uncover the impressive accomplishments made by women and show connections to Pequot Library over time, featuring local and national figures such as Mary Hull Wakeman, Mabel Osgood Wright, and Amelia Earhart. Join Pequot Library for a walk through [her]story from Colonial America, the Gilded Age, Women's Suffrage, World War employment, and to modern professional life. Looking at a girl's life then and now will tell a story of fluid educational and social norms. Follow visionary women through text and visual representations to witness their strength and resilience, as they move from atop a pedestal to protest, lead, and love.



PEQUOT
LIBRARY

For more programming, visit [Upcoming Events – Pequot Library](#).

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.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR HOME REPAIRS

Spring showers bring...home repairs? If you're a Fairfield homeowner dealing with a leaky roof or if you're needing to make other repairs to your home, the Community & Economic Development Department may be able to help. Eligible homeowners can receive up to 60% of the total project cost, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per qualified applicant, per year. Financial assistance is provided in the form of a special, no-interest loan that is repaid when the owner sells, refinances, or transfers the property. Eligible home improvements include exterior painting, siding, or roofing projects; installation of new or replacement storm windows and doors; lead-based paint or asbestos abatement projects;

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HOME REPAIRS?



installation of replacement boilers or hot water heaters; heating, plumbing, or electrical improvements to address code deficiencies and modifications to

accommodate persons with disabilities.

Applicants must be income-eligible and a current Town of Fairfield homeowner to participate in this program. Certain other restrictions do apply. For additional information, please contact Sonia Hine at the Office of Community & Economic Development via email at shine@fairfieldct.org or by calling (203) 256-3120.

Behind in your rent or mortgage?

Operation Hope may be able to
help!

Please contact Brenda at 203-292-5588 ext. 225 or
email her at blobdell@operationhopect.org

All inquiries are confidential



OPERATION HOPE

Struggling to make ends meet?

Reminder: Operation Hope's Food Pantry is here to serve all Fairfield residents. We are open at 636 Old Post Road Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Thursday from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please let us help you with groceries and other basic necessities!

PREVIOUS UPDATES:

[March 18](#)

[March 4](#)

[Budget Update](#)

[February 18](#)

[February 4](#)

[Archives](#)

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[Archives](#)