

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Town of Newington

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Town of Newington

Annual Report 2020-2021



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Newington, CT 06111
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About Newington

Mission

Our mission is to offer excellent community services by maximizing our resources in a proactive, responsible, and accountable manner that enhances the quality of life for all generations in Newington.

Government

Newington received its Charter from the State of Connecticut in 1871 and is currently governed under the Council-Manager form of government with a nine member Town Council. The Mayor, elected separately, is a member and presiding official of the Council with the power to vote. Recognized as the official head of the Town for ceremonial and military purposes, the Mayor has the authority to appoint the Town Attorney and the Clerk of the Council.

The Town Manager is appointed by the Town Council and serves as the Chief Executive and administrative officer of the Town. The Town Manager is empowered to supervise and administer all commissions, boards, departments, offices, and agencies of the Town except for those elected by the people, appointed by the Council, appointed by the Mayor, or appointed by regional, state, or federal authority. The Town Manager is also responsible for the faithful execution of all laws and ordinances governing the Town.

Location

Newington, located five (5) miles south of Hartford, is centrally located in the New York – Boston corridor. Travelers have easy access to Route 5/15, Route 9, and major interstate highways I-84 and I-91. Newington is conveniently located near Brainard Airport and Bradley International Airport. Transportation services also include buses to Hartford and New Britain and rail transportation stations in Hartford and Berlin.

Taxes

Newington's mill rate in 2020-2021 was 39.28. The mill rate is applied to the Grand List of fair market value. All commercial and residential properties were revaluated in 2020.

History

Newington, part of the Town of Wethersfield until 1871, is located in an area which was referred to in early times as Pipestave Swamp, then Cow Plain, and later, West Farms; such names reflected the area's use. It was first a source of staves for making pipes (large sized barrels) used in colonial trade, and later a pasture for cattle. It eventually became home to the new farms taken up by descendants of early Wethersfield settlers who had been

given grants on the western frontier of their riverside town. By 1721, there were enough new farmers on these grants to request that the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut give them the name Newington, which means "new town in the meadow."

Since most early Newington inhabitants were related to Wethersfield families, Newington accepted government by Wethersfield Town Meeting until 1871. When the railroad came through Newington in the 1830's, the frequent and inexpensive transportation attracted growth and further expansion. Years later, however, a Wethersfield Town Meeting refused to approve expenses for highway improvements for better access to the railroad. Ready to take government into its own hands, Newington applied to the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut for incorporation, which was approved in 1871.

Early in the 20th century, both the trolley car and the automobile brought more development. Newington's location in the center of the state, combined with steady improvements to the highway system, attracted many new residents and businesses. The trolley, replaced by regular bus service, made commuting to Hartford and New Britain convenient. By 1966, the increasing population had outgrown the Town Meeting form of government, and the Town adopted the Council-Manager form of government.

Historical Sites

The **Kellogg-Eddy House**, a typical New England Georgian-style farmhouse, was built in 1808 by General Martin Kellogg.

The **Enoch Kelsey House** was built in 1799 and was the home of a Connecticut farmer and tinsmith. It features rare, freehand-painted wall decorations, basement-to-attic paneling, as well as a beehive oven and fireplaces.

The **National Iwo Jima Memorial Monument**, located off Route 9 at the Newington/New Britain line, was dedicated on February 23, 1995 in memory of those who gave their lives at Iwo Jima. The names of the 100 Connecticut marines killed at Iwo Jima are inscribed on the base.

Newington Government

Town Council

Beth DelBuono, Mayor

The Town Council is the governing and legislative body of the Town with all the rights, powers, duties, and obligations conferred by law. Council members are responsible for adopting the budget, fixing the tax rate for the Town, proposing and amending ordinances and resolutions for the execution of the powers vested in the Town, for the government of the Town and management of its businesses, and for the preservation of good order, peace, health and safety of the Town and its inhabitants.

The Town Council consists of the Mayor and eight members elected from the Town at large every two years. The Mayor, elected separately, is a member and presiding official of the Council with power to vote.

The Town Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are broadcast live on Newington Community Television.

2020-2021 Budget

On May 19, 2020, the Town Council Adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget as follows:

- Total appropriations: \$125,716,341.
- Mill Rate: 39.28 mills.
- Approved the Town of Newington Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2020-2021 through 2024-2025.

2021-2022 Budget

On April 20, 2021, the Town Council Adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget as follows:

- Total appropriations: \$129,404,908.
- Mill Rate: 38.81 mills.
- Approved the Town of Newington Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2021-2022 through 2025-2026.

Duties of the Council on the budget are pursuant to sections C-805 and C-806 of the Town Charter.

Town Council meeting schedules, agendas and related materials, minutes and rules of procedure are available on the Town website:

www.newingtonct.gov



Mayor



Minority Leader
Carol Anest



Majority Leader
Tim Manke



Councilor
Sharon Braverman



Deputy Mayor
Gail Budrejko



Councilor
Michael Camillo



Councilor
John Donahue



Councilor
Chris Miner



Councilor
David Nagel

2020-2021 Highlights

- Awarded 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year to Ms. Elsa Batista, World Language Teacher at Martin Kellogg Middle School.
- Selected Donald F. Woods, Jr. as the 2020 Town of Newington Volunteer of the Year.
- Approved the creation of the Mill Pond Park Project Building Committee in July 2020.
- Authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Verogy Solar to install panels on Government and Board of Education buildings.
- Authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Livebarn Inc. which provides a sports streaming service at baseball fields and basketball courts.
- Approved the AFSCME Local 2930 and Nutmeg Independent Public Safety Employees Union labor contract.
- Authorized the sale of 690 Cedar Street, allowing the Town Manager to execute any documents to complete the sale.
- Approved the tax assessment fixing agreement with Gold Coast Premier Properties for 712 Cedar Street.
- Authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Sonick Group, a grant writing service.
- Honored several former Town employees in their retirement.
- Made numerous appointments to various boards, commissions and committees.

Newington Administration

Town Manager

Keith Chapman, Town Manager

The Town Manager, appointed by the Town Council for an indefinite period of time at the pleasure of the Council, serves as the Chief Executive of the Town and manages the day-to-day operations of the Town departments. In addition to supporting the goals and objectives of the Town Council, the Town Manager, with the assistance of Town staff, is responsible for Purchasing, Risk Management, and Personnel. The Town Manager also serves as the local Traffic Authority, Public Safety Director, and Local Emergency Planning Coordinator.

2020-2021 Highlights

- As a result of the pandemic, the Declaration of Civil Preparedness Emergency continued for the fiscal year, the Town Hall operated by appointment only and some services were temporarily eliminated to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- Created an Economic Development Incentive Program for employees, which awards any Town employee for securing new businesses to locate and operate within Newington.
- Facilitated the move into new Town Hall building.
- Participated in contract negotiations for AFSCME Local 2930 and Nutmeg Independent Public Safety Employees Union (NIPSEU).
- Created a pilot mentoring program that offers opportunities to multicultural students. The Town of Newington partnered with Hartford Public schools and provided four students with paid internships to help them gain municipal experience and professionalism.
- Reintroduced the Municipal Training Program (MAT) to all Town of Newington employees. The training program prepares employees for upward mobility by providing leadership and management training, problem solving, and hands on exercises. The program was postponed due to COVID-19.
- Advertised, interviewed applicants and made hiring decisions for all open full-time positions in the Town and Police Department.
- Met with various residents and constituencies to dialogue about their concerns.
- Worked with staff on enforcement of various blighted properties.
- Met with staff, department heads and union representatives on an as needed basis to address and resolve employee concerns and personnel issues.

Employee Anniversaries

35 Years

- Nicholas Miano

25 Years

- Susan Smith– Highway
- John Nesklada– Highway
- Carol LaBrecque– Human Services
- Lisa Masten– Library

20 Years

- Stephen Tofeldt– Park Grounds
- Christopher Perry– Police

15 Years

- Richard Castellani– Park Grounds
- Thomas Lapierre– Park Grounds
- Michelle Almarode– Senior & Disabled Center
- Brendan Volz– Park Grounds
- Ralph Chater– Police
- Leroy Feeney– Police

10 Years

- Jamie Goulet– Highway
- Joanne Cocola– Library
- Richard Wall– Assessor

5 Years

- Gary Lemire– Park Grounds
- William DeMaio– Parks & Recreation
- Stephen Clark– Police
- Traci Alves– Town Clerk

Newington Administration

Town Clerk

James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office is responsible for preserving all of the Town's official records, many of which date back to Newington's inception in 1871, as well as making them easily accessible to the public. The office operates in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Charter and Code of Ordinances.

Responsibilities include the recording, search and retrieval of all Land Records, Veteran's Discharges, Trade Names and Vital Statistics; maintaining the agenda notices and minutes of Town Council and various other boards and commissions, as well as tracking membership and terms for all board and commission members; preparing the election ballot layout and issuing absentee ballots for all elections; keeping abreast of all legislation affecting municipalities (over 600 Statutes are administered through the department); responding to and researching numerous public inquiries; updating the Code of Ordinances; issuing various licenses and permits; and maintaining financial records disclosing fees collected for the Town and State.

The office is charged with ensuring the integrity and longevity of all the documents entrusted to our care so that the Town has accurate and accessible data for future generations.

2020-2021 Highlights

- The State Library approved the relocation of the existing permanent records to the new Town vault on July 24, 2020.
- A Presidential Preference Primary was scheduled for April 28, 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed to August 11, 2020.
- The Presidential Election was held on November 3, 2020. The office issued over 6,500 ballots, with financial assistance received from the Secretary of the State; 5 individuals were hired to assist with the added workload.
- Received a \$7,500 FY2021 Historic Preservation Grant from the State Library to begin the removal and replacement of Compact Binders to Champ Binder covers, allowing for easy access and copying of Land Record pages.
- The re-indexing project for all recorded maps, encompassing over 6,000 records and to ensure all relevant information is available for Attorneys, Title Searchers, the public and staff within the Land Records system, was completed in May, 2021 by a contractor.
- The Town Clerk's office took on the added duty, beginning in April of 2020, of managing the transition of all Boards and Commissions to a Virtual meeting format through the use of Zoom meeting software. This had the added benefit of a Government YouTube page being created for public access to all meetings of the Town.
- Notifications were supplied in May, 2021 to each Town Committee Chairman regarding endorsements for the November, 2021 Municipal Election.

2021-2022 Goals

- Continued cross-training of staff for continuity of knowledge during education/training sessions, absences or vacations.

- Continue the bi-annual public record shredding event in the Spring and Fall, for town residents to decrease solid waste removal costs within the town. This program was well received by the general public.
- Application for a FY2022 Historic Preservation Grant from the State Library to continue the removal and replacement of Compact Binders to Champ Binder covers, allowing for easy access and copying of Land Record pages.

<u>Town Clerk Statistical Summary 2020-2021</u>		
<u>LAND RECORDS</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
Documents	6,113	4,752
Maps	28	21
<u>VITAL STATISTICS</u>		
Births	289	254
Marriages	230	195
Deaths	411	431
<u>LICENSES</u>		
Sporting	16	132
Dog	2,349	1,807
Kennel	3	1
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>		
Veteran's Discharges	26	29
Trade Name Certificates	69	49
Liquor Permits	26	37
<u>RECEIPTS – TOWN</u>		
Recording Fees	\$232,054.00	\$153,460.00
Conveyance Tax	\$476,251.04	\$346,984.20
Document Preservation	\$21,977.00	\$15,845.00
Vital Statistics	\$37,096.00	\$38,112.00
Dog Licenses	\$2,342.00	\$1,793.50
Sporting Licenses	\$12.00	\$96.00
Copy Fees	\$28,061.00	\$23,014.00
Miscellaneous	\$3,717.60	\$4,357.00
TOTAL GEN. FUND	\$801,510.64	\$583,661.70
<u>RECEIPTS – STATE</u>		
Document Preservation	\$27,928.00	\$24,560.00
Dog License Surcharge	\$5,382.00	\$4,164.00
Dog Licenses	\$13,828.50	\$11,039.00
Sporting Licenses	\$370.00	\$2,168.00
Marriage Surcharge	\$3,264.00	\$3,468.00
State Treasurer	\$388,936.00	\$253,213.00
LoCIP	\$10,137.00	\$9,159.00
TOTAL STATE	\$449,845.50	\$307,771.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,251,356.14	\$891,432.70

Information Technology

Paul Boutot, Chief Information Officer

The Department of Information and Technology provides strategic and policy direction for the implementation and management of technology for the Town of Newington. Core activities include development of the Town's IT strategic plan, technology support, policy formulation, and the review and revision of technology standards.

Mission Statement

Information Technology provides leadership, policy guidance and assistance in the use of technology while offering the highest quality technology-based services, in a cost-effective manner, and maintaining a secure, robust and efficient communications network for our departments and the community we serve.

2020-2021 Highlights

- Town Hall setup and deployments to include but not limited to: Computers, Wireless Access Points, Network Switches, Network Firewalls, Servers, Data Room Equipment Racks, Cabling, Door Access Controls, Audio/Visual Systems, Building Management System, Video Conferencing and Hybrid Meeting Capabilities, CCTV, Telephone Systems and Tele-Communications/Data Carrier Service Entry Relocations.
- Re-location of Town Data Center Equipment from old Town Hall to new Town Hall.
- Creation of a YouTube Channel for Live Streaming and On-Demand viewing of Town meetings.

- Upgrade of the Town's core financial platform.
- Town wide printer replacements.
- Processed over 1,600 formal help desk work order tickets.
- System and software upgrades for Police, Fire, Assessor, Tax Collector and Parks and Recreation.
- Deployment of State of Connecticut sponsored wireless hotspots at the Senior and Disabled Center and Library.
- Network infrastructure upgrades at the Police Department, Library and Senior and Disabled Center.

2021-2022 Goals

- Deployment of new workstations, laptops and operating systems across all departments.
- Deployment of new Office Productivity Suite applications across all departments.
- Deployment of fiber optic connections to selected Town buildings.
- Deployment of new financial system modules.
- Deployment of new state mandated "Body Worn Camera" system at Police Department.
- Work with Town departments to help identify areas where technology can assist them in reaching their goals and objectives for internal and external purposes.
- Plan, coordinate and work with Town staff and vendors on the new Emergency Operations Center if grant funding for the project gets approved and the project moves forward.

Registrar of Voters

Theresa Avey (R) • Marie Fox (D)

The office of Election Administrators-Registrars of Voters is governed by the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, the Office of the Secretary of the State, and the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

Elections Administrator-Registrar of Voters:

- Register and remove all electors, update felony convictions and releases, death records included, and oversee all election materials, which updates the registry and voter files on a daily basis.
- Conduct the State-mandated annual voter registration canvass by NCOA (National Change of Address), and the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) in conjunction with 14 other States to update our registry lists.
- Supervise primaries, elections and special referenda.
- Train and hire all election officials, update all training materials and maintain accurate State mandated certification lists of all election officials. Moderators by unfunded mandate must have certification every four years.
- Oversee the central counting of absentee ballots on Election Day.
- Determine that all eight polling places are handicapped accessible, meeting the requirements of the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) including supervising EDR (Election Day Registration) at Town Hall.
- Oversee the general maintenance of the 18 town-owned voting tabulators, 10 handicapped voting machines, telephones and all related equipment required at each polling place on Election Day including EDR.
- Conduct mandatory supervised absentee balloting at all institutions.

2020-2021 Highlights

- There were 7,754 registered Democrats and 3,958 registered Republicans eligible to vote in their respective primaries on August 1, 2020.
- There were 20,906 registered voters as of November 3, 2020.
- Question on the ballot "Shall the Town of Newington appropriate \$35,500,000 for the Anna Reynolds Elementary School renovation project and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in an amount not to exceed \$17,750,00 and the use of grants and such other sources of funds to finance said appropriation?"
- Yes Votes: 11,351; No Votes: 4,096
- Voter turnout for the 11/03/2020 Presidential election was 82.2%.

2021-2022 Goals

- Continue to update our technology of voting and new equipment.
- Establish updated education and training procedures for all election officials.
- Redistrict the town's polling locations once the Census report is completed.

Polling Places (all handicapped accessible)

District 1: Mortensen Community Center, 200 Garfield Street
District 2: Ruth L. Chaffee School, 160 Superior Avenue
District 3: Anna Reynolds School, 85 Reservoir Road
District 4: Elizabeth Green School, 30 Thomas Street
District 5: John Wallace Middle School, 71 Halleran Drive
District 6: John Paterson School, 120 Church Street
District 7: Martin Kellogg Middle School, 155 Harding Avenue
District 8: John Wallace Middle School, 71 Halleran Drive
EDR: (Election Day Registration): Town Hall, 200 Garfield St.

Facilities Management

The Facilities Management Department has the main responsibility to provide for the physical maintenance of Town Manager designated buildings to the level allowed by Town Council approved funding. Typically this includes repair and maintenance of the major building components such as heating and cooling systems. The department also manages capital improvement projects for these same buildings whether funded by the Town or through grant funding that this department is able to obtain.

2020-2021 Highlights

A new Facilities Director, Joe Salamone, was hired in July of 2021. This is crucial to the consistency of care for the Town Buildings. The new Director has been tasked with evaluating the Owen Reports for each location, evaluating the buildings, the needs of the Town and prioritizing projects accordingly. Several new Preventative Maintenance Contracts were implemented in an effort to raise the quality of care.

Lucy Robbins Welles Library

- Installed new carpet in 80% of the first floor and stairs.
- Installed new Architectural shingles and EPDM Roofing in multiple locations. 75% of the building has now been replaced.
- Multiple HVAC upgrades including controllers, fan motors and circulating valves.

Police Department

- Architectural design for EOC/PPE Supply Storage and Data Space.
- New access controls for Dispatch Center and Sally port garage doors.
- New VFD motor and controller for HVAC.
- Multiple interior upgrades and repairs.

Town Hall

- RTU curb replacement planning and design.
- Ongoing commissioning of multiple building components.
- Installation of Town of Newington Seal into Council Chambers.
- Installation of Heat Mats for emergency egress.
- Ongoing efforts for Solar project.

Senior Center

- Design and installation of new heat pump and bypass valve.
- Ongoing efforts for Solar project.

Newington Ambulance Building

- Remove and rebuild masonry knee wall around back patio.
- Design, Bid and Award roof replacement (Spring 2022).

American Legion Building

- Remove and replace architectural shingles.

Kellogg-Eddy House

- Architect Award and design/construction documents completed for roof replacement.
- Applied and received SHPO Grant for restoration of historical property.

Fire Department

- Ongoing efforts for solar project at Station #2 and #3.

2021-2022 Goals

- Remove and replace additional section of Newington High School roof.
- Remove and replace the salt shed roof at the Highway Garage.
- Go out to bid, award and complete the roof project at the Kellogg Eddy House.
- Create an Operations/Project Manager position and hire.
- Access control upgrades in Town Hall and Police Department.
- Go out to bid for a new cleaning contractor.
- Implementation of a new Asset Management software.

Department Phone Numbers	
Assessor	860-665-8530
Building	860-665-8580
Engineering	860-665-8570
Facilities Management	860-665-8579
Finance	860-665-8520
Fire	860-667-5900 (routine) 911 (emergency)
Fire Marshal	860-667-5910
Health District	860-785-8380
Highway Sanitation Division	860-667-5810 860-667-5874
Human Services	860-665-8590
Information Technology	860-665-8555
Lucy Robbins Welles Library	860-665-8700
Parks and Recreation	860-665-8666
Police	860-666-8445 (routine) 911 (emergency)
Registrar of Voters	860-665-8516 (Democratic) 860-665-8517 (Republican)
Revenue Collection	860-665-8540
Senior and Disabled Center	860-665-8778
Town Clerk	860-665-8545
Town Manager	860-665-8510
Town Planner	860-665-8575

Finance Department

Janet Murphy, Director

The Department of Finance consists of the Administration and Accounting office, the Assessor's office, and the Revenue Collector's office. The Administration and Accounting office has the responsibility of administering the Town's finances and accounting for all Town funds. The office provides complete accounting services for all the boards, commissions and departments of the Town except the Board of Education. Detailed statements of this accounting appear in the Town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, excerpts of which are included in this report. In addition, the office helps develop and administer the Town budget, handles the daily Treasury operations, and manages cash and debt obligations.

Mission Statement

To provide accurate, timely financial reporting, information and services to Town departments, the public and policy leaders. We strive to stay current on accounting standards and financial practices and procedures in order to provide cost effective services and financial information to all users of Town financial information.

Accounting and Administration

2020-2021 Highlights

- For the thirty first consecutive year, the Town was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2019-2020. The Town received this national recognition for its financial report by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
- The Town went out for RFP for leasing of a new Fire Truck. We ended up reaching an agreement with BankFunding, LLC for a five year lease at a rate of 1.22%
- The Town of Newington's outstanding bonded debt at June 30, 2021 was \$24,485,000, a decrease of \$1.875 million from the prior year. We did not go out for any bonding this year.
- Analysis for the Anna Reynolds School Renovation project continued throughout the year in preparation for going out to bond in the Spring of 2022.
- Town updated its future debt plan with the assistance of the Town's financial advisor Matthew A. Spoerndle, Senior Managing Director of Phoenix Advisors, LLC.
- As part of the shared services review, we worked with the Board of Education to see if MUNIS would be a financial system that both parties could use. Although the Board of Education did not choose to go with MUNIS, the Town found many additional functions that we are planning on implementing. These include Human Resources streamlining and employee self-service. This project will lead the way for us to move toward the program to scan our Accounts Payable information into MUNIS to save on file space.

- The Town of Newington received various COVID-19 related grants, including an amount received from the State in December for \$388,000 and the first half of the American Rescue Plan Act Grant for \$4.4 million that was received in June. Our office will continue to work with the newly hired grant writers to access what funding is available for the Town.

Assessor, Steven Kosofsky

Mission Statement

The mission of the Newington Assessor's office is to fulfill in a timely manner the requirements of Connecticut state law relative to the assessment of real property, personal property, and motor vehicles, in a way that provides residents, administrators, and professionals with accurate and timely information, ensuring that all taxpayers are treated in the most equitable manner possible, within a caring and responsive environment.

Real Property is assessed at 70% of a base year of value established on October 1, 2020, which was the date of the last revaluation. Commercial Personal Property and Motor Vehicles are assessed at 70% annually. The Grand List consists of over 12,000 real estate parcels, 1,400 commercial personal property accounts and over 30,000 taxable motor vehicles. The office is also responsible for assisting special service programs by annually updating over 550 elderly, 50 blind, 6,100 special assessment adjustments for veterans, and 250 disabled exemptions for Newington taxpayers.

Department Achievements FY 2020-2021

- Completed the State mandated revaluation of all real property as of October 1, 2020.
- Provided professional service to general public and taxpayers.
- Completed October 1, 2020 Grand List on time as required by law.
- Sent out and processed 500 Income and Expense forms to owners of commercial properties.
- Processed over 1,450 business personal property declarations.
- Approved approximately 500 elderly taxpayers for tax relief benefits totaling over \$500,000.

Department Goals FY 2021-2022

- Defend thirty-one (31) valuations as a result of tax appeals filed on the October 1, 2020 revaluation.
- Continue to provide taxpayers with courteous, professional, and responsive service in a timely manner.
- Maintain an equalized tax base according to State Statutes and professional appraisal/assessment standards.

Finance Department

The month of January 2021 was spent by all staff members finalizing the October 1, 2020 Grand List which was formally signed in front of the Town Clerk on January 31, 2021. The final totals for the Grand List are shown below:

TOWN OF NEWINGTON—2020 NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST (with Revaluation) - February 1, 2021				
Category	2019 Grand List	2020 Grand List	Dollar Change	% Change
Real Estate	2,256,364,870	2,360,076,490	103,711,620	4.60%
Personal Property	163,382,550	169,607,780	6,225,230	3.81%
Motor Vehicles	<u>237,501,404</u>	<u>245,810,126</u>	<u>8,308,722</u>	<u>3.50%</u>
Total	\$2,657,248,824	\$2,775,494,396	\$118,245,572	4.45%

TAX EXEMPT: \$402,117,470 \$416,960,650 \$14,843,180 3.69%

PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS				
	2019 Grand List	2020 Grand List	Dollar Change	% Change
Mfg. Exemption	97,322,410	91,951,820	(5,370,590)	(5.52)%
Solar Exemption	3,969,360	5,297,610	1,328,250	33.46%
Other Exemption	<u>7,393,870</u>	<u>7,471,900</u>	<u>78,030</u>	<u>1.06%</u>
Total Exemptions	\$108,685,640	\$104,721,330	(\$3,964,310)	(3.65)%

At the current mill rate, the total amount of personal property exemptions of 104,721,330 equates to **\$4,113,454** of tax dollars being redistributed to real estate, motor vehicle and other personal property taxpayers.

COMMENTARY ON THE OCTOBER 1, 2020 GRAND LIST (with Revaluation)

The October 1, 2020 Net Grand List for the Town of Newington totals **\$2,775,494,396** which is an increase of \$118,245,572 or 4.45% from the 2019 Grand List total.

At the present mill rate of 39.28, this increase would generate an additional **\$4,644,686** in new tax revenue. **(HOWEVER, DUE TO REVALUATION, THIS NUMBER IS STRICTLY USED AS AN ILLUSTRATION, AS THE FINAL MILL RATE FOR THE FY 21-22 BUDGET TO BE DETERMINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL MOST LIKELY BE LESS THAN THE PRESENT MILL RATE.)**

This increase is primarily attributable to a significant increase in the registered Motor Vehicles and business Personal Property sections of the Grand List which increased \$8,308,722 and \$6,225,230 respectively. These totals are subject to further adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals, and any future court cases.

The **Real Estate** section of the 2020 Grand List totals **\$2,360,076,490** which is an increase of \$103,711,620 or 4.60% more than the 2019 Grand List. This increase was primarily attributable to the new revaluation assessments of all real property in town which were updated to reflect fair market value as of October 1, 2020 from their previous basis of October 1, 2015. Actual new growth in the Real Estate Grand List was only .20% as growth continues to be extremely sluggish due to the absence of any significant economic development projects for the third year in a row.

The **Personal Property** section of the 2020 Grand List totals **\$169,607,780** which is an increase of \$6,225,230 or 3.81% over the 2019 Grand List. The gross increase was actually only \$2,260,920 or .83%; however, this amount was increased by the reduction in the non-reimbursable State Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment exemption of \$5,370,590.

The **Motor Vehicle** section of the 2020 Grand List totals **\$245,810,126** which is an increase of \$8,308,722 or 3.50% over the 2019 Grand List. Although the total number of motor vehicles being assessed was less than last year (-1,395), the average assessment of the vehicles on the list this year increased from \$8,324 to \$8,964 to reflect the increase in the cost of newer vehicles.

The **Tax Exempt** portion of the 2020 Grand List totals **\$416,960,650** which represents 14.98% of the total Real Estate Grand List.

Finance Department

Revenue Collector, Corinne Aldinger, CCMC

The Tax Office is responsible for the administration of all billing and collection activity for all real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes. It is the largest source of the Town's operating revenue, and necessitates the billing and collection of taxes. These taxes are essential to provide the services for the Town's residents, Town departments, youth and elderly programs, and to provide the funds for the Board of Education to operate at peak levels to highly educate the children in our community.

The primary objectives of the Revenue Collector are to secure the maximum collection of revenues due the town, maintain accurate collection records, ensure proper controls, and safeguard the revenue collected. When these objectives are accomplished in an efficient manner, they reflect the financial well being of the Town, which is the backbone of the municipality in regard to fiscal debt and bonding ability. This office enforces Connecticut State Statutes by operating in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of Policy and Management. Revenue

generated by all other Town departments is balanced in the Tax Office and then deposited. The office of the Revenue Collector also serves as a center for property tax information. The staff assists attorneys, title searchers, real estate agents, residents and others regarding payment history and other information available from the tax records.

Tax Collection Activity FY 2020-21

Taxes on Current Levy	\$102,880,486.63
Taxes on Motor Vehicle Supplemental List	985,424.79
Taxes on Prior Years' Lists	481,221.54
Interest, Liens and Other Fees	379,479.08
Taxes on Advanced Collection 2020 GL	243,173.61
Taxes and Fees Collected	104,969,785.65
Collection Rate on Current Levy	99.3%

TOWN OF NEWINGTON, CT TOP 25 ASSESSMENTS—2020 GRAND LIST

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TAXPAYER</u>	<u>MAJOR TENANTS</u>	<u>GROSS</u>
1	CL&P CO/EVERSOURCE	PUBLIC UTILITY PERSONAL PROPERTY	56,197,250
2	MANDELL PROPERTIES	DATA MAIL & SUBSIDIARIES (HARTFORD AVE)	24,607,470
3	IREIT NEWINGTON FAIR	SAM'S CLUB & LA FITNESS (BERLIN TPK)	23,150,610
4	GKN AEROSPACE NEWINGTON LLC	AEROSPACE MFG (LOUIS ST)	22,285,800
5	HAYES KAUFMAN NEWINGTON	STOP & SHOP (FENN RD) & STARBUCKS PLAZA & CVS (MAIN ST)	22,000,410
6	TLG NEWINGTON LLC	STOP & SHOP & JOEY GARLIC PLAZA (KITTS LANE)	20,909,940
7	BRIXMOR GA TURNPIKE PLAZA LLC	DICK'S & PRICE CHOPPER & CHILIS PLAZA (BERLIN TPK)	20,150,380
8	NEWINGTON VF LLC	WALMART & STAPLES PLAZA (BERLIN TPK)	19,975,400
9	NEWINGTON GROSS LLC	STEW LEONARDS PLAZA (BERLIN TPK)	19,529,360
10	EDAC TECHNOLOGIES CORP	MANUFACTURER (RICHARD ST)	18,882,890
11	RENO PROPERTIES & SUBSIDIARIES	MFG & REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS (PANE RD & ROCKWELL)	17,889,990
12	SCELZA/CAMBRIDGE/BALDWIN	LANDMARK & CAMBRIDGE APARTMENTS	15,425,890
13	SHELBOURNE NEWINGTON LLC	REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS (FORMER FAFNIR BLDG)	15,047,420
14	TARGET CORPORATION #T1802	RETAIL BIG BOX (BERLIN TPK)	13,131,000
15	CONNECTICUT NATURAL GAS	PUBLIC UTILITY PERSONAL PROPERTY	12,799,220
16	NE FARMINGTON OWNER LLC	COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT (SOUTHEAST RD)	12,764,850
17	LOWES HOME CENTERS INC #623	RETAIL BIG BOX (BERLIN TPK)	12,334,840
18	BALF/TILCON	MINERAL QUARRY (HARTFORD AVE)	11,160,670
19	FURNITURE EXECUTIVES NO 4 LP	RAYMOUR & FLANIGAN/BEST BUY (BERLIN TPK)	9,854,440
20	HTFD HOSPITAL (CEDAR MT COMMS)	ELDERLY ASSISTED LIVING (JOHN H STEWART DR)	9,156,260
21	COHEN FAMILY PROPERTIES	GLOUCESTER & SALEM VILLAGE APARTMENTS	8,770,570
22	PRIME STORAGE NEWINGTON LLC	PUBLIC STORAGE FACILITY (ALUMNI ROAD)	8,322,030
23	SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA	DAIRY PRODUCTS MFG (MILK LANE)	7,280,960
24	FENNWOODE DEVELOPMENT LLC	FENNWOODE APARTMENTS	7,078,440
25	BROWN DEVELOPMENT LLC	AMERICAN EAGLE/STARBUCKS/BASSETT/(BERLIN TPK)	6,909,000
TOTALS:			415,615,090

Newington Community Services

Human Services

Carol LaBrecque, Director

The Human Services Department provides a variety of human service programs and services for children, youth, adults, elderly, persons with disabilities and families. Service areas include information and referral, community education and coordination, prevention and positive youth and family development, social work and financial case management, clinical therapy, crisis and disaster response, and economic assistance.

2020-21 Significant Achievements:

- This continued to be a year of challenges with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. This required a total revision of the methods and protocols for safe delivery of all services.
- All social work services, financial case management and clinical therapy were provided via phone or Zoom. We saw a significant increase in the number of cases presenting with multiple complicated issues, thus requiring more hours of case management to reach service goals.
- Youth programs were reinstated in the summer of 2020, following all COVID-19 Safety Protocols of outdoor settings, use of masks, social distancing, frequent hand washing and co-horting youth in pods. Youth programs continued through the remainder of FY21. Youth were very pleased to re-engage, and we saw a 10% increase in participants when compared to pre-COVID-19 sessions.
- The food bank continued throughout the year to provide no-contact pick-up or delivery of pre-packed food. We were assisted with an average of 200 volunteer hours each month. Wellness checks/conversations were provided to Food Bank recipients and casework clients.
- Staff continued to provide quality services while dealing with the instability of the pandemic. They worked as a team to support residents and each other.

Goals for 2021-2022

- Transition food bank into client food self-selection. Continue to offer increased delivery options.
- Secure dedicated, easily accessible space for administration of holiday food and gift program in November and December. Plan (as new building was being planned) was originally to use Community Center space—need to confirm availability of this space as a town resource or secure viable alternative.
- Continue to provide quality casework services, increasing connections with sectors of our community (such as schools, police, EMS, fire, blight enforcement, houses of worship, medical providers and community residents, family members and neighbors) that may identify and refer those in need.

- Offer necessary staff development to maintain knowledge based on current trends and best practices. Offer training to maintain license of clinical staff and updated certifications required for administration of adventure-based programs.
- Continue to offer a wide array of positive youth development programs which offer youth connections in their community and increased resiliency. Address new issues (i.e., legalized cannabis use).
- Continue to offer user friendly access to needed information relevant to our service population via updated department web page. Explore positive use of social media.
- To revitalize our clinical services through outreach, community collaboration, increased counseling services and education and awareness programs to destigmatize Mental Health issues. The Clinical Coordinator position was filled in September 2021 after being vacant since March 2021.
- Fill vacancies on Commissions.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	2020-2021	2019-2020
Youth & Family Counseling Avg. Monthly Y & F Cases	90 Cumulative Cases 7.5 Households	148 Cumulative Cases 12 Households
Youth & Family Service Hrs. Total Casework Cases	645.75 Hours 1,040 Cumulative Cases	423.5 Hours 889 Cumulative Cases
Avg. Monthly Casework Cases	87 Households	74 Households
Casework Service Hours	1,787 Hours	1,388 Hours
Special Needs	102 Cases	132 Cases
Food Bank	1,970 Visits; 1,887 Bags	1,706 Visits; 9,223 Bags
Open Air Market	2,203 Visits	1,390 Visits
Holiday Foods, Gifts Operation Fuel Applications	418 HH; 827 Individuals 64 HH; \$26,898.92	391 HH; 788 Individuals 70 HH; \$30,000 Grants
Positive Youth Development	597 Program Registrations	1,162 Program Registrations
Juvenile Review Board Information and Referral Educational/Training Participants	13 Cases 6,143 Requests 0 Participants	9 Cases 7,865 Requests 375 Participants



"A Helping hand for all ages."

Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Lisa Masten, Director

- This past year has been a very challenging year for the library due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff was forced to change library services overnight when the library closed its doors in March 2020. As the weeks went by and the building remained closed, it became apparent that the library would have to modify current services and think outside the box to be able to assist patrons and provide information, programming and library materials to our patrons. The library was able to reopen its doors in the fall of 2020 for two weeks but had to shut down again due to the COVID-19 rate. We were finally able to reopen our doors to limited in-person browsing in April 2021 and added quiet study seating and limited computer use as we headed into the fall. Staff did an amazing job handling a very difficult and scary pandemic with grace and humor.
- Library services were modified to offer the best service we could with the pandemic in full force and the building closed to the public. Information assistance and access to the library's collection was prioritized. The digital collection was dramatically increased by reallocating funds to give patrons a better selection from home and to support the school curriculums. *Books-for-You*, a delivery service to our Newington homebound patrons, was expanded thanks to a collaboration with the GWFC of Newington/Wethersfield. The *Lucy-to-Go* curbside delivery service was revamped to offer a better turnaround time and easier access to the physical library materials. Curbside was also used to fax, deliver tax forms, and make photocopies for patrons. More staff worked on the public desks to help answer phones while the library was closed to better assist patrons. During the year, 45,980 items were downloaded, staff filled more than 16,000 curbside transactions, answered 46,509 reference questions, and circulated more than 203,124 items.
- Several new services were added to better serve our patrons. The children's staff introduced *Topic Totes*, totes that are filled with library materials on a specific topic and *Book Bundles* that offer 10 customized books on a specific topic based on the request from a child or parent. Two new online databases were added for students of all ages: *Newsbank*, an online service that provides archives of local and national newspapers and *HelpNow*, an online tutoring service. The library also now has 2 notaries that offer free notary service to our patrons.
- Library programming became virtual. Staff created, recorded, edited and uploaded videos for programs using *Zoom* and the library's *YouTube* channel. Most of the programming was initially pre-recorded, and some of it eventually went live as time went on. The library collaborated with area libraries, the Chamber of Commerce and local organizations to offer a cost-efficient way to program during a challenging time. Virtual programming is challenging not only because it is time consuming but also because not everyone has access to a computer to participate or view, and not everyone likes this format of programming. Staff did also look for alternative ways to program with Grab & Go craft kits, puzzle packets and coloring pages for patrons of all ages. Outdoor programming was introduced in the spring of 2021 that included book discussions, story times and craft programs. For the year, staff offered 504 programs to 11,976 people.
- While the library was closed to the public most of the year, the library was revamped with PPE for safer work space

and public space. Several major facility projects were also completed. New carpeting was installed in the children's department and on most of the first floor with Town Capital Improvement funds. The parent section of the children's department was refurbished with new seating and additional shelving with proceeds from the 2019 road race. New chairs and shelving were also added to the children's department paid by library grant money. There were several substantial roof leaks throughout the year in the first floor adult stacks and the skylights that we are working with the Town Facilities department on to resolve. In June of 2020, the library was the recipient of an ARPA grant specific to libraries that will allow us to replace technology furniture in the coming year.

- Due to COVID-19, our Friends group had to rethink their fundraising from 2 annual big indoor book sales to multiple smaller outdoor sales in the library parking lot. They also cancelled their very popular Winterfest fundraiser and replaced it with a small but successful *Bakeless Book* sale. The Library Board of Trustees were in the same situation, cancelling its annual fundraiser (the library road race) and replacing it with the virtual *Ready, Set, Go* giveaway with all proceeds going the library.

In the coming year, we will be focused on adding back services and moving back into in-person programming and use of meeting and study space. It will be important to re-evaluate and re-imagine services on a regular basis as we adjust to what the new normal will be. Space constraints will continue to be a challenge as we try to figure out how to offer services and programs that allow for safe distancing between patrons. However, the ultimate goal is to offer the best service possible to our Newington residents.

Statistical Summary 2020-2021

Items Circulated	156,393
Total Downloads	42,201
Downloads: eBooks & Book Views	23,989
Downloads: Audiobooks	10,238
Downloads: Magazines	2,394
Downloads: Music & Streaming	541
Video Streaming	5,039
Museum Pass Usage	177
Online Database Usage - Adults	62,646
Online Database Usage - Children & Teens	98,653
Library Curbside Pickups	15,966
Holds on Shelf Pulled for Patrons	30,686
Total # Cardholders	12,086
Patron Count	5,896
Reference Questions Answered	43,003
Children's Programs	227
Children's Attendance	4,980
Teen Programs	42
Teen Attendance	835
Adult Programs	134
Adult Attendance	3,206
Items added	28,511
Items deleted	11,886
Meeting Room Usage	0
Study Room Usage	0
Library Holdings - Physical Holdings & Digital	265,975
Volunteer Hours	33
Books Mended	263
AV Repairs	268

Senior and Disabled Center

Dianne Stone, Director

Newington Senior and Disabled Center offers a wide array of programs and services to meet its mission. The Mission of the Newington Senior and Disabled Center is to improve the well-being of older adults and adults with disabilities in the Town of Newington.

Open to all persons aged 55 and older and adults with disabilities, the Center identifies eight dimensions of well-being which are integral to the program planning process. All programs are planned with the intent to improve participants' physical, social, environmental, financial, spiritual, purpose, emotional or intellectual well-being by providing information, opportunities and assistance in a social setting. These include information and referral, health prevention and promotion services, fitness and wellness, leisure and recreation, social activities and special events, life long learning, supportive services including case management, transportation and nutrition. It was the first Center in the State of Connecticut to be nationally accredited and is the designated Community Focal Point for aging services.

2020-2021 Highlights

- The Center was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and was closed to the public through April 2021 with in-person programs beginning a gradual return in May. As the infection rate fluctuated, there was a continual reassessment and revision of plans. The mission, to improve well-being, drove decision-making with a focus on staying healthy, staying active and staying connected. The Center developed new communication tools and a high tech (virtual), low tech (telephone) and no-tech (in-person with no contact or social distancing) framework to engage people.
- There were several staffing changes early in the year with the retirements of Administrative Coordinator Denise Haas, Part Time Clerical Assistant Carolyn Elsner and Part Time Dial-A-Ride driver Glenn Billiter. Other part time staff, including the congregate meal site manager and nurse practitioner, were not brought in for most of the year. An addition to staff was Program Coordinator Barb Womer who began part time and then became full time in July.
- Vaccines became available in January, and a great deal of staff time was devoted to providing information and assistance with accessing appointments in what was initially a very complicated system. The Center worked with network partners and the State Department on Aging and Disability to provide effective communications. CCHD held five first shot and five second shot clinics at the Center for 500 residents. The Center did extensive outreach to ensure that the limited spots were offered to those least able to attend other clinics.
- Outreach to members and the community was a priority for the Center. A robocall went to 1000+ people each Friday and was well received. Additionally, the Center increased use of Facebook, sent email blasts, and created special newsletters to be mailed out. A special newsletter was created in partnership with the Library and Human Services and mailed to each older adult household in Newington.
- The Daily Call Sheet, a social call program that matches a trained volunteer with a member for regular phone calls through a call hub system, was implemented. Additionally, the Center was one of the early implementers of Zero Isolation, a six-week program created by Dr. Nick Nicholson of Quinnipiac.
- To provide encouragement for physical activity, Move to Improve, a simple exercise program, was developed. Participants received a guidebook and materials like exercise bands and were connected through telephone. In the spring, the Center held a popular Walk to Wellness initiative with participants clocking enough miles to cross the country.
- In lieu of the special events and parties that the Center typically offers, there were eight drive-through events with themes like Thanksgiving Treats, Arbor Day, St. Patrick's Day with staff manning tables in the parking lot and handing out treats or gifts to members as they drove through, and three 'parades' with staff delivering treats to members at their homes in decorated Dial-A-Ride buses. The Newington Volunteer Fire Department collaborated on a Safety Picnic that was held as a drive through and, in June, a parking lot party with live music and funnel cakes celebrated the first in-person event of the year.

- The Center, through a grant from the CARES Act, created and distributed at-home program kits that included painting, seed starting, bird feeders, terrariums, and cookie decorating as no-tech opportunities for engagement.
- The Center developed several low-tech opportunities using telephone conference calls for participants who do not use computers. These, offered weekly, included bingo, meditation, Boggle, and Neurocize.
- Zoom based programs were offered throughout the year. These included craft classes (with supplies provided), guest speakers, educational programs, trivia contests and discussion groups. Several of these were provided in partnership with supporting agencies and organizations.
- The Center was a lead agency in creating a year-long pilot virtual senior center collaborative with the CT Healthy Living Collective and other Senior Centers through support from AARP CT. These included a tri-town series with Branford and Woodbury, a statewide Senior Center Holiday Bash with over 1,200 people enrolled and 50+ senior centers participating in a monthly theme-based program.
- Several of the evidence-based or informed programs that the Center is licensed to lead were transitioned to virtual. These included Live Well (chronic disease self-management), Aging Mastery Program, and Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance. Other multi-session programs were offered including WISE (an intergenerational program with CCSU) and a five-week Brain Health Series provided by Hartford Health Care's Center for Healthy Aging.
- Nutrition remained a core priority for the Center. The volunteer grocery shopping program continued through May until Dial-A-Ride was available for shopping transportation. In total, more than \$20,000 of groceries were purchased by 12 volunteers in 433 trips for 70 residents.
- The congregate meal was provided as a Grab and Go service all year with 50-60 people receiving a bag with 5 complete meals (frozen entrée, fruit, dairy and snack) each Wednesday either by picking up in a drive through or delivered by Dial-A-Ride. The Meals-On-Wheels' program continued with increased use. Staff packed and delivered more than 1,000 meals a month. In May, volunteers began resuming some of the delivery work.
- The Center is fortunate to have a dedicated roster of more than 90 volunteers who were, for the most part, benched for the year. Still, the Center provided its annual Volunteer Dinner with meals delivered to homes and a show on NCTV.
- Through the Information and Referral Center, more than 1,000 residents got assistance with supportive programs including Energy Assistance, Renter's Rebate, Medicare Part D, Meals on Wheels, tax preparation, the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and case management. Staff established effective methods to provide services including telephone, mail and a drop box at the Center. The AARP Tax-Aide program was also able to provide modified services this year with volunteers meeting clients car-side and completing the returns online.
- Dial-A-Ride provided 1,360 trips and was used by 84 people. Until May, only non-urgent medical transportation was provided, and the number of passengers served dropped dramatically. Drivers also provided essential delivery services with 862 congregate meals, 4,503 Meals-On-Wheels, 303 grocery orders, 650 Food Pantry orders and 491 program materials delivered. Dial-A-Ride staff were also instrumental in cleaning and organizing each room, closet and cabinet in the Center.
- Several large facility projects were completed over the year. This included reconstruction of the main parking lot including new lighting and ADA compliant and user-friendly sidewalks. The HVAC system was replaced. Also, the entire interior of the Center was repainted. Plans are underway to replace all of the windows in the Center.

2021-2022 Goals

- Continue to assess and respond to the changing needs of older adults and people with disabilities in the community.
- Continue efforts to strengthen community engagement to support aging in place.
- Build on the professional services of the Center and ensure a safe, welcoming and well-maintained facility.
- Provide programs, services and activities that improve well-being.

Parks and Recreation

William DeMaio, Superintendent

The Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of three divisions: Recreation, Parks and Grounds, and Cemeteries. Together, they provide comprehensive services and facilities for Newington residents.

Recreation Division

The Town of Newington has established a firm commitment to recreational resources and opportunities for its residents. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of recreational programs, special events, sports leagues, facility rentals (Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park pavilions, as well as the Mortensen Community Center, the Kellogg-Eddy House, and the Municipal Parking Lot), and leisure opportunities for all ages. The Town operates outdoor swimming pools at Mill Pond Park and Churchill Park. Indoor swimming is available at Newington High School during the fall, winter, and spring. Tennis enthusiasts can find one court at Churchill Park and nine courts at Newington High School, along with four clay and four Har-Tru tennis courts located at Mill Pond Park. For those interested in the sport of pickleball, there are two outdoor courts at Churchill Park and eight indoor courts at the Mortensen Community Center. Golfers can enjoy the beauty of the landscape at the town-owned, privately operated, 18-hole Indian Hill Golf Course. The Town is blessed with trails located on Cedar Mountain, behind Deming-Young Farm, and at Churchill Park. The Department offers 110 community garden plots at Deming-Young Farm with fertile farm soil for those who love gardening. Clem Lemire Recreation Complex received several renovations this year. Comprehensive renovations to Memorial Softball Field and Legends Baseball Field were completed. For the first time ever, lights are being installed at Legends Baseball Field.

The Recreation Division offers many leisure programs, including year-round Aquatics (swim lessons and recreational swimming), Adult Leagues (Cornhole, Women's Volleyball, and Men's Basketball), Youth Basketball (Grades K-12) and a host of other programs and special events, including fitness and cultural arts programs for youth and adults of all ages. Although operated independently, youth sports' organizations including T-Ball, Little League, Softball, Challenger Baseball, Wrestling, Soccer, Swim Club, Lacrosse, Travel Basketball, Youth Football, and Cheerleading all fall under the umbrella of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department hosts a seven-week summer camp program entitled Camp RECreate for children entering kindergarten through grade 8. The Summer Concert Series offers 14 free concerts on Thursday nights at Mill Pond Park. Due to COVID-19, weekly concerts were held in the spring, summer, and fall at the Municipal Parking Lot. The Department prides itself on their efforts and ability to work with the Board of Education, church groups, civic organizations, veterans' organizations, the local business community, and all other Town departments. The Mortensen Community Center accommodates reservations for private activities, events, birthday parties, meetings, and various sporting events throughout the year. The Department's Creative Playtime Preschool Program is fully licensed as a Child Day Care Center through the State of Connecticut and is open to children ages 3 to 5. The Department also sponsors the annual Life. Be in it. Extravaganza celebration in July at Mill Pond Park, highlighted by the largest fireworks' show in the region. The Department hosted St. Patrick's Day Party in the Park, Food Truck Friday, and Motorcycle Madness in the month of June.

2020-2021 Highlights

- Over 800 programs were offered throughout the year, and there were approximately 21,000 registered participants for these programs.
- Residents reserved picnic sites at Churchill Park; over 15,000 picnickers enjoyed the park under the pavilions.
- Newington gardeners reserved garden plots in the Community Gardens at Deming-Young Farm for their vegetable-growing pleasure.
- The Department aggressively utilized social media to assist in a comprehensive plan to advertise all programs.
- The Adult Cornhole League continued to be a popular program for adults, running on Thursday nights at Mill Pond Park during the spring, summer, and fall.
- Several programs were held virtually due to COVID-19.
- Additional opportunities for recreation and leisure were offered, including DJ pool parties at Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park pools, Fun Runs, the Edythe & Harry Mandell Summer Concert Series at Mill Pond Park sponsored by Data-Mail Inc., and pictures with Santa. The Kindness Counts for Kids Program encouraged children to write letters to Santa explaining the acts of kindness they had done throughout the year. Over the span of two nights, sixty Newington households had a special visit from Santa. The Night of Lights Celebration was held virtually both from the Mortensen Community Center and downtown Newington.
- The Creative Playtime Preschool Program continued to attract over 35 families each year and has remained a popular choice for parents of children ages 3-5. Our flexible program allows parents to choose a schedule that suits their needs, offering morning, afternoon, and full day programs. This State licensed, comprehensive program continues to grow with nearly a thousand graduates since its launch in 2007.
- Parents can also enroll their preschool age children in the Summer Sunshine Program. With activities similar to the Creative Playtime Preschool Program, Summer Sunshine offers a seven-week educational and entertaining experience during the summer months.
- Opportunities to advertise in our seasonal program guide were offered again, and we continue to see interest from local businesses including Geico, Data-Mail, Hinding Sports Builders, Church of Christ Congregational, Rosenberg Orthodontics, CT Beverage Mart, the Republican Town Committee, ReMax of Newington, Century 21 Stamm Realty, the Newington Masons, Mike Camillo, AARP, Total Vision, MDC, Happy Harry's Wine and Liquor Warehouse, 7/11, Rooster Co., Dunkin' Donuts, Spring Brook Ice & Fuel Service, CMI Sound, The Flying Monkey, Trantolo & Trantolo, West Hill Automotive, Brookfield Indian Motorcycle, T.J's on Cedar, McBride Wayside Carpet Co., The Bar & Grill, Century 21 North East, and CycleFish.
- Our program guide is directly mailed to over 13,000 households four times a year.
- For the second year, the Department provided a program to honor our veterans and active military members. For the second year, a public/private partnership was established in the amount of \$5,000 with Hinding Sports Builders of West Haven. This partnership enabled us to construct a 22 ft. long mobile memorial trailer that showcased service members' names and their branch of the military. The memorial tour consisted of a 25-mile drive, showcasing the memorial along with patriotic music being played by the band Dually Noted.

Parks and Recreation

- The Department continued to update the Town's Tree Inventory. Staff identified trees belonging to the Town of Newington and collected and recorded specific data to be put into a database for future needs.
- At the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) State Conference Awards Banquet, one of the Department's Board members and volunteers, Bill DeBlasio, was recognized. He was awarded the 2020 Public Service Award for his dedication and volunteerism.
- The Department continued the tradition of annually honoring businesses, volunteers, and/or civic groups that help the Department better serve its residents with a "Building a Strong Community Special Recognition Award". This year's recipients were AARP/FitLot, Don Woods, the Newington Masons, and Tom Tallard.

Parks and Grounds Division

The Parks and Grounds Division is responsible for the year-round maintenance of 833 acres of parks and public green spaces, including two regional parks: Mill Pond Park and Churchill Park, ten neighborhood parks: Badger Field, Bank's Corner, Beechwood Park, Beacon Park, Candlewyck Park, Eagle Park, Little Brook Park, Mary Welles Park, Seymour Park, and Starr Park, as well as three historic properties: the Kellogg-Eddy House, the Kelsey House, and Deming-Young Farm. The Division maintains the Municipal Parking Lot, the downtown town-owned properties, the grounds of all Newington public buildings, 110 community garden plots, the picnic and recreation facilities at Churchill Park, the skatepark at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex, two outdoor swimming pools (Churchill Pool and Mill Pond Pool), playgrounds, several miles of hiking/biking trails, numerous public rights-of-way, 64 cul-de-sacs, roadside mowing, numerous flower beds, 17 decorative planters on Main Street, the placing of flags, town-wide decorations and lighting for the holidays, five Fire Stations, Senior and Disabled Center, Town Hall, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, Ambulance building, and seven schools. Maintenance activities include mowing, pruning, trash removal, leaf collection, athletic field preparation for scholastic and recreational use, as well as snow removal for schools, public building parking areas, sidewalks, and school walk routes through town spaces. Parks and Grounds is responsible for the maintenance of trees on all streets, parks, cemeteries, schools, rights-of-way, and all town-owned property. The trees are valued at over 30 million dollars.

2020-2021 Highlights

- Resurfaced basketball courts in several neighborhood parks.
- Expansion joints at Churchill Pool were repaired, and the pool was painted.
- Repaired a 14 ft. deep drain pipe at Churchill Pool.
- Crack repair was performed at Mill Pond Pool.
- Completed miles of town-wide road side mowing.
- Renovated Memorial Field and Legends Field at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex including removal of lips, installation of new irrigation heads, and installation of new Dura Edge infield material.
- Completed landscape renovation including the construction of new beds, the planting of arborvitaes, and the partial installation of an irrigation system at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library.

- Provided setup and support for the Waterfall Festival, Night of Lights, Wreaths Across America, Summer Concert Series at Mill Pond Park, high school football games, and the Veterans Day celebration.
- Parks staff continued to provide ongoing maintenance and operation of irrigation systems at town athletic fields, tennis courts, and the Lucy Robbins Welles Library.
- Constructed and installed several handicap accessible picnic tables at pavilions and playgrounds at Town parks.
- Continued to promote memorial bench program with three new memorial benches installed at various parks in town. In addition, the Department continued to offer a tree dedication program.
- Completed fall clean-up at all Town buildings and provided four staff members to support the Highway Department with the annual street side leaf collection.
- Parks and Grounds is responsible for all seasonal decorations from holiday decorations to 170 flags, including American flags for Memorial Day and seasonal flags for spring and fall.
- Soccer field enhancement project continued at Emmanuel Christian Academy fields including verti-cutting, aeration, overseeding, topdressing, and applications of fertilizer.
- Staff installed new irrigation controllers for athletic fields, as well as overseeing the installation of the new system at the Emmanuel Christian Academy soccer fields.
- In winter months, staff removed over a dozen street tree stumps.
- Playground certified woodchips were added at Beacon Park and Eagle Park playgrounds.
- Like the rest of the world, the Town of Newington Parks and Grounds schedule and work was defined by our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Implemented new Best Management Safety practices in response to the crisis and altered staff work schedules.
- Parks and Grounds' staff collaborated to build a Veterans Memorial trailer to pay tribute to active and retired military men and women.
- New controller and dry chlorine equipment was installed at the pools in hopes of opening this summer.
- Annual setup, tilling, staking, and irrigation was performed at the 110 Community Garden plots at Deming-Young Farm.
- Installed over 170 American flags in preparation for Memorial Day.
- Performed extensive repairs on four Har-Tru and four clay tennis courts at Mill Pond Park. New electric valves, sprinkler heads, and nozzles were installed, and staff repaired broken piping at the tennis courts.
- On short notice, due to state imposed COVID-19 restrictions, staff quickly prepared Churchill Pool for public opening on July 1.
- Installed Churchill Park Musco Lighting web-control system at the Churchill Park softball field.

Parks and Recreation

Cemetery Division

The Cemetery Division is responsible for maintaining three cemeteries in town: Church Street Cemetery, Center Cemetery, and West Meadow Cemetery. The Department is responsible for grave sales, interments, and record keeping. The Department also researches and responds to inquiries from local town residents, as well as extended families.

- West Meadow Cemetery, in collaboration with Newington Memorial Funeral Home, once again hosted a successful Cherish Our Children ceremony in September.
- In December, West Meadow Cemetery proudly participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony. This event is conducted by local veterans in conjunction with the nationwide Wreaths Across America Organization.
- There were 138 interments in West Meadow Cemetery, consisting of 56 cremations, 55 single depth burials and 27 double depth burials. In West Meadow Cemetery, 115 interments were performed on a weekday, 21 interments were performed on a Saturday and 2 interments were performed on a Sunday/holiday.
- There were 7 interments in Center Cemetery, consisting of 5 cremations, 1 single depth burial, and 1 double depth burial. In Center Cemetery, all 7 interments were performed on a weekday.

- 98 graves were sold in West Meadow Cemetery.
- 8 graves from West Meadow Cemetery were sold back to the Town of Newington.
- 10 veteran markers were installed.
- West Meadow Cemetery is a very busy and active cemetery. The Parks and Recreation staff average over three burials per week and over two grave sales per week. The staff works cooperatively with local funeral homes to aide in the administration of each funeral service. The staff manicures 10 acres of turf and landscaping at West Meadow Cemetery.
- Began the construction of the expansion of Section F in West Meadow Cemetery.



Parks in Newington	Baseball	Softball	Playground	Multise Fields*	Tennis	Pool	Volleyball Boce	Basketball	Trails	Ice Skating	Picnic Shelter	Water Features	Skatepark	Pickleball
Badger Field - <i>Walsh Avenue</i>														
Beacon Park - <i>Beacon Street</i>														
Beechwood Park - <i>Woodbridge Road</i>														
Candlewyck Park - <i>Lamplighter Lane</i>														
Churchill Park - <i>Main Street</i>														
Clem Lemire - <i>New Britain Avenue</i>														
Eagle Lantern Park - <i>Eagle Drive</i>														
Little Brook Park - <i>Little Brook Drive</i>														
Mill Brook Farms Park - <i>Main Street</i>														
Mill Pond Park - <i>Garfield Street</i>														
Seymour Park - <i>Seventh Street</i>														
Starr Park - <i>Starr Avenue</i>														
Mary Welles Park - <i>Cedar Street</i>														



Denotes facilities available in that park.

Newington Planning & Development

Building Department

Douglas Jourdan, Building Official

The Building Department has a number of responsibilities to insure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Newington. The Department does this by enforcing state building codes and inspections of all commercial/industrial buildings, rental properties and all places of assembly and individual residences. Building codes are laws or ordinances adopted in the local or state level that set minimum safety standards for the construction of residential and commercial buildings. The building codes regulate structural and fire safety, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems, zoning and energy conservation. The Building Department works very closely with homeowners and contractors in processing and issuance of permits. The Department also works with the Fire Marshal, Town Engineer, Police, Social Services and the Health Director/Health Department.

Some commercial Certificates of Occupancy issued in this fiscal year for new businesses in Newington are listed below:

- Burlington located at 3491 Berlin Turnpike
- The Learning Experience located at 395 Willard Avenue

Other Certificates of Occupancy issued in this fiscal year are:

- Cathedral De Adoracao located at 155 Lowrey Place
- Town Hall, 200 Garfield Street

Listed below are permits or applications for commercial permits:

- Fit out for a liquor store at 28B Fenn Road
- A Hair Salon at 556 New Britain Avenue
- New Square Peg Pizzeria located inside Montana Nights Axe Throwing located at 80 Fenn Road
- Dick's Sporting Goods Store located at 1603 Southeast Road
- A Toy Store located at 32B Fenn Road
- Smoothie King Juice Bar located at 3117 Berlin Turnpike

A total of 12 Certificates of Occupancy were issued from July 2020 to June 2021; 3 were Commercial, 7 were for single-family residences, 1 was for the Town Hall, and 1 for the Community Center Kitchen.

Partial Certificates of Occupancy were for the gymnasium at the Town Hall excluding the partitions and 1 for the Town Hall excluding the Police Department before the final Certificate of Occupancy was issued.

Permits Issued 2020-2021

Type of Permit	#	Value of Permits
Additions	325	\$10,657,037.00
Decks	76	491,404.00
Demolition	6	358,500.00
Electrical	598	5,577,585.00
Fence	0	0.00
Fire Suppressn/Sprinkler	0	0.00
Footing/Foundation	0	0.00
Fuel Tank	19	54,797.00
Garages/Sheds	16	203,326.00
Mechanical	472	4,409,812.00
New Commercial	4	2,449,000.00
New Municipal	1	18,000.00
New Residential	10	2,106,450.00
Plumbing	253	1,267,337.00
Pools	57	664,518.00
Roofing/Siding	316	4,222,953.00
Sign	30	231,901.00
Solar	123	1,882,070.00
Tent	10	26,317.00
Trailer	0	0.00
Total	2,316	\$34,621,007.00

Income Received from Permit Fees **\$387,615.00**

Total Income **\$451,625.50**

Number of Inspections **2,104**

2021-2022 Goals

- Maintaining State Mandated Continuing Education for all staff.
- Firm and consistent enforcement of all State codes to protect the health, safety and welfare of all Newington residents.

Other Income Received	Amount
Town Plan and Zoning Application Fees	\$21,910.00
Environmental Fees	4,020.00
Conservation Commission Application Fees	7,410.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,820.00
Copies, Books and Maps	182.50
Work in Right of Way	28,300.00
Engineering Copies	368.00
Total	\$64,010.50

Newington Planning & Development

Town Planner

Renata Bertotti, AICP **Town Planner**

The Planning and Development Department provides professional and administrative support to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission, the Open Space Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Affordable Housing Monitoring Agency, the Conservation Commission, and the Economic Development Commission. The Department assists the Town Council and the Town Manager by meeting with land developers and state officials, providing a long-range perspective on development opportunities, and carrying out special projects as assigned by the Town Manager.

The Department is responsible for providing a wide range of planning and zoning services to the general public, Town officials, and the business community. The Department offers hands-on assistance to individuals and businesses that seek various types of zoning approval, as well as vigorous enforcement of the zoning regulations and the Town of Newington's blight ordinance.

The Department also prepares State and Federal grant applications.

Mission

The mission of the Planning and Development Department is to help the Town of Newington maintain a high quality of life by promoting sustainable land use and economic growth that conserves the community's natural resources, and to help citizens and businesses achieve their own development goals.

2020-2021 Highlights

Town Plan and Zoning Commission:

During this fiscal year, the TPZ received approximately 53 petitions for special permits, site plan approvals, zoning amendments and various miscellaneous items, including the following:

- Site Plan Approval/Modification: 17 Commercial and Residential site plan approvals and modifications, including 2 new carwashes, 2 residential developments, and single-family homes.

- Special Permit Approvals: 20 Special Permits, including free-standing commercial signs, restaurants, a brew pub, liquor permits, interior lots, a special event, home businesses, and one denial of auto related use.
- Zone Changes and Zoning Text Amendments: 9 Zoning Text Amendments: apartments in the B zone, chickens, TOD, Outdoor Dining, a drive thru in the PD Zone, and 4 zone map changes.
- Sec. 8-24 Referrals: Approved 3 Sec. 8-24 referrals from the Newington Town Council.

Conservation Commission:

During this fiscal year, the Conservation Commission received approximately 22 petitions, 15 of those were agent approvals, and 7 were heard by the Commission. The Conservation Commission received \$7,410 in application fees.

Economic Development Commission:

The Economic Development Commission held 7 regular meetings and 2 special meetings during the fiscal year and accomplished the following:

- Established Beautification Committee which was able to provide planters and flags within the Town.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

During this fiscal year, the Zoning Board of Appeals received 5 Petitions: 4 approved and 1 withdrawn. The Department collected \$1,820 in ZBA application fees this fiscal year.

Affordable Housing Monitoring Agency: This agency did not have any business or hold any meetings this fiscal year.

Administrative Activities:

- Permit and Application Fee Revenue: During this fiscal year, the Department collected \$21,910 in TPZ permit and application fees.
- Zoning Enforcement: During this fiscal year, the Zoning Enforcement Officer investigated and acted upon 98 zoning complaints, issued 39 zoning approvals, issued 17 certificates of zoning compliance, and investigated 35 complaints of blight.

Engineering Department

Gary Fuerstenberg, Town Engineer

Functions:

- Support economic development, public works, and public safety work groups.
- Oversee construction and maintenance of town infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks, parking lots, storm drainage, dams, etc.).
- Advise Town Council, Conservation Commission and Town Plan and Zoning Commission regarding public safety, traffic safety, compliance with Town regulations (site geometry, grading, drainage).
- Provide survey, design (engineering analysis and evaluation) and environmental services.
- Prepare engineering recommendations, plans, and estimates for Town infrastructure improvements.
- Perform site, topographic, boundary and construction surveys and prepare engineering drawings for Town of Newington infrastructure improvements.
- Represent Town of Newington interests on state (CDOT) projects and utility projects in Newington.
- Facilitate public outreach for high profile infrastructure projects.
- Represent Town of Newington at utility and CDOT meetings, and coordinate with adjacent towns regarding multi-town projects.
- Archive Town of Newington infrastructure and engineering data.
- Prepare annual operating budget and annual Capital Improvement Project budget.
- Apply for state and federal infrastructure grants for maintaining and improving Town of Newington infrastructure.
- Administer engineering permits for work in Town of Newington right-of-way.

2020-2021 Achievements:

- Supported approximately \$200M in economic development activity, public works and public safety.
- Coordinated Eversource contribution (approximately \$425K) to restore local roads impacted by utility construction (substation improvements and underground transmission) and contribution (\$148K) to restore local roads used for utility construction (overhead transmission).

- Coordinated MDC contribution (approximately \$45K) to restore local roads impacted by utility construction.
- Evaluated roads and updated road RSR database and Road Surface Rating Plan.
- Performed site, topographic, boundary and construction surveys and prepared engineering drawings and cost estimates for Town of Newington and Board of Education projects.

Projects:

- Manage grant projects:
 - ◇ \$80K: 2017 Community Connectivity Grant – Garfield Street
 - ◇ \$2,800K: 2018 LOTCIP Grant – Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue Complete Street Project
 - ◇ \$128K: STEAP grant — Senior center window replacement project
- Manage grant applications:
 - ◇ \$2,900K: 2020 LOTCIP Grant – Maple Hill Avenue and Alumni Road Complete Street Project
 - ◇ \$500K: 2020 Urban Act Grant – Elm Hill Business District Streetscape Project
 - ◇ \$500K: 2020 Community Connectivity grant - Main Street Sidewalk Connectivity Project

Statistical Summaries:

- Total grant value of \$6.9M has an economic development value of about \$172M.
- Reviewed applications for 196 driveway permits and 264 road excavation permits.
- Reviewed about 100 sites for a Frontier excavation permit.
- Reviewed 625 routine CBYD tickets and 19 emergency CBYD tickets.
- Supported 38 projects for Town Manager, Highway, Planning, Facilities, Parks and Board of Education.

Highway Department

Robert Hillman, Superintendent

The Highway Department and its various divisions are responsible for leaf collection, snow plowing and snow removal, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning and repair, waterway maintenance, Transfer Station operations, refuse collection and disposal, recycling, Town owned traffic signals, signage and road markings, fleet maintenance and procurement, road construction and maintenance, alterations and repairs of all Town roads and rights of way.

2020-2021 Highlights

- Continued with project coordination and oversight of the long term Landfill closure/conversion to Transfer Station. Construction for all phases were completed in 2021.
- Continued with the annual Target Solution on line employee safety training program along with various other training requirements. Completed annual hearing tests for all personnel.
- Hosted annual MDC Hazardous Household Waste Collection event on May 1, 2021.
- Conducted annual roadway condition evaluations.
- Continued oversight of all departmental construction projects.
- Attended Environmental Quality Commission meetings.
- Coordinated the pickup, delivery and placement of concrete blocks at several dining establishments to assist with outdoor seating efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Completed annual equipment training for Highway Equipment Operators.
- Nineteen (19) roads totaling approximately 4.5 miles were milled and paved along with drainage improvements on various roads. Roads in the mill and overlay program include: Wilson Avenue, Cheney Lane, Wakeley Road, Alandale Lane, Clifford Street, Coles Avenue, North Mountain Road, Elmwood Court, Elliot Lane, Fennwood Circle, Holly Drive, Center Court, Kimberly Road, Olive Street, Roseleah Avenue, Thomas Street, West Hartford Road, West Hill Road, Connecticut Avenue (partial).
- Reconstructed parking lot at Company 4 Firehouse and Beacon Park Pathway.
- Completed Senior Center Parking Lot upgrades including milling, paving, curb replacement and topsoil spreading.
- Crews removed deteriorated sidewalks along Centerwood Road.
- Completed annual town wide roadside tree trimming throughout the winter months.
- Assisted with several evictions and property storage throughout the year.
- Highway Department personnel collected over 14,000 cubic yards of leaves from November through December. Four crews consisting of 24 people, including personnel from Parks and Grounds, were devoted to the program.
- Highway crews responded to 15 snow/ice events totaling over 50" of snow and ice.
- Waterway maintenance continued with crews clearing brush and debris including beaver colonies (licensed trappers) in an effort to keep the town waterways flowing properly. Catch basins were cleaned and repaired throughout Town to ensure adequate storm water flow. Maintenance also included dredging and clearing of debris.
- Vegetation grinding was performed twice during the year by a private contractor with assistance from Highway personnel and equipment. The Transfer Station provides a disposal site for Town residents who wish to dispose of grass clippings, leaves, and vegetative waste. It is also a recycling center for items such as metal appliances, scrap metal, propane tanks, used motor oil, automotive batteries, single stream recycling, covered electronic devices and textiles.
- Town wide street sweeping was completed during the months of April and May.
- Town wide Christmas tree collection was completed late December/early January.
- Private contractors collected refuse at 9,322 residential homes and 2,240 condominiums and elderly housing complexes each week, totaling approximately 8,487 tons of residential municipal solid waste brought to Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) of Hartford for fiscal year 2020/2021. In addition, 11,620 household bulky waste items, 1,264 condominium bulky waste items and 617 combined metal items were collected curbside throughout the year, along with 296 television sets over 19" that were collected and recycled. Also, 1,378 mattresses and 810 box springs were collected curbside throughout the year.
- Private contractors collected recyclables at 11,563 residential homes, condominiums and elderly housing complexes. Recyclables were brought to Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) of Hartford for processing. Over 2,497 tons of recyclables were collected curbside for fiscal year 2020/2021.
- The Central Repair Garage is responsible for vehicle and equipment procurement, outfitting and disposal, preventative maintenance and emergency repairs for Police, Fire, Highway, Parks and Grounds, Volunteer Ambulance, Dial-a Ride, and General Government. The Central Repair Garage is also responsible for the Town's fueling facilities. Town Departments rely on Repair Garage personnel for emergency equipment installation, fabrication, diagnosis and repair of Town owned vehicles and equipment. Mechanics also assist as needed with leaf collection, snow plowing and construction projects.

Newington Public Works

Information

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SEPARATION, PLACEMENT, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE, RECYCLABLES, AND YARD VEGETATION WASTE WITHIN THE TOWN OF NEWINGTON

- **Household Rubbish:** All household refuse is to be placed in the green container provided by the Town for curbside automated collection.
- **Household Recycling:** All household recyclables are collected Single Stream in the Town provided blue container.
- **Oversized or bulky items (non metal) may be picked up curbside for a fee. Residents must call Trash Away @ 860-229-1164 by Tuesday at 3:30 pm of each week to schedule a Thursday collection. Limit of two (2) items per week. See list of acceptable items below. Please visit website (www.newingtonct.gov/1328/Oversized-Bulk-Items) for the updated fees.**
 - ◇ **Branches:** Branches placed at the curbside must be tied into bundles (individual branches cannot exceed four (4) inches in diameter or be more than four (4) feet in length) and should be light enough for one person to lift. Limit of five (5) bundles each week.
 - ◇ **Wooden and Upholstered Furniture, Carpeting, and other Large Household Items:** These items (mattresses, box springs, wood doors, chairs, couches, etc.) may be placed at the curbside and are limited to two (2) items each week. Items must be able to be loaded into the refuse truck by two people. Carpeting must be rolled up, less than four (4) feet in length, tied, and light enough for one person to lift. There is a limit of five (5) rolls of carpeting per week.
 - ◇ **Automobile Tires:** Tires (rims removed) may be left at the curbside each week. Rims may be disposed of at the Town's Landfill/Recycling Center.
- **Building Materials:** Material such as sheetrock, roofing shingles, insulation and other building materials may be disposed of at CWPM located at 415 Christian Lane, Berlin (860) 828-1162. Material disposal fees are on a per ton basis. **NOTE: The disposal of any remodeling or building materials generated by a contractor's work is the responsibility of the contractor and will not be included in the oversized pick up.**
- **Materials Not Acceptable for Placement in the Curbside Containers:** Dangerous or environmentally unsafe materials or substances including, but not limited to, cleaning fluids, oil base paints, caustics, explosives, acids, poisons, drugs, radioactive materials, asbestos, swimming pool chemicals, etc., should be disposed of on Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days (HHWCD). Please call the Newington Sanitation Department (860) 667-5874 for a schedule of these collection days or visit www.themdc.com.
- **Scrap Metal:** Large appliances and other metal items are collected by the Town's contractor each week at curbside. **Residents must pre-pay (\$12 for one item, \$5 for each additional item) before 3:00 pm to be scheduled for Tuesday pickup.** Please contact Trash Away @ 860-229-1164. Residents also have the option of taking these items to the Town's Transfer Station on Main Street at no charge. Residents must show proof of residency at the Town Landfill. If you have any questions, please call (860) 667-5874.
- **Leaves/Grass Clippings:** Leaves will continue to be collected by the Town at the curbside each fall. Residents may also take leaves to the Town's Transfer Station but must remove leaves from bags, boxes, etc. prior to disposal at the Transfer Station. Grass clippings can be left on the lawn, put into a backyard compost pile, or taken to the Town Landfill. **Do not put leaves or grass clippings in either curbside container. Rubbish and recycling carts containing grass or leaves will not be emptied.**
- **Waste Motor Oil:** Waste motor oil can be disposed of at the Town Highway Garage (off Fenn Road), Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, or at the Town's Transfer Station on the weekends. Oil must be delivered and in sealed containers.
- **Additional Items Accepted at the Town's Transfer Station: Propane Tanks, Textiles, Mattresses and Box springs.**
- **Electronics Recycling:** Covered electronic devices such as desktop and laptop computers, computer monitors, printers, and televisions must be recycled and are not allowed in your curbside rubbish container per State law. Residents may dispose of these items at the Newington Landfill. For additional information, contact the Sanitation Division at (860) 667-5874.

Vegetation Disposal—Transfer Station

A permit is required to dispose of vegetation. Permits may be obtained at the Highway Department, 281 Milk Lane (off of Fenn Road) or at the Town Clerk's office, Town Hall. No permit required for recyclables. Must show proof of Residency.

Location: 2045 Main Street, south of Churchill Park

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

April through December, **Saturday and Sunday**
January through March, **Saturday Only**

Refuse Collection

Curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will be delayed one day on these holidays (unless the holiday falls on a weekend):

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • New Years Day | • Labor Day |
| • Memorial Day | • Thanksgiving Day |
| • Independence Day | • Christmas Day |

Collections are made on the normal day for all other holidays.

WHEN IN DOUBT, PUT IT OUT

Newington Public Works Information

Snow Plowing Guidelines

- Prior to a winter storm event, Highway crews may apply treated salt to all roadways.
- Plowing begins when snow accumulation reaches one half inch (1/2") or forecasts indicate that it will. A maximum of 14 plow trucks may be called out to plow pre-determined snow routes.
- Once snowfall has stopped, plowing and treated salt applications will continue until all Town roads are clear.

It is the Town's policy, when conditions allow, to plow the full width of the street, curb to curb, during major storms. This ensures that the stormwater basins are obstruction-free, allowing storm water and snow melt to drain, thus preventing flooding and icing conditions.

Sidewalks

Residents are required to remove snow from their sidewalks within 12 hours after a snowstorm.

Mailbox Damage

The Town will repair or replace mailbox/posts only when there is evidence of the plow or truck striking the mailbox/post (maximum \$25).

The Town will not accept responsibility for mailboxes/posts which have fallen or are damaged due to the weight or force of the snow thrown by the plow.

Winter Sand

Winter sand is available in small quantities to residents and is located at the Highway Department on Milk Lane.

Winter Parking Bans

Parking on streets is not allowed for more than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am on any day November through March.

Parking on any street during any snowfall or for a period of eight hours after the end of a snowfall, or which impedes or interferes with snow plowing operations, is not allowed.

Driveways

While the Highway Department tries to minimize the amount of snow plowed into driveways, some accumulation is unavoidable.

- Plow blades cannot be lifted as they pass by a driveway, as a mound of snow would be left in the roadway.
- Snow will be plowed into driveways during curb-to-curb plowing.
- Residents may wish to clear driveways several times during a storm or wait until the storm and plowing operations have ended.
- Shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow into the street is a violation of Town ordinances, and violators will be subject to fines (Article IV § 367-23).
- Clearing driveway openings is the responsibility of the property owner.

Leaf Collection Guidelines

Leaves should be raked to the edge of the property (not into the street). Plastic bags should not be used as they cannot be recycled. Do not mix leaves with household trash, branches, sticks, or other debris. Leaves may be taken to the Town Transfer Station on Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. A permit is not required to dispose of leaves at the Transfer Station.

Newington Public Safety Police Department

Stephen Clark, Chief of Police

"To Protect, Serve, and Partner with the Community"

The Newington Police Department consists of 51 full time police officers, 1 recruit training position, 13.5 civilian employees and 1 animal control officer. The department's commitment to the community is to preserve peace and public order, provide community assistance, prevent and deter crimes, apprehend offenders, and protect persons and property in accordance with the laws of the State of Connecticut and the ordinances of the Town of Newington.

2020-2021 Highlights

Department Staffing:

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the department saw the retirements of Master Police Officer Meghan Kennedy and Master Police Officer Daniel Kaufmann. Emilia Fabi was hired as a Public Safety Dispatcher and Matheus Larangeira was hired as a police officer. Master Police Officer Jeffrey Wagner was assigned to Newington High School as the School Resource Officer.

Department Activity:

During the year, the Newington Police Department responded to 23,545 calls for service. The department made 547 criminal arrests and investigated 1,074 "Part I" crimes such as robbery, burglary, sexual assault, aggravated assault, arson, and larceny. The department investigated 936 traffic accidents, which resulted in 99 injuries. There was one fatality. The department made 1,623 traffic stops and arrested 62 motorists for driving while under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Community Outreach:

The Newington Police Department continued to work with the Center for Policing Equity on current trends in policing focusing on training and policy development. A number of new town residents were added to the Police-Community Council. There are currently 10 members. The Council continues to meet quarterly with Zoom meetings.

Police Department Training:

The police department recorded approximately 2,147 hours in officer training during the 2020-2021 fiscal period. Six officers were sent to receive specialized training in dealing with persons in crisis, continuing our efforts to expand our Crisis Intervention Team. The training division

transitioned to the Police One Academy platform to provide online social distance training to combat the decline in training availability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The training division remains focused on firearms' proficiency and continued with the training regimen of bi-annual firearms' qualifications, with one of these qualifications occurring in a low-light setting. All officers are exposed to training in response to active shooting and building clearing, as well as taser/OC/baton/handcuffing, and LOCKUP training to minimize liability in use of force applications. All officers also received training in the House Bill 6004 Police Accountability legislation. Selected officers attended methods of instruction training to become certified CT POST training instructors in areas such as de-escalation, use of force practices, firearms and breath alcohol instructors. The department continues to schedule specialized training for members of the Detective Division. These programs include evidence collection and crime scene processing including specialized training background investigations. Detectives attended training programs dealing with Social Media and Open Source Investigations as well as cell phone investigations. Officers involved in the Mid-State Accident Reconstruction Team continued their attendance in monthly training with the regional accident team. The Emergency Response Team continues to train monthly in tactical operations' training.



Newington Public Safety

Fire Marshal

Guy Pelletier, Fire Marshal
(compiled by Meghan Manke)

The local Fire Marshal is responsible for the enforcement of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code and is required to:

- Annually inspect all buildings and facilities, with the exception of residential buildings, designed to be occupied by one or two families.
- Inspect the installation of flammable and combustible fuel storage tanks.
- Review all plans for new construction and conduct on-site inspections to ensure code compliance.
- Establish fire lanes to ensure accessibility of fire apparatus.
- Determine the needs and locations of new fire hydrants.
- Investigate fires and explosions.
- Investigate fire alarm dispatches to determine proper operation and compliance with local fire alarm ordinance.
- Issue blasting permits and be on site to ensure safety and compliance with state and federal standards.
- Respond to and investigate reported accidental or intentional release of hazardous materials.

2020-2021 Highlights

Significant Fire Incidents:

- August 9, 2020 – Investigated a kitchen fire at 22 Brooks Edge Drive.
- August 26, 2020 – A tree fire extended into the structure at 72 Augusta Drive.
- November 17, 2020 – Investigated a garage fire at 115 Starr Avenue.
- December 19, 2020 – Responded to 105 Harold Drive to investigate a chimney fire which extended into the structure.
- January 16, 2021 – Investigated a fire in a single family home located at 29 Eagle Drive.
- May 13, 2021 - An accidental fire at a single family home at 19 Thornton Drive caused moderate damage to the front of the structure and steps.
- May 19, 2021 – An accidental fire at 23 Woodmere Road caused significant damage to the structure. The CT State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (FEIU) assisted with this investigation. There was one minor injury, and the family was relocated as a result of this fire.
- May 20, 2021 – An early morning fire at 39 Robbins Avenue caused significant damage to the structure, which was later determined to be a total loss. The FEIU assisted with this investigation.
- May 26, 2021 – An accidental fire at 97 Howard Street caused minor damage to the exterior of the structure.
- May 26, 2021 – A kitchen fire at 75 Victory Way caused moderate damage to the unit and adjoining units.

Significant Activities:

- The Fire Marshal's Office was relocated from its location at Fire Headquarters on Main Street to the new Municipal Center on Garfield Street in July of 2020.
- After working in the office for over 8 years, Meghan Manke was assigned to a full-time position in the Fire Marshal's Office in July of 2020.
- Performed final compliance inspections for the new Municipal Center and oversaw demolition of the old Town Hall.
- Provided oversight for standard blasting activity at Balf/Tilcon on Hartford Avenue, monitored and recorded blasting complaints, and coordinated Annual Balf Town Committee Meeting in October of 2020.
- Craig Stegmaier was certified as a Fire Investigator at the end of October 2020.
- Personnel continued to make fire prevention and life safety a priority throughout the year by assisting the NVFD Fire Prevention Bureau in delivering fire prevention programs and activities for local schools, businesses, and healthcare facilities, including a COVID-friendly open house event in October of 2020.
- Conducted special event inspections for private and public events in town, including Motorcycle Madness, NHS prom event, etc.
- Represented the Fire Marshal's Office and participated in monthly meetings of Newington's Safe Homes Task Force, as well as at meetings and functions of the Connecticut Hoarding Working Group.
- Staff participated in a variety of continuing education courses and seminars throughout the year, in accordance with state mandates.
- Guy Pelletier resigned in May of 2021; Craig Stegmaier was appointed as Acting Fire Marshal. Stegmaier (part time) and Manke successfully carried out all required tasks and inspections during this time frame, including investigating 5 structure fires.

Fire Marshal Statistical Summary

Inspections	272
Follow Up Inspections	208
Plan Reviews	92
Job Site Inspections	94
Fire Investigations	49
Fire Alarm Trouble	117
Complaints	46
Tank Removals	1
Safe Home Inspections & Follow Ups	62
Hazmat Incidents	5
Blast Monitoring	14

Newington Volunteer Fire Dept.

Jeffrey Trommer, Fire Chief

The Newington Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1917. It is an all-volunteer organization comprised of approximately 120 members. In addition, the Department hosts Fire Cadet and Junior Cadet Programs which provide full-level training, equivalent to that of an active firefighter, to 14-17 year olds interested in the fire service.

Department members are responsible for the fire, rescue, and hazardous materials' response services for residential and commercial properties in the Town of Newington. The Department also provides comprehensive Fire Prevention and Fire Education programs designed to meet the specific needs and requirements for both residents and commercial businesses. Oversight is provided by three elected members of the Board of Fire Commissioners, whose powers and duties are vested by Town Charter.

FY 2020/2021 Statistics:

Structure Fires	37
Vehicle Fires	16
Exterior Fires	40
Other Fires	8
Pressure, Ruptures, Explosions, Overheat	9
Extrications	10
Other Rescue Calls	37
Hazardous Condition Calls	145
Water Problem	34
Other Service Calls	96
Good Intent Calls	40
False Alarm/False Call	315
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	8
Special Incident Calls	5
Mutual Aid/Standby	36

Newington Fire Department has seen an increase in calls from 669 last year to 836. There has been a notable increase in mutual aid responses from 6 to 36 over a one-year period.

Volunteer hours are broken down as follows:

- Incident response: 13,097 hours
- Administration: 2,134 hours
- Non-Incident/Community Service: 3,987 hours
- Training Hours: 4,443 hours

FY 2020/2021 Total Summary

Incidents: 836
Volunteer hours: 23,661
Department Strength: 102 Regular Members
27 Cadets

Department Highlights

- Chief Chris Schroeder retired from the department with over 46 years of service to the Town with Jeffrey M. Trommer taking the helm of the department as Chief. With the Deputy Chief vacancy created by Chief Trommer's appointment, Jack Nesklada was appointed to Deputy Chief.
- The COVID-19 pandemic forced the department to decrease the number of community events for FY 2020/2021. The Fire Prevention Bureau improvised and had a successful drive-thru open house in October to ensure that the Fire Prevention message still went out to the community.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic, the department increased the size of its Safety Division to help assist and deal with the changing requirements to keep our members safe while still being able to function at a high level. Coordination had to be maintained with the different fire department divisions as well as the individual companies to ensure that proper training and drills were still conducted and that every member was aware of the ever-changing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance and disinfecting policies put forth. The department maintained, to the best of its abilities, the high training standard we have become known for.
- The Fire Department experienced an increase in motor vehicle accidents, especially on the Berlin Turnpike, with entrapments. Personnel had to extricate many of those entrapments.
- Department personnel also responded to numerous structure fires within this year, including two within a 24-hour period. Significant ones included Robbins Avenue and Woodmere Road. No injuries were reported at these incidents.
- The officer testing process for term 2021-2024 company officers was conducted starting in April and ending in June. Company officers were appointed by the commission with the terms starting July 1st.
- Overall, the department is strong and response/participation rate is high among members. We continue to see a steady flow of applicants to fill vacancies caused by attrition. The attrition rate over the last year has been mainly due to changes in member's employment status, moving out of state or personal/family dynamics. Our Recruitment and Retention Program as well as our very successful Cadet Program has been a model for area departments. This, coupled with the support from town leadership, is the reason the Newington Fire Department is one of the largest, most successful volunteer fire departments in the area.

Newington Public Schools

**Dr. Maureen Brummett,
Superintendent of Schools**

The Newington Public School System consists of four elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. An elected nine-member Board of Education, whose powers and duties are specified by Connecticut General Statutes, provides policy oversight and direction to the school administration.

Mission

The Newington Public Schools will cultivate a strong, ongoing partnership of school, family and community to ensure an equitable educational experience for all students. Our educational community will support the social/emotional and academic growth of all students. Newington Public School students will have a strong voice within their school community and graduate with a passion for their post-secondary plan and with the skills outlined in the Portrait of a Graduate.

Vision

Every Newington Public School student will be a contributing member of their community and highly prepared for life after graduation.

District Goals

- *Goal 1: Each and every student has equitable access to high quality education that is rigorous, relevant and engaging.*
- *Goal 2: District, school, and classroom culture embed culturally responsive practices that are respectful and responsive to students, families, and staff.*
- *Goal 3: All educators and support staff implement highly effective practices focused on equity.*
- *Goal 4: All facilities support and adapt to evolving programs of study while providing equitable access to Newington's technology platform.*

2020-2021 Highlights:

ANNA REYNOLDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. Jason Smith, Principal

The 2020-2021 school year was quite an eventful year. While we started the year in hybrid (Blue/Gold Cohorts), we quickly moved to full in person (four days) in October 2020. Students and staff quickly adapted and adjusted to the many changes. At times, students and staff needed to quarantine, and they joined remotely in order to continue their learning. Our focus at the start of the school year was to ensure that staff and students remembered "You are loved and you are safe." This saying carried on throughout the work we did as a school community. We continued our focus on social emotional learning, expanding on the work that we had started prior to the pandemic. In addition, our building renovation project continued to move forward. In November 2020, a town wide referendum was overwhelmingly passed in favor of moving forward with the building renovation project. During the spring of 2020, community members, students, parents and staff participated in Educational Vision planning meetings with KBA to help develop the vision for the school renovation. The project continues to move forward.

Goals for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Address Unfinished Learning through Equitable Instructional Practices.
- Utilize the workshop model for reading and math instruction including mini-lesson, independent practice, small group instruction, and conferencing.
- Continuing the implementation of SEL strategies (Rethink & RULER).
- Explore culturally responsive pedagogy.
- Develop high functioning PLCs focused on Teaching and Learning.

To accomplish these goals, we will:

- Relaunch our intervention team meetings and refine our EIP process (with a focus on student learning).
- Set visible individual student goals.
- Provide bi-monthly progress monitoring of all students at the Tier 1 level in areas of focus.
- Provide push in support to support the acceleration of all students.
- Continue to work with Teacher's College to provide professional learning opportunities for staff in grades 2-4 with the implementation of Units of Study.
- Work collaboratively with interventionists (Special Education teachers, Reading/Math Interventionists/EL Teacher) to provide student support.
- Provide professional learning on collaborative teaching techniques.
- Expand implementation of RULER.
- Ensure full implementation of Rethink (SEL).
- Review and revise student handbook on responding/addressing student behavior.
- Research equitable practices and policies to inform professional development and implementation of student management/discipline.
- Ensure that PLCs have quality time to analyze student work with a focus on learning, collaboration, and results.

ELIZABETH GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. James Marciano, Principal

The 2020-2021 school year was another one for the record books. The COVID-19 pandemic offered a number of challenges for students, staff and families as we worked to educate students in a variety of models including hybrid, in-person, and full remote. I said this in last year's report and it bears repeating. Our students, staff and families have been extremely supportive and flexible, navigating the complexities of the school year with the various restrictions needed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Whether it was going from in-person to remote, masking, social distancing, adjusting to new procedures, quarantine orders, etc., all members of this community were adaptable to the circumstances. I am so proud of us and our response to every challenge. We certainly demonstrated our Superintendent's message for the year #WE GOT THIS. These efforts were marked by some of the highest results for our school in areas of culture and climate. Following, you will find a snapshot of the actions it took to get here.

Newington Public Schools

ELIZABETH GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Goals for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Effectively collaborate in order to navigate the various logistical challenges of educating elementary-aged students in a pandemic.
- Implement social and emotional learning (SEL) initiative with staff and students.
- Improve staff morale.
- Communicate effectively with our stakeholders.

To accomplish these goals, we:

- Developed a schoolwide reopening plan with staff.
- Ensured all logistical challenges were met prior to the reopening of school.
- Trained and retrained stakeholders on safety protocols.
- Participated in a number of community forums.
- Implemented a SEL approach called RULER with staff. Staff participated in 8 virtual training modules to learn about the approach and the tools.
- Learned and implemented a SEL program called Rethink which provided teachers and students units and lessons focused on the five SEL competencies. Provided weekly training on the content.
- Presented on the RULER approach implementation, practices and short term impact to the Board of Education.
- Examined a number of data sources to lay the foundation for the importance of our equity work.
- Launched five professional learning sessions focused on being culturally responsive/relevant educators.
- Communicated at minimum weekly with stakeholders regarding a number of school-based issues but mainly about managing the effects of the pandemic.
- Received \$1,100 worth of school supplies from Staples to be distributed to each of our families.
- Held a very successful Read-A-Thon raising over \$10,000 for our PTO.
- Continued our community fundraising efforts with PJ day for CT Children's Hospital, Jeans for Veterans, and Jeans for World Down Syndrome Day.

JOHN PATERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. Michael Gaydos, Principal

We at John Paterson (along with the rest of the Newington Public Schools) began the 2020-21 School year in a “hybrid model” of instruction that included two cohorts of students along with a cohort of students that were “full-distance learners” - learning completely remotely for either a portion of the year or the entire academic year. The mantra of the school year seemed to be “plan and pivot”. Students and staff quickly adjusted to the regular use of technology, on-line platforms, remote learning, quarantines, social distancing, enhanced hygiene, and wearing masks. Students, staff, and families demonstrated great flexibility and resiliency as we navigated the ever-changing landscape of the 2020-2021 school year. With the transition back to in-person instruction, our prime focus was the physical, emotional, and social health and safety of our school community.

2020-2021 Highlights:

- Students returned to in-person learning in a hybrid model.
- With the exception of “full-remote” students, the vast majority of elementary students returned to full-in person learning prior to the end of the school year.
- Implementation of the ReThink Ed Social Emotional Support Program.
- Pre-K through Grade 4 students were 1-1 with Chromebooks.
- Students had access to and became proficient in many online learning platforms.

As we returned to full in-person learning, our focus and goals included:

- Addressing unfinished learning through equitable instructional practices.
- Ensuring our Professional Learning Communities are high-functioning and focused on teaching and learning.
- Focusing on Tiered Intervention and Early Intervention.
- Continuing to focus on the social emotional learning.
- Enhancing our relationships and partnerships throughout the John Paterson Community.

RUTH CHAFFEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mrs. Beverly Lawrence, Principal

The 2020-2021 School Year brought about many changes; hybrid model (blue and gold cohorts); distance learners; district-wide quarantine for a couple of weeks; finally, with the exception of distance learners, students returned to full time in-school learning. With the many changes, we focused our school goals on Social and Emotional Learning, utilizing both ReThink Ed and Zones of Regulation. Both emphasized gaining a better understanding of one's self, setting goals, practicing resilience, managing anxiety, etc. Although we focused on unfinished learning that occurred the year before, some of our planned goals were placed on hold. However, there is much to be said about how our students, staff and families adapted back to in-school learning, online learning (distance and temporary remote learners), multiple schedules, social distancing, adhering to cohorting, etc. for the 2020-2021 school year. While it offered many challenges, our school community came together, and our collaborative efforts, flexibility, consistent communication, and determination to ensure that all students, families, and staff felt connected was a priority. We diligently worked to provide reassurance that their child(ren) would be safe at school during this pandemic through many online forums, google meets, and weekly newsletters.

Once again, our educators revised and implemented the playbook of all playbooks, simultaneously managing large class sizes, a variety of schedule changes, simultaneously instructing students in school and out of school, ensuring that all students were learning and still connected to the classroom. I couldn't be more proud of our accomplishments meeting our students' academic but most importantly social and emotional needs. Most of the goals listed will continue into the coming school year as many were left unevaluated or unachieved.

Newington Public Schools

RUTH CHAFFEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Goals for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Address unfinished learning through Equitable Instructional Practices.
- Utilize the workshop model for reading and math instruction including mini-lesson, independent practice, small group instruction, and conferencing.
- Fully implement and apply RethinkEd lessons throughout the school day.
- Explore culturally responsive pedagogy.
- Each PLC will identify, disaggregate, and analyze student achievement data to monitor patterns among subgroups of students to inform practices.

Our Benchmarks are:

- *Nov. 1:* At least 75% of students meeting benchmark on identified focus areas in reading and math and reduction in achievement gap of 5%.
- *Feb. 1:* At least 80% of students meeting benchmark on identified focus areas in reading and math and reduction in achievement gap of 5%.
- *May 31:* At least 90% of students meeting benchmark on identified focus areas in reading and math and reduction in achievement gap of 5%.

We will continue to:

- Participate in professional learning to refine and/or improve pedagogical practices in reading and writing.
- Implement a revised Educator Evaluation Plan focused on increased coaching competencies aimed at better outcomes for educators.
- Continue with Re-ThinkEd teaching the social-emotional learning competencies (daily during Morning Meetings).
- Continue to issue our student SOAR cards for exhibiting the 3 Cardinal Rules (Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful) as a way to provide continuity and a sense of normalcy.
- Ensure that PLCs have quality time to analyze student work with a focus on learning, collaboration, and results.

JOHN WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mr. Daniel Dias, Principal

The 2020-21 school year certainly was a year we will always remember. Though a very challenging school year, our school community was able to partner and work together to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Our school goals for the 2020-21 school year were a blend of academic and social emotional goals:

- Successful reopening of John Wallace Middle School.
- Support the health, safety, and social emotional well-being of staff and students.
- Students will improve their understanding of mathematical thinking (concepts and applications).
- Students will improve their reading comprehension and fluency skills.

To accomplish these goals, we:

- Revised the Master Schedule in the summer of 2020 to build cohorts in grades 5-8 with assistance from counselors and case managers.
- Participated in the NPS Reopen Committee. Planned/organized/implemented COVID-19 school procedures and health and safety protocols with guidance from CDC, State of CT, and local health agencies.
- Focused on transparency and communication. Updated families and stakeholders on health and safety information and school protocols through school messenger and a weekly newsletter to families.
- Worked with the Human Capital Development office on additional staffing to support health and safety protocols and student learning.
- Staff engaged in professional learning in technology, teaching and learning in a hybrid model, and social emotional learning.
- Fully reopened to all students on March 15, 2021.
- Safely ran our traditional year-end events such as Olympic Day, Grade 8 Field Trips and Grade 8 Celebrations.
- Created an advisory period and implemented an advisory program (RethinkED) to support social and emotional learning for students.
- Continued work in deep learning regarding the Gradual Release Model, Math Workshop Model, and Teacher's College.
- Held weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings that were supported by Wallace administration, coordinators, and coaches.
- Held our ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) and SDT (School Data Team) meetings which monitored progress towards each of the goals from the 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan. The team monitored progress and assisted in planning and facilitating professional learning. In addition, the team made research-based recommendations regarding goals and objectives for 2020-2021.
- Met weekly (our math, literacy, and behavior teams) to discuss student performance data and develop more effective Tier II and Tier III supports.
- Our administrative team monitored and implemented the 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan. The School Data Team engaged in the DDDM process, made recommendations and suggested improvements, and members were integral in creating the 2021-2022 school-wide goals and Continuous Improvement Plan.
- Evaluation feedback focused on Domains 2 and 3 of the Danielson Evaluation rubric in all classrooms to help student learning.
- Continued deep learning and conversations and learning with staff about school climate, social emotional learning and restorative practices.
- A number of Wallace staff members participated on the district's NPS Reopen Committee, Mastery Based Learning Committee, PDEC, District Data Team and other district wide committees.
- Wallace Staff participated in various curriculum writing tasks. Wallace staff made significant contributions to these committees.

Newington

Public Schools

MARTIN KELLOGG MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mr. Jason Lambert, Principal

During the 2020-2021 school year, despite a very challenging spring due to the impact of COVID-19, the MKMS learning community maintained our efforts to support all students as they grow, change and learn. Along with a continued focus in the areas of literacy, numeracy, school climate and parent engagement, a concerted effort was made to support our students' social and emotional needs.

2020-2021 Highlights:

- Continued transition towards mastery-based learning instruction and reporting practices.
- Applied understanding of balanced assessment systems to plan and implement tiered instruction to meet the academic and behavior needs of all learners.
- Applied the Gradual Release of Responsibility framework to support our work with the school-wide workshop model.
- Further developed grade-level identities (Grade 5 = Pride, Grade 6 = Responsibility, Grade 7 = Respect, and Grade 8 = Integrity), and each grade participated in a community service project related to the respective grade-level pillar.
- Participated in school-wide "Reading Renaissance" that placed a priority on reading in all content areas.
- Continued "Battle of the Books" program that included grade 6 teachers and students from John Wallace Middle School.
- Performed the virtual musical "*Left to our Own Devices*" that included many student, parent and staff participants.
- Began initial training in the RULER model.
- Implemented components of Lucy Calkins Reading Units of Study in grades 5-8.
- Participated in a variety of fundraisers, social events, and celebrations that provided the student council with funds to support many worthwhile endeavors at Kellogg.
- Active staff participation in various building and district committees including the following:
 - ◇ Instructional Leadership Team
 - ◇ School Climate Committee
 - ◇ PBIS Committee
 - ◇ School Identity Committee
 - ◇ Mastery-Based Learning Committees
 - ◇ Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Committee (PDEC)
 - ◇ District Data Team
 - ◇ Various Curriculum Development Committees aligned to CCSS & NGSS

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL – Ms. Terra Tigno, Principal

The 2020-2021 school year posed significant challenges for all staff, students, and parents. However, the NHS Family of Learners persevered and maintained focus on the following school goals:

- Support the social-emotional well-being of students and staff.
- Ensure that all students had engaging, rigorous learning experiences regardless of the instructional model (remote, hybrid, or in-person).
- Continue to align classroom practices with the tenets of Mastery-Based Learning.
- Complete the NEASC self-evaluation and collaborative conference.

2020-2021 Highlights:

- Hosted a collaborative conference with members of the NEASC committee in April. The committee praised Newington High School faculty and students and given the thorough self-reflection, provided no further recommendations for improvement. Based on the NEASC self-reflection process, the NHS Family of Learners will focus improvement efforts on SEL, equitable classroom practices, and the Portrait of a Graduate. NEASC returns to provide an update on improvement efforts in two years.
- About 15 students participated in a pilot of the first-ever fully self-paced online class called, "Digital Citizenship." All students earned 0.5 credits toward a mandatory 1.0 health and safety credit. During the 2021-2022 school year, the course will launch and be open to all students.
- The School Counseling team received a national award from the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) for being a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP).
- 55 scholarships were offered. 109 recipients received a scholarship, and the amount of monies awarded was \$115,200.
- 1,290 College Applications were submitted.
- 378 AP exams were administered in 21 Subjects.
- 48 students were inducted into Rho Kappa, the History National Honor Society.
- The new Multicultural Club hosted meetings throughout the year, attended regularly by more than 25 students.
- Newington High School offered a Mathematics Credit Recovery Program for 16 students. This program utilized Edgenuity, an online curriculum, coupled with mathematics teacher's coaching and modeling. All students recovered their math credit. Specific mathematics courses included Foundations of Algebra, Algebra IA, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Use of Edgenuity online curriculum will continue in the upcoming school year.
- Newington High School offered a Mathematics Booster Program for 40 students. This program offered an opportunity for students to prepare themselves for the upcoming school year's mathematics course by revisiting key skills and concepts and developing problem-solving strategies.
- The Science National Honor Society at NHS inducted 52 new members.

Boards and Commissions

150th ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE

The committee consists of twenty-one (21) members and provides assistance with the planning of celebration events.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONITORING AGENCY

Established by the Town Council in 1991, the Affordable Housing Monitoring Agency is responsible for the preparation, adoption and administration of standards for selecting eligible households to participate in affordable housing programs in Newington.

COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED

The Commission on Aging and Disabled, consisting of nine (9) members, is responsible for monitoring and assessing the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in the community. It also provides policy oversight for the Senior and Disabled Center.

ANNA REYNOLDS SCHOOL PROJECT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Established by the Town Council in May 2019, the Anna Reynolds School Project Building Committee, consisting of seven (7) members, is responsible for the oversight of renovations to the Anna Reynolds Elementary School.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Created by State Statute, the Board of Assessment Appeals provides a means to review and revise the taxable values of real estate and personal property established by the Town Assessor. The Board serves as the first level of appeal, and its actions are binding until a successful appeal is taken to the Superior Court. While no fees are charged and representation by legal counsel is not necessary, the taxpayer must appear before the Board.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee, consisting of three (3) members, provides oversight of the financial reporting and audit processes.

BALF-TOWN COMMITTEE

Established on May 23, 1989 by Town Council, this Committee consists of one (1) member from the Environmental Quality Commission, two (2) Balf Representatives, two (2) Town Councilors, and two (2) residents from the neighborhood surrounding Balf quarry. The Committee is responsible for monitoring blasting activity and reviewing complaints.

BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS

The Building Code Board of Appeals, consisting of five (5) members, provides an appeal process by holding hearings to determine the validity of the Code Official's action.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

The Conservation Commission, comprised of seven (7) regular and three (3) alternate members, is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Town Manager, Town Council, and other boards and commissions concerning the development and conservation of natural resources, which include water resources within the territorial limits of the Town.

As the Town's designated Inland Wetlands Agency, the Commission is responsible for regulating activities that affect the inland wetlands and watercourses of the Town in accordance

with Connecticut General Statutes. As such, the Commission has the power to develop and adopt regulations protecting and preserving inland wetlands and watercourses for Town Council approval. In addition, the Commission is charged with administering the regulations under its authority.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission, consisting of nine (9) regular members and three (3) alternate members, is established for the promotion and growth of the development resources of the Town of Newington.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education consists of nine (9) members elected at each regular Town election for a term of two years. State Statute charges the Board of Education with maintaining public elementary and secondary schools, implementing the educational interest of the State, and providing such other educational activities as in its judgment best serve the interests of the school district.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Emergency Medical Service Committee is comprised of seven (7) members, provides oversight and recommends changes in the local emergency medical service plan for the Town.

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE AND PENSION BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee (EIPBC) is composed of nine (9) regular and two (2) alternate members who oversee all aspects of the health insurance programs and pension benefits for employees. The Committee is appointed by the Town Council and serves to oversee the EIPBC Agent of Record. The Committee determines the needs and develops specifications for the employee insurance and pension benefits program, reviews all submitted insurance proposals, periodically reviews employee insurance benefits, and makes recommendations to the Town Manager and Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Activities of the Environmental Quality Commission date back to 1986, when the Town Council established the Environmental Quality Committee. In October 1987, the Town Council established (by Ordinance) a permanent commission and outlined its scope of authority. The Commission is charged with addressing issues affecting environmental concerns or the quality of life within the Town.

Eleven (11) Commissioners are appointed by the Town Council for two year terms. Representation on the Commission includes members of the Newington Fire Department, Volunteer Ambulance, local industry and the public. There are also five (5) student liaisons representing the two middle schools and the high school.

BOARD OF ETHICS

The Board of Ethics is comprised of seven (7) regular and two (2) alternate members appointed by the Town Council, including two (2) registered Democrats, two (2) registered Republicans, and three (3) unaffiliated or other party registered voters. The Board (a) has the authority to recommend action pertaining to the Code of Ethics to the Town Council, Town Manager, and Board of Education or the Superintendent of Schools; and (b) establishes procedures by which the public may initiate complaints alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics.

Boards and Commissions

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Pursuant to an act adopted in 1929, the Board of Fire Commissioners was established to manage and control the Newington Fire Department. The Board, comprised of three (3) elected Commissioners, is responsible for the supervision and care of all Fire Department buildings, equipment, and apparatus.

NEWINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Newington Housing Authority was established in 1973 by the Town Council and charged with the responsibility of providing housing for the Town of Newington's elderly population.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The purpose of the Human Rights Commission is to promote mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious, ethnic, and other groups, and to secure equality of, and opportunity for, all people. The Commission seeks compliance with State and Federal laws regarding discrimination. Complaints regarding discrimination can be filed through the Department of Human Services.

JOINT SHARED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

The Joint Shared Services Subcommittee identifies opportunities to provide collaborative services among common governmental bodies.

LIBRARY BOARD

The Board of Directors of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library, Newington's public library, is comprised of twelve (12) directors, six (6) of whom are appointed by the Town Council and six (6) of whom are appointed by the Library corporation. Membership is open to any resident of the Town of Newington. The Library Board is charged with managing the affairs of the Library. The Library's operations are funded by the Town of Newington.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was established to advise the Town on emergency management matters and policies.

MILL POND PARK POOL PROJECT BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Mill Pond Park Pool Project Building Committee, comprised of seven (7) members, of which two (2) shall be representatives of the Town Council, two (2) shall be representatives of the Board of Parks and Recreation and three (3) members from the public. Established to work with the Town Manager (and/or his or her designee) and any other appropriate Town staff in the oversight of the Mill Pond Park Pool Project and related activity. Such improvements shall comply with the appropriate sections of the Fire Code, Health Code, Building Code and OSHA regulations, regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and any other health and/or safety code regulations currently in force.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Open Space Committee was established in December 2009 to determine the means to acquire, preserve and protect Cedar Mountain and various other open space parcels throughout the Town. The seven (7) member Committee is comprised of various members of the Town Council and the public.

BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION

The Board of Parks & Recreation consists of eleven (11) members who determine the use of Town parks, public greens, and other public grounds. The Board also plans and arranges recreational facilities and programs for the Town.

POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Police Community Council was established in 2016 to foster communication, cooperation and understanding between residents and Newington law enforcement.

STANDING INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Standing Insurance Committee, comprised of nine (9) regular and two (2) alternate members, is responsible for (a) the determination of needs and specifications for Town insurance; (b) recommendation to the Town Council of the appointment and termination of the Agent of Record; (c) recommendation to the Town Council of a proposed Town insurance program; and (d) the Workers Compensation insurance provided by the Town.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS PROJECT BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee, comprised of seven (7) members, is charged to work with the Town Manager and other appropriate Town staff in the oversight of renovations and/or modifications to the Town Hall, including the Mortensen Community Center and shall do such work in accordance with Chapter 8, Article X (Project Building Committees) of the Code of Ordinances; to maintain ongoing collaboration with the Library Expansion Public Building Committee.

TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) is a citizen body of seven (7) regular and three (3) alternate members appointed by the Town Council. The Commission's meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays. TPZ members also devote time to serve on the Capitol Region Council of Government Planning Commission.

YOUTH-ADULT COUNCIL

The Youth-Adult Council acts as an advisory board to the Human Services Department. Appointed by the Mayor, its purpose is to review youth and family issues and foster community education and support among Town agencies and residents. The school system, community groups, concerned citizens and young people all participate in monthly meetings aimed at sharing information and coordinating services.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A bipartisan appointed body of five (5) regular and three (3) alternate members, the Zoning Board of Appeals' primary function is to hear applications for variances from the Zoning Regulations in which enforcement of regulations could result in a hardship. The Board also hears cases in which the applicant alleges errors in the Zoning Enforcement Officer's orders.

Summary of Town of Newington



Financial Report 2020-2021

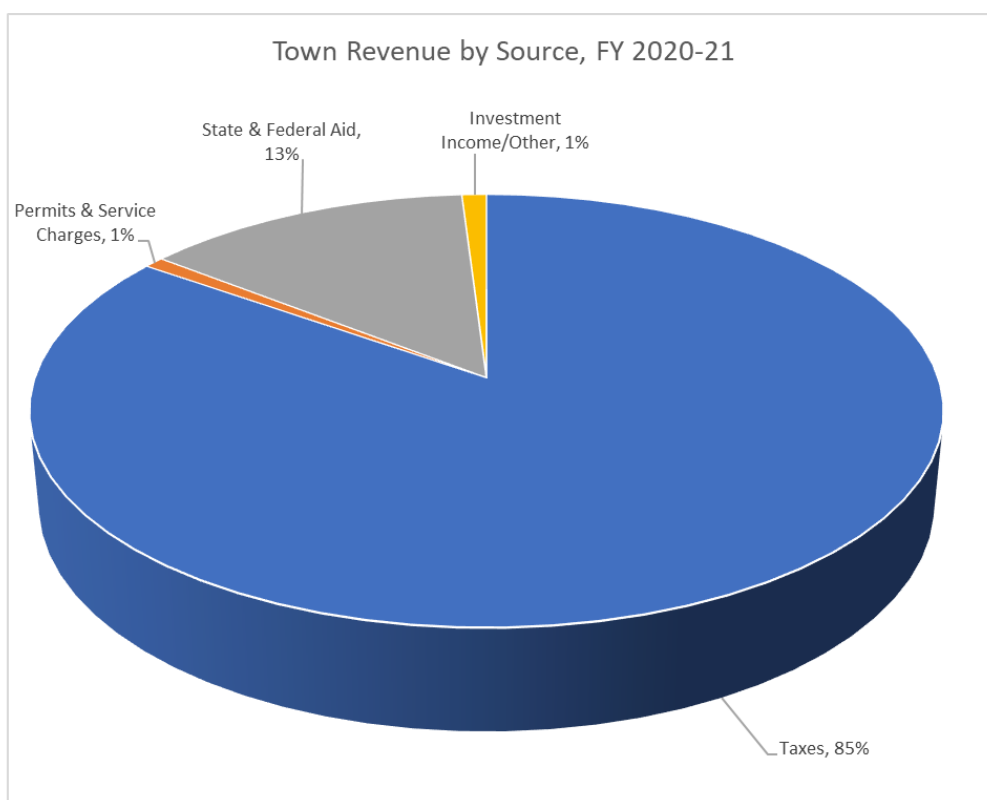
Town Finances FY 2020-2021

- The Town's adopted General Fund budget for 2020-21 totaled \$125,716,341
- The Mill Rate was 39.28
- The Town achieved a collection rate of 99.32% on the current levy.
- The Town's bond indebtedness at June 30, 2021 totaled \$24,485,000
- The Town's actual expenditures were \$122,731,363 and actual revenues totaled \$127,686,330.

The comparative budgetary information, by function and funding source, is presented here. A detailed document of the Town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is on file in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website.

Actual Town Revenues for 2020-21, by Source (\$ thousands)

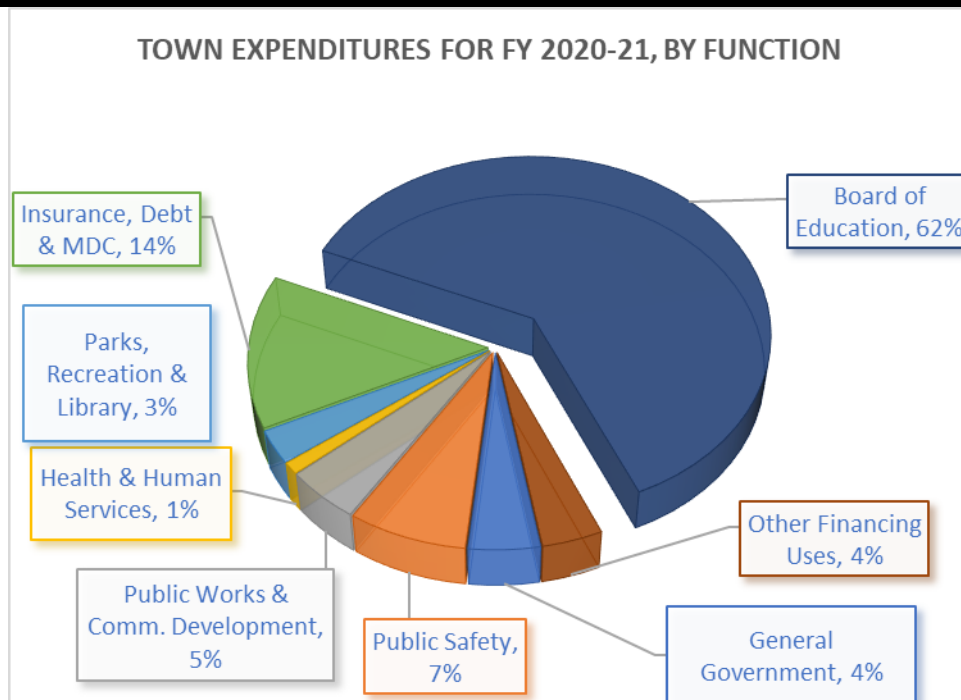
Source	19-20	20-21	Dollar Change
Taxes	106,053	105,253	(800)
Permits	307	446	139
State & Federal Aid	17,169	18,426	1,257
Service Charges	767	849	82
Investment Income	460	90	(370)
Other	992	2,623	1,631
TOTAL	125,748	127,687	1,939



Town Finances FY 2020-2021

Actual Town Expenditures for FY 2020-21, by Function (\$ thousands)

Function	2019-20	2020-21	Dollar Change
General Government	4,930	4,932	2
Public Safety	8,492	8,902	410
Public Works & Comm. Development	5,597	5,724	127
Health & Human Services	1,245	1,068	(177)
Parks, Recreation & Library	3,445	3,457	12
Insurance, Debt & MDC	16,404	19,081	2,677
Board of Education	74,088	75,049	961
Other Financing Uses	7,438	4,519	(2,919)
TOTAL	121,639	122,732	1,093



Town Finances FY 2020-2021

Bonds Outstanding June 30, 2021
(in thousands)

Function	Amount
Schools	6,186
General Purpose	18,299
TOTAL	24,485

Schedule of Debt Principal and Interest by Year as of June 30, 2021
(in thousands)

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2022	1,865	806	2,671
2023	1,850	733	2,583
2024	1,835	660	2,495
2025	1,385	587	1,972
2026	1,200	523	1,723
2027	1,200	463	1,663
2028	1,200	415	1,615
TOTAL	10,535	4,187	14,722