



NEWINGTON TOWN REPORT 2022/23

Website:
www.newingtonct.gov

Tel: 860-665-8500

Address:
200 Garfield Street

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

Town of Newington

Annual Report 2022-2023



Edited by:
Gabriella Morales

Town Hall
200 Garfield Street
Newington, CT 06111
www.newingtonct.gov

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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 2022-2023 was 38.49. 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.

The **Deming-Young Farm Foundation, Inc. (DYFF)**, located 282 Church Street, was founded in February 2001 in response to the Town of Newington's request for proposal to save the 1784 Thomas Deming farmhouse from demolition. In April 2001, the foundation was incorporated and later that year received 501c3 status. The mission of the DYFF is the restoration and preservation of the 1784 farmhouse.

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 and available on the Newington Government YouTube page.

2022-2023 Budget

On April 19, 2022, the Town Council Adopted the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget as follows:

- Total appropriations: \$134,023,411
- Mill Rate: 38.49 mills
- Approved the Town of Newington Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2023 through 2026-2027

2023-2024 Budget

On April 18, 2023, the Town Council Adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget as follows:

- Total appropriations: \$137,512,573
- Mill Rate: 38.36 mills
- Approved the Town of Newington Long Range Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2024 through 2027-2028

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:



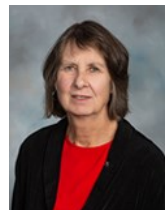
Mayor
Beth DelBuono



Minority Leader (D)
Mitch Page



Majority Leader (R)
Tim Manke



Deputy Mayor
Gail Budrejko



Councilor
Michael Camillo



Councilor
John Donahue



Councilor
Kim Radda



Councilor
David Nagel



Councilor
Sharon Braverman
(through 1/23)



Councilor
Carol Anest
(1/23 through 11/23)

2022-2023 Highlights

- Awarded 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year to Jennifer P. Rodriguez, First Grade Teacher at Anna Reynolds Elementary School.
- Selected Kent Stoddard the 2022 Town of Newington Volunteers of the Year.
- The Town Council approved the report from the Charter Revision Commission, the final charter language was accepted and placed on the November 8, 2022 on the Gubernatorial ballot.
- Approved a contract with Randi Frank Consulting, LLC to perform a recruitment search for Town Manager.
- Approved the amendment to the Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 388, Article VIII, Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents and Spouses.
- Approved the amendment to the Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 388, Taxation, Article III, Low Income Veterans Exemption.
- Approved the amendment to the Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 388, Taxation, Article IX, Tax Relief Program for Certain Homeowners Age 65 or over and Permanently or Totally Disabled.
- Honored several former Town employees in their retirement.
- Made numerous appointments to various boards, commissions and committees.

Newington Administration

Town Manager

James Krupienski

(Submitted by James Krupienski, Acting 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.

2022-2023 Highlights

- The Town executed an agreement with Great Blue Research to conduct a community assessment survey for the public to complete and provide feedback on our services.
- Settled an agreement for the AFSCME wage reopener FY 2023-2024.
- Enhanced the Public Safety Radio infrastructure to improve the efficiency of emergency response services, which includes upgrading radio equipment, expanding coverage areas, ensuring interoperability across departments such as police, fire, and EMS.
- Secured grants for the Town to help provide financial support, this process includes researching grants from state and federal agencies to develop proposals that align with the Town's goals and needs that would improve the quality of life in Newington.
- The Town received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which helps local governments to address pandemic related challenges. The Town's leadership managed and disseminated the funds appropriately to support critical areas of the Town such as public health, infrastructure, economic recovery and community resources.
- Assisted with the John Wallace Middle School Renovation and Security upgrade project.
- Updated the classification plan, reviewed existing job descriptions and revised them to reflect current responsibilities and proposed new jobs to the classification plan. This would include the following positions: Director of Administrative Services, Assistant Fire Marshal, Town Planner, Grounds Foreperson, Carpenter, Electrician, Groundskeeper II, and Groundskeeper III.
- 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

25 Years

- David Caron– Highway

15 Years

- Charlene Magnano– Senior & Disabled Center
- Erik Hinckley– Planning
- Michelle Royer– Library
- Jon Conway– Highway
- Paula Lawless– Police Records
- Karen Gallicchio– Fire Marshal
- Robert Hillman– Highway
- Lisa Rydecki– Finance
- Ryan Deane– Police
- Arkadiusz Petlik– Police
- Russell Garuti– Police
- Ryan Williams– Police

10 Years

- John Bolduc– Information Technology
- Mark Benham– Police
- Scott Amalfi– Police
- Thomas Moschini– Police Dispatch
- Richard Petoskey– Police
- Brendon LaChance– Police

5 Years

- Eva Greczkowski– Assessor
- Jennifer Robinson– Finance
- Josephine Aux– Finance
- Janet Murphy– Finance
- Steven Costa– Police Dispatch

Newington Administration

Town Clerk

James Krupinski, 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 the 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.

2022-2023 Highlights

- The Democratic and Republican parties held primaries on August 9, 2022, for which the office issued 90 Democratic Absentee Ballots and 20 Republican Absentee Ballots. A State Election was held on November 8, 2022, for which the office issued 1,480 Absentee Ballots.
- Received a \$7,500 FY2023 Historic Preservation Grant from the State Library to convert large-format land record binders to legal-size Champ Binder covers, allowing for easy access and copying of Land Record pages. The images created during the project are being utilized to create a new Land records index with linked images. Once completed, this will allow for access to all Land records beginning in 1871 through the current day.
- The Town Clerk's office completed training Staff Commission Liaisons in the use of Zoom meeting software to assist their Boards or Commissions with the Virtual/Hybrid meeting format. The Government YouTube page has been beneficial for residents and staff for review of publicly accessible meetings of the Town.
- The public record shredding event was held in October 2022 for town residents to destroy personal records and decrease solid waste removal costs for the town. This event is expected to continue into the future.

2023-2024 Goals

- Ongoing cross-training of staff for continuity of knowledge during educational/training sessions, absences, or vacations.
- Complete the relocation of all recorded maps to new accessible and portable map cabinets. New map cabinets were acquired in the 2021 Fiscal year. Remaining two (2) cabinets will be purchased to complete the project to allow for safer access and mobility.
- Continued scheduling of the bi-annual public record shredding event for town residents to destroy personal files and decrease solid waste removal costs within the town.
- Application for a FY2024 Historic Preservation Grant from the State Library to continue the process of scanning and reformatting the remaining one hundred twelve (112) large-format Land Record volumes.

Town Clerk Statistical Summary 2022-2023		
LAND RECORDS	2022-2023	2021-2022
Documents	4,662	5,678
Maps	25	29
VITAL STATISTICS		
Births	294	267
Marriages	203	242
Deaths	420	421
LICENSES		
Sporting	394	208
Dog	2,427	2,118
Kennel	2	2
MISCELLANEOUS		
Veteran's Discharges	45	24
Trade Name Certificates	70	64
Liquor Permits	48	48
Notary Public Certificates	88	87
RECEIPTS – TOWN		
Recording Fees	\$131,485.00	\$199,632.00
Conveyance Tax	\$510,153.32	\$702,332.74
Document Preservation	\$14,099.00	\$19,683.00
Vital Statistics	\$51,590.00	\$41,737.00
Dog Licenses	\$2,439.50	\$2,128.00
Sporting Licenses	\$115.00	\$92.00
Copy Fees	\$22,681.42	\$29,475.50
Miscellaneous	\$5,917.10	\$5,792.65
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$738,480.34	\$1,000,872.89
RECEIPTS – STATE		
Document Preservation	\$27,760.00	\$28,840.00
Dog License Surcharge	\$5,678.00	\$4,936.00
Dog Licenses	\$14,788.50	\$12,770.00
Sporting Licenses	\$2,232.00	\$2,068.00
Marriage Surcharge	\$2,890.00	\$3,638.00
State Treasurer	\$208,309.00	\$323,142.00
LoCIP	\$10,137.00	\$10,731.00
TOTAL STATE	\$271,794.50	\$386,125.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,010,274.84	\$1,386,997.89

Information Technology

Paul Boutot, Chief Information Officer
(submitted by Scott Sharlow)

The Department of Information and Technology is a centralized internal service department that provides technical resources (support, software, hardware, services, direction, and leadership) to all Town departments. The office provides services including customer care, Geographic Information System (GIS), computer and network management, telephones, electronic mail, wireless and mobile communications, web site, and support for business and desktop software applications. High priority customer support is provided 7-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day, year round. The office is responsible for all computer system implementations, network security, and the tactical and strategic planning for technology services and solutions to support Town functions.

2022-2023 Highlights

- Installed, configured, and maintained systems including but not limited to: Computers, Servers, Wireless Access Points, Switches, Firewalls, Cabling, Door Access Controls, Audio/ Visual Systems, Telephone Systems and Data Carrier Service
- Processed over 1,000 formal help desk call for service tickets
- Maintained and enhanced Town audio/video equipment to support remote and hybrid meetings
- Continued integration of a new fire records platform with Town emergency operations
- Continued deployment of video evidentiary management system for Public Safety
- Continued work on the cloud migration to the Microsoft365 platform
- Managed the Town's GIS providing data maintenance, development, map creation, and support
- System upgrades for Town Clerk, Police, Fire, Assessor, Tax Collector & Parks and Recreation

- Implemented, customized and deployed new imaging solution for PC deployment
- Implemented, tested and deployed software deployment solution for PCs across all departments
- Performed an infrastructure upgrade of Town's Video Management surveillance system
- Continued work to ensure operations are compliant with the latest standards and requirements
- Continued maintenance of the public wireless at the Senior and Disabled Center and Library
- Network infrastructure upgrades at Police Department, Library and Senior and Disabled Center
- Upgrade of the Town's Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) platforms
- Upgraded backup software and hardware solution to ensure data security
- Support and setup for special events including the Newington Extravaganza

2023-2024 Goals

- Continued deployment of new workstations, laptops and operating systems across all departments
- Deployment of Microsoft 365 cloud-based solution for all Town departments
- Provide upgraded network deployments at remote Town facilities utilizing fiber optic connections
- Work with website vendor to perform reorganization and redesign the site
- Work with Town departments to help identify areas where technology can assist them in reaching their goals and objectives for internal and external purposes

Facilities Management

Joe Salamone, Director

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, roofing and life safety components. The department also manages capital improvement projects for these same buildings whether funded by the Town or through grant funding. In addition, the department responds to approximately 450 service requests per year from outside the Facilities Department and completes approximately another 650 work orders per year as part of our preventative maintenance program and planned upgrades/improvements.

2022-2023 Highlights

The use of a new asset management software called AkitaBox has been implemented. This has increased productivity and overall has provided a higher level of service from our department. This was critical to ensuring the appropriate level of compliance and oversight associated

with the ongoing initiatives of our Town Facilities. Evaluation of the Owen Reports, the needs of the building occupants, and the Town's resources, are ongoing. This approach will continue to be the foundation for the Facilities Department's planning process moving forward. Projects will be prioritized according to needs.

Administrative

- Upgrade completed of 2 EV charging stations at Market Square
- Selected 3 on call Architectural firms
- Insurance claim from AMR car accident here at Town Hall Completed
- Completed Library water damage insurance claim and repairs

Fire Department

- Solar project at Co#3 Completed
- Replaced roof at Co#2
- Upgraded soffit lighting around perimeter of Co#2
- Completed the Roof Warranty replacement at Co#1 Headquarters

Newington Administration Facilities Management

Highlights Continued

Lucy Robbins Welles Library

- Approximately 200 work orders completed
- Multiple electrical upgrades/changes to lighting and outlets
- Extensive Skylight leaking investigations and multiple repairs/alterations made to Successfully stop 95% of the water intrusion issues. Skylight is about 10 years past its life expectancy.
- Drywall Repairs and repainting around skylight
- Multiple HVAC repairs and/or changes to programming
- Renovation of 3 study rooms

Police Department

- Approximately 130 work orders completed
- Change relay in exhaust fan for boiler #1
- Multiple Electrical upgrades and additions
- Police training building repairs to exterior siding
- Planning for asphalt roof, flat rubber roof, 3 RTU replacements, and adding necessary HVAC for PPE storage room data room continues.
- Security Camera Upgrades
- Renovation of the work out Gym
- Replacement of 7-ton condenser for HVAC

Town Hall

- Approximately 325 work orders completed
- Completed Solar project
- Installation of paper shredder in Finance office including necessary electrical outlet
- Special recycling program for IT computer replacement project
- Ongoing investigations into basement and footing drainage systems
- Investigation and repair of leak in closet of Helen Nelson room.
- New interior way finding signs and directories hung.

Senior Center

- Approximately 200 work orders completed
- Ongoing efforts for Solar project
- Roof drain repair/replacement
- Generator replacement awarded contractor released anticipated completion Summer '24
- New paper towel dispensers installed
- Window replacement project awarded contractor released anticipated completion March '24
- Replaced Water heater #3(West End)
- Upgraded Gym lights to LED's
- Replaced several motors on fan coil units

Newington Ambulance Building

- Approximately 10 work orders completed
- Lock repair to front entrance
- Wet carpet from leaking window repaired and dried out
- Loss of heat reported and fixed

Kellogg Eddy House and Kelsey House

- Approximately 25 work orders completed
- Kelsey House
- Installed new 20-amp outdoor plug

- Dehumidifier maintenance
- Painted entire exterior of the house including lead abatement
- Kellogg-Eddy House
- Animal intrusion into Garage. Removed animal and installed chicken wire to gable vents to prevent future intrusion
- Basement flood dried out and boiler repaired
- Completed Roofing Project and Grant
- Interior Plaster repairs and painting

Highway Garage Site

- Approximately 135 Work orders completed
- Installed vinyl siding on back of shoot house
- Removed and replace roof of shoot house
- Remediation of Ravens from salt shed
- Install new switch for ventilation system in the welding shop for variable speed
- Multiple Electrical upgrades, added plugs where necessary, moved other plugs, added/changed lighting
- Upgraded building Generator

Parks and Grounds Garage

- Approximately 100 work orders completed
- Fixed/repaired/eliminated Osha violations
- Electrical upgrades for lighting and outlets
- Chemical storage room repairs to concrete, drywall, upgraded lighting to LED's
- Removed and replaced the roof above the break room
- Removed and replaced bottom 8' of sheathing around entire perimeter of long garage. Installed all new trim around every door painted new siding and all man doors
- Installed new Compressor wiring
- Installed new equipment lift wiring and switch
- Replaced entire roof of cold storage building
- Enlarging of overhead doors increasing height to fit newly purchased equipment into garage

2023-2024 Goals

- Senior Center Window Replacement Project
- Grounds Maintenance Salt Shed Replacement Investigation
- EOC Planning
- Highway Garage Security Camera Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades to Market Square/Main Street
- Police Department Memorial Monument
- Police Department PPE Storage and Data Room Remodel
- Police Department HVAC upgrades 3 roof top units and controls
- Police Department roofing replacement
- Feasibility studies for Highway Garage and Parks and Grounds Garage
- Pursue Historical Grant for Kellogg-Eddy House for exterior renovations and painting
- Town Hall Campus way finding signs
- Town Hall Canopy project for Human Services entrance and Gym exit stairs

Registrar of Voters

Theresa Avey (R) • Jenni Sehmi (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. **TYPES OF ELECTIONS:**



Elections Administrator-Registrar of Voters:

Register All Voter: Schedule and conduct in-person voter registration sessions, including annual high school voter registration sessions. Receive and process mail-in, online and agency voter registration applications.

Registry Lists and Ballots: Prepare and maintain a list of active and inactive voters. Maintain voter lists for local party caucuses. Prepare a voter list for each polling place. Organize and conduct the annual canvass of voters to ascertain residency. Enroll party members and prepare and maintain party enrollment lists. Remove electors who have moved from the district, died or are disenfranchised from registry lists. Complete certification of ballot orders that are sent and put on file with the Secretary of the State (SOTS).

Conduct Elections: Appoint Deputy Registrars and file the appointments with the Town Clerk. Appoint, train and supervise all poll workers. Declare polling place locations by voting district, including a place where absentee ballots are counted. Ensure polling places meet the requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Report results of municipal, state and federal elections to SOTS. Participate in recanvassing in the event of a voting discrepancy. Conduct Election Day Registration for all General Elections.

Absentee Voting: Direct Town Clerks to mail absentee ballots to eligible overseas voters. Verify absentee ballot voters on the official voter registry list prior to an election, primary or referendum. Supervise absentee balloting at institutions or dwelling places with 20 or more voters. Appoint and train people to count absentee ballots.

Post Elections Audits: When chosen by lottery, conduct post-election audits of voting tabulators.

Conduct Canvassing: Conduct an annual canvass of voters using the National Change of Address through the USPS. Use reports from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to conduct additional canvassing of voters to ensure accuracy of voter registries.

Training and Records Mandates: Complete 8 hours of mandated annual training each year. Follow all state and federal records retention schedules.

Voting Technology: Ensure the proper maintenance, transportation, storage and preparation of voting machines. Conduct complete pre-election testing of memory cards, tabulators and all ADA voting systems prior to Election Day.

Polling Locations (all handicapped accessible)

District 1: Mortensen Community Center, 200 Garfield Street

District 2: Ruth Chaffee School, 160 Superior Avenue

District 3: Anna Reynolds School, 85 Reservoir Road

District 4: Elizabeth Green School, 30 Thomas Street

District 5: John Paterson School, 120 Church Street

District 6: John Wallace Middle School, 71 Halleran Drive

District 7: Martin Kellogg Middle School, 155 Harding Avenue

EDR: (Election Day Registration): Town Hall Mortensen Community Center, 200 Garfield Street

2022-2023 Highlights:

November 8, 2022.

Turnout on Election Day Registration was 103 electors.

Voter turnout for the 11/08/2022 State Election was 60.11%

2023-2024 Goals:

Continue to update our technology of voting and new equipment. Establish updated education and training procedures for all election officials.

Finance Department

Janet Murphy, Director

The Department of Finance consists of the Administration and Accounting, the Assessor's office and Revenue Collector's offices. 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 administers 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.

2022-2023 Highlights

Administration and Accounting

- For the 33rd consecutive year, the Town received the award for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- The Town went out for bonding on the Anna Reynolds School Renovation project in the Spring of 2023. Our current AA+ credit rating from Standard & Poor was confirmed again during this process.
- The Town of Newington's outstanding bonded debt at June 30, 2023 was \$30,770,000 an increase from the prior year due to the current year \$10 million in bonding for the Anna Reynolds School Renovation project..
- During the fiscal year projects have been put forward to the Council to approve for ARPA funding. These funds are required to be encumbered by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. Annual reporting for this grant was done during the Spring of 2023.
- Town continues to update its future debt plan with the assistance of the Town's financial advisor Matthew A. Spoerndle, Senior Managing Director of Phoenix Advisors, LLC.

Assessor, Fauna Eller

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 as of the October 1, 2020 revaluation. Revaluations are performed as required every 5 years. The 2022 Real Estate Grand List totals reflect the changes in the real estate grand list for new construction, additions, demolitions, reductions for appeals through the board of assessment appeals and through superior court; over the base revaluation year in 2020. Business Personal Property and Motor Vehicles are assessed at 70% annually. The Grand List consists of 12,553 real estate parcels, 1,481 business personal property accounts and over 27,988 motor vehicles. The office is also responsible for assisting special service programs by annually updating over 500 elderly tax credits, 23 blind exemptions, 2,063 special assessment adjustments for veterans, and 161 disabled exemptions for Newington taxpayers.

Department Achievements FY 2022-2023

- Provided professional service to general public and taxpayers.
- Completed October 1, 2022 Grand List on time as required by law.
- Sent out and processed 500 Income and Expense forms to owners of commercial properties; which have also been data entered.
- Sent out and processed over 1,450 business personal property declarations
- Approved approximately 500 elderly taxpayers for tax relief benefits totaling just under \$490,500.

Department Goals FY 2023-2024

- Continue to defend tax appeals filed on the October 1, 2020 revaluation; 38 were filed, 34 were settled, 4 remain open (as of November 2023).
- 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 2022 was spent by all staff members finalizing the October 1, 2022 Grand List which was formally signed in front of the Town Clerk on January 31, 2023. The final totals for the Grand List are shown below:

TOWN OF NEWINGTON—2022 NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST - February 1, 2022				
Category	2021 Grand List	2022 Grand List	Dollar Change	% Change
Real Estate	2,349,430,650	2,336,065,427	(13,365,223)	(0.57)%
Personal Property	193,713,798	202,931,050	9,217,252	4.76%
Motor Vehicles	<u>301,002,746</u>	<u>330,311,961</u>	<u>29,309,215</u>	<u>9.74%</u>
Total	\$2,844,147,194	\$2,869,308,438	\$ 25,161,244	0.88%

TAX EXEMPT: \$408,794,430 \$408,497,480 (\$ 754,450) (0.18)%

PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS				
	2021 Grand List	2022 Grand List	Dollar Change	% Change
Mfg. Exemption	85,529,920	86,887,400	(1,357,480)	(1.59)%
Solar Exemption	5,450,070	5,790,600	340,530	6.25%
Other Exemption	<u>13,957,720</u>	<u>20,672,690</u>	<u>6,714,970</u>	<u>48.11%</u>
Total Exemptions	\$104,937,710	\$105,635,890	\$ 696,180	0.66%

At the current mill rate, the total amount of personal property exemptions of \$105,635,890 equates to **\$4,404,808** of tax dollars being redistributed to real estate, motor vehicle and other personal property taxpayers.

COMMENTARY ON THE OCTOBER 1, 2022 GRAND LIST

The October 1, 2022 Net Grand List for the Town of Newington totals \$2,869,308.438 which is an increase of \$25,161,244 or 0.88% as compared to the 2021 Net Grand List.

This increase is primarily attributable to increases in the registered Motor Vehicles and business Personal Property sections of the Grand List which increased \$9,217,252 and \$29,309,215 respectively.

The **Real Estate** portion of the 2022 Grand List totals **\$2,336,065,427** which is a decrease of \$13,365,223 or 0.57% less than the 2021 Grand List. Due to the closure of the courts during COVID a total of 23 tax appeals were settled this year. There was a total loss of \$24,553,153 from the 2021 Grand List to the 2022 as a result; a total loss in revenue of about \$950,000. This is a total over 5 years of \$5,000,000; as this is a yearly loss over all five years.

The **Personal Property** section of the 2022 Grand List totals **\$202,931,050** which is an increase of \$9,217,252 or 4.76% over the 2021 Grand List.

The **Motor Vehicle** section of the 2022 Grand List totals **\$330,311,961** which is an increase of \$29,309,215 or 9.74% over the 2021 Grand List. The average assessment of a motor vehicle increased minimally from \$11,637 to \$11,862.

The **Tax-Exempt** portion of the 2022 Real Estate Grand List totals \$408,497,480 which represents 15% decrease of the total Real Estate Grand List. The totals presented in the chart and discussed above are the net Grand List, excluding non-taxable property.

Newington Administration

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 estab-

lished 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 2022-23

Taxes on Current Levy	\$105,138,836.35
Taxes on Motor Vehicle Supplemental List	1,230,391.73
Taxes on Prior Years' Lists	466,187.32
Interest, Liens and Other Fees	519,706.42
Taxes on Advanced Collection 2022 GL	671,590.91
Taxes and Fees Collected	108,026,712.73
Collection Rate on Current Levy	99.1%

TOWN OF NEWINGTON 2022 GRAND LIST—TOP 25 ASSESSMENTS

<u>RANK</u>		<u>TAXPAYER</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>GROSS</u>	<u>EXEMPTION</u>	<u>NET</u>
<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>					
1	1	CONN. LIGHT & POWER COMPANY	PUBLIC UTILITY	79,367,590	0	79,367,90
6	2	BRIXMOR GA TURNPIKE PLAZA LLC	RETAIL	20,150,380	0	20,150,380
8	3	NEWINGTON GROSS LLC	RETAIL	19,529,360	0	19,529,360
4	4	TLG NEWINGTON LLC	RETAIL	18,547,440	0	18,547,440
7	5	NEWINGTON VF LLC	RETAIL	18,200,000	0	18,200,000
2	6	IREIT NEWINGTON FAIR LLC	RETAIL	16,404,710	0	16,404,710
13	7	475 WILLARD ASSOCIATES LLC	MANUFACTURING	15,374,940	0	15,374,940
3	8	HAYES KAUFMAN NEWINGTON	RETAIL	14,280,000	0	14,280,000
14	9	CONN NATURAL GAS CORP	PUBLIC UTILITY	13,358,410	0	13,358,4110
15	10	TARGET CORPORATION	BIG BOX STORE	11,134,430	0	11,134,430
18	11	NE FARMINGTON OWNER LLC	HOTEL	10,098,000	0	10,098,000
16	12	LOWES HOME CENTER INC	BIG BOX RETAIL	9,800,000	0	9,800,000
	13	AGREE EASTERN LLC	RETAIL	9,541,420	0	9,541,420
19	14	FURNITURE EXECUTIVES NO 4 L P	RETAIL	8,820,000	0	8,820,000
22	15	HARTFORD HOSPITAL	ASSISTED LIVING	7,499,310	0	7,499,310
20	16	COHEN FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	APARTMENTS	7,173,780	0	7,173,780
23	17	BROWN DEVELOPMENT LLC	RETAIL	6,909,000	0	6,909,000
24	18	FENNWOODE APARTMENTS LLC	APARTMENTS	6,676,320	0	6,676,320
	19	GRISWOLD HILLS OF NEWINGTON LTD PARTNERSHIP	APARTMENTS	6,612,480	0	6,612,480
	20	BERLIN NEWINGTON ASSOCIATES LLC	RETAIL	6,300,000	0	6,300,000
5	21	MANDELL PROPERTIES LLC	INDUSTRIAL	6,090,000	0	6,090,000
	22	EVERSOURCE ENGERY SERVICE COM-PANY	PUBLIC UTILITY	5,955,360	0	5,955,360
	23	HONDA LEASE TRUST	LEASED MOTOR VEHICLES	5,947,660	0	5,947,660
	24	505 NEWINGTON STOLLEY LLC	OFFICE BUILDING	5,908,060	0	5,908,060
	25	LANDMARK APARTMENTS LLC	APARTMENTS	<u>5,900,660</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,900,660</u>
		TOTALS:		335,579,310	0	335,579,310
		% OF TOTAL GRAND LIST:	11.70%			

Newington Community Services

Human Services

Carol LaBrecque, Director

Overview

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.

2022-23 Significant Achievements

- Our Financial Casework program 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. Cases involved gaps in services, multiple agencies and coordination of services, and research for possible resources. Trending cases with limited solutions included families with immigration issues, multigenerational households with needs for adult children never officially identified with disabilities or connected with appropriate resources, housing needs including an increase in homeless situations and lack of access to emergency shelters, inability to secure affordable housing and evictions from existing housing. We also experienced an increase in requests for oil assistance as the CT Energy Assistance Grants were reduced at the beginning of the heat season, the cost of oil had increased, and oil benefits were needed both before households were granted their energy benefit or after they exhausted it.
- The food bank offered shopping sessions while maintaining delivery or pick up of pre-packed food. We served an average of 165 households each month and distributed 23,760 bags of food over the course of the year. This is only possible due the amazing support of so many individuals, businesses, civic organizations, schools, and houses of worship who support the food bank either through volunteer hours, food and grocery donations, or cash donations.
- Again, our Holiday Food & Gift Program in November and December is a collaboration with virtually all sectors of the community. We are also extremely grateful for the support of other town departments such as the Parks and Recreation Department who share space for our annual gift distribution, and the Library who share parking space and modify program times to accommodate our drive through food distribution as well as so many individual Town employees who support the program by sponsoring individuals with holiday gifts. We assisted 375 households in November and 387 households in December in the 2022 holiday program.
- We have very special members of the community that support our programs and assistance given to Newington residents through financial and food/grocery donations. In 2022, we received 141 different food donations from individual residents (three of whom make monthly donations) and 203 different financial donations. There were seven different memorial donations, and two donations were made in honor of people's birthdays. Of note, Carvel donated close to \$8,000, and the annual turkey trot organized by neighbors donated close to \$4,500 in addition to two large mail bins of food. Knights of Columbus donated hundreds of pounds of food monthly, and we received food and gift donations from schools, faith-based organizations and civic organizations in town. Additionally, many businesses also supported us with either food or financial donations.
- We are also incredibly grateful to our over 100 volunteers who support our programs throughout the year allowing us to meet a much greater need and provide more services.
- JRB (Juvenile Review Board) is an opportunity for youth who have committed a minor violation with little expected recidivism to be held accountable and develop a plan to restore the violator and those impacted by his/her actions. This is crucial in an effort to keep youth out of the pipeline to corrections which has historically been found to increase the likelihood of more serious and additional violations. A Board made up of representatives from Human Services, schools, police, juvenile court, DCF and other relevant youth supporters meet to work with the youth and family to develop a plan for restoration, and Human Services maintains monthly contact with the youth until the case is reviewed and closed generally after 6 months.
- Our youth and family counseling services were negatively impacted by the resignation of Clinical Coordinator McAdams in October of 2022. This position remained vacant for the remainder of the fiscal year with interviews held in July of 2023. Ann McAdams and Marybeth Langdon offered counseling to several youth contractually, and part-time Social Worker LCSW Karen Smith fielded calls connecting youth to outside services and/or adding them to a wait list for in-house services.

Newington Community Services

Human Services

- Youth Programs continued to be offered in a variety of formats. We offered an ALPs program to all 5th grade students to explore steps of decision making, positive healthy choices, team work and communication; High School Adventure Club; transitional programs for 4th and 8th graders; a group for 7th graders who may need positive redirection; Discovery Tuesdays—extended programs on school professional development days; SCORE—Student Challenge of Recreation and Education; and SYA—Summer Youth Adventure programs. We are seeing an increase in referrals to these programs for youth with special needs from parents, teachers, school guidance counselors and social workers. These positive youth development programs offer opportunities for personal growth through our activities and social connections with peers. We strive to offer an environment that fosters social and emotional safety for young people to explore and thrive in their uniqueness.
- Youth Program Coordinator Huggard offered a presentation at the annual statewide CYSA conference on “Youth and the Value of Outdoor Programming”.
- We continued to modify the centralized database system that can keep HIPPA compliant case notes, registrations for programs, document volunteer hours and donations, and track various service programs such as the food bank and the holiday food and gift program.

Goals for 2022-2023

- Continue to provide quality casework services, increasing connections with all sectors of our community.
- Explore and pursue an enhancement of healthy choices available through the food bank.
- Staff development to maintain knowledge base on current trends and best practices. Offer training to maintain clinical licensure and 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 trending issues for youth including vaping, substance use, prevention programs, increased report of anxiety, truancy, and legalized cannabis use.
- Continue to offer user friendly access to information relevant to our service population via updated department web page. Explore expanded use of social media.

- To fill Clinical Coordinator position, revitalize our clinical services through securing positive leadership in the Clinical Coordinator position, outreach, community collaboration, increased counseling services, education and awareness and de-stigmatization of Mental Health issues.
- Fill vacancies on Commissions.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	2022-2023	2021-2022
Youth & Family Counseling	110 Cumulative Cases	78 Cumulative Cases (position vacant 7/21 to 10/21)
Avg. Monthly Y & F Cases	9 Households	14 Households (once position filled)
Youth/Family Service Hrs	181.75 Hours	304 Hours
Total Casework Cases	1,025 Cumulative Cases	972 Cumulative Cases
Avg. Monthly Casework Cases	85 Households	81 Households
Casework Service Hours	2,196.2 Cum. Hours	1,842 Hours
Special Needs Food Bank	127 Cases 1,980 Visits; 23,760 Bags	158 Cases 1,584 Visits; 17,493 Bags
Open Air Market	2,483 Visits	2,497 Visits
Holiday Foods, Gifts	387 HH; 733 Individuals	355 HH; 697 Individuals
Positive Youth Development	1,931 Program Registrations	1,736 Program Registrations
Juvenile Review Board	20 Cases	6 Cases



"A Helping hand for all ages."

Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Lisa Masten, Director

The library was completely open for business for fiscal year 2022-2023 with all areas of the library and services fully operational for the first time since the pandemic hit in March 2020. Staff worked hard to reengage the community, to bring them back to all the library had to offer. Programming was a combination of indoor, virtual, outdoor, and Grab & Go kits. Meeting space and study rooms were open. Library volunteers were back in the building, working behind the scenes to help complete duties that kept the library running smoothly.

Popular services at the library included the free notary service for simple documents (the library has 2 notaries that allow for more availability during the week), one-on-one tech help by appointment, public computers for internet use and free WiFi access. The *Books-for-You* homebound delivery service continued to grow, thanks to a collaboration with a very dedicated group of volunteers from the General Federation of Women's Club-Newington/Wethersfield who delivered and picked up library books to our homebound patrons on a regular basis. This past year, they delivered 1,601 items to our homebound patrons. Meeting spaces and study rooms were constantly booked. During the year, the library welcomed 113,636 people through the doors; 259,299 items were circulated; 37,342 items were downloaded; staff answered 36,888 reference questions as well as 2,050 technology specific questions; and 32,847 items reserved by patrons online were pulled and processed for pickup.

Two new online services were added to better serve our patrons. *A to Z World Travel*, a comprehensive travel database and *Niche Academy*, a site of ready-to-use tutorials can be accessed at the library or from home. The library replaced its 12+ year old copiers and printers for the public with new ones and also added a new public fax machine. The Town replaced all the staff computers and public computers with new computers and monitors. Launch Pads were added in the Children's Department with each tablet preloaded with games that help children learn. Staff began using the *Meeting Owl Conferencing System*, two devices that attach to library laptops that each have a 360° camera and microphone during zoom meetings that allow people from home the ability to see and interact with the speaker or audience in the library.

Staff continued to develop a balanced collection of materials to meet the needs of our many patrons. The library offered books, CDs, DVDs, Blue-Rays, magazines and increased its Library of Things collection. This collection includes circulating WiFi Hotspots, lawn games and new this summer: ukuleles, seeds and clippings from our seed library. The digital collection continued to be developed as well, offering a wide variety of digital books, audiobooks, movies, magazines and music to our patrons. 37,342 items were downloaded during the year.

Library programming was offered virtually and in-person. Much of our virtual programming was collaborative with the Newington Chamber of Commerce and local organizations. A wide variety of in-person programming for all ages was well attended, with many programs especially for children with waiting lists. For the year, staff offered 655 programs to 22,565 people.

A major project to paint the walls and ceiling area near the skylight was done during the winter. The painting project was necessary to repair the water damaged walls and ceilings from two major leaks during the year. A grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Greater Together Newington Community Fund allowed the library to once again transport area preschool/daycare students to the library on Friday mornings for special storytime programs.

Our Friends group brought back the popular Winterfest, a wine, beer & spirits' tasting fundraising event, and held two very successful book sales in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023. The Library Board of Trustees were busy holding its spring 2023 road race fundraiser with its highest attendance in years, hosted two cultural events with musician Jim Lenn as part of the *George G. Hanel Fine Arts Series*, offered a virtual author visit with Dan Santat for all 3rd & 4th graders as part of the *John and Adela Sliva Young People's Literary Series* and continued their work on future library expansion. The board also reupholstered multiple chairs throughout the library that are heavily used and favorites of our patrons.

In the coming year, we will be focused on installing global wireless printing for staff and patrons, staying vigilant against the increasing efforts to censor and ban books, continuing to look for grant money to offer new services, work with the Library Board toward a possible renovation in the future, and continue to reimagine library services to best meet the needs and offer the best service to our Newington community.

Statistical Summary	2022-2023
Items Circulated	259,299
Total Downloads	37,342
Downloads: eBooks & Book Views & Magazines	21,387
Downloads: Audiobooks	13,452
Downloads: Music & Video Streaming	2,503
Museum Pass Usage	406
Online Database Usage-Adult	53,377
Online Database Usage-Children & Teen	95,121
Library Curbside Pickups	658
Homebound Patron Deliveries	1,601
Holds on Shelf Pulled for Patrons	23,032
Total # Cardholders	8,843
Patron Count	113,636
Reference Transactions	38,635
Technology Transactions	2,050
Children Programs	438
Children Attendance	14,248
Teen Programs	47
Teen Attendance	950
Adult Programs	170
Adult Attendance	4,498
Items Added	22,211
Items Deleted	12,056
Meeting Rooms Usage (outside groups)	156
Study Room Usage	2,438
Library Holdings- Physical Holdings & Digital	296,398
Volunteer Hours	482
Books Mended	2,030
AV Repairs	511

Newington Community Services

Senior and Disabled Center

Jaime Trevethan, Director

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.

The Newington Senior and Disabled Center offers a wide array of programs and services to meet its mission.

Open to all persons aged 55 and older and adults with disabilities, the Center identifies eight well-being dimensions integral to the program planning process. Staff plans programs 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, lifelong learning, and supportive services including case management, transportation, and nutrition. It was the first Center in Connecticut to be nationally accredited, receiving renewed accreditation status in May 2022, and is the designated Community Focal Point for aging services.

2022-2023 Highlights

- The Center was fully operational post-pandemic in the second half of 2022, providing in-person activities and programs while maintaining telephone and virtual programming for those who wanted to remain at home.
- Highlighted programs for FY 2022-23 included: expert presentations on various topics related to healthy aging, meditation, financial planning, scam prevention, balance and falls prevention, pop culture, ice cream socials, coffee hours, tech help, holiday celebrations, games such as bingo and setback, numerous exercise and fitness classes for all levels, painting and craft classes, intergenerational programs such as a pen pal program and the WISE program with CCSU students, history lectures, a grief support group, and Neurocize. New programs were started including: Corn Hole, Coffee, Coloring and Conversation, and Balance and Strength classes facilitated by Roba Physical Therapy.
- The Center worked in conjunction with Parks and Recreation to schedule the annual Pool Party and an outdoor exercise class at Clem Lemire's AARP FitLot.
- The Center provided a 1950's themed accreditation and membership celebration with events occurring throughout the day, culminating with an ice cream social and dance performance.
- The annual Safety Picnic resumed with fire, police and EMS personnel cooking, serving, and socializing with members. The Fire Marshal's office provided a brief educational presentation.
- The Bus Trip Committee began meeting and offering bus trips again using tour companies.
- The Center hosted gerontology and exercise physiology interns from CCSU.
- Members were offered online registration of programs using My Senior Center. Members may still register by calling or stopping by the main office.

- The Center hosted its first Veteran's Day ceremony, working with the Newington Memorial Day Parade Committee to provide space for the ceremony and a free lunch for member Veterans and committee members.
- The Central Connecticut Health District visited the Center several times to provide education sessions and flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The Newington Art League began showcasing their art in the display cases throughout the Center, rotating collections on a quarterly basis. The League also began a weekly drop-in painting session open to all.
- Outreach to members and the community continued to be a priority. The popular weekly robocall continued through the year, reaching over 1,000 members with important information each Friday. Other outreach methods included frequent social media posts, email, and electronic and hard copy distribution of the monthly Connection Newsletter.
- Nutrition remained a core focus for the Center. The in-person congregate meal serves 30 to 60 individuals age 60 and older a hot, balanced lunch each day as part of the Federal Nutrition Program. The Meals-On-Wheels program continued with increased use, with volunteers and staff delivering over 1,400 meals to homebound residents each month. The volunteer Coffee Shop is open Tuesday through Thursday serving coffee, light breakfast and lunch, and snacks. The Center is fortunate to have a dedicated roster of more than 90 volunteers in nutrition, technology, tax preparation, the gift and coffee shops, gardening, and office assistance.
- Through the Information and Referral Center, more than a thousand 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. The AARP Tax-Aide program took place February through April 2023, providing free tax preparation to over 200 people.
- Dial-A-Ride provided 6,941 rides (one-way), a number that is comparable to pre-pandemic levels.
- The Center's Giving Garden was fully operable with two leaders and 4 to 5 volunteers planning, maintaining, and harvesting the garden. Over 500 pounds of organic produce was donated to the Human Services Food Bank.

2023-2024 Goals

- Continue efforts to strengthen community engagement to support aging in place.
- Build on the professional services of the Center and ensure a safe, welcoming, & well-maintained facility.
- Continue to find ways to address social isolation, and deliver programs and services to isolated older adults.

Newington Community Services

Parks and Recreation

William DeMaio, Superintendent

In its unwavering dedication to providing diverse recreational resources and opportunities for residents, the Town of Newington has established a robust commitment to fostering a vibrant community. The Parks and Recreation Department, as the primary executor of this commitment, offers an extensive array of recreational programs, special events, sports leagues, and facility rentals, catering to individuals of all ages.

Recreation Division

The Department manages various facilities, including Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park pavilions, the Mortensen Community Center, the Kellogg Eddy House, and the Municipal Parking Lot. Outdoor swimming pools at Mill Pond Park and Churchill Park provide refreshing options during the warmer seasons, while indoor swimming is available at Newington High School Pool in the fall, winter, and spring. Tennis enthusiasts can indulge their passion at Churchill Park, Newington High School, and Mill Pond Park, which offers both clay and Har-Tru tennis courts. Additionally, pickleball enthusiasts have access to outdoor courts at Churchill Park and indoor courts at the Mortensen Community Center. Golfers can savor the scenic 18-hole Indian Hill Golf Course. The town is adorned with picturesque trails on Cedar Mountain, Deming-Young Farm, and at Churchill Park. The Department further enriches the community with 110 community garden plots at Deming-Young Farm, providing fertile soil for gardening enthusiasts. Noteworthy renovations were undertaken at the Clem Lemire Recreation Complex, including comprehensive enhancements to the Memorial Softball Field and the completion of installation of lights at Legends Baseball Field. The Recreation Division orchestrates a multitude of leisure programs catering to various age groups and interests. From year-round Aquatics programs to Adult Leagues featuring Cornhole, Co-ed Volleyball, and Men's Basketball, the Department ensures a diverse recreational landscape. Youth sports organizations, including T-Ball, Little League, Softball, Challenger Baseball, Wrestling, Soccer, Swim Club, Lacrosse, Travel Basketball, Youth Football, Cheerleading, and Special Olympics, operate seamlessly under the Parks and Recreation Department umbrella. The Department hosts Camp RECreate, a seven-week summer camp for children from kindergarten through grade 8. The Summer Concert Series, comprising of 34 free concerts, takes place on Thursday nights at Mill Pond Park and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons at the Municipal Parking Lot. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, weekly concerts persevered at the Municipal Parking Lot during the spring, summer, and fall. The Department's collaborative efforts extend to partnerships with the Board of Education, church groups, civic organizations, veterans' organizations, the local business community, and all other town departments. The Mortensen Community Center serves as a versatile venue, accommodating reservations for private activities, events, birthday parties, meetings, and various sporting events throughout the year. Notably, the Creative Playtime Preschool Program, fully licensed as a Child Day Care Center through the State of Connecticut, provides educational and nurturing experiences for children ages 3 to 5. The Department proudly hosted community events such as Newington Goes Country and Food Truck Friday in June, culminating in the grand four-day Life. Be in it. Extravaganza celebration in July at Mill Pond Park, featuring the largest fireworks show in the region.

2022-2023 Highlights

- Over 800 programs were offered throughout the year, and there were approximately 21,000 participants registered.
- Residents reserved picnic sites at Churchill Park; over 15,000 picnickers enjoyed the park at the pavilions.
- Newington gardeners reserved garden plots in the Community Gardens program 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.
- Additional opportunities for recreation and leisure were offered, including DJ pool parties at Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park pools, and The Edythe & Harry Mandell Summer Concert Series at Mill Pond Park sponsored by Data-Mail Inc. The Night of Lights Celebration was held on Main Street in December.
- The Creative Playtime Preschool Program continued to attract over 40 families, and has remained a popular choice for parents of children ages 3 to 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 continued to grow at its location in the Mortensen Community Center.
- Parents can also enroll their preschool-age children in the Summer Sunshine Program. Summer Sunshine offered a nine-week educational and entertaining experience during the summer months.
- Summer Camp RECreate is experiencing continuous growth and drawing increased participation from children. This year's attendance numbers were impressive, with approximately 400 campers joining every week. The success of the additional camp week, Camp S'more, is evident, promoting the need to increase the maximum camper capacity.
- Opportunities to advertise in our seasonal program guide were offered again, and we continue to see interest from public/private partnerships including Geico, Data-Mail, Church of Christ Congregational, MDC, Happy Harry's Wine and Liquor Warehouse, CMI Sound, Tony Palermo, Sequin Level Lodge No. 140, MooYah, The Flash Lady Photography, The Flying Monkey, West Hill Automotive, Kiwanis Club of Newington, Campbell Cooling, LLC, The Flood Law Firm LLC, iHeart Media, B&M Tree Service LLC, CT Custom Aquatics, Spring Brook Ice & Fuel Service, and Tropical Smoothie.
- Our program guide is directly mailed to over 13,000 households, four times a year, through the Life Magazine.
- During the Awards Banquet at the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) State Conference, the Department was honored with three awards. Elliot Markman was awarded with the 'Dorothy G. Mullen/George Sanford Scholarship.' The 'Program of Merit Award' was awarded to the Night of Lights event. Tony Palermo received the 'Volunteer of the Year' Award.
- The Department continued the tradition of annually honoring businesses, volunteers, and/or civic groups that help the Department better serve its residents with "Building a Strong Community Special Recognition Awards." This year's recipients were Happy Harry's Wine & Liquor Warehouse, Carol Anest, Diana Serra, Donna & Victor Fontana, and Campbell Cooling.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Grounds Division

The Parks and Grounds Division stands as the steward of Newington's natural beauty, undertaking year-round maintenance across an expansive 833 acres of parks and public green spaces. This includes oversight of three regional parks: Mill Pond Park, Churchill Park, and the Clem Lemire Recreation Complex, along with ten neighborhood parks: Badger Field, Bank's Corner, Beacon Park, Beechwood Park, Candlewyck Park, Eagle Park, Little Brook Park, Mary Welles Park, Seymour Park, and Starr Park. The Division also manages three historic properties: the Kellogg-Eddy House, the Kelsey House, and Deming-Young Farm.

In addition to these diverse green spaces, the Parks and Grounds Division assumes responsibility for the meticulous maintenance of the Municipal Parking Lot, downtown town-owned properties, and the grounds surrounding all public buildings in Newington. This encompasses 110 community garden plots, picnic and recreation facilities at Churchill Park, the skatepark at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex, and two outdoor swimming pools: Churchill Pool and Mill Pond Pool. The Division also oversees playgrounds, several miles of hiking/biking trails, public rights-of-way, 64 cul-de-sacs, roadside mowing, numerous flower beds, and 26 decorative planters situated strategically on Main Street, Market Square, and Government Center.

The Division extends its watchful eye over a multitude of public areas, including the placing of flags, town-wide decorations, and lighting for festive occasions. This encompassing responsibility includes maintenance efforts at 5 Fire Stations, the Senior and Disabled Center, Town Hall, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, the Ambulance building, and 7 schools.

Maintenance activities executed by Parks and Grounds include a spectrum of tasks such as mowing, pruning, trash removal, leaf collection, and athletic field preparation. Their commitment to excellence is further demonstrated through their role in snow removal for schools, public building parking areas, sidewalks, and school walk routes throughout the town spaces.

A crucial aspect of their mandate involves the preservation of Newington's urban forest. Parks and Grounds is charged with maintaining trees lining streets, parks, cemeteries, schools, rights-of-way, and all town-owned property. The combined value of these trees is estimated at an impressive 30 million dollars. In essence, the Parks and Grounds Division is not only a custodian of Newington's vast green spaces but a diligent guardian of the town's aesthetic and environmental integrity. Through their multifaceted responsibilities, the Division plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for Newington residents.

2022-2023 Highlights

- Installed a new handicap accessible playground at Beechwood Park, including new drainage, pathways, cornhole lanes, and color coating of the basketball court.
- Resurfaced basketball courts in several neighborhood parks.
- Switched liquid acid feeder system to a dry acid feeder system for safer operations at Churchill and Mill Pond Pools.
- Repaired cracks and fixed leaking pipes at both pools.
- Remodeled lifeguard room at Mill Pond pool house.
- Painted Mill Pond and Churchill pools.
- Completed miles of town-wide roadside mowing.
- Completed safety upgrades at Parks & Grounds facility to meet OSHA standards.
- Renovated Alumni Baseball Field at high school including removal of lips and installation of new Dura Edge infield material.
- Installed new field lights at Legends Baseball Field, completing lighting goal of every field at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex.
- Staff designed and installed a new flower bed with a large "N", consisting of blue and gold flowers, at Town Hall.
- Resurfaced Churchill Softball Field.
- Provided setup and support for the Water Lantern Festival, Waterfall Festival, Night of Lights, Wreaths Across America, Summer Concerts Series at Mill Pond Park, high school football games, the Veterans Day celebration, and more.
- Parks staff continued to provide ongoing maintenance and operation of irrigation systems at town athletic fields, tennis courts, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, and Government Center.
- Provided ongoing upkeep and maintenance of skate park at Clem Lemire.
- 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.
- Staff built a new pavilion at the Municipal Parking Lot island for the Summer Concert Series.
- Completed fall clean-up at all Town buildings and provided four staff members to support the Highway Department with the annual curbside leaf collection.
- Soccer field enhancement project continued at Emmanuel Christian Academy fields, including verti-cutting, aeration, overseeding, topdressing, and applications of fertilizer.
- In winter months, staff removed over a dozen street tree stumps.
- Playground certified woodchips were added at Eagle Park playground.
- Staff prepared athletic fields in order to host internationally attended lacrosse tournament in conjunction with NCAA Championship in Hartford.
- Parks and Grounds staff continued to service and provide Veterans Memorial Trailer to pay tribute to active and retired military men and women.
- Annual setup, tilling, staking, and irrigation were performed at the 110 community garden plots at Deming-Young Farm.
- Installed over 170 American flags downtown in preparation for Memorial Day. In addition, a set of spring flags and a set of fall flags were hung on the downtown poles.
- Responsible for all downtown holiday lights and decorations.
- Performed extensive repairs on 4 Har-Tru and 4 clay tennis courts at Mill Pond Park. New irrigation, electric valves, sprinkler heads and nozzles were installed, and staff repaired broken piping at the tennis courts.
- Installed Churchill Park Musco Lighting web control system at the softball field.
- Installed new irrigation system at Town Hall, Police Department, and Lucy Robbins Welles Library.

Newington Community Services

Parks and Recreation

Cemetery Division

The Cemetery Division bears the solemn responsibility of upholding the sacred integrity of three prominent cemeteries in the town: Church Street Cemetery, Center Cemetery, and West Meadow Cemetery. Within its purview, the Department manages a spectrum of essential tasks, including grave sales, interments, meticulous record-keeping, and dedicated lawn care services. Furthermore, the Department actively engages in comprehensive research and timely responses to inquiries from both town residents and extended families regarding cemetery matters. In essence, the Cemetery Division stands as a pillar of reverence, ensuring the dignified and respectful stewardship of these hallowed grounds.

- 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 123 interments in West Meadow Cemetery, consisting of 56 cremations, 40 single depth burials and 27 double depth burials. In West Meadow Cemetery, 96 interments were performed on a weekday, 26 interments were performed on a Saturday, and 1 was performed on a Sunday/holiday.
- There were 14 interments in Center Cemetery, consisting of 11 cremations, 3 single depth burials, and no double depth burials. In Center Cemetery, 13 interments were performed on
























































a weekday and 1 interment was performed on a Saturday. There were no Sunday/holiday interments.

- 82 graves were sold in West Meadow Cemetery.
- 7 graves from West Meadow Cemetery were sold back to the Town of Newington.
- There was 1 name change on a cemetery deed.
- 6 veteran markers were installed.
- West Meadow Cemetery is a very active cemetery. The staff average over two burials per week and 1 to 2 grave sales per week. The staff works cooperatively with local funeral homes to aid in the administration of each funeral service. The staff manicures 10 acres of turf and landscaping at West Meadow Cemetery.

Departmental Goals/Projects for 2023-2024

- Install a new handicap accessible playground at Eagle Park.
- Install new signage at Churchill Park and Clem Lemire Recreation Complex.
- Host the CRPA Entertainment Showcase in February 2024.
- Host the first State of CT Age Well Fest in September 2024.
- Expand pickleball programs.
- Recruit more outdoor national sports tournaments and new indoor basketball and volleyball tournaments and rentals.
- Install new arborvitae along the northside fence line at West Meadow Cemetery.
- Build town-wide economic growth through programming and special events.

PARKS IN NEWINGTON

	Baseball	Softball	Playground	Multise Fields*	Tennis	Pool	Volleyball Bocce	Basketball	Trails	Skating Ice	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>Balducci Way</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, 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 Planner, Town Engineer, Police, Social Services and the Health Department.

Residential Certificates of Occupancy issued in this fiscal year:

- 26 Spur Lane: Single Family Residence
- 765 Willard Avenue: Single Family Residence
- 615 Church Street: Single Family residence (FULL)
- 285 Willard Avenue: Single Family residence
- 40 Moreland Avenue: Single Family residence
- 48 Fairfield Avenue: Single family residence
- 916 Willard Avenue: Single family residence
- 5 Peckham Farm Drive: Single family residence

Commercial Certificates of Occupancy issued in this fiscal year:

- 4 Hartford Avenue: Eagle's Nest Gas & Convenience Store
- 12B Fenn Road: Jersey Mike's
- 12C Fenn Road: Tropical Smoothie
- 3475 Berlin Turnpike: Metro Mattress
- 203 Costello Road: Nadeau Foundations
- 85 Kitts Lane: Family Daycare
- 385 Stamm Road: Baseball Training Camp

Other Income Received	Amount
Town Plan and Zoning Application Fees	\$ 8,870.00
Environmental Fees	2,520.00
Conservation Commission Application Fees	3,200.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,560.00
Copies, Books and Maps	323.00
Work in Right of Way	19,895.00
Engineering Copies	955.00
Total	\$37,323.00

A total of 15 Certificates of Occupancy were issued from July 2022 to June 2023:

- Single-Family Residence Certificates of Occupancy: 8 issued
- Commercial Certificates of Occupancy: 7 issued
- Included in this total, a partial Certificate of Occupancy at 615 Church Street on 3/11/22; was completed on 9/27/22.

Statistical Summary July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2023

Type of Permits	#	Value of Permits
Additions	315	15,581,645.00
Decks	54	787,437.00
Demolition	3	64,349.00
Electrical	651	18,113,056.00
Fence	0	0.00
Fire Suppression/Sprinkler	0	0.00
Footing/Foundation	1	1,000.00
Fuel Tank	6	108,010.00
Garages/Sheds	6	80,077.00
Mechanical	401	5,766,378.00
New Commercial	7	29,811,504.00
New Municipal	0	0.00
New Residential	12	16,658,535.00
Plumbing	270	8,387,065.00
Pools	52	408,816.00
Roofing/Siding	318	6,765,444.00
Sign	22	307,257.00
Solar	188	2,263,049.00
Tent	9	19,626.00
Trailer	0	0.00
Other	1	74,236.00
Totals	2,316	105,197,484.00

2023-2024 Goals

- Maintain 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

Income Received from Permit Fees **\$1,179,277.00**
 Total Income **\$1,216,600.00**
 Number of Inspections **2,518**

Newington Planning & Development

Town Planner

TOWN PLANNER

Paul Dickson, Director

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 seeking approval for various types of land use applications. In addition, the Department vigorously enforces the zoning regulations and provides community-driven enforcement of blight conditions as the designated enforcement office for 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 conserve the community's natural resources, and to help citizens and businesses achieve their own development goals.

2022-2023 Highlights

Town Plan and Zoning Commission:

During this fiscal year, the TPZ received approximately 33 petitions for special permits, site plan approvals, zoning amendments and various miscellaneous items, including the following:

- Site Plan Approval/Modification: 14 Commercial and Residential site plan approvals and modifications including: residential developments, parking lot expansions, and other commercial sites.
- Special Permit Approvals: 13 Special Permits including: restaurants, drive throughs, child care facility, free standing commercial signs, place of recreation, accessory apartment, and home business.

- Zone Changes and Zoning Text Amendments: 4 Zoning Text Amendments: Temporary events, recreational vehicles, personal services - CD Zone, and sign & display requirements for adult-use cannabis.
- CGS 8-24 Referrals: 2 Digital Sign (NVFD) and Ramp Easement (1042 Main St.)

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission received \$4,690 in application fees.

Conservation Commission:

During this fiscal year the Conservation Commission received approximately 16 petitions; nine of those were agent approvals. The Conservation Commission received \$4,220 in application fees.

Economic Development Commission:

The Economic Development Commission held 8 regular meetings during the fiscal year and accomplished the following:

The Beautification Committee continues to assist with planters, flags etc. for downtown businesses

The Commission continues to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to enhance economic development within the Town of Newington

Zoning Board of Appeals:

During this fiscal year the ZBA received 6 Petitions, 5 were denied and one was withdrawn. The Department collected \$1,560.00 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:

- Zoning Enforcement: During this fiscal year the
- Investigated and acted upon 216 zoning complaints
- Issued 195 Zoning approvals
- Issued 10 certificates of Zoning Compliance
- Received 538 questions or complaints about Zoning regulations, blight complaints or property information
- Investigated 216 properties for Blight/Zoning Complaints
- Issued 60 Notices of Zoning Violations
- Issued 55 Notices of Blight Violation

Engineering Department

Chris Zibbideo, Town Engineer

- 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/impact infrastructure projects in Newington.
- 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.
- Research and provide engineering data to town attorney to defend Town of Newington against lawsuits.

2022-2023 Highlights

- Supported ~\$200M in economic development activity, public works and public safety.
- Coordinated Frontier contribution (~\$50K) to restore local roads (Pebble Drive neighborhood) impacted by utility construction.
- Completed design, obtained easements, received CDOT approval, bid, retained an inspector, received \$3.3M in funding, and began construction on the Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue Complete Streets Project.
- 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.
- Coordinated lease for dog park and designed and oversaw construction of Newington Dog Park.
- Evaluated Town-owned bridges under 20 feet long.
- Assessed Camp Avenue alternatives.

- Prepared site survey, concept plans, and design plans for Board of Education John Paterson parking lot expansion.
- Removed trees and stumps to protect Town of Newington infrastructure (sidewalks, roads, curbs, drainage, etc.).
- Repaired ~2,500 feet of damaged and deteriorated sidewalk.
- Removed ~700 feet of damaged and deteriorated sidewalk.
- Installed ~150 feet of new sidewalk.
- Designed and installed Pheasant Run drainage improvement project.
- Designed and installed drainage improvements for Badger Field.
- Designed and installed parking lot improvements for the Community Center (functional deficiency remnant from Town Hall project).
- Designed and installed parking lot improvements for the Police Department (code deficiency remnant from Town Hall project).

Projects:

- Managed grant projects:
 - ◇ \$80K 2017 Community Connectivity Grant – Garfield Street.
 - ◇ \$3,340K 2018 LOTCIP Grant – Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue Complete Street Project.
 - ◇ \$128K STEAP grant - Senior center window replacement project.
- Managed grant applications:
 - ◇ \$2,900K 2020 LOTCIP Grant – Maple Hill Avenue and Alumni Road Complete Street Project.
 - ◇ \$2,175K 2022 LOTCIP Grant – Episcopal Road and Rowley Street Improvements.
 - ◇ \$500K 2020 State Bond Request – South End (Elm Hill) Business District Streetscape Project.
 - ◇ \$800K 2020 Urban Funding Grant – North End Business District Streetscape Project.
 - ◇ \$525K 2020 Community Connectivity Grant - Main Street Sidewalk Connectivity Project.
 - ◇ \$150K NRCS Emergency Watershed Program.
 - ◇ \$100K CT DEEP VW Settlement Grant for EV charging stations.
 - ◇ \$75K Eversource Rebate for EV charging stations.

Statistical Summaries:

- Total grant value of \$10.8M had an economic development value of about \$270M.
- Reviewed applications for 100+ driveway permits and 100+ road excavation permits.
- Reviewed 2,000+ routine CBYD tickets and 100+ emergency CBYD tickets.
- Supported about 50 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, fleet maintenance and procurement, road construction and maintenance, alterations and repairs of all Town roads and Rights of Way. The Department also works in collaboration with other town departments in maintaining Town owned traffic signals, signage and road markings.

2022-2023 Highlights

- Continued with project coordination and oversight of the long-term Landfill closure.
- 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 April 29, 2023.
- Conducted annual roadway condition evaluations in preparation for milling and paving.
- Assisted CT DOT with upgrading Emergency Vehicle Preemption along the Berlin Turnpike.
- Assisted Traffic Division with repairs and upgrades to town traffic signals.
- Continued oversight of all departmental construction projects.
- Attended Environmental Quality Commission meetings.
- Assisted Engineering with preparation for the New Dog Park.
- Coordinated and provided oversight for paving of north parking lot at Newington High School.
- Twenty-two (22) roads totaling approximately 4.9 miles were milled and paved along with drainage improvements and catch basin repairs on various roads.
- Completed major drainage improvements on Stuart Street, Hawley Street, Henry Avenue and Badger Field.
- Widened a section of Theodore Street to make road more uniform in width.
- Crews removed deteriorated sidewalks along Theodore Street.
- Paved pathway at Eagle Park.
- Regraded parking area at Young Farm.
- Installed ADA accessible walk on Maple Hill Avenue.
- Completed annual town-wide roadside tree trimming throughout the winter months.
- Assisted Facilities Department with replacement of salt shed and topsoil cover.
- Assisted Facilities with installation and relocation of Highway Garage generator.
- Highway Department personnel collected over 11,100 cubic yards of leaves from November through December. Four crews consisting of 24 people, including Parks and Grounds personnel were devoted to the program.
- Highway crews responded to 10 snow/ice events totaling over 14" of snow and ice.
- Highway personnel responded to 11 after hour call-ins.
- Mechanic personnel responded to 8 after hour call-ins.
- 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 includes 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, textiles and mattresses/boxsprings.
- Town-wide street sweeping was completed during the months of April and May.
- Town-wide Christmas tree collection was completed in January.
- Private contractors collect refuse at 9,333 residential homes and 2,240 condominiums and elderly housing complexes each week totaling approximately 8,787 tons of residential municipal solid waste brought to Murphy Road Recycling of Hartford for fiscal year 2022/2023. In addition 1,813 household bulky waste items, 349 condominium bulky waste items and 411 combined metal items were collected curbside throughout the year. Forty seven (47) television sets over 19" were collected and recycled. 1,553 mattresses and box springs were recycled through the Town's Transfer Station.
- Private contractors collect recyclables at 11,573 residential homes, condominiums and elderly housing complexes. Recyclables were brought to Murphy Road Recycling of Hartford for processing. Over 2,295 tons of recyclables were collected curbside for fiscal year 2022/2023.
- 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 per 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

(submitted by Superintendent Tom Davoren)

“To Protect, Serve, and Partner with the Community”

The Newington Police Department consists of 52 full time police officers, 1 recruit training position, 15 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.

2022-2023 Highlights

Department Staffing: During the 2022–2023 fiscal year, the department hired six new police officers. Officers Michael Giordano and Joshua Smith were hired as Police Officers who transferred from other police agencies. Officers Spencer Couillard, Michael Moscicki, and Matthew Shaw were hired as entry level officers who were trained at Connecticut Police Academies. Officer Gabriella Lambros was a Newington Police Department dispatcher who transitioned to an entry level police officer and who attended the Connecticut Police Academy.

Department Activity: During the 2023 year, the Newington Police Department responded to 30,016 calls for service. The department made 812 criminal arrests and investigated 2,067 criminal offenses. The department investigated 1,335 motor vehicle accidents which resulted in 187 injuries. There were no fatal motor vehicle accidents. The department made 3,516 traffic stops, and arrested 68 motorists for driving while under the influence of alcohol/drugs. The department was the first to initiate the Starchase GPS tracking program which allows officers to launch a GPS tracking device at fleeing vehicles in lieu of initiating a pursuit. This program has demonstrated its value with the successful deployment of several devices which have led to arrests for motor vehicle violations and criminal offenses.

Police Department Training: The police department recorded approximately 4,264 hours in officer training during the 2022-2023 fiscal period, which is an increase of 1,346 hours from the previous year. Two Officers attended University of Louisville Southern Police Institute Command Officers Development Course, a 400-hour training program. The training division continued to supplement training utilizing the Police One Academy platform to provide consistent online training. 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 also incorporating use of force training as mandated by state legislation. Officers also received mandated training in body worn cameras. All officers are exposed to training in response to active shooting and building clearing. Officers were trained utilizing a newly acquired MILO training system which allows officers to train in use of force training through the MILO simulator. The department continued training officers in a new program, 'Officer Survival' designed to minimize liability in use of force applications and increase officer safety. Selected officers attended methods of instruction training to become certified CT POST training instructors in areas such as de-escalation, use of force practices, and firearms. 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 regarding Homicide Investigations, Intelligence, Call Record Analysis, and Human Trafficking. Officers involved in the Mid-State Accident Reconstruction Team continued their attendance in monthly training with the regional accident team. Officers assigned to the Capital Region Emergency Response Team train at least twice monthly in tactical operations training.



Police Department staff participated in the annual Ciara McDermott basketball fundraiser.

Newington Public Safety

Fire Marshal

DJ Zordan, Fire Marshal

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

- Perform inspections on buildings, with the exception of one-and two-family dwellings to ensure compliance with the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code and the Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code.
- Review all plans for new construction and conduct on-site inspections to ensure code compliance.
- Establish fire lanes to ensure accessibility of fire apparatus.
- Investigate fires and explosions to determine the origin and cause.
- Issue blasting permits and be on site to ensure safety and compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Respond to and investigate reported accidental or intentional release of hazardous materials.
- Participate in fire prevention and community risk reduction programs.

2022-2023 Highlights

- August 4, 2022 – Building Fire - 147 Old Farm Drive
- August 8, 2022 – Building Fire – 569 Maple Hill Ave
- September 3, 2022 – Building Fire at 139 Audubon Ave
- November 6, 2022 – Building Fire at 525 Russell Road
- December 16, 2022 – 39 Progress – Burn Injury/Fire
- December 19, 2022 – Building Fire – 504 Churchill Dr.
- December 20, 2022 – Building Fire at 2553 Berlin Turnpike
- January 29, 2023 – Building Fire at 185 Carriage Hill
- March 14, 2023 – Building Fire at 59 Edward St

Significant Activities:

- The Fire Marshal's Office re-organized staffing in January of 2023 adding a full-time Assistant Fire Marshal in the place of the Administrative Aide II.
- The goals for inspection compliance continue to be pursued. The main focus is on residential due to the statistical likelihood of fires involving injuries and fatalities.
- All staff maintained the statutorily required continuing education requirement of 90 hours.
- The Fire Marshal Staff supported special events such as Ex-travaganza, Project Graduation, and the Water Lantern Festival.

Fire Marshal Statistical Summary

Activity	22/23
Inspections	784
Reinspection	115
Plan Reviews	76
Fire Investigations	38
Referral/Complaints	4
Consultations	59
Safe Home Inspections & Follow Ups	2
Blast Monitoring	8



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, CT. 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.

Department Highlights:

- The Fire Department took delivery of the new Truck 2, a 2023 Pierce Velocity 100 foot Heavy Duty Rear Mount Platform. Members were trained, and the new truck was put online in July 2023.
- The department transitioned to a new reporting system for fire reports and inventory control. With the new system, all apparatus, Chief's vehicles, and Administrative positions have an MDT for working with the system. The system is called Alpine RedNMX. The MDT's in the vehicle will show where the fire call is, hydrant locations, directions, and allows members to complete fire reports on scene. This system integrates with the CAD system used in dispatch.
- The department was successful on a FEMA Grant this year. The Safer Grant, which was for an electronic sign that helps the department with recruitment of new members and emergency notification for town residents.
- The Fire Department was able to continue with Community Events. The Fire Department was involved in the Waterfall Festival, Chamber of Commerce Trick or Treat, Fire Prevention Open House, Cadet Open House, Cadet Easter Egg Hunt, Night of Lights, Stew Leonard's Tree Lighting, as well as many other events. The Fire Prevention Bureau also continued their annual school Fire Prevention visits. The department also participated in prom promise for NHS students. The department wrapped one of the Fire Engines for a great cause.

The apparatus was wrapped for Autism Awareness and participated in fundraising for Autism CT. The department raised \$10,000 for the agency and will be presenting a check to the organization.

- Overall, the department is strong, and response/participation rate is high among members in fire response and training. 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 why the Newington Fire Department is one of the largest, most successful volunteer fire departments in the area and highly respected in the State. The department is also working on improving its ISO Rating, which currently is a Class 3.

FY 2022-2023 Statistics

1	Fire	92
2	Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	3
3	Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident	34
4	Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	171
5	Service Call	119
6	Good Intent Call	94
7	False Alarm and False Call	300
8	Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	3
9	Special Incident Type	2
Total Volume		818

Newington Fire Department has seen an increase in calls from 755 last year to 818 this year. There has been a notable increase in mutual aid responses from 35 to 45 over a one year period.

FY 2022-2023 Total Summary

Incidents: 818
Volunteer hours: 29,732 (includes incident response, training, and community engagement)
Administrative Hours: 4,936 hours
Total Volunteer Hours: 34,668 hours

Department Strength: 96 Regular Members
15 Cadets

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.*

2022-2023 Highlights:

ANNA REYNOLDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. Jason Smith, Principal

The 2022-2023 school year brought a lot of excitement and challenges as the full renovation of Anna Reynolds began. Our theme for the year “Building anew... school, community, world” tied to our work on equity and the renovation. While the building was undergoing a renovation, we focused our work within the building on striving towards creating an equitable learning environment for all students.

By mid-February, the first phase of the renovation was completed, and the office staff and nurse moved into their new spaces. Many classes also needed to be relocated as the Kindergarten/1st grade wing underwent renovations (completed August 2023).

While facing the challenges of living through a renovation, our students and staff continued to strive towards greatness. A record number of students (21 including 7 published authors) were recognized in the Connecticut Student Writers' contest. In addition, we were again recognized as a “School of Distinction” by the state of Connecticut in the area of Math for “high growth all students” and “high growth high needs students.”

Our school focus for 2022-23 was: Operationalize SRBI with fidelity with all staff.

In order to increase foundational literacy and numeracy skills for all students while reducing the gap for Black and Hispanic students in half (80% for literacy and 90% for numeracy).

To accomplish these goals, we:

- Provided ongoing professional learning to teachers to effectively support implementation of the Courageous Conversations Framework and culturally responsive teaching
- Worked collectively and relentlessly to monitor the learning of Hispanic, Black, ML and Students with Disabilities to ensure equity
- Provided ongoing professional development to all staff focused on assessment results and SRBI decision making
- Examined our unconscious biases
- Monitored the impact of instruction through progress monitoring and developing just in time intervention/differentiation for whom instruction has not been effective.
- Implemented literacy based curriculum blocks (FUNdations, Reader's Workshop, Writing Workshop) with fidelity
- Partnered with UConn to pilot Data-Based Individualization (DBI) to increase literacy achievement and apply principles to our Early Intervention Process

ELIZABETH GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. James Marciano, Principal

The 22-23 school year was a welcome return to normalcy.

Our school goals for 2022-2023 were:

- Focus PLC efforts on closing the opportunity gap through the effective implementation of the SRBI framework
- Implement culturally relevant pedagogy

Performance goals in math were met and partially met in reading. In grades 1 and 2, the racial opportunity gap was eliminated for both reading and math. We saw some of our highest scores ever in kindergarten foundational skills.

To accomplish this, we:

- Continued to meet weekly in PLCs to research, plan, and implement effective practices aimed at reducing learning loss, the opportunity gap, and/or other problems of practice
- Designed professional learning sessions around culturally relevant pedagogy specifically within the text Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain
- Continued to examine a number of data sources: academic, behavioral, attendance, awards/recognitions to sharpen and necessitate our focus on educational equity
- Introduced and applied the Courageous Conversation framework as a tool for discussing race

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- Expanded our co-teaching initiative beyond grades 3 and 4 to 1 and 2
- Participated in coaching sessions with SERC in support of co-teaching
- Sustained and expanded a student safety and leadership patrol made up of 31 fourth graders who were responsible for helping staff during arrival, dismissal, and on buses and vans
- 11 racially diverse students participated in an after school leadership program whereby they learned valuable leadership skills and completed a service project with the Newington Chapter of the CT Humane Society
- Reduced chronic absenteeism by 50%
- Communicated at minimum weekly with stakeholders regarding a number of school based happenings/initiatives
- Continued our community fundraising efforts with Pajama Day for CT Children's Hospital, Heavenly Hats, Jeans for World Down Syndrome Day, and Make a Wish
- Planned a number of cultural events including opportunities for students to learn about Muslim Holidays, Lunar New Year, recognitions/celebrations of Hispanic Heritage, Black History, Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish American Heritage, etc. Our Literacy Night was themed "Read Around the World"
- Hosted an author visit with Renata Bowers
- Hosted STEM night partnered with the CT STEM Academy

JOHN PATERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mr. Michael Gaydos, Principal

The 2022-2023 school year was an exciting year of changes and growth as we worked daily to support the NPS Goal of *reducing the opportunity gap for historically marginalized and underrepresented students through access to high quality education that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging*. Efforts were focused on engaging in professional learning to implement culturally relevant teaching practices. Our initial goal was established in June and refined throughout the year. We utilized resources such as our SRBI Framework, Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, and Courageous Conversations about Race to help guide our work.

Our school goal for 2022-2023 was:

- To reduce the opportunity gap for historically marginalized students within our Habits of Work Indicators with a specific focus on being an Engaged Learner
- Ensure that at least 80% of students within ALL subgroups met benchmarks on prioritized foundational literacy and numeracy skills
- Increase opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education while at John Paterson

To accomplish these goals, we:

- Created a communication and professional learning trajectory that addressed our commitments to the implementation of culturally relevant pedagogy
- Operationalized the SRBI Framework to support our School Improvement team and PLC's as we implemented Tier I instruction
- Committed dedicated PLC time to reviewing and discussing the Habits of Work Rubric
- PLC's continuously analyzed and disaggregated student data by subgroup to establish short and long-term goals that led to the implementation of improvement plans
- Staff engaged in professional learning and a book study of "Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain" as we continued to implement practices focused on culturally responsive pedagogy

RUTH CHAFFEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mrs. Beverly Lawrence, Principal

During the 2022-23 school year, we continued to focus on our school goals:

- **Reading Goals:** At least 90% of students meeting benchmark on identified focus areas in reading and a reduction in the achievement gap of 5%
- **Math Goals:** At least 90% of students meeting benchmark on identified focus areas in math and a reduction in the achievement gap of 5%

In addition to our academic goals, focusing on Social and Emotional Learning, utilizing both ReThink Ed and Zones of Regulation was equally important to the success of our students. Both emphasized gaining a better understanding of one's self, setting goals, practicing resilience, managing anxiety, etc.

Our overall data: Eighty-five (85%) percent of our students met the benchmark in the Spring in Reading; eighty (80%) percent met the benchmark in the Spring in Math. Seventy-two (72%) percent met the benchmark in Writing in the Spring. We continue to make significant gains in closing the opportunity gap for our students in each subgroup:

Ethnicity	Reading	Math
Asian	87%	95%
Black	80%	89%
Hispanic	78%	73%
American Indian	100%	100%
Multiracial	75%	76%
White	89%	89%

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Our school goals for the 2023-2024 school year are: (What will we do?)

Establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships in order to build students' self efficacy.

All teachers will utilize culturally relevant instructional teaching practices.

- Implement the Chaffee Essentials of Effective Instruction
- Use a culturally responsive lens when planning for academic and behavioral instruction
- Apply an equity lens when creating assessments and analyzing data

Benchmark:

- At least 80% of students will meet the benchmark on identified focus areas in reading and math; 75% of students in each subgroup will meet the benchmark on the same identified focus areas. (Winter)
- At least 90% of students will meet the benchmark on identified focus areas in reading and math; 85% of students in each subgroup will meet the benchmark on the same identified focus areas. (Spring)

How will we do it?

- Each PLC will collaboratively plan each unit (link in grade level shared drive)
- Implement Readers' & Math Workshop Model
- Utilize multiple sources of data, including student work, to plan differentiated instruction, intervention & small groups: CRT practices

We look forward to another terrific school year where we will focus on the whole child, with a laser-like focus on culturally relevant pedagogy. In addition, it is important to us to re-establish our partnership with our parents, focusing on parent communication and engagement. The 2023-2024 school year will certainly yield better results!

JOHN WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mr. Daniel Dias,
Principal

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the JWMS learning community maintained our efforts to ensure our students were engaged in a relevant and rigorous curriculum and our amazing staff once again focused on building strong relationships with all of our students. We had a strong focus on equity this year as evidenced by our school wide book study, *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain*. Our school goals for the 2022-23 school year continued in the areas of literacy, numeracy and supporting our students' social and emotional needs. We also focused on equity by supporting our professional learning communities by engaging in study and dialogue on culturally responsive pedagogy and learning and working together to address the opportunity gap as an entire staff.

Some of the highlights of the 2022-2023 John Wallace School Year include:

- A continued transition towards mastery-based learning instruction and reporting practices.
- A continued focus on transparency and communication. Families and stakeholders were updated throughout the year on school events and we honored and celebrated our diverse community throughout the school year.
- Our learning celebrations and field trips throughout the year strengthened our connections with our students. Olympic Day, Grade 8 Field Trips to Storrs Adventure Park, Grade 8 Boston and the Grade 8 Celebration and Dance are some of the highlights from the school year. We also continued our new JWMS Snow Ball as a new tradition and grade 7 and 8 students and families are very happy that we have brought back the school dance.
- Continued "Battle of the Books" program that included all grade 6 students and teachers and staff from Martin Kellogg Middle School.
- Continued our efforts during our advisory period to build relationships and focus on social emotional learning for our students via Rethink ED and RULER. We also added Common Sense Media lessons and honored and celebrated various cultural events such as Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Asian and Pacific Islander Month and Women's History Month through advisory and other school lessons and events.
- We began a school wide book study on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy. Based on the success of the book study and implementation, the work has been replicated at several schools for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings were supported by Wallace administration, coordinators, and coaches. Common goals for all PLCs to focus on equity and engage in Courageous Conversations.
- Our math, literacy, and behavior teams met weekly to discuss student performance data and develop more effective Tier II and Tier III supports.
- The second year of our JWMS Equity Committee.
- A number of Wallace staff members participated on the district's committees such as the Teacher Evaluation Committee PDEC, District Data Team, and the District Equity Team.
- Various Curriculum Development Committees across the district. Wallace Staff participated in various curriculum writing tasks and made significant contributions to these committees.

MARTIN KELLOGG MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mr. Jason Lambert,
Principal

During the 2022-2023 school year, the MKMS learning community continued to fine-tune our effectiveness supporting all students as they grow, change and learn. Along with a continued focus in the areas of literacy, numeracy, school climate, parent engagement, and supporting our students social and emotional

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needs, a concerted effort was made to reduce the opportunity gap for historically marginalized and underrepresented students through access to high quality education that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging. This included:

- Focusing PLC efforts on closing the opportunity gap
- Implementing the SRBI framework with fidelity to ensure equity
- A focus on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Social Emotional Learning

Some of the highlights of the Martin Kellogg 2022-2023 school year include:

- 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
- Continued “Battle of the Books” program that included grade 6 teachers and students from John Wallace Middle School
- Performed the musical production “*Beauty and the Beast*” that included many student, parent and staff participants
- Used RULER to inform advisory lessons
- Implemented components of Lucy Calkins Reading Units of Study in grades 5 through 8
- Participation in a variety of fundraisers, social events, and celebrations that provide the student council with funds to support many worthwhile endeavors at Kellogg
- Reinvigorated our PLC work with a heightened focus on equitable practices
- Supported staff in their ability to facilitate culturally responsive and SEL practices embedded in their respective curricula
- Active staff and parent participation in various building and district committees including the following:

- ◇ Instructional Leadership Team
- ◇ School Climate Committee
- ◇ PBIS Committee
- ◇ Mastery-Based Learning Committees
- ◇ Teacher & Administrator Evaluation Committee-PDEC
- ◇ District Data Team
- ◇ School and District Equity Team
- ◇ MK Alliance for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL – Ms. Terra Tigno, Principal

The 2022-23 school year was fully in person! Staff remain committed to our district goal to reduce the opportunity gap for historically marginalized and underrepresented students through access to high quality education that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging. NHS worked with SERC to reorganize our systems and structures to operationalize SRBI. Our Family of Learners took part in several community service projects, field trip learning experiences, and many academic and extra-curricular celebrations.

Highlights of the Newington High School 2021-2022 school year include:

- Kirsten Narowski, NHS English teacher, was identified as a distinguished Modern Classroom Educator in December. Modern Classroom teachers meet the unique needs of each of their students through blended, self-paced, mastery-based instruction. Mrs. Narowski is the first NPS educator to receive this honor.
- The NHS National English Honor Society (NEHS) inducted 72 new members this year, and plans to welcome another 80 students in the fall. NEHS members participated in a variety of activities, performed volunteer service work, and tutored peers.
- NHS NEHS seniors began a pen pal program with 22 students from Anna Reynolds. The program focused on fostering a love of reading and writing in the elementary grades.
- Number of Scholarships offered for 2023: 112, Number of Recipients that received a Scholarship: 85, Amount of monies awarded was: \$159,450.
- 1,774 - College Applications were submitted this school year.
- In the CTE Department, 215 students earned 3 college credits for Marketing, Finance, Accounting and Computer Science classes through the College and Career Pathways Program.
- 38 Newington High School seniors earned the Seal of Biliteracy.
- 92 students were inducted into various World Language honor societies. Specifically, 70 students in Spanish, 10 students in Latin, 9 students in Italian and 4 students in French.
- The Science National Honor Society at NHS inducted 77 students this past school year.
- The Wellness Department worked closely with our high school counselors to provide an opportunity for Junior planning in our Physical Education classes and career workshop in our Health classes. In addition, we also brought in a program to our classes in which graduate students from Southern Connecticut State University spoke about the dangers of using vaping devices and products.
- The NHS Mathematics department supported students during our ‘Quarter 5 Summer School Program’ which resulted in 12 students earning their credit in courses including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry.
- Over 800 student athletes participated in the NHS athletic program in the 2022-2023 school year. Eight athletic teams made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament with two semifinalists and a state runner up. The program was also represented by an All American runner. Teams participated in almost 20 community service projects.
- The Music Department had another successful year. In addition to winter and spring concerts, the Chamber Choir held a successful dinner theater cabaret fundraiser in October, the Band performed at football games and the Memorial Day Parade, and everyone came together for our spring musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*. We had 9 students accepted to Northern Regionals, 8 students accepted to All State, and 1 student who was accepted to Nationals Band. 67 students were inducted into Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society.

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 (7) 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.

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission, comprised of five (5) members, is charged with reviewing the current Town of Newington Charter for any inconsistencies with current standards in the State of Connecticut and for any inconsistencies that may currently exist with the State of Connecticut Constitution and/or with any Connecticut General Statutes.

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.

Boards and Commissions

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.

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 eleven (11) member Committee is comprised of various members of the Town Council, TPZ, Conservation Commission, 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 Town Center Study Committee, Open Space Committee, New Britain-Hartford Busway Municipal Advisory Committee, and 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 2022-2023

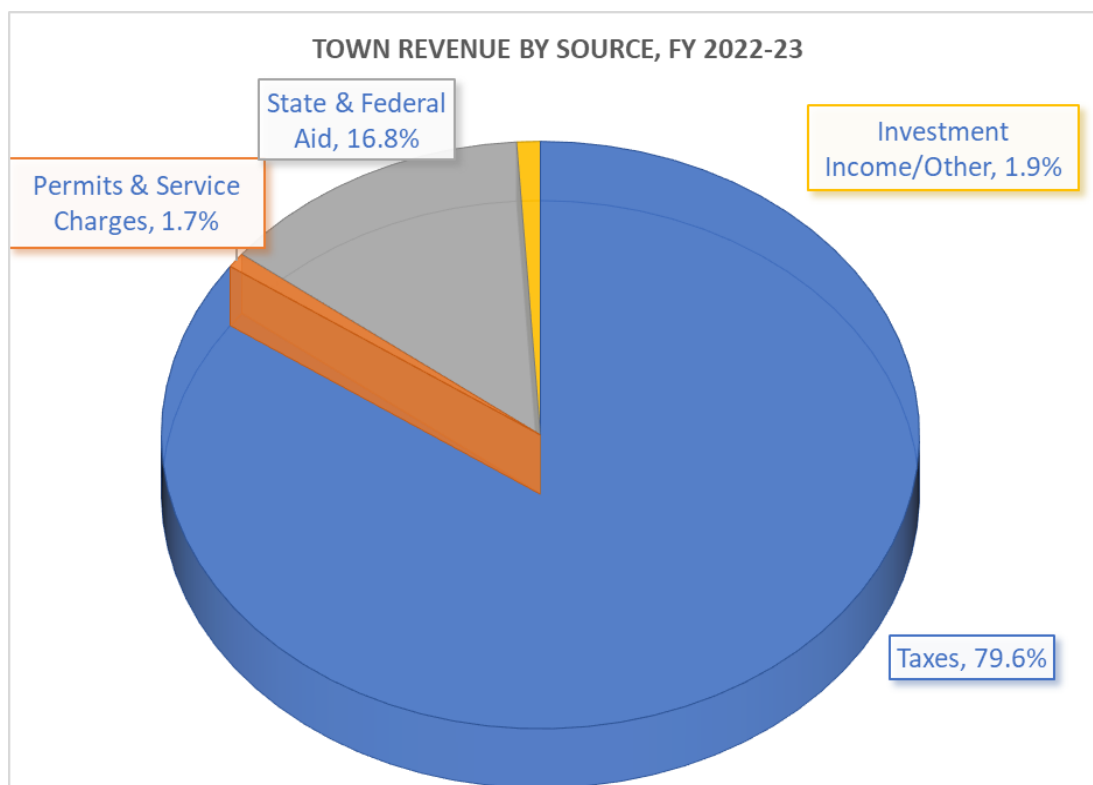
Town Finances FY 2022-2023

- The Town's adopted General Fund budget for 2022-23 totaled \$134,251,070
- The Mill Rate was 38.49
- The Town achieved a collection rate of 99.19% on the current levy
- The Town's bond indebtedness at June 30, 2023 totaled \$30,770,000
- The Town's actual expenditures were \$133,562,802, and actual revenues totaled \$135,933,793

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

Actual Town Revenues for 2022-23, by Source (\$ thousands)

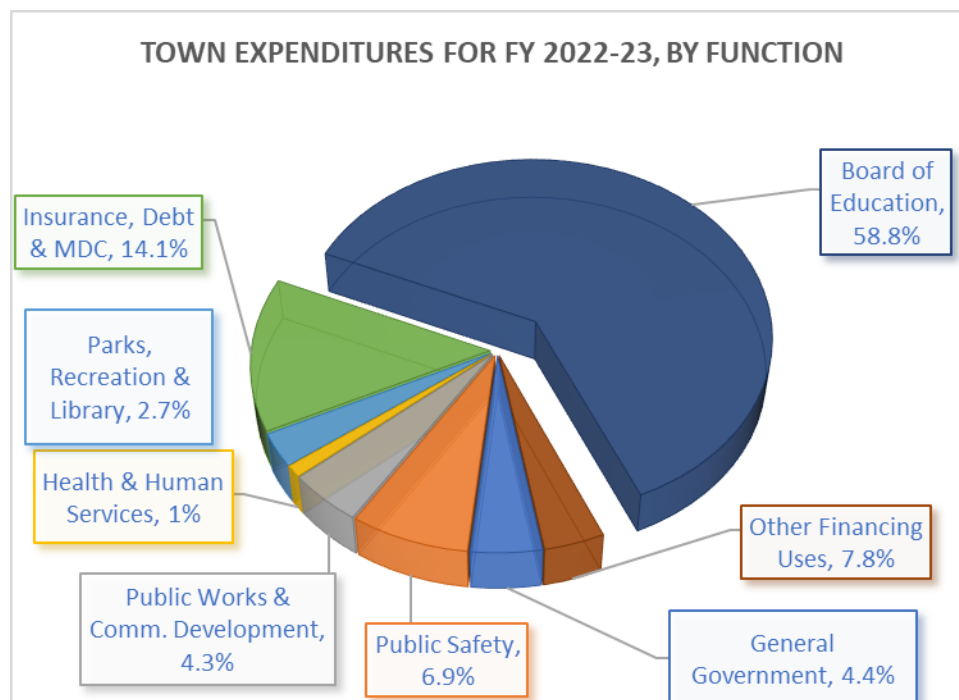
Source	2021-22	2022-23	\$ Change
Taxes	107,312	108,227	915
Permits	613	1,334	721
State & Federal Aid	20,412	22,835	2,423
Service Charges	1,063	927	(136)
Investment Income	(108)	1,758	1,866
Other	1,613	853	(760)
TOTAL	130,905	135,934	5,029



Town Finances FY 2022-2023

Actual Town Expenditures for FY 2022-23, by Function (\$ thousands)

Function	2021-22	2022-23	\$ Change
General Government	5,492	5,882	390
Public Safety	9,173	9,280	107
Public Works & Comm. Development	5,580	5,803	223
Health & Human Services	1,222	1,244	22
Parks, Recreation & Library	3,344	3,589	245
Insurance, Debt Service & MDC	18,524	18,845	321
Board of Education	76,695	78,586	1,891
Other Financing Uses	8,179	10,334	2,155
TOTAL	128,209	133,563	5,354



Town Finances FY 2022-2023

Bonds Outstanding June 30, 2023
(in thousands)

Function	Amount
Schools	15,588
General Purpose	15,182
TOTAL	30,770

Schedule of Debt Principal and Interest by Year as of June 30, 2023
(in thousands)

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	2,355	1,098	3,433
2025	1,885	1,007	2,892
2026	1,700	919	2,619
2027	1,700	833	2,533
2028	1,700	760	2,460
2029-2033	8,500	2,805	11,305
2034-2043	12,950	1,838	14,788
TOTAL	30,770	9,260	40,030